

Newsletter – July 2026

MBM u3a Open Meeting &

Summer Charity Event

Thursday 20th August 10 – 11.30am
St Paul's Church Hall, Compstall

In aid of REUBEN'S RETREAT

Admission £2 – Tea – Coffee – Refreshments
Gardening – Home Bake & Home Produce
Cards – Bric-a-brac – Jigsaws – Books
Name a Creature – Stones in a Jar – Quiz
Photograph Competition
(a u3a Activity – a General Photograph)

Come along and bring your friends

Chairman's Chit Chat....

If you remember two years ago our nominated charity was St. Ann's Hospice. (now called Moya Cole). As we raised over £1000.00, a brick with our name would be on show in the new building. As a result our u3a was invited to pay a visit to see the new premises. Barbara, Malcolm and myself went on a guided tour. We were offered refreshments on arrival and had our own guide to take us through the building and explain about all the new facilities. It was fascinating to hear and see all that was available to patients, their families and staff (See the article on page 2).

If anyone wishes to go you can contact them direct and arrange a visit, by appointment only.

Our nominated charity this year is Rueben's Retreat and this is to remind you that the August meeting is our main charity event where we hope to raise more funds for this worthy cause. This year Caroline Ley is running a Photo Competition where members can submit pictures in two categories (See Page 3)

We would welcome donations for the raffle as well as items for our bric-a-brac stall where you are sure to find items that you didn't know you needed !!! I'm sure we will have another successful morning. Don't forget anyone can attend, so feel free to invite your friends and neighbours. The more the merrier !!!

Regards Diane

Moya Cole Hospice (St Ann's Hospice)

Two years ago Marple Bridge and Mellor u3a raised £1106.45 for St Ann's Hospice, our charity for that year. Their representative explained to us that this would go towards the much needed rebuilding of the hospice. It was no longer fit for purpose to deliver up to date specialist care.

We were surprised when, a few weeks ago, we were invited to a celebration of the new build. The old building had been demolished and the land sold to help fund the new building alongside the money that many organisations and companies had donated.



The cheque being presented to Greg Kelly the St. Ann's Hospice contact



Three representatives of our u3a attended the celebration, Diane Holker, Barbara Scholes and Malcolm Moss. They were extremely impressed with the new facilities which would support people of Greater Manchester for years to come. The new hospice allows space to expand their work allowing for training and innovation. It gives far more space for both inpatient and outpatient care.

St Ann's Hospice will continue to be known by that name for many of us, but in fact, in 2025 it's name changed to Moya Cole Hospice in recognition of their inspirational founder, Dr Moya Cole. An inspiring woman who recognised the need for a hospice in our area.

In recognition of our donation, we will be having the name Marple Bridge and Mellor u3a immortalised in a special area in the new building, along with the names of all the others who donated over £1000. A memento of which we can be proud.



The New Building



*View from one of the patient's room
The sliding glass windows can be opened and patients can be wheeled out and spend time outside*

The grounds where patients and visitors can stroll round or sit and chat



Photographic Competition

The competition is open to members of Marple Bridge and Mellor u3a. Any member can enter, no special skills are needed, just send in a photograph that you think is interesting and engaging. Mobile phone snapshots are welcome.

Competitors may enter a photograph in either, or both, of the following classes:

MB&M u3a activities – a photograph that reflects an aspect of one of our activities;
Open – your own free choice of subject.

Please send your entry by email to: caroline.ley@btinternet.com to arrive by 31 July. Make sure that you say which category you wish to enter, add a few words to explain what the photograph shows and include your name in the body of the email message.

Caroline will arrange for 6 inch by 4 inch prints of the entries, ready for display and voting at the charity event on Thursday 20 August.

There is no charge to enter the competition, and no small, select panel of judges. Instead, everyone attending on the day, u3a members and visitors alike, will be invited to contribute 50 pence in order to vote for their favourite photograph. We hope that as many people as possible will take the opportunity to place a vote.

The photographs may be reproduced in the group's publicity material.

Caroline Ley

Strolling Group

Tuesday August 4th Colin Burkitt

I am planning a stroll for August that is completely different. I hope that our strollers find it an attractive option. Meet outside the Cornish Pasty shop on Piccadilly station, bear right as you leave the ticket check from the train and you will see its distinctive yellow sign. You will see me there with my red rucksack.

