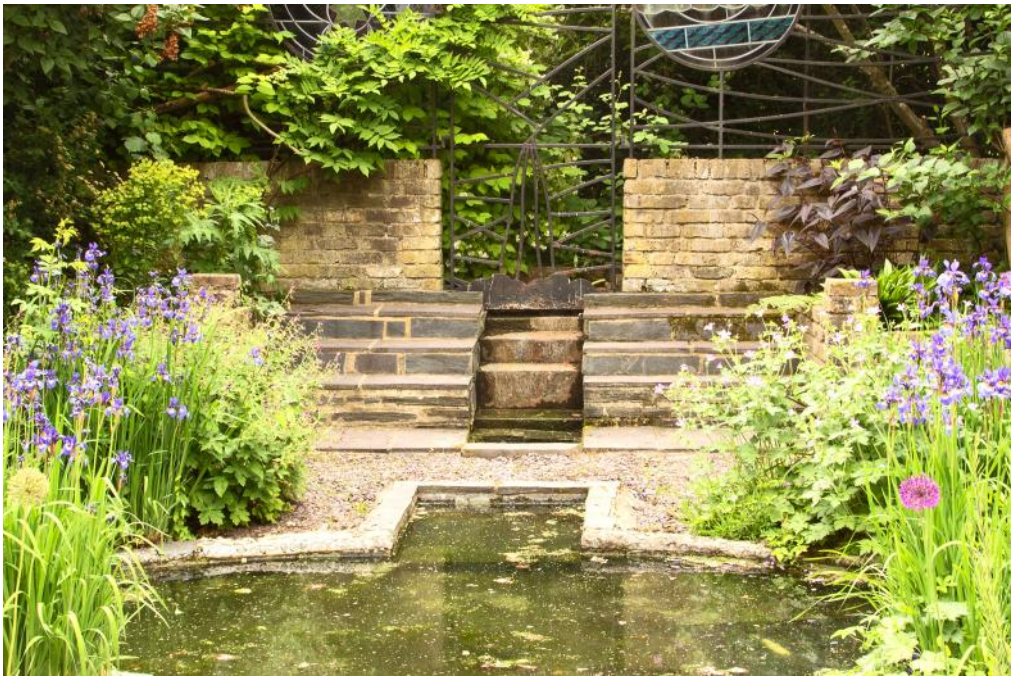


**u3a** learn,  
laugh,  
live

Maldon and District

**Newsletter**



**June 2025**

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

Registered Charity 1086182

## FROM THE ChAIR

Dear Members,

I hope this finds you well and enjoying the longer days as we head into Summer. It's been another active and engaging month at Maldon u3a, and I'd like to take this opportunity to share a few highlights, updates, and important notices with you all.

### Highlights of the Month

Interest Groups: Our London Walks Group, Art Appreciation, and Aviation Groups continue to thrive. A special thanks to all our Group Leaders for their hard work and enthusiasm.

Monthly Talk: Barbara Meyer gave a fascinating talk on the Stories Behind the Photos, which was well received by all who attended. Thank you to everyone who came along.

New Members: We're delighted to welcome three new members this month! If you see a new face, please do say hello and help them feel at home.

### Notices & Updates

Upcoming Events: There are still spaces on the Biggin Hill/ Hever Castle trip and many more trips, details of which you will find in this newsletter. And then there's our social events: a Beetle Drive in September and a Race night in October, with more planned.

Committee News: We're currently looking for volunteers to support and join our committee. If you can spare a little time, we'd love to hear from you.

### Member Contributions

Thank you to everyone who has sent in photos, articles, or suggestions. Please continue to share your experiences—whether it's about a Group activity or a personal project. They make our newsletter and website so much more vibrant and personal.

And as always, thank you for being part of Maldon u3a. Your involvement, friendliness, and support make this a truly special community. Let's continue to learn, laugh, and grow together.

Warm regards,

Ken Hazell    Chairman

## MONTHLY MEETING

Monday 21st July

Wickham Bishops Hall

Doors open at 1.15 for a 1.45 start

**Musical Quiz      Steve Scruton**

A light hearted quiz from Steve of BBC Essex  
featuring pictures and music with questions .

Plus light refreshments.

### A message from Barbara Arnold

I was touched to see David's passing was recorded in the May newsletter.

