u3a learn, laugh, live

Maldon and District

Newsletter

Subscription Renewal Time
before 31st August 2022
see page 10

July 2022

www.maldonu3a.co.uk

Registered Charity 1086182

FROM THE CHAIR

Here we are again, June gone and halfway through July already!

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone who came to the June members' meeting and for the kind comments received. All seemed to enjoy the afternoon. Thanks also to those who kindly helped with the clearing up and took bits and pieces home to clean and put away for next time. This was particularly great as we went off on holiday that evening, and I didn't have to come home to see the glasses waiting to be washed.

Thanks should also go to those members who sent in their memories relating to the Queen's Jubilee. These covered hearing about the old King's death, recollections of the Coronation and visits by Her Majesty to Maldon. If you would like to read these please go to our website and click on the Platinum Jubilee icon. This will open a flipbook which you can step through page by page.

The meeting for July is a talk by Graham and Mary Brace, Wildlife Photographers and Conservationists, and, looking ahead to August, the meeting then is a talk by Linda Knock on "Hylands House during World War II". If you haven't tried one of the monthly members' meetings before, please do come along: they cover a wide variety of interesting subjects and it's a good opportunity to meet and chat with other members.

I enjoyed another trip out with the Maritime group recently, when we visited the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich. Excellent trip, with two guided tours around an interesting and well laid out museum.

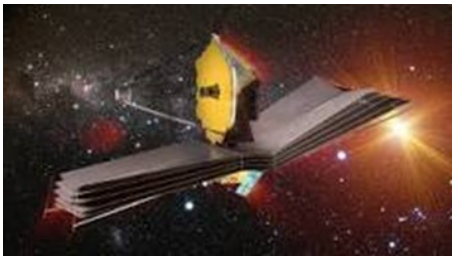
Finally, a gentle reminder from our Membership Secretary, Malcolm Case. Membership renewal is now due and if you haven't yet made your payment, we look forward to you doing so and continuing being part of Maldon and District u3a.

Best wishes,

Shirley Macro

ASTRONOMY GROUP

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 25th July**, starting at 7:30 pm at Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge, CM9 4RE, for a presentation and discussion on the latest telescope in orbit, the James Webb Telescope.



We had a very successful meeting on Monday 27th June when we had an excellent Astronomy Quiz given by Jo Marshal.

Any u3a member is very welcome to join the meeting.

Malcolm Case

MAH-JONG

Mah-Jong has places available for new members to join our group.

We meet on alternate Fridays in the Linton Room, West Maldon Community Centre at 1.45pm for a 2pm start, and we finish at 4pm.

I'm very happy to teach anybody who is interested in learning to play Mah-Jong. Our next meeting is **22nd July**. Please note that there will be NO meetings in August, we restart on **2nd September.**

For more information please contact:

Mags Pell

HISTORY-GEORGIANS

Due to some unexpected family commitments I am no longer able to organise the trip to Ely on September 8th and so after speaking with Beryl we have with regret decided to cancel the trip.

Kathy Goff

MARITIME GROUP

We are going to Maidstone for a trip from midday to 3:00pm on the River Medway on board the "Kentish Lady".

Departing from the West Maldon Community Centre at 10:15 on **Monday 1st August** (Please note new departure time). Please park your cars at the far end of the car park.

There are still a few spaces available, so if you would like to come on the trip, then please contact me. The cost is £48.00 per person, which includes the boat trip, coach hire, lunch, driver's tip and coach parking in Maidstone.

Malcolm Case

Planned MARITIME GROUP Programme 2022 (subject to change)

Mon 5th September	**Talk** by Roger Smith on **Southampton Docks**, its history including information on various ships.
Mon 3rd October	**Talk** by John Pomfret on **The Middle Danube and its Connected Waterways**. Based on a number of visits to the Danube, some by boat, this talk takes us down the Danube for over seven hundred miles from the Wachau, upstream of Vienna, through Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, and Serbia, ending with passage through the spectacular Iron Gate gorges and locks into Romania and Bulgaria. On the way we see four capital cities, many castles and fortresses and some spectacular scenery, while sharing the river with boats ranging from canoes to river cruise ships and 14000 tonne barge tows. We also take some diversions to look at the Danube's navigable tributaries and the extensive canal system of Vojvodina in Serbia.

