



REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

2015 has been a very eventful year for Matlock Area U3A (MAU3A), when it was registered as an Independent Charity (Registered Charity Number: 1161704). There has been a steady growth of the Membership throughout the year from 500 to 600. There are now about 44 Interest Groups and the following were commenced during the year: Table Tennis, Chess for Fun, German Conversation, Sign Language, Motor Cycling and History 3. Some groups such as Philosophy and one of the Book Groups have closed due to either the retirement of the Coordinator or lack of support from the members. Some Groups may be full such as History 3 and Boule but the Groups' Secretaries on the Management Committee will endeavour to accommodate new members by keeping waiting lists and help to start up new Groups. Each group is heavily reliant on its Coordinator and the MAU3A wish to thank all of them for their hard work during the year.

At the 2015 AGM, the members elected onto the Management Committee were Barbara Phelan to the Vice-chair, Catherine Binns to Business Secretary, Judith Hodges to a second term of Treasurer and a delegate on the Derbyshire Network of U3As, Brian Smith to a second term as Publicity Officer and a delegate on the Derbyshire Network of U3As and both Diane Frosdick and Helen Boocock were elected to take responsibility of Groups' Matters. A list of the 2015 Management Committee is found on the cover page. At the next AGM, there will be changes to the Committee due to the retirements of Derek Mitchell (Chair), Catherine Binns (Business Secretary), Brian Smith (Publicity and Derbyshire Network Representative) and Martin Emery (Website Manager); all are thanked for their hard work in fulfilling their duties in helping the progression of MAU3A. There will be changes within the Management Committee; so, nominations are required for the following positions: Chair, Vice-chair, Business Secretary and about three additional members. It is important that the Membership consider joining the Management Committee in some capacity. After all without a fully functional management, the MAU3A will not exist. If anyone is interested in joining the Management Committee, they can ask for advice from Derek Mitchell before they fill in a nomination form (enclosed with this Annual Report).

Your Social (Communications) Sub-committee has organised a very comprehensive list of excellent general events. The prime purpose is, of course, for members to meet and socialise with each other, as well as being informed. The "What's on" is distributed on a monthly basis by e-mail but a hard copy version is sent to those members who do not have an e-mail address. This Bulletin has kept all of us up-to-date with the general activities of the MAU3A. The Coffee Mornings took place on the first Monday Morning of each Month and have been well attended, popular and lively meetings. New Interest Groups were launched at these Coffee Mornings and other Groups have been invited to give presentations on some of their activities. The events that have taken place during the year have been visits to: the Maazi Indian Restaurant on 9 March, Saltaire on 21 May, the second canal cruise on The Judith Mary on 14 July and Liverpool on 14 October. All of these trips were very popular and some of them were oversubscribed. Then at the end of the year, there was the Christmas Social on 4 December at the Matlock Golf Club where we were entertained again by the popular Dying Embers who seem to be getting younger every time they perform. The Communication Sub-committee is in the process of organising a series of general events for 2016. One event at the beginning of the year is a second visit to the Maazi during the evening of Monday, February 22nd. Other events will be a Race Meeting at Matlock Football Social Club and a visit to Chester including Chester Races. Please consult our Website and future issues of What's on for further information on these and other events.

Last year, the MAU3A had its Annual General Meeting on Monday, 23rd March and had a record attendance, most likely due to the lively entertainment and talk given by the "Bard of Barnsley", Ian McMillan, the well-known TV and Radio Broadcaster. Ian even got us to organise the lyrics of a possible future MAU3A song (see the Edited Lyrics below). The Management Committee have high hopes for the next AGM! So, please support your U3A by coming to the Annual General Meeting at the Matlock Football Social Club at 2.00 pm on Monday, 21 March 2016 (doors open at 1.30 pm for Tea, Coffee and Cake). A Talk will follow the AGM given by Bill Tidy MBE, the well-known Cartoonist and Celebrity on Radio and Television. Admittance to the AGM and Bill Tidy's talk is free but you must show your 2016 MAU3A Membership Card.

