

MATLOCK AREA



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



LOTTERY FUNDED

10th Anniversary
2007 - 2017

Matlock Area U3A

Annual Report

2017 - 2018

MATLOCK AREA



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



LOTTERY FUNDED

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

MAU3A has had yet another very successful year. The membership is still growing and now stands at 670, with the number of groups increasing to over 55. We have a wide range of groups, from Shakespeare to Beer Appreciation, from Motor Bike Journeys to Wind Recorders. Each group is heavily dependent on its Coordinator and the Management Committee wish to thank all of them for their hard work during the year. As always, the Management Committee will endeavour to accommodate new members by keeping waiting lists and by giving advice to anyone starting up a new group. At the next AGM there will be changes on the Management Committee due to the retirement of myself (Chair), Judith Hodges (Treasurer). Diane Frosdick (Groups Secretary) and Mike Frosdick (Equipment Officer). We welcome applications from all members as to continue we need a fully functional Committee.

Again, the Social Committee has organised a comprehensive range of events. The prime purpose is, of course, for members to meet and socialise with each other, as well as being informed. The monthly Coffee Mornings have become one of the main avenues and some groups have demonstrated their skills at the meetings. New groups are launched and possible members come to join. "What's On" is distributed monthly by email and those members without email are sent a hard copy. Although this is a very small number, we are working on ways of reducing this even further. The following social events have taken place this year:-

- A visit to Hull, the City of Culture, in June, organised by Art Appreciation
- Several Theatre Group visits
- MAU3A 10th Anniversary at Crich Tramway held on 10th October, with a buffet lunch
- An illustrated presentation in October on the life and music of Rachmaninoff, organised by Sylvia Mersh
- MAU3A Coffee Morning on 6th November with special cakes to celebrate the 10th Anniversary
- Our annual Christmas Social on 1st December at Matlock Golf Club, attended by 62 members and guests. We were entertained by the Derby A Cappella while eating our dessert and then by the wonderful "Burning Embers" for the rest of the evening.

Last year we held our AGM on 10th April at the Whitworth Centre with 142 members attending. The speaker was Matthew Parris, author and former MP. This year we are to hold our AGM on Monday 19th March at the Imperial Rooms in Matlock, which we think will be more accessible to members. There is a small car park located at the front of the building with several car parks located nearby. There is an accessible disabled toilet and an induction loop for the hard of hearing. There will be refreshments from 1.30pm, the AGM starting at 2.00pm. The speaker this year will be James McKay, the expert on Falconry and Hawking.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the members of the Management Committee for the work and time they willingly give to make MAU3A a friendly and welcoming organisation, and, of course, to all of the members for supporting us.

Barbara Phelan (chair@matlockarea3a.org.uk)

A FLAVOUR OF MAU3A'S ACTIVITIES....

ART GROUP

The Tuesday Art Group has had another very enjoyable year working on themes including Scotland, Machinery, Japanese Art, Boundaries and many more. When the weather was kind we had a couple of enjoyable and challenging sessions of sketching in Hall Leys Park. We have extended our meetings to two and a half hours which gives us more time to chat and discuss each other's work while still having a solid two hours painting. During October and November, we held our second exhibition at the Whitworth Institute which received some favourable comment and several artworks were sold. We have gained several new members in recent months but we are still happy to welcome more.

Ruth Gordon

ART APPRECIATION GROUPS

Art Appreciation 1

We have continued to explore a variety of artwork, mainly following chosen themes. The topics have come from many eras. We have looked at the Wilton Diptych, the Post-impressionists, Andy Warhol and other Pop artists, and Howard Hodgkin. Our most recent theme is portraits. So far, we have considered works by Holbein, Velasquez and Sutherland. There have been three successful, stimulating visits to art galleries. Early in the year we went to the Victor Pasmore exhibition at the Lakeside Gallery, Nottingham. In November, along with the Art Appreciation 2 group, we visited the New Art Gallery, Walsall. This gallery holds a wonderful collection of art. However, the highlight of our year was in June when we took 79 U3A members to Hull, City of Culture. Our group focused on the University and Ferens Galleries but there were many more places in Hull for members to explore. It was a highly enjoyable day out.

