



Maldon and District

Newsletter



Garden Group visit to Keeway, Creeksea

Photo by Brigitte Whiteing

AUGUST 2026

www.maldonu3a.co.uk

Registered Charity 1086182

Subscriptions are due by no later than 31st August 2026.

FROM THE CHAIR

What a wonderful afternoon of entertainment and afternoon tea 123 of our members enjoyed at our July meeting – the summer social.

Steve Scruton and Ian Wyatt provided a tour of music that they grew up with and delighted us with snippets of theme tunes from TV programmes from our youth. I'm sure many of us were saying "oh yes I remember that"! Then members were invited to tell us of their special tune, and what made it so. The wonders of modern technology meant that Ian could download and play a little of each tune almost immediately.

The event opened a memory box for me, and I have been recalling songs from the 60s & 70s ever since. One that has come to mind as I write this column is the Intro and Outro song by the Bonzo Dog Doodah Band which is a parody of long-winded band member introductions (it's on YouTube). I was in danger of doing the same by thanking by name our many volunteers who make these events happen. You already know how hard our catering team work. There are also the unsung heroes who put out the tables and chairs. One special thank-you to David Orchard who does a lot of the work. The team put out 20 tables and 160 chairs, and then they put them away again at the end of the afternoon. That is some physical work out! New helpers for this job are always welcome, to spread the load.

August is usually a quieter month, as quite a few of our groups do not meet. However, taking advantage of the weather, out-door activities remain in full swing: Croquet, Pétanque, London Walks and Strollers.

On the Committee, we are all gearing up for an early autumn energy uplift after such a hot dry summer. I start to think of gardens to visit in 2027. Steve Collis has joined the Committee and is improving our Facebook presence. Do let him know if your group wants a mention of a forthcoming event.

Theresa Byles Chairman

PUBLICITY - Facebook

Our social media is going well on Facebook with our following up to 109. We have also attracted positive comments which is good. If we get people to follow our Facebook page it means they will be automatically be updated whenever a new post appears. It's simple, you just click 'follow' on the **Maldon u3a Facebook page**. And if it's not for you then click unfollow.

Maldon & District u3a

1st September 2026 to 31st August 2027
Membership Subscription Renewals

Subscriptions are due by no later than 31st August 2026.

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 matters magazine then the subscription is £25.00 per person (of which £21.00 qualifies for gift aid). Subscriptions can be paid by bank or if you wish, you can still pay by cheque which should be made payable to **Maldon u3a**. Using the web site and paying by bank transfer is the preferred way.

The completed form(s) which are available online or from the Membership Secretary together with your payment must be made before the **31st August 2026**. 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 do not use 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 21st September

Wickham Bishops Hall

Doors open at 1.15 for a 1.45 start

Our talk in September is by Stephen Nunn on Maldon's Lost Railway

Stephen will take us on a pictorial adventure from Witham to the end of the line at Southminster and all stops in between. Stephen has appeared with Michael Portillo on the BBC Series Great British Railway Journeys.

MONTHLY SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2026

19th October	The Commonwealth War Graves <i>Barrie Sears</i>	Barrie will talk about the important work of the CWGC and its educational charity, the CWG Foundation
16th November	AGM followed by a Quiz	A quiz from our own u3a member, Linda Allen
21st December	Musical Entertainment <i>The Purleigh Phil</i>	They're back by popular demand with Christmas music & songs. Festive afternoon tea

Maldon u3a members only

If you know of any speakers that you can recommend, please contact our Speaker Secretary: Margaret Harker

WELCOME

Peter French	John Kyan	Suzanne Kyan	Val Adams
David McDermott	Lynn McDermott	Chris Harris	
Paul Harris	Rod Wilkinson	Sheila Burton	
David Sansom	Pip Golding		

GARDENS

Our Garden Group trip in July was to Keeway, an NGS garden, in Creeksea, near Burnham on Crouch. This was a trip that was postponed last year owing to extremely wet weather, well, the opposite can be said for this visit.

