

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

Maldon and District

Newsletter

Happy Easter



March 2024

www.maldonu3a.co.uk

Registered Charity 1086182

FROM THE CHAIR



It is surprising what snippets of information you can get from a visit to one of our groups or to our monthly meetings. Some are useful: others are interesting but really just for quizzes. Even at quizzes, you can learn quite a lot unless you know all the answers anyway.

At our February monthly meeting, the talk about Easton Lodge told us how Daisy, Countess of Warwick moved from the nobility to the Labour Party in just a few slides. She was also the Daisy who would look sweet upon the seat of a bicycle made for two. Moreover, Easton Lodge has a croquet lawn but sadly no longer used for croquet.

At the Local History group, I learned that Beckingham Hall was for many years owned by the New England Company and the income from the farm used until recently to fund boarding schools for Canada's first nationals. The name shows how old this charity is as it was formed many years before the American revolution

Then at our Aviation group, I learned that Freddie Laker and Malcolm Campbell both worked for the Air Transport Authority, which delivered aircraft during WW2.

I am sure a thirst for knowledge must be really healthy for our brain cells and our u3a is making a valuable contribution for us.

It has taken some time and hard work but we have now managed to arrange two first aid courses for our members. These will provide valuable information including the use of defibrillators. We hope the new skills will not be needed but even so we should enjoy more peace of mind at our u3a meetings and indeed other events. There are now many defibrillators attached to a variety of public buildings and less of us will walk past not knowing when or how these are used to save lives.

Further information on the courses is contained on p19.

Now we are into March, we have both Mothering Sunday and Easter Sunday to look forward to. Easter Sunday is also the start of British Summer Time so it must mean longer days and more sunshine. That sounds good.

Ken Hazell

WELCOME

A warm welcome to our new members:

Marianne Wallis Andrew Wallis Joan Cairns

David Iszard

WITH REGRET

It is with great regret that we notify you that Malcolm Marrant passed away on 16th February. Michael had been a u3a member since 2019.



MONTHLY MEETING

Monday 15th April

Wickham Bishops Hall

Doors open at 1.30pm for 1.45pm start

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

Speaker: Tyler Butterworth

My parents

Peter Butterworth & Janet Brown

The actor son of Peter Butterworth (Carry On films) and Janet Brown (best known for her Maggie Thatcher impressions), talks about the remarkable life of his parents.

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

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	Tea at the Ritz!! Strawberries, scones, jam & cream Light entertainment
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 Gardens and mycology

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: John Snow and the hunt for the source of cholera in Victorian London, Secrets of the Human Brain and, from Pleasure Gardens to Theme Parks.

Just click on the link on our web page www.maldonu3a.co.uk

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 3rd April.

Kris

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Beckingham Hall – a convoluted tale!!

Beckingham Hall was a magnificent Tudor manor house, with a moat, surrounding protective wall and a gatehouse, built by the Beckingham family in 1544, on land allocated by Henry VIII, near Tolleshunt Major.

They also built the fine brick tower of the nearby church, affording wonderful views towards the River Blackwater.

At least three generations lived and worked there before moving to Bishopsbourne in Kent, where they continued to prosper.

Several owners followed, notably the Rev. Daniel Williams, who in 1711 left the Hall in trust to the New England Company.

Rev. Williams was one of the great Dissenters of the Anglican Church, and left almost his entire estate of £50,000 to charity and to the library he founded in Gordon Square, London.

The New England Company was a Missionary Society formed for converting native inhabitants of the New World to Christianity, and its headquarters eventually moved to Kamloops in British Columbia, Canada.

Beckingham Hall was eventually destroyed by fire in 1782 and replaced by a much smaller farmhouse. The best known relic of the Hall is an oak panel on permanent display in the V & A Museum, bought from the New England Company in 1912.

Only very recently has the estate returned to full private ownership and it can be viewed from the road just north of Goldhanger.

Contd.

