

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

Maldon and District

Newsletter



February 2024

www.maldonu3a.co.uk

Registered Charity 1086182

FROM THE CHAIR



I found the website and my username and password and I even got the passcode on my mobile, but then I got stuck and needed to speak to a person, or anyway, a non-bot. I selected the correct numbers from the menu and the sub-menu and thought I was nearly there. You are 40th in the queue, I was told, and then had to listen to scratchy and repetitive music until I finally gave up.

The thought that I might be dealing with a Horizon-esque system crossed my mind. Or perhaps the forces of ageism were closing in?

Fortunately, I have some young family to talk to and I realised that this type of experience applies to all regardless of age.

I mention this as the business side of our u3a is relatively simple until you have to deal with banks and the like. The good news is that I think we now have nearly all the difficulties resolved. (I hope this is not a hostage to fortune.)

Last month's meeting seemed to go particularly well, in fact, I would call it a "Goldilocks" meeting as all seemed just right. Good subject matter, good slides, good presentation, local interest and good attendance.

We are looking forward to the talk on Easton Lodge. There will be WW2 interest, interest for gardeners and the whiff of scandal.

We are now well into February and Spring is fast approaching so there is Croquet and Pétanque coming soon so all our Groups can be active. The lengthening days, the snowdrops and aconites are with us and the daffodils and crocuses to come are putting us all in a good mood for 2024.

The leap year means that the 29th will fall on a Thursday for the first time since our u3a was formed. This rather takes us back to the start of my message as I can recall a well-tested system that could not cope with the leap year falling on a Saturday and just crashed for reasons no one could easily explain.

Ken Hazell

WELCOME

A warm welcome to our new members:

Laura Fulcher	Marlene Draper	Paul Vickers
Sharon Eacott	Rose Lecoche	Mike Bentley
Terry Freer	Dr Sian Bewick	Dr Jane Williams
David Brangwyn	Joyce Secker	Sharon Sizer
Nicholas Sizer	Maur King	

WITH REGRET

It is with great regret that we notify you that Michael (Jim) Light passed away on the 26th January. Jim was a founder member of the Just Jazz group and joined our u3a in 2007.

MONTHLY MEETING

Monday 18th March

Wickham Bishops Hall

Doors open at 1.30pm for 1.45pm start

Tea/coffee are available prior to the start of the meeting

Speaker: Alan Pamphilon

Essex women that rocked the boat

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 1960s. From the Anti Slavery campaigners to the brave factory workers of WW2.

Please remember your membership card

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

The Silver Line
helpline for older people

MONTHLY SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2024

15th April	Tyler Butterworth	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.
20th May	Richard Pusey	Medical History on the doorstep Retired surgeon & London guide.
17th June	Cherish Watton	The Women's Land Army The history of the WLA. Over 200,000 land girls worked in the WLA from June 1939 until November 1950, many based in our surrounding areas
15th July	Social Event Afternoon Tea	Details to follow
19th August	Prof. Stephen Brown	CHASE Africa Prof. Brown, a Trustee, will talk to us about the work of this charity to support partner organisations in Africa that enable access to family planning, healthcare and rights, whilst protecting the environment and building resilience to climate change.
16th September	Eve Regelous	Everything Strictly A glittering journey starting back in the '50s when <i>Come Dancing</i> and formation dancing was at the fore up to the latest series of <i>Strictly Come Dancing</i> . Behind the scenes information on a TV favourite.

21st October	AGM Andrew Wiltshire	Fungi & Flagstaffs The fascinating connections between Beatrix Potter, Kew
18th November	Tim Turner	Going, going, gone A history of auctions. Tim returns to delight us with this history of the world of auctions.
16th December	Christmas Entertainment	Details to follow

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

Reminder

Don't forget that there are many on-line learning events on the national u3a website. Zoom talks currently listed include the secrets of the human brain-sleep & dreams, David Hockney and the theatre, and what the Egyptians can tell us about maths.

