



Maldon and District

# Newsletter



Garden Group visit to Bucklers Farmhouse, Coggeshall

Photo by Brigitte Whiteing

**May 2024**

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

Registered Charity 1086182

## FROM THE CHAIR

Our April meeting was both illuminating and entertaining as Tyler Butterworth took us through the careers of his father from prisoner of war to *Carry On* star and of his mother, a quite remarkable impressionist, particularly in impersonating Margaret Thatcher. The excellent talk was accompanied by carefully selected slides and film clips, many I think recalled by our audience.



We joined in with the *Carry On* spirit as, owing to the storm blowing outside, the fuses in the hall tripped about halfway through Tyler's talk so a long-handled broom was needed to reach the fuse box.

Our age group is constantly being advised to take regular exercise – well anything cardiovascular, and so increase one's pulse.

In our Maldon u3a we have facilities for Ten Pin Bowling, Pétanque, Padel Tennis, and Croquet. There are also excellent facilities for Table Tennis that are run by a member of our u3a Cluster. There is also cycling, and golf also run by members of our Cluster. We have excellent local walks in and around our area, including those along the canal or sea wall. Nothing as yet on the water.

We also must keep our brains active, so I had better think about that.

In July we will be celebrating summer with an afternoon tea with accompanying background live music. An ambitious project to really look forward to. We will need to know the numbers in advance so please make a reservation (see page 6 for details)

Ken Hazell

## WELCOME

A warm welcome to our new members:

Marilyn Sinclair    Iain Crombie    Susan Miles

Sue Windos Harris

## WITH REGRET

It is with regret that we have to inform you of the passing of Clive Bartram. Clive had been a member since August 2023.

## Reminder

Don't forget that there are many on-line learning events on the national u3a website. Zoom talks currently listed include: The Story of the Workhouse, Climate Crisis and Understanding online safety.

Just click on the link on our web page [www.maldonu3a.co.uk](http://www.maldonu3a.co.uk)



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)

## **MONTHLY MEETING**

**Monday 17th June**

**Wickham Bishops Hall**

**Doors open at 1.15pm for 1.45pm start**

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

**Speaker: Cherish Watton**

**The Women's Land Army**

Cherish will tell us about 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.

**Please remember your membership card**

And if you are going on one of the organised trips don't forget your  
cheque book

## MONTHLY SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2024

<p><b>15th July</b></p>	<p><b>Social Event</b> <b>Afternoon Tea</b></p>	<p>Musical entertainment by the Purleigh Phil!</p> <p>Please register your attendance to facilitate catering and seating requirements. Open to Maldon u3a members only.</p> <p>See page 6 for details</p>
<p><b>19th August</b></p>	<p><b>Prof. Stephen Brown</b></p>	<p><b>CHASE Africa</b></p> <p>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.</p>
<p><b>16th September</b></p>	<p><b>Eve Regelous</b></p>	<p><b>Everything Strictly</b></p> <p>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.</p>
<p><b>21st October</b></p>	<p><b>AGM</b> <b>Andrew Wiltshire</b></p>	<p><b>Fungi &amp; Flagstaffs</b></p> <p>The fascinating connections between Beatrix Potter, Kew Gardens and mycology</p>
<p><b>18th November</b></p>	<p><b>Tim Turner</b></p>	<p><b>Going, going, gone</b> <b>A history of auctions.</b></p> <p>Tim returns to delight us with this history of the world of auctions.</p>

16th December	Christmas Entertainment	Details to follow
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If you know of any speakers that you can recommend please contact our Speaker Secretary: Theresa Byles

## Summer Event – Monday 15th July



Afternoon tea with background music provided by the Purleigh Phil, an offshoot of the Maldon Orchestra, plus a table top quiz, provided by Rosemary Case on the subject of TEA

This will be a ticketed event. To facilitate catering requirements and ensure adequate seating it is essential that Maldon u3a members register their attendance by either emailing Malcolm Case or by signing up at the May monthly meeting.

