u3a learn, laugh, live

Maldon and District

Newsletter

Baby Elephant, Colchester

Geoff Macro

Photography Group - page 16

January 2022

www.maldonu3a.co.uk

Registered Charity 1086182

FROM THE CHAIR

Happy New Year to you all, and I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and managed to do all the things you had planned. Ours didn't go quite according to plan but we did fill the time by redecorating our bedroom! We know how to have fun!

As to changing plans, as you know the Committee decided to postpone the December monthly meeting at Wickham Bishops Hall because of the situation with the Omicron strain and at the time nothing was really known for certain as to its severity, just that it was highly contagious. This was all rather annoying as a lot of work had been done to make this an enjoyable and fun afternoon. However, we did have a quiz over Zoom. This had been put together by Veronica Smith and me, plus the technical side taken on by Tony Groves. We had over fifty members take part, with the eventual winner being Mary Cheshire. So, many congratulations to Mary on her solo endeavours and triumphant win!

Looking forward to 2022, the speaker for January is Sam Scott with her talk titled More Than Child's Play – Writing Books for Children.

As I write this, it is still not clear quite how the Covid situation will affect the activity groups and whether groups will continue meeting in person or will revert to using Zoom in some cases. It is, of course, entirely up to the co-ordinators and members of each group to decide how they feel about meeting. I would like to hear from them of their plans for the next few weeks until this current wave has passed, and the better weather has arrived.

In the meantime, we will continue to plan ahead and look forward to continuing with the success of our u3a throughout 2022 and wave goodbye to the last two years.

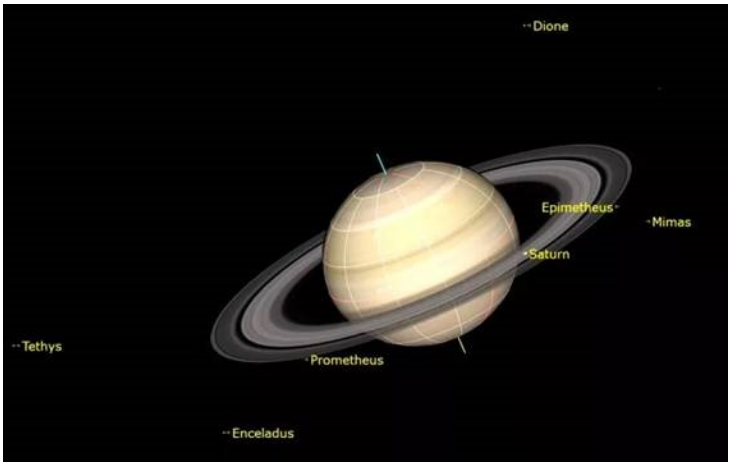
Shirley Macro

ASTRONOMY GROUP

The next meeting of this small but very friendly group is on **Monday 24th January** starting at 7:30 pm at Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge CM9 4RE.

If weather conditions allow then we will be observing the night sky, if not there will be discussions on "Planets and their Moons".

Please bring your telescopes, binoculars or monocular with you if possible, if not then there should be several telescopes through which you will be able observe the night sky.



If you would like to join the group or just come along for an Astronomy taster, then please contact Malcolm Case

MARITIME GROUP

The first meeting of 2022 is on **Monday 7th February** starting at 10:00 am for a talk by Gordon Davies on "Brunel and the *Great Western"*.

The *Great Western* was the first steamship to run a regular passenger service across the North Atlantic. In this talk we will place the ship in the context of its time, considering how passengers were carried before the era of the *Great Western*, the motivation of Bristolians to build the ship, and what the ship was like for passengers and crew. We will see that Brunel's involvement in building the *Great Western* was to change both his life and the future of shipping.

If restrictions allow, then we will be meeting at the Blackwater Sailing Club, Basin Road, Heybridge Basin, however if the club is closed due to COVID-19, then this talk will be via Zoom. I will advise all the group members prior to the meeting and give you the Zoom details if required.

If you would like to join the group for this and other talks then please contact Malcolm Case

Planned MARITIME GROUP Programme 2022

Monday 7th March	**Talk** by Roger Smith on Southampton Docks, its history including information on various ships.
Monday 4th April	No Meeting
Monday 2nd May	No meeting – Bank Holiday
Monday 6th June	**Talk** by Andrew Weir, the retired Managing Director of Bank Line, about the company and its formation.

