



Maldon and District

Newsletter



**A MEET NATTER AND NOSH,
NO FIREWORKS, GUY FAWKES
SOCIAL see page 5**

October 2021

www.maldonu3a.co.uk

Registered Charity 1086182

FROM THE CHAIR



Here we are again, all set up and ready for the AGM. Thank you to everyone who sent in their voting forms, either by using the website or by post. It would also be lovely to see you at the AGM meeting on the 18th of October, and once all the business has concluded there will be plenty of time for a chat and some refreshments – I think Malcolm did mention something about cakes!

Last month's members' meeting was a very interesting talk by Katie Lynn. She designs and makes items using molten glass and talked about how she started out at art school, did plenty of travelling and then settled down and started her business. Katie displayed some of her beautiful pieces of artwork.

I'm pleased to say that the Mah-Jong group has started meeting again. Molly Polden has been the co-ordinator of this group for many years but has now decided to step down from this role. So, a new co-ordinator was needed and up stepped Mags Pell. Big thanks all round to both Molly for all her years running this group and to Mags for taking it over and keeping it going. As I've said many times, without our co-ordinators running all our various groups we would not have a u3a – thank you.

From reading last month's newsletter it is apparent that most of our groups are now up and running, or soon will be. From Just Jazz to Scottish Country Dancing and Sing for Pleasure to just mention a few. The Local History Group met for an excellent tour looking at some of the points of interest around the All Saints Church area and the Ten Pin Bowling and Petanque continue to be well supported. The Croquet season has now come to an end for this year, so mallets and balls put away until next Spring.

Please keep me informed how your groups are getting on and I look forward to coming along for a visit sometime soon.

If you get a chance have a look in the October issue of Essex Life magazine. Included is a double page spread written by Patrick Forsyth on the benefits of being a member of the u3a. We even get a mention by name in the article – thank you Patrick.

Best wishes,

Shirley,

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

First of all, may we thank those of you who attended our Historic Walk around part of Maldon High Street on September 25th, when even the weather was kind!!

Our next meeting is on **Monday October 25th at 2pm**. This will be at our usual venue, the Town Hall, with an entry fee of £2.00 to help with costs.

Our speaker is Jackie Nesbitt who will give a talk entitled "Silver End and its association with Crittalls."

The talk will last about an hour, with time for questions afterwards.

It would help with registration if you could bring your white plastic bar coded membership card.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Kathy and Sylvia

CROQUET GROUP

The u3a croquet season came to a close on the 6th October. We have had a good summer playing and the group has managed to meet on the scheduled dates without any interruption due to wet weather. We have had up to 16 members playing, and we were pleased to welcome some new faces to the group. The 2022 season will be upon us before we know it and we look forward to when play can commence again in April.

Our thanks go to Maldon Croquet Club for allowing us to hire their lawns and equipment.

Geoff Macro

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.

MARITIME GROUP

The next meeting is on **Monday 1st November starting at 10:00 am** at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Basin Road, Heybridge Basin, CM9 4SD.

Please bring your white plastic credit card size bar coded membership cards with you, this is a requirement of the club and assists us with signing you in. As at previous meetings, doors and windows will be open and the chairs will be spaced to allow for social distancing.

The speaker for this meeting is Dr Megan Barford of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich.

Megan will be talking about “Maps and Cartography”. She is the Curator of Cartography and will be giving a behind-the-scenes tour of the Museum stores, looking at objects from the cartographic collections from the 15th to the 20th century.

We will discuss histories of navigation and cartography, exploring the making, use and display of charts, maps, and globes.

It is hoped that in 2022 we will be able to visit the stores of the Maritime Museum with Megan as our guide.

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



Proposed MARITIME GROUP Programme 2021 (subject to change)

Monday 6th December

The Blackwater Sailing Club
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

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

MONTHLY MEETING

Monday 15th November 2021

Wickham Bishops Hall

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

“Recorders Galore”

with Sue Handscombe and Annette Gentleman

Did you hate recorders at school? Then come and hear what they should really sound like! Sue and Annette will guide you through the different sizes of instruments from a 6” plastic Garklein to an 8ft plywood Contrabass.

