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Maldon and District

Newsletter



Garden Group visit to Ulting Wick

Photo by Brigitte Whiteing

May 2025

www.maldonu3a.co.uk

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FROM THE CHAIR

While our AGM is not until October, I am writing now so that members have plenty of time to think how they could contribute to our Committee and find out what might be involved.

My term of office will end so no more reading of the "Safety Notice" for me. We will need a new Chairman, or rather a "Chair" as is now the customary title. In addition to reading the Safety Notice and making some announcement at the monthly meeting, I have to write short articles such as this and chair meetings of the Committee. You have an excellent Committee with all the main roles carried out most expertly and there is both great continuity and new ideas.

Additionally, we will need a new Secretary to the Committee. The duties of Secretary are what one might expect but to see more exactly what is required, it would be best to speak to Theresa, our current Secretary.

I think you will find being a member of the Committee a pleasant and worthwhile experience. My suggestion is that, if you are interested, then please come and sit in at a meeting to see what we do. If you also wish to contribute to the discussion, then this will certainly be allowed by the "Chair".

At our May meeting, we will have a talk by Barbara Mayer, a wildlife photographer. This promises to be most instructive and will no doubt be accompanied by some excellent examples of her work.

Ken Hazell

Chairman

MONTHLY MEETING

Monday 16th June

Wickham Bishops Hall

Doors open at 1.15 for a 1.45 start

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.

MONTHLY SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2025/26

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 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.....
19th January 2026	The Art Of The Cartoonist Harry Venning	Harry, an award winning cartoonist,, illustrator and comedy writer, traces the story of cartoons and cartoonists over the last two hundred years, from Hogarth and Gilray to Herjé and Schulz. There will be humour, there will be history and there will be live drawing, as he shares some of the tricks and techniques of the trade
16th February 2026	A Schoolgirl’s War Mary Smith	The story of school life during WW2, arising from two fascinating recent discoveries. The first was the uncovering of an extensive set of tunnels used as underground classrooms, and the second was the discovery of a set of paintings created as the war unfolded.
16th March 2026	The Life and Strife of Honey Bees Stuart Overton-Smith	The more that we have learnt about the lives of honey bees, the more in awe we have become. They are so important to the ecosystem that we, and they, are part of.

**20th April
2026**

**From Titanic to
Batman: The Highs &
Lows of a
Stuntwoman's Life**

Lucy Allen

With over 30 years experience, Lucy reveals the thrills, challenges, and behind the scenes secrets of stunt work—plus, enjoy a 10-minute film of Lucy in action.

**18th May
2026**

**Borley Rectory, the
most haunted house
in England**

Bryan Thurlow

Following a visit from a professional ghost hunter in 1929, a national newspaper declared, 'Borley Rectory, the most haunted house in England.' This brought a great deal of disruption to the quiet little Essex village. Bryan will take us back to the 19th c and tell us about two successive rectors, the latter, together with his sisters, were rather obsessed with spiritualism

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

WELCOME

A warm welcome to our new members:

Lesley Dugdale

Dian Bayley

WITH REGRET

It is with the deepest regret that we must inform you of the death of David Arnold.

David was one of our u3a founder members when our u3a started in April 1998.

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 Walk in April concentrated on the area around University College of London, the university with medicine as its priority subject, opening in 1827, closely followed by UCL hospital, opening in 1833.

Prior to the establishment of UCL, Thomas Coram opened the Foundling Hospital in 1739, a childcare centre where very poor parents were able to leave one child to be cared for, educated and hopefully set up for making their way in life. Parents would not see their child for the whole time they were there and would often leave the child with a memento, (one sock, half a medallion or coin, a spoon) in the hopes they would be reunited. In Marchmont Street we saw many of these



‘unclaimed’ objects set into the pavement.

Funding was obtained from the wives of aristocratic men, and much was contributed from the Arts, with Handel being one of many to contribute. Even today, the Arts play a big role in helping medical establishments, with J M Barry giving the rights of his work to Great Ormond Street Hospital (the Peter Pan Hospital).

