



Matlock Area U3A Annual Report 2018 -2019



REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

2018-19 has been a year of changes within MAU3A, some have been the result of embracing new technology but others have been a reaction to demands of new legislation. Like an iceberg, there has been a lot going on beneath the surface but the Management Committee has tried to insulate members from this as far as possible.

Some services to members have been cut back in response to a general move towards reducing paper – paper copies of ‘What’s On’ have been withdrawn and it is now distributed electronically. Social events organized by the Committee have not been well attended, so the programme of events has been reduced to gauge members’ reactions.

I am happy to report that the membership has continued to grow healthily and is expected to exceed 700 before the membership year ends. This is despite a new U3A starting in Wirksworth as well as the long-established Bakewell U3A. We look forward to working with those groups so that we all prosper and we hope to organize some joint events in the future. The number and variety of our own groups has continued to grow and now stands at 57. Why not look through the list of groups and try something new during the coming year? A warm welcome awaits you whatever you choose.

None of this would have been possible without the energy and commitment of our Coordinators. A very big thank you to all of them.

Although the number of centrally organized events has been reduced, individual groups have continued with their own events. The Theatre group continues to travel to many venues both within the region and further afield and the Art Appreciation, Science and Technology, Bridge, Gardening, Motoring, Walking and History groups have all organized successful and interesting trips.

We have attempted to make Coffee Mornings more interesting by inviting external speakers as well as showcasing our own groups. We are also inviting other local groups to come and talk about what they offer. Our 2018 Coffee Mornings were brought to a seasonal close by the German Conversation group enlightening us about Weinacht.

On 7th December about 50 members enjoyed the usual Christmas party at Matlock Golf Club with traditional fare and dancing to local band, Timewarp. Thanks to Sybil Dunn who organized the festivities.

Membership records have now been transferred to the electronic Beacon system. Thanks to the great preparatory work by Diane and Mike Frosdick, as well as others, the transition has been very smooth. Beacon is now being used by coordinators to distribute information to their groups. The next step will be the migration of our accounting records. Another change has been to implement our banking provider’s internet banking option.

We are also developing a new website. This became necessary as support is no longer available for our existing website software. Thanks to Martin Emery and Penny Ackland for their research in finding a new provider. Penny has also managed the existing website plus the monthly ‘What’s On’.

Welfare of members is increasingly important and we are making efforts to ensure that access is improved by providing equipment for the hard of hearing. The team from Derbyshire Dales DC came to talk at a Coffee Morning about keeping healthy in advancing years; their free fitness checks proved very popular. We have also arranged free First Aid training for any member. New policies are being developed on issues such as adult safeguarding and health and safety. One issue that has required a great deal of effort is data privacy and protection. Not only are there legal obligations on MAU3A, but we also have a responsibility to our members to keep their data secure and to minimise the amount that we store. We are indebted to Helen Boocock for steering this through. We have also distributed general advice about online safety.

Finally, thanks to our Management Committee; new recruits have pitched in to help this year and the members have shouldered a huge amount of work behind the scenes. Thank you all for keeping MAU3A’s wheels turning. If you would like to do your bit to help us, please talk to us about forthcoming vacancies that need to be filled at the next AGM. In 2019 the AGM will be held at the Imperial Rooms in Matlock on Monday 11th March at 1.30 pm. Entertainment will be provided by the Fool’s Gold Acoustic Duo. Their shows mix together live music, spoken word stories and projected images that tell of the hidden histories, mysteries and tragedies that lie behind some well-known songs and famous events and characters.