Across 25 years, he was strongly involved in seventeen of our u3a groups either as founder/coordinator or active member – Tenpin Bowling, Pétanque, European Studies, Aviation, Computers, Theatre, Just Jazz, Maritime, Local History, Egyptology, Wine Circle, Meet & Eat, Snooker, Strollers, Music Appreciation, Ballroom Dancing and Chairman of the Social Committee.

He particularly enjoyed the challenge of organising events and trips (including memorable visits to the parliaments at Brussels and Strasbourg) and of course meeting and making friends with so many wonderful people.

## WELCOME

A warm welcome to our new members:

Ruth Sanders

Peter Radford

Sue Swaffen-Smith

Karen Clarke

## MONTHLY SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2025/26

<b>18th August</b>	<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>	Light refreshments 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 2026</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 a set of paintings created as the war unfolded.
<b>16th March 2026</b>	<b>The Life and Strife of Honey Bees</b>  <b>Stuart Overton–Smith</b>	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 the homes that are made by Leigh Bees.
<b>20th April 2026</b>	<b>From Titanic to Batman: The Highs &amp; Lows of a Stuntwoman’s Life</b>  <b>Lucy Allen</b>	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.
<b>18th May 2026</b>	<b>Borley Rectory, the most haunted house in England</b>  <b>Bryan Thurlow</b>	Following a visit from a professional ghost hunter in 1929, a national newspaper declared , ‘Borley Rectory, the most haunted house in England.’

## MONTHLY SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2025/26 CONTD.

15th June  
2026

Copped Hall  
Philip Mckinder

Following on from his excellent talk on the 1952 Lynmouth Flood Disaster Philip returns to tell us about Copped Hall, a Georgian Mansion near Epping that is undergoing restoration.

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

I am sure that all of us who attended the May meeting enjoyed the photographs and talk given by Barbara Meyer. She asked me to thank all of you who contributed to her collection box. She raised **£67.62** for the **Wild Cats Conservation Alliance**. Projects currently in progress and/or supported projects are in Indonesia – conservation teams working with local and national government to reduce threats to the Sumatran tigers, tiger prey and also habitat. This includes anti-poaching patrols and collaborations with land owners to ensure wildlife corridors are set up around new settlements and oil palm plantations. Thailand – in co-operation with government authorities and other conservation groups, projects focus on monitoring the tiger population, training rangers, providing education for communities around tiger habitat and working with digital surveillance to detect and successfully prosecute wildlife crime and trafficking. Nepal – conservation groups working together and sharing information to mitigate (and hopefully eliminate one day) human wildlife conflicts around Parsa National Park. In this context, they also raise awareness in the wider communities to promote tiger conservation.

Barbara supports the **Wild Cats Conservation Alliance** because they select projects carefully to ensure funds and efforts are effective in helping the endangered big cat species. They also have an inclusive approach, meaning they do work always with local conservation groups, vets and authorities, and their projects do integrate local communities (including education on a general level as well as training of local conservationists, vets, etc., and they do look also at problems for people living around tiger habitat).

# Travel

Would you be interested in a 5 day tour, based in the outskirts of Paris, including full day tour in Paris and a visit to the newly re-opened Notre Dame, plus a visit to the Palace of Versailles and Monet's retreat in Giverny?



Departs Thursday 7th May 2026 with travel by coach and ferry to a hotel outside Paris.

Day 2: Full day tour of Paris and guided tour of Notre Dame.



Day 3: Full day guided tour of the Palace of Versailles

Day 4: Visit to Monet's country retreat at Giverny and the nearby village of Verdon.

Day 5: Return to Calais for afternoon sailing back to Dover and return to Maldon.

Includes: Travel, 4 nights accommodation at Novotel Paris, Saclay, Half Board

From **£749pp** sharing, **£899** sole occupancy



For further information please contact::

Malcolm Case

## 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. Details of the Walks can be found at [www.walks.com](http://www.walks.com).

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 May London Walk found us exploring the Westminster area, from several aspects: politically, royally, academically and socially.

Our first port of call was Queen Street, a street of Georgian houses, inhabited by wealthy people, ministers and the like, until the end of WW1, after which the cost of keeping servants became too much and the properties were sold off or sub-divided.



We stood outside the Two Chairmen pub, chairmen referring to the men who carried sedan chairs. The pub was frequented by these men, waiting to carry the ministers who were attending the fights in the cock pit opposite, back to their homes, or to the House of Commons when the Division bell was rung.

