

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

Maldon and District

Newsletter



St Peter's Gate, Feeringbury Manor Gardens—Garden Group visit

April 2025

www.maldonu3a.co.uk

Registered Charity 1086182

FROM THE CHAIR

At our last meeting, we learned how on 15th August 1984, Lynmouth, North Devon suffered a rainstorm of tropical intensity, which combined with the already saturated soil and flood debris, led to the flooding of the village and a total loss of 34 lives. All this belonging to a time when climate change had not become a fashionable excuse. This was an excellent talk backed up by very pertinent slides of before and after. Philip McKinder will return next year to tell us about Copped Hall, near Epping.

I cannot provide a “trailer” for the April meeting as this would have been on Easter Monday so am taking the opportunity to add some personal thoughts. I visited Prague for a few days and on my return found that our economy has been “tariffed”, and our pension pots “Trumped”. Membership of the u3a is only open to those who do not qualify for the favoured political description of “working families” so matters seem a bit gloomy.

However, this is where Mindfulness comes into play. We must set the alarm on our mobiles for 5pm and, when the alarm goes off, turn our thoughts calmly to one item that we are very thankful for. Perhaps it could be membership of the u3a

I have to report that our sister organisation Heybridge u3a, which started in 2009, has had to dissolve itself. This is a great shame as doubtless many have given a lot of their time and effort to this u3a over the years. We are told that it had some thriving groups and would aim to do what we can to ensure their continuity should they wish to join us.

The reason for their closure was the inability to find sufficient members for a committee.

Ken Hazell

Chairman

MONTHLY MEETING

Monday 19th May

Wickham Bishops Hall

Doors open at 1.15 for a 1.45 start

Stories behind the photos **Barbara Mayer**

Barbara, a wildlife photographer, will talk about the challenges and memorable moments she faced whilst taking photos of big cats and other wildlife species.

MONTHLY SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2025/26

16th June	Tales from the East Side Gary Lewis	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	Musical Quiz Steve Scruton	A light hearted quiz from Steve of BBC Essex featuring pictures and music with questions . Plus light refreshments.
18th August	The Livery Companies of the City of London David Williams	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.

15th September	Tortoises – To Be Honest Jane Williams	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.
20th October	AGM Followed by a talk by Patrick Forsyth	Our own u3a member and author, Patrick will tell us about the ‘funny side of writing’.
17th November	The Dig Charlie Haylock	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.
15th December	Christmas Entertainment	Music, quiz and much more.....
19th January 2026	The Art Of The Cartoonist Harry Venning	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
16th February	A Schoolgirl’s War Mary Smith	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:

Chris Graeb

Shaun Morgan

Pamela Chalk

Ruth Schmidt

Linda Etherton

Jo Maynard

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..

Our first walk of the year was on Tuesday 18th March and was titled Publish and Be Damned.. Meeting at Temple station and concentrating on the Fleet Street area, our London Walk was a fascinating look at the world of publishing.

In the 1860s newspaper publishing flourished when tax on paper was abolished, the railway system was expanding plus the advent of steam printing. We studied an interesting exhibition to be found in Magpie Alley, but sadly Fleet Street is no longer the hub it used to be.



Journalism, in the main, is now outsourced and carried out remotely. But we were told about the Dundee Courier; the Sunday Post (most read paper in the world!); the old fashioned People's Friend (unchanged in its content since it first published); the Daily Telegraph with its 'marmalade dropper' articles which do not hold back on gory details and intrigue; the Sun, still the biggest selling daily in the UK, which purports to support Labour, but in reality seems to support the current political party.



We learnt about Edgar Wallace outside the pub named after him and the Penny Dreadfuls published by Lord Northcliffe. We passed El Vino, famously patronised by the journalists and the Cheshire Cheese, rebuilt in 1667, where journalists frequented to gather news stories.

In addition, our wonderful guide took us to the Middle and Inner Temples, the Royal Courts of Justice with its cathedral-like architecture and St Brides Church with its 'wedding cake' spire. And the icing on the cake was a wonderful sunny day, and two hours enjoyed by all. *Thanks to Brigitte Whiteing for the photos*

A list of forthcoming walks is shown below. **Please note the change of Walks for June and July. This is due to an error on the part of the restaurant after the cruise.**

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.

15th April	The History of Medicine	Meet at Russell Square Tube station
20th May	Old Westminster	Meet at St James Park Tube station
17th June	The Inns of Court	Meet at Holborn Tube station
15th July	Brunel's River Cruise	Meet at Embankment Tube station
19th August	Kensington, The Royal Village	Meeting at High Street, Kensington Tube Station
16th Sept	Little Venice	Meeting at Warwick Avenue Tube Station.
21st October	Old Mayfair	Meeting at Green Park Tube Station.