In Hunter Street, outside the Royal Free School of Medicine for Women, we learnt of the relentless battle for women to be accepted in the medical profession. In the



1880s 17 women fought to be allowed to study medicine. They had to go to Scotland to study and on returning to London to take the exams were barred from the examination room. This led to the Surgeons' Hall Riots.

We learnt of John Hunter in the 18th century, the scientist and surgeon with his revolutionary ideas of observation and research. Dr Jenna was a student of his, and together they developed the first vaccine for smallpox.

In Tavistock Square we saw the statue of Dame Louisa Brandreth Aldrich Blake (1865 - 1925), the first female surgeon, who devoted her whole life to surgery, in particular for cervical cancers, spending her evenings caring for the poor in East London. We also saw the Tavistock Clinic, the first place to study the Freudian psychology of children. This clinic, being the centre of controversy of hormone treatment being given to children with gender issues, is currently being sued by over 1000 families.



Visiting the UCL Student Centre, we saw the preserved body of Jeremy Bentham, a philosopher and reformer who believed in utilitarianism, and contributed financially to UCL.

We saw the Wellcome Institute where the first 'tablets' were developed. We were reminded of Fleming's 'accidental' discovery of antibiotics, with all his first notes on this important discovery being housed at the Wellcome Institute.

No talk of medical history would be complete without mentioning Joseph Lister, the pioneer of antiseptic surgery and preventative healthcare, with UCH being the first hospital to use it.

We ended our Walk by the Hospital of Tropical Diseases, with its carving of Apollo and Artemis riding a chariot. The balconies are decorated with gilded bronze insects and animals involved in transmitting disease, and a frieze surrounding the building displays the names of 23 pioneers of public health.

We were given so much interesting information by our wonderful guide, and, as always, has left me wanting to explore the area more.

LONDON WALKS CONTD.

20th May	Old Westminster	Meet at St James Park Tube station
17th June	The Inns of Court	Meet at Holborn Tube station
15th July	Brunel's River Cruise	Meet at Embankment Tube station
19th August	Kensington, The Royal Village	Meeting at High Street, Kensington Tube Station
16th Sept	Little Venice	Meeting at Warwick Avenue Tube Station.
21st October	Old Mayfair	Meeting at Green Park Tube Station.
18th Nov	Disastrous London	Meeting at Barbican Tube Station
16th Dec	Musical Tour 15.30	Meeting at Tottenham Court Road Tube Station

Please note the change of Walks for June and July. This is due to an error on the part of the restaurant after the cruise.

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.

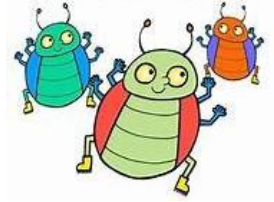
To reserve your place or for any further info please contact:

Julie Lake

The July River Cruise will incur an extra charge of **£7.14** for the boat trip payable on the day by cash or card and the tour will last 3 hours. More details will be provided nearer the date.

Thanks to Brigitte Whiteing for the photos

SOCIAL ORGANISING GROUP



Beetle Drive

We regret that owing to the uncertainty regarding repairs to Plantation Hall, following a car accident, we have postponed this event.

ART APPRECIATION GROUP

Members of the Art Appreciation Group enjoyed a visit to the Geedon Gallery at Fingringhoe on 14th May to see the Spring Exhibition of work by the Society of Wildlife Artists.

Judith Johnston

Andy Simmonds

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.

THE BIG BALTI

The next curry night will be held on **Monday 26th May** at the Balti Bhujon restaurant, Mill Road, Maldon. 6.30ish start.

To add you name to the list please contact:

Graham Evans Bob Gowers

MARITIME GROUP

The meeting in June is a trip to visit the Thames Barrier on **Monday 2nd June**, departing from the West Maldon Community Centre at **08:30**. Please park your cars at the far end of the car park. Full details will be emailed to those going closer to the date.



Malcolm Case



MARITIME GROUP Programme 2025

Monday 7th July

Talk by John Johnson-Allan on HMS Truculent, a British submarine of the third group of the T class. She was built as P315 by Vickers Armstrong, Barrow, and launched on 12 September 1942. Truculent was lost following a post-war accident with a Swedish oil tanker in the Thames Estuary in January 1950.



