



Maldon and District

Newsletter



Garden Group visit to Mayfield Farm

Thanks to Brigitte Whiteing for the photo

May 2026

www.maldonu3a.co.uk

Registered Charity 1086182

FROM THE CHAIR

Hello all members

Inside u3a: Member profiles and perspectives

By the time you read this you should have received a link to a UK wide study that our national body is undertaking. Our branch is one of 200 randomly selected u3as which have been asked to contribute to this research.

Most of us join our u3a to participate in a wide range of local activities with friendly people and we give little thought to the fact that we are one small part of a national organisation.

So, why is the trust undertaking this research? The organisation was founded in 1982, and much has changed in the past 44 years, not least the age of retirement! The last survey to profile the membership was in 2019 so it's time for a fresh review. It will give the national body valuable information to help all branches to find new ways to get members more involved in the wide range of activities we are providing and to build a better understanding of who u3a members are, and how and why they engage with the u3a movement.

I do hope that you will spare 15 minutes to complete the survey.

Thank you, Theresa

Theresa Byles

Chairman

We are holding an **Open Day on Friday 12th June at Maldon Town Hall, 10.30 – 3.00 pm**, to spread the word about the benefits of belonging to the u3a, and encourage people to join. Group coordinators will be there to talk about their activities. Please come along to support us, have a coffee and bring friends and neighbours with you .

A Magical Evening

Friday 3rd July 6.30—10.00pm

Plantation Hall, Heybridge

Our magical evening begins with your choice of pre-ordered fish or chicken and chips at 6.30 followed by close up magic from 4 magicians from the Mid Essex Magical Society. They will move amongst the tables performing tricks before your very eyes.

Tickets are £18.00 pp with either fish or chicken and chips, or £8.50 pp without food.

Please bring your own plates, cutlery, glasses etc. and your own drinks. Tea/coffee will be available.

Salt & vinegar will be provided, but please bring any further condiments you require.

To book your ticket (s) please contact:

Rosemary Case on 01245 329435 or rosemary45case@gmail.com stating whether you require fish, chicken or no food.

Social Organising Group

MONTHLY MEETING

Monday 15th June

Wickham Bishops Hall

Doors open at 1.15 for a 1.45 start

Copped Hall

Philip McKinder

Following on from his excellent talk on the 1952 Lynmouth Flood Disaster Philip returns to tell us about Copped Hall, a fine Georgian Mansion currently under restoration.

The Hall is a fine Georgian mansion that is currently under restoration.. Sited on a ridge overlooking its landscaped parkland, the mansion and gardens are situated on a site of ancient human habitation. Many important buildings, from the Medieval, Tudor and Elizabethan eras were demolished prior to the present mansion being built and enlarged by the Victorians. This burnt out in 1917, with just the shell remaining. The Copped Hall Trust saved the mansion and gardens by purchasing them in 1995. A visit has been arranged on Friday 11th Sept. (See page 9)

MONTHLY SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2026

20th July

Music and Memories

***Steve Scruton & Ian
Wyatt***

Steve & Ian return with a trip down musical memory lane. Afternoon tea.

Ticketed event—Maldon u3a members only

17th August

***A short musical
interlude***

followed by

***Action for Family
Carers***

Rebecca Loader

Our own Guitar & Ukulele group will play a medley of songs from their playbooks.

Action for Family Carers is a local charity which has been supporting carers in Essex for decades. It was founded by Carers for Carers and has been making a positive difference to the lives of unpaid family Carers ever since.

21st September	Maldon's Lost Railway Stephen Nunn	Stephen will take us on a pictorial adventure from Witham to the end of line at Southminster and all stops in between.
19th October	The Commonwealth War Graves Barrie Sears	Barrie will talk about the important work of the CWGC and its educational charity, the CWG Foundation
16th November	AGM followed by a Quiz	A quiz from our own u3a member, Linda Allen
21st December	Musical Entertainment The Purleigh Phil	They're back by popular demand with Christmas music & songs. Festive afternoon tea Ticketed event—Maldon u3a members only

If you know of any speakers that you can recommend please contact our Speaker Secretary: Margaret Harker

WELCOME

Julia Jiggins David Watson Janet Watson Mr Jean Winther
Leena Yates Caroline Parry-Jones Nicholas Parry-Jones Karen Smith

WITH REGRET

It is with great regret that we have to advise you that Christopher Graebe passed away on Thursday 7th May. Christopher had been a member since 14th March 2025.

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. 0800 4708090 www.thesilverline.org.uk

GARDENS

Our first visit of the year saw 19 garden group members visit Mayfield Farm, near Ardleigh where the spring weather had brought many of the trees into early blossom.

