

May 2026

Message from our Chair

2026 AGM Report

The 2026 AGM was held on April 13th. There being no other nominations, last year's management committee were re-elected unopposed:

Chair	Tom Pettigrew
Treasurer	Phillip Wright
Secretary	John Penny
Talks Organiser	Olga Henner
Membership Secretary	Hilary Ashall
Group Co-ordinator	Martin Hancox

In addition, we welcome the following co-opted members of the committee who agreed to come on board during the last year:

Paul Ashall

Toni Baron

Gill Quigley

We say goodbye this year to our Almoner Jacqui Airey who has retired after five years in the role. She has also been our liaison with our nominated charities. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her on behalf of you all for her work.

Our thanks also to John Pollock has agreed to inspect our accounts for another year.

News from the Groups

Coffee Club 1

The Tuesday Coffee Club has vacancies. They meet at The Railway Rose Hill, the third Tuesday of every month at 2pm for coffee and chat.

Hilary and Alison

Boules Court Renovation

Work on renovating the boules court started last year when the Friends of the Memorial Park replaced the wooden edging. This was a great improvement.

It was also planned to update the playing surface this year and work started early April when the Friends and ourselves lifted the top layer of sand in preparation for levelling and the addition of a layer of 'grit'.

Levelling took place last week:



We may need to compress this layer of sand with a vibrating plate machine before applying the top coat. All things being well, we will have applied the topcoat on 4th May and play can continue.

I would like to thank Friends of the Park and our own volunteers for making this happen.

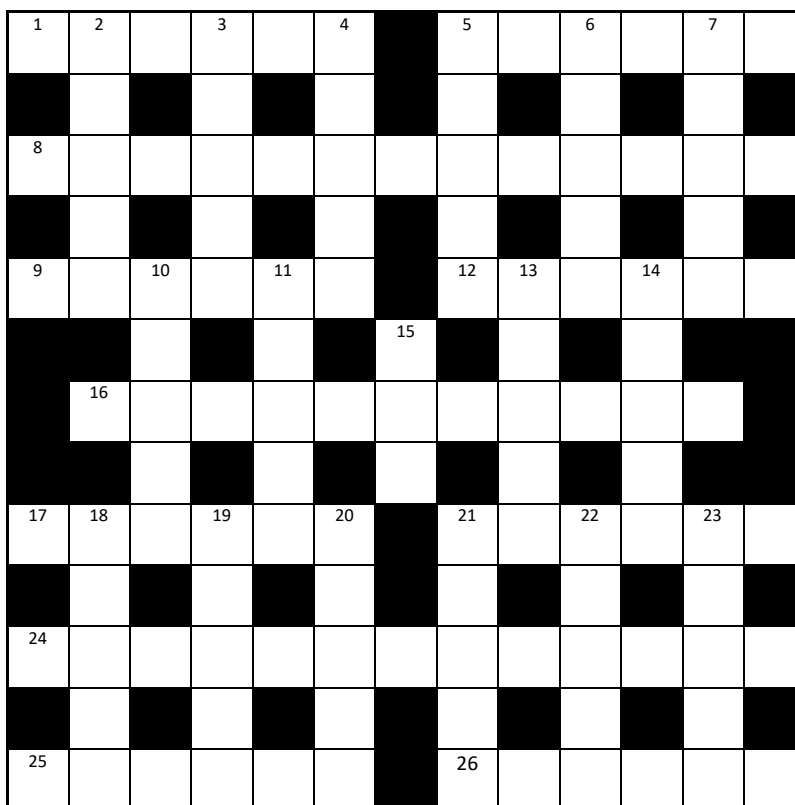
Tom Pettigrew



Marple U3A group enjoying a meal at the recently opened D'Oro restaurant in Marple.

Colin Hughes

Cryptic Crossword Compiling Group – May 2026 Crossword



Across

- 1 A quantity is found on a small hill (6)
- 5 Witches open incantation with South Sea event (6)
- 8 Those who nod, accost only to add dash are in need of a drink (6,3,4)
- 9 Prevailing wind direction meets abbreviated leaderless vivacity to change course (6)
- 12 Is he chasing his watch (6)
- 16 Teetotaler's call "Oh, nothing complicated, but I don't want to pay! (13)
- 17 Move to deserts; lose or hate (6)
- 21 Running figure bares all for long smear (6)
- 24 Plan to have a chemist as a friend in the end (13)
- 25 Police use kitchen utensil to control demonstrators (6)
- 26 Trap in France kept me quiet (6)

Down

- 2 Parrot with Scottish expression of sympathy (5)
- 3 Speak, but leave the road if you stammer (5)
- 4 Giggle, replacing one half of classic sauce with the other in the tent (5)
- 5 Cluster together for bouquet (5)
- 6 Cockney washes his hands in this, bullish (5)
- 7 Young man with the French spoon (5)
- 10 It leaves lattice confusingly without style (5)
- 11 Initially very instrumental on lovely strings (5)
- 13 Out of shape? Not appropriate (5)
- 14 In the meantime what is the point? (5)
- 15 Child measure (3)
- 18 He's in charge sounding like a couple of letters (5)
- 19 It happens when seventy is trimmed (5)
- 20 Warlord appears when one article is found in another (5)
- 21 Piece that often joins ice in a gin (5)
- 22 Real Madrid kingdom (5)
- 23 A book that used to hold up the world (5)

News about Forthcoming Day Trips

Trip information sheets/booking forms can be found on pages 7 to 10.