Please advise of any medical dietary requirements ie gluten free.

This event is for Maldon u3a members only.

**Congratulations** are in order for our u3a member and group coordinator, **Patrick Forsyth**.

His most recent novel – ***Once a Thief*** – has been turned into script form by a screenplay writer with a view to it being filmed in some way.

At the time Patrick refused to get excited saying it was of course good news, but that realistically it was “a million miles from actually being able to watch it as a film”.

Now it is maybe one or two steps closer.

The script was entered in the recent prestigious **Berlin International Film Festival** and has just been declared the winner in its category (Best first-time feature writer script). Patrick is delighted, saying: “This is something that professionals in the film world look at in their search for suitable projects, so, as I said when the contract to write the screenplay was signed, ‘You never know!’

And now another accolade, more recently it has won best UK screenplay at the Cambridge Script Festival !

There may still be a way to go before the television needs to be set to record, but meantime the original book remains available (locally in Maldon Books at the top of the High Street). ***Once a Thief*** drew praise on its publication, for example Tony Fisher, the BBC presenter and writer, said: “Once again Patrick gives us charming characters who are in a world of trouble. A twisty plot that has you guessing till the final page”.

The book follows Tracy Hines, struggling to find her place in life and having her life changed by her apprenticeship to a locksmith, but finding her life in danger as she brushes with criminal acts.

## LONDON WALKS

I am planning to start a new group, London Walks.

The walks will be in central London, accompanied by a professional guide provided by the company *London Walks*, and will take place on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

They will begin mid-morning and take approximately two hours and afterwards we will stop for refreshments in a café or restaurant

The guides require a minimum of 18 people.

The cost of the walk will be £10, payable in advance, with your own arranged transport to London, and refreshments being additional.

Each walk will have a theme, with the London Walks guides providing topics such as Darkest Victorian London, the Famous Square Mile, Kensington Royal Village, Jack the Ripper, Ghost Walks – there are up to 500 in total!

If you are interested, please contact Julie Lake:

## LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Following on from a talk at the main meeting in October 2023 the Local History Group visited the Combined Military Services Museum in Station Road, Maldon on 24th April.

After a brief introduction by the Curator and Historian, Julie Miller, who gave the talk in October, we were invited to view the exhibits at our leisure, with volunteers on hand to answer any queries.



Covering over 1000 years of military history, exhibits range from a Viking sword found on the Causeway, Heybridge, almost certainly from the Battle of Maldon in 991, to the latest equipment and gear used in the second Gulf War in 1991.

The exhibits are displayed over 3 floors, accessible by lift or stairs, and include the Donnington firearms collection, and arms and armour from 1800BC to 1800AD. There is also a wonderful display of military uniforms dating from Napoleonic times to the modern day.

Highlights for the Group included one of the finest collections in the world of operational spy equipment, and the only surviving Cockle Mk2 Canoe from Operation Franckton, one of the most daring and dangerous missions in WWII.

Opened in 2004 to house the personal collection of Richard Wooldridge, the Museum continues to grow with donations and acquisitions and is well worth a visit. The Museum is open weekly from Wed. to Sat. And there are concessionary rates for admittance. There is so much to see that you may find that one visit is just not enough!!

Our thanks to Kathy for organizing such an interesting and informative afternoon.

Please note that there is NO MEETING in May as it is a Bank Holiday.

Our next meeting at the Town Hall, Maldon, is on **Monday 24th June** at 2pm when our speaker will be Max Fox for his talk on Roman Colchester. Included will be information on the Roman Circus and updates on the latest Roman finds.

We look forward to seeing you in June.

Kathy and Sylvia

## STROLLERS SUNDAY

Twelve intrepid strollers ventured forth on the Nounsley/Ulting Sunday stroll. It was the second time of asking as originally the fields were flooded and as no one had a wet suit or flippers the walk was cancelled.

