



Maldon and District

Newsletter



"Summer"

Tony Groves

Photography Group - page 16

September 2021

www.maldonu3a.co.uk

Registered Charity 1086182

FROM THE CHAIR



What a fantastic return to our monthly Members' meetings! Thank you to everyone who came along to hear Simon Waterfield give his interesting and informative talk on the Battle of Agincourt. The hall had been set out with plenty of room between pairs of seats and these were soon taken up with a good-sized audience. It was lovely to see and hear everyone greeting and chatting together. It was also a pleasure to meet some of our new members who had come along to the meeting.

Our meeting this month will be a talk by Katie Lynn about her early life and the development of her business, Molten Wonky, using fused glass. Something completely different from last month's talk, which is the wonderful thing about these monthly meetings. Here's looking forward to a good turn-out again.

The time for the Annual General Meeting is nearly upon us and this year it will be back in the hall at Wickham Bishops and not by Zoom, as last year. Included with this newsletter is the AGM Official Notice, giving the date and time. Additional information will be circulated shortly. Please note that for the time being the Newsletter will only be issued via email.

By the time you have received this message, we will have had our display boards out again at the Little Baddow Village Fete. We did manage to recruit some new members on our previous outing, so hopefully this can be repeated. Thanks to all involved in getting things ready.

It's good to hear about the various activity groups getting back together and the plans other groups are making. I attended the Maritime meeting at Blackwater Sailing Club, again well attended, for an interesting talk. I went on an outing with the Geology group, and Local History are organising a walk around Maldon town as their first meeting, before going back into the Town Hall. Royal History had a get together for a coffee and chat and will be resuming their meetings this month too. I would love to hear from any other groups on their plans and whether you have managed to get back together. I would at some time like to come along for a visit to the different activities offered by our u3a, which was something I had planned to do when first taking over as Chairman. Unfortunately, I didn't get very far before the lockdown started and it all came to a halt. With just a year left as your Chairman, I need to get going quickly if I'm going to succeed with this challenge.

Thank you for sticking with us over the past months and for renewing your membership. I hope you will be able to start taking part in your chosen activities with enjoyment and, perhaps, consider joining another group. We are still in need of a new co-ordinator to take over Aviation – why not have a go and get in touch.

Shirley Macro

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the twenty third **Annual General Meeting** of Maldon & District u3a will be held on **Monday 18th October 2021** at 2:00 pm by meeting at Wickham Bishops Village Hall.

Any items that you wish to be included on the Agenda must be notified to the Business Secretary by no later than Friday 1st October 2021. The decision to proceed with the AGM has been taken, following Charity Commission guidelines, to allow us to complete the Annual Return on time and ensure that our u3a is ready to fully resume all activities.

A voting form will be sent to all members by October 1st 2021, together with all supporting documentation. The form is also available on our website www.maldonu3a.co.uk.

The voting form **MUST** be returned to the address shown on the form by **NO LATER** than the 10th October 2021. On this form you will be asked if you will be attending the AGM. Members without email can vote by phone if necessary, however voting online or by post is preferable as votes received can then be stored in case of future scrutiny.

Eligibility for Office and to vote – All fully paid-up members for the year 2021/2022 are eligible to stand for Committee, and to vote; except under the terms of our Constitution, where only one member from any one household shall serve on the Committee at one time.

Carol Bates

Business Secretary

JUST JAZZ GROUP

We have arranged to restart the Just Jazz Group.

The first meeting will be held at the Maldon Little Ship Club on the Monday evening of the **18th of October** starting at 7.30 pm.

It might be best if you bring your own nibbles but a Bar will be provided.

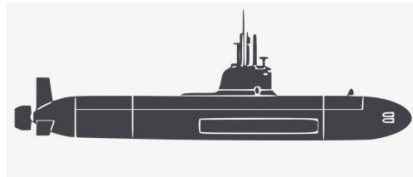
Jim Light, David Coombs

MARITIME GROUP

The meeting on **Monday 4th October** will be at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Basin Road, Heybridge Basin, CM9 4SD starting at 10:00 am.

PLEASE bring your plastic credit card size bar coded membership cards with you, this is a requirement of the club. All doors and windows will be open and chairs will be spaced to follow social distancing.

The speaker for this meeting is our own David Griffiths who will be giving his part 3 talk on "Life Aboard Submarines". David's talks give a fascinating insight to those in the Navy who spent their time "Under the Waves".



If you would like to join the group then please contact Malcolm Case .