Along the way they will demonstrate how different woods produce varied sounds, illustrating the talk with pieces from the 13th Century to modern composers and including a piece of jazz played on a specially made instrument that looks more like a clarinet.

Oh, and watch out for a trumpet voluntary played on a piece of fruit!



Don't forget your membership card to sign in.



MONTHLY SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2021

Dec 20th Light Hearted Entertainment and Refreshments

TREE IDENTIFICATION GROUP

The Trees group has met twice since the last Newsletter, once under a glorious blue sky with warm sunshine at Danbury Country Park, and the second time when it was so cold and rainy that we had to be indoors.

However, on both occasions we managed to continue finding ways to identify one tree from another and learning the subtle differences between for example, the simple leaves of Elm, Hornbeam and Beech, and between the two common Acers, Sycamore and Field Maple.

So far, we can recognise 15 British trees. We are also becoming more familiar with the Latin names and Families of the trees we identify. Homework will be to collect fruits of trees, and the leaves of Holm Oak and London Plane.

The next meetings are scheduled for **Friday 15th October** and **Friday 29th October** at 10.00 am, venues to be confirmed.

Veronica Smith

VACANCY – “SOUND” person needed

Our member in charge of the AV equipment is standing down at the end of the year. We need a replacement to provide the sound and visual facilities essential for our meetings.

You don't need to be a technical wizard, there are written instructions – help and training will be provided; this would work well with a team of two, or who knows a couple might step forward!

Anyone interested please contact Alec Fraser



CRIBBAGE GROUP

Cribbage has started again with six members so far.

We meet at my house on the last Friday of each month from 2- 4pm.

Our next meeting is **Friday 29th October**.

Please give me a phone call if you would like to join us. Looking forward to the next meeting.

Pat Clements



2022 u3a POCKET DIARY

If you would like a diary for next year, 2022, could you please contact:

Carol Bates

Requests need to be received by **1st November** please and diaries will be distributed at the Christmas meeting.

Cost £3.50: cheques to be made payable to Maldon & District u3a.



NEWS FROM THE EAST



July 2021

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

Our Petanque group features in the u3a East of England newsletter. See the link on our website. <https://u3asites.org.uk/files/e/east-of-England/docs/newsfromtheeastaug-sept2021.pdf>

CANASTA GROUP

Canasta restarted in September. We meet on alternate Fridays from 2–4 pm in the Linton Room, WMCC.

Our next meeting is **October 22nd**, November is the 5th and 19th and December the 3rd and 17th.

We do have places available for a few more members to play the Bolivia form of Canasta and are prepared to teach anyone interested in joining us.

We play in pairs at tables of four. Pairing is random at the meeting so no need to feel you must have a partner to start with.

Please contact Iris if you are interested in playing.

Iris Slaney



APPEAL ON BEHALF OF THE SEAFARERS CENTRE

The Seafarers Centre are asking for donations for Christmas presents for Seafarers.

They would appreciate knitted gloves, hats, scarves, socks, jumpers, in all sizes and all colours. Confectionary with a long use by date, toiletries suitable for male and female. They would also like easy-to-read books, jigsaw puzzles and DVDs.

If you are able to donate any items, then please contact me and I will arrange collection. The centre would appreciate donations being with them by the **end of November** which gives them time to sort and wrap them.

The centre is extremely appreciative of all our recent and past donations and have asked me to thank all of you who donated, I would also add my thanks to you all.

Please contact Malcolm Case



ASTRONOMY GROUP

Our meeting on Monday 27th September was a very successful observing evening, we had a clear sky and were able to observe the International Space Station, Jupiter, Saturn and Venus. Members had brought binoculars and monoculars through which to observe the planets.

Our next meeting is on **Monday 25th October starting at 7:30 pm** at our usual venue, Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge, CM9 4RE where we hope for clear skies to enable us to have another evening of observing.



What to see in the night sky in October 2021.

October 1 – Asteroid 40 Harmonia at Opposition.

Cetus is a popular constellation this month, as you will see that several events and night sky objects will be visible in it.

October 5 – Peak of the Camelopardalid Meteor Shower.

As constellations go, Camelopardalis is one of the more overlooked ones in the sky. Camelopardalis is a large constellation that represents a giraffe and sits between Ursa Major and Cassiopeia.

