

Newsletter – September 2026

Some of our recent Events

u3a Members Set Sail For Adventure

As new members of mbmu3a, Donald and I were delighted to join fellow members on a memorable cruise to Dorset and Normandy aboard the Boulette, sailing from Liverpool around England's beautiful west coast.

Life on board quickly settled into a very enjoyable routine, with delicious food seemingly appearing at every turn. Three course meals, tempting afternoon teas and plenty of opportunities to socialise ensured that nobody went hungry! Most importantly our group got along brilliantly, with laughter, good company and lots of shared memories created along the way.

Our first stop was Dorset, where we enjoyed a guided walk along the stunning Chalk Coast. Walking from the iconic Durdle Door to picturesque Lulworth Cove, we learned about the area's fascinating geology and fossil-rich history. To make the day even better, the weather was on it's best behaviour and treated us to glorious sunshine.

Next came Honfleur on the Normandy Coast, a charming medieval harbour town full of character. A guided tour introduced us to its rich history and unique wooden church before we set off to explore at our own pace. Naturally, a little shopping was in order, and euros were soon exchanged for artisan chocolate, nougat and, of course, the obligatory fridge magnet!



Back on board, the fun continued with excellent evening entertainment and a lively quiz night that brought out everyone's competitive spirit. We returned home refreshed, relaxed and grateful for such wonderful company. It was a fantastic holiday with a great group of u3a members, and we are already looking forward to our next adventure together on the high seas.

Gerda

North West u3a SUMMER SCHOOL

This is a brief report on four days spent at the Manchester Metropolitan University in August organised for members of the u3a, mainly from across the North-West.

There were about 50 U3As represented and at least 10 widely different subjects from which we could choose, for example from Art to Ukulele, Archaeology to U.S. Politics, Geology to Opera.

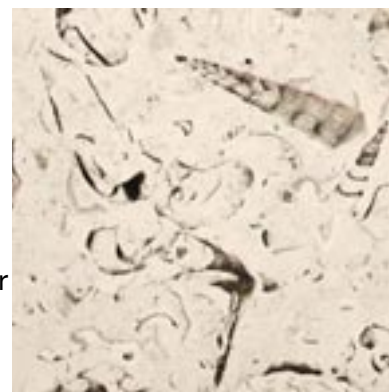
In the evening we also enjoyed quizzes, an evening of song and chat from Joy and Kevin Siddall (we've had them at least twice to our own general meeting) and a talk on UFOs.

Above all it was a wonderful opportunity to meet other like-minded people, to learn something new, or more, about a chosen subject, and to come away with ideas, information, and new friendships from across the region. The tutors and organisers worked incredibly hard to make it a most enjoyable and rewarding experience.

Part of the archaeological study of Manchester included visits to some notable buildings



A walk around the streets of Manchester opened our eyes to a new geological world under our feet!



It definitely captured the spirit of our organisation, LEARN, LAUGH, LIVE. Do try it for yourself next year.

Shirley Hammond

Strolling Group – Salford By The Sea

Our stroll in August took a new experience. Meeting in Manchester and taking the train to Media City to the heart of Salford Quays.

The area given the name Salford by the Sea. Colin led us around the 14 point trail telling us about the people, places and stories of the Manchester Ship canal and the Quays.



It opened our eyes to the life of people in the area over the last 150 years. It started with the desire to create a trading route to bypass the expenses of ships docking at Liverpool and then transporting goods over land to Manchester. So developed the longest canal in the world that was as deep and as wide as the Suez Canal.

I thought I knew all about the area, but was surprised by some of the information I received about both past and more recent developments.

You can find lots of information about the trail on google.

Thank you Colin for such an enjoyable day



A Magical Sight

We wandered slowly down the lane
Collecting blackberries for our favourite pie.
The sun was warm as she chattered and tasted
The juiciest I could find for her to try.
She skipped ahead round the corner, just out of sight
While I slowly followed, picking more shiny black jewels
As she called them, when I heard her excited cry.



I hurried forward round the bend and there ,
bathed in bright sunlight
with swarms of butterflies fluttering round her,
Twirled my five year old Ellie, her arms open wide.
"Look at me, look at me grandma, I'm dancing with fairies!"
A magical sight.



"Make a wish", I called to her
as one settled on her shoulder and outstretched arm.
"Don't worry, Ellie, they're friendly, they won't sting and
they mean you no harm".
And then - they were gone.

