

**u3a** learn,  
laugh,  
live

Maldon and District

**Newsletter**



**March 2025**

[www.maldonu3a.co.uk](http://www.maldonu3a.co.uk)

Registered Charity 1086182

## FROM THE CHAIR

“It will all be over by Christmas”. “The war to end wars”. “You will return to a land fit for heroes.” These were the initial quotes by our speaker from the Limbless Veterans Society, Brian Chenier, who then went on to tell us how tens of thousands of our troops returned from WW1 as amputees and found little help.

He went on to give an informative, inspiring and often moving account of the achievements of this Society and many individual veterans. And all with a fine military sense of humour.

This month we will move on to the Lynmouth disaster so will already this year have travelled in our thoughts from Sudbury to Afghanistan – and now on to a quiet North Devon village. Our meetings are definitely not very samey.

Our meeting in April would have been on 21st but instead we have Easter Monday and therefore no meeting. Easter Sunday is the first Sunday after the first Full Moon that follows the Spring Equinox. Isn't it pleasing that we do not have to follow some rigid order and that the “goalposts” move naturally and rather erratically from year to year?

Now that Spring is here, our visit schedules are well underway with Aviation, Maritime and Gardens all offering trips whether by coach or your own transport. Our Social Group is also putting together events for later in the year, so there is much to look forward to.

Ken Hazell

Chairman

## MONTHLY MEETING

Please note that there will be no meeting in April as our scheduled date falls on Easter Monday.

Our next meeting will be

Monday 19th May

## MONTHLY SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2025/26

19th May	<b>Stories behind the photos</b> <b>Barbara Mayer</b>	Barbara, a wildlife photographer, will talk about the challenges and memorable moments she faced whilst taking photos of big cats and other wildlife species.
16th June	<b>Tales from the East Side</b> <b>Gary Lewis</b>	The East London Cemetery does not allow guided tours, but Gary's talk will introduce us to a cast of fascinating characters who are buried there.
21st July	<b>Musical Quiz</b> <b>Steve Scruton</b>	A light hearted quiz from Steve of BBC Essex featuring pictures and music with questions . Plus light refreshments.
18th August	<b>The Livery Companies of the City of London</b> <b>David Williams</b>	For many centuries the skills of craft industries was controlled by the Livery Companies but their influence faded as Britain became more industrialised. Yet the Livery movement has survived and many of the 110 companies are supporting education, offering scholarships, building and maintaining schools and financing organisations who care for the sick, the needy and the homeless.

<b>15th September</b>	<b>Tortoises – To Be Honest</b>  <b>Jane Williams</b>	Jane will be talking about the history of pet tortoise keeping; interesting features of tortoise biology and their ways of life. Together with photographs of the variety of different tortoises seen around the world.
<b>20th October</b>	<b>AGM</b>  <b>Followed by a talk by Patrick Forsyth</b>	Our own u3a member and author, Patrick will tell us about the ‘funny side of writing’.
<b>17th November</b>	<b>The Dig</b>  <b>Charlie Haylock</b>	An intriguing and sometimes hilarious look behind the scenes in the making of the Netflix film <i>The Dig</i> . A film based on the novel of the same name about the discovery of the famous Sutton Hoo burial ship and the people involved.
<b>15th December</b>	<b>Christmas Entertainment</b>	Music, quiz and much more.....
<b>19th January 2026</b>	<b>The Art Of The Cartoonist</b>  <b>Harry Venning</b>	Harry, an award winning cartoonist,, illustrator and comedy writer, traces the story of cartoons and cartoonists over the last two hundred years, from Hogarth and Gilray to Herjé and Schulz. There will be humour, there will be history and there will be live drawing, as he shares some of the tricks and techniques of the trade
<b>16th February</b>	<b>A Schoolgirl’s War</b>  <b>Mary Smith</b>	The story of school life during WW2, arising from two fascinating recent discoveries. The first was the uncovering of an extensive set of tunnels used as underground classrooms, and the second was the discovery of an exquisite set of paintings created as the war unfolded.

**16th February contd.**

These are the work of a wartime art teacher who set out to document the lives of school pupils and their teachers in paint and pencil as the war unfolded. This is a highly visual talk, and would fascinate anyone interested in the home front during WW2.