October 8 – Peak of the Draconid Meteor Shower.

Radiating from the constellation Draco, the dragon, this northern hemisphere constellation will be spotted near the bright star of Vega.

October 9 – Close Approach of the Moon and Venus.

Visible when the dusk fades.

October 10 – Peak of the Southern Taurid Meteor Shower.

Despite their name, the Southern Taurid meteor shower is actually visible in the northern hemisphere.

October 11 – Peak of the δ -Aurigid Meteor Shower.

Going for BINGO on the meteor showers this month? Here is another chance to see more: the δ -Aurigid meteor shower will peak tonight.

We will be honest though: Delta Aurigids are not the most stimulating, with a maximum ZHR of 2 per hour. Just keep an eye out for them if you happen to be out stargazing this night anyway.

October 14 – Close Approach of the Moon and Saturn.

October 15 – Close Approach of the Moon and Jupiter.

October 17 – Eris at Opposition.

Massive, distant Eris will reach opposition tonight, you will need a telescope to spot it. Use a night sky app and look in the constellation Cetus to find Eris.

October 18 – Peak of the ϵ -Geminid Meteor Shower.

October 21 – Peak of the Orionid Meteor Shower.

These are easy to spot since they originate from a point in the night sky near the highly recognizable constellation Orion. Look for Orion in the eastern sky if you are trying to see this meteor shower.

October 24 – Mercury Reaches its Morning Peak.

October 24 – Peak of the Leonis Minorid Meteor Shower.

Source – *Space Tourism Guide*

<https://spacetourismguide.com/night-sky-october/>

Malcolm Case

POETRY GROUP

The next meeting of the group is on **Thursday 4th November** starting at 2:00pm.

We will be meeting in a member's house and the subject for this month is "Humour – Various". This a broad subject as there are several poets who have written some very amusing poetry.

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

Macmillan Coffee Morning



At our Coffee Morning, you helped raise an incredible

£ 725



Gift Aid
make it
Double the
Gift value with
your charity
to make a
difference.

Together, our cakes and
cuppas mean that Macmillan
are able to be there to help
people living with cancer.



Macmillan Cancer Support
Registered Charity No. 1021809 (England) / 1021809 (Scotland) / 1021809 (Northern Ireland) / 1021809 (Wales)

World's Largest
COFFEE
MORNING

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

Many thanks to all those who came to my coffee morning in September or donated.

The magnificent sum of **£725** has been raised which will also accumulate when Gift Aid is added.

This is a new record for me!!

Mary Burd

MAH-JONG

As you may already have read, Mah-Jong now has a new co-ordinator. Mags Pell has taken over from Molly Polden and will now be looking after the group.



Molly ran the group for many years, probably about 18 or more, but decided that she needed to take things a bit easier and just enjoy playing the game. It is a traditional game established in China about one hundred years ago. There are different variations of the game which can be explored but it involves collecting groups of tiles and discarding others.

If you would like to join the Mah-Jong group, they meet on alternate Fridays at West Maldon Community Centre at 2pm. New members and beginners to Mah-Jong are welcome to come along. The next meeting will be **Friday, 29th October**.

Please contact Mags Pell for further information.

FILM GROUP

The film selections for September received completely different reviews. One excellent, the other quite disappointing, to say the least.

"Green Book" was by far the better film, and all thought it was excellent. Based on the true story of the relationship between a Jamaican American classical and jazz pianist, Don Shirley, and his bodyguard and chauffeur, Anthony "Tony Lip" Vallelonga, on a tour of the Southern States in the 1960s. It made for some difficult watching with the unpleasant consequences of segregation at the time but also in true Hollywood style managed the feel-good side too with the two characters becoming life-long friends. A good watch and highly recommended. Excellent acting throughout. **Score: 9**

"A Lonely Place to Die" – not a good film. Apart from the scenery, which was beautiful and well filmed, everything else was quite unpleasant. Lots of killing, torturing and a completely confusing storyline! Nothing further to be said. **Score: a very generous 4**

The following films for **October** were selected by Sue Wild:

Both available on BBC iPlayer.

