

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

Maldon and District

Newsletter



Tony Groves – Photography Group

February 2023

www.maldonu3a.co.uk

Registered Charity 1086182

FROM THE CHAIR



Ask not what your u3a can do for you – ask what you can do for your u3a.

Adapted from a part of JFK's inaugural speech but a theme that, it seems, can be traced back to St Luke.

We need ideas, volunteers and enthusiasts to sustain and renew our u3a and enable it to thrive. You can contribute and make a difference.

Running a Group need not be very time-consuming nor difficult. The time involved will be enjoyable and very worthwhile and you will be supported by your Committee – one of our fundamental roles. Interested, then let us know.

The interest groups we have reflect the passions and expertise of members who have joined over the past 25 years, but new generations come along with different interests and ideas. Would our younger members like to give a new subject a try?

For new members we need to create awareness of our existence and what we do. Experience has shown that “word of mouth” is our best marketing tool.

Our u3a should be on Social Media. Our grandchildren have no problem with this: they seem to be permanently glued to their mobiles. We should keep up with them but we need a person to organise it for us. You do not have to have recent experience in setting up a social media group but you need to have a willingness to learn – and the u3a is all about learning. Interested, or know someone suitable, then do let us know.

Our next monthly meeting on the 20th will be from the former Curator of the de Havilland Museum and will be about the achievements of Geoffrey de Havilland. This is an excellent example of the wide range of subjects we are able to cover at our meetings and will be very interesting.

Our meeting in April will be to celebrate our 25th birthday and will be very special. Malcolm Case has kindly agreed to prepare a review of the 25 years. If you can help with photographs or stories, then please send them to Malcolm. This will be much appreciated.

Ken Hazell

POETRY GROUP

The next meeting is on **Monday 2nd March**, starting at 2.00pm in a member's house.

The poet for discussion is William Cowper who was an English poet and Anglican hymnwriter.

One of the most popular poets of his time, Cowper changed the direction of 18th century nature poetry by writing of everyday life and scenes of the English countryside. In many ways, he was one of the forerunners of Romantic poetry.



Jo Robson

BRIDGE GROUP

The Bridge Group currently meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 1.45pm to 4.30pm for a social game of bridge at WMCC.

From **Wednesday 15th March** we will be changing to the **first and third Wednesday** mornings from 9.30am to 12.15pm.

If you are interested in joining our bridge group please contact me.

Gill Cory

SOCIAL ORGANISING GROUP



SOCIAL EVENING

The Social Organising Group invite you to join them at **Maldon Town Hall on Wednesday 22nd February at 7.00pm until 10.00pm** for a Social Evening

Tickets **£10.00** which includes supper.

Please bring your own drinks, glasses, knife, fork and spoon, plate and bowl and a cup.

Tickets available from Rosemary Case by email or telephone

More Social events already organised for 2023

Thursday 27th April

Sea Shanty Evening

at Blackwater Sailing Club

details nearer the date when tickets will be on sale



Tuesday 14th November,
Cockney Evening

Maldon Town Hall

details nearer the date when tickets will be on sale

Mike Childs



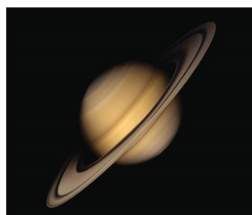
ASTRONOMY GROUP

The next meeting is on **Monday 27th February** starting at 7.30pm at Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge, CM9 4RE.

With clear skies then we will be observing the planets and stars. Orion and the Orion Nebula are visible to the south and Venus, Jupiter and Saturn will also be visible.



Orion



Saturn



Venus



Jupiter

Should the sky be overcast then we will have a discussion on the latest NASA rocket system to the moon and also discussions on The Unexplained Universe: Unsolved Mysteries.

Our meeting in January, which was a visit to Anglia Ruskin University for a talk on the James Webb Telescope was very interesting with a lot of facts and figures given by Dr Alister Glasse of the Royal Observatory.

