

April 2019

Marple U3A Committee Members 2018-2019

Chair - Jacqui Airey:	chairmanmarple@gmail.com	637 5098
Secretary - Sally D:	secretarymarple@gmail.com	456 7359
Treasurer - Phil Ridgway:	treasurermarple@gmail.com	427 6007
Membership Secretary - Graeme Mould:	membershipmarple@gmail.com	221 2805
Group Coordinator - Hazel Meakin	coordinatormarple@gmail.com	427 7343
Website - David Jones:	webmastermarple@gmail.com	449 8168
Charity link – Jacqui Airey:		637 5098
Newsletter – Pamela Wakefield, Vice-Chair	wakefield.pamela@yahoo.com	427 5794
Vice-Chair & Beacon Admin – Graeme Mould		221 2805
Speaker Secretary – Olga Henner:	alexahenner@gmail.com	427 2330

Hello and welcome to the April edition of the Newsletter!

Firstly, some good news! Marple Library, which had been under review with the threat of closure, will not close! The library will stay open, but with revised opening times. Thanks to Mavis Alsop for sharing the information about the new library opening hours: please see the end of the Newsletter for the new opening hours.

The AGM was held on 11th March during which the committee was elected for the year 2019/20. We welcome Pam Wakefield as a new committee member and thank the members who this year have stepped down from the committee. We raised in excess of £400 for our charity, Spotlight, Stockport. Julia, the representative, accepted the cheque and spoke briefly about the charity and its aims.

Following the AGM, we selected our charity for the year. The one winning the vote by a sizeable majority was Beechwood Cancer Care, Stockport.

The minutes of the AGM can be found at the end of this Newsletter.

Exhibition of Artwork

Lynne Quirk asked if our members would be interested in an exhibition of artwork to be held at Norbury Church, Hazel Grove. The artwork has been produced by prisoners from Styal and Thorn Cross Prisons. The aim of the exhibition is to demonstrate the experiences of prisoners and the stories behind their convictions and sentences. The hope is that visitors to the exhibition will gain an insight into prisoners' compassion and their humanity.

Through their art, prisoners have discovered new ways to explore and express their emotions and thoughts. If you can identify with some of the choices, mistakes and circumstances that the prisoners have faced, then the artists will have fulfilled their goal, to connect to others. Timings etc. are on the attached poster. Lynne has seen the exhibition that started in September at Chester Cathedral and it is now doing the rounds of Cheshire churches.

Speaker Meeting - February: Steve & Carol Robson - Bang up to the Elephant (Victorian Theme: Songs, Images & Tales)

On 11th February Steve and Carol Robson, aka Fool's Gold, provided us with a Quadruplicity, Panoply, Mountebankery (apologies to Leonard Sachs) of a show, when they entertained us with songs from the Victorian age. Since many of the popular songs of that time were based on real events and people, we heard not only the songs, but also the stories behind them. There were songs and stories about thieves and heroines, and the dubious claims of quack doctors, who peddled snake oil remedies. There was even a jolly song about poverty. The audience sang along with game enthusiasm.

The title of Steve and Carol's presentation was 'Bang up to the Elephant' - a Victorian slang phrase which, in James Redding Ware's book: *"Passing English of the Victorian era, a dictionary of heterodox English, slang and phrase"* had the meaning of the phrase to be "perfect, complete, unapproachable." Well, it was a very good entertainment! Thanks to Steve and Carol Robson.

General Meeting- Speakers

Date	Speaker	Title
8 April 19	Peter Braun	Monarchy and Dunham, The Grey area
13 May 19	John Taylor	Medical Herbalism
10 June 19	Kathy Lewis	High 'C' on the High Seas
8 July 19	Maureen Sawyer	Perfect Pots
12 Aug 19	Janice O'Neill	Volunteering in Guyana and Ghana
9 Sept 19	David Seddon	Romanticism
14 Oct 19	Angie Clark	Gertrude Powicke
11 Nov 19	Lucy Simister	Charles Babbage
9 Dec 19	TBC	

Our Members' Charity - 2019/2020:



At Beechwood, support is offered to those living with cancer and other life limiting illness, as well as to their relatives and carers. They first began offering cancer care back in 1990 and since then the Centre has helped many people.

