



What's On

This February **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.

Coffee Morning.

Our next Coffee morning will be on:

Monday February 6th at 10.30am at Matlock Football Club.

There will be an illustrated talk by:

Philip Caine: Barrow to Baghdad and Back again.

Philip's work has taken him to many countries around the world, spending the last 10 years in the Middle East. Since retiring in 2015, he has become an author and guest speaker and will tell us how a career that began in Barrow ended in Baghdad.

It was lovely to see such a great audience for the talk at our last coffee morning, and we hope to repeat this. Do come along!!

Please put £1.00 in the honesty box towards our expenses ... a bargain for coffee, biscuits and entertainment in the warm.

AGM AND COMMITTEE

The AGM for Matlock area u3a will be taking place on March 20th. Several members of your committee will be stepping down at this point, having served for several years, and we shall be seeking replacements. The task is not very onerous, but an essential part of the framework under which your groups can function. If you feel you could contribute, or wish to discuss what is involved please contact me, Liz Walker, on 07748917232 or email chair@matlockarea3a.org.uk

GROUPS NEWS

Poetry Group

The new coordinator of the poetry group, Lindsay Steele, is hoping to attract some new members. Here are the details:

We meet at The Boat Inn Cromford on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. We can either be found in the top bar or in the lower room of the pub. (Ask at the bar!) We are not a poetry writing group but seek to read and learn more about published poetry. We have a theme or a specific poet or group of poets each month. Members each bring along copies of their chosen poem and we read and talk about it. We are a friendly group and the discussion is light and usually wide ranging!

If interested please contact Lindsay Steele 01629 534558 or email [Lindsay Steele](#)

Archaeology Group?

We do not have an archaeology group but Cameron Butland, newly moved into the area, would be interested in forming one and acting as coordinator. As he says: *I don't have any knowledge of sites in the area and only some general knowledge of the archaeological of the Peak District. An archaeological group could be formed to find out more together and from each other. I did obtain an archaeological degree in the 1970s and have maintained an interest ever since, it would be good to explore the archaeology of this area with other like minded people.*

His email : [Cameron Butland](#)

Wildflowers Group Walks

For 2023 we are extending our season of walks and scope of interest by looking at bare winter trees in January and lichens in February. We will start our more usual wildflower-focused walks in March. Anyone interested in joining us should email wildflowers@matlockareau3a.org.uk

Wine Appreciation

14 of us attended the last wine appreciation evening and had a very pleasant time tasting some very good Portuguese red wines from Douro, Dao and Alentejo. The last area many of us had not heard of before and were pleasantly surprised at its quality. We're all looking forward to the next meeting on Tuesday 21st March.

We have room for new members, why not come along and try it out. Email: [Geoffrey Slater](#)

On the website this month: (<https://matlockareau3a.org.uk/>)

The **Happy Snapper** looks up to view interesting buildings and rooftops. Can you recognise them?

Derbyshire u3a Network

The **Derbyshire u3a Network** will be organising more **Walk & Talk** events during 2023. These proved to be very popular last October/November and we

already have the following ones planned for this year; Belper (March 5th & 26th), Glossop (March 14th) and New Mills (6th July). Details of all the Walk & Talk events will be forwarded to you in the near future. Booking is essential!

Buxton u3a are inviting any Derbyshire u3a members to a performance of the Gilbert & Sullivan Opera "The Yeoman of the Guard" on Sunday 23rd July 2023 at 7.30pm. Please see attached flyer for booking details

<https://hi-in.facebook.com/u3aDerbyshireNetwork/>

Derbyshire u3a Network Facebook page is up and running and any Derbyshire u3a member can add u3a related items and photos of interest to these pages – including what's going on in Matlock!
The

2023 MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL

You should have renewed your membership by now!

If you have not, please do so, either by bank transfer (preferred)

Sort Code: 60-14-15 Account: 53566653 Please use your name as reference and send an email to: membership@matlockarea3a.org.uk

Alternatively you can pay by cheque at the February coffee mornings or by post to Membership Secretary, 26, Crookstile, Matlock DE4 3LJ

Cheques made payable to Matlock Area u3a.

Local Interest

One of our members, Steve Martin, is closely involved with a new scheme for a plan for a social renewable energy scheme in Matlock. It have been supercharged by a new partner organisation which has identified potential to harness up to 1million Watts of solar electricity from sites in the district.

It is called Derbyshire Dales Community Energy (DDCE) and I have included his paper on this as an attachment.