TREE IDENTIFICATION GROUP

We made a good start to learning how to identify trees with our first meeting on Friday 3rd September, by identifying leaf shapes and matching them to ten British trees all easily found nearby.

We decided to meet at fortnightly intervals for the next few months, and then monthly during the winter, so our next meeting will be on **Friday 17th September** and so on.

Each session will run from 10.00am to 12.00 noon and the location each time will be decided as appropriate. There is room for one or two more people so do let me know if you would like to join us.

Veronica Smith

Proposed MARITIME GROUP Programme 2021 (subject to change)

Monday 4th October <i>The Blackwater Sailing Club</i> 10am	David Griffiths talk, Part 3, “ Life aboard a submarine ”.
Monday 1st November <i>The Blackwater Sailing Club</i> 10am	talk by Dr Megan Barford on ' Maps and Cartography '.
Monday 6th December <i>The Blackwater Sailing Club</i> 10am	talk by John Rayment on “ The history and restoration of the SB Pudge ”, followed by discussion of the 2022 programme.

Malcolm Case

SOCIAL ORGANISING GROUP

The Social Organising Group are pleased to be holding –

A MEET NATTER AND NOSH, NO FIREWORKS, GUY FAWKES SOCIAL



On Friday 5th November
7.00pm to 9.00ish
At Maldon Town Hall



Tickets £2.50 from Rosemary Case

We do hope you will join us
Mike Childs, SOG Coordinator

MONTHLY MEETING

Monday 18th October 2021

AGM – followed by a Social with light refreshments

Wickham Bishops Hall

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

See AGM details on page 3

Don't forget your membership card to sign in.



Membership Cards

The picture shown is of the only Membership Card to be used. Should you still have an old “Cardboard” version with your name, old membership number and date on it, then please destroy it as it is no longer valid.

Your Membership Number is the one circled in red in the picture and is to be found under the bar code and is a four digit number.



This plastic credit card size Membership Card **MUST** be taken with you to every Monthly and every Group Meeting.

Should you have mislaid your plastic card then please contact the Membership Secretary who will issue a replacement for which there is a charge, currently, of £2.00 to cover the cost of the card and postage.

Malcolm Case, Membership Secretary

MONTHLY SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2021

Sept 20th	Katie Lynn	Talk on her fused glass business
Oct 18th	AGM	Social with refreshments
Nov 15th	Sue Handscombe + 1	Sonority Recorder Consort
Dec 20th	Light Hearted Quiz and Refreshments	

FILM GROUP

The film choices for last month were generally well received and were worth a watch.

Most of the group found "Pride and Prejudice" enjoyable, although one member of the group wasn't at all impressed with it! Kiera Knightly as Elizabeth Bennett impressed, as did Donald Sutherland as her father. Matthew McFadyen as D'Arcy did a good job but unfortunately for him, he just isn't Colin Firth and too many of us remember him so well in the television adaptation! The settings were lovely, great ballroom scene and use of lovely countryside shots. **Score: 7**

"All is True" is an imagined story of the later life of Shakespeare. Very little is known about him once he retired to Stratford following the destruction of the Globe Theatre. The background devised made a good story, interspersed with the known facts about his family. To give it an authentic feel much of it was filmed in low light which can, at times, make it hard to see clearly. The acting, costumes and makeup were all superb, as would be expected with the cast involved, which included Kenneth Branagh and Judi Dench. **Score: 8**

Our selections for this month are:

"GREEN BOOK" - Mahershala Ali and Viggo Mortensen are two excellent actors outclassing their material in this amiable, feelgood entertainment, inspired by a true story. Set in 1962, the film is inspired by the true story of a tour of the Deep South by African American classical and jazz pianist Don Shirley (Mahershala Ali) and Italian American bouncer Frank "Tony Lip" Vallelonga (Viggo Mortensen) who served as Shirley's driver and bodyguard.

"A LONELY PLACE TO DIE" - A Lonely Place to Die is a 2011 British action thriller film directed by Julian Gilbey and based on a screenplay from Julian and Will Gilbey. It stars Melissa George, Ed Speleers, Karel Roden, Eamonn Walker, Sean Harris and Kate Magowan. Five mountaineers stumble into a vicious kidnapping scheme after they rescue a child they find buried alive in the Scottish Highlands. Part high-altitude adventure movie, part kidnapping caper film.

Both films are on iPlayer

We meet on the last Wednesday of the month, next meeting **29th September**, at 7.30pm via Zoom .