Dave Puxley (chair@matlockareau3a.org.uk)

HERE IS A FLAVOUR OF THE GROUPS' ACTIVITIES IN 2018

BIRDING GROUP

The birding group is a joint Matlock and Bakewell U3A enterprise, producing a strong group with 33 novice and experienced birders. Between 10 and 16 attend each outing and with 20 for the Christmas lunch and walk! For the first time in 2018 the members took it in turns to organise the monthly outings, choosing their favourite, season-appropriate sites. We visited Bempton Cliffs in the Puffin and Gannet breeding season and were delighted with their antics in a sky filled with birds. At Old Moor we saw Grey Phalarope and Knot and at Blacktoft Sands had good sightings of Ruff and Blacktailed Godwit as well as a several superb displays from a mature Marsh Harrier female. We share responsibility also for recording the birds seen and sharing this with the group. We car share, information share and don't take ourselves too seriously. Thank you to the members for a great year.

Jane Burgess



TABLE TENNIS GROUP

The Table Tennis group has thrived this year, with good numbers most weeks. We are fortunate in having the use of four tables at the Whitworth Centre in Darley Dale every Friday afternoon from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

Table tennis has been shown to be a very beneficial sport, particularly as we get older. It promotes good hand eye co-ordination, is good for bone density and is generally an excellent way of keeping fit.

We have a wide range of abilities in the group ranging from not much more than beginners to seasoned players, and all are welcome of any ability – we're always pleased to see new faces. We feel we have a warm friendship at the group, so if you're free on a Friday afternoon, why not give us a try. We can lend you a bat if necessary. As an added incentive, several of us usually retire to the Whitworth Café afterwards for tea or coffee.

Anthony Wells

CARS AND MOTORING GROUP

The Cars and Motoring group enjoyed another year of varied events in 2018, together with a steady rise in membership. Events in 2018 included scenic runs, outings to vehicle restoration workshops, motor shows and sporting events. Space restrictions (150 words) preclude a fuller description of 2018 events which can be found on our web page at: <http://www.matlockareau3a.org.uk/Groups/carsandmotoring.html>

Quiz Question: This picture was taken during one of our scenic outings this year. What is the numerical relationship between the four vehicles in the picture (no, it's not that they each have 4 wheels!)? For the answer, see our U3A web page.

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!

Hartley Jenkinson



WIND RECORDER GROUP

The Wind Recorder Group started meeting in September 2017 and approximately 20 people have tried sessions. We have 13 active members; usually 6 - 8 players attend each fortnightly meeting. Players are developing confidence in playing different parts other than the tune, and some players are also taking on the challenge of learning different sized instruments, which requires changing the fingers for a given notation. We play a range of styles and levels of difficulty and enjoy playing together without the pressure of performance!

Karen Hale



ART GROUP

In 2018 we explored Crafts in the world of art, including the Arts & Craft movement and textile artists May Morris, Sonja Delaunay and Alice Kettle. We also heard about the quilts of the Amish community of Pennsylvania. In June, we had a joint outing with AA1 to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford to see the 'America's Cool Modernism'. It was an excellent exhibition and a very successful coach trip.

In the second half of the year topics included John Piper; Monet; Bill Viola (video artist); Expressionism and Abstract Expressionism; Prints and how they are achieved; Asian Art including traditional artefacts and contemporary Asian artists. All the presentations were made by members - they put in wonderful research and we are all a little bit wiser!

Penny Whitney

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

We continue to encourage members to tell us about their ancestors and shared many discussions and suggestions for overcoming obstacles. We also brought in various topical items to share; cookery books, correspondence, and other items pertinent to our topic.

We've had a very interesting and varied programme of diverse topics and presentations by members which developed new skills and confidence doing the mini presentations.

Topics included 'Plagues, pestilence and pandemics', 'DNA', 'Food our ancestors ate', 'Certificates for a variety of events', 'Letters postcards and other personal correspondence, including collections in the Local Studies Library', 'Appliances and gadgets that changed our lives', 'Looking at the 1939 register to find our ancestors'.

Liza at the Local Studies Library updated us on newspapers both local and national that are available on line and how to find them. We were then able to look at antics some of our ancestors got up to.

Angie Corby

HISTORY GROUP 1

This year we have undertaken an ambitious programme covering the period 1066-1485.

Members chose a wide and diverse range of topics for their presentations - monarchs and nobles of the period, as well as Norman influence in areas as far apart as Derbyshire and Sicily, plus the horrors of the Black Death.

