



Maldon and District

Newsletter



Mountains Photo
Switzerland: Schynigge Platte
by Rosie Bartley-Crozier

Photography Group page 15

April 2021

www.maldonu3a.co.uk

Registered Charity 1086182

FROM THE CHAIR



Here we are again, and another month has flown by. It's been a bit of a strange weather month with the fluctuating temperatures, one day like early summer and then back to chilly winds and grey skies, but it does seem there is steady progress with infection rates dropping and the lifting of some restrictions. I suspect that most of us have had at least one jab, with some even on their second.

As things stand as I write this, I really hope that we will be able to begin making plans to restart our activities groups and get back to meeting together and enjoying the company of others. I do realise that there is still quite some way to go before any of this can happen and we all need to feel safe before venturing back out, but it is still reassuring that it is something we can start thinking and being positive about. We will still be continuing with our monthly Zoom meetings for the time being and I know those groups who are already using Zoom will be continuing to do so.

The Petanque group have taken full advantage of the relaxation of the restrictions, and they have already had their first game - see their report in this Newsletter. Please let Liz or me know if any other groups have been able to take advantage of this change or are planning to.

As already mentioned, our monthly meetings will be continuing by Zoom and the next speaker on **Monday, 19th April**, is David Allen on *The "Weird and Wonderful World of the Law"*, an enjoyable romp through the legal world. Please join us, the link for this is in the email with this Newsletter.

Our speaker last month, Margaret Mills, gave an interesting and detailed talk about the life and times of Mrs. Beeton. Margaret posed the question, "The Original Superwoman?" and it does seem this was a fairly accurate description. Fascinating to hear the story behind such a famous name.

One other thing I have been asked to mention by our Membership Secretary, Malcolm Case, is to remind everyone that our membership renewal date has been changed to 31st August. In previous years, we would have been looking to collect membership fees this month, however this will not now happen until later in the year. All the usual paperwork will be sent out nearer the time.

Best wishes,

Shirley Macro,

FILM GROUP

Both films chosen for the March viewing provided some interesting discussion points concerning the merits of exploration and why anyone would choose to go on such adventures. Both films were dramatizations of the lives and travels of two explorers. Roald Amundsen, Polar explorer, and Percy Fawcett, Amazon explorer. It would seem they both struggled with everyday life and needed the excitement and acknowledgement that came with their adventures. Sadly, they left friends and families behind and disappeared without trace. Also, tragically, Percy Fawcett did take his eldest son with him on his last exploration for the Lost City of Z, neither to return.



We marked the films out of 10, with scores remarkably close. I worked out an average and The Lost City of Z scored just over 7 points, with Amundsen totalling just under 7, so with rounding up/down they both scored 7.

For our April selection, Peta and Graeme Verney's first choice is TV drama Grace, based on the novels of Peter James. This instalment, inspired by the first book in the series, centres on a missing person case when a groom-to-be vanishes during his stag-night. A bit different as it's not strictly a film but a 2-hour police drama starring John Sim. They will make their second choice later in the month.

If you would like to join us, we meet via Zoom on the last Wednesday in the month, at 3pm. Our next meeting will be the **28th April**.

Shirley Macro

MARITIME GROUP

Unfortunately I have been unable to find a speaker for the May meeting, which is on Bank Holiday Monday therefore there will not be a meeting of the group in May.

Our next meeting will be on **Monday 7th June** for a talk by Janet Hall on the steam tug "Brent".



Details for the Zoom meeting will be sent out nearer to the meeting date. Hopefully and if current restrictions allow, then our July meeting will be at The Blackwater Sailing Club.

Malcolm Case



National u3a Day
WEDNESDAY, 2ND JUNE 2021

To coincide with the national u3a day on **2nd June**, we will be sending posters to medical centres, libraries, churches and other places. If you know of places where we can display a small (A5) poster, please contact Shirley Macro.

Recruitment is everyone's responsibility and lockdown has given many people the desire to expand their social life. Help us to spread the word as we start to hold meetings and activities in person.

