



Maldon and District

Newsletter



Photo by Roger Bond – Photos for Fun Group

SEPTEMBER 2026

www.maldonu3a.co.uk

Registered Charity 1086182

Membership renewal is now overdue

FROM THE CHAIR

As we gathered for the August talk, we were treated to an enjoyable selection of live music, played by our own Guitar and Ukelele group. It is amazing how this group has grown and improved in a short time. As one of our u3a members put it following this performance “this is what the u3a is all about instilling inspiration and purpose into a retired generation who have come from all walks of life”.

The group, now called Strings Attached, has bookings for several local fundraising concerts so you might come across them at other events.

Strings Attached has also featured in the u3a East of England Bulletin, which is good promotion for our Branch. Thank you, Steve and the Band.

We then had a talk about the work of Action for Family Carers, a charity that began life in Essex focussing on supporting young carers, but which has now expanded to include carers of all ages. There was a short film which gave us the opportunity to hear from some young carers about their lives and how they valued the support of the AfFC. The Hall went very quiet as we all thought about the lives of those youngsters and their families.

Earlier this month we celebrated 25 years of our Maritime Group with a Sea Shanty supper evening. A good time was had by all; there were even a few salty sea dogs there. A full history of the Group and some photos from the evening are on pages 12 and 13.

Our 2027 programme of speakers is as usual both varied and interesting and interspersed with the usual musical interludes.

Theresa Byles Chairman

WELCOME

Sally Elvish Peter Elvish Alan Mills Gillian Carpenter Dorothy Allen

Roy Martin Christina Knight Terri Stevens June Price Cindy Caldon

Chris Churchyard Susan Morgan

MONTHLY MEETING

Monday 19th October

Wickham Bishops Hall

Doors open at 1.15 for a 1.45 start

Our speaker this month Barrie Sears who will tell us about the important work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and its educational charity, the CWG Foundation.

MONTHLY SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2026/27

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		
18th January 2027	Antoine de St Exupéry Pioneer aviator, author, philosopher, enigmatic war hero, and tempestuous, unfaithful lover. <i>Marion Pettet</i>	His most famous work is <i>The Little Prince</i> . However, this book has many references to St Exupéry's own life. A complex story, yet a simple man in many ways, his disappearance in a plane crash in the Mediterranean in 1944 on a reconnaissance mission has left an enduring mystery.
15th February 2027	Boudica: Myths and Legends AD 60/61 <i>Richard Bale</i>	Richard is a local Roman historian. Boudica, a woman with a name that has become a symbol of resistance against stronger forces. But how much is true ?

15th March 2027	Dad's Army <i>Charles Garland</i>	Former assistant to David Croft, Charles tells the 'behind the scenes' stories of how the programme came to exist, with personal memories of the writers and cast members.
19th April 2027	The Abdication – A Royal Crisis <i>Steve Clarke</i>	Events leading to the Abdication of Edward VIII in December 1936 and the outcome for the Royal family
17th May 2027	The Wonders of Norway <i>Joanne Larner</i>	Joanne will tell us about the landscape, the customs and the idiosyncrasies of the Land of the Fjords. Quaint Norwegian pastimes, stunning photographs of the scenery and much more.
21st June 2027	Lighting the Fuse <i>Lucy Lewis</i>	Imagine standing over a bomb – you need to make a choice. Remember, your life depends on it. Lucy was a Major in the army, the first woman to operate as a bomb disposal expert.

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

PUBLICITY – Facebook

Our social media is going well on Facebook with our following up to 124. 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.

FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you for your contributions, please keep them coming and don't forget to include your photographs. The deadline for the next issue is **Tuesday 6th October**.

Kris Taylor Newsletter Editor news.maldonu3a@gmail.com

ASTRONOMY

Several members of the group went to Chigboro Fishing Club on Wednesday 12th August to view the eclipse. We all had appropriate eye wear for the viewing, such as a welding mask, eclipse sunglasses, even a nautical sextant, none experienced any eye damage. We observed the moon slowly moving across the face of the sun until some 91% was covered, we all felt the temperature fall slightly at this point and the "light" changed. The photographs below were all taken by Roger Bond using his telescope with a sun filter attached, hence the different colours, they show the eclipse from beginning to end, thank you Roger. All found it fascinating and several of us compared it to the eclipse in 1999.