Walking to St James Park, we learnt how St James Palace was built on the site of a leper hospital by Henry VIII and used primarily as a hunting lodge. James I kept exotic animals in the Park in 1603, and later, in 1660, Charles II laid out the gardens as a gift to the people. Currently the Park is home to many pelicans, a gift from the Russian ambassador to James I.

We moved on to Whitehall and saw the Foreign Office and Treasury buildings and were told of the War office located underground, and tunnels leading between the Offices and Buckingham Palace. We learnt about the domestic arrangements in Downing Street and the many fires of the time which

destroyed the palaces in the area.

On to Parliament Square surrounded on 4 sides by the Houses of Parliament, Government buildings, the Supreme Court and Westminster Abbey. On our travels we saw several groups of protestors, all peaceful, but reminding us of our troubled world climate.

Of course Big Ben had to be mentioned, remembering that Big Ben is the name of the great bell, named after its designer (although some think, named after a Cockney boxer!), housed in the recently named Elizabeth Tower.



We learnt fascinating facts about Oliver Cromwell, who was posthumously tried on the orders of Charles II, was exhumed and his head left on a spike, to be later taken around schools and is now housed in Sidney Sussex College in Cambridge.

So many interesting buildings were discussed: Westminster Hall, the Victoria Tower, Church House and of course the stunning Westminster Abbey with its varied styles of architecture, the Houses of Parliament and Portcullis House, a modern (ugly) building opposite that provides offices for the MPs and their staff.



Then on the banks of the Thames, we gained so much information from our guide about the history of the bridges and the building of new ones which affected the income of the boatmen back in 1750. We noted with sadness the wall on the opposite bank adorned with thousands of pink and red

hearts in memory of those lost to Covid.

## LONDON WALKS CONTD.

And we ended our Walk strolling along the pretty residential Cowley Street, noting the blue plaques of those who had lived there: John Gielgud, Lord Reith, Lawrence of Arabia, to name but a few. And passing Westminster School and the Choir School of Westminster Abbey, we even discovered that our excellent guide had been educated in the Choir School well, at least until his voice broke.

<b>17th June</b>	The Inns of Court	Meet at Holborn Tube station
<b>15th July</b>	Brunel's River Cruise	Meet at Embankment Tube station
<b>19th August</b>	Kensington, The Royal Village	Meeting at High Street, Kensington Tube Station
<b>16th Sept</b>	Little Venice	Meeting at Warwick Avenue Tube Station.
<b>21st October</b>	Old Mayfair	Meeting at Green Park Tube Station.
<b>18th Nov</b>	Disastrous London	Meeting at Barbican Tube Station
<b>16th Dec</b>	Musical Tour <b>15.30</b>	Meeting at Tottenham Court Road Tube Station

The cost for each Walk is £12 per person.

Payment by cheque in advance please –payable to Maldon & District U3A.

ONE CHEQUE PER EVENT.

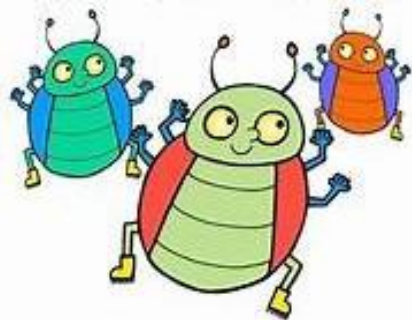
Julie Lake

The July River Cruise will incur an extra charge of £7.14 for the boat trip payable on the day by cash or card and the tour will last 3 hours. This tour is fully booked but you can add your name to the list in the event of cancellations.

Thanks to Brigitte Whiteing for the photos.

## SOCIAL ORGANISING GROUP

Our postponed Beetle Drive is now on **Tuesday 2nd September** 2.00—4.30pm at Plantation Hall, Heybridge, CM9 4AL



Tickets £4.00, including tea/ coffee and cake, available from Rosemary Case

Payment by cheque or bacs

And another date for your diary—**Race Night on Saturday 4th October**. Further details in forthcoming newsletters.

## PADEL TENNIS GROUP

The session is every **Wednesday** from 2.30 to 4pm 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 any one interested in joining the Group or perhaps having a taster session please contact: Ken Hazell.

## 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 8th July**

Kris [news.maldon3a@gmail.com](mailto:news.maldon3a@gmail.com)

## MARITIME GROUP



On Monday 2nd June members of the group enjoyed a trip to the Thames Barrier and Greenwich.

Further information and more photos of the trip will be in next month's newsletter.