This is my final year as the Chair of the MAU3A and my three year tenure has been a very enjoyable one. However, an organisation of 600 members with general events and Interest groups cannot be run on its own. Thus, thanks are due to all members of the Management Committee, Coordinators and numerous volunteers for making Matlock Area U3A so successful.

Derek Mitchell (chair@matlockareau3a.org.uk)

GEOLOGY GROUP

Lyrics of the Matlock Area U3A Song
(Edited Lyrics by Ian McMillan and MAU3A members at 2015 AGM)

U3A, U3A, Learn every day at the U3A.
There's lots of Choice of Things to do at the MAU3A.
So raise your Voice and Join us Do.
There's Bridge, Art, History, Dance and Scrabble to Name a Few.
So, Have a Dabble, Why not do.
There's Table Tennis, Gardening, Intimate Dining and Wining, Current Affairs
and Jazz-in-Pairs.
It's all Big Affairs at the MAU3A.

HERE IS A FLAVOUR OF THE GROUPS' ACTIVITIES IN 2015

BOWLS 1

We had a very good year, finishing in September. We start again in April, when we hope to see all the regulars back again. Four members moved away last year, so we have room for a few more. Please give me a ring if you are interested.

See you all at 10 am on 11th April in the Bowls Pavilion at Matlock Golf Course.
Elvée Hall

PAINTING GROUP

The Painting Group has enjoyed another great year in 2015 with monthly paintings over a great range of subjects.

In November the group enjoyed a full day workshop with artist Jenny Oldknow who showed us how to capture animals and flowers in watercolour, what a wonderful and inspirational tutor she was.

We welcomed four new members to our group during the year and we hope they will enjoy Wednesday mornings as much as we all have for the last eight years, as we all try our hands at different mediums and painting subjects.

We finished off the year with our Christmas fuddle where Hilary Karkosovic won the prize for the best seasonal picture, and we started 2016 with a birthday lunch at the Red Lion which we all enjoyed. Lis Chisnall, Co-ordinator

In the second year of its existence, the MAU3A Geology Group has enjoyed a varied programme of field trips, visits and meetings at Audley St Elphins for talks and visual presentations. We now have about twenty regular members with a typical attendance of about 60%.



We have enjoyed visits to the British Geological Survey HQ at Keyworth and the National Coal Mining Museum near Wakefield. Field trips have been made to Castleton for Mam Tor and the Blue John Mines, to the Hamps and Manifold Geo-trail, when we were joined by the Chesterfield U3A Geology Group and to Teggs Nose Country Park and Geotrail near Macclesfield. We concluded our outdoor meetings for the year with a trip round the sites of some of the lead mines in the Bonsall area. When not 'out-and-about', we have met at St Elphins and have viewed BBC and other video presentations as well as enjoying presentations by two of our own members.

Our thanks go to Peter Keeble, Dave Puxley, Nick Sibley, Ray Essen and Peter Clook for conducting a number of these meetings and trips.

A similarly varied programme is planned for the coming year and the Group would welcome new members who are interested in joining an enthusiastic and friendly group to learn more about both local and global geology. Peter Hume