Monday 4th July	**Trip** to the National Maritime Museum "Stores" for a guided tour with Dr Megan Barford of the various ancient nautical maps and other artifacts. This is a follow up from Dr Megan Barford's talk in November 2021. Plan is to leave Maldon in the morning, travel to London by coach, visit the Greenwich Maritime Museum, have lunch and then by coach to the "Stores". Cost per person to be advised.
Monday 1st August	**Trip** on the river Medway. Cost per person to be advised.
Monday 5th September	**Talk** by John Rogers on "An affair with a Dolly" (an essential shipwrighting tool). A light-hearted look at John's restorations of wooden boats, the intrigue of researching their heritage and the highs and lows of shipwrighting.
Monday 3rd October	**Talk** by Richard Jones on "Cable and Wireless". Richard will talk about life aboard a cable laying ship, and then talk about how we talk to our families in Australia or wherever without thinking about it. Satellite or cable? He will give brief history of submarine telephone cables and cable ships from past to present day. He will describe how a cable is laid and repaired, how a route is chosen and surveyed. Old copper cables versus modern fibre optics?
Monday 7th November	**Talk** by Alison Mainwood on "Lighthouses" which have been built all around the coasts of many nations to guide mariners away from dangerous rocks and reefs.
Monday 5th December	**Talk** on the "Regents Canal" by Simon Gregor. Simon is a Blue Badge Guide for London. He is also a World I and II battlefield guide. Simon currently lives in the USA so he will be talking to us via a video link. This will be followed by a discussion on our programme for 2023.

MONTHLY MEETING

Monday 21st February 2022

Wickham Bishops Hall

Doors open at 1:30 for 1:45 pm start

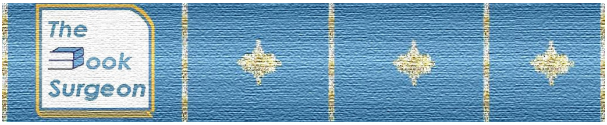
Mike Holton

Don't Judge a Book by its Cover

Mike has a workshop in Ipswich called The Book Surgeon, which explains in a nutshell what he does. He and his team can repair and rebind virtually any damaged book, using only traditional methods, tools, and equipment. The covers could be ornate and gilded or simple with cloth boards. We shall hear about such things as head boards, raised bands, French joints and five-point stitching. He will be telling us some of the tricks of the trade and how he came to be doing it and possibly about the workshops he runs to help others repair a much loved, damaged book.

Before

After



Don't forget your membership card to sign in.

MONTHLY SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2022

This is an outline of plans for monthly speakers for the first half of 2022.

Feb 21st	**Mike Holton**	**Don't Judge a Book by its Cover** *Overview of traditional bookbinding*
Mar 21st	**Danielle Barrett**	**Simon Cowell to Dragons Den** *A colourful life in the Music Industry*
Apr 18th	**Easter Monday**	**no meeting**
May 16th	**Saffron Summerfield**	**When Birds Sing – Nature's Music** *Birdsong and Birdcalls with guitar*
Jun 20th	**Anniversary Celebrations**	

If you know of any speakers and can recommend them, please contact me.

Veronica Smith, Speaker Secretary

POETRY GROUP

The next meeting of this very friendly group is on **Thursday 3rd February,** meeting in a member's house at 2:00 pm.

The poet for this meeting is Sylvia Plath who was an American poet, novelist and short story writer.

She is credited with advancing the genre of confessional poetry.

If you would like to join the group then please contact Jo Robson

u3a Birdwatching Group Programme 2022

No meeting in January		
5th February	Abberton	Meet in car park
6th March	Heybridge Basin	Meet in Daisy Meadow car park
2nd April	Tollesbury	Meet in Woodrolfe Road car park
7th May	Minsmere Reserve Suffolk	Meet in centre
18 June	Wrabness reserve	Meet in Railway Station car park
2nd July	Salcott	Park outside church
No meeting in August		
3rd September	Blue House Farm	Park in reserve car park
2nd October	Cudmore Grove East Mersea	Meet in pay and display car park
5th November	Wallasea Island	Meet in car park
4th December	Hanningfield Reservoir	Meet in car park

All rendezvous times 10 am unless otherwise stated.
All meetings subject to Covid rules in force at the time.

For full details of locations or requests for car shares please contact Co-ordinators:

Peter Gaywood
Michael Bagshaw

STROLLERS/STROLLERS TOO

After a "Pause" of a few months, both of the groups will be starting again this year.

The **Strollers Group** will be meeting on **Sunday 20th February.**

Strollers Too will be meeting on **Tuesday 22nd February**.

