



CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS

Hello All,

My thoughts this month, as we get close to Christmas, centre on two areas:

- √ The future of our u3a relies on there being continuity across the officers who serve our organisation. We currently have two vacancies on the committee:
 - A Thames Valley Network (TVN) representative who coordinates communication between our u3a and the local network to which we belong. The role involves attending 2-3 meetings a year and being a point of contact. The regional meetings are held at Benson, Oxfordshire and we will reimburse any expenses incurred.
 - A general vacancy to look towards a role in 2024.

If anyone is interested in these roles please talk to me to find out more. Without members stepping forward, our u3a has no future and one group in fact had to close recently because no one was prepared to take office. Our constitution limits how long officers can serve to a maximum of 4 years.

- √ The second topic is to thank the unsung heroes of our u3a, the conveners. They open up their homes to us month after month and without them none of the activities that we do would be possible. Thank you to all our conveners.

Season's greetings and best wishes,

John Twydale
Chairman

New Members

We are delighted to welcome as new members since the last newsletter:
Peter Blundell, Mark Burley, Laurraine Price, Barry Fallowfield, Kevin Carter, Shirley Brewer, Fay Poate, William Bourne & David Yates.

Maidenhead u3a CHRISTMAS PARTY

7th December, 2-4pm

Burnham Park Hall

At the time of writing, we have only a few tickets left for the Christmas Party. If you would like one please contact me soon; first come, first served. Tickets cost £8 each.

Linda Main
Treasurer

treasurer.maidenheadu3a@gmail.com

Tel 07962 255743



December 2022 / January 2023 MONTHLY MEETINGS

There will be no monthly talk in December as we shall have the Christmas Party instead.

In January 2023, Hayley Scott will give a talk:
“The Life of a Metropolitan Police Crime Scene Investigator”

Hayley will talk about her 14 years' experience working as a CSI.

Find out what actually happens behind the crime scene tape, including the examination of murders, shootings, and arson scenes.

Learn all about fingerprint patterns and how a fingerprint from a crime scene is matched to a fingerprint on the criminal database.

Hayley shares many interesting anecdotes throughout the talk with time for questions at the end.



Hayley now owns The Forensic Experience and is a university lecturer in forensic studies. Her talk comes with rave reviews from other u3a associations.

The talk will be held on **Tuesday, 10th January 2023** at the Desborough Bowling Club at 10 Green Lane, Maidenhead SL6 1XZ. Please aim to arrive between 2.00 and 2.15pm. **We no longer require anti-Covid masks to be worn, but anyone who wishes to wear a mask is welcome to do so.**

PLEASE ENSURE YOUR PHONE IS SWITCHED OFF OR SET TO SILENT.

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

Your Membership

Renewals are due on 1 January 2023 and a form will be attached to the January newsletter.

The fee will remain the same as 2022 so:

- > **£16** for Individual membership;
- > **£32** for joint membership;
- > **£12.20** for Associate membership;
- > **£12** if you want the newsletter posted to you.

Please let us know of any changes to the information we have on you so that we can keep our database up to date; you will shortly receive an email showing this information. It is only kept so that we can communicate with you and is kept within GDPR compliance. For members without email, please contact me if you wish to check/change your information.

The information we store is: your title, name, address, telephone numbers, email address and whether you subscribe to Gift Aid.

We can store both landline and mobile telephone numbers for you. Mobile numbers are useful if we need to contact you when you are out and about.

If there are two members at the same address, we consider this a joint membership so only one copy of the national magazine, Third Age Matters, will be posted to that address. If you wish for individual copies please let me know.

If you pay directly from your bank, please do not do so before 1 January 2023.

Thank you.

Maggie Kearney

membership@maidenheadu3a.org.uk

01628 637160

GROUP NEWS

December 2022

For information about any of the groups below where a convener is not named, please contact Groups Coordinator, Kathy Bell by phone on 07752 660537 or by email to groups@maidenheadu3a.org.uk.

Solos

We now have a convener and some members for this group.