Our next meeting at the Town Hall, Maldon, is on **Monday 25th March** at 10.00 when our speaker will be Adrian Wright for his talk:

The 1953 British Storm and Flood

On the night of 31st January 1953, the combination of a spring tidal surge and a fierce wind-bearing storm caused immense floods throughout eastern England. In total, 307 people lost their lives on land: the scale of the disaster was worsened by the widespread destruction of housing, as well as manufacturing and transport infrastructure.

Comparisons will be made to modern weather patterns.

See you on the 25th and we hope we won't need our wellies!!

Kathy and Sylvia

Visit to the Combined Military Services Museum, Maldon

We have arranged for our members to have a private visit to this fascinating museum on **Wednesday 24th April** at 2pm. Members who attended our monthly meeting in October last year when Julie Miller gave an in depth talk about the museum and its very varied exhibits will recall that it houses items from over 1000 years of history including one of the finest collections of operational spy equipment in the world.

The entry fee will be £8.

Please contact Kathy Goff for further details or to book your place.

Kathy Goff

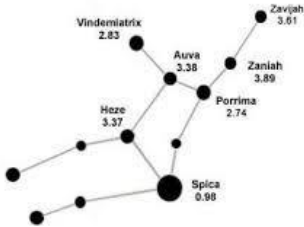


ASTRONOMY GROUP

On **Friday 15th March**, we will be paying a visit to Bayfordbury Observatory, nr Hertford from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. For further details or if you wish to come on this visit then please contact me.



Our next meeting will be on **Monday 25th March** starting at 7:30pm at Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge. Weather permitting we will be night sky observing. If overcast then there will be a presentation and discussion on the constellation Virgo. Please bring your telescopes, binoculars etc with you.



Jupiter remains the only bright planet readily on view and it is now an evening object, setting soon after 10pm mid-month. On the 13th there is a fine pairing with the young crescent moon in the West, best seen around 8pm.

With a full moon on the 25th the best time for viewing the stars will be mid-month. Looking to the East, Ursa Major, the Great Bear is rising during the evening with its 'tail' pointing downwards and the fainter stars that make up its 'legs', pointing upwards.



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 this or the Bayfordbury trip, then please contact me.

Malcolm Case

MARITIME GROUP

There are no meetings of the group in April or May (Public Holidays), the next meeting of the group will be on **Monday 3rd June** for a talk on the Irrawaddy river in Myanmar, from its source to the Andaman Sea. Further details will be in a later newsletter.

The group are organising a trip to Sutton Hoo and Woodbridge on **Monday 5th August**, departing the West Maldon Community Centre at 8:00am to arrive Sutton Hoo for 10:00 am. The cost per person is £30.00, this



includes the coach hire, driver's gratuity, and coach parking. Also included are guided tours of the Sutton Hoo burial ground and a guided tour of the reconstruction of the Viking Long Ship at Woodbridge.



The cost of entry to Sutton Hoo is not included as this is a National Trust property. If you are a member then entry is free, if you are not a member then the entry fee of £15.20 (group price) will have to be paid on arrival. If you would like to come on this very interesting trip, then please contact me.

Malcolm Case

- 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.
- 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

MARITIME GROUP contd.

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.



SOCIAL ORGANISING GROUP



Tuesday April 23rd is

ST GEORGE'S DAY

Come and join in our celebration lunch

at Blackwater Sailing Club

Basin Road, Heybridge CM9 4SD

12.30 for 1 o'clock

Spud and Pud lunch

followed by a light hearted after-lunch talk

celebrating our Patron Saint

Don't forget to bring your cutlery, plate, bowl and cup

Drinks will be available from the Sailing Club's pay bar

(you are not permitted to bring your own drinks)

Tickets £15, available from Rosemary Case

BIRD WATCHING GROUP

Birdwatching group at East Mersea

A spectacular profusion of waterfowl greeted nine members on the waterlogged wetland of the Cudmore Grove reserve on Sunday 3rd March. Above us flew large flocks of over-wintering brent geese while behind the sea wall dabbled scores of wigeon, a winter-visiting duck.



