

Reg. Charity: No. 1104944

May 2008

## Sing Live

“A company of ordinary people, doing extraordinary things in exciting places”.

I discovered this organisation in 2002 when they were recruiting singers for a charitable event, for the benefit of The Lord’s Taverners and Cancer Research at the Royal Marsden. It was ‘The Night of a 100 Voices’ to be performed in the Royal Albert Hall.

Memories as a child of going to concerts there were truly inspirational, so despite some nerves and misgivings, made this a fantastic and unmissable opportunity.

We were a choir of over seven hundred voices with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and a host of stars Tim Rice, Alan Menken, David Essex, Maria Friedman and Judy Kuhn to name but a few, with Prince Philip in the

Royal Box. We gave two performances to a full house each time, a truly wonderful and unforgettable experience for us all.

I was then hooked, performing in two further concerts at The Royal Albert Hall, five at the Bridgewater Hall, also in New York and Florida.

So if you are in need of a new and exciting hobby, enthusiastic wanting a new challenge? To join you need to be 16 years (you wish) or over – no age limit! No auditions! Have fun and friendship through the joy of singing. You can find out more by visiting the website [www.singliveuk.com](http://www.singliveuk.com) or if you wish to talk to me, Chris Brooke,

**Chris Brooke**



## Outings Group

Please note that detailed descriptions of our forthcoming Outings are put into the Newsletter prior to, or at the time that the bookings open. Please remember to keep the appropriate Newsletter for reference.



## HELMSLEY AND NUNNINGTON WEDNESDAY, 20TH AUGUST 2008

The pretty market town of Helmsley, built around the market cross, lies right on the edge of the North Yorks Moors National Park and, thanks to the motorway links, is within striking distance for a day visit. There is far more to see and do there than we shall manage in our visit but we hope it whets your appetites for longer stays.

The Castle overlooks the town and, although a ruin, is well worth a visit. A walled garden, originally built in 1756, is next to the castle and now undergoing a

programme of restoration. There is a wide range of delightful shops and the delicatessen and cheese shop in the Square is a must!!

Helmsley has many interesting buildings and an atmosphere all its own. If it is your first visit we are sure you will enjoy it. There are more than a dozen eating places ranging from a 5 star hotel to more modest cafés. The castle grounds make an ideal picnic spot for those preferring to bring a packed lunch.

En route we will stop for coffee at the Bridge Inn Hotel, just north of Wetherby.

Nunnington Hall (NT), just a few minutes from Helmsley, will be our afternoon visit. This is a mellow 17th Century manor house set in a sheltered garden on the bank of the River Rye. The garden has a clematis collection and orchard and is home to peacocks and ducks.

The house has a magnificent oak panelled hall, and the family rooms, nursery, haunted room and attics are accessible by three staircases. Housed in the attic is the Carlisle collection of miniature rooms, fully furnished to reflect the different periods. Merely to view these miniature creations is well worth the visit. At Nunnington there is always an additional exhibition of some art or craft work, which changes every month. There is a restaurant for afternoon tea and the usual gift shop. NT Members don't forget your NT membership cards.

We shall leave:	Rose Hill	8.00am
	Regent Cinema	8.05am
	Marple Bridge	8.15am
	Northumberland Arms	8.20am
	Romiley Arms	8.30am

Cost: £17.50 includes coach, driver's gratuity and morning coffee/tea.

**BOOKING WILL BEGIN AT THE  
MAY MEETING**

**LUDLOW**  
**FRIDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER 2008**

We have organised our visit to Ludlow to coincide with the renowned Food and Drink Festival. This is a feast of mouth watering events including cookery demonstrations, produce market, sausage and ale trails and marquees bursting with the very best regional food and drink producers. It takes place inside the castle and various other venues around the town.

Ludlow offers plenty of other attractions as well as the Festival itself. It is the first Cittaslow or 'Slow City' in the U.K. This means that the town is a member of a growing international network of towns 'where it is good to live'. It is called 'the perfect historic town'. There are nearly 500 listed buildings.

The castle was built by the Normans in the late 11th Century as one of the lines of castles along the Marches to keep out the Welsh. It features examples of architecture from the Norman, Medieval and Tudor periods. A large market place was built, part of which survives as Castle Square. The town prospered owing to the sale of wool and the manufacture of cloth. Much later glove making was the major industry, reaching a peak production of 660,000 gloves in 1814!!