WINE APPRECIATION GROUP

The Wine Appreciation Group has had another successful year of seven meetings and one Wine-tasting Dinner. Its Membership is about 30 but average attendance has been fourteen. Apart from the Wine-tasting Dinner, all meetings took place in the Studio at St Elphin's Park from 7.30-9.30 pm. The first meeting of the year on 10 February was organised by Jane Cummings of Hattersley Wines, Bakewell. Jane gave a lively presentation on Languedoc Red Wines. This was the third time that Jane has hosted one of our meetings and all have been very enjoyable. Unfortunately, Jane has now left Hattersley Wines and has moved from Bakewell; we wish her well. On 10 March, Ted Mellor gave an informative presentation on Red Wines from Hardy's of Australia. Ted told us about the history and labelling of Hardy's Wines and gave us a break down of the pricing and taxing of Wines sold in the UK. On 14 April, Derek Mitchell described the geography, history and technology of Italian Prosecco Wine. Peter and Pam Hume provided us with a knowledgeable view of Wines from Portugal on 19 June. After a short break, there was an interesting talk by Gwynneth Beck on Rioja Wines on 8 September, when we tasted a superb Rioja from Lidl costing only £3.95. On 13 October, Jill Fawcett provided a historical and general overview on British Cider, a topic that has not been given before. At this meeting, members experienced the unique situation of sipping cider in wine glasses. The final meeting at St Elphin's Park took place on 10 November when Ted Mellor gave us a comparison of White Wines from Australia with those from New Zealand. The Wine-tasting Christmas Dinner on 1 December took place at the Café in Hall Leys Park. The Three course Dinner was accompanied by a selection of wines. About sixteen Wine Appreciation members attended the evening which were supplemented by other MAU3A members to make up a grand total of 32. Bea Jagger is thanked for organising such a successful and enjoyable evening.

Finally, Derek Mitchell has been the Coordinator of this Interest Group since its inception almost six years ago and has decided to stand down. However, no member has yet come forward to take over. This Group need not necessarily be organised in the same way as previously and could be run by a Committee. Anyone within the Wine Appreciation Group wishing to develop it and wanting to be involved in its organisation in some capacity, please contact Derek Mitchell, either by telephone (01629 593994) or e-mail (derek_rosie_mitchell@yahoo.ie).Derek Mitchell

MAH JONG

The Mah Jong group meet every Friday evening. We have eleven members now and play at The Family Tree or Doreen's house when we have a "full house" and Barbara's or Barbara and Peter's when we only need two tables. It works very well. We are a friendly competitive group. We had our Christmas Tea at The Family Tree followed by a game of Mah Jong.Barbara Davey

CREATIVE WRITING

The Creative Writing group has had a lively 2015. It is amazing how a group of individuals, given a few starter words, can write with such diversity and imagination. We listen and critique each other's work in a supportive and encouraging way, in order for each of us to grow and experiment with words. We boast a number of published writers as well as those with ambitions to publish, and a number with no such ambitions but who just enjoy the monthly challenge. 2015 was a great year and we are looking forward to an even better 2016!

We wish our former co-ordinator, Liz, all the very best in her new life.
Lyn Mason, Co-ordinator

POETRY APPRECIATION

During the course of the year we have enjoyed lively discussions on poems about Sport, Townscapes and Birth, to name but three, and appreciated intensive, led sessions on the sonnet form, and Christina Rossetti. Six new members have joined and brought fresh approaches and ideas to the group, which meets on the first Monday evening of the month in The Boat at Cromford, where we always receive a warm welcome.Marianne Robinson

FRENCH CONVERSATION 2

The resurrected French Conversation Group 2 resumed in October, meeting fortnightly since. We have a workable number of members and have managed to cover various topics of conversation through a series of discussions on holidays, favourite books, Christmas traditions in France, quizzes, and newspaper articles. The group continues to seek a level at which all members feel comfortable but at the same time challenged. A small part of the session is dedicated to studying useful phrases and vocabulary to promote more fluent

conversation. The group encourages all members to take an active and participative role in the selection and preparation of the fortnightly topics.

We are always ready to welcome new members and look forward to a productive and enjoyable 2016 Lesley Shawe

FAMILY HISTORY

With some new members we continued into 2015 with an average of ten people meeting in the Local Studies Section of the County's Record Office. The programme was again varied and included:

- Parish Records back to 1066,
- Employment Records/ Jobs/ Pay,
- DVDs and CDs held by the Library,
- Graves/Cemeteries/War Memorials/Church Yards,
- Census,
- Cloth Trade/Drapers /Furriers,
- Internet/Web Sites.

At our meeting in October we had a very interesting quiz with Gay Evans who brought along a collection of various household items from the past for us to guess as to what they were, not as easy as many of us thought.

The group is once again indebted to the Library staff for their help and encouragement.

