

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

Maldon and District

Newsletter



September 2023

www.maldonu3a.co.uk

Registered Charity 1086182

FROM THE CHAIR

At our August meeting we learnt about life in a Turkish village from some thirty years ago. All seemed very basic but in accordance with local culture. Not the village for today's holidays on the coast but inland and perhaps behind the times with traditional farming methods and a strong community spirit. For the nostalgic, it all sounded ideal. The Turkish goods aroused a lot of interest and sales went well providing a contribution to our funds.



The subject at our next meeting will be the Gibberd Garden. Something very different to look forward to and there should be some superb slides.

On 16th October, Julie Miller will be talking about the Combined Military Services Museum. This introduces a local element into our schedule of talks and I am keen to see the cold war era gadgets used by spies – presumably safely de-commissioned.

The 16th October is also our AGM, which I am told should only take a few minutes. However, at the risk of repeating myself, we do not have replacements for either our Secretary or Treasurer. The meeting may take a little longer as we may need to re-arrange the responsibilities of existing Committee members and carry out our own version of a Cabinet reshuffle.

Ken Hazell



OFFICIAL NOTICE

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

Monday 16th October 2023 at 2:00 pm

by meeting at Wickham Bishops Village Hall.

Any items that you wish to be included on the Agenda must be notified to the Business Secretary by no later than **1st October 2023**. The decision to proceed with the AGM has been taken, following Charity Commission guidelines, to allow us to complete the Annual Return on time.

Eligibility for office and to vote – All fully paid-up members for the year 2023/2024 are eligible to stand for Committee, and to vote; except under the terms of our Constitution, where only one member from any one household shall serve on the Committee at one time.

Carol Bates Business Secretary



WELCOME

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Linda Brooks Paul Brooks Geoffrey Hurst Brian Arney

Jill Bartram Clive Bartram Sylvia Benstead

Muriel Clarke Steven Clarke

URGENT – Maldon u3a Committee Vacancies

Our Treasurer and Secretary complete their 3 year term at the AGM in October 2023 and we are looking for new members to join the committee in these key roles.

From the Treasurer, Geoff Cory:

In October this year my 3 year term as Treasurer finishes, consequently a replacement is needed to step up and take over this essential function to ensure the continued future of the Maldon u3a.

A finance or accounting background is definitely not required, just a willingness to help.

Please contact Geoff Cory if you feel you can help your u3a.

Carol Bates, our Secretary, is also standing down at the AGM.

Please contact Carol for more details of what is involved.



MONTHLY MEETING

Monday 16th October 2023

Wickham Bishops Hall Doors open at 1:30 for 1:45 start.

Tea & coffee are available prior to the start of the meeting.

AGM

Followed by:

***The Combined Military Services
Museum - One man's obsession***

Speaker: Julie Miller

Curator and historian Julie will be giving a talk on the background of the creation of the Combined Military Services Museum in Maldon, and taking a look at some of the special pieces from the collection. A journey covering 1000 years of history through objects ranging from a Viking sword, to Jacobean armour and the gadgets of Cold War spies.

The museum houses one of the finest collections of operational spy equipment in the world, and the only surviving Cockle Mk 2 Canoe from Operation Franckton, one of the most daring and dangerous missions of WW2.

Please remember your Membership Card

MONTHLY SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2023/24

<p>20th November</p>	<p>Patrick Forsyth</p>	<p>Unaccustomed as I Am . . .</p> <p>Patrick has spoken widely on the pitfalls and (occasional) joys of public speaking. Standing up to speak in public can be difficult, challenging, maybe even frightening, yet with a few tricks of the trade it can be fun too, or should that be funny?</p>
<p>18th December</p>	<p>Christmas festivities</p>	<p>Musical entertainment by the MUGS, Maldon Ukelele Group, plus lots more festivities and cake!</p>
<p>15th January</p>	<p>Liz Huxley</p>	<p>Essex Coastal Marshes in Winter</p> <p>Liz is a keen bird watcher and wildlife photographer. She has worked for the Essex Wildlife Trust for 15 years at Abberton Reservoir. She also leads guided walks.</p>
<p>19th February</p>		<p>Easton Lodge</p> <p>The talk covers the history of Easton Lodge, including the life of the Countess of Warwick , the WW2 airfield adjoining the gardens and the work of the Trust in restoring the gardens.</p>

If you know of any speakers that you can recommend please contact the Speaker Secretary. Theresa Byles

