

Newsletter – January 2026

Happy New Year to all our readers

MARPLE BRIDGE & MELLOR U3A ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Dear Member,

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of MB&M u3a will take place on Thursday 19th February 2026 at 10am

Nomination forms for committee roles are available from the secretary, Barbara Scholes, secretary@mbmu3a.org.uk or download from the website or telephone 0161 427 6125

Any questions that you wish to raise in Any Other Business must be submitted to the Secretary at the latest, 2 weeks prior to the AGM, i.e. 5th February to allow for any necessary research for information to be carried out.

Agenda for AGM

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of minutes of the 2025 AGM
3. Chair's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Appointment of Independent Examiner of Accounts.
6. Election of Chair
7. Election of Committee Members
8. Members Annual Subscription for 2027
9. Resolution for alteration to our constitution
10. Any Other Business
11. Vote of Thanks
12. Formal conclusion of the AGM



The Marple Bridge & Mellor u3a wishes to make minor alterations to the constitution. As we are a registered charity we are obliged to ask members to agree to the changes prior to the changes being submitted to the Charity Commission.

The Resolution is:

To allow the establishment and use of an on line banking account by the Treasurer, in addition to the cheque account, by adding the following wording in clause 9(i):

Online Banking Operation of the online banking service is under the control of the Treasurer who has full access rights and is responsible for assigning the appropriate delegate rights, as agreed by the committee and in accordance with bank mandate.

The use of online banking overrides the dual control aspect of the payment authorisation process, but is permitted, where agreed in advance.

The security of the online system is in line with the arrangements offered by the bank and in accordance with its mandates.

Chairman's Chit Chat...

Hello Everyone,

I start with wishing you all a VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR, and trust you have all recovered from the Christmas festivities. Let's hope 2026 is even better than last year was. I also take this opportunity of thanking all the members for their support last year, whether by volunteering/donations at events, manning the stalls and providing refreshments etc., without you the club would not be as successful. So many many thanks. You are much appreciated.

You should have all received an email with regard to the AGM in February which includes a nomination form for new committee members. There are vacancies on the committee and also my position as Chair ends and a new Chair is required. Please give this some thought and put your name forward. 'm sure there are many of you that have the skills and can contribute but just lack the confidence to put your name forward. New blood is always welcome and the committee will make you not only welcome but support you in any way required. All details are in the email so either contact Barbara our secretary or any committee member.

Whilst we have regular members at our monthly meetings, I would appeal to those that do not attend the meetings to think about joining the rest of us. You are missing out on some wonderful speakers that entertain us plus meeting up for a catch up with friends and making new ones. I hope you do decide to join us.

In conclusion, I again wish you all a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Diane

Membership Renewals for 2026

Membership renewals are due for 2026 there are two ways to renew membership (you don't need to fill in a renewal form)

1. In person at the membership desk at any general meeting.

2. By post to – MB&M u3a Membership Secretary at 18 Churchill Crescent Marple SK6 6HJ (enclose a stamped addressed envelope if you wish your new cards to be posted back to you).

You can pay by cheque made out to MB&M u3a. Please put your name and membership number on the back of the cheque, this can be found on the bottom of last year's membership card, or by cash, please put the cash in an envelope and write your name and membership number on the envelope.

IMPORTANT: if any of your personal details, such as address, telephone number, email address etc have changed please let us know at the same time as renewal.

Failure to report changes may result in you not getting important communication from us.

If you wish to receive the newsletter by post please enclose 6 stamped addressed envelopes (size 230mm x 160mm –A5) when you renew your membership.

Marple Bridge & Mellor u3a Meetings Speakers

- Jan 15th Nick Sheardown and Lynn Moores will give an Interactive talk on The Judiciary, which we hope will be followed by a mock trial at a later date in the year.
- Feb 19th John Wallace will give a talk entitled 'As I Roved Out One Morning' which will be a history of English Folk Music.
- March 19th David Seddon will enlighten us on the subject of 'Escapism and Nonsense.'

Some of our recent Events

Christmas Celebration

Our Christmas celebration in December was enjoyed by many of our members. From the Christmas quiz, a well stocked raffle to festive refreshments including mulled wine. We were superbly entertained by the Capriccio Choir singing a varied selection of Christmas songs and carols. A really entertaining morning.