The walk was rescheduled, and we were blessed with good weather on the selected Sunday and set off down country lanes with little or no traffic and across countryside and through fields of gold where rapeseed blossomed.

Our final destination was a pub lunch, as you do. Excellent food, traditional Sunday lunch, fish and chips, liver and bacon. We were all good boys and girls and ate up as taught by parents in those early years.



Strollers are a friendly bunch, the walks are more of a mobile social with lots of conversation to the backing of bird song, what we talked about already forgotten but the moment in time remembered.

Our May walk will take place on **Sunday 19th May in** Terling. It will start and finish at the Rayleigh Arms in Terling, CM3 2PW, where we will have lunch. The meeting time is **10.15** for a 10.30 start.

We haven't yet tested this walk so cannot give more details at the present time but will pass on more information nearer the time. To get an idea of numbers, can you please let us know if you will be joining us and whether you would like to book lunch after the walk.

Janet and Jenny

### Sunday Strollers – **Sunday June 16th**

Our June walk will be taking place around the Great Totham area.

As this walk falls on Fathers Day we will not be arranging the usual pub lunch but instead we will host a bring and share lunch afterwards at our home in Great Totham.

Please let us know if you would like to come on the walk and whether you wish to join us for lunch and we will send you more details.

Brenda and Robert Heal

Future dates for the Sunday Strollers group are: 21st July, 18th August, 15th Sept, 20th October, 17th Nov.

## STROLLERS TOO

On Tuesday 23rd April our walk was from Great Waltham on a circular route towards Pleshey and back, following the Essex Way for part of it.



After a short walk along a road, we crossed a ford then joined the Essex Way at a reservoir, following Walthambury Brook.



The return journey took us across open countryside with extensive views across the valley. The whole walk was mostly flat and not as muddy as expected.

Despite the low turnout, the rain and the drizzle, a handful of us hardy souls enjoyed the walk but were glad to get dry afterwards in the pub.

Muriel & Steven Clarke.

*Photos thanks Nicola Iszard, thank you Nicki.*

Our walk on **Tuesday 28th May** will start at The Bell at Woodham Walter (CM9 6RF). Please arrive at **10.15** for a **10.30** start. We will walk mainly off road taking in woodland, hopefully with a chance to see Lily of the Valley growing wild.

We are welcome to use the pub car park and there will be an opportunity to order lunch before the walk.

Jane Cox

Please don't attempt to call my landline as it isn't functional.

Our walk on **Tuesday 25th June** will be at Goldhanger, a circular walk starting at the Chequers pub, 1 Church Street, Goldhanger, Maldon, CM9 8AS. We will proceed through the churchyard, across the fields to the sea wall. Our walk will then continue along the sea wall back to the Chequers. It is approximately 4.9 miles.

Meet at **10:15** for **10:30** start. Parking is available at the Chequers car park which is opposite the pub. Lunch will be at the Chequers afterwards.

Please email me to advise if you are walking/ walking and having lunch.

Mags Harker

Future dates for the Tuesday Strollers group are: 28th May, 25th June, 23rd July, 27th August, 24th Sept, 22nd October, 26th Nov.

## Dengie Cycling Group

Hello. We are trying to restart the Dengie u3a cycling group so on 17th April Brian and I set off for the first of the season's cycle rides around the Dengie on a cold, blustery but luckily sunny April day. The route started and finished in Latchingdon, heading out and back to Southminster. The dynamic duo are pictured outside the tea stop in Althorne. A cosy cafe whose existence I was unaware of. Certainly worth a visit if your passing through. When asked by the waitress if we had cycled far, Brian replied with a cheeky grin, miles. Actually about 12 miles in all by the time we had returned to Latchingdon.



We keep the distances low and usually plan a coffee stop. The speeds are never high, and the rides are always local and wherever possible on the quieter roads.

