

What's On

This **Mid Winter 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.

This is a plain text version ...if you want to see it in full colour with the new u3a logo and pictures then please open the attached pdf version.

Christmas Coffee Morning

Thanks to all of you who managed to Zoom to our Christmas coffee morning. We



were really pleased with the attendance and it was lovely to see so many familiar faces. There were problems I know with the sound quality of Peak Voices, we think it was down to so many of us, and possibly to some mics (mine included) not being muted. It's a learning curve! Do search for them on You Tube where you can listen to them uninterrupted, their singing is lovely. We made a contribution to them from our funds.

Coffee Morning

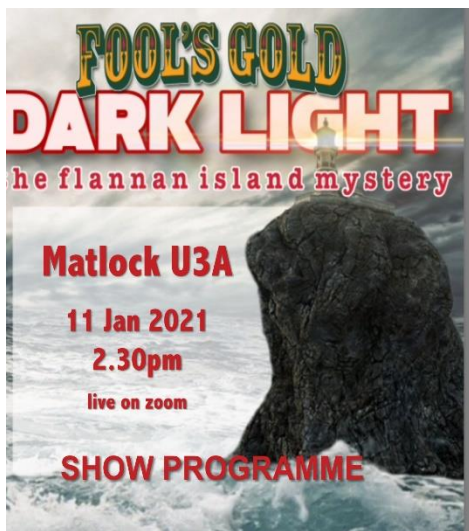
We are planning a much smaller, much shorter coffee morning on:

Monday 4th January at 10.30am

Just a chance to chat and exchange information, with maybe some input from a coordinator if we can get it organised. You will receive a Zoom invite nearer the time. If the last coffee morning was your first try on Zoom then do build on your triumph!

Fools Gold

This group of performers impressed us at the AGM a couple of years back. They have



converted to Zoom for the pandemic. This time the whole event will be coordinated and 'zoomed' by experts, so we should all be able to sit back and enjoy.

They will be giving us a personal performance on: **Monday 11th January at 2.30pm**

The full programme with details of the performers and the story is attached to this email.

You will receive a zoom invite nearer the time

Survey

We have had a really encouraging response to our survey of members views. The last day for completing it is the 20th Dec, so please do so asap if you wish to. We will be giving a summary of the results in a later newsletter, but thanks to all those who have responded.

Bridge

We are fortunate to be able to continue to play bridge using an app called Bridge Base Online, although, sadly, without our Wednesday morning social chatter and delicious refreshments. We have just finished our third online competition, with 22 pairs participating. There are three groups, the individual pairs in each group played against each other during November to decide a group winner. The nail-biting play off between the three winning pairs took place in early December and here are the worthy winners, Helen and John Watts, receiving their prize on a wintery day at the Whitworth



The Bridge group has around 60 members, with pre-Covid around 50 attending our weekly meetings at Matlock Football Club. The numbers taking part in this online competition shows how virtual bridge offers an attractive alternative in these times. If you can play Bridge, whether you have a partner or not, and would like to join in our next competition then check out 'Bridge Base Online' and contact the coordinator via this link. [Roger Keeling](#)

2021 Subscriptions

In the light of the curtailment of many of our activities this year the committee has decided that next year's subscription will be reduced to £5 per year, or £3.75 if you are a member of another u3a. It is due on the 1st February.

Gill Needham, the membership secretary, will be contacting you early in the New Year with details of how to pay. You can pay by post with a cheque, or by electronic transfer. *Please do not send cash*

If you do know of any friends/ members who have recently acquired email please encourage them to let the membership secretary know their 'new address'. If people do not have email they will receive a mail invite.

Matlock u3a Website

Check out the Christmas themed Matlock area u3a website on www.matlockareau3a.org.uk

As one of our web team, Martin Eyre, a founding member of Matlock u3a and a staunch member of the committee for many years, has moved away from Matlock we would like to recruit another 'web-person' to join Dave Puxley and Mike Frosdick. If you feel you could contribute then advanced skills are not necessary, just a willingness to learn. Please get in touch with Mike and Dave

Geology Group

The geology group enjoyed an excellent presentation on the Geology of Northwest Scotland courtesy of Geosupplies in Sheffield.

Scams

Watch out there's a scammer about! One of our members has reported that she has been the victim of scammers who knew her name and details, and tried to persuade her that Coronavirus meant they were not contacting her by the usual route. This time over service to her washer, but there is a lot of this about in a multitude of different disguises. It is so easy to fall for, they are very clever and devious, I know I got drawn into one once and the alarm bells only went at the last minute. Your tax is wrong and criminal proceedings are being initiated, your bank has suspicious activity and you need to give them details, they come in many different disguises. Take care....Think twice.

Finally



It just remains to wish all of you as best a Christmas as you can manage and a happy vaccinated New Year.

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