



Maldon and District

Newsletter



Sunday Strollers walk at Steeple

OCTOBER 2026

www.maldonu3a.co.uk

Registered Charity 1086182

OFFICIAL NOTICE

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

Monday 16th November 2026 at 2.00pm

by meeting at Wickham Bishops Village Hall

Closing date for nominations for members to join the Committee is Monday 19th October 2026. Members wishing to stand require the support of two other members of our u3a, who must be neither family members or 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 Monday 2nd November 2026.

Eligibility for Office and to vote – All fully paid up members for the year 2026/2027 are eligible to stand for the 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 should be sent to the Secretary :

Carol Bates

Maldon u3a Secretary

secretary_maldonu3a@outlook.com

FROM THE CHAIR

As I write this on a warm late September day, summer still feels with us, and it is perfect weather for our outdoor activity groups such as London Walks and Pétanque. Our other groups are back into the swing of meetings and activities.

I had a delightful lunch with the Meet and Eat group. As well as the expected comments on summer holidays and the weather, our conversation ranged from growing tomatoes to making cannonballs (armaments not peas); from the D Day landings memorial and exhibition to B&Bs in the 60s & 70s – so different to now. We also chatted about what it feels like to come on your own as a new member to your first monthly meeting. I came away from our lunch understanding that it can be a daunting experience. Your committee is doing all it can to improve this experience for our new members, but we also need the help of our established members. If you are at a meeting and do not know the members sitting beside you, please be sure to introduce yourself and say hello.

I passed on this same message to the members of our Royal History Group which I visited for the first time. What a friendly and relaxed bunch they are, and I left knowing more about George V and his Queen than I had ever learned at school. We all felt that his reign was a part of our history that was missed out of the school syllabus, but that George V should be given more recognition for what he achieved.

Learn, Laugh, Live – the strapline for the u3a. These groups are certainly fulfilling that.

STOP PRESS – we need two new members for our Committee, one to act as Secretary and the other to help generally. It is essential that these vacancies are filled. If you are willing to join our friendly committee, please get in touch with me and I can provide more information.

Theresa Byles
Chairman

WELCOME

Christina Abu-Helil	Jane Bushell	Shirley Turner	Janis Croom
Patricia Newman	Mike Beales	Charles Cooper	
Carolyn Godfrey	Phillip Closs	Sue Brotherton	
Janet Stiling	Alison Hunt	Ann Mortimer	

MONTHLY MEETING

Monday 16th November

Wickham Bishops Hall

Doors open at 1.15 for a 1.45 start

AGM

followed by a quiz from our own u3a member, Linda Allen

MONTHLY SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2026/27

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	Events leading to the Abdication of Edward VIII in December 1936 and the outcome for the Royal family
	<i>Steve Clarke</i>	
17th May 2027	The Wonders of Norway	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.
	<i>Joanne Larner</i>	
21st June 2027	Lighting the Fuse	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.
	<i>Lucy Lewis</i>	

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

Committee Secretary needed

Can you help your committee? We need a new member to act as our Committee Secretary, to make a record of the monthly committee meetings, send out the agendas, and undertake any necessary correspondence.

The Secretary, along with the Chairman and the Treasurer are the three officers which the Committee is required to have by law. Could you make this contribution to our branch? I am happy to chat with any member who wants more information.

Theresa Byles Chairman

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 3rd November**.

Kris Taylor Newsletter Editor news.maldonu3a@gmail.com

MARITIME

Monday 2nd November - Talk by Alison Mainwood on Tides. We all learnt at school (and perhaps in RYA courses) that tides are due to the attraction of the moon, and that spring tides occur when the attraction of the sun lines up with that of the moon. However, that raises as many questions as it answers. In this talk Alison will attempt to answer those questions and show some of the more extreme effects of the tides in other parts of the world.



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.

