

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

Maldon and District

Newsletter



Photography Group visit to RHS Hyde Hall—photo by Brigitte Whiting

Membership Renewals Are Now Due

August 2025

www.maldonu3a.co.uk

Registered Charity 1086182

FROM THE CHAIR

Time flies by and I realise that there will only be two more of these missives from me. I will save my reflections on three years as Chairman for my Chairman's Statement. I can, however, reflect on our last meeting which was excellent. The music and refreshments were first rate, the quiz was really well presented and even included some rather obscure questions.

Our next meeting will be a talk by David Williams on the Livery Companies of the City of London. I worked in the City for some 25 years and attended dinners at some of their amazing halls, I am really looking forward to hearing about all they do.

The holiday season continues and it now seems quite normal for the teenagers to go abroad to quite exotic destinations unencumbered by the possibly embarrassing presence of parents or grandparents. I do hope you all have been able to make the most of the continuing hot weather. Are there many more pleasant places than Maldon?

While the summer is creeping slowly to an end, and we are only losing about three minutes daylight each day, one cannot help noticing how quickly the fields are harvested and prepared for next year. The autumn will bring its own beauty as always, particularly around the Blackwater Estuary.

Ken Hazell

Chairman

WELCOME

A warm welcome to our new members: Sue Faulks Janet Towle

Maldon & District u3a

1st September 2025 to 31st August 2026

Membership Subscription Renewals

Subscriptions: Are due by no later than the 31st 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 **31st 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.

MONTHLY MEETING

Monday 15th September

Wickham Bishops Hall

Doors open at 1.15 for a 1.45 start

Tortoises—To Be Honest

Jane Williams

Jane will be talking about the history of pet tortoise keeping; interesting features of tortoise biology and their way of life. Together with photographs of the variety of different tortoises to be seen around the world.

I am again hosting my coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. You are welcome to come along to help me achieve my total of £10,000 raised since I've been holding these since 2002.

The date is Friday 26th September and I would ask that you book into a time slot, as before, to help me manage the catering. The time slots are 10.00, 11.00 or 12 noon.

Please email me at

maryburd43@yahoo.co.uk or ring me on **01621 843020** to book in. I look forward to seeing many of you but if you are unable to attend below is a link which should enable you to donate online. All donations are very welcome.

Many thanks. Mary Burd

<https://cm25.macmillan.org.uk/fundraising/CM25002455>



MONTHLY SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2025/26

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	The Purleigh Phil return to entertain us with Christmas music and songs plus a quiz and refreshments.
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 2026	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 a set of paintings created as the war unfolded.
16th March 2026	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.

20th April 2026	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.
18th May 2026	Borley Rectory, the most haunted house in England Bryan Thurlow	Following a visit from a professional ghost hunter in 1929, a national newspaper declared , 'Borley Rectory, the most haunted house in England.'
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.
20th July 2026	Summer entertainment	Musical Memories—the return of Steve Scruton & Ian Wyatt with a trip down memory lane.
17th August 2026	Action for Family Carers Rebecca Loader	Action for Family Carers is a local charity which has been supporting carers in Essex for decades. It was founded by Carers for Carers and has been making a positive difference to the lives of unpaid family Carers ever since.
21st September 2026	Maldon's Lost Railway Stephen Nunn	Stephen has appeared with Michael Portillo on the BBC Series <i>Great British Railway Journeys</i> . He will take us on a pictorial adventure from Witham to the end of line at Southminster and all stops in between.

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

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. After the Walk you are free to enjoy London as you wish. Travel arrangements are made by yourselves.