Malcolm Case

MONTHLY MEETING

Monday 20th March 2023

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

Nicholas Alston High Sheriff of Essex



The history of this title
and what it means now.



Please remember your Membership Card

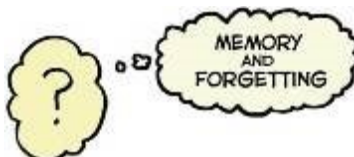
MONTHLY SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2023

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.

Do you remember ?

You may remember that we assisted a PhD student a couple of years ago by asking our members to complete her on-line questionnaire on memory errors.



She has completed her survey and there is a link on our website to a summary of her findings. <http://www.maldonu3a.co.uk/MemoryErrorsReport.pdf>

It seems that we are forgetful all our lives, but when we get old, we forget how forgetful we used to be!

STROLLERS/STROLLERS TOO 2023

Sunday February 19th, March 19th, April 16th, May 21st, June 18th, July 16th, September 17th, October 15th, November 19th.

Tuesday February 28th, March 28th, April 25th, May 23rd, June 27th, July 25th, September 26th, October 24th, November 28th.

For further details, please see our u3a monthly newsletter and if you would like to join either group, then please contact –

Malcolm Case

STROLLERS TOO

Tuesday 28th February for a walk of approximately 3.25 miles.

Please meet at The Three Horseshoes, Althorne, CM9 6DP, 10.15am for a 10.30am start.

The Three Horseshoes is no longer open on a Tuesday, but we have permission to park there. Lunch is booked nearby.

Please let me know if you are coming, and whether you want lunch by **Tuesday 20th February**.

Gill Stone

STROLLERS

Our February Strollers walk is on **Sunday 19th February**. We will meet at 10.15am for a 10.30am start in the lay-by in Ulting Road, Nounsley, CM3 2LU (opposite the playing field).

We will walk approximately 3.5miles around Nounsley and Ulting, mainly on roads to avoid the mud.

Lunch afterwards in Terling.

Please let me know who will be walking and who will be staying for lunch.

Peta Verney

BIRD WATCHING GROUP

Spring in the Air

For our first outing of 2023, nine members visited the Essex Wildlife Trust reserve at Abberton reservoir, a wetland site of international importance for wildfowl visited by 40,000 ducks, swans and geese each year. We certainly weren't disappointed, with great white egret (pictured) and Bewick's swans on show, of which more later.



Spring seemed to be in the air. Above a meadow planted by the trust, a skylark sang as it ascended. Once a common sight over the countryside, the UK skylark population halved during the 1990s having declined by 75% since 1972.

Out on the water, a lucky male smew was pursued by two females, though these small sawbill ducks are winter visitors, breeding in Russia or Scandinavia. Smew are the rarest of the three sawbills seen in Britain, the others being goosanders and red breasted mergansers. The male, with his striking black and white plumage, used to be called the white nun. We also saw a male and female goosander, our largest sawbill, a rare winter visitor until the 19th century when it was found nesting in Scotland but has since expanded its range in Britain.

Back to the Bewick's swans and great white egret, one of the first birds we saw from a hide overlooking the reservoir. This member of the heron family was once a rare sight in the UK and Europe, with only 150 recorded across the continent in 1970. The UK's first breeding pair was recorded on the Somerset Levels in 2012. The bird is protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act after numbers plummeted through hunting for its feathers.

Bewick's swans are named after the 18th century engraver Thomas Bewick, who executed many bird portraits. The smallest swan visiting the UK in winter, Bewick's breed in Arctic Russia. With their yellow and black bills, at first glance they can be mistaken for the larger whooper swans which also spend winter here.

Mike Bagshaw

The group's next visit is to Heybridge Basin on **Sunday 5th March**. Meet at 10am in Daisy Meadow (pay) car park.

ART APPRECIATION GROUP

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 15th March**, 2pm at a member's house.

All are welcome. We will have a detailed look at a few well known art works. There will be cake.