Fortunately, there was a breeze and plenty of trees to take shade under while we enjoyed our tea and cake.

Thanks to Brigitte Whiteing for the photos



VISIT TO COPPED HALL – FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER

Following our talk at our Monthly Meeting in June on Copped Hall, a fine Georgian mansion near Epping Forest, which is currently under restoration, we have arranged a visit to the Hall and parkland on **Friday 11th September at 10.00am**. We will have a guided tour which covers the grounds, the Walled Garden and three floors of the Mansion. The tour takes approximately 2.5 hours with a break halfway for tea, coffee and home-made cake. Please note that the grounds are sloping and uneven, and there is no step free access inside the Mansion. The price, including the refreshments is **£15 pp**. Cheques payable to Maldon u3a with the name of the trip on the reverse can be handed over at the main Monthly meeting or posted to Theresa at 10 Hopping Jacks Lane, Danbury CM3 4PN or you can pay online. If you are paying by bacs, please let Theresa know when you have made the payment.

Maldon u3a 60-13-37 a/c 49774476 reference: Copped

Please note that this is a self-drive event, open to all our u3a members. Car sharing is a possibility. We hope to arrange an option to go for a late lunch afterwards at a local pub - The Horseshoes in Upshire. This will depend upon interest and numbers.

Theresa Byles
Kris Taylor

GUITAR & UKULELE GROUP

Our meetings are on the **1st and 3rd Tuesday** of each month from 10.00 until midday in the Linton Room at the WMCC. There is plenty of free parking and each two-hour session is £3.



We have some great news. Sandy Robson, one of our group members, has very kindly donated an as-new mixer unit. It has revolutionised the sound we as a group can achieve. All our microphones (we can now run up to eight) now go through this and into our PA amplifier that my son donated!

It's a lot of fun so come and join us.

If you would like to join contact Steve.

SPANISH CONVERSATION

The next Spanish Conversation meeting will be **Friday 21st August** 2-4pm at my house in Nounsley. The standard of conversation is basic, suitable for those wishing to learn holiday Spanish.

Please let me know if you intend to come and I will provide directions. Please note that I have a small, friendly dog.

Hasta Luego!

Andy

POETRY FOR FUN

The next meeting of this small but very friendly group is on **Thursday 10th September** starting at 10:00am in the café at **Benton Hall, Wickham Hill. CM8 3LH**. Our poetry theme for this meeting is "Seasons". We welcome u3a members to join the group.

Patrick Forsyth

SOCIAL ORGANISING GROUP

Sea Shanty Evening

Tuesday 8th September

Doors open from 6.00 —10.00pm

Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge, CM9 4SD

To celebrate 25 years of our Maritime Group you are invited to an evening of Sea Shanties with a two-course meal, tea/coffee. Bar service only.

Your meal choice is

Herb Crusted Salmon, New Potatoes, Green Beans *or*

Chicken, Ham & Leek Pie, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy *followed by*

Lemon Tart, Raspberries & Cream *or*

Sticky Toffee Pudding with Ice Cream *followed by*

Tea or Coffee

Please advise any dietary requirements

Our singers will be Mains' I Haul Shanty Crew, who will perform a mix of sea songs and shanties.

Cost £22 pp Maldon u3a members only.

Last few tickets available. To book contact: Rosemary Case stating your menu choice

Quiz Afternoon

Thursday 22nd October 2—4.00pm

Plantation Hall, Heybridge

Please note the change of date.

An afternoon of quiz, tea and cake plus a raffle in aid of Macmillan Cancer.

It is unfortunate that it is necessary to hold some of the events in the evening as we know that many of you prefer not to drive at night. It may be that we have willing drivers that could assist.

Social Organising Group

KNITTING & CROCHET

The next meeting of our Knitting & Crochet group will be on **Wednesday 2nd September** at the Blue Boar, Maldon from 10.00 until 12.00.