Shirley Macro

STROLLERS/STROLLERS TOO

The group met on Sunday 12th September in my garden to discuss the future, and it was agreed to re-start both Strollers and Strollers Too next year.



The first Sunday meeting will be on the **20th February 2022** and the first Tuesday meeting will be on **22nd February 2022**. The venue for both walks will be published nearer the time. The walks will be between four and five miles at a steady pace. The format will be to start the walk at a pub, have a circular walk which would last about two hours, then arrive back at the pub for lunch.

If you would like to join the group then please contact Malcolm Case.

FRENCH CONVERSATION

We are currently looking for new members.

Would you like to improve your rusty French in a non-judgemental setting?

We are a friendly group of people who enjoy conversing in French and reading articles about France, its regions, cities, people and culture. We have managed to keep going during Covid, initially via Zoom and now back to in person meetings in the garden (weather permitting).

We meet on the **2nd and 4th Thursday of the month** at my house in Tolleshunt Knights.

If interested please contact me.

Ann Lester

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.

World's Oldest Ship Moved to Grand Egyptian Museum



King Khufu's Boat, an ancient vessel that is the oldest and largest wooden ship discovered, has been painstakingly moved from its longstanding home next to the Giza pyramids to a nearby giant museum, officials said on Saturday. The 4,600-year-old vessel, also known as the Solar Boat, was moved to the nearby Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM), due to be inaugurated later this year.

"The aim of the transportation project is to protect and preserve the biggest and oldest organic artifact made of wood in the history of humanity for the future generations," the tourism and antiquities ministry said in a statement. It took 48 hours to transport the cedarwood boat, which is 42 metres (138 feet) long and weighs 20 tonnes, to its new home. It arrived at the GEM in the early hours of Saturday, the ministry said.

The boat was transported as a single piece inside a metal cage carried on a remote-controlled vehicle imported especially for the operation, said Atef Moftah, supervisor general of the GEM project. The vessel, discovered in 1954 at the southern corner of the Great Pyramid, has been exhibited for decades at a museum bearing its name at Giza Plateau.

Egypt says the Grand Egyptian Museum, which has been under construction intermittently for 17 years, will contain more than 100,000 artifacts when it opens.

Reproduced from the Merchant Navy Association.

ASTRONOMY GROUP

The meeting in **September is on Monday 27th** starting at 7:30 pm at Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge, CM9 4RE.

Please bring your binoculars and/or astronomy telescopes for an evening of observing.

Weather permitting, the following are visible during September –

The Planets

Mercury and Venus are in the southwest evening sky in Virgo. Venus will be higher than Mercury the brighter of the two planets and will improve towards the end of the month. Venus will be visible above the horizon an hour after sunset. Mercury will be a lot lower and only visible for 30 minutes after sunset during the first two weeks then it moves closer to the Sun. Saturn is an evening object in Capricornus and it will have an altitude of 18 degrees by the last week of the month, it will be due south. Jupiter will be an object in Capricornus with an altitude of 22 degrees at the start of the month and due south at midnight.

The Constellations

In the East – Perseus (Open Cluster M34), Aries, Andromeda (Spiral Galaxy M31) and Pisces. In the South – Pegasus, Cassiopeia, Cygnus, Vulpecula (Dumbbell planetary nebula M27) Lyra (Ring planetary nebula M57) and Aquarius. In the West – Hercules (Globular Clusters M13 & M92), Draco, Corona Borealis and Bootes.

If you would like to join the group then please contact Malcolm Case.

POETRY GROUP

The next meeting of the group is on **Thursday 7th October** starting at 2:00pm.

We will be meeting in a member's house and our poet for this month is Roger McGough.



If you would like to join the group then please contact Jo Robson

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

After such a long break due to the pandemic, we plan to have our first meeting of 2021 on **Monday September 27th**.

For this meeting we will NOT be meeting at the Town Hall but outside All Saints Church from where Kathy and I will lead a fairly short walking tour of part of the High Street pointing out places and items of historical interest along the way.

We are hoping this will be of interest not only to new members but to everyone. For all those interested, please meet outside All Saints Church for a 2.00pm start and be prepared for a leisurely stroll of about an hour.



Our first meeting at the Town Hall will be on **Monday October 25th** for a talk by Jackie Nesbitt on Silver End.

Looking forward to seeing you on **Monday September 27th**.

Kathy and Sylvia

SING FOR PLEASURE GROUP

Our Sing for Pleasure group is up and running again and we are looking for new members.