They understand just how cancer and illness can affect someone's life, and also know how helpful it can be to talk with other patients and carers.

New Groups

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 **Hazel Meakin**, our Group Coordinator.

New yoga class at Hawk Green reading rooms and alternate Fridays after. Class starts at 10.00 prompt please be there 9.45 to set up mats, pay etc. I will be there at 9.30. If you have a yoga mat please bring it but I will have a few spares. Payment depends on how many people attend to cover the room costs of £17.

"I trained with the British Wheel of Yoga, which is the governing body for yoga in the UK and teach Hatha Yoga. The first class may be quite gentle but please let me know of any health problems that might affect you. If you have any queries please ring me on 01613550965.

I look forward to seeing you then.

Jacky Fantom"

Intermediate French

Please see the group timetable for the times of the group, as there is now only one group, twice monthly on Mondays.

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 and also Spanish. A course in any of these skills would certainly suit some of our members! Could anyone teach the ukulele?

Discussion

A friendly group where you can put, listen to, points of view on topics chosen by the group: ranging from current affairs, arts, media to any questions you want to explore or have your say on.

Summer Bowling

Summer bowling will commence on Wednesday April 3rd (at 10am).

All U3A members are welcome to participate and we shall be holding taster sessions on the 3rd and 10th April.

Those intending to bowl thereafter for the season are expected to purchase bowling green passes at a special price of £24.45 from the bowling secretary (which allow the holder to bowl on any SMBC bowling green for 1 year - less than 50p per week!).

Any persons wishing to bowl this summer or seeking more information should contact the bowling secretary, Brian Bircher on 0161 427 5472.

Marple & District U3A Trips Group

Outing details will, when confirmed be available on our Web site www.marpleu3a.org.uk at our General Meetings on the 2nd 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"

Proposed Trips & Provisional Dates for 2019

May	Port Sunlight.
June	British Ironwork Centre, Museum & Sculpture Park.

Bridgewater Hall – Midday Concerts

All concerts begin at 1:10 and last about 1 hour.

You may join us there or take the train and have lunch in Manchester.

Contact Sandy Maclean 0161 483 3743

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. Enquiries to Beryl Kent, 0161 427 5591

Almoner

Please do remember that Beryl Kent, is 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 have 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.

Marple and District U3A Group Activities

Monday

Bridge Beginners	2.00-4.00pm	Every Monday	Eric Magee	221 2091
Bridge Intermediate	1.30-4.00pm	Every Monday	Audrey Grimsey	427 4309
Canasta	2.00-4.00pm	2nd & 4th Monday	Linda Turton	427 0016
Classical Music	2.00-4.00pm	Last Monday	Mike Connolly	430 5576
Geology	10.00-Noon	3rd Monday	Mary Howie	427 2965
Photography	2.00-4.00pm	3rd Monday	Ken Orson	07880 851833
Intermediate French	10.00-12.00	1st and 3rd Monday	Pam Wakefield	427 5794
French Conversation and Discussion	10.00-12.00	1st Monday	Jacqui Airey	637 5098
Tai Chi	2.00-3.00pm	Every Monday	Joyce Garside	430 6503

Tuesday

Creative Writing	10.00-12.00	1st Tuesday	Jacky Fantom	355 0965
Gardening 1	10.00-Noon	1st Tuesday	Donald Farthing	427 3250
Gardening 2	2.00-4.00pm	1st Tuesday	Brian Marshall	427 4522
Play Reading	2.00-4.00pm	3rd Tuesday	Pauline Henshaw	494 7780
Scrabble	2.00-4.00pm	2nd Tuesday	Jean Day	427 4149
Guitar	10.00-12.00	Every Tuesday	Malcolm Melia	494 1619

