



Maldon and District

Newsletter

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year



December 2024

www.maldonu3a.co.uk

Registered Charity 1086182

FROM THE CHAIR

We must start in ancient Babylon as it was here that Herodotus recorded a very early auction. This was not like “Flog-it” as here the women of marriageable age were sold: the fairest and shapeliest first. This was the opening tale (or perhaps Lot 1) of our speaker Tim Turner, who was telling us about the history of auctions at our last monthly meeting.

We later learned that, to set a time limit on an auction, a pin would be stuck into a candle and then the candle would be allowed to burn down. Buyers could place bids until the level of the candle reached as far down as the pin, at which stage the pin would fall out. If there were no more bids at this stage, the room would be silent, and you would be able to hear a pin drop – and so this English idiom was born.

An excellent talk with no need for slides and a well-attended meeting with plenty of questions, which is always a good sign.

The new members' coffee morning at the Town Hall was also well attended and a good opportunity for new members to tell us what they are interested in and to find out what we have to offer.

At our Christmas meeting, we will be given song sheets so will be able to show our appreciation of the Purleigh Philharmonic by tuneful accompaniment. There will be a quiz and Christmas fayre as has become the “norm”. Will there be a visit from a member of Lapland u3a? Do come and see.

To put you in the mood for quizzes, the Bridge group meets on the first, third, and fifth Wednesday of the month. How frequently would we have three meetings in February? The answer is near the end of this Newsletter.

I will take this opportunity to thank everyone for their involvement in our u3a this year and to wish you all a happy Christmas and a healthy new year.

Ken Hazell
Chairman



Christmas Meeting
Monday 16th December



1.15 Doors open

The Purleigh Phil make a welcome return to play a selection of Christmas music with some singalong moments

1.45 Committee announcements followed by festive refreshments served whilst the music continues

2.30 Answers to our Christmas Quiz

2.45 Music continues

3.15 Home time

Happy New Year

MONTHLY MEETING

Monday 20th January

Wickham Bishops Hall

Doors open at 1.15pm for 1.45pm start

Gainsborough's House

Elizabeth Cooper will tell us about Thomas Gainsborough's life and work and the ambitious project to turn the newly extended and refurbished museum in Sudbury into an International centre.

Please remember your membership card

WELCOME

Sheila Lawson

Nigel Lawson

Shirley Wallis

Richard Wallis

Jill Goodson

Stephen Bouttell

Sheila Bouttell

WITH REGRET

It is with great regret that we notify you of the passing of two of our members, David Theadom and Jean Garnell.

Why not pop in and take a look at all the trees, or maybe join in with a few carols and whilst you're there vote for our **Maldon u3a** tree kindly decorated by Shirley Macro.

All Saints Church Maldon
CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Friday 13th December: 10-5
Saturday 14th December: 10-5
+ Shoppers Carols at 12 noon
Sunday 15th December: 11-2.30
+ Christingle Service at 2.30

Admission Free!
Refreshments available all day
Vote for your favourites with donations to
The Children's Society
in the boxes under the trees

friends extra

Have you logged onto our website recently? On the left hand side you'll see links to other websites. This will take you to many links, not only to other local and national u3as but online courses, general information on how to, and in particular to a sign up for **u3a Friends**, a monthly email, and to a sign up for **Friends Extra**.

u3a Friends Extra – is a new range of benefits, offers and services exclusively for members of our u3a Friends community. The benefits include discounts for shopping, travel, insurance, theatre tickets and more – and we hope really add to your u3a experience.

