



Maldon and District

Newsletter



RHS Wisley—photo by Brigitte Whiteing

June 2026

www.maldonu3a.co.uk

Registered Charity 1086182

FROM THE CHAIR

The rose season is upon us, and many gardens are full of beautiful flowers. When the Garden Group visited Wisley on 21st May, we were surprised and delighted to see that the Rose Garden was in full bloom. There were also the most amazing peonies to behold.

Later in May, two Committee members went to a workshop run by the Essex u3a Network about the Recruitment & Retention of members, with tips for branches on how to improve and increase the Interest Groups.

The Committee has made a strenuous effort to make our Monthly Meetings a welcoming place for new members. It can be intimidating for a new member to walk into a Hall with 100+ members where they might not know anyone. We have the Interest Groups corner on the LHS, where they can find out what is on offer and there is always someone there to deal with questions. Gill Cory, who is also the Bridge Group coordinator, has been there doing a sterling job making new members feel at home.

We are really pleased that there are some new groups being formed such as poetry, Spanish, a new wine group, a book group, knitting and crochet and, I hope, more to come. The ethos of the u3a is that it is run by the members for the members, so we are keen to hear from any member who has an idea for a new Interest Group. We will support them through the initial setting up and first meeting.

The role of a group coordinator can be very simple – to send out information on the dates and venues for future meetings. It is a role that can be shared, for example Kris Taylor and I run the Garden Group, or it can be shared between all the members in a group, each taking their turn. Whatever works is the mantra, there are no rules.

Theresa Byles Chairman

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 8th July**
Kris Taylor Newsletter Editor news.maldonu3a@gmail.com

Maldon & District u3a
1st September 2026 to 31st August 2027
Membership Subscription Renewals

Subscriptions are due by no later than 31st August 2026.

Please use our website maldonu3a.co.uk and complete the forms under *Membership Renewal*. If you are unable to do this then renewal forms are available from the Membership Secretary. **Each member must complete a separate form.**

Annual subscription is £21.00 per person. If you wish to continue to receive the u3a matters magazine then the subscription is £25.00 per person.

Subscriptions can be paid by Bank Transfer into Barclays Bank, account name – **Maldon U3A – sort code 20-54-30 – A/C number 53198995, the reference you use MUST be your forename and surname – with no space** or if you wish, you can still pay by cheque which should be made payable to **Maldon u3a.**

Using the web site and paying by Bank Transfer is the preferred way.

The completed form (s) together with your payment must be made before the **31st August 2026**. We do not accept cash. **The forms together with your cheque (if paying by cheque) MUST be returned to the Membership Secretary at 30 The Spinnaker, South Woodham Ferrers, Chelmsford. CM3 5GL.**

Data Protection Law and Data Base: The Renewal forms are used to check our database, please indicate on the form if your details are unchanged from your original renewal. Any changes then please advise the Membership Secretary.

Emergency Contact: Where couples are both members, please do not use each other as emergency contacts. Please also ensure that you have the consent to use the name and telephone number of the person/s named as your emergency contact.

Gift Aid: Please indicate on the form “I want to Gift Aid” if you able to gift aid your subscription.

DO IT NOW: You do not have to wait until the end of August.

Membership cards have already been sent to you (white plastic bar coded credit card size) in May 2020 or when you joined if after this date.

MONTHLY MEETING

Monday 20th July

Wickham Bishops Hall

Doors open at 1.15 for a 1.45 start

Steve Scruton and Ian Wyatt of local radio fame return to entertain us with a trip down musical memory lane.

Music & Memories: The Songs That Shaped Our Lives'

Steve and Ian start by playing extracts of songs that have meant so much to them over the years – the first singles they bought, the first live concert they went to, the first songs they played on the radio etc, and telling the stories behind the tracks.

After a break for our afternoon tea, they will ask you, the audience, for songs that have been important to you. They run round with the radio mic to hear the story and – thanks to technology! – play a little extract once the story has been told.

Maldon u3a members only

MONTHLY SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2026

17th August	<i>A short musical interlude</i>	Our own Guitar & Ukulele group will play a medley of songs from their playbooks.
	<i>followed by</i>	
	<i>Action for Family Carers</i> <i>Rebecca Loader</i>	Action for Family Carers is a local charity which has been supporting carers in Essex for decades. It was founded by Carers for Carers and has been making a positive difference to the lives of unpaid family Carers ever since.
21st September	Maldon's Lost Railway <i>Stephen Nunn</i>	Stephen will take us on a pictorial adventure from Witham to the end of line at Southminster and all stops in between.

