

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

Maldon and District



February 2025

www.maldonu3a.co.uk

Registered Charity 1086182

FROM THE CHAIR

Our “Blue Monday” meeting proved anything but depressing. Our speaker, Elizabeth Cooper, told us how, starting with Thomas Gainsborough’s house in Sudbury, which was not in very good condition, a museum and art gallery has been developed. It has become a commercial success with over 150,000 visitors a year. Moreover, a collection was loaned to Russia, which had created enormous interest and (before you ask) was returned before the war with Ukraine.

What we learned about his paintings was that he disliked doing portraits but that was where the money was and he did many of these. He much preferred to paint Suffolk landscapes, which would have been a richer artistic legacy. His fame, unlike many great artists, was not posthumous.

Our talk in February by Brian Chenier will be about the Limbless Veterans Charity, BLESMA. I am looking forward to this as I feel we should know much more about this charity and also reflect on whether enough is being done to support these veterans.

Our January newsletter was again excellent with information on many ambitious and varied tours and outings. There will also be theatre outings, which are always very popular, and the social group have arranged the first of this year’s events, details of which can be found in this newsletter. The production of the newsletter is the result of the energy and enthusiasm of our Editor, Kris, and of all those who contribute. In the months to come we will be providing our digital newsletter, that you receive by email each month, in a flip book format.

From my window, I can already see the snowdrops and I am beginning to notice the extra three minutes of daylight we get each day. Lent is with us, at least in the meaning of the lengthening of the days.

Ken Hazell

Chairman

MONTHLY MEETING

Monday 17th March

Wickham Bishops Hall

Doors open at 1.15 for a 1.45 start

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 1952.

Please remember your membership card

MONTHLY SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2025

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.

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

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	Music, quiz and much more.....



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 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

WELCOME

A warm welcome to our new members:

Vanessa Ellams

David Booker

Rosemary Garrod

Valerie Gregory

Paul Strong

James Lappage

Amy Hall

Kathryn Harris

Steve Delasalle

Amanda Davies

Pauline Tyson

Dianne Clow

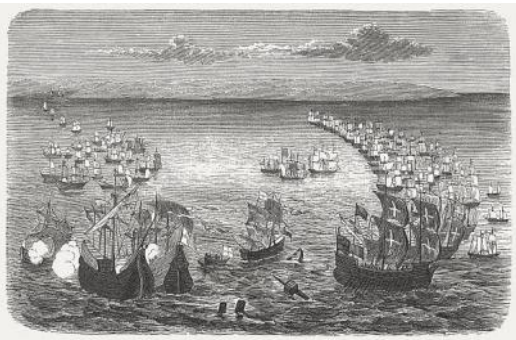
Barry Collins

WITH REGRET

It is with great regret that we have to advise you of the death of Iain Crombie. Iain had been a member since April 2024.

MARITIME GROUP

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 3rd March**, starting at **10:00** at the Blackwater Sailing Club, Basin Road, Heybridge Basin, Maldon for a talk by Jimmy Byam-Shaw on ***Ship Development in Spain and England during the time of the Armada***. This talk will cover the types of ships involved in both sides in the battle, how they were developed, their armaments and the tactics used by both sides and how these developed during the battle.



Please join us.

All u3a members are very welcome.

Malcolm Case

MARITIME GROUP Programme 2025

- 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. Depart WMCC at 9.00. There will be a tour of the centre with commentary about the barrier. The cost is **£35 pp**. This includes coach hire, parking, driver's gratuity and tour of the centre. Contact Malcolm Case to add your name to the list, or bring your cheque to February's Maritime meeting.
- 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 details tba
- 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.

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..

We are looking forward to resuming our Walks in March and I already have a lot of reservations. So let me know if you would like to join us

A list of forthcoming walks is shown below:

The cost for each of the walks is **£12 per person**. Payment by cheque in advance please – payable to Maldon & District u3a. One cheque per event please.

To reserve your place or for any further info please contact:

Julie Lake

* The June River Cruise will incur an extra charge for the boat trip payable on the day and the tour will last 3 hours. More details will be provided nearer the date.

18th March	Publish and be Damned	Meet at Temple Underground station
15th April	The History of Medicine	Meet at Russell Square Underground station
20th May	Old Westminster	Meet at St James Park Underground station
17th June *	Brunel's River Cruise	Meet at Embankment Underground station
15th July	The Inns of Court	Meet at Holborn Underground station

Forties Evening of Songs and Supper

**An evening of songs from the musicals of
1938—49 with Lorraine Ely**

Wednesday 2nd April from 6.30 until 10.00 pm

The Blackwater Sailing Club

Heybridge

Tickets £12.50 include supper
(sausage, mash & onion gravy,
fruit trifle, tea or coffee)

Don't forget your ration book!!

