

Autumnal greetings all

Before I forget, again, may I remind our merry band of non-email users that they're equally welcome to submit items for newsletters: we can type up hand-written articles for inclusion so please don't feel left out. Also, if something catches your interest but the only contact info given is an email address, please ring a committee member and we'll try to provide more details and/or find a phone number for you to call.

**So long, farewell ...**

**Phil.** As most of you will know by now, our dear friend and Treasurer, Phil, passed away on 28<sup>th</sup> August, having been diagnosed with bowel cancer only a few months earlier. They say nobody's irreplaceable but stepping into his treasurer's shoes will be no easy task. His patience and perseverance when dealing with our bank were admirable, and his precision with figures always assured an easy job for our auditor at the end of the financial year. He brought good humour to committee meetings and we will miss his happy smile. He had started to write his memoirs and apparently introduced them by saying "I want to record that I have had an excellent life, and consider myself very lucky ...". We in turn are lucky to have known him.

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On a more cheerful note, **Alison C** has sent this message. I am leaving Marple after 26 very happy years seeing our children through the local nurseries, schools and clubs and enjoying everything this wonderful town has to offer. In recent years I have dabbled in poetry, French and art courtesy of the U3A. What a great organisation, tapping into all that knowledge its members have accumulated over the years. And what lovely people the organisation attracts. We are moving down to Chichester, where we don't know anyone, but I plan to join the U3A there. I am sure the members there will be *almost* as lovely (!) and I will carry on learning from them. Thank you to all the people I have met along the way and for introducing me to the U3A.

**Coffee mornings**

About forty members attended our "opening up" coffee morning at the Senior Citizens' Hall on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September and enjoyed (we hope) drinks, chocolate biscuits, a lot of cheerful chat and even an occasional grumble. The committee and kitchen team (thanks June, Barbara and Maureen) ensured as far as possible that surfaces were clean, hand gel was available, and good ventilation was maintained. Fortunately, the day was mild so no-one complained of draughts. There were spare tables so more folks could have been accommodated comfortably,

The next coffee morning will be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October at the SCH between 10:00 and 11:30, so we hope to see a few more of you there. Covid measures will be in place again so please remember to wear something warm if necessary. We hope to have a speaker meeting, with restricted numbers, in November.

**Groups news**

Philip V is intending to start up **Beginners German** again (after 18 months) on Wednesday 6 October from 2 - 3.15: this will continue fortnightly on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. There will be 3 learners who were all with the group before lockdown. We will be starting from scratch and using a course called PANORAMA A1 which has 2 publications: PANORAMA KURSBUCH A1 and PANORAMA ÜBUNGSBUCH A1. These books are published by CORNELSEN. Newcomers are welcome. The books can be bought on Amazon and EUROPEAN BOOKS. Philip's phone number is 07472 018896.

The **classical music** group will recommence on Monday 25th October 2pm-4pm. New attendees would be welcome. Please phone 0161 355 6871 for further details.

The u3a **photography** group at their next meeting will be looking at photos of the many changes in shops, banks etc. Here is Colin's photo collage of the Changing Face of Market Street. *Online readers may like to enlarge the images to get a better view*



The new **Trips** group organisers are meeting on 7 October to discuss potential destinations so we hope trips will resume before too long. Many thanks to all six of them – Kath, John, June, Janet, Ruth and Maria – for taking on the task. Please see update \*\* near the end of the newsletter.

**Tai Chi.** Good news from Joan. I am hoping to re-start the Tai Chi group in October and would welcome expressions of interest from old or new members.

I will treat it as a beginners' class as I imagine that much will have been forgotten! We will have to limit numbers to maintain safe distance between individuals, so can I ask that anyone interested contact me via this email address and I will start a list in order of application. I would like to change the meeting time from Monday afternoon to Wednesday morning at 10a.m. but if there are many objections to this I can leave it as it always was. Please let me know if you have strong feelings about it.

The first meeting will be free of charge (a taster!) then I will ask for an up-front payment for the term, depending on numbers. This will save us the chore of collecting small sums every week.

I look forward to seeing some familiar faces and some new ones. Contact [joan.charman01@talktalk.net](mailto:joan.charman01@talktalk.net) or, for non-onliners, telephone 0161 427 2609.