19th October	The Commonwealth War Graves Barrie Sears	Barrie will talk about the important work of the CWGC and its educational charity, the CWG Foundation
16th November	AGM followed by a Quiz	A quiz from our own u3a member, Linda Allen
21st December	Musical Entertainment The Purleigh Phil	They're back by popular demand with Christmas music & songs. Festive afternoon tea Maldon u3a members only

If you know of any speakers that you can recommend please contact our Speaker Secretary: Margaret Harker

WELCOME

Caroline Wells
Peter Hone
Tim Wyman

Julie Chellingsworth
John Tompsett
Penny Duranti

Martin Chellingsworth
Linda Wyman

WITH REGRET

It is with great regret that we have to advise you that Darryl Vanderhoof has passed away. Darryl had been a member since March 2017

Reminder—message from u3a CEO, Iain Cassidy

Inside u3a: Member Profiles and Perspectives survey.

If you have already completed the survey emailed to you last month, thank you very much for taking part . The survey deadline has now been extended until **14th June**, giving members additional time to take part.

GARDENS

Our trip to RHS Wisley in May proved to be all that we had hoped for. The roses and peonies were in full bloom and the perennials were putting on a show in spite of the lack of rain.



Monday 22nd June

all day £25 pp for the coach

Visit to Audley End/Duxford

There are a few spaces available on this trip, please notify us before making a payment.

Tuesday 14th July at 2pm

£10.50 pp inc refreshments

Keeway, Creeksea nr Burnham on Crouch CMO 8PL

Large, mature country garden with stunning views over the River Crouch. Formal terraces surround the house with steps leading to sweeping lawns, mixed borders packed full of bulbs and perennials, formal rose and herb garden with interesting water feature. Further afield there are wilder areas, paddocks and a lake.

Cheques payable to Maldon u3a with the name of the trip on the reverse can be handed over at the main monthly meeting or posted to Theresa at 10 Hopping Jacks Lane, Danbury CM3 4PN or you can pay online. If you are paying by bacs please let us know when you have made the payment.

Maldon u3a Sort code: 60-13-37

a/c 49774476 (using the reference Keeway)

Theresa Byles

Kris Taylor

SOCIAL ORGANISING GROUP

A Magical Evening

Friday 3rd July 6.30—10.00pm

Plantation Hall, Heybridge

This event is now fully booked. To add your name to a waiting list in the event of cancellations please contact Rosemary Case

Dates for your diaries

Sea Shanty Evening

Tuesday 8th September 6.00 —10.00pm

Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge

To celebrate 25 years of our Maritime Group you are invited to an evening of Sea Shanties with a two course meal. Bar service

Reservations available from 15th July, details in the July newsletter

Quiz Afternoon

Thursday 29th October 2—4.00pm

Plantation Hall, Heybridge

An afternoon of quiz, tea and cake plus a raffle in aid of Macmillan Cancer.

It is unfortunate that it is necessary to hold some of the events in the evening as we know that many of you prefer not to drive at night. It may be that we have willing drivers that could assist.

Social Organising Group

POETRY FOR FUN

The next meeting of the group is on **Thursday 11th June** and the following month on **Thursday 9th July**. Meetings start at **10:00** in the café at Benton Hall, Wickham Hill, Witham CM8 3LH. The theme for our June meeting is "Travel" and the theme for our July meeting is "Love".

We welcome u3a members to join the group.

Patrick Forsyth

GUITAR & UKULELE GROUP

Our meetings are on the **1st and 3rd Tuesday** of each month from **10.00 until midday** in the Linton Room at the WMCC. There is plenty of free parking and each two hour session will be £3.

It's a lot of fun so come and join us, we still have some room!

If you would like to join contact **Steve**.



KNITTING & CROCHET GROUP

The next meeting of our Knitting & Crochet group will be on **Wednesday 1st July** at the Blue Boar, Maldon from 10.00 until 12.00.

If you are already a keen knitter/crocheter and would like to share your knowledge with others or would just like to have try at a new hobby please get in touch or speak to me at our monthly meeting when I will have some samples of work.