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

Visit to Copped Hall

On Friday 11th September 24 Maldon u3a members paid a visit to Copped Hall near Epping. Our tour had been arranged following a talk at our June general meeting by Philip McKinder, a Trustee.

Although we had heard about the renovations to this Georgian Mansion, we were all very surprised not only by the sheer scale of the work involved but the size of the property overall.

The Hall and parklands have passed through many hands since its origin in the 12th century. In Elizabethan times it is said that the first performance of 'A Midsummer's Night Dream' was performed in the Long Gallery for the wedding of the then owner, Sir Thomas Heneage, but by 1748 the house had fallen into disrepair and was demolished. Some of the original Elizabethan brickworks can still be seen in the extensive gardens. By 1758 a grand Georgian mansion had been built including a four-acre walled garden to grow fruit, flowers and vegetables.



In Victorian times not only were the house and stables extensively remodelled, but an extensive Italianate architectural garden was constructed to the west of the mansion which included temples and grand flights of steps. By 1900 there were at least 31 gardeners and 27 house servants looking after the Hall – together with all the farm workers. All this for a house that was only

lived in for a few months of the year.

During the war, in 1917, the main 18th century block was largely burnt out. It was never repaired and in 1952 it was sold and anything of any value was stripped from both the house and gardens.

Grape storage bottles !!

Once the M25, which took a corner from the parkland, was built it became a developer's dream. However, the



specialty formed Copped Hall Trust saved the mansion and gardens by purchasing these in 1995, and since 1998 the Trust has been supported in its work by a Friends organisation which now has over 1,000 members. From these members a very committed band of volunteers assists with the project.

During our visit we were able to see first hand the interior work that is underway on all three floors of the mansion and the vast kitchens and cellars.

Part of the extensive kitchen and scullery

If you haven't paid this magnificent site a visit make a point of adding it to your list of places to see. It's open for various events throughout the year, including Carol Concerts, details of which can be found on their website



[coppedhalltrust - Home](#)

Thanks to Brigitte Whiteing the photos

Kris Taylor

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.

Please note: At our general meeting on Monday 19th October we will have several items for sale on behalf of Farleigh Hospice.

Marian Manning

Brenda Heal

Macmillan Coffee Morning 2026

A very big thank you to everyone who came or donated to my coffee morning this year. **The total amount raised was £647.** A really great sum for a very worthwhile cause.

Thank you again.

Mary Burd

POETRY FOR FUN

The next meeting of the group is on **Thursday 12th November**, starting at 10:00 at Benton Hall Café, CM8 3LH. Our theme for this meeting is *Colours*. Several poets have written on this subject including Christina Rossetti and Sylvia Plath. We are a small but very friendly group who enjoy poetry reading followed by discussion on the what the poet was trying to say.

There is no charge for the meeting and refreshments can be purchased in the café if required.

Patrick Forsyth

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 September Walk had a different flavour to usual - Rock 'n Roll. We started outside the Dominion Theatre, where back in 1957, Bill Haley was the first person outside the U.S. to play R&R. On to Denmark Street to the Regent Sounds Studio where the Rolling Stones recorded their first album and where Phil Spectre, as an independent producer, arranged recordings and then used Decca to produce the vinyls. Nearly every building in the street has connections to the likes of the Beatles and Elton John. St Martin's School of Art (now repurposed as Foyles Bookshop) had students such as John Lennon, Bryan Ferry, Pete Townsend and Adam Ant, all becoming famous musicians. As such, the Arts School became the 'accidental uni of pop culture'.





The history of the old Saville Theatre in Shaftesbury Avenue, with its fascinating frieze, was interesting. Opened in 1930 it hosted plays and musicals throughout the 20th century, before being leased by Brian Epstein in 1965 and turned into a rock and pop concert hall having legendary performances from the likes of The Who, Cream, the Bee Gees, Jimi Hendrix and the Rolling Stones. The Beatles shot video clips at the Theatre, but in 1970 it was sold

to EMI who converted it into a cinema. It finally closed in 2024 and remains empty today.