This will be a social and a self-help group open to single or bereaved members and those whose partners are in full-time care. Members will meet in each others homes to chat over coffee and support each other with the day-to-day challenges of living alone, or caring for a partner. Meetings are likely to be on a Tuesday, Thursday or Friday afternoon, once a month to start with, but increasing to fortnightly on two different afternoons. If you are interested in joining this new group, please contact Kathy Bell or our convener Pauline Noden by email at pauline.noden@gmail.com or phone her on 01628 621647.

Food and Nutrition

This group is now established and has room for a few more members. Meetings will be at 2pm on the first Tuesday of the month at the convener's home and the next meeting will be on December 6th.

The group plans to cover all aspects of food and nutrition, from what to eat; chemical structure of carbs, fats, proteins, and what not to eat; alimentary tract, digestive enzymes, colonic bacteria, liver function. If you would like to be part of this new group, please contact Chris Good by email at chrisgood.1939@yahoo.co.uk for full details.

Coffee Mornings

Have you ever thought that it might be nice to have a group where you could just come along and meet new people, without having to prepare anything, just to chat over coffee? This might particularly appeal to our new members who would like to find out more about the u3a.

We are considering setting up a new "Coffee Mornings" group which would meet, initially once a month, probably on a Thursday morning at a member's home, starting in January. This group would be open to all of our newer members, to come and go as you please, but for catering purposes we would ask you to let us know a few days in advance if you plan to come along. We would hate to run out of coffee or biscuits.....

If you think that you would be interested in such a group, please contact groups coordinator Kathy Bell, or convener Kay Heppell by phone on 01628 825980 or email at k.heppell@btinternet.com.

Puzzles

Do you enjoy all kinds of puzzles - crosswords, jigsaw puzzles - and would sometimes like to work on them in the company of other people, and maybe swap jigsaw puzzles that have already been completed? This could be an entertaining group for the winter days so, if you would like to be part of it please contact Groups Coordinator, Kathy Bell.

A Guitar group

Three people are interested in this group and are planning an initial get together and would love some more people to join them. If you are interested in this, please contact Kathy Bell.

Wednesday Lunch Group

As the current Lunch group is frequently over subscribed, a newish member, Lyn Reed, is considering starting a second group which would meet on the first Wednesday of each month, starting on **4th January** 2023, with a view to meeting more frequently if there is sufficient interest. This would be open to all but, due to limited space in most of the venues, would have a limit of 12 participants each time. As Lyn is away quite frequently, she would like a co-convener to deputise when she is away. If you are interested in this group please call or text Lyn on 07913 305407, or contact Kathy Bell.

A few people are interested in **Relaxing Art** and **Practical Gardening** but more members are needed before we can set up these groups. If you are interested, please contact Kathy Bell.

Still calling new conveners

As always, if you have a particular interest for which we are not yet catering, and would like to set up a group, please do get in touch. Assistance and support in setting up a group is always available from Groups Coordinator Kathy Bell and the other committee members. Please contact Kathy for more information.

Other group news

Maideleles Ukulele Group

We are now coming into an exciting time for the Uke Group. After a year of learning, laughing and playing together we are now looking forward to showing you our progress on this wonderful little instrument at the Christmas party on 7th December.

To get us in the performing mood, we start our 'Christmas Tour' on the 30th November when we will entertain the residents of the Sandown Park Care Home in Windsor. Then comes the Christmas Party, of course, and on 10th December, we will support our Treasurer, Linda's, Entertainment Troupe at their extravaganza in Old Windsor. We round off our year with a show for the Maidenhead Townswomen's Guild at their Cox Green social evening on 15th December.

The last regular meeting of the year will be at White Waltham Parish Hall on Wednesday, 14th December. We recommence in the New Year on Wednesday, 4th January 2023.

When you sit down to think about your New Year Resolutions, why not add: 'Learn to play the ukulele' - it's so much fun that it will be one promise to yourself you will want to keep!

Merry Christmas everyone – oh wait, that's a cue for a song, hand me my uke!

Maideleles: every Wednesday 10.30 to 12.30.

Venue: White Waltham Parish Hall.

We try to car share where possible so transport may be available if needed.