Paula Jacobs

ROYAL HISTORY

Our next meeting is **Thursday 9th July** at 10.00 at the WMCC. We are now into the Windsor era , the period following on from the death of Edward VII until now looking at not only the royal families but also events that were happening in the UK and around the world at this time.

Why not join us?

FAMILY HISTORY

A new Family History group is in the process of starting. For more information or if you are interested in joining please contact Malcolm Case, in the first instance.

VISIT TO COPPED HALL – FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER

Our monthly meeting talk this month is on Copped Hall, a fine Georgian mansion near Epping Forest, which is currently under restoration. Following a major fire the Copped Hall Trust saved the mansion and gardens by purchasing them in 1995. The aim of the Trust is to permanently protect the site, and carefully restore Copped Hall and its gardens for educational, cultural and community benefit.

To follow on from the talk, we have arranged a visit to the Hall and parkland on **Friday 11th September at 10.00am**. We will have a guided tour which covers the grounds, the Walled Garden and three floors of the Mansion. The tour takes approximately 2.5 hours with a break halfway for tea, coffee and home-made cake. Please note that the grounds are sloping and uneven, and there is no step-free access inside the Mansion. The price, including the refreshments is **£15 pp**. I need to confirm with the Trust that this visit is going ahead, so please book your place with me promptly.

Cheques payable to Maldon u3a with the name of the trip on the reverse can be handed over at the main Monthly meeting or posted to me at 10 Hopping Jacks Lane, Danbury CM3 4PN or you can pay online. If you are paying by bacs please let me know when you have made the payment.

Maldon u3a Sort code: 60-13-37 a/c 49774476 reference: Copped Hall

Please note that this is a self-drive event, open to all our u3a members. Car sharing is a possibility. I hope to arrange an option to go for a late lunch afterwards at a local pub – The Horseshoes in Upshire. This will depend upon interest and numbers.

Thank you. Theresa Byles

PADEL TENNIS

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 any one interested in joining the Group or perhaps having a taster session please contact: Ken Hazell.

MARITIME GROUP

Monday 6th July –

Talk by Don Baines on

Dunkirk Heroes – The

story of two barges. The two barges are Pudge and

Centaur, both Dunkirk little ships, based in Maldon, Don's talk is about the barges' contribution to the success of Operation Dynamo in May – June 1940.



Monday 3rd August – Trip to Blue Town Heritage centre and Museum. Depart from WMCC at 08:30, arrive Sheerness by 10:15 to visit the museum which shows the history of Sheerness. A buffet lunch is included, followed by a guided coach tour of Sheerness and its Maritime Heritage. Cost per person is **£44.00**, this includes the coach, driver's gratuity, coach parking, entry to the Heritage centre and Museum, lunch and guided tour. Payment by cheque only please.



Spaces are still available. Please contact me if you wish to join the trip. If we do not get the minimum number for this trip then it will be cancelled.



Monday 7th September – Talk by John Johnson-Allen via Zoom on **Rosslyn Wemyss, Admiral of the Fleet: The Man Who Created Armistice Day.** The life of a Naval officer from 1877 to 1919 through peace, war and then peace again who managed the successful evacuation of 140,000 troops from Gallipoli and, later, was the British Naval representative at the Armistice negotiations.



Monday 5th October – Talk by Roger Butler, by Zoom, on the tiny archipelago of **St Kilda** which lies forty miles west of the Outer Hebrides – you won't find it on any road atlas! These isolated islands have a unique history, and the last

residents were evacuated in 1930. The impressive cliffs are some of the tallest in Europe and the seabird colonies are amongst the most important in the North Atlantic. The talk describes a week spent on the main island – and just getting there is part of the adventure.

Monday 2nd November – Talk by Jimmy Byam Shaw on tank testing of ship shapes and design.

Monday 7th December – Talk by Stephen Nunn on Maldon's links with the Battle of Trafalgar (1805). Our overwhelming victory over the French and Spanish fleets off Cape Trafalgar on 21st October 1805 gave the Royal Navy its most famous triumph and confirmed a long tradition of naval supremacy. The battle also immortalised the memory of Viscount Horatio Nelson who was shot and died of his wounds at the moment of his greatest victory. There are some surprising links between maritime Maldon and this famous national event.

u3a members are very welcome on the August trip and to any group meeting

Malcolm Case

DONATIONS for SEAFARERS CENTRE, TILBURY

The centre is again asking for donations of knitted hats, gloves, scarves, jerseys, any colour and size. Coats, clean, are also asked for as ships are coming from warmer climes and the crew do not always have warm clothing. They also ask for jigsaw puzzles (complete), DVDs and books. Also, toiletries suitable for male and female and sweets and chocolates with long use by dates.. All donations are always gratefully received and on behalf of the centre, thank you. If you have any donations, then please give them to me at a monthly meeting or at a Maritime meeting.