Wednesday

Summer Bowling	10.00-Noon	Every Weds from April	Brian Bircher	427 5472
Poetry and Discussion	10.00-12.00	4th Tuesday	Ruth Wilbey	449 0534
Folk Appreciation	2.00-4.00pm	4th Wednesday	Peter Royle	285 0651
German	2.30-4.00pm	1st Wednesday	Janet Burrige	427 2380
Jazz Appreciation	2.00-4.00pm	2nd Wednesday	Brian Strickland	427 3943
Open Garden Group	9.45-12.00	2nd Wednesday	Margaret Hogg	449 8571
Poetry	2.00-4.00pm	2nd Wednesday	Chris Farnsworth	427 6080
Table Tennis	1.15-3.15pm	Every Wednesday	David Wilkinson	427 6487
Practical Gardening 4	2.00 -4.00pm	4th Wednesday	TBC	

Thursday

English Literature	2.00-4.00pm	Thurs after GM	Joan Charman	427 2609
Embroidery	2.00-4.00pm	Alt Thursdays	Dorothy Jones	449 8168
Reading Group	2.00-4.00pm	2nd Thursday	Rhona Hunt	449 7470

Short Walks for Busy People	10.15	4 th /5th Thursday	Pam Wakefield	427 5794
			Please ask to go on email list.	

Friday

Art	9.45 - 12.45	Alt Fridays	Kath Fraser Maureen Paton	427 7658 427 5430
------------	--------------	-------------	------------------------------	----------------------

Ballroom Dancing	2.00-4.00pm	Alt Fridays	Ann Reynolds	427 3209
-------------------------	-------------	-------------	--------------	----------

Modern Sequence Dance	2.00-4.00pm	Alt. Fridays	Kate Hellar	449 8830
------------------------------	-------------	--------------	-------------	----------

Gardening 3	10.00-Noon	4th Friday	Christine Birchall	430 2943
--------------------	------------	------------	--------------------	----------

Geology	10.00-Noon	3rd Friday	Mary Howie	427 2965
----------------	------------	------------	------------	----------

History of Culture	10.00-Noon	3rd Friday	David Matthews	427 0372
---------------------------	------------	------------	----------------	----------

Rummikubs	2.00-4.00pm	Friday after GM	Mavis Alsop Beryl Kent	427 3818 427 5591
------------------	-------------	-----------------	---------------------------	----------------------

Singing	10.00-Noon	Every Friday	T and M Glynn	01663 762386
----------------	------------	--------------	---------------	--------------

Discussion	10.00-Noon	1 st Friday of the Month	A Tognarelli V Noble	317 8313
-------------------	------------	-------------------------------------	-------------------------	----------

Yoga	9.45-11am	Alt Fridays	Jacky Fantom	355 0965
-------------	-----------	-------------	--------------	----------

Other

Day Trips	Various		Mavis Alsop	427 3818
------------------	---------	--	-------------	----------

Dining Out	Various		Beryl Kent	427 5591
-------------------	---------	--	------------	----------

			Jeanette Webb	427 2433
--	--	--	---------------	----------

Music Concerts	Various		Sandy Maclean	483 3743
-----------------------	---------	--	---------------	----------

MARPLE & DISTRICT U3A – AGM – 11TH MARCH 2019 AT THE SENIOR CITIZENS’ HALL, MARPLE

The AGM began at 10:15. 101 members were present.

Our Chair, Jacqui Airey, welcomed members and thanked them for attending.

Apologies were received from Ted Willett.

The minutes of the 2018 AGM held on 12th March 2018 were read by the Secretary and a copy is filed with this report. There were no questions and the minutes were approved as a true record - proposed Carol Culley, seconded Peter Wilson.

CHAIR’S REPORT

Once again, I can report on another fruitful year for Marple and District U3A. The latest figures show that we had 416 members at the end of January, 316 of whom have renewed their membership for this year and 23 new members have joined so far during this year. Group leaders are requested to check that their members, and themselves, have renewed.

We have to date 36 interest groups and a further 2 groups run by Marple Bridge of which we have several members. The embroidery group which started last year is thriving and produced the delightful piece to represent the groups within our U3A. The classical music group which was revived is also doing well. Since January we have had a new group, yoga, which takes place fortnightly led by Jacky Fantom which is also doing very well. We are, as you know, always keen to start new groups so if any of you out there have any suggestions in mind please do come forward.