Proposed MARITIME GROUP Programme 2021

(subject to change)

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 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 | Due lack of numbers, holiday cancelled |
| 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

POETRY GROUP

The next meeting is on **Thursday 6th May at 2:00 pm** using Zoom.

The poet for discussion is E. E. Cummings.

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

Malcolm Case



MONTHLY MEETING



2.00pm on Monday 17th May 2021

This will be a “Live” presentation on Zoom

by James Taylor on

Brilliant British Humour in the Forgotten Art of the Picture Postcard 1840 – 1950



Dr James Taylor, a former auctioneer and curator of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, will talk about artist drawn postcards, the most popular art form from the Edwardian era to WW 11.

They entertained, inspired, instructed, motivated, persuaded and lifted the spirits. Discover the popular subjects and styles by the masters of the medium such as Mabel Lucie Atwell, Donald McGill and Fred Spurgin, and the reasons why their popularity waned with the British public.

James has been collecting postcards for more than 45 years.

Click on the link to join the Zoom session

Session opens at 1.50pm for a 2pm start

MONTHLY SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2021

Initially via Zoom, subject to change

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| June 21st | Roger Browne | The Great American Songbook |
| July 19th | Steve Price | Close-up Magic |
| Aug 16th | Simon Waterfield | Historical talk in costume |
| Sept 20th | Andy Bennett | Topic TBC |
| Oct 18th | AGM | |
| Nov 15th | Sue Handscombe + 1 | Sonority Recorder Consort |
| Dec 20th | tba | |

CHARITY DRAW – BHSA

Beacon Hill Sports Association 200 Club 2021

BHSA is the charity which owns and runs the sports fields in Wickham Bishops and the Village Hall where we hold our monthly meetings. Our u3a branch is one of its member Clubs.

You can enter this draw for just £10 and get a chance to win £100 four times a year.

The winner of each draw will be posted on the WB Village Hall Notice Board and on the BHSA website.

The following local BHSA clubs benefit from your support:

WB Brownies and Rainbows, Great Totham Brownies, The Bridge Club, The Social and Snooker Club, The Drama Club, **Maldon and District u3a**, Arts Society Blackwater, The WB Toddlers Group, The Beacon Wine Circle, The Luncheon Club, Beacon Hill Rovers Football Club, WB Tennis Club, and Ladies' and Men's Badminton Clubs.

For details on how to enter, contact **Alec Fraser**, the BHSA Trustee representing u3a:

www.wickhambishopsvillagehall.com or

www.facebook.com/bhsawickhambishops

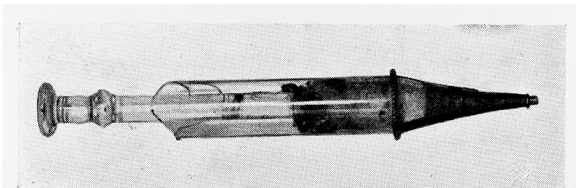
WHO INVENTED THE HYPODERMIC SYRINGE?



I was recently reading the BBC News website and came across an article about who invented the hypodermic syringe. Bearing in mind the current events and that we have all probably had an injection at some time during our lives, not least presently, I hadn't really ever thought about it before.

It appears we must thank Alexander Wood (10.12.1817 – 26.02.1884) a Scottish physician. He was born in Cupar, Fife, and moved to Edinburgh around 1821. He was educated at Edinburgh Academy from 1825 to 1832 and then studied medicine at University of Edinburgh.

Various methods of intravenous injection and infusion have been around as far back as the late 1600s. However, it wasn't until 1853 that Charles Gabriel Pravaz and Alexander Wood developed a needle fine enough to pierce the skin. Credit for the evolution of the universally hypodermic syringe with its hollow, pointed needle is usually given to Dr Wood. He came up with the invention after experimenting with a hollow needle for the administration of drugs and found that the method was not necessarily limited to the administration of opiates.



