

# Newsletter

## Marple and District

### February

The time is approaching when we elect a new committee and also choose a new charity. We are grateful to those members who have already put themselves forward to be nominated for the committee, but there is still time for those of you who are still thinking about it, to approach a current committee member to put your names forward. The stronger the committee, the more efficient our U3A will function!

Our present Chair, Ted Willett, has decided to stand down, but our thanks and good wishes go to him as he takes on more personal commitments.

So, at the March meeting, not only will a new committee be elected, but we will decide upon the new charity to support. Several good causes have already been put forward and it is up to the Marple membership to choose their preferred one.

Thanks are due to all those who have helped to make a success of the breadth of activities of our U3A during 2016-17 - we could not function without you.

#### **Speaker Meeting- January**

Especially in the bad weather and so soon after the festive season we were pleased to welcome 127 members to the January meeting. This is close to our 130 maximum. If you are coming to our Speaker Meeting on the second Monday of each Month, please try get there before 10am, as we will have to turn away members if we have more than 130.

Our Speakers at the January Meeting were Paul and Nick Bianchi, father and son, who, whilst not very well and fortified by coffee, gave an entertaining and informative talk on the history of Arighi Bianchi. In 1854 Antonio Arighi left the Civil War in Italy behind him, leaving a small silk town near Lake Como and eventually arrived in Macclesfield, a similar, poor silk town. He began selling Barometers and clocks, introducing the locals to "try and buy". He was joined by Antonio Bianchi, a relative by marriage and a skilled cabinet maker. The business survived through two world wars, economic depression, the threat of compulsory purchase and demolition, when they were aided by Sir John Betjeman, and progressed and prospered. During their presentation, Nick and Paul showed many photographs reflecting the development of the business, and stayed to answer questions.

#### **Our Charity, 2016/2017 :            Stockport Talking Newspaper**

During the months of November, December and January we have continued to raise monies for our chosen charity: " Stockport Talking Newspaper ".

Books :	£ 57.50
Collection:	£ 20.39
Cake Sale:	£105.95

Thanks to all those who supplied and/or bought cakes and books from the stalls and to those who donated their time and/or money towards our charity.

At the December Meeting we also collected items of food for a local Food Bank. At the January Meeting our Chairman read sections from the letter from Hazel Grove Food Bank in which we were given "a big thank you for your kindness and generosity". Many members were surprised to hear "just in the last year we have issued 85,000 meals to those in need". Thanks again for your charity contributions

### Forthcoming Speakers

13th February	Grahame Royle	Bees
13th March		AGM
10th April	Rob Carroll	Songs and Their Stories.
8th May	Ian Barclay	Inventions.

### News from our interest groups

The Spanish Group is up and running!

If you are interested in learning the language, please contact Jacqui Airey, the Group Co-ordinator, [jacairy@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jacairy@hotmail.co.uk).

### Rummikub

Dates for your diary:

February 17<sup>th</sup>, March 17<sup>th</sup>, April 21<sup>st</sup>

2.00pm till 4pm. £1 per session, upstairs in Marple Library.

We are always looking for members to start new groups, as this is a large part of what the U3A is all about. If you are interested in setting up a group – maybe you have a new idea- please contact **Jacqui Airey**, our Group Coordinator, at [jacairy@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jacairy@hotmail.co.uk). **Please note, you do not have to have been a U3A member for years before running a group; new members have often started new groups.**

If you are worried about committing yourself on a long-term basis, would you consider running an interest group for ten weeks only? Some hobbies lend themselves to this idea; cake decorating or flower arranging are prime examples. One or two members have expressed an interest in Italian. A course in any of these skills would certainly suit some of our members! Could anyone teach the ukeleli?

**We are still looking for someone to lead the **Classical Music Group**.**

### Mid-day Concerts Group

During the last few months our U3A members have enjoyed a variety of concerts at the Bridgewater Hall, some visiting there for the first time.

Concerts included: Chetham's Big Band, which displayed the talents of young students, The Scott Brothers exciting piano and organ playing, Tir Eolas, a folk music group who met at The Royal Northern and whose singer has a beautiful haunting voice.

We are taking a break until April when I hope new faces will join us.

Sandy Maclean

**Forthcoming Outings**

**2017 TBC**

February 9th	BBC Media City
March	Manchester Royal Exchange Guided tour
March 29th	Manchester Law Courts Guided tour
April 25th	Leeds with Thackray Medical Museum
June 27th	Lion Salt Works
September 25th	Skipton

Outing details will, when confirmed be available on our Web site [www.marpleu3a.org.uk](http://www.marpleu3a.org.uk) at our General Meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month and in future Newsletters.