Mayfield is very diverse, rather like its owner. It is constantly being

reimagined and enhanced with large sculptures and new plantings.

One of the new projects is a Japanese moss garden, also known as a *koke-*

dera, which had experienced a recent mishap when a watering hose burst.

Another is the creation of a wave shaped hedge to which, on completion, will be added a metal flock of flying seagulls!

Thanks to Brigitte Whiteing for the photos



Our visits are proving very popular with our trip to Ransomes at Peldon already fully booked. Please reserve your place as soon as possible. For the self drive garden visits it may be possible to arrange car share. Please let us know if this is something that would help.

Cheques payable to Maldon & District u3a with the name of the trip on the reverse can be handed over at the main Monthly meeting or posted to Theresa at 10 Hopping Jacks Lane, Danbury CM3 4PN or you can pay online. If you are paying by bacs please let us know when you have made the payment.

Maldon & Dist u3a Sort code: 60-13-37

a/c 49774476 using the reference gardens -(name of garden)

Thursday 21st May – all day

£30 pp for the coach please pay now

Visit to RHS Wisley/Brooklands

We anticipate that there will be enough RHS members with joint membership so there will be no entrance charge. If this is not the case we will advise you nearer the date. We will leave WMCC at 8.30 and be dropped off at Wisley before the Aviation Group go on to Brooklands. We will return to Maldon 17.30/18.00. **There are still a few coach seats available for this trip.**

Tuesday 9th June at 2pm

£10 pp inc refreshments

Ransomes, Wigborough Road, Peldon, CO5 7RA

Fully booked with waiting list

Monday 22nd June—all day

£25 pp for the coach

Visit to Audley End/Duxford

please pay for the coach now

This is an English Heritage venue and we hope that there will be sufficient uptake (15+) to qualify for the group rate of **£20.12 pp**, (unless you are a member of English Heritage).

Tuesday 14th July at 2pm

£10.50 pp inc refreshments

Keeway, Creeksea nr Burnham on Crouch CMO 8PL

Large, mature country garden with stunning views over the River Crouch. Formal terraces surround the house with steps leading to sweeping lawns, mixed borders packed full of bulbs and perennials, formal rose and herb garden with interesting water feature. Further afield there are wilder areas, paddocks and a lake.

Theresa Byles

Kris Taylor

FAMILY HISTORY

A new Family History group is in the process of starting. For more information or if you are interested in joining please contact Malcolm Case, in the first instance.

GUITAR & UKULELE GROUP

The group continues to work on a 'live set' of ten songs to entertain people while having a lot of fun!

At our last meeting we also played newer songs including Hotel California, Sweet Caroline and Daniel by Elton John. Don't be fooled they are easier than you think!



We play ukuleles (electric and acoustic), guitars (electric and acoustic) and we now have Julie on the drums.

It's a lot of fun so come and join us, we still have some room!

Our meetings are on the **1st and 3rd Tuesday** of each month from **10.00 until midday** in the Linton Room at the WMCC. There is plenty of free parking and each two hour session will be £3. If you would like to join contact **Steve**.

KNITTING & CROCHET GROUP

The next meeting of our new Knitting & Crochet group will be on **Wednesday 3rd June** at the Blue Boar from 10.00 until 12.00.

If you are already a keen knitter/crocheter and would like to share your knowledge with others or would just like to have try at a new hobby please get in touch or speak to me at our monthly meeting when I will have some samples of work.

Paula Jacobs

ROYAL HISTORY

Our next meeting is **Thursday 11th June** at 10.00 at the WMCC. We are now into the Windsor era , the period following on from the death of Edward VII until now looking at not only the royal families but also events that were happening in the UK and around the world at this time.

Why not join us?

VISIT TO COPPED HALL – FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER

Our main talk in June this year will be on Copped Hall, a fine Georgian mansion near Epping Forest, which is currently under restoration. Following a major fire the Copped Hall Trust saved the mansion and gardens by purchasing them in 1995. The aim of the Trust is to permanently protect the site, and carefully restore Copped Hall and its gardens for educational, cultural and community benefit.

To follow on from the talk, we have arranged a visit to the Hall and parkland on **Friday 11th September at 10.00am**. We will have a guided tour which covers the grounds, the Walled Garden and three floors of the Mansion. The tour takes approximately 2.5 hours with a break halfway for tea, coffee and home-made cake. Please note that the grounds are sloping and uneven, and there is no step-free access inside the Mansion. The price, including the refreshments is **£15 pp**. I need to confirm with the Trust that this visit is going ahead, so please book your place with me promptly.

