

u3a **learn, laugh, live**

Maldon and District

Newsletter



"Getting out and about again"

Carol Bates

Photography Group – page 16

**YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE NOW DUE, PLEASE SEE
ACCOMPANYING EMAIL FOR THE RENEWAL FORM AND
PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS ABOUT THE RENEWALS**

July 2021

www.maldonu3a.co.uk

Registered Charity 1086182

FROM THE CHAIR



Already another month has flown by and I'm back writing another "From the Chair". Last time I mentioned that summer had arrived at last but looking out the window this morning, it doesn't look quite so summery now! Probably by the time you read this we will be sweltering in a heat wave.

We recently had a Zoom meeting organised by Malcolm Case with several of our co-ordinators, with the view to finding out how they have been getting on during the past months and their plans for future meetings. It was good to hear that many of the groups have either been managing to continue to meet during this time using Zoom or outdoor settings and that those activities where this isn't necessarily an option are now looking forward to resuming fairly soon. It was especially good to hear that the Ten Pin Bowling group resumed meeting recently, always a popular and well attended activity.

As always, we couldn't operate without our wonderful co-ordinators and those who help them, but there does come a time when a replacement co-ordinator is needed. At present we need group leaders for Aviation and Strollers. If you have enjoyed being involved with these activities in the past and would be prepared to take on the role of a co-ordinator, please get in touch with Malcolm Case. Without someone at the helm, these groups' activities will cease, something we would not like to see happen.

Should you be in the vicinity of Wickham Bishops over the weekend of **24th/25th July**, we will have a stand at the BHS Summer Fete, promoting our u3a. We are also looking for contributions from groups, i.e., photographs of their activities, a short description or, even better, a representative to come along for a short period to talk to people about their involvement with the u3a. If you can help in any way, please get in touch with me. Thank you.

Last month's Members' Meeting was an excellent presentation via Zoom by Roger Browne and "The Great American Songbook", which I thoroughly enjoyed and wished it had been possible to see him "live". This month we will be entertained by Steve Price on Close-Up Magic. Steve is one of the UK's busiest and most well-established magicians and is a Gold Star member of the Inner Magic Circle. This will be via Zoom but, all being well, we will be back at the Wickham Bishops Hall for our August meeting.

Best wishes,
Shirley Macro,

Maldon & District u3a 2021 - 2022 Membership Subscription Renewals

Subscriptions are due by no later than 31st August 2021. 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 £20.00 per person**, which can be paid by Bank Transfer into Barclays Bank, account name – **Maldon U3A**; **sort code 20-54-30**; **Account number 53198995**, the reference you use **MUST** be your forename and surname – **with no space e.g., johnsmith**; or if you wish, you can still pay by cheque which should be made payable to **Maldon & District u3a**. **Using the web site and paying by Bank Transfer is the preferred way.** The completed form(s) together with your payment must be made before the **31st August 2021**. We do not accept cash. **The forms together with your cheque (if paying by cheque) MUST be returned to the Membership Secretary.**

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 avoid using 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.

Please send your cheque and completed forms (one form per member) and return to the Membership Secretary at the address given above. **Or use the web site MaldonU3A.co.uk and pay by Bank Transfer – this is the preferred way.** Membership cards have already been sent to you (white plastic bar coded credit card size sent to each member 27th May 2020).

If you have not renewed your subscription by the 1st September 2021, you will no longer be a member.

This link takes you straight to the form on our website

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

MARITIME GROUP

The next meeting is on **Monday 2nd August at 10:0 am** – by Zoom.

It is a virtual presentation about:

“Trade Under Sail, the Past and the Future”.



This talk will be given by Brian Corbett of the Maritime Heritage Trust, with contributions from Richard Titchener who is a Sailing Barge Skipper and a member of the Sail Training Trust and Maddie Phillips a trustee of the Maritime Heritage Harbour Trust.

The talk will cover Thames Sailing Barges, a brief history; carrying cargo under sail; modern development of sails and their use on commercial ships.