40's attire optional

Please bring your own plate, knife, fork, spoon and a cup/mug.

Please note that the Sailing Club operates a pay bar.

Maldon u3a members only. Tickets available from Rosemary Case:

Please let us know if you need gluten free or vegetarian option

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Share your photographs with other members. This is for everyone who has a camera or smartphone. It's not a competition nor only for expert photographers. It's an excellent reason to look back through your holiday snaps and other photos to find suitable ones that match the topic.

Each month we will choose a topic and you can send up to six photos to me. I host a **Zoom meeting at 7.30** on the **third Wednesday evening** of each month so we can all see and chat about them – you don't need to leave your home!

February's topic is ***My Favourite Things***. See all the pictures from previous months on our website –

<http://maldonu3a.co.uk/photography/photography.php>.

Tony Groves

ENGINEERING & INVENTIONS GROUP

We meet on the **first and third Tuesday** of each month starting at **2pm**, at my house in Danbury, to watch three half-hour video talks. The talks are not technical and they are suitable for non-engineers. The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 18th February**, when the topics will be:

- a) Structure Design: The Rise of Iron and Steel-framed Buildings.
- b) Inventions: Batteries and Electrical Generators.
- c) Engineering Failures: The Leaning Tower of Pisa.

If you are interested please email me.

Tony Groves

We have booked our first show of 2025 to see

Six at The Vaudeville Theatre

Wednesday 30th April 2025 at 8:00 pm



The crowning glory of the West End, Broadway and beyond.

Prepare to lose your head and experience the Tudor Wives' lives as they turn back the clock and take to the stage to reclaim their crowns and retell their stories of love, loss and the infamous ex they all have in common. The six wives of Henry VIII take to the mic to tell their tales, remixing five hundred years of historical heartbreak into an 80-minute celebration of 21st-century girl power.

Think you know the rhyme, think again...

Divorced. Beheaded. LIVE!

There is no interval so the show does not finish any later than usual.

Tickets are **£69.50** which includes the coach.

The coach will leave Plantation Hall, Colchester Road, Maldon CM9 4AL at 4:00 pm with a pick up at Danbury.

To reserve a ticket please contact Rosemary Case :

SUNDAY STROLLERS

Sunday 16th February

We have planned a walk in Mundon taking us past the medieval church of St Mary's and the 'Petrified Oaks' and then down to Mundon Creek and back.



The length of the walk will depend on the weather conditions on the day.

We will meet at the White Horse pub car park where we can pre order our lunch before we set off. Please arrive for 10:15 to allow for a 10:30 start.

The White Horse pub post code is – CM9 6PB

Please let me know if you will be joining the walk and whether or not you will be staying for lunch by no later than the 9th February.

Gill Stone

Sunday 16th March

This is the walk that I had to postpone last October due to illness.

It is 3.75 miles through a quiet and serene part of Essex from the village of Birch to the somewhat isolated Tudor Gatehouse at Layer Marney, which stands as a magnificent landmark in this part of the countryside.

Parking is available at the Hare and Hounds, where we will be lunching.

Post code: CO2 OPN.

Please let me know if you are coming/want lunch by **Saturday 8th March**.

Gill Stone

STROLLERS TOO

Tuesday 25th February 2025

Heybridge and Langford

Approx 4.5 miles

Please meet at 8 Beeches Road, Heybridge, CM9 4SL at 10.25 for a 10.30 start. There is ample parking in the road but do car share if possible.

The circular walk takes us along the old railway line to Langford Church. From there our route takes us along a path through fields and there are some superb views of Maldon in the distance. After passing a large fishing lake, there will be the opportunity to see the development at Westcombe Park before returning to the start.

Lunch is available, but not yet confirmed.

Please let me know by **Monday 17th February** if you are coming, and whether you will be staying for lunch.

Gill Stone

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



AVIATION GROUP

Hello everyone,

We opened our programme for 2025 with a classic 1970's aviation film –

Murphy's War starring Peter O'Toole, and we were pleased to welcome new members from both within our u3a and new to our u3a.

Our next meeting is on **Friday 28th February** when 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.

The meeting is at Woodham Mortimer Village Hall at 11.00, doors open at 10.30 for coffee, biscuits, gossip etc.