Of course, blue plaques abounded as always! Syd Barrett, co-founder of Pink Floyd, lived to the age of 60, even though he had a life of substance abuse, like so many of the legends of the time.

Epstein's plaque in Monmouth Street, marking the first office he had before setting himself up in a 5-storey building in Argyll Street, reminded us of his life of addiction, struggling with being gay which was illegal, and leading to his untimely death at the age of 32. Even Monty Python has a blue plaque in Neal's Yard!



We ended our Walk behind the Savoy Hotel where Bob Dylan stayed in 1955 to make a video to match that made by the Beatles at the Plaza in New York. Amazingly, the Savoy have refused to have a blue plaque to Dylan mounted on their walls!

It was a great Walk led by Adam, who enhanced our enjoyment of the day by playing snippets of the Rock 'n' Roll era to take us back down memory lane.

Thanks to Bigitte Whiteing for the photos

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 4th November** 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 in your car registration at reception.

Our completed rugs will now be donated to dementia patients at Broomfield Hospital, and we'll be starting something new, as well as working on our own items.

Anybody who wants to learn a new skill; brush up a forgotten one; or find advice and encouragement creating something they've got to a difficult part of, is very welcome to join us.

Paula Jacobs

STROLLERS TOO

Twelve intrepid walkers gathered at the Village Hall, Terling on 22nd September, finding their way despite a road closure in Hatfield Peverell!

We walked over the ford bridge and on towards the Windmill where we stopped for a photo. Across the fields and onto part of the Essex way which took us into the village and a short walk to the footpath which led us back to our cars.



By this time the temperature had soared, and we were quite glad to get to the Duke of Wellington in Hatfield Peverel

for a very welcome drink and lunch. Nice to see Julie who joined us on her birthday. Thanks to everyone who attended making it a very enjoyable day.

Nicki Iszard

with thanks to Brenda Heal & John Thompsett for the photos



STROLLERS TOO

Our amble on **27th October** will start and finish at The Bell Inn, The Street, Feering, CO5 9QQ. Parking is available on The Street but, only on the opposite side of the road from The Bell as the side of the road beside The Bell is designated as a pedestrian footpath. We will meet at 10:15 for a 10:30 start.

I will forward photographs of the menus for your perusal prior to the walk and take a list of food requirements.

Please let me know if you are intending to walk and if you require lunch by **22nd October**.

David Griffiths

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

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



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.

There are a few places still available so book your tickets now.

Contact: Rosemary Case.

Payment preferred by BACS.

BALTI NIGHTS

The next curry night will be held on **Monday 26th October** arrival time 6:15pm at the **Bengal Nights Restaurant**, Heybridge Square, CM9 4LT. Car Parking is available at the rear of the restaurant.

Please note : We are now booking the restaurant for the last Monday in each month, except December.

To add your name to the list please contact:

Graham Evans

Bob Gowers

u3a Podcast Written and produced by u3a members, the monthly u3a podcast can be accessed on all podcast platforms. More information about the podcast and how to listen is [available on the u3a website.](#)

FILM GROUP

There were some slightly differing views of the films under review this time although both scored reasonably well.

Hattie – this is a 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 film focussed just on this part of her personal life and didn't include much about her acting career. Ruth Jones was good as Hattie, and Robert Bathurst gave a good performance as her husband, he played Sergeant Wilson in Dad's Army! The relationship between the three people involved was quite unsavoury and disturbing and rather sad, certainly quite an eye-opener with regards to their lifestyle. Interesting to watch, although not everyone enjoyed it. Score: 7

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. A sweet, if somewhat implausible story at times about an elderly gentleman who returns home to Land's End from John O'Groats travelling by bus, recreating the journey he took many years before with his wife. Timothy Spall was excellent in the role, as were the various supporting cast. It was easy to watch, had an interesting little twist but parts of it could have been developed more. Score: 8

Next time:

Wonder – 2017 coming-of-age family comedy drama film starring Julia Roberts, Owen Wilson, Jacob Tremblay, Mandy Patinkin and Daveed Diggs. The film follows a boy named August "Auggie" Pullman with Treacher Collins syndrome as he tries to fit in.

