

What's On

Open Meetings

1....Archaeology Group

Open to All General Interest

....Local History....Geology....History

Brickyard Farm Excavation talk by Alan Piper

Wednesday 12th November at 2.00pm

Imperial Rooms, Matlock

Refreshments. No need to book. No Charge



The talk will be about the rediscovery, excavation in 2024, and history of the 19th century brick kilns of Brickyard Farm at Matlock Moor. Long hidden under grassland, their remains were a spectacular discovery now buried again under the tarmac of Mayfield Rise.

Talk given by one of our members who was involved in the dig.

2....The Story of Riber Castle

Imperial Rooms in Matlock at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 6th November



Matlock Civic Association has arranged an illustrated talk by Jane Middleton-Smith, the archivist at John Smedley, on the history of Riber Castle.

Entry is free and everyone is welcome to attend. The talk will

tell the story of the castle since it was built as a family home for John Smedley in the 1860s up to the present day. It has since been a boys' school, a World War 2 food store and a zoo. It is now being restored as apartments.

Beginners Bridge

The Bridge Group is a thriving u3a group with around 60 members that meets every Wednesday morning at the Church in the Peak. We have been aware for some time that there may be more people who would like to play bridge, but don't know how.

Well, we have a solution!

Linda Boadle has very kindly offered to teach bridge to "beginners" if there are enough people interested. It would be on Tuesday morning, Tuesday afternoon or Thursday morning, at her house in Matlock, and there will need to be either 3 or 4 people (who can agree on the same meeting time!). They wouldn't be a charge, but people would need to buy the EBU "Red Book" (c.£25/£30). The classes would start in the New Year.

If you are interested, please let me know at roger_spells, stating which of the days you could make. (Note: email is roger underscore spells)

Photos??

Our current website needs to be replaced with an alternative one using a u3a template. We are attempting to move forward with the revised website over the autumn. It would be nice to have some fresh photographs to illustrate it.

If you have any photos, particularly action shots of your group, or nice pictures of activities could you send them to me. NOTE: If they include people who can be identified please obtain their permission.

<mailto:chair@matlockareau3a.org.uk>.

GROUP NEWS

History 3 marks first decade.

This month History 3 group marked 10 years since its creation. It was celebrated with not one but two cakes - as well as a meal out with partners.

Amazingly six of the original twelve members still attend. Throughout this period the nineteenth century has provided an inexhaustible supply of interesting topics. We have ranged world-wide studying social change, art, literature, music, architecture, movers and shakers, conquest and much more besides. For one session we even brought along family artifacts from the 19th century

In all we have studied 241 topics so far. We meet in members' homes giving illustrated talks of up to an hour each although during Covid meetings moved online and presentations were limited to 15 minutes.

With partners we enjoy annual field trips, summer barbecues and Christmas meals. We also organised a history conference to which all the other u3a history groups contributed. Members across the u3a were then invited to attend a bigger, subsequent conference. Fortunately, there is no sign that the group will ever exhaust interesting nineteenth century topics as we embark on our second decade of monthly meetings.

[John Entwistle](#)



Bridge

This year we broke with a 10 year tradition of going to Cober Hill in East Yorkshire for our annual "bridge break", and instead went to Llangollen, in North Wales. 28 club members attended and we stayed in an excellent hotel, the Dunoon, in the heart of Llangollen for three days from Oct 6th – 9th.

In total we all enjoyed three exciting, nail-biting playing sessions on Monday and Tuesday afternoon/evenings and Wednesday morning.

Tuesday morning, however, was “bridge free” to take full advantage of the local area’s attractions. The weather was kind to us – windy but dry – so everyone made good use of the day. Activities included playing golf, walking up the Great Orme, getting the train up the Great Orme, riding the open-top bus, sightseeing, shopping or playing Rummikub!

On Wednesday morning, the final bridge session was completed, leading to the overall winners being decided and announced over lunch: N/S – Linda Boadle and Gill Rebaudi and E/W – Jane and Lionel Stout. All very worthy winners.



FOR INTEREST

Digital Help.

**Do you know someone who needs
help using their
phone, tablet or laptop?**



Digital Drop-In Sessions

There's always a warm welcome at
Matlock Help Centre & Digital Support.

Every Friday 10am - 12pm

FREE FRIENDLY SUPPORT

For more information message or email:
Hayley: hayley.beresford@platformhg.com
or Tracey: tracey.silk@platformhg.com



Volunteers Needed

Fiona Bateman recently started as the Volunteer Coordinator for Sight Support Derbyshire and is exploring opportunities to partner with u3a groups across Derbyshire to find befriending volunteers for people who are blind / partially sighted. They are desperate for more volunteers to support their service users, particularly in our area.

If you feel this is something you could help with contact at:

fiona.bateman@sightsupportderbyshire.org.uk

This **November 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.

