

# MATLOCK AREA u3a

## ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

### Report from the Chair

Reading my message from the Chair from 2021 I didn't anticipate that we would still be in the same situation one year on! A bit like folk at the beginning of the First World War, we are beginning to realise that the 'it will be all over by Christmas' mentality is not a realistic one.

However, what is remarkable is how much Matlock Area u3a has adapted and developed as the year has gone on. A year ago we had hardly heard of 'Zoom' and now it is second nature to many, though not all, of us. And who would have envisaged groups meeting outside, wrapped in gloves, hats and blankets to withstand the cold. Needs must...

For me personally the u3a highlight of the last year has been the 'Plant a Tree' project. I was absolutely delighted with the response to the planting of trees for the u3a 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary woodland. We have 200 trees in our copse area, and are already anticipating a visit to the Brecon Beacons to see them. (As they haven't even been planted yet this is some way in advance!)

Thanks are due to all those who have kept us going and thriving through this year.

- Thanks to all the coordinators who have adapted and developed their groups to keep them going.
- Thanks to those members who have set up new groups and put the energy into getting them off the ground.
- Thanks to the committee members who have worked behind the scenes to keep us legal, financially stable and functional.
- Thanks to all those who support the committee, especially to the web team led by Dave Puxley and Mike Frosdick, and to Diane Frosdick who has run our Beacon data management system which keeps all your personal data safe.
- And lastly thanks to you, the members, for your enthusiasm and support throughout the year.

I hope to 'see' you at the AGM on 21<sup>st</sup> March, which will be by Zoom again with a guest speaker, and for those of you who find such technology too difficult, I hope we shall be able to meet 'face to face' again in the not too distant future.

## WHAT HAS HAPPENED DURING 2021

We all hoped that 2021 would see a return to our normal lives. However, whilst there has been a stuttering return to normal activities, once again, our members' resourcefulness and determination to carry on, whatever life may throw at us, had been truly inspiring.

Your Committee have continued with their regular meetings, whether virtual or face to face, when allowed, to make sure that Matlock Area u3a continues to run smoothly, is properly financed and operates in accordance with the Constitution.

### National u3a Day

In June, the National u3a challenged the local u3as to hold a National u3a Day. As you can imagine, this provoked varied responses, both positive and negative. However, Matlock Area u3a Committee decided that if we could do something to showcase our activities, we should do so. We are all proud of what our members have achieved, particularly during the pandemic. So, we rolled up our sleeves, prayed for fine weather (it was a glorious Summer's day) and set up in Hall Leys Park with banners and flags. Volunteers distributed promotional leaflets and chatted to visitors to explain what the u3a is.



The International Folk dancing group also gave a demonstration and encouraged members of the public to join in.



### **Picnic in the Park**

In September, members were invited to attend an informal social get together in Whitworth Park. With so many groups still meeting virtually, we wanted to provide an opportunity for people to meet and chat. Again, the weather was kind to us and the afternoon was enjoyed by many of our members.



## Groups News

All Groups and in particular, Group Co-ordinators have found this another challenging year, but with a few added safety measures here and there (e.g. the requirement to complete a risk assessment and keep a register of attendees) the majority of the groups have continued to meet, either virtually or face to face. The Committee would like to say a big 'thank you' to everyone who has made this possible.

As the Covid 19 rules relaxed many of the outdoor activities groups resumed as soon as they were able.

Some Groups resumed their face-to-face indoor activities quite quickly but with enhanced Covid 19 precautions in place. Although these extra measures seemed a little daunting at first, the benefits of meeting face to face far outweighed the extra administration required.

Many Groups have continued to meet virtually where members preferred. Others are exploring the possibility of having hybrid meeting to provide flexibility for everyone to participate.

Whatever the outcome, our members continue to find solutions to all these challenges.

Although many groups have been unable to organise their normal outings during the better weather, the Gardening Group enjoyed a well-attended trip to the new RHS garden at Bridgewater. It was also encouraging to see 2 new groups formed this year, Derwent Dawdlers (a relaxed walking group) and Language Studies.

Some groups have, unfortunately, ceased during 2021 but it is encouraging to see that there are enquiries about possible new groups forming in 2022. Exciting times ahead.

## Web Team News

During the year the Web Team, with help from members and co-ordinators, have continued to improve and add to the website [matlockareau3a.org.uk](http://matlockareau3a.org.uk)

This is now a 'one stop shop' for all information on Matlock Area u3a, the Groups, activities, events, membership and feature information. It is our shop window for potential members and a valuable source of information for existing members.

Our thanks go to the Web Team for all their hard work in building and maintaining a first-class website that we can all be proud of.

## Coffee Mornings

As 2021 progressed, the popular monthly coffee mornings were resumed with a lot of behind the scenes work by members of the Committee, particularly Liz Mann who organised the events and Gill Needham who agreed to ‘have a go’ at providing Digi Desk support. Without volunteers for these events, they wouldn’t be possible.

Although 2021 continued to present challenges, we built on what we had learned in 2020 and that gave us the ability to continue to **learn, laugh, live.**

## WELL DONE TO ALL OUR MEMBERS,

### TRUSTEES OF THE MATLOCK AREA u3a AND MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2021-22

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
Stephen Bailey	Whatstandwell	Ordinary Member	2024
Liz Mann	Matlock	Ordinary Member	2024
Hilary Essen	Matlock	Group Liaison Officer	2021
Brian Williamson	Matlock	Ordinary Member	2024
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:

[matlockareau3a.org.uk/groups-list](http://matlockareau3a.org.uk/groups-list)

Website: [matlockareau3a.org.uk](http://matlockareau3a.org.uk)