**Contacts:** Jane Rainford 427 3059, Val Clapp 427 4252, Mavis Alsop 427 3818.

**Cheques payable to “Marple U3A Social Account”**

**Dining Group**

The Dining Group is open to any member and usually meets at a local restaurant for a luncheon one month and an evening meal the following month. Restaurants chosen can be hotels, pub restaurants or training establishments at local universities or colleges. Recommendations for venues are always welcomed.

The next meal will be **on February 22nd, 2017.**

Luncheon at the **Wycliffe Hotel and Restaurant**, 74, Edgeley Rd., Stockport, SK3 9NQ

Cost: £20 for three courses, coffee and tip

Enquiries to Beryl Kent, 0161 427 5591

**Short Walks for Busy People**

I’m pleased to say we had good weather yet again for our November and December walks, even though December’s was somewhat chilly. Both walks ended with a welcome pub meal.



**November walk** - along the path way towards Pear Mill- As we were passing the Hydro-electric power station opposite the Wyevale Garden Centre, we happened to be in the right place just at the right time! We were invited to view the inner workings of the establishment, which provides 40 houses with electricity. Apparently, the place had been flooded the week before as we could see from the watermark on the wall of the building, and a large chunk of drift wood which had lodged itself on the outer platform. When the river is very high, not as much electricity is produced as when there is an average flow.



**December walk** – very cold and icy! This was a walk round the canals in Marple, finishing on the Middlewood Way and back for a bite to eat at The Railway.

**Art Group**



Christmas was celebrated in fine style with a meal at The Crown, Hawk Green, just across from where the group meets at the Hawk Green Reading Room. Hazel and Val are quite amazed at their choice of menu! Hazel is about to drizzle sauce down her kebab. Val, on the other hand, is waiting to see what happens before she attempts the task!

**Matinée Group**

I would like to express my thanks to the organisers of the Matinee Club for their hard work and time they give to make sure our members have a varied choice of events. This also applies to our trip organisers. Many thanks. The outing to see Matthew Bourne's ballet The Red Shoes was wonderful and thanks to Jean for making sure we all had tickets and directing us to the correct coach.

**Janet Lear**

## Creative Writing

A short piece by Jacky Fantom

### TULIPS IN THE WINDOW

I walked past the house regularly and waved to the old lady who lived there. One day a bunch of bright red tulips appeared in the window next to her smiling face. The tulips faded and the petals began to fall. I didn't see the old lady for a few days. I became worried when only stalks were left.

There was no reply to the door so I called the police and ambulance. They found her lying on the kitchen floor but she survived and gained a friend thanks to a bunch of red tulips.

## Marple and District U3A Group Activities

### Monday

<b>Bridge Beginners</b>	2.00-4.00pm	Every Monday	Eric Magee	221 2091
<b>Bridge Intermediate</b>	1.30-4.00pm	Every Monday	Dorothy Grace	427 7974
<b>Canasta</b>	2-4pm	2nd & 4th Monday	Linda Turton	427 0016
<b>Geology</b>	10.00-Noon	3rd Monday	Mary Howie	427 2965
<b>Photography</b>	2.00-4.00pm	3rd Monday	Lynda McLackland	427 7387
<b>Play Reading 2</b>	2.00-4pm	1st Monday	Felicity Hancox	449 8859
<b>Intermediate French</b>	10.00-12.00	1st & 3rd Monday	Pam Wakefield	427 5794
<b>Keep up with your French conversation</b>	10.00-12.00	4th Monday	Jacqui Airey	637 5098
<b>Tai Chi</b>	2.00-3.00pm	Every Monday	Joyce Garside	430 6503

### Tuesday

<b>Creative Writing</b>	10.00-12.00	1st Tuesday	Jacky Fantom	355 0965
<b>Ballet Appreciation</b>	1.45-4pm	3rd or 4th Tuesday	Wendy Carleton	456 1948
<b>Discussion</b>	2.00-4.00pm	Tuesday after GM	Roger England	427 5089
<b>Gardening 1</b>	10.00-Noon	1st Tuesday	Donald Farthing	427 3250