SOCIAL ORGANISING GROUP

PRESENTS AN EVENING OF COCKNEY FUN AND NOSTALGIA
WITH



BE PREPARED FOR A SING-ALONG AND KNEES-UP

TUESDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 6.30 FOR 7.00 until 10.00

at MALDON TOWN HALL

A supper choice of – chicken, fish or veggie burger and
chips, dessert and coffee/tea

Tickets £16 per member

Please bring your own plate, bowl, knife, fork, spoon and cup plus your
own drinks and glasses

Rosemary Case

MARITIME GROUP

Visit to Foxton Locks near Market Harborough

On Monday 7th August the Maritime Group visited Foxton

Locks and Incline Plane. After an excellent journey with a very pleasant coach driver, we arrived at the Locks at 11:15, and made our way to the Foxton Locks Inn where our pre ordered lunch was waiting for us. This pub is right alongside the Grand Union Canal, and provided a view of several moored canal boats.



After lunch our guides arrived, and we were split into groups for our guided tour. Our guides were very informative, providing lots

of facts about the canal, the locks, why they were built and when. On average it takes a canal boat 45 minutes to go through, and we did see one narrow boat start its ascent through the system. The completion and opening of the locks in 1814 meant that, for the first time, boats and their cargos could travel from the River Thames at Brentford to the East Midlands.

The locks sit in 34 acres of natural green space and are the longest, steepest staircase flight of locks in the UK consisting of 10 individual

locks which raise/lower canal boats a massive 75ft. The entire site is maintained to a very high standard, by a willing band of volunteers. At the top of the locks is the old Lock Keeper's cottage, now used as the



Canal & River Trust offices together with a small café and shop.

Our visit also included the canal museum, which is run by the Foxton Incline Plane Trust. This museum building was originally the boiler house for the incline plane boat lift, with the , now defunct winding gear for the lift on the top of the building. The museum is full of canal artifacts but also has displays showing how the incline plane caisson boat lift operated.

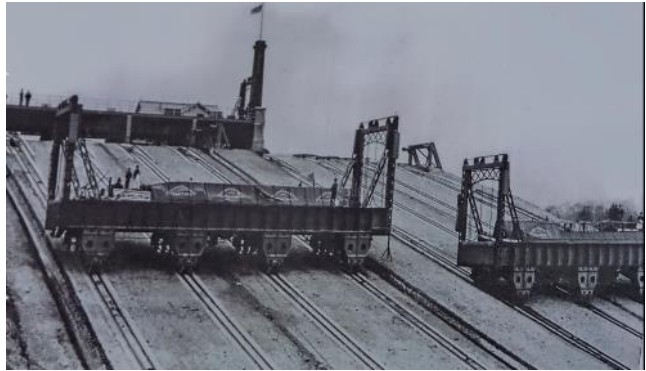


We also visited the top of the old incline plane and could see the iron tracks on which the caissons ,which were full of water and a canal boat, weighing around 250 tons, operated.

The incline plane slope is 1 in 4 and this together with the weight of the caissons only required a 25 HP engine to raise/lower them from the bottom to the top and vice versa and only took about 12 minutes. It opened in 1900, but with the decline



in traffic ,amongst other factors, it ceased operation in 1911 and all canal traffic went back to using the set of locks alongside it.



Winter was a difficult time. If the canal froze, boats could no longer use it and this meant lost trade for canal companies. Special iron-hulled boats like this one, crewed by up to 15 men, and pulled by up to 12 horses were stationed along the canal. Crews rocked the boat from side to side to break ice up to an inch thick, keeping the canal open.

After our guided visit we returned to the Foxton Locks Inn for tea and cake before departing at 4:00 pm for a very good return journey, arriving back in Maldon at 6:30 pm.

Malcolm Case

MARITIME GROUP Programme

The next meeting of the Maritime group will be on Monday 2nd October at 10:00 at the Blackwater Sailing Club, Basin Road, Heybridge Basin, Maldon – for a talk by John Rayment on the further restoration and updates on the Thames sailing barge **Pudge**. John last gave a talk about this barge in December 2021, so this update will give very interesting details of its progress.



u3a members are very welcome to come to the meeting.

Malcolm Case

MARITIME GROUP Programme contd.