Both will soon be leaving for their northern breeding grounds, the brents in high Arctic tundra and wigeon in Iceland or northern Europe, though a few stay all year. Two types of brent geese winter in Britain. The dark bellied race – the type seen in Essex – favour southern and eastern coasts while pale bellied brents prefer Northumberland and Ireland.

Out among the wigeon were a number of teal, Europe's smallest duck, the males with their distinctive chestnut brown and green heads. This British resident is joined in winter by teal from Iceland, Scandinavia and Russia. Probing the mud for food with their long downward curved bills were a few curlew, our largest wader. They too will soon be departing for their breeding grounds, not in more northern climes but inland on moorland or lowland areas.

A treat awaited us on a pond overlooked by a hide: four or five garganey – the only duck which migrates to Europe for the summer, spending the winter in Africa where they are seen in large flocks. But this scarce breeding duck is usually only seen in pairs or small groups in the UK.

Cudmore Grove is a good place to see another summer early bird, the

sand martin, which will be arriving any day after wintering in Sub-Saharan Africa. The smallest member of the European swallow family, sand martins have a brown back and white underside with a brown chest band. They nest in burrows, dug by themselves in Cudmore's clay cliffs.

Mike Bagshaw

Peter Gaywood

The group's next outing is to **Blue House Farm, North Farnbridge** on **Sunday 7th April** 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

4th May	Fingringhoe	Meet in the car park
1st June	Minsmere Reserve	Meet at 11.00 in the 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

AVIATION GROUP

Hello everyone,

In February, Joe Marshall gave us an excellent fact filled talk covering the formation and operation of the Air Transport Auxiliary service and the eclectic mix of men and women from all over the world who operated a delivery service to get the much needed military aircraft from factory to squadron during WW2.

In five years over 309,000 aircraft were ferried by 1250 pilots, 168 of whom were women, from 25 countries.



A still from the IWM Ferry Pilot DVD

Pilots were expected to fly single handed all but four engine bombers, seaplanes, or transports---for these, they were given the luxury of a Flight Engineer! Sir Freddie Laker learnt his trade doing that, gravitating to piloting when required.

Sadly, 173 aircrew lost their lives in the service.

I hope that everyone enjoyed it. I grabbed a clip of the Spitfire flying inverted!! ---- again from the IWM Ferry Pilot DVD.

See link <https://youtu.be/MO4dPGsCAyw>

On **Thursday 21st March** we will visit the superb Aviation & Motor Museum at the old Brooklands racing circuit, Weybridge, Surrey. We have now secured a 53-seat capacity coach from Fords of Althorne.

Information: <https://www.brooklandsmuseum.com/>

We are sharing the transport with fellow u3a members who are visiting the nearby gardens at RHS Wisley. As we now have a larger coach there are still some seats available should any additional u3a members wish to join us.

On **Friday 26th April**, at 11.00 at our new venue of **Woodham Mortimer Village Hall**, we will have an illustrated talk by Andy Strange about the RAF Special Duties Service and the SOE (Special Operations Executive) on the part they played in allied support of the Resistance organisations during WW2 delivering agents and supplies throughout occupied Europe and theatres of operation.

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 classic 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, as we are trying to get a few cars and their owners together allowing us to offer an introduction to Maldon & District u3a.

More info on the event at Stow Maries can be found on <https://www.stowmaries.org.uk/event/wings-and-wheels-2024-787496241457>

This will be a great family day out with much to see, bring a picnic and enjoy!

Chris Samson

AVIATION GROUP PROGRAMME

- Thursday 21st March (avoiding Easter and Friday M25) Visit to Brooklands Museum with combined transport to RHS at Wisley. Note: this is one or the other—not both! Full, but a reserve list has been started.
- Friday 26th April An illustrated talk by Andy Strange on the RAF squadrons who provided the Special Duties Service for the SOE (Special Operations Executive) and clandestine operations – the part they played in allied support of the Resistance organisations during WW2 delivering agents and supplies throughout occupied Europe and theatres of operation.
- 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 A *show & tell* meeting at Woodham Mortimer Village Hall. Members are invited to bring items of aviation or related interest, ideally having a family connection and relate their story.
- Family memorabilia, parts of aircraft! etc, etc.
- Wednesday 21st July A visit to the Norfolk and Suffolk air museum at Flixton, Suffolk is planned. A superb small museum with many interesting exhibits. More info on www.aviationmuseum.net/
- The plan is to use the 16-seater Community 360 minibus; cost for the transport is £18 pp and entry to the museum is free but donations are appreciated.
- Let me know if you are interested and I will start a booking list.