LONDON WALKS CONTD.

18th Nov	Disastrous London	Meeting at Barbican Tube Station
16th Dec	Musical Tour 15.30	Meeting at Tottenham Court Road Tube Station

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

Julie Lake

* The July River Cruise will incur an extra charge of **£8.07** for the boat trip payable on the day by cash or card and the tour will last 3 hours. More details will be provided nearer the date.

ART APPRECIATION GROUP

On Wednesday 9th April the group met at Andy's house in Hatfield Peveral to start watching the series *Treasures of the Louvre*.

Our next meeting is a visit to the Geedon Gallery, Fingringhoe, on **Wednesday 14th May**, for their Wildlife Artists exhibition. Car shares and drivers will be needed.

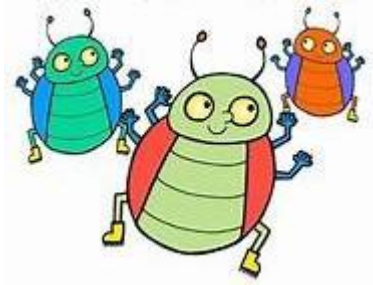
Please let Andy or Judith know if you would like to go by **Thursday 8th May** at the very latest, as we need to let the gallery know how many people to expect. The tea and cake situation is unknown!

Judith Johnston

Andy Simmonds



SOCIAL ORGANISING GROUP



Coming Soon

Beetle Drive

on Tuesday 27th May 2.30—4.30 pm

at Plantation Hall, Heybridge, CM9 4AL

Tickets £4.00, including tea/coffee and cake,

available from Rosemary Case

Payment by cheque or bacs

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.

MARITIME GROUP

There is no meeting in May as it is a Bank Holiday.

The meeting in June is a trip to visit the Thames Barrier on **Monday 2nd June**, departing from the West Maldon Community Centre at 08:30. Those going on the trip, please park your cars at the far end of the car park. Full details will be emailed to those going closer to the date.



Malcolm Case

MARITIME GROUP Programme 2025

Monday 7th 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 4th August

Trip details tba

Monday 1st September

Trip to Tilbury Docks and Tilbury Fort, with buffet lunch at the Seafarers' centre . We will depart from the WMCC at 09.00, on arrival at Tilbury we will pick up our guide for the Docks. After lunch we will take the coach to Tilbury Fort. **Cost £30 pp**
There are still some spaces available. Contact: Malcolm Case

Monday 6th 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 3rd 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 2nd 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.

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. 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 1st 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

PETANQUE GROUP

It is time to dust the cobwebs off those Petanque balls and head to the Petanque rink on



Maldon Prom on a **Thursday afternoon** for a couple of hours or so of fun. The first session of the 2024 season is scheduled for **Thursday 17th April**, hopefully a dry day!

New players are always welcome to come and give it a try, so why not come along and have a go. The start time is **2.00 pm** until around 4.00 pm The Petanque pitch is opposite the Marine Lake at the Promenade Park, Park Drive, Maldon Essex CM9 5JQ.

No charge is made to play but you must be a member of Maldon & District u3a or one of the Maldon u3a cluster groups.

Car parking is available at the park, please note Maldon District Council make a charge.

We may be able to loan you some boules to get you started to see if you like it, but you will need to purchase some of your own to play regularly.

The season is April to October, and we only play if the weather is dry.

Contact Jack Veash or Geoff Macro for more details.

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 28th April**, starting at 7:30 pm at the Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge, Maldon for a talk and group discussion by Sylvia Cousins on the **Gemini Constellation**. Gemini is one of the constellations of the zodiac and is located in the Northern celestial hemisphere. It was one of 48 constellations described by the 2nd century AD astronomer Ptolemy, and it remains one of the 88 modern constellations of today. Its name is Latin for twins, and it is associated with the twins Castor and Pollux in Greek mythology.

Night Sky in April

A four planet alignment-17th April

Early risers in the Southern Hemisphere will get a treat on 17th April:

Mercury, Venus, Saturn, and Neptune will line up low in the eastern sky just before sunrise. The first three will be visible to the naked eye, while dim Neptune is best viewed through binoculars or a telescope.

The planets will also appear in the Northern hemisphere, but the sky will be a bit too bright for optimal viewing. Venus, however, will still shine brightly, as it's the brightest object in the sky after the sun and the moon.