Monday 4th August

Trip details tba

Monday 1st September

Trip to Tilbury Docks and Tilbury Fort, with buffet lunch at the Seafarers' centre . We will depart from the WMCC at 09.00, on arrival at Tilbury we will pick up our guide for the Docks. After lunch we will take the coach to Tilbury Fort. **Cost £30 pp** which includes the coach, coach parking, drivers' gratuity and lunch.

There are still some spaces available. Contact: Malcolm Case



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). The talk starts with an introduction to the geography and geology of the Antarctic and the early exploration of the area by Captain James Cook in 1772 on his 2nd voyage. The 3 big explorers, Scott, Amundsen and Shackleton will be introduced, and the early Discovery Expedition of 1901 and the Nimrod Expedition of 1907 are outlined and how they paved the way for the big expeditions to bag the South Pole.

contd.....

Monday 3rd November

Contd.

The talk then concentrates on the main theme of “Scott’s Last Expedition” of 1910 – 12 and how it was set up and staffed with particular attention to Edward Wilson and the doctors, George Levick and Edward Atkinson. Details of the trek to the Pole are given including the strange decision to change the Pole Party from 4 to 5 at the last minute with only rations for 4. The great disappointment of being beaten to the Pole by Amundsen and the Norwegian team using dog sledges will be described and the terrible return journey of Scott’s party suffering from scurvy, dehydration and slow starvation and final death is vividly illustrated with pictures of frostbite.

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.

The diary of a PR person as she promoted a high-tec, 115ft diesel engine monohull vessel on its journey from Gibraltar around the world whilst its crew of 15, including 4 professional and 11 amateur mariners, undertook a challenge to become the first powered vessel to circumnavigate the globe in less than 80 days in 1998.

This will be followed by some Christmas cheer and discussions on our 2026 programme

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

Travel

Would you be interested in a **5** day tour, based in the outskirts of Paris, including full day tour in Paris and a visit to the newly re-opened Notre Dame, plus a visit to the Palace of Versailles and Monet's retreat in Giverny?



Departs **Thursday 7th May 2026** with travel by coach and ferry to a hotel outside Paris.



Day 2: Full day tour of Paris and guided tour of Notre Dame.



Day 3: Full day guided tour of the Palace of Versailles

Day 4: Visit to Monet's country retreat at Giverny and the nearby village of Verdon.

Day 5: Return to Calais for afternoon sailing back to Dover and return to Maldon.



Includes: Travel, 4 nights accommodation at Novotel Paris Saclay, Half Board

From £749pp sharing, £899 sole occupancy

For further information please contact::

Malcolm Case

GARDEN GROUP

A beautiful sunny day in late April saw 32 Garden Group members visit Ulting Wick for a very pleasant afternoon wandering through the many flower beds and wild flower meadows, followed by, of course, delicious tea and cake.



One week later we were off to Green Island Gardens at Ardleigh, nr Colchester. The drop in temperature did not deter our members and we had a most enjoyable time wandering some of the 20 acres through woodlands

carpeted in bluebells, over streams and into the many 'secret' gardens all the time admiring the very beautiful, large collection of Acers and the unusual colours of the plentiful Azaleas.

A garden definitely worth another



visit in a different season.

On **Thursday 12th June at 11.00** we have arranged a visit to the **Gardens of Easton Lodge** near Great Dunmow. With a history dating back to Tudor times the gardens have been partially restored to their former glory



by a team of volunteers and the owners of Warwick House. This is a self drive visit; car share maybe available. The cost is **£12** per person, which includes a guided tour followed by tea/coffee and cake. We are now taking bookings and payments. 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 us know so that you can be put on the list.

Cheques made payable to Maldon & District u3a can be posted to Theresa at 10 Hopping Jacks Lane, Danbury, CM3 4PN, or you can now make payment by bac transfer to the following account:

Nat West: Maldon & Dist U3A Sort code: **60-13-37** a/c **49774476** using the reference **gardens- easton**

Later in May we are making a coach trip to **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. There are still a few spaces available for this trip. 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/>



On **1st July** we will be making a return visit to one of our favourite gardens, Blunts Hall in Witham, and later that month a visit to the NGS garden at 262 Hatch Road, Pilgrims Hatch. Further details will be available in the June newsletter.