Mon 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. They started off as wooden constructions with fires for lights, with obvious consequences, then some were built of brick or stone with oil lights, which meant that they could be built on off-lying rocks or on lightships - we will look at some of these. More recently, electric lights allowed some automation, so the lighthouse keepers no longer need to be present and the optics of the light itself have changed out of all recognition. Now many iconic lighthouses are becoming redundant and are being demolished (e.g. Orford Ness in Suffolk) or are being converted to other uses.
Mon 5th December	**Talk** on the **"Regents Canal"** by Simon Gregor. Simon is a Blue Badge Guide for London. He is also a World War 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.

All meetings are held at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Basin Road, Heybridge Basin on the first Monday of the month, starting at 10:00 am.

Chelmer Blackwater Nature Reserve

This exciting venture is now really underway since the site next to Tesco's car park and the river was bought earlier this year. This land has been saved from development and the non-profit community interest company aims to manage and improve it as a wildlife reserve with public access.

For information on how you could help by becoming a £5.00 shareholder and further details, please ask -

Veronica Smith or Patrick Forsyth

MONTHLY MEETING

Monday 15th August 2022

Wickham Bishops Hall **Doors open at 1:30 for 1:45 start**

Linda Knock "Hylands House during World War II"

Linda has been presenting talks on aspects of Hylands House, such as the families who have lived there and how the house has been used during various emergencies, as well as researching Hylands and leading tours. She will be telling us about the house and how it was put to use during World War II.

MONTHLY SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2022

Sept 19th	**Mike Benning**	**Policing at Stansted Airport**
Oct 17th	**Andy Thomas and AGM**	**Lewes and Bonfire Night**
Nov 21st	**Janet Brewer**	**Egyptology**
Dec 19th	**Christmas Entertainment**	

If you know of any speakers you can recommend, please contact me.
Veronica Smith, Speaker Secretary

WELCOME

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

June Banwell
Yvonne McAulay
Janet Richardson

You in your 3rd age

The Big Balti

After two successful Big Balti evenings we will be organizing a regular curry evening.

The next curry event will be held on
Monday 25th July at the
Balti Bhujon restaurant
Mill Road Maldon
6:30 to 7:00pm start
Most people arrive about 6:30pm

To add your name to the list please contact the following.

Graham Evans

Bob Gowers

GARDEN GROUP

The Garden Group will be taking a break from visits during August.

Theresa Byles

POETRY GROUP

There will not be a meeting in August. The next meeting will be on **Thursday 1st September**, further details will be in the August Newsletter.

Jo Robson

FROM THE EDITOR

Many thanks for all your contributions to this newsletter, please keep them coming. Look at our website for any updates in-between newsletters. **www.maldonu3a.co.uk**

Liz Samson

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Our next meeting at the Town Hall is on **Monday July 25th** at 2pm when our speaker will be Dr Helen Kemp for her talk on the "Past, Present and Future" of the Thomas Plume Library which is opposite the Town Hall.

Please give Dr Kemp your support if you can as this is one of the rare occasions when she is free from Monday lectures at Essex University, and she can give details of all the work involved at this historic library.

There will be ***NO MEETING IN AUGUST***.

In September we are proposing to have another walk down Maldon High Street, so if anyone has any interesting historical facts they wish to impart, please let us know. Meanwhile enjoy the Summer.

Kathy and Sylvia

LOCAL HISTORY OUTING June 27th 2022

On Monday June 27th, nineteen members enjoyed a visit to Burnham's Museum for a personal tour by local guide Margaret Smith.

The museum is on the waterfront and is very clean and tidy, and well laid out with many varied and interesting displays.

On the lower floor is a wonderful machine for grading oysters, once a flourishing industry, when suitably graded oysters were sent to London on a regular basis. In 1940, one oyster dredger even went to Dunkirk, and with the help of two other different boats, rescued a total of six hundred men from the beaches.

Farming was and still is to a lesser extent, important in the Burnham area and there was an interesting collection of farming tools and implements, including an egg grader, and a vicious-looking collar used to keep calves, who needed to be weaned, away from their mothers.

The Mildmay Foundry was an important employer and amongst other things, was once famous for making grand piano frames. Workers usually went to work on bicycles, whistling as they went, their flat caps set at a jaunty angle.

Sailing is still an important part of Burnham life, and upstairs were examples of wooden craft no longer made, as technical advances led to the current use of fibreglass instead. However rowing boats suitable for the Atlantic can still be made.