The trips group have organised a very diverse programme of outings this year including the trip to the World Museum in Liverpool to see the Terracotta Warriors, a day out in Halifax visiting the amazing Piece Hall, other trips to Nostel Priory, Llandudno, always a favourite, Trentham Gardens, Blists Hill and Dewlay Cheese Factory. Mavis Alsop has asked me to thank her team of helpers for their organisation and all our members who have supported them on the outings.

I would also like to thank Beryl and Jeanette, on your behalf, for organising some excellent dining experiences this year. In December we returned to what I believe is a former venue for our Christmas Lunch, namely Marple Golf Club. This was chosen because it is on one level and is probably more accessible to the majority of people. We also felt it was time for a change! We had a very pleasant time and were entertained by the a cappella group, “the Four Pops”.

Other events this year included an open coffee morning, and a food collection at our Christmas meeting in aid of the Stockport Foodbank. This was organised by Mavis Lewis who also arranged a first aid course which was both informative and enjoyable.

The Committee has had a lot of positive feedback with regard to our speaker programme for last year. We started off with a memorable talk by Peter White entitled “The way I see it”. We also enjoyed a varied range of subjects such as Penny Dean’s talk about her life; Arabella Stuart, the queen that never was; and Alan Turing, as well as being richly entertained by musicians, a magician and, last but not least, a world champion whistler. Thank you to Maria and Jacky who have organised the speaker programme for us this year and the next few months but have now given up the role.

The new Communications system, Beacon, is about to be up and running and will be of enormous benefit to our membership secretary and group co-ordinator. Thanks go to Graeme for taking on the workload of

setting this up for us. David Jones, our webmaster, has now revamped our website to its very professional current state. Thanks go to David for all the time spent doing this for us and for producing the entertaining bi-monthly newsletter. I also want to thank Mavis Alsop who does the printing of the newsletter and other items.

There are just a few more people to thank: Sandy for organising the lunchtime concerts; Mo for running the book stall; June for all her help behind the counter and organising the drinks rota; Roger, Ray and Hilary for their help in setting up the room for the monthly meetings; Mavis, Kath and Doug for collecting money at the back and Keith for clicking; and Beryl for her valuable work as our almoner.

Last of all I want to thank the other members of the Committee who donate so much of their time to ensure the smooth running of this U3A:

Phil Ridgway, our treasurer who deals so professionally with our finances;

Sally Dulieu, our current Secretary who is most efficient and keeps us all on our toes;

Carol Culley, who is stepping down as Membership Secretary but is still intending to help out on the Committee;

Hazel Meakin, our Group co-ordinator, who acts as our liaison between group leaders and members so efficiently;

Olga Henner, who has helped us this year on the Committee, proof reading the newsletter and proffering suggestions;

Cynthia Pitts who has looked after the Charity for us for the last two years and is also stepping down.

As some of our Committee members are leaving this year I would urge any of you who feel you can contribute in any capacity, to put yourself forward or speak to any Committee member. We always need new people with fresh ideas and who have free time to help out.

Questions were invited but none were forthcoming.

TREASURER'S REPORT

This morning we have provided 50 printed copies of the summary sheet for this meeting (please share with your neighbour) plus 5 full printed copies for those who want full details in hard copy.

My accounts have been checked by our independent examiner, John Cavanagh, who has confirmed that they are a true and accurate record of all monies received and paid, and that he agrees with the total on the balance sheet.

I will comment on our four accounts, highlighting some main elements, and give a little detail on our budgeting for the coming year.

The Current Account, Financial Year 2018/2019

The budget set by Exec committee for this financial year aimed to reduce the effective balance of the Current Account by £483. This aim was in accordance with recommendations by the Third Age Trust regarding the appropriate ratio of reserves to annual turnover. The effective reduction achieved was about £339. The reduction would have been larger, but for unexpected income of £250 due to dissolution of the Matinee group, which split its closing surplus between 4 local U3A's.