First Aid Courses

We have finally been able to secure a qualified instructor for a beginners first aid course for our interested members.

Two sessions will take place at West Maldon Community Centre, Sunbury Way, CM9 6YH. They will be held on Thursday 11th April and Monday 29th April, both commencing at 12.30 until 16.30.

They will both cover:

Resuscitation

Bleeding

Choking

Seizures

Fainting

Nosebleeds

Falls

There will be a demonstration of resuscitation using a mannequin plus basic information on the use of a defibrillator should you wish.

All members who had previously expressed an interest should have received an email from me asking for your choice of date. Each session can accommodate 14/16 people. Should any further members wish to participate then please email me.

Kris Taylor

STROLLERS TOO

Our first outing of the year was on Tuesday 27th February when we set out from Tesco Maldon to Heybridge Basin on a dry and mild day which meant we were able to have refreshments before our return.

Jane Cox



Our next walk is planned for **Tuesday 26th March**, but because of recent wet weather and the difficult state of paths and tracks the final choice has not yet been decided. We are looking at options and shall, of course, do the appropriate recce. We then plan to email to all the Strollers group members one week before the walk with details about where to meet and the start time.

I hope you understand this decision but safety and welfare are paramount. Regards Val and John Stealey

WINE GROUP 2

We are looking for four members to join us. We meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month, in the evening, in each other's homes. We usually have a theme to the evening eg. tasting wine from Tuscany, Portugal, Provence, and so on.

The meetings are most enjoyable, always fun, and very friendly, and of course, informative. You don't need to know about wine. We all learn something new at each meeting. So, why not come along for two or three meetings, and give us a try?

I'm happy to give you more information.

Graham Boswell

GARDEN GROUP

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

A few places are still available and car sharing may be possible.

Our future visits include:

Tuesday 14th May, an afternoon visit to a local garden—Furzelea in Danbury.

Tuesday 9th July, an afternoon visit to Keeway, Creeksea, nr Burnham.

Tuesday 30th July, an afternoon visit to Kamala, Hawkwell.

We are also currently looking at arranging a trip in mid June.

Further information will be provided in next month's newsletter.

Best wishes to you all.

Theresa Byles

Kris Taylor



RNLI – 5p and 20p collections

Malcolm and I were recently invited to attend a reception hosted by the Maldon branch of the RNLI where volunteers were thanked for their contributions.



The recent Gig race had been a very successful event for the branch and teams were given souvenir photos. It was very appropriate as the following day it was the 200th anniversary of the formation of the RNLI originally called the National Institution for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck! Over 140,000 lives have been saved since its foundation albeit at a cost of more than 600 lives lost in service.

We handed over a cheque for £30 , the amount raised by us so far this year. Please keep saving your coins for a very worthwhile cause.

Mary Burd

In the photo: Sue Woods, Branch Chair, Sally Hutton ,RNLI Area Manager and Stephen Nunn, Branch President.

JUST JAZZ GROUP

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



Our next meeting is **Monday 18th April** 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

PETANQUE GROUP



It's time to dust the cobwebs off those Petanque balls and head to the Petanque pitch on Maldon Prom on a Thursday afternoon for a couple of hours or so of fun. The first session of the 2024 season is scheduled for **Thursday 11th April**, hopefully a dry day.

New players are always welcome to come and give it a try, so why not come along and have a go. The group meets Thursday afternoons start time 2.00 p.m. until around 4.00 p.m.

We play on the Petanque pitch opposite the Marine Lake at the Promenade Park, Park Drive, Maldon CM9 5JQ.