Available on BBC iPlayer for two months.

The 39 Steps -1935 British spy thriller directed by Alfred Hitchcock, starring Robert Donat and Madeleine Carroll. It is loosely based on the 1915 novel of the same title by John Buchan.

Available on BBC iPlayer for one month.

Next meeting **Wednesday 28th October** 7.30pm via Zoom.

New members welcome, please just get in touch.

Shirley Macro

PETANQUE

Why not come along and have a go, we play from 2.00pm until around 4.00pm 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, or when it's too cold or wet to play!

Contact:

Geoff Macro



STROLLERS

Our walk was planned to start and finish at The Star Inn, Steeple, followed by lunch at the pub. At 21:00 on Saturday 19th, I had a text from the pub to say that they were unable to provide lunch for us on Sunday due to lack of kitchen staff, this then had me phoning several local pubs to see if they could accommodate 15 for lunch the answer was - No. Following an email to all going on the walk, it was decided to continue with the walk as planned.

We met at The Star Inn at 10:00 on the 20th, where the Manageress had provided tea and coffee at no cost to ourselves, she also phoned a couple of local pubs and on our behalf arranged for us to have lunch at The Green Man in Bradwell. 16 of us then left the pub at 10:30 on a lovely sunny but breezy day for our walk. Turning left out of the pub car park we walked along The Street, passing the church, before turning right and going along Canney Road towards Steeple Bay Holiday Park. We walked through the park where there were several caravans (or perhaps it is better to call them smallish bungalows as they are large and well equipped), before coming out where Mayland Creek and the river Blackwater meet. We stopped here for a short break before continuing along the sea wall, it is this area where oysters have been gathered over the years. Continuing along the path we had hoped to see plenty of wildlife, such as flocks of Dunlin and Knot together with Curlew and Redshank, unfortunately there was very little wildlife to see. We turned off the sea wall and

crossed a bridge over a dried-up stream and walked south back towards the road and the pub, arriving there just after 12:30. 15 of us then went to The Green Man at Bradwell for lunch where the service was quick and excellent and the staff were very friendly and accommodating.

A lovely walk despite the initial problems with lunch.

Malcolm Case

GRAPE EXPECTATIONS WINE GROUP

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday **21st October @ 7:00pm** at my house in Great Totham.

The Taste of Spain - This tasting journey will showcase the breadth of Spanish winemaking—from crisp coastal Atlantic whites to rich, structured, oak-aged interior reds—using widely available bottles from across the UK high streets.

Your challenge will be to name the grape and/or region and approximate price of the wine. You can also reflect on the appearance, aroma, and palate and compare it against the marketing view.

A light supper will be served. *Cost of wines and food to be shared by attendees on the night. Cash only.*

Numbers are limited so please confirm your attendance, numbers and any dietary requirements ASAP.

Robert Church

GEOLOGY

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 21st October** at West Maldon Community Centre at 2pm when we will look at the Triassic and Jurassic Periods, over 200 million years ago, when there were massive extinctions and the emergence of dinosaurs. This will be quite a contrast to our meeting in September when we looked at Smart Phones made up of at least 14 minerals including 3 Rare Earths.

Interested new members are welcome to join us, with or without geological knowledge, for an afternoon of geology, tea and biscuits.

Sylvia Cousins

CLIMATE CHANGE GROUP

The subject for September was HEALTH. Paula gave a talk on the impact of increasing global temperatures on people's health which turns out to be far reaching.

Among the points highlighted were: -

Higher temperatures will cause higher death rates amongst the most vulnerable. A group that includes the over 65s, those with acute illnesses, children and pregnant women. It is known that more than 70,000 Europeans died as a result of the 2003 heat wave.