Train times are –

Depart Rose Hill 10.11, Romiley 10.17, Woodley 10.20 – arrive Piccadilly @ 10.46

Depart Marple 10.40 – arrive Piccadilly @ 11.07 Depart Godley 10.35 – arrive Piccadilly @ 10.55

We will then get the tram to Media City where we will walk the Salford by the Sea heritage Trail. This is a 2 mile step free trail. This trail explores the people, places and stories behind the area now known as Salford Quays. We will be strolling at a gentle pace stopping at each of the 14 trail points to learn about the history of the area. After the stroll if the weather is kind we will take a seat over looking the water for a picnic lunch, either bring your own or get one from the nearby Pret a Manger. If the weather is not so good we will go to the nearby Kargo MKT where you have a wide choice of food outlets. After lunch we get the tram back to Piccadilly and our train home.

You will need your bus pass with train and tram travel added, this will cover all your transport. Please email me or text me, with your mobile phone number for emergency contact on the day, to confirm that you plan to join us. My phone number is 07434 284666, email cburkitt18@gmail.com

Tuesday September 1st Nazir Chourbaji

Tuesday October 6th Shirley Hammond

Meet in Romiley outside the Forum SK6 4EA

We will stroll through the park and across the golf course, along Pinfold Lane and back to Romiley along Sandy Lane. We can then have some refreshments in one of the cafes in the centre of Romiley,

For Further information contact Shirley Hammond. ashammond.shirley@gmail.com

Dining Group

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.
If you cannot get to the meeting, we can email you an order form.

July 21st The Lamb Inn Chinley

Two Courses for £30
6.30 for 7.00pm

The
Lamb
Inn



September 29th. The Pack Horse New Mills

Two Courses for £29
6.30 for 7.00pm

Pat Walker

Games Group – 1st Wednesday of the month – 10am to 12 noon

The new Games Group is now up and running with a variety of board games for members to choose from. The meetings are held on 1st Wednesday of each month at Marple Methodist Church at 10am till 12, and we would like as many of you to come and enjoy playing games, meeting new people to socialise with and bring your friends and even learn new games if you so wish.

I look forward to seeing lots of you there.

Diane Holker

Tel: 07778458593

chairman@mbmu3a.org.uk

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

August 12 Annual Show

September 9 Kedleston Hall National Trust

October 14 Jeff Bates – Bulbs

Outings Group

Wednesday 9th September...guided tour of restored "Victoria Bath" in Manchester. The tour start at 10:30 am. The cost of the tour is £9 pp plus £3 pp for tea/coffee and biscuits on arrival. Booking at the general meetings.

Plaza visit 24th October..... Saturday matinee. Stockport Operatic Society – CHESSEBURY by Tim Rice and ABBA writers.

Price £21 pp cheque (group rate) payable to Outings

Booking from June at general meeting. Hazel Bhatt/Jenny Summers

January 2027 – Royal Exchange Theatre – A Little Light Music

Price approx £70 further details at the general Meeting.

Jenny Summers

Geoffrey Fogg (Geoff) 1943–2026

Geoff was an active member of our u3a for many years. He was a committee member for a long time and as such assisted in the development of many projects. He was always ready to help and support new ventures.

A keen sportsman who took part in a wide variety of different sports. He had been an ardent supporter of Manchester United since childhood. He brilliantly chose the music "Glory, Glory Man United" to be played at his funeral.

This sporting interest led Geoff to initiate a few of our u3a's more physical groups over the years. These included a link with Sports Active and a walking cricket group. This eventually led to our Zumba group.

Following a request from members for slower, shorter walks than the walking group arranged, Geoff established the strolling group. This has been running for many years now and continues to go from strength to strength. Unfortunately, Geoff had been unable to join us for the last year due to ill health.

Sadly, Geoff passed away on April 18th 2026. Our thoughts are with his wife Joan.

Joan would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who sent messages of sympathy at this sad time.