Just click on the link on our web page ,

FROM THE EDITOR

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

Kris

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Our first meeting of the year was a very detailed account of motor racing in Essex which originally started on short stretches of public roads from the very beginning of the 20th century.

After WWII the racing moved to local airfields such as Boreham, which proved very popular, attracting drivers such as Stirling Moss and Bernie Ecclestone. and hosting a Formula 1 Race in 1952.

Sadly because of lack of sponsorship, the British Grand Prix Circuit eventually moved to Silverstone, and whilst part of the Boreham track became a testing site for Ford Trucks, a large part of it became a quarry, no doubt providing gravel for the construction of the M25!!

Our next meeting is on **Monday 26th February** at 2pm when our speaker will be David Newman with his talk on Beckingham Hall.

Situated at Tolleshunt Major, the Hall was built by Stephen Beckenham on land granted to him by Henry VIII in 1544.

The house was a semi-fortified Tudor residence with a turreted gatehouse and a red brick boundary wall

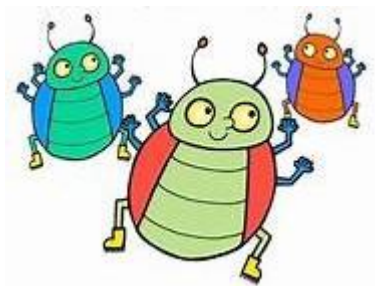
The house was destroyed by fire in the 1700s, and replaced by a farmhouse, but the red brick gatehouse and wall can still be seen from the road. (As can a soaring red kite if you are lucky!!)

We look forward to seeing you for a visit to Tudor times in our local history meeting. All members are welcome to attend.

Kathy and Sylvia

SOCIAL ORGANISING GROUP

Have you got your ticket yet?



The Social Organising Group
presents a

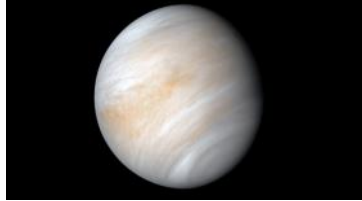
Beetle Drive

on 27th February at 2.30 pm
at Plantation Hall, Heybridge

Ticket £4.00, including tea and cake,
available from Rosemary Case

ASTRONOMY GROUP

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 22nd February** at **7:30pm** at the Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge, Maldon. Weather conditions allowing, we will be night sky observing, if not, then there will be presentations on the stars to be found in the constellations of Pisces and Virgo.



Planets that are visible in February are Venus, in the mornings, plus from February 20th – 24th Venus and Mars will be in conjunction.



The constellation of Orion is also very visible to the naked eye.

Please bring your telescopes/binoculars/monocular with you.

At our meeting in January, we had clear skies but a very cold wind, however we did get excellent views of Jupiter and Orion.



Our meeting in **March** will be on Friday **15th** with a visit to the Bayfordbury Observatory, near Hertford.

And looking ahead we are organising a visit to Herstmonceux Observatory, East Sussex on

Monday 22nd April. If any member would like to come on either or both of these trips, then please contact me.

Malcolm Case

MARITIME GROUP

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 4th March**, at 10:00 at the Blackwater Sailing Club, Basin Road, Heybridge basin, Maldon. CM9 4SD for a talk by Raj Keha of the Port of London Authority, who will tell us about the history of the PLA over the years from their beginning up to present day, including the industries/wharves/docks etc within the Port limits, types of trade and volume etc.



All u3a members are welcome to attend

Monday 1st April

Easter Monday No meeting

Monday 6th May

Bank Holiday No meeting

Monday 3rd June

Talk by Malcolm & Rosemary Case on the ***Irrawaddy river in Myanmar***, from its source to the Andaman Sea.

Monday 1st July

Talk by Linda Cook on the **History of the RNLI**. Beginning with its founding up to present day with some of the developments along the way. Looking at the Southend lifeboats and the work that they do, moving onto examples of rescues around the coast, focusing on the Tower lifeboat station in London. Finally, some information about the training given to crew members and the facilities at Poole.

