

u3a learn, laugh, live

Maldon and District

Newsletter



Photos for Fun Group visit to Hyde Hall—photo by Brigitte Whiting

**Membership Renewals are now overdue,
see page 4 for details on how to renew.**

September 2025

www.maldonu3a.co.uk

Registered Charity 1086182

FROM THE CHAIR

As we reach this point in the year, it feels right to pause and reflect on the life and dynamics of our u3a. Over the past twelve months, our membership has grown to over 400 – a figure we can all be proud of.

Of course, we know that each renewal period brings some natural changes, as members move on for a variety of reasons. That said, we're always keen to hear how your u3a experience could be even better. If you have ideas, big or small, we'd love to hear them. Those of you who attend our monthly meetings will have seen a display area that highlights our existing groups and a place for you to let us know what other groups you would like to see.

Two of the greatest challenges we face in keeping our u3a thriving are a loss of income when more members than usual choose not to renew and the dreaded "V" word – volunteers – finding willing hands to serve on the Committee or as Group Coordinators

Together, we can ensure our u3a continues to flourish – but it depends on all of us. Whether by renewing your membership, sharing your ideas, or stepping forward to volunteer, your contribution makes a real difference.

Now thinking of the immediate future, we can look forward to our talk by one of our own members on "Tortoises". This must surely be one of the most unusual subjects and I am already thinking up questions.

Ken Hazell

Chairman

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the twenty sixth Annual General Meeting
of Maldon & District u3a will be held on

Monday 20th October 2025 at 2:00 pm

by meeting at Wickham Bishops Village Hall.

Closing date for nominations for members to join the Committee is Monday 29th September 2025. Members wishing to stand require the support of two other members of our u3a, who must be neither family members nor members of the Executive Committee.

Any items that you wish to be included on the Agenda must be notified to the Secretary by no later than Wednesday 1st October 2025.

Eligibility for Office and to vote – All fully paid-up members for the year 2025/2026 are eligible to stand for Committee, and to vote; except under the terms of our Constitution, where only one member from any one household shall serve on the Committee at one time.

Nominations and Agenda items to be sent to the Secretary:

Theresa Byles
Maldon u3a Secretary

MONTHLY MEETING

Monday 20th October

Wickham Bishops Hall

Doors open at 1.15 for a 1.45 start

AGM

Followed by a talk from our own u3a member and author,

Patrick Forsyth

Patrick will tell us about the 'funny side of writing'.

Patrick is the author of many books both fiction and non-fiction. His latest 'cosy crime' novel set in and around Maldon has recently been released, and another of his works has become a screenplay that has won many awards at Film Festivals across the world.

Patrick is also the coordinator of our Writing for Fun Group.

WELCOME

A warm welcome to our new members:

Susan Stewart

Lesley Churchill

Helen Rosher

Jan Cooper

Kath Welsh

Ann Hewett

Wendy Aldridge

Anne Dale

Carole Burnett

REMINDER

To renew your membership—contact the Membership Secretary and/or use the link on our website.

MONTHLY SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2025/26

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.

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

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— early Aviation in the English Channel

Ice Age to Iron Age—Britain in Prehistory

What the Future changes in landlines will mean for you

Plus many more topics.

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 7th October**. Kris news.maldonu3a@gmail.com

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.

Meeting our guide at High Street Kensington last month, we had a leisurely stroll to learn the history of the area since 1620, when Thomas Young laid out the tranquil Kensington Square. The area has been 'upmarket' ever since and, as always, we admired beautiful architecture, both old and new, expensive shops, and ogled at the house prices in the estate agents!

On all our London Walks we always come across the Blue Plaques, but Kensington is awash with them. Edward Burne Jones, the renowned stained glass artist, Sir John Simon, pioneer of Public Health (legislator for the first closed sewers), T S Elliot (poet and editor at Faber & Faber, who famously rejected George Orwell's *Animal Farm*), Ezra Pound, poet and Joan Simms (the star of 24 out of the 30 *Carry On* films), W M Thackeray of *Vanity Fair* fame, to name but a few.



We strolled down Thackeray Street, named after the author, with its purpose-built apartments, noting the building opposite them housing the Old Pump House and quarters for the servants and the stabling.

We learned about John Barker who had built two department stores in the area, the famous Derry & Toms being one on which he set up a roof garden which is still there. He was the first person to set up a travel agency within his stores in 1930.

