

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

Maldon and District

Newsletter



A Warm u3a Welcome to 2023

January 2023

www.maldonu3a.co.uk

Registered Charity 1086182

FROM THE CHAIR



January is named after Janus the Roman god of beginnings and endings and often depicted as having two faces looking in opposite directions. Looking back at 2022, all of us will have different memories of happy, joyful, or sad occasions. I hope that membership of our groups and the companionship of our u3a has been positive for all of you throughout the year.

The year-end gave us a severe shock with the sudden deaths of Sheila Epps, one of our founder members, and Veronica Smith, our Speaker Secretary. I am very sorry if I am the first to bring you this sad news. Tributes to both these remarkable ladies are on pages 4 and 7. It is difficult to look forward until we have come to terms with these shocks but to do so is in the spirit of January.

The speakers at our January meeting will be Graham and Mary Brace. They will talk about the "Wildlife of Brazil". This sounds like the ideal escapism from our January weather.

This year will also see the 25th anniversary of the founding of our u3a and we will be celebrating in April.

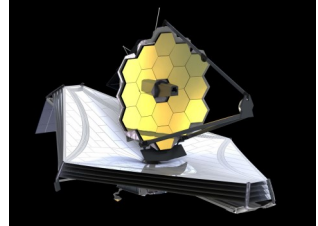
With best wishes for 2023.

Ken Hazell

ASTRONOMY GROUP

The next meeting is on **Wednesday 18th January**, for a talk by Dr Alister Glasse of the Royal Observatory on:

*Space
The James Webb Space
Telescope*



This meeting is being held at Anglia Ruskin University starting at 7:30pm. If you would like to come to the talk, then please contact Malcolm.

Malcolm Case

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

We trust you all had a good Christmas and send our Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year.

We will continue to meet on the fourth Monday of each month and our first meeting for 2023 is on **Monday January 23rd** at 2pm at the Town Hall, when we will have a talk by the Archaeological Group of Burnham on Crouch u3a on their "Archaeological Discoveries at Southminster Hall".

As we said before, some of you may have visited the site when there was an Open Day in September 2021 and will appreciate all the work involved in such a project.

All members are very welcome to attend, to show support not only for our Local History Group but for all the work involved by Burnham u3a to make their presentation.

Our meeting in February is on the **Monday 27th February** when Mike Stringer will give a talk on "Maldon's Workhouse", another entry for all those new Calendars and Diaries!!

We look forward to seeing you on January 23rd.

Kathy and Sylvia

WITH REGRET

Veronica Smith

Many members will know that Veronica Smith sadly passed away unexpectedly on 30th December.

I only knew Veronica for a short time as a fellow Committee member but would like to pay tribute to the major contribution she has made to our u3a both as Speaker Secretary and for the Botany related groups she ran. She was fun to work with and always happy to write something for our newsletter. Her contribution to our December Social was the most recent example of the efforts she made for fellow members.

The ***“Deck the Hall”*** item from Ken was written before we heard the sad news, but it is a fine tribute to Veronica. Big shoes to fill. She will be sadly missed by all those who knew her.

Liz Samson Newsletter Editor

Deck the Hall

Monday 19th December. Another dreary day. The beautiful frost was gone and the weekend over. Then, as soon as you entered Wickham Bishops Village Hall, a new world. The world of our Christmas Social.

Twelve tables tastefully and seasonally decorated with one for each day of Christmas, and chairs facing the stage in anticipation. Shirley’s Elves setting out the tasty refreshments for half-time together with tea and fizzy. On each table, attractively designed name cards and answer sheets. One table for each of Santa’s reindeer – plus Candle, Stocking and Snowflake.

Veronica gave us the “running order” for the afternoon, a quiz of eight rounds interspersed with eclectic home-grown entertainment. So, what was this entertainment?

Let’s sing a silly song about hippopotami – the words are on the screen just like for pantomime.

Then there is the correspondence between true lovers about Christmas gifts. So, who wants a partridge for Christmas – especially if it is in a tree?

A reading from our own author about Christmas; both witty and seasonal.

The eight quiz rounds presented by Shirley and Veronica kept us all absorbed and aroused a competitive spirit. The subjects were imaginative and included emojis and the words of Christmas songs. A really good quiz by any standards.

A memorable occasion to get us in the mood for Christmas and an excellent result for all the hard work in planning and preparation. All those involved can be very proud.

Ken Hazell

TENPIN BOWLING

Price Increase

As from **Wednesday 11th January** the price of our morning session will rise by £2 to £8.



Most bowlers were not surprised and as the price has been the same for several years it is maybe not too bad.

Otherwise, everything stays the same.

We still have vacancies for new bowlers, don't let the new price put you off as it is a bargain for a morning of fun and frustration.