The Parish Church reflects the prosperity of the earlier period and is one of the largest in the Country, having fine stained glass and misericords. The poet A.E. Houseman, author of 'A Shropshire Lad', is commemorated in the churchyard. Guided Tours are led by members of Ludlow Historical Research Group, and start daily at 2.30pm from the Castle entrance. They cover the historic town centre in about 1 ½ hours.

As usual, we think this visit will only be a 'taster day' to whet your appetite to come back and explore Ludlow further, probably when the Food Festival is not on. It will be a long day but we hope you will be able to have a nap on the coach! We shall have a coffee stop on the way to Ludlow and a stop at the Services on the way home. You will be able to buy lunch at the Festival or at one of many eating places in the town.

We have obtained a Group rate of £3.50 for entry to the Castle and Festival, which has had to be pre-booked. This enables us to get 'fast track' entry, rather than queuing, but the fee is non-returnable.

We shall leave:	7.45am	Rose Hill
	7.50am	Regent Cinema
	8.00am	Marple Bridge
	8.05am	Northumberland Arms
	8.15am	Romiley Arms

Approx arrival time back in Marple 8.30pm

Cost: £20 which includes Coach, driver's gratuity and entry to Castle & Food Festival

**BOOKING WILL BEGIN AT THE  
JUNE MEETING**

**Ann & Tony Matthews**

## KNOWSLEY HALL & SPEKE HALL. THURSDAY APRIL 10TH

A second, fully booked, coach set off for Knowsley on Thursday morning. This has been the historic seat of the Earls of Derby since 1385. It remains the private home of the present Earl and Countess.

It is open to the public only twice a year and to private tours by arrangement. It can be booked for business meetings, conferences, weddings and private functions. (At Wayne Rooney's request, it was used as a filming location for the latest Nike T90 T.V. Advert)!

We were greeted with tea/coffee, then divided into two groups for our guided tour. Our guides, Emma and Edward gave us a comprehensive, well informed and humorous tour of several rooms including the stucco Ballroom, Jacobean and Music rooms. Then into the State Dining Room which was the venue for a wonderful hot/cold buffet lunch prepared by the resident Master Chef. The tempting food drew many members to return to the laden tables for seconds.

After lunch we set off for Speke Hall, one of the most famous timber framed houses in England, and Liverpool's finest Tudor Manor House. A chance to walk in the restored gardens or explore the Circular Walk round the headland with glorious views across the Mersey to North Wales. The atmosphere inside the House is of a Victorian family home with the Oak Parlour, secret hiding places, the ornately carved Great Hall, Victorian Kitchen and Servants Hall. A lovely house, well worth a visit.

Our journey home was delayed by heavy traffic but did not spoil a very enjoyable day. As usual Ann and Tony did a superb job. Many thanks.

**Kath Bradley**

### History Group

The subjects of the next meetings are:

**Friday May 30<sup>th</sup>** 1066 & All That (Just what impact did the Conquest have on England?)

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June** The Vikings – Civilisers or Raiders?

**Alan Watt**

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## Holidays Group



### Highlights of the Jordan/ Egypt Holiday 2008

During the first week of the holiday we travelled the length of Jordan and back again, accompanied by our Bedouin Courier Nidal and a smart, young, tourist policeman whom we called 007. After staying in Aqaba overnight, we travelled to Wadi Rum a spectacular desert area associated with Lawrence of Arabia. We toured the Wadi and stopped to drink tea by a brushwood fire whilst watching the sun go down.

The very cold night was spent in a Bedouin tent, the sky was velvety black and the stars were very bright and seemed close enough to touch. On to Petra, which was fantastic and much bigger than we expected. On the afternoon of our arrival we visited 'Little Petra' the administrative center of the Nabateans.

The next day we explored the more famous area of their Tombs. Leaving Petra we travelled to Amman, stopping on the way at the Crusader Castle of Shobak, Madaba, where we viewed the famous 6th Century mosaic of the Holy Land and Mount Nebo where Moses is buried.

Our day tour from Amman took us to the north of Jordan, to the town of Umm Qais known in Roman

Times as Gadara and famous for the miracle of the Gadarene swine. From a view point we could see Syria, The Golan Heights, The Sea Of Galilee in the Jordan Valley and the town of Tiberias. On our return journey to Amman we visited the amazingly preserved Roman city of Jerash.

Before reaching our hotel we were surprised to be taken to 007's family home where we were warmly welcomed for traditional tea and coffee. On our way back to Aqaba we stopped to float in the Dead Sea and some of us paid to be covered in mud. In the distance, across the Jordan Valley, we could see Jericho and the very edge of Jerusalem.