**16th March**

**The Life and Strife of Honey Bees**

**Stuart Overton-Smith**

The more that we have learnt about the lives of honey bees, the more in awe we have become. They are so important to the ecosystem that we, and they, are part of. Other bees are discussed too, specifically the solitary bees that are easily kept in your garden in purpose built homes .

**20th April**

**From Titanic to Batman: The Highs & Lows of a Stuntwoman's Life**

**Lucy Allen**

With over 30 years experience, Lucy reveals the thrills, challenges, and behind the scenes secrets of stunt work—plus, enjoy a 10-minute film of Lucy in action.

If you know of any speakers that you can recommend please contact our Speaker Secretary: Theresa Byles

**WELCOME**

A warm welcome to our new members:

Susan Morley

Derek Hammond

Christine Pinder

Sonia Sterling

Jan Darley

Carole Harvey

Phil Kinsman

## LONDON WALKS

London Walks take place on the **3rd Tuesday** of the month.

We meet a professional guide at 11.00 to be taken on a 2-hour guided walk. The distance walked is not vast as we stop many times to be told interesting and entertaining information. After the walk you are free to join others for coffee/ lunch or plan other things to make the most of your day in London. Travel arrangements are made by yourselves..

We are looking forward to our first Walk of the year on **Tuesday 18th March** and hoping that the weather will be kind to us.

A list of forthcoming walks is shown below:

The cost for each of the walks is **£12 per person**. Payment by cheque in advance please – payable to Maldon & District u3a. One cheque per event please.

To reserve your place or for any further info please contact:

Julie Lake

\* The June River Cruise will incur an extra charge for the boat trip payable on the day and the tour will last 3 hours. More details will be provided nearer the date.

<b>18th March</b>	Publish and be Damned	Meet at Temple Underground station
<b>15th April</b>	The History of Medicine	Meet at Russell Square Underground station
<b>20th May</b>	Old Westminster	Meet at St James Park Underground station
<b>17th June *</b>	Brunel's River Cruise	Meet at Embankment Underground station
<b>15th July</b>	The Inns of Court	Meet at Holborn Underground station

# **Forties Evening of Songs and Supper**

**An evening of songs from the musicals of  
1938—49 with Lorraine Ely**

Wednesday 2nd April from 6.30 until 10.00 pm

The Blackwater Sailing Club

Heybridge

Tickets £12.50 include supper  
(sausage, mash, & onion gravy,  
fruit trifle, tea or coffee)

*Don't forget your ration book!!*

*40's attire optional*

Please bring your own plate, knife, fork, spoon and a cup/mug.

Please note that the Sailing Club operates a pay bar.

Maldon u3a members only. Tickets available from Rosemary Case:

Please let us know if you need gluten free or vegetarian option

## MARITIME GROUP

Our next meeting is on **Monday 7th April**, starting at 10.00 at the Blackwater Sailing Club, Basin Road, Heybridge Basin for a talk by Julie Ann Miller of the Combined Military Services Museum, on the **Cockleshell Heroes' of Operation Frankton**.

The museum is home to the last known surviving Mk II Cockle Canoe, *Cachalot* from the Operation Frankton attack on Axis shipping in Bordeaux harbour by British marines in December 1942.

It became known as The Cockleshell



Heroes Raid, a story of strength, determination and real heroism, and featured a brand new type of small collapsible craft, known as the Cockle Canoe.

Operation Frankton was a propaganda triumph in the

darkest days of World War Two but cost the lives of eight very brave men. Julie will tell the exciting story of the raid, the men, and the aftermath, drawing on original documents, photographs and artefacts from the museum's unique collection, not normally seen by the public.



Please join us. All u3a members are very welcome.