Contacts: Carolyn Bell - ukulele@maidenheadu3a.org.uk - 07940 333709
Geoff Selvidge - geoffselvidge2@gmail.com - 07817 615677



History Group

The group meets on the 2nd Friday of each month to discuss our chosen topic of history. At present we are looking at the social history of Great Britain through the reigns of our kings and queens. We started at the Iron Age and have now reached the time of the Commonwealth.

We normally meet in the convener's home where two volunteers give a presentation on the chosen subject. There follows a really enjoyable discussion where we further discuss the subject and put our own views forward.

History is about people; dates are only useful to establish the time of the event being discussed. Contact Chris Sayers on 01628 620647 for more information.

Photography Group - the November theme was Culture



First Nation wood carving



Halloween decoration, Capilano Rain Forest

Both taken by John Twytle in Vancouver

Aviation Group

Flying higher than airliners at nearly the speed of sound, manoeuvring at five times the force of gravity, and under radar at heights lower than a church tower - Squadron Leader Joe Marsden burned 1,000 gallons of fuel per hour in iconic Vulcan bombers and flew through nuclear fall-out. He was shot at by the Army, RAF and Royal Navy and lived to tell the tale. He has a wealth of facts and anecdotes of his 29 years in the Royal Air Force during the Cold War period.

Joe's talk this time will concentrate on the Vulcan - illustrated by photos and film clips to show its capability. He will briefly cover the history of the Vulcan but will mainly talk about the personal aspects of flying this famous aircraft. He will cover crew responsibilities, preparation and the practicalities of the various roles he was involved in without missing the more light-hearted aspects of the job in a journey which took him from Cyprus in the East to Midway Island and Alaska in the West as well as up into the Arctic Circle to test Russian response. Joe has flown 34 different Vulcan aircraft including XH558 which flew until 2016, and XL426 which is at Southend Airport being kept in ground-running condition to be taxied on occasions.

Art Appreciation Group

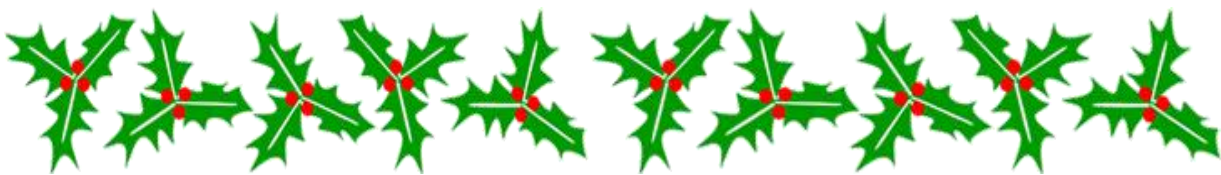
Firstly, a huge thank you to John (T) for hosting our group. The large screen and warm, comfortable space are perfect, along with kind hospitality.

A big thank you to all who have supported me in setting up this group and making it the success that it is. You are a lovely group of people who bring such diverse contributions; I have enjoyed every minute of every session and look forward to more in 2023.

We have room for new members. If you are interested in joining, please contact Mandy on 01628 298107 or email her at mandyofart@gmail.com

London Explorers' Group

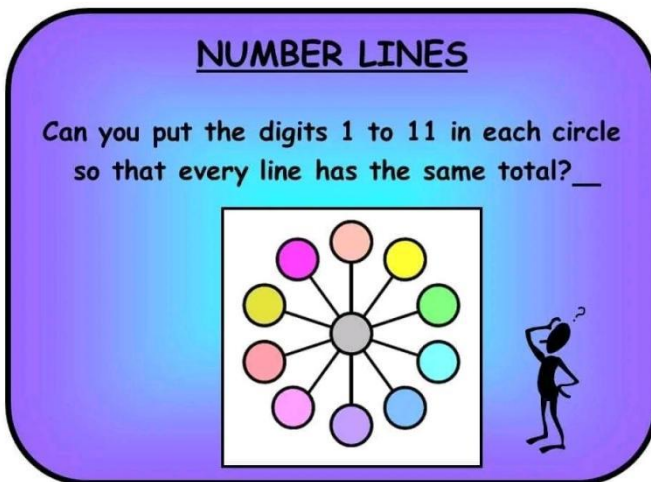
Members visited the Imperial War Museum in October & the National Gallery in November.