Judith Johnston

The Big Balti



The next curry event will be held on **Monday 27th March** at the Balti Bhujon restaurant Mill Road Maldon 6:30 start

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

Graham Evans Bob Gowers or text

Teddies for Trauma - Help

I am Doreen Monk, Sheila Epps' sister, and I am trying to find the person in our u3a who collected teddy bears that Sheila had knitted for Teddies for Trauma. I have a dozen of these and would love to pass them on.



doreen monk

Birdwatching Group Programme 2023

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

HISTORY-GEORGIANS

Kathy Goff has taken over as Co-ordinator of this group and it will continue to meet at 10am on the **second Thursday** every month at West Maldon Community Centre.

Kathy Goff

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

The photography group continues to meet monthly via Zoom.

The next meeting is on **Wednesday 15th February at 7.30pm**.

The subject for February is "Anything Red".

Visit the photography page on our website to see the 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.

Recent January pictures: 'Sports, games, and other recreations'



Nicki Iszard



Alec Fraser



Tony Groves



Geoff Macro

Tony Groves webmaster@maldonu3a.co.uk

MARITIME GROUP

The next meeting is on **Monday 6th March**, starting at 10.00am at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Basin Road, Heybridge Basin for a talk by John Rogers – 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!



Malcolm Case

MARITIME GROUP Programme 2023

<p>Mon 3rd April</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Mon 1st May</p>	<p>No meeting – Bank Holiday</p>
<p>Mon 5th June</p>	<p>Talk by Jimmy Byam Shaw on "Small Boat Building".</p>

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 Simon Gregor who will take us on a virtual stroll along the Thames from Vauxhall to Westminster, uncovering some of London’s rich history along the way. Sometimes on the embankment, and sometimes diving into quaint side streets, this talk will explore not only big sights like the Palace of Westminster and the Tate Britain Gallery, but also some of the less well-known history lurking in the back streets, with the Thames itself providing a constantly-flowing thread linking the city together.
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

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.

AVIATION GROUP

The next meeting is on **Friday February 24th** at 11.00am.

Richard Frazer from the Boxted Airfield Historical Trust will be visiting us to give a talk on the History of this important WW2 Essex aerodrome.

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

Chris Tressider

u3a East of England Aviation Zoom

The History of WW2 Airfields in the East of England

The recent Zoom talk by Andy Strange was very successful and attended by some 300 people. Andy has agreed to doing a Part 2 as he had not had sufficient time to cover all the airfields and associated information. This is likely to be in April. All attendees in February will be notified of the details as well as the region generally.

East of England Region of u3as

The Age of Chivalry may not be Dead!

Traffic passing through Danbury is intermittent. There can be cars nose to tail in both directions and a couple of minutes later not a car in sight. Today, when I had plenty of time, I didn't see the necessity of stopping the flow by using the official crossing with lights.

So, I just waited patiently on the kerb and within seconds the traffic on both sides had ground to a halt, and – feeling like Moses crossing the Red Sea – this little old lady walked across in as dignified a manner as she could muster!

Couldn't believe it – the power of white hair and a walking stick!!

Dorothy Denmark

Veronica Smith was a member of Waltham Singers, who sang at her recent memorial service.

Their next concert is on Saturday 11th March

see our website
www.maldonu3a.co.uk
or
www.walthamsingers.org.uk/

Registered Charity No 1153650
affiliated to **making music**
SUPPORTING & CELEBRATING VOLUNTARY MUSIC

Waltham Singers
Conductor: Andrew Fardell

Saturday 11th March, 7.30pm
Great Waltham Church

**Jazz,
Songs &
Sonnets**

Featuring...
Chilcott: Nidaros Jazz Mass
Shearing: Songs & Sonnets
Rutter: Birthday Madrigals

*accompanied by a guest
jazz trio*

www.walthamsingers.org.uk
Tickets: £16, (under 16s £5)
Steve Readings (01245 440573); any choir member, via the website; or at the door

WELCOME

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Christine Barrett	Pam Hopper
Bernard Barrett	Yvonne West
Mary Edwards	Roy Williams
Michael Edwards	

You in
your 3rd
age

FROM THE EDITOR

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

Liz Samson

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Report on Archaeological Discoveries January 2023

For our first meeting of the year, three members of Burnham's u3a gave us a talk and presentation on the "Archaeological Discoveries at Southminster Hall".