Malcolm Case



## MARITIME GROUP Programme 2025

The next meeting of the Maritime group is on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July**, meeting at the Blackwater Sailing Club, Basin Road, Heybridge Basin, starting at 10:00am for a 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 12th 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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** which includes the coach, coach parking, drivers' gratuity and lunch.



There are still some spaces available. Malcolm Case

**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 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. 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. contd.....

## MARITIME GROUP Programme 2025 contd.

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.

The causes of Scott's failure and Amundsen's success are analysed.

The talk then turns to Shackleton and his Trans Antarctic Expedition of 1914 and the destruction of his ship *Endurance* by pack ice. How he survived without loss of a single man in the middle of WW1, with no radio communications,

must be one of the greatest stories ever told. Their survival on a slowly melting iceberg, the voyage in 3 small lifeboats to Elephant Island at the tip of the Antarctic peninsula and the eventual boat journey under sail in the *James Caird* to South Georgia to get help are vividly described. The talk finishes by



summarising the recreation of the famous boat journey in 2013 in the replica *Alexandra Shackleton* and the Commonwealth Trans Antarctic Expedition of 1955-58 using motorised transport.

The audience will be left with the famous quote: - "For scientific discovery, give me Scott. For speed and efficiency of travel, give me Amundsen but when disaster strikes and all hope is gone, get down on your knees and pray for Shackleton."



**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.

Malcolm Case

**Maldon & District u3a**  
**1<sup>st</sup> September 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2026**  
**Membership Subscription Renewals**

**Subscriptions: Are due by no later than the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025.**

Please use our website MaldonU3A.co.uk and complete the forms under *Membership Renewal*. If you are unable to do this then renewal forms are available from the Membership Secretary. **Each member must complete a separate form.**

**Annual subscription is £21.00 per person. If you wish to continue to receive the u3a TAM magazine then the subscription is £25.00.** Subscriptions can be paid by Bank Transfer into Barclays Bank, account name – **Maldon U3A; sort code 20-54-30; Account number 53198995, the reference you use MUST be your forename and surname – with no space** or if you wish, you can still pay by cheque which should be made payable to **Maldon & District u3a.**

**Using the web site and paying by Bank Transfer is the preferred way.**

The completed form(s) together with your payment must be made before the **31<sup>st</sup> August 2025**. We do not accept cash. **The forms together with your cheque (if paying by cheque) MUST be returned to the Membership Secretary at 30 The Spinnaker, South Woodham Ferrers, Chelmsford. CM3 5GL.**

**Data Protection Law and Data Base:** The Renewal forms are used to check our database, please indicate on the form if your details are unchanged from your original renewal. Any changes then please advise the Membership Secretary.

**Emergency Contact:** Where couples are both members, please avoid using each other as emergency contacts. Please also ensure that you have the consent to use the name and telephone number of the person/s named as your emergency contact.

**Gift Aid:** Please indicate on the form “I want to Gift Aid” if you able to gift aid your subscription.

**DO IT NOW: You do not have to wait until the end of August.**

**Membership cards have already been sent to you (white plastic bar coded credit card size) in May 2020 or when you joined if after this date.**

## GERMAN CONVERSATION

Our next two sessions are to be held on **Tuesday 17th June** and **Tuesday 1st July** at the Continental Café, King's Head Centre, 38 High Street, Maldon CM9 5PN.

Howard Broadbridge

## 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 July**. Why not come along? Please contact us for further details.

Marian Manning

Brenda Heal 01621

## ROYAL HISTORY GROUP

We are currently discussing the Edwardian period.

We meet every second Thursday in the WMCC. Our next meeting is **Thursday 10th July** 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

## 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



At last Wednesday morning's u3a Ten Pin Bowling, Kim White ( a Blackwater member and long-time attendee of our group) scored 216 – virtually unheard of!

Most of us strive to get 100!

Well done, Kim.



## THE BIG BALTI

The next curry night will be held on **Monday 28th July** at the Bulti Bhujon restaurant, Mill Lane , Maldon. 6:30ish pm start.

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

Graham Evans

Bob Gowers

## GARDEN GROUP

For our second May visit we joined forces with the Aviation group again and paid a visit to Capel Manor Gardens, whilst they went to Hendon. Yet again the sunny weather changed overnight to become



overcast but it did not deter our members and we spent several hours wandering the extensive grounds of this old manor house. In addition to the many historical gardens there were also trial gardens on behalf of Which? Magazine.