Mon 6th November

Talk by John Pomfrett on the City of Lakes and Rivers: waterways in and around Berlin. Following a brief introduction to the early, largely natural, river navigations that served Berlin from its founding in the 13th century, this talk traces the development of the canals and river navigations around Berlin, from the early canals of the 17th century, through the peak of expansion in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, to the final completion of the Mittellandkanal in 2003, following the reunification of Germany. Having set the scene, we then take a tour along the present day waterway system, starting with the complex network of waterways within the city, then looking at the links to the Baltic, the Elbe and the Rhein and upstream to the unique waterways of the Spreewald. We will see ports and palaces, locks, lakes and a lido, old and new boat lifts and many other points of interest in and around this fascinating city.

Mon 4th December

Talk by Simon Stephens of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich on model boat building for the Museum. Followed by discussions on our 2024 programme and some Christmas cheer.

ASTRONOMY GROUP

The next meeting of the group is Monday 25th September at 7:30pm at Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge CM9 4RE.

Weather permitting, we will be night sky observing. Saturn will be visible, rising in the south east, Jupiter will be visible



around the middle of the month, Mars

should be visible just below the Pleiades star cluster and, with a good astronomy

telescope, the Andromeda galaxy will be visible.



u3a members are very welcome to come to the meeting.



Malcolm Case

THE BIG BALTI

The next curry night will be held on Monday 25th September at the Bulti Bhujon restaurant, Mill Road, Maldon. 6.30ish start.

To add your name to the list please contact:

Graham Evans

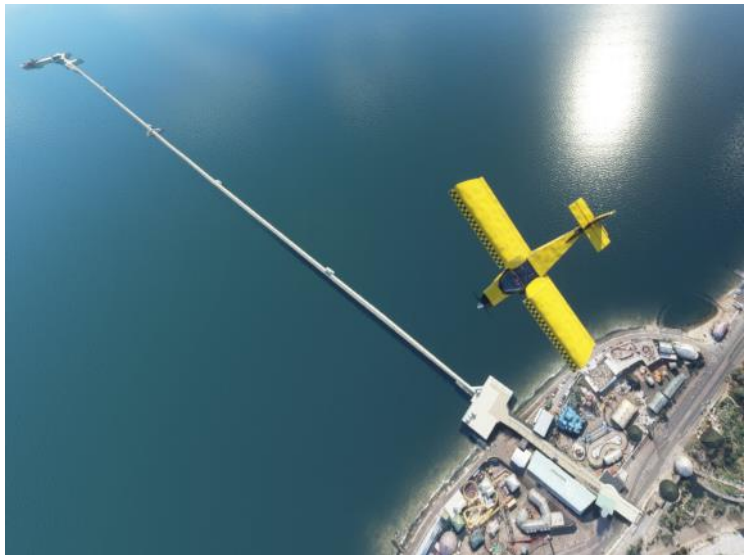
Bob Gowers

AVIATION GROUP

Our inaugural flight simulator experience flight on Zoom took place in the late August evening sunshine with about 20 attendees at its peak.

Owing to pilot error in trying to land an ultra-light aircraft in a 10-knot cross wind on the remains of the Bradwell runway, we had to restart from Southend —at least that demonstrates the benefit of simulation rather than the real thing!

Image shows us over Adventure Island at Southend pier head.



I hope to widen this activity through the winter months by flying to some warmer, brighter climes!

Suggestions are invited for places to visit.

On Friday 29th September we are visiting Stow Maries Great War Museum, meeting in the car park at 10.30 in time for coffee etc before joining a guided tour at 11.30.

Check out <https://www.stowmaries.org.uk/>

Please could members let me know if they intend to come along so that I can advise the Stow guides and catering volunteers of the likely

numbers, especially as we will be joined by others from our cluster group, and the East of England Aviation group.

Please display your u3a membership card lanyard if possible.

The programme for the remainder of this year is:

Friday 29th September Visit to Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome. Independent travel to SM and meet in the car park at 10.30. There is an entry fee of £7 per person. Guided tour starts at 11.30. Refreshments are available on site.

Friday 27th October Danbury Cricket Pavilion – illustrated **talk** by fellow member David Gillespie on his flight of a lifetime in the restored Canadian Lancaster.

Friday 24th November Grand **film** event. Tom Cruise in *Maverick*. Popcorn and ice cream served in the interval!!

Friday 15th December End of year social **lunch** at the Airmen's Mess Cafe, Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome., meet in the Stow car park at 11.30.