Theresa Byles

Kris Taylor

Thanks to Brigitte Whiteing for the Ulting and Green Island photos

FILM GROUP

We started our meeting with a look at *The Prestige*. I think the general conclusion was that it was somewhat confusing as to what was going on, although it did resolve itself at the end. A strange tale of jealousy, illusion and trickery, and the lengths someone will go to to be considered the greatest. It also included an element of fantasy with the cloning machine supposedly invented by Tesla. Not to everyone's liking, although all agreed the acting and direction was good. **Score: 7**

Red Joan received more positive reviews. It provided us with a good discussion about the moral question of betraying one's country for the greater good of world peace. The acting was excellent, especially Sophie Cookson in the lead role as the young Joan Smith and Judy Dench as the older Joan. The film is based on a book of the same title, which in turn is very loosely based on the life of Melita Norwood, who was a KGB spy and passed on nuclear secrets. **Score: 8**

Next time:

Gosford Park – 2001 satirical black comedy, mystery film. It follows a party of wealthy Brits plus an American producer, and their servants, who gather for a shooting weekend at Gosford Park, an English country house. A murder occurs after a dinner party, and the film goes on to present the following investigation from the servants' and guests' perspectives. An ensemble cast with many well-known names and faces.

Fort Apache – 1948 Western film directed by John Ford and starring John Wayne and Henry Fonda. The first of John Ford's cavalry trilogy, in which a demoted commanding officer takes his resentment out on the men of Fort Apache, a remote outpost in the Arizona desert. The screenplay was inspired by James Warner Bellah's short story, *Massacre*, the historical sources for which have been attributed both to Custer and the Battle of the Little Bighorn and to the Fetterman Fight. The film was one of the first to present an authentic and sympathetic view of Native Americans.

Both available on BBC iPlayer with plenty of time.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday **28th May**, 7.30pm via Zoom.
If you would like to join us, please just get in touch.

Shirley Macro

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 9th June**. Why not come along? Please contact us for further details.

Marian Manning

Brenda Heal



ROYAL HISTORY GROUP

We are currently discussing the Edwardian period.

We meet every second Thursday in the WMCC. Our next meeting is **Thursday 12th June** 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?

[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

STROLLERS TOO

On 22nd April nine of us set off for a very pleasant, mostly flat walk at Burnham-on-Crouch. There hadn't been much rain lately, so the walk was not muddy, thankfully, and we were blessed with sunshine most of the way.



The walk started with a tree-lined footpath which then opened out onto sports playing fields where we followed a grassy path running parallel to the railway line. We saw a large vineyard and research tells us viniculture is becoming more popular across Essex, especially in the Crouch Vale, due to good soil, mild temperatures and dry summers. Apparently, this results in fruit with naturally high sugars, producing excellent wines, including Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. No, we didn't taste any!

We then headed towards Creeksea and passed the Creeksea Place Barns and Parlour Café. On reaching the riverside we could see yachts and Wallasea Island, home to a nature reserve, wild seals and special bird habitats. In the summer they have a "dial-a-ferry" service to Wallasea.



The walk took us past the Royal Burnham Yacht Club and Harbour, one of the largest yacht marinas on the east coast. We admired some of the larger yachts and it was difficult to decide which one we would pick if we won the lottery! We then headed back along the sea wall to the historic Ye Olde White Harte where we had an enjoyable lunch.

Thank you, Nicola Iszard, for the photographs and thank you to those who joined us, excellent company! Steven and Muriel Clarke

Tuesday May 27th

Our May walk will take us to Bradwell-on-Sea. Please meet at **10:15 for a 10:30** start at "The Green Man", Waterside Road, Bradwell-on-Sea, CMO 7QX. We can park in the pub carpark. The walk which is some 4 miles goes along the sea wall, with views



across to Mersea Island, towards the old Power Station. From there we will take the path to the east of the Power Station and then along the access road, which has wide grassed verges, passing the WW2 memorial before taking the footpath leading back to Bradwell Waterside and the pub.