Malcolm Case

RNLI Collecting Pots

Thanks goes to everyone who continue to fill their small Tiptree jars with 5p and 20p coins for the RNLI. Our collecting pots last year raised £231 for which the local branch of the RNLI are very grateful.

Thank you again and if you wish to join in jars are always available at the Main meeting or Maritime.

Mary Burd Malcolm Case

STROLLERS

Our walk, which started from the car park adjacent to the South Woodham

Ferrers Yacht Club on Sunday 17th May,

took us along the banks of the river

Crouch with views across the salt

marshes, where we saw a lone egret

standing waiting to catch a meal. The walk

followed the river Crouch passing moored

boats, and Marsh farm where there were flocks of grazing sheep, continuing on

we reached Hawbush Creek viewing point where an RNLI inshore lifeboat was

out on exercise. We continued following the path on the sea wall, eventually

turning inland to walk back past Marsh farm and back to the car park. The walk

was some 3.5 miles along level and at times uneven paths, the weather was



good with a gentle wind blowing. A very enjoyable walk.

On the same day there was a 10K Parkrun

taking place. They set off at 10:00am

following much the same route as our walk,

and we gave them a cheer of

encouragement, but decided to watch not to join them !!

A very good Sunday lunch was enjoyed at

The Whalebone Pub in South Woodham Ferrers.

Malcolm Case.

Sunday 21st June

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

As this walk falls on Fathers Day we will not be arranging the usual pub lunch

but instead we will host a 'bring and share' lunch afterwards at our home in

Great Totham.

Please let us know if you would like to come on the walk and whether you wish

to join us for lunch and we will send you more details.

Brenda and Robert Heal



STROLLERS TOO

The Strollers Too walk on Tuesday 26th May was cancelled due to the very high temperature of 34c . It was the right decision because everyone decided to meet at the Duke of Wellington, Hatfield Peverel for lunch instead.

Eleven cool strollers enjoyed a chat and good food and agreed it was the right thing to do. Thanks to everyone for making the best of the day and we look forward to actually doing the walk in the future!

Nicki Iszard



Tuesday 23rd June

Our June amble will be on Tuesday 23rd June and start and finish at **The Bell Inn, The Street, Feering, Colchester CO5 9QQ**. Parking is on The Street but, only on the opposite side of the road from The Bell as the side of the road beside The Bell is designated as a pedestrian footpath.

We will meet at 10:15 for a 10:30 start. Please let me know by **Thursday 18th June** if you will be joining the walk and if you will be staying for lunch.

David Griffiths

ENGINEERING GROUP

There will not be a meeting in July. The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 4th August** when the topics will be: Siegemcraft technologies, the Internet, and the first of six lectures on Fossil Fuel; electrical power generation and distribution.

We meet on the first **Tuesday each month at 2pm** in my house in Danbury.

Tony Groves

JUST JAZZ

Our next meeting is **Monday 15th June** 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

PETANQUE



It is time to dust the cobwebs off those Pétanque balls and head to the Pétanque 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, why not come along and have a go, we play from 2.00 pm until around 4.00 pm. We play on the Pétanque pitch 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 u3a or one of the Maldon u3a cluster groups.

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

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

Contact Jack Veash or Geoff Macro

CROQUET

Croquet is competitive yet sociable, enjoyable, active and healthy. The group meets on the **1st and 3rd Wednesday** afternoons from April to October. There



is a charge of £8.50 for the use of equipment and tea/coffee at the end of play. Please note that shoes should have flat soles, no heels must be worn and your toes should be covered so no sandals please.

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

If you would like more information, or would like to come along and give it a try, please contact: Geoff and Shirley Macro

FILM GROUP

The meeting this month caused some controversy as one among us (me!) dared to challenge a much-loved film – not sure I'm ever going to be forgiven.