This group is not for anyone looking to join a choir – we certainly aren't that. We come together because we love to sing, however good or bad we are at it.

We (try to) learn traditional songs in parts and rounds and then sing them for our own pleasure. We laugh a lot and are truly delighted if we get a tune right – and we do occasionally!

We meet every **2nd and 4th Friday** of the month between 10am and 12 noon. If you are interested in joining us please call me.

Sue Garnham

A new era begins at the Sheerness RNLI Lifeboat Station



Today midday (Friday 30 July 2021) signals the start of a new era for the volunteer crews at the Sheerness RNLI Lifeboat station when their new Shannon Class all-weather lifeboat becomes operational.

As of midday today the long serving Trent Class Lifeboat 14-13 'GEORGE AND IVY SWANSON' will be taken off operational duties and will be replaced by the long-awaited Shannon Class all-weather lifeboat 13-38 'JUDITH COPPING JOYCE'.

Not only is the much loved 'GEORGE AND IVY', as she is affectionately known by crews past and present, retiring but also her equally loved full time Coxswain/Mechanic Robin Castle MBE will shortly be retiring himself, after 40 years of dedicated and illustrious service to the RNLI. Robin will make his last trip on the 'GEORGE AND IVY' when he sails her down to Poole on Sunday where it is expected that she will become part of the training fleet.

The new Shannon all-weather lifeboat will be under the command of long serving crew member Paul 'PJ' Jarvis who will step up from 2nd Coxswain to become Robin's replacement as full time Coxswain at Sheerness. She will be in safe hands as not only is PJ a long serving crew member but along with the other four senior crew members, who between them have notched up 120 years of service, all the volunteers at Sheerness have now completed very intensive training on the ultra-hi-tech Shannon.

The 'GEORGE AND IVY SWANSON' arrived on station at Sheerness in 1995 and became operational in early 1996 and has been under Robin's command from day one. Along with Robin, the 'GEORGE AND IVY' has also had an illustrious career with 692 callouts resulting in 1054 people aided and 29 lives saved.

Crew members past and present will assemble at Queenborough Harbour on Wednesday 28 July at 6.30pm when the 'GEORGE AND IVY SWANSON' will be alongside the all-tide-landing for a photo shoot.

There will also be an opportunity for our many supporters to say 'goodbye' to the 'GEORGE AND IVY', before setting sail for Poole, Robin will bring her round to Queenborough Harbour for one last time.

Reproduced from The Pulse, Merchant Navy Association.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING GROUP

We have started our meetings again, on the **first and third Wednesdays of the month** from 2pm to 4pm.

New members are very welcome to meet with friends for gentle exercise and lively music. Tea, coffee and biscuits for refreshments.

Any queries give me a call.

Shirley Grummett



INVITATION FROM HUTTON u3a to Members Activity Day

Hutton u3a would like to invite members of other local u3as to their Members' Activities Day being held on **Tuesday, 26th October 2021** at New Hall School, Boreham, Chelmsford, CM3 3HS. It is an all day programme from 9.15am to 5.15pm with choices of morning and afternoon activity sessions, plus two speakers, a two course lunch and all refreshments throughout the day.

The price is £29.00. Payment can be made by electronic transfer or cheque. Here is the link to the programme and booking form:

https://huttonu3a.org.uk/public/events/Hu3a_activities_day_other_u3as.pdf
(also on our website).

WINE GROUP 3

Throughout the summer months Wine Group 3 have been meeting either having lunches out at Crouch Ridge Vineyard or Happy Hours at members' houses.



In August we were able to have our annual summer lunch, the first one since 2019. Unfortunately the weather was not as warm as usual but we made the most of a very sociable bring and share event consuming champagne and wine as befits the group.



We ended the summer with some members attending an evening at Chelmsford Race Course.

We are hoping to reinstate our monthly meetings with tastings and discussion in September.

Mary Burd

Co-Ordinator

WEEKENDERS

In 2008 a recently widowed Beryl McDonell decided that it was time to get back into u3a activities. There was plenty to do during the week with all the groups, but what about the weekends? She realised that as a new single lady it would be different and came up with the idea of gathering together members who lived alone and did not have regular contact with family in the area, so that we could do things together. That was the beginning of the Weekenders.

In the early days there were about 20 of us. We used to meet in one another's houses (before we all downsized) to discuss a programme for the upcoming month. If only a few were interested in a project they would make their own arrangements. If it was something that needed tickets one person would organise it. Very popular was going to the Mercury Theatre in Colchester – on the 75 bus, snack lunch, matinee, back to Maldon, a glass of wine in the pub followed by fish and chips, and home in time to watch "Casualty"!