Cheques payable to Maldon u3a with the name of the trip on the reverse can be handed over at the main Monthly meeting or posted to me at 10 Hopping Jacks Lane, Danbury CM3 4PN or you can pay online. If you are paying by bacs please let me know when you have made the payment.

Maldon & Dist u3a Sort code: 60-13-37 a/c 49774476 reference: Copped Hall

Please note that this is a self-drive event, open to all our u3a members. Car sharing is a possibility. I hope to arrange an option to go for a late lunch afterwards at a local pub – The Horseshoes in Upshire. This will depend upon interest and numbers.

Thank you. Theresa Byles

PADEL TENNIS

The session is every **Wednesday** from 2.30 to 4pm at Padel United, Park Drive Health Club, Maldon. We cater for between 3 and 10 members without anyone having to sit out for more than a few minutes.

If any one interested in joining the Group or perhaps having a taster session please contact: Ken Hazell.

AVIATION GROUP

Hello everyone,

Last month we had a well-attended meeting when Andrew Colley gave us an illustrated talk entitled *The Man Who Tested Parachutes*.

This was the story of Charles Agate who, although trained as a teacher, devoted his service life in WW2 to testing parachutes and to training the newly formed airborne forces of the British Army for the rigours of parachuting into battle.

This month we have two events coming up detailed in the table below. Currently, there is space in the coach for our Brooklands trip and although its tight on time we may be able to add some more classic cars and their owners to our presence at the Wings & Wheels event at Stow Maries on Sunday 24th May, let me know on either score so that I can add you to our bookings.

Similarly for our trip to Duxford in June, please let me know soonest as the coach for this event is filling up quickly, but as of now, we have space: note that we are combining with the Gardens Group who will go to Audley End House & Garden.

Wings & Wheels at Stow Maries on Sunday 24th May. If you have a classic car or motorbike and would like to join us, please let me know and I will add you to our list. Currently there are five of us confirmed.

May and June Visits

If you wish to join us on the visits to Brooklands in May or Duxford in June, please let me know soonest as the coaches are filling up—note that we are combining with the Garden Group on both occasions.

Cheques payable to Maldon & District u3a with the name of the trip on the reverse can be handed over at the main Monthly meeting or you can pay online. If you are paying by bacs please let me know when you have made the payment.

Maldon & Dist u3a Sort code: 60-13-37 a/c 49774476 using the reference Aviation-(name of trip)

Thursday 21st May Visit to **Brooklands Museum** combining with the Garden Group who will go to RHS Wisley.

Coach cost---£30pp; Group entry cost---£19.99 (based on 10+); 1 hour guided tour---£5pp (based on 12 in group)

Sunday 24th May We plan to have members with classic cars or motor bikes at the **Wings & Wheels show at Stow Maries** on Sunday 24th May. Let me know if you wish to join us---drivers of the classic get in free but passengers have to buy a ticket via [www.stowmaries.org.uk /events](http://www.stowmaries.org.uk/events) page.

Monday 22nd June Visit to **IWM Duxford** combining with the Garden Group who will go to Audley End house and garden. Coach cost---£25pp; Group entry cost---£23.10 (based on 15+ in group); self guided trip.

Friday 31st July TBA

All our meetings, unless stated, are held at **Woodham Mortimer Village Hall** at **11.00**, doors open at 10.30 for coffee, biscuits, gossip etc.

Chris Samson

Editor's note:

As seen in last month's newsletter Chris gave an illustrated Zoom talk on 5th May to the u3a National Aviation group on the giant flying boat *The Spruce Goose*. A very successful event with more than 250 attendees. Well done Chris.

Reminder

Don't forget that there are many on-line learning events on the [national u3a website](http://national.u3a.website).

Another site is [Friends Extra](http://FriendsExtra) which lists discounts available to u3a members. Just click on the links on our web page www.maldonu3a.co.uk

WINE GROUP

A new wine group will be starting in June.

Further details in our June Newsletter.

Monday 1st June – Trip to Dover Museum and Dover Commercial Docks.

Depart WMCC at 08:30, arrive at Museum at 10.30. The museum shows the history of Dover's Maritime past and houses the remains of a bronze age boat; leave the museum at 12:30 for lunch (not included). Following lunch leave for the Marina Curve with our guide Tim. We will then have a commentary from Tim about cargo operations in Dover, and a visit the Cruise terminal for a tour and talk about its history. Depart Dover for return to Maldon at 4:00pm. Cost per person is **£28.00**, this includes coach hire, coach parking, drivers' gratuity, entry to Dover Museum, guide. Payment by cheque only please.