Tatton Hall Outing

The Christmas outing this year was to Tatton Hall. We toured the beautifully decorated Hall on the theme of 'Once Upon a Christmas'. Taking different Christmas stories and songs. From Bob Cratchit's Christmas dinner to the '6 Geese a Laying' in the song '12 Days of Christmas'. A bowl of tasty soup, a mince pie and a drink reinvigorated us to enable us to do some Christmas shopping at the Craft Fair and the Tatton shop, A thoroughly good day.



The Crown Restaurant



For the Dining Group's Christmas celebration this year we visited The Crown. A delicious meal, good service and friendly company. What more could one ask for. All in all a successful evening. We have a varied programme of venues already arranged for 2026. Any member can join us for a night out. Whether you're with a partner, friends or on your own, come along and make new friends over some food and a drink. Find our programme on either the newsletter or the website, www.mbm.u3asite.uk Either book at the General Meetings or email or phone Pat or Shirley for further details

Strolling Group

Our "Strolling Group" is for members who would like a gentle stroll rather than a longer walk. We arrange strolls of about 2 miles followed by a cuppa. These take place on the first Tuesday mornings in the month commencing at 10.30am, unless otherwise stated.

If you would like to be put on our contact list pass your details to Shirley Hammond

Don't forget your bus pass in case we need to ride back! Bring a drink over the summer months! Please wear appropriate footwear in case it is wet underfoot.

We have quite a large group of members who join us for a variety of strolls exploring different areas around our region and the surrounding countryside. We benefit from outside exercise as well as joining in enjoyable social occasions. We do need some of you to help to plan future strolls.

Tuesday February 3rd Colin Burkitt

Meet in the car park at Pear Mill to leave at 10.30.

On arrival drive right around the mill and park in the big car park that you can see as you drive in. There is a bus stop on the main road near the entrance road to the mill, buses run every 20 minutes from Marple through Marple Bridge, Compstall and Romiley.

The stroll will take us through Vernon Park, Woodbank Park and down to the river, returning along the path to Pear Mill where we can have refreshments. The paths are generally good, mainly hard surface and not too muddy even after rain. There is one hill to go up near the beginning and a hill to come down, otherwise the walk is flat.

Tuesday March 3rd Sue Norcross

Meet at 10.30am at the car park in Brabyn's Park.

We will walk through the park to Etherow Park, where we will decide whether to walk round the lake or just have a drink in the cafe before returning to Brabyn's.

Tuesday April 7th Trixie Ballard

Meet in the B&M car park, Manchester Road, Hyde. SK14 2BD.

Turn right on entry and park on the far, right hand side.

More details of the stroll later.

January 6th
first Stroll of the year.

Blowing the Christmas
cobwebs away.



Open Gardening Group

Meetings on 2nd Wednesday of each month at Marple Methodist Hall, 09:45 for coffee then 10:00 for the meeting. All u3a members welcome. £3 per meeting. Do come along.

January 14 Louise Holloway – Louise from the Solitary Bee Nursery will talk to us about the decline of solitary bees, and what we as gardeners can do to help

February 11 Trip – Ness Gardens

March 11 BioBloom soil enricher – Hannah from Thomasson Farms, will talk to us about this peat free, natural fertiliser, similar in texture to compost, that is 100% sustainable.

Dining Group

Happy New Year to you all

Thank you all for supporting us last year and we hope you like our choices for the coming year. Please remember all members of the mb&mu3a can come on any of our meals. Just check the venues we have booked and the menu choice, if you like the look of it just email or phone Pat to check there's a place and book. You can now also do a bank transfer once you have booked.

January Afternoon Tea at the Plaza Stockport
Wednesday 21st at 12.00pm £21.50

February Evening Meal at Pagliacci Hyde
Tuesday 17th 6.30 for 7.00 pm £22

March Evening Meal at Peruga
The Three Bears Hazel Grove
Thursday 26th 6.30 for 7.00pm.

