



Maldon and District

Newsletter



Rivers

By Michael Manning

Photography Group page 17

February 2021

www.maldonu3a.co.uk

Registered Charity 1086182

FROM THE CHAIR



Hello,

It seems as if the months come and go with amazing speed and as I am writing this on the 1st February, the first month of 2021 has already disappeared. That does mean that Spring is on the way and we can look forward to some of the restrictions being lifted with the arrival of warmer weather. I think it will still be some time before we start our face-to-face meetings, despite many of us feeling some reassurance now that we may have had our vaccinations. In the meantime, we will continue to follow all the advice given to stay safe and healthy.

The January monthly meeting was very well attended, and we enjoyed a very informative talk by Lindsay Whitehouse, talking about his time as Deputy Governor of HM Chelmsford Prison. Certainly not a job I would have wanted to do. Don't forget to check out our up-coming meetings, they cover a wide variety of subjects and there's sure to be something of interest.

We have started a couple of new interest groups, Photography and Films, both of which are now up and running. They are just a couple of fun ideas to keep us in touch with one another, certainly nothing too serious. Following the film selection for this month, we decided to watch one of them which we had recorded only to find that it had failed after the first hour and five minutes! Not a good start.

I hope you have signed up for the National Newsletter. It's an interesting read with plenty of articles and links to look at. It's just a case of going online and signing up. Any problems just let me know. Talking of websites, take a look at our own one as it also has plenty of information and links too.

Best wishes to you all,

Shirley Macro,

REPORT ON JANUARY SPEAKER

Lindsay Whitehouse has had several roles over the years, and he spoke to us about his time as Deputy Governor at HM Chelmsford Prison. He spoke eloquently for about an hour and took questions, although there were many more we could have asked.

He gave an insider view of life in prison, describing it as smelling of cabbage and stale tobacco, and being noisy with many echoing voices and clanging doors. In his role he needed to act as judge and constable, an arms regulator and civil servant, being allowed to take 28 days' pay from a disobedient prisoner, and as a soldier because he had access to firearms.

All prisoners are put to work, with that of cleaner being the most sought-after job, as the cleaner is out of his cell earlier and can have a shower whenever he wishes.

Inevitably there are drugs in prison, brought in via drone and by post, as liquid form impregnating paper which when heated will release the drug. Therefore, clean urine is a valuable commodity when given a drugs test.

Most of the prisoners have had little education with an average reading age of nine years. Without skills, 50% re-offend, so that there are approximately 90,000 people in prison at any one time. Unfortunately, suicides are not uncommon, usually by young men aged 16 – 25, and especially alcoholics and drug users. Arson is fairly common from disaffected prisoners, and sometimes taking a hostage.

All in all, it was a fascinating talk, leaving me with the question – why would anyone want to do this difficult and sometimes dangerous job?

Veronica Smith

ASTRONOMY GROUP

The next meeting is **Monday 22nd February 2:00 pm** on Zoom.

We will be discussing “**Galaxies**” which can be seen during the year.

Details for the Zoom meeting will be sent nearer the meeting date.

Any u3a member is very welcome to join the meeting, if you would like to join, then please contact me and I will send you the Zoom details.

Malcolm Case



MARITIME GROUP

The next meeting is on **Monday 1st March at 10: 00 am using Zoom.**

An illustrated talk by Jane Robinson of the Pioneer Sailing Trust.



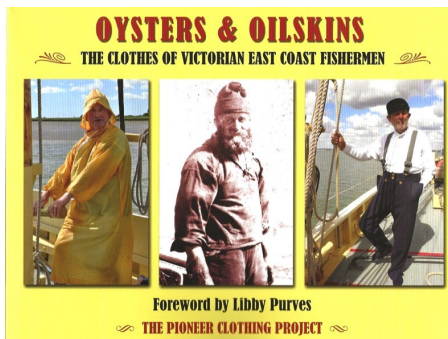
PIONEER SAILING TRUST

Developing Young People Through Practical Experience

The talk is titled ***“Clothing of East Coast Sailors in Victorian times”***. Jane will tell the story of how the clothing of late Victorian oystermen, who worked in harsh North Sea conditions, was researched and recreated using the methods and materials of the time.

