

## **CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS**

**Hello All,**

Because we are an organisation of retired or semi – retired people we do not routinely highlight the passing of a member.

Exceptionally, I report the death of Hilary Brodie. Hilary was one of the founder members of Maidenhead u3a being member number 12 and joining on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 1998. She was a former chairman and served on the committee. She was a keen member of the walking and scrabble groups. I walked with her on many occasions, and she was always a lively and animated conversationalist. In more recent years along with others I was able to give Hilary lifts to and from meetings. She was an example to us all. Hilary will be missed by her many friends in u3a.

At our last main meeting I met some new members that require wheelchair access to some group meetings. If any member is aware of any free or low-cost venues that we could use to enable some groups to relocate that would be very helpful. Please contact me directly. My contact details are at the end of the newsletter.

On a lighter note, I would like to take this opportunity to send seasons greeting to all our members and their families and to wish you a happy and healthy 2024.

Thank You,

**John Twytle Maidenhead u3a Chairman**

## **WELCOME TO NEW, RETURNING and ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

Alison Rusted, Tim Hemming, Peter Zlattinger, Robert Clements, Sue Kimberely  
Jane Caley, Roger Williams, Marianne Wightman, Melvyn Sexton, Gee Roper  
Helen Cracknell, Sharon & Chris Bunce

## Membership Renewals

Membership renewals are due on 1 January 2024. Please do not transfer any monies to our bank before 1 January as this makes accounting a bit tricky!

You will receive an email or a letter shortly asking you to check the information we have on file for you, and if any changes are needed, please let us know. A renewal form will be sent with the January Newsletter and we would appreciate a prompt response. The renewal form will also be on the website under the Members Tab, Renewals.

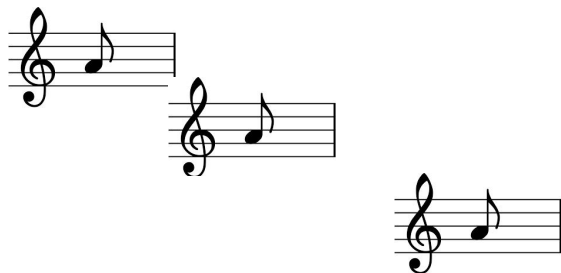
You will be able to print your own membership card next year. This will obviously save us some postage costs, but if you can't print at home just let us know and we can send you your membership card by post as usual.

## THE CHRISTMAS PARTY – 20 Tickets left!

WEDNESDAY 6th December at 2pm – 4pm

Burnham Park Hall, Windsor Lane, Burnham SL1 7HR

### Entertainment The Occasions Singers



### Party Food Tea and Coffee provided Pay Bar available.



Entry by ticket only - £10 per person.

Apply for your ticket from the Membership Secretary, Maggie Kearney; ring her on 01628 637160 or email her at [membership@maidenheadu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@maidenheadu3a.org.uk)

Tickets will be sent to you with details of how you can pay and directions to the venue. There is plenty of parking but do try to car share, if possible. Parking is free but **you must register your car on arrival at reception to avoid any parking fines.**

**Please advise of any special dietary needs.**

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

There will be no monthly meeting in December in view of the Christmas party. On 9 January, the Dr Rev Nick Henderson will talk on '***This England - where did it come from?***' More details in the January Newsletter.

See the reports by Philip Ratcliffe of the last two meetings later in the newsletter.

## **London Explorer's II**

November's outing to Leighton House, Kensington, home of Sir Fredrick Leighton, a Victorian artist, was attended by 9 U3A members. Group 2 welcomed members from Group 3 and a new member taster session. The morning visit was followed by a delicious lunch at nearby Scarsdale Tavern where we continued to get to know each other and comment on the delights of Leighton House.



## GROUP NEWS

### Calling New Conveners

We have not had much success in setting up new groups recently. We have prospective members for several of them but no conveners. If there is a subject that interests you, and for which we do not yet have a group, and you would like to lead such a group and share your knowledge with other like-minded people, please contact me, Kathy Bell, Groups Coordinator. We always have much more success with forming new groups once we have a convener in place.

### Aviation Group

The December meeting will be a discussion regarding the future direction and administration of the group. All who think they can assist or contribute are welcome to attend. Initial thoughts are to somehow share duties, utilising a small committee.

