

September 2025

Message from our Treasurer

Marple & District u3a Annual Subs Update

Due to expected increases in central u3a costs, the committee have felt the need to increase the **annual subs for Marple & District u3a to £8.00** with effect from the next subscription period, which is January 2026.

The annual subs for next year, will continue to remain the lowest within the Pennine Group of u3a's and across local u3a's.

As a member of Marple & District u3a you have access to approximately 30 groups, as well as numerous trips and the annual Christmas Lunch, which we know are very popular features. You also have access to all the groups across the u3a's within the Pennine Group, which as a reminder are Marple Bridge & Mellor, New Mills and Romiley u3a's. We also have an arrangement with High Lane u3a to join some of their groups.

If you are unsure of the wide variety of groups, details can be found on our website <https://marple.u3asite.uk/groups/>

The committee welcome any new ideas for groups, which will benefit the wider population, this is shown with the recent addition to the groups' portfolio of the very popular "Pickleball" group. Please contact Martin Hancock on martinhancox@hotmail.co.uk or any committee member to discuss a new group idea.

Thank you

Philip Wright

Treasurer

Marple & District u3a

Email: treasurermarple@gmail.com

News from the Groups

Pickleball

Our new pickleball group has got off to a very good start. The first session was in July, and we now have a regular weekly turn out of up to 20 players using four courts. It is open to all; it is very sociable and above all we have fun.

Paul Ashall is the group leader, ably assisted by John Penny and Robert Lightburn. Sessions take place at the Marple Hall School sports hall on Saturday mornings at 11.30. Our u3a have provided some paddles and ball to get the group started but many of us now own our own.



Finally, we have been extremely lucky to have Tony Cravagan come along each week to provide coaching. Most of us have started as beginners and thanks to his patient instruction we are now able to play and enjoy what we are doing.

If you fancy giving it a go contact me on tompettigrew@gmail.com

Upgraded Boules Court

Thanks to the Friends of Marple Memorial Park, the boules court in the park is undergoing some refurbishment.

To date, all the old rotten side boards have been dug out and replaced. The next stage is deciding what to do about the playing surface which over the years has deteriorated and become difficult to play on.

Earlier this year, we visited Buxton u3a for some very enjoyable games against local teams. Their piste had been recently put down and was a joy to play on. They have kindly provided us with details of the construction, and the provisional plan is to discuss that with the Friends of the Park to determine the way ahead.

Table Tennis

There are currently a few vacancies.

Venue: Brabyns Park Recreation Centre

Day/time: Wednesdays 13:15 – 15:15

Cost: £1.50

Coordinator: David Wilkinson

https://marple.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/table-tennis/

Marple and District members may also attend High Lane's Table Tennis group, details on next page.

High Lane u3a Open Table Tennis Group

Venue: Brabyns Park Recreation Centre

Day/time: Tuesdays 13:00 – 15:00

Cost: £1.50

Coordinator: Keith Seddon

New members are welcome from local u3As - all abilities including absolute beginners to the more advanced. We generally play Doubles and have 4/5 tables available.

It's great for getting exercise, it's a game you can play at any age, and it offers a way to meet new people.

All for £1.50 including tea/ coffee and a biscuit!

We are a very friendly bunch. If you are unsure, try a free taster session; we can even lend you a bat.

Contact: table-tennis@highlaneu3a.org.uk



Midday Concerts

Friday 12 th September	12.45pm	Bridgewater Hall Stalls Foyer	Duo Gimeno-Sanchis (Spanish songs)	Free
Monday 3 rd November	1.00pm	Bridgewater Hall	Scott Bro Duo (well-known classical organ & piano)	
Tuesday 2 nd December	1.00pm	Bridgewater Hall	Connaught Brass (technically astonishing)	

Contact Sandy 07847433224 for details

Christmas Lunch Monday December 1st, 2025

The intention to distribute booking forms at this September's meeting has had to be altered due to the fact that the golf club's menus are not yet available. We hope to be able to have forms available by October's meeting.

Paul Ashall

Marple Bridge and Mellor trip to Tatton Park

Marple & District members have been invited to participate in their Christmas trip to Tatton Park on Thursday 27th November. Their trip information and booking form can be found towards the end of the newsletter. Please use the contact details given on there for further information.

Non u3a Events

If anyone is interested in going to this special music event in High Lane, please contact Roger Browne directly.

Martin Hancox, Groups Co-ordinator

We are delighted that on Monday 22nd September, Thomas "Spats" Langham, one of the UK's leading exponents of ukelele, banjo, guitar and vintage vocals, will be appearing as special guest of Manchester Jazz at their monthly "bring your lunch food" sessions at The Club, 23 Buxton Road, in High Lane, Stockport. (near Lyme Park)

Admission is £10 but members of your u3a may take advantage of a special concessionary offer and two will be admitted for £15. Just tell them on the door, which u3a you are from or call 07590 641 386 to book tickets.