[The Monthly Quiz by Ann Hay](#) (answers further on in the Newsletter)

1. What is 'quanting'?
2. What were the Byerley Turk and the Darley Arabian?
3. Who was the last English king to be present on a battlefield?
4. Where would 'hexagons' and 'log cabins' be found in association?
5. Why do some Scots clans have two tartans, one red-based, one green/blue?
6. What was a jarvey?
7. Which queen of England was unable to attend her coronation?
8. Add an N to a flower to get physically angry.
9. What are quoits?
10. In which sports do/did the following sets of brothers compete?
(a) the Bedser twins (b) Jakob, Filip and Henrik Ingebrigtsen (c) The Murray brothers
(d) The Brownlees (e) the Bryan brothers (f) Paul and Alwin Schockemöhle
(g) Joseph and Donnacha O'Brien (h) Mako and Billy Vunipola
(i) Renaud and Valentin Lavillenie (j) Michael and Ralf Schumacher
11. Which fictional characters lived at (a) 4 Privet Drive? (b) 23 Railway Cuttings?
(c) 28 Huddersfield Road? (d) 26A Oil Drum Lane? (e) Flat 368, Nelson Mandela House?
12. Which actors/characters on TV said (a) "Don't mention the war!"
(b) "Not many people know that."?
13. Apart from equipment and a young animal, what is a kit?

To get you thinking



Most people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply.

To be honest, I have no idea what the answer is, but it's supposed to be an easy puzzle!

Stephen Covey in "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People"




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Message from Mandy Taylor:

I gather there is interest, but folk have either lost or not received their u3a Third Age Matters magazine. So here is the company and its web address for you to peruse - www.greatrail.com

These holidays offer enormous value for money and are incredibly well appointed and organised. I should like to have a meeting at my home on **Tuesday, 10th January** at 11am for anyone interested.

Hopefully we can then agree travel dates for 2023 and move forward with booking.

Mandy Taylor
mandyofart@gmail.com
07541 941948 / 01628 298107

P.S. This particular tour can be found at: <https://www.greatrail.com/tours/tigers-the-taj-mahal-and-mumbai/>

Remember your history lessons at school? The order of kings and queens?

Try to work out who's who from the nicknames given here. Also, the order of the royal dynasties, from the initials given. Maybe pass it on someone at secondary school?
(courtesy of Ann Hay)

*Willie, Willie, Harry, Stee
Harry, Dick, John, Harry Three,
One, Two, Three Neds, Dick the Bad
Harry twice, then Ned the Lad.
Mary, Bessie, James the Vain,
Charlie, Charlie, James again.*

*William-and-Mary, Anna Gloria
Four Georges, William, and Victoria.
Edward Seven, Edward Eight,
(Who had no interest in the state.)
George and Elizabeth, lasting long,
Followed by Charles to end our song.*

December Programme

Group information below is accurate as at **24th November 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	Meets on Zoom on 15th December . Will continue to read Ovid's Metamorphosis & enjoy story of Phaethon's dramatic failure to control the chariot of the sun & the tale of Callisto's transformation into the Ursa Major constellation.	
Art Appreciation	1 st Frid	10.30	Mandy Taylor	01628 298107	Our December meeting is about 'Festivities' e.g. Christmas, as portrayed in Art. In January, we are going to Petworth House in Sussex. Contact Mandy for more info.	V
Art Untutored	1 st & 3 rd Tues	14.00	Peter Neville	01628 674097		V
Aviation	2 nd Thurs	14.30	Bill Teasdale	01628 672873	On 8th December , Squadron Leader Joe Marsden will give a talk "Flying the Vulcan - a personal perspective" at WLAC. More info on page 6.	V
Book Reading 1	3 rd Wed	14.30	Pauline Sparkes	01753 642490	No meeting in December. Next meeting on 18th January . Book & venue TBC.	W
Book Reading 2	2 nd Wed	13.00 to 15.00	Bobby Maunsell	01628 828279	Next meeting is on 14th December at Marie Krag's home, starting at 13.30 (not 13.00). This group has one vacancy.	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	The group has 8 regulars. Sudden sickness & hols get handled by our well drilled players - all email experts. No WhatsApp, Netflix or Facebook needed!	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 07786 854920		
Canasta	2 nd & 4 th Frid	10.00 to 12.00	Christine Wilkinson	07887 887579		