Trip to Skipton (including one hour canal cruise) - Wednesday 20th May 2026

THERE ARE ONLY 6 PLACES REMAINING ON THIS TRIP

As Wednesday is a market day in Skipton, you should find a variety of market stalls along High Street. Located in the Town Hall is the Craven Museum, which was one of five finalists shortlisted for the Art Fund Museum of the Year in 2024; admission is free. You also have the option of visiting Skipton Castle, located on the continuation of High Street, next to Holy Trinity Church; the admission cost for the castle is £11.80 for seniors. There are also some nice walks in the area, including Skipton Castle Woods. £30.00

Trip to Matlock and Bakewell – Wednesday 17th June 2026

We plan to spend about 3 hours in Matlock and 1 hour 45 minutes in Bakewell.

Matlock and Matlock Bath are part of the Industrial World Heritage Site with Cromford Mills and Masson Mills the most famous. Masson Mills is now a textile museum. Both mills are free to visit but paid guided tours are available. They also have cafes and shops. The Mill Pond is in Cromford village. As well as the numerous shops and cafes in Matlock and Matlock Bath there is the Peak District Mining Museum, the Aquarium and Arcade in the old thermal baths plus Derwent Gardens, Matlock Bath and the extensive Riverside Path. In Bakewell there will be an opportunity to explore the town centre, or perhaps take a stroll along the River Wye, which runs through the centre of town or All Saints Church which dates back to the 12th century. There is also the Bakewell Old House Museum. £20.00

Trip to Llandudno – Wednesday 15th July 2026

By popular demand we are returning to Llandudno. There is plenty to see and do in the resort, from walking along the prom, pottering around the shops and galleries or taking a bus ride to Conwy. There will be approximately 5 hours free time there. £20.00

Marple Bridge & Mellor u3a Trip to Trentham Gardens and Outlet Village - Thursday 9 July 2026

My name is Carol Rice and I am a member of both Marple u3a and Marple Bridge & Mellor u3a. If any member of Marple u3a would like to book on this trip it would be easiest if they could visit Marple Bridge & Mellor on their meeting days in March, April or May. Their meetings are held on 3rd Thursday of the month, 10am, St Paul's Church Hall, Compstall. £27.00

If you wish to speak to me, I will be available on 0161 449 9058 up until 20th March, returning mid-June.

PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT MARPLE TRIP ORGANISERS ABOUT THIS TRIP

Puzzle Solutions

Answers	Across
1 Amount 5 Bubble 8 Scotch and soda 9 Swerve 12 Hunter 16 Alcohol free 17 Detest 21 Streak	24 Schematically 25 Kettle 26 Enmesh
Down	
2 Macaw 3 Utter 4 Tehee 5 Bubble 6 Bison 7 Ladle 10 Eclat 11 Viois 13 Unfit 14 Theme 15 Tot	
18 Emcee 19 Event 20 Thane 21 Slice 22 Realm 23 Atlas	

Monthly Meeting Talks for 2026

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

11th May Keith Warrender	<u>History of Deansgate</u>
8th June Bill Whitehouse	<u>Cave Rescue</u>
The history of the rescue of children in Thai caves.	
13th July Colin Hughes	<u>Benefits of Tai Chi Practice</u>
10th August Paul Isherwood	<u>Centenarian Lady hires Buff Butler</u>
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?'	
14th September Brian Groom	<u>These Isles: A People's History of England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales</u>
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.	
12th October Marian Hankey	<u>The importance of a Correct Body Posture.</u>
The body posture changes with age and why this matters.	
9th November Alice Walker	<u>Winning Mastermind</u>
14th December Roger Browne	<u>Musical Christmas</u>

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

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.

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.

Contacts:

Chair	Tom Pettigrew	chairmanmarple@gmail.com
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 Matlock and Bakewell - £20

Wednesday 17th June 2026

We have organised a trip to Matlock and Bakewell on Wednesday 17 June. We plan to spend about 3 hours in Matlock and 1 hour 45 minutes in Bakewell.

