



Maldon and District

Newsletter



Our Guitar & Ukulele group made their live debut at the URC 'Music on a Summer's Evening' fundraising concert. They helped raise over £700 for the cancer unit at Broomfield Hospital.

JULY 2026

www.maldonu3a.co.uk

Registered Charity 1086182

Subscriptions are due by no later than 31st August 2026.

FROM THE CHAIR

I am writing this in the middle of our heat wave, so feeling somewhat hot and bothered! I am relieved it was not so warm when we had our Open Day as judging by the empty roads and shops, I think everyone is lying low at home. I went to the cinema with a fellow member to see a screening of the NT production of *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*. It was first rate and, an added bonus, wonderfully cool in the Odeon. Reminder to self- keep an eye on the date for these screenings, they are very easily missed. Not all make it to Chelmsford, but *The Misanthrope* is coming on 22nd September.

Our Open Day was well worthwhile; we have welcomed 19 new members. A big thank you to my fellow committee members and the co-ordinators who attended and did a great job in promoting our interest groups and showing the friendly face of our u3a.

All u3a branches are “by the members, for the members” so they must change and evolve constantly or fade away. Our interest groups arise through the particular interests and skills of the members. Groups come and go depending also on current issues. It is apposite that Patrick Forsyth is hoping to get the Climate change/environment group established. Some years ago, there was a successful group that looked at the history of the EEC and ended with a visit to Strasbourg – it was very much of its time! I hope that our new members may, in time, contribute ideas and skills for new groups. What hidden talents are out there?

Our Garden Group is morphing into a House and Gardens Group. In June members enjoyed the cool of Audley End House with its Robert Adam designed rooms as well as its gardens, and in September we are visiting Copped Hall; this will be of interest to members keen on history and architecture, as well as historic gardens. This visit is open to all members. Details are on page 5 of the Newsletter.

I hope you have an enjoyable summer.

Theresa Byles Chairman

Maldon & District u3a
1st September 2026 to 31st August 2027
Membership Subscription Renewals

Subscriptions are due by no later than 31st August 2026.

Please use our website maldonu3a.co.uk 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 £21.00 per person. If you wish to continue to receive the u3a matters magazine then the subscription is £25.00 per person (of which £21.00 qualifies for gift aid). Subscriptions can be paid by bank or if you wish, you can still pay by cheque which should be made payable to **Maldon u3a**. Using the web site and paying by bank transfer is the preferred way.

The completed form(s) which are available online or from the Membership Secretary together with your payment must be made before the **31st August 2026**. We do not accept cash. **The forms together with your cheque (if paying by cheque) MUST be returned to the Membership Secretary at 30 The Spinnaker, South Woodham Ferrers, Chelmsford. CM3 5GL.**

Data Protection Law and Data Base: 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 do not use 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 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 (white plastic bar coded credit card size) in May 2020 or when you joined if after this date.

MONTHLY MEETING

Monday 17th August

Wickham Bishops Hall

Doors open at 1.15 for a 1.45 start

Our own Guitar & Ukulele Group will begin the afternoon by playing a medley of songs from their playbooks. This will be followed by

Action for Carers, a talk by Rebecca Loader

Action for 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 carers ever since

MONTHLY SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2026

21st September	Maldon's Lost Railway <i>Stephen Nunn</i>	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 <i>Barrie Sears</i>	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 <i>The Purleigh Phil</i>	They're back by popular demand with Christmas music & songs. Festive afternoon tea

Maldon u3a members only

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

WELCOME

Sharon Smith	Christine Harman	Stuart Connell	Susan Williams
Jo Clark	Michael Clark	Christine Ainsworth	Barbara Hammond
Joy Burns	Jose Figueira	Andrew Keable	Leonie Marks
Christine Restell	Clive Beardall	Clive Potter	Sandra Smith
Ruth Johnson	Bob Adams	Dr Tim Bevan	Steve Howard



A view from the stage at Maldon Town Hall at our Open Day on 12th June, where our visitors and coordinators were entertained by our Guitar & Ukulele Group.