Dressed in Medieval Costumes they represented people of the day, viz a lady of the Manor, a monk and the Bishop of London.



The site was spotted on Google Earth where parch marks indicated an oblong shape, on the pristine lawns of Southminster Hall, and whose current owners kindly gave permission to "Dig".

Work started in March 2020, was interrupted by Covid, and finally finished in October 2021.

During that time, no less than nine trenches were dug to reveal the foundations of stone walls one metre thick. Such was the find, that with the help of grants to the group, a series of experts up to national level were able to explain that these were foundations of a Chamber Block, built in the 11th or 12th century with stone walls of septaria and a tiled roof. It would have served as a two storey building for a steward and a priest, with a first floor room for sleeping and entertaining guests. This was probably one part of the Bishop's Palace, and used as he toured the area, entertaining and collecting tithes.

Although no coins were found, bits of pottery dating back to the 11th century were unearthed.

At the end of the dig, the group held a Heritage Open Day, after which the trenches were backfilled to protect the site and return the lawn to its former glory. A small time capsule was added should anyone reopen the site in the future.

We thanked Sue, Zoe and Peter for a most informative and entertaining afternoon, and wish them well as they start their next dig, - a 12th or 13th century church in Mayland.

Kathy and Sylvia

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

It was nice to see so many members at our first meeting of the year especially new members.

Our next meeting is on **Monday February 27th** at 2pm at the Town Hall.

Our speaker is Mike Stringer for his talk ***"The Workhouse of Maldon"*** which was originally in a building on Market Hill which you will have passed many times, but probably not often on foot!!

Mike always has an in-depth knowledge of his subject, as we discovered last year when he told us about the local Leper Hospital of St Giles.

On **March 27th** we have another return visit, this time Neil Wiffen, who will tell us of ***"The contribution of Essex to provisioning the forces of Edward III about 1337"***.

Neil is a very entertaining speaker, as you will know from his "History of the Darcy Spice!", so I am sure his story of how Essex provided food for the troops of Edward III will be equally enjoyable.

We look forward to seeing you on February 27th.

Kathy and Sylvia

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

u3a

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Deadline for next newsletter: 4th March 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 Graham Evans	Maritime	Malcolm Case
Bird Watching	Peter Gaywood Michael Bagshaw	Music Appreciation	tba
Bridge	Gill Cory	Padel Tennis	Ken Hazell
Canasta	Iris Slaney	Petanque (Boules)	Jack Veash Geoff Macro
Cribbage	Pat Clements	Photography	Tony Groves
Croquet	Geoff Macro Shirley Macro	Poetry	Jo Robson
Discussion	Pat Jones	Reading	tba
Film Club	Shirley Macro	Rummikub	Janice Martin
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	Kathy Goff	Wine Circle No. 3	Mary Burd
Just Jazz	Peter Condon David Coombes	Wine Circle No. 4	Ann Goody
Local History	Sylvia Cousins Kathy Goff	Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth

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

third age ^{u3a}
matters

Schedule of Events – March 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
		1 Tenpin Bowling Padel Tennis	2 Tenpin Bowling Rummikub Poetry	3 Mah-Jong	4	5 Bird Watching
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
13 Discussion Handicrafts	14 German	15 Tenpin Bowling Photography Geology Padel Tennis Bridge Art Appreciation	16 Tenpin Bowling	17 Mah-Jong	18	19 Strollers
20 Monthly Meeting	21	22 Tenpin Bowling 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	29 Film Group Tenpin Bowling Padel Tennis	30 Tenpin Bowling	31 Cribbage Mah-Jong		

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