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 28th September** starting at 7:30 pm at The Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge, Maldon for a light-hearted quiz by Jo Marshall, these quizzes are always good fun, and we all learn several interesting facts.



u3a members are always very welcome to join the group.
Malcolm Case

POETRY FOR FUN

The next meeting of the group is on **Thursday 8th October**, starting at 10:00am at Benton Hall Café, CM8 3LH. Our theme for this meeting is *Favourite Place*. A few poets who have written on this theme are William Wordsworth, Elizabeth Bishop, Phillip Larkin to name but a few. We are a small but very friendly group who enjoy poetry reading followed by discussion on the what the poet was trying to say.

The change of group name is proving to be apt: meetings are certainly fun and at the same time interesting, while maybe giving us something to ponder and/or learn. Remember (as Alan Corin said): *Without poetry Postman Pat would have had a black and white dog*. We have room for a couple more members.
Patrick Forsyth

GUITAR & UKULELE GROUP

This photo says a lot about the group. Everyone is picking up tips from each other. Just look at the faces watching Sandy! All three watching are integral to our group and were novices when we started! They just want to play all the time now!

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.

Comment from John Rogers, a Guitar & Ukulele group member, following the group's debut at last month's meeting - *As a complete newcomer to musical gigs, I had no idea there was so much preparation needed! This is what the u3a is all about instilling inspiration and purpose in the retired generation who have come from all walks of life. I felt very pleased that we were able to get the audience to listen as they chat worse than the teenagers!*



Our Group is currently full but we do have a waiting list. Please contact Steve.

ROYAL HISTORY

Our next meeting is **Thursday 8th October** 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. Recent topics have included the Russian Revolution, World War 1 and Rationing. Why not join us?

Kathy Goff

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.

Our August Walk found us exploring the area around St Paul's and learning about the Blitz.

The London Blitz was a sustained 8-month strategic bombing campaign against London and other British cities by Germany from 7th September 1940 to 16th May

1941. It killed over 30,000 Londoners and destroyed more than one million houses.

Blackouts were enforced and road signs removed, a consequence of which were many road accidents. The ARP wardens enforced the blackout and helped in providing first aid and tackling minor fires.

The Square Mile was a constant target for bombing, with St Paul's sited in the heart of it. Unbelievably St Paul's survived relatively unscathed, with the surrounding buildings decimated. On the night of 29th December 1940 approx. 100,000 minor incendiary bombs were dropped on the area, with St Paul's taking a direct hit from 28 bombs, causing what was to be known as the 2nd Great Fire of London. The

WVS worked tirelessly distributing refreshments for the St Paul's Firewatch who worked 24/7 extinguishing the fires in the church. Without them it is doubtful that St Paul's would have survived and it was humbling to see a statue dedicated to the firemen.

On the first night of the Blitz over 1,000 planes flew over London, dropping 1,500 incendiary bombs, followed by high explosive bombs. Fifty-seven consecutive nights of bombing were to be endured. A delayed action 2000lb bomb hit Dean's Yard beside St. Paul's but did not explode. It lay 27 feet deep. Robert Davies and George Wylie took 3 days to dig it out and transport it to Hackney Marshes where it was safely donated. They were awarded the George Cross.

We saw Bracken House, built on a bomb site beside St Paul's. It is the headquarters of the Financial Times, with its astrological clock featuring the face of Churchill in the middle.





Away from the noisy city we rested in the courtyard of St Vedast-alias-Foster church, next to St Paul's and surviving the war.

Of course, the Walk covering WW2 led to facts about rationing, using all available land to grow vegetables (including the moat of the Tower of London) and using the underground stations during air raids. Interestingly, the government at first discouraged people from using the Underground during the raids. They feared morale would drop if people exchanged doom and gloom stories and incidents of tragedy, but, of course, they had to relent.

