



Maldon and District

Newsletter



The Petanque Group having fun in Promenade Park

page 7

November 2020

www.maldonu3a.co.uk

Registered Charity 1086182

FROM THE CHAIR



I'll start with my usual few words of hoping this finds you fit and well. As expected, we now find ourselves back into lockdown for at least a month. But as good members of the u3a, we will continue to find ways of staying in touch and enjoying ourselves as best we can.

I joined in with the November Maritime meeting, which was a presentation by Gordon Davies on Safety at Sea, 1800s style. This was done via Zoom with Gordon giving an excellent presentation. Well done to Gordon, Malcolm Case for his organisation and Tony Groves for the technical support. It all bodes well for our first monthly meeting on the 16th November. (Details in last month's newsletter).

One thing you may have noticed is the new branding for the u3a – and yes, it is now lower-case letters. This has been introduced by The Trust and we are making the necessary changes to the logo and colouring as requested. It will probably seem odd to start with, but we will soon get used to it.

One piece of official business that needs to be announced is that as a result of the change in membership renewal date, we need to update our Constitution to reflect this. Under item 5 iv the wording has been revised to "if annual membership or other fees are not paid by the due date in each year". Once the membership has been informed of this change, the Constitution can then be submitted to National Office for approval and then to the Charity Commission.

Tony has been working on our website, making the changes to our logo and if you click on the section "About Us" you will see photographs of the Committee members. If you have any suggestions on how we can continue to improve our website, please get in touch with us.

As already said, let's stay in touch with each other using all the various methods now available to us, a telephone call and chat might be all that's needed on these dark afternoons.

Best wishes to you all,

Shirley Macro

MARITIME GROUP

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 7th December**, starting at 10:00am, as we are unable to meet as normal then this talk will be by virtual means using "Zoom".

The talk is by Alison Mainwood. "In 2019, we sailed up the East Coast of England and Scotland, through the Caledonian canal to spend a few months sailing in the West of Scotland. In this talk, I will show plenty of photos of these beautiful areas, talk about some of the towns and villages that we visited, and show some of the different perspective you get from a small boat. There will, of course, be some overlap with the blog, but I will include a lot of additional photos and discussions".

The talk will be some fifty minutes in length and there will be the ability, by using the "Chat" button, to ask questions.

Details on how to join the meeting by Zoom will be sent out nearer the date.

Any u3a member is very welcome to join in, for details please contact me.

Feedback on the Maritime meeting Monday 2nd November

The Maritime Group held its fourth meeting of 2020, by using virtual means – "Zoom", some 45 members joined in for a very interesting and informative talk given by Gordon Davies on – "Safety at Sea, 19th Century style". From the emails and phone calls that I have received following the meeting the members really enjoyed the talk.

Due to the current restrictions the group will continue to meet on the first Monday of each month for talks on various Nautical subjects, by using "Zoom". If you would like to join the meetings or to find out who the future speakers will be then please do contact me.

Malcolm Case

GEOLOGY GROUP

Three of us decided to brave the pouring rain and took a ride out to the Church of All Saints, Messing, to do one of our church walls surveys. It feels as though we have done many such visits but apparently there are still plenty of churches out there waiting for a visit from us!



All Saints, Messing, is of 13th century and later build, in stone rubble, conglomerate and Roman brick, with limestone dressings and red plain tile roof. Apart from the brick clock tower, it was built mainly of rubble taken from a nearby Roman villa. The whole church was refurbished in 1840. We were told by the husband of the Church Warden whom we happened to meet during our visit, that the Church suffered damage in the earthquake of 22nd April 1884, which measured 4.6 on the Richter scale.

Despite the torrential rain, we managed a quick look round and then made a hasty retreat. As always though, the sun came out on the drive home.

Shirley Macro



Patterns, lost doors, and beautiful stones can all be seen in church walls.

Next time you're out and about take a look.

It's surprising how different they all are.



HOMEMADE FACE MASKS



IN AID OF FARLEIGH HOSPICE

I have been making face masks for sale since April of this year with all proceeds going to Farleigh Hospice. So far I have raised over £850, and would love to increase this amount a little more.

The masks are made from new cotton or cotton mix fabric, fully lined and supplied with a filter and channel for a wire to be inserted if wished. Both male and female masks are available and also suitable material for children.

In addition to the 'normal' range of appropriate fabrics, I now have a stock of Christmas/seasonal fabrics available to cheer up the trip out prior to Christmas.

The masks are £2.50 each.

Delivery can be arranged within the Maldon district.

