

## July 2025 Newsletter

### Message from our Chair

I know that you all appreciate the wonderful visits that our trips team organise on our behalf. I am appealing to you all to think about sparing a little time to join them and help. Organising the trips is shared among several members so you wouldn't be on your own.

It's a sociable team; I joined them last night at the Railway Inn and it was a fun couple of hours talking about possible trips for next year.

Please come forward to join in and help.

Many thanks

Tom

### News from the Groups

#### NEW Pickleball Group

This new group has just been formed and at the time of writing is eagerly waiting for its first meeting.

What is Pickleball and what are its origins?

Back in 1965, a group of friends, were bored one summer evening. They intended to play badminton but couldn't find the shuttlecock. So they improvised, grabbing some wooden paddles and a wiffle ball (a light perforated ball used in a type of baseball). The first games were played on a badminton court, which measures 44 feet long and 20 feet wide, or about half the size of a tennis court.

The appeal of pickleball is its accessibility. Young, old, or anywhere in between, pickleball calls out to the child in us who wants to have fun. Its low-impact nature allows for inclusivity, making it a genuinely multi-generational sport.

So far nearly 30 of our members have indicated their interest in the new group and our first sessions are planned to take place on a badminton court in the sports hall of Marple Hall School.

Tom Pettigrew

## Guitar Group

The u3a Guitar Group has provided a small number of concerts/singalongs for local dementia or care groups for free and have agreed to sing for the New Mills Dementia Group at the end of August.

They would like to recruit a small number of people who are happy to sing in front of an audience.

Is there anyone willing to join them to sing with the group, attend meetings on Tues mornings and sing on 28th August?

Please make yourself known to me and I will pass your details on to the group leader.

[chairmanmarple@gmail.com](mailto:chairmanmarple@gmail.com)

Tom Pettigrew

## Rummikub Group

This group has vacancies at the time of writing the newsletter.

## News about Day Trips

### Trip to National Memorial Arboretum on 17th July 2025:

There are still places available on the trip and members will be able to book at the next U3A meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> July.

### Trip to Llandudno on 19 August 2025:

We have just ordered a larger coach. At the time of going to press we still have 4 places available.

## Member Contributions

I am in my late eighties, and my social life seems to be going to the funerals of my friends. Whether it is Christians or Humanism, the following poem, "A Native Indian Prayer" (anon) tells it all.

Chris Farnsworth

When I am dead,  
Cry for me a little,  
Think of me sometimes  
But not too much.  
Think of me now and again  
As I was in life at some moment  
That is pleasant to recall -  
But not too long.  
Leave me in peace  
And I shall leave you in peace.  
And whilst you live  
Let your thoughts be with the living.

# Christian Aid Week in Marple, 11-17 May 2025

Many of you will have heard of and support **the UK and Ireland charity Christian Aid**, who for one week in May each year raise money to support desperately poor communities in different countries worldwide. In recent years, the focus has been on farming communities who are severely affected by climate change, destroying homes, agriculture and security.

This year is Christian Aid's 80<sup>th</sup> year and the focus was on providing support to farmers in Guatemala, Central America. Uncertainty looms over Indigenous farming communities in the Alta Verapaz region, a forested area of mountains and rivers, where the livelihoods, traditions and very survival of farmers and their families are at risk.

The two families which demonstrated the challenges faced and how Christian Aid are helping through their local partners Congcoop, were those of Aurelia and Amelia. They are shown in the pictures below.



The **Churches Together Christian Aid Team in Marple** undertook a number of activities around Christian Aid Week to raise money in support of these farming communities.

These were:

- The distribution of 5500 Delivery-only envelopes to homes in Marple, Marple Bridge and Mellor.
- Ran a plant and cake sale held at Marple Methodist Church.
- Organised envelope or bucket collections at nine local churches.
- Held a 'Sing Out' collection at St. Marys Catholic Church in Marple Bridge.
- Set up a Marple specific CA web page for on-line giving.



As you can see, the plant and cake sale were busy and good fun, raising over £1000 alone.



**In total, we contributed £5821 to Christian Aid through donations, sales and Gift Aid to help these communities in Guatemala.**

All 9 churches in Marple, Marple Bridge and Mellor were represented and several u3a members involved.

Tony Baron  
Churches Together Christian Aid Lead, Marple

## Monthly Meeting Talks for 2025

Held in Marple Senior Citizens Hall on the second Monday of the month at 10.00am

14<sup>th</sup> July

Keith Warrender

### Manchester and Cheshire Oddities

A fascinating collection of wayside oddities, curious pub signs, strange items in churches and unusual custom. Plus, the woman who grew horn, the old lady of Delamere Forest, clocks that do more than tell the time, plus elephants and giraffes.

11<sup>th</sup> August

Maureen Hawksworth

### Story of the Charity LEARN

Educating children no matter where they are is one of the biggest steps we can take toward ending extreme poverty.

8<sup>th</sup> September

Roger Browne

### The Kings Tiger Rag

The strange story of the role that King George V played in bringing jazz to Britain in 1919 with The Original Dixieland Jazz Band. How society in Britain was never to be the same again.

14<sup>th</sup> October

Sheila Leonard

### History of Manchester Ship Canal

The Manchester Ship Canal, often referred to as the Channel Tunnel of the Victorian age, is a magnificent feat of engineering, 36 miles long linking the birthplace of the industrial revolution, Manchester to the Mersey Estuary, allowing direct trade to world markets for both import and export of goods of all kinds loaded on ocean going ships. Today's talk tells of the history of the building of the canal, the people who worked on it, the ships that sailed up it, some of the incidents that occurred and some strange visitors, all contributing to the fascinating and continuing story of this great North West waterway.

10th November

Marion Hankey

### The Importance of Correct Posture Through Life

## Useful Information

The newsletter will be published every two months – May, July, September, November, January and March. The target date for publication will always be the first Monday of these months (some flexibility will be needed for holidays) with deadline for copy being the last Monday of the previous month.

The deadline for material to be included in the next edition is therefore Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August. Please send it to [newslettermarple@gmail.com](mailto:newslettermarple@gmail.com)

We aim for our website to be the source of the most up-to-date information. Please help us by submitting any new information, changes or updates to [websitemarple@gmail.com](mailto:websitemarple@gmail.com)

Our website is <https://marple.u3asite.uk/>

The u3a national website is <https://www.u3a.org.uk/>

We are a member of the [Pennine](#) Link which is a group of u3as (Marple Bridge and Mellor, New Mills and Romiley) who have agreed that members can attend each other's groups without being a member of that u3a. We also have an arrangement with High Lane to join some of their groups. You still need to pay the relevant group session fees and any trip costs, but you should only need to prove you are a current member of Marple u3a by showing your membership card

u3a has partnered with Riviera Travel to support local u3as. When a local u3a supporter books a holiday directly with Riviera Travel, 10% of the basic cost will be donated to The Third Age Trust (registered charity number 288007), benefiting your local u3a. Don't forget to mention our group.

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