ORIGINAL HYPODERMIC SYRINGE OF
DR. ALEXANDER WOOD

THE FIRST USED IN GREAT BRITAIN

He referred to his invention as “subcutaneous” rather than “hypodermic”. This term was actually coined by an English doctor, Charles Hunter, whose further development of Wood’s invention and research into methods of administering pain relief angered Wood. Wood believed that injections should go directly into the area of the pain, because the effect could only be local. Hunter argued that the injection could be given elsewhere, and the effect would be general. Hunter’s hypothesis was supported by the medical community.

Shirley Macro

What do you know about the EU, now we have left it?

By *Veronica Smith*



1. What is the official EU anthem?
2. Name the 4 founding fathers of the EU.
3. How many countries are in the EU now that we have left?
4. Name the 3 cities that are political centres of the EU.
5. Which treaty established the modern EU?
6. In which city is the European Central bank?
7. How many official languages has the EU?
8. Which country was the last to join the EU?
9. What is the EU exchange programme called?
10. Which countries are the founding members of the EU?

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ASTRONOMY – VENUS



Contrary to many people's beliefs, not all the planets in the solar system rotate around the Sun in the same direction. All planets when observed from the north pole are seen to be rotating around the Sun in an anti-clockwise direction on their elliptical orbits, other than Venus, which rotates clockwise. Below is a short note on the planet Venus, and the possible reasons as to why it does not rotate in the same direction as the other planets in our solar system.

Venus is the second planet from the Sun after Mercury. The planet is named in honour of the Roman goddess of love and beauty, probably because it is usually very bright. In fact, it is one of the brightest celestial bodies in the sky. For this reason, it is often referred to as the morning or evening star.

Venus does not have any natural satellites (moons). Venus and Earth are said to be sister planets because they are both terrestrial planets, their sizes are almost the same, and they are both also close to one another. The term terrestrial planet implies that the surface of the planet is rocky. Approximately 70% of the surface of Venus is covered with rocks. There are also numerous traces that indicate that there has been a lot of volcanic activity on the planet. In fact, Venus has more volcanoes than Earth. The atmosphere of Venus is very dense, and it is composed of approximately 96.5% carbon dioxide and 3.5% nitrogen, with small quantities of other gases, principally sulphur dioxide.

Although orbits of the planets are elliptical, that of Venus is almost circular. It has a eccentricity of not more than 0.01. Venus rotates the Earth retrograde in a period equivalent to 243 earth days. The tilt exhibited by Venus is 177 degrees whilst that of Earth is approximately 23 degrees.

Venus is believed to have been hit by a fast-approaching asteroid, this travelling at high speed is thought to have caused the change of paths and rotation of the planet. This asteroid is believed to have hit Venus a very long time ago, however the exact time in history has not yet been determined.

An alternative view by a group of astronomers is that Venus originally rotated in an anti-clockwise direction just like all the other planets in the solar system, but it slowed down and became static before it started to rotate in a clockwise direction. This theory also explains why the rotation of the planet is slower compared to the Earth's rotation.

ASTRONOMY GROUP

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 26th April** starting at 2:00pm on Zoom.

There will be three subjects for discussion:

Comets, Dark Matter, and Aviation and Space Insurance.

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

Following this meeting, and if the current restrictions still allow, we will be meeting outside at Chigboro Fishing Club on **Monday 24th May**. Details for this meeting will be in the May Newsletter.

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

EGYPTOLOGY GROUP

It is with regret that Sue and I have decided to close the Egyptology Group when Covid restrictions relax.

I have family commitments on a Tuesday and Sue of course will hope to be in Egypt for part of the year.

However if any member feels they are able to take it on they can contact me for more information.

Kathy Goff

THE MALDON SOCIETY

The speaker for our meeting on **Thursday, 6th May** will be Tim Howson, Maldon Conservation Officer, who has been closely involved with the conservation work being carried out at 4 Silver Street, opposite the Blue Boar Hotel.

The property is Grade II* listed and dates from the C16/17 with several later alterations. The owner has retained specialist professionals to research the history and structure of the house.