<b>Gardening 2</b>	2.00-4.00pm	1st Tuesday	Brian Marshall	427 4522
<b>Play Reading</b>	2.00-4.00pm	3rd Tuesday	Pauline Henshaw	494 7780
<b>Poetry and Discussion</b>	10.00-12.00	4th Tuesday	Ruth Wilbey	494 6847
<b>French Intermediate 2</b>	1.00-2.30pm	2nd & 4th Tuesday	Pam Wakefield	427 5794
<b>Scrabble</b>	2.00-4.00pm	2nd Tuesday	Mavis Lewis	484 5524
<b>Needle work</b>	10.00-12.00	Tues after GM	Betty Wearden	427 6433
<b>Guitar</b>	10.00-12.00	Every Tuesday	Malcolm Melia	427 6927

### Wednesday

<b>Summer Bowling</b>	10.00-Noon	Weds Summer only	Brian Bircher	427 5472
<b>Folk Appreciation</b>	2.00-4.00	4th Wednesday	Peter Royle	285 0651
<b>German</b>	2.30-4pm	1st Wednesday	Janet Burridge	427 2380
<b>Jazz Appreciation</b>	2.00-4.00pm	2nd Wednesday	Robert Anderson	427 4041
<b>Open Garden Group</b>	9.45-12.00	2nd Wednesday	Margaret Hogg	449 8571
<b>Poetry</b>	2.00-4.00pm	2nd Wednesday	Chris Farnsworth	427 6080
<b>Table Tennis</b>	1.15-3.15pm	Every Wednesday	David Wilkinson	427 6487
<b>Ballet Appreciation 2</b>	1.45-4pm	3rd Wednesday	Wendy Carleton	456 1948
<b>Practical Gardening, Group 4</b>	2.00 -4.00pm	4th Wednesday	Jacqui Bassett	427 4463

### Thursday

<b>English Literature</b>	2.00-4.00pm	Thurs after GM	Joan Charman	427 2609
<b>Reading Group</b>	10.30-noon	2nd Thursday	Rhona Hunt	449 7470
<b>Short Walks for Busy People</b>	10.15	4th Thursday	Pam Wakefield	427 5794

### Friday

<b>Art</b>	9.45-12.45	Alt Fridays	Kath Fraser	427 7658
<b>Modern Sequence Dance</b>	2.00-4.00pm	Alt. Fridays	Kate Hellar	449 8830
<b>Ballroom Dancing</b>	2-4pm	Alt. Fridays	Ann Reynolds	427 3209
<b>Gardening 3</b>	10.00-Noon	4th Friday	Christine Birchall	430 2943
<b>Geology</b>	10.00-Noon	3rd Friday	Mary Howie	427 2965
<b>History of Culture</b>	10.00-Noon	3rd Friday	David Matthews	427 0372
<b>Rummikubs</b>	2.00-4.00pm	Friday after GM	Mavis Alsop Beryl Kent	427 3818 427 5591
<b>Singing</b>	10.00-Noon	Every Friday	T and M Glynn	01663 762386

### Other

<b>Day Trips</b>	Various		Mavis Alsop	427 3818
<b>Dining Out</b>	Various		Beryl Kent	427 5591
<b>Matinee Club</b>	Various		Sue Humphris Jean Howells	427 2474 427 5691
<b>Music Concerts</b>	Various		Sandy Maclean	483 3743

**Walking Group** This is a joint group with Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A. If you need information about the various walks which usually take place weekly on Tuesdays or Wednesdays, please consult the **Marple Bridge and Mellor U3A** website. You will find the information in the "Groups" section or in their Newsletter, telling you the length and grade of each walk. Details are also posted on our Notice Board at the General Meetings.

N.B. This is a completely different group from "**Short Walks for Busy People**". Please refer back to Thursday, if you require a shorter walk.

The groups were correct at the time this Newsletter went to print and it will be in every Newsletter from now on, updated accordingly.



## Trips Gallery

Outing to Haddon Hall and Castleton – many thanks to Colin Hughes for the selection of photos.





### Almoner

Please do remember that **Beryl Kent**, although no longer on the committee, is continuing to serve as our U3A Almoner. So, if you know of any member who is ill, has been bereaved, or if you think Beryl could help in any way, please let her know and she will contact them, send a card, a plant or flowers, as appropriate, funded by your kind, voluntary donation from those of you who chose to contribute when you renewed your membership. It is important that members know we care about them and miss them, but Beryl does need your help by keeping her informed.

Telephone number: **427 5591**.

Please send items for the next Newsletter, the April edition, to Pam Wakefield. This will include updates and contact numbers of the new committee.

There is now no deadline for the next Newsletter, but please bear in mind that it does take time to write it and then send it to Mavis to have it printed. Many thanks, **Mavis Alsop**, for your continued hard work in the printing of the documents.

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