Anne Oldfield

Art Appreciation 2

Another year of inquisitive delight. We have tackled many aspects of art from many angles. Over and above the real time visits to galleries, we have made virtual trips to The Guggenheim in New York, Bilbao and Abu Dhabi, Kenwood House in London, the Lady Lever Gallery in the Wirral, the Milwaukee Art Museum, Chicago Institute of Art, the Norton Simon Art Museum in Pasadena and Stirling Castle in Scotland. Virtual trips have proved stimulating and mean that all of the Group can share the experience of a visit without travelling beyond Matlock. To give us a new angle on the Turner Prize, members presented talks on winners from the first 30 years of the prize. This featured among others, Jeremy Deller, Steve McQueen, Grayson Perry, Rachel Whiteread, Martin Creed and Tomma Abts. Other artists discussed this year included Eric Ravilious, Turner, Lowry, The Stuckists, Bellini, Kyffin Williams, and Eric Gill.

Jeremy Taylor

PAINTING GROUP

The Painting Group has welcomed back some members who have been absent through illness and also some new members to our group; it is lovely to see them all. January was our tenth anniversary and as usual, we celebrated our birthday with a pub lunch. There will be some changes in 2018 as I will be giving up my role as co-ordinator. I have had ten happy years leading the group but I think it is now time for new ideas. The new co-ordinator's details can be found on the MAU3A website

Liz Chisnall

POETRY APPRECIATION GROUP

In its monthly meetings, the group has read, discussed and reflected on a wide range of poetry this year, including poems written about Joy, Journeys, Children, Conflict, Birds, Night, and Education, and some of the works of Carol Ann Duffy, WB Yeats, American poets and poets from the Indian sub-continent. We look forward to further exploration and discovery in 2018.

Maggie Robinson

FRENCH CONVERSATION GROUP

French Conversation Group 2 continues to flourish with a steady influx of new faces and ideas. With larger numbers attending and depending on the activity, it is sometimes proving more useful to conduct part of the fortnightly sessions in smaller groups as this enables everyone to join in the conversation. Fortunately, the venue (the Community Room at the Arc Leisure Centre) is large enough to accommodate activities such as role plays and smaller groups. For 2018 members are being asked to contribute specific topics so that an itemised programme can be drawn up and published in advance. We look forward to another active year and welcome enquiries from all those interested in improving their conversational skills.

Lesley Shawe

GERMAN CONVERSATION GROUP

The German Conversation Group continues to meet most Mondays at the Red Lion in Matlock Green with numbers constant at about 10. We have a rota with each person choosing what happens each week.

Pam White

SINGING FOR PLEASURE GROUP

2017 has been another great year. 25 to 30 of us met once a month and we have sung plenty of new material as well as our old favourites. We have sung more rounds and partner songs as well as songs from the shows, songs from the 50s, and 70s and traditional folk songs. We sing in unison and in parts and we are kept in tune and in time by our 2 excellent pianists. For our December meeting 40 members turned up to sing Christmas carols – a great afternoon with some marvellous singing plus mince pies at half time! In November we entertained the residents of Underhall and in December we sang at the All Saints Ladies group.



Hazel Finch

WIND RECORDER GROUP

The Wind Recorder Group started at the end of September 2017 and meets twice a month (second and fourth Monday afternoons) usually in Wirksworth. We have eleven active members, including many playing for the first time since school and some self-taught as adults! From the very first meeting we have played a variety of musical styles from Baroque to Modern, with two to three different parts. Members bring their own instruments (there are instruments to borrow for a trial session). Some members have small collections of music to share and we have also bought some new inexpensive scores individually. We have no costs (apart from the occasional voluntary purchase of music scores) so there is no fee!



Karen Hale

TAP DANCING GROUP

Another year on and our two tap groups continue to make excellent progress. From time to time we have had joint sessions which have proved to be a success both as a social project and also a learning experience.

This year I have been finding it more difficult to run two classes – one after the other – maybe I am getting old but 3 hours tapping leaves me pretty exhausted. I mentioned this to the groups and suggested that we join our groups together and give it a social element so that I would only be tapping for half the time. Everyone was in agreement and so we started this in September and it has proved to be a success. It is great to see both groups working together and getting to know each other better.

We are about to finish our year with the annual Christmas fuddle which provides a good opportunity to get together to eat, drink and carry on tapping.

Well done tappers – you are amazing.