Our guide went on to talk about Churchill and the V1 and V2 bombs later in the war. A highly informative Walk just touching

on one aspect of WW2. *Thanks to Bigitte Whiteing for the photos*

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

KNITTING & CROCHET

The next meeting of our Knitting & Crochet group will be on **Wednesday 21st October** at the Blue Boar, Maldon from 10.00 until 12.00. £5.00 contribution for the hire of the room plus a drink and biscuits, and free parking at the rear of the building. Don't forget to key your car registration in at reception.

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 and encourage each other. We are also preparing rugs for dementia patients in hospital.

Paula Jacobs

STROLLERS TOO

On Tuesday 25th August, a delightful summer's day, 10 of us set out from Church Road, Boreham on a walk that initially took us across fields which had recently been harvested. We had decided to stroll the opposite way to that advertised.

Soon we reached the canal.

We slowly strolled along the towpath, often meeting other walkers, as well as families enjoying a paddle.

Approximately half way on our walk, we reached Paper Mill Lock where we stopped for lunch. The sandwich menu was extensive and it took some of us quite a time to choose! There were lots of others taking advantage of the perfect weather and enjoying the last few days of the school holidays.



After our lunch, we stopped at the ice cream stall, and, again, we had lots of choice.



Finally we set off on the last leg of our walk, with a short climb along the road, before joining the fields above the valley, where we had a panoramic view across farmland, and it was a level walk back to our cars.

Gill Stone

Thanks to Nicki Iszard for the photos

For our next meeting we are going to attempt to do the circular walk around Terling which was cancelled due to the very hot temperatures in August.

Tuesday 22nd September meet at Terling Village Hall, (parking along the unmade road) The Dismals, Terling CM3 2PW at 10.15 for 10.30 start. Lunch will be at The Duke of Wellington, Hatfield Peverel. CM3 2EA.

There will be some road walking including a ford to cross but don't worry, there is a footbridge. The road carries on to the windmill and from there across fields and along the river Ter. We will follow a well-used footpath and skirt some woods to then meet up with part of the Essex Way. The terrain is easy but sturdy footwear is advisable as the paths may be uneven. We then have a small amount of road walking until we join a path which leads us back to the cars. The walk is approximately 3 miles, and a nice gentle stroll will take us roughly 2 hours.

Please reply to Nicki Iszard and let me know if you require lunch.

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

GEOLOGY

Geology meetings resumed in September after our August break.

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 21st October** at West Maldon Community Centre at 2p.m. Interested new members are welcome to join us, with or without geological knowledge, for an afternoon of Geology, tea and biscuits.

Sylvia Cousins

SOCIAL ORGANISING GROUP

Why not come along and test your brain power and raise some funds for Macmillan Cancer at the same time. Tables of six- either submit a team or come as individuals, there's always a friendly face looking for someone to join them.

Quiz Afternoon

Thursday 22nd October 1.30 – 3.30pm

Plantation Hall, Heybridge

£5.00 per person.

The quiz will start at 1.30 and take a short midway break for tea/coffee and cake plus a raffle in aid of Macmillan Cancer.

To book your ticket (s) please contact: Rosemary Case .Payment preferred by BACS.

Social Organising Group

MARITIME

Monday 5th October – Talk by Roger Butler, by 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 – To be advised

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.

malcolmcase24@gmail.com 07889 871502

RNLI Collecting Pots Thanks go to everyone who continue to fill their small Tiptree jars with 5p and 20p coins for the RNLI. Our collecting pots last year raised £231 for which the local branch of the RNLI are very grateful. Thank you again and if you wish to join in jars are always available at the Main meeting or Maritime

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

MARITIME – A celebration of 25 years

A Brief History of the Maldon u3a Maritime Group

The group started in September 2001 with the first meeting, about 12 members, in my house. We discussed details on what the group hoped to achieve, decided on a format, day and time of the week – always the first Monday in the month at 10:00. The group was initially called the Maritime History Group.