If I were a painter, or writer or poet perhaps
I could capture that scene for others to see
Of A little girl dancing with her magical fairies
But I'm just a grandma with no special talents
Except for making blackberry pie (with custard) for tea.

JS



(This fairy is in Trentham Gardens)

Photo Competition held at the Charity Event on 20th August

The photo competition went very well. The winners were chosen by those attending the charity event.

Gary Mason's picture: "Dog in a Flap", amused many of the voters and took a well deserved first place.

Sue Ward came second with her entry: the beautiful and atmospheric "Peaceful Moment on Maligne Lake".



Marple Bridge & Mellor u3a Website

Have you looked at our website recently?

Shirley Hammond and Gary Mason have given it a really thorough makeover with the result that our site is now truly attractive, informative and easy to navigate!

Perhaps you are thinking about a new activity as Autumn approaches? If so, everything you need to make your choice is right there on the website.

Maybe you have a friend who you think might enjoy the u3a but has yet to make a decision – send them the link and they can explore everything we offer and find out how to join.

This link which will take you straight to the website <https://mbm.u3asite.uk>

Do something exciting today and Join Marple Bridge and Mellor u3a



Marple Bridge & Mellor u3a Facebook Page

Another recent innovation was the launch of our Facebook page.

This is an added benefit for members; it doesn't take the place of any of our existing lines of communication, you won't lose out if you choose not to use it, but if you enjoy using Facebook you might also enjoy the immediacy that the page provides.

A major benefit for our u3a as a whole is that it enables us to publicise some of our events to a wider audience and thereby encourage new members.

This link will take you straight to the website – please share it with your friends:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61590715061012>

Chairman's Chit Chat...

Once again our wonderful members as well as the committee have made our annual Charity Event a resounding success. We raised over £700 on the day for Reubin's Retreat. Lisa from the charity was also present and had her own stall which she advised me raised £74.00 that day. So once again I thank everyone for their support, whether you came with donations for the different stalls, helped run them or buy purchases, it all helped in making it a very good morning.

We will continue to sell the books and jig saws up to our AGM in February when we will hopefully be able to present Reubin's Charity with the final amount of monies collected over 12 months.

Well done everyone and a big thank you once again.



Diane – Chairman

Strolling Group

We have quite a large group of members who join us for a variety of strolls exploring different areas around our area and the surrounding countryside. We benefit from outside exercise as well as joining in enjoyable social occasions.

Tuesday October 6th Shirley Hammond

Meet in Romiley outside the Forum, near to the main road SK6 4EA
We will stroll through the park and up to Romiley Golf Club house. Passing through the carpark and around the edge of the golf course. Continuing up the track towards Pinfold Lane. We will then follow Pinfold and along Sandy Lane back to the centre of Romiley.
We can then have some refreshments in one of the cafes in Romiley.



Tuesday November 3rd Ursula Southern Bus Pass necessary

Either meeting in Marple to get the bus to Stockport or meeting at the bus station in Stockport.
More details of times later.

Strolling the Trans Pennine Trail along the River Mersey to West Didsbury. Then taking the bus back to Stockport and on home. Full confirmation later.

We can decide whether to have a drink and possibly some nourishment in West Didsbury or wait until we return to Stockport.

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

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

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|-------------|---|
| October 14 | Jeff Bates – Bulbs |
| November 11 | Emily Chandler – Head Gardener Dunham Massey
Emily will give us a presentation on the Winter Garden at Dunham Massey and how it is looked after today. |
| December 9 | Christmas meeting |



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.

September 29th. The Pack Horse New Mills

Two Courses for £29
6.30 for 7.00pm

October 28th. The Spread Eagle Hatherlow Romiley

Carvery

More details later

Pat Walker



Outings Group

Hello Everyone

We hope you are enjoying this years heatwave after heatwave and it's not affecting your health.

We are seeking suggestions for next year's outings. It can be a day trip or a longer holiday in this country or abroad.

Come and tell us at the next general meeting or tell us by email at outings@mbmu3a.org.uk

Hazel Bhatt

Plaza tickets for Chess on Saturday afternoon 24th October at 2.15 pm

Please collect your tickets at the next General meeting. There is a waiting list for any returns so let me know if you are unable to attend.

Saturday matinee 2.30 pm 16th January A Little Night Music by Stephen Sondheim.

Price is £68 p p (group rate) Cheques to MB&MU3A Outings

Please pay and more information at the Outings desk at the next General meeting.