- Monday 5th August Trip to **Sutton Hoo**, Woodbridge. To be arranged.
- Monday 2nd September Trip to **Chatham Dockyard** archives, to view the model ships of the National Maritime Museum. To be arranged
- Monday 7th October Talk by Alison Mainwood on the **History of Navigation** from Lodestones to GPS
- Monday 4th November Talk over Zoom by Roger Butler, with a colourful introduction to all aspects of **Waterway Heritage**. Roger will include fascinating engineering and architecture, historic boats, and plenty of unusual landmarks. He will also weave in some archive images as well as important contemporary features such as the Falkirk Wheel in Scotland. Aspects include grand warehouses and quirky cottages, tall lock flights and sweeping aqueducts, deep tunnels and a vast array of bridges and even tiny bollards. Many such buildings and structures still reflect the work of the original distinctive canal companies, including of course, the famous Roses and Castles canal boat artwork.
- Monday 2nd December Talk by Julie Hobby and Chaplain Ruth on the work of the **Seafarers' Centre**, Tilbury. The talk will cover all aspects of their work for seafarers and will include details on how your donations to the centre are used. The talk will be followed by some Christmas cheer, nibbles and discussion on our 2025 programme.

STROLLERS SUNDAY

Dates for the Sunday Strollers group – Sunday 18th Feb, 17th March, 21st April, 19th May, 16th June, 21st July, 18th August, 15th Sept, 20th October, 17th Nov.

The start of the Sunday Stroller's season on **18th February** will be around Nounsley/Ulting on minor roads. Meet at 10.00 at a lay-by opposite the playing fields at CM3 2LU, Ulting Road. We will walk along Ulting Road, then along Nounsley Road until we cross the river Ter by way of a ford. The walk then continues on minor roads. The last section of the walk depending on conditions will be across country. Lunch will be at the Duke of Wellington, The Street, Hatfield Peveral CM3 2EA.

Mervyn Perriman

STROLLERS TOO

Dates for the Tuesday Strollers group – Tuesday 27th Feb, 26th March, 23rd April, 28th May, 25th June, 23rd July, 27th August, 24th Sept, 22nd October, 26th Nov.

The first walk of 2024 will be on **Tuesday February 27th**, a walk from Tesco Extra car park, Maldon meeting at 10.15 and heading off at 10.30. I suggest meeting at the far end of the car park near the 'sea wall'. There is a 3 hour maximum stay in the car park.

Jane Cox

Further details for the listed walks will be in the appropriate monthly newsletter and will include who to contact.

SOCIAL ORGANISING GROUP



Tuesday April 23rd is
ST GEORGE'S DAY

Come and join in our celebration lunch
at Blackwater Sailing Club
12.30 for 1 o'clock Spud and Pud lunch
followed by a light hearted after-lunch talk
celebrating our Patron Saint

Ticket price £15

Put the date in your diary, more information to
follow in next month's Newsletter

BIRD WATCHING GROUP

Birdwatching group visit to
Abberton reservoir

Spring was in the air and out on the water when 13 members visited the reservoir on 3rd February . Within a few hundred



yards of the visitor centre, a skylark rose into the air proclaiming its territory with its unmistakable song, a song which in a few weeks' time will be sung to attract a mate.

Out on the water, pairs of great crested grebe circled each other, a prelude perhaps to their highly stylised and much-studied courtship of head shaking to display their crests. The birds were almost wiped out in Britain in the 19th century as their fur-like breast feathers were used to make ladies muffs.

Male goldeneye – an attractive small black and white duck named after its bright eye – were displaying, the drakes throwing back their heads to impress the females with their brilliant white breast plumage. Also showing amorous signs of spring, were a few pairs of goosanders which are actually ducks, our largest member of the sawbill group so-called because of their long narrow bills with 'teeth' good for gripping fish.

Males are white with dark green heads, black backs and long, red hooked bills while the females are grey with reddish brown head and white throat. They will not be breeding in Essex, but heading for rivers in the north and west of the UK where they nest in holes in trees. Goosanders were once rare winter visitors, first found nesting in Scotland in 1871 and England in 1941.

