



## What's On

This **October newsletter** is sent to all members of the Matlock Area u3a who are registered as current members on the Beacon database and for whom we have an email address.

This month's issue has lots of photos...You are encouraged to open the PDF version attached in order to view the newsletter in its full glory.

### Coffee Morning.

Our next Coffee morning will be on **Monday October 3rd at 10.30am at Matlock Football Club.**

Please put £1.00 towards the costs of the room and the refreshments into the honesty box. The digi desk will be in operation to try to help with any technical issues you may have.

I shall hopefully have some slides from the baton relay and the photography competition to show.



### Baton Relay.



The sad cancellation of our picnic, owing to the death of Queen Elizabeth, meant that our plans for greeting the baton relay were curtailed, but the meeting still went ahead.

Here are members of the committee receiving the baton in the park as it arrived from Wirksworth.



Linda Wilson has done a wonderful job helping to organise this mammoth event... 17 stages and 17u3a's around Derbyshire.

## Bridge Group...Frank Hemmings Trophy.



The bridge group played for the coveted Frank Hemmings salver during the u3a fortieth anniversary week.

Forty members competed in a gripping morning of bridge followed by a relaxing buffet lunch.

It was won by Doreen Hartshorn and Ruth Miller who can be seen here receiving the salver from last year's winners, John and Chris Barnes.

The salver was donated by Frank who was a founder member of the group over ten years ago

## History Day

Matlock u3a held a History Day on Wednesday 21st September at All Saints Church Hall on Smedley Street, Matlock. Twenty seven u3a members attended the event and heard talks from several u3a History groups on a range of Social History topics, such as the life of Elizabeth Fry and the History of Matlock Town FC.

After lunch everyone worked in groups to study a range of primary sources (Census returns, maps and prints) to suggest how they could be used for research.

Feedback from attendees was generally positive, with people enjoying the chance to meet and hear from members of other history groups, not to mention the free lunch!



## **Croquet**

The croquet taster session was a great success. Donna is happy to organise another one in the spring. If you are interested please contact: [Donna Hawkins](#)

## **Photography Competition.**



This wonderful image is the winner of the Derbyshire network photographic competition. There were several entries from Matlock members, but I do think this one from Steve Wood of Dronfield u3a is a worthy winner. I hope to show

some more entries at the coffee morning.

## **GROUPS NEWS**

### **French Conversation**

We used to have French conversation groups and then Covid arrived. Two of our newer members, Maddie and Carrie are hoping to reignite a group. Here are their ideas:

***Aims: To provide an opportunity for group members to speak and listen in French. Maddie and I are not native or fluent French speakers, so these sessions certainly won't be lessons.***

The idea is for everyone to understand what you are trying to convey, even if it's not technically accurate. One way to would be to make eye contact, and don't be shy of using 'non verbal signals'. *Lentement* – Please speak slowly! As we all know, as learners, French is more difficult to follow if spoken at speed.

We are planning to meet on the **last Tuesday of the month**, between 2 and 3:30 pm with a break for refreshments. When we have an idea of interest, we will choose a venue. Numbers permitting, we propose to use All Saints' Church Hall on Smedley Street, which has parking.

If you are interested in joining a group like this, please contact [Maddie](#) or [Candy](#) using the email link attached.

### **Current Affairs 3**

Current Affairs Group 3 would welcome new members who are interested in the world around them. The group discusses topical issues that are of interest to its members and meets on the last Thursday of the month between 2.30pm and 4.30pm

We discuss all types of current affairs from the 'big issues' to more obscure events and everyone is encouraged to research from less well-known sources— tea and biscuits are provided, free of charge!

This group co-ordinator is Tracy Sims who can be contacted by email on this link [Tracy Sims](#) or on 07341 550503

## **Science/Tech programme**

25th October 2022

The Enigmatic Lichen

Steve Price - a field naturalist with a fascination for lichens.

Steve will introduce us to those mysterious organisms known as lichens: what they are; where they live; how they survive extreme environments (including Mars!); and more parochially where they can be found at their best in Derbyshire.

22nd November 2022

Miscellany Round Table

Group Members will expand on a topic for 5 minutes followed by open discussion.

December

There will be no meeting in December – next meeting 24th January 2023.

## **FOR INTEREST.**

**Poetry at The Coach House** in Wirksworth (continued from last month)

5 A POETRY WRITING WORKSHOP.... November 5th 2022 10am-12pm

Using particular poems as templates for your own writing. For beginners or more experienced writers.

6 POETRY AND ART .... December 3rd 2022 10am-12pm

Exploring the creative connection between art and poetry. Using either a current exhibition (or famous paintings, or both) a workshop exploring how we read a painting and how we might write about it. Is there a poem in one of your paintings – perhaps one you are proud of, or fond of, or representative of something? Is there a painting in one of your poems?

For more detail and to register your interest please feel free to contact Bert at [bflitcroft@btinternet.com](mailto:bflitcroft@btinternet.com).

[www.bert-flitcroft-poetry.com](http://www.bert-flitcroft-poetry.com)

## **Hadrian's Wall Event 2023**

We are hoping to attract many u3as, interest groups, or individual members to an event probably in May next year showcasing u3a activities on and around Hadrian's Wall.

Judging from early comments, it could appeal to many different types of activities grouped together at different locations, using the Wall as a background or platform. There are plans to video the event using drones, and to create maximum national publicity to help raise the national profile of the movement.

Hadrian's Wall – Did you know that the Romans started building Hadrian's Wall 1900 years ago, and that for over 300 years, its numerous forts brought together over 30,000 soldiers, families, and traders from all over the Empire. Wouldn't it be a great idea if the u3a movement could somehow play a role in the history of the Wall by bringing together u3a interest groups from around the UK for a series of connected events. A special day on and around the Wall could feature activities from history and social history groups, geography, geology, art, amateur dramatics, climate change, archaeology and research groups, and many more, with walking groups linking the activity areas. The event

may be of particular interest to local u3as reasonably close to the Wall, but it may also be an attractive trip for other u3as groups and individuals to spend a few days in the area.

A team of trustees and volunteers are already looking at options, but recognising the organisation required and the weather along Hadrian's Wall, it seems unlikely that the event can take place before Spring next year. Nevertheless, we need to encourage u3a and interest groups to register an interest as soon as possible so if you have any ideas or want to get involved then we'd love to hear from you. Contact: Ann Keating on [ann.keating@u3a.org.uk](mailto:ann.keating@u3a.org.uk)

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