



Maldon and District

# Newsletter



Photo - Kris Taylor

**November 2023**

[www.maldonu3a.co.uk](http://www.maldonu3a.co.uk)

Registered Charity 1086182

## FROM THE CHAIR

Thank you to all who attended the AGM, which went smoothly and saw a few changes in our committee.

Julie Miller's enlightening talk that followed contained some very unexpected snippets of information and aroused a lot of interest in visiting the Combined Military Services Museum in Maldon.

Having completed my first year of office as we now move into my second year, I am wondering what can be achieved this year. We could, of course, sail smoothly through the year maintaining everything much the same as last year. However, perhaps we should be considering how our u3a could or should develop. It is easy to look back with a sense of nostalgia, but any worthwhile organisation surely needs to be forward looking.

An increase in membership could bring new ideas and new energy to our Groups and quite possibly result in the creation of new Groups.

Any member can form a new Group and our Group Coordinator, or any member of the Committee will be very willing to give help and guidance. It could be that a viable Group may need to recruit members from our cluster u3as.

If you have ideas for our development, then I will be very happy to receive them and see how they can be progressed. I would welcome ideas by e-mail to Ken Hazell.



## WELCOME

A warm welcome to our new members

Liz Fisher   Sue Walton   Lorna Burns   Peter Gunner

Carole Keil   Jacqueline Savill   Julie Gunner

## FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you for contributions, please keep them coming and don't forget to include your photographs.

Kris

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

0800 4708090   [www.thesilverline.org.uk](http://www.thesilverline.org.uk)

The Silver Line  
helpline for older people

## Maldon u3a Committee 2023/24



Ken Hazell  
*Chairman*



Alec Fraser  
*Vice-Chairman*



Steven Clarke  
*Treasurer*



Malcolm Case  
*Membership Sec.  
Groups Coordinator*



Theresa Byles  
*Secretary  
Speaker Secretary*



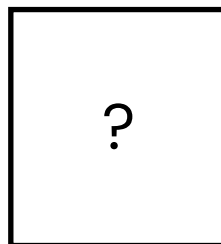
Kris Taylor  
*Newsletter Editor*



Andy Simmonds



Carol Bates



We would like to thank Geoff Cory, our recently retired Treasurer, for his excellent contribution over the past three years and wish him well for the future.

And we offer a very warm welcome to Steven Clarke, our new Treasurer.

Steven trained as a Chartered Accountant and became a partner in a city firm, dealing with Audit, Accounts and Taxation. Latterly he specialised in financial software and for the last 10 years managed IT and software at Ernest Doe & Sons in Ulting. He is married and lives in Wickham Bishops. Now retired his hobbies include gardening and badminton.

## SITUATIONS VACANT

### **Committee members**

We are still looking for volunteers to join our Committee. Would you be willing to spend a couple of hours a month to attend Committee Meetings and to assist at Monthly Meetings ?

### **Publicity Officer**

Can you help us to spread the word about our u3a? Would you consider being our Publicity Officer? We are looking for someone or maybe a couple of members who are conversant with social media that would be willing to give a couple of hours a month to promoting our Group in general and specific group activities. Platforms we could use are Facebook, Instagram, Maldon Nub News and possibly a mention on local radio and any others you can think of.

Please give these positions some thought and contact one of our Committee Members if you feel you could help. Thank you

## MONTHLY MEETING



**Monday 18th December**  
**Wickham Bishops Hall**

**Doors open at 1.30 for 1.45 start**

### **Christmas Festivities**

**Tabletop Quiz**

**The Maldon Ukulele Group (MUGS)**  
**with a medley of songs to sing along to (or not)**

**Afternoon Tea**



**Please remember your membership card**

## MONTHLY SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2024

<p><b>15th January</b></p>	<p><b>Liz Huxley</b></p>	<p><b>Essex Coastal Marshes in Winter</b></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><b>19th February</b></p>		<p><b>Easton Lodge</b></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>
<p><b>18th March</b></p>	<p><b>Alan Pamphilon</b></p>	<p><b>Essex women that rocked the boat</b></p> <p>True stories of ten local ladies who influenced national history. Women of Chelmsford who fought for their equality and rights, and the history of the local Essex girls from 15th century witches to the publicans of the 1960's.</p> <p>From the Anti Slavery campaigners to the brave factory workers of WW2.</p>
<p><b>15th April</b></p>	<p><b>Tyler Butterworth</b></p>	<p>The actor son of Peter Butterworth (Carry On films) and Janet Brown (best known for her Maggie Thatcher impersonation). A talk on the remarkable life of his parents.</p>

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

## BIRD WATCHING GROUP

### Birdwatching at Walton on the Naze

If there's something birdwatchers should expect it's the unexpected. So it was for the nine members who visited Walton on 8th October, a glorious warm and sunny autumn day. For there, on a collapsed section of clay cliff, was not one but what appeared to be some half a dozen Cetti's warblers.