Sue Cain

INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING GROUP

Our international folk dancing group continues to thrive with around 30 dancers on the books and a regular attendance of around 20. We are a mixed group who love to dance and are fortunate to have Janet King as our teacher. With patience and an unfailing sense of humour she provides us each Friday with a terrific programme of dances from many countries including the Balkans, Turkey, Israel, and Russia - and occasionally 'Steppin' Out' to the USA. During the year some of our members have attended workshops and increased our dance repertoire, passing on new dances to the rest of us. All great fun and a brilliant way to keep fit and enjoy a sociable morning with friends.

Many thanks to Janet for 10 happy years of dancing.

Hilary Casey

BRIDGE GROUP

The Bridge Group has continued to meet throughout the year every Wednesday morning at Matlock Football Club. We have consistently been able to welcome some 50 members at each session, enabling up to 14 tables to play competitive, social bridge.

Thanks to Frank Hemming, we have been able to run a beginners' training course for the first time for three years. This comprised workshops every Wednesday afternoon from September 2016 through to June 2017, led by Frank and ably supported by members of the Group. As a result, we have been able to train 9 beginners into enthusiastic players who are now fully enjoying the joys of playing bridge.

In early May, over 30 members attended the much-anticipated annual visit to Cober Hill Hotel and conference centre on the coast just north of Scarborough. The three-day event commenced on Monday afternoon and concluded with Wednesday lunch. In addition to the highly enjoyable bridge sessions, other social activities included coastal walks, local visits and golf. Many thanks to Margaret Rice and Chris Barnes for both organising this event and planning for a return in 2018.

The Bridge Group celebrated its 10th birthday on 18th October at the Football Club. Over 50 members were there to present a beautiful 'bridge themed' cake to thank two of the Group's founder members – Frank Hemming and John Boadle.



Roger Keeling

CANASTA GROUP

Canasta is a flexible, sociable game since it can be played by 2, 3 or 4 persons at each table. This year we offered 2 venues: one in Darley Dale on Fridays run by Audrey Foster, the other in Matlock Green on Tuesdays run by Frank Hemming, our coordinator ([01629 582861](tel:01629582861)). Both sessions were from 2-4 pm and in the homes of the organisers.

They usually attracted around 8 members. We welcome new members (including beginners).

Frank Hemming

SCRABBLE GROUPS

Scrabble group No 1 meets every Tuesday morning at St Giles church hall, Starkholmes. We have a serious, light hearted game but with a scrabble dictionary close at hand and quite often with surprising results.

We have space for twelve players but at the moment we have two vacancies.

David Gadsby

BEER GROUP

The Matlock U3A Beer Group is recently formed.

We have visited 3 breweries - Matlock Wolds Farm (a local microbrewery), the Raw Brewery in Chesterfield (in association with the local CAMRA) and the Tower Brewery in Burton (a fascinating small brewery in a restored water tower).

Burton Bridge Brewery's Tap was a pleasant Saturday evening. A visit by train to the National Brewery Museum in Burton was very enjoyable.

Dale Road in Matlock has 3 high quality beer emporia and we have enjoyed these. A visit to the Matlock Beer Festival in October was likewise popular.

In 2018 we intend to visit the Titanic Brewery in Stoke.

Nicholas Binns

WINE APPRECIATION GROUP

Following the revival of the Group in September 2016, we have had six successful bi-monthly meetings this year.

In January we were introduced to a tasting of three wines, produced from Merlot grapes, by our members Jo and Nick Sibley and Val and Peter Singer.

In March we were the guests of Marks and Spencer in their Matlock Coffee Shop when 33 members of MAU3A sampled seven wines from seven different countries.

Subsequent meetings have been English Wines presented by Keith and Jan Bailey; wines from lesser known grapes from Crete, New York State, Spain and Uruguay (Pam and Peter Hume); Californian wines (Jo Sibley, Suzie Harrington, Pam Hume and Martin Cruttenden) and Organic Wines (John Dolan). We thank these members of the group for their input to our meetings.

Peter Hume

FILM GROUP

New for 2017, our group got off to a good start in February this year. We are an enthusiastic bunch and meet to discuss films we have enjoyed over a coffee in The Duke of Wellington pub in Matlock, 2-4 pm, on the second Wednesday in the month. At this monthly meeting, we choose films we want to talk about in the following month's meeting and then view them in a local cinema with friends, family or other members of the group. We are fortunate that we have at least five local cinemas – in Chesterfield, Wirksworth and Derby.