Malcolm Case

## MARITIME GROUP Programme 2025

- Monday 5th May** Bank Holiday—No Meeting
- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June** Trip to the Thames Barrier. Depart WMCC at 9.00. There will be a tour of the centre with commentary about the barrier. The cost is **£35 pp**. This includes coach hire, parking, driver's gratuity and tour of the centre. Contact Malcolm Case to add your name to the waiting list.
- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July** Talk by John Johnson-Allan on HMS Truculent, a British submarine of the third group of the T class. She was built as P315 by Vickers Armstrong, Barrow, and launched on 12 September 1942. Truculent was lost following a post-war accident with a Swedish oil tanker in the Thames Estuary in January 1950.
- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August** Trip details tba
- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September** Trip to Tilbury Docks and Tilbury Fort, with lunch (not included in the price) at the Seafarers centre Tilbury. Further details will be available at the April meeting.
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October** Talk by Roger Butler on Treasure Islands – exploring the Hebrides looking at islands, ferries, wildlife, etc in the Hebrides as well as travelling out to far-flung St Kilda.
- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November** Talk by Richard Pusey on Antarctic exploration (Scott v Amundsen v Shackleton). The talk starts with an introduction to the geography and geology of the Antarctic and the early exploration of the area by Captain James Cook in 1772 on his 2<sup>nd</sup> voyage. The 3 big explorers, Scott, Amundsen and Shackleton will be introduced, and the early Discovery Expedition of 1901 and the Nimrod Expedition of 1907 are outlined and how they paved the way for the big expeditions to bag the South Pole.

## MARITIME GROUP Programme 2025 contd.

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**  
contd.

The talk then concentrates on the main theme of “Scott’s Last Expedition” of 1910 – 12 and how it was set up and staffed with particular attention to Edward Wilson and the doctors, George Levick and Edward Atkinson. Some of the medical conditions they encountered are described. Details of the trek to the Pole are given including the strange decision to change the Pole Party from 4 to 5 at the last minute with only rations for 4. The great disappointment of being beaten to the Pole by Amundsen and the Norwegian team using dog sledges will be described and the terrible return journey of Scott’s party suffering from scurvy, dehydration and slow starvation and final death is vividly illustrated with pictures of frostbite.

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

Talk by Kris Taylor on the Cable & Wireless super yacht and its race around the World in 74 days, 20 hours and 58 minutes.

The diary of a PR person as she promoted a high-tec, 115ft diesel engine monohull vessel on its journey from Gibraltar around the world whilst its crew of 15, including 4 professional and 11 amateur mariners, undertook a challenge to become the first powered vessel to circumnavigate the globe in less than 80 days in 1998.

This will be followed by some Christmas cheer and discussions on our 2026 programme

## TENPIN BOWLING

Do you fancy a chat and a cup of coffee with some tenpin bowling thrown in? We play every **Wednesday** and **Thursday mornings** from 09.45 – 12 noon at Madison Heights, Park Drive, Maldon.

If you are interested, please contact:

Alan Buck

David Coombes

# ASTRONOMY

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 24th March**, starting at 7:30 pm at the Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge, Maldon where if weather conditions prevent night sky observing, then there will be a presentation on *My Favourite Universe*.



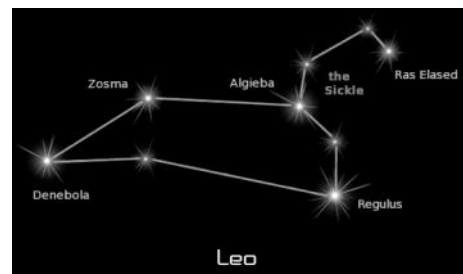
Full moon is on 14th March, when there will also be an eclipse. Early risers on the may see the event, which starts at just after 5am when the moon will be fairly low down in the west. The moon will have set by the time it is fully eclipsed by the earth's shadow at 6.30am.

Mars is still a bright object in Gemini near the twin stars but becomes slowly less bright through the month as its distance from Earth increases.

Jupiter remains prominent in Taurus, best seen during mid-evening as the gas giant planet will be getting low in the west after 11pm.



In the darker moon-free evenings of late March, looking due south at 10pm is the constellation of Leo. Its brightest star is Regulus, which also marks the bottom of



a distinctive 'backwards question mark' shaped pattern of stars, known as the Sickle. Regulus is about 80 light years away and is part of a multiple star system. Regulus rotates quickly, causing it to be egg-shaped rather than round like our sun.

