

**January 2026**

## Message from our Membership Secretary

It is now that time of year again - time to renew your membership for Marple and District u3a. Our subscription has gone up this year to £8. Payment is due by the end of February.

First of all - if you have become a member, i.e. joined from the beginning of November 2025, you will not need to pay again for this year.

For all the rest of us - the second chance to renew in person takes place on 29th January 2.30-4pm at the Senior Citizens Hall. Please come with either the exact money or a cheque.

If you have already paid by bank transfer your membership card will be available for collection at this meeting.

Alternatives to coming to the meeting are to pay by bank transfer, quoting your surname and membership number direct to

Account name: Marple and District u3a

Sort Code: 01 05 51

Account: 55060250

Cheques are to be made payable to Marple and District u3a, delivered to

Hilary Ashall

8, Kings Drive

Marple

SK6 6NQ

Please remember to include a stamped addressed envelope for membership card delivery.

## News from the Groups

### New Groups

Thanks to those members who have made suggestions for possible new groups for Marple u3a. Ideas have included:

- line dancing
- a group related to art or the arts in general
- embroidery
- playreading

The next step is to test viability by trying to get a feel for how many people might be interested in becoming a member of any of these suggested groups. It might be something you've never done before. Or you may be someone with experience/ knowledge of any of the above areas who has

ideas for how the group might develop, what sort of specific activities might be included, and so on. Irrespective of experience/ knowledge, you might even be willing to act as a leader, supported by me, to get a group up and running.

If you are interested in any of the possible groups, please contact me via the Group Co-ordinator link on the Contacts page of the Marple u3a website ([marple.u3asite.uk](http://marple.u3asite.uk)) or use the email address given at the end of this newsletter.

Martin Hancox  
Groups Co-ordinator

### Mid-day Concerts

The Bridgewater Hall: £8.75

Thursday February 12th. 1pm  
Dominic Mattos, countertenor  
The golden age of American Music Theatre

Monday March 23rd. 1pm  
Ventis Vocal Ensemble, sextet of soloists from RNCM.  
Traditional and contemporary folk music

Alderley Edge Methodist Church. SK9 7DU  
Every 3rd Wednesday.  
Light lunch available from 12. Concert 1pm.

Wed Jan. 21st students from Chetham's School of Music.

Wed. Feb 18th cello & piano

Wed March 18th Anne de Graeve. Organ

Wed April 15th piano recital

Details: contact Sandy 07847433224



Marple u3a Mid-day Concert goes pictured at The Bridgewater Hall with the organist Jonathan Scott.

## [News about Forthcoming Day Trips](#)

**Trip information sheets/booking forms can be found towards the end of the newsletter**

### Trip to Kimpton Clock Tower – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026

We have arranged a guided tour of this iconic building, once the home of the Refuge Assurance and now a fully upgraded hotel. It is one of the grandest commercial buildings in the UK. The renovation revealed a number of original features which will be explained on the tour. £15.00

### Trip to Hack Green Nuclear Bunker and Nantwich - Friday 27 March 2026

The Bunker has been opened to the public since 1997 as a museum. A substantial number of artifacts have been assembled to show how the complex at Hack Green was used as the bulwark against a possible Soviet attack. Nantwich is one of the smaller Cheshire Salt towns and it has amongst the highest concentrations of listed buildings in England, with notably good examples of Tudor and Georgian architecture. £25.00

## Member Contributions

Our Cribbage group enjoyed a Christmas meal at the Midland in Marple Bridge!



Colin Hughes



Hazel Grove Baptist Church  
Station Street, Hazel Grove  
Stockport SK7 4EX

07483 115349  
foodbank@stockportfoodbank.org.uk  
www.stockport.foodbank.org.uk

U3A Marple  
BY EMAIL

9 December 2025

Dear Friends

On behalf of Stockport Foodbank can I thank you for your very generous donation of food received on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025. You have donated 73.75 kgs, which equates to over 170 meals!

At this time of continuing need for the services of Stockport Foodbank within our town, it is great to have your support so that we can help those in our community who need our assistance.

Whilst it is always our hope that the need for Foodbank help may start to decline, our latest figures show that nearly 40% of all our current clients are new to Stockport Foodbank which only highlights how much we are still needed and how much your support is of immense help to us.

Thank you for supporting us in this way and be assured that your donation will be used in the very best of ways to ease the 'food poverty' amongst our Foodbank clients at this time.