MONTHLY SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2025

17th February	Blesma: The Limbless Veterans Brian Chenier	Blesma, The Limbless Veterans, is an Armed Forces charity dedicated to assisting serving and ex-Service men and women who have suffered life-changing limb loss or the use of a limb, an eye or sight. They support these men and women in their communities throughout the UK.
17th March	The 1952 Lynmouth Flood Disaster Philip McKinder	Philip will explore the happenings in August 1952 in the little town of Lynmouth in North Devon, that had an impact all over the world. Members will be asked to choose a hotel for their holiday and then walk through the village before finding out what happened to them on the night of 15th August.
21st April	Easter Monday	No Meeting
19th May	Stories behind the photos Barbara Mayer	Barbara, a wildlife photographer, will talk about the challenges and memorable moments she faced whilst taking photos of big cats and other wildlife species.
16th June	Tales from the East Side Gary Lewis	The East London Cemetery does not allow guided tours, but Gary's talk will introduce us to a cast of fascinating characters who are buried there.
21st July	Musical Quiz Steve Scruton	A light hearted quiz from Steve of BBC Essex featuring pictures and music with questions . Plus light refreshments.

18th August	The Livery Companies of the City of London David Williams	For many centuries the skills of craft industries was controlled by the Livery Companies but their influence faded as Britain became more industrialised. Yet the Livery movement has survived and many of the 110 companies are supporting education, offering scholarships, building and maintaining schools and financing organisations who care for the sick, the needy and the homeless.
15th September	Tortoises – To Be Honest Jane Williams	Jane will be talking about the history of pet tortoise keeping; interesting features of tortoise biology and their ways of life. Together with photographs of the variety of different tortoises seen around the world.
20th October	AGM Followed by a talk by Patrick Forsyth	Our own u3a member and author, Patrick Forsyth will tell us about the ‘funny side of writing’.
17th November	The Dig Charlie Haylock	An intriguing and sometimes hilarious look behind the scenes in the making of the Netflix film <i>The Dig</i> . A film based on the novel of the same name about the discovery of the famous Sutton Hoo burial ship and the people involved.
15th December	Christmas Entertainment	

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

LONDON WALKS

London Walks take place on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

We meet a professional guide at 11.00 to be taken on a 2-hour guided walk. The distance walked is not vast as we stop many times to be told interesting and entertaining information. After the Walk you are free to join others for coffee/ lunch or plan other things to make the most of your day in London. Travel arrangements are made by yourselves.

Our November Walk took place in non-stop rain, but we braved it with brollies and waterproofs, and, with an excellent guide, who kept our spirits up, managed to have an enjoyable time.



Meeting at Green Park we explored the area around St James' Palace, seeing spectacular townhouses owned by the aristocracy. So many blue, green and brown plaques showing where the likes of Sir Frances Chichester, Chopin and Churchill had lived and private Clubs including the Royal Ocean Racing Club, Brooks's, (where women were admitted as early as 1860), and Boodle's, renowned as a haunt of the fashionista Beau Brummell.

We discovered a little courtyard containing the entrance to Dukes Hotel, where Princess Diana was able to enjoy afternoon tea without being hounded by the press.



Then on to Jermyn Street and surrounding area, where exclusive shops used by royalty and the very rich were to be found. Shirt makers who charged a minimum of £346 to tailor make one shirt, cigar merchants, gun & rifle makers, hosiers and glovers, Lobbs boot makers, who supplied Queen Victoria, Princess Diana and latterly King Charles, Lock & Co, the oldest hat makers dating from 1676, exclusive shops selling only alcohol and the cheese makers, Paxton & Whitfield, added to the list of extraordinary shops to be seen.

Of course, no visit to this area would be complete without passing Christies and Fortnum & Masons, with its spectacular window displays, Hatchards book shop and the impressive Piccadilly Arcade.

Tearing ourselves away from the extravagance, we found a little alleyway leading to a courtyard where pistol duels were held after they had been made illegal. And



finally, to St James' Church, designed and built by Sir Christopher Wren, housing an incredible altarpiece carved in limewood by Grinling Gibbons.

We had a tranquil 10 minutes in the 'key' garden in St James' Square, unexpectedly finding it unlocked, and a peaceful escape from the hurley burley of London.