ACTIVITY	DAY(s) in MONTH, TIME		CONTACT	TELEPHONE	NOTES	V / W
Carpet Bowls	Every Mon	14.00	Jenny Alder	01753 859664	Fifield Memorial Hall, Fifield. New members welcome. Come and try, no experience needed.	V
Classical Music	2 nd Mon	14.15	John Noakes	01628 637399	No meeting in December. First meeting of 2023 will be at Shirley's, 01628 527604.	V
Creative Cards 1	2 nd & 4 th Frid	10.00	Eileen Rogers	01628 639656		V
Creative Cards 2	1 st & 3 rd Frid	10.00				
Creative Writing	1 st Tues	10.00	Mo Wright	01628 630023	Note change of day in the month. There are now no vacancies.	
Cribbage	2 nd & 4 th Thurs	15.00	Nigel Furneaux	07721 426768	Meet at Shire Horse pub. Check what will happen when The Shire Horse closes. 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 address is pam.may508@gmail.com	
Dog Walking	2 nd & 4 th Mon	11.00 to 12.00	Sandra Brooks	07717 043462 sandrabrooks341@gmail.com	The group meets every 2 weeks at Hurley and then at Braywick usually with 3 regular walkers each time. Contact Sandra if you are interested in joining.	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. Please register your interest if you'd like to join when we have a vacancy.	
Family History	3 rd Tues	14.30	John Noakes	01628 637399	No meeting in December.	V
Film	Mon, 12 th Dec	14.00 to 16.00	Jenny Webb & John Twydle	jenny.webb50@btinternet.com jtwydle@gmail.com	Rainman with Dustin Hoffman Meet at The Studio (above garage) at The Courtyard, Berry Hill, Taplow, SL6 0DA. Max # is 16; please inform John or Jenny by email if you wish to come.	
Food & Nutrition	1 st Tues	14.00	Chris Good	chrisgood.1939@yahoo.co.uk	Next meeting is on 6 th December. See Group News for more info. Contact Chris for full details.	V
French 2	2 nd & 4 th Wed	10.00	Margaret Scharff	01628 666218	Our Christmas celebrations will be on 14 th December at Kay's house. We have space for 1 or 2 more members.	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	Meetings revert to 2 nd Monday for December & January. We still have one vacancy.	V

ACTIVITY	DAY(s) in MONTH, TIME		CONTACT	TELEPHONE	NOTES	V / W
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	There is 1 vacancy. If anyone would like to go on to a waiting list, it means that if a person is unable to attend, their place can be offered to another person.	V
Garden Visits	4 th Wed	12.00	Maura McGinley	01628 629088 07767 446349	No meetings in December & January.	
German Advanced	2 nd & 4 th Frid	10.00	Rhona Latham	01628 638740	We have a vacancy for anyone interested in practising their German. Enquiries to Rhona.	V
German Conversation	Alternate Weds	14.00	Vreny Breadon	07900 831041		
History	2 nd Frid	14.00	Chris Sayers	01628 620647	See more info on page 5.	V
Jazz Appreciation	2 nd Mon	14.00 to 16.00	Richard Kellaway	01626 482605		
Latin	2 nd & 4 th Mon	10.45	Mick Stringer	07836 211314	To accommodate Christmas, the group will meet on 5 th & 19 th December. In January, meetings revert to normal on 9 th & 23 rd January. We'll continue with our 'dramatic' reading of Plautus' Bacchides, explore more of the poetry of Ovid, Virgil & Horace + translate some of Cicero's correspondence, written as civil war between Caesar & Pompey gathers pace.	V
London Explorers	Monthly	Varies	Janet Rose	01628 624709	There are no vacancies at the moment.	
Lunch Club	Monthly	Varies	Linda Rahmatalla	01628 671766 07740 853952	No lunch in December.	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 Geoff Selvidge	07940 333709 07817 615677	See update after Kathy's Group News.	V
Meditation	3 rd Wed	14.00	Marie Krag	01628 632683	We now have 2 vacancies.	V
MOTO (Members on their own)	Mainly Sundays		Jean Gale	01628 825107		
Nature Amble	3 rd Frid		Jill Waites	01628 628993	These restart in March 2023.	
Photography	2 nd Tues	11.15	John Twydle	07786 854920	Meet 11.15 on Tues, 13 th December at The Studio, The Courtyard, Berry Hill, Taplow, SL6 0DA. Send images to John before the day. The subject is Vegetables .	