Monday 6th July – Talk by Don Baines on Dunkirk Heroes – The story of two barges. The two barges are Pudge and Centaur, both Dunkirk little ships, based in Maldon, Don's talk is about the barges' contribution to the success of Operation Dynamo in May – June 1940.

Monday 3rd August – Trip to Blue Town Heritage centre and Museum. Depart from WMCC at 08:30, arrive Sheerness by 10:15 to visit the museum which shows the history of Sheerness. A buffet lunch is included, followed by a guided coach tour of Sheerness and its Maritime Heritage. Cost per person is **£44.00**, this includes the coach, driver's gratuity, coach parking, entry to the Heritage centre and Museum, lunch and guided tour. Payment by cheque only please.

Monday 7th September – Talk by John Johnson–Allen via Zoom on Rosslyn Wemyss, Admiral of the Fleet: The Man Who Created Armistice Day. The life of a Naval officer from 1877 to 1919 through peace, war and then peace again who managed the successful evacuation of 140,000 troops from Gallipoli and, later, was the British Naval representative at the Armistice negotiations.

Monday 5th October – Talk by Roger Butler, by Zoom, on the tiny archipelago of **St Kilda** which lies forty miles west of the Outer Hebrides – you won't find it on any road atlas! These isolated islands have a unique history, and the last residents were evacuated in 1930. The impressive cliffs are some of the tallest in Europe and the seabird colonies are amongst the most important in the North Atlantic. The talk describes a week spent on the main island – and just getting there is part of the adventure.

Monday 2nd November – Talk by Jimmy Byam Shaw on tank testing of ship shapes and design.

Monday 7th December – Talk by Stephen Nunn on Maldon's links with the Battle of Trafalgar (1805). Our overwhelming victory over the French and Spanish fleets off Cape Trafalgar on 21st October 1805 gave the Royal Navy its most famous triumph and confirmed a long tradition of naval supremacy. The battle also immortalised the memory of Viscount Horatio Nelson who was shot and died of his wounds at the moment of his greatest victory. There are some surprising links between maritime Maldon and this famous national event.

U3a members are very welcome at the meetings and on trips.

Malcolm Case

DONATIONS for SEAFARERS CENTRE, TILBURY

The centre is again asking for donations of knitted hats, gloves, scarves, jerseys, any colour and size. Coats, clean, are also asked for as ships are coming from warmer climes and the crew do not always have warm clothing. They also ask for jigsaw puzzles (complete), DVDs and books. Also, toiletries suitable for male and female and sweets and chocolates with long use by dates.. All donations are always gratefully received and on behalf of the centre, thank you. If you have any donations, then please give them to me at a monthly meeting or at a Maritime meeting.

Malcolm Case

RNLI Collecting Pots

Thanks goes to everyone who continue to fill their small Tiptree jars with 5p and 20p coins for the RNLI. Our collecting pots last year raised £231 for which the local branch of the RNLI are very grateful.

Thank you again and if you wish to join in jars are always available at the Main meeting or Maritime.

Mary Burd Malcolm Case

STROLLERS

Our walk took us through a quiet and serene area of the County from the village of Birch to the somewhat isolated Tudor Gatehouse at Layer Marney Towers

The intrepid strollers met at the Hare and Hounds on a beautiful sunny day with enthusiasm to venture forth. The walk was one of the flattest with no steps and comfortable in the strolling calendar with only one stile to negotiate. The fields stirred all around with the first signs of cereal crops searching for sunlight.

The stroll took us to the front entrance of Layer Marney Towers where we posed for our photo opportunity, could you wish for a better setting?



We continued past Layer Marney Towers and quickly found the church of St Mary. The stroll then took us to a grass track where we spied some sheep or were they goats. They clearly weren't a common breed of sheep or goat and hence the debate began, sheep or goats, goats or sheep, they were both woolly and had horns. The debate then went on to their gender and at this point I was beginning to lose the will to live so we moved on. We were then treated to the sight of 7 deer, splendid and breath taking. They watched our every move as we continued along the track.



The track went through avenues of trees to open out onto fields but before doing so there was an icehouse snuggled in the trees. I have to say when I did a recce for the walk I took no notice; it was one of our knowledgeable strollers that recognised the structure and the moment became a memory as I had not seen one before.

We continued our stroll breathing in the country air to our watering hole, the Hare and Hounds on Birch Green. The meal and

atmosphere were at their best and I was treated to a surprise by finding in conservation with the person sitting next to me that our paths had crossed nearly 70 years ago. Gosh she hadn't changed a bit.