On Saturday, 29th March a partial eclipse of the sun takes place. At 10am, the moon will begin to pass over the sun, with maximum eclipse at about 11am, when 30 per cent of the sun's surface will be hidden by the moon. The eclipse then reduces to end at about 12 noon.

All u3a members are very welcome to join the meeting Malcolm Case

## GARDEN GROUP

We are now well into the planning of the Spring and Summer programme of self-drive visits to local gardens. Our first two visits are in April, the first to Feeringbury Manor and later in the month to Ulting Wick. Both of these are fully subscribed.

On **Tuesday 6th May** we are visiting **Green Island**



### **Gardens at**

Ardleigh , CO7 7SP. Car share may be available.

There are about 20 acres of woodland, grounds & gardens, so we have arranged to arrive at 11.00 and have lunch there. Entrance to the gardens only is: **£10.00**. Entrance plus a ham & cheese

ploughman's lunch is **£19.50**. You are also able to take your own picnic lunch which can be eaten in a dedicated picnic area near the car park.

We are now taking bookings and payments. Cheques made payable to Maldon & District u3a can be given in at the monthly meeting. Or, you can now make payment by bacs transfer to the following account:

**Nat West: Maldon & Dist U3A**

Sort code: **60-13-37**

a/c **49774476** using the reference **gardens-greensl**

If you are paying by bacs please let me know when you have and whether you have included payment for lunch.

Later in May we are visiting Capel Manor Gardens near Enfield whilst the aviators go to RAF Hendon. This visit is fully subscribed with a waiting list in operation.

On **Thursday June 26th** we are visiting **Hever Castle** which has award winning gardens and an historic castle, the childhood home of Anne Boleyn.

The cost will be **£46pp** including coach travel, entry to the Castle and Grounds and a multi-media guide. Please note that entry to the Castle 1st floor is via a spiral staircase see the link for further details:



<https://www.hevercastle.co.uk/visit/location-accessibility/>

If you are interested in this visit, but are not a member of the group, you will be able to join us as long as there is sufficient space. Please let me know so that you can be put on the list.

In July we will be making a return visit to one of our favourite gardens, Blunts Hall in Witham. Further details will be in the April Newsletter

Theresa Byles

Kris Taylor

## Parking at Danbury Leisure Centre

Be aware that there is a new system in force in the 2 car parks in the centre of Danbury which will affect any of our members who leave their cars there to join a coach trip. You can find all the information regarding parking on the Danbury Parish Council website:

<https://www.danbury-essex.gov.uk/facilities/car-parking/>

There are 2 possible problems – for day time trips, cars are not allowed to stay more than 5 hours.

For evening theatre trips, there is no parking after midnight. There are no barriers, so cars will not be trapped, but as all the enforcement is done through ANPR, any car (owner) left after 23.59 will be fined

## PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Share your photographs with other members. This is for everyone who has a camera or smartphone. It's not a competition nor only for expert photographers. It's an excellent reason to look back through your holiday snaps and other photos to find suitable ones that match the topic.

Each month we will choose a topic and you can send up to six photos to me. I host a **Zoom meeting at 7.30** on the **third Wednesday evening** of each month so we can all see and chat about them – you don't need to leave your home!

March's topic is Movement. See all the pictures from previous months on our website –

<http://maldonu3a.co.uk/photography/photography.php>.

Tony Groves

## ENGINEERING & INVENTIONS GROUP

We meet on the **first and third Tuesday** of each month starting at **2pm**, at my house in Danbury, to watch three half-hour video talks. The talks are not technical and they are suitable for non-engineers.

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 1st April**. when the topics will be:

Structures: The Beauty and Versatility of Modern Concrete

Inventions: Electric Light and Power.

Failures: Construction Engineering: Two Failed Lifts

If you are interested please email me.

Tony Groves

## HANDICRAFT GROUP

We are a small, very friendly group who meet on the **second Monday** of each month, **10.00 – 12 noon** in the Linton Room, WMCC. Over the next few sessions we are planning to teach members how to crochet, but will also be covering a wide range of projects related to many forms of handicrafts.