The bird, named after the 18th century zoologist

Francesco Cetti, was first recorded in Hampshire in 1961, and was something of a rarity. It was found mainly around the Mediterranean. More northerly areas were colonised and it was found nesting in Britain for the first time in 1972. Now, according to the Essex Birdwatching Society, it is locally common and on the increase as a year-round breeding resident, unlike most of our warblers which are summer visitors.

So perhaps we shouldn't have been surprised to see them. This secretive, rather dumpy bird, is the size of a great tit and resembles a large wren. It favours scrub to be found in abundance on the Naze's John Weston nature reserve. Cettis are more likely to make their presence known with their sudden call which comes as a fast and loud 'twick' or 'chee.' A male Cetti may have two or more females but takes no part in nest building and takes little interest in the eggs or young.





## A WALK IN AID OF THE BBC CHILDREN IN NEED APPEAL



I am organising a sponsored walk in aid of the **BBC Children in Need Appeal** on **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November**. Meet at **10:15** for a **10:30** start from the **Daisy Meadow car park, Heybridge Basin CM9 4RW**.

This is a pay and display car park and you must enter your vehicle registration number when paying – cost for 3 hours is £2.00. The walk is some 3.5 miles and will go alongside the river and canal. As this is a sponsored walk you can bring friends and family, and dogs (on a lead always please).

If you would like to take part in the walk and raise money for a worthwhile cause, then please do join us. I would ask that if you do join in that you are sponsored and that you bring any sponsorship money with you. If you are not able to join the walk, then please give any donation to someone who is coming on the walk. I will then collect it, bank it, and send it directly to the BBC Children in Need Appeal.

Thank you for your support and I look forward to seeing you on the walk.

Malcolm Case

## ART APPRECIATION GROUP

In October, the Art Group (and that dog again!) met at Andy's house to continue with the **Great Courses** lectures courtesy of Tony Groves' collection.



We viewed some of the 15th century Netherlandish portraits and 15th century Florentine art held in the National Gallery's collection. In the former we saw a very realistic portrait of A Man and a Woman by Robert Campin, the celebrated Arnolfini Marriage by Jan van Eyck, followed by the works of Petrus Christus among others.

After tea and cake we moved on to Florence and we were guided through Sandro Botticelli's 1483 masterpiece Venus and Mars and his Portrait of a Young Man.

Our latest meeting on 8 November was at a member's house when ten of us continued the **Great Courses** with 15th century Venetian art and the High Renaissance in Italy with examples from the National Gallery.

Andy

Judith Johnston

A few u3a Art Group members joined the local Art Society for a day trip to the National Portrait Gallery in late October.



## MARITIME GROUP

The next meeting of the Maritime Group is on Monday 4th December, starting at 10:00 am at the Blackwater Sailing Club, Basin Road, Heybridge Basin, Maldon CM9 4SD for a talk by Simon



Stephens of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich on ***Model Boat building for the National Maritime Museum.***



This will be followed by discussions on our 2024 programme and some Christmas cheer. U3a members are very welcome to come to the meeting.

Simon will explain how the models are constructed, and the history behind the models, which are on display at the museum.



Malcolm Case

## HANDICRAFT GROUP



Did you see the recent article **Getting Crafty** in the Third Age Matters magazine? Were you inspired?

It really does what it says—crafting can help your wellbeing, it gives you an opportunity to make new friends and use the skills you thought you never had.

The Handicraft Group welcomes you to come and join us, we would love to have some new members.

Our next meeting is Monday 4th December from 10.00 until 12.00 noon in Cold Norton Village Hall, Blossom Lane, Cold Norton.