We also try to pick dates and times that suit the majority of the riders. ebikes are also welcome to join us.

More rides later in the year, please come and join us, we cycle at a very sedate pace, and you can walk up any hills with Brian.

Best wishes

Edward

## SOCIAL ORGANISING GROUP



The Social Organising Group would like to thank all members who attended our lunch to celebrate St. George's Day. The after lunch speaker entertained us with very funny and interesting facts about St. George  
Thanks Mike

## GARDEN GROUP

### Trip to Bressingham Gardens—Wed 24 July

We are joining forces again with the Aviation group, this time for a trip to Suffolk. The aviators are going to a museum in Flixton which also makes it possible for a visit to Bressingham Gardens.

The cost per person for the coach is £26. If we make a group booking for Bressingham, that will be an additional £8.50 each plus £1 if a guided garden tour is required. If you also want to visit the Steam Museum and ride the Galloper that is an extra £5 each.

The Bressingham Gardens cover 16 acres in total. More details can be found on <https://www.thebressinghamgardens.com/visit-us/>

There is an on-site café and visitors can take their own picnics.

This trip is open to all Maldon & District u3a members.

Please make your interest known by email to either Theresa or Kris, or at the May monthly meeting.



## GARDEN GROUP

In April, the Garden Group enjoyed a visit to Bucklers Farmhouse ,near Great Tey. We were very lucky with the weather; it was a sunny and pleasant day sandwiched between cold and rainy days. The owners have created the garden over the past 60 years from a derelict farm and the owner shared her time with us, giving a history of the garden and chatting about the plants and shrubs.

It is a series of small garden areas around 3 sides of the old house. In the spring these areas are filled with tulips; this year planted mostly in tubs and planters because of last year's tulip blight. The mild winter meant that the garden was quite well advanced and there was much to see.



The magnificent topiary was created and is tended by Ann Bartleet, the owner.

Our enjoyment of the garden was then enhanced by lovely homemade scones, cakes and tea.





*Photos thanks to Brigitte Whiteing*

On Tuesday **18th June** we visit Blunts Hall in Witham, however this trip is fully booked.

In **July** we visit Keeway, Creeksea on **9th**, and Kamala, Hawkwell on **30th**. Further information will be issued in the first instance to members of the Garden Group.

And we are joining forces with the Aviation group again, this time with a visit to Bressingham on **Wednesday 24 July**. Details of this trip are shown on page 15.

Best wishes

Theresa Byles

Kris Taylor

## MARITIME GROUP

The next meeting of the Maritime Group is on **Monday 3rd June**, starting at 10:00 am at the Blackwater Sailing Club, Basin Road, Heybridge Basin, Maldon, CM9 4SD for a talk on **the Irrawaddy River**, from its source to the sea.

The trip organised for – Sutton Hoo/Woodbridge in August is currently full, but I do have a waiting list. The trip to the Chatham Historic Dockyard still has spaces so if you would like to join us please contact me.

Malcolm Case

## MARITIME GROUP Programme 2024

- 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. This trip is fully booked, but please contact Malcolm Case to add your name to the waiting list.
- Monday 2nd September      Trip to **Chatham Dockyard**. It includes tours of the Ropery, the Submarine, the RNLI 200th Anniversary exhibition and the 40th Anniversary exhibition of the Dockyard and hopefully a tour of the store where the National Maritime Museum keep their models which are usually on display at the Museum.
- Cost pp is £40 including coach and entry. Please bring your cheque to the monthly meeting. For further details on this trip, please contact Malcolm Case.

- Monday 7th October      Talk by Gordon Davies on **Emigration 1850 style**. In the 1850s over a third of a million people left the UK for a new life in Australasia, travelling there by sailing ship on a voyage likely to take 3 or 4 months. Who went? Why? What were their experiences en route? What support did they have?
- 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.