Available from:

Marian Manning,



MONTHLY MEETING



2.00pm on Monday 21st December 2020

This will be a “Live” presentation on
Zoom by Ian K Davidson

Christmas Fun Talk & Quiz



<https://speakernet.co.uk/speaker/557/ian-k-davidson>

Click on the link to join the Zoom session

Session opens at 1.50pm for a 2pm start

News

How dare you call us past it, say over-60s

Greg Hurst Social Affairs Editor

Many societies revere the old, thinking that with age comes wisdom, but it seems that in one respect the older generation in Britain may be feeling rather bruised.

The University of the Third Age (U3A) has called for an end to “patronising” labels directed at those in their later years.

u3a in the media

The Times— 10th October 2020

Our Chief Executive Sam Mauger has been in the media recently discussing ageist language directed towards older adults.

PETANQUE

The Petanque group started playing again in late July and have managed to meet for thirteen weeks. We had to dodge the showers a few times and our last week was a washout!

Everyone who attended found the company enjoyable and it was good fun to be able to do something different. Some new players joined us this year as other activities were not possible.

We were careful to maintain our social distancing with separate groups of up to six. The Petanque playing area at The Prom is large enough to enable three separate games to take place.

The current lockdown has brought an end to the fun for the moment but, depending on the weather, we may resume playing later this year. Group members will be contacted when the lockdown has finished. Normally, we do not play in the winter months but there is nothing normal about this year and members may like the opportunity to get out and meet up to play a game or two.

Geoff Macro



NEW – Website Photo Gallery

Share your photos of Autumn with other members – see our website www.maldonu3a.co.uk for details.

Not a competition, neither do you need to be an expert photographer.

Each month will be a different subject.



CAN YOU HELP?

At the AGM last year, which was also the 21st anniversary of the founding of Maldon & District u3a, we had on display the embroidery made by our members and scrap books/photo albums of the early days. I have the embroidery safely stored in my garage, although I must confess to denying any knowledge of its whereabouts! However, I don't have the photograph books. If you were involved with clearing away at the meeting and can recall what happened to them, please could you let me know. It is just possible they are stored under the stage at Wickham Bishops hall, but for the time being we are unable to access the hall.

Many thanks, Shirley Macro



As displayed with messages



The Embroidery – safely stored

WEDNESDAY LUNCH CLUB

Due to the prevailing government Coronavirus restrictions, I am afraid that I have decided to cancel the Wednesday Lunch Club Christmas Lunch at Forrester Park Golf Club due to take place on **December 3rd** this year. The rule of six and social distancing means that attendees would be required to remain at their tables of six persons, not move around the venue or interact with others attending the function.

Further restrictions, such as placing this area into Tier 2, would make this event even more restrictive. I am sorry to take this decision, and I hope we may return to something like normality in the near future.

Paul Costa

WELCOME TO OUR NEW TREASURER

Geoff Cory

I have taken over the role of treasurer from Graham Webster, who has done a great job looking after the finances of the Maldon u3a for the last few years.

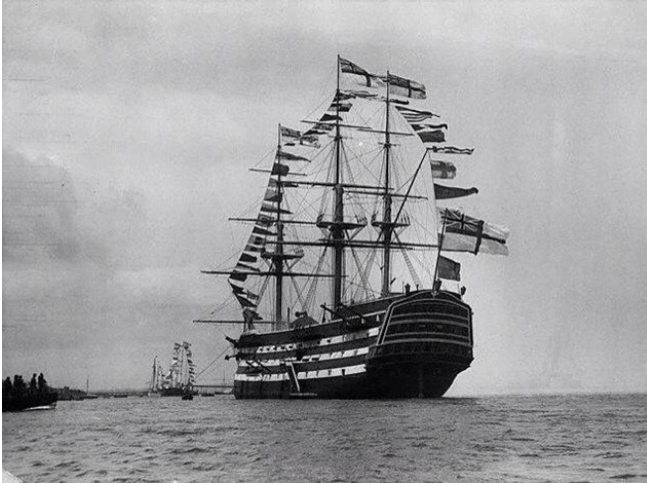
By u3a standards I am a relatively new member having joined in 2013, many of you will already know me from the ten pin bowling, petanque, bridge, wine group 4 and theatre trips.

Outside of the u3a I enjoy a game of golf, social bridge and do my best to keep fit using the local sports centre gym and facilities. I have lived locally in Danbury for 41 years where my wife Gill and I brought up our three children. Our two sons and their families still live close by but our daughter and family live in Sydney, Australia where in better times we like to visit.

