



## What's On

**Happy New Year to you all. May 2025 bring health and happiness through your local u3a!**

See PDF version for the pictures.

### **Social Coffee Morning.**

**Monday January 6th**

**Matlock Football Club. DE4 3AR 10.30am.**

A chance to catch up with friends and make new ones. I shall be showing a short film about our trees that we sponsored for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### **Mau3a NEWS**

#### **Christmas Coffee Morning.**



Many thanks to the Recorder and the Singing for Pleasure groups for their fabulous entertainment at the last coffee morning in December.

The collection for **Ashgate Hospice** which we had in memory of Audrey Foster, who sadly passed away last month, has raised over £250 in total.

#### **Subs.**

We are moving the date that subs are due to the **1<sup>st</sup> February**. **Please do not send subs before you get notification from the membership secretary.** This is to help Brian, our treasurer, to reconcile the financial year before the new year's subs start coming in.

## GROUPS NEWS

### Outings Group.

Outings Group programme for 2025:

Hope you are all enjoying the festive season. Here are some dates for your diary for 2025. Full details of each trip will become available on the Outings Group website at <https://matlockareau3a.org.uk/outings-group> starting in January 2025.

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025:** Coach trip to The Lowry, Salford with options of a theatre visit to see “Pride and Prejudice (sort of...)” direct from its triumph in the West End where it won the Laurence Olivier Award for Best Comedy, or visit the LS Lowry permanent collection, or Media City, or the Imperial War Museum North.

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June:** Coach trip to RHS Bridgewater.

October : TBA

December: Coach trip to York.

The Outings Group is open to all members of Matlock u3a. The group co-ordinators, Jill and Pearl, can be contacted at [outings@matlockareau3a.org.uk](mailto:outings@matlockareau3a.org.uk)

### Art Appreciation.

The art appreciation group ends 2024 in good health after a year delving into a wide variety of topics - ranging from local artistic talent extraordinaire Ronal Pope, architect Frank Lloyd Wright and a celebration of 200 years of the National Gallery. None of this would have been possible without the steadfast support of the group members who amongst other things suggest topics, give talks, arrange outings and, of course, make sure we have refreshments during the meeting.

A vibrant programme for 2025 is being put together including on March 11<sup>th</sup> a talk from guest speaker local art historian and author Stephen Farnsworth. Stephen has recently completed a book on local art hero Joseph Wright of Derby and his talk promises to give a fascinating insight into his life and works. We will be opening that meeting up to any u3a members and indeed family or friends. If you may be interested in coming to this event and would like more information, please contact the group co-ordinator Patrick Wright at [patrick\\_c\\_wright@hotmail.com](mailto:patrick_c_wright@hotmail.com)

### New Group!!

### Painting for Pleasure.

The new Painting for Pleasure group starts on Thursday 9th January at All Saints Church Hall on Smedley Street, Matlock, DE4 3JG, 9.30-12.00 noon; cost £4 per session to include refreshments (£12 per quarter).

The aim of this group is to give experienced and complete beginners an opportunity to develop their artistic skills in a warm and friendly environment, learning from one another - there is no formal teacher.

Each month the coordinator will suggest a topic for you to work on during the month and develop in the next session. For January, there is a choice of two themes - Memories of Christmas or New Year's Resolutions - to be interpreted in any way. If you are short of ideas, the coordinator will have some suggestions for you.

Please note that you need to bring your own materials - paper / canvas, paints, pencils etc.

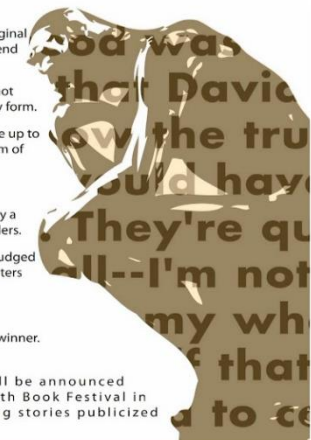
If you would like to join us, please contact the co-ordinator, Gill Lockett 07884449561 or [grlockett@gmail.com](mailto:grlockett@gmail.com).

## Creative Writing -- Wirksworth u3a

Wirksworth u3a Creative Writing Group are launching a Short Story Competition which is open to other local u3as, and to the general public.

See the attached poster (PDF version) and the coordinator can supply more information if necessary.

Sheila Harding (Group Co-ordinator) [harding.sheila@w3z.co.uk](mailto:harding.sheila@w3z.co.uk)



The Wirksworth and District  
**Very Short Story Challenge**

A free competition, open to all whether you have tried story writing before or not.  
**Even those living outside Wirksworth can take part!**

**The Challenge**  
To produce a complete, original story and submit it by the end of February 2025.

This should be new work; not previously published in any form.

Length, theme and style are up to you; but there is a maximum of 2000 words.

**The Process**  
Entries will be shortlisted by a group of independent readers.

Shortlisted entries will be judged by a panel of published writers and professionals.

**The Rewards**  
A cash prize of £50 for the winner.

The top 3 entries will be announced during the Wirksworth Book Festival in April and the winning stories publicized

For enquiries and full entry information contact Sheila on [harding.sheila@w3z.co.uk](mailto:harding.sheila@w3z.co.uk)

## National u3a News

There are many different activities open to all members on the National u3a website, many are ideal if, for whatever reason, you find it hard to get out to face to face meetings. A new **Bridge** beginner's group is due to start after Christmas and the following is among many interest groups available.

## Photography with u3a Eye.

We do not have a photography group, but I know we have many keen photographers (New group possible!!)

The national u3a have a group called u3a Eye. They run a bi-monthly event on a particular theme, and the best images are published on the website. The October/November theme was 'Orange' (see attached image from Rosemary at Alfreton u3a who was one of the chosen photos)

This month the theme is **Illumination**.

Do visit the u3a website and search u3a Eye if you are interested, the photos are fabulous.



This **January 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.