Chris Samson

MAH-JONG

Mah-Jong has vacancies for new members. We are a small , very friendly group., that meet every other Friday in the Linton Room, West Maldon Community Centre, 2pm-4pm.

If you haven't played Mah -Jong before we are very happy to teach you.

Our next meeting is Friday 29th September.

For more information, please contact Mags Pell.

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Our next meeting is on Monday 25th September when we will continue our walk down Maldon High Street, finishing at the Hythe and St. Mary's Church. Please meet at 2p.m. on the corner just east of the Rose and Crown by *Maldon Spice*, where Butt Lane meets the High Street.

There is no need to book.

We will return to the Town Hall for our Winter talks from October.

Our next meeting at the Town Hall is on Monday 23rd October at 2p.m. when we will have a talk by Patrick Chaplin entitled—*A brief history of Maldon's Inns, Alehouses and Breweries*.

This will follow on nicely from our Maldon walks, where we noticed there had been a large number of pubs over the years, some still flourishing and some long gone.

The second edition of Ken Stubbings' book, *Here's Good Luck to the Pint Pot* has been updated, expanded and carefully revisited by Patrick, who will be able to give us an in depth view of Maldon's pubs and the people who ran them.

Meanwhile we look forward to seeing you for our walk on 25th September, where you could be tempted to "a quick half" as we pass the many pubs enroute to the Hythe!!

Kathy and Sylvia

You in
your 3rd
age

ROYAL HISTORY GROUP

Our next meeting is on Thursday 12th October at 10.00 in the West Maldon Community Centre.

Following our completion of the Georgian era, we will be moving on to discuss society and culture in the reign of Queen Victoria., both in the UK and worldwide..

Kathy Goff



PLUME LIBRARY LECTURE

The annual Plume Library lecture will be held on 16th September at the Town Hall, Maldon at 7p.m.

Doors will open at 6.30pm. and admission is FREE.

Please note the change of venue for this year's lecture.

The talk will be given by Professor Adam Smyth from Oxford University and is entitled:

Material texts in early modern England: the case of waste paper

and will explore how 16th and 17th Century books were stranger and richer things than scholars have imagined.

All are welcome especially those interested in the history of books, bookbinding and literature.

FILM GROUP

There was no August meeting, so our films continue with:

Mr. Jones A 2019 biographical thriller starring James Norton, Vanessa Kirby and Peter Sarsgaard. The film loosely tells the story of Gareth Jones who, in 1933, travels to the Soviet Union and uncovers the truth about the Holodomor, the devastating man-made famine in Ukraine in which millions died.

12 Monkeys is a 1995 American science fiction film directed by Terry Gilliam and starring Bruce Willis, Madeleine Stowe and Brad Pitt, with Christopher Plummer and David Morse in supporting roles. Set in a post-apocalyptic future devastated by an unknown disease, a convict (Willis) is sent back in time to investigate its origin.

Both films are showing on BBC iPlayer for over a year.

Our next meeting is Wednesday 27th September. If you would like to join please get in touch.

Shirley Macro,

JUST JAZZ GROUP

David and I are most grateful for the new jazz fans that came to our meeting in August, and hope that we will carry on for the remainder of the year.

Our next meeting is 18th September, 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

ART APPRECIATION GROUP

On 16th August we revisited the Fry Gallery in picturesque Saffron Walden to view many of the Bardfield Group paintings by artists such as Eric Ravilious and Edward Bawden.



On Wednesday 13th September we will be indoors again, at a members house, to see a film from the Great Courses collection. We will start with a visit to the National Gallery in London, then off to Florence !

Please let Judith or myself know if you wish to attend.

Our meeting in October will be on Wednesday 11th. Further details will be available in due course.

Andy

Judith Johnston


The Silver Line
helpline for older people

The Silver Line is the only free confidential helpline providing information, friendship and advice to older people, open 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

0800 4 70 80 90 www.thesilverline.org.uk

GERMAN CONVERSATION

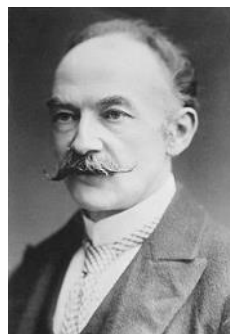
Our meetings are held on alternate Tuesdays at my house in Wickham Bishops. The next meeting is 2–4pm on 19th September.