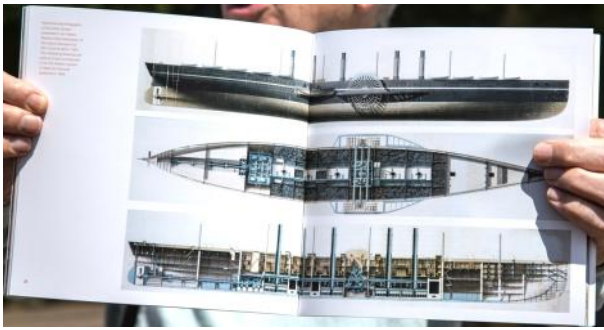
July's London Walk found us starting our day with coffee in the Clipper lounge on Embankment Pier before boarding our boat to be taken along the river to Masthouse Terrace Pier near Greenwich, accompanied by our amazing guide, Robert, who filled our journey with a commentary on everything we passed:

Ladies Bridge, constructed by 65% women, Blackfriars Bridge with its beautifully carved supports and it's only solar powered railway station in the world, the 'wobbly' Bridge passed over by 60,000 people on the first day causing it to sway dangerously. We passed the old Billingsgate fish market, Traitors Gate at the Tower, the Old



Customs House. Many wharves: Winchester, Butler's, Oliver's, Columbia; housing the biggest grain silo in the world, and Greenwich Dock which, in the past, received over 3000 tons of whale blubber a year. We passed a globe to commemorate Drake's voyages around the world and Drake's Steps where he was knighted by Elizabeth I.

But it wasn't until Robert told us that Tower Bridge was the third bridge built by Brunel (more accurately by his son), that we started to realise the huge impact that Brunel had on our future. On disembarking at Masthouse Terrace we saw the last remaining traces of the slipway built for the launching of Brunel's biggest ship in the world, the Great Eastern. At 700 feet long, she was six times bigger than any other ship and could hold enough coal for the journey from England to Australia and back! Thus, earning her nickname, the Floating Coal

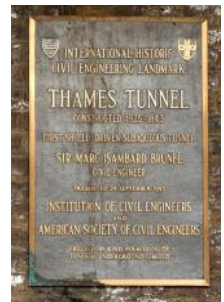


Bunker. It made economic sense not having to refuel at Aden on the journey, purchasing coal which had been supplied by Yorkshire at ten times the British price. She was the first ship to be made of iron, but

unfortunately it took 13 attempts to launch her as she had to be launched sideways due to her extreme length. Finally launched in 1858, Brunel was to die shortly after, aged just 53, of a stroke caused maybe by the stress of this project.

This incredible feat opened up the World between Europe and Australia, and later across the Indian Ocean to Asia. The Great Eastern was large enough to carry giant telegraph cables, the groundwork for future technology.

And if this wasn't exciting enough, Robert led us through Canary Wharf and Island Gardens to view Greenwich over the river, encouraging me to maybe organise another trip there for a later date. Then to top it all, he took us on the DLR and Jubilee line to pass through Brunel's Tunnel, constructed in 1843. Some described it as the 8th wonder of the world, with its 60 arches and shops deep under the Thames. When the shops were no longer viable a fair was even set up there, with everything from acts to performers and tight rope walkers. Estimated to take three years to build, it actually took 18.



Our amazing day was rounded off by all of us having lunch together in the Mayflower pub at Rotherhithe, the original mooring point of the Pilgrim Fathers' *Mayflower*, later frequented by Brunel, and one of the oldest London pubs with views over the Thames.

19th August	Kensington, The Royal Village	Meet at High Street, Kensington Tube Station
16th Sept	Little Venice	Meet at Warwick Ave, Tube Station
21st October	Old Mayfair	Meet at Green Park Tube Station
18th Nov	Disastrous London	Meet at Barbican Tube Station
16th Dec	Musical Tour 15.30	Meet at Tottenham Ct 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

NEW interest groups ?

We already have an extensive list of interest groups, but there is always room for more. Any member can prompt action and ‘sponsor’ a new group, on any subject, to see if a sufficient number of people see it as interesting and could be potential members. Sponsoring does not mean you have to be the coordinator if a new group is formed.

At future monthly meetings you will be able to sign up as wanting to join a potential new group. When/if numbers reach a viable number then a meeting can be convened to see how regular meetings of such a group would work... and on from there.

