

As you will know by now, the February edition of our newsletter was Len's last as editor. Over his time as editor, he has brought his own sense of style and humour to the job, turning the contributions from many different sources into a thing of joy and beauty. He will be missed, and we wish him well as he starts his treatment for prostate cancer.

[Future of the Newsletter](#)

The March edition of our newsletter is the first one of a new era without Len as editor and we are taking the opportunity during this transitional period to re-evaluate the role of the newsletter, its content, its frequency and how it gets delivered.

So that we give our new editor time to get their feet under the table, this edition will concentrate on delivering papers for the upcoming AGM in April.

Following March, the newsletter will be issued every two months and concentrate on giving news about our u3a activities and events that have taken place during the previous weeks.

There will still be a place to advertise upcoming events and in support of this we are hoping to get more information about these upcoming events available to view and download from the website. Because the website is always available, it can be more responsive than waiting for the newsletter to be issued.

Finally, we will no longer be delivering printed copies of the newsletter by hand. Instead, recipients can opt to have it posted (at a cost), pick it up at monthly meetings, view it on the website or revert to having it emailed.

Footnote from Lindsay, incoming editor:

Len's are big boots to fill, and I can only hope to attain the high standard he has set, but I am very appreciative that his process is in such good order; it will help considerably with the baton handover.

Any material can be sent to this email address newslettermarple@gmail.com but please note:

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.

Please also check that everyone has given their consent to appear in images.

Annual General Meeting 2025

This year's AGM is to be held on the 14th April 2025; the official documents follow:

- Formal notice of meeting
- Agenda
- Minutes from 2024
- Committee nomination form
- Chair's report
- Treasurer's report and summary of accounts.

Marple u3a runs on the goodwill of volunteers and is always looking for new people to get involved - there are plenty of opportunities. Some examples are putting out and clearing the chairs and tables for the monthly meeting, assisting in the kitchen, and general admin and support. Why don't you help Marple u3a remain a successful organisation and support its future development?

Notice – MARPLE AND DISTRICT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025 MONDAY 14th APRIL

Dear Members

The constitution (para 14 ii) requires that we give at least 21 days' notice of the Annual General Meeting, which will be held on Monday 14th April 2025 in Marple Senior Citizens' Hall at 10:00.

A further requirement is that this notice 'shall set out the business of the meeting, including resolutions to be proposed, and shall provide information about proposals of the election of Officers and non-Officer members of the Executive Committee to be made at that meeting.

All members of the u3a shall be entitled to attend and vote at the meeting. However, they must be paid members for 2024/25.

There are no proposed amendments to the constitution & no other resolutions (14v)

The Trustees' Reports will be presented along with the Annual Accounts for 2023/24 (14iii)

Approval will be sought from the membership for the appointment of an independent examiner for the 2024/25 accounts (14iv)

In line with the constitution (paragraph 7v), all the current trustees/Members of the Executive Committee will retire at the AGM.

Paragraph 7vii states: 'Prior written nomination of any candidate for appointment as a member of the Executive Committee at an Annual General Meeting shall normally be required, made by a proposer and seconder from amongst the membership of the u3a (not being themselves Officers or non-Officer members of the Executive Committee), to be in the hands of the Secretary of the u3a at least 28 days before the meeting. Should nominations exceed vacancies, the decision about appointments shall be taken by ballot. Otherwise, nominations of candidates and the conduct of voting for appointments shall be dealt with in accordance with the Standing Orders of the u3a or as determined by the Executive Committee.'

AGM Agenda

April 14th 2025

1. Minutes of the 2024 AGM to be accepted
2. Chair's report to be accepted
3. Treasurers report to be accepted
4. John Pollock to be independent examiner for financial year 2025/202
5. Nominations for the committee to be accepted

At the conclusion of voting we will be voting for the members' charity.