GARDENS

Our Garden Group enjoyed another joint coach trip with the Aviation Group this time they went to Audley End House & Gardens while the Aviation group had a tour of Duxford.

Fortunately, the soaring temperatures hadn't yet reached their peak and there was a cooling breeze, but we were still glad for the cool and shade inside the house.

The guided tour of the Adam's rooms was particularly informative and explained a great deal about his style of decoration.





The gardens, designed by Capability Brown, have retained true to their heritage and are planted with flowers and shrubs from that era.

On Tuesday 14th July we will be visiting Keeway, a NGS garden in Creeksea overlooking the river so hopefully there will be a welcoming breeze.

Planning for next year's garden visits is already underway but later this year we will make a return trip to RHS Hyde Hall for our Christmas lunch. More details in later editions.

VISIT TO COPPED HALL – FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER

Following our talk at our Monthly Meeting in June on Copped Hall, a fine Georgian mansion near Epping Forest, which is currently under restoration, 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.**

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 Theresa at 10 Hopping Jacks Lane, Danbury CM3 4PN or you can pay online. If you are paying by bacs, please let Theresa know when you have made the payment.

Maldon u3a 60-13-37 a/c 49774476 reference: Copped

Please note that this is a self-drive event, open to all our u3a members. Car sharing is a possibility. We 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.

Theresa Byles
Kris Taylor

GUITAR & UKULELE GROUP

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 is £3.



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

If you would like to join contact Steve.

SPANISH CONVERSATION

The next Spanish Conversation meeting will be **Friday 17th July 2 – 4pm** at my house in Nounsley, Hatfield Peverel.

The standard is fairly basic suitable for those with a limited knowledge of the language wishing to get started speaking holiday level Spanish.

We are a small friendly group all wanting to improve our spoken skills.

Please let me know if you intend to come and I will provide directions.

Caroline has produced some notes to help get us get started, and tea and cake will be provided.

Note: I have a small friendly dog.

Hasta Luego!

Andy

POETRY FOR FUN

The next meeting of the group is on **Thursday 13th August at 10.00** in the café at **Benton Hall, Wickham Hill, Witham CM8 3LH**. We welcome u3a members to join the group.

SOCIAL ORGANISING GROUP

Sea Shanty Evening

Tuesday 8th September

Doors open from 6.00 —10.00pm

Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge, CM9 4SD

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

Your meal choice is

Herb Crusted Salmon, New Potatoes, Green Beans *or*

Chicken, Ham & Leek Pie, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy *followed by*

Lemon Tart, Raspberries & Cream *or*

Sticky Toffee Pudding with Ice Cream *followed by*

Tea or Coffee

Please advise any dietary requirements

Our singers will be Mains' I Haul Shanty Crew, who will perform a mix of sea songs and shanties.

Cost £22 pp Maldon u3a members only.

To book your ticket (s) please contact: Rosemary Case

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.

Social Organising Group

SOCIAL ORGANISING GROUP

On **Tuesday 30th June** twenty of our members met up at the **Royal Opera House Storage and Costume unit** at Thurrock for a guided tour of the workshops and scenery building areas.



The ROH has three venues, one in Aberdare, Wales which holds the largest collection of theatrical costumes in the UK and is their main storage area; one in Thurrock where expert scenic artists, carpenters and technicians transform design concepts into the spectacular sets and costumes seen on stage. And finally the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden where the finished sets and costumes are delivered for each scheduled opera or ballet.

With over 20,000 costumes which are still to be digitally catalogued we were amazed that they could find exactly the pieces they were looking for.



The woolly bear costume is made in a similar way to tutus, individual layers on a frame.

Thanks to Alec Fraser for the costume photos.



Friday 3rd July saw 9 magicians from the **Mid Essex Magical Society** entertain 60 of our members to a fun evening of close up magic following a light repast of freshly cooked fish and chips !! in Plantation Hall, Heybridge.

We're still trying to workout how they did it. You think you know but then you're completely wrong.

We hope to bring them back next year with a completely new performance.

KNITTING & CROCHET

The next meeting of our Knitting & Crochet group will be on **Wednesday 5th August** at the Blue Boar, Maldon 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

There is no meeting in August. Our next meeting is **Thursday 10th September** 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?