Mercury at its greatest western elongation – 21st April

If you're interested in peering at Mercury, you'll have a good chance around sunrise on 21st April. The planet will reach its greatest western elongation, one of the two points in its orbit where it is farthest from the sun.

Since Mercury orbits so close to the sun, it's often drowned out by sunlight –and that's why the planet is best viewed during its greatest elongation. Be careful not to look into the sun when observing Mercury, especially through binoculars or a telescope.

Lyrid meteor shower – 21st-22nd April

The Lyrid meteor shower is expected to peak between 21st and 22nd April allowing one to spot up to 18 meteors per hour under ideal conditions. The shower runs from 17th – 26th April, but this two-night window is the best time to catch the show. The moon might drown out some dimmer meteors, as it will be 40 percent full.

All u3a members are very welcome to join the meeting.

Malcolm Case

GARDEN GROUP

Our 2025 programme began on Tuesday 8th April with a visit to Feeringbury Manor, near Coggeshall. A warm Spring day saw 21 members enjoy a wander through the 10 acre gardens and enjoy tea and homemade cake whilst enjoying the sunshine. *Thanks to Alec Fraser for the Feeringbury photos*



On **Tuesday 29th April** we will be making a return trip to **Ulting Wick**. This trip is fully subscribed.



Tuesday 6th May we are visiting **Green Island Gardens** at Ardleigh, CO7 7SP. To do the visit justice we will meet there at **11.00** and a pre-booked

ploughman's lunch is available. The cost is £10, or £19.50 including lunch. There is still some availability for this visit. Contact Theresa for further details.

On **Thursday 12th June at 11.00** we have arranged a visit to the **Gardens of Easton Lodge** near Great Dunmow. With a history dating back to Tudor times the gardens have been partially restored to their former glory by a team of volunteers and the owners of Warwick House. This is a self drive visit; car share maybe available. The cost is **£12** per person, which includes



a guided tour followed by tea/coffee and cake. We are now taking bookings and payments. 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 Theresa know so that you can be put on the list.



Cheques made payable to Maldon & District u3a can be posted to Theresa 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- easton**

Later in May we are making a coach trip to **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. There are still a few spaces available for this trip.. 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/>

In July we will be making a return visit to one of our favourite gardens, Blunts Hall in Witham, followed by a visit to the NGS garden at 262 Hatch Road, Pilgrims Hatch. Further details available shortly.

Theresa Byles

Kris Taylor

FILM GROUP

We began our meeting with *All the President's Men*, the film based on the investigations by two journalists, Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward, into what became known as Watergate. The opinions ranged from brilliant to tedious. Those that thought it was great felt the film portrayed the events with excitement and plenty of tension, from the start with the break-in at the Watergate Centre to meeting "Deep Throat" in the underground carpark, leading to the eventual downfall of President Nixon. It was perhaps a little too long and some found it somewhat confusing, with lots of rushing around. It does help to know some of the background to the story as it could be a bit confusing otherwise. Both Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman were excellent, also looking very young and gorgeous too! The support cast were also excellent. **Score: 7**

Next was *El Cid*, historical drama based on the life of 11th century Castilian knight and warlord Rodrigo Diaz de Vivar. That this is a 1961 film was very evident. At the time of its release, it would have been considered a blockbuster and rightly so. However, looking through our modern eyes it hasn't quite survived the passage of time unlike some other films from the same era. We agreed that had we seen this film in the 1960s we would have thoroughly enjoyed it, with the drama and action scenes. It now seems to be over-long, with long drawn-out scenes, a story very loosely based on any fact and no real sense of the time scale, apart from Charlton Heston's beard going grey! He apparently really didn't like the film, along with rumours that he didn't get on with Sophia Loren. **Score: 6**

Next time:

Red Joan - a 2018 British spy drama directed by Trevor Nunn from a screenplay by Lindsay Shapero. The film stars Sophie Cookson, Stephen Campbell-Moore, Tom Hughes, Ben Miles and Judi Dench. Based on the novel of the same name by Jennie Rooney, inspired by the life of Melita Norwood. Norwood worked at the British Non-Ferrous Metals Research Association as a secretary and supplied the Soviet Union with nuclear secrets. The information that Norwood betrayed to the Soviets hastened the pace at which they developed nuclear bomb technology.

Available BBC iPlayer until 26th April 2025

The Prestige– a 2006 psychological thriller film directed by Christopher Nolan, who also co-wrote the screenplay, and based on the 1995 novel by Christopher Priest. It stars Hugh Jackman as Robert Angier and Christian Bale as Alfred Borden, rival stage magicians in Victorian London who feud over a perfect teleportation illusion. Also in the cast is Michael Caine, and see if you can spot David Bowie. Available BBC iPlayer until 21st April 2025

Please note that our next meeting is on **Wednesday, 23rd April**, and not 30th April as advertised, as this is the same date as the Theatre Outing trip.