Marple and District u3a

Minutes of 2024 AGM

Location Marple Senior Citizens Hall

Date 8th April 2024

There were 396 members at time of the AGM, 20% of members (80) need to be in attendance for the AGM to take place

Meeting was quorate with 109 members in attendance. In addition 1 member voted online.

Chairman opened the meeting at 10:00, welcoming those present.

All relevant papers had been issued to each member prior to the meeting.

Those in attendance were asked if they

- a) Accepted minutes of last AGM
- b) Accepted Chair's report
- c) Accepted Treasure's report
- d) Agreed the appointment of John Pollock as Independent Auditor for 2024/25
- e) That nominations for committee be accepted
Hilary Ashall
Olga Henner
Gini McMahon
Graeme Mould
Tom Pettigrew
Len Walker

The vote received electronically agreed that all items be accepted

All items were agreed unanimously by those present.

No questions were raised by any member.

The meeting closed 10:10

After the closing of the AGM members were asked to vote for the charity to be supported by book sales and donations

Mellor Country House 73 votes Over The Rainbow (MND) 21 votes

Marple and District u3a

Committee Nomination form 2025-2026

Nomination for committee members (trustees) of Marple & District u3a must be proposed and seconded by two paid-up members of the u3a (excluding spouse and current trustees) with the consent of the nominee.

Please send completed form(s) to Graeme Mould, 26 Churchill Crescent, Marple. SK66HJ

Nominee's name (Please print)

Nominee's signature

Proposer (Please print)

Proposer's signature

Secunder (Please print)

Secunder's signature

In the 2024/2025 fiscal year, our chosen charity was Mellor Country House

For various reasons, the amount collected in the last year was slightly less than £100 so we are recommending that we retain Mellor Country House as our chosen charity for another year.

Please indicate below the name of any registered charity you would like the membership to consider as an alternative and by a show of hands the members will vote their preference at the AGM.

Name of Charity

Name of Proposer

Marple and District u3a AGM April 14th 2025 Chair's Report

2024/25 has been another successful year for Marple and District u3a.

Membership has grown over the year and we now have over 400 members.

To keep attracting new members and to keep up the interest of our existing members, we need to continue to look for new and interesting groups for us to join. So this year I am pleased to see the Beginners for French Group and the Board Games Group added to our repertoire. On the downside we have lost the Quiz Group and Family History Group. They could both be restarted if there was sufficient interest and someone comes forward to take the lead.

This has been my second year as Chair. For personal reasons, I have not been as active as I should have been and I would like to thank all the committee members who have stepped up and supported me.

Once again, we all owe thanks to the teams who help make our u3a what it is by organising trips/visits, making us tea and coffee, checking us in and manning the book stall. We could not keep going without them. We also have volunteers to help with the chairs and with setting up the audio visual equipment.

This year we say goodbye to some long-standing committee members, Virginia McMahon, Len Walker and Graeme Mould. I would like to thank them all for everything they have done over the last years particularly during the difficult lockdown periods. We have been lucky to attract some very capable new members to fill these vacancies. It is very healthy for us as a group to continue to refresh those who help to run our u3a and next year we will be looking to replace the Chair, Membership and Speaker roles. These are fundamental to keeping our u3a operational so please make yourself known this year if you would like to job share any of them this year with a view to taking over in 2026/2027.

I would also like to offer my thanks to all group leaders. Groups are the life blood of the u3a. It does take a bit of time and effort to set up and organise a new group but your committee will always help you get started so please continue to come forward with your ideas and suggestions and if you are prepared to take the lead, so much the better. Perhaps you would consider sharing the role of leader with one or two others?

It is a tribute to our organisers that the varied nature and interest level of our monthly speakers remains so high and continues to attract so many of us to the monthly meetings.

Again, there has been a varied and interesting programme of trips, visits and concerts and there has been another very successful Christmas Meal at Disley Golf Club. Volunteers to help with visits and trips are always welcome and in particular we are looking for help with organising the Christmas Meal.