Our subsequent meetings were in the River Bailiffs' rooms on the Hythe in Maldon, however as numbers increased, we had to find an alternative venue, settling on The Little Ship Club also on the Hythe. Here we had many interesting talks on a wide variety of subjects and at one meeting, we decided to re-name the group the Maritime Group. At this venue apart from talks, we also had the first Maritime dinner to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the battle of Trafalgar with a guest speaker and some 60 members, all in period costume. The group's second dinner was based on the theme of the 'Mary Rose', one of our members was the guest speaker, and again some 70 members came in period costume.

In 2004 we also started Maritime themed holidays with the first one being to the south coast. Since then, we have had a further 14 such holidays, including to Scandinavia (two trips) and Belgium. One took us to Liverpool to see the 'Three Queens' which were all in the port at the same time. Our last Maritime themed holiday, in 2019, was to North Wales.

As numbers attending meetings increased, we moved to the Blackwater Sailing Club, and here we continue to have interesting speakers on various Maritime subjects; one talk was given by the Chief Officer of the 'Canberra' during the Falklands conflict, another was on sailing the world only using cargo ships. We also had a talk on the re-rigging of the Cutty Sark after the fire.

As a group we have had many very interesting day trips- to Felixstowe Docks, Shell Jet A1 Import Terminal on the Thames, Tilbury Docks, and Foxton Locks to name but a few, the latest being a visit to the Isle of Sheppey, as a group we continued to have Maritime dinners, with a further three being held at the Blackwater Sailing Club, all were well attended with members coming dressed for the occasion.

Since the group started, we have had over 250 meetings with a variety of speakers, some being our own u3a Members: five Maritime themed dinners, fifteen Maritime holidays, and numerous day trips.

Looking to the future, we continue to have a variety of speakers on various subjects, such as Maldon's link with the Battle of Trafalgar, HMS Belfast to name but a few.

Malcolm Case Group Coordinator

SOCIAL ORGANISING GROUP

A very enjoyable evening was had by 60 of our members on Tuesday 8th September at the Heybridge Sailing Club to recognise 25 years of our Maritime Group. We were entertained by the Mains'l Haul Shanty



Singers whilst we enjoyed an excellent two course supper.



Don't forget to reserve your place at our quiz afternoon on Thursday 22nd October- full details are on page 10 of this newsletter.

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.

COUNTRY DANCING

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

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

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

u3a Podcast

Written and produced by **u3a** members, the monthly **u3a** podcast can be accessed on all podcast platforms. The August episode is about the **u3a** Festival hosted in York, featuring interviews with Johnny Ball who opened the event, a member who plays in a steel band and a member who was a builder and had a career change into shoe design. Coming up in September is an interview with the Editor of **u3a** Matters magazine, discussing why gardening is so popular and going behind the scenes of the annual Jane Austen festival in Bath. More information about the podcast and how to listen is [available on the u3a website.](#)

FILM GROUP

Our recent meeting produced one of the rare occasions when we all agreed on the films under review:

Harriet – this is a 2019 biographical film based on the life of Harriet Tubman as played excellently by Cynthia Enrivo. We all thought this film was very good, well-acted by all the cast and gave an interesting and often troubling account of the lives of slaves during the 1800s in America. Harriet Tubman was certainly a powerful character and strong willed as she helped escaped slaves to freedom via the Underground Railway. Worth reading up on her story. Score: 9

The Life and Death of Peter Sellers – this 2014 biographical film about Seller's life is based on a book by Roger Lewis. Geoffrey Rush was excellent in the lead role and was ably supported by many well-known and recognisable actors. The film was rather strange in places where it seems Peter Sellers was inside the mind of another character, but the overall impression given was he was what could only be termed as "troubled" and not always a very pleasant person to be around. A turbulent life, a very complex man who only seemed to exist when acting a role. Score: 7

Next time:

Hattie – television film about the life of British comic actress Hattie Jacques, played by Ruth Jones, her marriage to John Le Mesurier (Robert Bathurst) and her affair with their lodger John Schofield (Aidan Turner).

The Last Bus – 2021 drama film starring Timothy Spall as an elderly gentleman who travels the length of the UK to scatter his late wife's ashes.

Available on BBC iPlayer.