Mervyn

STROLLERS



Our next walk is on **Sunday 17th May**, for a stroll along the river Crouch, South Woodham Ferrers. Meet at 10:15 for a 10:30 start in the car park, which is at the end of Marsh Farm Road, CM3 5WP (the car park is on the right). The walk, which is some 3.5/4.0 miles follows

the river Crouch along the sea wall with frequent views of the salt marshes, marinas, and local wildlife before turning inland. The walk may be slippery in places, depending on the weather, so please wear appropriate footwear.



For those who would like lunch after the walk, this will be at The Whalebone Pub, Old Wickford Road, South Woodham Ferrers, CM3 5QU, (which is some 10 minutes' drive from where our cars will be parked), there is plenty of free parking at the pub.

I do hope you can all join the walk. Please let me know by **14th May** at the latest if you will be on the walk and whether you will be staying for lunch.

Malcolm Case

STROLLERS TOO

On Tuesday **28th April** 10 of us enjoyed a walk of approximately 3.5 miles.

We parked at The Prince of Wales pub in Stow Maries.

As we set off, following the public footpath sign we crossed through the field behind the pub, where four long haired sheep and three goats were grazing. A friendly Billy goat tried to make an escape from the field to join us, but we managed to squeeze through the gate without him.



We had ideal weather for the whole walk, strolling along paths, edges of fields, through vineyards, and along woody bridleways. We saw bluebells, heard skylarks, and saw a hare.

As we passed the aerodrome we had a surprise. We saw some school teams launching rockets! Good news, they missed us all!

After this excitement, we continued around more farm fields descending with lovely views over the river Crouch, sparkling with reflected sunshine.

Eight of us had a delicious lunch at the pub, and an enjoyable time was had by all.

Sian Gibson

Possible new group – Walking Football

Walking Football is a slower paced version of the beautiful game. It was originally designed to help get over 50's back into football and increase physical activity through rekindling players' love for the game. Walking football is open to both men and women who want to play football at a slower pace. If you think it is something that you would like to try please contact either Patrick Forsyth or Malcolm Case.

STROLLERS TOO

Tuesday 26th May

Our next walk will be a circular route around the pretty village of Terling. There will be some road walking including a ford to cross but don't worry there is a footbridge. The road carries on to the Windmill and from there across the fields and along the river Ter. We follow a well used footpath and skirt some woods to then meet up with part of the Essex Way. The terrain is easy but sturdy footwear is advisable as the paths can be uneven. We then have a small amount of road walking until we join a path which will take us back to the cars.

The walk is approximately 3 miles so a nice gentle stroll will take us about 2 hours. Meeting at **Terling Village Hall** (parking along the lane), The Dismals, Terling CM3 2PW. **10.15 for 10.30 start.**

Please let me know whether you will be joining the walk and if you will be staying for lunch. Venue to be advised when I know numbers. I would be grateful if you would let me know by **19th May at the very latest.**

Nicola Iszard

SOCIAL ORGANISING GROUP

Dates for your diaries

Sea Shanty Evening

Tuesday 8th September 6.00 —10.00pm

Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge

To celebrate 25 years of our Maritime Group you are invited to an evening of Sea Shanties with a two course meal. Bar service

Quiz Afternoon

Thursday 29th October 2—4.00pm

Plantation Hall, Heybridge

An afternoon of quiz, tea and cake plus a raffle in aid of Macmillan Cancer.

It is unfortunate that it is necessary to hold some of the events in the evening as we know that many of you prefer not to drive at night. It may be that we have willing drivers that could assist. Further details in our next newsletter.

PETANQUE



It is time to dust the cobwebs off those Pétanque balls and head to the Pétanque rink on Maldon Prom on a **Thursday afternoon** for a couple of hours or so of fun.

New players are always welcome to come and give it a try, why not come along and have a go, we play from 2.00 pm until around 4.00 pm. We play on the Pétanque pitch opposite the Marine Lake at the Promenade Park, Park Drive, Maldon Essex CM9 5JQ. No charge is made to play but you must be a member of Maldon u3a or one of the Maldon u3a cluster groups.

We may be able to loan you some boules to get you started to see if you like it, but you will need to purchase some of your own to play regularly. Car parking is available at the park, please note Maldon District Council make a charge

We only play if the weather is dry. The season is April to October.

Contact Jack Veash or Geoff Macro

CROQUET

Croquet is competitive yet sociable, enjoyable, active and healthy. The group meets on the **1st and 3rd Wednesday** afternoons from April to October. There is a charge of £8.50 for the use of equipment and tea/coffee at the end of play. Please note that shoes should have flat soles, no heels must be worn and your toes should be covered so no sandals please.