Our next meeting is **Monday 14th April**. Please note there will be no meeting in May. Why not come along? Please contact us for further details.

Marian Manning

Brenda Heal

## Can you help ??

As many of you are aware, our Local History Group, which has been providing our members with a wide variety of speakers and visits for at least 20 years, will discontinue if new coordinators do not come forward.

Kathy and Sylvia, together with Jane, became coordinators in 2016 and are happy to share with you their knowledge of local topics and speakers, as well as assisting with the fundamentals of restarting the Group. Our Committee members are also there to lend a hand with any logistical items, such as hall bookings and meeting fees.

Why not get together with one or two colleagues and have a chat with Kathy and Sylvia, to gain an insight into what is involved.

Thank you



# SUNDAY STROLLERS

**Sunday 16th February**

**New boots for the walk !!**

We had a good attendance for our first walk of 2025. We met at Mundon on a cold but thankfully dry morning with everyone wrapped up well for the cold weather. The walk took us past the redundant St Mary's Church which was



open, so we popped in for a look at the restoration work which has been carried out by the Friends of Friendless Churches.

We then continued on to look at the nearby Petrified Oaks which looked



very bleak on a grey chilly morning. The walk then took us across the fields which were thankfully reasonably dry and then onto the White Horse pub for an excellent

Sunday lunch.



Brenda Heal

Gill Stone

## STROLLERS TOO

On **Tuesday 25th February**, a rare sunny day, 11 of us set out along the railway line to Langford. There were signs of spring along the route.



Soon we reached Langford Halt. On reaching the road, we passed a post box with the insignia of George VI on the front.



From Langford Church, it was a short distance to regaining the path, alongside the first lake.



We carried on, crossing Maypole



Road towards the fishing lakes.

As we approached the end of our walk, through the new estate, it was good to see that a new sign showed the re-routed path. A super lunch

concluded, what we all thought, was a very good stroll.

Gill Stone

**Tuesday 25th March 2025**, Heybridge approx 4 miles

We will be walking a circular route along the canal towpath and the sea wall at Heybridge. Please meet at 10.15 in the car park behind the Jolly Sailor Pub at Heybridge Basin, post code CM9 4RS. We will register our cars and order lunch before setting off at 10.30. Please let us know by **18th March** if you'll be joining us and whether you will be staying for lunch

John and Val Stealey

## AVIATION GROUP

Hello everyone,

At our last meeting on Friday 28th February we were given an excellent illustrated talk by Dave "Flash" Davies, who is a local professional photographer, for many years the company photographer at Marconi in Chelmsford and more recently the official photographer at Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome.

His talk was called *Capturing the Light-The Birth of Photography* with an emphasis on the infancy of photography from the air and its evolution from WW1 to more recent times.



This was followed by a hands-on session with cameras and photographic equipment from the early 20th century up to the present day.



Our next meeting on **Friday 28th March** will be devoted to a considered evaluation of the air disasters that befell the Boeing 737 Max.

This will start with a short, illustrated talk by the writer about the phenomena of the "Super Stall" which led to electronically signalled stall recovery systems for civil airliners. This will be followed by an illustrated presentation by film from a non-aviation specialist who brings a refreshingly new approach to analysing what went wrong in causing not one, but two catastrophic failures of this, the latest aspiration of arguably one of the most successful passenger carrying aircraft every produced.

Chris Samson

## AVIATION PROGRAMME 2025

**Friday 25th April**

Remembering the 80th anniversary of VE day in May 1945 we will show a **film** of the flight by 3 members of the AUSTER Club who took their aircraft to Normandy to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-day last June and to commemorate the contribution made by the AUSTER AOP (Artillery Observation Post) to the success of the landings.

**Thursday 22nd May**

We will visit the **RAF Museum , Hendon**, combining with the Garden Group who we will drop off at Capel Manor Gardens, Enfield on the way to Hendon.

We will travel by coach with the first pickup at the Fords yard in Althorne, then WMCC and finally at Eves Corner, Danbury—**see note on p13 re Danbury parking**

Entry to the museum is free; coach cost is **£30 pp**, bookings are now being accepted with cheque please made out to Maldon & District u3a.