With our thanks

Nigel Tedford  
Managing Trustee  
e: [foodbank@stockportfoodbank.org.uk](mailto:foodbank@stockportfoodbank.org.uk)

Mavis Lewis

## Monthly Meeting Talks for 2026

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

9th February Fran Sandham Critically acclaimed author and former Rough Guides editor Fran Sandham walked across Africa solo from the Atlantic on Namibia's Skeleton Coast to the Indian Ocean near Zanzibar, a journey of well over three thousand miles – the first time on record anyone has crossed Africa by this route solo entirely on foot. Her book 'Traversa: A solo walk across Africa' is the account of this remarkable journey and has achieved rave reviews and very wide press coverage in the UK and abroad.	<u>Solo Walk Across Africa</u>
9th March John Kerwin	<u>Fantastic Elastic – Story of Rubber</u>
13th April Chris Simms	<u>My Journey in Publishing (tbc)</u>
11th May Keith Warrender	<u>History of Deansgate</u>
8th June Bill Whitehouse The history of the rescue of children in Thai caves.	<u>Cave Rescue</u>
13th July Colin Hughes	<u>Benefits of Tai Chi Practice</u>
10th August Paul Isherwood Years ago, my curiosity was piqued when stumbling across an ad saying 'want to get paid for going out, wearing just a bow, tie cuffs and a bottom revealing apron for fun and different celebrations?'	<u>Centenarian Lady hires Buff Butler</u>
14th September Brian Groom An inventive new look at the entwined histories of Britain and Ireland's nations – and the people who have called them home. In his compulsive and hugely enjoyable narrative, Groom explores the role of religion and the British Empire, international diasporas and internal migration, gender relations, and war.	<u>These Isles: A People's History of England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales</u>
12th October Marian Hankey The body posture changes with age and why this matters.	<u>The importance of a Correct Body Posture.</u>
9th November Alice Walker	<u>Winning Mastermind</u>
14th December Roger Browne	<u>Musical Christmas</u>

## Cryptic Crossword Compiling Group – January 2026 Crossword

A new grid for one month, we have returned to the previous grid for the future.

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					27									

### Across

- 1 Pre movement? Spark prevention (10)
- 6 Join in a butter feast (4)
- 10 Listing former lover follows stunted mind (5)
- 11 Sounds like a fight with a friend; or just a bit if play (4-5)
- 12 As the meek are, like Brian (7)
- 13 One who gives way, right eyelid fluttering (7)
- 14 Energy wasted in pasting up? Not my cup of tea (12)
- 18 Confused terrestrial satellite gets soaked, leading to doubtful fatty food source (12)
- 21 Shortened sports field is finished to get better (6)
- 23 The time is now to offer a gift (6)
- 24 Red Deans 'E' brought music to our ears (9)
- 25 It's obvious when finished with a 't' (5)
- 26 Polish leader provides denture for elephants (4)
- 27 Those who live in a town are heard to be led by a podded vegetable to a line of US politicians (10)

### Down

- 1 Does Kipling's junior spy have personal freshness issue? Will holding his arms out help? (6)
- 2 Identity in a row – makes it neater (5)
- 3 Break 13 down and you're still in a muddle (5,3,6)
- 4 Pot dreams reassembled for weapons storage (4, 5)
- 5 Twitch your skin with this irritation (4)
- 7 You're thrown away when you exsanguinate in the game (5,3)
- 8 Teaching will educate you French lot to get angry (8)
- 9 Sad tale of kids in forest (6,2,3,4)
- 15 Greek tragedian that makes u speedier (9)
- 16 Group the smartest (8)
- 17 Fabled creature when centigrade replaces Fahrenheit in school wear (7)
- 19 Broadcast number of a flower (6)
- 20 Position of group without quo (5)
- 22 On horseback he first rode in Derby's eastern region (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.

Please continue to send material 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 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.

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.