ACTIVITY	DAY(s) in MONTH, TIME		CONTACT	TELEPHONE	NOTES	V / W
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	No specialist knowledge required! New members welcome. 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 The Cricketers, Coronation Road, Littlewick Green SL6 3RA on Monday, 5th December . Email Derek at drs05drs@gmail.com if you need more information.	V
Recorder	1 st & 3 rd Mon	13.30	Edwina Shelley	07708 044152		V
Rummikub	1 st & 3 rd Frid	9.30 to 11.30	Janice Walker	01753 852403	Our meetings on 2nd & 16th December will be at The Thatched Cottage Pub, Cannon Lane SL6 3PE . The first meeting in 2023 is on 6th January , hopefully at the Shire Horse pub. New members always welcome.	V
Science	3 rd Thurs	14.15 for 14.30	John Twydle	07786 854920	Meet on 15th December at Jacqueline Turner's home (Larkspur House, Mill Lane, Taplow SL6 0AG) at 14.15 for 14.30 start. A continuation & follow up on November's meeting on skills & interests. Festive refreshments.	
Scrabble	Last Mon	14.15	Hilary Brodie	01628 522331	No meeting in December.	V
Solos	Varies	pm	Pauline Noden	01628 621647	If you are interested in joining this group, email Pauline on pauline.noden@gmail.com More info in Group News. Potential start date to be decided in early December.	V
Spanish for Holidaymakers 1	1 st & 3 rd Tues	10.00	Kathy Bell	07752 660537		
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				

ACTIVITY	DAY(s) in MONTH, TIME		CONTACT	TELEPHONE	NOTES	V / W
Threads & Needles	3 rd Thurs	11.00 to 13.00	Maggie Kearney	01628 637160	New members welcome. Contact Maggie for more information.	V
Walk 1 (longish walk)	Thurs, 8 th Dec	10.15 for 10.30	Kate Minter	07974 377455	Meet at Horse & Groom, Bath Road, Hare Hatch RG10 9SB for a 3½ mile walk. This is a flat walk but there are 5 stiles. Lunch, if wished, at Horse & Groom afterwards.	
	Tues 20 th Dec	12.00	John Twydle	07786 854920	Xmas lunch for walk leaders - by invitation at The Courtyard, Berry Hill, Taplow SL6 0DA	
January walks	12 th & 24 th Jan		John Twydle	07786 854920		
Yoga	Every Mon	14.30 to 15.30	Barbie Bellman	01628 773653 07740 288498	The last class for this term will be on Monday, 5th December.	

Submissions to Newsletter - especially Pictures

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. It would help the editors if you would crop them and reduce the image size before sending.

Please email us anything that you would like us to consider for the January 2023 newsletter NO LATER than **27th December 2022.**

Thank you.

Pat Laković & Nuala Smith newsletter@maidenheadu3a.org.uk or newsletter.maidenheadu3a@gmail.com

January 2023 Newsletter

As our printers take the week off between Christmas and the New Year, this means that the printed version of the newsletter won't land on members' doorsteps until approximately 9th January 2023. The newsletter will not be emailed out until either Nuala or I have received the printed version, so let's hope there's no postal strike.