Our programme for 2016 will be drawn up at the January meeting and sent to the web master for inclusion on the website. Trevor Boam, Co-ordinator

HISTORY 1

We start our sessions with a five minute entrée, a magical mystery tour, so we never know what we are going to hear about. Who would have thought that a five minute history of wigs could be so enthralling?

For our main course each month we continued to work on the period 1485 to 1688. The range of topics was as challenging, broad and fascinating as ever. In one session we covered the history of Wales - so much we never knew! In another we heard about Cornwall in the Tudor period. Music of the period soothed many a trouble breast.

We explored politics with Thomas Hobbes and The Putney Debates, the ideas introduced by James I, and the Monmouth Rebellion. From Elizabeth's Privy Chamber, where her ladies effectively poisoned their monarch with the application of horrendous toxins in her cosmetics, we moved to the lives of working women in the 17th century, ranging from farm work to prostitution.

After voyaging with early explorers, we travelled to Virginia where Pocahontas saved the life of John Smith, married John Rolfe and, sadly, died in England in her twenties. Our summer visit was a guided tour of Bolsover Castle -on a day that the sun shone!

Our final meeting was at The Family Tree in Whatstandwell , culminating with a delicious gourmet finger buffet. We ended the year, appropriately, with Dr. John Dee, talking with angels.

In 2016, we are going off-piste. It's a completely free choice -any topic, any period, any country.

Watch this space.....

Janet Pidgeon, Co-ordinator

ART APPRECIATION 1

The group continues to flourish and meetings are well attended. In January 2015 we concluded our theme of 'Self-Portraits' by prominent artists. We then took a new direction in February with the title 'Anything but Painting and Sculpture'.

Members explored a wide variety of subjects taking us through to September. We had stimulating presentations on aspects of children's illustration, graphic design, posters, photography, ceramics, stained glass, architecture and even the design of household cutlery.

In the autumn John Oldfield stepped down as co-ordinator and the group thanked him for his work and enthusiasm over the past seven years.

In December Derek and Chris kindly hosted our annual fuddle which was highly enjoyable.

Our present theme is 'Schools of Art'. So far we have looked at the Canadian Group Seven, the English Kitchen Sink School, the Secession Movement, the

Skagen Painters, the Vorticists, English eighteenth century Landscapes and De Stijl, and more are being planned.

This subject will take us through until April and then a yet-to-be decided topic will emerge. All our themes are decided by the group. Members have continued to be generous in giving time to research and prepare presentations. We have all gained from sharing our interests in so many aspects of art and design.

Anne Oldfield

SIGNING

We are a new group formed eight months ago and meeting nearly every week in a member's home. It was agreed to learn British Sign Language but to use some Sign Supported English to help us on our way. We used the latter to sign songs to entertain the U3A coffee morning in December.

We have made rapid progress and mastered the alphabet, numbers, gender, family, age, time and addresses which already enables us to have short conversations and answer questions. Despite ageing memories and arthritic fingers we enjoy learning combined with fun, laughter and great friendship.

Pam Wildgoose, Convenor

SCRABBLE 2

We are a small group of about half a dozen, meeting in our house in Wirksworth at 2.30 until about 4.00 on the third Wednesday of the month. We are pretty relaxed and enjoy the social aspect of the meetings rather than trying for the highest scores. As a matter of principle we also only use the standard Oxford Dictionary for reference. Betty Rosindell

ART APPRECIATION 2

This group has seen an eventful year. In 2015 we visited The Whitworth Gallery in Manchester kindly organised by Art Appreciation Group 1 and our Group has travelled the world through pictures, sculpture, crafts and photography. Countries covered include Art from China, America, Australia and Sweden. We also tackled such subjects as – Is Photography Art? The Arts and Crafts Movement and Self Portraits. Individual artists discussed included Augustus Pugin, Henry Moore and L S Lowry. Jeremy Taylor

HISTORY 3



Simon Redmore and John Entwistle visit one of the Pentrich Revolution commemorative plaques

The new History Group met for our first presentation in December 2015. Our topic theme is the nineteenth century - with a freedom to roam internationally across political, social, technological, military and financial change. Our first topic, the Pentrich Revolution, combined several of these drivers in 1816, culminating in their dramatic local outcome.

subjects to look forward to.