Four Weddings and a Funeral – The majority thought this 1994 film full of well-known British actors was excellent, although starting to seem a bit dated. A very young-looking Hugh Grant had perfected his upper-class scatterbrained character, always late and often seemingly confused, ably supported by the rest of the cast. The only doubt was Andie MacDowell, who we felt wasn't quite as good. As the title says, the story is centred around the four weddings and the funeral of one of their closest friends, otherwise there is little depth to the storyline. Most found it enjoyable to watch again, although maybe not so much as at the first viewing. **Score: 8**

The Titfield Thunderbolt – This 1953 was the first Ealing comedy to be filmed in colour. Not necessarily one of the best offerings from the Ealing Studios, it was still quite amusing and daft, and the scenery was lovely. The plot was based on true events around the closure of a small, local railway and the efforts of the villagers to keep the line going. Not sure the actual true story involved a joust between a steamroller and an engine, or recommissioning a derelict engine from a museum. It was interesting to see some of the old actors and putting names to them, including Sid James as the steamroller driver. Not the best but it did **Score: 6**

Next time:

A Bump Along the Way– 2019 Irish British comedy drama film directed by Shelly Love. A heavy-drinking Derry single mother becomes pregnant at the age of 44 from a one-night stand, much to the mortification of her teenage daughter.

Harry Brown– 2009 British vigilante film directed by Daniel Barber and starring Michael Caine. **Both available on BBC iPlayer.**

We have a short break for June but will be back the following month.

Next meeting is **Wednesday, 29th July 2026, 7.30pm via Zoom.**

New members welcome, please just get in touch.

Shirley Macro

HANDICRAFTS

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. We are now up to full numbers. However, if you are interested in joining the group in the future we are running a waiting list. Please contact us for further details.

Marian Manning

Brenda Heal

GEOLOGY

Our next meeting at West Maldon Community Centre is at 2p.m.on **Wednesday 17th June**, when we will look at the Holocene Period with emphasis on the Anglian Ice Age which began about 450,000 years ago. This topic may continue into our next meeting on **15th July** but by then we may have time to review the Geology of countries some of our members have recently visited.

There will be NO MEETING in AUGUST

Interested new members are welcome to join us at WMCC, with or without geological knowledge, for an afternoon of Geology, Tea and Biscuits.

Sylvia Cousins

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. The cost is £9 per session which includes shoe hire and tea/coffee & biscuits..

If you are interested, please contact:

Alan Buck

David Coombes



LONDON WALKS

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

We meet a professional guide at 11.15 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.

Contact Julie to reserve your place well in advance if you can. Please continue to refer to www.walks.com for the details of each Walk.

After the Walk you are free to enjoy London as you wish.

Travel arrangements are made by yourselves.

Our May Walk found us exploring Hampstead Village & Heath; an affluent district with wonderful properties, churches, narrow lanes, woodland paths, lakes and heathland – we hardly felt we were in London at all.

Originally a small village, Hampstead became popular with people coming to take the waters and to convalesce in sanatoriums. In time it became known for its intellectual, artistic, liberal and literary associations. It has some of the most expensive housing in London with residents ranging from King Constantine II of Greece, Ricky Gervais, Robert Louis Stevenson, Ramsey Macdonald, Glenda Jackson, Judy Dench, countless MPs, authors and artists. Daphne Du Maurier's childhood home was in Cannon Hall, selling now for £28 million. Over 60 Blue Plaques adorn the houses as testament to the prestige of the area.

Peeking over the fence at the cemetery we saw George Du Maurier's grave (Daphne's father) marked unusually by his headboard. Countless famous people are buried here, and it certainly deserves a second visit.



We stood by the ornate gates of Fenton House, a C17th house, and National Trust property, housing a collection of early keyboard instruments and a fine collection of C20th paintings. Again, a second visit is called for, as well as nearby Kenwood House.

We saw Admiral's House, a Grade II listed building styled as a ship's quarterdeck and widely known as the inspiration for the eccentric Admiral Boom in the Mary Poppins books. Round the corner was

John Constable’s house from where he painted over 100 studies of the trees of Hampstead Heath. And Burgh House where Rudyard Kipling’s daughter lived in the early 1930’s, and the last place that Kipling visited before his death.

We talked about the famous pubs in the area – The Holly Bush, until recently still gas lit, and Jack Straw’s Castle. We stood outside the unusual looking St Mary’s Church which was founded by the Abbé Jean Jacques Morel, a refugee from the French Revolution. The original chapel was built in 1816 and extended by 1916 to the church we see today.

