

MARPLE & DISTRICT

u3a

NEWSLETTER

December 24

Hello again,

It's a fairly short newsletter this month. No doubt our usual contributors are out Christmas shopping or attending Christmas fairs and a too busy to send in contributions.

Monday's meeting will include our annual festive offering of mince pies, along with the usual coffee and biscuits. Obviously, supplies are limited, so should you wish to indulge, please get there early or risk the threat of you finding only crumbs, empty plates and tears as you watch your fellow members scoff what you missed.

The committee would like to wish all our members a very merry festive holiday and a happy new year. We look forward to seeing you on the 13th of January 2025.

Mavis Lewis is organising the collection for the food bank in December. You can bring your donations to the meeting on Monday the 9th of December. Please give generously.

As last month, Sandy Maclean is asking for donations of any coats of all sizes to be brought to the Monday's meeting.

It would appear that the car park is now unavailable. When I drove past the entrance this week, I noticed a "Check point Charlie" like sentry box set up at the side of the approach road and there seemed to be a man asking for "papers" too.

For those unfamiliar with the meeting times and dates, they are normally held on the second Monday of the month and start at 10:00 am and are usually over by 12:00.

This month there's a Christmas related quiz instead of the usual crossword.

This month's meeting is on Monday the 9th of December. The speaker this month is Simon Michel. - About the New Book.

The trips group has arranged a visit to Stockport Hat Museum and afternoon tea in the new year – see below.



Photograph by Colin Hughes

Graeme has sent the questions a quiz he will be setting for the Christmas meal on Monday the 2nd so that those that missed out on the turkey will at least have the pleasure of completing it. The answers appear later – Oh, wait a minute, better not send this out until Tuesday or there will be roasted Len on the menu.

It's all about Christmas quiz – Graeme.

1	She would go lightly to breakfast	
2	If we're good, we'll get these	
3	Its capital is Ankara	
4	Cobweb is a Shakespearean one	
5	This group made it linger in 1993	
6	Colin Firth stammered his way to an Oscar in this	
7	In olden days, a glimpse of these would be shocking	
8	One of the Gallagher brothers	
9	You can't see the wood for these	
10	Woody and Bo were in love throughout this series of stories	
11	Parasitic climber	
12	It comes to the table in flames	
13	The green things from Belgium	
14	They can be found in packs	
15	Where the rich and famous (and others) din	
16	Sounds like the giver of lectures in the 1940s	
17	Liberace took us for a ride in this	
18	A popular whisky	
19	They had dirty faces with Jimmy Cagney	
20	You can't always have this and eat it	
21	What you look through in London	
22	It's wise to add this to your stuffing	
23	Maria says, their feet click	
24	It sounds as though this log will never walk alone	
25	Will he visit if you don't have a chimney?	

Group News

I've mentioned it before, but it does no harm to repeat it here that there is a vacant position on the Trips Group organising committee. The work is minimal, you may only have to be involved in arranging a few trips, but it would greatly help the other members if you could lend some time to organising events.

Please contact any member of the Trips group at the meeting to discuss what is required and how it all works. Or alternatively, send a message via the website to register your interest.

Quiz Group – Graeme.

Unfortunately, due to football I can't find an available Wednesday in December. Therefore, the next quiz will be in January – date to be advised — Graeme.

Rummikub Group - Christine Traynor

Due to health conditions, I am unable to continue as co-leader with Joan Booth.

I would like to ask for volunteers to help Joan, it is a very successful group with eighteen members coming along at the last meeting.

It would be very disappointing if the group had to finish because of the lack of volunteers.

U3A Creative Writing Group - Janet Graves

This very friendly group has two spaces for anyone who likes the challenge of a blank page. We meet every month at each other's houses and share a short piece (usually a page) of creative writing to a theme.

We've written the opening to a murder mystery, conversations in a lift, and a piece set in William Shakespeare's time. If you'd like to join us, please contact

j.graves52@icloud.com

Classical Music Group - Mike Connolly

The Classical Music Group has space for new members. They meet on the last Monday of the month from 2:00 to 4:00, if you are interested call Mike Connolly on 0161 430 5576.

Board Games Group – Lesley Williams

This will be starting in February and be held at the Conservative Club on the first Tuesday of the month. Times are from 7:00 to 9:00.

If you think you may come to some of the meetings, let Lesley know on 0785 609 6540.

French Beginners/improvers Group — Pam Wakefield ()

Pam will be starting the group on the 8th January every 2nd Wednesday. You can contact her on 07890862143. Please her know if you are interested and wish to attend or email her at:-

wakefield.pamela@yahoo.com.

Garden visits Group

Meets every 4th Friday of the month. Please contact

Christine Birchall on 0161 4302943 or email her at christine89@talktalk.net.