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

Malcolm Case

Proposed MARITIME GROUP Programme 2021
(subject to change)

<p>Monday 2nd August</p> <p>zoom</p>	<p>talk by Brian Corbett and others</p> <p>“Trade Under Sail, the past and the Future”.</p>
<p>Monday 6th September</p> <p><i>The Blackwater Sailing Club</i> 10am</p>	<p>talk by Brian Corbett, OGA Trustee Maritime Heritage Trust (MHT), OGA Rep. European Maritime Heritage (EMH), UK Heritage Harbour Initiative Lead. Brian will be talking about Maritime Harbour heritage both in this country and worldwide.</p>
<p>Monday 4th October</p>	<p>David Griffith’s talk, Part 3, “Life aboard a submarine”.</p>
<p>Monday 1st November</p> <p>zoom</p>	<p>talk by Dr Megan Barford on 'Maps and Cartography'.</p>
<p>Monday 6th December</p>	<p>talk by John Rayment on “The history and restoration of the SB Pudge”, followed by discussion on the 2022 programme.</p>

Malcolm Case

SUGGESTED NEW GROUP

GERMAN CONVERSATION

I recently joined u3a and want to see if there is any interest in starting a German conversation group, along similar lines to the French group which I understand meets regularly.

I would be happy to lead conversation sessions for those who already have a working knowledge of the language, or provide some lessons at an appropriate level. Please get in touch if you are interested – my contact details are below.

Howard Broadbridge

broadbrh@gmail.com

MONTHLY MEETING

2.00pm on

Monday 19th August 2021

Back to Wickham Bishops Hall



Historical Talk in Costume by Simon Waterfield of Historical Interpretation



2021 is the 700th Anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt, and we celebrate this famous victory by meeting Simon Dakin, an archer at the battle. He will tell of his experiences in the so-called 100 Years War, from his recruitment and his journey south to reach the army. We shall hear of his unusual meetings along the way and his trip across the Channel to his experiences in France at the Siege of Harfleur and the Battle of Agincourt. He also tells how the war affected him.

In costume, he will have with him some weapons and other period objects for us to look at.

**Don't forget your membership
card to sign in.**



MONTHLY SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2021

Initially via Zoom, subject to change

July 19th	Steve Price	Close-up Magic
Aug 16th	Simon Waterfield	Historical talk in costume
Sept 20th	Andy Bennett	Blacksmithing
Oct 18th	AGM	
Nov 15th	Sue Handscombe + 1	Sonority Recorder Consort
Dec 20th	tba	

POETRY GROUP

The next meeting of the group is on **Thursday August 5th**, starting at 2:00 pm.

If the weather forecast is good then we will be meeting in a member's garden, if the forecast is poor, then the meeting will be by Zoom.

There will be a varied selection of poets as each member of the group will bring their preferred poet to discuss and to read their poems.

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

Jo Robson



TEN PIN BOWLING

We are back bowling at last.

Our opening day on Thursday 1st July went well. There were 35 of us there observing all the rules of course. Most bowled still remembering how to and we were quickly back to where we left off as if we hadn't had a total break for 15 months. Coffee and large muffin went down well, and it was great to see everyone chatting together again.

We will be back to our **Wednesday and Thursday morning** bowling from now on. Hopefully soon with reduced regulations.

David Arnold



WILD FLOWER IDENTIFYING

Our latest activity again using the wonderful wild flower meadow at the chapel in Little Baddow was most enjoyable. There are so many different plants growing there and it is a delightful quiet site.

Even absolute beginners can immediately learn how to recognise the types and families into which the flowers are grouped.

We shall be meeting next on **Friday 16th July** at a venue yet to be confirmed.

Anybody is welcome even if you think it will be too hard or too complicated to learn plant names – it isn't!

Please contact Veronica Smith



FILM GROUP

The films for our recent meeting chosen by Barry Kuesch were very different and provided plenty of discussion.

“Testament of Youth”, is a searing story of love, war and remembrance, based on the First World War memoir by Vera Brittain which became the classic testimony of that war from a woman’s point of view. A powerful and passionate journey from youthful hopes and dreams to the edge of despair and back again, it’s a film about young love, the futility of war and how to make sense of the darkest times. Some in the group thought it was too bleak and drawn out, but the general view was of it being a good film, well acted and directed. It starred Alicia Vikander as Vera Brittain. Score: 8/10

“Once” is an inspirational film of two kindred spirits who find themselves on the bustling streets of Dublin. One is a street musician who lacks the confidence to perform his own songs. The other is a young mother trying to find her way in a strange new town. The stars of the film are Glen Hansard and Markéta Irglová as the two struggling musicians. Hansard and Irglová had previously performed music as the Swell Season and composed and performed the original songs. This too had a mixed response with some enjoying it as a light-hearted and pleasant movie, but others finding it boring with the music not to their taste. Score: 6/10

Barry also added a third foreign language film, “Britt-Marie Was Here”, a Swedish comedy drama. Those who watched the film thought it was excellent and recommend it.