Maldon u3a play with the kind permission of Maldon Croquet Club on the Club lawns at Hatfield Peverel Bowling Club, the Keith Bigden Memorial Ground, Wickham Bishops Road, Hatfield Peverel, CM3 2JL

If you would like more information, or would like to come along and give it a try, please contact: Geoff and Shirley Macro

FILM GROUP

Although short in numbers this month, we had a good meeting with plenty of discussion points around the two films. I had received reviews from those who couldn't be at the actual meeting which were interesting and contributed to the overall scores. New members would be very welcome to join us and take part in the reviews. It's surprising how many of the films we wouldn't have chosen to watch without being in the group have turned out to be real gems – of course there are also the duds!

The Great Escaper– This proved to be one of the gems! A lovely gentle comedy/drama based on the true story of 90 year old WWII Royal Navy veteran Bernard Jordan who “broke out” of his retirement home to attend the 70th anniversary D-Day commemorations in France in June 2014.

Michael Caine was excellent as Bernard, showing his many years of experience as an actor being able to convey all the emotions necessary without long and drawn-out sentimental narrative – sometimes a look is all that's needed. The same can also be said for Glenda Jackson as his wife Rene. This was her final performance, and it was beautifully done. Great supporting cast, particularly John Standing and Danielle Vitalis. **Score: 9**

Bringing Up Baby – This film was not quite so well received by all. Described as a screwball comedy starring Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant, it was certainly very silly, very fast talking with a daft story line which included a small dog and a leopard (named Baby!)

As a film from 1938 it can be difficult to watch without making comparisons to modern movies and although now regarded as a classic, it was considered a flop until the 1950s when it was regularly shown on TV. Some members quite enjoyed it, whereas others thought it was terrible! **Score: 3**

Next time: ***The Tittfield Thunderbolt***– 1953 British comedy from Ealing Studios. It stars Stanley Holloway and concerns a group of villagers trying to keep their branch line operating after British Rail decided to close it. The inspiration for the film was the restoration of the narrow-gauge Talylyn Railway in Wales, the world's first heritage railway run by volunteers.

Four Weddings and a Funeral – 1994 British romantic comedy starring Hugh Grant, follows the adventures of Charles (Grant) and his circle of friends through a number of social occasions as they each encounter romance. Andie MacDowell co-stars as Charles's love interest, with a supporting cast of many well-known actors.

Both films available on BBC iPlayer.

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday, 27th May at 7.30pm via Zoom**

New members welcome, please just get in touch.

Shirley Macro

HANDICRAFTS

We are a small, very friendly group who meet on the **second Monday** of each month, **10.00 – 12 noon** in the Linton Room, WMCC. We are now up to full numbers. However, if you are interested in joining the group in the future we are running a waiting list. Please contact us for further details.

Marian Manning

Brenda Heal

GEOLOGY

Our next meeting at West Maldon Community Centre is at 2p.m. on **Wednesday 17th June** when we will look at the Holocene Period with emphasis on the Anglian Ice Age which began about 450.000 years ago.

Interested new members are welcome to join us, with or without any geological knowledge.

There is NO MEETING on 20th May as established members of the group are having a well deserved Spring Lunch.

Sylvia Cousins

TENPIN BOWLING

Do you fancy a chat and a cup of coffee with some tenpin bowling thrown in? We play every **Wednesday** and **Thursday mornings** from 09.45 – 12 noon at Madison Heights, Park Drive, Maldon. The cost is £9 per session which includes shoe hire and tea/coffee & biscuits..

If you are interested, please contact:

Alan Buck

David Coombes



LONDON WALKS

London Walks take place on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

We meet a professional guide at 11.15 to be taken on a 2-hour guided walk. The distance walked is not vast as we stop many times to be told interesting and entertaining information.

Contact Julie to reserve your place well in advance if you can. Please continue to refer to www.walks.com for the details of each Walk.

After the Walk you are free to enjoy London as you wish.

Travel arrangements are made by yourselves.

Meeting at Monument for our April Walk, we were led by our professional guide, a retired barrister with a wonderful dry sense of humour. He reminded us of the Roman origins of London, the invasion by Boadicea and the rebuilding of the city in medieval times in timber. Of course, the Great Fire of London in 1666, which started in a bakery in Pudding Lane, destroyed 80% of the city leaving 100,000 people homeless and the Monument commemorates this event.

Christopher Wren was tasked with helping to rebuild London, and we saw examples of his work, including St. Mary-at-Hill and St. Dunston in the East, just two of the 52 churches he designed. St. Dunston was originally built in 1100, rebuilt after the Great Fire and destroyed in the Blitz, but the tower and steeple designed by Wren still stand and the ruins have been transformed into a public garden.



Samuel Pepys who lived in the path of the Fire diarised the event in great detail. It was his decision to approach the King and request a fire break to be built (refused by the mayor of London) which eventually led to the Fire being controlled.