Our 5 minute entrees at the start of each session entertained and informed in equal measure.

For our visit, we enjoyed a guided tour of the stunning Lichfield Cathedral followed by lunch in the cathedral cafe.

Once again, our final meeting of the year was at The Family Tree in Whatstandwell, culminating in a delicious gourmet finger buffet.

Janet Pidgeon

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.

In early May, over 30 members attended the Group's 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. Many thanks to Margaret Rice and Chris Barnes for again organising this event and planning for a return in the coming year.

In early July, we held the first 'Frank Hemming Salver' competition. The salver has been donated by Frank Hemming who, with John Boadle, formed the Group some ten years ago. The salver will now be competed for annually on the first Wednesday in July. Congratulations to our two worthy inaugural winners, Joan Cooper and Gill Ribaudi.

The Group's annual Christmas lunch on 19 December was an all-time record, with 70 members attending, so many, in fact, that, for the first time, we ran out of available tables upon which to play! Nonetheless, a great time was had by all, topped, as always, by Roland's inimitable cabaret.

Roger Keeling

CURRENT AFFAIRS 2 GROUP

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 2019 promising even more of the same.

Roger Keeling

INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING GROUP

We have had another enjoyable year of international folk dancing increasing our numbers with several new members. Our repertoire has also increased and we now perform a wide range of dances from slow and easy through to lively and extremely energetic: we have dances to suit everyone's ability and state of agility!

Ours is a friendly and welcoming group led with patience and good humour by Janet King and ably supported by several of our group who have taught us new dances they learned at workshops throughout the year. We are fortunate in having such a competent crew willing to provide us with some very enjoyable Friday mornings.

Hilary Casey



JAZZ APPRECIATION GROUP

Having ambled our way through eight good years and now entering our ninth, the group remains in rude good health contained only by room sizes and the availability of easy chairs.

I have noted over the recent past, however, that the media like to say that Jazz is making a come-back - this is quite untrue!

Apart from one or two notable exceptions, Jazz remains firmly rooted in the past, and now for us it's just a case of finding it. It's so hard to better the numerous but long gone virtuosos and those brilliant song-smiths. Fortunately, there is still much music waiting to be discovered and tapped into.

Mike Reuss

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY GROUP

The Sci-Tech group meets eleven times a year at St Elphin's and grew over 2018 with up to 25 people attending; new members are still welcome. Subjects covered ranged from Gravity to Evolution on the science side and from Satellite Communications to Flying Cars for technology. Sessions were led by outside experts, or by our group members, or were round table discussions of topical items such as global warming. In February we had a very snowy outing to the Chesterfield Observatory but those who managed to struggle through the elements enjoyed an informative talk and fine views of the moon. In September we went to Barrow Hill Roundhouse to marvel at the engineering genius behind the Deltic diesel engine. Whether expert or interested amateur, come along and be challenged and amazed!

Mary Mellor



ART APPRECIATION 1 GROUP

We meet each month at the Whitworth Centre and we generally have two presentations from members of the group about the life and work of artists. Over the past year we have looked at artists from a wide range of periods. These have been mainly painters but we have also considered print makers, illustrators, sculptors and photographers. We have focused more than in previous years on female artists including Paula Rego, Frida Kahlo, Berthe Morisot, Laura Knight and Elizabeth Frink. Discussions often follow a presentation and we have debated whether it is possible or even ethical to admire the work of a disreputable artist.

In June we joined Art Appreciation 2 for a trip to the Ashmolean Gallery in Oxford and in December we visited Lakeside Gallery, Nottingham for the Harold Gilman exhibition. We welcome other members of MAU3A to come with us on our days out.

The group maintains a stimulating approach based on the generous work of members who enthusiastically research and present work.