Then on to the Heath itself. Over 800 acres of ancient parkland, with views of the London skyline, and housing 3 outdoor swimming pools. In 1871 the Hampstead Heath Act was passed, banning the development of any housing. A beautiful area preserved for perpetuity.



Thanks to Brigitte Whiteing for the photos

A fabulous Walk, quite different from the hustle and bustle of Walks in the City and one to be repeated, I think.

The itinerary for 2026 is below

16th June **	All day outing – a 45 minute guided boat trip from Little Venice to Camden. Lunch at Andy’s Greek Taverna, followed by a 2 hour London Walk entitled Old Camden Town.	Meet at Warwick Avenue Station. Note meeting time of 11.00 Our day will finish in Camden at about 5pm
21st July	Darkest Victorian London	Meet at Monument Station
18th August	The Blitz	Meet at St Paul’s Station
15th September	Rock n’ Roll Covent Garden	Meet at Tottenham Court Road Station
20th October	Revolting London	Meet at Tower Hill Station
17th November	London’s Secret Village	Meet at St Paul’s Station

LONDON WALKS CONTD.

15th December

Charles Dickens' A
Christmas Carol &
Seasonal Traditions

Meet at Tower Hill Station

Payment by cheque in advance please –payable to Maldon u3a. No later than 8 days before the Walk please.

ONE CHEQUE PER EVENT.

Julie Lake

BOOK GROUP

Following on from the first meeting on **Thursday 4th June**, it was agreed by those present, that the venue for future meetings would be **Madison Heights Café, Park Drive, Maldon.**

It was also agreed that members of the group would discuss amongst themselves when and what time to meet, but provisionally it was thought that a **Friday morning at 10:00am** would be preferable.

If you would like to join the group, please contact Malcolm Case.

CLIMATE CHANGE GROUP

This is a new group and following on from the first meeting on **Thursday 4th June**, it was agreed that the next meeting would be on **Friday 10th July starting at 10:00 at The Blue Boar, Silver Street, Maldon.**

Patrick Forsyth has kindly agreed to give a talk, in general terms, about Climate Change.

Future meetings will be decided at the meeting on the 10th July but it was felt that one meeting per month would be preferable.

If you would like to join the group, then please contact either Malcolm Case or Patrick Forsyth.

AVIATION GROUP

Hello Everyone,

Last month we had a superb day out at Brooklands Museum, it was the start of the very welcome warm and sunny spell in May.

This month we visit IWM Duxford, details below.

We have less than a handful of places left in the coach so if you would like to join us, please tell me soonest!



Note: we are combining with the Gardens Group who will go to Audley End House & Garden.

In July we will meet at Woodham Mortimer Village Hall on **Friday 31st July**, and we will show the short BAFTA award winning film ***A Memory Owed*** starring James Bolam and filmed at RAF East Kirkby, followed by the showing of some follow up films of Brooklands and hopefully some clip from Oshkosch 2026.

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

Monday 22nd June

Visit to IWM Duxford combining with the Gardens Group who will go to Audley End house and garden.

Coach cost---£25pp; Group entry to Duxford no longer available, concessions entry---£25.70 (based on self-guided trip); an "inside the Lancaster guided tour" --- £12.50.

Friday 31st July

Showing of the short BAFTA award winning film *A Memory Owed* starring James Bolam; A film of the surviving parts of the Brooklands circuit; other films from my archives of Brooklands.

ASTRONOMY

There will not be a meeting of the group in June. The next meeting of the Astronomy group is on **Monday 27th July**, starting at **7:30pm at the Chigboro Fishing Club**, Chigborough Road, Heybridge for a talk on Exoplanets by Sebastian von Harrach who is best known for his pioneering work in physics and electron microscopy which led to the production of the first electron microscope to scan a single atom. Now retired he links up with other retired physicists, also amateur astronomers, to fill in the gaps between funded subjects of research. Sebastian's particular interest is exoplanets, planets around stars outside of our own solar system, and more particularly the planets around a pair of stars, similar in mass to our sun, which rotate around each other at a rate of rotation of 1 rotation every 3 – 6 hours. Some of Sebastian's and his friends' findings throw doubts on some of NASA's published 'facts'.