Of course, it wasn't only the Great Fire of 1666 which affected the population of London, as it was only the year before that the Plague ravished the people, spreading so fast as people didn't understand how it was transmitted. Only the Dutch were brave enough to bring their cargoes of food up the Thames, so as well as severe

illness there was very little food. And to think it was 200 years later, after the

Great Stink of 1858, that sewers were built in London for the first time to remove the sewage from the Thames. It is impossible to think what conditions must have been like in the 17th century.

We passed through Leadenhall Market and noted the dragons which, 720 years ago when the Market was built, were thought to be real animals and included in the Market structure to keep evil out of London. We saw the City workers passing through in their lunch hours, so very few in suits nowadays and we even took a moment to count any men wearing a tie—even less!

Then, in total contrast, we saw the modern buildings, mainly made of glass: the Cheese Grater, the Walkie Talkie, the Gherkin, the Shard. We stood outside the Lloyds building, built in the 70s and likened by some to an oil refinery in appearance!

To see the 16th century historic church of St Andrew Undershaft next to the Gherkin is somehow surreal.

We pondered on how much foreign money is invested in London, especially Chinese. We walked through the Royal Exchange and ended our Walk outside the Bank of England.

We parted from our brilliant guide, pondering on the history of the City and with mixed opinions in our group as to whether modern architecture is an improvement on the past.



The itinerary for 2026 is below

16th June **	All day outing – a 45 minute guided boat trip from Little Venice to Camden. Lunch at Andy’s Greek Taverna, followed by a 2 hour London Walk entitled Old Camden Town.	Meet at Warwick Avenue Station. Note meeting time of 11.00 Our day will finish in Camden at about 5pm
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LONDON WALKS CONTD.

21st July	Darkest Victorian London	Meet at Monument Station
18th August	The Blitz	Meet at St Paul's Station
20th October	Revolting London	Meet at Tower Hill Station
15th September	Rock n' Roll Covent Garden	Meet at Tottenham Court Road Station
17th November	London's Secret Village	Meet at St Paul's Station
15th December	Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol & Seasonal Traditions	Meet at Tower Hill Station

Payment by cheque in advance please –payable to Maldon & District u3a. No later than 8 days before the Walk please.

ONE CHEQUE PER EVENT.

Julie Lake

BOOK READING GROUP

Following an initial meeting on 30th April, a further meeting will be held on **Thursday 4th June at 2.00pm** upstairs in the Oak House, High Street, Maldon to discuss books to read, whether books can be loaned from a local library or should the group members buy the book/s, should the books be non-fiction or fiction? If you would like to join the group, please contact Malcolm Case.

THE BIG BALTI

The next curry night will be held on **Monday 25th May at the new venue of Bengal Nights, Heybridge Square. Parking available behind the restaurant.**

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

Graham Evans Bob Gowers

POETRY FOR FUN

Following on from a meeting last month the poetry group has re-started. It has been agreed that the next meeting of the group will be on **Thursday 14th May, starting 10:00am** in the café at **Benton Hall, Wickham Hill, Witham. CM8 3LH**. Please do join us for an interesting meeting discussing and reading poetry of our choice.

We look forward to seeing you on the 14th May.

Malcolm Case

JUST JAZZ

Our next meeting is **Monday 18th May** from 7.30—9.30pm in the Little Ship Club, Hythe Quay, Maldon . The bar will be open so pop in for drink, some music and a chat. We look forward to seeing you.

Pete Condon David Coombes

ENGINEERING GROUP

If you are interested in practical things, then I invite you to join our group. Each meeting, we watch 3 half-hour video talks: one on medieval technology, one on inventions that had major impacts on subsequent history, and the last on everyday engineering – such things as houses, water, electrical power, heating, sewage, and also personal transport – the internal combustion engine, highways and railways.

We meet on the first **Tuesday each month at 2pm** in my house in Danbury.

Tony Groves

FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you for your contributions, please keep them coming and don't forget to include your photographs. The deadline for the next issue is **Tuesday 2nd June**

Kris Taylor Newsletter Editor news.maldon3a@gmail.com

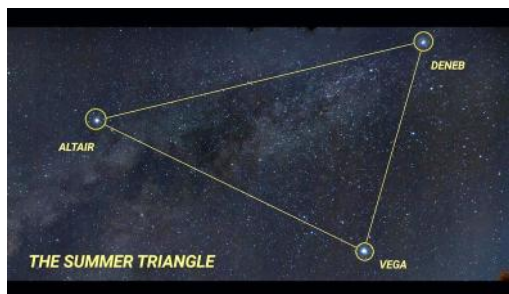
ASTRONOMY

There will not be a meeting of the group in May or June. The next meeting of the group will be on **Monday 27th July**, when Sebastian Von Harrach will be giving a talk, further details will be in the June newsletter.

