

u3a learn, laugh, live

Maldon and District

Newsletter



Our Maldon u3a stand at the BHS Summer Fayre in July 2021

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IS DUE BY NO LATER THAN THE 31ST AUGUST,
AFTER THIS DATE THEN ANYONE NOT HAVING RENEWED WILL NO LONGER BE
A MEMBER. SEE EMAIL AND PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS**

August 2021

www.maldonu3a.co.uk

Registered Charity 1086182

FROM THE CHAIR



Hope this finds you all fit and well. As I'm writing this the Olympics are in full flow, and I have found myself absorbed by it all. I know watching sport and our obsession with it is a mystery to many, but I really enjoy watching most sports and the Olympics in particular, problem is that for two weeks little else gets done. Maybe in another life I would have been an expert at the pole vault!

As mentioned last month, we took part in the Wickham Bishops Village Fete. Despite the weather we put out our display and enjoyed some welcome attention. Please see following report with photos. I would just like to thank everyone involved with putting our display together and for helping to "man" the stand.

Our monthly meeting in July was Close Up Magic with Steve Price. I thought it was excellent and thoroughly enjoyed both his magic and humour.

Hopefully, this will be our last meeting by Zoom, as we will be holding our meeting on the **16th August back at Wickham Bishops Village Hall**. We have visited the hall to look at how best to make the meeting as safe as possible. Chairs will be laid out in pairs with spacing between, so reducing the numbers. The hall will be ventilated, and doors open. Thinking of our safety, we trust that if you are coming along to the meeting you will have had both vaccinations and, as with supermarkets, we will ask people to wear masks. This is, of course, optional. There will be no paper signing in and you will need to **bring your bar-coded membership card issued last year**.

Our speaker will be Simon Waterfield with his historical talk, in costume, covering the life and times of an archer at the Battle of Agincourt. I look forward to being back at the hall and hope you will be able to join us there.

Membership Renewal Reminder – this is now due, and Malcolm would like to receive renewals before the end of the month please. If you haven't yet done so, please either use the electronic system through our website or send your renewal form and cheque to Malcolm. Thank you.

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 6th September** at 10:00 am at

The Blackwater Sailing Club, Basin Road,
Heybridge Basin, Maldon, CM9 4SD

For a talk by Brian Corbett on setting up and developing the UK Heritage Harbour Initiative and community, and; working with European and International museum harbours to establish and encourage moorings and maintenance facilities for operational historic vessels.

This is a joint initiative by the Maritime Heritage Trust (MHT) and National Historic Ships (NHS) Shipshape Network; with strong support from the European Maritime Heritage (EMH), which propose that historic ports and harbours in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland become officially recognised as 'Heritage Harbours'.



The developing Heritage Harbours recognise the great value in sensitively developing their, often superb, historic buildings; waste land; mooring; and maintenance facilities for both local and visiting historic vessels and are identified within the NHS Shipshape Network regions.

Please bring your current membership card with you to help with signing in. It is a requirement of the club that a record must be taken of all people on the premises. Doors and windows will be open for ventilation in the meeting room. I look forward to seeing you there "In Person".

If you would like to join the group then please contact:

Malcolm Case

Proposed MARITIME GROUP Programme 2021 (subject to change)

<p>Monday 6th September <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 <i>The Blackwater Sailing Club</i> 10am</p>	<p>David Griffith's talk, Part 3, "Life aboard a submarine".</p>
<p>Monday 1st November <i>The Blackwater Sailing Club</i> 10am</p>	<p>talk by Dr Megan Barford on 'Maps and Cartography'.</p>
<p>Monday 6th December <i>The Blackwater Sailing Club</i> 10am</p>	<p>talk by John Rayment on "The history and restoration of the SB Pudge", followed by discussion of the 2022 programme.</p>

Malcolm Case

POETRY GROUP

The next meeting of the group is on **Thursday 2nd September** starting at 2:00 pm.