Andy and Chris Simmonds have chosen our **next films to watch**:

- **“Top Hat”**, a 1935 American musical screwball comedy starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, with music by Irving Berlin.
- **“Stan and Ollie”**, 2018 biographical comedy-drama based on the later years of Laurel and Hardy. (Both available on the BBC iPlayer)

If you would like to join us, please get in touch. We meet by Zoom on the **last Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm.**

Shirley Macro

Urgent Repairs Needed to Queen Mary, Potential Flooding and Capsize Risk



The ex-Cunard luxury liner Queen Mary, which had served as a tourist attraction and hotel in Long Beach, CA since 1972, was shut down by the pandemic. Then in January, the manager of the ship on behalf of the City of Long Beach filed for bankruptcy. Now, the Long Beach Post reports that a recent Queen Mary inspection survey reveals that urgent repairs have been neglected over the last five years, leaving the historic ship vulnerable to flooding, or possibly even capsizing if critical work isn't addressed.

The report from a city-hired naval architecture and marine engineering firm Elliott Bay Design Group, which inspected the ship on April 28, says the city would need an additional \$23 million in urgent safety repairs to keep the ship "viable" over the next two years. MNA CIRCULAR 2021 – #09 11th June 2021 32 The Pulse. That is on top of the \$23 million in bonds and Tidelands funds that the city issued to former operator Urban Commons in 2017 to fix some of the most critical repairs listed in a marine survey. The funds ran out before many of the repairs were completed, and now, the latest report says most of the urgent structural work hasn't even started as the ship slips into further disrepair.

Long Beach owns the Queen Mary but for decades has leased the ship to a string of operators who have met similar financial problems. The survey report identifies serious issues including: the hull has structural and watertight integrity issues and there is no working bilge system. This was listed as a critical issue to prevent flooding in the next two years.

The “current status of bulkheads and lack of a functioning bilge pump system and flood alarm system could lead to flooding throughout the ship, potential capsizing of the ship and life safety and environmental issues to the extent that flooding occurred,” according to documents. The sewage holding tanks are compromised and not accessible under state health and safety guidelines. The piping system has leaks. The emergency generator is not working and needs to be replaced. The boilers are not working and need to be replaced in order to provide heat and hot water throughout the hotel and for food services.

The city in a statement said the Queen Mary does not have a reopening date at this time and that the ship will not be reopened by the current or future operator until the critical safety issues identified in the Elliott Bay Design Group report have been completed. “The city will continue to work through the bankruptcy court to ensure the current or future Lessee is required to complete these repairs,” the statement said. Also, in a statement released last Friday, the city announced that for the first time in over 40 years, the City of Long Beach will regain full control of the Queen Mary, effective today, June 4, 2021.

The City is committed to preserving the historic Queen Mary, ensuring the ship is properly restored and cared for. The press release also went on to say that to protect the safety and stability of the Queen Mary, on Tuesday, June 8, 2021, Long Beach City Council will consider the immediate authorization of \$500,000 in Tidelands Critical Infrastructure funds to begin testing and design work for the most critical repairs recommended in recent inspections, including bulkhead repairs, lifeboat removal, and the installation of an emergency generator, temporary bilge pumps, and water intrusion warning systems.

City staff are actively identifying additional funding options, to be presented to Council at a later date, to cover these immediate repairs, which are currently estimated to cost a minimum of \$5 million. The statement also noted that the City is prepared to immediately enter into a \$2 million contract with Evolution Hospitality, a third-party hospitality management company with experience of managing boutique hotels.

Article from the Merchant Navy Association

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.

News from the Trust

Fashion and Ageism

Thanks for your amazing response to our fashion and ageism survey. More than 5,000 of you responded in just over a day and a half that the survey was open.



The fashion and ageism survey shone a light on our attitude to fashion as we age – and crucially how the general population feel about older adults wearing certain clothes. The survey forms part of our work on pushing back ageism and challenging some of the negative preconceptions around age.

