

November 2025

Message from our Chair

Join our team

Once again, we are asking if you can spare a little time to provide some support to your u3a team.

For example, on the monthly meeting days, help with setting up the room is always appreciated, putting out or clearing away the chairs and tables, or making sure the audio-visual equipment is set up and working.

Maybe you wouldn't mind helping occasionally with the tea and coffee, selling the second-hand books or perhaps enjoy helping with our wonderful monthly trips or a one-off event that we have planned?

If you prefer to be 'back office' why not help with booking our venues?

We also like every so often to bring fresh blood to the main committee roles and we try to do this by encouraging someone to shadow a role for a year with a view to taking it over.

We are a small team and we have fun running your u3a; if you feel you can help and would like to join us, please contact Tom on tompettigrew@gmail.com

Membership Renewal Morning

It's that time of year again. We need to think about u3a membership renewal. We shall be starting the process on Thursday 15th January 2026 from 10.45 to 12.30 at the Senior Citizens' Hall. It would be great if you could drop in to see us. I shall send further information nearer the time.
Hilary Ashall, Membership Secretary

Reminder

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.

News from the Groups

Ideas for new groups

Marple U3A currently has about thirty groups, covering a wide range of interests and activities – see <https://marple.u3asite.uk/groups/> for details.

But you can never have too much of a good thing. Do you have an idea for a new group? How do you know there aren't other members with exactly the same idea, all waiting for somebody else to raise the subject? Until an idea is publicised, there's no way of seeing how many people would be interested in such a group.

So if you have an idea – whether or not you would be willing to lead the group – please get in touch with Martin Hancox, the Groups Co-ordinator: 07983 770954 or via the contact form at https://marple.u3asite.uk/u3a-contact-form/?contact_id=12389

Boules/Petanque

Our fair weather outdoor season has come to a close and indoor sessions are now the order of the day:

These are proving to be very popular, and we are particularly pleased to be able to have Stephen come along and play from his wheelchair (he suffered a mishap while playing Pickleball).

In other news, the outdoor court is mid-way through a revamp. The Friends of the Memorial Park have replaced the wooden side boards and during the off season are planning on upgrading the surface playing area.



News about Day Trips

Trip to Port Sunlight

We all enjoyed a trip to Port Sunlight Village and Museum. The coach took us round the village, and a guide joined us to tell us all about the village, its houses, the school, church, museum and art gallery. We then had free time for lunch and to explore the village. It was all very interesting and a memorable trip.



Day Trip taster for 2026

The trip group has agreed our PROVISIONAL programme for next year. At this stage **we do not know the day or date the trips will run on, nor can we take provisional bookings.**

January	Peoples History Museum
February	Tour of Refuge building
March	Nuclear Bunker Hack Green and Nantwich
April	Pottery Factory, Emma Bridgewater or Wedgewood
May	Skipton Canal boat tour
June	Bakewell and Matlock
July	Llandudno
August	Cutlers Hall Sheffield
September	Biddulph Grange Gardens (National Trust)
October	Hardwick Hall (National Trust)
November	Bury Market

Our other good news is that we now have a card machine, which will allow our members to pay by card.

[Non u3a Events](#)

Lunchtime Jazz in High Lane

Many of you will have enjoyed Roger Browne's very entertaining and informative talk on Jazz and its introduction into the UK, at our monthly branch meeting in September.

Roger has now sent the following email, inviting members to jazz sessions at High Lane. If you have any queries, please get in touch with Roger directly using the contact details below.

We have had some success providing a special concession for u3a members, particularly with members of music appreciation groups, within local u3as, to join us at High Lane Club, Stockport, formerly The Conservative Club, on the A6 near Lyme Park, for the recently introduced "bring your own lunch" traditional jazz sessions with special guests.

We are repeating this concession.

Simply by declaring, on the door, U3A membership, two people will be allowed in for the price of one. The entrance fee, before this concession, is £10 per person.

Clearly, there are many people within the u3a member profile, who followed traditional jazz in the past, but nowadays feel anxious about travelling in the dark, yet love the thrill of live jazz. Hence, these lunch time specials have become very popular. We are keen to spread the word.

We have had as guest the amazing, and very young saxophonist, Alex Clarke, who was a finalist in the BBC Young Jazz Musician of The Year in 2020. It was a brilliant session. On 10th November, our guest was the remarkable violinist, Julian Gregory. Julian has had a full career as regular violinist with The BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and since retiring, two years ago, has concentrated on his love of the music of jazz great, Stefane Grappelli. Julian was also our guest in August and "brought the house down" with his mix of Jazz passion, gypsy phrases, his immaculate technique and his Grappelli Esque playing. His integration into a trad band was unforgettable.

In 2026 we have more UK wide and international icons lined up.

This is Live lunch time jazz, with Manchester Jazz. 12.00 start. Bring your own choice of food and all this finishing at 2.30pm to miss the rush hour home.

Please reply to Roger Browne (rogerafbrowne@outlook.com). Phone: 07590 641386

Member Contributions

For several years we have collected at our December meeting for the food bank in Hazel Grove. Each year we have been overwhelmed by the generosity of Marple U3A members. This year we will again be collecting food and toiletries and would be so grateful for your support.