An enjoyable day and I for one can't wait to go back to explore some more, even if I can't afford to buy!

Forthcoming Walks:

On **Tuesday 17 December** we find out about Christmas food in Eating Christmas. To clarify: Eating Christmas is NOT a tasting tour, but the history behind the food we eat and the traditions.

There will be no Walks in January and February, but a full calendar will resume in March.

The cost for each of the walks is £10 per person. Payment by cheque in advance please – payable to Maldon & District U3A. One cheque per event please. To reserve your place or any further info please contact: Julie Lake

Thank you for supporting London Walks and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Photos by Brigitte Whiteing and Julie Lake

THE BIG BALTI

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

To add your name to the list please contact:

Graham Evans Bob Gowers

FILM GROUP

The two recent films under review were both gentle, easy to watch and can be described as classically British.

The Phantom of the Open is based on a book telling the true story of Maurice Flitcroft who decided to take up golf and enter the 1976 British Open, having never played a full round of golf. Dubbed the “world’s worst golfer”, Maurice would repeat his attempts to qualify several times using fake names and disguises in a game of cat-and-mouse with tournament organisers.

Wonderfully acted by Mark Rylance, with an outstanding cast of supporting actors. Thoroughly enjoyable. **Score: 9** ***Grandpa’s Great Escape*** is based on the children’s book of the same title by David Walliams. Set in 1983 it tells the tale of Grandpa, a WW1 flying ace who is sadly now confused due to Alzheimer’s disease and reliving his past wartime experiences. The relationship between Grandpa and his grandson is lovingly portrayed with the grandson acting out his Grandpa’s stories with him. Obviously aimed for children, there are funny and silly happenings including a mass escape from a particularly nasty “retirement home”. As with the other film, superb cast including Tom Courtney as Grandpa, Kit Connor as the Grandson and Jennifer Saunders as the matron. **Score: 7** Next time:

Gangsta Granny – a British comedy-drama based on another David Walliams book, about a boy who visits his Granny who he thinks is boring until he discovers her past as an international jewel thief called the Black Cat. Julia Mckenzie stars as Granny. ***Whisky Galore!*** a 1949 British comedy by Ealing Studios starring Basil Radford, Bruce Seton, Joan Greenwood and Gordon Jackson. The story, based on the running aground of the SS Politician, concerns a shipwreck off a fictional Scottish island, the inhabitants of which have run out of whisky because of wartime rationing. The islanders salvage the 50,000 cases of whisky, against the opposition of the local HM Customs and Excise men.

Both available on BBC iPlayer, with plenty of viewing time left. There’s no meeting in December. Next meeting is **Wednesday, 29th January 2025, 7.30pm** by Zoom. If you would like to join us, please get in touch.

Shirley Macro

STROLLERS TOO

The last Strollers Too Walk of 2024 on Tuesday 26th November started from The Braxted Bakery. This was the walk that we had intended to do in July which was abandoned due to heavy rain. Today however was completely different with blue skies and glorious sunshine, quite unusual for late November.

We were a group of five. Heading down Little Braxted Lane we stopped for quite a while to explore the interior of Little Braxted Church, beautifully decorated by the Revd. Ernest Geldart in the closing years of the 19th century.



The imposing Little Braxted Hall and Little Braxted Mill looked splendid in the Sunshine. We followed a footpath running alongside Colemans fishing lake before heading along a farm track beside Colemans Farm which then

emerged onto Braxted Road close to Colemans Reservoir. Cautiously crossing the single lane Appleford Bridge, we then headed through a kissing gate onto a public footpath across a couple of fields and arrived at a farm road which led us back to Little Braxted Lane returning us to Braxted Bakery.



We all had lunch at Braxted Bakery which was rather good.

