

CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS

Hello All,

Well what a scorcher last month! I hope you all managed to find a way to stay cool over the hottest days of July.

Increasing membership is still on my mind and while we gained a few last month we need to do more to keep our u3a fresh and vibrant. Membership costs less than 31 pence a week!! And no inflation.

You, our members are the best advertisement we have for our organisation. So please bring along a friend or former colleague - our monthly talks are always entertaining and potential members can have 2 taster sessions for free. Maintaining our membership is important, because membership turnover keeps us viable both financially and brings in fresh ideas to our organisation. If you have good ideas about recruitment, talk to Maggie Kearney our Membership Secretary.

A couple of members have asked if we can get theatre visits going again. Mo Wright did a great job for many years but Covid and poor health mean these have not restarted. If anyone would consider being convener for this group, please let Kathy Bell know on groups@maidenheadu3a.org.uk. This has been one of our more social groups and it would be great to see it revive. Support will be given if needed.

Enjoy the summer and stay safe and well.

John Twydle
Chairman

**Membership News**

A warm welcome to

Keith Bell, Pamela Saunders, Nick Winton, Michael Smith, Lyn Reed & Jennie Bennet who joined us recently.

A reminder - Desborough Bowling Club serves light meals and drinks until 3pm - a range of sandwiches, pizza, baked potatoes, full English breakfast etc.

You may like to consider having lunch at the Bowling Club before our monthly meeting.

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, 9th August at 2.30pm

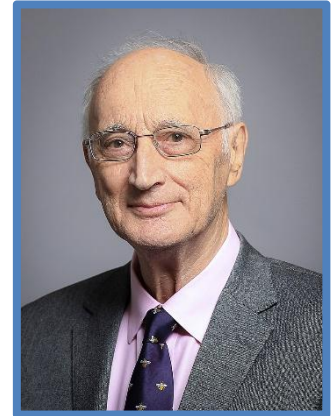
Our speaker for August is Lord George Young. His talk is entitled:

“Herding Cats”

Reflections on being Government Chief Whip

Baron Young of Cookham, known as Sir George Young, served as a Conservative Member of Parliament (MP) from 1974 to 2015. He has served in Cabinet on three occasions: as Secretary of State for Transport from 1995 to 1997; as the Leader of the House of Commons and Lord Privy Seal from 2010 to 2012; and as Chief Whip of the House of Commons from 2012 to 2014.

He stood down from the Commons at the 2015 election and was created a life peer. He sits on the Conservative benches in the House of Lords, where he served as a junior whip from July 2016 to August 2019. Lord Young served as a minister under five conservative Prime ministers (Margaret Thatcher, John Major, David Cameron, Theresa May and Boris Johnson). His non-party-political talk relates to his time as Government Chief Whip.



The talk will be held at the Desborough Bowling Club at 10 Green Lane, Maidenhead SL6 1XZ. Please aim to arrive between 2.00 and 2.15pm. **At the time of writing, the incidence of Covid is increasing, so please wear a mask for mutual protection.**

If you have any comments before or after the meeting, or suggestions for talks, please contact Speaker Organiser, Philip Ratcliffe, on speakers@maidenheadu3a.org.uk

Prospective members who would like to attend the talk as a u3a ‘sample’ should please first contact the Membership Secretary, Maggie Kearney, on 01628 637160.



A select few from the Science Group (+ 1 visitor) visited the Royal Society’s Summer Festival on 6 July.

GROUP NEWS

Calling all Walkers

You will see that there are only 2 walks this month. We need additional leaders to organise 3 a month. Could you help? If you can, please contact John Twydle on 07786 854920.

Maideleles Ukulele Group Update

Starting out as a largely beginner group at the turn of the year, the Maideleles are now working hard on their set list for their first public appearance in October: anticipation, fear and excitement are in equal measure!