We will be meeting in a member's garden, or if weather prevents this, as we are a small group we will meet indoors.

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

If you would like to join the group then please contact:

Jo Robson

MONTHLY MEETING

Monday 20th September 2021

Wickham Bishops Hall

Doors open at 1:30 for 1:45pm start

Don't forget your membership card to sign in.



Talk by **Katie Lynn** about her early life and the development of her business, molten wonky.

Essex born and bred, Katie now specialises in creating with fused glass. She trained at Braintree College in Art and Design, concentrating particularly on photography, printing textiles and painting on glass. This led on to Chelsea School of Art where her specialism was stained glass.



She is much travelled and spent several years overseas, but for the last 12 years she has been working with her glass fusing business called Molten Wonky – molten by technique and wonky by design.

Katie will tell us her story from college, her travels and setting up her own business and quite a lot about glass as well.

MARITIME – RNLI 5p and 20p COLLECTION POTS

Once again we have managed a donation to the RNLI by filling our small pots. This time £26.15 has been collected making our overall total £187.15 since we commenced in 2019.



Thank you to those who are collecting and pots will be available at Maritime meetings in the future or please contact Malcolm or myself if you want to support the charity.

Although we currently don't handle much cash every contribution helps and is especially welcomed by the RNLI.

Mary Burd

MONTHLY SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2021

Aug 16th	Simon Waterfield	Historical talk in costume
Sept 20th	Katie Lynn	Talk on her fused glass business
Oct 18th	AGM	
Nov 15th	Sue Handscombe + 1	Sonority Recorder Consort
Dec 20th	tba	

Macmillan Coffee Morning



As usual I am holding my annual Macmillan Coffee Morning on **Friday 24th September**.

However, I will once again be asking people to book a slot for 10 am, 11 am or noon to enable social distancing to take place.

Please email me or ring me and let me know which time you would prefer.

I hope to see some of you but if you are unable to attend donations will be welcome!

My coffee morning last year raised the most ever, can we continue upwards for a very good cause!!

Mary Burd

GEOLOGY GROUP

Recently, members of the Geology Group, braved the heat for the first major outing of the summer, with a visit to Sutton Hoo, Suffolk, which sits on a promontory of the River Deben Estuary, opposite Woodbridge.



The story of Sutton Hoo began in 1939, when Mrs Edith Pretty, the then owner of the estate, asked local amateur archaeologist, Basil Brown, with help from Ipswich Museum, to excavate the largest of a series of mounds, which revealed the imprint of a 27-metre long ship, and appeared to be the burial ground of an Anglo-Saxon King, probably Raedwald, King of East Anglia, who died in 625AD.

Such was the importance of the find, that Cambridge University archaeologists became involved in excavating a true treasure trove of gold, silver, and jewelled items, some as bright as the day they were buried, others broken and corroded, including the iconic iron helmet. Due to the acidity of the soil, organic items, including the boat, did not survive, but left traces or fragments.

Most of the original items, including the reconstructed helmet, can now be seen in the British Museum. Sutton Hoo, now with the National Trust, has a purpose-built Exhibition Hall, where replicas of the main items can be admired for the exquisite workmanship of the 7th Century AD.

A large sculpture of the ship stands in the courtyard, and Mrs Pretty's house is a short walk away. There one can view the main reception rooms and see one of the burial mounds in the distance.

A longer walk leads to the whole burial ground, where an interesting landscape can be enjoyed. Geologically formed in the late Tertiary and Quaternary Period, acidic sand and gravel mounds lead down a now wooded slope, to the alkaline muddy clays of the river.

It was an interesting day and is well worth a visit.

Sylvia Cousins

TREES

Probably in the **last week in August** while the trees are still in full leaf, I shall be starting the Tree Identifying Walks.

Even if you have already approached me could you let me know if you are interested in joining these, and your contact details, so that I can arrange a day most appropriate to everyone involved.