I reported last year that the website would need to be migrated to a more modern framework. This has been successfully achieved and I welcome on board Lindsay Proffitt who has taken on

the job of keeping the website up to date. Lindsay will also be producing our regular newsletters.

Finally, another big thank you to you all from me. I am very much looking forward to another successful year.

Tom Pettigrew
Chair

Marple and District u3a Treasurer's Year End Report 31 January 2025

1. Introduction

1.1. The Marple & District u3a is a registered charity, number 1109853, and part of the international organization, The University of the Third Age. As the income is less than £25,000 per annum, the only statutory duty is to update the Charity Commission Register annually.

1.2. Although local u3as are operationally independent, they are all members of the Third Age Trust. As such, they must abide by the Objects and Principles of the u3a Movement. The Trust is a national umbrella body (a registered charity and limited company) which represents all u3as in the UK, at national and international level. It offers a range of services, to support and advise local u3as, including a package of insurances and licences.

1.3. Marple u3a is also a member of the u3a Pennine Link, a loose grouping of local u3as.

1.4. The Marple u3a fiscal year ran from 1st February 2024 until 31st January 2025. Its AGM will be held on 14th April 2025. The AGM is at the Marple Senior Citizens' Hall.

1.5. John Pollock is the Independent Examiner for our accounts 2024/2025.

2. The Accounts

2.1. Marple u3a has three bank accounts:-

2.1.1. **The Current or Business Account.** The majority of day-to-day transactions pass through this account. Income from subscriptions and speaker meetings is payable into this account, and it is used for payments relating to the running of the u3a. To comply with Charity legislation, there are strict rules on how u3a money may be spent. It must be spent only in the furtherance of the u3a's objectives.

Year end balance is £ 3016.5

Balance 31/1/24 was £ 3920.9

2.1.2. **Liquidity Manager 35 Day.** The interest rate for this account is currently 2.75%.

Year end balance is £ 5542.06

Balance 31/1/24 was £ 5371.68

2.1.3. **The Welfare Account** is completely separate from the other u3a accounts. The Almoner keeps in touch with members, and sends cards and/or small gifts to sick members, and memorial gifts to the bereaved. Traditionally, income for the account came from voluntary contributions.

Year end balance is £426.98

Balance 31/1/24 was £437.48

2.1.4. **Sponsored Charity.** In addition to these three accounts, each year we nominate a charity to support. In the 2024/2025 fiscal year, our chosen charity was Mellor House. Jacqui Airey is responsible for

overseeing the various voluntary collections. In accordance with Charity Commission requirements, collection for another charity is outside our charitable objectives. Consequently, this does not feature in our accounts.

2.1.5. Interest Groups. Most of our interest groups are self-funding and independently administered by their respective coordinators.

The exceptions are:-

2.1.5.1. Tai Chi. The group coordinator collects money to cover rent for the hall. The Treasurer pays this into the Current Account and makes payments to cover invoices.

2.1.5.2. The Table Tennis group is similar. The coordinator collects money to cover the hall rent, which is payable into the Current Account to allow payments to be made. This can lead to year-end accruals - a timing issue depending upon when invoices are presented.

2.1.5.3. The Summer Bowls group pays money via the Treasurer into the Current Account to cover the purchase from Stockport Council of the correct number of bowls permits.

2.1.5.4. The Trips Group. The coordinators budget for each event and collect money accordingly from group members. The Treasurer pays this into the Current Account and makes payments to cover the cost of these events.

2.1.5.5 Due to the closure of Marple Library some groups moved to The Memorial Hall for their meetings. This increased the cost for those groups, all members pay £1 per meeting, the committee agreed to cover any shortfall.

3. Full accounts

A summary of the accounts will be issued by email in due course, a full set is available to members upon request (electronic or paper).

4. Summary

6.1. Overall, Marple & District u3a is in a healthy financial position. Our unchanged future aim is to make gradual small reductions where appropriate to achieve slightly lower overall account balances.

G Mould

Treasurer

Marple & District u3a April 2025