"The Keeper"



This is a 2018 British-German biographical film directed by Marcus H. Rosenmüller and starring German actor David Kross as the footballer Bert Trautmann.

"The Outlaw"



As a contrast we are now back to 1943 for an American Western film directed by Howard Hughes, and starring Jane Russell, Jack Buetel, Thomas Mitchell, and Walter Huston.

If you would like to join us, we meet on the last Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm via Zoom. Next meeting will be **27th October**.

Shirley Macro

GEOLOGY GROUP

The Geology Group took themselves off to another church walls survey, this time to All Saints Church, Ulting. Buried in the countryside just outside now very busy Maldon, must be one of the prettiest and most peaceful settings for a church. It is situated down a narrow road, with a small parking area and then a short walk to the church. The present church on this site dates from about 1150 and the siting of the church next to the River Chelmer and not near Ulting Hall suggests that it may have been an early Christian meeting place in Saxon times. It stands at the only place for miles where higher land slopes down to the river bank. The earliest records show that in 1299, Robert Fitzwalter, Lord of the Manor of Ulting, gave the church to the Abbey at Beeleigh, some three miles down the river.

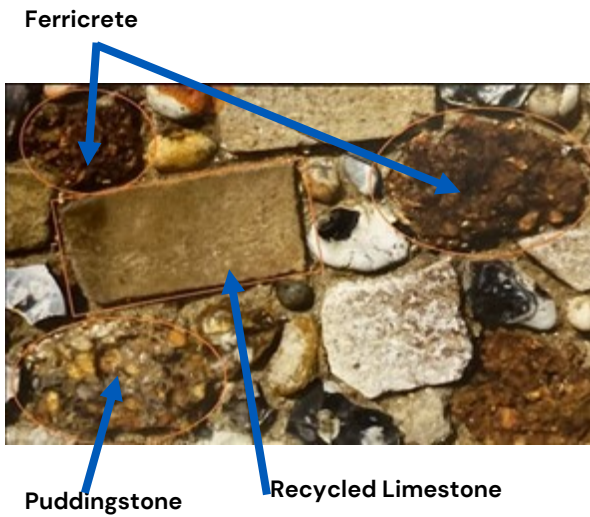
Apart from it being a lovely place to visit, our main focus was the reported extensive use of a material known as Puddingstone. As there is no local stone, flint and small glacial pebbles are the most common used materials. Puddingstone is a natural rock and, as its name suggests, looks like plum pudding. It is a conglomerate with rounded flint pebbles set in an extremely hard quartz-cemented matrix. When it breaks, the pebbles are sheared through as well as the matrix. This distinguishes it from other cemented gravels.

Our first thoughts when we looked at the walls was that the material wasn't Puddingstone and more likely to be Ferricrete. This is a hard, erosion-resistant layer of sedimentary rock, usually conglomerate or breccia, that has been cemented into a duricrust by iron oxides, and often found in church walls.

Following a chat with the people at Essex Rock and Mineral Society and showing some photographs, they agreed that it is indeed Ferricrete and not Puddingstone – needless to say, we were very pleased with ourselves!



North Wall of the Church – the dark brown patches are Ferricrete



PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

The photography group continues to meet monthly via Zoom.

The next meeting is on **Wednesday 20th October at 7:30pm.**

The subject for October is '**ACTION**'.

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 September 2021 'PEOPLE' pictures



Children, Madagascar

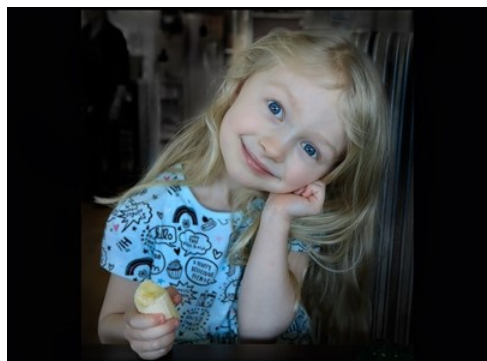
David Whiteing



Carol Bates



Nicki Iszard



Alec Fraser

BIRD WATCHING GROUP

A large flock of avocets (*Recurvirostra*) was the highlight of a visit by nine members to Fingringhoe Wick, a 200-acre nature reserve centred on a former gravel pit on the banks of the River Colne.

