



Hi Folks,

Trusting you have all recovered from the excesses of the long bank holiday weekend and that everyone enjoyed (or not) celebrating the platinum Jubilee. We hope you are fit and well and ready for Monday's talk, which this month is "100 Years of Bling"

I'm afraid this month's newsletter is a bit thin, but hopefully next time, you'll have lots of lovely photographs from the celebrations to send in.

Contributions to the Newsletter are always welcome, so please send them in, whether it's an interesting story or an amusing incident.

Please keep your committee updated about your plans and get in touch if you need help or advice.

If you're not online, but are interested in something below which has a contact link via the internet, tell a committee member and we'll try to put you in touch.

Len Walker

### **Groups news**

#### **The Home Theatre Group – Rosie Devine.**

The Home Theatre Group held its inaugural meeting on Friday 3rd of June at 7pm.

Those present enjoyed the National Theatre's very modern take on William Shakespeare's comedy A Mid Summers Night Dream and why the director chose, on this occasion, to reverse the dialogue of the fairy king and queen.

Future meetings will be held monthly on the first Friday of the month at 7pm. Our next meeting is scheduled for the 1st of July when we hope to watch the National Theatre's,

"A Taste of Honey."

New members are welcome, but space is limited. Anyone interested can email

[rosedevine@yahoo.com](mailto:rosedevine@yahoo.com).

Or look out for me at our next monthly meeting.

#### **The Tai Chi Group – Joan Charman.**

The Tai Chi group is taking a summer break after a successful year of weekly meetings at the Scout HQ in Marple Memorial Park. "Success" in this case means that the whole group is now able to perform the short form of Chen Man Ching's Tai Chi, whether they started from

scratch or from a position of hazy recollection after the long absence of classes during the pandemic. We also had a lot of fun and (we hope) improved our balance and general well-being.

We would love to welcome beginners to join in, but as I will need some time to organise the space and plan for a joint course of instruction, I would be grateful if you could contact me by email or telephone (0161 427 2609) to express your interest. Meetings are held weekly at 10:00 am on Wednesdays. The first meeting of the new season will be on September 7th.

### **The Classical Music Group – Barbara Aldred.**

Welcome to the Classical music group. We meet on the last Monday every month at 20, Compstall Road, Marple Bridge, SK6 5HH at 2:00 PM.

Mike Connelly chooses the CDs and I make the tea. If you are interested, wish to attend or for more information please contact me on

0161 355 6871

### **Cribbage For Beginners – Rosie Devine.**

The earliest published rules for cribbage appeared in England in 1662. And the original game has changed very little since.

Before covid and lockdowns cribbage leagues were played from April till October in pubs the length and breadth of England, including Marple.

It's a game of tactics and a great deal of luck as to which cards you are dealt as to you winning or losing, either solo or with a partner.

If you have ever wondered how to play, and maybe win, then join the U3A Cribbage for Beginners group starting soon.

Email [rosedevine@yahoo.com](mailto:rosedevine@yahoo.com) for further information and how to join the group.

### **Trips**

Details of any future trips will be available at the meeting on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Last Month's Talk**

#### **Stranger in a Strange Land - Gill Russell.**

If you were not there, you missed a treat! - a funny, but also interesting talk by Gill Russell about her time in Japan. She touched on topics from the Japanese language, road labelling, conveyor- belt car parks to the geography of Japan. One of my favourite anecdotes was her explanation of when speaking, Japanese people use the double negative idea to make a positive, leading foreigners to make all sorts of mistakes.

Thank you, Gill - very much.

Hillary Russel

## Future Speaker meetings

13 <sup>th</sup> June	John Wallace	100 Years of Bling
11 <sup>th</sup> July	Jim Williams	Great Imposters
8 <sup>th</sup> August	Marylin and Alan Shalks	Life in TV and Radio

## Members' charity.

We need a new member's charity to support. Any ideas will be voted on at a future meeting. Please forward any suggestions to me, Len Walker [secretarymarple@gmail.com](mailto:secretarymarple@gmail.com)

## Volunteers

As always, we welcome any volunteers wanting to help the Marple and District U3A. There are plenty of ways people can help, for example, setting up for the meetings, or assisting with the catering. We still need an assistant "audio-visual setter upper" for Peter S to step in should he be unavailable.