Kathy Goff

GEOLOGY

Our meeting on **15th July** is the last one before our summer break. We will resume on **Wednesday 17th September** at West Maldon Community Centre at 2 p.m. Interested new members are welcome to join us, with or without geological knowledge, for an afternoon of Geology, tea and biscuits.

Sylvia Cousins

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.

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 anyone interested in joining the Group or perhaps having a taster session, please contact Ken Hazell.

STROLLERS

On **Sunday 19th July** we will be walking around the Woodham Walter area.

Meeting at the entrance to the Warren Golf Club and Estate, CM9 6RW, there is parking on the side of the road in Old London Road, the road directly opposite the entrance to the estate. Car sharing may be advisable.

Meet at **10.15 for a 10.30** start. We will walk through the golf course, across fields and paddocks, with the occasional footbridge. Walking through woodland we will enter Woodham Walter Common. Here we will encounter one steepish path but only for 100yds or so.

If you wish to stay for lunch we will go to the Anchor, Runsell Green, CM3 4QZ, just a few minutes' drive from the conclusion of our Walk, with plenty of parking.

There is a maximum of 12 for lunch, so please let me know if you wish to come to lunch as well as the Walk by 10th July; a £5 deposit is required.

Julie Lake

STROLLERS

The August walk will take place on **Sunday 16th August**, and will start and finish at the **New Times Pub/Restaurant in Tiptree** and is approximately 4 miles.

We will arrange parking at the New Times, Maldon Road, CO5 OBN. This walk is mainly across fields and woods where there are some "wibbly, wobbly bits" (or uneven surfaces if you prefer) so suggest suitable footwear, etc. It is quite flat with no stiles.

I have made a provisional booking for lunch for 10 people (their limit is 12) which is a carvery, but there are other choices available. I have paid a deposit of £10.00 each, so would appreciate receiving notification of those wishing to join the walk and lunch as soon as possible.

Janet Morley

WINE GROUP 2

A second wine group is in the final stages of setting up and Robert Church will be the Coordinator. More details in next month's Newsletter

STROLLERS

An update on the walk in May at Birch/ Layer Marney from Mervyn Perriman.

I couldn't sleep wondering whether the goats were sheep or the sheep were goats. I have since returned to Layer Marney and discovered that they were in fact a rare breed of Castlemilk Moorit sheep of which they are only an estimated 1,500 in existence.



The other fact I learned was the Icehouse referenced was in fact a Beehive Well, again a rare structure. It is a natural well and allegedly has never run dry, with at least 2m of water at all times.

Who knows what other delights we will discover on the same walk next year.

Mervyn

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

TEN PIN 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



FILM GROUP

Films for discussion this month are:

A Bump Along the Way– 2019 Irish British comedy drama film directed by Shelly Love. A heavy-drinking Derry single mother becomes pregnant at the age of 44 from a one-night stand, much to the mortification of her teenage daughter.

Harry Brown– 2009 British vigilante film directed by Daniel Barber and starring Michael Caine. **Available on BBC iPlayer.**

Our next meeting is **Wednesday, 29th July 2026, 7.30pm via Zoom.**

New members welcome, please just get in touch.

Shirley Macro

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.



In June, with glorious weather, the London Walks group had an all-day outing. Meeting in Little Venice we walked down to the Regents Canal and for a 45-minute narrow boat trip to Camden Lock, accompanied by an informative comedic guide.

We learned of the increasing need, in the early 19thc, to be able to transport cargo. A horse pulling a cart on the road could only pull 2 tons, but 50 tons on water. When the boats came to tunnels there were no tow paths so the horses would be untethered and walked over the tunnel, while the 'leggers' would guide the barge through the tunnel using their legs against the walls. Part of our journey was through the grounds of London Zoo. Before the opening of the Zoo in 1847, animals gifted by countries were kept in the Tower of London and we can only imagine the surprise of the Londoners seeing exotic animals being walked from the Tower to their new home.