No charge is made to play but you must be a member of Maldon & District u3a or one of the Maldon u3a cluster groups.

Car parking is available at the park, but please note that Maldon District Council make a charge.

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.

We only play if the weather is dry. The season is April to October.

For more details please contact:

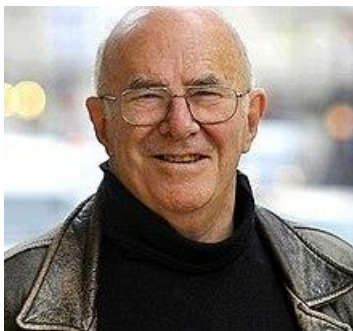
Jack Veash

Geoff Macro

POETRY GROUP

The next meeting of the group is on **Thursday 4th April**, starting at 2:00 pm and meeting in a member's house.

The poet for discussion is Clive James AO CBE FRSL (born Vivian Leopold James; 7 October 1939 – 24 November 2019).



Clive was an Australian critic, journalist, broadcaster, writer and lyricist who lived and worked in the United Kingdom from 1962 until his death in 2019. He began his career specialising in literary criticism before becoming the television critic for the Observer in 1972, where he made his name for his wry, deadpan humour. During this period, he earned an independent reputation as a poet and satirist. He achieved mainstream success in the UK first as a writer for television, and eventually as the lead in his own programmes.

Jo Robson

ART APPRECIATION GROUP

The Art Appreciation group is continuing to enjoy the Great Courses, and also discuss future activities. The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 10th April** at a member's house, venue to be confirmed. There will be cake!

For further information please contact:

Andy Simmonds

Judith Johnston

CROQUET GROUP

It is time to start thinking about those summer sports. The Croquet group's first game is scheduled for **Wednesday 17th April** from 2–4pm. Croquet is competitive yet sociable, enjoyable, active and healthy.



Regular players of the group will be contacted in early April but new members are welcome. Why not come along and have a go. The group meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoons from April until October. There is a charge of £7.00 for the use of equipment and we plan to provide a drink at the end of play. Please note that shoes with flat soles and no heels must be worn and your toes should be covered, so no sandals please.

Maldon & District u3a play with the kind permission of Maldon Croquet Club on the Club lawns at Hatfield Peverel Bowling Club, the Keith Bigden Memorial Ground, Wickham Bishops Road, Hatfield Peverel, CM3 2JL.

If you would like more information, or would like to come along and give it a try please contact one of the u3a co-ordinators:

Geoff and Shirley Macro



FILM GROUP

The latest two films that the group reviewed were *Hope and Glory* and *Late Night*.

Hope and Glory, a 1987 comedy-drama war film written, produced and directed by John Boorman, and based on his own experiences growing up in London during the Second World War, was enjoyed by us all. There were some comments about it perhaps being a bit too light-hearted and it didn't really show how frightening the bombing was, especially to children. However, it did depict the fun and games the boys had on the bombsites and how children manage to find enjoyment whatever the situation. Good ensemble acting by all, with the curmudgeonly grandfather especially good. Score: 8

Late Night, a 2019 American comedy-drama film starring Emma Thompson as a popular TV host who hires a new writer to keep from getting replaced was also given some good reviews, although not by everyone in the Group. A story of how the main character started off thoroughly unpleasant, not even learning her scriptwriters' names and just referring to them as a number, and develops into a much nicer person. As expected, Emma Thompson was excellent in the lead role and well supported by everyone else: Score: 7

Next time:

Official Secrets is a 2019 British drama film directed by Gavin Hood, based on the case of whistleblower Katharine Gun who exposed an illegal spying operation by American and British intelligence services to gauge the sentiment of and potentially blackmail diplomats tasked to vote on a resolution regarding the 2003 invasion of Iraq. Keira Knightley stars as Gun, alongside Matt Smith and Ralph Fiennes.

Available BBC iPlayer until Thursday, 21st March.