Howard Bainbridge

POETRY GROUP

The next meeting of the group is on Thursday 5th October, at 2.00 pm at a members house.

The poet for discussion is Thomas Hardy, an English novelist and poet. (2 June 1840 – 11 January 1928). A Victorian realist in the tradition of George Eliot, he was influenced both in his novels and in his poetry by Romanticism, including the poetry of William Wordsworth. He was highly critical of much in Victorian society, especially on the declining status of rural people in Britain, such as those from his native SW England.



u3a members are very welcome to join the group.

Jo Robson

Well once again the year marches on and it's time for my annual coffee morning held on the national event day, **Friday 29th September**.



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

Since I began holding these events in Maldon in 2002, with your help we have raised £8445. Hopefully, we can have an enjoyable morning get together and again help a very worthwhile cause.



I look forward to seeing many of you ,but if you are unable to attend I can send you a link to donate on line as all donations are very welcome.

Please email me to book in.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Mary Burd



If you are unable to make it to Mary's gathering, the Mayor is also holding a Macmillan Coffee Morning in the Town Hall, Market Hill between 10am and 12 noon on Friday 29th September

STROLLERS TOO

The Strollers Too walk on Tuesday 26th September will be from the Western Arms pub in Western Road, Silver End, CM8 3SD. Cars can be parked in the pub car park. <http://www.westernarms.co.uk>

The walk be just less than 4 miles and will include woodland, meadows, lake, open fields and very little road walking.

Please meet at 10.15 for a 10.30 start, and please let us know by Monday 18th September if you intend to walk and if you would like lunch.

Val and John Stealey

STROLLERS SUNDAY

Our next walk on Sunday 15th October will meet at the Prince of Wales pub, Stow Maries, CM3 6SA.

Please meet at 10.15 for a 10.30 start. Our walk will take us up the hill towards the aerodrome. At the top of the hill there is an impressive view of all the vineyards that have been planted in this flourishing wine growing area. After walking alongside the aerodrome we will come back down to the Prince of Wales for lunch.

Kym Marshall

u3a 2024 diaries will be available at September's monthly meeting. They will be £4.00 each and the layout is week to view with note space.

[Carol Bates](#)

GARDEN GROUP



There are no organised garden visits at present however, Beeleigh Abbey has another open day on Friday 22nd September from 10.30—4.30 pm. Entry is £7 and there is free parking. Refreshments are available.

The three acres of garden are surrounded by mature trees which on the northern boundary give way to a tidal stretch of the River Chelmer. Within this area, a range of different individual gardens and water features can be found.



September should see the roses putting on another great display and it's harvest time in the kitchen garden and orchard.

Theresa Byles

TENPIN BOWLING

A member of one of our Tenpin Bowling groups said that what they liked about our meets is that when people are not actually taking their turn everyone is friendly, chatting and smiling. The bowling, although it is good exercise, is not the main reason for coming. In fact, when the group was originally envisaged more than 20 years ago it was as a social group to meet for coffee with the bowling an added extra. A good morning is not necessarily a high score, but did you enjoy yourself?

We play every Wednesday and Thursday morning from 10.00 – 12 noon at Madison Heights, Park Drive, Maldon.

If you are interested, please contact us.

David Arnold

David Coombes



BIRD WATCHING GROUP

8th October	Walton on the Naze	Meet in Naze Tower car park
4th November	Two Tree Island, Leigh-on-Sea	Meet in car park
3rd December	Maldon promenade	Meet by Rossi's ice cream kiosk

All rendezvous times 10.00 unless otherwise stated.

For full locations details or car share requests please contact:

Peter Gaywood

Michael Bagshaw

September's Visit to Bradwell

We may be in the season of mellow mists and fruitfulness, but it turned out to be the hottest day of the year when eight members visited Bradwell on September 9th, so we were glad to spend a little time in the cool stone surrounds of the 7thC St Peter's chapel before heading out onto the sea wall.

Autumn is a time of change for our bird life as summer visitors head south and over-wintering waders and wildfowl return from northern breeding grounds, some in the Arctic Circle, to find food and shelter in our marsh and estuary habitats.

One of the first birds to attract our attention was a little egret, a species of small heron. Once a rare visitor from the Mediterranean, this white bird with black beak and legs is now a common sight around the coasts of southern England and Wales.