7.30pm by Zoom.

If you would like to join us, please just get in touch.

Shirley Macro

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.



Please note there will be **no meeting in May**.

Our next meeting is **Monday 9th June**. Why not come along? Please contact us for further details.

Marian Manning

Brenda Heal

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STROLLERS TOO

Tuesday 25th March found nine Strollers Too members assembled in the Jolly Sailor pub car park at Heybridge Basin. Boots laced, and walking poles ready, we set off past the sea lock and down the path alongside the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation Canal. There was quite a lot of activity on the boats moored on the canal and many 'hellos' to other walkers. We continued on the path, passing under The Street and around the rear of Le Bouchon hotel, before climbing up to Holloway Road. A brief stretch of pavement walking brought us onto a short section of the East Coast path, which was new to some of the group, before breaking out at the sea wall with views across to Maldon and The Hythe. We had a stop, in beautiful warm sunshine, looking at the red sails of Thames barges in the harbour at the other side of the estuary, before continuing along the sea wall. The tide was very low and there were a few pauses as we tried to identify bird life on the shoreline. Then with a quick break to take a photograph, we arrived back at the sea lock and the pub around 12.30pm having done a circuit of about 4.5 miles. A very nice way to spend a Tuesday morning, completed with a lovely lunch in the Jolly Sailor and all in super company.



Val & John Stealey

Tuesday 22nd April – Burnham and Creeksea – 4 miles

We will be doing an easy circular walk from Burnham-on-Crouch through fields, past vineyards and back along the sea wall to the yachting centre of Burnham, to Ye Olde White Harte Hotel where we will stop for lunch.

Meet outside the Dengie Hundred Sports Centre, **CMO 8HS** in Millfields Road at 10.15 ready to leave at 10.30. There is plenty of unrestricted roadside parking.

Please let us know by **Wed 16th April** if you will be joining us and if you will be staying for lunch.

Steven & Muriel Clarke

SUNDAY STROLLERS

Sunday 16th March, a breezy but fine day, 19 of us (a record number!) set off from The Three Horseshoes, which faces the River Crouch, for a walk of approximately 3.75 miles. As we descended the hill towards Althorne Creek we had a superb view across the countryside, towards Southend.



After crossing the railway line, we walked along the banks of Althorne Creek towards Bridgemarsh Marina.

From there we began the gentle climb, re-crossing the railway line.

En route there was time to pause and admire the scenery, which included a field of vines looking spectacular.

On reaching the war memorial, our legs confirmed that we had climbed some 130 feet uphill!



After a small detour to visit Althorne Church, which is having extensive repairs, the last leg of our walk took us along the road, where the eagle-eyed amongst us were able to glimpse, both the Blackwater and the Crouch between the houses.



This was a lovely walk, followed by a yet another super Sunday lunch.

Gill Stone

SUNDAY STROLLERS CONTD

The next Sunday Stroll will be **Sunday 18th** May. There has been a month off because the April Stroll clashed with Easter so no excuses strollers, we have a lot of catching up to do.

The location will be a Nounsley/Ulting walk on some minor roads. The stroll is similar to the stroll last year at Nounsley/Ulting with most of the walk on hard standing. Hopefully we will see little or no traffic. We will meet at **10.00** at a layby opposite playing fields **CM3 2LU**, Ulting Road. We will walk along Ulting Road then along Nounsley Road until we cross the river Ter by way of a ford. The walk continues on minor roads where we can take a breather as and when required. The last section of the walk depending on conditions will be across country but we will inspect the route closer to the date. The walk depending on which App or gizmo you are using is approximately 4 miles and 11,000 steps and 2-3 hours.

Lunch will be at the **Duke of Wellington** or the **Wheatsheaf** to be decided nearer the date, after all one does have to road test the venues before making a decision.

Mervyn

BIRD WATCHING GROUP

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 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 |

Mike Bagshaw

Peter Gaywood

AVIATION GROUP

Hello everyone,

Regrettably we had to cancel out last meeting of 28th March due to urgent remedial work at the Woodham Mortimer Village Hall—our regular meeting place.

I inspected it last Saturday and apart from cleaning the floor etc it is once again fit for purpose!

So I have rearranged our programme and our next meeting on **Friday 25th April** will be the one we



cancelled in March. This is 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” first experienced with the BAC1-11 in November 1963 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.

We will meet at Woodham Mortimer Village Hall at 11.00, with doors open at 10.30 for coffee, biscuits, gossip etc.