Recent attempts to restart groups that shrunk during the pandemic did not produce adequate numbers, but, with new members joining since then, the possibility is there. Look for a clipboard for groups currently focused on:

Poetry reading (your own writings) Book reading

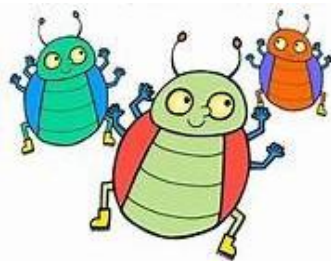
Climate change Local History

And let us know if you have ideas about other subjects or activities that you think would warrant the formation of new groups.

Malcolm Case

SOCIAL ORGANISING GROUP

Our postponed Beetle Drive is now on **Tuesday 2nd September** 2.00—4.30pm at Plantation Hall, Heybridge, CM9 4AL.. Why not join us for an afternoon of competitive fun. If you are thinking of coming along but haven't booked please do so now to help us with our planning.



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

Payment by cheque made payable to Maldon & District u3a.

And another date for your diary—**Race Night on Saturday 4th October** at West Maldon Community Centre from 6.30 pm.



A total of eight races, mostly horses, but maybe some piglets! The first race starts at 7.00 pm and the evening finishes around 10.00.

Your stake 'money' will be supplied. Prizes for the overall winners

Optional: Fish or southern fried chicken and chips to be ordered and paid for in advance at £8.50 pp.

Bring your own refreshments (alcoholic or otherwise), and glasses plus cutlery etc if you are eating in. Tickets £10, available from Rosemary Case

Payment by cheque made payable to Maldon & District u3a

Further details in next month's newsletter.

MARITIME GROUP

The groups trip to **Tilbury Docks** on **Monday 1st September**, will leave the West Maldon Community Centre at 8:30am – please park your cars at the far end of the car park. Traffic permitting we should arrive at the Tilbury Cruise terminal by 9:15am where will be escorted into the cruise terminal for a talk on the Docks, when they started, trade and how they compete in todays market. From here it will be back on the coach for a guided tour of the docks. Following this, a buffet lunch will be available at the Seafarers Centre, Tilbury.



After lunch, we will make the short journey to Tilbury Fort for a private visit.



Returning to WMCC around 5pm.

Malcolm Case

MARITIME GROUP Programme 2025

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. 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.



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 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.

All meetings are held at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Basin Road, Heybridge Basin, starting at 10:00am.

Malcolm Case

THE BIG BALTI

The next curry night will be held on **Monday 29th September** 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

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 8th September**. Why not come along? Please contact us for further details.

Marian Manning

Brenda Heal

ROYAL HISTORY GROUP

We are currently discussing the Edwardian period.

Our next meeting is **Thursday 11th September** at 10.00 where we will continue not only 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

AVIATION GROUP

Hello Everyone,

Last month we looked at the film of the three vintage AUSTER AOP aircraft that commemorated the 80th anniversary of D Day where their predecessors completed the same journey to provide eyes in the sky to help the Allied Armies in targeting enemy positions. Once again we were reminded of the sacrifices made by that generation on our behalf.

Looking ahead, we have a full programme of speakers and activities through to Spring of next year and details of the programme to December of this year are shown below.

After our July meeting we circulated a questionnaire prepared by David Gillespie to determine the level of interest in a visit to museums in Bomber County (Lincs) and whether the trip would be this Autumn or next Spring. The plan would be to visit, amongst other places, the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight facility at RAF Coningsby, Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre at East Kirby, and the International Bomber Command Memorial Centre at Canwick Hill, Lincoln.

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.

We are NOT meeting this month but plan a 45 to 60 min ***Flight by Simulator*** from Southend Airport to the WW2 Anti-Aircraft forts in the Thames Estuary on Red Sands and Shivering Sands.

Everyone is welcome to join us by **Zoom on Friday 29th August at 10.00** with our Webmaster, Tony Groves, acting as host. If you would like to join us, please drop me an email and I will add you to the invitation link message that will be circulated closer to the day.

