

December 2018

Marple U3A Committee Members 2017-2018

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 - Carol Culley:	membershipmarple@gmail.com	221 1237
Group Coordinator - Hazel Meakin	coordinatormarple@gmail.com	427 7343
IT and newsletter - David Jones:	webmastermarple@gmail.com	449 8168
Charity link - Cynthia Pitts:		465 0492
Newsletter – Olga Henner		
Vice-Chair & Beacon Admin – Graeme Mould		221 2805
Speaker Secretary – Maria Henderson & Jacky Fantom:		

It's December already and what an eventful year it has been. In November we celebrated one hundred years since the guns fell silent and the Great War was over. The whole year has been dominated by Brexit, and we wish that was over.

We have been encouraging our members to share their knowledge and perhaps start a group. We are pleased, therefore that a new Yoga group has been formed and for that we have Jacky Fantom to thank. For details of the group, please see below.

On behalf of the executive committee, I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Speaker Meeting - October: Peter Turner – Through the Eyes of a Magician

We were treated to a magical entertainment by Peter Turner when he came to talk to us about his life as a magician. You might be disappointed if you were expecting a young woman to be sawn in half, for Peter's brand of magic was that of intimate, close-up, sleight-of-hand kind of magic. With the help of volunteers from the audience Peter amazed us with his explanation of how he manages, through a combination of psychology and body language to make the audience believe that a ring could attach itself to a chain held by the volunteer; to make complicit the volunteer who agrees that the non-existent card between his finger and thumb IS the Jack of hearts, and that the silk handkerchief which had vanished from his closed fist and minutes later had reappeared inside the volunteer's wallet. While performing these amazing acts of prestidigitation Peter explained what he called the science of perception and suggestion, the explanation itself being part of the suggestion and redirection. Peter closed his talk by inviting the whole audience to follow him as he twisted his clasped hands with thumbs pointing downwards, then rotated his hands so that his thumbs were pointing upwards – which proved to be impossible for the bemused, yet amused audience, but not for Peter who through his mastery of misdirection performed the seemingly impossible.

Speaker Meeting - November: David Templeman – Lady Arbella Stuart – The Queen That Never Was

For Lady Arbella Stuart, life really was a series of what-ifs. Born in 1575 into the Stuart family, cousin to James VI of Scotland and niece of Mary Queen of Scots. It would seem that Lady Arbella was blessed with a charmed life. You would think so, however, Arbella was born in turbulent times and her path through society was far from straight forward. By the time Arbella was two her father had died and with his death so went her title and her land in Scotland was seized by the Scottish government. At the age six Arbella has lost her mother, and so it was Arbella's grandmother, Bess of Hardwick who would take on the duty of care. Arbella was given an education and the able pupil learned philosophy, was an accomplished musician, and became fluent in several European languages. At the age of twelve Arbella was presented at court and despite making a favourable impression on Queen Elizabeth I, Elizabeth refused to name her successor and was determined that Arbella should remain unmarried. Arbella returned to Hardwick Hall until at the age of twenty-seven when she established her independence by secretly proposing marriage to Edward Seymour. Since Seymour was part of the Stuart bloodline, her choice of husband had more to do with political ambition than romantic love. Arbella's plans were discovered by the Queen's spymaster Robert Cecil but Arbella refused to be silenced. She starved herself and quarrelled with Bess, to the extent that some people thought her mad. It is thought by some that this behaviour was a sign of the 'royal disease', porphyria. Upon the death of Queen Elizabeth, Arbella left Hardwick Hall and travelled to the court of James I (The Union of the Crowns) but life at court proved impossible for the girl whose sheltered life had not prepared her for life at the court of Queen Anne of Denmark. Once again, she attempted to escape into marriage. This time she was successful and she secretly married William Seymour, younger brother of Edward. Her plan now was to escape to France where she would meet with her husband and presumably forge a new dynasty. Knowing that a child from such a marriage would cause severe complications to the Stuart succession, the King ordered the pair to be arrested. Dressed as a boy, Arbella managed to evade the King's men but while on a boat just off the coast of France she was captured and was cast into the Tower where at the age of forty, she died. Thank you, David for a very interesting talk.

Our Members' Charity - 2018/2019:

SignPost

STOCKPORT FOR CARERS

General Meeting Speaker

Date	Speaker	Title
14 Jan 19	Neil Sheldon	Alan Turing
11 Feb 19	Steve & Carol Robson	Bang up to the Elephant (Victorian Theme: Songs, Images & Tales)
11 Mar 19	AGM	
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	

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 starting on 11/01/19 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

News from our interest groups.

Intermediate French, Groups 1 and 2

These are now taking place only once a month. Please see the group timetable if you are interested in joining.

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 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.