Soaring high over the water was a buzzard, now the UK's most common raptor after years of persecution by gamekeepers and heavy losses through pesticides.

All in all, a good morning's birdwatching rounded off with a hot chocolate in the visitor centre.

*If you have nest boxes in the garden, now is the time to clear them of last year's nesting material to get rid of any overwintering parasites.

Mike Bagshaw

Peter Gaywood

The group's next outing is to Cudmore Grove, West Mersea, on **Sunday 3rd March**, meeting 10am in the car park.

NB All rendezvous times 10am unless otherwise stated. For details of locations or car shares please contact the coordinators.

Birdwatching Group Programme 2024

7th April	Blue House Farm, North Fambridge	Meet in the car park
4th May	Fingringhoe	Meet in the car park
1st June	Minsmere Reserve	Meet at 11.00 in the car Visitor Centre car park
7th July	Tollesbury	Meet in Woodrolfe Road car park
No Meeting		
7th September	Maldon Prom	Meet by Rossi's Kiosk
6th October	Heybridge Basin	Meet in the car park
2nd November	Walton on the Naze	Meet in the Visitor Centre car park
1st December	Hanningfield Reservoir	Meet in the Visitor Centre car park

Central America? This is Heybridge Mr Waterthrush

Like many other people, I had never even heard of a northern waterthrush before one arrived in Heybridge early last month. As luck would have it, this extremely rare vagrant from north America had landed in



the garden of Simon Wood, president of the Essex Birdwatching Society, who said he "nearly fell off" his chair.

The bird moved to a nearby industrial estate and then to other locations around Heybridge, attracting up to 1,000 birders from as far away as Scotland. This first for Essex is only the third mainland recording. Britain's first northern waterthrush was found on St Agnes, one of the Scilly Isles, in September 1958. There have been around 10 British sightings overall.

The northern waterthrush is a thrush in name only, and is actually a New World warbler, about the size of a chaffinch. It breeds in Canada and the northern US, spending the winter in Central America. The Heybridge waterthrush is believed to have been on migration when it was blown over the Atlantic by storm Lee in September.

That storm blew at least 20 other American birds to Britain and there is some puzzlement in birding circles as to why it wasn't spotted earlier. But better late than never for this memorable feathered visitor to our shores !

Mike Bagshaw

GARDEN GROUP

I visited Hyde Hall a few days ago and shook off some of that winter lethargy. There are snowdrops and hellebores just starting to flower, lovely



winter aconite, scented daphne and many of the camellias are in full flower. A very pleasant walk on a mild day.

Although Kris and I are not organising a group garden visit in February, there are some gardens nearby with open days to visit this month. Dragons at Boyton Cross near Roxwell is open on 14th February, Ulting Wick on 16th February (pre-booking essential) and Brookfield in Boreham on Sunday 25th February.

All the information you require can be found on the NGS web site. And don't forget that if you are a member of the RHS and you picked up the leaflet from Hyde Hall earlier in the year there's a chance to take an extra guest until 8th March.

Our first group visit is to go back to Blunts Hall in Witham on **Tuesday 12th March** at 11.00. We visited this garden in early July last year and the owner mentioned the daffodil planting that they had undertaken. The cost is £11pp, which includes soup and cheese scones.

Because of the unpredictability of the weather in March, we shall confirm 4 days ahead of the visit, when we should have a better idea of what the conditions will be.

Our visit in April will be on **Friday 26th** at 11.00 to Bucklers Farmhouse, Coggeshall. £12pp inc. tea and cake.

Car sharing to both events may be possible.



We are looking at the possibility of a coach share with the Aviation Group which will enable us to visit RHS Wisley on **Thursday 21st March**. Many of our group are RHS members which allows 1 guest free of charge.

Further visits are in the planning stages and will be advised in future newsletters.

Best wishes to you all.

Theresa Byles

Kris Taylor

JUST JAZZ GROUP

David and I are most grateful for the new music fans coming along to our meetings.



Our next meeting is **Monday 19th February** from **7.30—9.30pm**, in the Little Ship Club, Hythe Quay, Maldon . The bar will be open so pop in for a drink, some music and a chat. We look forward to seeing you.