Marian Manning

Brenda Heal



## TENPIN BOWLING

Fancy a chat and a cup of coffee with some tenpin bowling thrown in? The bowling, although it is good exercise and a chance to improve your coordination skills, it 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, and that has remained the case. A good morning is not necessarily a high score, but did you enjoy yourself?

We play every Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 09.45 – 12 noon at Madison Heights, Park Drive, Maldon.

If you are interested, please contact:

Alan Buck

David Coombes



## GEOLOGY

We have had an interesting time looking at the very ancient geology of South Africa, with emphasis on diamond formation and other mineral resources.

There will be no meeting in December but our meetings will recommence on 17th January 2024.

We meet at West Maldon Community Centre in the Jubilee Room at 2p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month and any interested member is welcome to join us

Sylvia Cousins

## ASTRONOMY GROUP

The next meeting of the group is on Monday 27th November, starting at 7:30 pm at Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge, CM9 4RE.



Weather permitting we will be night sky observing, however, should it be overcast then we will continue with our discussions on the planets.



Planets visible this month are Mars, Jupiter and Saturn with Uranus just visible using a telescope or binoculars. Orion will be rising in the southeast and is always an easy

constellation to observe. Also, visible this month is the Leonids Meteor Showers, these will be visible towards the middle of the month and given good weather conditions, you should be able to see up to 15 in an hour.



u3a members are very welcome to come to the meeting.



Malcolm Case

## AVIATION GROUP

Hello everyone,

Sincere apologies for screwballing our October meeting by catching Covid---pesky virus that it is, it is not discerning!

I have rearranged the programme for the rest of the year and David, who was all geared up to give us an illustrated talk about his flight over Niagara Falls in the Canadian Mk X LANCASTER reg VR-A affectionately known as Vera, has agreed to reschedule.

So, after a quick call to Tom Cruise, he has agreed to make way for David on Friday 24th November, having acknowledged that nothing was impossible in his world!

I am still hoping that he will be available in the New Year to wake up the good Burghers of Woodham Mortimer with a low, full throttle fly-by along the 414---so watch this space!

In December, on Friday 15th we plan to show a ***Christmas Related Aviation Film*** with festive nibbles rather than the lunch as planned.

Both events will take place at our **NEW** venue,

Woodham Mortimer Village Hall, Post office Rd., Woodham Mortimer, CM9 6SY at 11am.

Chris Samson

Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	An illustrated talk by fellow member David Gillespie on his flight of a lifetime in the restored Canadian Lancaster.  To be held at our NEW venue, Woodham Mortimer Village Hall, Post Office Rd., Woodham Mortimer, Post Office Rd., CM9 6SY
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	A showing of a surprise "Christmas Related Aviation Film" with Xmas nibbles rather than the lunch as planned.  To be held at our NEW venue, Woodham Mortimer Village Hall, Post Office Rd., Woodham Mortimer, Post Office Rd., CM9 6SY



## LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Our final meeting for this year is on Monday 27th November at 2p.m. at the Town Hall for our ***Mystery History Miscellany !!***

This is a new venture, and we would like members who are able and willing to bring along a small antique treasure or curiosity, the history of which they are willing to share.

From the many antique programmes on TV it is obvious that both ladies and gents have a keen interest in collecting treasures, either handed down or searched for, so we are hoping for a good response from our members.

There will also be a short talk by Kathy on the welfare of very small children in the 60s and , if there is time, a light hearted quiz before we finish off the afternoon with light seasonal refreshments.

There is NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

Our first meeting for 2024 is on Monday 22nd January at 2pm in the Town Hall when our speaker will be John Frankland with his talk on ***100 years of Motor Racing in Essex.***

Kathy and Sylvia

## First Aid Course

We are looking to arrange a First Aid Course for interested u3a members sometime in 2024. The course we are considering is run by the St John's Ambulance and would take approximately half a day. It includes:

- Patient care and communication
- Observations
- Primary survey
- Making an emergency call
- Recovery position
- Signs of Heart Attack vs Cardiac Arrest
- CPR
- Choking
- Severe bleeds
- Using an AED
- Using the right medical service

It will also give guidance on the use of defibrillators.

If you are interested in attending this course please contact our Chairman, Ken Hazell or a committee member.



## POETRY GROUP

The next meeting of the Poetry Group is on Thursday 7th December, starting at 2:00pm and meeting in a member's house.