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](mailto:jacairey@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Contacts:**

Chair	Tom Pettigrew	<a href="mailto:chairmanmarple@gmail.com">chairmanmarple@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Phillip Wright	<a href="mailto:treasurermarple@gmail.com">treasurermarple@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	John Penny	<a href="mailto:secretarymarple@gmail.com">secretarymarple@gmail.com</a>
Talks Organiser	Olga Henner	<a href="mailto:alexahenner@gmail.com">alexahenner@gmail.com</a>
Membership Secretary	Hilary Ashall	<a href="mailto:membershipmarple@gmail.com">membershipmarple@gmail.com</a>
Group Co-ordinator	Martin Hancox	<a href="mailto:groupsmarple@gmail.com">groupsmarple@gmail.com</a>
Website	Lindsay Proffitt	<a href="mailto:websitemarple@gmail.com">websitemarple@gmail.com</a>
Newsletter	"	<a href="mailto:newslettermarple@gmail.com">newslettermarple@gmail.com</a>

**TRIP TO KIMPTON CLOCK TOWER (FORMERLY THE REFUGE BUILDING) OXFORD STREET MANCHESTER**

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026 11.30am**

We have arranged a guided tour of this iconic building, once the home of the Refuge Assurance and now a fully upgraded hotel. It is one of the grandest commercial buildings in the UK. The renovation revealed a number of original features which will be explained on the tour.

Our tour is led by Jonathan Schofield, one of the most experienced guides in this area. We will gain an exclusive look at many original features including the board room, the former banking hall and the vaults under the building.

The tour starts at 11.30am but there is an option to have coffee at the hotel from around 10.30am. This is to be paid for separately.

We will travel by train at 9.41am from Marple, to meet at Piccadilly station at 10.07am, then catch the tram to St Peter's Square. From there, it's a 7 minute walk to the hotel. Alternatively, you can travel to Oxford Road railway station from Platform 14 at Manchester Piccadilly and just walk across the road to the hotel. If you don't want coffee, then please meet outside the hotel on Oxford Street at 11.15am. { M60 7HA }

**The cost of the tour is £15 per person. Coffee is optional.**

**Contact details: Sue Palmer 0755 1382128 [mrsguard301@gmail.com](mailto:mrsguard301@gmail.com)  
or Margaret Riley 07711 528386 [margaret.riley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:margaret.riley@yahoo.co.uk)**

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**Guided tour- £15**

NAME ..... Contact Telephone number.....

NAME ..... Contact Telephone number .....

Emergency Contact details .....

**PAYMENT** Cheque ..... Cash ..... Bank transfer .....

Cheques to Marple & District U3A

**\*\*You can now also pay by bank transfer at the monthly meeting.\*\* 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.**

# Hack Green Nuclear Bunker and Nantwich

Friday 27 March 2026

£25

We are proposing to visit 2 quite different locations on this trip. The morning will be spent at Hack Green Nuclear Bunker until 1245 when we will travel in our coach, the short distance to Nantwich.

The Bunker has been opened to the public since 1997 as a museum. A substantial number of artifacts have been assembled to show how the complex at Hack Green was used as the bulwark against a possible Soviet attack. You will be able to roam round at your own pace to look around or have a cup of tea/coffee.

Nantwich is one of the smaller Cheshire Salt towns and it has amongst the highest concentrations of listed buildings in England, with notably good examples of Tudor and Georgian architecture. You will be free to find lunch in one of its nice cafes and explore the town until 1500 when we will depart for Home.

The trip will depart from Marple at 0930 and Rose Hill at 0940 with a view to arrive at Hack Green around 1100.

Depending on the peak hour traffic it is planned to be back in Marple between 1600 and 1630.

You can pay by cash, cheque or card

Please make Cheques payable to "**Marple U3A**"

Contact details; John Pollock, 10 Flaggwood Ave, Marple, SK6 6HP  
[john.ha.pollock@btconnect.com](mailto:john.ha.pollock@btconnect.com)

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

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

Hack Green Nuclear Bunker and Nantwich    Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Name; \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No \_\_\_\_\_

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

Emergency contact and their phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Payment (£25.00 pp)    Cash;                      Cheque                      Card

Please circle

# Puzzle Solutions

## Answers

### Across

1 Antistatic 2 Abut 10 Index 11 Muck about 12 Blessed 13 Yielder 14 Unappetising 18 Monsaturate 21 Recover 23 Present 24 Serenaded 25 Overt 26 Tusk 27 Presidents

### Down

1 Akimbo 2 Tidier 3 Sixes and sevens 4 Arms depot 5 Itchy 7 Blood bin 8 Tutorage 9 Babes in the wood 15 Euripides 16 Smartest 17 Unicorn 19 Severn 20 Status 22 Rider