If you are already a keen knitter/crocheter and would like to share your knowledge with others or would just like to have try at a new hobby, please get in touch or speak to me at our monthly meeting when I will have some samples of work.

We usually bring our own work, and help & encourage each other. We're are also preparing rugs for dementia patients in hospital.

Paula Jacobs

ROYAL HISTORY



Our next meeting is **Thursday 10th September** at 10.00 at the WMCC. We are now into the Windsor era, the period following on from the death of Edward VII until now looking at not only the royal families but also events that were happening in the UK and around the world at this time. Subjects that we are discussing at present include WW1, the Russian Revolution and the King amid crises. Why not join us?

Kathy Goff

GEOLOGY

Our Geology meetings will resume at the West Maldon Community Centre at **2p.m.** on **Wednesday September 16th**. Interested members are welcome to join us, with or without geological knowledge, for an afternoon of Geology, tea and biscuits

Sylvia Cousins

FAMILY HISTORY

We are still hopeful that this group can start, however, currently the person who has agreed to run the group is undergoing medical procedures and is unable to organise any meetings. We will continue to try and get the group going and will let you know via the monthly newsletter of progress.

Malcolm Case Groups Coordinator.

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 anyone interested in joining the Group or perhaps having a taster session, please contact Ken Hazell.

STROLLERS

We had a lovely July Sunday Walk with 10 of us meeting at the entrance to the Warren Golf Course in temperatures much cooler than the recent heatwaves fortunately.



Walking down the attractive driveway, we then followed a footpath leading through woods and fields, noting lovely views, and then entering an area of paddocks. Through several 'double' gates protected by electric fencing, we walked past the grazing horses until we reached the edge of Woodham Walter Common. This is a large area of mainly woods, quite undulated, and we crossed several brooks by wooden bridges, and saw plenty of examples of interesting trees.

Many of our group had never been to this area before and were amazed at its beauty and size.

After a couple of steepish inclines, we found ourselves at the edge of the golf course again and walked alongside it,

keeping a look out for flying golf balls and enjoying the sun.

We arrived back to our cars and drove a couple of minutes to the Anchor at Runsell Green. There we enjoyed one of the best meals that any of us had eaten for a long time. Really good quality food and excellent courteous and efficient service.

Julie Lake

STROLLERS

The September Sunday Stollers is on **20th September**; full details will be in the September newsletter.

Malcolm Case

STROLLERS TOO

Our August walk is on **Tuesday 25th August** in Boreham. It is approx. 3.75 miles and full of interest, with an outward route above the valley, followed by a return along the canal.

Parking is along **Church Road, Boreham, 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 en route at Paper Mill Lock, where the café has a wide selection of sandwiches etc, as well as some delicious ice creams.

This walk has now become an annual event. Hopefully the weather will be cooler by then!

Please let me know by **Tuesday 18th August** if you are coming.

Gill Stone.

HANDICRAFTS

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. We are now up to full numbers. However, if you are interested in joining the group in the future we are running a waiting list. Please contact us for further details

Marian Manning

Brenda Heal

TEN PIN 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. The cost is £9 per session which includes shoe hire and tea/coffee & biscuits. If you are interested, please contact:

Alan Buck

David Coombes



LONDON WALKS

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

We meet a professional guide at 11.15 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.

Contact Julie to reserve your place well in advance if you can. Please continue to refer to www.walks.com for the details of each Walk. After the Walk you are free to enjoy London as you wish. Travel arrangements are made by yourselves.

In July the "London Walkers" met their guide Richard at Monument to learn all about living conditions in the Victorian era. Setting the scene by describing the pea souper which lasted from October 1883 to April 1884, where you literally couldn't see your hand in front of your face, Richard made us feel lucky to be alive in the luxury of present day living.