## FILM GROUP

There was plenty to talk about at our recent meeting. From the exploits of an elderly man becoming a drugs mule and ending up in prison in his 90s – obviously he didn't have access to a u3a group to keep him properly occupied – to how we all failed to agree with the critics' views of the other film.

Starting with ***The Mule***. Another good Clint Eastwood film. This time about an elderly man who gets involved with transporting drugs for a Mexican cartel. The story is based on true events but, even so, it does seem unbelievable that someone in their late 80s would take on such a role. Clint Eastwood played the part well, with a good supporting cast. Overall, it was enjoyed by all – Score: 8

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for ***Wildlife***. Despite the various rave reviews the film gained when first shown with praise given to the cast, in particular Carey Mulligan, we all thought the film was dull and boring. It depicted the disintegration of a marriage and family and the effect it had on them all. Definitely not a bundle of laughs, and the boy was a bit creepy! Score: 5

Next time:

***The Mercy*** – a 2017 British biographical film based on the true story of the disastrous attempt by the amateur sailor Donald Crowhurst to complete the Sunday Times Golden Globe Race in 1968 and his subsequent attempts to cover up his failure. The film stars Colin Firth, Rachel Weisz, David Thewlis and Ken Stott.

Available on BBC iPlayer for only for a limited period.

***The Last Mountain*** – a 2021 film co-produced by the BBC about the story of climber Tom Ballard who disappeared on the so-called killer mountain, Nanga Parbat in 2019.

Available on BBC iPlayer for over a year.

Our next meeting is **Wednesday, 29th May** at 7.30pm as usual by Zoom. If you would like to join us please get in touch.

Shirley Macro

## POETRY GROUP

The next meeting of the group is on **Thursday 6th June**, meeting at a member's house at 2:00 pm.

The poetry subject for discussion will be ***Food and Drink***. There are several poets whose works include reference to this subject, William Wordsworth, Percy Shelley, Emily Dickenson, Maya Angelou to name but a few.

Jo Robson

## ART APPRECIATION GROUP

The group met in May at a member's house and watched some more of the Great Courses on the Dutch Golden Age. Tea and home-made cakes were enjoyed in the lovely sunny garden.

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 12 June** and we plan to make a return visit to the Art Cafe in West Mersea, tides permitting! Car sharing will be arranged. All are welcome to join us.

For any further information, please contact

## BIRD WATCHING GROUP

### Visit to Fingringhoe Nature Reserve 4th May

The birdsong that seemed to fill the night was unmistakable – my first nightingale, heard above the noise of the car engine as I drove up the track leading to our old home. It was in the early hours of April 25, 2013, a date recorded in my wholly unscientific wildlife diary. I stopped



the car and got out to listen for some five minutes as the song continued, rising, and falling, from a large area of scrub next to an adjoining field.

Nightingales – one of our most iconic songbirds – return to the UK every spring after spending the winter in central Africa. Fingringhoe is one of their main destinations in Britain, accounting for about 1% (30 to 40 pairs) of the UK population.

Nine members headed for the reserve in search of this secretive songster. Only the males sing – to attract a mate and can be heard until early June at any time, day, or night. But it is after dusk or before dawn that their magnificent song can best be heard, carrying for up to a mile on still nights.

They are unremarkable to look at, about the size of a large robin with reddish brown backs and pale underparts, and more often heard than seen. We heard a good number, sampling short bursts of their high, low and rich notes, and saw a few briefly, perched above surrounding scrubland. Their songs fade away as they pair up and get down to the serious business of breeding before heading back to Africa..

Meanwhile out on the mudflats, we were lucky enough to catch sight of another bird which winters in Africa, a whimbrel, en route to its breeding grounds in northern Scotland. This passage migrant resembles a curlew with its distinctive long downward bill but is smaller. Declining numbers

mean it is now classified as red in the UK under Birds of Conservation concern.

The group's next destination is the RSPB reserve at **Minsmere** on **Saturday 1st June**.

Meet in car park at **11am**, not the usual 10.