The second week was spent at Taba Heights on the Red Sea. Here we could 'chill out' by the pool or take advantage of the golf course or the opportunity to scuba dive. There were 3 trips during the week. One was a 2 day trip to Cairo to see the museum and the Pyramids, another was the night climb up Mt. Sinai to see the sunrise and yet another was a tour of St .Catherine's Monastery in the Sinai Desert.

Overall a fascinating and interesting time was had by all, especially the Egyptian immigration and customs procedure--we will say no more!

**Wendy Burton and Wendy Foulger.**

## Walking Group

The walking group is open to all members of Marple Bridge and Mellor, Marple and Romiley U3As. You are welcome to come regularly or just occasionally. The grading is for guidance only as it is very difficult to assess. We don't live in flat country! The walk leader can advise on the exact nature of the walk if you have any doubts about your ability.

Very Easy – more or less flat, good surface, not too many stiles.

Easy – small sections of hill, not too rough, limited stiles.

Medium – Typical of local terrain.

For all walks meet in Brabyns Park car park (in Brabyns Park **not** the car park on Brabyns Brow) for car sharing and **prompt departure** at 9.45a.m. Some walks may use buses so, please, carry your travel pass in case! Car passengers are asked to contribute about 7p per mile towards the cost of petrol. Please wear walking boots or strong shoes and carry waterproofs.

You are advised to bring some refreshments for the walks, even short walks if they are at a distance. There may be a café or pub stop on some walks. The walk may differ from the one advertised if, for example, the weather is inclement or the leader has to be changed. Please don't bring dogs; they can cause problems! Again, if you have questions about any particular walk, please contact the walk leader (or me).

*A (D) after the distance indicates that the walk is some distance away and will therefore take longer and food will be required.*

### June and July Walks 2008

**Weds 4 June** miles (D) 3 Shires Heads Med  
Sheila Stafford

**Tues. 10 June** 4 miles Glossop Easy  
Pam Bluhm

**Weds. 18 June** 4 miles Castleton Easy  
Margaret Hogg

**Tues. 24 June** 7 miles(D) Wormhill Med  
Irene Riley (Nr. Tideswell)

**Weds 2 July** 5 miles Rowarth Med  
Liz Dyckhoff

**Tues. 8 July** 5.5 miles Lyme Park Med  
Doreen Scotte

**Weds. 16 July** 3.5 miles Local Easy  
Jean Howells

**Tues. 22 July** 5 miles Hayfield Med  
Agnes Barlow

**Weds. 30 July** 4 miles(D) Uppermill Easy  
Carole McConnell

Please keep this list in a visible place!

**Carole McConnell, Walking Group Leader,**

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## Geology Group

The Geology Group is going out into the field again on various Fridays this summer, and any U3A member is welcome to join us.

We will meet at 9.45 am in Brabyns Park car park to share transport.

(In the park, not the car park on Brabyns Brow)

**Friday 30th May** ~ visit to Alderley Edge (bring picnic, no cafe)

**Friday 13th June** ~ visit to Mining Museum Matlock and National Stone Centre Wirksworth

**Friday 18th July** ~ Guided visit round Styal Mill Geology Trail, led by Fred Owen who devised the trail (bring NT card if you have one)

**Friday 8th August** ~ visit to Buxton Museum and Poole's Cavern

None of the walking is difficult and will not be more than 2km. (1½miles)

Wear strong shoes and rain/sun clothing.

Bring picnic lunch and drink, or eat at cafe.



U3A geology group "in the field" in the Manifold valley last August

Passengers please contribute 7p a mile to the cost of petrol.

If you would like to come along please let Mary know a few days beforehand.

To book in and also to check that we are still going contact:

**Mary Howie**

## DINING CLUB

Many thanks to Jane and Mike for organising a splendid meal at the rock Tavern in April, a most enjoyable evening.

**May 22nd** is the lunch at the Miners Arms Adlington.

**July 3rd** will be an evening meal at Va Bene in Glossop.

**July 31st** the Sycamore Inn Birch Vale and that will be a lunch.

Bookings will be taken at the May Meeting

**Eileen Crowder - Organiser.**

## Open Gardening Group

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June  
Anne Picot – Garden Design

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July – To be confirmed

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August  
Guided Tour of Lyme Hall gardens.