Pete Condon

David Coombes

New Year – new pastimes

Why not consider joining a new group this year. There are more than 30 interest groups or pastimes to choose from. Just get in touch with the coordinator or join a meeting and take it from there.

What have you got to lose?

Here are some of the larger group visits arranged or that are in the planning stages for this year. All members are welcome:

For further details contact the group coordinators shown:

Brayfordbury Observatory, near Hertford *	Friday 15th March
Brooklands Aviation and Motor Museum, Weybridge, Surrey +	Thursday 21st March
or RHS Wisley ++	Combined coach trip
Herstmonceux Observatory, East Sussex *	Monday 22nd April
Combined Military Services Museum, Maldon ~~	Wednesday 24th April
Wings and Wheels, Stow Maries +	Sunday 26th May
Sutton Hoo, Anglo-Saxon burial site *	Monday 5th August
Chatham Dockyard, National Maritime Museum archives *	Monday 2nd September

* Malcom Case

+ Chris Samson

++ Theresa Byles

~~ Kathy Goff

AVIATION GROUP

Hello everyone,

I have only just recovered from our showing of *Maverick* on 26th January. I hope that everyone enjoyed it.

*Tom Cruise, aka Chris ,
making a quick pass in an
F-18 Carrier aircraft over
Blackwater Sailing Club on
his way home to California*



Below is a link to a short clip that I compiled on the aircraft simulator

https://youtu.be/H8_bHeQ2jeM

On **Friday 23rd February** we will have an illustrated talk by fellow member Joe Marshall on the Air Transport Auxiliary.

This was a branch of the RAF set up to ferry completed or repaired aircraft from the various factories back to their operational RAF bases. This is a story of how, in a time of war, a multinational group of pilots, both men and women, were organised into a cohesive group to fly the full range of aircraft of the time, unarmed, in all weathers.

This event will be at our NEW venue, Woodham Mortimer village hall, Post Office Rd., Woodham Mortimer, CM9 6SY at 11am.

On **Thursday 21st March** we will visit the superb Aviation & Motor Museum at the old Brooklands racing circuit, Weybridge, Surrey. Transport will be by the 16-seat capacity minibus of the 360 Community Transport driven by fellow member David Gillespie.

Further information: <https://www.brooklandsmuseum.com/>

The cost per person works out at £23 (entry fee at Brooklands) + £18/£20 (minibus hire etc) = £41/£43. Guided tours of the site lasting approximately 1 hour are also available @ £3.50 pp.

Pick up points are at 08.30 West Maldon Community Centre and 09.00 at Danbury, Eves Corner.

Looking ahead to May; Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome are hosting a **Wings & Wheels** show on **Sunday 26th May**. Several of the Aviation group have cars in this category and we are proposing to visit this event as a group and other members with or without classic cars are most welcome to join us to enjoy the flying and visit the museum itself. Please let me know if you are interested.

<https://www.stowmaries.org.uk/event/wings-and-wheels-2024-787496241457>

Chris Samson

AVIATION GROUP PROGRAMME 2024

Thursday 21st March
(avoiding Easter & Friday
M25 traffic)

A visit to the **Brooklands Museum**. Group transport will be by Community 360 minibus. Further details tba..

Friday 26th April

An illustrated **talk** by Andy Strange RAF 'Special Duties' Service and SOE (Special Operations Executive) - on the part they played in Allied support of the Resistance organisations during WW2.

Sunday 26th May

Visit to Wings & Wheels show at Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome; members with classic cars are welcome to join us as a group visit.

Friday 21st June

Meeting in Woodham Mortimer village hall. Details tba.

Friday 26th July

tba

FILM GROUP

After taking a break over Christmas, we met recently to discuss the January selections.

We started off 2024 with two light-hearted offerings and as often happens, one film gets good comments with the other not so much – with the exception of one member who enjoyed them both.