Next meeting **Wednesday, 30th September, 7.30pm via Zoom.**

New members are welcome, please just get in touch.

Shirley Macro

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

STROLLERS

Our walk on **Sunday 16th August** did take place despite having reservations about it possibly being too hot to carry out. However, on the day, it did turn out to be somewhat cooler, although it was quite humid.



12 of us met at the New Times Restaurant in Tiptree, with the walk taking us through parts of Tiptree which most of us had not seen before. Part of the walk passed some of Wilkin's huge greenhouses where there were some very tempting strawberries growing, but no chance of getting to them (perhaps just as well!). We went through fields and woods, at the end of which we were hoping to see at least one or two red

kites. When a few of us tried the walk out some weeks ago we were fortunate enough to see many red kites swooping around but, unfortunately, we weren't lucky enough to see any this time. The route then took us on to Tolleshunt Knights, passing a low reservoir, which we thought may belong to the Wilkins family, and finally back to the New Times in Tiptree. Here we had a very enjoyable carvery and a good chat which I think was enjoyed by all.

Janet Morley

Our next Sunday Strollers Walk is on **Sunday 20th September, starting from The Star Inn, The Street, Steeple, CM0 7LF, please meet at 10:00 for a 10:30 start.**

Before setting off on the walk, we can order and pay for our lunch at the pub. Car parking is free and is at the rear of the pub.

The walk, of about 4.0 miles, is partly along tarmac roads, through Steeple Bay caravan park and then out along Mayland Creek and the River Blackwater, an estuary where oysters have been gathered for over a thousand years. As we make our way along, keep an eye out for wildlife, including flocks of dunlin and knot, along with curlew and redshank searching for food in the mud. The trail can be muddy at times, depending on weather conditions so care is needed with footing and appropriate footwear is required.

Highlights include wonderful views over the River Blackwater and a flat, easy-to-follow path.

Please let me know by **16th September** at the latest whether you will be on the walk and whether you will be staying for lunch.

Malcolm Case

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



JUST JAZZ

Our next meeting is **Monday 21st September** 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

CLIMATE CHANGE GROUP

Eight of us met in the Blue Boar Hotel and after a lively discussion we decided our objectives. They are : To learn; What we can do on an individual level; To lobby influential people.

Each month we will discuss a different subject and how it is being affected by climate change.

Our topic for August was transport. Malcolm gave an interesting talk on large cargo ships. He told us how much greenhouse gas and pollution these ships' large diesel engines cause. The industry has been making improvements to become cleaner. There are alternatives to diesel such as green ammonia, hydrogen, biofuel and liquid natural gas. Pat highlighted a scheme used in Austria, paid by monthly subscription, which encourages people to travel more by trains. For Britain a similar scheme could provide a simpler and cheaper fare system than the complicated one we have now.

We also asked as individuals what can we do? For example, flying less, driving less and slower all of which uses less fuel. How can we make our voices heard? We can write to our MPs about our concerns on climate change and what pressure can they place on the Government to act.

At our September meeting our topic of discussion was on health.

Pat Sheehy

If you would like to join our group, please contact:

Patrick Forsyth

Malcolm Case

We meet on the second Friday of each month in the Blue Boar Hotel, Maldon. £5.00 contribution to hire of the room which includes a drink and biscuits.

Our next meeting is on **Friday 9th October, 10.15.** when our topic will be Food Security.

AVIATION

Hello Everyone,

We open our autumn programme with our regular meeting on **Friday 25th September** at Woodham Mortimer Hall when we will continue the *Brooklands* theme and show 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!



In October we have an illustrated talk from Dave (Flash) Davies about the Marconi Photographic Dept from its inception in 1918 to 1994—Dave was the Marconi Company Photographer in its final years. With many ex-Marconi folks amongst our membership this will be of wide interest, and all are welcome.

In November we have a return of the SHOW & TELL event giving fellow members the opportunity to relay a story or bring along an item specific to them, their family or indeed anything with an Aviation theme that they would like to share.

As our meeting in November is so close to December and with pressure on

the diary for most, there will not be a December meeting.