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

**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.

Note also that we are coordinating at a National level for a Group visit to the Large Model Airplane show at Stow Maries Great War Air Museum on **Saturday 13th September**—more details to follow.

Friday 31st October

Guest speaker and local historian David Newman will give us an illustrated talk on 140 years of Aviation in the Maldon District.

Topics covered will range from:

- A well-known Maldon balloonist in the 1880s
- The 1914-1918 37-Squadron during WW1
- 1939 -1945 local WW2 airfields
- 1970s / 1980s Maplin, a 3rd London airport?
and a landing strip on Osea Island

to: Today - Air traffic overhead and Drones

**Friday 28th
November**

Guest speaker and fellow u3a member Robin Smith will give us an illustrated talk on Sea Planes over Southampton Water.

It covers many of the early Aviation companies including:

- Sopwith
- Fairey Aviation
- Supermarine

December

Aviation Quiz

Date TBA

SUNDAY STROLLERS

Our July walk seemed destined not to happen because of the changing weather forecasts. One minute we worried that it would be too hot and the next they predicted thunderstorms! However, it did take place in Terling on Sunday, 20th July and we were lucky with the weather after all, with only one or two small showers. We did shorten the walk but still managed to cope with 3 - 4 miles, depending on whose step counter we went with!

The highlight of the walk, I think, was a viewing of a resident's garden which we stopped to admire. The resident, Gary, invited us all in to see his back garden which was so interesting. He was in his element showing off his collection of post boxes and wood carvings amongst all his beautiful flowers.



He has always been a lover of post boxes and longed to own one. He took the opportunity of purchasing a few from the Post Office Museum in Halstead on their Open Day some time ago.

We could have spent the morning there but had to abandon it to carry on with the walk in order to be back in time for lunch. Most of the walk

took place across fields, which looked quite different from the time we did this walk last year, but at least it wasn't muddy this time! We did have a short pause to pick a little sustenance in the form of blackberries but had to leave room for our lunch. All in all I think we had an enjoyable time but, as Malcolm would confirm, these walks are made more enjoyable with the interesting conversations that take place (I'll say no more)!

We ended with a superb lunch at the Rayleigh Arms which everyone seemed to enjoy.

Janet Morley & Jenny Barclay

STROLLERS TOO

As rain swept across Hanningfield reservoir, seven members of the Strollers Too group met at The Cafe on the Water. We set off at pace (strollers pace that is!) to the sheltered footpaths of Well Wood in the Hanningfield Nature Discovery Park.

As we chatted and walked along the well marked footpaths, the rain was of no consequence. The footpaths through the Discovery Park take us through ancient mixed woodland with old gnarled oak trees and ancient hornbeam coppice. The woodland floor was a tangled mass of bramble and bracken with pockets of red campion and rosebay willowherb to brighten the sea of green.

As we moved away from Well Wood, we entered Hawks Wood with lots of towering foxgloves and colonies of wood ants. The wood ants' nests were impressive, but we did not linger too long to admire their construction as none of us wanted to leave with a wood ant bite!!!



We then meandered along by a grazing meadow, which appeared to be very popular with Canada geese. Soon we were at the Wildlife Discovery Centre, where we stopped at the picnic benches for refreshment. As we left the benches, we followed the Wind in the Willow Trail and encountered a friendly badger, a mole and a toad.

Following the trail path we soon found ourselves in Chestnut Wood, where we were able to catch occasional views of the reservoir, which was extremely low in water capacity.

All too soon our leisurely morning stroll was at an end and we emerged from the woods and into the car park, where it was just a short drive to our lunch venue at The Old Windmill pub at South Hanningfield, where we enjoyed a well deserved drink and lunch.



Chris Speed

STROLLERS TOO

Our August Walk is on **Tuesday 26th August** in Boreham.

This walk, of approx. 3.75 miles, is full of interest, with an outward route above the valley, followed by a return along the river.