The Pioneer Sailing Trust and members of Brightlingsea u3a worked together on producing the clothing layer by layer from underwear to weather-proofed outer wear, on finding materials and patterns and learning something of the social and economic conditions of working seafarers. The talk will be illustrated and show the journey and outcomes of the research which culminated in the production of a book ***‘Oysters and Oilskins’***.

www.pioneerck18.org



Details for the Zoom meeting will be sent nearer the meeting date.

The Zoom meeting is open to all u3a members, if you would like to join, then please contact me I will send you the Zoom details.

Malcolm

POETRY GROUP

The next meeting is on **Thursday 4th March at 2:00 pm** using Zoom.

The poet for discussion is Elizabeth Bishop, an American (1911–1979).



Any u3a member is very welcome to join, if you would like to, then please contact :

Malcolm Case

10 QUESTIONS TO TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

ANSWERS

1. How long did the **Hundred Years War** last? **116 years, from 1337 to 1453.**
2. Which country makes **Panama Hats**? **Ecuador.**
3. From which animal do we get **Catgut**? **From Sheep and Horses.**
4. In which month do the Russians celebrate the **October Revolution**? **November. The Russian calendar was 13 days behind ours.**
5. What is a **Camel's Hair Brush** made of? **Squirrel Fur**
6. The **Canary Islands** in the Atlantic are named after what animal? **The Latin name was Insularia Canaria – Island of the Dogs.**
7. What was **King George VI's** first name? **Albert. When he came to the throne in 1936 he respected the wish of Queen Victoria that no future King should ever be called Albert.**
8. What colour is a **Purple Finch**? **Distinctively Crimson.**
9. Where do **Chinese Gooseberries** come from? **New Zealand**
10. How long did the **Thirty Years War** last? **Thirty Years, of course, from 1618 to 1648.**

MONTHLY MEETING



2.00pm on Monday 15th March 2021

This will be a “Live” presentation on Zoom

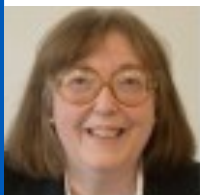
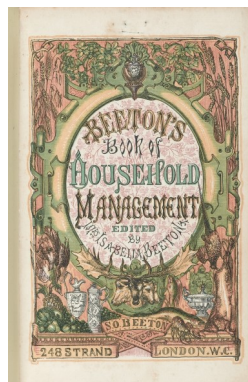
by Margaret Mills

‘The Original Superwoman? – Mrs Beeton’

Margaret has been interested in Mrs Beeton since childhood, having picked up a tattered copy of the ‘Book of Household Management’ which belonged to her grandmother.

At about 10 years old, and already interested in history and helping Grannie cook, she found the illustrations fascinating.

It was a short step from scanning through the book (marvelling at pictures of dinner tables set out for 24 people) to searching out information about the woman behind it – a book that apparently nearly everyone had in their home.



The rest, as they say is history: the history of Mrs Beeton – an ambitious woman and entrepreneur.

Margaret is an historian with a particular interest in Victorian celebrities.

MONTHLY SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2021

Initially via Zoom, subject to change

April 19th	David Allen	The Wonderful World of the Law
May 17th	Dr James Taylor	Comic Postcards
June 21st	Roger Browne	The Great American Songbook
July 19th	Steve Price	Close-up Magic
Aug 16th	Simon Waterfield	Historical talks in costume
Sept 20	Andy Bennett	Topic TBC
Oct 18th	AGM	
Nov 15th	Sue Handscombe + 1	Sonority Recorder Consort
Dec 20th	tba	

TEN PIN BOWLING

“Stop Press”

Ten Pin Bowling not starting before May / June.

David Arnold

FILM CLUB

We have now had our first meeting to decide how to run the group and choose films to watch. We are sticking to those on offer through the free to view channels and will pick two films per month, taking turns to make the selections. When we get together again this month, we will chat about the films and score them out of 10.



Our first choices were very different – “Fantastic Beasts, the Crimes of Grindelwald” and “The Conversation”, a mystery thriller. I’ll report on the results in our next newsletter.