Please let me know by no later than **May 20th** if you will be joining the walk and if you will be staying for lunch.

Malcolm Case

SUNDAY STROLLERS

Sunday 15th June

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

As this walk falls on Father's 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

BIRD WATCHING GROUP

Mention Fingringhoe to any birdwatcher in north Essex, and the bird most likely to come to mind at this time of year is the nightingale. Indeed, the Essex Wildlife Trust reserve at Fingringhoe Wick is considered key location for these iconic songsters, hosting 1% of the UK population – and that's where 12 members headed on a sunny May Saturday morning. *Nightingale*

We were not disappointed. The birds return from their central Africa winter quarters in mid April, with the males arriving first at their breeding grounds in south-east England, numbering 6,700 according to the RSPB. Only the males sing, to attract a mate, and their melodic song – a rapid succession of rich notes, high and low – could be heard all round the reserve's wooded areas along with summer regulars such as the cuckoo.



Cuckoo

The birds resemble a large robin with rich brown upper parts, reddish tail and large eyes. Their song may be heard until early June when the young hatch. But they are highly secretive, and are usually heard rather than seen, and spend much of their time in dense undergrowth or on the ground, hunting for worms, spiders and insects. *Blackcap*



They were not the only birds to be heard but not seen, named by members with the Merlin phone app that identifies bird song. These included a blackcap, aka the northern nightingale owing to its flute-like song. The explosive call of a Cetti's warbler was also caught on sound. Unlike

most of our warblers, Cetti's do not migrate yet cope with cold winters better than other small birds.

Cetti's warbler



Last but not least to be caught on sound was a firecrest, one of our tiniest birds measuring 9cm. Smaller than a wren, they were usually only seen on migration in spring and autumn, and first discovered breeding in southern England in 1962 but are now found in coniferous forests throughout southern

England.



Many birds are in their breeding finery at this time of year—including a little grebe snapped diving for small fish or the aquatic invertebrates on which they feed.

Little Grebe

Mike Bagshaw 01621 892272

Peter Gaywood 01621 852742

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8th June | Blue House Farm, North Farnbridge. 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 |

AVIATION GROUP

Hello everyone,

We gathered on 25th April at Woodham Mortimer Village Hall, all newly redecorated after urgent remedial work, when we ran a presentation analysing what went wrong at Boeing leading to the 737 Max disaster.



Linked to these failures I gave an illustrated talk about the phenomena of the “Super Stall” first experienced with the BAC1-11 in November 1963 which led to electronically signalled stall recovery systems for civil airliners becoming mandatory.

We won't be meeting in May as we are visiting the RAF Museum at Hendon on **Thursday 22nd May**.

In addition, we are planning a Maldon u3a presence at the forthcoming Wings & Wheels show at Stow Maries Great War Museum on **Sunday 25th May**. At present we have 5 cars registered but I am sure that there are other classic car and motorcycle owners and enthusiasts within our membership. Let me know if you would like to join us with your pride and joy (2, 4 or 3 wheelers!) so that I can add you to our group booking. If you would like more info on the show, drop me a text or email.

We are also looking at visiting Bomber County (Lincolnshire) this autumn over 2 days with an overnight stay—**2nd / 3rd October**. The plan is to visit, amongst other places, the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight facility, Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre, and the International Bomber Command Memorial Centre.



If you interested in joining the trip and would like more details, please drop a line to me and I will forward your interest to fellow member David Gillespie who is doing the heavy lifting on this one.

Chris Samson

AVIATION PROGRAMME 2025 REVISED

Thursday 22nd May We will visit the **RAF Museum at 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 at 0800 to 0815, then West Maldon Community Centre at 0815 to 0830, The Swan bus stop, Bicknacre (Danbury bound side) at 0830 to 0845 and at Eves Corner Danbury 0845 to 0900—remember the car park is no longer available for long stay.

Entry to the museum is free; coach cost is **£30** per head; we still have a couple of places available, and payment can now be arranged via Bank transfer, if you are interested please send me a text or email and I will forward payment details.

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, at 0800 to 0815, then West Maldon Community Centre at 0815 to 0830, The Swan bus stop, Bicknacre (Danbury bound side) at 0830 to 0845 and at Eves Corner Danbury 0845 to 0900—remember the carpark is no longer available for long stay. Contd.

