



Welcome to Marple and District

Welcome to Marple u3a and thank you for joining.

To help you become familiar with who we are and what we do, here's a bit of information: -

We are a local charity run by volunteers on behalf of the members who are generally retired or no longer work full time.

Although u3a stands for "University of the Third Age", we do not run lessons.

We run interest groups and organise trips. Every second Monday of the month we meet in the Marple Senior Citizens Hall at 10:00 where, for £1, you can enjoy a hot drink, a chat with others and listen to a speaker on a wide variety of subjects.

Our group leaders are volunteers and are not paid and there are definitely no exams or qualifications.



Our ethos is that we share knowledge, whatever that may be, with others while enjoying ourselves and generally having a laugh.

We currently have about 30 interest groups that are led by one or more members. Any charges made are simply to cover expenses, be that coffee and biscuits, the hire of room, printing or permits.

Most months, a trip is organised by a dedicated group to a wide variety of places. Recent destinations have included stately homes, gardens and museums. Charges to cover the cost of coach and admission are payable as appropriate.

A newsletter is produced each month containing the latest news, anecdotes, upcoming events and relevant national u3a news. Additional information can be found on our website.

www.marpleu3a.org.uk

Marple u3a is in a loose association with other local u3as (Romiley, Marple Bridge and Mellor and New Mills) enabling you to attend groups and events which add a further 75 or so interest groups which you are welcome to join provided space is available.

As part of the national u3a, you are also able to access national talks and information. These are often presented via Zoom and all are free (the programme varies month to month). Simply go to u3a.org.uk where full details are available.

The u3a publishes a national quarterly magazine “Third Age Matters” which you can subscribe to for a modest amount. If you would like to receive a copy, please contact us.

On a serious note, Marple u3a can only exist and continue to flourish with an active committee. It is never too early to join the committee: indeed, some of the present committee joined in their first year, so if you have some time to spare and want to help to run our u3a please talk to one of the committee members at the next meeting or by emailing one of the addresses below.

Contacts:

Chairman: Tom Pettigrew chairmanmarple@gmail.com

Secretary: Len Walker secretarymarple@gmail.com

For those new to Marple, you have joined a community that is both friendly and rich in history. The name of Marple is thought to be derived from “Maere hop hyll” meaning The Hill at the Boundary or “Maere pill” The Stream at the Boundary.

There are local archaeological discoveries in Mellor going back to pre-roman times.

One of Marple’s most famous sons was John Bradshawe of Marple Hall. He was the leading judge at the trial of Charles I and his was the first signature on the king’s death warrant.

In later years, Marple became prominent in the industrial revolution when Samuel Oldknow established his mill in the valley of the river Goyt. He also became instrumental in the construction of the Peak Forest canal which serviced his lime kilns, remnants of which still exist on Strines road. Following extensive reconstruction of the canal in the late 60s and early 70s it now forms part of the Cheshire ring system. It has within it a spectacular aqueduct over the river Goyt and rises 209 feet in a flight of 16 locks.



Marple is served well by two railway stations Marple and Rose Hill with regular trains to Manchester and Sheffield.

Finally, it is thought that the name of the character of Miss Marple in the Agatha Christie novels was inspired by Marple.

With its proximity to The Peak District National Park and open countryside, Marple is a truly wonderful place to live.