



What's On

Monthly Social

Monday 2nd September

The usual venue and time ...**Matlock Football Club at 10.30am.**

All are welcome, members or not, so please bring along a friend or neighbour

DERWENT VALLEY MILLS.

Our speaker this month is a local weaver, Sue Russell, who is working on a phd in later life.

Below is a precis of her research and her talk.

Weaving: an Exploration of Masson Mill as a Locus of Transformation in the Derwent Valley

I am primarily a weaver and this is where it all starts.

My research so far has focussed on the early stages of the mill's life, an area that I suspect many of your audience are already familiar with, but a shift in focus can often bring a change in understanding. So for a brief summary, this is partly about the PhD process and partly about what I have achieved so far.

"Undertaking a PhD was not in my career plans, and certainly not undertaking an arts based PhD. I am a scientist by training and have spent considerable time coming to terms with the very different way of learning that is required of practice as research. I will explain what I have learnt about Masson Mills and my research process. This is still a work in progress, but I'm sure that you will find something in this session that you didn't know before."

Mau3a NEWS

Outings Group

Coach Trip to Leeds on Thursday 19 September

There are a few coach seats available for anyone wanting a day out in Leeds. The coach costs £21 each and will be leaving Slacks at 9.15am and leaving Leeds at 5pm for the return journey. We have sold our pre-booked theatre tickets, but I think there are still some available at Leeds Playhouse box office.

Please contact Jill or Mel at outings@matlockareau3a.org.uk as soon as possible to book a seat.

October Open Day

Our October open morning will be on **MONDAY OCTOBER 7th 10.30 till 12.00**

It is hoped to showcase as many groups as possible to attract new members and to show the public what we do. I will be advertising it in the wider community (see your Peak Advertiser) so please come along and support us. Attached is a short poster for you to give to anyone who might be interested.

Groups News

Tap Dancing

The tap dancing group, who have been meeting regularly at Starkholmes Village Hall for 10 years, have been informed that they can no longer meet there as the lovely wooden floor is being recovered in vinyl

Gwyneth has made enquiries to several venues without success. She asks if anyone knows of a venue with a wooden floor suitable for tap. Please let her know if you do ;<mailto:gwynnethbeck@hotmail.com>

Flexible History Group (ex History 2)

The newly renamed Flexible History Group has a couple of vacancies for new members. Please see the webpage for details of the programme: <https://matlockareau3a.org.uk>

We share a wide ranging interest in all things historical with no aspect of history being off limits. We usually look into one topic per meeting, though larger topics may spread over two or three meetings and we shall soon be giving each of Queen Victoria's children (all nine of them!) a thorough examination. We meet in members' homes on the third Thursday of the month from 10 till 12 and we also take excursions to places of historical interest. Each group member takes responsibility in turn for deciding what topic will be the focus of a meeting. How you tackle it is entirely up to you – it may be a presentation or showing a film or sending us something to read and leading a discussion about it or organising a visit or trip – the possibilities are endless. The co-ordinator is Helen Boocock ([e-mail](mailto:helenboocock@matlockareau3a.org.uk)), or telephone 07818 690925 – come along and see if we are for you.

Beginners Bridge

If you are interested in learning to play Bridge and are comfortable using your computer for learning materials and for practice sessions, you may like to consider this new opportunity for all u3a members throughout the UK. It was successfully piloted in 2023-4 by the Bridge Adviser for the Third Age Trust, Steve Carter with a panel of u3a volunteers who are all experienced players and teachers.

Members of Matlock Area u3a bridge group have volunteered to give some support to a small group, we are thinking about 4, who would like to follow the programme and have occasional face to face practise sessions.

Attached to this newsletter is a PDF giving full details of how to enrol and get started. Please let me know, chair@matlockareau3a.org.uk if you decide to go ahead and would like to have Matlock based support as well

Archaeology Group

Open Meeting

Tuesday 17th September at 2pm in the Imperial Rooms, Matlock

The meeting will be led by Meghan King, Finds Liaison Officer (PAS) (Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire), who will be speaking about recent archaeological finds in the county and showing pictures and sharing information about the latest archaeological digs.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) is managed by the British Museum and records archaeological finds discovered by the public. It plays a critical role in advancing knowledge, telling stories of past communities and furthering public interest in the past. It's a partnership project, managed by the British Museum (in England) and Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales. The PAS works with at least 119 national and local partners, and delivers through its network of 40 locally based Finds Liaison Officers, the PAS Central Unit (based at the British Museum), National Finds Advisers, interns and volunteers.

This meeting is **open to anyone** so please do bring friends along to find out more.

Advance notice of the 2025 Derbyshire Archaeology Day to be held in Chesterfield on **Saturday 25th January**. Please do contact Cameron Butland for more information.

[Cameron Butland](#)

This **September newsletter** is sent to all members of the Matlock Area u3a who are reg-

istered as current members on the Beacon database and for whom we have an email address.