David Griffiths

Photos by Nicola Iszard and David Griffiths



STROLLERS & STROLLERS TOO

There are no walks in December, our next meetings will be to discuss our programmes for 2025. They will be held in **The Oak House, 35 High Street, Maldon CM9 5PF.**

For Sunday Strollers please come along on **Sunday 19th January** at 10.30.

For our Tuesday Strollers please come along on the **28th January**, same time 10.30.

Please join us. All u3a members are very welcome.

Malcolm Case



The Silver Line
helpline for older people

The Silver Line is the only free confidential helpline providing information, friendship and advice to older people, open 24 hours a day, every day of the year. 0800 4708090 www.thesilverline.org.uk

MARITIME GROUP

The next meeting of the Maritime Group is on **Monday 6th January**, starting at 10:00 at the Blackwater Sailing Club, Basin Road, Heybridge Basin, Maldon, CM9 4SD for a talk by **Ian Kirby** on ***My River Thames***. Ian combines his memories of growing up on the banks of the River Thames in Vauxhall, Central London, with the people he met later as a City of London Guide.



The talk takes us downstream from Putney to Greenwich recollecting the riverfront changes with stories and information from people

that he has met. Ian highlights the old and new buildings, monuments and industries on the riverfront and comments on the ceremonies and festivals that have taken place along this stretch of the River Thames.



Please join us.

All u3a members are very welcome.

Malcolm Case

MARITIME GROUP Programme 2025

Monday 3rd February

talk by Alison Mainwood on the history of navigation from lodestones to GPS.

Monday 3rd March

talk by Jimmy Byam-Shaw on ship development in Spain and England during the time of the Armada.

Monday 7th April	talk by Julie Ann Miller of the Combined Military Services Museum, Maldon on the 'Cockleshell Heroes' of Operation Frankton.
Monday 5th May	Bank Holiday—No Meeting
Monday 2nd June	Trip to the Thames Barrier.
Monday 7th July	Talk by John Johnson–Allan on HMS Truculent, a British submarine of the third group of the T class
Monday 4th August	Trip to Felixstowe Docks and Languard Fort
Monday 1st September	Possible trip with Groups Direct to Ware and Hertford for a tour and a river cruise along the picturesque flood plains of the river Lee. Enroute to Hertford we will pass through two original locks.
Monday 6th October	Talk by Roger Butler on Treasure Islands – exploring the Hebrides looking at islands, ferries, wildlife, etc in the Hebrides as well as travelling out to far-flung St Kilda.
Monday 3rd November	talk by Richard Pusey on Antarctic exploration (Scott v Amundsen v Shackleton).
Monday 1st December	talk by Kris Taylor on the Cable & Wireless super yacht and its race around the World in 74 days, 20 hours and 58 minutes.

TENPIN BOWLING

Do you fancy a chat and a cup of coffee with some tenpin bowling thrown in? 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



PETANQUE GROUP

The Petanque group finished its last game of the 2024 season on the 21st November, the numbers had been dropping as the weather deteriorated.

We have had a good season with some new members joining the group this year, and with very few sessions cancelled due to inclement weather.

The Blackwater u3a continue to play during the winter months and the Maldon u3a members are welcome to join them. Please contact the Maldon coordinators for details.

The regulars will be contacted when we near the start of the new season – details will appear in the newsletter around April 2025. Any new players wishing to join us will be most welcome.

Geoff Macro & Jack Veash



As many of you are aware, our Local History Group, which has been providing our members with a wide variety of speakers and visits for at least 20 years, will discontinue next year if new coordinators do not come forward.

Kathy and Sylvia, together with Jane, became coordinators in 2016 and are happy to share with you their knowledge of local topics and speakers, as well as assisting with the fundamentals of restarting the Group. Our Committee members are also there to lend a hand with any logistical items, such as hall bookings and meeting fees.

Why not get together with one or two colleagues and have a chat with Kathy and Sylvia, to gain an insight into what is involved.