We walked down narrow Lovat Lane and learnt that raw sewage was dropped from upper windows into the streets below, along with thousands of tons of horse manure per day being deposited in the streets. Walking down the streets in the long skirts of the day cannot have been pleasurable. Spurred by the Great Stink of 1858, Joseph Bazalgette built 82 miles of sewers, 4 pumping stations and the Thames Embankment to house low-level sewers.

We walked over London Bridge to Southwark and admired Tower Bridge, completed in 1894, which would be opened 30 times a day to let the river traffic through. Richard told of the docks which controlled half the world's entire cargo. In the Tooley Street fire in 1862, all the warehousing was destroyed, but not rebuilt, as ships were becoming too large to come up the river. The bombing in the 20th century and the rise of shipping containers saw the end of the docks.

We saw the heavily adorned gates of the Crossbones Graveyard, a shrine to the Outcast Dead; a memorial dedicated to the homeless, paupers and outcasts who lived and died on the margins of society. We walked through Red Cross Garden with its associated cottages, an early example of Olivia Hill's social housing schemes. Olivia (born in 1838 and co-founder of the National Trust) worked tirelessly to improve urban housing and to protect green spaces.



In St George's churchyard we stood by the prison wall behind which Charles Dicken's father was incarcerated for debt. Here we learnt of the awful conditions in the prisons and workhouses of the day. The Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 overhauled the welfare system. Designed to cut costs it stopped financial help at home and forced

the destitute to seek assistance in workhouses. Every family member was separated from each other, sometimes never being reunited in their lifetimes. The streets of this area mirror Dickens' books: Weller Street, Copperfield Street.

In the 1830s the first railways were constructed, the first being the London to Greenwich on a viaduct of 878 arches. 100,000 people were thrown out of their houses with no compensation. Ordinary people couldn't afford to travel by train so horse-drawn omnibuses were still used. We saw the George Inn, the only surviving coaching Inn. In 1863 the first underground train system was built, still using steam so vents were needed with many lines using the cut & cover system in shallower routes to facilitate this.



On a humorous note, we discussed the post system of the day. The novelist Anthony Trollope had a career in the Post Office for 33 years and proposed the introduction of roadside letter boxes in 1852. There were 40 deliveries per day, ensuring guaranteed same day delivery. Food for thought!!!

18th August	The Blitz	Meet at St Paul's Station
15th September	Rock n'Roll Covent Garden	Meet at Tottenham Court Road Station
20th October	Revolting London	Meet at Tower Hill
17th November	London's Secret Village	Meet at St Paul's Station
15th December	Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol & Seasonal Traditions	Meet at Tower Hill Station

The cost for each Walk is **£11 per person**.

Payment by cheque in advance - please - payable to Maldon u3a.

No later than 8 days before the Walk please. ONE CHEQUE PER EVENT.

Julie Lake

JUST JAZZ

Our next meeting is **Monday 17th August** from 7.30 – 9.30pm in the Little Ship Club, Hythe Quay, Maldon. The bar will be open so pop in for a drink, some music and a chat. We look forward to seeing you.

Pete Condon David Coombes

FILM GROUP

After our recent break it was lovely to get back together and have a chat about the two films under review.

A Bump Along the Way, a 2019 Irish British comedy drama proved to be quite enjoyable. The story is set around single mother Pamela in her 40s, played superbly by Bronagh Gallagher, who finds she is pregnant following a one-night stand with a much younger man. Her 15-year-old daughter, Allegra, also excellently acted by Lola Petticrew, at first is mortified but after her own difficulties with school and finding herself drunk for the first time, mother and daughter come together for a happy ending. The film is amusing and quite perceptive but at times pat. Not all the group enjoyed it, finding it a bit slow and not always clear to hear but overall it was well received. **Score: 7**

Harry Brown is a 2009 British vigilante film directed by Daniel Barber and starring Michael Caine. This film proved to be a much harder watch, as it contains very strong language and violence. However, once the story began to unfold it proved to be very interesting and raised some good discussion points during our review. Michael Caine, once again, showed was a wonderful actor he is giving another sterling performance as he changes from the mild-mannered widower into his former persona of a Royal Marine ready to take on the role of vigilante. In fact, all the cast were excellent especially the ne're-do-wells! Although not a film that could be described as enjoyable, it was well worth a watch. **Score: 8**

Next time:

Harriet – 2019 biographical film on the life of abolitionist Harriet Tubman and her role as she guides slaves to freedom as a conductor on the Underground Railroad. It stars Cynthia Erivo as Harriet.

