

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

Maldon and District

Newsletter



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September 2022

www.maldonu3a.co.uk

Registered Charity 1086182

FROM THE CHAIR



I feel sure the news of the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, was received with great sadness. I had not long completed my usual monthly message when the news came in and my immediate thought was that it would need to be replaced. It seems unreal that just three months ago we were having our very own celebrations to acknowledge the remarkable life and reign of Her Majesty over the past 70 years. As a mark of respect, your Committee decided that the September monthly members' meeting would be cancelled as it came on the same day as the funeral. On behalf of our u3a a letter of condolence has been sent to the King.

Moving on now - this year the AGM on 17th October will be somewhat different as we will also have a speaker, a return visit by Andy Thomas with his talk on Lewes and Bonfire Night. Andy's previous talks to us have been very well received and we expect a similar experience this time too. So, a quick run through of the AGM, hand over to the new Chairman, and then over to our speaker for the afternoon. I'm sure we will also find time for tea and biscuits! Please note the official Notice of the Annual General Meeting in this newsletter, along with information on how to vote.

As part of the national u3a awareness week, we will be at the Promenade Park on Saturday, 24th September from 10am to 4pm to spread the word about the u3a, along with other members of the Cluster Group. It is also Maldon Town Regatta, so we hope to have plenty of visitors. Our display will be near the Petanque court should you be in the area and would like to stop for a chat.

Best wishes,
Shirley Macro

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the twenty fourth **Annual General Meeting** of Maldon & District u3a will be held on **Monday 17th October 2022** at 1:45 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 the 1st October 2022. The decision to proceed with the AGM has been taken, following Charity Commission guidelines, to allow us to complete the Annual Return on time.

A voting form will be sent to members by 1st October 2022, 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 9th October 2022. On this form you will be asked if you will be attending the AGM.

Eligibility for Office and to vote – All fully paid-up members for the year 2022/2023 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

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

To those members who have still to renew their membership, **please note that your renewals are now three weeks overdue**. Please contact the Membership Secretary and advise whether or not you are going to renew your membership.

FROM THE EDITOR

Many thanks for all your contributions to this newsletter, please keep them coming. Look at our website for any updates in-between newsletters. www.maldonu3a.co.uk

Liz Samson

MARITIME GROUP

The next meeting is **Monday 3rd October** starting at 10:00 am at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Basin Road, Heybridge Basin, CM9 4SD for a talk by John Pomfret on **The middle Danube and its connected waterways.**

Based on a number of visits to the Danube, some by boat, this talk takes us down the Danube for over 700 miles from the Wachau, upstream of Vienna, through Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia and Serbia, ending with passage through the spectacular Iron Gate gorges and locks into Romania and Bulgaria.

On the way we see four capital cities, many castles and fortresses and some spectacular scenery, while sharing the river with boats ranging from canoes to river cruise ships and 14000 tonne barge tows. We also take some diversions to look at the Danube's navigable tributaries and the extensive canal system of Vojvodina in Serbia.



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

WITH REGRET

It is with great regret that we notify you of the deaths of Christine Simmonds and Jenny Plumb. Christine had been a member of our u3a since 2005 and Jenny since 2001.

Planned MARITIME GROUP Programme 2022 (subject to change)

Mon 7th November	<p>Talk by Alison Mainwood on “Lighthouses” which have been built all around the coasts of many nations to guide mariners away from dangerous rocks and reefs.</p> <p>They started off as wooden constructions with fires for lights, with obvious consequences, then some were built of brick or stone with oil lights, which meant that they could be built on off-lying rocks or on lightships – we will look at some of these.</p> <p>More recently, electric lights allowed some automation, so the lighthouse keepers no longer need to be present and the optics of the light itself have changed out of all recognition. Now many iconic lighthouses are becoming redundant and are being demolished (e.g. Orford Ness in Suffolk) or are being converted to other uses.</p>
Mon 5th December	<p>Talk on the “Regents Canal” by Simon Gregor. Simon is a Blue Badge Guide for London. He is also a World War I and II Battlefield Guide. Simon currently lives in the USA so he will be talking to us via a video link. This will be followed by a discussion on our programme for 2023.</p>

All meetings are held at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Basin Road, Heybridge Basin on the first Monday of the month, starting at 10:00 am.

NEWS FROM THE EAST



Look at the September edition,
See the link on our website.

[http://www.maldonu3a.co.uk/
NewsFromTheEast2022-09.pdf](http://www.maldonu3a.co.uk/NewsFromTheEast2022-09.pdf)

MONTHLY MEETING

Remember your Membership Card

Monday 17th October 2022

Wickham Bishops Hall Doors open at 1:30 for 1:45 start

AGM

followed by

Andy Thomas “Lewes and Bonfire Night”



Illustrated with his own spectacular photographs, Andy explores the historical Sussex town of Lewes – renowned for the biggest Bonfire Night celebrations in the world – and reveals the enthralling rituals and events which make its colourful and controversial November mix of folklore, liberty issues and burlesque humour unique.