Both walks will as usual start at 10:30 am for a walk of about three and a half to four miles and wherever possible, will start and finish at a pub.

Further details on both walks will be in the February Newsletter.

If you would like to join either or both of the groups for what is a very friendly walk, then please contact:

Malcolm Case

MAH-JONG

Mah-Jong has places available for new members. We meet on alternate Fridays, at The Linton Room, WMCC from 2-4 pm.

Our next meeting is on **Friday 4th February.**

For more information contact Mags Pell.

GARDEN GROUP

Our first meeting, scheduled for 10.00 am on **Tuesday 25th January**, will be held at West Maldon Community Centre, Sunbury Way, Maldon CM9 6YH.

We shall be discussing future plans and visits, including our first of the year, booked for **February 22nd.**

Veronica Smith

Theresa Byles

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

You may recall that I mentioned we were taking part in the Christmas Tree Festival at All Saints Church, Maldon, last December.

Marrie Webster and I met at the Church and used a blue and gold colour scheme to decorate the tree.

The event was very well supported with over 50 trees on show.

Shirley Macro

SEAFARERS CENTRE TILBURY DONATIONS

I have received a letter of thanks from the manager of the Seafarers Centre in Tilbury for all of your much appreciated donated items during last year. The centre has so far donated over 3000 parcels to seafarers over the festive season.

If you can, then please continue to donate knitted items, toiletries, DVDs and jigsaw puzzles, please let me know if you have anything for the centre and I will arrange collection.

My thanks to all of you who have given so generously over the past year.

Malcolm Case

third age matters u3a

A chance to comment

Don't forget that Patrick Forsyth is now a member of the national u3a committee which monitors overall commercial activities. The prime revenue generator is the ***"Third Age Matters"*** magazine (see November Newsletter).

So we now have a direct way of commenting on third age matters, if you have any ideas about the magazine you would like passed on to the right quarter do let Patrick know.

SOCIAL ORGANISING GROUP

A "Big" thank you to all who replied to our questionnaire, it reaffirmed that we were planning the right things and it also gave us some new ideas.

Some of the suggestions however did not fit the remit of our group but cut across what other groups do. We will let the appropriate groups such as Theatre and Historic Country House Visits do that.

We will leave Coach Trips and Race Course Evenings for any member to set up and organise.

We are planning to have a Magic Evening in early March if restrictions allow, so be ready to get your tickets when we confirm it.

A Happy New Year to you all and we hope to see you at the events we have planned for 2022.

Mike Childs

TREE IDENTIFICATION GROUP

With a long list of British deciduous trees now identifiable, we shall have a look next at conifers.

We shall be meeting on **Friday 21st January** at 10.00 am, at the Cemetery in London Road, Maldon CM9 6LJ.

From Maldon, take the London Road from West Square, until you come to the first of three brick entrances. Drive in and park opposite the chapel, under a magnificent Wellingtonia.

Bring your usual equipment and if you have it, a hand lens. Leaves of some conifers are tiny!

Veronica Smith

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Our first meeting of 2022 is on **Monday January 24th** at 2 pm at Maldon Town Hall.

Our speaker is David Newman with his talk:

"The amazing Major Hay of Goldhanger"
a truly fascinating story.

Following current guidelines, chairs in the Town Hall will be spaced out and masks must be worn. A recent LFT test would be advisable.

We appreciate that any decision to attend is up to the individual, and you will be informed by email if there is a last minute alteration to our proposed plan.

However we look forward to seeing as many as feel happy to attend, on **January 24th**.

We wish you all a Very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Kathy and Sylvia

WELCOME

We are very pleased to welcome the following new members:

Glynis Evans
Sue Tarling
Sandra Sweeting

You in your 3rd age

FROM THE EDITOR

Many thanks for all your contributions to this newsletter, please keep them coming.

Keep looking at our website for any updates in-between newsletters. **www.maldonu3a.co.uk**

Liz Samson

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

My other half Chris sent me an Aviation contribution sharing details of his recently acquired new interest.

I think a brief explanation will help to understand his contribution.

Microsoft Flight Simulation 2020 is the latest version of the original 1970/80's computer game. This version is no longer just a game but an opportunity for ex pilots, existing pilots or would-be pilots to take to the sky in anything from a single engine propeller plane to a modern airliner.

You have full flying control with the assistance of instruments, yoke control and rudder pedals, you can explore the world skies with Google Earth accuracy and improved photogrammetry. The scenery is amazing, and using a 32" curved monitor you can view the Alps, Paris, New York, or land at Barra airfield. You can select the plane of your choice, take off from Heathrow or a small airfield like Stow Maries.

