

## Putting Matlock on the MAP – Proposal for a MAU3A Research Project

Have you ever wished that you could find all your local information in ONE place? That's the purpose of a COMMUNITY WEB SITE. This is a proposal for a research project to be carried out by MAU3A members, for the benefit of MAU3A members (and eventually for the benefit of all residents of, and visitors to, the Matlock Area). The aim would be to gather together all the relevant information about our area and then pass this over to a web designer to convert it into a community web site. These are usually developed by the community, for the community, rather than having a local government or commercial control.

### So what's wrong with the existing sites?

In short, nothing. The County Council and Town Council sites are very good. However, if you are looking for local information about the Matlock area, you don't want to have to plough through information about High Peak and Heanor, etc.; you want just the information that is relevant. Equally the Town Council site is constrained from duplicating information to be found on the County Council site or Parish Council sites or local NHS information. If you are looking for local events or businesses, again you want locally relevant ones.

The aim of MAP (the Matlock Area Project) would be to map everything that is available here or happens here. It would cover every facet of life (public services, health and social care, education, learning and children's services, transport, sports and leisure facilities and clubs, other clubs and societies, food and drink, arts, music and entertainment, local history and geology, heritage and environment, tourist attractions and visitor accommodation, etc.).

### If it is such a good idea, why haven't other places done it?

They have! There are many other examples around the country. For a good example of what can be achieved by a village see the one for [Hook Norton](#) in Oxfordshire, or for a larger community see [Wantage](#). Of these, I'd suggest that the [Wantage](#) site is probably the best role model for Matlock. For somewhere closer take a look at the [Go Wirksworth](#) site. Although it's a fairly new site, it's a good example of what can be done, and the people involved have given us some useful pointers.

### Why should MAU3A get involved?

MAU3A has over 600 members and nearly 60 different interest groups. We are therefore better placed than any other local organisation to pool our broadly-based local knowledge and create a detailed picture of what is available here and what happens here. It will be something that you can look back on and say that you had a hand in building that. Furthermore, it should be fun to find out new things about the place in which we live. It will cost us nothing but our time!

### But I don't know anything about web sites...

You don't need to know – that is the job of the web designer. Use of e-mail and Microsoft Word are all that is needed, plus if possible, local knowledge or at least a willingness to search for information using Google or similar. If you know anything about local history, local organisations and clubs, services (e.g. health & social care), shops and businesses, or tourist attractions then you could help.

### How much of my time would it take?

There is no deadline to meet. It is up to each of us to determine how long we are willing to spend on it. The idea is that we would meet once a month just like any other MAU3A group and decide what subject area to research for the next month, and then at the next meeting pool and record our findings. The subject for the next month might be announced in What's On so that it would be possible for people to come only to the subject areas that they are interested in / feel they can contribute to.

What about the cost of converting it to a web site?

This would not be the responsibility of MAU3A, although we might be one of a number of bodies involved in raising funds for it. A meeting with Matlock Town Council is being held on 18th June to consider the idea and hopefully to get its support.

If you are interested to hear more about the idea, even if you don't want to make any commitment, please get in contact (Dave Puxley; dcpuxley@gmail.com or 01629 593934). If Wirksworth can do it, why shouldn't Matlock? Thankyou.