*Whimbrel by Alec Fraser*



Mike Bagshaw

Peter Gaywood

## Birdwatching Group Programme 2024

7th July	Tollesbury	Meet in Woodrolfe Road car park
August	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
1st December	Hanningfield Reservoir	Meet in the Visitor Centre car park

## ENGINEERING & INVENTIONS GROUP

In this **new group**, I will show one each from three series of lectures produced by *The Great Courses*. They are:

- a) understanding the world's greatest structures: Science and Innovation from antiquity to modernity,
- b) understanding the inventions that changed the world,
- c) epic engineering failures and the lessons they teach.

There are between 24 and 36 lectures in each series, so it will 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, while mostly civil engineering structures, also includes other notable failures, including the Boeing 737MAX.

The meetings will be held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month starting at 2pm at my house in Danbury. Our next meeting is **Tuesday 21st May**. If you are interested please email me and I will send you more information

Tony Groves

**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 u3a group members are welcome.

Peter Harden



## ASTRONOMY GROUP

There will not be a meeting of the group in May as it is a bank holiday. The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 24th June** with a visit to the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich to visit the Observatory etc.

Owing to a cancellation we now have availability on the coach for two further members. Please contact me to add your name to the list and then either send your cheque or bring it to the monthly meeting.

The coach will leave from the West Maldon Community Centre at 9:00am to arrive at the NMM by about 10:30 am and will leave the NMM at about 4:30/5:00 pm. The cost per person is £21.00, this includes the coach, coach parking and driver's gratuity; it does not include entry to the observatory.

Malcolm Case

## JUST JAZZ GROUP

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

Our next meeting is **Monday 20th May** from 7.30—9.30pm, in the Little Ship Club, Hythe Quay, Maldon . The bar will be open so pop in for drink, some music and a chat. We look forward to seeing you.

## THE BIG BALTI

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

To add your name to the list please contact:

Graham Evans

Bob Gowers

## CROQUET GROUP

It's time to start thinking about those summer sports. Croquet is competitive yet sociable, enjoyable, active and healthy.



New members are always 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 refreshments are served 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

## PETANQUE GROUP

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.

New players are always welcome to come and give it a try, so why not come along and have a go. 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, 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

## 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 , Ken Hazell

## 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 on **24th May** at the new time of **2–4pm**

For more information, please contact Mags Pell.

## AVIATION GROUP

Hello everyone,

At our April meeting we had an excellent illustrated talk by Andy Strange about the RAF 'Special Duties' Service and the SOE (Special Operations Executive). It is always salutary to be reminded of the sacrifice of those brave servicemen and women who gave so much.



*Capt. Fred Christensen with Sinbad after a mission.*

It is also wonderful to hear of the touches of humanity during those times such as the American pilot based at Boxted airfield near Colchester flying P47 Thunderbolts, who “adopted” a stray black cat to such an extent that he took the cat, who he had named Sinbad, on low level missions over Europe!

Sinbad became a symbol of good luck to all of the aircrew and Fred Christiansen took Sinbad back to the US as the hostilities wound down where “he” promptly produced a litter of kittens!

Looking ahead, this month Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome are hosting a **Wings & Wheels** show on **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May**.

Five of the Aviation Group are taking classic cars to the event and will be grouped together, so we will have a base for all to come and see us!

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

Note that tickets need to be booked in advance via <https://www.stowmaries.org.uk/events> as they will not be available at the entrance on the day.

This would be a great family day out with much to see and enjoy!

In **June** we will gather at Woodham Mortimer Village Hall for a **Show and Tell** meeting when members are encouraged to bring along items of Aviation interest and to allow us all to share in the story attached to them.

In **July**, we plan to visit the Norfolk & Suffolk Air Museum at Flixton near Bungay----see details below. If you plan to join us, I will be collecting payment at the next Monthly meeting on **Monday 20th May**.