**Doreen Scottie**



## Future Speakers

17 June	Barbara Frost	‘A Personal View of Howard Spring’
15 July	Gordon Bartley	‘A Fine Romance – Fish and Chips’
19 <sup>th</sup> August	Social	
16 <sup>th</sup> September	Howard Green	‘Staircase House – Past and Present’

## **Letter from an earlier speaker, Alan Rousham**

Dear Sue,

Would you please pass on to members of your U3A who might be interested the results of my recent return visit to Santiniketan in West Bengal.



I spoke to the group last September about my work in the rice villages. They gave me a generous sum of money for the Sishutitha (‘Pilgrimage of the Children’) Children’s Home.

Above is a photograph of Supriyo Tagore, the founder of the home, with some of the children.



The money went on bicycles for the older children who now have to get across town for their secondary education. You will notice from the photograph that there is no such thing as a new bike in these parts.

Six bikes have been provided. This left some money over. After discussion it was agreed that a

parabolic solar cooker would be purchased. Meals are prepared on the premises and as one of the ‘housefathers’ is a ‘green’ enthusiast he welcomed the idea. As soon as it was bought and set up, he demonstrated to some startled children how to cook using the rays of the sun.



With a small remaining amount still to spend, two rabbits were purchased to teach animal husbandry to the younger children.

That then is how your kindness has been turned into something useful for a small group of Indian children in need of love and care.

Thank you so much.

Alan Rousham

## **Discussion Group**

Why not come and join us for a chat with a drink and biscuit? We are NOT a formal debating society, just a friendly group who like to discuss topics of current interest.

Possible future topics include:

- Is overzealous application of Health & Safety Regulations and the fear of litigation overprotecting us?
- Do the large number of cooking programmes on TV help reduce reliance on bought prepared meals, or do we not even need any cookery teaching nowadays?
- Should everyone's DNA be on a central database to aid security and crime solving?
- What is the future for communications? Is there any place for surface mail against e-mail and texting?

There are dozens of other topics to choose from – plus add your own.

New members will be most welcome, so if you have any interest, please contact: **Peter McConnell**

(Hosting the group in the temporary absence of Joyce Burtonshaw)

Meetings are at 10.00am on the Tuesdays following the U3A meetings, so the next meeting is on 27th May. Note: Would all existing group members please contact me to say if they can attend or not – thanks.

**MEETINGS** Unless otherwise notified, the ordinary monthly meetings are held in St Paul's Church Hall, Compstall on the third Tuesday of each month at 10.00 am (for coffee and socialising). To enable members to use the bus service, the business of the meeting will start at 10.20am and will finish at 11.50am

Helpers are always needed as welcomers, refreshment rota, committee members, screen erection etc. Please let the person on the information desk know if you are able to help.

- Please remember to bring and buy books at the monthly meetings.
- Please don't park near the war memorial.
- When attending a meeting please have your entrance fee ready (£1) preferably in the exact money.
- You are advised to carry your membership card with you, as you may be asked to show them at U3A group meetings and other events.

## **CONTACTS**

**Chairman:** Robert Hughes

**Vice Chairman:** Diane Holker

**Secretary:** Diana Williams  
[secretary@mbmu3a.org.uk](mailto:secretary@mbmu3a.org.uk)

**Treasurer:** Eddie Howells

**Group Co-ordinator:** Eileen Crowder

**Assistant Co-ordinator:** Nora Glennon

**Membership secretary:** Nora Glennon

**Speaker Organiser:** Ruth Farmery

**Almoner:** Ann Prophet

**Committee members:** Eva Wilkie  
Anne Eade

**Co-opted members:**  
Ann & Tony Matthews  
Terry Lomax [newslettereditor@mbmu3a.org.uk](mailto:newslettereditor@mbmu3a.org.uk)  
Peter Kress [webmaster@mbmu3a.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@mbmu3a.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.mbm3a.org.uk](http://www.mbm3a.org.uk)  
**e-mail:** [webmaster@mbmu3a.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@mbmu3a.org.uk)

**National Website:** [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

**National Office:**  
The Third Age Trust  
The Old Municipal Buildings  
19, East Street  
Bromley  
Kent, BR1 1QE  
020 8466 6139

This Newsletter appears bi-monthly. The next edition will be 15<sup>th</sup> July. Please send items for publication to Terry Lomax, (email or disc in Word if possible, but not essential) E-mail: [newslettereditor@mbmu3a.org.uk](mailto:newslettereditor@mbmu3a.org.uk)  
Any stories, articles or photographs of interest to members are welcomed. **Closing date for next edition: 8<sup>th</sup> July.**  
If you would like to get the newsletter early by e-mail on a PDF file for faster downloading and save printing and postage costs, please let Terry know at the above email address.