These monthly lunchtime sessions are hosted by Manchester Jazz, world renowned exponents of Dixieland Jazz.

Spats is a wonderful entertainer and an amazing player.

His integration into a jazz setting, with the six-piece Manchester Jazz, will highlight his amazing fret skills, his musicality and his ability to enthral and entertain an audience.

He has carved a niche for himself, taking the playing of uke, banjo and guitar to new levels with top jazz outfits in the UK, throughout Europe and In North America.

The session starts at 12.00 with a thirty minute break for lunch at 1pm followed by a blistering jam session and finale from 1.30pm to 2.30pm

We advise arriving early as this will be a very popular concert.

You may book and pay in advance by calling 07590 641 386, or just turn up on the day, but as stated above, do come early.

*Roger Browne
Manchester Jazz
07590 641 386*

BETTY BANNERMAN
AWARD FOR
FRENCH SONG



RECITAL

GIVEN BY
2024 AWARD WINNER

ROSA SPARKS - SOPRANO

ACCOMPANIED BY

ROBIN HUMPHREYS

FRIDAY 17 OCTOBER, 3PM

AT

THE CLONTERBROOK MUSIC ROOM
SWETTENHAM HEATH, CONGLETON, CW12 2LS

Monthly Meeting Talks for 2025

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

8th 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.

14th 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

Cryptic crossword compiling group - September 2025 crossword

This is the answer grid to all our crosswords; hope you enjoy solving our creations.

1	2		3		4		5		6		7	
8												
9		10		11			12	13		14		
						15						
	16											
17	18		19		20		21		22		23	
24												
25							26					

Across

- 1 Bored? Skip the beginning and seek shelter (6)
- 5 Lad and short girl entwined – unhappy result (6)
- 8 Gatherings made up of conga and Eastern gyrations losing 12's head (13)
- 9 Posh gent left off this allergenic ingredient (6)
- 12 Coupled cries lead to coward's line (6)
- 16 Ada paints to create changes (13)
- 17 One of Foxe's arranges to marry without love (6)
- 21 Roger's in his den, big lad (6)
- 24 A stimulant mixed with 1007 ways to do you good (13)
- 25 Initially a trumpet orchestra, noisy and loud - what a din! (6)
- 26 Mister Fox? Is he French? (6)

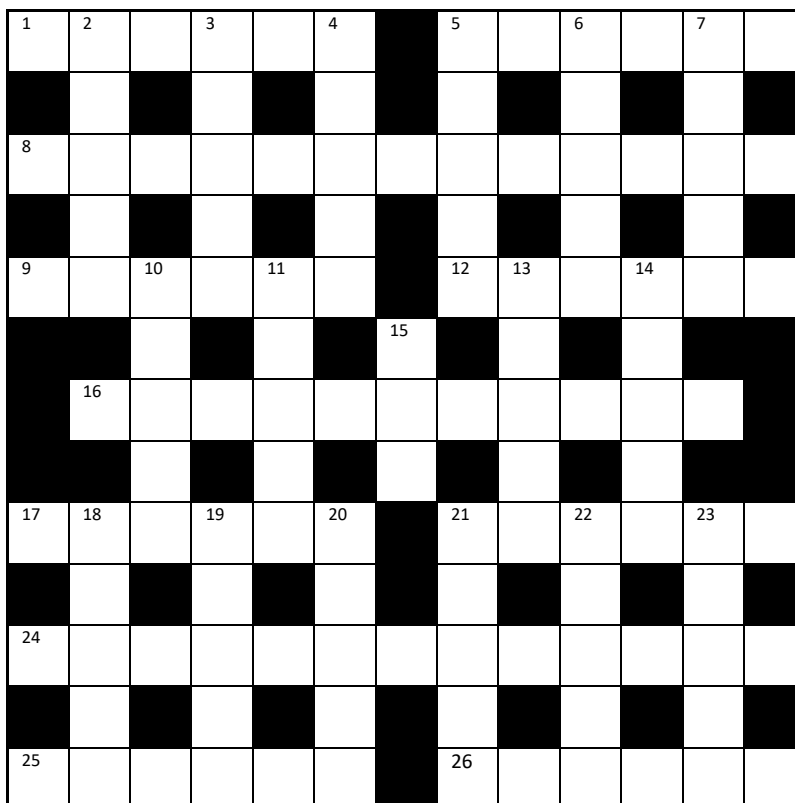
Down

- 2 What a howler – loses drug in spin (5)
- 3 In rich vein got a bar of gold (5)