Are there any fellow enthusiasts in our u3a if so, he is happy to explain further and share the enthusiasm?

The picture below is just one example of a flight over Sandon School in a US Navy Widgeon, a plane from the 1940s that can also land on water.

Liz Samson

Flight Simulation in the comfort of your home—it is not the cheapest pastime, probably makes you fat but is immense fun, taxing the remaining brain cells and reminds one that **81 is really 18 *tub desrever***!

I got into it last spring, totally hooked now on *OLD SKOOL* planes with whirly bits up front.

Anyone else already a *PC Pilot*? Like to swap notes? Or *ab initio*?

Just like to know "what it's all about"? If so, contact me:

Chris Samson

US Navy WIDGEON over Sandon school

FILM GROUP

We met for our usual monthly Zoom meeting at the end of December to chat about the two films chosen to watch.

Starting with **"The Man Who Knew Infinity**", this was well received by everyone, and we thought it was an excellent film, with good cast and story. Mathematician Scrinivasa Ramanujan is not a household name but his contribution to the world of theoretical maths is considerable. He independently compiled nearly 3,900 results, mostly identities and equations. Many were completely novel and highly unconventional results and opened entire new areas of work and inspired a vast amount of further research. Of his thousands of results all but a dozen or two have been proved. A truly amazing and gifted man who sadly died very young. **Score: 8**

"The Third Man" divided opinion a bit more but we all agreed that it was one of the better films from the late 1940s. Very atmospheric setting in Vienna at the end of the war. As we have said before, films that are 70 years old are hard to compare with modern ones and must be viewed as of their time as far as acting styles and scripts are concerned. I thought the acting was a lot better than some of the old films we have watched. One thing we all agreed on was that the music, although instantly recognisable, became quite irritating after a while. **Score: 6.9**

<u>The next selections for January are:</u>

"Judy" - 2019 biographical drama based on the life of Judy Garland. It is an adaptation of the play "End of the Rainbow" by Peter Quilter. It stars Renee Zellweger, and the film follows the last year of Judy Garland's life when she relocated her stage career to Britain.

"Hector" - This is a 2015 film starring Peter Mullan as Hector McAdam. a warm-hearted, limping, homeless man whose background is revealed during the film. His experiences are of both the kindness and lack of kindness of others.

Both films available on BBC iPlayer for a limited period.

Our next Zoom meeting will be on **Wednesday, 26th January 2022, at 7.30 pm.**

If you would like to join, please get in touch.

Shirley Macro

PLACES IN ESSEX

By Veronica Smith

Some of you joined us in our Christmas Quiz Mark 2, on Zoom as we couldn't meet in the hall as planned.

In the Zoom quiz, I included a round on ***Anagrams of Places in Essex*** which I am hearing, some of you found quite hard, partly because you would have liked more time to think about them.

Well, try these and you can have all the time you need.

Answers on ***PAGE 17***

1.	**Vainly Dances (2)**	**6.**	**Late Dash**
2.	**Gets Fine Prop (2)**	**7.**	**Why Beat a Lamb (2)**
3.	**Note Seating**	**8.**	**Pair Pinch Gong (2)**
4.	**Clean Roles (2)**	**9.**	**Dear Fans Flown (2)**
5.	**Mains Bleed High (2)**	**10**	**Feel The Driver Pal (2)**

u3a 40th Anniversary

Extract from the u3a website

u3a turns 40 years old in 2022 and is '*fit for the future!*'

We will be celebrating this milestone with a packed programme of events running all year. u3as and members will have the opportunity to get involved in the celebrations and help raise the profile of our wonderful and vibrant organisation.

A full programme will be available soon but please check the web link below to find a taster of what's coming up.

https://u3a.org.uk/events/40th-anniversary

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

The photography group continues to meet monthly via Zoom.

The next meeting is on **Wednesday 19th January at 7:30pm**.

The subject for January is **'Reflections'.**

Visit the photography page on our website to see the growing and varied selection of pictures.

www.maldonu3a.co.uk/photography/photography.php

New members are most welcome, pictures can be of any standard that you have taken yourself.

A couple of December 2021 'Wildlife' pictures

Nicki Iszard

Tony Groves

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING GROUP

We are taking a break until April but plan to resume after Easter.

More news in the spring.