Anne Oldfield

SINGING FOR PLEASURE GROUP

The Singing for Pleasure group continues to be very well attended, with 30 to 40 singers meeting each month. We have two pianists to keep us in tune and in time, and together we have sung rounds, traditional songs, songs from our younger days and, as it was the 100th anniversary of the Armistice in November, some songs from the WW1 era. In December we sang carols and were accompanied by a trumpeter in addition to our pianists. Truly uplifting! We all enjoy our singing and hope to continue similarly in 2019.

Hazel Finch

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, who we would like to thank.

For the indoor meetings, we had talks on 'The Early History of Matlock Town Football Club', 'John Bowne', 'What is the connection between Thomas Babbington, Elizabeth 1, Sir Walter Raleigh and Tansley', 'An illustrated talk on Matlock Bank', 'The History of the Turnpike System' and December was a mixed offering, with members reading interesting topics from Derbyshire books. Outings have been to the John Smedley Factory, Revolution House, Old Whittington, a visit to High Peak Junction on a hot day, two guided walks, one around Rowsley and the other Matlock Bath and a guided tour of Kedleston Hall.

Susan Tomlinson

CURRENT AFFAIRS 1 GROUP

Brexit, brexit and more brexit – this is definitely a re-run of last year, with a good dose of American politics thrown in for good measure. We also looked at the headlines/articles in a wide range of papers which is an interesting reflection on the media in general. One highlight of the year was the meeting when we were all challenged to a recent current affair that revolved around a word beginning with tr (Trump was banned). This was both interesting and entertaining. Looking ahead I'm sure that 2019 will also be a fascinating year for us all.

Ros Bourne

HISTORY GROUP 3

We continue to mine the nineteenth century for what appears to be an inexhaustible and enjoyable supply of fascinating topics. This year's research has ranged from a history of New Zealand to a plunge into London's sewers via the Indian Mutiny, Great Exhibition, Derbyshire landowners, and the development of Victorian Cities, Gibraltar and Charge of the Light Brigade. Our examination of Great Lives has included Sir Joseph Whitworth, William Gladstone and Female Explorers.

With our partners we have also met over a Christmas meal, summer barbecue and field trip - which this year toured nineteenth century sites in Manchester.

Each member of the group presents one topic a year and we meet monthly in members' homes. Currently we have one space for anyone interested in joining us.

John Entwistle



FILM GROUP

The Film Group continues to jog along nicely. We hold informal and friendly discussions about previously chosen films on the second Wednesday of the month at The Duke of Wellington pub in Matlock.

Sometimes we talk about up to five films but there's no need to have seen them all! It might just whet your appetite to see that film or confirm your suspicions that it's not for you.

We view whatever takes our fancy according to availability at our local cinemas, from Oscar winners such as 'Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri' and 'The Shape of Water' to historical dramas 'Darkest Hour', 'Peterloo' and 'Cold War' and biopics including 'The Happy Prince' (Oscar Wilde) and 'First Man' (Neil Armstrong's moon landing).

In the leaner months, we might have a quiz or meet in someone's home to watch a classic DVD.

Why not give us a try?

Sarah Puxley

CURRENT AFFAIRS 3 GROUP

The events of 2018 have certainly prompted some lively and interesting discussions. We have tried to limit discussions on both Brexit and Trump as there are also lots of other things happening in the world! Our discussions have ranged from 'Yemen – the Forgotten War' to a challenge to bring some 'Good News' items to one meeting – any news item was OK.

We have welcomed new members during the year. The Group decides on which topic to discuss at the next meeting. We meet monthly (apart from December) in members' homes.

2019 will be another challenging year and the Group aims to have its first 'away day'

We currently have a couple of spaces for anyone wanting to join us.

Tracy Sims

ART APPRECIATION 2 GROUP

In 2018 we explored Crafts in the world of art, including the Arts & Craft movement and textile artists May Morris, Sonja Delaunay and Alice Kettle. We also heard about the quilts of the Amish community of Pennsylvania.

In June, we had a joint outing with AA1 to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford to see the 'America's Cool Modernism' exhibition. It was an excellent exhibition and a very successful coach trip.