I would like to highlight the 3 major areas of net expenditure. The largest is National Membership fees, whereby we pay £3.50 to the Third Age Trust for every member, based on last year's membership. This came to £1529.50. The second is equipment, costing £196.96 mainly due to the purchase of 2 new water boilers and a display easel, for use at speaker meetings. The third is Speaker Meetings, where expenditure

exceeded income by £160.88. This is a significant reduction on last year's loss, due to raising the entry fee from 50p to £1 from April.

Every year we have a liability owed to Stockport Council for room hire for meetings in Marple Senior Citizens' Hall and for the use of Brabyns Pavilion for the table tennis group. This is due to the time lag in receiving invoices for December and January. Last year, the total liability was £275 at year end. However, the most recent invoice from Stockport Council was received in March 2018, a year ago, and I have been chasing them ever since to invoice me for room hire. At year end, our liability, according to my calculations, was £1490. For this reason, the balance of our current account is significantly higher than usual. I am finally getting a promising dialogue with an appropriate person at the Council, so expect this abnormality to be resolved quite soon.

The budget for the coming financial year was discussed at the October meeting of Exec committee. The proposed budget for year 2019-2020 aimed to reduce the effective balance of the Current Account by £595 at year end, by reducing the subscription to £5.00. This was agreed by Exec. The committee felt that it was still appropriate to gradually reduce funds, and monitor year by year, to ensure that the balance remains healthy but not excessive for a U3A of our size and annual turnover.

The Business Reserve Account

There were no transfers out of the reserve account this year, and the only income was the small monthly interest payments.

The Welfare Account

There has been an increase in the balance over the year. When the 2019/2020 budget was set, Exec Committee agreed that there is no need to request donations to this fund during the forthcoming financial year.

The Social Account

This year, most events broke even, 7 made a profit and 5 made a loss. Overall, there has been an effective reduction in the balance of the account of £44.84. I have monitored the financial position of each event during the year, and reported significant matters to the Executive Committee. The Social Account still has a significant surplus, which we are aiming to reduce. In accordance with the 2019/2020 budget, the Trips group has amended its cost planning method to incorporate a discount of £1 per member on all coach trips in the forthcoming financial year, with the objective of reducing the balance of the Social Account by approximately £250 over this period.

In November we changed our constitution to conform with the latest requirements of the Charity Commission, which now makes no distinction between learning and social events, and requires all activities to be included in the annual reporting of income and expenditure. For this reason I have, for the first time, reported income and expenditure records for the Social Account in full, as detailed in Appendix 4.

Summary

To summarise, overall Marple & District U3A is in a healthy financial position. The notes to the balance sheet summary in Appendix 8 show that there has been an effective year-on-year reduction of £273.09 over all accounts. Our fund levels are still a little higher than planned. Our unchanged future aim is to make gradual small reductions where appropriate to achieve slightly lower bank balances.

Questions were invited. Peter Royle asked what sort of things the welfare account is used for. Beryl explained that if a member dies, we send a card and flowers or, if there is a surviving partner, a commemorative plant. Cards and flowers are also sent to members in hospital. Members particularly appreciate a phone call.

The report was approved – proposed by Brian Marshall, seconded by Brian Bircher.

Members were asked to approve the continued appointment of John Cavanagh as accounts examiner for 2018/19. No objections were raised. Approved – proposed Sandy Maclean, seconded Maureen Paton.

ELECTION OF NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

There were 8 nominations	Name of Proposer	Name of Secunder
Name of Nominee		
Jacqueline Airey	Pam Wakefield	Pauline Mottram
Phil Ridgway	Janet Lear	Ted Willett
Sally Dulieu	Barbara Aldred	Maureen Paton
Hazel Meakin	Mavis Alsop	Jane Rainford
David Jones	Dorothy Jones	Shelley Mould
Graeme Mould	Beryl Kent	Chris Freer
Olga Henner	Barry Makin	Roger Tolman
Pamela Wakefield	Pamela Cockerill	Clare Ridgway

MARPLE LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

The following is information from Marple Library.