Andy, born and bred in Lewes, uses his inside knowledge to give an insightful glimpse into this vibrant town, full of mystery and tradition, and investigates the wider story of Bonfire Night.



There will also be tea and biscuits

MONTHLY SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2022

Nov 21st	Janet Brewer	Egyptology
Dec 19th	Christmas Entertainment	

If you know of any speakers you can recommend, please contact me.

Veronica Smith, Speaker Secretary

ASTRONOMY GROUP

The next meeting is **on Monday 26th September**, starting at 7:30 pm at Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge, CM9 4RE.

The subject is "Astronomy Pot Luck". It is hoped that we can discuss and show any pictures, of the latest NASA rocket system to the moon and the future of persons returning to the moon after some fifty years. We may also discuss any further pictures from the James Webb telescope if available. If weather conditions allow, then we may also do some night time observing, sunset is at 18:50 so bring your telescopes, binoculars, monocular with you.

Venus, Jupiter and Saturn will be visible, and with Jupiter being in opposition on the 26th September, then we should be able to view at least three of its moons.



If you would like to join the group, then please contact Malcolm Case, or just come along on the 26th.

Malcolm Case

STROLLERS

Sunday 16th October, South Woodham Ferrers

This is an easy and relaxing walk of 3.75 miles beside the River Crouch.

Meet at the Riverside Car Park, just after Marsh Farm at 10:00 for a 10:30 start. Lunch is available.

Please let me know if you are coming and are staying/not staying for lunch by Sunday 9th October.

Gill Stone

STROLLERS TOO

August Walk

Here are some pictures from our Strollers Too walk on 23rd August.

We started our walk from the Prince of Wales Stow Maries, making sure to order our meal before we left!

Our route took us along the disused railway towards Cold Norton. It still looked lovely although so many plants were dying from lack of rain. We came back to Stow Maries over the golf course which also looked bleak and brown rather than its usual swathes of green.





Our meal awaited us at the pub. We'd walked many miles and felt we'd earned it!

Kym Marshall

Tuesday 25th October

The October walk will be in the Danbury area and will be approximately 4.5 miles.

As usual the walk will start an 10.30 and lunch will be available.

If you are interested please contact me for further details.

Christine Speed

JUST JAZZ GROUP

After a short summer break, Just Jazz will be back to meeting at Maldon Little Ship Club, 7.30pm from **Monday, 17th October.**

Peter Condon

SEAFARERS CENTRE TILBURY

The centre is asking for donations of knitted articles, gloves, scarves, hats, jerseys in any colour and all sizes. They also ask for easy to read books, DVDs, jigsaws and sweets with a long use by date.

These are all then made up into parcels and given to seafarers in port over Christmas. Last year some 3000 parcels were distributed to seafarers on ships in the Port of London.



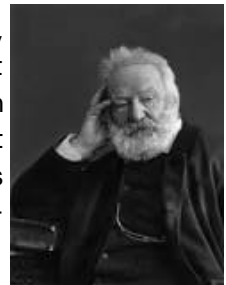
If you able to donate any articles then please contact Malcolm Case or give any donations to him at either a main meeting or any Maritime meeting.

The centre would appreciate receiving any donations by the end of November. On behalf of the centre, thank you for all of your donations in the past and future.

POETRY GROUP

The next meeting is on **Thursday 6th October**, starting at 2:00 pm in a member's house.

The poet for this month is Victor-Marie Hugo. A poet, novelist, and dramatist he is considered the most important of the French romantic writers. Though regarded in France as one of that country's greatest poets, he is better known abroad for such novels as Notre-Dame de Paris (1831; The Hunchback of Notre-Dame) and Les Misérables (1862).



PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

The photography group continues to meet monthly via Zoom.

The next meeting is on **Wednesday 21st September at 7:30pm.**

The subject for September is 'Clothes'.

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.

Examples of recent 'Doors and Doorways' pictures



Geoff Macro



Tony Groves

Tony Groves webmaster@maldonu3a.co.uk

"Sound" Person "Still" Required

Since this was first posted in the Newsletter, those attending the monthly meeting in Wickham Bishops will have noticed the improved clarity of sound, as well as the disappearance of the large loudspeakers on tripod stands. No part of the u3a sound system is visible except the new digital wireless microphones. The basic sound kit is now easily carried in a briefcase and quickly plugged in at the side of the stage behind the curtain. Setting up the projector is unchanged and is also quite simple.

The arrangement used at Maldon Town Hall for Local History meetings is very similar.

If you are even thinking about coming forward, please see any member of the Committee and we can have an informal chat/demo at the next meeting. Support and training will be provided, as well as written instructions.