The group is 8 strong, with 'newbie' Pam joining us just this week and this means that we have outgrown our meeting space in convener, Carolyn's, home. After an exhaustive search of potential venues (most of which were hosting toddler groups) we have found one to accommodate our Wednesday morning sessions. From **Wednesday 7th September**, we will move to White Waltham Parish Hall where the walls are thick enough to ensure we will not frighten the locals!

If you are interested in learning to play the ukulele, an instrument that Joe Brown says 'It's so much fun it should be on the National Health', then contact Carolyn for more details. No prior musical knowledge is needed and in a very short time you will be playing and laughing along with us. **New members welcome, beginners & improvers.**

We meet every Wednesday from 10.30 to 12.30.

From 7th September, we will meet in White Waltham Parish Hall.

Convener: Carolyn Bell - ukelele@maidenheadu3a.org.uk Mob: 07940 333709

NEW GROUP?

Threads & Needles

Threads can be wool, silk, cotton or stories and anecdotes. Needles can be knitting, sewing, embroidery, tatting bobbins, crochet hooks ... Any hand craft in fact, a chance to pass on skills and learn new ones. Maidenhead u3a's answer to Knit and Natter.

Meetings would be at Maggie Kearney's house on 3rd Thursday of the month, initially from 10.30 to 12.30, with an introductory meeting to finalise details on either 18th August or 15th September.

If you are interested in joining this group, do get in touch with Maggie by email kearneymaggie@gmail.com or call her on 01628 637160.



Bucket List group members aboard the sailing ship, Moonfleet, in Weymouth Bay.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

Would you like to keep active & fit with a really friendly sociable group?

There was an interesting letter in the last issue of the TAM magazine highlighting how enjoyable Scottish Country Dancing is. As it's unlikely that we could get together enough u3a members to create a Scottish Country Dancing group, the Maidenhead Scottish Country Dancing Club (not Highland Dancing!) would like to invite you to join them. Just come along with some comfortable shoes (+ a cup for a drink during the break) and give it a go. It will certainly get your mind & body working.

The club meets between 8 & 10pm on Tuesdays at St Piran's School, Gringer Hill, Maidenhead SL6 7LZ and there is plenty of parking. In August, we will meet on 2nd, 16th & 30th August & from September, we dance every week at the same time. Current cost for each evening is £5.50. We look forward to seeing you there.

For more information, go to www.maidenheadscottishdancing.org.uk

HELP WANTED

Assistant Website Editor

The job of keeping the Maidenhead u3a website current is no mean feat and Nigel Roper, our webmaster would appreciate some help. He has written a comprehensive training manual for all aspects of our website so if you are that way inclined and would like to either use your existing web editing skills or develop your IT skills in that direction, please contact Nigel at web@maidenheadu3a.org.uk or ring him on 01628 636893.



As French Brothers are not running boat trips on the Thames this Summer, members might be interested in the Maidenhead Heritage Centre Boat Trip. It will be on **6th September** and the cost is £30 per head. Members will need to book their own places. For more information see

<https://maidenheadheritage.org.uk/shop/>

MAIDENHEAD NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION

is organising the following day trips and holiday and would be delighted if u3a members would like to join us.

Day Trips

- √ **Sunday, 4 September 2022** - Coach trip to the River Wey, Navigation & Dapdune Wharf
 - A relaxing 45 minute boat trip along the waterway and a chance to explore a restored barge. There is a lot of space to picnic and stroll in at the Wharf and while one group is on the boat there is the opportunity to taste the delights of the tea room.
 - Hatchlands Park (Guildford) With open fields grazed by sheep and cattle, ancient woodland and wild flower meadows, the parkland is perfect for exploration and relaxation. The Georgian country house nestled in the parkland was built for naval hero Admiral Boscawen and his wife Fanny. Within the six ground-floor rooms open to the public is a collection of Old Master paintings and the Cobbe Collection – the largest array of keyboard instruments in Europe.
 - Both are National Trust properties. £32 for NT members; non NT members extra.
- √ **Sunday, 16 October 2022** - Coach trip to Athlehampton House and Moreton Village (Dorset) £35. St Nicholas Church in Moreton has hand-etched windows by Lawrence Whistler and the grave of T E Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) is in the churchyard.
- √ **Sunday, 27 November 2022** - Coach trip to Blenheim Palace for the 'Kingdom of the Snow Queen' £45.

