



## **What's On**

Pictures this month if you open the pdf version

### **Monthly Social**

**Our next coffee morning social will be on:**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February at Matlock Football Club. DE4 3AR  
at 10.30am.**

Please put £1.00 towards the costs in the honesty box.

We have a local bee keeper Graham Smith who is going to talk about

### **Bee Keeping**

## **Mau3a NEWS**

### **2024 MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL**

Membership renewal notices are going out on February 1<sup>st</sup> (slightly later this year for administration convenience)

Membership remains at £10

Please pay by bank transfer if you possibly can

Sort Code: 60-14-15 Account: 53566653

Please use your name as reference and send an email to confirm payment to: [membership@matlockareau3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@matlockareau3a.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.

### **Committee Nominations.**

Stephen Bailey, Liz Mann and Mel Gamby are stepping down from the committee at the end of their three year term. We have a friendly and active committee who help to run our u3a and keep us legal and above board! Formal nomination requests will be going out shortly, but if you feel you could join us and contribute then contact me for an informal chat and details of what is involved.

Liz Walker [chair@matlockareau3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@matlockareau3a.org.uk) Tel 07748917232

## Help Needed

We are also looking for help for running the Monday coffee mornings/social. We need help for booking and organising occasional speakers, and also someone to organise and make the refreshments - the cups and the washing up is done by the football club, so it's just making the tea and coffee.

## Groups News

### The SciTech Group

#### Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February:

In our February meeting we will show another of the London Gresham College lectures.

“Living with the Forever Chemicals” by Dr Ian Mudway

The forever chemicals, or PFAS (Per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances) represent a large family of highly persistent synthetic chemicals widely used in everything from carpets to non-stick cookware, from firefighting foams to the clothes we are wearing.

For the first time in history we are all living with these chemicals in our bodies. What does this mean for the future of mankind?

Come and watch this challenging talk – and join in our discussions over tea and coffee afterwards.

We meet in the Studio at St Elphin's at 2pm on Wednesday 28th February.

For further details contact Mary Mellor ([kandm.mellor@btinternet.com](mailto:kandm.mellor@btinternet.com)) or Mike Steel ([mikersteel@ymail.com](mailto:mikersteel@ymail.com)).

### Archaeology Group

*The Derbyshire Archaeology Day in January was excellent, and I know those who were able to be in Chesterfield greatly enjoyed the event.*

*Just to give you a flavour, the day was very busy with eight separate topics over six hours. Following Megan we were updated about a site which has yielded evidence of four generations of Roman burials from the 2nd century at a site just north of Chesterfield.*

*After a short break, there were two presentations, the first being a new henge site at Sheldon which had been revealed by LiDAR. Similarly in size to Arbor Low the archaeologists from Sheffield University spoke about the detailed revealing of the site although there was nothing to show on the surface the presence of the prehistory. My own favourite of the day was the DNA analysis of the skeletal remains from Buxton Museum.*

*Lunch provided a good chance to chat with those making the presentations*

*and other people in the county. The afternoon was equally busy with an update about the ongoing dig at Oxcroft lane, Bolsover. An excellent presentation from York University archaeologists about a small site next to a recently built Lidl at Shirebook. This was followed by an energetic presentation about MSDS Marine archaeological surveys and the day ended with details of a dig at Agard Street in Derby of an old Baptist Chapel again organised by York.*

*An excellent day enjoyed by a sell out audience. I have order copies of ACID magazine again for the group which I will have available for **our next meeting on 22nd February at my house**, hope to see as many as possible as we plan our programme for the year. For more information please contact me - [Cameron Butland](#)*

## **MAH JONG**

“ A game of Chinese origin, usually played by four people, in which tiles bearing various designs are drawn and discarded until one player has an entire hand of winning combinations”

Although Mah Jong can be played electronically, the group is intended for those who wish to play using the traditional tiles.

The Matlock u3a MAH JONG group meets every Friday evening from 6pm to 9pm, with a short refreshment break at the mid-point. This typically allows time for between 10 and 12 individual games and socialising in the break.



In 2023 the group met 48 times, with a typical attendance of between 6 and 12 members. We had a mixture of novice and experienced members and continued to welcome newcomers. We can accommodate up to 16 members.

A record is kept of noteworthy scores and on January 19 th

2024 the group met for their annual meal at The Gate Inn at Tansley, at which various trophies (in the form of red, white and green dragons) were distributed to the two worthy winners.

Winners of the dragon trophies for 2024 – Barbara Wall and Mike Tongue.

With Chinese characters in abundance, the game can look complicated at first sight, but the basics can be learnt quite



quickly and the group has a number of experienced members who are able to provide support and guidance.

New members would be welcome to come along to join the group, whether novices or experienced players.

Contact: [mah jong group](#)

## FOR INTEREST

### Gilbert and Sullivan

For the second year running Philip Barton of Buxton u3a has negotiated a great deal for u3a members at the Buxton International G&S festival.

A group booking has been made for u3a members for the performance of The Pirates of Penzance at the Buxton Opera House on Sunday 28 July at 19:30.

There will also be a free pre-performance talk for u3a members from a G&S expert.

The cost per ticket is a reduced rate of £30.00 \*down from £37.00.

If you are interested, please email Philip Barton

at [Philip.barton@btinternet.com](mailto:Philip.barton@btinternet.com) or text him on 07980 660202 and leave your name, address, contact details , u3a membership number and tell him how many tickets you'd like. Those registering an interest will be contacted in March with details about how to pay. Last year we sold more than 90 tickets. Let's see what we can do this year!

### Textile Show

'Threads through Creation' is an astonishing textile art exhibition showing at Sheffield Cathedral from now until 2nd March. Some people may have seen it featured last week on ITV Calendar. It might be a bit of a journey for some, but it's probably right up their street for many u3a people - a real treat for anyone interested in the applied arts, textile art and sewing. Click the link for pictures.



The show is touring twenty cathedrals. We've had a lot of positive feedback from U3A groups all over the country. It consists of twelve beautiful silk panels re-imagining the story of creation from the bible. They're huge – 2.7m high, up to nearly 4m wide. It's one of the largest textile art projects by a single artist, ever. It took artist Jacqui Parkinson three years - and eight million stitches! You'll find the huge scale, vibrant colours, dramatic and complex designs truly breathtaking.

[www.sheffield-cathedral.org.uk](http://www.sheffield-cathedral.org.uk)

Admission free.

[www.creation-threads.co.uk](http://www.creation-threads.co.uk)

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.