Despite intermittent showers, Margaret was able to take us along the waterfront, pointing out the various boatyards still used, and the Temperance House, once used as a Social Centre for boys on a seven year apprenticeship in wooden boat building. We passed several well-known hotels and pubs including the White Hart dating back to the 17th Century and finally reached the famous Clock Tower overlooking the wide High Street. This a red brick octagonal building erected in 1877 in memory of Laban Sweeting, a local oyster merchant and philanthropist.

We returned to the museum, which itself was once a boat building workshop, to thank Margaret for her most informative tour and to reflect that with sailing the main activity in Burnham, the annual event of "Burnham Week," recognised internationally as an important nautical event, begins on August 27th.

Sylvia Cousins

Our thanks to Mary Burd for the photos.

Maldon & District u3a
2022 - 2023 Membership Subscription Renewals

Subscriptions are due by no later than the 31st August 2022.
Please use our website **www.maldonu3a.co.uk/renewal.php** and complete the forms under "Membership Renewal". If you are unable to do this, then renewal forms are available from the Membership Secretary. **Each member must complete a separate form.**

Annual subscription is £20.00 per person, which can be paid by Bank Transfer into Barclays Bank, account name – **Maldon U3A; sort code 20-54-30; Account number 53198995, the reference you use MUST be your forename and surname**; or if you wish, you can still pay by cheque which should be made payable to **Maldon & District u3a.**

Using the website and paying by Bank Transfer is the preferred way.

The completed form(s) together with your payment must be made before the **31st August 2022.** We do not accept cash. **The forms together with your cheque (if paying by cheque) MUST be returned to the Membership Secretary.**

Data Protection Law and Database: The Renewal forms are used to check our database, please indicate on the form if your details are unchanged from your original renewal. Any changes then please advise the Membership Secretary.

Emergency Contact: Where couples are both members, please avoid using each other as emergency contacts. Please also ensure that you have the consent to use the name and telephone number of the person/s named as your emergency contact.

Gift Aid: Please indicate on the form "I want to Gift Aid" if you are able to gift aid your subscription.

DO IT NOW: You do not have to wait until the end of August.

Membership cards have already been sent to you (they are white plastic bar coded credit card size).

DISCUSSION GROUP

The Discussion Group meets on the second Monday afternoon of the month at 2pm at the Blue Boar Hotel, Maldon, in the Blue Room. Parking at the hotel is free if you register your car at the bar.

We generally pick out bits and pieces that are in the news - globally or locally - and we talk about anything that is concerning us and that we wish to get off our chests.

Our next meeting is at 2pm on **Monday 11th July**. We are a lively and friendly group and welcome new members.

Come along and give us a try!

Liz Jones

Reminder Visit V&A Thursday 22nd September

If you would like to join this outing, please contact Sheila Epps

We will leave West Maldon Community Centre at 8.30am for a visit to one of the best museums in town. Choose your area of interest and eat at the café if desired. Coach only passengers welcome. The rest of the South Kensington Museums are just down the road.

Cheque for £16 made payable to Maldon U3A please.

"Sound" Person "Still" Required

Since this was first posted in the Newsletter, those attending the monthly meeting in Wickham Bishops will have noticed the improved clarity of sound, as well as the disappearance of the large loudspeakers on tripod stands. No part of the u3a sound system is visible except the new digital wireless microphones. The basic sound kit is now easily carried in a briefcase and quickly plugged in at the side of the stage behind the curtain. Setting up the projector is unchanged and is also quite simple.

The arrangement used at Maldon Town Hall for Local History meetings is very similar.

If you are even thinking about coming forward, please see any member of the Committee and we can have an informal chat/demo at the next meeting. Support and training will be provided, as well as written instructions.

Alec Fraser

ART APPRECIATION GROUP

Recent Outings

A small but select group and a dog met in the Gnome Art Cafe in Maldon High Street where various infusions and cakes were enjoyed.

Andy Simmonds' photo shows members enjoying a cuppa in the delightful gardens of the Chelmsford Museum and Art Gallery at Oaklands House. An interesting museum but a mediocre art collection, haphazardly displayed. At least they have a small ceramics collection featuring local boy, Grayson Perry.

A trip to the Gallery store in South Woodham Ferrers is being planned, as well as a visit to an outdoor sculpture exhibition at Markshall Estate.