*Thanks to Brigitte Whiteing for the photos*

The first of our June trips is 12th June when we will visit Easton Lodge.

Later in the month on **Thursday June 26th** we are visiting **Hever Castle** which has award winning gardens and an historic castle, the childhood home of Anne Boleyn. Currently on display are the costumes of *Wolf Hall*. 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 first floor is via a spiral staircase see the link for further details: <https://www.hevercastle.co.uk/visit/location-accessibility/>



On **Tuesday 1st July** we will be making a return visit to one of our favourite gardens, Blunts Hall in Witham, **£10.00** and later that month on **Thursday 24th** we will visit another NGS garden at 262 Hatch Road, Pilgrims Hatch.



A formal frontage with lavender. An eclectic rear garden of around an acre divided into 'rooms' with themed borders, several ponds, three

greenhouses, fruit and vegetable plots and oriental garden. There is also a secret white garden, spring and summer wildflower meadows, Yin and Yang borders, a folly and an exotic area. There is plenty of seating to enjoy the views and a cup of tea and cake. **£10.50.**



Cheques payable to Maldon & District u3a can be posted to me

**Nat West: Maldon & Dist U3A, Sort code: 60-13-37 a/c 49774476 using the reference gardens- and then the name of the garden eg gardens - Blunts**

If you are paying by bacs please let me know when you have made the payment.

Theresa

We will also take cheques at the main meeting on Monday. To help us, please have your cheque made out beforehand and put the name of the garden on the back.

Theresa Byles

Kris Taylor

## SUNDAY STROLLERS

Nine intrepid strollers stepped out on our May Sunday stroll into the depths of Nounsley and Ulting. I'm trying to build the excitement as not a lot happened. Beryl my partner in crime and I, or is it myself, I always get confused which is not difficult, did a recce the previous week and found the raised footpath across a ford which was in our planned walk was deemed to be unsafe so we had to reroute.



We left our meeting point and walked the detour where not a lot happened although we did hear a cuckoo, poor sole cuckooed to his heart's content but couldn't find a mate, poor cuckoo. We met other walkers and joggers, why is it that joggers never make eye contact and look stressed. We met walkers with dogs who were always pleased to see us and the owners were quite friendly. Cyclist, why don't they put a bell on their bike. We saw two Romany caravans parked in a field, not the life for me I like hot and cold running water. We came across a few cars and most appreciated that we were a bunch of old timers enjoying a Sunday stroll with high viz jackets to the front and high viz to the back and slowed down. There was a pony and trap which we don't see much these days although I am being kind as the pony was more like an old nag but he did give me a friendly fuff as he trotted on. No wild life to see although I am sure there were eyes in the fields wondering why we were invading their space. No land marks or places of interest just a friendly social stroll in the countryside and then of course lunch. Two of us had liver and bacon for lunch. Who has liver and bacon for Sunday lunch? Still mustn't complain I had fish and chips. Here's to the next walk and more strollers please .

Mervyn Perriman

## Sunday 15th June

Our June walk will be taking place around the Great Totham area.

As this walk falls on Father's Day we will not be arranging the usual pub lunch but instead we will host a bring and share lunch afterwards at our home in Great Totham.

Please let us know if you would like to come on the walk and whether you wish to join us for lunch and we will send you more details.

Brenda and Robert Heal

We are currently planning the July walk which will take place on **Sunday, 20th July**. It will start and finish at the Rayleigh Arms pub in Terling and is approximately 4 miles. We will arrange parking at the Rayleigh Arms (CM3 2PW). It will take us around parts of Terling, including a small section alongside the River Ter.

The pub is very popular so we would appreciate getting an idea of numbers at this stage so that we can make a provisional booking for lunch. Can you please email me if you are interested in joining the walk and whether you would like to book lunch afterwards?

Janet Morley and Jenny Barclay

## STROLLERS TOO

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May found ten strollers meet at the Green Man Pub, Bradwell Waterside car park. Equipment and walking boots donned and following use of the pub facilities, and checking the weather forecast, we set off at 10:30, crossing the road and joining the footpath on the sea wall, following the banks of the river Blackwater, passing mudflats, moored boats, and channel navigation marks, and to the right of the path, Bradwell Waterside caravan park. We passed two, what was initially thought to



be old World War II gun emplacement's but on closer inspection were in fact World War II Pillboxes.