We have ten members and a full programme of intriguing John Entwistle

WILD FLOWER



Over the summer this year we have enjoyed a variety of walks. In May we walked from Rose End in Cromford in lovely weather and spotted more than 40 varieties of wildflowers

from the well known to the more unusual. We are always pleasantly surprised by the large number of species of wild flowers we find on our short walks.

We returned to The Longshaw Estate in June and spent a delightful couple of hours in a meadow where we found a variety of wild flowers indicating a number of differing habitats within a very small area! We were able to hone skills in identifying species that look very similar, but have subtle differences when examined closely.

We joined with the Gardening Group in July and went on a walk led by Peak Park Ranger Steven Bell around Hartington Station and later in the month found ourselves up at Deep Dale in one of Plantlife's nature reserves.

In August we took a walk along Cromford Canal from High Peak Junction and had some surprising finds along the way.

Following on from our fungi foray last year, Derek Mitchell came to our October meeting and gave us an interesting talk on how to identify fungi. Unfortunately the weather stopped us from going out on this year's foray, but we look forward to using our new found knowledge next year. Julie Dumelow

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

The group launched in January 2015 and has attracted the regular support of around 20 – 25 members to its monthly meetings ever since, demonstrating a strong interest locally in these subjects.

The range of talks and activities has deliberately been kept broad, ranging in scale from the atomic to the universe, from the natural world of birds and fungi to the latest smart technology in the home, from research on diseases such as diabetes and motor neuron disease to how to regulate the drugs that treat them, and from the practicalities of renewable energy in the home to how we might meet our long term energy needs. Two very successful round table discussions were held and we will continue to explore subjects to which everyone can contribute. A visit to the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre at Sheffield University was much appreciated and we hope to make more such site visits in 2016.

Thanks to our members for continuing to support the group and to all those who have contributed to the programme, either directly or behind the scenes.

Our 2015 programme is overleaf.

Month	Talk / Activity	Speaker / Organiser
January	Renewable Energy in the Home – The Reality	Nick Bristow
February	Motor Neuron Disease	Dr Scott Allen, SITraN Unit at Sheffield University
March	Women Pioneers of X-ray Crystallography plus video – The Double Helix	Dave Puxley
	Discussion; 2015; the International Year of Light	Ray Essen
April	The World of Fungi	Derek Mitchell
May	Bird Migration	Will Martin
	Video – The Wisdom of Birds	Tim Birkhead, Sheffield University
June	Visit to Sheffield University Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC)	David Wildgoose
July	Insulin & Diabetes	Dr John Mann
August	Round Table Discussion - Smart Technology in the Home	Ray Essen
September	Pharmacovigilance and Drug Safety	Catherine Binns
October	Round Table Discussion – Future Energy	John Mann
November	The Universe in which we Live	David Greatbatch, White Peak Astronomical Society
December	No meeting because of Christmas	

Dave Puxley

TABLE TENNIS

I am pleased to report the first year of our Table Tennis Group has gone very well indeed.

We are a group who look forward to meeting once a week at the Whitworth, none of us had played for a while but soon got back into the swing of things once we learned that we should now score up to 11 and not 21.

We were exceedingly fortunate in finding the Whitworth, where another group play from 6pm. We erect the table's and play from 2pm until 4pm and leave them up and the 6pm group put them away.