There will be NO meeting in August.

Contact for more information.

SUNDAY STROLLERS

Sunday 21st August - the walk will be around Nounsley/Hatfield Peverel and is about four miles long.

Meet up at 10.15 for a 10.30 start in the lay-by opposite Nounsley playground in Ulting Road, CM3 2LU.

Lunch after will be at 1pm at The Rayleigh Arms in Terling.

I need definite numbers for lunch by 14th August.

Graeme and Peta Verney

BIRD WATCHING GROUP

Visit to Wrabness 18th June

As the short-lived heatwave came to an end, eight members enjoyed a cooling sea breeze with a visit to this Essex Wildlife Trust/RSPB Reserve on the banks of the Stour.

There were not as many birds to be seen as at Minsmere last month, but the visit made for a pleasant walk with scenic views over the estuary. The birds that were on show included Little Egret, Curlews, Oystercatchers, Shelduck, Lesser Black Backed Gull, Black-headed Gull, and Greylag Geese – the only species of goose to breed in Britain.

The Little Egret, a species of small Heron, was once a rare visitor to Britain, but is now regularly seen on the coast of England and Wales. Curlews, with their distinctive long curved bill, are also seen more often than they were, usually on the coast outside the breeding season when they favour moorland.

Shelduck, with their attractive black, white, and brown plumage and red bills, frequently nest in disused rabbit burrows. Lesser Black Backed Gulls – whose yellow legs distinguish them from the pink legged Greater Black-backs – often prefer moorland to the coast for nesting.

Mike Bagshaw

Birdwatching Group Programme 2022

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 and subject to Covid rules in force at the time.

For full details of locations or requests for car shares please contact:
Peter Gaywood
Michael Bagshaw

Training Day

for budding u3a archaeologists
Saturday 20th August
9.30am to 5pm u3a
Old St. Barnabas Church (demolished)
Mayland Hall, Mayland Hill, Althorne, Essex CM3 6EA

- Introduction and refreshments
- Finding your site
- How to start
- Surveying
- Equipment
- Laying out trenches and digging.

- Surveying and recording
- Finds/cleaning/labelling/photographing/storing
- Geo phys/metal detecting/drones
- Health and safety, risk assessments, permissions
- Funding and publicity
- Setting up your own group – have a go
- Research and organisations to contact. Fact sheets provided

AMPLE FREE CAR PARKING CLOSE BY

FREE REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED *teas, coffee and soft drinks*
TOILETS
GAZEBO FOR SHELTER
BRING YOUR OWN KNEELING MAT, CHAIR AND PACKED LUNCH, EQUIPMENT AND TUITION PROVIDED PLEASE NOTE ADULTS ONLY

u3a Burnham Archaeological Group

Places are limited and must be pre-booked - suggested donation of £10 on day

- FULL DETAILS ON BOOKING email Sue – sjrspiers@gmail.com

Burnham u3a Archaeological Group
- HANDS ON DIGGING!

An opportunity to join an archaeological training day organised by Burnham-on-Crouch u3a

on Saturday 20th August

in Althorne, Essex.

STROLLERS TOO

Tuesday, 23rd August.

We are planning to walk from Stow Maries village hall - CM3 6SL- across the golf course, up the lane to Cold Norton church and back to Stow Maries along the disused railway. It's a lovely walk of about four miles. We hope to lunch at Stow Maries, Prince of Wales.

If you'd like to join us for the walk and/or lunch please contact me beforehand - by 20th August- then I will be able to let you know if there are any changes.

Hoping to see lots of Strollers on the 23rd.

Kym Marshall

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

The photography group continues to meet monthly via Zoom.

The next meeting is on **Wednesday 20th July at 7:30pm**.

The subject for July is 'Doors and Doorways'**.**

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.

Examples of recent 'Bird 'pictures

Nicki Iszard

Geoff Macro

Tony Groves **webmaster@maldonu3a.co.uk**

FILM GROUP

The films under review for June provided some lively discussion and opinions.