The Life and Death of Peter Sellers – 2014 biographical film about the life of this British comedian. It is based on Roger Lewis's book of the same name. Stars Geoffrey Rush as Sellers, Miriam Margolyes as his mother Peg Sellers, Emily Watson as his first wife Anne Howe and Charlize Theron as Britt Ekland. Also stars John Lithgow, Stephen Fry and Stanley Tucci. Both available on BBC iPlayer.

Next meeting **Wednesday 26th August** 7.30pm via Zoom.

New members welcome, please just get in touch.

Shirley Macro

WINE GROUP 2

A second wine group will be with us soon. Bob Church will be the Coordinator. More details to follow.

PETANQUE

Why not come along and have a go, we play from 2.00 pm until around 4.00 pm on a **Thursday afternoon** at the Pétanque pitch opposite the Marine Lake at the Promenade Park, Park Drive, Maldon Essex CM9 5JQ for a couple of hours or so of fun.



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

New players are always welcome to come and give it a try.

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. Car parking is available at the park, please note Maldon District Council make a charge We only play if the weather is dry. The season is April to October.

Contact Jack Veash or Geoff Macro

CLIMATE CHANGE GROUP

The next meeting of the group is **Friday 14th August at 10:15 at The Blue Boar Hotel**, 3-7 Silver Street, Maldon, for a talk and discussion on “*The effect on the climate of importing food and general goods.*”. We will also be discussing details on a talk on Climate Change at Little Baddow Memorial Hall that some attended last month and discussing details on a u3a talk last month on Climate Anxiety, Health, Politics, Food Security and Weather (very appropriate given our current high temperatures). We are a small and friendly group and would welcome new members. If you would like to join the group, then please contact either Malcolm or Patrick.

Patrick Forsyth
Malcolm Case

BALTI NIGHTS

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF RESTAURANT.

The next curry night will be held on **Monday 28th September**, arrival time 6:15pm at the Bengal Nights Restaurant, Heybridge Square, CM9 4LT. Car Parking is available at the rear of the restaurant. To add your name to the list please contact:

Graham Evans.
Bob Gowers

CANASTA

We now have spaces to take new members into our group.

We are a friendly group who meet on **alternate Friday afternoons in the Linton Room at West Maldon Community Centre 2 - 4pm**. Where possible, we play with a partner - 2 partners at a table (4 people). Partnerships are arranged randomly at the meeting so no need to join with a partner.

We play Bolivia, which is a progression from the basic Canasta game of cards. We are happy to teach anyone who doesn't know how to play the game.

The cost of the session is £2 per person, and our next meeting will be on **Friday 4th September** as we do not meet in August.

Anyone interested can call me
Iris Slaney

COUNTRY DANCING

Country Dancing restarts on **Thursday September 10th** at 10.00 and will continue the 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings of the month, at Langford Village Hall.

GERMAN CONVERSATION

The German Conversation Group will restart after the summer break on **Thursday 3rd September at 2pm**, at my house. The following session will be on the **17th September**.

Any member wishing to join us please contact me for further details.