In addition, we are planning a Maldon u3a presence at the forthcoming Wings & Wheel show at Stow Maries Great War Museum on **Sunday 25th May**.

We currently have 5 cars registered but I am sure that there are other classic car and motorcycle owners and enthusiasts within our membership.

Let me know if you would like to join us with your pride and joy (2, 4 or 3 wheelers!) so that I can add you to our group booking.

If you would like more info on the show, drop me a text or email.

Chris Samson

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

Entry to the museum is free; coach cost is **£30** per head; we still have a couple of places available and payment can now be arranged via bacs. If you are interested please send me a text or email and I will forward payment details.

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.

The cost of the Guided Tour is **£49 pp**, and the coach cost is **£31** per head; we still have a couple of places available and payment can now be arranged via bacs. If you are interested please send me a text or email and I will forward payment details.

AVIATION PROGRAMME 2025 CONTD

Friday 25th July

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

**Friday 26th
September**

A Show and Tell event (moved following the March hall cancellation).

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 21st April (Easter Monday)** 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

WITH REGRET

It is with regret that we have to inform you of the passing of Graham Martin. Graham had been a member since 2019.

GEOLOGY GROUP

The winter passed very quickly as we looked at how England and Wales on the microcontinent of Avalonia travelled up from about 30 degrees South near Antarctica, through the Ordovician and Silurian Periods to collide with the continents of Baltica and Laurentia by the end of the Devonian Period, just south of the Equator. The Devonian period is named after Devon, SW England where rocks from this period were first studied.

All this Tectonic Plate Movement took place over a period of 130 million years 490–360 million years ago by which time Scotland, originally on the East Coast of Laurentia had joined up with England and Wales with much volcanic activity and many new species of fauna and flora had evolved. However, many of these were lost during the mass extinction which followed at the end of the Devonian Period.

We now plan to travel in calmer waters as we look at the geology of the Caribbean in April and reward ourselves with a lunch in May

Our meetings are held on the **third Wednesday of the month at 2pm** at West Maldon Community Centre and we would be pleased to welcome new members with or without any Geological knowledge.

Please note there is **NO MEETING at WMCC on 21st MAY.**

Sylvia Cousins

ROYAL HISTORY GROUP

We are currently discussing the Edwardian period.

We meet every second Thursday in the WMCC. Our next meeting is **Thursday 8th May** 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

SOCIAL ORGANISING GROUP

Our first event of this year was a 40s night at the Blackwater Sailing club on 2nd April. A good time was had by all with many of our members entering into the spirit of the evening by wearing the appropriate dress including two land army girls and a very handsome sailor!!

We were entertained by Lorraine Ely with songs from the films and musicals of the time and enjoyed a supper of sausages & mash followed by trifle.



The backroom bunch

Our next event is a Beetle Drive (see page 9) on **Tuesday May 27th** at Plantation Hall and later in the year we will be holding a Race Night at the WMCC.

FROM THE EDITOR

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

The deadline for the next issue is **Tuesday 6th May**.

Kris news.maldonu3a@gmail.com

YOUR COMMITTEE

Chairman	Ken Hazell	
Vice Chairman	Alec Fraser	
Treasurer	Steven Clarke	
Membership Secretary	Malcolm Case	membership_maldonu3a@outlook.com
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
Publicity	Andy Simmonds Irina Vahonina	publicity.maldonu3a@gmail.com

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 for Fun	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 – May 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
			1 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Poetry for Fun Rummikub	2 Canasta	3 Bird Watching Fingringhoe	4
5 BANK HOLIDAY	6 Garden Group Green Island Engineering	7 Ten Pin Bowling Croquet Bridge Padel Tennis	8 Ten Pin Bowling Royal History Edwardians Petanque French Conversation Country Dancing	9 Singing Mah Jong	10	11
12 Discussion	13	14 Ten Pin Bowling Padel Tennis Art Appreciation Meet & Eat	15 Ten Pin Bowling Rummikub Petanque	16 Canasta	17	18 Strollers
19 Monthly meeting Wildlife Photography Just Jazz	20 London Walks Engineering	21 Ten Pin Bowling Croquet Padel Tennis Bridge Photography Zoom	22 Ten Pin Bowling Aviation/Garden Visit Petanque French Conversation Country Dancing	23 Singing Mah Jong	24	25 Wings & Wheels Stow Maries
26 Astronomy	27 Strollers Beetle Drive	28 Ten Pin Bowling Padel Tennis Writing for fun Wine Group Film Zoom	29 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Wine Group	30 Canasta Cribbage	31	