"Truffle Hunters", a 2020 documentary following a group of aging men hunting in the woods for a prized quarry, the Alba truffle. The film was enjoyed by some and less so by others. It was felt that the use of subtitles was a distraction from the acting, which some felt was good. **Score: 5**

"Radioactive", a 2019 British biographical film. The film is based on the 2010 graphic novel "Radioactive: Marie and Pierre Curie". Overall, it was felt that this was a good and enjoyable film. Comments were made that it came across that Marie Curie was a troubled and, in some instances, an overpowering woman, but a very dedicated person who was awarded two Nobel prizes. **Score: 8**

There was a further film discussed, "The Mother", comments were that it was a bit unsavoury in parts and was an unlikely and silly story. **Score: 4.75**

The two films for discussion in July are:

"Philomena" a 2013 tragicomedy directed by Stephen Frears and starring Judi Dench and Steve Coogan. It is based on a true story of Philomena Lee's search for her adopted son.

Available on BBC iPlayer up to the 11th July.

"Papadopoulos & Sons" is a 2012 British comedy-drama film written and directed by Marcus Markou.

It is available on BBC iPlayer until 2023.

Shirley Macro

Jubilee and u3a 40th Anniversary Celebrations 20th June 2022

A happy celebration atmosphere

Special thanks to our Chairman Shirley Macro

Photos Alec Fraser and Malcolm Case

u3a learn, laugh, live
Maldon and District

With thanks to the following members for their contributions:

Chris Bingham
Sylvia Cousins
Joan Cummins
Gordon Davies
Dorothy Denmark
Patrick Forsyth
Barbara Grimason
Tony Groves
Molly Polden
Molly Tring
Tony Tring
Veronica Smith
Denise Yelland

On 6th February this year Her Majesty The Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth.

Take a look at the Flipbook of members' recollection of the coronation.
http://www.maldonu3a.co.uk/FlipbookCoronationMU3A.htm

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	Theresa Byles
	Alec Fraser
	Tony Groves
	Ken Hazell
	Andrew Simmonds
Webmaster	Tony Groves
Social Group	Michael Childs

Contact the u3a Office

u3a

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Deadline for next newsletter: 4th August 2022

CO-ORDINATORS

Art Appreciation	Judith Johnston
Aviation	tba
Astronomy	Malcolm Case
Balti Night	Bob Gowers
	Graham Evans
Bird Watching	Peter Gaywood
	Michael Bagshaw
Bridge	Sheila Epps
Canasta	Iris Slaney
Cribbage	Pat Clements
Croquet	Jean Healey
	Geoff Macro
	Shirley Macro
Discussion	Liz Jones
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—Georgians	Beryl McDonell
Just Jazz	Jim Light
	David Coombes
Local History	Sylvia Cousins
	Kathleen Goff
London Theatre Outings	Rosemary Case
	Sheila Childs
Meet & Eat	Joan Cummins
Mah-Jong	Mags Pell
Maritime	Malcolm Case
Music Appreciation	tba
Petanque (Boules)	Jack Veash
	Geoff Macro
Photography	Tony Groves
Poetry	Jo Robson
Reading	tba
Rummikub	Beryl McDonell
Scottish Country Dancing	Diana Rogers
Sing for Pleasure	Sue Garnham
Strollers/Strollers Too	Malcolm Case
Tenpin Bowling	David Arnold
Tree Identification	Veronica Smith
Wild Flowers	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

Comment on ***"Third Age Matters"***

via Patrick Forsyth

Schedule of Events - August 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
1 Maritime Trip	**2** German	**3** Tenpin Bowling Croquet Wine Group 2	**4** Tenpin Bowling Poetry Rummikub Petanque	**5**	**6**	**7**
8 Discussion Handicrafts	**9**	**10** Tenpin Bowling Bridge Meet and Eat	**11** Tenpin Bowling Petanque French History-Georgians	**12** Sing for Pleasure Canasta	**13**	**14**
15 **Monthly Meeting** Just Jazz	**16** German	**17** Tenpin Bowling Geology Photography Croquet	**18** Tenpin Bowling Petanque	**19**	**20**	**21** Strollers
22 Astronomy	**23** Wine Group 4 Strollers Too	**24** Bridge Tenpin Bowling Writing for Fun	**25** Petanque Tenpin Bowling French Music App Wine Group 3	**26** Sing for Pleasure Canasta Cribbage	**27**	**28**
29 Summer Bank Holiday	**30** German	**31** Tenpin Bowling Film Group Wine Group 2				

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

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

THE SILVER LINE 0800 4 70 80 90 **www.thesilverline.org.uk**

The Silver Line is the only free confidential helpline providing information, friendship and advice to older people, open 24 hours a day, every day of the year.