We passed several signs saying that there were Adder surveys taking place and if seen, not to disturb them – we all decided we would follow this good advice. One of the group on the walk had worked at the now closed Nuclear Power station and gave us a lot of very interesting information about it, how it operated etc. We turned off the sea wall and walked to the east of the power station and joined the access road,

following this road we passed the RAF Bradwell Bay Memorial which commemorates the 121 airmen who died on missions from the airfield between 1942 and 1945. We paused here to reflect before continuing. It



was at this point that the rain started, fortunately light rain and we were able to complete the walk and return to the pub by 12:15 without getting wet, it was then inside for lunch just before the rain really started.

A very nice way to spend a Tuesday morning with super company.  
Malcolm Case

### **Strollers Too Walk—24th June**

Our walk on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June, starts at **The Bull in Great Totham (CM9 8NH)**, then is a gentle stroll via Wickham Bishops, Great Braxted and Great Totham back to the Bull for lunch.

Meet at 10.15 for a 10.30 start. We need to pre order lunch so an email will be sent to all strollers with menu options.

Please advise by **Weds 18<sup>th</sup>** if you will be coming and your lunch choice.

Steven & Muriel

## Strollers Too Walk–22nd July

This walk will be in the West Hanningfield area. Final details are still to be arranged. If you are interested in this walk please contact me.

Chris Speed

## GEOLOGY GROUP

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.

Sylvia Cousins

## JUST JAZZ GROUP

Our next meeting is **Monday 16th June** 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



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)

## AVIATION GROUP

Hello Everyone,

In May, 20 of us visited the RAF Museum at Hendon for a superb day out.

*Supermarine Southampton Flying Boat hull built in 1923 after many years of work and over 100,000 brass slot head wood screws (all in line!), having been*

*recovered from the River Deben in Essex where it had been used as a houseboat for over 80 years!*



*The Technology gap separated by 100 years.*

*pics courtesy Roger Smith, EMS & CMS*





Later that month five classic cars with their owners and passengers took part at the Wings & Wheels show at Stow Maries Great War Great War Aerodrome.

Looking ahead, we have a full programme of speakers and activities through to Spring of next year and we are still looking at visiting Bomber County (Lincolnshire) this autumn over two days with an overnight stay.

The plan is to visit, amongst other places, the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight facility, Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre, and the International Bomber Command Memorial Centre.

If you interested in joining the trip and would like more details,



please drop a line to me and I will forward your interest to fellow member David Gillespie who is doing the heavy lifting on this one.

## AVIATION PROGRAMME 2025 REVISED

**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).

## AVIATION PROGRAMME 2025 CONTD.

**Thursday 26th June  
contd.**

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 in Althorne, at 0800 to 0815, then West Maldon CC at 0815 to 0830, and at Eves Corner Danbury 0845 to 0900—remember the carpark is no longer available for long stay.

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 Bank transfer, if you are interested please send me a text or email and I will forward payment details.

**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.

We hope also to live stream the external camera feeds at the famous OSHKOSH 7-day long airshow via the projector to the big screen.

A lot less expensive than flying to Wisconsin in July!!

**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.

October, November & December      We have an exciting programme of speakers and activities for the last 3 months of the year---watch this space!!

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

## ART APPRECIATION GROUP

Members of the Art Appreciation Group enjoyed a visit to the Geedon Gallery at Fingringhoe on 14th May to see the Spring Exhibition of work by the Society of Wildlife Artists.

The next meeting of the group will be 2pm next Wednesday **11th June** at Andy's house in Hatfield Peverel, when we will continue with two more episodes in the series on the Louvre:

3. Italian Renaissance & Baroque Painting
4. Spanish School of Painting

Please let both Judith and me know asap if you would like to come. As usual numbers will be limited to the size of my lounge approx. 13! Tea and cake obviously will be de rigueur!. Look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday.

There will be no meetings in July or August, our next meeting will be **11th September**.

Judith Johnston

Andy Simmonds



## PETANQUE GROUP

We meet at the Petanque rink on Maldon Prom on a **Thursday afternoon** for a couple of hours or so of fun.



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, or in the side streets.

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.