We have four tables, so we have lots of playing time and finish by all of us playing round the table and then disappear into the Cafe for tea and coffee. John G Lamb

INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE

The group has continued to dance weekly, throughout the year, except for school holidays, when 20 – 25 of us learn new challenging dances and relearn old ones! Several members are now able to help out Janet King by teaching us their new favourite dances as a result of having attended other local and national folk dance courses, with trips made to Nottingham, Sheffield, Manchester and Torquay. The Bulgarian dances learnt in Torquay are now a firm favourite. As in 2015 we celebrated the arrival of 2016 with a New Year Folk Dance Party, with dancing friends from Sheffield and Dronfield u3a. Once again thanks to Janet King, our group leader, who leads us and encourages us every week. Ros Bourne

CURRENT AFFAIRS 1

There has been a lot for the group to get its teeth into this year which it has done admirably. We've looked in depth at several topics, dominated of course by the General Election and its aftermath and the leadership and the future of the Labour Party. We spent some time looking at the Middle East followed by the migration and refugee crisis. This has led us on to discussions on the EU and the future of the UK within Europe – probably a major topic for 2016. We end our meetings by looking at the headlines from various papers, always guaranteed to keep us up-to-date on current issues. With thanks to all members of the group who have contributed so well during the year. Ros Bourne

BOULES

The Monday Boules group had a good year, weather reasonable. After each session most of us get together for lunch. There are fourteen members, but the maximum that has turned up, at any one time, is eleven. We originally planned a maximum of twelve, but because of the average turn out of 6-8, we increased it to fourteen.

Warren Makinson

BOWLS 2

April 2015 saw the start of the third season for Matlock Area U3A Bowls Group2 based at the Matlock Bath Bowls Club. The group has now grown to 23 with 3 new members joining this year. Everyone enjoyed fun but always competitive games in surprisingly good weather.

The new season will start in April dependent upon the weather conditions so watch the website for further details. The green can only accommodate a maximum of 18 players however as not everyone can come to every session we are rarely full.

Mike Frosdick

HISTORY GROUP 2

This group has a membership of 11 and meets monthly in members' homes. Everyone takes responsibility for researching and giving a presentation about a topic. In 2015 we continued with our original period 1566 to 1625 which was the life span of James I of England and VI of Scotland as he was our first topic. We do stray outside of this period as people's interests dictate; for instance, in the anniversary year of the signing of the Magna Carta we had a presentation about it and went to view an original copy in Lincoln. We also had a guided tour of Wingfield Manor in the Spring.

In 2015 the meetings were as follows:

January	The Grey sisters
February	Ben Jonson and contemporary theatre
March	The impact of plague on society
April	Catherine de Medici
May	Art and Artists in Tudor and Jacobean times
June	The Guilds
July	Magna Carta
August	The Muscovy Company
September	Food in Tudor times
October	The treatment of mental health from Bedlam to modern times
November	Forgotten Tudor women
December	Tudor costumes
	Helen Boocock

BOOK GROUP 3

This group meets on the first Friday of each month at 2.00pm.

Books we read and discussed in 2015 were: This Boy by Alan Johnson, I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai, The Shock of the Fall by Nathan Filer, Dear Lupin; Letters of a Wayward Son by Roger and Charlie Mortimer, The Road Home by Rose Tremain, To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee, The Secret Scriptures by Sebastian

Barry, The Forgotten Seamstress by Liz Trenow, The Drowning People by Richard Mason, Annabel by Kathleen Winter and The Secret River by Kate Greville. At our December meeting each member brought a piece of literary work that held special significance to them and the item was shared with the group. We then voted for our group Book of the Year 2015; there were two winners with equal votes, To kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee and Annabel by Kathleen Winter. The group would highly recommend these two books.

Group Coordinator Sue Sarbutt can be contacted by email or by telephone on 01629 825264.Sue Sarbutt

GARDENING

Again the gardening group continued to grow with more new members joining over the year.

Our winter meetings from January to March and October to December were held in the Studio room at St Elphin's Park, Darley Dale. We passed the time with members forums, a talk on Derbyshire's Historical Gardens and finished with a Christmas lunch and quiz in December.

The group enjoyed visits in the spring and summer to some beautiful gardens. Places visited included The Burrows Garden near Ashbourne; Lea Gardens; the gardens at Renishaw Hall and Melbourne Hall - all in Derbyshire. Further afield we ventured by coach to the Cotswolds to see Hidcote Manor Gardens and Kiftgate Court Gardens. We joined up with the Wildflower group on a walk around Hartington Meadows with Steven Bell, one of the Peak Park Rangers. A most interesting visit was also made to see the National Heritage Collection of Euphorbias held by a very enthusiastic gardener on his allotment at Harthill.