### Singing and Playing

In our thriving **U3A Ukulele group (Maideleles)** where we sing as well as play, we thought it would be a nice idea for other people to come and accompany us singing occasionally. We meet every Wednesday morning from 10:30 to 12:30 in White Waltham Village Hall and we also perform gigs from time to time. I know the U3A used to have a **Singing for Pleasure** group so if anybody would like to join us, be it from that group or not, please contact either me, Sarah Mawhinney 07900 251418 or Geoff Selvidge 07817 615677

### London Explorers 3

We have set up the third group of London Explorers and will start with our first outing in January, details of which will be announced as soon as possible. The convener, Carol Cameron will be on holiday now until the first week in December. She will set the ball rolling after that.

### Bridge - Beginners and Improvers Group.

To everyone who would like to improve their bridge, or to learn how to play; our friendly group meets on Monday mornings and we would welcome more players, either on a regular or occasional basis. For more details, please contact the convener, Susanna Jones, on 07583447789

## Group Notices for December

### Garden Visits Group

There will be no meetings during the winter.

### Walking Group

There will be one short walk in December, on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at the Rowing club, River Road, Maidenhead SL6 0AT at 10.45 for a 2.3 mile flat walk. There is street parking in River Road. Lunch afterwards for those that want it at Jenners Café. Walk leader is John Twydale 07786 854920

### Photography Group

Meet on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> of December at 11.15 at The Studio, The Courtyard, Berry Hill, Taplow. The topic will be **Lights**. All accompanied by Xmas refreshments.  
John Twydale 07786854920

### Science Group

Meet on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> of December 14.15 for a Christmas quiz and free discussion. The host will be Jacqueline Turner, Larkspur Cottage, Mill Lane, Taplow. Xmas refreshments will be included.

### Film Group

Meet on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> of December at The Studio, The Courtyard, Berry Hill, Taplow at 14.00. The film to be shown is **Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street**. It will be accompanied by Xmas refreshments.

### Threads & Needles

There will be no meeting in December. The next get together will be on Thursday 18 January 2024, 10am - 12noon.

### Lunch Club

There will be no Lunch Club in December.

1. What is metheglin?
2. How can singing 'Nelly the Elephant' help to save a life?
3. What did the work of an ale-conner involve?
4. What was the name of the pop group fronted by Siouxsie?
5. At what sporting venue would you find (a) the Rowley Mile, (b) the Chair?
- 6 What were the given names of J.R. R.Tolkien?
7. What are trennels?
8. What is the significance of the colours in the Ukrainian flag?
9. What is wrong with this quotation "All that glistens is not gold"?
10. What are Devil's toenails?
11. What is the difference between a gudgeon and a trudgeon?
12. What number was allocated to The Prisoner?
13. To practise Tassiomancy, what would you require?
14. What actually was the Snark?
15. By what name is the Laxey waterwheel known?
16. What prehistoric era came between Paleolithic and Neolithic?
17. Which movie cowboy rode Trigger?
18. Where would you find pollywogs?
19. Mind-your-own-business and Mother-in-law's tongue are types of what?
20. Who was emperor of Rome when Pompeii was destroyed by Vesuvius erupting?

### **Thames Valley Network**

Our regional network of u3a groups also has a regular programme of events, some on Zoom and some in person. Visit <http://u3atvnetwork.org.uk> for more information.

### **u3a Talks on Zoom**

The u3a national website hosts a number of talks on Zoom each month. They are free to all u3a members. To find out more about them, go to [www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational](http://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational) events. They cover a huge variety of topics.

## **Report on the November 2023 Monthly Meeting**

### **'Net Zero – A Critique' – by Neil Record**

The subject of economist and businessman Neil Record's talk was the push for Net Zero by 2050, i.e. the reduction of carbon emissions into the atmosphere so that the balance of emissions and absorption is zero. Neil Record accepted that global temperature has risen by 1 deg. C. since 1850 and that the burning of fuels by man has raised the level of carbon dioxide in the air. He showed charts demonstrating that global temperature rises since 1850 correlated closely with the rise in CO<sub>2</sub> levels.

He noted that some people claim that strong positive CO<sub>2</sub> feedback warming loops could create an out-of-control loop with catastrophic consequences and therefore we should be aiming for net zero emissions. Others argue that water vapour is a much stronger greenhouse gas which outweighs the effect of CO<sub>2</sub>. Sceptics about warming claim that Net Zero is both implausible and prohibitively expensive. In Record's view, the Climate Change 'Crisis' scenario has been created by politicians, who don't understand the science. Whereas higher global temperatures and CO<sub>2</sub> levels have been labelled 'bad', he observed that they can spur plant growth, potentially greening under-productive parts of the earth.