Parking is along Church Road, CM3 3EG. As you enter the village along Plantation Road, turn **left**, I will be parked along the road.

In a change to our normal arrangements, **please arrive at 10.30 for an 11.00 start**. We will have lunch enroute at Paper Mill Lock, where the café has a wide selection of sandwiches etc, as well as some delicious ice creams.

Please let me know by **Tuesday 19th August** if you are coming.

Gill Stone:

STROLLERS TOO

Our September walk is a circular route of 4 miles in Tiptree on **Tuesday 23rd September**. Meet in the car park at **10:15 for a 10:30** start.

We will start and finish at The New Times, 87 Maldon Rd, Tiptree, CO5 OBN.

Please let me know by Tuesday 16th September if you will be staying for lunch.

David Griffiths

A message from the District Commissioner for Maldon & Purleigh Girl Guiding.

We are currently seeking new volunteers to keep our units running.

We are in search of unit helpers and new unit leaders, with a minimum of 1.5 hours per week commitment, term time only...we don't mind if you can't make the odd session though.

Pip Griffiths pip_griffiths@yahoo.co.uk 07967 488586

RNLI Collecting Pots

Thanks goes to everyone who continue to fill their small Tiptree jars with 5p and 20p coins for the RNLI. We are pleased to tell you that we have just passed a total of £1,000. We started collecting following a Maritime trip in September 2019 and it's quite amazing how the coins add up.

Thank you again and if you wish to join in jars are always available at the Main meeting or Maritime.

Mary Burd Malcolm Case

GEOLOGY GROUP

Our next meeting is on **September 17th**. New members are welcome to join us, with or without geological knowledge and everyone is asked to research a selected topic usually with the help of the internet.

If you would like to see where our geological travels take us next, join us on September 17th, for geology, tea and biscuits. Our meetings are held on the **third Wednesday of the month at 2pm** at West Maldon Community Centre.

Sylvia Cousins

JUST JAZZ GROUP

Our next meeting is **Monday 18th August** 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

GERMAN CONVERSATION

Please note that there will be no meetings in August. Our next meetings are **2nd and 16th September** at my house in Wickham Bishops

Howard Broadbridge

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.

PADEL TENNIS

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.

ART APPRECIATION GROUP

Our next meeting is Wednesday 10th September. Venue to be advised nearer the time.

Andy Simmonds

Judith Johnston

FILM GROUP

The films to be discussed this month are:

King Richard– 2021 American biographical sports drama film starring Will Smith as Richard Williams, the father and coach of famed tennis players Venus and Serena Williams (both of whom served as executive producers on the film). Available BBC iPlayer until 3rd August.

Wallace & Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl – 2024 British animated comedy film produced by Aardman Animations. Wallace’s latest invention is hijacked by a vengeful Feathers McGraw. Available BBC iPlayer.

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 27th August, 7.30pm via Zoom.**

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

Shirley Macro

BIRD WATCHING GROUP

Our next visit is our September trip brought forward to **Saturday 30th August** at Chigborough Lakes. Meet in the car park opposite Chigborough Road entrance.

Mike Bagshaw Peter Gaywood

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

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 **Wednesday 3rd September.**

Kris news.maldonu3a@gmail.com

DONATIONS for SEAFARERS CENTRE, TILBURY

The centre is again asking for donations of knitted hats, gloves, scarves, jerseys, any colour and size. Coats, clean, are also asked for as ships are coming from warmer climes and the crew do not always have warm clothing. They also ask for jigsaw puzzles (complete), DVDs and books. Also, toiletries suitable for male and female. Sweets and chocolates with long use by dates are also asked for. All donations are always gratefully received and on behalf of the centre, thank you.

If you have any donations, then please give them to me at a monthly meeting or at a Maritime meeting.

Malcolm Case

A Message from the Essex u3a Network

I warmly encourage your members to explore the excellent resources on the U3A Communities "AI for Everyone" page. <https://u3acommunities.org/interest-groups/computing/ai-for-everyone/>

You'll find recordings, workshop ideas, contact information for AI subject advisers, and regular updates via the AI News Zoom events. It's a rich and accessible starting point to help members engage with AI confidently—whether they're dabblers or enthusiastic explorers.