Visible night sky objects during May include Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, and Mars. Prominent stars like Vega, Deneb, and Altair appear in the east, with Arcturus and Spica visible,

Planets: Venus is visible after sunset, while Jupiter is visible early in the night. Mars and Saturn are best observed before sunrise.

Stars/Constellations: The "Summer Triangle" (Vega, Deneb, Altair) rises in the east by midnight. Spica (Virgo) and bright, orange-coloured Arcturus are also prominent.



Comets/Other: Faint comets like C/2022 N2 (PANSTARRS) and 242P/Spahr may be visible with professional telescopes

u3a members are very welcome at the meeting.

Malcolm Case

CLIMATE CHANGE GROUP

Following an initial meeting on 30th April, a further meeting will be held on **Thursday 4th June at 2.00pm** upstairs in the Oak House, High Street, Maldon to discuss how to find out more about climate change, possible speakers, possible visits, and what we as u3a members can do.

If you would like to join the group, please contact Malcolm Case.

YOUR COMMITTEE

Chairman	Theresa Byles	
Vice Chairman	Alec Fraser	
Treasurer	Steven Clarke	treasurer.maldonu3a@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Malcolm Case	membership_maldonu3a@outlook.com
Secretary	Carol Bates	secretary_maldonu3a@outlook.com
Newsletter Editor	Kris Taylor	news.maldonu3a@gmail.com
Groups Coordinator	Malcolm Case	
Speaker Secretary	Margaret Harker	
Committee	Andy Simmonds Patrick Forsyth	

Webmaster Tony Groves

Publicity Andy Simmonds
Steve Collis publicity.maldonu3a@gmail.com

GROUP COORDINATORS

Art Appreciation	Judith Johnston Andy Simmonds
Aviation	Chris Samson
Astronomy	Malcolm Case
Balti Night	Bob Gowers Graham Evans
Bridge	Gill Cory
Canasta	Iris Slaney
Cribbage	Pat Clements
Country Dancing	Diana Rogers
Croquet	Geoff Macro Shirley Macro
Discussion	Pat Jones

Engineering	Tony Groves
Film Club	Shirley Macro
French	Ann Lester
Garden Visits	Theresa Byles Kris Taylor
Geology	Sylvia Cousins
German	Howard Broadbridge
Guitar & Ukulele	Steve Collis
Handicraft	Marian Manning Brenda Heal
History—Windsors	Kathy Goff
Just Jazz	Peter Condon David Coombes
Knitting & Crochet	Paula Jacobs
London Theatre Outings	Rosemary Case Sheila Childs
London Walks	Julie Lake
Meet & Eat	Joan Cummins
MahJong	Jane Rainbird Elaine Brady
Maritime	Malcolm Case
Padel Tennis	Ken Hazell
Petanque (Boules)	Jack Veash Geoff Macro
Photos for Fun	Tony Groves
Rummikub	Janice Martin
Sing for Pleasure	Sue Garnham
Social Events	Margaret Harker Brenda Heal
Strollers Sunday & Tues	Malcolm Case
Tenpin Bowling	Alan Buck David Coombes
Wine Circle No. 4	Ann Goody
Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth

Schedule of Events – June 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
1 Maritime Trip to Dover	2 Guitar/ Ukulele Engineering	3 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Knitting / Crochet Padel Tennis	4 Ten Pin Bowling Rummikub Petanque German Conversation	5 Mahjong	6	7
8 Handicrafts Discussion	9 Garden Visit Ransomes	10 Ten Pin Bowling Art Appreciation Meet & Eat Croquet Padel Tennis	11 Ten Pin Bowling Royal History Country Dancing Petanque French Conversation	12 OPEN DAY I Maldon Town Hall Singing Canasta	13	14
15 Monthly Meeting Copped Hall Just Jazz	16 London Walks Guitar/ Ukulele	17 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Geology Padel Tennis Photos for Fun Zoom	18 Ten Pin Bowling Rummikub Petanque German Conversation	19 Mahjong	20	21 Strollers
22 IWM Duxford & Audley End	23 Strollers Wine Group	24 Ten Pin Bowling Croquet Writing Padel Tennis Film—Zoom	25 Ten Pin Bowling Theatre trip Country Dancing Petanque French Conversation	26 Singing Canasta Cribbage	27	28
29	30 Visit to ROH Workshop					

Blue— Morning

Red—Afternoon

Purple— Evening