A link to the survey press release [click - See the survey results](#)

A few of the comments

Best dressed over 60s unveiled as poll of 5,000 retired people reveals ‘fashion ageism’ .

Two-thirds of older people say they feel they’re expected to wear certain clothes by society.

Over half of the wider public admit they think older people should dress their age and should stop wearing miniskirts at 44 years old, skinny jeans at 49 and baseball caps at 56.

The fashions most commonly identified as being suitable for older people by the nation were: socks and sandals (53 per cent), cardigans (58 per cent) and elastic waisted trousers (54 per cent).

Incredibly, a quarter (25 per cent) would tell an older family member if they felt they were dressing ‘too young’ and one in 10 (12 per cent) would even hide items of clothing they deemed unsuitable.

Despite this, just 24 per cent of the public plan to ‘dress their age’ when they are themselves older.

Top 10 Best Dressed Brits over 60... according to over 65s 1. Joanna Lumley 2. Helen Mirren 3. Judi Dench 4. Colin Firth 5. Prue Leith 6. Bill Nighy 7. Mary Berry 8. Carol Vorderman 9. Moira Stewart 10. Lenny Henry	Top 5 Best Dressed Brits over 60... according to 18 – 24 year olds 1. Vivienne Westwood 2. Mary Berry 3. Judi Dench 4. Helen Mirren 5. Colin Firth
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SOCIAL ORGANISING GROUP



A FREE ZOOM QUIZ NIGHT

Thursday 22nd JULY at 7.00 for a 7.30 Start

It's for Teams up to 6

This Quiz is for fun only, using your brains and NOT using Google etc

Cancelled due to lack of support



Mike Childs SOG Co-ordinator

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION

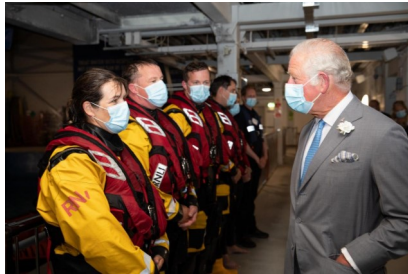
On Wednesday 9 June 2021 His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales visited the Royal National Lifeboat Institution's (RNLI) College based in Poole, Dorset to see where the charity's extraordinary volunteer crew and lifeguards from around the UK and Ireland are trained.



The visit to the RNLI College formed part of a wider visit to the Duchy of Cornwall's Poundbury development and Dorset, and although marks a first for His Royal Highness, is not a first for The Royal Family. In July 2004, Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh performed the official opening. During his visit, The Prince of Wales met with RNLI Chairman Stuart Popham and RNLI Chief Executive Mark Dowie and learnt of the challenges the charity has faced during the pandemic, having maintained an operational presence throughout – saving 349 lives in 2020. Stuart Popham, RNLI Chairman, commented: 'The last 14 months have been extremely challenging for all charities and the RNLI is no different. Our committed volunteers have maintained a 24/7 rescue service throughout the pandemic and today was an opportunity for The Prince to personally thank some of them for their dedicated service. We are expecting another busy summer as more and more people flock to the UK and Irish coastlines and His Royal Highness's visit will help raise the profile of our services and how the public can keep themselves safe.'

Whilst at the College, The Prince of Wales was able to witness, first-hand, the training that RNLI crews undertake, which is fundamental to saving lives. He observed a live demonstration undertaken by the charity's lifeboat trainers and Poole Lifeboat Station volunteers in the Sea Survival Centre. RNLI Chief Executive, Mark Dowie, said: 'Today we have 55 crew in residence at the College taking part in a variety of courses from casualty care to coastal hydraulics. For much of 2020, we had to

suspend many activities to protect the resilience of the service and keep our people safe. Only recently have we returned to a full training programme here at the College and around our lifesaving regions, and to full production in our factories. I am pleased we were able to demonstrate to The Prince the RNLI's wide range of activities and services we provide here at our Support Centre in Poole.'