This distinctively patterned wader (pictured) with a long upturned beak is the emblem of the RSPB and became extinct in Britain in the 19th century. Its return in the 1940s and subsequent increase in numbers represents a highly successful conservation and protection project.



We saw the avocets on a gravelly sandbar in the estuary after fruitless visits to inland hides. Among them could be seen bar-tailed godwits, (*Limosa lapponica*), probably passage migrants which visit our estuaries to feed. Also on show were ringed plovers (*Charadrius hiaticula*), common sandpipers (*Actitis hypoleucos*), a few curlew (*Numenius arquata*) and a shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*).

Our vantage point was a hide overlooking a scrape where the waterfowl included little grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*), wigeon (*Anas penelope*) and teal (*Anas crecca*).

Back at the visitor centre, we enjoyed a hot drink while looking out on bird feeders where among the blue tits and great tits, a female siskin (*Carduelis spinus*) was enjoying the nuts. Out over the marshes, a kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) was living up to its country name of windhover as it scoured the ground for unsuspecting prey.

The group's next outing is on **Saturday November 6th**, meeting at 10am in Daisy Meadow car park.

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

156 Blackfriars Road
London, UK SE1 8EN

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

Tel: 020 8466 6139

Email: info@u3a.org.uk

www.u3a.org.uk

CO-ORDINATORS

Art Appreciation	Andy Simmonds	London Theatre	Rosemary Case
Aviation	tba	Outings	Joyce Cotterell
Astronomy	Malcolm Case	Meet & Eat 2nd Wed	Joan Cummins
Balti Night	Bob Gowers	Mah-Jong	Mags Pell
	Graham Evans	Maritime	Malcolm Case
Bird Watching	Peter Gaywood	Music	Enid Hall
	Michael Bagshaw	Appreciation	John Skuse
Botany	Veronica Smith	Petanque (Boules)	Jack Veash
Bridge	Sheila Epps		Geoff Macro
Canasta	Iris Slaney	Photography	Tony Groves
Cribbage	Pat Clements	Poetry	Jo Robson
Croquet	Jean Healey	Reading	Sheila Epps
	Geoff Macro	Rummikub	Beryl McDonell
	Shirley Macro	Scottish Country	Shirley Grummett
Discussion	Bryan Jones	Dancing	
Family History	Alan Buck	Sing for Pleasure	Sue Garnham
Film Club	Shirley Macro	Strollers/Strollers Too	Malcolm Case
French Conversation	Ann Lester	Ten Pin Bowling	David Arnold
Geology	Sylvia Cousins	Tree Identification	Veronica Smith
Handicraft	Marian Manning	Wine Circle No. 2	Graham Boswell
History—Stuarts	Beryl McDonell	Wine Circle No. 3	Mary Burd
Just Jazz	Jim Light	Wine Circle No. 4	Ann Goody
	David Coombes	Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth
Local History	Sylvia Cousins		
	Kathleen Goff		

FROM THE EDITOR

Many thanks for all your contributions to this newsletter, please keep them coming.

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

Liz Samson

Schedule of Events – November 2021

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
1 Maritime	2	3 Scottish Dancing Ten Pin Bowling	4 Discussion Petanque Poetry Rummikub Ten Pin Bowling	5 Canasta Social Guy Fawkes	6 Bird Watching	
8 Handicrafts	9	10 Bridge Meet and Eat Ten Pin Bowling	11 French History- Stuarts Petanque Reading Ten Pin Bowling	12 Sing for Pleasure Mah Jong Trees	13	14
15 Monthly Meeting Just Jazz	16	17 Geology Scottish Dancing Photography Ten Pin Bowling	18 Petanque Ten Pin Bowling	19 Canasta	20	21
22 Astronomy Handicrafts Local History	23 Wine Group 4	24 Bridge Film Group Wine Group 2 Writing for Fun Ten Pin Bowling	25 French Music App Petanque Wine Group 3 Ten Pin Bowling	26 Sing for Pleasure Mah Jong Trees Cribbage Family History	27	28
29	30					

Schedule correct at time of publication – please confirm dates with co-ordinators

Also check website www.maldonu3a.co.uk