Special thanks to Don Farthing who has volunteered to print the newsletter.

## Groups Information

<u>GROUPS</u>	<u>LEADER</u>	<u>AVAILABILITY</u>	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>
ANTIQUES	Michael Bowden	Yes	Various (Visits)	TBA
ART	Kath Siddal	Yes	Various (Visits)	TBA
BOULES	Craig Wright	Yes	Craig's home	TBA
BRIDGE-IMPROVERS	Chris Gibson	Yes	Brookside Tennis Club, High Lane	Thursday 1.45 – 4.15 pm
CREATIVE WRITING	Adrian Kirsten	No, but ask	Adrian's home	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday in month
CROSSWORD COMPILATION	Geoff Heath	No, but ask	Various homes	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday in month
CROWN GREEN BOWLING	Barbara Sharpe	Yes	Summer-Marple Winter-Torkington	Monday 10.00 – 11.30 am
DANCING – IMPROVERS	Kath Taylor	No, but ask	<u>Ballroom</u> – High Lane Village Hall <u>Latin</u> – Scouts' Hut Marple	Friday 2.00 – 4.00 pm Sept – Easter Wed 2.00 – 4.00 pm Sept – Easter
DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY	Joy Close	No, but ask	Joy's home	Friday 10 am. As agreed by members
DINING CLUB	Eileen Crowder	Yes	Various	Approx monthly Lunch or Dinner
DISCUSSION GROUP	Joyce Burtonshaw	Yes	Various	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday in month 10.30 am
FIRST AID	Doreen Scotte	Yes	Various	By arrangement
GARDENING	Margaret Hogg	Yes	Methodist Church Hall. Marple	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed in month 9.45 am
GEOLOGY	Mary Howie	Yes	Mary's home	3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday in month 10 am
HISTORY	Alan Watt	Yes	Alan's home	Last Friday in month 10 am
HISTORY OF CULTURE (Two Groups)	David Mathews	No, but ask	Various	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday in month Group 1 at 10 am Group 2 at 2 pm
HOLIDAYS	Fred Ogden	Yes	Various	As announced
INTERIOR DESIGN COURSE	Chris Brooke	No, but ask	Chris's home	As agreed by Course members

JAZZ APPRECIATION	Robin Bluhm	Yes	Robin's home	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in month at 2pm
MATINEE	Sue Humphris Jean Howells	Yes	Various (Visits)	As announced
MICROLIGHT FLYING	Jane Rhodes	Yes	Barton Aerodrome	As announced
MUSIC APPRECIATION	Jonathan Gort	Yes	Jonathan's home	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday in month Am
OUTINGS	Ann & Tony Matthews	Yes	Various (Visits)	As announced
PAINTING	Shirley McConnell	Yes	Romiley Forum	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday in month 9.30 – 12.00 am
PLAY READING	Shirley Molloy Derek Davidson	Yes	Various (Members' homes)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday in month. As arranged
POETRY	Clair Boyce	Yes	Clair's home	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in month
QUILTING	Kitty Watt	Yes	Kitty's home	TBA
READING GROUPS 1 & 3	Jean Day	Yes	Various homes	10 am 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday (1) 10 am 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs (3)
READING GROUP 2	Jean Howells	Yes	Various homes	As announced
SING LIVE	Chris Brooke	Yes	TBA	By arrangement
SCIENCE	Eddie Howells	Yes	TBA	TBA
SPANISH	Ruth Frost	No	Ruth's home	Tuesday pm
WALKING	Carole McConnell	Yes	Meet in Brabyns Park	<u>Walking</u> Tuesday or Wednesday
MAP READING		No	Carole's home	<u>Map Reading</u> Fixed course, Monday 2 – 4 pm

### **EXTRA EVENTS**

In addition to all of our other groups, we are developing a list of members who would like to make personal arrangements with other people for visits to a wide variety of EXTRA EVENTS.

For further information contact  
Diana Williams  
[secretary@mbmu3a.org.uk](mailto:secretary@mbmu3a.org.uk)

### **Group Activities Available At Marple U3A**

<b><u>GROUPS</u></b>	<b><u>LEADER</u></b>	<b><u>AVAILABILITY</u></b>	<b><u>VENUE</u></b>	<b><u>FREQUENCY</u></b>
CHESS CLUB	David Wilkinson	Yes, not beginners	David's home	Contact David
SCRABBLE	Mavis Lewis	Yes	Marple Library	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in month 2 pm
TABLE TENNIS	David Wilkinson	Yes	Brabyns Park	Wednesday pm