If anyone wants more information, please take a look at the gardening page on the website or contact Liz Walker the new coordinator.Diane Frosdick

TAP DANCING GROUPS 1 & 2

We are now into our fourth year of tapping and our original group of 9 are doing some excellent routines. February 2015 saw the start of our second group who have made fantastic progress and now have their own repertoire of routines

At the end of the summer session both groups met up for a combined class and each group performed a dance for the other group. They did extremely well and were

mutually impressed. After that we went for a buffet at a local hostelry and it was good to see the groups getting to know each other.

We have just had our Christmas meeting and it was great to see both groups dancing together in "All That Jazz" – 20 ladies all showing that it's fun to get together and dance. They were totally amazing and I am extremely proud of them. After our demonstration we had a buffet in the Village Hall and were entertained by impromptu routines from our intrepid tappers. A good time was had by all! Well done everybody.Sue Cain

ART GROUP



The Art Group continues to flourish. In the last year we have had a lot of fun exploring the use of colour – or absence of it - with a monochrome month and a period using only a three colour palette. We have also enjoyed some print-making sessions, led by group members, learning to work with monoprint and linocut

techniques.

Our monthly themes have explored man-made structures, vehicles/transport and recycling as well more "arty" subjects including Autumn, Wildlife, Reflections and a couple of challenging sessions drawing a clothed model.

We have been delighted to welcome several enthusiastic new members over the last year but sadly, a couple of long term members have recently moved away from the area, so we are still seeking new members.

Contact Group Coordinator, Ruth Gordon on 01629 56636 or email
alistair.ruth@btinternet.com.Ruth Gordon

BRIDGE

The Bridge Group has continued to meet throughout the year every Wednesday morning at Matlock Football Club.

Membership has grown steadily and we now welcome around fifty members at each session, enabling us to fourteen tables to play competitive, social bridge.

At the end of last year, the Group purchased a much needed new electronic 'Bridgemate' scoring system at a cost of £2000. The purchase was made possible by member contributions and the generous support of MAU3A, including a financial contribution and a one year loan. The loan was fully paid off by the end of April.

The new Bridgemates have proved to be a great success and have significantly increased the enjoyment of our Wednesday morning sessions, together with easing the necessary supporting administration effort.

In May, 36 members attended the much anticipated annual visit to Cober Hill Hotel and conference centre on the coast just north of Scarborough. The three day event commenced on Monday afternoon and concluded with Wednesday lunch. In addition to the highly enjoyable bridge sessions, other social activities included coastal walks and golf. A return is being planned for May this year. The Group would particularly like to thank Frank Hemming for organising this event on behalf of all members for the past five years.Roger Keeling

THEATRE GROUP

Theatre Group continues to flourish and reflect the ideas of our members through participation in our annual review. This provokes lively discussion and feedback from which we can plan our programme.

Once again, we have been to a wide variety of productions ranging from a fully masked production of "Nursing Lives" at Derby Playhouse to the excellent "Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night time" at the Lyceum.

The setting, production and acting abilities of this award winning play were fully appreciated and we felt we had had an insight into the different perceptions of the world for those on the autistic spectrum.

"Handbagged" at Nottingham Theatre Royal was an amusing, clever view of the weekly meetings between the Queen and Maggie Thatcher with wry asides from the two leading ladies. Having lived through that period we remembered those events all too well and were thoroughly entertained.

Sheffield Crucible never fails to deliver a quality winter production and this year we saw "Showboat" which was highly acclaimed by the critics.

In October we had a backstage tour of both Sheffield theatres, the highlight of which was to go under the stage at the Crucible where the trap doors and lifts are situated and the special effects appear from. Fascinating!

Earlier in the year we had visited the BBC at Media City in Salford Quays. Once again a peek behind the scenes was enlightening and truly interesting.