David Arnold

The Big Balti



The next curry event will be held on **Monday 30th January** at the Balti Bhujon restaurant
Mill Road Maldon
6:30 start

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

Graham Evans or Bob Gowers

Note new contact details for Bob

MONTHLY MEETING

Monday 20th February 2023

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



de **HAVILLAND**
AIRCRAFT
MUSEUM

Alistair Hodgson
The de Havilland Museum

Formerly the Curator of the de Havilland Museum, Alistair will talk about the achievements of Geoffrey de Havilland, the aviation pioneer, from the construction of his first flimsy aircraft to the development of a major industry.

He will also talk briefly on the latest developments at the museum.

Please remember your Membership Card



MONTHLY SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2023

Mar 20th	Nicholas Alston High Sheriff of Essex	The history of this title and what it means now
Apr 17th	Our 25th Anniversary Celebration	
May 15th	Dr James Taylor	Dazzle: Disguise and Disruption in War and Art
Jun 19th	Fran Sandham	Dr Livingstone I Presume?

If you know of any speakers you can recommend please contact the Speaker Secretary.

WITH REGRET

Sheila Epps

It is with great regret that we notify you of the death of Sheila Epps on the same day in December as Veronica Smith and also unexpectedly.

As Sheila herself said in her item about Beryl McDonell last month she had been involved with our u3a from the outset. She was a past Chairman and Co-ordinator for a number of groups and started the Bridge Group. She will be sadly missed.

GERMAN CONVERSATION

German Conversation restarts on **Tuesday 31st January**.

Howard Broadbridge

POETRY GROUP

The next meeting is on **Thursday 2nd February**, the poetry for discussion will be based around "Winter", there are many poets who have written on this subject.



William Blake



Dylan Thomas

The meeting starts at 2:00pm and is in a member's house. Please contact Jo Robson if you would like to join the group.

Jo Robson

STROLLERS TOO

Langford Walk



Six of us set off on a sunny November morning, along the old railway line towards Langford, pausing at the Langford Halt to read the information and discuss where the new roundabout might be.

On reaching Langford Church, we saw the two Commonwealth graves, one appeared quite recent, despite it being in memory of a WWI soldier.



We proceeded a short way along the Witham Road. At Langford Hall we took the track towards the reservoir, where anglers were enjoying their fishing. As we walked along, there were some far reaching views across to Maldon, as well as the chance to admire the hedgerows, especially the colourful berries.

After negotiating the new route beside the second reservoir, we had the opportunity to see the progress of the new village being built. At present there is much evidence of infrastructure, but no houses.

This was the last leg of our walk, and we were soon enjoying our lunch at The New Pavilion in Heybridge Square.



Gill Stone

Photos Kym Marshall

RNLI - Collection

RNLI 5p and 20p pots

For the year 2022 we have sent to the RNLI a total of **£157.36** from our collecting pots.

This means our running total from 2019 now stands at **£402.56!!**



Thank you to everyone who fills the pots which are always available at the main meeting or Maritime.

Mary Burd and Malcolm Case

ART APPRECIATION GROUP

We are continuing with "Lives of the Artists", and in the New Year will also examine some artworks in detail.

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 1st February**, at a member's house.

For more information please contact Judith Johnston

Birdwatching Group Programme 2023

4th February	Abberton Reservoir	Meet in car park
5th March	Heybridge Basin	Meet in Daisy Meadow car park
1st April	Blue House Farm	Meet in car park
13th May	Bird ringing at Landguard Fort, Felixstowe	(To be confirmed)
3rd June	Fingringhoe Reserve	Meet in visitor centre car park
2nd July	Wallasea Island	Meet in RSPB car park
	No meeting in August	
9th September	Bradwell	Meet in St Peter's Chapel car park
8th October	Walton on the Naze	Meet in Naze Tower car park
4th November	Two Tree Island, Leigh-on-Sea	Meet in car park
3rd December	Maldon promenade	Meet by Rossi's ice cream kiosk

All rendezvous times 10am unless otherwise stated.

For full locations details or car share requests please contact:

Peter Gaywood

Michael Bagshaw

"Sound" Person "Still" Required

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.

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

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

The photography group continues to meet monthly via Zoom.

The next meeting is on **Wednesday 18th January at 7:30pm.**

The subject for January is "Sports, Games and other Recreations".

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 'Furniture' pictures:



Malcolm Case
Armoured Personnel Carrier



Nicki Iszard
HMS Victory: Nelson's bed



David Whiteing



Brigitte Whiteing

Tony Groves webmaster@maldonu3a.co.uk

MARITIME GROUP

The next meeting is on **Monday 6th February** starting at 10:00am at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Basin Road, Heybridge Basin CM9 4SD for a talk by Gordon Davies on:

Brunel's SS Great Britain

This talk follows on from Gordon's talk last year on the "Brunel and the Great Western".