**French Conversation, Quiz, Table Tennis, Yoga, Art for All** (on Zoom) and **walks** groups are continuing to meet.

The **Canasta** group and **Rummikub** group have started to meet again in the Library.

The few remaining **Art** group members have hung up their brushes. Thanks again to Maureen for leading the group for so long.

The **Bridge Intermediate** Group will not be starting up again as part of u3a but the existing participants are continuing to play on a social basis. We wish them well.

**Embroidery.** The u3a embroidery picture, Map of Marple, is now on display upstairs in Marple library. Our embroiderers have now merged into the sewing group from Senior Citizens Centre, so sadly are no longer a u3a group. They will meet on Monday mornings between 10.00am and 12.00pm in the lounge at Marple Senior Citizens Centre from 6 September. As well as embroidery, they will be doing quilting and general sewing with people on hand to help you get started. All crafts are welcome if you wish to do your own crafts and share expertise. You will need to join the Senior Citizens Centre with membership fees of around £5 per annum. Everyone welcome. For more information, contact Dorothy on 0161 449 8168.

One of our new members has kindly offered to set up a **Theatre** group and possibly a **Cribbage** group if there is sufficient enthusiasm among members. Please contact our groups coordinator, Hazel, if you're interested.

A New Mills u3a member is hoping to start a **Finnish Language and Culture** group, and says ... This is a new group for those with little or no knowledge of Finnish and an opportunity to learn it, starting from the basics. I will teach you this fascinating language, which is unrelated to most European languages. Finland is an enigmatic country – a blend of east and west, the land of 188,000 lakes, the midnight sun, the northern lights and the sauna. While this is primarily a language class, over time we will learn more about the culture of this Nordic land, where I spent several years.

The group will start on Friday, 14th January 2022 and then meet every 2nd/4th Friday of the month. This may seem a long way off, but I would like to gauge the level of interest so that I can ensure we meet in a suitable venue. (If Covid restrictions apply or people are reluctant to meet in person, then I could teach via Zoom.)

If you are interested in joining the group or you have any questions, please don't hesitate to e-mail Neil Bennett at [kuvakirja@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kuvakirja@hotmail.co.uk) NB you don't have to join New Mills u3a as we're both part of the Pennine Link network.

**Gardening group 2** held their annual garden party at Eileen and David's house in August, reports Mavis. They were blessed with fine weather and had a lovely afternoon chatting as well as taking part in various activities including a quiz and playing boules on the lawn. "Thank you very much to Eileen and David". *Two pictures – not quite "spot the difference" – so both photo takers can be in there.*



The summer **Bowling** season has now finished, reports Brian. We had a total of 21 U3A members taking part, with more interested in joining the group in April 2022.

The **Jazz Appreciation** Group has not yet restarted. The Group is heavily dependent on using group member premises and music playing / viewing facilities, which the group (7 members in total) have not felt capable of restarting to date.

## National u3a news

**u3a 40th anniversary woodland.** To mark the u3a movement's 40th Anniversary in 2022, the Third Age Trust are creating a u3a anniversary woodland situated in the Brecon Beacons. u3a members' contribution to the woodland will help benefit the environment, wildlife and climate for future generations. The movement's target is for 5,000 trees to be planted between October 2021 and March 2022. u3a members can buy individual trees or a copse of 100 trees and u3as are also encouraged to plant trees within their own communities.

The money for the trees goes towards establishing the trees and part of the cost for each tree is reserved as future payments for maintenance. We are fortunate to have secured the woodland in an area of outstanding natural beauty and the trees will be expertly looked after by skilled arborists.

Buy u3a woodland trees on [the u3a brand centre](#).

The **u3a radio podcast** is back after a summer break with an edition intriguingly name "Globetrotter, Farm, Chair". You can listen on [our YouTube channel](#)

**Love of Poetry Connects the Movement.** For National Poetry Day on 7 October, we have two special events. South Bucks u3a member Hilda will be reading poetry from across the four nations of the UK and Jane from Guildford u3a will be talking about Anglo-Saxon poetry.