Garden of Exaggerated Beauty—Capel Manor

## FILM GROUP

The films under review were *Gosford Park* and *Fort Apache*, and it is probably fair to say they were a bit like Marmite – either liked or not. *Gosford Park* is described as a satirical black comedy, mystery. It certainly had a stellar cast of many well-known actors, with Maggie Smith superb in her role as a difficult and somewhat impoverished elderly relative. It was quite drawn out and the ending was a bit confusing as to who did the murder. However, it did work as a satire on how the upper classes conducted themselves and the disdain with which they, and the bumbling police officer, treated their servants. The murder victim was a thoroughly unpleasant character. Score: 7

*Fort Apache*, made in 1948, was obviously a film much of its time. It was slow to get going and was probably a bit unrealistic in its portrayal of life at a remote fort, everything clean and tidy with jolly soldiers and happy families. Henry Fonda was good as the upright and distant officer in charge who refused to listen to advice which led to the disastrous final fight with the Indians, similar to Custer's Last Stand. Although billed as the star of the film, John Wayne didn't really do a lot; Ward Bond had the bigger role. Score: 6

Next time:

**Aisha** – a 2022 Irish drama film by Frank Berry. It stars Letitia Wright and Josh O'Connor. Nigerian refugee Aisha Osagie develops a close friendship with former prisoner Conor Healy. Their friendship soon looks to be short lived as Aisha's attempt to get asylum in the Republic of Ireland is threatened.

Available on BBC iPlayer.

**The Boys in the Boat** – a 2023 American biographical sports drama film, based on a 2013 book by Daniel James Brown. The film follows the University of Washington rowing team and their quest to take part in the 1936 Summer Olympics. Stars Joel Edgerton and Callum Turner. Produced and directed by George Clooney.

Available on BBC iPlayer

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday **25th June**, 7.30pm via Zoom. If you would like to join us, please just get in touch.

Shirley Macro

## ASTRONOMY

The Summer Solstice occurs on 20th June at just after sunset. The sun reaches its highest path in the sky for the year and the length of daylight hours are at a maximum; throughout June sunrise is before 4.45am and sunset is after 9pm.

Full moon is on the night of the 21st/22nd, and being so close to the solstice, the moon's path across the sky will be exceptionally low, only rising to nine degrees above the horizon when due south at 1am.

Throughout June and into July, noctilucent clouds (NLC) can form, appearing as silvery waves or swirls in the summer twilight, seen looking towards the north.

NLC form at 50 miles up in the atmosphere, far higher than any other

clouds, on the edge of space. During our high summer period the sun is only just below the northern horizon during the night, and so the sun's rays can illuminate the NLC due to their high altitude, thus making them visible against a fairly dark sky.



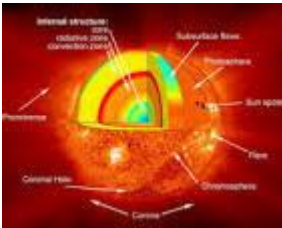
Saturn is the only bright planet readily on show this month, seen in pre-dawn skies looking to the Southeast. The waning Moon will be nearby Saturn on the mornings of 27th and 28th June.

Solar activity is approaching the peak of its 11-year cycle which increases the chances of seeing the Aurora.

The next meeting of the group will be on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June**, starting at 7:30 pm at the Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge for a talk and discussion on our nearest star—the Sun.

The Sun is a yellow dwarf star, the central body of our solar system. It's a massive, nearly perfect sphere of hot plasma, fuelled by nuclear fusion in its

core. This fusion process generates the sun's energy, which is radiated outwards primarily as light and infrared radiation. The Sun is about 4.5 billion years old, formed from a collapsing cloud of hydrogen and helium. It's significantly larger and more massive than Earth, with a diameter about 109 times Earth's and a mass 330,000 times Earth's.



It is primarily composed of hydrogen (70%) and helium (28%), with small amounts of other elements. Nuclear fusion in the core converts hydrogen to helium, releasing enormous amounts of energy. The sun's energy drives weather patterns, ocean currents, and climate, and is essential for life through photosynthesis. The sun orbits the Milky Way's centre, completing a revolution every 250 million years.

u3a members very welcome to the meeting and to join the group.  
Malcolm Case

## A study into the health and wellbeing of adults who grew up in foster or residential care

Research has shown that care-experienced adults face a greater risk of negative health outcomes compared to the general population.

Researchers, at the University of Oxford, are holding focus groups to understand the health and wellbeing concerns of older care experienced adults and explore the types of support they would like to receive from health and social care services.

If you, or someone you know, would like to learn more, please contact Jono on [Jonathan.Taylor@ndph.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Jonathan.Taylor@ndph.ox.ac.uk)



## BIRD WATCHING GROUP

There it was – a male blackcap happily foraging for insects among the greenery surrounding the car park. A promising start to a rewarding visit to **Blue House Farm**, a 660 acre reserve on the north bank of the Crouch, forming one of the best wild coastal landscapes in Essex. The blackcap – aka the northern nightingale due to its mellifluous song – is traditionally a summer visitor though an increasing number now spend winter in the UK.