The Prince of Wales was later given a tour of the All-weather Lifeboat Centre where staff and apprentices presented the facility where the production and refit of the RNLI's all-weather lifeboats takes place, including the charity's latest state-of-the-art lifeboat design, the Shannon. The RNLI's Principal Naval Architect, Dr Holly Phillips MBE, said: 'It was a pleasure to meet The Prince of Wales today and be able to demonstrate the work the teams do at our All-weather Lifeboat Centre. The facility here creates local employment, including apprenticeships in marine engineering and boatbuilding, which ultimately helps to save lives at sea – we simply couldn't do it without our dependable lifeboat fleet.'

Before departing, His Royal Highness paid his respects at the RNLI Memorial, a sculpture that honours the courage of all lifeboat crew and search and rescue service people lost at sea while endeavouring to save the lives of others. Her Majesty The Queen has been Patron of the RNLI since 1952, while His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent has been President since 1969.

To find out more on the history of the Royal patronage of the RNLI, please visit <https://rnli.org/about-us/our-history/patrons-of-the-rnli>

To find out more about the RNLI college, visit <https://rnli.org/rnli-college>.

(Reproduced from The Merchant Navy Association, pictures by the editor from published sources).

If you would like to collect 5p and 20p coins for the RNLI please let either Mary Burd or myself know.

Malcolm Case

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

The photography group meets via Zoom on the **third Thursday evening** each month **at 7:30pm**.

The subject for August is **Summer**.

Visit the photography page on our website to see the growing and varied selection of pictures.

www.maldon3a.co.uk/photography/photography.php

We welcome pictures of any standard that you have taken yourself.

This is another of our
June Transport Pictures

Java, Indonesia: Tuk-Tuk
taken by **Brigitte Whiteing**



Tony Groves webmaster@maldon3a.co.uk

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Hello Everyone

We trust you are well and enjoying some summer weather in between the showers!

Should there be a further relaxation of Covid rules, we may be able to resume our Local History Talks in the Autumn, providing there is sufficient interest.

Please feel free to pass on your comments by phone or email so that we have some idea of how the Group should progress.

Email Sylvia:

Kathy:

ASTRONOMY GROUP

We had another very interesting "In person" meeting on the 28th June with a presentation on "Black Holes" which was followed by a very lively discussion on various Astronomy subjects.

One member of the group had brought his Astronomy Binoculars plus a camera tripod and several of the group members assisted him in getting the binoculars to attach correctly to the tripod.

The Group's next "In person" meeting is on **Monday 26th July**, starting at 7:30 pm at Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge, CM9 4RE for a virtual presentation on:

"Adventures in Time and Space" given by Professor Brian Cox.



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

Malcolm Case

u3a Radio Episode 9

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

[June u3a podcast link](#)

There is a link on our website



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
Groups Co-ordinator	Malcolm Case
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

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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	Joan Cummins
	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
Family History	Alan Buck	Rummikub 2	Beryl McDonell
Film Club	Shirley Macro	Scottish Country	Shirley Grummett
French Conversation	Ann Lester	Dancing	
Geology	Sylvia Cousins	Sing for Pleasure	Sue Garnham
Handicraft	Marian Manning	Strollers	tba
History—Stuarts	Beryl McDonell	Table Tennis	tba
Just Jazz	Jim Light	Ten Pin Bowling	David Arnold
	David Coombes	Tree Identification	Veronica Smith
Local History	Sylvia Cousins	Weekenders	Beryl McDonell
	Kathleen Goff	Wine Circle No. 2	Graham Boswell
		Wine Circle No. 3	Mary Burd
			Paul Costa
		Wine Circle No. 4	Ann Goody
		Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth

Beacon Hill Sports Association
Summer Fayre in Wickham Bishops 24/25 July



BEACON HILL ROVERS

CENTENARY & VILLAGE FETE

Wickham Bishops Sports Field CM8 3NP

Sat 24th & Sun 25th July

11am-5pm – FREE ENTRY

- Food and drink outlets
- Children's play areas
- Lots and lots of football
- A fantastic and extensive range of artisan and traditional fete stalls

SATURDAY NIGHT 6pm-11pm
(Ticketed event - £10)

Live entertainment in the big top marquee
Food stalls & fully stocked bar
Covers band The Peppermint Apes
George Michael Tribute Act
Disco DJ to finish the night off

For tickets please visit www.linktr.ee/BHRFC100



This is the flyer to promote the event mentioned by Shirley in **From the Chair.**

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.

I am pleased to see that many of our groups are planning to hold events in person as soon as we are able. In the meantime all u3c members are 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