Veronica Smith

MAH-JONG



Mah-Jong is starting again on **Friday 3rd September at 2pm** in West Maldon Community Centre.

If you have a Mah-Jong set could you please bring it along.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Molly Polden

WILD FLOWER IDENTIFYING

We have had several really excellent outings this summer, managing to miss the showers. Our last two were in July.

On 16th July, we identified ten or so lovely flowers in the meadow at Priory Fields, Bicknacre, possibly the most striking a very bright pinkish cornflower species (*Centaurea sp*), and saw several butterflies.



On 30th July we visited Danbury Common, where we concentrated on the road verges. These are now no longer cut regularly by Essex Highways and support a surprising number of species, making them very important for insect variety and acting like mini meadows. We were surprised to find within a few yards 14 species, the most striking flower of which was the oddly shaped bright yellow Common Toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*). Again, we were delighted to see lots of butterflies.

Since wild flowers are coming to the end of their flowering time and are setting seed, there will be no more of these walks until next year.

Veronica Smith

FILM GROUP

Our July meeting found Geoff and me in a hotel room in Wigan with a poor internet connection. Fortunately, Malcolm was able to take over hosting the meeting and we managed another successful review of the chosen films.

“Stan and Ollie” This mainly received good reviews, scoring 7 and 8s with one 5. Some felt the film was slow to get going but developed as it went along and became an enjoyable watch. The acting by the leads was very good and portrayed both Laurel and Hardy well. The film managed to explore the relationship and love between them as they came to the end of their careers. *The overall score awarded rounded up to 8.*

“Top Hat” wasn’t quite as well received by some, probably as it was a musical and really not to everyone’s liking. I think in general it was enjoyed, despite being from the 1930s with a poor plot line and dodgy scenery! The music was good, the dancing excellent and, for some, the presence of Ginger Rogers was all that was needed. This film probably isn’t one of the classics of the era but, nonetheless, was light-hearted and unchallenging to watch. *The average score given was 5.*

The films for our **August watching** have been selected by Denis Franklin – as follows:

The 2005 version of **“Pride and Prejudice”** starring Keira Knightly and Matthew Macfadyen.

“All is True” – 2018 fictional historical drama of the later life of William Shakespeare. It stars Kenneth Branagh and Judi Dench.

Please get in touch if you would like to join us, we meet via Zoom on the last Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm.

Our next meeting will be **25th August**.

Shirley Macro



On Saturday, the fete was well attended, and we were very pleased with the number of people showing great interest in what we are all about and we were kept busy much of the time.

On Sunday, because of some very bad weather forecasts, the organisers put all exhibitors into a large marquee. Again, there was considerable interest in our displays, and we ended the weekend feeling confident that we had done our best to promote Maldon and District u3a and to gain new members.



The front cover shows our stall, with Geoff and Shirley Macro wearing the new polo shirts with the u3a logo.

Veronica Smith

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

With overseas holiday bookings 'soaring' despite all of those Covid related problems with travelling abroad made me think of the times when members of our u3a organised stays for our groups on the continent without all this bother.

We have visited France many times, Belgium, Germany, and Sweden too. All with an educational aspect of course. Excellent adventures with friends. Sometimes just a few of us but usually a coach load. These trips were so well organised to suit our requirements exactly.

Great fun. Great times. Great memories.

David Arnold

THE NIGHT SKY

Reproduced from the "Go Stargazing" website -

<https://gostargazing.co.uk/>

The Perseids meteor shower takes place each year from 17th July to 24th August. The best time to see them is around the peak of activity in the early hours of 13th August and a few nights on either side of this date. This year the shower coincides with the new Moon, meaning more shooting stars can be seen.

Each year, the outer planets, Saturn and Jupiter all reach a point in their orbit where they are directly opposite the Sun when viewed from Earth. At this time, they are fully illuminated by sunlight, and these moments of "opposition" are the best time to see them. Saturn will be in opposition on 2nd August, and Jupiter on 19th August. So several weeks on either side of these dates are also excellent! If you have a telescope, no matter how big or small, these are great objects to observe!