But a lovely aspect of the trip was seeing the wonderful historic and colourful narrow boats moored along the canal and passing amazing houses and grounds. We passed Jim Henson's (of Muppets fame) house, and were told of famous people such as Jude Law, Kate Moss, Noel Gallagher, Joan Collins, Lulu and Ronnie Wood owning properties worth several million alongside the Canal.



We disembarked at Camden Lock, a very scenic area of canals, locks and bridges, and made our way through the tourists to Camden High Street, and our Greek Taverna where we all enjoyed a leisurely and very tasty meal amid a very Greek ambience. Some of us even braved the Retsina!

Richard has been resident in Camden for 40 years and had many 'in' stories to tell of the likes of Amy Winehouse and Mrs Shepherd (real name Margaret Fairchild) who lived in a van on Alan Bennett's driveway for 15 years.

Dickens came to live in Camden at the age of 12 and the family's severe financial struggles would eventually inspire many of his famous novels. His father was sent to a debtor's prison forcing Charles to be taken away from school and sent to work in a factory.

We passed almshouses built for the 'deserving' poor and visited St Martin's Garden, formally St Martins-in-the-Field cemetery, a 4-acre plot of farmland used for burials when the Parish had run out of space.



On the Arts side we learned of the Camden Palais where Madonna made her debut and saw the Blue Plaque of Dylan Thomas. We stood in Parkway where in the late 19th c George Bernard Shaw had fought for public toilets to be built for women where previously they were only for men. We talked of the Electric Ballroom where Sid Vicious played his legendary gig in 1978. We saw the beautiful properties on Gloucester Crescent where Catherine Hogarth, Dickens' wife, had lived after her separation from Charles, because of which, she lost custody of her 10 children.

A day full of variety, interesting historical and modern facts, food and sun. Lovely

21st July	Darkest Victorian London	Meet at Monument Station
18th August	The Blitz	Meet at St Paul's Station
15th September	Rock n'Roll Covent Garden	Meet at Tottenham Court Road Station
20th October	Revolting London	Meet at Tower Hill

17th November
15th December

London's Secret Village
Charles Dickens' A Christmas
Carol & Seasonal Traditions

Meet at St Paul's Station
Meet at Tower Hill Station

The cost for each Walk is **£11 per person**.

Payment by cheque in advance - please - payable to Maldon u3a.

No later than 8 days before the Walk please. **ONE CHEQUE PER EVENT**.

Julie Lake

ENGINEERING

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 4th August** when the topics will be Siege craft technologies, the Internet, and the first of six lectures on Fossil Fuel; electrical power generation and distribution.

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

Tony Groves

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

PETANQUE

Why not come along and have a go, we play from 2.00 pm until around 4.00 pm on a

Thursday afternoon at the Pétanque pitch opposite the Marine Lake at the Promenade Park, Park Drive, Maldon Essex CM9 5JQ for a couple of hours or so of fun.

No charge is made to play but you must be a member of Maldon u3a or one of the Maldon u3a cluster groups.

New players are always welcome to come and give it a try.

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



JUST JAZZ

Our next meeting is **Monday 17th August** from 7.30 – 9.30pm in the Little Ship Club, Hythe Quay, Maldon. The bar will be open so pop in for a drink, some music and a chat. We look forward to seeing you.

Pete Condon David Coombes

CLIMATE CHANGE GROUP

Something we should worry about and help fight against...

As we sweltered in unaccustomed heat, the new **Climate Change group** had its first meeting recently. The subject could not have been more topical, a concurrent BBC headline said: “Britain is well equipped for a climate that does not exist anymore”. The first talk and debate accepted that the problem is real, has numerous bad impacts and is getting progressively worse. Per head countries with a high standard of living make the most problem – that includes us.

One fact surprised us: it is often said that UK only contributes 1% to the release of carbon dioxide (a major cause of the problem) coupled with the thought that therefore we ‘can’t make much difference’. Certainly, a few countries are particularly bad, China is 33% and USA, India, Russia and Australia are bad, but every other is on or around 1% - if everyone took that view nothing would be done.

Of course, it is a complex problem, but there seems to be a lack of urgency and action worldwide and, with the pace of change increasing, we can all help in a wide variety of ways.