If you wish to register ahead for the May meeting the link is given on our Maldon Society website on either the home or talks page.
www.maldonsoc.org

The Maldon Society

A talk on
the restoration of
4 Silver Street, Maldon

by
Tim Howson
on
Thursday 6th May
4pm
via Zoom

To register for the meeting please visit
maldonsoc.org
We welcome new members please email
maldonsociety@aol.com

CROQUET GROUP

Unfortunately, we were not able to meet at all last year as access to the lawns was limited to Croquet Club members only due to the pandemic but, following



discussions with them, we are very pleased to say that we will start playing again this season on **Wednesday, 21st April**, at 2.00pm.

We meet on the first and third Wednesdays in the month, 2.00pm, at Forrester Park Golf Club, Great Totham. Jean Healey will also be holding coaching sessions for anyone wishing to improve their playing skills. There is a fee of £5.00 to cover lawn and equipment hire. Closed in, flat bottom shoes, must be worn.

If you would like to have a go at playing croquet, please get in touch. At the moment numbers are still limited in line with current restrictions, so please do telephone beforehand should you wish to come along. It's a great way to spend an afternoon in lovely warm sunshine, getting a bit of exercise and learning a new skill and, of course, having fun!

Jean Healey

Shirley Macro



Many of us enjoyed a fascinating free online tour of London Memorials of World War One on Easter Sunday given by Don Brown.

Take a look at their website to explore the various tours on offer.
<https://uktoursonline.com/>

The guides are a group of Blue Badge Guides (and friends) with thousands of hours of experience of guiding visitors.

PETANQUE



An excited Petanque group met for the first game of the 2021 season following the lifting of restrictions on the numbers able to meet. We followed the National and u3a guidelines to ensure that we met as safely as possible. The Petanque court at The Promenade Park in Maldon can accommodate a maximum of three groups of 6. Each group of 6 stays together and there is no swapping around, and within each group social distancing is still observed. Ten turned up and we split into two groups of 6 and 4.

Peter Condon and Mick Kennedy kindly raked the surface of the court the day before ready for our first meeting. The weather was kind inasmuch as it was a nice sunny day, but a cold wind picked up on the incoming tide but at least we managed to get a few games in, which was appreciated by all those present. We were very pleased to see one another and managed a socially distanced chat!

If you are interested in joining this group, please call me beforehand to ensure we have space as, obviously, numbers are limited at the moment. We meet on a Thursday afternoon at 2pm, never in the rain, and sessions last between one and two hours.

Jack Veash and Geoff Macro.

Contact: Geoff

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

The last Zoom meeting took place on 2nd April and we discussed our **Mountains** photographs. Below is a small selection of the pictures on our website, take a look on: www.maldonu3a.co.uk/photography/photography.php



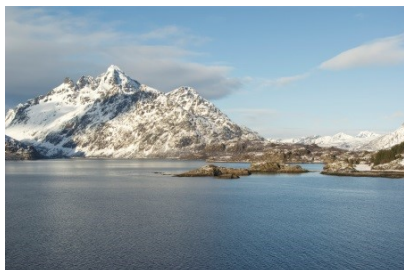
Geoff Macro

Austria: Hartkaister Ellanu



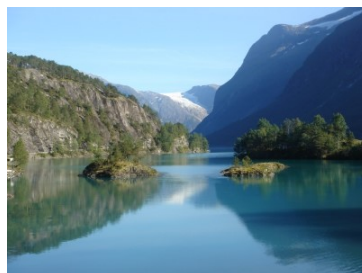
Andrew Simmonds

Lake District: Helm Crag



Michael Manning

Norway: Near Lofoten Islands



Tony Groves

Fjord, Norway

The theme for May is **Spring**.

Email your entries to webmaster@maldonu3a.co.uk before **Monday 3rd May 2021**.