Pat Walker

Outings Group

Happy New Year from Jenny Summers, Hazel Bhatt and Lesley Barlow

Here are the Outings and the detailed information for the planned trips during this year

Sat. Matinee @ 2.30 pm 17th January SINGIN 'IN THE RAIN - fully booked - Royal Exchange

Friday 20th of February ...We will travel on the bus to Stockport War Memorial Art Gallery in time for the gallery open hours from 1pm. From this gallery we can walk down towards the town centre to the Hat Works museum or Stockport Foodie Friday which start from 6pm at the Stockport market (a monthly event featuring street food, craft ales and live music).

Sat. Matinee @ 2.15 pm 21 March CAROUSEL Plaza Theatre Stockport - fully booked

Thursday 30th April - Trip to Wentworth House which is one of the grandest stately homes in the country and is at the beginning of an ambitious regeneration project. Run by Wentworth Woodhouse Preservation Trust, the house has over 300 rooms with architecture from 1720's to 1880's. The gardens have over 50 acres, so there is plenty to see and explore

Price £32 for NT members and £37 for non NT members which includes coach hire, driver's gratuities and entry fee and house tour.

Booking from the January meeting onwards, usual pickup points.

Organiser Barbara Scholes

Thursday matinee at 2.00 pm 25th June The Car Man is a ballet by Matthew Bourne at the Lowry Theatre. Ticket price at discount rate £54.50 p.p. Loosely based on the ever popular Bizet's opera Carmen, this is set in an American garage-diner in 1950s, and the dancing is explosive !

Booking by cheque please MBMU3A OUTINGS @ the next general meeting.

A limited number of seats booked. (J. Summers 0161 427 2861).

Cruise - Normandy and Dorset (25th July x 5 days sailing from Liverpool) for a group of 10 travellers
Twin Cabin Prices:

Interior Twin Cabin (I Grade Cabin) - £749pp

Ocean View Twin Cabin (E Grade Cabin) - £949pp

Superior Ocean View Twin Cabin (C Grade Cabin) - £1,079pp

Balcony Junior Suite (BJ Grade Cabin)- £1,449

Single Cabin Prices:

Superior Ocean View Twin Cabin for Sole Use (C Grade) - £1,349

Please note that all pricing is capacity controlled and may be subject to change, subject to availability at the time of booking.

Hazel Bhatt/Jenny Summers

CONTACTS

Chairman: Diane
chairman@mbmu3a.org.uk
Vice Chairman: Clare
vicechairman@mbmu3a.org.uk
Secretary: Barbara
secretary@mbmu3a.org.uk
Treasurer: Mike
treasurer@mbmu3a.org.uk
Group Co-ordinator: Sue
groupcoordinator@mbmu3a.org.uk
Membership Secretary: Colin
membershipsecretary@mbmu3a.org.uk
Speaker Organiser: Clare
speakerorganiser@mbmu3a.org.uk
Almoner: Olwyn
almoner@mbmu3a.org.uk
Newsletter Editor: Malcolm
newsettereditor@mbmu3a.org.uk
Outings: Lesley
outings@mbmu3a.org.uk
Systems Manager: Colin
systemsmanager@mbmu3a.org.uk
Website:
www.mbm.u3asite.uk

Newsletter items

Thank you to the people who have submitted articles for inclusion in past Newsletters,
can I have some more please !!!

Things that have happened to you in the past, funny or serious, items that you think could be of interest to our members. You don't need to have your name published with the article, if you do not wish to, but I do need to know who has sent the article.

Put your thinking caps on and let's try to make the Newsletter more interesting for all our readers.

Malcolm, Newsletter Editor

Jigsaw Sales at Monthly Meetings.

Please don't bring Jigsaws with pieces missing

We have a table selling 2nd HAND Jigsaw Puzzles at our monthly meetings. Please bring some along and buy another one.

Book Sales at the Meetings

Due to the limited amount of storage space and the fact that hardback books and non fiction books are not popular, it is requested that paperback fiction books only are brought for the stall.

Please do not bring any magazines as these also do not sell



This Newsletter appears bi-monthly. The next edition will be published in March 2026

Please send items for publication by email to newslettereditor@mbmu3a.org.uk

You can read all issues of the newsletter on our website www.mbm.u3asite.uk

All contributions for the next edition of the Newsletter should be received by Friday 27th February AT THE LATEST