Planets to view in June –Venus and Jupiter Conjunction: The absolute highlight of the month occurs on June 8th and 9th. The two brightest objects in the evening sky will pass close to each other (about three full-moon widths). How to view: Look to the west-northwest horizon shortly after sunset.

Mars: Noticeably fainter than earlier in the year, the Red Planet sits in the western evening sky for a couple of hours after dark. Between June 16th and 17th, Mars will pass less than one full moon-width from Regulus, the brightest star in the constellation Leo.

Saturn & Mercury: Saturn is best viewed in the pre-dawn eastern sky around 1:30 a.m., gradually climbing higher as the month progresses. Mercury will emerge very low in the west-northwest sky, roughly 30 to 45 minutes after sunset toward the very end of the month.

June 19: A waning crescent Moon rises alongside Saturn in the hours before dawn. June 22: Look to the eastern dawn sky to spot Venus sitting next to an elegant, slim crescent Moon.

u3a members are very welcome at the meeting.

YOUR COMMITTEE

Chairman	Theresa Byles	
Vice Chairman	Alec Fraser	
Treasurer	Steven Clarke	treasurer.maldonu3a@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Malcolm Case	membership_maldonu3a@outlook.com
Secretary	Carol Bates	secretary_maldonu3a@outlook.com
Newsletter Editor	Kris Taylor	news.maldonu3a@gmail.com
Groups Coordinator	Malcolm Case	
Speaker Secretary	Margaret Harker	
Committee	Andy Simmonds Patrick Forsyth	

Webmaster Tony Groves

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GROUP COORDINATORS

Art Appreciation	Judith Johnston Andy Simmonds
Aviation	Chris Samson
Astronomy	Malcolm Case
Balti Night	Bob Gowers Graham Evans
Book Group	Patrick Forsyth
Bridge	Gill Cory
Canasta	Iris Slaney
Climate Change	Patrick Forsyth
Cribbage	Pat Clements
Country Dancing	Diana Rogers
Croquet	Geoff Macro Shirley Macro
Discussion	Pat Jones
Engineering	Tony Groves

Film Club	Shirley Macro
French Convers	Ann Lester
Garden Visits	Theresa Byles Kris Taylor
Geology	Sylvia Cousins
German Conversation	Howard Broadbridge
Guitar & Ukulele	Steve Collis
Handicraft	Marian Manning Brenda Heal
History—Windsors	Kathy Goff
Just Jazz	Peter Condon David Coombes
Knitting & Crochet	Paula Jacobs
London Theatre Outings	Rosemary Case Sheila Childs
London Walks	Julie Lake
Meet & Eat	Joan Cummins
MahJong	Jane Rainbird Elaine Brady
Maritime	Malcolm Case
Padel Tennis	Ken Hazell
Petanque (Boules)	Jack Veash Geoff Macro
Photos for Fun	Tony Groves
Poetry for Fun	Patrick Forsyth
Rummikub	Janice Martin
Sing for Pleasure	Sue Garnham
Social Events	Margaret Harker Brenda Heal
Spanish Conversation	Andy Simmonds
Strollers Sunday & Tues	Malcolm Case
Tenpin Bowling	Alan Buck David Coombes
Wine Circle No. 4	Ann Goody
Wine Circle	
Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth

Schedule of Events – July 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
		1 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Knitting / Crochet Padel Tennis Croquet	2 Ten Pin Bowling Rummikub Petanque	3 Mahjong	4	5
6 Maritime	7 Guitar/ Ukulele	8 Ten Pin Bowling Art Appreciation Meet & Eat Padel Tennis	9 Ten Pin Bowling Royal History Country Dancing Petanque Poetry for Fun French Conversation	10 Singing Climate Change Canasta	11	12
13 Handicrafts Discussion	14 Garden visit Keeway	15 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Geology Padel Tennis Croquet Photos for Fun Zoom	16 Ten Pin Bowling Rummikub Petanque	17 Mahjong	18	19 Strollers
20 Monthly Meeting Just Jazz	21 Guitar/ Ukulele London Walks	22 Ten Pin Bowling Writing Padel Tennis	23 Ten Pin Bowling Country Dancing Petanque French Conversation	24 Singing Canasta	25	26
27 Astronomy	28 Strollers Wine Group	29 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Film—Zoom	30 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque	31 Aviation Mahjong Cribbage		

Blue— Morning Red—Afternoon Purple— Evening

Schedule correct at time of publication – please confirm dates with coordinators 24