We meet on the last Wednesday every month at **3.00pm** on Zoom– next meeting **24th February**. Get in touch if you would like to join us.

Shirley Macro

LONDON LANDMARKS QUIZ



1. What is the name of the UK's tallest sculpture, which is home to the world's longest tunnel slide?

- Glencore Spiral
- Canonical Corkscrew
- ArcelorMittal Orbit
- UBS Spin

2. The Thai temple Wat Buddhapadipa is closest to which green space?

- Blackheath
- Dulwich Park
- Wimbledon Common
- Wanstead Flats

3. Which spectacular London palace opened in 1873?

- Crystal Palace
- Lambeth Palace
- Eltham Palace
- Alexandra Palace

4. What is the nickname of The Leadenhall Building?

- The Wedge
- The Doorstop
- The Scalene Triangle
- The Cheesegrater

5. In which borough will you find Leighton House Museum?

- City of Westminster
- Kensington & Chelsea
- Hammersmith & Fulham
- Richmond upon Thames

6. BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, London, is also known as...?

- Shri Sanatan Hindu Mandir
- London Sri Murugan Temple
- Neasden Temple
- Neasden Shrine

Answers Next Month

Proposed MARITIME GROUP Programme 2021

(subject to change)

Monday 1st March zoom	talk by Jane Robinson ' Clothing of East Coast Sailors '.
Monday 5th April Easter Monday zoom	talk by Lieutenant Samuel James Williams Royal Navy on ' The Royal Navy of the 21st Century A Personal Perspective '.
Monday 3rd May	Bank Holiday – no meeting
Monday 7th June zoom	talk by Janet Hall ' The steam tug "Brent" '.
Monday 5th July zoom	talk by Andrea Raiker ' The Maldon and Heybridge Heritage Harbour Association (MHHHA) '.
Monday 2nd August	trip, to be decided
Monday 6th September	5-day holiday to Skipton
Monday 4th October	David Griffith's talk, Part 3, ' Life aboard a submarine '.
Monday 1st November zoom	talk by Dr Megan Barford on ' Maps and Cartography '.
Monday 6th December	discussion on 2022 programme.

Malcolm Case

London Walks Guide

Recommendation from Kathy Goff

There is a London Walks Guide called Joolz <https://joolzguides.com/> who has a YouTube channel called joolzguide on which he presents various vlogs of walks around London.



The films last for about 20 minutes at a time and are on various subjects. I find them very interesting and entertaining.

Kathy Goff

GEOLOGY GROUP

The Great English Earthquake 1884

In October 2020, the geology group went to Messing Church to record the stones in its wall when a local man told us about the damage the church received during the 1880's earthquake. An occurrence which maybe only a few people now know about.

The Great English Earthquake, also known as the Great Essex Earthquake, happened on 22nd April 1884 at 9.18 am. The shock was felt over the south of England and in parts of Europe. It was of magnitude 4.6 and thought to have been caused by movement along an ancient fault in Palaeozoic rocks under Essex. The main impact was suffered by people and buildings within 150 miles from the epicentre which was just southeast of Colchester.

Maldon was first thought to have been the centre of devastation with reports of chimneys and masonry being brought down. But it was Peldon that suffered the most damage as it was above the epicentre.

Many people reported hearing loud rumbling noises and the ground moved up and down. The whole experience lasted from a few seconds to less than a minute. Strong enough to damage buildings which in turn injured a number of people with cuts, bruises, and broken bones. Any deaths were not reported accurately enough to be linked directly to the earthquake. In Rowhedge there was a report of one child killed by falling masonry and one man in Wivenhoe also hit by masonry which was described as an accidental death.

Peldon Village



Peldon Rose Inn after the earthquake c May 1884

Mersea Museum / Rose and Len Harvey Collection

The type of damage done to the Peldon Rose was repeated in other nearby villages. In Wivenhoe items were shaken off the shelves. Chimneys and their pots were shaken to the ground and at least one house caught fire by a chimney collapsing. In West Street windows were broken, roofs untiled, chimneys brought down, and walls had cracks. The church suffered damage when the battlements on the north side were brought down and masonry fell into church. The top of the tower came down and cracks appeared in the walls.