AVIATION PROGRAMME 2025 CONTD.

**Thursday 26th June
contd.**

The cost of the Guided Tour is **£49 pp**, and the coach cost is **£31 per head**; we still have a couple of places available, and payment can now be arranged via Bank transfer, if you are interested please send me a text or email and I will forward payment details.

Friday 25th July

Remembering the 80th anniversary of VE day in May 1945 we will show a film of the flight by three 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) to the success of the landings.

We hope also to live stream the external camera feeds at the famous OSHKOSH 7-day long airshow via the projector to the big screen.

A lot less expensive than flying to Wisconsin in July!!

**Friday 26th
September**

A Show and Tell event (moved following the March hall cancellation).

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

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 **Tuesday 3rd**

June. Kris news.maldonu3a@gmail.com

GEOLOGY GROUP

Our meeting in April saw us looking at the geology of the Caribbean with the reward to ourselves of lunch in May.

Our meetings are held on the **third Wednesday of the month at 2pm** at West Maldon Community Centre and we would be pleased to welcome new members with or without any Geological knowledge.

Please note there is **NO MEETING at WMCC on 21st MAY.**

Sylvia Cousins

PETANQUE GROUP

It is time to dust the cobwebs off those Petanque balls and head to the Petanque rink on Maldon Prom on



a **Thursday afternoon** for a couple of hours or so of fun. New players are always welcome to come and give it a try, so why not come along and have a go. The start time is **2.00 pm** until around 4.00 pm The Petanque pitch is opposite the Marine Lake at the Promenade Park, Park Drive, Maldon Essex CM9 5JQ.

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

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

We may be able to loan you some boules to get you started to see if you like it, but you will need to purchase some of your own to play regularly.

The season is April to October, and we only play if the weather is dry.

Contact Jack Veash or Geoff Macro for more details.

LONDON THEATRE GROUP

For our first theatre trip of 2025 we went to see **Six** at the Vaudeville Theatre. A very lively, enjoyable, modern take on the story of Henry VIII 's six wives.

We can now all recite "Divorced, Beheaded, Died, Divorced, Beheaded,



Survived" and name the six wives.

We will be booking our next trip in the near future. When we book tickets we send an email to all members on our email list with the details. Tickets are then allocated on a first come first

served basis.

If you would like to be added to the list send an email with your details to Rosemary Case.

Rosemary and Sheila London Theatre Organisers

POETRY FOR FUN

I was very unsure (and ignorant of it) when I first joined a poetry group. But I have found it enjoyable, informative... and fun!

This small, friendly group meets at **2.00pm on the first Thursday of the month**. Each member chooses a poem they like to read, and there is discussion about every aspect of it that may be of interest: did we like it, did we hate it, and why? And more; all fuelled by tea and biscuits (usually meetings are in someone's home).

If you like poetry already, or are tempted to explore it, do come to a meeting and give it a try.

It was Alan Coran who said he had “*nothing against poetry, after all, without poetry Postman Pat would have had a black and white dog.*” I love that.

Patrick Forsyth

Jo’s poem:

Our monthly meetings have been fun;
A search through books in preparation
With open minds we learn to see
What’s hidden in the poetry.

Understanding – interpretation.
The more we read – appreciation.
Emotions: grief, hate, love – a few
Engulf us as we’re passing through.

Remembering when we were at school.
Those early rhymes that were so cool.
The memory aids that kept the facts
On hand to pluck from single tracks.

I must admit I do adore
To lose myself in words and more,
Transported in imagination
I find real joy in expectation.

Contact:

Jo Robson

(who demonstrates that you can write a poem too if you want; see above)

or myself for more information.

Patrick Forsyth

ASTRONOMY

There will not be a meeting of the group in May as Monday 26th May is a Bank Holiday.

The next meeting of the group will be on **Monday 23rd June**, starting at 7:30 pm at the Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge.

Details on this meeting will be in the June Newsletter.