[Thursday 7 October, 10am - Celebrating National Poetry Day](#)

[Thursday 7 October, 2pm - Anglo Saxon Poetry](#)

*If you're missing the Marple u3a poetry groups this might be of interest?*

**Digital support.** We are running tutorials for any u3a members who feel they could benefit from digital support. Find these [on our online tutorials page](#). Additionally, ClickSilver Connections provides trained mentors to give u3a members one to one support. Mentors connect with you over the phone and weekly support is provided over four weeks and sessions last 30-60 minutes. For more information, please contact u3a office by calling 0208 466 6139 or [emailing us](#).

## Members' photos

Margaret has been out and about with her camera again and reflects ... The sunset was taken at Arnside. It was our first day out of the area since lockdown: all the other photos are local. It was such a change to see the sea! We are lucky that we have some lovely walks on our doorstep.

*The smiley photo at the end of the newsletter is also one of Margaret's*





## Sloe travel

Do you remember Jacqui asking if anyone knew where to find sloes? Well, we certainly found some a couple of weeks ago but, sadly for Jacqui, not round here. Following an emphatic “I need a holiday” a couple of months ago, and with a desire to be beside the sea, though not at the seaside, we booked five nights in Guernsey. After filling in the necessary online health declaration we were deemed acceptable so duly flew the one hour, ten minutes from Manchester airport on an Aurigny Air Services’ ATR (maximum capacity 72 but not full so surprisingly relaxing, even with a mask). Getting through security on arrival would have been relatively straightforward if one of us hadn’t forgotten his password for the app, but we made it eventually, only to find that taxis were few and far between in the evening. Thankfully, one did come back for us after delivering a pre-booked customer. That’s two lessons learned – choose a memorable password and plan the whole journey in advance.

Our hotel was a tad quirky, but clean and comfortable with a small number of interesting fellow guests, including one couple who had come over on the ferry in their Morgan and seemed unfazed by the narrow lanes. Evening meals were enjoyable but breakfast was a bit of a guessing game – no menu so you had to ask if they had what you wanted. Fruit and fibre seemed to be outside their scope so we went shopping for bananas, plums and Weetabix. We’d chosen the hotel as it was only about 100 yards from the cliff path on the south of the island and the location was perfect. The path was well-maintained, with steps (lots of them) up and down the steep bits, and directions indicated on stone blocks (none of your common wooden signposts there). We were amazed by the numbers of bees and butterflies on the ivy flowers beside the path – their red admirals looked bigger and brighter than ours – and the proliferation of, yes you guessed, sloes on the blackthorn hedges. We met a lovely local couple one day who were picking sloes and told us they usually gather about forty pounds, which they make into sloe gin to give away to friends as Christmas presents. We wondered if their friends did the same. There were also a wide variety of birds about, notably shrikes in the north and blackcaps in the south, but not too many gulls.

The views along the cliffs were photogenic and the geology was incredible. There’s very little sedimentary rock: it’s mainly metamorphic augen gneiss (from the German “augen” meaning eyes) plus various igneous areas/intrusions (*which maybe Mary H could tell us more about in a future newsletter as she’s a regular visitor*). My baggage was only slightly heavier on the return journey. As well as the fantastic cliffs and pebbles at Moulin Huet we found a delightful café which sold delicious crab sandwiches - all white meat on real bread, and very reasonably priced. Local produce also includes some excellent dry cider which made a refreshing change from the medium/sweet brands prevalent on the mainland.

We didn’t visit the tourist sights/sites as such but did come across one curiosity up near the much flatter north coast, which we travelled to on the excellent frequent bus service on our rest day i.e. still walking but not up and down. Adjacent to the island’s landfill site is a small, but presumably deep, disused quarry which once housed waste from the Torrey Canyon oil spill.

Returning home was much more straightforward – no need to arrive two hours early at the airport and straight through Terminal 1 on arrival at Manchester. We flew back in glorious sunshine, looking out at billowing bright white clouds resembling at times candy floss, snowscapes and even cauliflower. I was last in Guernsey about thirty-six years ago and now wish I'd gone back sooner. We will definitely return. Coincidentally, a friend of mine was there last week on a package holiday, doing the tourist bits, and was equally enthusiastic.