On Mersea Island cracks or fissures opened up in the ground. Some were more than a hundred yards long and the widths varied from an inch to several inches. One crack appeared near the island's water well forcing the water out of the ground in a jet. Other water jets were observed in other locations on the island.

Initial report of damage in Messing Village was that one house had part of its chimney brought down and some plaster fell inside the church. Later large cracks appeared in the church causing the villagers to set up a Restoration Fund for repairs. Various local fund-raising events took place and £50 came from the Lord Mayor of London's fund to repair churches. The church's north transept was damaged beyond repair and pulled down. Substantial repairs were made to the east wall of the chancel, the north and west walls of the nave. In fact, these walls were taken down and rebuilt reusing original material.

Pat Sheehy

Sources: *The Great English Earthquake, Peter Haining, Essex Standard Articles 1884 -1887, Mersea Museum website*

GEOLOGY GROUP QUIZ

- | | | |
|----|--|-----------------|
| 1 | A feature of East Anglian church walls. | Flint |
| 2 | Found in the Tors of Dartmoor. | Granite |
| 3 | A convenient missile for old fashioned teachers. | Chalk |
| 4 | Fortieth wedding anniversary . | Ruby |
| 5 | Scrooge's comment on a condiment. | Basalt |
| 6 | Like looking into a glass darkly. | Obsidian |
| 7 | M-m-m That was really tasty. | Gneiss |
| 8 | Time crystal. | Quartz |
| 9 | Go to Coober Pedy for a good selection. | Opals |
| 10 | It sounds mournful.. | Dolerite |

Enid Hall

LOOKING BACK

1930/1940's Poem



I thought some of you might be interested in this somewhat naïve poem written by one of two maiden sisters who spent the first half of their lives looking after their irascible father. (He had a big bushy beard and I dreaded kissing him good night as a little girl).

Margaret the elder who was known as Peggy, kept house and taught pianoforte (not the piano). Rowena, known as Rowie was hopeless in all household matters and could get lost in her own street but was a very good English teacher and eventually a head teacher at a High School near Hull.

Knowing their garden well, I am surprised at how few types of birds she mentioned. This was written in either the 1930s or 1940s. I think it is likely that it is only with the reduction of open countryside, that so many birds have adapted to suburban life nowadays. So apart from being a pleasant little poem it is a historical commentary on birds and on the style of English taught in schools.

Clare Urry

Birds in a City Suburb

By

Rowie Wright (my Godmother)

At five a.m. what do I hear?
A cooing collard dove
Perched in a tree, my bedroom window near,
And singing of his love.

Before the morning light is good,
A brilliant moorhen stalks
Across the lawn, in search of food,
It's eye as keen as a hawk's.

Down flood the starlings, handsome birds,
But oh! The greed of these!
A glossy blackbird has a job
To get one piece of cheese.

A little group, house sparrows bright,
Peck cheekily at crumbs,
Though starlings, filled with greedy spite,
Chase any bird that comes.

The blue-tit's acrobatic tricks
Give joy untold to all
In fact, a city's birds will keep
Your eye and mind in thrall.

R.A.Wright

MARS 2020

This is a Mars rover mission by NASA's Mars Exploration Program that includes the *Perseverance* rover and the *Ingenuity* helicopter drone. It was launched on 30 July 2020 at 11:50 UTC, it will touch down in Jezero crater on Mars on 18 February 2021.

Perseverance will investigate an astrobiologically relevant ancient environment on Mars and investigate its surface geological processes and history, including the assessment of its past habitability, the possibility of past life on Mars, and the potential for preservation of biosignatures within accessible geological materials. It will cache sample containers along its route for retrieval by a potential future Mars sample-return mission. The Mars 2020 mission was announced by NASA on 4 December 2012 at the fall meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco. The *Perseverance* rover's design is derived from the *Curiosity* rover, and will use many components already fabricated and tested, new scientific instruments and a core drill.

Mars 2020 was the third of three space missions sent toward Mars during the July 2020 Mars launch window, with missions also launched by the national space agencies of the United Arab Emirates (Hope orbiter) and China (Tianwen-1, with an orbiter and lander. All three are expected to arrive at Mars in February 2021.



