

MARPLE & DISTRICT

u3a

NEWSLETTER

December 24

Happy New Year for 2025

Hello everyone. I trust you all had a very enjoyable Christmas and new year holiday and Father Christmas brought you everything you requested. It goes with saying that, as responsible adults, I know you will have kept your indulgence of fest-sumables to a bare minimum and your reward it seems, is the pleasure of the worst weather for many a year.

The rain on New Year's Eve/Day was bad enough, but the cold and snow has just added to our misery. We, and I'm sure others had it much worse, had a stream flowing down our road on Sunday, only to be followed on Monday with two inches of snow.

This morning (Wednesday) we had to resort to using the kettle (Luke warm water is enough) to unfreeze the doors so we could get in the car.

What's worse, we have more bad weather to come with temperatures falling well below zero for the rest of the week. Please try to check on any vulnerable neighbours if you have concerns.

In this month's issue, the "Fantastic Group's" crossword is back and the Quiz Group returns.

There's a new trip for February to sign up to and if don't forget, the Hat Museum trip is on Wednesday the 17th for those that are going.

Several new groups are looking for members.

Group News

Home Insurance

On a precautionary note, can those members that hold group meetings in their own homes please check the details of their home insurance policy to make sure they are not compromising their cover.

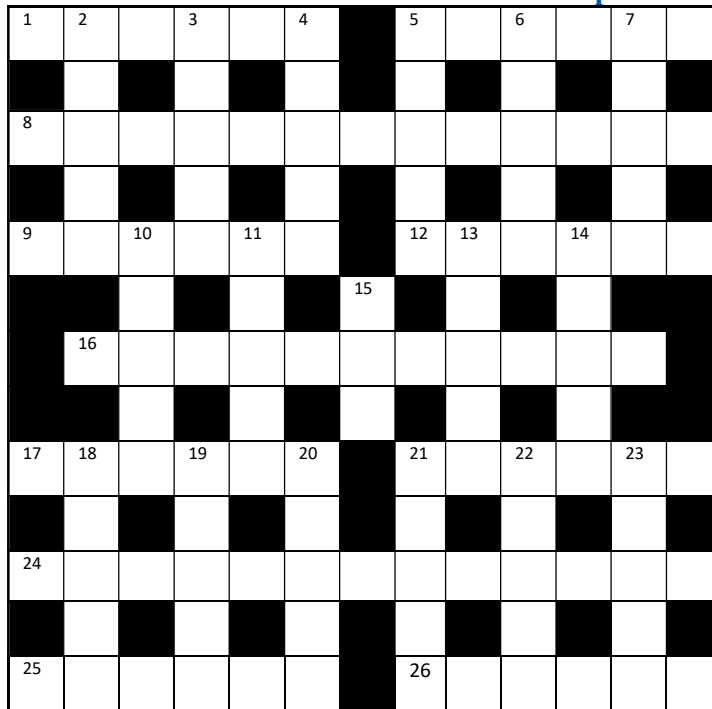
Board Games Group – Lesley Williams

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.

Crossword No: 0026. – The Fantastic Group.



Across

- 1 I guess that a donkey precedes this upper-class setter (6)
- 5 Outsize eatables lead to fish-hawk (6)
- 8 On the face of it, great friend has Fair Island jersey (13)
- 9 What carolling shepherds did in the fields (6)
- 12 Too large a girth, a result of decay with German conjunction (6)
- 16 It's difficult when amenable journalist loses direction and gains 100 (11)
- 17 A narrow valley may make one spoil the environment (6)
- 21 A booze-up in a makeshift tent (6)
- 24 Entrance in blue, with a reversed copper insert – imagine this! (6)
- 25 Puzzled, lament in a cerebral way (6)
- 26 Peasants lose a thousand and find 500; vocalises (6)

Down

- 2 Basque fitted with no direction. For a bird? (5)
- 3 Rise to the finish but turn head over heels (5)
- 4 Very loud journalist, under drug, used inappropriate language (5)
- 5 It happens in part of Southern France that they say yes to a dog (5)
- 6 Quietly the French milk entwine (5)
- 7 The Queen of Troy turns 50 and loses her head (5)
- 10 It's pocketed – smells bad (on the bounce) (2,3)
- 11 Former wife, 50, exercises to purge (5)
- 13 In Olde England wine containers were not perfectly rounded (5)
- 14 Part of a toilet can be found in confused part of Germany (1, 4)
- 15 Intelligent humour can be found within here (3)
- 18 Avoid when a man rises on a drug (5)
- 19 Small estuary where the French is found in a confused container (5)
- 20 Do better when it sounds like you have left prison (5)
- 21 It sounds like napoleon is now! (5)
- 22 Acknowledged it isn't a journalist (5)
- 23 Join up and take on a garden role (5)

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.

French Beginners/improvers Group — Pam Wakefield ()

Pam is hoping to start a new French group on January 8th at 10am her house. Although she already has some member signed up, she would like to recruit more and for obvious reasons it would be preferred that they all start at the same time. If you are interested, please could you contact her ASAP to discuss.

You can contact her at wakefield.pamela@yahoo.com.

Trips Group - John Pollock et al.

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.