Alec Fraser

TREE IDENTIFICATION GROUP

This is the perfect time of year to start looking at trees while they still have their leaves.

If anyone would like to join this group, please let me know preferably by email. Beginners are very welcome.

We usually meet once a fortnight, but just once a month during November, December, January, and February, on either Tuesday or Friday morning, depending on the preference of the group. This will be decided at our first meeting on **Friday 30th September at 10.00 am**.

Venue will be confirmed after you have notified me of your interest.

Veronica Smith

Birdwatching Group Programme 2022

2nd October	Cudmore Grove East Mersea	Meet in pay and display car park
5th November	Wallasea Island	Meet in car park
4th December	Hanningfield Reservoir	Meet in car park

All rendezvous times 10 am unless otherwise stated and subject to Covid rules in force at the time. For full locations details or car share requests please contact:
Peter Gaywood
Michael Bagshaw

The next curry event will be held on
Monday 26th September at the
Balti Bhujon restaurant
Mill Road Maldon
6:30 to 7:00pm start
Most people arrive about 6:30pm

To add your name to the list please
contact the following.

Graham Evans or Bob Gowers



Pre Covid, we used to arrange our curry night on Tuesdays, but the restaurant now closes on Tuesday. We are aware that unfortunately Monday clashes with other u3a activities, but it is the only day we can fit in the curry night.

AVIATION GROUP

I recently joined Maldon u3a and have had a chat with Malcolm Case regarding the Aviation group which is of particular interest to me.

After discussion, I have agreed to try and get this group back up and running, hence this mention in the newsletter.

I am currently looking for a potential venue, possibly in Danbury where I live. If you are interested please get in touch with me so that I can gauge interest and take it from there.

Chris Tressider

PADEL TENNIS

Possible New Group

You may not have heard of Padel Tennis, but we do have a Club in Maldon at the Park Drive Health Club. It is one of the faster growing sports and is a game similar to tennis but with an element of squash, as the ball can be taken off the wall at the back of the court. The game is always doubles and is probably slightly more energetic than Table Tennis.

Ken Hazell has been for a taster session and discussed with the Manager the possibility of the u3a starting up a group. If you think you would like to have a go at trying out a new sport, or perhaps you have already had a go at Padel Tennis, please get in touch and if there is enough interest, we could get going with another activity group. We would need a group of at least eight.

Ken is presently away so please contact me to start with if interested and I will pass on details to him when he gets back.

Shirley 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.

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Our first meeting after the summer break is on **Monday September 26th** when we are proposing to have a look at more buildings along Maldon High Street.

For those of you who would like to join us, please meet outside All Saints Church, Maldon, at 2pm for a leisurely stroll along the High Street where buildings of historical and architectural interest will be highlighted.

The walk will take about an hour, and there is no need to book - just turn up.

The next meeting at the Town Hall is on **Monday October 24th** at 2pm when our speaker will be Charlotte Harding from Braintree Museum for her talk on "The Royal Connections of Warner and Sons, Braintree's Luxury Textile Manufacturer".

Having just celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, June 2nd 2023 will be the 70th Anniversary of Her Majesty's Coronation and Charlotte will be able to remind us of all the wonderful robes made for Queen Elizabeth's coronation. Will we see such splendour again?



Enjoy a nostalgic trip down Memory Lane, whilst younger members can enjoy the historic pageantry of that wonderful day.

Kathy and Sylvia

READING GROUP

Calling all book lovers...



For a long while Sheila Epps has run a small, but thriving, Reading Group, and is now wanting to hand on the baton to someone else. I have said I will have a go at getting a revised group started again soon.

Classically members of such groups select a particular book, which everyone reads, and discuss their experience of it amongst themselves at a monthly meeting over tea and biscuits. Other formats are possible: for instance, past meetings have had members each choosing a different title within a category (for example, a biography, travel or other non-fiction title or a novel by a single author or in a particular genre) and this has resulted in a variety of useful recommendations being made member to member. Other avenues could be explored: ranging from attending an author event together or (if numbers made this possible) obtaining an occasional speaker.

Action: If you love reading and talking about books you may want to give this a go. First step: let me know if you are interested, secondly there would need to be a “start-up” meeting to discuss what format people most favour and create/agree a regular meeting and venue. Send me an email and we can judge any next action on the number of responses from potential members.

It could be something of an antidote for anyone suffering with bibliophobia!

Patrick Forsyth

SOCIAL ORGANISING GROUP

The Social Organising Group presents

The Grand Autumn Beetle Drive

Wednesday 28th September

2.30 to 4.30 pm

Plantation Hall, Heybridge

Ticket Price £4



An afternoon of Fun with Tea and Cakes provided.