Howard Broadbridge

MARITIME

The next meeting is on **Monday 7th September at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Basin Road, Heybridge Basin at 10:00**. There is a small charge of £3.00 to cover the cost of hiring the room, this also includes tea/coffee and biscuits. There will be a talk by **John Johnson-Allen** via Zoom on *Rosslyn Wemyss, Admiral of the Fleet: The Man Who Created Armistice Day*. The talk will give details of his life from 12th April 1864 – 24th May 1933 including as a Naval officer, from 1877 to 1919 through peace, war and then back to peace, who managed the successful evacuation of 140,000 troops from Gallipoli and, later, was the British Naval representative at the Armistice negotiations. During the First World War, he served as commander of the 12th Cruiser Squadron and then as Governor of Moudros before leading the British landings at Cape Helles and at Suvla Bay during the Gallipoli campaign. He went on to be Commander of the East Indies & Egyptian Squadron in January 1916 and then First Sea Lord in December 1917, in which role he encouraged Admiral Roger Keyes, Commander of the Dover Patrol, to undertake more vigorous operations in the Channel, ultimately leading to the launch of the Zeebrugge Raid in April 1918.



Monday 5th October – Talk by Roger Butler, via Zoom, on the tiny archipelago of **St Kilda** which lies forty miles west of the Outer Hebrides - you won't find it on any road atlas! These isolated islands have a unique history, and the last residents were evacuated in 1930. The impressive cliffs are some of the tallest in Europe and the seabird colonies are amongst the most important in the North Atlantic. The talk describes a week spent on the main island - and just getting there is part of the adventure.

Monday 2nd November – Talk by Jimmy Byam Shaw on **tank testing** of ship shapes and design.

Monday 7th December – Talk by Stephen Nunn on **Maldon's links with the Battle of Trafalgar (1805)**. Our overwhelming victory over the French and Spanish fleets off Cape Trafalgar on 21st October 1805 gave the Royal Navy its most famous triumph and confirmed a long tradition of naval supremacy. The battle also immortalised the memory of Viscount Horatio Nelson who was shot and died of his wounds at the moment of his greatest victory. There are some surprising links between maritime Maldon and this famous national event.

All u3a members are very welcome. Malcolm Case

MARITIME Trip to Sheerness

On Monday 3rd August 30 stalwarts of the Maritime Group met at the WMCC and embarked on our coach to travel to Sheerness, our driver was Jerome, and off we went, leaving at precisely 09.00.

We had a good trip; the weather was bearable after all the very hot days we have had. We arrived at Criterion Blue Town at about 10.30 where we were met by the owner and her staff of volunteers.

We had coffee and tea and then toured the museum. Initially I thought this is not going to be very interesting, but to my surprise it was like the Dr Who Tardis, room after room with so much to see and read about with pictures and relics.



One thing I did read about was the life story of Admiral Nelson. When he was 12 years old, he started his climb up the Naval ladder until he was Admiral. There were volunteers of the museum on all the floors to answer our many questions, they were very pleasant and very knowledgeable.

A buffet lunch was available from 12.30 which was enjoyable and very welcome.

After lunch it was back on the coach for a tour of the Isle of Sheppey. Our volunteer guide, Malcolm Gibbs, was extremely knowledgeable about the island and its history. The tour took us past the old Naval Dockyard, then along the sea front where we saw the high sea wall to prevent flooding of the island, it was then across the island, passing arable farmland and several small villages. We were taken past the prisons, of which there are three; close to one of the prisons is a disused airfield which is now home to Eastchurch Aviation Museum. The island is much larger than we all realised and has a very varied and interesting history. I must commend our driver Jerome, he negotiated the narrow streets, parked cars, other traffic very well indeed.



Nice cup of tea to finish the tour, then back on the coach for our journey home arriving at exactly 5.30.

A good day was had by all.

I must finish off by thanking Malcolm for all the work he does arranging these trips; it takes lots of work and trouble.

Looking forward to our next one.

John Woods. (written as a forfeit for forgetting my Membership card at the last main meeting!!!)

RNLI Collecting Pots

Our thanks to everyone who continues to fill their small Tiptree jam jars with 5p, 10p or 20p coins. To date we have collected £95 this year and since we started in 2019, we have collected £1,268.80. All contributions go to the Maldon Branch of the RNLI and are gratefully received, so thank you, and if you wish to join in, jars are always available at the Main Meetings and at the Maritime meetings.