Short Walks for Pleasure

The November walk took a cheerful group down through Marple Dale where we stopped briefly at Chadkirk Chapel to consider the lunch menu, and given that we were walking in the teeth of the now weakening storm Diana, whether to take the short route back. We all agreed the short route was the one. Just as well, as a few minutes later, in a downpour that lasted at most five minutes, we were drenched, though still cheerful. Thanks to Pam for organising the walk.

Photography Group

The group were tasked with photographing 'signs' and was the subject of the November meeting. This proved to be an interesting topic with many signs photographed in the Marple area. Others, taken abroad were quite amusing:





WALKING GROUP

December 2018/January 2019 Walks

Wed Dec 5th	Rowarth	4m	Moderate	Irene Riley
+ lunch at the Little Mill at about 12.30 - see comment below*				
Tues Dec 11th	Eccles Pike	5m	Moderate	Sheila Stafford
Wed Dec 19th	Dovestones Reservoir	5m	Easy+	Judith Lynch
Wed Jan 2nd	Roman Lakes	5m	Moderate	Val and Roy Bradshaw
Tues Jan 8th	Longdendale	4m	Easy	Sue Ward
Wed Jan 16th	TBA			John Bloor
Tues Jan 22nd	Styal Woods	5m	Easy+	Val and Roy Bradshaw
Wed Jan 30th	Roman Bridge/Goyt Valley	4.5m	Easy+	Judy Rhodes

*Please let Irene know if you plan to attend the lunch (and/or walk) by 20th November – email: irene.riley39@talktalk.net or phone 0161 449 8315

Walk Grading

Very Easy: More or less flat, good surface, few stiles

Moderate: Typical of local terrain

Easy: Small sections of hill, not too rough, limited stiles

Moderate +: More climbing and/or more stiles

All walks meet IN Brabyns Park for prompt departure at 9.45 am. Car passengers are asked to contribute 10p per mile to petrol cost.

Walking safety: Footwear (walking boots), clothing and equipment needs to be suitable for the conditions likely to be encountered. This area is famous for changeable weather so come prepared for all eventualities. Bring your mobile phone and inform the leader of your phone number and that of an emergency contact. Provide your own first aid kit.

Refreshments: Bring more than adequate food and drink for the length of walk and weather conditions. Remember delays sometimes occur.

(D) Indicates that the walk is some distance away and will therefore take longer. All walks are subject to change.

Please stay with the group unless you have arranged with the leader to do otherwise.

Walking group co-ordinators are Jean Mitchell (0161 221 2304) and Judith Lynch (0161 449 7507).

Marple & District U3A Trips Group

Thursday November 15th, Police Museum Manchester.

Monday December 3rd, Arley Hall and Knutsford.

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

January 22 nd	Guided tour of Principal Hotel (Refuge Insurance Building) Manchester.
February	Guided tour of Bridgewater Hall, Manchester.
March	Guided Tour of Gorton Monastery and Light Lunch.
May	Port Sunlight.
June	British Ironwork Centre, Museum & Sculpture Park.

Bridgewater Hall – Mid-day Concerts

Wednesday Dec. 19th.

Bridgewater Hall. The Manchester Chamber Choir. £8 at Nov. speaker meeting.

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	Dorothy Grace	427 7974
Canasta	2.00-4.00pm 2nd & 4th Monday	Linda Turton	427 0016
Geology	10.00-Noon 3rd Monday	Mary Howie	427 2965
Photography	2.00-4.00pm 3rd Monday	Ken Orson	07880 851833
Play Reading 2	2.00-4.00pm 1st Monday	Felicity Hancox	449 8859
Intermediate French	10.00-12.00 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
Ballet Appreciation	1.45-4.00pm 3rd or 4th Tues	Wendy Carleton	456 1948
Gardening 1	10.00-Noon 1st Tuesday	Donald Farthing	427 3250

Gardening 2 427 4522	2.00-4.00pm 1st Tuesday	Brian Marshall	
Play Reading	2.00-4.00pm 3rd Tuesday	Pauline Henshaw	494 7780
Poetry and Discussion	10.00-12.00 4th Tuesday	Ruth Wilbey	449 0534
French Intermediate 2	1.00-2.30pm 4th Tuesday	Pam Wakefield	427 5794
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
Folk Appreciation	2.00-4.00pm 4th Wednesday	Peter Royle	285 0651
German	2.30-4.00pm 1st Wednesday	Janet Burridge	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
Ballet Appreciation 2	1.45-4.00pm 3rd Wednesday	Wendy Carleton	456 1948
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	10.30-noon	2nd Thursday	Rhona Hunt	449 7470
Short Walks for Busy People	10.15	4 th /5th Thursday	Pam Wakefield	427 5794

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	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

Please send items for inclusion in the next Newsletter to David Jones:

webmastermarple@gmail.com

As usual, many thanks to Mavis Alsop for producing the printed newsletter.