We are open minded and this year we have seen period dramas such as Viceroy's House and Victoria and Abdul, hard hitting Detroit, Scorsese's Silence, Moonlight and Loving Vincent, to name just a few. So if you love film, come along and join the party. You will be very welcome!

Sarah Puxley

THEATRE GROUP

From 'The Play that Goes Wrong' to 'The House of Bernarda Alba' and 'The Nutcracker', 2017 has been another year of varied productions and usually very good performances at theatres as near as Sheffield and as far away as York, Manchester, Birmingham and Coventry. Full 39 seater coaches from Slacks have taken us, and sometimes a few other U3A members, to the venues and allowed time for a brief shop and a meal before the performance.

Our regular monthly meetings have been well attended with an average of 35 or so at each. As well as our own members' poetry and story-reading afternoons, speakers have included Wesley Mallin, political presenter from Radio Derby, Dana de Waal from Fishpond's Choir and representatives from local theatre companies. Talks about 'Shakespeare at Work' and 'Different Styles of Theatre' have developed our understanding and been great fun!

We thank all the Theatre Group committee members who completed their term of office this year and look forward to the future and maintaining their trademark enthusiasm. In January we move to our new venue at All Saints' Church, Matlock and we have another wide-ranging programme of visits and speakers planned for 2018.

Jane Entwistle

CREATIVE WRITING

The Writers' Group met in members' houses; many thanks to those who were able to host a meeting. The significant organisational change however, was Lyn Mason having to relinquish the job of co-ordinator, in the latter part of the year. We shall miss her leadership skills as well as her creative contributions. Many thanks from the group, Lyn.

We followed a similar pattern at each meeting (though this isn't set in stone). Generally, the host sets a theme and writers respond in a variety of ways, be it through prose, poetry or dialogue, fact or fiction. Our pieces are then briefly and sympathetically critiqued by the other members, before we move on to exercises and activities that practise writing skills. So, we are all readers and listeners as well as writers. Topics have ranged from mythology to grandparents, from Life on Mars to the dinner party that went wildly wrong, from My Hero to A Perfect Time. We look forward to a creative and engaging 2018.

Malcolm Molloy

BOOK GROUP 3

Book Group 3 continues to meet on the first Friday of the month. We vary in number between ten and twelve but usually six or seven attend an average meeting. We rotate hosting with the host choosing the "read" for that month. There have been some excellent books chosen. We can bring a wide variety of books for reading depending on our different tastes, favourite authors and genres. Our choice of the year was "Last train from Liguria" by Christine Dwyer Hickey about a young English woman in 1933 going to live and work in Italy with a Jewish family in the tensions before the war. An excellent read. We have dabbled in a poetry session with other excellent reads being "The Muse" by Jessie Burton and "The Gustav Sonata" by Rose Tremain, both well worth a go. Discussions are honest and vary. The cake and coffee/ tea then follow as we put the world to rights. We have room for a limited number of new members.

John Mann

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

We have had good attendance at our meetings this year. Most of the activities were arranged, researched and led by various members of the group, whom we would like to thank. For the indoor meetings, we had talks on Sir Joseph Banks; Images of Old Matlock; The 1864 Sheffield Flood; Brian Donkin; Chatsworth House; Growing up in the 19th century Nottinghamshire Coalfield, with reference to Sons and Lovers by D. H. Lawrence; The English Civil War; Bonnie Prince Charlie; and The Role of Iron in the Development of the Railways. The outside visits were to the Magpie Mine, Minninglow, Wingfield Manor, a tour of Matlock Bank with reference to the old Hydros, and a tour of Dethick, Lea and Holloway.



Local history - Minninglow



At the top



Wingfield Manor



Inside Wingfield

Susan Tomlinson

HISTORY GROUPS

History 1

This has been our second year off-piste, in which group members have freely chosen any topic, any period, any country. Once again, the variety of choice was fascinating, from Curzon in India to Mme de Pompadour, the Knights Templar and Reynald de Chatillon to more about the Freeminers of the Forest of Dean and The Reform Act; Thomas Becket & Henry II to Richard III and Elizabeth Woodville; The First Earl Marshall to the appalling medical history of Henry VIII.