Thank you



AVIATION GROUP

Hello everyone,

I am often reminded of times past, which to me were only yesterday, and this letter from a reader in my latest copy of



Old Glory magazine with a *Sotheby's* catalogue entry from 1969 was just one! In new money £6000 guineas is £6300, which in 2024 is equivalent to approx. £130,000!

At our November meeting we heard about Operation Exodus from me and Operation Dodge by fellow member David Gillespie. These operations were put



in place in May 1944 to airlift and repatriate thousands of Allied POWs as their camps were liberated by the Allied Armies in Northern Europe (Exodus) and Italy (Dodge).

I think that this photo taken at the time by a returning POW of the POWs and their air crew , says it all!

Looking ahead, I have a full programme of meetings and events planned for 2025. The first five months are shown on the following pages.

The programme for our up-coming **Friday 20th December** meeting is as follows:

We will meet at Woodham Mortimer Village Hall for an Aviation related quiz and be entertained with two short films from my own records covering little known stories involving the legendary Vickers-Supermarine Spitfire.

Anyone recall the TV series ***Piece of cake!***?? Well, in those days real aircraft were used in the flying scenes and one film is about making the famous Spitfire under the bridge scene! The second is about the use of the Spitfire by the USAAF Air Photography Units in the UK.

If time permits, we will round off our year with a repeat showing of the aviation ghost story ----***The Shepherd.***

Christmas nibbles will be served throughout!

Meeting is at 11.00, doors open at 10.30.

AVIATION PROGRAMME 2025

Friday 31st January

We open our 2025 season with the film, ***Murphy's War***, starring Peter O'Toole as a lowly air mechanic who learns to fly in taking his personal quest for revenge on the U Boat and its crew who sank his ship and killed his comrades off South America during the latter part of WW2.

The fabulous Grumman Duck float plane is the real star of this film!

Although aviation is the central theme to this film, there is something for everyone to see with Peter O'Toole at his fabulous hell-raising best!

Friday 28th February

We will have an illustrated talk by Dave "Flash" Davies, who is a local professional photographer, for many years the company photographer at Marconi in Chelmsford and more recently the official photographer at Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome. His subject matter will be Photography ABC with an emphasis on the infancy of photography from the air and its evolution from WW1 to more recent times.

Friday 28th March

This meeting is devoted to a considered evaluation of the air disasters that befell the Boeing 737 Max.

This will start with a short, illustrated talk by Chris Samson about the phenomena of the “Super Stall” which led to electronically signalled stall recovery systems for civil airliners followed by an illustrated presentation from a non-aviation specialist who brings a refreshingly new approach to analysing what went wrong in causing not one but two catastrophic failures of the latest aspiration of arguably one of the most successful passenger carrying aircraft ever produced.

Friday 25th April

A Show and Tell event!

The same formula as we used last June when members brought along items of interest or had related family stories to tell.

Please let me know of your interest so that I can build a programme where everyone has time to relate their story or discuss their exhibit.

Thursday 22nd May

We will visit the **RAF Museum , Hendon**, combining with the Gardens Group who we will drop off at Capel Manor Gardens, Enfield on the way to Hendon.

We will travel by coach with the first pickup at the Fords’ yard in Althorne, then West Maldon Community Centre and finally for us late arrivals(!) at Eves Corner Danbury. Entry to the museum is free; coach cost is £25-28 per head tbc in January; bookings accepted from January 2025 with cheque please made out to Maldon & District u3a.

All our meetings, unless stated, are held at Woodham Mortimer Village Hall at 11.00, doors open at 10.30 for coffee, biscuits, gossip etc.

Chris Samson

For the group's last outing of 2024, eleven members braved a grey and drizzly December morning to see what could be seen at this Essex Wildlife Trust reserve, with panoramic views over the 870-acre reservoir.