Stockport Council's proposals for reducing library hours and staffing have been revised in view of residents' objections.

Staffed opening hours are now confirmed as:

Monday 10am - 6pm

Tuesday 10am - 6pm

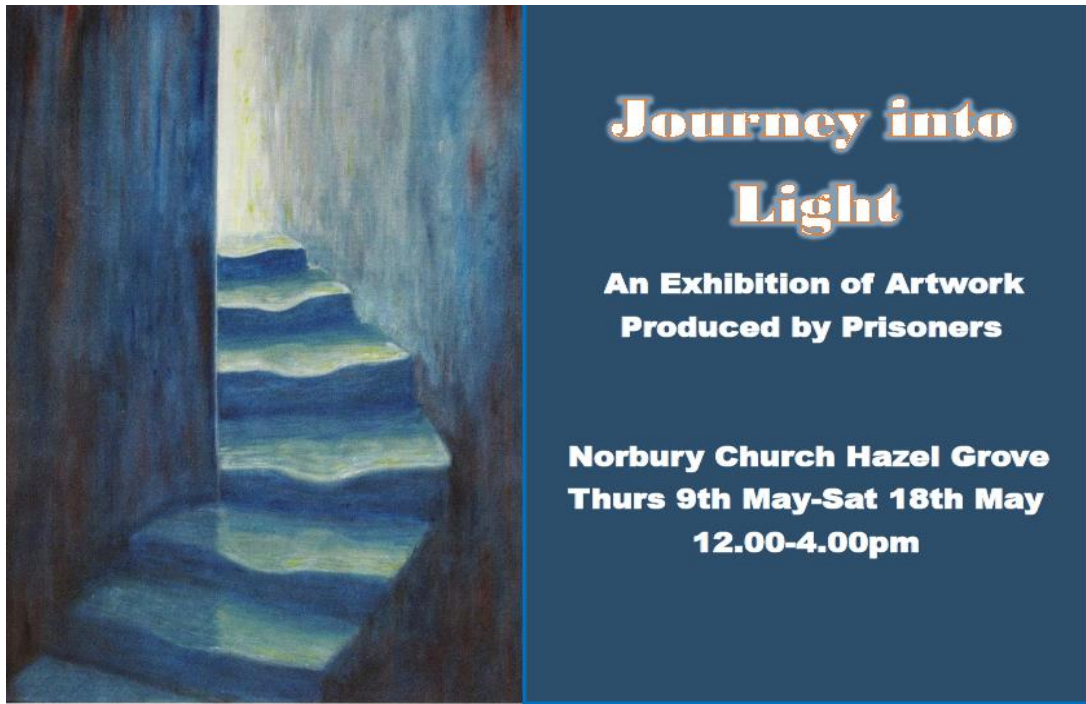
Thursday 10am - 6pm

Friday 10am - 5pm

Saturday 10am - 4pm

This will make **Wednesday** the only **unstaffed** day.

Should you wish to access the library on Wednesday, prior registration is required.



If you are interested in talks by Frank Pleszak about WW2 bombing of New Mills and Hayfield, you are invited to attend the following:

- Mellor Women's Fellowship 8 May 2019
Hayfield Civic Trust 25 September 2019
New Mills Local History Society 22 October 2019

There is also a booklet available, which has been published by New Mills Local History Society (NMLHS).

(£10 all proceeds to NMLHS). frank@pleszak.com

And finally....your subscription to Marple and District U3A- there were some people wondering about how your money was being spent.

£3.50 per person is paid to the U3A National Office. These fees go towards their administration costs, as the U3A is a national organisation.

This leaves £1.50 which goes towards funding our website costs, the Beacon Administration system and printing costs, etc. I think everyone will agree that £5 is a very low annual sum to pay for such a fantastic organisation! I have been told that members in the Cambridge U3A actually pay £70 per annum.

Please send items for inclusion in the next Newsletter to Pamela Wakefield:

wakefield.pamela@yahoo.com

Gallery

Visit to Gorton Monastery