New members are always welcome and the website carries up to date information about our future programme.Jenny McEwan, co ordinator

CHESS

This group started in March 2015, simply being born out of a few members keen to rekindle their past interest in chess. There are now eight members of the group, meeting monthly, although we take a rest during the Summer months. Our level of play ranges from continuing where we left off at school to those that have a little more experience. None of us purport to be 'experts' which means that everybody is guaranteed of a good game, regardless of experience. We all learn from, and encourage, each other. We are keen to continue to grow our membership and all new members are very welcome – we do not take the games too seriously! Nigel Johns

WALKING GROUP

During the year the Walking Group has enjoyed 43 walks. If you had been on every walk in 2015 (nobody did) you would have tramped 237.5 miles. The annual holiday based in Pickering on the edge of the North York Moors was much appreciated by 13 members. Our thanks go to Nigel and Pam Johns for organising this and

arrangements are already in hand, courtesy of Jo Beresford for the 2016 holiday, which will be based in Warenford, Northumberland.

Membership has remained about the same (currently 64) and several new members have been



welcomed whilst others have decided it is time to hang up their walking boots. The average distance of the walks has been 5.5 miles although there have been several longer walks for those who like to stretch their legs. The average attendance on the walks has also remained much the same but what has

USA Walkers at Crich

been particularly pleasing is the number of members who have taken part. This was 63 which I think is a record number. The routes have been very varied with lots of different starting points, some local and others much further afield. We have certainly enjoyed many outstanding paths with stunning scenery. We have ventured to new destinations such as Holmesfield, Alstonefield, Ladybower and Cowers Lane, climbed hills never before attempted like Win Hill and repeated some classics such as the three valleys walk from Hartington, the ascent of Carl Wark and Higgar Tor and the walk steeped in history around Minninglow. Other walks have had a focus on geology, ecology and mining where we have enjoyed the expertise and knowledge of members. Our project to complete the whole of the Derwent Valley Heritage Trail (in small sections) is now about two thirds complete. Perhaps the remaining sections will be conquered this year. The whole route is 51.3 miles long with a total ascent of 3,287 feet. The year ended on a very happy note with our annual Christmas Walk, undertaken in thick mist, followed by a delicious Christmas Lunch at the Gate Inn Tansley kindly organised by John Hargreaves.

As always we are indebted to those who are able to lead walks and again we have been delighted that some have done so for the first time. This year we had no fewer than 29 different leaders. We try to venture out in all weathers with some walkers being perhaps a little harder than others but we were defeated on three occasions, one being as the result of snow and ice and the other two because of torrential rain. We hopefully cater for all tastes in our walk programme, which is always published on the website, so if a particular route takes your fancy why not come and join us.

Peter Keeble

CURRENT AFFAIRS 2

This group has had regular meetings throughout the year at each others' homes on the last Wednesday of the month. The lively meetings have covered a wide range of current topics ranging from Brexit, the recent general and local elections and the Syrian crisis, to name a few. The group lard to another series of interesting discussions on current news in 2016. Jill Fawcett

TRUSTEES OF THE MATLOCK AREA U3A AND MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (2015-2016)

		Position (Election Due)
Derek	Mitchell	Chair (2016)
Barbara	Phelan	Vice-chair (2018); Communications Convener Business Secretary (2018)
Catherine	Binns	Treasurer (2018);
Judith	Hodges	Derbyshire Network Rep (2017) Member: Publicity Officer (2018); Derbyshire Network Rep (2017)
Brian	Smith	Member: Membership Secretariat (2017) Member: Membership Secretariat (2017)
Jenny	McEwan	Member: Website Manager (2016)
Fred	Rosindell	Member: Communications (2017)
Martin	Emery	Member: Groups' Secretary (2018)
Bea	Jagger	Member: Groups' Secretary (2018)
Diane	Frosdick	Member: Equipment Officer (Co-opted)
Helen	Boocock	Member: Gift Aid Secretary (Co-opted)
Michael	Frosdick	
Martin	Eyre	

Registered charity number: 1161704

Website: www.matlockareau3a.org.uk