

MATLOCK AREA u3a

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

As we hopefully move forward out of lock-down I would like to thank all those people who have kept us going this year, from the medical staff and key workers who have kept Matlock going, to all those within Matlock Area u3a who have tried wherever possible to keep groups and contact going. I know it hasn't always been possible for some groups to continue, but many groups have done their best, and whilst some u3a's have completely stopped, I believe we have thrived as evidenced by the fact that we continue to get new members and that you have all renewed.

I hope that group activities will start up again as soon as allowed, but also hope that we can get some new groups and activities going. We need members to consider what they can do to get involved, by helping with groups or at committee level. The u3a is a 'bottom up' organisation, it is up to you the members to get groups up and running, not up to group coordinators to organise you. Share responsibility, get involved. We, the committee, can give you lots of support to help get groups running, so come forward with ideas, but ultimately, we can only do so much.

Let us hope we can meet again ...after we have given all those friends and relations a big hug!

Liz Walker – Chair MAu3a

WHAT HAS HAPPENED DURING 2020

As everyone now knows, 2020 did not turn out to be a year like any other. From March, everyone had to find new ways of doing things and both the National u3a and Matlock u3a had to adapt and reach out to members in a way that hadn't been tried on such a large scale before.

Although initially, many groups had to curtail their activities, particularly those of a more physical nature, as the year progressed groups found a variety of ways to remain active, whilst complying with the ever-changing Government restrictions.

It is a testament to our members' resourcefulness that over half of the groups are still active in one way or another.

Here are just a few examples of how you adapted to try and maintain a level of activity during the year:

- Some indoor groups, that used hired venues, had to find new premises that complied with the “Covid Secure” requirements. The Wine Tasting, Table-tennis, Tapdancing, Painting and International Dancing Groups all managed to organise this, until restrictions dictated otherwise. Not to be deterred, the International Dancing Group continued their activities outdoors, until the ‘weather stopped play’;
- The Singing for Pleasure group now sing online and the Bridge Group play regularly using a Bridge App;
- Groups that normally meet in members’ homes found a variety of ways to keep going. The Wind Recorder Group met outdoors for a while. Other groups including the Book Groups, Current Affairs, History, Art Appreciation, Sign Language and Poetry Groups got to grips with Zoom Meetings and have continued to hold their sessions throughout the year.
- Some of the History Groups came together via Zoom to have their first History Conference, showcasing their more popular talks and quizzes have also been a way that a few groups have added variety to their meetings. In fact, some have found that Zoom offers even greater flexibility to their meetings;
- Other groups have successfully managed to continue their interests by using email. The Creative Writing Group email a written article for members to critique. One of the Art Appreciation Groups use email to exchange information about art exhibitions. WhatsApp and YouTube have also been used successfully by the Art Group and The Jazz Appreciation Group;
- The Walking and Birding Groups maintained their activities, whilst complying with Covid guidelines. For members who don’t have anyone else to walk with during the tighter restrictions a buddy system has worked well.
- During the year the Web Team, with ideas and input from Committee members, have been very active re-designing the front page of the MAu3a website to showcase items of interest in the Matlock Mole, fun quiz questions, for example ‘Who is Your Favourite Historical Valentine’ and members’ photos to brighten up your day.

The Management Committee has also been active during the last year:

- The Newsletter has continued to be circulated with items of interest and a temporary ‘Weekly Bulletin’ is being circulated to showcase events and activities that members may want to research further;

- A Membership Survey was carried out to find out what members are interested in and how they can be supported going forward;
- Zoom coffee mornings provided an opportunity for Groups and members to share their interests with others and have a chat using the breakout sessions;
- An entertainment afternoon with Fool’s Gold proved very popular. Another entertainment event is being planned.

Although 2020 was at times frightening, stressful, boring and certainly unusual, MAu3a members rose to the challenge and helped to provide some much- needed entertainment, education, friendship and light relief.

WELL DONE TO ALL OUR MEMBERS.

TRUSTEES OF THE MATLOCK AREA U3A AND MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2020-21

NAME	HOME LOCATION	COMMITTEE ROLE	ELECTED UNTIL
Gill Needham	Matlock	Membership Secretary	2023
Roger Keeling	Wirksworth	Treasurer	2021
Liz Walker	Darley Dale	Chair	2023
John Entwistle	Matlock	Vice Chair	2022
Linda Wilson	Matlock	Business Secretary	2023
Tracy Sims	Tansley	Publicity Officer	2021
Lesley Shawe	Matlock Bath	Coffee Morning Organiser	2021
Sybil Dunn	Hackney	Ordinary Member	2021
Hilary Essen	Matlock	Group Liaison Officer	2021
Nick Bristow	Wirksworth	Ordinary Member	2023
Diane Frosdick	Matlock Bath	Beacon Administrator (co-opted)	

MATLOCK AREA U3A GROUPS

Details of all the current Matlock Area u3a Groups can be found at:

<https://matlockareau3a.org.uk/groups-list>

Website: <https://matlockareau3a.org.uk>