The weather may be off-putting at this time of year, but it is just about the best time to see ducks, geese, wildfowl and other birds on tidal estuaries and inland waters where they spend the winter. So, it was at Hanningfield, where we were greeted by flocks of greylags – Britain's only native goose – and Canada geese. This, our largest goose, was introduced in the reign of Charles II from north America as ornamental fowl. The goose is now so numerous, it is seen as a pest because of the damage it causes to crops.



There were other incomers out on the water – a pair of Egyptian geese. More closely related to shelduck than geese, this bird is not only native to Egypt but to most of Africa. The birds we see today are descended from wildfowl collection escapees or birds introduced to several parts of Britain, with the largest population in Norfolk.

Among the ducks to be seen were wigeon, a winter migrant. Though small numbers do breed in Britain, most come from Iceland, northern Europe or Russia and are frequent visitors to lakes, flood meadows and marshes. They are vegetarian and often graze on grass. Some follow swans, picking up weed pulled from deeper water which would otherwise be out of reach. This is known as 'commensal feeding', one species benefiting another.



Nearby were small flocks of teal, Europe's smallest duck. UK residents which favour rushy moorland pools in northern Britain and Ireland to breed. Males have

distinctive green flashes on brown heads. In flight, flocks can resemble waders as they twist and turn in flight.

We returned to the visitor centre, looking forward to steaming mugs of coffee or hot chocolate. Alas, our hopes were dashed by what was described as an 'unplanned power cut.' Oh well, may be better luck next time.

There will be no meeting in January. Details of next year's visits will be next month's newsletter.

Mike Bagshaw
Peter Gaywood

JUST JAZZ GROUP



Our next meeting is **Monday 16th December** 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.

Pete Condon David Coombes

GERMAN CONVERSATION

Please note that our next meeting is **Tuesday 17th December** from 2—4pm. Please contact me prior to the meeting if you will be attending.

In January we will meet on 7th and 21st, and in February on 14th.

Howard Broadbridge



ASTRONOMY

There will not be a meeting in **December**, the next meeting of the group will be on **Monday 27th January**, details about this meeting will be in the January Newsletter.

December Night Sky

The winter solstice takes place on 22nd December. Daylight hours have reached their minimum for the year and the sun's arc across the sky is at its lowest for the year. By contrast, the full moon that follows a few days later on the night of the 26th/27th will be at its highest for the year, and about as high as it can get in the sky from Essex – 66 degrees above the horizon when in the south. Jupiter remains bright and prominent and is at its highest in the south between 8pm and 9pm during December. Venus can be seen all month in the southeast before dawn, although it will be sinking lower in the sky towards the end of December. The waning crescent moon joins Venus on the 9th, best seen between about 5am and 7am.

This month brings the best meteor shower of the year. The Geminid meteors

originate from a point in the sky near the star Castor in the constellation of Gemini. They will peak during the evening of the 14th and with no interference from the moon – if skies are clear there is a good chance of seeing some meteors at a rate of about one every few minutes. The Geminids are associated



with an asteroid called 3200 Phaethon. It is not entirely clear why Phaethon is shedding material into its orbit as a comet does. One theory is that the extreme orbit of Phaethon, which takes it inside the orbit of Mercury to only 13 million miles from the sun, leads to a



scorching effect which drives particles off the asteroid.

With new moon falling on the 12th, the middle part of the month offers the best prospects for stargazing.

At midnight, Orion sits due south with the full array of the bright winter stars around it. To the lower left of Orion, the brightest star in the entire sky is on show, this is Sirius, the 'dog star', and on cold winter nights can be seen to flash through a range of colours, an atmospheric process known as scintillation.



New members are always welcome

Malcolm Case

ROYAL HISTORY GROUP

The new year sees us move onto the Edwardian period.

We meet every second Thursday in the WMCC. There is no meeting in January. Our next meeting is **Thursday 13th February** at 10.00 where we will not only be discussing the Edwardian Royals but also events that were happening in the UK and around the world at this time.



Why not join us for a chat and a cup of coffee/tea.