Mary Burd Malcolm Case

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 and sweets and chocolates with long use by dates. 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

MacMillan Coffee Morning

Another year has passed albeit very quickly and my coffee morning this year will be on **Friday 25th September** and if you feel like coming along to support a very worthwhile cause you will be most welcome.



As previously I would ask that you book in to a time slot to help me manage and cater on the day. The times are 10 am, 11 am or 12 noon.

Please email me to book in. I look forward to seeing many of you but if you are unable to attend, please follow the link below to donate on the page you do not need to login!! All donations will be welcome.

<https://cm26.macmillan.org.uk/fundraising/cm26007944>

Once again hopefully we can have an enjoyable get together and raise some well needed funds!

I look forward to hearing from you. Mary Burd

AVIATION

Hello Everyone,

Last month we met on Friday 31st July, and as this is the centenary year of the first British Grand Prix held at Brooklands in August 1926, we celebrated with some aerial clips of the surviving parts of 2.36-mile banked circuit at Brooklands.

We finished by showing the short but poignant BAFTA award winning film *A Memory Owed* starring James Bolam and filmed at RAF East Kirkby. This is a very atmospheric film using many shots filmed inside the East Kirkby aircraft NX611 “*Just Jane*” and relates to the story of a typical aircrew in 57 Squadron based at East Kirkby.

It brings a tear to my eye every time I watch it.

There won't be a meeting in August, but we will be back in September with a visit to East Kirkby airfield in Lincolnshire on **Tuesday 15th September** to see the Lancaster “*Just Jane*” on fast (fairly!) taxi runs along with the Mosquito that is also based there.

The plan is a one-day visit using the 360 Community Bus with David Gillespie driving, leaving at approx. 08.00 and returning at approx. 20.00.

Approximate cost is £32 per person plus the entry for the Heritage Centre

Space is still available.

At our regular meeting on **Friday 25th September** we will continue the Brooklands theme and show the film *Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machine*.

2026 Aviation Programme

Tuesday 15th September A group visit is planned to EAST KIRKBY airfield to see the Lancaster and Mosquito carry out high speed taxi runs as well as to visit the museum at the LINCOLNSHIRE AVIATION HERITAGE CENTRE -see previous

<https://www.lincsaviation.co.uk/>

Friday 25th September We continue the Brooklands theme with a showing of the film *Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines* which is so evocative of those times flying early *string-bag* aircraft out of the likes of Brooklands.

Starring Robert Morley, Terry Thomas, Sarah Miles, Eric Sykes, and Tony Hancock—something for everyone in this one!

Friday 30th October

David (Flash) Davis returns to give us an illustrated talk about the MARCONI photographic department from 1918 to 1994.

Friday 27th November

By popular demand a return of the “SHOW AND TELL” event when fellow members can bring along items of aviation history whether it be something specific to their family or in their knowledge; physical items or written word. Please let me know if you wish to contribute for say 10 to 15 minutes and what sort if any, display equipment you need.

December

TBA

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

There is no meeting in August.

On **Wednesday 9th September** we are putting together a car-share visit to Christchurch Mansion in Ipswich to see the exhibition marking 250 years since the birth of John Constable. For further details, please get in touch with:

Andy or Judith

ASTRONOMY

The next meeting of the Astronomy group is on **Monday 28th September** at Chigboro Fishing Club House, Chigborough Road, Heybridge starting at 7:30pm, for a lighthearted Astronomy Quiz by Jo Marshall. These quizzes are always entertaining and very interesting so please join us.

u3a online learning events

There are many topics available to all u3a members on the u3a website. If you haven't already signed up for their monthly calendar of events, then do so now.

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/events>

New Group – ARTS & CRAFTS – Leaf & Flower Pressing

Are you interested in pressing leaves and, maybe, flowers to make pictures or decorations?