Medicines are degraded by heat and if a person is suffering from dehydration some medicines turn toxic in the body. Many common medicines need to be kept below 25C.

But the effect on medicines is not the only factor on health as parts of the world suffers drought and/or flooding.

More regions of the world will suffer longer droughts. Droughts reduces accessibility to clean drinking water forcing people to drink contaminated water risking diarrheal diseases. The lack of water produces poor cereal crops, and the cereal grains have lower protein and nutritional content.

Drier conditions increase wildfires bringing death and destruction to vital infrastructure. Large numbers of people must be evacuated, and their property can be destroyed or damaged. The smoke and soot from forest fires contribute to air pollution which affects people's lungs and is linked to asthma and bronchitis. Annually it causes 30 million deaths worldwide.

Conversely warmer air holds more water leading to more storms and increase flooding. Floods like fires cause death and injury and damages infrastructure including hospitals and medical centres. Again, drinking water can be contaminated resulting in cholera and typhoid.

By 2070 parts of the world will be become uninhabitable for life forcing people and animals to migrate to cooler areas. Animals will move closer to human habitation bringing their infections with them. With a warming climate disease carrying insects like ticks and mosquitos will be spreading to new areas.

Plans are needed for the future to reduce deaths and make life more comfortable. Modern buildings are designed to keep heat in, but could they be designed to be cooler in summer as well. This could include air conditioning but that needs energy which contribute to greenhouse gases. More green spaces would be beneficial particularly in urban areas.

(This summer the UK has had five heat waves resulting in poor harvests. Also, there were hosepipe bans, 19 homes were burnt down in Stourbridge and forest fires in Canada caused haze in Scotland.)

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

Patrick Forsyth
Malcolm Case

We meet on the second Friday of each month at the Blue Boar Hotel, Maldon.

Our next meeting is on **13th November** at 10.15 when we will be showing a DVD on Potential Technologies.

£5.00 contribution to hire the room plus a drink and biscuits.

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 13th November**. Anyone interested please call me.

JUST JAZZ

Our next meeting is **Monday 19th October** from 7.30 – 9.30pm in the Little Ship Club, Hythe Quay, Maldon. This month we will be joined by our own Guitar & Ukulele Group who will be playing a selection of melodies.

The bar will be open so pop in for a drink, listen to some music and chat. We look forward to seeing you.

Pete Condon David Coombes

AVIATION

Hello Everyone,

September has been a busy month for the Aviation Group as a some of our number made the long journey to East Kirkby airfield Lincs, the site of RAF East Kirkby, home to 57 and 630 squadrons during the dangerous years of 1942 to 1945.

At our regular meeting on Friday 25th September at W-M Hall we relived the



early days of flying with the superb film ***Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines*** made in 1965 and so evocative of those times.



Behind the scenes of the famous film and a link to the same subject provided by one of the group members.



https://youtu.be/PHtWzsQb_M4?si=O7oA7dJ9QggXyu_z

This month, on **Friday 30th October**, we have an illustrated talk from Dave (Flash) Davies about the Marconi photographic department 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.

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.

Coming up on **22nd October** at 2.00pm is a u3a Zoom talk by Don Mobley entitled **The US Constitution vs unitary executive power.**

Don is one of the co-coordinators of the National Aviation Group called "Flight Inspirations" that meets over Zoom on the first Tuesday of the month. This particular talk is not related to Aviation, but it is a reminder of the importance of the Midterm Elections within the framework of the US Constitution in providing one of the "checks & balances" envisaged by the Founding Fathers way back in the 18th century.

We can all learn from Don's unique knowledge and approach to the subject and like it or not, what happens across the Atlantic effects all of us on this continent.

To join go to https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-us-constitution-vs-unitary-executive-power-tickets-1999390233009?aff=oddttdcreator&keep_tld=true

Don is repeating this talk for Flight Inspirations on **Tuesday 3rd November** at 10am by Zoom. Contact me for the link.