Before retiring I worked as a professional engineer, originally at Imperial College London and then for thirty years at Ford Motor Co. Although my background is not in finance I have had previous experience as treasurer of a local boys' football club and am pleased to be of assistance to our association in my new role.

Hopefully after this dreadful virus is behind us we will again get back to all our various u3a activities and resume enjoying our well earned retirement.

HMS VICTORY AT PORTSMOUTH 1911



In this view the Victory appears sound enough, but her hull was in very poor condition. At this date, the results of her refit in 1814–16 were still very much in evidence; her bulwarks were raised and much of her decoration was removed, giving the ship an austere aspect. When she was restored in the 1920s, she was returned to her Trafalgar appearance. This would be frowned upon today, but it dramatically improved the Victory's visual appeal.

HMS Victory was one of the oldest ships in Nelson's fleet, having first been launched at Chatham Dockyard in 1765. The name of the new warship was not universally popular, as many sailors were superstitious, and the previous Victory had been lost in a storm with all hands in 1744. Their misgivings proved to be ill-founded, for if ever a ship led a charmed life, it was the Victory.

The Victory was commissioned in 1778 and for the next 20 years she had a hard life, which culminated in her service as fleet flagship at the Battle of Cape St Vincent in February 1797.

A few months later she was surveyed and found to be in such poor condition that an order was placed to convert her into a hospital ship. Victory's career as a warship appeared to be over, but fate intervened when the 98-gun Impregnable was wrecked off Spithead in 1799. The navy was now short of a three-decker and the Victory was therefore given a major refit and put back into service. The refit, which nearly amounted to a rebuild, was completed in 1803 and the Victory, which had always been a fine sailor, was chosen as Nelson's flagship.

At Trafalgar, the Victory received extensive damage, but she managed to weather the storm that followed the battle and was finally towed into Gibraltar by the Neptune. The Victory continued to serve until the end of the Napoleonic Wars, but in January 1824 her seagoing days came to an end when she was designated as the Port Admiral's flagship at Portsmouth. In 1831 she was placed on the disposal list, but Admiral Hardy (Nelson's flag captain at Trafalgar) refused to allow her to be broken up. The Victory remained afloat at Portsmouth, but very little maintenance was undertaken and in 1886 a visitor reported that he could have poked his walking stick through her sides.

The Victory continued to deteriorate at her mooring and in 1903 she was nearly lost when she was accidentally rammed by a warship under tow to the breakers. Emergency repairs followed, but it was again proposed that she should be scrapped, and a reprieve only came through the intervention of the King. In 1910 the Society for Nautical Research was founded, but although the organisation began serious efforts to save the ship, all impetus was lost with the outbreak of the First World War.

Finally, in 1921, a "Save the Victory" campaign was launched, and sufficient funds were raised for her restoration to begin the following year. However, the Victory was not quite safe, for Portsmouth was heavily bombed during the Second World War and in 1941 she was damaged by a near-miss from a 500lb bomb. Once again Lady Luck was on her side, for a direct hit would have reduced the old ship to matchwood.

From The Merchant Navy Association

POETRY READING GROUP

POETS & POETRY



Apologies for the delay in sending the answers due to technical problems. I hope you find the answers interesting, and enjoyable.

Looking on the brighter side of life Pam Ayres has just written a new book which is sure to bring a smile on any cloudy day.

Jo Robson

- 1 Q. The current Poet Laureate wrote a series of poems that have been carved on rocks on a nature trail. Where? And what were the poems called?

A. Simon Armitage wrote six new poems which are carved on rocks on his Pennine walks. They are in a book called Stanza Stones ISBN-978-1907 587396. The poems are about different forms of water – Rain, Mist, Snow, Dew, Beck and Puddle. They stretch from Marsden to Ilkley Moor. The whole project took 18 months to complete in 2012.

- 2 Q This poem was adopted by Violette Szabo GC as her code when she was a secret agent against the Germans in WWII.

A 'The life that I have' written by Leo Marks. The film – 'Carve' her 'Name' with 'Pride', with Virginia McKenna in the lead depicting her life and tragic end.

- 3 Q Which poet sent his son to fight in WWI where he was killed. What was his most famous poem?

A 'If' By Rudyard Kipling.

- 4 Q This poet was killed just before the end of WWII. The last line of the poem he is known for is 'Put out my hand and touched the face of God'. Who was he and what was he?

A The poem was called 'High Flight (An Airman's ecstasy)' – His name John Gillespie Magee and he was a pilot.