Then there were a few oystercatchers, something of a misnomer as they do not eat oysters but other shellfish, especially mussels, cockles and limpets. These distinctive black and white waders with red bill and legs are amongst our longest-living birds in the wild, with one clocking up an impressive 25 years.

Back from inland breeding grounds to winter on the coast was a curlew, our largest wader. With streaky brown plumage and long downward curving bill, the bird gets its name from its lonely sounding call.

Looking inland from the sea wall, we were pleased to see a flock – or charm – of goldfinches. Smaller than a sparrow, adults have red faces and vivid yellow bars on black wings. Goldfinches were popular cage birds with 132,000 being caught in a year near Worthing. Trapping is now illegal in Britain, but continues in parts of Europe. Many migrate to Europe for the winter. Their favourite food is thistle seeds which they reach with long thin bills.

Mike Bagshaw

YOUR COMMITTEE

Chairman	Ken Hazell
Vice Chairman	Theresa Byles
Secretary	Carol Bates
Treasurer	Geoff Cory
Membership Secretary	Malcolm Case
Newsletter Editor	Kris Taylor
Speaker Secretary	Theresa Byles
Groups Co-ordinator	Malcolm Case
Committee	Alec Fraser Tony Groves Andrew Simmonds
Webmaster	Tony Groves
Social Group	Michael Childs

Contact the u3a Office

u3a

**156 Blackfriars Road
London, UK SE1 8EN**

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

Tel: 020 8466 6139

Email: info@u3a.org.uk

www.u3a.org.uk

Deadline for next newsletter: 3rd October 2023

CO-ORDINATORS

Art Appreciation	Judith Johnston Andy Simmonds	London Theatre Outings	Rosemary Case Sheila Childs
Aviation	Chris Samson	Meet & Eat	Joan Cummins
Astronomy	Malcolm Case	Mah-Jong	Mags Pell
Balti Night	Bob Gowers Graham Evans	Maritime	Malcolm Case
Bird Watching	Peter Gaywood Michael Bagshaw	Music Appreciation	tba
Bridge	Gill Cory	Padel Tennis	Ken Hazell
Canasta	Iris Slaney	Petanque (Boules)	Jack Veash Geoff Macro
Cribbage	Pat Clements	Photography	Tony Groves
Croquet	Geoff Macro Shirley Macro	Poetry	Jo Robson
Discussion	Pat Jones	Reading	tba
Film Club	Shirley Macro	Rummikub	Janice Martin
French Conversation	Ann Lester	Scottish Country Dancing	Diana Rogers
Garden Visits	Theresa Byles Kris Taylor	Sing for Pleasure	Sue Garnham
Geology	Sylvia Cousins	Strollers Sunday & Tuesday Group	Malcolm Case
German	Howard Broadbridge	Tenpin Bowling	David Arnold
Handicraft	Marian Manning Brenda Heal	Wine Circle No. 2	Graham Boswell
History—Victorians	Kathy Goff	Wine Circle No. 3	Mary Burd
Just Jazz	Peter Condon David Coombes	Wine Circle No. 4	Ann Goody
Local History	Sylvia Cousins Kathy Goff	Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth

Comment on ***“Third Age Matters”***

via Patrick Forsyth

third age
matters u3a

Schedule of Events - October 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
						1
2 Maritime Talk on the restoration of the sailing barge <i>Pudge</i>	3 German	4 Bridge Croquet Padel Tennis Ten Pin Bowling	5 Poetry Petanque Rummikub Ten Pin Bowling	6	7	8 Bird Watching Walton on the Naze
9 Discussion Handicrafts	10	11 Meet & Eat Padel Tennis Ten Pin Bowling Art Appreciation	12 Royal History-Victorians Petanque Ten Pin Bowling Scottish Dancing	13 Mahjong Canasta Singing	14	15 Strollers Stow Maries Walk
16 Monthly Meeting AGM The Combines Military Services Museum Just Jazz	17 German	18 Bridge Croquet Geology Padel Tennis Photography Ten Pin Bowling	19 Petanque Rummikub Ten Pin Bowling	20	21	22
23 Astronomy Local History	24 Strollers Too Silver End walk	25 Film Padel Tennis Ten Pin Bowling Wine Group Writing	26 Music Appreciation Petanque Ten Pin Bowling Wine Group Scottish Dancing	27 Aviation-Danbury Cricket Pav Cribbage Mahjong Canasta Reading Singing	28	29
30	31 German					

Schedule correct at time of publication - please confirm dates with co-ordinators