Zoom viewing and discussion at **11am on Friday 7th May 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 webmaster@maldonu3a.co.uk

CHOCOLATE QUIZ

By Malcolm Case



1. In which German city can you taste chocolate in Schokoladen Museum?
Dusseldorf
Frankfurt
Bonn
Cologne
2. Which country is believed to be the first to grow cocoa?
Ghana
Belize
Mexico
Cote d'Ivoire
3. Which US state hosts an annual cross country ski chocolate festival?
Vermont
Maine
New Hampshire
Michigan
4. Sanguinaccio dolce is a chocolate-based Italian dessert made with which controversial ingredient?
Pig blood
Chicken liver
Maggot cheese
Songbirds
5. Which city is nicknamed the chocolate capital of the world?
Brussels, Belgium
Geneva, Switzerland
Vienna, Austria
Paris, France
6. Where can you explore the chocolate hills?
Brazil
Dominican Republic
The Philippines
Colombia

7. Which city is most associated with the Ghirardelli brand of chocolate?

- Barcelona, Spain
- Naples, Italy
- San Francisco, USA
- Zurich, Switzerland

8. Which part of London has a Chocolate Museum?

- North
- South
- East
- West

9. Which country produces the most chocolate?

- Cote d'Ivoire
- Nigeria
- Brazil
- Mexico

10. Which country would you visit if you wanted to explore Chocolate Valley?

- Ecuador
- Italy
- Indonesia
- St Lucia

11. The world's tallest chocolate fountain, in Praline World, is over 12 metres. Where is it?

- The USA
- Switzerland
- Austria
- Germany

12. Which country is known for its chocolate gravy, otherwise known as mole?

- Peru
- Costa Rica
- Mexico
- Nicaragua

Answers
next month



YOUR COMMITTEE

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Chairman | Shirley Macro |
| Vice Chairman | Malcolm Case |
| Secretary | Carol Bates |
| Treasurer | Geoff Cory |
| Membership Secretary | Malcolm Case |
| Newsletter Editor | Liz Samson |
| Speaker Secretary | Veronica Smith |
| Committee | Alec Fraser Tony Groves Judith Johnston Andrew Simmonds |
| Webmaster | Tony Groves |
| Social Group | Michael Childs |
| AV Equipment | Mike Flack |
| Essex Assoc. of u3a's Committee | Malcolm Case |

Contact the u3a Office

u3a

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laugh,
live

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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 | Jan Healey | Poetry | Jo Robson |
| | Shirley Macro | Reading | Sheila Epps |
| Discussion | Bryan Jones | Rummikub 1 | tba |
| Family History | Alan Buck | Rummikub 2 | Beryl McDonell |
| Film Club | Shirley Macro | Scottish Country Dancing | Shirley Grummett |
| French Conversation | Ann Lester | Sing for Pleasure | Sue Garnham |
| Geology | Sylvia Cousins | Strollers | Gill Stone |
| Handicraft | Marian Manning | Table Tennis | Louis Gunn |
| History—Stuarts | Beryl McDonell | Ten Pin Bowling | David Arnold |
| Just Jazz | Jim Light | Tree Identification | Veronica Smith |
| | David Coombes | Weekenders | Beryl McDonell |
| Local History | Sylvia Cousins | Wine Circle No. 2 | Graham Boswell |
| | Jane Coombes | Wine Circle No. 3 | Mary Burd |
| | Kathleen Goff | | Paul Costa |
| | | Wine Circle No. 4 | Ann Goody |
| | | Writing for Fun | Patrick Forsyth |

ANSWERS

QUIZ What do you know about the EU, now we have left it?

| | | | |
|----|---|-----|--|
| 1. | Ode to Joy (Beethoven's 9th) | 6. | Frankfurt |
| 2. | Adenauer / Schumann / De Gaspari / Monnet | 7. | 24 |
| 3. | 27 | 8. | Croatia |
| 4. | Strasbourg, Luxembourg, Brussels | 9. | Erasmus |
| 5. | Maastricht Treaty | 10. | France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg |

u3a Radio Episode 6

Click [here](#) to listen to the sixth national u3a podcast.

There is also a link on our website



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