As always, our 5 minute entrees at the start of each session left us amazed at how much information can be packed into such a brief period of time. Our visits this year were to the Civic War Centre in Newark and to Derby Museum and Art Gallery where we enjoyed a superb talk by Lucy Bamford on Joseph Wright. Our final meeting was at The Family Tree in Whatstandwell, culminating in a delicious gourmet finger buffet.

Janet Pidgeon

History 2

Now in our fifth year. We initially studied the Tudor period – at home and abroad - and since January 2016 we have been studying aspects of the Stuart period.

We don't stick slavishly to our period. For instance, having discovered that Cromwell allowed Jews to live again in England, we decided to spend two sessions looking at Jewish history more generally, followed by a trip to the Holocaust Museum in Newark in May. In October we also visited Kedleston Hall, along with members of History 3; U3A member Nigel Johns acts as a National Trust guide and gave us an excellent private tour when the hall was closed to the public. Next year we intend to move forward to the 18th century.

Helen Boocock

History 3

Our monthly talks on the Nineteenth Century have been enhanced this year to include guided tours of two celebrated buildings of the period, Kedleston Hall and Wentworth Woodhouse - the largest private house in Britain boasting 365 rooms. Socially we have lunched at a 19th century coaching inn and, with partners, enjoyed a New Year feast as well as a summer barbecue.

Our wide-ranging peer to peer learning has embraced the Duke of Wellington, George Stephenson, Lancashire's Cotton industry, Charles Darwin, the Berlin Conference, Literacy, the Irish potato famine, Female explorers and Elizabeth Fry. Despite dissecting the period for two years now we are finding no shortage of fascinating topics to investigate.



Wentworth Woodhouse



Summer barbecue

John Entwistle

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Family History group members have been very active this year doing presentations on a range of topics from their families' past. These included Heraldry, Policing in 19th century, Memoirs of National Service in 1949, a relation's involvement in Malta & India, DNA and its implications for Family Historians and research into old photos, paper and ink quality to make sense of inherited photos. We have also shared old post cards, greeting cards, newspapers and magazines and maps. A presentation on dating old buildings was also appreciated.

Members feel that the group has helped them enjoy "the fascinating background bits to their ancestors' lives". While no one is forced to present items from their research it "helped focus our work" and all were nervous but the challenge was worthwhile.

Angie Corby

CURRENT AFFAIRS GROUPS

Current Affairs 1

Brexit, brexit and more brexit – it might have seemed like déjà vu to an alien from outer space – but we in Current Affairs 1 also focussed on other things. Obviously, Brexit played its part in some topics, e.g. agriculture, economic development and the NHS, but it wasn't always the main focus! The European elections were discussed with interest, and then we had an Election of our own. Since then the state of the parties, if not the nation, has given us much to ruminiate on. We now know that there is to be a Royal Wedding in 2018 – so what else will 2018 bring? As MAU3A current affairs members we look forward to more challenging issues and to our usual interesting and lively discussions. If you are interested in joining us please contact me.

Ros Bourne

Current Affairs 2

The Current Affairs 2 Group has continued to meet regularly on the last Wednesday afternoon of each month throughout the year. Members take it in turns to host the meeting at their houses and to encourage and guide the (often lively) discussions. Needless to say, with the political, social and environmental developments on both sides of the Atlantic and worldwide, the Group has not found itself short of stimulating topics for discussion over the year, with 2018 promising very much more of the same.

Roger Keeling

GARDENING GROUP

The garden group has continued to be popular, with over 50 members on role. 2017 has seen a variety of visits, beginning with Hopton Hall for the snowdrops, and ending with a Christmas social. We visit local gardens within about a 40 mile radius, everything from stately homes to small NGS gardens and usually arrange shared transport if you are not a driver. We also have occasional talks on gardening issues or plant swaps. You do not have to be a gardener to join us ... no need to know botanical names to enjoy gardens! Contact Liz Walker via the website.

Liz Walker



GEOLOGY GROUP

The Group's fourth year has been reasonably successful despite the loss of three meetings due to bad weather and clashes with other MAU3A events. We are fortunate to have a number of members willing to conduct field trips and other visits as well as those prepared to present talks on geological matters.