Food for Ravens a 1997 powerful drama on the life of Aneurin Bevan, founder of the National Health Service. Written by Trevor Griffiths, the play focuses on Bevan's final days, showing him musing on his life and career from his sickbed in Buckinghamshire. The title is that of a seventh

century Welsh poem by Aneurin and refers to Bevan's early death at 62 from cancer. Bevan was a complex man, rooted in the working class yet deeply influenced by glamorous world figures, a fact reflected in the drama. Stars Brian Cox as Bevan and Sinead Cusack as Jenny Lee.

Available BBC iPlayer for four months.

Next meeting is on **Wednesday, 27th March**, 7.30pm via Zoom.

Please get in touch if you would like to join us.

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

PROPOSED NEW GROUP

ENGINEERING AND INVENTIONS

For this group, I propose to show one each from three series of lectures produced by the Great Courses. They would be:

- Understanding the world's greatest structures: Science and Innovation from antiquity to modernity
- Understanding the inventions that changed the world
- Epic engineering failures and the lessons they teach

There are between 24 and 36 lectures in each series, enough to keep us going for a year before possibly moving on to other series. The lecturer for the first and third topics is particularly outstanding. He uses a number of home-made models to explain and demonstrate the engineering principles.

The inventions series (by a different professor) looks much wider to inventions in many different aspects of life in a chronological sequence. The epic engineering failures series, whilst mostly civil engineering structures, also includes other notable failures, including the Boeing 737MAX.

The meetings would be on either the first and third Tuesday mornings, or the same Tuesday afternoons, or the same Friday mornings of each month. They will be held at my house in Danbury. If you are interested, please email me and I will send you more information and ask for your preference for meeting dates.

Tony Groves

SOCIAL ORGANISING GROUP



An entertaining afternoon was spent in February at Plantation Hall, Heybridge when the Social Organising Group arranged a Beetle Drive.

A fun, noisy and competitive event, the eventual winner was Mave Studholme.

Our thanks to the SOG for organising the event and for the most delicious selection of cakes to accompany our tea.



STROLLERS SUNDAY

Our Sunday walk on **17th March** will be from the River Breeze Cafe & Bar, Fambridge Yacht Haven, CM3 6LU. We will meet at 10.15 heading off at 10.30. The walk will take in some of the sea wall, some of it will be along the road and some on footpaths across fields. Hopefully we won't have too much more wet weather between now and then but it is likely that waterproof footwear will be an essential! A provisional arrangement has been made for Sunday lunch at the River Breeze so can I ask that members let me know by the weekend 9th/10th March if they are intending to come.

To find the River Breeze drive straight through North Fambridge towards the church and follow River Breeze sign to the right .

Jane Cox

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 from 2–4pm at my house in Wickham Bishops. Our next meeting is **19th March**. Our April meetings are on **2nd, 16th and 30th**.

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 12th April** at the new time of **2–4pm**

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

Contact the u3a Office

u3a
156 Blackfriars Road
London, UK SE1 8EN

Tel: 020 8466 6139
Email: info@u3a.org.uk
www.u3a.org.uk

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	Patrick Forsyth
Rummikub	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 - April 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Easter Monday	German	Bridge Ten Pin Bowling Padel Tennis	Rummikub Ten Pin Bowling Poetry	Canasta		Bird Watching Blue House Farm
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Handicrafts Discussion		Ten Pin Bowling Meet & Eat Padel Tennis Art Appreciation	Royal History-Victorians Ten Pin Bowling Scottish Dancing French Conversation	Singing Mahjong		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Monthly Meeting Tyler Butterworth Just Jazz	German	Bridge Ten Pin Bowling Geology Padel Tennis Croquet Photography	Ten Pin Bowling Rummikub	Canasta Reading		Strollers
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Local History Astronomy Visit to Herstmonceux Observatory	Strollers St George's Day lunch Wine Group	Ten Pin Bowling Writing Padel Tennis Film Wine Group	Ten Pin Bowling Scottish Dancing French Conversation Wine Group	Aviation Talk Garden Visit Bucklers Singing Cribbage Mahjong Reading		
29	30					
	German					

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