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Penny Whitney

HISTORY GROUP 5

History Group 5 was formed in February 2018 and currently consists of 12 members, all residents of St Elphins Park in Darley Dale. The group decided to investigate 'The History and Culture of Derbyshire and Yorkshire' in 2018 which will continue into 2019. A total of eight presentations were made from March through December including the early history of Darley (Derelie), the history of the Denby Pottery, the life and times of Sir Joseph Whitworth, the hydrotherapy industry in the Derwent Valley, the exploits of Richard Arkwright and the coal mining history of the Wentworth Woodhouse Estate. One group trip out was made to the Cutler's Hall in Sheffield.

Activities planned for 2019 include a visit to Stancliffe Hall in Darley Dale and a trip to Wentworth Woodhouse in South Yorkshire. Scheduled presentations include the history of the old Derby silk mill and the life of Florence Nightingale. The group meets every second Wednesday of the month in the St Elphin's Residents' Library.

Jill Schmidt



GARDENING GROUP

2018 has seen lots of different events from our active and popular group. We kicked off the year in deep snow with a talk from Jeff Bates of the RHS, had lovely homemade cake and snowdrops at Highfield House, and visited Lea Gardens, saw fantastic in Darley Abbey Park among other trips. Perhaps the highpoint of the year was our coach trip to Harlow Carr which attracted over 50 members. Our meetings are once a month on various days depending on availability, and all are welcome, you don't have to be a keen gardener yourself, just to enjoy gardens.

Liz Walker



BOULES UN, DEUX, TROIS AND D'HIVER GROUP

2014 saw Boules first being offered to MAU3A members. Five years later and we have expanded to three summer and one winter group! The hot summer of 2018 was perfect and we enjoyed some brilliant sessions. The winter group has been less lucky, with a wet winter last year and, as I write, a poor start to this season.

Each group plays on a weekly basis with up to twelve players, forming teams of two or three, who play against each other. The Monday and Friday groups play in the morning and then enjoy lunch or a drink together and put the world to rights. On Wednesday we play in the afternoon, followed by a drink - in the winter a mug of hot chocolate is very well received!

Boules is a fun and sociable game, which is really enjoyed by all players. Should you want more information, or wish to join us, please visit our page on the MAU3A website.

Finally, we would like to thank Warren Makinson for coordinating Boules Un for the last four years. We also thank Neil Mather, who has kindly offered to take on this role...

Martin Emery

SHORT WALKS GROUP

The Short Walks group has enjoyed a range of half day walks held on a Saturday morning. The emphasis has been enjoying our lovely countryside without the need to travel far out of the area and generally amble for up to two hours (3-4 miles) and usually ending with a coffee. Walks have included Willersley Castle, Rowsley, Lumsdale, Cromford, Carsington, Lathkill Dale and Chatsworth. The year finished with a walk and Festive lunch at Hassop Station.

We generally take it in turns to choose and lead the walk and to share transport. This year members have paired up with another person to assist in organising the walk which has been most successful. We currently walk once a month but for the coming year we want to try and increase this to fortnightly depending on volunteer leaders. Also, we might try using public transport more often so we can do linear walks for a change.

If you love the Derbyshire countryside and want some gentle exercise new members are always welcome.

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

Hilary Essen

CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

Our (relatively) small but committed group has continued to meet on the first Wednesday of every month from 2pm to 4pm, as last year swapping venues between members' houses. Many thanks to all who hosted meetings during 2018 and thus contributed greatly to their success. (We didn't need to take any months off during the main holiday months etc. as there were always enough members each month wishing to meet.)

The meeting format remained the same, and continued to work well: we set a topic, or a choice of topics, and generally worked with just one real constraint, that of length. Otherwise, the form of the written piece might be prose (fact, fiction, or something in between), verse, or dialogue/script. From time to time, however, we set tighter limits, flash fiction for example, or a stipulation (once!) that the piece mustn't contain a particular vowel. (Not easy, but it produced ingenious and often hilarious outcomes) Our contributions are each briefly and sympathetically critiqued, and of course we also enjoy sharing the thoughts and ideas provoked by what we've just listened to. It never fails to surprise and delight that our writers can create such engaging and thoughtful work around the same topic.