**Thursday 26th June**

We will visit the **Spitfire Factory at Biggin Hill airport** for a guided tour of the facility where 12 or more Spitfires are undergoing complete rebuilds to full flying status. We are combining with the Garden Group who will then proceed to Hever Castle, Edenbridge, (about 20 mins from Biggin). The plan is for the coach to return to Biggin to collect members after the Factory tours, to then visit the Air Museum, then return to Hever to collect our Gardens colleagues before heading for home.

We will travel by coach, with the first pickup at the Fords yard in Althorne, then WMCC and finally at Eves Corner, Danbury **see note on p13 re Danbury parking**.

The cost of the Guided Tour is **£49 pp**, and the coach cost is **£31 pp**; bookings are now being accepted with cheque please made out to Maldon & District u3a .

**Friday 25th July**

A Show and Tell event

The same formula as we used last June when members brought along items of interest or had related family stories to tell.

Please let me know of your interest so that I can build a programme where everyone has time to relate their story or discuss their exhibit.

All our meetings, unless stated, are held at Woodham Mortimer Village Hall at 11.00, doors open at 10.30 for coffee, biscuits, gossip etc.

Chris Samson

## JUST JAZZ GROUP

Our next meeting is **Monday 17th**

**March** from 7.30—9.30pm, in the Little Ship Club, Hythe Quay, Maldon . The bar will be open so pop

in for drink, some music and a chat. We look forward to seeing you.



Pete Condon      David Coombes

## A fascinating dip into history

In the new edition of the u3a journal, *u3a Matters*, Patrick Forsyth (coordinator of our 'Writing for fun' group) has an article (on page 13) describing a trip visiting the battlefields and cemeteries of the First World War. With an expert guide this made for a poignant and illuminating experience. This relates to a significant period of history, one that fashioned everything that followed. Such a trip can also link to family history, in this case locating and visiting a grave previously unknown to the family and providing a wonderful and emotional revelation.

If any member is considering doing something similar, either joining a scheduled tour or having something tailored for a family group perhaps, do contact Patrick Forsyth, who would be happy to tell you more.

Patrick Forsyth

Blue sky, bright sunshine – and the recent chilly east winds a distant memory. Ideal conditions for a morning's birdwatching.

So it was with something of a spring in our step that 13 members stepped out on Heybridge sea wall on 2nd March – the second day of meteorological Spring. ***Brent Geese, Redshank, Dunlin, Teal***



We were not disappointed. Out on the mudflats, a plethora of waders and wildfowl were taking advantage of the bountiful food supply to be found in the mud. It is always good to see avocets, elegant black and white waders with long upturned beaks. It is also the emblem of the RSPB, symbolising the bird protection movement in the UK more than any other species. The increase in avocets after their return in the 1940s marks one of the most successful conservation projects. ***Dunlin and Teal***



Another welcome sight was a greenshank, an amber listed wader in the UK most often seen as a passage migrant between its wintering grounds as far

south as Africa and breeding grounds on boggy moorland in Scotland. More of its commoner relative, the redshank, were also probing the mud for food as was a curlew with its long downturned bill, which will soon be heading to inland moorland breeding grounds.

***Teal and Black Tailed Godwit***

Ducks could be seen in good numbers, including teal (Europe's smallest duck), pochard, wigeon, tufted and shelduck which are fond of nesting in rabbit burrows in old sand dunes. Other waders included godwit and oystercatchers, which can be remarkably long lived, typically surviving around 12 years in the wild with some living 41 years.



***The group's next destination is Felixstowe to see bird ringers at work at Landguard Fort on Saturday 5th April .***

*Rendezvous will be earlier than our usual 10.am, to be advised by Peter Gaywood nearer the time.*

Mike Bagshaw 01621 892272      Peter Gaywood 01621 852742

*Thanks to Alec Fraser for the photos*

- 3rd May**                      Fingringhoe Reserve. Meet in Reserve car park
- 8th June**                     Blue House Farm, North Fambridge. Meet in Reserve car park
- 5th July**                      Walton on the Naze. Meet in Visitor Centre car park
- 30th August**                (September meeting brought forward)  
Chigborough Lakes. Meet in car park opposite  
Chigborough Road entrance (TBC)
- 5th October**                Wallasea Island. Meet in Reserve car park
- 1st November**             Hanningfield reservoir. Meet in Visitor Centre car park
- 7th December**            Langdon nature discovery park. Meet in Visitor Centre car park

## GEOLOGY GROUP

We meet at the West Maldon Community Centre on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 2p.m with a varied programme.