Higher temperatures have been associated with extreme weather events, but the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) does not support this view. There will be no more floods, droughts, heat waves and deep freezes than before.

Turning to the UK, The Climate Change Act passed in 2008 introduced a legal framework for controlling emissions. The UK has reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 46% since 1990 mainly by losing energy intensive industries and replacing coal with gas, with a modest contribution from renewable energy sources such as wind and solar. The Net Zero policy envisages that major users of energy (space heating and transport) will replace fossil fuels with electricity, largely to be powered by renewables. This will be supported by Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), and by carbon taxes and public subsidies for renewables.

The significant problems with renewables are that solar and wind are only intermittent suppliers and cannot respond to changes in demand, nor can electricity be stored economically or even at all on the industrial scale required if demand fluctuations are to be absorbed. Nuclear power has a role to play, but is very expensive and slow to build.

Record believes that gas and nuclear are better solutions than the alternatives; seeking Net Zero will decimate heavy industry and impoverish the country. At the same time, it will be pointless as the UK's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are dwarfed by those of the USA and China whose annual increase alone is more than the whole of the UK's CO<sub>2</sub> output.

Neil was greeted by a healthy round of questions from an attentive audience at the end of his talk.

## Report on the October talk by Rear Admiral Dr Chris Parry CBE

### **'What on Earth is Going on in the World?'**

Educated at Portsmouth grammar school, Chris Parry went on to read History at Jesus College, Oxford, and later did a PhD in Philosophy at Reading University. He served for 36 years in the Royal Navy from 1972, where he gained a pilot's licence and saved 16 soldiers from a glacier in the Falklands War. He reckoned it was better to be an aviator than a soldier stuck in the mud. He went on to take up a number of senior commands. He has written five books.

Chris identified five major events which had significantly changed the course of the world: 9/11, which showed that the USA was not immune to attack; the 2008 financial crisis; the military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq; Covid, which he claimed was released from a Chinese lab; and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. He noted that five countries were now saying they would use nuclear weapons if necessary.

He saw eight major changes disrupting the world: climate change (which he dogmatically stated was NOT due to human activity); the explosion of world population, now 7.2 billion and rising; mass migration, due to economic and environmental failure, which will overshadow everything; energy transition, and its impact on food and water supplies; disruptive new technology; urban saturation and mega cities; periodic pandemics and extreme events; and illusion versus reality.

There is a lack of data assurance, with post-truth, polluted and falsified data, the enabling of AI, with spyware getting everywhere. He illustrated this by showing a false video he had so easily made of Trump talking! Everyone soon will be detectable and traceable through computers. China already has facial recognition of all its inhabitants.

The rapid growth of the numbers of very young and very old people will destabilise economies and change the major population centres. The world will broadly split into two autocratic groupings, the Western maritime democracies, and the Eurasians.

He noted that the USA pays 75% of NATO costs. It would cost the UK alone \$460 billion to defend itself! China has the most UN troops. Chris predicted that: nuclear fusion will soon be supplying most of the energy; neither Trump nor 'clapped out' Biden will run for President next year; Putin will be replaced. He discussed at length the attempts of the USA, Russia and China to dominate the world, with countries trying to ban imports from hostile countries. Chris also mentioned poverty, pollution, debt, water shortage, and declining population. A large and interested audience raised many questions at the end of the meeting.



**Answers to the quiz. Any questions to Ann Hay on [annghay@icloud.com](mailto:annghay@icloud.com)**

1. It is a mediæval spiced mead
2. The rhythm is perfect when doing chest compression
3. Testing the strength of brewed beer, but not by drinking it. He wore leather breeches, poured ale onto a wooden seat and sat in it. If he did not stick to the seat for long, the ale was weak and could only be sold as 'small ale'
4. The Banshees.
5. (a) Newmarket (b) Aintree
6. John Ronald Reuil
7. Tree-nails, wooden dowels fastening structural timbers together e.g. in ships or buildings
8. Blue sky over yellow wheat-fields
9. ' All that glisters....'
10. Fossils of a prehistoric oyster
11. Gudgeon is a small fish, Trudgeon is an old-fashioned swimming stroke
12. Six
13. A cup of tea made from leaf-tea. It is fortune-telling by reading tea leaves
14. It was a Boojum
15. The Lady Isabella
16. The Mesolithic
17. Roy Rogers
18. In Paisley-pattern fabric, this is a recurrent motif a bit like a leaf
19. House- plants
20. Titus.