We hope and invite more people to join us next time; it is surely a topic everyone should know something about and take an interest in. As the American actress Lily Tomlin said (albeit about something else): *Things are going to get a lot worse, before they get worse*. That is both an appropriate and sobering thought.

The next meeting is at **10.15 on Friday 14th August** at the Blue Boar Hotel, 3-7 Silver Street, Maldon, for a talk and discussion on ***The effect on the climate of importing food and general goods***.

Malcolm Case

Patrick Forsyth

A Fitness and Balance Class, popular with many of our members is held on **Tuesday mornings at 11.15 at St Peter's Hospital, Maldon in the social hall**.

The class is a low impact class that includes strength and balance exercises incorporating resistance bands and weights to achieve a total body workout. The cost is £6 per session.

For more information, please contact Samantha Birch

Note. There is also an opportunity to do the sessions at home on a Monday morning via Zoom

BALTI NIGHTS

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF RESTAURANT.

The next curry night will be held on **Monday 27th July**, arrival time 6:15pm at the Bengal Nights Restaurant, Heybridge Square, CM9 4LT. Car Parking is available at the rear of the restaurant.

To add your name to the list please contact:

Graham Evans

Bob Gowers

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 5th August**.

Kris Taylor

Newsletter Editor

news.maldonu3a@gmail.com

MARITIME

Monday 3rd August –trip to the Blue Town Heritage centre and Museum, Sheerness, visiting the museum which shows the history of Sheerness and its Maritime heritage. Consisting of three floors the Heritage Centre presents the history of Blue Town, including Sheerness Dockyard, and is home to the restored Criterion Music Hall. A buffet lunch is included in the visit.

After lunch there is guided tour, by coach, of Sheerness, which is a historic Maritime town on the Isle of Sheppey, situated at the strategic confluence of the Thames and Medway rivers. Founded by Samuel Pepys in 1665 to clean and repair the Royal Navy's North Sea fleet, the dockyard became famous for launching over 100 vessels, including screw-propeller pioneers and surviving vessels like HMS Gannet.

We will depart from WMCC at 9:00am, to arrive Sheerness by 10:45am. Cost per person is **£44.00**, this includes the coach, driver's gratuity, coach parking, entry to the Heritage centre and Museum, buffet lunch and guided tour. Payment by cheque only please.



Spaces are still available.



Monday 7th September – Talk by **John Johnson-Allen** by 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 on the August trip and to any group meeting.
Malcolm Case

RNLI Collecting Pots Thanks go 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

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

BOOK GROUP Unfortunately, it is proving difficult to find a date for this new group that suits everyone that has shown an interest. It is possible for our members to attend a group run by Limebrook u3a and if anyone would like to join there are places. It meets the **fourth Wednesday** of the month in the upstairs room at the Tap Room, top of Maldon High Street from 4.30 to 6.00pm

Patrick Forsyth

AVIATION

Hello Everyone,

Last month we had another superb day out at Duxford Air Museum.

This month we will meet at Woodham Mortimer Village Hall on **Friday 31st July**, and as this is the centenary year of the first British Grand Prix held at Brooklands in August 1926, I have put together some aerial clips of the surviving 2.36-mile banked circuit at Brooklands.

This will be followed by a “walk through” in a Lancaster with my voice overlay describing the various internal features that we were not able to be shown when we visited Duxford in June. We will finish by showing the short BAFTA award winning film ***A Memory Owed*** starring James Bolam and filmed at RAF East Kirkby. This is a very atmospheric film using many shots filmed inside the NX611 “Just Jane” and relates to the story of a typical aircrew in 57 Squadron based at East Kirkby.

David Gillespie has been putting together a prospective visit to East Kirkby in early September to see the Lancaster “Just Jane” on fast (fairly!) taxi runs along with the Mosquito also based there.

The plan is a 1-day visit using the 360 Community Bus with David driving on Tuesday **15th September**. We need to clarify numbers of at least 10 to make this viable. Approximate cost is **£25 per person** plus the entry charge.

There won't be a meeting in August, but we will be back in September followed by a full programme for the rest of the year.