Chris Samson

AVIATION PROGRAMME 2025

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

We will show a **film** of the flight by 3 members of the AUSTER Club who took their aircraft to Normandy to celebrate the 80th anniversary of D-day last June and to commemorate the contribution made by the AUSTER AOP (Artillery Observation Post) to the success of the landings.

- Thursday 22nd May** We will visit the **RAF Museum , Hendon**, combining with the Garden 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 at Eves Corner, Danbury—**see note on p 17 re Danbury parking**
- Entry to the museum is free; coach cost is **£30 pp**, bookings are now being accepted with cheque please made out to Maldon & District u3a.
- Thursday 26th June** We will visit the **Spitfire Factory at Biggin Hill airport** for a guided tour of the facility where 12 or more Spitfires are undergoing complete rebuilds to full flying status. We are combining with the Garden Group who will then proceed to Hever Castle, Edenbridge, (about 20 mins from Biggin). The plan is for the coach to return to Biggin to collect members after the Factory tours, to then visit the Air Museum, then return to Hever to collect our Gardens colleagues before heading for home.
- We will travel by coach, with the first pickup at the Fords yard in Althorne, then West Maldon Community Centre and finally at Eves Corner, Danbury **see note on p 17 re Danbury parking.**
- The cost of the Guided Tour is **£49 pp**, and the coach cost is **£31 pp**; bookings are now being accepted with cheque please made out to Maldon & District u3a .
- Friday 25th July** 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.

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

GARDEN GROUP

Our garden group goes into hibernation during the winter months but now we are in the midst of planning the Spring and Summer programme of self-drive visits to local gardens. So far we have two such visits arranged in April, the first to Feeringbury Manor and later in the month to Ulting Wick. Both of these are well subscribed.



There will be other local gardens to visit in May, June and July; these are still in the planning stage.

Last year we went further afield on day trips to larger estates which are generally open to the public, sharing a coach with the Aviation Group whose members would be visiting a nearby

airbase or museum. We visited RHS Wisley and Bressingham Gardens. These trips have to be organised further in advance as we have to secure a coach. The success of those two visits has encouraged us to do more, and in May we are visiting Capel Manor Gardens near Enfield whilst the aviators go to RAF Hendon. This visit is fully subscribed with a waiting list in operation.

On **Thursday June 26th** we are visiting **Hever Castle** which has award winning gardens and an historic castle, the childhood home of Anne Boleyn.

The cost will be **£46pp** including coach travel, entry to the Castle and Grounds and a multi-media guide.



Please note that entry to the Castle 1st floor is via a spiral staircase see the link for further details:

<https://www.hevercastle.co.uk/visit/location-accessibility/>

For Garden Group members that have already put their names on the Hever Castle list, please bring your cheque to the general meeting or send to Theresa.

If you are interested in this visit, but are not a member of the group, you will be able to join us as long as there is sufficient space. Please let me know so that you can be put on the list.

Theresa Byles

Kris Taylor

Parking at Danbury Leisure Centre

Be aware that there is a new system in force in the 2 car parks in the centre of Danbury which will affect any of our members who leave their cars there to join a coach trip. You can find all the information regarding parking on the Danbury Parish Council website:

<https://www.danbury-essex.gov.uk/facilities/car-parking/>

There are 2 possible problems - for day time trips, cars are not allowed to stay more than 5 hours.

For evening theatre trips, there is no parking after midnight. There are no barriers, so cars will not be trapped, but as all the enforcement is done through ANPR, any car (owner) left after 23.59 will be fined

PADEL TENNIS GROUP

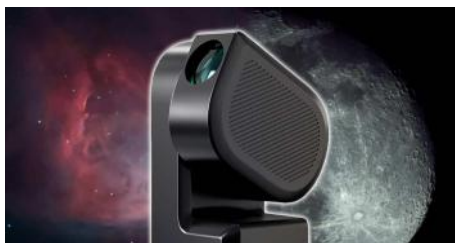
The session is every **Wednesday** from **2.30 to 4 pm** at Padel United, Park Drive Health Club, Maldon. We cater for between 3 and 10 members without anyone having to sit out for more than a few minutes.

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

ASTRONOMY

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 24th February**, starting at **7:30 pm** at Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge, Maldon for a talk and demonstration by Roger Pittock on the new electronic Astronomy telescope.

The ZWO Seestar S50 is a remarkable product that integrates a telescope, electric focuser, astronomical camera, ASI AIR intelligent controller, altazimuth mount, and filter-switching device into a single unit! With a body weight of only 3 kg!