The poet for discussion is Alfred, Lord Tennyson. In 1829, Tennyson was awarded the Chancellor's Gold Medal at Cambridge for one of his first pieces, *Timbuktu*. He published his first solo collection of poems, *Poems Chiefly Lyrical*, in 1830. Tennyson was the Poet Laureate during much of Queen Victoria's reign and created a Baron in 1884.



Jo Robson

## ROYAL HISTORY GROUP

Our next meeting is Thursday 14th December at 9.45 in the West Maldon Community Centre.

We will be watching the film ***Mrs Brown***, which tells of the relationship between Queen Victoria and her trusted servant, John Brown, starring Judi Dench and Billy Connelly.



Kathy Goff

## PADEL TENNIS GROUP

Now that this Group has been running for a year I can reflect on how things have developed. There was a good level of interest at the beginning and having selected the most popular time and arranged a taster session, numbers have settled down.

The session is every Wednesday from 2.30 to 4pm at Padel United, Park Drive Health Club, Maldon. There are three indoor courts plus an outdoor court, and we normally have the use of two courts. We cater for between 3 and 10 members without anyone having to sit out for more than a few minutes and things have gradually evolved such that we get just about the right number.

Padels and balls are provided, and the charge per session is £3 per head. This is collected at the start of the session and paid to Padel United at the end. This is all cash and very simple. Suitable footwear is a must, but the main hazard would be tripping over balls not in use.

The exercise is fairly light although, as can be seen from the youngsters at one of the next courts, it could be pretty vigorous if you were a good player. The normal game is doubles so no need to rush around. To start with all of us found it difficult to take the ball off the back wall but the overall standard has continued to improve, and we enjoy some good rallies.

If anyone is interested in joining the Group or perhaps having a “taster” session, please contact me . Ken Hazell



## RUSSIAN CONVERSATION

One of our new u3a members, Irina Vahonina, has expressed an interest in starting a Russian language group.

Maybe you would like to expand your knowledge of foreign languages or maybe you, or a family member, is hosting a Ukrainian family (most Ukrainians also speak Russian) and would like to converse more freely.

Please contact Irina via the Groups Coordinator for more information.

## GERMAN CONVERSATION

Our meetings are held on alternate Tuesdays at my house in Wickham Bishops. The next meeting is 21st November from 2–4pm.

Howard Broadbridge

## 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 from 2–4pm.

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

Our meetings in December are Friday 8th & 22nd.

For more information, please contact Mags Pell.

## Seafarers Centre, Tilbury

The centre is asking for donations of knitted articles, gloves, scarves, hats, jerseys in any colour and all sizes. They also need easy to read books (for most seafarers English is their second language), DVDs, jigsaws ( these are very much appreciated and used by the seafarers), sweets (with a long use by date), and toiletries suitable for males and females.

These donations will then be made up into parcels and given to seafarers in port over Christmas. Last year some 3000 parcels were distributed to seafarers on ships in the Port of London.



If you can donate any articles, then please contact Malcolm Case or give any donations to him at either a main monthly meeting or any Maritime Group meeting. The centre would appreciate receiving any donations by the **end of November**.

On behalf of the Centre, thank you for all your donations in the past and in the future.



## **THE BIG BALTI**

The next curry night will be held on Monday 27th November at the Balti Bhujon restaurant, Mill Road, Maldon. 6.30ish start.

To add your name to the list please contact:

Graham Evans

Bob Gowers

## **Tai Chi**

I am the group co-ordinator for Tai Chi classes which are held on Monday afternoons 2-4pm at West Maldon Community Centre. All Maldon group members are welcome.

For more detail contact:

Peter Harden

## **Storage Space**

Do you have any spare storage space? Maybe an unused garage or a part of one, an unused outhouse or even part of a barn. Or do you know of someone who has? It just needs to be dry and easily accessible.

Over the years your Committee has amassed a variety of really useful equipment for the various functions that we hold, but we have now run out of room.

If you think you could help please contact a committee member.

Thank You

## FILM GROUP

The Group met recently and had another good chat about the films we'd been watching.