We've been all over the place: holidays to Jersey, Guernsey and Wales, day trips with local coach companies, Christmas entertainments at Hylands House and the Maltings, Sunday lunches, Hyde Hall, walks, garden visits, concerts and so much more. For the past two or three years we have been 14, still with Beryl at the helm and still getting out and about regularly.

We have all survived the pandemic. We are much older, not much wiser, not as mobile as we used to be, but we all still have our marbles – well, most of the time anyway. However, we agree that the time has come to call it a day. We intend to go out in style with a farewell luncheon in Maldon with all the trimmings – and then off, gently into the sunset!

dd

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

The photography group continues to meet monthly via Zoom.

Please note changes of date, from third Thursday to the **third Wednesday evening** each month at **7:30pm**.

Note – September is fourth Wednesday – **22nd September**.

The subject for September is '**PEOPLE**'.

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

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

New members are most welcome, pictures can be of any standard that you have taken yourself.

A selection of August 2021 SUMMER pictures



Andrew Simmonds



Alec Fraser



Nicki Iszard



Geoff Macro

GEOLOGY GROUP

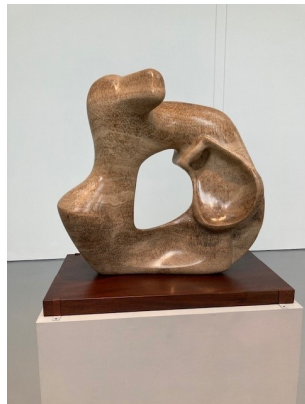
Our latest trip took us off to Henry Moore's Studios and Gardens at Much Hadham, Herts. Henry Moore was greatly influenced by his natural surroundings and was particularly drawn to rock landscapes. His close-up study of other objects often produced work that took on the appearance of amazing geological formations, fissures and caves.

The gardens are dotted about with the very recognisable works of Henry Moore, with the different studios he worked in available to view and a beautiful 16th century Aisled Barn which was moved to the estate and reconstructed in 1981. It now contains unique tapestries commissioned by Henry Moore. Particularly striking is the enormous Large Reclining Figure sited on the brow of a hill in the Sheep Meadow.

One piece that really took our attention was a sculpture made from a stalactite.



Stalactite Section



Mother & Child
Stalactite

September we will be off to study the walls at All Saints, Ulting.

Shirley Macro

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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u3a learn,
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	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	Beryl McDonell
Family History	Alan Buck	Scottish Country Dancing	Shirley Grummett
Film Club	Shirley Macro	Sing for Pleasure	Sue Garnham
French Conversation	Ann Lester	Strollers/Strollers Too	Malcolm Case
Geology	Sylvia Cousins	Ten Pin Bowling	David Arnold
Handicraft	Marian Manning	Tree Identification	Veronica Smith
History—Stuarts	Beryl McDonell	Wine Circle No. 2	Graham Boswell
Just Jazz	Jim Light	Wine Circle No. 3	Mary Burd
	David Coombes		Paul Costa
Local History	Sylvia Cousins	Wine Circle No. 4	Ann Goody
	Kathleen Goff	Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth

Deadline for next newsletter: 6th October 2021

Free public information event with free Lunch for u3a members

This is a free ticketed event, including a free cold lunch, free refreshments, and free entertainment for residents over 65 living in the Chelmsford or Maldon District. Monday 4th October 10am - 4pm.

The event is a variety of engaging talks and exhibition stands displaying a range of information, services and support available in Chelmsford and Maldon. We aim to provide guidance on how to keep you and your money safe, with health and wellbeing advice and a fabulous singer to entertain.

Attending organisations include Chelmsford City and Maldon District Councils, Essex Police, Fire and Rescue Service, Barclays Bank, Safer Places, Housing, The Dance Network Association, Neighbourhood Watch, Citizens Advice Bureau, Community Volunteer Services, NHS.

[Click here to book tickets](#). Alternatively, email your name, telephone number and address to CommunitySafety@chelmsford.gov.uk, or phone 01245 606662

*For those without access to private or public transport, we may be able to arrange free transport; please contact me to discuss:
email: claire.hanrahan@maldon.gov.uk*

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 more groups are now starting to hold events in person. Remember also, the new Zoom groups are open to all u3a members.

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

Liz Samson