The second half of the meeting is spent on skills activities which we aim to make as much fun as possible.

We look forward to another creative and engaging year.

Malcolm Molloy

BOULES UN, DEUX, TROIS AND D'HIVER GROUP

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Martin Emery

PAINTING GROUP

The Wednesday Painting Group has enjoyed another busy year. Liz Chisnall stepped down as coordinator at the end of 2017 and we thank her for all her hard work and enthusiasm leading the group for more than 10 years. We now share several of the duties that Liz took in her stride.

Members have contributed interesting pieces under the varied titles of the monthly topics. Brave souls have lead workshops in a range of subjects, wet into wet watercolour landscape, printing, collage and a talk and display of Chinese paintings made by a member whilst resident in Hong Kong.

A talented group have enjoyed producing very good portraits during sessions we have held over the year.

Our programme for 2019 includes workshops by 3 visiting artists, an 'en plein air' session and interesting monthly subjects. We continue to enjoy our Wednesday mornings exploring new mediums and ideas.

Gill Oldroyd

REPORT ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BEACON SYSTEM

MAU3A members may have heard the name 'Beacon' recently but many of you will not know much or anything about it. Beacon provides individual U3As with a secure, efficient means of managing their day-to-day business functions via an online membership database.

The system was developed by members from several U3As in 2015 with the backing of the Third Age Trust. TAT recognises that Beacon is a key resource for a rapidly growing number of U3As (currently around 300). MAU3A began using the system in July 2018. The cost to U3As is currently 50p per active member.

Our data is secure and held in one place. It can be accessed only by Matlock Area U3A authorised users e.g. Membership Secretary, Treasurer, What's On Editor, Chair, Gift Aid and Beacon Administrators & Group Coordinators, each with their own 'individual permissions' to do just what they need to do - no more, no less. Member's data is not shared with any other organisation.

So what can Beacon do?

Beacon provides a set of tools for handling membership: new members, renewals, subscriptions etc. Our Treasurer is hoping to use Beacon for MAU3A finances in 2019.

Group coordinators have the option to use it to manage and communicate with their groups. It is possible to limit access to your contact details by group coordinators, contact Sue Petrie, the membership secretary for further details.

Already Beacon is proving its worth and we look forward to reaping further rewards in the year to come.

Diane Frosdick
Beacon Administrator

**TRUSTEES OF THE MATLOCK AREA U3A AND
MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
(2018-2019)**

Name	Home Location	Committee Role	Elected Until
Sue Petrie	Ashover	Membership Secretariat	2020
Helen Boocock	Matlock	Business Secretary	2019
Goldine Scott	Cromford	Groups' Secretary	2021
Roger Keeling	Wirksworth	Treasurer	2021
Dave Puxley	Matlock	Chair	2021
Penny Ackland	Matlock Bath	Webmaster / What's On	2019
Peter Hume	Cromford	Ordinary Member	2019
Liz Walker	Darley Dale	Ordinary Member	2021
Tracy Sims	Tansley	Publicity Officer	2020
Sybil Dunn	Hackney	Social Events	2021
Lesley Shawe	Matlock Bath	Coffee Morning Organiser	2021
Liz Vincent	Ashover	Coffee Morning Organiser	2021
Hilary Essen	Matlock	Ordinary Member (Welfare / Access)	2021
Diane Frosdick	Matlock Bath	Beacon Administrator (co-opted)	
Martin Eyre	Matlock	Gift Aid (co-opted)	

MATLOCK AREA U3A GROUPS

Details of all the current Matlock Area U3A Groups can be found at:
<http://www.matlockareau3a.org.uk/groups>

Registered charity number: 1161704

Website: www.matlockareau3a.org.uk