Jenny Summers

Marple Bridge & Mellor u3a Speakers

Sept 17th	Philip Caine	Writer & Speaker – From Baghdad and back again
Oct 15th	John Kerwin	Talk entitled 'Fantastic Elastic'
Nov 19th	Mike Barley	A trip through the Norwegian Fjords
Dec 10th	The Siddalls	A Christmas Song Show



Crossword Compiled by Marple Bridge and Mellor u3a Crossword Group

compiled jointly by u3a Crossword Group

Across.

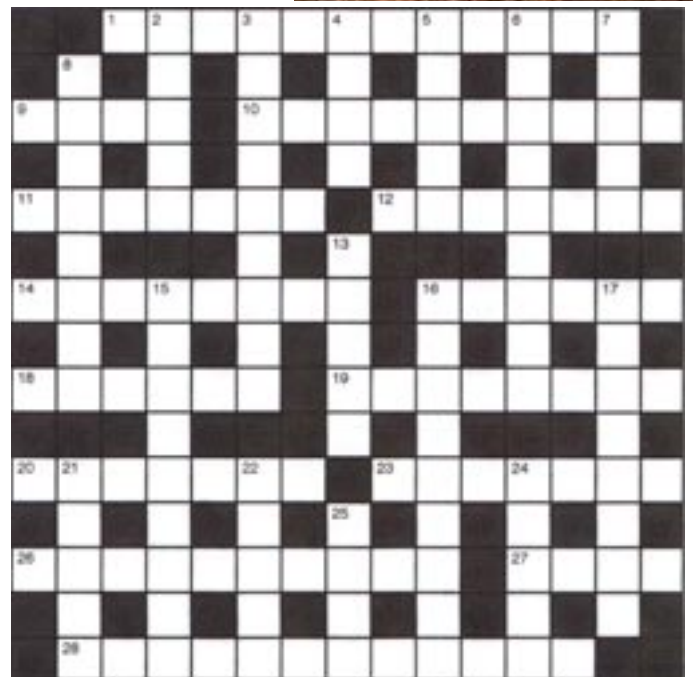
1. Frank, kind foe, fought over a pair at place setting. (5,3,4)
9. Familiar sound is resident in Quebec House. (4)
10. Enamel bolt designed to be resistant to corrosion. (5,5)
11. Laid arm around captain. (7)
12. Crew lad, drunk, wriggled around on the floor. (7)
14. I'm leading agreement before newsman clashed. (8)
16. Nursery cheer first children excited. (6)
18. A detective in charge of nothing basic. (6)
19. Look alike, Sire's emblem outside. (8)
20. Run café using boiler. (7)
23. Live with quiet bearing that soothes. (7)
26. It is vain to arrange for inspection. (10)
27. Blood in Bangor evades notice. (4)
28. Widely travelled member of Basketball team. (5-7)

Clues Down

2. I moan about Jewish Mother. (5)
3. Excited, I can't fast – that's unbelievable. (9)
4. A mob destroyed the old church reading desk. (4)
5. Open door to back which is gloomy. (5)
6. Done with first wife, captain will suffer defeat. (9)
7. Jack in the pink, navel gazing. (5)
8. A computer aided design on distorted mice is for intellectual. (8)
13. A doer, perhaps, to admire. (5)

Clues down cont.

15. It's fairly slow musically and nation moves to the instruction. (9)
16. Little treat? Money you fool! That's what it sounds like. (6,3)
17. Lobby gospel writer for gold standard. (8)
21. Sounds like you give voice to taking drugs. (5)
22. Teach as education includes the course to follow. (5)
24. Quarrel about fever with the last Emperor. (5)
25. For starters, prawns in every restaurant on the jetty. (4)



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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

Crossword Solution
Across: 1. Knife and fork 9. Echo 10. Noble metal 11. Admiral
12. Crawled 14. Impacted 16. Crèche 18. Acidic 19. Resemble
20. Furnace 23. Becalms 26. Visitation 27. Gore
Down
2. Naomi 3. Fantastic 4. Ambo 5. Dream 6. Overwhelm
7. Knave 8. Academic 13. Adore 15. Andantino
16. Cashew nut 17. Hallmark 21. Using 22. Chase 24. Argue
25. pier

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.



This Newsletter appears bi-monthly. The next edition will be published in November 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 must be received by Friday 30th October AT THE LATEST