Kathy Goff

Answer to our Chairman's quiz question on page 2 - every 28 years !!

GEOLOGY GROUP

We have had a very interesting few months for the Autumn session, covering a wide variety of subjects. This included the origin of Oceans and Ocean currents, the Permian/Triassic Period and Mass Extinctions and looking at El Nino, La Nina and the effect of the Jet Stream.

We have now gone back to the very early time of the Cambrian Period around 550 million years ago so this would be a good time for any interested new members to join us.

We meet at the West Maldon Community Centre on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 2p.m and are planning to carry on to the Ordovician Period a mere 490million years ago!

We are very much an amateur group with little professional input, so group participation is essential with the help of books and the internet.

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 15th January** at 2 p.m. at WMCC in the Jubilee Room and we would be pleased to welcome new members with or without any Geological knowledge.

Sylvia Cousins

MAHJONG

We are a small , very friendly group that meet every other **Friday** in the Linton Room, West Maldon Community Centre from **1.45–3.45pm**.

Our group is currently full but for more information or to be added to the waiting list, please contact Mags Pell.

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.

ART APPRECIATION GROUP

We met in November at Andy's house, where a packed audience (standing room only!) enjoyed viewing another DVD episode from the Course – *Treasures Of The National Gallery*. The subjects this time were wonderful paintings by Rembrandt, Canaletto and Goya, among other magnificent artists.

We also met in December at Judith's for *Desert Island Art*, where members discussed their favourite painting or sculpture.

Our new year programme will begin on **Wednesday 8th January** at a member's house where we will continue with our DVD study of the National Gallery's riches.

We will be looking at 18th century French art including Francois Boucher and Vigée Le Brun, as well as 18th century British artists including Hogarth, Gainsborough, Reynolds and Stubbs.

Judith Johnston

Andy Simmonds

PADEL TENNIS GROUP

The session is every **Wednesday** from **2.30 to 4pm** at Padel United, Park Drive Health Club, Maldon. We cater for between 3 and 10 members without anyone having to sit out for more than a few minutes.

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

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 8th January**.

Kris news.maldon3a@gmail.com

YOUR COMMITTEE

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

Webmaster	Tony Groves	webmaster@maldonu3a.co.uk
Publicity	Andy Simmonds Irina Vahonina	publicity.maldonu3a@gmail.com

GROUP COORDINATORS

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	Ann Lester
Garden Visits	Theresa Byles Kris Taylor
Geology	Sylvia Cousins
German	Howard Broadbridge
Handicraft	Marian Manning Brenda Heal
History—Edwardians	Kathy Goff
Just Jazz	Peter Condon David Coombes
Local History	
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
Reading	Patrick Forsyth
Rummikub	Janice Martin
Russian Conversation	Irina Vahonina
Sing for Pleasure	Sue Garnham
Strollers Sunday & Tues	Malcolm Case
Tenpin Bowling	Alan Buck David Coombes
Wine Circle No. 2	tba
Wine Circle No. 3	Mary Burd
Wine Circle No. 4	Ann Goody
Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth

Schedule of Events – January 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
		1 New Year's Day	2 Ten Pin Bowling Poetry	3	4	5
6 Maritime My River Thames	7 German Engineering	8 Ten Pin Bowling Art Appreciation Padel Tennis	9 Ten Pin Bowling Rummikub French Conversation	10 Canasta	11	12
13 Discussion Handicrafts	14	15 Ten Pin Bowling Padel Tennis Geology Bridge Meet & Eat Photography	16 Ten Pin Bowling	17 Singing	18	19
20 Monthly Meeting Gainsboro's House	21 German Engineering	22 Ten Pin Bowling Padel Tennis	23 Ten Pin Bowling Rummikub French Conversation	24 Canasta	25	26
27 Astronomy Curry Night	28	29 Bridge Padel Tennis Film	30 Ten Pin Bowling	31 Aviation Reading Singing		