- 4 Short of energy – mix it up to be environmental (5)
- 5 Milkmaid's domain keeps track by reversing vowels (5)
- 6 Upset caused by small medication (5)
- 7 Confused man and Jovian satellite specify embryo's fluid environment (5)
- 10 Mistake loses Basil's ends to give position (5)
- 11 Depressed? What's your partially drunk glass like (5)
- 13 Cited in error a decree is announced (5)
- 14 Isolated person is heard to lend money (5)
- 15 Crow sounds surprised (3)
- 18 Bread ultimately makes you a grown up (5)
- 19 Mighty God clears taint (5)
- 20 Have fun when rod turns up (5)
- 21 Goat legged creature rested is situ (5)
- 22 Emasculate when every annum is changed (5)
- 23 One who gives with direction appears in entry (5)

Cryptic crossword compiling group - October 2025 crossword

This is the answer grid to all our crosswords; hope you enjoy solving our creations.



Across

- 1 To do this makes a fool of us both (6)
- 5 A spice to enliven each one (6)
- 8 Basically the last word in finance total (13)
- 9 Crumpled t shirt won't help when you're dry (6)
- 12 To get back to this you need to heel the sickness (6)
- 16 We all this share this due to an apple (8,3)
- 17 Just make the tea don't obsess (6)
- 21 see 13 down
- 24 Against the detective being a Conservative that doesn't agree (13)
- 25 Confused sprite has spirit (6)
- 26 Solomon's birthday (6)

Down

- 2 Direction at six o'clock (5)
- 3 Milk provider initiates a unicorn dropping down every rainbow (5)
- 4 Ant and tourist in Kernow (5)

- 5 Strike a puppet (5)
- 6 Zap a left to reach Stockport venue (5)
- 7 Strange clatter with applause (5)
- 10 One box entertaining King at Rangers (5)
- 11 The place is heard with resigned sound at tea (5)
- 13 and 21 across Confused illness laid many on arrival to America (5,6)
- 14 Sounds like a dog has gone into space (5)
- 15 Insect or relative of 4 down (3)
- 18 Jeremy presses to provide sportsman Trump's playthings (5)
- 19 Walter loses head and changes everything (5)
- 20 Precise demand (5)
- 21 African dictator receives medal for figurative speech (5)
- 22 Abbreviated Californian city finds metal and classic language (5)
- 23 Conquest loses direction to meet heroine of Bellini opera (5)

Sudoku

The objective is to fill the 9×9 grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 sub grids that compose the grid contain all the digits from 1 to 9.

			7	5				
		3		1	6	5	8	
						9		
		7	4	8				2
4							6	8
5				6	2	7		
		1						
	5	9	1	3		2		
				2	9			

Useful Information

The newsletter will be published every two months – May, July, September, November, January and March. The target date for publication will usually 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.

Please note: The deadline for material to be included in the next edition is postponed to Monday 10th November, with a target publication date of Monday 17th November.

Please send material to 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

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

The North West region website is <https://northwestregion.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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Contacts:

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Treasurer	Phillip Wright	treasurermarple@gmail.com
Secretary	John Penny	secretarymarple@gmail.com
Talks Organiser	Olga Henner	alexahenner@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Hilary Ashall	membershipmarple@gmail.com
Group Co-ordinator	Martin Hancox	groupsmarple@gmail.com
Website	Lindsay Proffitt	websitemarple@gmail.com
Newsletter	"	newslettermarple@gmail.com

TRIP TO PORT SUNLIGHT VILLAGE AND MUSEUM

TUESDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER 2025

We have arranged a guided coach tour followed by free time to explore the village and museums of Port Sunlight. Home also to the Lady Lever Art Gallery, Port Sunlight is one of the finest surviving examples of an industrial worker village. It dates back to 1888 when William Lever built his new soap factory and community and named it after Lever Brothers famous Sunlight soap.

The coach tour, led by a qualified guide, will last approximately one hour after we arrive and there will be a chance to use the facilities beforehand, although unfortunately the museum is unable to offer tea/coffee. However, there are several places that offer food and drink after our tour, including a cafe in the Lady Lever art gallery or you may wish to bring a picnic.

The cost is £28 per person.

The museum is fully accessible. The tour includes entry to the museum and Edwardian workers cottage. Entry to the Lady Lever Art Gallery is free.

We will leave Marple at 9.25am and Rose Hill at 9.30am

Return to Marple at approximately 3.15pm

Contact details: Sue Palmer 0755 1382128 or mrsguard301@gmail.com

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Coach and guided tour/museum-£28

NAME Contact Telephone number.....

NAME Contact Telephone number

Emergency Contact details

PAYMENT Cheque Cash

Cheques 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.