- 5 Q Which of Shakespeare's plays is known for being written entirely in verse?
- A Richard II (Also Henry VI, part I; Henry VI part 3; King John and Edward III also have verse in them.)**
- 6 Q What Prime Minister's wife wrote poetry? Where did they spend their last years?
- A Harold Wilson's wife Mary. They lived on St Mary's in the Scillies, where he is buried.**
- 7 Q This author wrote 'The Mayor of Casterbridge' and "Far from the Madding Crowd' The poem is about a dying bird.
- A Thomas Hardy. 'The darkling thrush'.**
- 8 Q It's a good thing these creatures can't talk! As it would change the shape of a Festive meal for some?
- A 'Talking Turkeys', by Benjamin Zephaniah.**
- 9 Q First line – 'Let us not speak, for the love we bear one another – let us hold hands and look.'
- A 'In a Bath Teashop' by John Betjeman. (I have been here and imagined the Poet sitting there, and a hundred years earlier the author Jane Austen – there is a small museum about her, very atmospheric!)**
- 10 Q David Attenborough was not the first to warn us! Who wrote this first line – 'I thought it would last my time'?
- A The poem 'Going, Going' by Philip Larkin (Do read it, if you haven't).**
- 11 Q A poem called 'One Art' mastered by most of us, sooner or later!
- A 'Written' by Elizabeth Bishop (1911-70).**
- 12 Q A modern poet who died in 1973 and lived in Valparaiso. (An uplifting poem).
- A 'If you forget me' by Pablo Neruda (1904-73) Uplifting for anyone who has lost a dear one.**

QUIZ ANSWERS



How well do you know the world's cuisines?

From Malcolm Case

1. What is the national dish of Barbados?

Cou cou and flying fish

2. Which country produces the most corn?

USA

3. The island of St Helena is famous for which dish?

Tuna fishcakes

4. How many different types of potato grow in Peru?

More than 3,500

5. What is the national dish of Indonesia?

Nasi Goreng

6. The national dish of Canada is poutine. But what are the dishes' three main ingredients?

Cheese curds, chips and gravy

7. Which Cypriot cheese is usually grilled or fried?

Halloumi

8. Moules–frites is often called the national dish of which country?

Belgium

9. Ackee is commonly eaten in Jamaica, but what is it?

A type of fruit

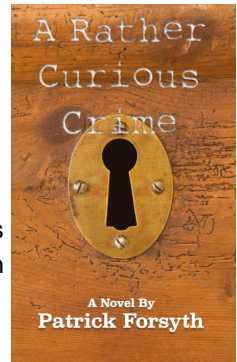
10. Pastizzi is a Maltese street food. Which unusual ingredient are they traditionally stuffed with?

Mushy peas

WRITING FOR FUN GROUP

A new book

Writing for Fun Group Coordinator Patrick Forsyth's new book, written in lockdown and mentioned in an earlier newsletter, has now been published.



A Rather Curious Crime is a novel, set in Maldon, in which a young reporter gets involved in a local crime and discovers that not everything about it is as it seems.

Copies are £8.99, but Patrick will offer a discount to u3a members. Email him for details; copies can be sent – *post free* – or collected (giving a further price reduction).

He says: “This is a satisfying result and I hope a number of members will get a copy – and enjoy it. Books make good Christmas presents too – certainly they are one of the few things I can wrap (reasonably) neatly!”

MARITIME – RNLI 5p and 20p Collection Pots!

Another thank you to those filling the small pots for the RNLI – another cheque has been forwarded to the local branch in the sum of **£31.90** bringing our total raised so far to **£161**.

Our continued support has been welcomed especially in the current times when the RNLI, like so many charities, has lost so much income but still has overheads and was very much needed on the beaches this summer.

If anyone wants a pot or needs one collected please contact me or Malcolm Case.

Mary Burd



GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ



- 1 How many teeth does an adult human have?
- 2 What is the largest bird of prey in the world?
- 3 In which sport would you use a shuttlecock?
- 4 Who is fifth in line to the British throne?
- 5 What is the biggest state in America?
- 6 Who wrote Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs?
- 7 What is the capital of Hawaii?
- 8 Enchiladas originated in which country?
- 9 In Dirty Dancing, what is Baby's first name?
- 10 How many eggs does the average chicken lay per year?

Answers next month

ASTRONOMY for NOVEMBER

The night sky for mid-November, both Jupiter and Saturn are still visible in the early evenings to the south south west. Mars is also still visible to the east south east. Uranus, very faint but visible to the east. Orion, rising from the east at about 9:00 pm, with Betelgeuse visible above the belt of Orion and Rigel visible below the belt of Orion. Aldebaran will be visible below and to the left of the Moon.

Keep looking up!