Finding a wonderful quiet spot beside St Mary Abbots Church, we talked about

George Gilbert Scott the architect who designed the church which has the highest free-standing spire in London.

The neighbouring primary school sported lovely sculptures above the doors, and the 'modern' cloisters, so attractive with the familiar arches.

Round the corner in Kensington Church Walk we came across a fun mural designed by the man who owned the property, with all the members of his family to be found in the artwork including his cat.



We ended our Walk outside Kensington Palace, admiring the statues of the young Victoria and William III. Touchingly there were still a few floral tributes to Princess Diana on the magnificent black and gold gates.



Another lovely Walk, enjoyed by all – we are so lucky to have found brilliant guides, who have, to date, been very impressive.

Thanks to Brigitte Whiting for the photos.

Future Walks for 2025

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

FILM GROUP

After our short break it was good to meet up again to chat about the two films chosen for review.

King Richard proved to be an enjoyable watch, with a very interesting back story about Venus and Serena Williams and the influence and drive of their father, Richard. The film portrayed Richard Williams as being a determined and dedicated coach to his two talented daughters. He certainly worked hard towards making them the best, while also making sure they were well grounded. We did have quite a discussion as to how accurate the film is. It was made with the support of the Williams sisters but it was felt that there may have been more to the story than shown. Will Smith was good as the lead, as were the two young actors playing Venus and Serena. Score: 9

Wallace & Gromit – Vengeance Most Fowl. This could well be one of the best films we have reviewed! Great fun, very amusing with silly jokes, puns and nods to other well-known films. The skill and amount of time involved in making this type of animation must be enormous and how a penguin with a rubber glove on its head can look so evil is amazing. The voice cast is led by Ben Whitehead as Wallace, Reece Shearsmith as Norbot and Peter Kay, amongst other well known names. Score: 9

Next time:

The Jackal – 1997 action thriller film based loosely on the 1973 film Day of the Jackal, which in turn was based on the novel by Frederick Forsyth. The film stars Bruce Willis and Richard Gere.

Available on BBC iPlayer – long run time

Chariots of Fire – 1981 historical sports drama based on the true story of two British athletes in the 1924 Olympics: Eric Liddell, a devout Scottish Christian who runs for the glory of God, and Harold Abrahams, an English Jew who runs to overcome prejudice. Ian Charleston and Ben Cross star as Liddell and Abrahams, with a cast of well-known actors in support. Watch out for Kenneth Branagh and Stephen Fry making their debuts in minor roles. Available on BBC iPlayer until 22nd September

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday, 24th September**, 7.30pm via Zoom. If you would like to join us, please just get in touch.

Shirley Macro

SOCIAL ORGANISING GROUP

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

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

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



BRIDGE GROUP

If you would like to play Bridge we meet on the **first & third Wednesdays** at WMCC starting at 9.15 for 9.30. We play social Bridge in a friendly atmosphere.

If you would like to come along please contact Gill Cory

We left the WMCC at 8:30 am for our journey to Tilbury Docks and on arrival at Tilbury Cruise Terminal were met by Ross McKissock, Director of Unitised, for Forth Ports. Tilbury Docks is the largest of 8 ports owned by Forth Ports. As London's major port it is also the largest multi-modal port in the South East, (and 3rd largest port group in the UK) situated on the north bank of the Thames just 22 nautical miles east of central London. It is perfectly placed to handle cargo for London and the rest of the South East, with easy access to the M25 and 18 million people within 75 miles.

In the arrivals hall of the Cruise Terminal Ross gave us an introductory talk on the



history and present day role of the docks, and we also had a talk from one of the cruise companies that use the terminal. It was then back on the coach for a tour of the complex. The port has an annual throughput of 16 million tonnes, with an estimated value of around £8.7 billion. The varied cargoes are spread across an estate in excess of 1,000 acres and are imported and exported by a variety of short and deep sea vessels. Offering

operational support for different cargoes, the port supports ro-ro, containers, forest products, grain and bulks as well as cruises and property solutions. During the tour, Ross gave an excellent commentary which gave us an insight to the port and its operations which is far bigger and handles far more cargo than any of us knew. Virtually any imported food that we buy here in the South East will have come through Tilbury. All Hyundai cars are imported through Tilbury.



After our very interesting tour we said goodbye to Ross and went to the Seamen's centre for a superb and substantial buffet lunch.