Friday 25th September	Film - <i>Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines</i>
Friday 30th October	David (Flash) Davies 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.

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

CANASTA

We now have space 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 18th September**.

Anyone interested can call me

Iris Slaney

GRAPE EXPECTATIONS WINE GROUP

The first meeting of the Grape Expectations Wine group will be on **Wednesday 16th September**, at my house in Great Totham, then every 3rd Wednesday of the month.

For full details about this new group, please contact **Rob Church**

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.

We meet at Unit 2, Brickhouse Farm Community Centre, Poulton Close, Mundon Road on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. There is free parking. If you think that this is something that you would enjoy, please contact me Bob Adams

WRITING FOR FUN

This group has been running for many years, with members writing and reading both fiction and non fiction in a social atmosphere that always includes tea and biscuits. We have always avoided calling it Creative Writing as we do not want matters to be taken too seriously! We currently have room for a couple of new members and meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 10.30 am in members' houses.

Patrick Forsyth

FAMILY HISTORY

A new Family History group is in the process of starting. For more information or if you are interested in joining, please contact Malcolm Case, in the first instance.

ART APPRECIATION



On Wednesday 9th September 12 members of our group made a visit to Christchurch Mansion in Ipswich to see the John Constable exhibition celebrating 250 years since his birth. The exhibition contained over 40 of his works on loan from the National Gallery, The Tate and the V & A and included the famous Hay Wain.



The next meeting will be on
Wednesday 14th October at my house
in Hatfield Peverel.

Andy Simmonds
Judith Johnston

SPANISH CONVERSATION

The next meeting of our group will be **Friday 2nd October** from 2-4pm at my house in Hatfield Peverel. Caroline, our tutor, provides a basic level suitable for those with a limited knowledge of the language. We are a small, friendly group.

Please let me know if you would like to join us and I will provide directions. Please note that I have a small, friendly dog.

Hasta Luego!

Andy

YOUR COMMITTEE

Chairman	Theresa Byles	
Vice Chairman	Alec Fraser	alecfraseru3a@gmail.com
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	

GROUP COORDINATORS

Art Appreciation	Judith Johnston Andy Simmonds
Arts & Crafts	Bob Adams
Astronomy	Malcolm Case
Aviation	Chris Samson
Balti Night	Bob Gowers Graham Evans
Book Group	Patrick Forsyth
Bridge	Gill Cory
Canasta	Iris Slaney
Climate Change	Patrick Forsyth
Country Dancing	John Rogers
Cribbage	Pat Clements
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
Handicrafts	Marian Manning
	Brenda Heal
History— Royal Windsors	Kathy Goff
Just Jazz	Peter Condon
	David Coombes
Knitting & Crochet	Paula Jacobs
London Theatre Outings	Rosemary Case
	Sheila Childs
London Walks	Julie Lake
MahJong	Jane Rainbird
	Elaine Brady
Maritime	Malcolm Case
Meet & Eat	Joan Cummins
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 Group No. 4	Ann Goody
Wine Group -Grape Expectations	Rob Church
Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - OCTOBER 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
			Ten Pin Bowling Rummikub Pétanque German Conversation	Canasta Spanish Conversation		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Maritime	Guitar & Ukulele Engineering	Ten Pin Bowling Knitting \ Crochet Bridge Croquet Padel Tennis	Ten Pin Bowling Poetry for Fun Country Dancing Royal History Pétanque French Conversation	Climate Change Singing Mahjong		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Discussion Handicrafts	Arts & Crafts	Ten Pin Bowling Meet & Eat Art Appreciation Padel Tennis	Ten Pin Bowling Rummikub Pétanque German Conversation	Canasta		Strollers
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Monthly meeting Just Jazz	Guitar & Ukulele London Walks	Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Geology Wine Group	Ten Pin Bowling Country Dancing QUIZ Pétanque French Conversation	Singing Mahjong		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Astronomy	Strollers Wine Group	Padel Tennis Writing for Fun Film	THEATRE TRIP Ten Pin Bowling Pétanque	Cribbage Canasta Aviation		

Blue— Morning

Red—Afternoon

Purple— Evening

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