Shirley Grummett

QUIZ ANSWERS - PLACES IN ESSEX

1.	Canvey Island	6.	Halstead
2.	Epping Forest	7.	Waltham Abbey
3.	Ingatestone	8.	Chipping Ongar
4.	Earls Colne	9.	Saffron Walden
5.	Sible Hedingham	10.	Hatfield Peverel

RNLI - Collection Pots

The following has been received from the local branch of the RNLI in response to our latest donation of £23.90.

Please keep filling the pots!!!

Mary and Malcolm

The total raised by Maldon Branch with our 5p pots last year was a very impressive £224.37.

No I don't know why it is not an amount divisible by 5 either!!!

However in a year when people used cash a lot less then it is very encouraging. Please pass on our grateful thanks to all those who contribute to the pots. Maldon Branch grand total for the year was £14,775.42 - it was obviously down on pre-pandemic levels, but we managed to run a supermarket collection at both Morrisons and Tesco, which did help a lot.

Keep watching Saving Lives at Sea, and thank you for all your help and support.

YOUR COMMITTEE

Chairman	Shirley Macro
Vice Chairman	Malcolm Case
Secretary	Carol Bates
Treasurer	Geoff Cory
Membership Secretary	Malcolm Case
Newsletter Editor	Liz Samson
Speaker Secretary	Veronica Smith
Groups Co-ordinator	Malcolm Case
Committee	Alec Fraser
	Tony Groves
	Andrew Simmonds
Webmaster	Tony Groves
Social Group	Michael Childs
Essex Assoc. of u3a's Committee	Malcolm Case

Contact the u3a Office

u3a

156 Blackfriars Road

London, UK SE1 8EN

Tel: 020 8466 6139

Email: info@u3a.org.uk

www.u3a.org.uk

CO-ORDINATORS

Art Appreciation	Andy Simmonds
Aviation	tba
Astronomy	Malcolm Case
Balti Night	Bob Gowers
	Graham Evans
Bird Watching	Peter Gaywood
	Michael Bagshaw
Botany	Veronica Smith
Bridge	Sheila Epps
Canasta	Iris Slaney
Cribbage	Pat Clements
Croquet	Jean Healey
	Geoff Macro
	Shirley Macro
Discussion	Bryan Jones
Family History	Alan Buck
Film Club	Shirley Macro
French Conversation	Ann Lester
Garden	Theresa Byles
	Veronica Smith
Geology	Sylvia Cousins
German	Howard Broadbridge
Handicraft	Marian Manning
	Brenda Heal
History—Stuarts	Beryl McDonell
Just Jazz	Jim Light
	David Coombes
Local History	Sylvia Cousins Kathleen Goff
London Theatre Outings	Rosemary Case Joyce Cotterell
Meet & Eat	Joan Cummins
Mah-Jong	Mags Pell
Maritime	Malcolm Case
Music Appreciation	Enid Hall John Skuse
Petanque (Boules)	Jack Veash
	Geoff Macro
Photography	Tony Groves
Poetry	Jo Robson
Reading	Sheila Epps
Rummikub	Beryl McDonell
Scottish Country Dancing	Shirley Grummett
Sing for Pleasure	Sue Garnham
Strollers/Strollers Too	Malcolm Case
Ten Pin Bowling	David Arnold
Tree Identification	Veronica Smith
Wine Circle No. 2	Graham Boswell
Wine Circle No. 3	Mary Burd
Wine Circle No. 4	Ann Goody
Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth

Deadline for next newsletter: 9th February 2022

Schedule of Events - February 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
	1 German	2 Ten Pin Bowling	3 Poetry Rummikub Ten Pin Bowling	4 Mah-Jong	5 Bird Watching	6
7 Maritime	8	9 Bridge Meet and Eat Ten Pin Bowling	10 French History-Stuarts Ten Pin Bowling	11 Canasta Sing for Pleasure	12	13
14 Discussion Handicrafts	15 German	16 Geology Photography Ten Pin Bowling	17 Ten Pin Bowling	18 Mah-Jong	19	20 Strollers
21 **Monthly Meeting** Just Jazz	22 Garden Wine Group 4 Strollers Too	23 Bridge Wine Group 2 Writing for Fun Film Group Ten Pin Bowling	24 French Music App Wine Group 3 Ten Pin Bowling	25 Cribbage Family History Canasta Reading Sing for Pleasure	26	27
28 Local History Astronomy						

Schedule correct at time of publication - please confirm dates with co-ordinators, especially at this time.

Also check website **www.maldonu3a.co.uk**