For booking and/or further details, contact Maggie Kearney 07786 501299 / 01628 637160

Holiday 17 – 21 (Monday to Friday) April 2023

To south Devon, based in Torquay. Coach travel, 4 nights half board. £519pp two sharing. To include Stourhead, Exeter Cathedral, Buckfast Abbey, Killerton House.

There are only double occupancy rooms available.

For more details about the holiday, contact Sheila White at chairman@maidenheadnta.org.uk.

In aid of  Guide Dogs



Frogmore House Open Garden

Thursday 1st September 2022

A rare opportunity to visit the garden of this beautiful Royal residence.

By kind permission of Her Majesty The Queen.

Buy your tickets online at [guidedogs.org.uk /frogmore-house-open-garden](http://guidedogs.org.uk/frogmore-house-open-garden)

www.guidedogs.org.uk

Royal Collection Trust / © Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2022. Photographer Philip Croven. The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity in England and Wales (209987), Scotland (SC038979) and Isle of Man (1334), A308 05/22

 Garden ticket
£10 per person
under 5's FREE

As we have hosted monthly talks about Guide Dogs, this may interest some members. Frogmore House only opens a few days each year - each day for a specific charity, which has to apply well in advance for selection.

u3a

Thames Valley Network

South East Region

TVN restarted its face-to-face meetings at Benson Parish Hall on 29th July.

Check their website for future meetings & outings at <http://u3atvnetwork.org.uk/>

Quiz by Ann Hay (Answers can be found further on in the newsletter)

1. Where are the largest sculptures of horses in the world?
2. Which countries of the former Soviet Union have names ending in 'stan'?
3. What feat of bravery was performed by the ancient Roman trio Horatius, Herminius and Spurius Lartius?
4. What is the only country in the world to have a mythical beast as its national emblem?
5. What is a 'dump weight'?
6. Two of Queen Anne's footmen left her service in 1707 and set up a shop that still bears their names. What is it called?
7. In the 14th century, Nicholas Breakspear became the only Englishman to hold a particular office, under what title?
8. What is the meaning of the phrase "according to Hoyle"?
9. What is a tyg?
10. Why is a drinking-glass called a tumbler?
11. Which two players took eleven hours to complete their men's doubles at Wimbledon?
12. What were coffin-ships?
13. What was a Widow's Walk or Widow's Watch?
14. Where is the only upside-down lighthouse in the world?
15. Depending on what the boys in the back-room are having, what shall I have?
16. What is known as the Fourth Estate?
17. Who holds / held the title of the world's longest-reigning monarch?
18. What are male hen harriers called?
19. What is the difference between (a) palate (b) palette. (c) pallet
20. What is a tastevin?

August Programme

Group information below is accurate as at 27th July 2022. More group details are available on our website but make sure you are registered as a user. If you wish to join a group please ring the convener. Even if it is full, you can always be entered on a waiting list.