Absolutely Fabulous, The Movie was probably mostly considered to be not very good but did have some amusing scenes, including the swimming pool and on the budget airplane. It may well be that as most of the group have never seen the television series, the background story was missing. It was fun to spot the celebrities, with June Whitfield as Edina Monsoon's mother, excellent. Score: 5

However, the second film we reviewed, ***Yesterday***, received excellent comments from everyone. All agreed it was thoroughly enjoyable with a lovely feel-good vibe and a happy ending. It goes without saying that the music was excellent. Good acting by all, with a nice cameo by Ed Sheeran. The only negative comment was the scene involving John Lennon, was it really needed? Score: 9

The selections for February are:

Hope and Glory – a 1987 comedy-drama war film written, produced and directed by John Boorman, based on his own experiences growing up in London during the Second World War. The film tells the story of the Rohan family and their experiences, as seen through the eyes of the son Billy.

Late Night– 2019 American comedy-drama film starring Emma Thompson. Katherine Newbury (Thompson) is an acclaimed late-night talk show host with an extensive career in comedy, but her show's ratings have seen a steady decline over the past decade. The network's president tells Katherine to fix up her show or she will be replaced.

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

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday, 28th February**, 7.30pm via Zoom. Please get in touch if you would like to join us.

Shirley Macro

Teapots Wanted

If buried deep in a cupboard or sitting at the back of a shelf you happen to have a medium sized teapot you no longer have a need for, I'd be very pleased to take it off your hands. If you regularly attend the monthly members' meeting you will know we have refreshments and one of the teapots used lost its spout and is now consigned to the bin. I've had a look in the local charity shops but so far haven't found a suitable replacement.

Please get in touch if you can help, and I'll give your unused teapot a new lease of life!

Thanks, Shirley Macro

TENPIN BOWLING

Do you 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

POETRY GROUP

Benjamin Zephaniah

Born: 15 April 1958, Handsworth,
Birmingham, died: 7 December 2023



The next meeting of the group is on **Thursday 7th March** starting at 2:00 pm and meeting in a member's house. The poet for discussion this month is the late **Benjamin Zephaniah**, who was a British writer, dub poet, actor, musician and professor of poetry and creative writing. He was included in The Times list of Britain's top 50 post-war writers in 2008. In his work, Zephaniah drew on his lived experiences of incarceration, racism and his Jamaican heritage.

Jo Robson

Nature Trail

*At the bottom of my garden
There's a hedgehog and a frog
And a lot of creepy-crawlies
Living underneath a log,
There's a baby daddy long legs
And an easy-going snail
And a family of woodlice,
All are on my nature trail.*

*There are caterpillars waiting
For their time to come to fly,
There are worms turning the earth over
As ladybirds fly by,*

*Birds will visit, cats will visit
But they always chose their time
And I've even seen a fox visit
This wild garden of mine.*

*Squirrels come to nick my nuts
And busy bees come buzzing
And when the night time comes
Sometimes some dragonflies come humming,
My garden mice are very shy
And I've seen bats that growl
And in my garden I have seen
A very wise old owl.*

*My garden is a lively place
There's always something happening,
There's this constant search for food
And then there's all that flowering,
When you have a garden
You will never be alone
And I believe we all deserve
A garden of our own.*

Benjamin Zephaniah

ART APPRECIATION GROUP

The next meeting will continue the Great Courses on **Wednesday 21st February** at Andy's house at 2pm. The next episodes are:

Court paintings 1515 onwards—North European Masterpieces Bosch to Bruegel

Andy Simmonds

Judith Johnston

RUSSIAN CONVERSATION

One of our members, Irina Vahonina, is Russian and she has offered to start a Russian language activity group. She also speaks Polish, so she is able to teach that as well. The emphasis will be on conversational language – beginners are welcome.

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 for more information

GERMAN CONVERSATION

Our meetings are held on alternate **Tuesdays** at my house in Wickham Bishops. Our next meeting is **Tuesday 20th February**.

Please contact me prior to the meeting if you will be attending.

Howard Broadbridge

MAHJONG

Mahjong 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.

If you haven't played Mahjong before we are very happy to teach you.