Malcolm Case



MARITIME GROUP Programme 2023

Mon 6th March	Talk by John Rogers on Sagas and Experiences from 70 years of ' Messing around in Boats '. This will be a light-hearted illustrated talk about some of the things that John has got up to since he was involved with boats from the age of around nine. John has a long memory when it comes to boats and there will be no exaggerations!
Mon 3rd April	Trip to Dover Castle , this will include a visit to the Secret Wartime Tunnels together with other tours. Cost per person is £30.00, this includes cost of entry, coach, driver's gratuity, and coach parking in Dover. Depart West Maldon Community Centre at 8:15 (please park your cars at the far end of the car park), arrive Dover Castle at 10:30, depart at 4:00pm.
Mon 1st May	No meeting – Bank Holiday
Mon 5th June	Talk by Jimmy Byam Shaw on " Small Boat Building ".
Mon 3rd July	Talk by Barbara Jones of Lloyds Register about the History of Lloyds over the past 260+ years.

Mon 7th August	Your ideas please for a trip as we cannot meet at the club.
Mon 4th September	Talk and updates by John Rayment on the Restoration of the Sailing Barge "Pudge".
Mon 2nd October	Talk by Gordon Davies on "Brunel and the SS Great Eastern" .
Mon 6th November	Talk by John Pomfrett on City of Lakes and Rivers – waterways in and around Berlin. Following a brief introduction to the early, largely natural river navigations that served Berlin from its founding in the 13th century, this talk traces the development of the canals and river navigations around Berlin.
Mon 4th December	Talk by Simon Stephens of the National Maritime Museum Greenwich on "Model Boat building for the National Maritime Museum". Followed by discussions on our 2024 programme and some Christmas cheer.

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

Malcolm Case

MAH-JONG

There is NO meeting in January.

We restart on **Friday 3rd FEBRUARY.**



Mah-Jong has places available for new members to join our group. We meet on alternate Fridays at the Linton Room, West Maldon Community Centre, at 1:45pm for a 2pm start, we finish at 4pm.

I'm happy to teach anybody who is interested in learning Mah-Jong.

For more information, please contact:

Mags Pell

A Year Is Not 365 Days Long

The length of a year on Earth is defined by the time it takes our planet to complete a full orbit around the Sun. Solar calendar systems, such as the modern-day Gregorian calendar, are designed to reflect the duration of a tropical year—also called a solar year, astronomical year, or equinoctial year—as accurately as possible. This is the duration of a full seasonal cycle, for example, from one equinox to the next. A tropical year is approximately 365.242189 days long on average, though its length changes slightly over time. Because a common year has 365 days in today's Gregorian calendar, a leap day is regularly added to bring it in sync with the tropical year. Without leap days, our calendar would be off by one day approximately every four years, causing the astronomical seasons to occur at an increasingly later date as time goes by. In less than 50 years, the March equinox would be in April and the June solstice would occur in July.

Is There A Perfect Calendar? The simple answer is no. None of the calendar systems currently in use around the world perfectly reflect the length of a tropical year. However, there are calendar systems that are more accurate than the Gregorian calendar we use today.

CANASTA GROUP

Canasta started again on **Friday January 13th** and fortnightly from that date.

13th and 27th January

10th and 24th February

Iris Slaney



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.

STROLLERS

STROLLERS TOO

The next meetings:

Sunday 15th January – Strollers

Tuesday 24th January – Strollers Too

Both meetings are planning meetings for the remainder of 2023 and



are being held in the upstairs room of the Oak House, High Street, Maldon and both will start at 10:30am.

Malcolm Case

WELCOME

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Beryl Conway

Val Stealey

Anne Hurst

John Stealey

Angela Richardson

Simon Quelch

You in
your 3rd
age

FROM THE EDITOR

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

Liz Samson

AVIATION GROUP

The next meeting is on **Friday January 20th** at 11.00am.

Joe from the group will be giving us a talk on the life story of a World War I pilot. A story of a pilot's journey from childhood, through being pitched at a young age into the early years of aerial warfare, and beyond. This will provide a fascinating follow up from Trevor's presentation on Stow last month.

Venue is the Old Pavilion, Dawson Field, Main Road, Danbury CM3 4NQ

Chris Tressider

u3a East of England Aviation Zoom

Join u3a East for a Zoom presentation on **Wednesday 1st February** 10am to 12pm – ***The History of WW2 Airfields in the East of England*** – open to all members.

Join Andy Strange for a tour of important airfields across the East of England and the part they played in WW2. Andy is an expert on this subject, so not to be missed.