REMINDER – Hat Museum

Since there will have been many sleeps and much consumption of festive cheer since our last edition, this is a reminder to those that have booked for the Hat Museum trip on the 17th of January – It's still on. The times and places are as reported, but just in case the essentials are:

-

Meet in the reception of the museum at 10:45 on the 17th of January for the tour at 11:00.

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.

February Trip:-

Tour of the Bridgewater Hall

Friday 21st February 2025

The Bridgewater Hall is a concert venue in Manchester City Centre known to us all. The building was built at a cost of £42 million in the 1990s and is the home of the 165-year-old Halle Orchestra. Located on the site of Lower Mosley Street bus station, the hall is named after the third Duke of Bridgewater.

The building replaced the Free Trade Hall, which had poor acoustics and audience facilities

The main auditorium sits on a foundation of earthquake-proof isolation bearings that insulate it from noise and vibration from the adjacent road and Metrolink line. The structure is mostly formed from solid, reinforced concrete, moulded and cast like a vast sculpture. The auditorium has a double-skinned roof with a stainless-steel outer shell.

We are proposing to visit the Hall for a 90-minute guided tour of the building itself. There are lots of stairs and walking. There is a maximum number for our party of 35

Our tour will start at 1115 on Friday 21st February. As there are good public transport links from Marple, we are asking members to make their own way to the Hall. If you wish to use the train, the trip is timed to allow members to travel on the 1007 train from Marple or the 1011 train from Rose Hill. We will meet beyond the barrier for platform 1 at Piccadilly station at 1050 and catch the tram to the Bridgewater.

If you travel directly, we will meet in the entrance hall at 11:15

After the event, you are free to eat at the Bridgewater Hall, spend some time in the centre of Manchester or return home immediately

The price, including the tour, will be £5

You can pay by cash or cheque. Please make Cheques payable to **"Marple U3A"**
Contact details; John Pollock, 10 Flaggwood Ave, Marple, SK6 6HP
john.ha.pollock@btconnect.com

No refunds can be given unless a replacement from the waiting list can be found.

Please return this lower portion with your remittance. Retain top portion for your information.

Tour of the Bridgewater Hall Manchester Friday 21st February 2025

Name; _____ Phone No _____

Name: _____ Phone No _____

Payment (€5.00 pp)

Cash;

Cheque

Please circle

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.

Lunchtime concerts – Sandy Maclean.

Due to weather conditions and unreliable trains, I am not planning any Bridgewater Hall visits for the moment.

However, for your information, there are lunchtime concerts at Alderley Edge Methodist Church starting at 1pm costing £8. (Light lunches from 12 sold separately) They take place on the 3rd Wednesday of every month.

15 January ...	Students from Chetham's School of Music
19 February...	Kitty Casey/soprano, Alex Bradford/piano
19 March...	J2 Guitar Duo, Josh Hughes & Joel Redfern

Happy New Year to All! Sandy Maclean

Cryptic Crossword Compiling Group

This month's meeting is cancelled, as from February we will be meeting from 1 to 2 at The Bull's Head on the Thursday following the monthly meeting. (same date and place just the time changing slightly) - Graeme

Quiz Group - Graeme

Will be held as usual at The Conservative Club on Church Lane on 15th January from 8pm, guaranteed to finish by 9:30. As previously advised, after 5 years, this will be my last quiz and unless someone agrees to take it forward, this group will cease.

Last Month's Speaker

A Life in Crime by Simon Michael.

Simon originally comes from a family of refugees, who became tailors, farriers etc. - a very different background to most barristers. He attended Middle Temple, which he recommends for a visit if you are in and around London.

First of all, Simon described the nonsense rituals of dining - a tricky start for a working-class boy. He then described meeting Michael Palin when he hit his car and subsequently visited his house to clear up the issue.

Thank you, Simon, for a thoroughly entertaining talk. His books are on sale, so do try one. I am sure he has many more stories for us in the future.

Hilary Ashall.

This month's talk is

“The Work of the woodland Trust,” by Louise Bentley.

December Food Bank Collection – Mavis Lewis

Thank you so much to all our kind members who donated to the Food Bank in December. As always, the response was just amazing.

Thank you also to all the people who helped to bag up the donations and load them in the car. Happy New Year to you all.

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 - jacairey@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 after the AGM. 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

Answers to Crossword No: 0025 look away now

Across

1 Assume 5 Osprey 8 Superficially 9 Abided 12 Rotund 16 Complicated 17 Defile 21 Bender
24 Hallucinatory 25 Mental 26 Yodels

Down

2 Squab 3 Upend 4 Effed 5 Occur 6 Plait 7 Ellen 10 In Off 11 Expel 13 Ovate 14 U Bend 15 Wit
18 Evade 19 Inlet 20 Excel 21 Boney 22 Noted 23 Enrol

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

By providing content for publication to Marple and District u3a, members assert that they are the copyright owner of the submitted work or photograph and grant Marple and District u3a, the Third Age Trust and Third Age Trust Trading Ltd. a non-exclusive, royalty free, worldwide license, to hold, process, publish and display the work on their website, social media accounts, newsletter and in other u3a Trust media e.g. Third Age Matters magazine in the form of an article or photograph.