## Books for Autumn

As Autumn comes on are you looking for something different to read? asks Shelley. Perhaps you could step away from the latest bestsellers and turn to some lesser known novels from the past. For example, if you have read "Jane Eyre" and "Wuthering Heights" you may feel you know the Brontës but have you read "The Tenant of Wildfell Hall" by Anne Brontë? With its themes of domestic abuse both physical and psychological it seems surprisingly modern. You may have read Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" and "Sense and Sensibility" but what about "Persuasion", her last novel, with a mature heroine who, at 28, feels that she may have been wrong to submit to the influence of friends and family and reject her lover. From great classics to classic crime, if you enjoy detective novels have you read any by the great originators of the genre recently? Golden Age British authors like Agatha Christie and Dorothy L Sayers have stood the test of time and the latter's detective Lord Peter Wimsey is a masterly creation with the added interest of the will they/won't they relationship with the modern independent woman of the 1920s, Harriet Vane. Speaking of the independent woman, there are some women detectives who take the lead in historical detective fiction too. Ariana Franklin (pen name of Diana Norman) has given us the excellent Adelia Aguilar, trained in medicine in Salerno, coming to 12<sup>th</sup> Century England to become Henry II's 'Mistress of the Art of

Death'. This award-winning series of books is set in an historical context so well researched that the gripping storylines seem beguilingly credible as Adelia walks the tightrope between the King's favour and the Church's suspicion that she is a witch.

Finally, and for the broadminded, there are Georgina Clarke's novels. She has brought her love of history (with a PhD in the subject) and a desire to write fiction together to produce a new type of female detective. In "Death and the Harlot" we meet a sleuth who is also an 18<sup>th</sup> Century prostitute – Fanny Hill meets Miss Marple – but with no explicit details of her professional activities. Like Moll Flanders, Lizzie Hardcastle is an engaging and intelligent companion and guide in the London underworld of the period.

### Third Age Matters

The autumn magazine's cover story features Waterlooville u3a member and Paralympian swimmer Rosalinda Hardiman. Other articles feature Esme Young of BBC's Great British Sewing Bee; a walk round Peover; retro cooking recipes; Dame Esther Rantzen on a new scam involving olive trees; the history of the world's first electronic digital computer; motorcycling; BBC World Service translators at Bush House; and much more.

All that and more for the bargain price of 66p per issue. Please contact our secretary if you'd like to join the 50%+ of u3a members nationally on the mailing list.

### Committee update

Of necessity we've had to rearrange the ~~deckchairs~~ posts again, and in the absence of new volunteers we've co-opted Jacqui back as temporary Chair, so your Marple & District u3a committee are currently:-

Chair:	Jacqui Airey
Treasurer, Membership and Beacon Admin:	Graeme Mould
Secretary, Newsletter:	Sally Dulieu
Vice-Chair, Groups Coordinator:	Hazel Meakin
Speaker coordinators:	Olga Henner and Hilary Ashall

Rearranging laptop allocation may take a wee while longer so the best bet in the next couple of weeks may be to either copy in membership or secretary on emails if you actually want to contact the chair or treasurer and we'll make sure the message gets passed on to the right person, or phone.

Olga and Hilary may job-share as membership secretaries next year so we'll need a new speaker coordinator. They have a list of speakers who have already been contacted, some of whom were booked but had to be cancelled during lockdown, so a new coordinator would not need to start from scratch. By the time we get to next year, if all goes well Covid-wise in the meantime, we certainly hope to have some firm bookings in the diary.

Being a part of the committee can be very rewarding but trying to juggle multiple jobs can also be quite stressful and time-consuming. So far we've kept going with a small but dedicated team but we need reinforcements to share the load and/or to allow those who would like a break from committee duties to take one. PLEASE consider joining the team next year. Thank you.

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\*\* Late news re **Trips**. There are rumours of a visit to RHS Bridgewater in December to see the lights but firm news of plans will be broadcast by monthly email, in the newsletter and at monthly meetings. May I suggest that any keen trippers among our non-emailers either find an online buddy who will keep them up to date, or if the organisers know you're interested maybe one of them would phone you. No doubt a system will evolve in due course.

To end on a light note, keep smiling!