We are very much an amateur group with little professional input, so group participation is essential with the help of books and the internet.

Our next two meetings are on **Wednesday 19th March** and **Wednesday 16th April** at 2 p.m. at WMCC in the Jubilee Room and we would be pleased to welcome new members with or without any Geological knowledge.

Sylvia Cousins    [cousins513@btinternet.com](mailto:cousins513@btinternet.com)

## PADEL TENNIS GROUP

The session is every **Wednesday** from 2.30 to 4 pm at Padel United, Park Drive Health Club, Maldon. We cater for between 3 and 10 members without anyone having to sit out for more than a few minutes.

If anyone is interested in joining the Group or perhaps having a “taster” session, please contact Ken Hazell.    [ken\\_hazell@icloud.com](mailto:ken_hazell@icloud.com)

## ART APPRECIATION GROUP

Every Picture Tells A Story" – how true this is! At our last meeting members enjoyed sharing the stories behind their artworks.

The next meeting will be on **9th April**, at Andy's house, showing the first episodes of *Treasures of the Louvre*, followed by tea and cakes, as always. Seating is limited, so please let Andy or Judith know as soon as possible if you would like to come.

Judith Johnston    [judith@johnstons.me.uk](mailto:judith@johnstons.me.uk)

AndySimmonds    [andysimmonds45@gmail.com](mailto:andysimmonds45@gmail.com)

Thank you for your contributions, please keep them coming and don't forget to include your photographs.

The deadline for the next issue is **Wednesday 9th April**.

Kris    [news.maldonu3a@gmail.com](mailto:news.maldonu3a@gmail.com)

## ROYAL HISTORY GROUP

The new year saw us move onto the Edwardian period.

We meet every second Thursday in the WMCC. Our next meeting is **Thursday 10th April** at 10.00 where we will not only be discussing the Edwardian Royals but also events that were happening in the UK and around the world at this time.

Why not join us.

Kathy Goff



## THE BIG BALTI

The next curry night will be held on **Monday 31st March** at the Balti Bhujon restaurant, Mill Road, Maldon. 6.30ish start.

To add your name to the list please contact:

Graham Evans    Bob Gowers

**friends extra** 

Have you logged onto our website recently? On the left hand side you'll see Links to other websites. This will take you to many links, not only to other local and national u3as but online courses, general information on how to, and in particular to a sign up for **u3a Friends**, a monthly email, and to a sign up for **Friends Extra**.

u3a Friends Extra – is a new range of benefits, offers and services exclusively for members of our u3a Friends community. The benefits include discounts for shopping, travel, insurance, theatre tickets and more – and we hope really add to your u3a experience.

## FILM GROUP

We started the meeting with a review of *Before I Go to Sleep*, a mystery/psychological thriller about a woman who woke every morning with no memory of the previous day. Although the film is watchable, the plot is silly and not believable but is rescued by an exciting ending. Colin Firth gives a good performance as the, at first, kindly husband caring for his injured wife, played by Nicole Kidman. The actions of the psychologist, played by Mark Strong, can only be described as unethical. **Score: 6**

For something very different the next film under review was *Malcolm X*. Most of the Group thought the film was excellent, extremely well-acted by the whole cast, particularly Denzel Washington in the title role. The film is based on Alex Haley's book, *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, written in collaboration with Malcolm X, beginning in 1963 and completed after his death. It is quite a long film but well worth watching, particularly for anyone interested how the events surrounding Malcolm X shaped his life story. **Score: 8**

Films for next time:

**All the President's Men**– a 1976 American biographical political thriller film about the Watergate scandal that brought down the presidency of Richard Nixon. It is based on the 1974 non-fiction book by Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward, the two journalists investigating the scandal for The Washington Post. Starring Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman as Woodward and Bernstein, respectively.