## **Submissions to Newsletter - especially Pictures**

We would be delighted to receive articles and photos from members. If you decide to send us photos, please ensure that they are no more than 750 kb each. Also, please do not email .pdf files for the newsletter as the open-source software that we use to insert these files requires considerable additional effort. Acceptable formats are: .docx, .doc, .jpeg (.jpg) and .xls or .xlsx. It would help the editors if you would crop them and reduce the image size before sending. Email attachments are much easier for us than embedded pictures.

Please email us anything that you would like us to consider for the next newsletter NO LATER than the 22<sup>nd</sup> of the month.

Thank you, Nuala Smith & Jack Kerbel

[newsletter@maidenheadu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@maidenheadu3a.org.uk) and [newsletter.maidenheadu3a@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.maidenheadu3a@gmail.com)

## **Committee Members & other u3a links**

Chairman	John Twydle	<a href="mailto:chairman@maidenheadu3a.org.uk">chairman@maidenheadu3a.org.uk</a>	01628 621644
Treasurer	Linda Main	<a href="mailto:treasurer@maidenheadu3a.org.uk">treasurer@maidenheadu3a.org.uk</a>	07962 255743
Secretary	Janet Rose	<a href="mailto:secretary@maidenheadu3a.org.uk">secretary@maidenheadu3a.org.uk</a>	01628 624709
Membership Secretary	Maggie Kearney	<a href="mailto:membership@maidenheadu3a.org.uk">membership@maidenheadu3a.org.uk</a>	01628 637160
Groups Coordinator	Kathy Bell	<a href="mailto:groups@maidenheadu3a.org.uk">groups@maidenheadu3a.org.uk</a>	07752 660537
Speaker Organiser	Philip Ratcliffe	<a href="mailto:speakers@maidenheadu3a.org.uk">speakers@maidenheadu3a.org.uk</a>	07710 160786
Newsletter	Nuala Smith	<a href="mailto:newsletter@maidenheadu3a.org.uk">newsletter@maidenheadu3a.org.uk</a>	01628 315446
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TVN Rep	Jenny Alder	<a href="mailto:tvn@maidenhead.org.uk">tvn@maidenhead.org.uk</a>	01753 859664

## **Programme of Group Meetings**

This is the list of current group meetings including contact details for Conveners. You can find more information about what any group does, at <https://www.maidenheadu3a.org.uk/groups/>  
**The Sunday Groups are:** Bridge every week and MOTO (Members on Their Own) once a month.  
**Groups with Variable Days are:** London Explorers, Walks, Film, Solos and Bucket List.

GROUP	CONVENER	CONTACT	DAY	TIME
<b>A</b>				
Ancient Literature	Mick Stringer	07836 211314	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs	14.30
Art Appreciation	Mandy Taylor	01628 298107	1 <sup>st</sup> Fri	10.30
Art Untutored	Peter Neville	01628 674097	1 <sup>st</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues	14.00
Aviation	Bill Teasdale	01628 672873	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs	14.30
<b>B</b>				
Book Reading 1	Pauline Sparkes	01753 642490	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	14.00
Book Reading 2	Bobby Maunsell	01628 828279	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed	13.00
Bridge C	Frances Foster	07548 306782	Every Thurs	14.00
Bridge E	Mal Geary	07973 193439	Every Mon	13.30
Bridge: Beginners and Improvers	Susanna Jones	07583 447789	Every Mon	9.30
Bridge on Sunday	Susanna Jones	07583 447789	Every Sun	14.00
Bucket List	John Twydle	07786 854920	Varies	
<b>C</b>				
Canasta	Christine Wilkinson	07887 887579	2 <sup>nd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> Fri	10.00
Carpet Bowls	George Bourne	07792 570353	Every Mon	14.00
Creative Cards 1	Eileen Rogers	01628 639656	2 <sup>nd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> Fri	10.00
Creative Cards 2	Eileen Rogers	01628 639656	1 <sup>st</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri	10.00
Creative Writing	Mo Wright	01628 630023	1 <sup>st</sup> Tues	10.00
Cribbage	Nigel Furneaux	07721 426768	2 <sup>nd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs	15.00
Current Affairs 1	Barbara Walmsley	01628 522255	4 <sup>th</sup> Tues	14.15
<b>D and E</b>				
Dog Walking	Sandra Brooks	07717 043462	2 <sup>nd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> Mon	11.00
Explore World Faiths	Michael Gammage	07763 405699	1 <sup>st</sup> Thurs	14.30
<b>F</b>				
Family History	John Noakes	01628 637399	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues	14.30
Film	Jenny Webb	01628 633399	Varies	
	John Twydle	07786 854920		
Food and Nutrition	Christopher Good	01628 628157	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues	14.00
French 2	Margaret Scharff	01628 666218	2 <sup>nd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed	10.00
French Advanced	Ian Ross	01628 626849	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs	15.00
French Conversation	Tim Lodge	01628 627882	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon	12.15
French Improvers	Evelyne Withey	01628 627603	1 <sup>st</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	10.30
Fun with Flowers	Chris Smith	01628 663764	3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri	14.00
<b>G</b>				
Garden Visits	Maura McGinley	01628 629088	Varies	
German Advanced	Rhona Latham	01628 638740	2 <sup>nd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> Fri	10.00
German Conversation	Vreny Beadon	07900 831041	Alternate Thurs	14.00