It was not the only summer visitor on show for the seven members who spent a breezy Sunday morning at the Essex Wildlife Trust reserve. Among the reeds was an appropriately named reed warbler, which weaves its nest as a sling between two or three stems, laying three to five eggs. Unfortunately, it is a frequent victim of parasitism by cuckoos. An also aptly named reed bunting – a male with handsome black and white head markings more prominent in the breeding season – moved effortlessly among the swaying reeds. Outside the breeding season, these UK residents often join flocks of other buntings and finches to roam farmland seeking out food.

*Heron*

A pair of herons stalked the water's edge, hungry eyes seeking unwary prey as a little grebe dived for its fare of insects, shellfish and small fish which they can catch up to 2m under water. On land were an abundance of Canada geese with their distinctive black heads and necks and white chin. The success of this common park species have led to it often being considered a pest.



Among them were a number of shelduck, large white ducks with dark green heads and brown breast band. Over the mudflats flittered pied and grey wagtails, the latter seldom seen far from water, in pursuit of the insects on which they feed.

*Shelduck*

Meanwhile from high above skylarks sang as their nesting season nears its peak. These birds – once common over the English countryside – are now a red list species as numbers have dwindled over the years.

Mike Bagshaw

Peter Gaywood

<b>5th July</b>	Walton on the Naze. Meet in Visitor Centre car park
<b>30th August</b>	(September meeting brought forward) Chigborough Lakes. Meet in car park opposite Chigborough Road entrance (TBC)
<b>5th October</b>	Wallasea Island. Meet in Reserve car park
<b>1st November</b>	Hanningfield reservoir. Meet in Visitor Centre car park
<b>7th December</b>	Langdon nature discovery park. Meet in Visitor Centre car park

Do you subscribe to [u3a Events](#)? Each month they publish a list of online events for members to participate in.

## **A flavour of what's coming up in July (and available for booking)**

- **Flight Inspirations Aviation Meeting: The Man Who Tested Parachutes**, Tuesday 1 July at 10am
- **From Ice to Athelstan - the Emergence of England - 'A 10,000 year journey from the Last Ice Age to England's first crowned King'**, Thursday 3 July at 10am
- **An Introduction to the Arts and Crafts Movement**, Monday 7 July at 2pm

## YOUR COMMITTEE

Chairman	Ken Hazell	
Vice Chairman	Alec Fraser	
Treasurer	Steven Clarke	<a href="mailto:treasurer.maldonu3a@gamil.com">treasurer.maldonu3a@gamil.com</a>
Membership Secretary	Malcolm Case	<a href="mailto:membership_maldonu3a@outlook.com">membership_maldonu3a@outlook.com</a>
Minutes & Speaker Sec.	Theresa Byles	
Newsletter Editor	Kris Taylor	<a href="mailto:news.maldonu3a@gmail.com">news.maldonu3a@gmail.com</a>
Groups Coordinator	Malcolm Case	
Committee	Andy Simmonds Carol Bates Margaret Harker	

Webmaster	Tony Groves	<a href="mailto:webmaster@maldonu3a.co.uk">webmaster@maldonu3a.co.uk</a>
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## 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	
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 – July 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
	1 German Garden Group Blunts Hall	2 Ten Pin Bowling Croquet Bridge Padel Tennis	3 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Rummikub	4 Mah Jong	5 Bird Watching Walton on Naze	6
7 Maritime Discussion	8	9 Ten Pin Bowling Padel Tennis Meet & Eat	10 Ten Pin Bowling Royal History French Conversation Petanque	11 Canasta Singing	12	13
14 Handicrafts	15 London Walks	16 Ten Pin Bowling Croquet Padel Tennis Bridge Geology Photography Zoom	17 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Rummikub Country Dancing	18 Mah Jong	19	20 Strollers
21 Monthly meeting Music quiz with refreshments Just Jazz	22 Strollers	23 Ten Pin Bowling Padel Tennis Writing for fun Wine Group	24 Ten Pin Bowling Garden Group Pilgrims Hatch Petanque French Wine Group	25 Canasta Singing Cribbage Aviation	26	27
28 Astronomy	29	30 Bridge Film Zoom	31			