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

Also available on <https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/events>

Tuesday 4th August at 10.00

Flight Inspirations aviation meeting – Flt Lt Colin Bell, former RAF Pathfinder Mosquito Pilot will share his remarkable first-hand experiences with one of the RAF's elite wartime units.

Book you space for a free online Zoom talk

Wednesday 5th August at 1.00pm

Building the world's most advanced airliners – John Butler explores the complex and surprising technical aspects of modern airline construction.

There are many more topics available to all u3a members on the u3a website. If you haven't already signed up for their monthly calendar of events, then do so now.

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/events>

ASTRONOMY

The next meeting of the Astronomy group is on **Monday 27th July**, starting at 7:30pm at the Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge for a talk on Exoplanets by Sebastian von Harrach who is best known for his pioneering work in physics and electron microscopy which led to the production of the first electron microscope to scan a single atom. Now retired he links up with other retired physicists, also amateur astronomers, to fill in the gaps between funded subjects of research. Sebastian's particular interest is exoplanets, planets around stars outside of our own solar system, and more particularly the planets around a pair of stars, similar in mass to our sun, which rotate around each other at a rate of rotation of 1 rotation every 3 - 6 hours. Some of Sebastian's and his friends' findings throw doubts on some of NASA's published 'facts'.

ART APPRECIATION

On 8th July 12 Art Group members made their second visit to Castle House, Dedham to see the world's largest collection of paintings by Sir Alfred Munnings, 1878 - 1959. Having lost sight in his right eye at 19, his prolific body of work counted around 5000 paintings many of them of horses and country life. An ardent admirer of John Constable, his first love was landscapes which sadly paid less than paintings of horses commissioned by wealthy patrons. He was a war artist in the Great War, a member of The Newlyn School of painters, President of the Royal Academy of Arts from 1944, and a dedicated anti modernist.

The film 'Summer in February' describes his life.



We enjoyed lunch in the beautiful grounds followed by a guided tour and time to roam the house with its superb collection of Munnings' work.

King Charles and Queen Camilla also visited the Museum in February.

There is no Art meeting in August, our next will be **Wednesday 9th September**.

Andy Simmonds

Judith Johnson

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	
Publicity	Andy Simmonds	
Committee member	Patrick Forsyth	

Webmaster	Tony Groves	
Publicity	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
Book Group	Patrick Forsyth
Bridge	Gill Cory
Canasta	Iris Slaney
Climate Change	Patrick Forsyth
Cribbage	Pat Clements
Country Dancing	John Rogers
Croquet	Geoff & Shirley Macro
Discussion	Pat Jones
Engineering	Tony Groves
Film Club	Shirley Macro
French Conversation	Ann Lester

Garden Visits	Theresa Byles
	Kris Taylor
Geology	Sylvia Cousins
German Conversation	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
Poetry for Fun	Patrick Forsyth
Rummikub	Janice Martin
Sing for Pleasure	Sue Garnham
Social Events	Margaret Harker
	Brenda Heal
Spanish Conversation	Andy Simmonds
Strollers Sunday & Tues	Malcolm Case
Tenpin Bowling	Alan Buck
	David Coombes
Wine Circle No. 4	Ann Goody
Wine Circle	Robert Church
Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - AUGUST 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Maritime Visit to Sheerness	Guitar & Ukulele Engineering	Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Crochet & Knitting Croquet Padel Tennis	Ten Pin Bowling Rummikub Pétanque			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Discussion		Ten Pin Bowling Meet & Eat Padel Tennis	Ten Pin Bowling Poetry for Fun Pétanque French conversation	Singing Climate Change		Strollers
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Monthly meeting Just Jazz	London Walks	Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Croquet Geology Padel Tennis Photos for Fun	Ten Pin Bowling Rummikub Pétanque	Spanish Conversation		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Strollers Too Wine Group	Ten Pin Bowling Padel Tennis Writing for Fun Film - Zoom	Ten Pin Bowling Pétanque French conversation	Aviation Singing Cribbage		
31						
Astronomy						

Blue— Morning

Red—Afternoon

Purple— Evening

Schedule correct at time of publication - please confirm dates with coordinators