Using the mobile app which can be downloaded onto a mobile phone or iPad, you can easily capture several sky objects such as the Sun, Moon, galaxies, and nebulae. Roger will also show some of his

photographs that he has taken with his telescope.



All u3a members are very welcome to join the meeting.

Malcolm Case

THE BIG BALTI

The next curry night will be held on **Monday 31st 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

FYI

You may notice at future monthly meetings that many members are wearing red lanyards. This is not a political statement!! It is in order to make it easier for members to source either a committee member or a group coordinator.

GERMAN CONVERSATION

Our next meeting is **Tuesday 18th February** from 2–4pm.

Please note that we have a new venue. Please contact me prior to the meeting if you will be attending.

Howard

ROYAL HISTORY GROUP

The new year sees us move onto the Edwardian period.

We meet every second Thursday in the WMCC. Our next meeting is **Thursday 13th March** 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.

Kathy Goff

JUST JAZZ GROUP

Our next meeting is **Monday 17th March** 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

[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

HANDICRAFT GROUP

We are a small, very friendly group who meet on the **second Monday** of each month, **10.00 – 12 noon** in the Linton Room, WMCC. Over the next few sessions we are planning to teach members how to crochet, but will also be covering a wide range of projects related to many forms of handicrafts.



Our next meeting is **Monday 10th March**. Please note there will be no meeting in May. Why not come along? Please contact us for further details.

Marian Manning

Brenda Heal

BIRD WATCHING GROUP

visit to Abberton reservoir

As the days get longer, the cold gets stronger, so the old seasonal saying goes. But eight members braved a distinctly chilly February 1st to see what could be seen from the hides overlooking the reservoir, where spring was in the air for a pair of great crested grebes. The pair seemed oblivious of the many waterfowl around them as they bobbed chest to chest and beak to beak. But it is still early in the season, and they did not go on to perform the elaborate courtship ballet for which they are renowned.

Probing for food at the water's edge were a pair of ruff, a rare breeding bird of wet grasslands in East Anglia but fairly common on migration throughout the country and around the east and south coasts of Britain. These medium sized waders are fairly nondescript in winter plumage. But breeding males have a ruff of brightly coloured feathers around the neck, head tufts and a bare orange face.

There was a ripple of excitement when a member identified a white shape on a distant shore as a great white egret, a member of the heron family. Once a rare visitor to the UK, sightings have become common over the last few years and some breed in the UK. A few little egrets, their smaller relative, were also in evidence. Once a rare visitor, it is now seen around the coast of England and

Wales. A smaller but rarer relative – the cattle egret – is another incomer. It too is now seen in increasing numbers, including here in Essex.



Winter is always a busy time for birds on coastal and inland waters like Abberton where countless numbers of gulls, waders, ducks and other waterfowl gather for food and to see out the challenging winter months. But soon they will be departing for their respective breeding grounds, from moorlands to cliff tops, to be replaced by summer visitors from southern climes.

An enjoyable if cold morning's birdwatching, ending with more than welcome mugs of hot chocolate at the reserve's visitor centre!

Mike Bagshaw Peter Gaywood

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 2nd March | Heybridge Basin. Meet in Daisy Meadow car park |
| 5th April | Landguard Point, Felixstowe. Meet in car park at the end View Point Road. (TBC) |
| 3rd May | Fingringhoe Reserve. Meet in Reserve car park |
| 8th June | Blue House Farm, North Fambridge. Meet in Reserve car park |
| 5th July | Walton on the Naze. Meet in Visitor Centre car park |
| 30th August | (September meeting brought forward)
Chigborough Lakes. Meet in car park opposite Chigborough Road entrance (TBC) |
| 5th October | Wallasea Island. Meet in Reserve car park |
| 1st November | Hanningfield reservoir. Meet in Visitor Centre car park |
| 7th December | Langdon nature discovery park. Meet in Visitor Centre car park |

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 19th March** 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

The next meeting of the group will be held on **Wednesday, 12th February**, at Andy's house in Hatfield Peverel. There are three episodes left to watch on the National Gallery .

British and French Masters: Constable, Turner, Gericault and Courbet
Impressionism in France: Ingres, Monet, Manet and Renoir
Post Impressionism: Degas, Cezanne, Van Gogh and Rousseau

Seating is limited, so let Andy and Judith know as soon as possible if you intend to come along.

My address is: Penylan, Nounsley Road, Hatfield Peverel CM3 2NF.