Malcolm Case

Items from u3a National Newsletter—October

Direct links below and also via our own website
www.maldonu3a.co.uk

1. u3a Radio Podcast



[U3A Radio – Episode 1](#)

<https://youtu.be/9zGNxpUSUAc>

<http://www.maldonu3a.co.uk/>

Next episode

Tuesday 17th November

2. Links to various activities

[Weekly quizzes](#)

[Weekly quiz](#)

[Photography](#)

[Crafting collaboration](#)

[Paint or draw](#)

[Christmas decorations](#)

[Maths challenge](#)

[Birdwatching](#)

[On-line learning events – various subjects](#)

learn,
laugh,
live

u3a – New Winter Learning Programme

Look on the National website <https://u3a.org.uk/news>

[Programme of free talks](#) delivered by members.

[Programme of 'external' talks](#), including an upcoming event with the National Gallery.

YOUR COMMITTEE

Chairman Shirley Macro

Vice Chairman Malcolm Case

Secretary Carol Bates

Treasurer Geoff Cory

Membership
Secretary Malcolm Case

Newsletter Liz Samson

Editor

Speaker Veronica Smith

Secretary

Committee Alec Fraser

Tony Groves

Judith Johnston

Andrew Simmonds

Webmaster Tony Groves

Social Group Michael Childs

AV Equipment Mike Flack

Essex Assoc. Malcolm Case

of u3a's

Committee

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u3a learn,
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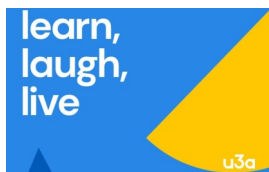
Tel: 020 8466 6139

Email: info@u3a.org.uk

www.u3a.org.uk

CO-ORDINATORS

Art Appreciation	Andy Simmonds	London Theatre	Rosemary Case
Aviation	Brian Johnson	Outings	Joyce Cotterell
Astronomy	Malcolm Case	Luncheon 3rd Wed	Paul Costa
Balti Night	Bob Gowers	Meet & Eat 2nd Wed	Joyce Cotterell
Bird Watching	Graham Evans	Mah-Jong	Molly Polden
	Peter Gaywood	Maritime	Malcolm Case
	Michael Bagshaw	Music	Enid Hall
Botany	Veronica Smith	Appreciation	John Skuse
Bridge	Sheila Epps	Petanque (Boules)	Jack Veash
Canasta	Iris Slaney	Poetry	Jo Robson
Cribbage	Pat Clements	Reading	Sheila Epps
Croquet	Jean Healey	Rummikub 1	Colin Beckett
	Shirley Macro	Rummikub 2	Beryl McDonell
Discussion	Bryan Jones	Scottish Country Dancing	Shirley Grummett
Egyptology	Kathleen Goff	Sing for Pleasure	Sue Garnham
	Sue Robinson	Strollers	Gill Stone
Family History	Alan Buck	Table Tennis	Louis Gunn
French Conversation	Ann Lester	Ten Pin Bowling	David Arnold
Geology	Enid Hall	Tree Identification	Veronica Smith
Handicraft	Marian Manning	Weekenders	Beryl McDonell
History—Stuarts	Beryl McDonell	Wine Circle No. 2	Graham Boswell
Just Jazz	Jim Light	Wine Circle No. 3	Mary Burd
	David Coombes	Wine Circle No. 4	Paul Costa
Local History	Sylvia Cousins	Writing for Fun	Ann Goody
	Jane Coombes		Patrick Forsyth
	Kathleen Goff		



A fresh look for u3a

The u3a is being given a fresh new look. Explore the national website and see the new style and colours. The emphasis is more modern and inclusive moving away from reference to “university”.

We are trying out some of the new logos and colours in this newsletter and you will be seeing the changes incorporated in our website.

WI DENMAN—Zoom Sessions



WI members and non-members can join a new series of Zoom sessions. Cookery courses, craft demonstration, history lessons and activities . Costs £5 per session. www.denman.org.uk/

Free talks from Mirthy

Mirthy broadcast educational and entertaining online talks by the best public speakers aimed at retirees. They broadcasts a FREE talk every Thursday. See their website <https://mirthy.co.uk/>

The Silver Line

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 4 70 80 90 www.thesilverline.org.uk

FROM THE EDITOR

Many thanks for all your contributions for this newsletter. I have appreciated the many and varied articles and enjoyed having first read. Please keep them coming. Any suggestions, articles, useful tips etc. most welcome.

Don't forget to keep looking at our website for any updates in-between newsletters. www.maldonu3a.co.uk

Liz Samson