Thank you in advance
Mavis Lewis

Monthly Meeting Talks for 2025

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

8th December 2025

Performance by Our Own Guitar Group



SENDING WARMEST WISHES TO ALL

MARPLE & DISTRICT U3A MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Speaker Talk Synopsis for 2026

12 January 2026 David Poppit	History of Christie's
9 February 2026 Fran Sandham	Solo Walk Across Africa
9 March 2026 John Kerwin	Fantastic Elastic – Story of Rubber Provisional
13 April 2026 Chris Simms	My Journey in Publishing
11 May 2026 Keith Warrender	History of Deansgate
8 June 2026 Bill Whitehouse	Cave Rescue
13 July 2026 Colin Hughes	Benefits of Tai Chi Practice
10 August 2026 Paul Isherwood	Centenarian Lady hires Buff Butler
14 September 2026 Brian Groom	These Isles A People's History of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales
12 October 2026 Linda Holmes	Do's and Don'ts of Afternoon Tea
9 November 2026 Marion Hankey	Provisional
14 December 2026 Roger Browne	Musical Christmas

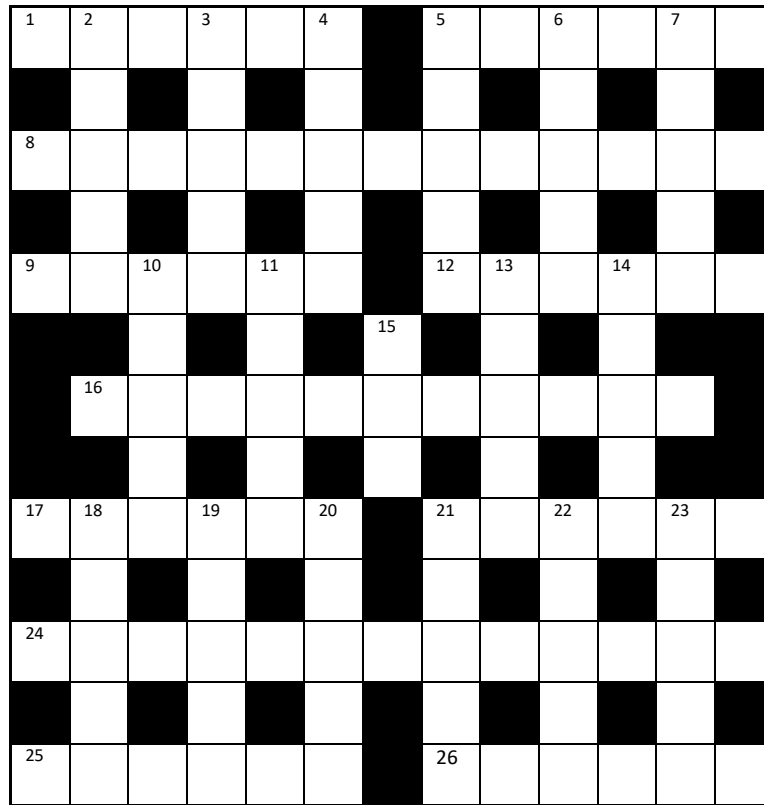
Sudoku

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.

Sudoku Hard

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

Cryptic crossword compiling group - November 2025 crossword



Across

1 One attacking with sharp object to the sound of a Star Wars character (6)

5 Graduate with a gif for a primate (6)

8 Politicians religiously grasp copper – evidently!

9 Thousands go with an unusual choice on the meat menu (6)

12 Rotated right out; dizzy even now (2-4)

16 Are these southerners against the Post Office and academic officials? (11)

17 Spotty plaything appeals to Venice carnival costume wearers (6)

21 Medicament, Catholic newspaper or computer? (6)

24 A harp on an airplane – Ryanair says too much clobber (13)

25 A lot of whisky for this girl gold digger (5)

26 Not as happy when one sees adder (6)

Down

2 A romantic tale, but suspicious whiff inside (5)

3 Embraced into this, personal 2 down some problem, in part (5)

4 Charles sounds like he does this on the plain (5)

5 James can sing but he's not diplomatic (5)

6 It can still leap, despite being tied up (5)

7 Alien follows Cockney cry of pain to lead to a young bird (5)

10 Spymaster follows small car to find two beats (5)

11 A reversal of disapproval precedes a charged particle to give useful vegetable (5)

13 A musical from a rope unwound (5)

14 Girl comes to the last in short and cancel (5)

15 Short man captures lightening (3)

18 O mother! Fighting on the beach is no laughing matter (5)

19 I am a go-go girl – she left and it was perfect (5)

20 Cheerio and that is left a muddy yellow (5)

21 Sounds like the bull has a doughnut (5)

22 Bread confusingly found on a man's face (5)

23 Easter tessera returns to be the best (5)

Useful Information

The aim is for the newsletter to 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.

As this edition has been delayed, the date for publication of the next one is yet to be confirmed.

Please continue to 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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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

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Website	Lindsay Proffitt	websitemarple@gmail.com
Newsletter	"	newslettermarple@gmail.com

Puzzle Solutions

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

Solution to November cryptic crossword

Across

1 Jabber 5 Baboon 8 Conspicuously 9 Gammon 12 To Date 16 Antipodeans 17 Domino 21
 24 Paraphernalia 25 Galore 26 Sadder

Down

2 Aroma 3 Bosom 4 Reign 5 Blunt 6 Bound 7 Owlet 10 Minim 11 Onion 13 Opera 14 Anvil 15
 18 Omaha 19 Imago 20 Ochre 21 Torus 22 Beard 23 Elite