Moving forward in November there is a Remembrance Day Parade and gathering at Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome on **Sunday 8th November.**

Although this is a ticketed event, access is free, for details and how to book tickets go to

<https://www.stowmaries.org.uk/event/stow-maries-great-war-aerodrome-remembrance-parade-2026-1968705085908>.

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.

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

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

SPANISH CONVERSATION FOR FUN

The next meeting of our group will be **Friday 6th November** 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, but intermediate speakers can also be catered for. 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 Simmonds

COUNTRY DANCING

Country Dancing restarted in September. It will continue the 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings of the month from 10.00, at Langford Village Hall.

John Rogers

ART APPRECIATION

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 11th November** at my house in Hatfield Peverel when we will be continuing with further episodes on Art in the New York Metropolitan Museum

Andy

Andy Simmonds

Judith Johnston

ROYAL HISTORY

Our next meeting is **Thursday 12th November** 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

u3a 2027 diaries are available from the u3a Brand shop at £9.00 each.

[Shop – u3a – Brand Shop](#)

ASTRONOMY

The next meeting of the Astronomy group is on **Monday 26th October**, starting at 7:30pm at the Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge, Maldon for a talk on “Dark Matter and Dark Energy”, and if weather conditions allow then we will also be night sky observing.



Orionid Meteor Shower: Active through early November, the remnants of Halley's Comet continue to streak across the late-night and pre-dawn hours

Saturn remains a bright, steady evening object visible for much of the night.

Jupiter and **Mars** rise during the early morning hours before dawn.



Autumn Constellations: Prominent overhead includes Pegasus, Aquarius, and Pisces, while the Summer Triangle (Vega, Deneb, and Altair) shifts lower toward the western horizon.

The Pleiades and Taurus: The Seven Sisters star cluster and the red giant star Aldebaran climb higher in the eastern sky during the mid-to-late evening.

We are a small but very friendly group of amateur astronomers, and we welcome new members to join the group.

Malcolm Case

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 at 10.00am. There is free parking. If you think that this is something that you would enjoy, please contact me, Bob Adams.

GUITAR & UKULELE GROUP



Our group, Strings Attached, joined with the Braintree u3a ukulele band and Vocal Reflections choir for a concert in Great Leighs that raised £663.80 for charity

And an advanced notice: the group will be playing at the Little Ship Club, Hythe Quay on **Monday 19th October** from 7.30 – 9.30pm. Come along and listen and maybe join in the singing!

Steve Collis

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.

PUBLICITY – Facebook

Our social media is going well on Facebook with our following up to 138. 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.

CLIMATE CHANGE GROUP

Our Climate Change group are suggesting that we collect medication Blister Packs for re-cycling. There will be a box available at our monthly meetings at Wickham Bishops village Hall, so please bring your empty blister packs and put them in the box, we will then send them for re-cycling which is better than just putting them in your refuse bin, the contents of which go to land fill sites.

Event next year

Mountbatten Festival of Music featuring the Massed Bands of the Royal Marines at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday 13th March 2027 at 2pm.

Members who are interested in a trip to this spectacular event please get in touch with Malcolm Case by the end of November. If there is sufficient interest it may be possible to arrange coach travel.

Malcolm Case

Free online talks, workshops and courses

u3a members can access a wide range of free online talks, workshops and courses through their membership. Most sessions are led by fellow members, sharing their expertise, with additional talks from notable speakers and organisations.

All events are bookable via Eventbrite. Please ensure you can attend when booking and cancel if you're unable to make it so others can participate. Events are exclusively for u3a members. Sign up to our events mailing to get our monthly online events straight to your inbox.

[u3a - Online learning events](#)

This month's topics range from The World of David Hockney to The History of Pirate Radio to Laughter Yoga and many others.

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
Facebook 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 - NOVEMBER 2026

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

Blue— Morning

Red—Afternoon

Purple— Evening

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