Tickets from Rosemary Case,

Mike Childs

WELCOME

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Christopher Hackett

Sandra Howell

Margaret Kennedy

Elaine Mackenzie

Roy Prevost

Norma Rich

Chris Tressider

Tessa Verden

Gillian Wearmouth

You in
your 3rd
age

FILM GROUP

Our films for last month were "What Maisie Knew" and "Effie Gray."

All thought "What Maisie Knew" was a good film even though the storyline of a little girl badly neglected by her thoughtless parents was sad. She eventually found happiness with her step-parents, but would the parents fight this? The role of Maisie was brilliantly acted by Onata Aprile, whose facial expressions were amazing and spot on. This film is a modern adaptation of Henry James' 1897 novel of the same title. **Score 7**

"Effie Gray" was also well received by most of the group, although not all. However, everyone agreed that the acting was excellent by well-known stars, i.e., Julie Walters, David Suchet, Emma Thompson, as would be expected, including Dakota Fanning in the title role. Euphemia was certainly cruelly treated by her husband, the very strange John Ruskin, but she managed to get out of the marriage eventually and found a happier life with the artist John Millais. **Score 6**

Our next two films for viewing are:

"Salmon Fishing in the Yemen" - a 2011 romantic comedy-drama film directed by Lasse Hallström and starring Ewan McGregor, Emily Blunt, Kristin Scott Thomas and Amr Waked. The film is about a fisheries expert who is recruited by a consultant to help realise a sheikh's vision of bringing the sport of fly fishing to the Yemen desert, initiating an upstream journey of faith to make the impossible possible.

"Happy New Year, Colin Burstead" - a 2018 comedy-drama written and directed by Ben Wheatley and featuring Neil Maskell as the title character, with Hayley Squires, Sam Riley, Doon Mackichan, Joe Cole, and Charles Dance also starring. It tells the story of a man who rents a country house for his extended family to celebrate the New Year - what could go wrong! Apparently, loosely based on Shakespeare's Coriolanus.

If you would like to join this group, our next meeting will be on **Wednesday, 28th September** at 7.30pm via Zoom. Please get in touch and start watching!

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	Theresa Byles Alec Fraser Tony Groves Ken Hazell Andrew Simmonds
Webmaster	Tony Groves
Social Group	Michael Childs

Contact the u3a Office

u3a

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Deadline for next newsletter: 5th October 2022

CO-ORDINATORS

Art Appreciation	Judith Johnston	Local History	Sylvia Cousins
Aviation	tba		Kathleen Goff
Astronomy	Malcolm Case	London Theatre	Rosemary Case
Balti Night	Bob Gowers	Outings	Sheila Childs
	Graham Evans	Meet & Eat	Joan Cummins
Bird Watching	Peter Gaywood	Mah-Jong	Mags Pell
	Michael Bagshaw	Maritime	Malcolm Case
Bridge	Sheila Epps	Music	tba
Canasta	Iris Slaney	Appreciation	
Cribbage	Pat Clements	Petanque (Boules)	Jack Veash
Croquet	Jean Healey		Geoff Macro
	Geoff Macro	Photography	Tony Groves
	Shirley Macro	Poetry	Jo Robson
Discussion	Liz Jones	Reading	tba
Film Club	Shirley Macro	Rummikub	Beryl McDonell
French Conversation	Ann Lester	Scottish Country Dancing	Diana Rogers
Garden	Theresa Byles	Sing for Pleasure	Sue Garnham
	Veronica Smith	Strollers/Strollers Too	Malcolm Case
Geology	Sylvia Cousins	Tenpin Bowling	David Arnold
German	Howard Broadbridge	Tree Identification	Veronica Smith
Handicraft	Marian Manning	Wild Flowers	Veronica Smith
	Brenda Heal	Wine Circle No. 2	Graham Boswell
History—Georgians	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

Comment on **“Third Age Matters”**

via **Patrick Forsyth** patrick@touchstone28.com

third age 
matters

Schedule of Events – October 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
					1	2 Bird Watching
3 Maritime	4	5 Croquet Tenpin Bowling	6 Tenpin Bowling Poetry Rummikub Petanque	7 Canasta	8	19
10 Discussion Handicrafts	11 German	12 Tenpin Bowling Meet and Eat Bridge	13 Tenpin Bowling Petanque French History-Georgians Scottish Dancing Art Appreciation	14 Mah Jong Sing for Pleasure	15	16 Strollers
17 Monthly Meeting Just Jazz	18	19 Tenpin Bowling Geology Photography	20 Tenpin Bowling Petanque	21 Canasta	22	23
24 Astronomy Local History	25 German Wine Group 4 Strollers Too	26 Bridge Tenpin Bowling Film Group Wine Group 2 Writing for Fun	27 Petanque Tenpin Bowling French Music App Wine Group 3 Scottish Dancing	28 Mah Jong Cribbage Sing for Pleasure	29	30
31						

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

Also check website www.maldonu3a.co.uk