Answers to December Quiz

Any queries, email Ann at annghay@icloud.com

1. Propelling a boat with a pole, similar to propelling a punt.
2. The equine ancestors of all thoroughbred horses.
3. George II at Dettingen.
4. They are shaped pieces of patchwork used in quilting.
5. The red was too bright for going on deer-shoots so they designed a 'hunting tartan.'
6. A cab driver
7. Queen Caroline (of Brunswick) wife of George III.
8. Violet - violent
9. Rings, usually made of rope, used in a game where one throws the quoit to go over a spike, often played on board ship, similar to horse-shoe throwing on land.
10. (a) cricket also soccer (b) athletics (c) tennis (d) triathlon (e) tennis doubles (f) show jumping g) horse racing (h) rugby union (i) athletics (pole vaulting) (j) motor racing.
11. (a) Harry Potter and family (b) Tony Hancock (c) Nora Batty (d) Albert & Harold Steptoe (e) Del Boy and Rodney Trotter.
12. (a) Basil Fawlty/John Cleese (b) Michael Caine
13. A narrow three-stringed guitar, popular with dancing-teachers in 18th & 19th centuries.

Committee Members & other u3a links

Chairman	John Twydle	chairman@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	01628 621644
Treasurer	Linda Main	treasurer@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	07962 255743
Secretary	Janet Rose	secretary@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	01628 624709
Membership Secretary	Maggie Kearney	membership@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	01628 637160
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Monthly Talk - 8th November

The energetic and lively pioneer jet fighter aircraft pilot Sally Dearman was asked back by popular request to give another talk, this time on her move from jets to helicopters, popularly nicknamed Wobbleheads, because of the way they make the pilot constantly look around. Sally appeared again in her flight uniform and again at the end delightfully stripped off to reveal a charmingly feminine outfit.

Sally gave a fascinating, detailed, vivid account of her flying experiences, without notes or visuals, carrying us all along with her enthusiasm and exuberance. She began by reviewing her qualifications for flying, and then her training in flying jet fighters. Despite her excellent navigation, this exposed her lamentably poor sense of direction when undertaking intricate manoeuvring at high speed with her partner aircraft, and loss of orientation. She quoted only 20% of women as having good sense of direction compared with 80% men. In addition, aircraft performance degrades with height as the air becomes thinner, making complicated manoeuvring more difficult. Virtual bombing was practised over Wales, taking only 30 minutes to go from south to north, with a following plane taking photos to check accuracy.

Despite her pilot skills, because of her poor sense of direction, she was offered a career in helicopters instead, flying Chipmunks. As there was a ten month gap before starting training, she filled it by ferrying air cadets in a jet. This she greatly enjoyed and taught them aerobatics and cloud dispersal. Unfortunately, one cadet vomited in the middle of a loop and sent vomit flying everywhere, which she felt was her duty to clean up; an awful task. Sally herself felt sick as a passenger, and on one occasion actually vomited. Determined not to make another mess, she shut her mouth tight and swallowed. A loud "Ugh" came from her audience! This was a sensible step, returning her stomach contents back where they belonged.

Next Sally was posted to Shropshire Flying Gazelles, a lovely helicopter with excellent visibility; she longs to own one. Sally spent some time vividly describing, by her actions, the complicated flying of a helicopter with its various levers and pedals to go up, down, forwards and backwards without any joystick. An added complication is that all European helicopter blades have a clockwise spin, while USA ones go anticlockwise! The complicated technology in the cabin makes pilots constantly look around, hence Wobbleheads! Her lively presentation may have left others like me interested but baffled by the complexity. We learned that many Shropshire woods have holes cut in them for helicopter pilots to practise vertical take off and landing, essential for their work. They also had to practise flying onto boats and around cliffs and mountains, with their changing airflow problems.

Sally was posted to fly Wessex helicopters; very enclosed big heavy machines requiring a ladder to get in. The windscreen wiper was awful. They also required a navigator and crewman to help the pilot navigate. Sally did not like them, and did not say much more.

Sally also bravely told of her divorce, failed reconciliation, her depression and the great help she received from the Samaritans. She managed to recover by flying and is now in the Flying Reserve.

The large audience were delighted by Sally's excellent talk.

WISHING YOU A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A MEMORABLE 2023

Nuala Smith & Pat Laković