Lesley Wood

Do you subscribe to **u3a events**? Each month they publish a list of online events for members to participate in via Zoom. Coming up are:

Flight Inspirations Aviation Meeting— exploring RAF Northolt's history

Let's talk Tech—Small Modular Nuclear Reactors

Railway History in the National Archives

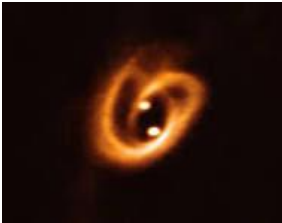
The Life and Music of Ian Gillan of Deep Purple—Ian talks about his life and his music

Plus many more topics

ASTRONOMY GROUP

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 22nd September**, at Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge at 7:30pm for a light hearted pictorial astronomy quiz by Joe Marshall. These quizzes by Joe are always good fun and very interesting.

Our meeting in October, which is on **Monday 27th**, is a trip to **Herstmonceux Observatory** for guided tour of



the telescopes and a talk on Astronomy "Between professional and amateur astronomers, including an explanation of Binary Stars" by Sebastian Harrech.



Transport there and back will be by car share. If you would like to come on this trip, then please contact me.

Malcolm Case

Book Group for Non-fiction books

Limebook u3a's "Fact & Fiction" book group is for people who like to read factual books – military history, social history, popular science etc. Members take it in turns to pick the book for the month. Although numbers are limited, they currently have vacancies and will welcome members from Maldon u3a.

The group meets on the **fourth Tuesday** each month at 4:30pm in the Mighty Oak Taproom at the top of Maldon High Street.

If you are interested, contact Tony Groves (Maldon u3a member) in the first instance and I will put you in touch with the group's co-ordinator.

Tony Groves

YOUR COMMITTEE

Chairman	Ken Hazell	
Vice Chairman	Alec Fraser	
Treasurer	Steven Clarke	treasurer.maldonu3a@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Malcolm Case	membership_maldonu3a@outlook.com
Minutes & Speaker Sec.	Theresa Byles	
Newsletter Editor	Kris Taylor	news.maldonu3a@gmail.com
Groups Coordinator	Malcolm Case	
Committee	Andy Simmonds Carol Bates Margaret Harker Patrick Forsyth	

Webmaster	Tony Groves	webmaster@maldonu3a.co.uk
Publicity	Andy Simmonds Irina Vahonina	publicity.maldonu3a@gmail.com

GROUP COORDINATORS

Art Appreciation	Judith Johnston
	Andy Simmonds
Aviation	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	Jane Rainbird Elaine Brady
Maritime	Malcolm Case
Padel Tennis	Ken Hazell
Petanque (Boules)	Jack Veash Geoff Macro
Photography	Tony Groves
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 – September 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
1 Maritime Tilbury Docks	2 German Beetle Drive Plantation Hall Engineering	3 Ten Pin Bowling Padel Tennis Croquet Bridge	4 Ten Pin Bowling Rummikub Petanque	5 Canasta	6	7
8 Discussion Handicrafts	9	10 Art Appreciation Meet & Eat	11 Ten Pin Bowling Royal History Country Dancing French Conversation Petanque	12 Singing Mahjong	13 Large Model Aircraft Show Stow Maries	14
15 Monthly meeting Tortoises To Be Honest Just Jazz	16 London Walks German	17 Ten Pin Bowling Padel Tennis Bridge Geology Croquet Photography Zoom	18 Ten Pin Bowling Rummikub Petanque	19 Canasta	20	21
22 Astronomy	23 Strollers	24 Ten Pin Bowling Padel Tennis Film—Zoom Writing for Fun Wine Group	25 Ten Pin Bowling Country Dancing Petanque French Conversation Wine Group	26 Aviation Singing Mahjong Cribbage	27	28
29	30					