The two giant planets will be visible throughout the summer and well into autumn, getting slightly higher in the sky and visible earlier as the skies darken.

Malcolm Case

PAST OLYMPICS SPORTS

You will have seen from my opening message that I have been engrossed in the Olympic Games and one of the features that has been mentioned during the various broadcasts is the somewhat strange and now, defunct, sports that used to be part of the Olympics.

I expect most know about tug-of-war and croquet once being Olympic sports, so I've had a look for some of the stranger ones and these include two-handed javelin throwing. The javelin was thrown with each hand, and the score was combined to give the winner. The event was held only once in 1912, along with two hands discus and two hands shot put.

How about Solo Synchronized Swimming! This was included in the Games between 1984 and 1992. Strange that it took three Olympics to realise that someone swimming alone cannot be synchronized with anyone else. Perhaps it was the music they had to be in time with. Synchronized swimming is still included with two and eight person teams but is now called Artistic Swimming.

If you have been watching the coverage, this is the one that made Claire Balding laugh. Underwater Swimming is held over a maximum of 60m, with competitors awarded two points for each metre swum underwater, and one point for each second they stayed under the water. This appeared only once at the 1900 Games, and it was discontinued due to the lack of appeal for spectators. First and second places went to French swimmers, but the third place went to a Peter Lykkeberg of Denmark who actually stayed underwater for nearly 30 seconds longer but didn't travel as far because he went round in a circle!

I'm off to practice my left- and right-handed throwing skills.

Shirley Macro



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.maldonu3a.co.uk/photography/photography.php

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

A selection of July 2021 pictures – ‘Close-up’.



Alec Fraser



Nicki Iszard



Geoff Macro



David Whiteing

Tony Groves webmaster@maldonu3a.co.uk

ASTRONOMY GROUP

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 23rd August** at Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge, CM9 4RE starting at 7:30 pm for:

A DVD talk on "The Inexplicable Universe: Unsolved Mysteries", by Neil deGrasse Tyson. This will be followed by a general discussion on Astronomy to include future meetings and possible observing.

Please bring your own refreshments and I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

If you would like to join the group then please contact:

Malcolm Case

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

We trust you are well and enjoying some decent weather.

We are hoping to restart our monthly meetings at the Town Hall on **Monday October 25th**, providing we can co-ordinate a speaker and confirm the venue.

We hope many of you will be at Wickham Bishops Hall for the main meeting, on Monday August 16th by which time we should have definite details.

There was a good response from members who would be willing to participate in forming a team for any future Quiz organized by the Social Committee.

Meanwhile keep up to date with Newsletters and Main meetings.

Best Wishes

Kathy and Sylvia

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

Contact the u3a Office

u3a

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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

Deadline for next newsletter: 8th September 2021

NEWS FROM THE EAST



July 2021

Your regional team keeping in touch with u3as across the six counties of the East of England

East of England Region

Our region includes the six counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire.

It is a very diverse region, from isolated rural villages to city metropolis, from agriculture to service industry, manufacturing to technology and the people are excitingly diverse too. We have six Universities within our region including Cambridge, Anglia Ruskin, Essex, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and East Anglia.

At present there are 140 u3as within our Region. Link to the latest July newsletter - <https://u3asites.org.uk/east-of-england/page/53302>

The Research section and Shared Learning Projects is worth a visit <https://u3asites.org.uk/east-of-england/page/37733>

FROM THE EDITOR

Many thanks for all your contributions to this newsletter. Members and co-ordinators have sent in some interesting articles and suggestions. Don't forget the '**Letters to the Editor**', your choice of topic.

I am pleased to see that many of our groups are now starting to hold events in person. Remember all u3a members are welcome at all Zoom meetings.

Keep looking at our website for any updates in-between newsletters. www.maldonu3a.co.uk

Liz Samson