Matlock and Matlock Bath are part of the Industrial World Heritage Site with **Cromford Mills** and **Masson Mills** the most famous. **Masson Mills** is now a Textile museum. Both mills are free to visit (at least part) but paid guided tours are available. They also have cafes and shops. The **Mill Pond** is in **Cromford village** (near North St). As well as the numerous shops and cafes in **Matlock and Matlock Bath** there is the **Peak District Mining Museum** (£8.50), the **Aquarium and Arcade** in the old thermal baths (£6.50) plus **Derwent Gardens, Matlock Bath** (with picnic tables) and the extensive **Riverside Path** (if you walk far enough you might see **Stella the Stegosaurus** grazing in the undergrowth).

In **Bakewell** there will be an opportunity to explore the town centre, with time to wander through the **independent shops (including the old Bakewell Pudding Shop)** and cafes, or perhaps a **stroll along the River Wye**, which runs through the centre of town or **All Saints Church** which dates back to the 12th century is on South Church Street. There is also the **Bakewell Old House Museum** (in Cunningham Place; £7.50)

The price of the trip (£20) covers the cost of the bus and driver's gratuity. There are numerous eateries in Matlock and Bakewell, but you may wish to take a picnic.

We will leave Marple (9.10am)/Rose Hill (9.15am) and aim to be in **Matlock by 10.30am.**

We will depart from Matlock at 1.30pm expecting to be in **Bakewell by 2.00pm.**

We will depart from Bakewell to Marple at approximately 3.45pm

You can pay by cash, card or cheque. Cheques payable to "**Marple and District U3A**"

Contact details; Robert Freer, 14 Flaggwood Ave, Marple, SK6 6HP
Robert.Freer21@gmail.com Telephone 07958 055890

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.

Matlock & Bakewell - Wednesday 17th June 2026

Name; _____ Phone No _____

Name: _____ Phone No _____

Emergency contact name and number.....

Boarding at

Marple – Outside Greggs, The Hollins (09.10) _____ Rose Hill Stn (09.15) _____

Payment (£20.00) Cash; Cheque Card Please circle

Trip to Llandudno
Wednesday 15 July 2026

£20

By popular demand we are returning to Llandudno. There is plenty to see and do in the resort, from walking along the prom, pottering around the shops and galleries or taking a bus ride to Conwy.

The trip will depart from Marple at 0900 and Rose Hill at 0910 with a view to arriving at Llandudno around 1100.

You will then be free to wander round for the next 5 hours.

It is planned to depart from Llandudno at 1600 to get us home to Marple at about 1800.

You can pay by cash, card or cheque.

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

Contact details; Margaret Riley 07711 528386 margaret.riley@yahoo.co.uk

or

Sue Palmer 07751 382128 mrsguard301@gmail.com

Please note we are both away for a week beginning Tuesday 9 June.

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.

Wednesday 15 July 2026. Llandudno trip

Name; _____ Phone No _____

Name: _____ Phone No _____

Emergency contact details

Boarding at Marple (0900) _____ Rose Hill Stn (0910) _____

Payment (£20.00) Cash Cheque Card Please circle

Amount paid

**Marple Bridge and Mellor u3a
Outing to Trentham Gardens & Shopping Village - Thursday 9th July 2026**



The Gardens

The award winning Trentham Gardens feature an Italian garden, a floral labyrinth and rivers of grass and vast wildflower and woodland meadow. At the centre of the gardens is a mile long lake. Walk around the lake as it takes you aside the River Trent, through the cascading weir and along atmospheric trails. Spot the fairies as you walk around the lake and woodland.

Trentham Shopping Village

The Shopping Village has over 70 shops and numerous eateries. The Trentham Home and Garden shop is Trentham Garden's own flagship garden centre, also selling an array of home ware.

Departure Times

Rose Hill 8.45 am	Regent Cinema 8.50 am	Marple Bridge 8.55am
Northumberland Arms 9.00 am	Romiley Arms 9.05am	

We will leave Trentham at 4.30 pm, planning to arrive home at approx 6pm.

The cost of this day out is £27 p.p. which includes entrance ticket, coach travel and driver's gratuity.

Bookings can be made at the May and June 2026 meetings. For queries, contact below:-

Mrs Hazel Bhatt	Tel: 0161 427 3842	email: grandmabahtt@gmail.com
Mrs Jenny Summers	Tel: 07388 236537	email: mell.14@icloud.com
Mrs Carol Rice		EMAIL ONLY: crice4849@gmail.com

Cheques only please, made payable to MB&M u3a outings

Name/s booked	Pick up point	Price paid/ Cheque No
1.		
2.		
3.		

✂ -----

Information for organizer - Trentham Gardens,

Name.	Tel no.	Emergency no
1. _____		
2. _____		
3. _____		

Amount paid _____ **Pickup** _____

Signed