Chris Samson

Sunday May 26<sup>th</sup> Visit to **Wings & Wheels** show at Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome. Five of us are taking classic cars to the event and will be grouped together, so we will have a base for all to come and see us!

Let me know if you want more info on this event and Stow too.

Note that tickets need to be booked in advance as they are not available on the day.

Friday June 28<sup>th</sup> A **Show & Tell** meeting at Woodham Mortimer Village Hall. Members are invited to bring items of Aviation or related interest and to share their story with the Group.

Aviation/Military memorabilia, parts of aircraft! Etc, etc.

Wednesday 24th  
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 <https://www.aviationmuseum.net/>

We are teaming up with the Garden group to use a well-equipped coach with air conditioning etc (a real plus considering the July date!) rather than the 16-seater Community 360 minibus; cost for the transport is £26 pp and entry to the museum is free but donations are appreciated.

If you wish to join us on this visit, please bring your cheque book to the Monthly Meeting at Wickham Bishops Hall!

August

No meeting but a Zoom spectacular is planned!!

Friday 27th  
September

Opening meeting after the summer break with an illustrated talk about the wartime incident when a Hurricane force landed at Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome followed by some flypast gems from the past.

Meeting at Woodham Mortimer Village Hall at **11.00**

Friday 25th October

Illustrated talk about Operation Exodus & Dodge by Chris Samson and fellow member David Gillespie. These operations were put in place to airlift and repatriate thousands of Allied POWs as their camps were overrun by the Allied Armies.

Meeting at Woodham Mortimer Village Hall at **11.00.**

- Friday 22nd November     Illustrated talk about the history of RFC Goldhanger by local historian David Newman.
- Meeting at Woodham Mortimer Village Hall at **11.00**.
- Friday December 20th     Meeting at Woodham Mortimer Village Hall for an Aviation related quiz with Christmas nibbles followed by a light lunch at Stow Maries Airmen's Mess.

## 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

## GERMAN CONVERSATION

Our meetings are held on alternate **Tuesdays** from **2-4pm** at my house in Wickham Bishops. Our next meetings are 28th May, 11th and 25th June.

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

Howard Broadbridge

## RUSSIAN CONVERSATION

One of our members, Irina Vahonina, is Russian and she has started a Russian language activity group. She also speaks Polish, so she is also able to teach that. The emphasis is on conversational language—beginners are welcome.

If you would like to expand your knowledge of foreign languages please contact Irina for more information..

## 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.

## 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 5th June.

Kris



## 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

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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
Engineering	Tony Groves
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
London Walks	Julie Lake
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	Andy Simmonds  Irina Vahonina
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

## Schedule of Events – June 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
					1 Bird Watching   Minsmere	2
3  Maritime	4  Engineering & Inventions	5  Ten Pin Bowling Bridge  Padel Tennis  Croquet	6  Ten Pin Bowling  Poetry  Rummikub  Petanque	7  Mahjong	8	9
10  Handicrafts   Discussion	11  German	12  Ten Pin Bowling  Meet & Eat  Padel Tennis  Art Appreciation	13  Ten Pin Bowling  Royal History- Victorians  Scottish Dancing  Petanque  French Conversation	14  Singing  Canasta	15	16  Strollers
17  Monthly Meeting   The Womens' Land Army   Just Jazz	18  Garden Visit   Blunts Hall  Engineering & Inventions	19  Ten Pin Bowling Bridge  Geology  Padel Tennis  Croquet  Photography	20  Ten Pin Bowling  Rummikub  Petanque	21  Mahjong	22	23
24  Astronomy   Greenwich Observatory   Local History	25  Strollers  German  Wine Group	26  Ten Pin Bowling Bridge  Padel Tennis  Film  Writing  Wine Group	27  Ten Pin Bowling Scottish Dancing  Petanque  French Conversation  Wine Group	28  Singing Aviation  Canasta  Cribbage  Reading	29	30

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