Our next meeting is **Friday 16th February** at the new time of **1.30–3.30 pm**

For more information, please contact Mags Pell.

PADEL TENNIS GROUP

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.

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

Possible new group—Car Enthusiasts

Several of our members have expressed an interest in forming a car enthusiasts group. Is this something that would interest you? Would you be willing to be a coordinator or perhaps share that position with someone else.

If the answer to any of the above is yes, please contact Carol Bates.



Committee members

We continue to look 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 ?

Please give this some thought and contact one of our committee members if you feel you could help. Thank you.

Tai Chi

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

Peter Harden

THE BIG BALTI

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

To add your name to the list please contact:

Graham Evans

Bob Gowers

Maldon u3a Publicity

Irina Vahonina and Andy Simmonds are our new publicity coordinators and are making good progress in spreading the word about our u3a and promoting the many benefits that joining can bring.

Our webmaster, Tony Groves, launched a page on **Facebook** with links to our website in December, and this will provide us with the opportunity to promote some of our groups and activities to a wider audience.

For those of you familiar with Facebook please take the time to look at our page, [Maldon U3A](#), and like it, follow it or comment.



YOUR COMMITTEE

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

Trustee	Geoff Cory
Webmaster	Tony Groves
Social Group	Michael Childs

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GROUP CO-ORDINATORS

Art Appreciation	Judith Johnston Andy Simmonds
Aviation	Chris Samson
Astronomy	Malcolm Case
Balti Night	Bob Gowers Graham Evans
Bird Watching	Peter Gaywood Michael Bagshaw
Bridge	Gill Cory
Canasta	Iris Slaney
Cribbage	Pat Clements
Croquet	Geoff Macro Shirley Macro
Discussion	Pat Jones
Film Club	Shirley Macro
French Conversation	Ann Lester
Garden Visits	Theresa Byles Kris Taylor
Geology	Sylvia Cousins
German	Howard Broadbridge
Handicraft	Marian Manning Brenda Heal
History— Victorians	Kathy Goff

Just Jazz	Peter Condon David Coombes
Local History	Sylvia Cousins Kathy Goff
London Theatre Outings	Rosemary Case Sheila Childs
Meet & Eat	Joan Cummins
MahJong	Mags Pell
Maritime	Malcolm Case
Padel Tennis	Ken Hazell
Petanque (Boules)	Jack Veash Geoff Macro
Photography	Tony Groves
Poetry	Jo Robson
Publicity	Irina Vahonina Andy Simmonds
Reading Rummikub	Patrick Forsyth Janice Martin
Scottish Country Dancing	Diana Rogers
Sing for Pleasure	Sue Garnham
Strollers Sunday & Tuesday	Malcolm Case
Tenpin Bowling	Alan Buck David Coombes
Wine Circle No. 2	Graham Boswell
Wine Circle No. 3	Mary Burd
Wine Circle No. 4	Ann Goody
Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth

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

Schedule of Events - March 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
				1 Mahjong	2	3 Bird Watching
4 Maritime History of the PLA	5 German	6 Bridge Ten Pin Bowling Padel Tennis Art Appreciation	7 Royal History- Victorians Ten Pin Bowling Poetry Rummikub	8 Singing Canasta	9	10
11 Discussion Handicrafts	12 Garden visit Blunts Hall	13 Meet & Eat Ten Pin Bowling Padel Tennis	14 Ten Pin Bowling Scottish Dancing French Conversation	15 Mahjong Astronomy Visit to Observatory	16	17 Strollers
18 Monthly Meeting Women that rocked the boat Just Jazz	19 German	20 Bridge Geology Photography Ten Pin Bowling Padel Tennis	21 Ten Pin Bowling Aviation Visit to Brooklands/ RHS Wisley Rummikub	22 Canasta Reading Cribbage Singing	23	24
25 Local History Curry Night	26 Strollers	27 Film Writing Ten Pin Bowling Padel Tennis Wine Group	28 Ten Pin Bowling Wine Group Scottish Dancing French Conversation	29	30	31

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