To register please complete the booking form using this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd6_oLCQVXlXnNCPP4TgPOkPy9mcgeizTJJZancELwY6ATu5w/viewform?usp=sf_link

This link is a Google form and appears to accept only Gmail addresses. However, if you have any issues with this you can contact Marilyn Walker at u3a East, she can add you manually.

JUST JAZZ GROUP

The monthly meetings of the Jazz Group at the Little Ship Club in Maldon will temporarily cease as from January until the spring. The start date will be notified in the newsletter.

Peter Condon

u3a National Learning Events

Learning Events

u3a members can join a wide range of online talks, workshops and courses for free with their membership!

Most of these opportunities are presented by members themselves; sharing their knowledge or skills with others across the movement. We also have a wide range of talks on offer from well-known speakers and organisations, plus in-person events at venues like the Royal Institution.

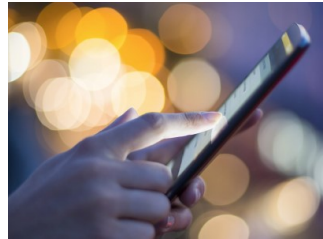
<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

Just a few examples:

Jan 20th

Learn Digital Life Skills: WhatsApp Week

We'll get you set up on WhatsApp and show you the myriad of ways to stay connected.



Feb 2nd

The Geology of Oil and Gas In Britain and around the World: part 3

This is the third part of a series of talks on petroleum geology from Martin Eales, Sutton u3a.



Jan 31st

Introduction to Cryptic Crosswords

Try your hand at solving cryptic clues on this two-hour taster session with Henry Howarth, u3a Subject Adviser for Cryptic Crosswords.



YOUR COMMITTEE

Chairman	Ken Hazell
Vice Chairman	Theresa Byles
Secretary	Carol Bates
Treasurer	Geoff Cory
Membership Secretary	Malcolm Case
Newsletter Editor	Liz Samson
Speaker Secretary	Theresa Byles
Groups Co-ordinator	Malcolm Case
Committee	Alec Fraser Tony Groves Andrew Simmonds
Webmaster	Tony Groves
Social Group	Michael Childs

Contact the u3a Office

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Deadline for next newsletter: 4th February 2023

CO-ORDINATORS

Art Appreciation	Judith Johnston Andy Simmonds	London Theatre Outings	Rosemary Case Sheila Childs
Aviation	Chris Tressider	Meet & Eat	Joan Cummins
Astronomy	Malcolm Case	Mah-Jong	Mags Pell
Balti Night	Bob Gowers	Maritime	Malcolm Case
Bird Watching	Graham Evans Peter Gaywood Michael Bagshaw	Music Appreciation	tba
Bridge (acting)	Gill Cory	Padel Tennis	Ken Hazell
Canasta	Iris Slaney	Petanque (Boules)	Jack Veash Geoff Macro
Cribbage	Pat Clements	Photography	Tony Groves
Croquet	Jean Healey Geoff Macro Shirley Macro	Poetry	Jo Robson
Discussion	Liz Jones	Reading	tba
Film Club	Shirley Macro	Rummikub	tba
French Conversation	Ann Lester	Scottish Country Dancing	Diana Rogers
Garden	Theresa Byles Kris Taylor	Sing for Pleasure	Sue Garnham
Geology	Sylvia Cousins	Strollers/Strollers Too	Malcolm Case
German	Howard Broadbridge	Tenpin Bowling	David Arnold
Handicraft	Marian Manning Brenda Heal	Wine Circle No. 2	Graham Boswell
History—Georgians	tba	Wine Circle No. 3	Mary Burd
Just Jazz	Peter Condon David Coombes	Wine Circle No. 4	Ann Goody
Local History	Sylvia Cousins Kathleen Goff	Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth

Comment on ***“Third Age Matters”***
via ***Patrick Forsyth***

third age **matters** u3a

Schedule of Events - February 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
		1 Tenpin Bowling Padel Tennis Art Appreciation	2 Tenpin Bowling Rummikub Poetry	3 Mah-Jong	4	5
6 Maritime	7	8 Tenpin Bowling Meet and Eat Bridge Padel Tennis	9 Tenpin Bowling French History- Georgians Scottish Dancing	10 Canasta Sing for Pleasure	11	12 Strollers
13 Discussion Handicrafts	14 German	15 Tenpin Bowling Photography Geology Padel Tennis	16 Tenpin Bowling	17 Mah-Jong	18	19
20 Monthly Meeting	21	22 Tenpin Bowling Bridge Film Group Wine Group 2 Writing for Fun Padel Tennis	23 Tenpin Bowling French Music App Wine Group 3 Scottish Dancing	24 Canasta Cribbage Sing for Pleasure Aviation	25	26
27 Local History Astronomy	28 German Strollers Too Wine 4					

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

Also check website www.maldonu3a.co.uk