We have had talks about Geological Time, Mount Vesuvius, a major Hydro-electric Scheme in Malaysia and the effects of a Meteor Strike on the basal Torridonian of NW Scotland. Field trips have been made to The Crich Inlier, the Derwent Gorge and a walk round the Geological Trail at Nottingham University, followed by a short lecture about the Chinese Dinosaur Exhibition. The year was rounded off, as last year, with Christmas Lunch at the Fishpond Hotel and a talk by Chris Darmon of Geosupplies.

Peter Hume

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY GROUP

In 2017, the Group has continued to pursue a wide agenda. Our topics have ranged from challenging ones such as "What is Time?", "What is Life?" and "Black Holes" through the world of medicine with "Drug Development", "What is a Heart Attack" and "DNA" to "Solar Energy", "The History of the Internet" and "The Secret Life of Bar Codes". We have also made use of video material to supplement talks. A number of these have been round table discussions so that everyone can be involved, rather than formal presentations. The sharing of news items from science magazines was an example of this. A guided visit to Kelham Island Industrial Museum and Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet in Sheffield was very popular, perhaps partly because of its proximity to the brewery.

We should stress that the group does not require a background in science or technology – everyone is welcome. To contact the new co-ordinators for 2018, please e-mail scitech@matlockarea3a.org.uk



Visit to Kelham Island Industrial Museum; the River Don Engine in steam

Dave Puxley

SIGNING GROUP

Both signing groups are making good progress despite faulty memories & arthritic fingers. Members work hard at a difficult subject, but enjoy much fun & laughter at all our mistakes. The wrong signs are the most fun. We hope everyone enjoyed our efforts with the 12 days of Christmas at the December Coffee morning. I am proud of those members who were able to attend & to overcome their nerves.

Pam Wildgoose.

BOULES GROUPS

Boules Deux

Boules is a brilliant game of skill and tactical “nous”, enjoyed by a group of friends enjoying each other's company, under the warm summer sun!

In 2017, our second year as a group, we numbered fifteen players, however several of us suffered from various injuries and were out of action for part of the season - I'm sure that at least some were sports related! We played from April through until the end of November, but missed a small number of sessions due to the weather, as none of us enjoy playing in the rain. Players skills are certainly improving as is our understanding of the game.

This group is currently fully subscribed, but we will review numbers again next year and, should there be any vacancies, advertise for additional players through “What's On”.

Boules d'hiver

As I write this report, membership of our group, for the 2017 / 2018 season is being finalised - we play between December and April, as the other three groups finish meeting at the end of the summer season.

The group, numbering around a dozen, is comprised of hardy souls from each of the three other Boules groups. Surprisingly (to me) we have a slight gender imbalance with more women players than men - we may have to consider positive discrimination next year!

Last winter (2016 / 2017) the group enjoyed some excellent sessions in the mild and dry conditions and we only missed two or three games due to adverse weather. We play in the afternoon, for as long as we wish, and then retire to the pub to enjoy a drink and put the world to rights - again, for as long as wish.

Martin Emery

Boules 3

Boules group three meet Friday mornings at The Gate in Tansley. We have been very active this year but still have three vacancies.

Max Price

BOWLS

April 2017 saw the start of the fifth season for Matlock U3A Bowls Group 2 based at the Matlock Bath Bowls Club. The group has grown again with 2 new members joining this year. Everyone enjoyed social but always competitive games in mixed weather. Unfortunately, we had to curtail the season earlier than normal this year due to the state of the green but will be up and running again next year.

The new season will start in April dependent upon the weather conditions so watch the website for further details. The green can only accommodate a maximum of 18 players however as not everyone can come to every session we are rarely full but if you are interested in playing you must get in touch first.

Mike Frosdick

CARS & MOTORING GROUP

The Cars and Motoring group enjoyed a varied and extensive programme of events in 2017, together with a steady rise in membership. Events in 2017 included visits to private car collections, car factories, motoring themed films, seminars, sporting events and road trips.

New members always welcome – you don't have to own a classic car (or even a car at all come to that); you just need to be interested in the subject matter!

Space restrictions preclude a fuller description of 2017 events which can be found on our web page at:

<http://www.matlockarea3a.org.uk/Groups/carsandmotoring.html>

Hartley Jenkinson



MOTOR CYCLING GROUP

We have been riding each week through the year - weather permitting! We have 5 regular riders and plan to do a few trips next year. New members welcome.