V = Vacancy(ies), W = Waiting list

ACTIVITY	DAY(s) in MONTH, TIME		CONTACT	TELEPHONE	NOTES	V / W
Ancient Literature	3 rd Thurs	14.30	Mick Stringer	07836 211314	We will meet by Zoom in August to start our reading of Gilgamesh, perhaps the world's oldest written story.	
Art Appreciation	1 st Frid	10.30	Mandy Taylor	01628 298107		V
Art Untutored	1 st & 3 rd Tues	14.00	Peter Neville	01628 674097		V
Astrology	1 st Wed	14.00	Marie Krag	01628 632683	Have fun discovering how your friends and family might see the world differently from you by exploring the ancient symbolism of Astrology.	V
Aviation	2 nd Thurs	14.30	Bill Teasdale	01628 672873	It has not been possible to book a speaker for August. The next meeting is on 8th September .	V
Book Reading 1	3 rd Wed	14.30	Pauline Sparkes	01753 642490	Book - Tomorrow will be a Good Day by Captain Tom Moore. Venue - Irmgard's house. T: 01628 624826.	W
Book Reading 2	2 nd Wed	13.00 to 15.00	Bobby Maunsell	01628 828279	This group would welcome one more member.	V
Bridge C	Every Thurs	14.00	Frances Foster	07548 306782	This Bridge group continues to meet in members' houses according to members' wishes.	
Bridge E	Every Mon	13.30	Mal Geary	07973 193439	Play starts at 13.45 on the dot.	V
Bridge F - Beginners	Every Wed	9.30	Susanna Jones	07583 447789	Meet at Susanna's house. New members welcome.	V
Bridge on Sunday	Every Sun	14.00	Susanna Jones	07583 447789	New members welcome - you can come as frequently or as rarely as you like. Meet at Susanna's house.	V
Bucket List	Varies		John Twydle	01628 621644		
Canasta	2 nd & 4 th Frid	10.00 to 12.00	Christine Wilkinson	07887 887579	Meet at The Shire Horse pub on the A4.	
Carpet Bowls	Every Mon	14.00	Jenny Alder	01753 859664	Fifield Memorial Hall, Fifield. New members welcome. Contact Jenny on beandjlalder@gmail.com if you are interested in joining.	V
Classical Music	2 nd Mon	14.15	John Noakes	01628 637399	There are no meetings in August.	V

ACTIVITY	DAY(s) in MONTH, TIME		CONTACT	TELEPHONE	NOTES	V / W
Creative Cards 1	2 nd & 4 th Frid	10.00	Eileen Rogers	01628 639656		
Creative Cards 2	1 st & 3 rd Frid					
Cribbage	2 nd & 4 th Thurs	15.00	Nigel Furneaux	07721 426768	Meet at Shire Horse pub. New members welcome.	V
Current Affairs 1	4 th Tues	14.15 for 14.30	Barbara Walmsley	01628 522255	New members welcome. Meetings are held at Spindlewood, High Road, Cookham SL6 9JT. Contact Barbara for more details.	V
Current Affairs 2	2 nd Thurs	14.15	Janice Waterman	01628 530770	Co-convenor is Pam May. Her email is pam.may508@gmail.com	
Dog Walking	2 nd & 4 th Mon	Flexible	Sandra Brooks	07717 043462	The regular days may be altered to reflect holidays. Exact times and locations vary.	V
Exploring World Faiths	1 st Thurs	14.30	Michael Gammage	01628 637801 07763 405699	No specialist knowledge required! Please call or email michael.gammage@outlook.com for details. New members welcome.	V
Family History	3 rd Tues	14.30	John Noakes	01628 637399	Meet at Pauline's. Please ensure she knows you are coming (07849 857068)	V
French 2	2 nd & 4 th Wed	10.00	Margaret Scharff	01628 666218	We have space for 1 or 2 more members. Please contact Margaret for more information.	V
French Advanced	3 rd Thurs	15.00	Ian Ross	01628 626849		V
French Conversation	2 nd Mon	12.15 to 13.45	Tim Lodge	01628 627882	We meet in a member's home. The group is now full.	
French Improvers	1 st & 3 rd Wed	10.30	Evelyne Withey	07939 083996	Meetings continue on Zoom. We have 3 or 4 vacancies.	V
Fun with Flowers	3 rd Frid	14.00	Chris Smith	01628 663764		
Garden Visits	4 th Wed	12.00	Maura McGinley	01628 629088 07767 446349	On 24 th August, we visit Dorney Court, Court Lane, Dorney, Windsor SL4 6QP starting at noon.	
German Advanced	2 nd & 4 th Frid	10.00	Rhona Latham	01628 638740	No meetings in August. We resume in September when there will be 1 vacancy. Enquiries to Rhona on 01628 638740.	V
German Conversation	Alternate Weds	14.00	Vreny Breadon	07900 831041	There will be no meetings in August.	
History	2 nd Frid	14.00	Chris Sayers	01628 620647	We have several vacancies & new members would be very welcome.	V
Jazz Appreciation	2 nd Mon	14.00 to 16.00	Kath Evans	07743 572146		