Crossword Compiled by Marple Bridge and Mellor u3a Crossword Group

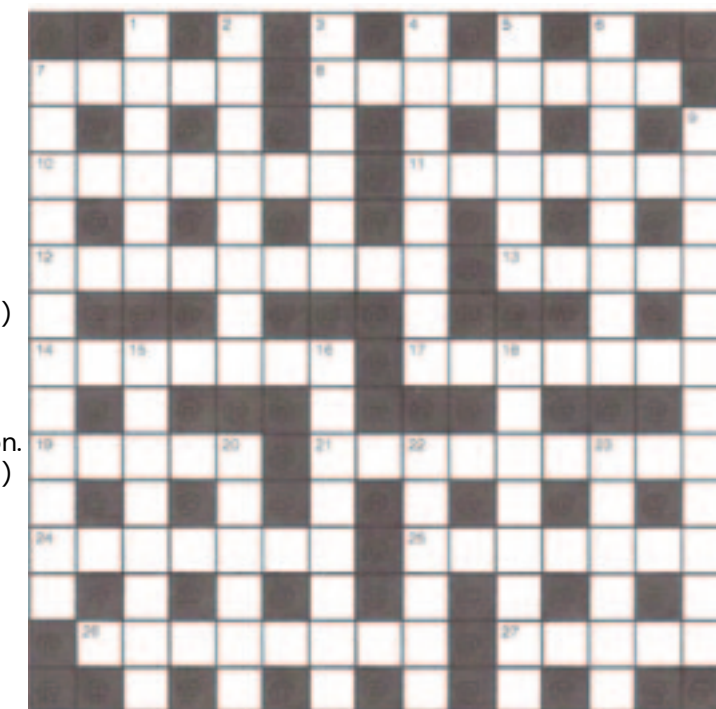
compiled jointly by u3a Crossword Group

Across.

7. Nothing evil about green fruit. (5)
8. A Detective organisation precedes upheaval in Northern air, causing damage to nature. (4,4)
10. Rod and Eddy fall out due to senility. (7)
11. Fighter flies back to little Michael to perform a stunt. (7)
12. A real band combine for a mega Star. (9)
13. Avoid going round Motorway to save money. (5)
14. Five score a century. (7)
17. Sounds like it's a religious building, based on deduction. (1,6)
19. Oh, mop around with enthusiasm. (5)
21. With a new King a strange arousal. (9)
24. A care he develops for otalgia. (7)
25. Devilish – O, there it is, not in charge of game. (7)
26. Not quite producing result. (8)
27. Tread warily to negotiate a deal. (5)

Clues Down

1. Child is gone we hear – only made a joke. (6)
2. Do not forget about associate. (8)
3. Adviser begins looking at worries you explain randomly. (6)
4. American State train company started in Amsterdam. (8)
5. Walks miles for Metro vehicle and another thing. (6)
6. An Asian language started first in letters in place it now occupies. (8)
7. Dated folios handed over. (3-9)



Clues down cont.

9. Plaything will jump over warning on read-only exercise. (8-4)
15. A large number of our men exercise before us. (8)
16. Bore read item out. (8)
18. Repeats play as recent production. (2-6)
20. Greek Goddess adjusts the ace to perform witchcraft. (6)
22. Checks balance after car reverses over good man. (6)
23. I cry over return of artist – it's a sign of pressure. (6)

Some of our recent Events

Dining Group visit to Werneth Low Golf Club



The dining group were well rewarded for venturing out on a hot evening. The bi-fold doors were wide open giving us a terrific view across Marple and the hills beyond. A superb setting for a delicious meal and excellent company. As usual an enjoyable evening with the added twist of the delightful setting.

The Outings Group visit to The Car Man, a ballet by Matthew Bourne

A group of u3a members travelled the stifling hot weather to take our seats for this wonderfully choreographed performance at the air conditioned Lowry theatre. The story is loosely based on Bizet's opera CARMEN and its themes of lust, passion and betrayal but instead of a cigarette factory it takes place in a sleazy 1950's car repair shop with a diner attached. The familiar music and athletic dancers both entranced and shocked throughout and the standing ovations at the end were thoroughly deserved.



Marple Bridge & Mellor u3a Speakers

July 16th	Fran Vigon	Don't Shoot the Messenger A talk about advertising
Aug 20th	Charity Event	
Sept 17th	Philip Caine	Writer & Speaker From Bagdad and back again

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Announcements

It is with great sadness that we record the death of Veronica Dewsnap. We send our sincere sympathy to all her family and friends.

It is also with great sadness that we record the death of John Goodwin. John had been a member of our u3a for many years until this year when due to ill health he had to go into a Nursing Home. We send our sincere sympathy to his wife Rene and all his family and friends.

Crossword Solution
Across: 7. Olive 8. Acid rain 10. Dodder 11. Gimmick 12. Aldebaran 13. Skimp 14. Hundred 17. A priori 19. Oomph 21. Awakening 24. Farache 25. Diabolo 26. Quotient 27. Trade
Down: 1. Kidded 2. Remember 3. Lawyer 4. Virginia 5. Tramps 6. Filipino 7. Old-fashioned 9. Skipping rope 15. Numerous 16. Diameter 18. Re-enacts 20. Hecate 22. Audits 23. Isobar

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 September 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.org.uk

All contributions for the next edition of the Newsletter should be received by Friday 28th August AT THE LATEST