After lunch we made the short journey to Tilbury Fort where we were welcomed by our guide Daniel and given a conducted tour of the fort which is one of the finest surviving examples of 17th-century military engineering in England. Built on the site of a smaller Tudor fort, it was designed to defend the river Thames passage to London against enemy ships. It was in nearby West Tilbury that Elizabeth I famously rallied her makeshift army awaiting the Armada in 1588. The fort's precise geometric design

provided multiple lines of fire across the river and twin moats. However, its defences were never tested by any enemy. Though it became obsolete at the dawn of the 20th century, it remained garrisoned until the end of the First World War.



We left the fort for the journey back to Maldon, arriving just after 5:00pm. A very interesting and informative trip and we were very lucky with the weather and managed to dodge the showers.

Malcolm Case

Brass Band Concert in aid of the RNLI

Regent Hall Band of the Salvation Army

Maldon Town Hall Sat 20 September

Contact: Sue Woods 07922 144273

pwandsw@btopenworld.com

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

AVIATION GROUP

Hello Everyone,

We didn't meet in August but instead we carried out a short 'Flight by Simulator' from Southend Airport to the WW2 Anti-Aircraft forts in the Thames Estuary on Red Sands and Shivering Sands.

These Forts were designed by Engineer Guy Maunsell and made in the Medway shipyards before being towed out to site in 1941 and sunk so that they sat on the estuary bed. They were decommissioned in the late 1950's.



On **Friday 26th September** we meet at our usual venue, and we will have a “**Show and Tell**” event!

This will follow the same formula as we used in June of last year when members brought along items of interest or had 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.

I am looking for 6 to 8 contributors who would each have a 10/15-minute slot.

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.

Note: 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**. For further information contact:

Chris Samson

- 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 date TBA** Aviation Quiz

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 13th October**. Why not come along? Please contact us for further details.

Marian Manning

Brenda Heal

[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

SUNDAY STROLLERS

On **Sunday 19th October** we will be strolling around the vicinity of Galleywood Common, meeting at Ponds Road, CM2 8QP, Galleywood, just off the A12 exit 16. Meeting at **10.15 for a 10.30** start.

Most of the walk is off road, with gentle inclines. A roast dinner, with vegetarian option, is booked after the walk at the Running Mare, just 1 mile's drive from Ponds Road. The walk will be 5 miles.

Please let me know if you wish to join the Walk and if you want to have lunch, by latest **29th September** as I am away for a couple of weeks before the Walk.

There is a maximum of 12 people

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 our monthly meetings you are 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 Book Club Climate change Local History Architecture

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 Group Coordinator

STROLLERS TOO

On Tuesday 26th August, six of us met in Boreham village for a gentle stroll through fields and beside the Chelmer and Blackwater Canal.

In a change to our usual arrangement, we left at 11 o'clock and as some of us were familiar with the route, we decided to start where we usually finish. It is always surprising how different everything appears with a change of direction.

We set off in bright sunshine, and the temperature was perfect. After walking for just over an hour we stopped at Paper Mill Lock for lunch. There was a comprehensive list of sandwiches on offer, and we all agreed that they were delicious. Whilst having our lunch there was much to see, both on the canal and beside it.

As we left the lock, the sky darkened and it started to rain, half of the group was prepared as it was forecast on their phones, the other half had had no warning. Technology is a wonderful thing when it works!! Despite the weather, we stopped for ice creams, before setting off on the second part of our route which took us along a contour above the Chelmer valley, with far reaching views across farmland.



On arrival back at where we started, all agreed that it had been a great walk, just the right length, even though some were now feeling rather wet.

Gill Stone

Our September walk is a circular route of 4 miles in Tiptree on **Tuesday 23rd September**.

We will start and finish at The New Times, 87 Maldon Rd, Tiptree, CO5 0BN. Meet in the car park at 10:15 for a 10:30 start.

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

David Griffiths

WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING



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 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](https://cm25.macmillan.org.uk/fundraising/CM25002455)

Maeldune Heritage Centre

The Maeldune Heritage Centre in Maldon is looking for volunteers.

Most pressing is an Independent Examiner to examine the books as required by the Charity Commission. They are also seeking Trustees to increase their board diversity, and, in addition, they are always in need of volunteers in the Centre to either man the Information Desk or in the Craft Shop.

Contact: Jill Hipsey 07887 731850 chairman.maeldune@gmail.com

I have received notification that the 2025/2026 programme of talks for the Essex Historical Association start on September 20th. The meetings are held monthly on Saturdays at 2.30pm at Trinity Methodist Church, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford CM1 2XB. The first talk is entitled "Henry VII and Elizabeth of York". Further details can be found on the Essex HA website.