ACTIVITY	DAY(s) in MONTH, TIME		CONTACT	TELEPHONE	NOTES	V / W
Latin	2 nd & 4 th Mon	10.45	Mick Stringer	07836 211314	We will meet by Zoom in August and read some more scenes from Livy's history of Rome, lightened by more poetry by Ovid and Catullus.	V
London Explorers			Janet Rose	01628 624709	There are no vacancies at the moment.	
Lunch Club	Monthly		Linda Rahmatalla	01628 671766 07740 853952	Lunch Club will be on Tuesday, August 30th . Venue to be decided. New members always welcome.	V
Mahjong 麻将	1 st & 3 rd Wed	14.00	Jill Waites	01628 628993	Please contact Jill for more details.	
Maideleles (Ukulele)	Every Wed	10.30 to 12.30	Carolyn Bell	07940 333709	New members welcome, beginners or improvers! With the new venue from September we now have vacancies. See more info on page 3.	V
Meditation	3 rd Wed	14.00	Marie Krag	01628 632683	Currently no vacancies.	
MOTO (Members on their own)	Mainly Sundays		Jean Gale	01628 825107		
Nature Amble	3 rd Frid		Jill Waites	01628 628993	Thanks to all of you who came on the very hot July Amble. We were rewarded in the variety of plants and trees found. Our August amble will be on 26th August when we will walk around the Jubilee River, looking for meadow and water loving plants and insects. All are welcome.	V
Play Reading 1	1 st Thurs	14.00	Barrie Williams	01189 349525		V
Play Reading 2	2 nd Frid	14.00	Janet Rose	01628 624709		
Poetry Reading	1 st Tues	14.30	Michael Gammage	01628 637801 07763 405699	Note change of name to indicate that the group reads, not writes poetry. michael.gammage@outlook.com	v
Popular Music	3 rd Thurs	14.30	Barrie Williams	01189 349525		
Quiz	1 st Mon	19.15	Derek Searle	01628 822562 07801 926246	Meet at Shire Horse pub. Derek's email address is drs05drs@gmail.com	V
Recorder	1 st & 3 rd Mon	13.30	Edwina Shelley	07708 044152	No meetings in August.	V
Rummikub	1 st & 3 rd Frid	9.30 to 11.30	Janice Walker	01753 852403	Meet at Shire Horse pub on 5th & 19th August . New members very welcome.	V
Science	3 rd Thurs	14.15 for 14.30	John Twydle	07786 854920	Meet at Jacqueline Turner's (Larkspur House, Mill Lane, Taplow. (07545 504880).	
Scrabble	Last Mon	14.15	Hilary Brodie	01628 522331	This group is small, friendly & relaxed. Meeting as usual on last Monday, at Hilary's house.	V