Max Price

BIRDING GROUP

The birding group continued to grow throughout 2017 with members joining us from Matlock, Bakewell and even Buxton. Meetings were always well attended. Despite some dubious weather at the start to some of the birding days (1st Tuesday in the month), members travelled cheerfully as far as Rutland Water to enjoy quality birding. In April we were treated to a guided walk by the Eastern Moor Partnership to find (successfully) Ring Ouzels on Burbage Edge and we delighted one member with fabulous views of Kingfisher at Willington Gravel pits. In December we dined finely with 17 members at Hassop Station Cafe, feeling only slightly guilty as we tucked into pan fried pigeon breast and turkey. In 2018 members will take it in turns to lead the monthly walks, starting at Attenborough Nature Reserve on 2nd January.

For details, contact Jane Burgess [\(janeburgess50@yahoo.co.uk\)](mailto:janeburgess50@yahoo.co.uk) (07954 588053)

Jane Burgess

SHORT WALKS GROUP

A short walks group has been set up that goes at a more leisurely pace than the main group. They have proved to be very popular, (six to fifteen walkers attending) but possibly this may be something to do with refreshments afterwards. We have had one or two a month, but their frequency will depend on the number of volunteer leaders. It has been agreed that rather than determining the length of the route in advance it is simpler, and more relevant, for the leader to say how long it will take. Generally, they are 1.5 -2.0 hours long. So far, we have discovered walking along the Derwent to Matlock Bath, the delights of Lumsdale, and the beauty of Bonsall.

Note: U3A members can join either or both walking groups by contacting the relevant coordinator.

Hilary Essen



Our walk on 14th Oct. 2017 (Short Walks Group)



A well earned rest after climbing out of Lathkill Dale (Walking Group)

WALKING GROUP

The walking group have enjoyed a full and varied programme of walks this year venturing as far as Edale to walk onto Kinder Scout or to the county boundaries of 3 Shires' Head. We also explored areas more local to Matlock.

Unfortunately, our wet summer meant that a record number of 5 walks had to be cancelled. It is worth noting that we do not cancel at a mere shower and the conditions must be torrential for us not to venture out! We usually manage to find a pub or coffee shop for refreshment and shelter. As a result of the poor summer the distance covered over the year was down on last year at 223 miles.

A group of 18 enjoyed a holiday in Sedbergh in September, with walks each day of varying lengths amongst lovely scenery.

Pam Johns

**TRUSTEES OF THE MATLOCK AREA U3A AND MEMBERS OF THE
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (2017-2018)**

| Name | Home Location | Committee Role | Elected Until |
|----------------|---------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| Sue Petrie | Ashover | Membership Secretariat | 2020 |
| Helen Bocock | Matlock | Business Secretary | 2019 |
| Diane Frosdick | Matlock Bath | Groups Secretary | 2018 |
| Judith Hodges | Ripley | Treasurer | 2018 |
| Barbara Phelan | Ashbourne | Chair | 2018 |
| Penny Ackland | Matlock Bath | Website Manager | 2019 |
| Peter Hume | Cromford | Ordinary Member | 2019 |
| Dave Puxley | Matlock | Publicity Officer | 2019 |
| Tracy Sims | Tansley | Ordinary Member | 2020 |
| Mike Frosdick | Matlock Bath | Equipment Officer (co-opted) | |
| Martin Eyre | Matlock | Ordinary Member (co-opted) | |

Registered Charity Number: 1161704
Website: www.matlockarea3a.org.uk

CURRENT MATLOCK AREA U3A GROUPS

| Art | Film | Science & Technology |
|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Art Appreciation (2) | French Conversation (2) | Scrabble (2) |
| Beer Appreciation | Gardening | Sign Language (2) |
| Birding | Geography | Singing for Pleasure |
| Book Group (3) | Geology | Shakespeare Studies |
| Boules (3) | German Conversation | Table Tennis |
| Bowls (2) | History (4) | Tap Dancing (2) |
| Bridge | International Folk Dancing | Theatre |
| Cars & Motoring | Jazz Appreciation | Short Walks |
| Canasta (2) | Local History | Walking |
| Creative Writing | Mah Jong | Wild Flowers |
| Current Affairs (3) | Motorcycling | Wind Recorders |
| Dining | Painting | Wine Appreciation |
| Family History | Poetry Appreciation | |