Sample tubes being loaded into the Perseverance rover. These tubes, launched from Earth in July 2020, may become the first equipment to complete a round trip to Mars and back, returning in 2031.

***The Perseverance Rover
at JPL***



The rover mission and launch are estimated to cost about US\$2.1 billion. The mission's predecessor, the Mars Science Laboratory, cost US\$2.5 billion in total. The availability of spare parts makes the new rover somewhat more affordable. The launch window, when the positions of Earth and Mars were optimal for traveling to Mars, opened on 17 July 2020, and lasted through 15 August 2020. The rocket was launched on 30 July 2020 at 11:50 UTC, and the rover is scheduled to land on Mars on 18 February 2021 at 20:00 UTC, with a planned surface mission of at least one Mars year (668 sols or 687 Earth days).

The mission will explore Jezero crater, which scientists speculate was a 250 m (820 ft) deep lake about 3.9 billion to 3.5 billion years ago. Jezero today features a prominent river delta where water flowing through it deposited much sediment over the eons, which is "extremely good at preserving biosignatures". The sediments in the delta likely include carbonates and hydrated silica, known to preserve microscopic fossils on Earth for billions of years. The "fetch rover" for returning the samples to Earth is expected to launch in 2026. The landing and surface operations of the "fetch rover" would take place early in 2029. The earliest return to Earth is envisaged for 2031.

(Source – NASA, Wikipedia, Space.com)

STROLLERS GROUP



Winter Walks



A Recommendation from Gill Stone

If you are missing visiting our beautiful countryside, you may like to log on to **Winter Walks**. This is a BBC Four series of 5 half hour programmes, now available on **BBC iPlayer**.

Well known people (Baroness Sayeeda Warsi, Rev Richard Coles, Selina Scott, Simon Armitage and Lemn Sissay) walk alone in Yorkshire, and share their thoughts and favourite poetry.

The scenery is fantastic! GS

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

The last Zoom meeting took place on 5th February and we discussed our **Rivers** photographs. There are now 80 pictures on our website, take a look on: www.maldonu3a.co.uk/photography/photography.php



The theme for March is **Architecture** and for April **Mountains**.

Email your entries to webmaster@maldonu3a.co.uk before **Monday 1st March**.

Zoom viewing and discussion at **11am on Friday 5th March 2021**.

Open to everyone, all standards, up to three photos per member.

The only criterion is that you have taken the photos yourself.

Tony Groves

Items from u3a National Newsletter—January

Direct links below and also via our own website

u3a Radio Episode 4



Click here to listen to the fourth national u3a podcast.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TheU3a>

There is also a link on our website

This latest episode features interviews with u3a members who started a 'Retiring with Attitude' course, a Barnet u3a member who featured on Britain's Got Talent and a chef from Vegetarian for Life.

The u3a Radio Podcast comes out on the **17th of each month from 6am**.

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

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Webmaster Tony Groves

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CO-ORDINATORS

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

MEMORY RESEARCH PROJECT



We are assisting the University of Hertfordshire to find volunteers for a PhD study titled *"The Stability of Everyday Memory Failures in Young and Older Adults"*.

This study is about memory and ageing in everyday life. This is a follow on from the survey that we advertised back in August 2020. If you are interested details are on our website. www.maldonu3a.co.uk

COVID-19 VACCINE FRAUD WARNINGS

See the attached to the newsletter email. Details also on the website

PEOPLE ARE WARNED TO BE ALERT TO THESE SCAMS:

The **NHS** will:

- ⊗ NEVER ask for payment - the vaccine is free
- ⊗ NEVER ask for your bank details
- ⊗ NEVER arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine
- ⊗ NEVER ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents such as your passport

THE SILVER LINE

0800 4 70 80 90 www.thesilverline.org.uk

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

FROM THE EDITOR

Many thanks for all your contributions for this newsletter. Members and co-ordinators have sent in some interesting articles and suggestions. Please keep them coming.

Zoom meetings are easy to join and a good way to try something different or new. All u3a members welcome at all Zoom meetings.

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

Liz Samson