***Gold Run*** received generally good reviews and there didn't seem to be a problem with it being in Norwegian with subtitles. Some thought it might have been a little long but that did seem to be the only criticism. Based on true events during WWII, it covered an event not many of us knew about. The desperate and important need to get the Norwegian gold reserves out of the country before the Nazis arrived was something I hadn't heard about before. One of the group was able to expand on this as his background with the Bank of England gave an insight into just how important an event this was and he explained how countries now store their gold reserves. I particularly liked the idea of piles of gold stacked up with the flags of the owning countries stuck on top. I'm sure that's not quite how it looks but that's now stuck in my mind! Score: 8

***Moulin Rouge*** offered something entirely different. Based on the life of Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec and his association with the Moulin Rouge, this film was made 1952 and surprisingly looked very good. The colours were very bright and clear looking which was something the Director, John Huston, asked cinematographer Oswald Morris to do, and was shot in three-strip Technicolor. The film starts with quite a long scene in the Moulin Rouge with singing and dancing but once the film gets under way it explores how Lautrec's life revolved around his art, looking for love and his drunken decline. The casting of a very tall actor, Jose Ferrer, as Lautrec was overcome with the use of platforms and concealed pits as well as special camera angles, makeup and costumes. Short body doubles were also used. Ferrer used a set of



knee-pads of his own design allowing him to walk on his knees. At the time he received high praise not only for his performance but for his willingness to have his legs strapped in such a manner just for a role. Probably not something that would be so well received nowadays. Score: 6

Next time:

***Woman in Gold*** – 2015 biographical drama film starring Helen Mirren and Ryan Reynolds. Based on the true story of Maria Altmann, an elderly Jewish refugee living in Los Angeles, who, together with her young lawyer, Randy Schoenberg, fought the government of Austria for almost a decade to reclaim Gustav Klimt's iconic painting of her aunt Adele Bloch-Bauer, which was stolen from her relatives by the Nazis in Vienna just prior to WWII.

***The Train*** – 1964 film with Burt Lancaster, Paul Scofield and Jeanne Moreau. A WWII thriller about the evacuation of Paris in 1944 and the Resistance efforts to stop the Nazis stealing billions of pounds worth of irreplaceable modern art before the Allies arrival.

Both films are available on BBC iPlayer for a limited time.

Our next Zoom meeting will be Wednesday, 29th November at 7.30pm. If you would like to join please get in touch.

Shirley Macro

*Please note that there will be no meeting in December*

# YOUR COMMITTEE

Chairman	Ken Hazell
Vice Chairman	Alec Fraser
Secretary	Theresa Byles
Treasurer	Steven Clarke
Membership Secretary	Malcolm Case
Newsletter Editor	Kris Taylor
Speaker Secretary	Theresa Byles
Groups Coordinator	Malcolm Case
Committee	Andy Simmonds Carol Bates

Trustee	Geoff Cory
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](mailto:info@u3a.org.uk)

[www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

**Deadline for next newsletter 6th Dec 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	Patrick Forsyth
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	Malcolm Case
German	Howard Broadbridge	Tenpin Bowling	David Arnold David Coombes Graham Boswell
Handicraft	Marian Manning Brenda Heal	Wine Circle No. 2	Mary Burd
History—Victorians	Kathy Goff	Wine Circle No. 3	Ann Goody
Just Jazz	Peter Condon David Coombes	Wine Circle No. 4	Patrick Forsyth
Local History	Sylvia Cousins Kathy Goff	Writing for Fun	

Comment on ***“Third Age Matters”***  
via ***Patrick Forsyth***

## Schedule of Events – December 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
				1 Canasta	2	3 Bird Watching
4  Maritime   Talk on Model Boat Building for the NM Museum  Handicrafts	5	6  Bridge  Ten Pin Bowling  Padel Tennis	7  Rummikub  Poetry  Ten Pin Bowling	8  Mahjong  Singing	9	10
11  Discussion	12  German	13  Meet & Eat  Writing  Ten Pin Bowling  Padel Tennis	14  Royal History- Victorians   Film  Scottish Dancing  French Conversation  Ten Pin Bowling	15  Canasta  Aviation   Film	16	17
18  Monthly Meeting   Christmas Festivities  Just Jazz	19	20  Bridge  Photography  Ten Pin Bowling  Padel Tennis	21  Rummikub  Music Appreciation ?  Ten Pin Bowling	22  Cribbage	23	24
25	26	27  Wine Group  Ten Pin Bowling  Padel Tennis	28  Scottish Dancing  Ten Pin Bowling	29	30	31

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