Our **March** meeting will be on **Wednesday 12th** at a member's house tba.

The topic is ***Every Picture Tells a Story***. Bring along an artwork (or picture thereof if the gallery won't let you borrow it) that has a story attached to it and tell us about it. Again, numbers will be limited.

Tea and cakes, as always.

Judith Johnston

Andy Simmonds

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 March**.

Kris news.maldonu3a@gmail.com

FILM GROUP

Following our Christmas break, the group met to discuss the following films:

Starting with **Gangsta Granny**, in general the comments were that this wasn't as good as the previous David Walliams' film *Grandpa's Great Escape*. Despite a good cast of well-known British actors and performers, the story was a bit lame and silly. It is a film based on a children's book but there is little for adults to enjoy. We were not even convinced about children enjoying it either. Perhaps the only redeeming feature and probably the main thrust of the story is around the relationship between the boy and his grandmother and the fact that this comes to an end when she dies but that her memory remains. Score: 5

The other film under review was **Whisky Galore**. Some confusion about this as when it was first chosen it was the original 1949 version but when we came to watch the film on offer was the 2016 remake. Much of the group found this film to be enjoyable, gentle humour, good acting and beautiful scenery. The story follows the attempts to hide a cargo of whisky from a ship that has run aground close to a Scottish island which has used its wartime allocation of whisky, an essential part of their lives.

Score: 8

Next time:

Before I Go To Sleep – a 2014 mystery/psychological thriller written and directed by Rowan Joffe and based on the 2011 novel of the same name. The film stars Nicole Kidman, Colin Firth, Mark Strong and Ann-Marie Duff.

Christine Lucas wakes up next to a man she does not know. The man explains that he is her husband, Ben, and that she suffered severe brain damage from a car accident fourteen years earlier, resulting in her having no memory of her life from her early twenties onwards.

Available BBC iPlayer until 22nd February 2025

Malcolm X – 1992 American independent epic biographical drama film about the African American activist Malcolm X, directed and co-written by Spike Lee. It stars Denzel Washington in the title role. Lee has a supporting role, while Black Panther Party co-founder, Bobby Seale, the Rev. Al Sharpton, and future South African President, Nelson Mandela, make cameo appearances.

Available BBC iPlayer for several months.

Next meeting **Wednesday, 26th February, at 7.30pm by Zoom**. If you would like to join us, please get in touch.

Shirley Macro



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.

From South Woodham Ferrers u3a

This is your opportunity to learn Needle Felting from basics. You will even be able to make and complete something in your first session.

Needle Felting is a wonderfully therapeutic and versatile craft that allows you to create any number of shapes and designs using just felting needles, a felting mat and wool. More experienced felters are also welcome and can bring their own projects to share, chat and enjoy together.

This group meets monthly on the **fourth Wednesday** of the month in the Players lounge of SWF Village Hall, **10–12 noon**.

For further information contact Lorraine Hayward

POETRY GROUP

Our next meeting is **Thursday 6th March** at **2 pm** at my house, where we will discuss our group's future and new programme.

Anyone who would like to contribute and is interested joining us will be most welcome, give me a ring for address. Our March topic is 'Spring'

Thank you. Regards Jo

YOUR COMMITTEE

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

Webmaster Tony Groves

Publicity Andy Simmonds
 Irina Vahonina

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
Rummikub	Janice Martin
Russian Conversation	Irina Vahonina
Sing for Pleasure	Sue Garnham
Social Events	Margaret Harker Brenda Heal
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 – March 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
					1	2 Bird Watching Heybridge
3 Maritime	4 Engineering	5 Ten Pin Bowling Padel Tennis Bridge	6 Ten Pin Bowling Rummikub Poetry	7 Canasta	8	9
10 Discussion Handicrafts	11 Garden Group lunch	12 Ten Pin Bowling Padel Tennis Meet & Eat Art Appreciation	13 Ten Pin Bowling Royal History Edwardians French Conversation	14 Mah Jong Singing	15	16 Strollers
17 Monthly Meeting 1952 Lynmouth Flood Disaster Just Jazz	18 Engineering	19 Ten Pin Bowling Padel Tennis Bridge Geology Photography Zoom	20 Ten Pin Bowling Rummikub	21 Canasta	22	23
24 Astronomy	25 Strollers Wine Group	26 Ten Pin Bowling Padel Tennis Wine Group Writing for fun Film Zoom	27 Ten Pin Bowling Wine Group French Conversation	28 Aviation Cribbage Mah Jong Singing	29	30
31 Curry Night						