

Matlock Area U3A

What's On

This June/July **2020 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.

AGM

The AGM was successfully held by Zoom on 22nd June. Thank you to the many of you who voted by email and post, and to those who attended, giving us a comfortable quorum.

Therefore the committee for next year is as follows:

Honorary Chair: Elizabeth Walker

Honorary Vice-Chair: John Entwistle

Honorary Business Secretary: Linda Wilson

Membership Secretary: Gill Needham

Honorary Treasurer: Roger Keeling

Groups Liaison Officer: Hilary Essen

Publicity Officer: Tracy Sims

Ordinary Members: Sybil Dunn, Lesley Shawe, Nick Bristow

Co-opted member (responsible for gift aid): Martin Eyre

Contact details can be found via the website on this link: [Matlock U3A website link](#)

What's Happening

Through these difficult times groups are beginning to find new ways of working and meeting. Who had ever heard of Zoom 6 months ago? And as for holding our AGM through it! The U3A was formed to encourage life long learning and many of us have found we can learn new skills.

Many of our groups are inactive at present. Some are using Zoom to meet, Book Groups, Current Affairs, History, Science and Tech, - but given our age cohort the future of face to face meetings remains uncertain. The Bridge Group have been holding their annual competition for the 'Frank Hemming Salver' using the website Bridge Base Online. The final will be held in early July.

There continues to be a lot of useful, educational and amusing content both on the U3A Facebook page, Keeping in Touch, and the U3A central website, where you can also register to receive the national newsletter. [National U3A Website](#)

Theatre Group

THE APPLAUSE IS GIVEN AND THE CURTAIN FALLS !

The end of our U3A Year marks the much regretted termination of the Theatre Group, even before the virus struck!

The group had been increasingly confronted with fewer widely appealing affordable theatre events. Moreover, the demanding roles of committee posts, where many had already given long service or were otherwise unable to serve through commitments elsewhere, led to shortage of replacement committee members: together leading to a decision to close down.

Over many happy years past, the Group enjoyed being provided with a pattern of varied, successful and memorable Theatre visits. There were inspirational and instructive Tuesday afternoon meetings providing much insight into Theatre craft - and equal measures of thought, wonder and laughter.

Matlock U3A must therefore mark the regretful occasion with thanks to those who took the painful decision to manage an orderly close down. But more especially should we thank all those very many members who, over past and recent times, have worked so hard and so well to create bountiful opportunities for members to experience Tragedy, Drama, Comedy and Farce, and yet walk away at the end of the show.

To all of you, we offer our applause and say thank you.

The Future

Although outside meeting in small groups is now permitted and some groups which meet outside are considering small group activities, the guidance from the central U3A is clear..any group wishing to restart activity should carry out an appropriate risk assessment/checklist to ensure the activity is safe for members to participate in.

Each member should then consider separately if it is sensible for them to take part. It is very much an individual decision...and you may choose to stay away for some time longer.

Given this, it is important for insurance purposes that any group restarting real time activities lets myself (chair@matlockarea3a.org.uk) or Hilary Essen (groupsec@matlockarea3a.org.uk) know what they are planning. We can then ensure that their activities are covered, this needn't be onerous...just a check to see that issues have been thought through.

Scams

There are some particularly sneaky scams around at the moment.. pretending to be from track and trace, then asking for bank details to send you a test. **BE AWARE!**

Finally

If you are finding the new technology daunting, but would like to experiment, please get in touch! If you feel you could buddy someone who would like help with new technology please get in touch! Between us I am sure we can help each other, particularly as we could now meet in a garden at a safe distance.

If you are feeling lonely and isolated please get in touch, we have other members

ready to ring or email regularly.

Whilst the rest of the world is emerging from lockdown, many of us will feel more unsure, and more isolated.

I am happy to act as a link if you would like personal or technical support.

My number is 07748917232 (Liz Walker)

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