**Available BBC iPlayer until 25th March**

*El Cid* is a 1961 epic historical drama loosely based on the life of the 11th century Castilian knight and warlord Rodrigo Diaz de Vivar, called "El Cid" (from the Arabic al-sidi, meaning "The Lord"). Starring Charlton Heston in the title role and Sophia Loren as his wife Dona Jimena.

**Available BBC iPlayer for several months**

Our next meeting is **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025**, at 7.30pm by Zoom. If you would like to join us, please get in touch.

Shirley Macro

[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. 0800 4708090 [www.thesilverline.org.uk](http://www.thesilverline.org.uk)

## YOUR COMMITTEE

Chairman	Ken Hazell
Vice Chairman	Alec Fraser
Treasurer	Steven Clarke
Membership Secretary	Malcolm Case
Minutes & Speaker Sec.	Theresa Byles
Newsletter Editor	Kris Taylor
Groups Coordinator	Malcolm Case
Committee	Andy Simmonds Carol Bates Margaret Harker

Webmaster Tony Groves [webmaster@maldonu3a.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@maldonu3a.co.uk)

Publicity Andy Simmonds [publicity.maldonu3a@gmail.com](mailto:publicity.maldonu3a@gmail.com)  
Irina Vahonina

## GROUP COORDINATORS

Art Appreciation	Judith Johnston
Aviation	Andy Simmonds Chris Samson
Astronomy	Malcolm Case
Balti Night	Bob Gowers Graham Evans
Bird Watching	Peter Gaywood Michael Bagshaw
Bridge	Gill Cory
Canasta	Iris Slaney
Cribbage	Pat Clements
Country Dancing	Diana Rogers
Croquet	Geoff Macro Shirley Macro
Discussion	Pat Jones

Engineering	Tony Groves
Film Club	Shirley Macro
French	Ann Lester
Garden Visits	Theresa Byles Kris Taylor
Geology	Sylvia Cousins
German	Howard Broadbridge
Handicraft	Marian Manning Brenda Heal
History—Edwardians	Kathy Goff
Just Jazz	Peter Condon David Coombes
Local History	
London Theatre Outings	Rosemary Case Sheila Childs
London Walks	Julie Lake
Meet & Eat	Joan Cummins
MahJong	Mags Pell
Maritime	Malcolm Case
Padel Tennis	Ken Hazell
Petanque (Boules)	Jack Veash Geoff Macro
Photography	Tony Groves
Poetry	Jo Robson
Rummikub	Janice Martin
Russian Conversation	Irina Vahonina
Sing for Pleasure	Sue Garnham
Social Events	Margaret Harker Brenda Heal
Strollers Sunday & Tues	Malcolm Case
Tenpin Bowling	Alan Buck David Coombes
Wine Circle No. 2	tba
Wine Circle No. 3	Mary Burd
Wine Circle No. 4	Ann Goody
Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth

## Schedule of Events – April 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
	1 Engineering	2 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Padel Tennis  Forties Evening	3 Ten Pin Bowling  Poetry  Rummikub	4 Canasta	5 Bird Watching   Languard Pt	6
7 Maritime	8 Garden Group   Feeringbury	9 Ten Pin Bowling  Art Appreciation  Padel Tennis  Meet & Eat	10 Ten Pin Bowling  Royal History Edwardians  French Conversation  Country Dancing	11 Mah Jong  Singing	12	13
14  Discussion  Handicrafts	15  London Walks  Engineering	16  Ten Pin Bowling  Padel Tennis Bridge Geology Photography Zoom	17  Ten Pin Bowling  Rummikub	18  Easter Friday	19	20  Strollers
21  Easter Monday No Meeting  Just Jazz ?	22  Strollers  Wine Group	23  Ten Pin Bowling  Padel Tennis  Writing for fun  Wine Group	24  Ten Pin Bowling  French Conversation  Country Dancing  Wine Group	25  Aviation  Mah Jong  Cribbage  Singing	26	27
28  Astronomy	29  Garden Group   Ulting Wick	30  Ten Pin Bowling Padel Tennis Bridge Film Zoom London Theatre   SIX				