## Articles

### **The sport where everyone plays with a smile on their face. - Janet Graves.**

I played hockey at school, with the sand stinging my legs blown across the pitch from the dunes at St. Annes. Teeth chattering in the cold. Nobody was smiling then I remember. I used to play tennis, badminton, a little squash and some snooker at college. Again, nobody smiled. So, table tennis has been a revelation. Everyone is smiling while they play. I joined the table tennis sessions in May, feeling rather rusty, but I had forgotten how much I love the game. I received a very warm welcome from the group, and after a quick reminder of the rules, I was playing doubles with a borrowed bat.

And what gentle good humour and encouragement I get each week. There's the odd murmured 'bad luck' when the ball flies off. And 'nearly' when a serve goes out. And I'm getting better every week. There's a pleasant old-world formality and charm about the whole afternoon. We introduce ourselves by first name before we play, though everyone promptly forgets them. The scoring can get creative too - but no harm done.

There are the times when we all stop and ask each other, what's the score? Who served last? Nobody can remember. No matter - we agree on a score and carry on. It is huge fun and there have been unexpected benefits. I'm fitter for a start. I can recommend bending down to pick up a ping-pong ball a couple of dozen times in an afternoon or reaching to chase it out from under a chair to get your knees working. My concentration is better too. The first couple of weeks, my partner had to 'gently' remind me I was playing, saying 'we can still win this' to stop me looking out of the window.

The first week, one player mentioned that every time you have a conversation, lights flash in your brain, so the bits between the games are as important as the game itself.

There's tea brewed at two o'clock in a big brown pot, with custard creams, one each, and the pleasure of having people of your own age to chat to. We've discussed the merits of different table tennis bat holds, whether Elizabeth David's boeuf bourguignon recipe has ever been beaten, and if statins are a good or bad idea.

There are moments when I am reminded of my days at the youth club. We sit alongside the four playing tables on a line of chairs between games, and a player will ask me in passing, 'would you like to play?' It reminds me of being asked to dance - and that hasn't happened for a few decades. The good players are courteous enough not to show that they are disgruntled at having me on their side. And I've learned never to underestimate a player who walks a little 'stiffly' to the table - or is in their 90s. They will beat me hollow. In fact, there's never a dull moment in a joyous afternoon playing table tennis.

### **A message from "Marple" across the pond - Chris Farnsworth.**

Chris has sent a message he received from his colonial correspondent in the USA.

For a number of years, the New Mills, Marple and district Rotary Club have been friends with a Rotary Club in the USA, Broomhall R.C., which used to be called Marple. Paul is a high person in Rotary there and though we have not met, exchange views on both sides. I enclose his latest letter, which might be of interest to the members. I would call it "Keeping up with the Colonies" but leave it to you!

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Chris,

Last night, I brought the beautiful commemorative cup your club sent to mine to our weekly meeting. Everyone was admiring, and most appreciative to receive the Queen's Platinum Jubilee memento. The cup is an extraordinarily fine work and unlike anything we've seen before. This is a very considerate and generous gift for which we all thank you. Please convey our gratitude to your fellow members.

Chris, I must confess I am an unabashed Anglophile and always have been. I guess it began when I was a boy watching movies like Mrs Miniver and Sherlock Holmes with Basil Rathbone on black-and-white TV. Also, there was an English boy in our class who was still staying with family because of the war. He was the nicest kid and made a positive impression on me.

Some years ago, I worked at Wembley Stadium, London and got to know quite a number of people who were open to familiarizing me with English life. I enjoyed that greatly. Working with local companies and the general public at events gave me insight from a different perspective and deeper understanding. And, of course, travelling as a tourist was delightful.

My only concerning moment in England came when driving on highways, and I saw road signs that read, "*Cats Eyes Removed*". I thought it meant real cats. Everyone at Wembley got a big laugh at that.

I am a collector of historic signatures on letters and documents. Most are America and European from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Among them is an invitation to the coronation of King George III addressed to a viscountess, which is uniquely signed by him. It is one of four in the world. My most cherished document is a letter from Sir Charles Darwin to an English

botanist. I recall seeing his tombstone in Westminster Abbey and thinking it was a tribute to England that they so honour their great minds.

All this talk about myself is but to say why I am so glad to know some of the people of Marple. I keep my club members informed by looking at your website from time to time. They too are fans of your club and interested in the goings on.

Enjoy the Jubilee Street Party on Friday and the Carnival later in June. Wish I was there.

Warm regards to all.

Paul J. Quintavalla - Rotary District 7450

### **Committee**

Your Marple & District u3a committee can be contacted via the contact links on our website

We look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June.