Sylvia Cousins

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 15th September** 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

Our next meetings is **16th September** at my house in Wickham Bishops

Howard Broadbridge

PETANQUE GROUP

We meet at the Pétanque 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 Pétanque 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 8th October**. Venue to be advised nearer the time.

Andy Simmonds

Judith Johnston

The countdown to winter has begun with the arrival of Meteorological Autumn. And the changing seasons bring changes for our birdlife, in location and appearance – with the black-headed gull a good example. The breeding season over, their dark brown "hoods" have reverted to white save for a dark spot behind each eye, a change effected by a seasonal moult of head feathers. Good numbers of this common gull could be seen on the mud flats as eight of us stepped out onto the sea wall.

Beside the gulls, large flocks of godwits are gathering in the estuary and in others round the country, their feeding grounds during the winter months where thousands of bar-tailed godwits migrate from breeding sites in Arctic Scandinavia and Siberia. Another bird on the move, though not as far as the godwit, is the curlew. Two or three of these large resident waders were probing the mud for food with their distinctive long downturned bill. More will gather on estuaries as winter approaches after breeding in rough pasture or moorland.

Relatively new arrivals to the UK, some half dozen little egrets were wading in the channel, occasionally jabbing at their aquatic prey with sharp pointed bills. This small species of heron used to be a rare visitor, but is now common. The egrets first appeared in significant numbers in 1989 and began breeding in 1996. They will eat anything that fits in their bill and feast on fish, insects, amphibians and even small mammals and other birds like ducklings.



Mike Bagshaw

Peter Gaywood

5th October Wallasea Island. Meet in Reserve car park at 10.00

1st November Hanningfield reservoir. Meet in Visitor Centre car park

7th December Langdon nature discovery park. Meet in Visitor Centre car park

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

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

ENGINEERING & INVENTIONS GROUP

There will be no meeting in October, but on **Tuesday 4th November**, we will be starting two new series of talks: The first series is on Medieval Technology, including Agriculture, Textiles, Metallurgy, Mills, Warfare, Architecture, Roads, Machinery, and Shipbuilding.

The second new series is on Everyday Engineering – such things as houses, water, electrical power, heating, sewage, and also personal transport – the internal combustion engine, highways and railways.

In addition, we will be continuing with our series on inventions that had major impacts on subsequent history.

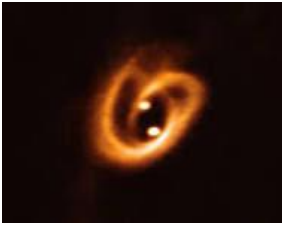
There are a few places available, so if anyone is interested, please contact me. We meet at my house in Danbury on the first Tuesday each month.

Tony Groves

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, 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

ROYAL HISTORY GROUP

We are currently discussing the Edwardian period. Our next meeting is **Thursday 9th October** at 10.00 at WMCC where we will continue discussing not only the Edwardian Royals but also events that were happening in the UK and around the world at this time.

Why not join us?

Kathy Goff



THE BIG BALTI

The next curry night will be held on **Monday 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

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
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
Photos for Fun	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 – October 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
		1 Ten Pin Bowling Padel Tennis Croquet Bridge	2 Ten Pin Bowling Rummikub Petanque	3 Canasta	4 Race Night WMCC	5 Bird Watching Wallasea Island
6 Maritime	7	8 Art Appreciation Meet & Eat Padel Tennis	9 Ten Pin Bowling Royal History Country Dancing French Conversation Petanque	10 New members Coffee Morning Town Hall Singing Mahjong	11	12
13 Handicrafts Discussion	14 German	15 Ten Pin Bowling Padel Tennis Bridge Geology Croquet Photos for Fun Zoom	16 Ten Pin Bowling Rummikub Petanque	17 Canasta	18	19 Strollers
20 Monthly meeting AGM Patrick Forsyth The Funny Side of Writing Just Jazz	21 London Walks	22 Ten Pin Bowling Padel Tennis Writing for Fun Wine Group	23 Ten Pin Bowling Country Dancing Petanque French Conversation Wine Group	24 Singing Mahjong	25	26
27 Astronomy	28 Strollers	29 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Film—Zoom Padel Tennis	30 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque	31 Aviation Canasta Cribbage		