COACH PICK UP: Please tick- Regent Cinema Marple..... Rose Hill.....

Trip to Trentham Gardens, Stoke – Tuesday 14th October 2025 £32

We have organised a trip to Trentham Gardens and Estate, Stoke. Trentham is 725 acres of spectacular natural beauty and home to award-winning gardens, glorious ancient woodland, a unique outdoor shopping village, **The price (£32) covers the cost of the bus and the ticket for admission to the Gardens, the Estate and the Shopping Village.** There are numerous eateries, but you may wish to take a picnic.

Attractions include:

- **The Restored Gardens** - The Italian Garden has one of the largest contemporary perennial plantings in Europe. The perennial displays should be at their peak in autumn.
- **Trentham Lake** – designed by Capability Brown is one mile long and studded with small islands. There are lakeside walks and nature trails.
- **The Shopping Village** - Trentham Shopping Village, set among timber lodges has a mix of popular high street brands and unique independent shops, plus a variety of cafes and a restaurant.
- **The Garden Centre** – has a huge range of indoor and outdoor products plus a café and a restaurant.

Optional Extras – which can be booked on the day: Disc Golf – free; Ferris Wheel - £6; Fairy Quest - £4; Monkey Forest - £14.

We will leave Marple at 9.25am and Rose Hill at 9.30am, returning to Marple at approximately 3.30pm

You can pay by cash or cheque.

Please make Cheques payable to “**Marple and District U3A**”

Contact details; Robert Freer, 14 Flaggwood Ave, Marple, SK6 6HP

Robert.Freer21@gmail.com Telephone 07958055890

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.

Trentham Gardens Tuesday 14th October 2025

Name; _____ Phone No _____

Name: _____ Phone No _____

Emergency contact name and number.....

Boarding at Marple Navigation Hotel (0925) _____ Rose Hill Stn (0930) _____

Payment (£32.00) Cash; Cheque Please circle

Boundary Mill, Colne
Friday 21st November 2025
£15

Back by Popular request, we are to travel to Boundary Mill in Colne, located at the end of the M65.

Boundary Outlet Store established over 30 years ago in Colne is a leading shopping destination offering quality fashion and homeware brand names at up to 60% off RRP. This is a great destination day out, with a great choice of onsite eateries serving hot and cold food/drinks alongside hundreds of fashion and homeware brands – everything you need is under one roof. See a huge choice and fantastic value from leading names in women's and men's leisure, outdoor and occasion wear, footwear, lingerie, luggage, bags & accessories, home furnishings, cookware, china & glassware, art, cards and stationery.

Just in time for Christmas. As it is Black Friday, we should get a voucher for 10% off in the store (not sure about food or M&S)

The trip will depart from Marple at 0930 and Rose Hill at 0940 with a view to arrive at Boundary Mill around 1045.

You will then be free to wander round the Mill until 1500

It is planned to depart at 1500 to get us home to Marple between 1600 and 1630 depending on the peak hour traffic

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.

Boundary Mill Friday 21st November 2025

Name; _____ Phone No _____

Name: _____ Phone No _____

Boarding at Marple Navigation Hotel (0930) _____ Rose Hill Station (0940) _____

Payment (£15.00 pp) Cash; _____ Cheque _____

Please circle

Puzzle Solutions

9	8	4	7	5	3	6	2	1
7	2	3	9	1	6	5	8	4
1	6	5	2	4	8	1	3	7
6	9	7	4	8	1	3	5	2
4	3	2	5	9	7	1	6	8
5	1	8	3	6	2	7	4	9
2	4	1	6	7	5	8	9	3
8	5	9	1	3	4	2	7	6
3	7	6	8	2	9	4	1	5

Solution to October cryptic crossword

Across

1 Assume 5 Pepper 8 Fundamentally 9 Thirst 12 Health 16 Original Sin 17 Fixate 21 Island

24 Contradictory 25 Esprit 26 Monday

Down

2 South 3 Udder 4 Emmet 5 Punch 6 Plaza 7 Eclat 10 Ibrox 11 Sight 13 Ellis 14 Laika 15 Ant 18 Irons

19 Alter 20 Exact 21 Idiom 22 Latin 23 Norma

Solution to September cryptic crossword

Across

1 Awning 5 Dismal 8 Congregations 9 Gluten 12 Yellow 16 Adaptations 17 Martyr 21 Study

24 Multivitamins 25 Atonal 26 Renard

Down

2 Whorl 3 Ingot 4 Green 5 Diary 6 Spill 7 Amino 10 Udder 13 Empty 14 Loner 15 Caw 18 Adult

19 Titan 20 Revel 21 Satyr 22 Unman 23 Donor