ACTIVITY	DAY(s) in MONTH, TIME		CONTACT	TELEPHONE	NOTES	V / W
Spanish for Holidaymakers 1	1 st & 3 rd Tues	10.00	Kathy Bell	07752 660537	Next meeting is on 2 nd August.	
Spanish for Holidaymakers 2	2 nd & 4 th Tues	10.00				
Spanish Improvers 1	2 nd & 4 th Tues	10.00	Barrie Williams	01189 349525		
Spanish Improvers 2	1 st & 3 rd Mon	10.00				
Spanish Improvers 3	1 st & 3 rd Frid	10.00				
Walk 1	Tues, 9 th August	10.30	Linda & Paul Main	07962255743	10.30 for 10.45 start. Park at Desborough Bowling Club SL6 1XZ for a leisurely 3 mile walk alongside the canal visiting Braywick Nature Reserve and the village of Bray. A light lunch at Desborough Bowling Club for those that want it and in readiness for the start of the main u3a meeting at 14.30. If you prefer, bring a picnic to eat by the side of the canal.	
Walk 2	Wed, 17 th August	10.00	John Twyde	01628 621644 07786 854920	Walk rescheduled from July: 2 mile level walk commencing at Gossmore Recreation Park Marlow SL7 1QQ at 10.00 for 10.10 departure. Walk to Higginson Park to board a Salters River cruise for 45 minutes. Return at 11.45 and walk back to the Premier Inn (George and Dragon) for lunch for those that want it then returning to start point. The river cruise costs £8.50 and cannot be pre booked. First come first served on the day.	
Yoga	Every Mon	14.30 to 15.30	Barbie Bellman	01628 773653 07740 288498	Meet at St Mark's Methodist Church, Allenby Road, Maidenhead. Note: there are no meetings in school holidays. Restarts on 19 th September until 17 th October inclusive.	

Submissions to Newsletter

If you wish to send us photos, please ensure that they are no more than 750kB each. Also, please do not email .pdf files for the newsletter as the open source software we use to insert these files requires considerable additional effort. Acceptable formats are: .docx, .doc, .jpeg (.jpg) & .xls or .xlsx.

Please email us anything that you would like us to consider for the **September** newsletter NO LATER than **21st August 2022**.

Thank you.

Pat Laković & Nuala Smith

newsletter@maidenheadu3a.org.uk or newsletter.maidenheadu3a@gmail.com

Answers to August Quiz

Any queries, email Ann at annghay@icloud.com

1. The two giant Kelpies at Falkirk, Scotland.
 2. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.
 3. Defending the bridge over the Tiber against Sextus Tarquinius's army.
 4. Scotland, the unicorn.
 5. An irregular glass shape, usually green, when glass blowers had some left over at the end of their work and blew it into nothing-in-particular.
 6. Fortnum and Mason.
 7. Pope Adrian 4th.
 8. In accordance with the highest authority or set of rules in a situation. Hoyle wrote the definitive book on the card game Whist.
 9. A tyg is a three-handled mug, ceramic, pewter or silver.
 10. Most tumblers have somewhat curved bases, so that they cannot tumble over, especially on board ship, or on an uneven surface.
 11. Nicolas Mahut and John Isner.
 12. Unseaworthy vessels, heavily insured by the owners, who hoped they would sink.
 13. A turret built on top of some coastal houses, where the captain's wife would watch for the return of her husband's vessel.
 14. Rathlin Island, Ireland
 15. I'm having the same.
 16. The Press
 17. Louis XIV of France, 72 years (but he acceded at age 5 years).
 18. Male hen harriers.
 19. (a) roof of mouth, ability to taste, (b) the board on which artists mix their paint
(c) a wooden frame on which goods are packed for transport,
 20. A small, usually silver, saucer-shaped dish, often with a handle, used for tasting wine before serving.
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Does anyone relate to this? Recently, I missed a motorway exit & this oversight added 30 miles to my journey!



**I don't always
go the extra
mile, but when
I do it's because
I missed my
exit.**

Committee Members & other u3a links

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Websites & Social Media

Maidenhead u3a	www.maidenheadu3a.org.uk
Twitter	twitter.com/Maidenheadu3a.org.uk
Thames Valley Network	www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk
Third Age Trust	www.u3a.org.uk

Ornamental thistles at Hidcote NT Gardens