If ever you go to Blake's Wood or, the ancient woodland of Holybred Woods in Little Baddow, and you see a chap with a carrier bag collecting fallen leaves then it's me! Also, if you see a chap at the Maldon Men's Shed



constructing flower presses then, again, it's me!

Over the years I have collected several books that describe the various techniques and have produced pictures from pressed dried leaves. To date my flower pressings have not been very successful, but this is something as a Group we can try.

I am hoping to secure a venue for meetings then arrange collection days for collecting samples of leaves and flowers.

If you think that this is something that you would enjoy, please contact me Bob Adams

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 9th September**

Kris Taylor Newsletter Editor news.maldonu3a@gmail.com

YOUR COMMITTEE

Chairman	Theresa Byles	
Vice Chairman	Alec Fraser	
Treasurer	Steven Clarke	treasurer.maldonu3a@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Malcolm Case	membership_maldonu3a@outlook.com
Secretary	Carol Bates	secretary_maldonu3a@outlook.com
Newsletter Editor	Kris Taylor	news.maldonu3a@gmail.com
Groups Coordinator	Malcolm Case	
Speaker Secretary	Margaret Harker	
Publicity	Andy Simmonds	
Committee member	Patrick Forsyth	
Webmaster	Tony Groves	
Publicity	Steve Collis	publicity.maldonu3a@gmail.com

GROUP COORDINATORS

Art Appreciation	Judith Johnston
	Andy Simmonds
Aviation	Chris Samson
Astronomy	Malcolm Case
Balti Night	Bob Gowers
	Graham Evans
Book Group	Patrick Forsyth
Bridge	Gill Cory
Canasta	Iris Slaney
Climate Change	Patrick Forsyth
Cribbage	Pat Clements
Country Dancing	John Rogers
Croquet	Geoff & Shirley Macro
Discussion	Pat Jones
Engineering	Tony Groves
Film Club	Shirley Macro
French Conversation	Ann Lester
Garden Visits	Theresa Byles
	Kris Taylor
Geology	Sylvia Cousins

German Conversation	Howard Broadbridge
Guitar & Ukulele	Steve Collis
Handicraft	Marian Manning
	Brenda Heal
History—Windsors	Kathy Goff
Just Jazz	Peter Condon
	David Coombes
Knitting & Crochet	Paula Jacobs
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
Poetry for Fun	Patrick Forsyth
Rummikub	Janice Martin
Sing for Pleasure	Sue Garnham
Social Events	Margaret Harker
	Brenda Heal
Spanish Conversation	Andy Simmonds
Strollers Sunday & Tues	Malcolm Case
Tenpin Bowling	Alan Buck
	David Coombes
Wine Circle No. 4	Ann Goody
Wine Circle	Robert Church
Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS – SEPTEMBER 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Guitar & Ukulele	Bridge Ten Pin Bowling Croquet Padel Tennis	Ten Pin Bowling Rummikub German Conversation Pétanque	Canasta		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Maritime	Engineering Sea Shanty	Ten Pin Bowling Crochet & Knitting Art Appreciation Padel Tennis Meet & Eat	Ten Pin Bowling Royal History Country Dancing Poetry for Fun Pétanque French conversation	Visit to Copped Hall Singing Climate Change Mahjong		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Discussion Handicrafts	London Walks Aviation Trip Guitar & Ukulele	Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Padel Tennis Croquet Geology	Ten Pin Bowling Poetry for Fun Rummikub Pétanque German Conversation	Canasta		Strollers
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Monthly meeting Just Jazz	Strollers Too	Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Padel Tennis	Ten Pin Bowling Country Dancing Pétanque French conversation	Macmillan Coffee Morning Aviation Singing Cribbage Mahjong		
28	29	30				
Astronomy	Wine Group	Ten Pin Bowling Padel Tennis Film				

Blue— Morning

Red—Afternoon

Purple— Evening

Schedule correct at time of publication - please confirm dates with coordinators