For information about times and places.

Trips Group

TRIP TO STOCKPORT HAT MUSEUM AND AFTERNOON TEA AT THE PLAZA FRIDAY 17TH JANUARY 2025

We have arranged a trip to the recently re-opened Hat Museum in central Stockport, followed by an afternoon tea at the Plaza theatre in Mersey Square. The museum is situated in a restored Victorian Mill on Wellington Road South, (SK3 OEU). Included is a one hour guided tour of the factory floor where we will learn about the history of hat making in Stockport and then a self-guided visit to the gallery of hats where there are over 250 hats on display from around the world.

There is a tea/coffee making facility at the museum and there are lifts to the lower floor. Unfortunately, there is no parking at the museum, so we will travel by bus (384 bus from Marple runs every 20 minutes from the Hollins bus stop) and meet at the reception area inside the museum at 10.45am for our tour at 11am.

The nearest bus stop is outside MacDonalds, and the museum is on the left, a few yards down towards Mersey Square.

Depending on numbers, we may be split into 2 groups.

Following our visit, we will then walk to the Plaza in Mersey Square for an afternoon tea in the famous Art déco cafe at 1.30pm. This will be the Connaught tea, which includes a selection of sandwiches, a scone served with clotted cream and strawberry preserve, and a choice of tea or coffee.

The cost of the visit will be £21.50, which includes the museum tour, the afternoon tea and a gratuity. Tea/coffee and biscuits at the museum are optional pay on the day at a cost of £2.50. Can you please let me know if you have any food allergies, by indicating below?

Contact: Sue Palmer (427 5487 or 07551382128)

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NAME _____ Contact Telephone number _____
✂ NAME _____ Contact Telephone number _____ ✂

ANY ALLERGIES YES NO Please specify _____

Emergency Contact Name _____

Tel. number _____

PAYMENT Cheque Cash Amount included £ _____

Please make cheques payable to Marple & District U3A

Please note: No refunds can be given unless a replacement is found. Please return this lower portion with your remittance and keep the top copy for information.

Last Month's Speaker

Derbyshire Cave Rescue by Bill Whitehouse.

Unfortunately, Bill had a number of technical difficulties at the start and could not show us his images. After a delayed start, Bill talked to us about cave rescue through the ages and the difficulty that beset rescuers.

Caving became more popular in this area with the decline of lead mines. When people get lost, it is usually because their light fails. The build-up of carbon dioxide was also a problem in the 40s and 50s. Rescuers, at that time, often had to use public transport to reach the caves in question. Another issue is the cold in the caves. This can lead to hypothermia. Caving is a dangerous sport unless you know what you are doing!!

Thank you, Bill, for persevering in the face of failing computer and sound issues.

Hilary Ashall

December's speaker About the New Book - Simon Michel.

Food Bank Collection – Mavis Lewis

Again, this Christmas, we will be collecting donations at the December meeting for the food bank. I know these are difficult times for most of us, but the people who use the food banks are often in a desperate situation. In the past, our U3A members have been so very generous and we would be so grateful if you could donate again this year.

Coat Collection – Sandy Maclean

I am collecting coats, children to adult sizes, for Wrap Up Manchester. If anyone would like to donate, I can collect at the Nov speaker's meeting.

Thank you.

Group Admin

Members are reminded that they are supposed to bring their membership cards when they first take part in group activities and that group organisers are required to make a note of who attends.

Almoner

Our almoner is Jacqui Airey. If you know of anyone who is ill or has been bereaved, please let Jacqui know and she'll send a card, flower or plant as appropriate. It is important that members know we care about them and miss them, but Jacqui does need your help by keeping her informed.

Contact Jacqui - jacairy@hotmail.co.uk

Marple & District u3a Policies.

Tom has asked me to make members aware that the Web page now has a list of various policies available for members viewing pleasure. Please take time to examine these as they form the basis of how your local u3a is run.

You will also find a list of the groups that are available in the High Lane u3a.

Marple and District u3a groups chart.

A few copies of the latest version of the chart will be available at the monthly meetings. If you want an up-to-date copy, please contact Martin using the form on the website.

Committee membership.

For those interested, we are still desperate for members to join the committee. It's likely the role of newsletter editor will become available next year. Although not technically an executive role, my experience of being a member of the committee has proved beneficial in gaining knowledge of items to be passed to the membership.

U3a central - On line talks and information.

There is a plethora of talks and information being provided by the u3a. It can all be found at www.u3a.org.uk

Contributions to the newsletter

If you would like to send something for inclusion in the newsletter, please forward any anecdotes, stories, articles or photographs you feel the members may be interested in to

newslettermarple@gmail.com – Len

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Photograph of the house on Dale Road by Colin Hughes. If you do drive past, take the opportunity to donate the charities they are supporting