Astronomy Events May 2025

May 20	Last Quarter Moon
May 22	Saturn (mag. 0.9) passes 2.8° south of the Moon
May 23	Venus (mag. -4.4) passes 4.0° south of the Moon
May 26	Moon at perigee (359,023 km)
May 27	New Moon
May 28	Jupiter (mag. -1.9) passes 5.2° south of the Moon
May 30	Pollux passes 2.4° north of the Moon
May 31	Mercury reaches perihelion

Malcolm Case

JUST JAZZ GROUP



Our next meeting is **Monday 19th 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.

Pete Condon

David Coombes

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.



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

webmaster@maldonu3a.co.uk

Publicity Andy Simmonds
Irina Vahonina

publicity.maldonu3a@gmail.com

GROUP COORDINATORS

Art Appreciation	Judith Johnston	01245 223662
	Andy Simmonds	01245 381020
Aviation	Chris Samson	07979 533173
Astronomy	Malcolm Case	01245 329435
Balti Night	Bob Gowers	07856 226928
	Graham Evans	01621 742524
Bird Watching	Peter Gaywood	01621 852742
	Michael Bagshaw	01621 892272
Bridge	Gill Cory	07787 590950
Canasta	Iris Slaney	01621 891181
Cribbage	Pat Clements	01245 223427
Country Dancing	Diana Rogers	07860 162328
Croquet	Geoff Macro	01621 854856
	Shirley Macro	
Discussion	Pat Jones	01621 850817

Engineering	Tony Groves	07983 257868
Film Club	Shirley Macro	01621 854856
French	Ann Lester	07968 818098
Garden Visits	Theresa Byles	07967 353740
	Kris Taylor	07785 998173
Geology	Sylvia Cousins	01621 853597
German	Howard	01621 892887
	Broadbridge	
Handicraft	Marian Manning	01621 828605
	Brenda Heal	01621 891874
History—Edwardians	Kathy Goff	01621 840271
Just Jazz	Peter Condon	01621 859392
	David Coombes	01621 855358
Local History		
London Theatre Outings	Rosemary Case	01245 329435
	Sheila Childs	01621 842687
London Walks	Julie Lake	07733 304740
Meet & Eat	Joan Cummins	01621 893428
MahJong	Mags Pell	01621 842316
Maritime	Malcolm Case	01245 329435
Padel Tennis	Ken Hazell	07736 016530
Petanque (Boules)	Jack Veash	07388 420968
	Geoff Macro	01621 854856
Photography	Tony Groves	07983 257868
Poetry for Fun	Jo Robson	01621 874796
Rummikub	Janice Martin	01621 852959
Russian Conversation	Irina Vahonina	
Sing for Pleasure	Sue Garnham	01621 828673
Social Events	Margaret Harker	07508 379010
	Brenda Heal	01621 891874
Strollers Sunday & Tues	Malcolm Case	01245 329435
Tenpin Bowling	Alan Buck	01245 227709
	David Coombes	01621 855358
Wine Circle No. 2	tba	
Wine Circle No. 3	Mary Burd	01621 843020
Wine Circle No. 4	Ann Goody	01621 892254
Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth	01621 859300

Schedule of Events – June 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
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2 Maritime Thames Barrier	3 Engineering	4 Ten Pin Bowling Croquet Bridge Padel Tennis	5 Ten Pin Bowling Poetry for Fun Petanque Rummikub	6 Mah Jong	7	8 Bird Watching N. Fambridge
9 Discussion Handicrafts	10	11 Ten Pin Bowling Padel Tennis Art Appreciation Meet & Eat	12 Ten Pin Bowling Garden Visit Easton Lodge Royal History French Conversation Country Dancing Petanque	13 Canasta Singing	14	15 Strollers
16 Monthly meeting Just Jazz	17 London Walks	18 Ten Pin Bowling Croquet Padel Tennis Bridge Geology Photography Zoom	19 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Rummikub Country Dancing	20 Mah Jong	21	22
23 Astronomy	24 Strollers	25 Ten Pin Bowling Padel Tennis Writing for fun Wine Group Film Zoom	26 Ten Pin Bowling Garden / Aviation Visit Petanque French Conversation Country Dancing Wine Group	27 Canasta Singing Cribbage	28	29
30						