<b>H and J</b>				
History	Chris Sayers	01628 620647	2 <sup>nd</sup> Fri	14.00
Jazz Appreciation	Richard Kellaway	01628 482605	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon	14.00
<b>L</b>				
Latin	Mick Stringer	07836 211314	2 <sup>nd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> Mon	10.45
London Explorers I	Janet Rose	07762 339873	Varies	
London Explorers II	Christine Feldon	07941 253427	Varies	
London Explorers III	Carol Cameron	07798 882778	Varies	
Lunch Club	Linda Rahmatalla	01628 671766	Varies	
Lunch Wednesdays	Lyn Reed	07913 305407	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed	
<b>M and N</b>				
Mahjong	Jill Waites	01628 628993	1 <sup>st</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	14.00
Maideleles (Ukelele)	Sarah Mawhinney	01628 781057	Every Wed	10.30
	Geoff Selvidge	07817 615677		
Meditation	Marie Krag	01628 632683	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	14.00
MOTO (Members On Their Own)	Jean Gale	01628 825107	Mainly Sundays	
Nature Amble	Jill Waites	01628 628993	3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri	10.15
<b>P</b>				
Philosophy	Jack Kerbel	01628 604935	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon	14.00
Photography	John Twydle	07786 854920	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues	11.15
Play Reading I	Barrie Williams	01189 349525	1 <sup>st</sup> Thurs	14.00
Play Reading II	Janet Rose	07762 339873	2 <sup>nd</sup> Fri	14.00
Poetry Appreciation	Michael Gammage	07763 405699	1 <sup>st</sup> Tues	14.30
Popular Music	Barrie Williams	01189 349525	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs	14.30
Practical Gardening	Jenny Alder	01753 859664	1 <sup>st</sup> Thurs	14.00
<b>Q and R</b>				
Quiz	Derek Searle	01628 822562	1 <sup>st</sup> Mon	19.15
Recorder	Edwina Shelley	07708 044152	1 <sup>st</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon	13.30
Rummicub	Janice Walker	01753 852403	1 <sup>st</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri	09.30
<b>S</b>				
Science	John Twydle	07786 854920	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs	14.15
Scrabble			Last Mon	14.00
Solos	Pauline Noden	07701 354490	Varies	
Spanish (Hols) 1	Kathy Bell	07752 660537	1 <sup>st</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues	10.00
Spanish (Hols) II	Kathy Bell	07752 660537	2 <sup>nd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues	10.00
Spanish Improve I	Barrie Williams	01189 349525	2 <sup>nd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues	10.00
Spanish Improve II	Barrie Williams	01189 349525	1 <sup>st</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon	10.00
Spanish Improve III	Barrie Williams	01189 349525	1 <sup>st</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri	10.00
<b>T, W and Y</b>				
Threads and Needles	Maggie Kearney	01628 637160	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs	11.00
Walks (various)	John Twydle	07786 854920	Varies	
Yoga	Barbie Bellman	07740 288498	Every Mon	14.30