

CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS

Hello All,

We seem to be coming down the slope of Omicron infections and so we plan to get back together for our main meeting in February.

I would like to focus this month on two groups of people - those that look after membership renewals and our conveners. Our Treasurer and Membership Secretary work exceptionally hard at this time of year to process approximately 600 renewals. There are many hours spent maintaining records and ensuring the mix of payments received are correctly allocated. They are a vital part of our u3a and deserve our thanks.

The conveners work hard all year round to make sure their groups run smoothly, either playing host or organising somewhere to meet and ensuring there is material for education or interest on hand.

Thank you for all you do.

John Bastow, who was a founding member of the Aviation group and was the convener of that group, sadly passed away in January. Condolences go to his wife Mary. John was a first class and dedicated convener who will be sadly missed.

John Twydle

Membership News

A warm welcome to:

Jane Crawford, June Searle, Barbara Walmsley, Maureen Park and Iain Attwell who joined us recently.

- **Renewal Reminder** (if you haven't yet renewed your membership for 2022)

Your annual subscription was due on 1st January 2022. Membership is £16 (per person) for the whole year. If you require newsletters to be printed and posted to you, a supplement of £12 is required.

More details & the 2022 renewal form can be found at the end of the newsletter

- **Finding New Members**

Those considering joining the u3a can have two taster sessions before committing themselves - this could be a monthly meeting or joining one of the group activities.

Maggie Kearney - Membership Secretary

FEBRUARY MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, 8th February at 2.30pm

From Philip Ratcliffe, Speaker Organiser

After John Twyde's excellent Zoom talk in January, I am pleased to announce that Mary Spinks CBE will give a live in-person talk at February's meeting on

'The Life of Florence Nightingale'

Known as 'The Lady of the Lamp' during the Crimean War where she was instrumental in saving many lives, Florence Nightingale was also a leading developer of statistical techniques in medicine and a founder of modern nursing. She is one of the most famous and distinguished women in British history.

Mary Spinks was awarded a CBE in 2010 after a 52-year career in nursing. She came to England from Cork to train as a nurse in 1958 and on qualifying spent 15 years in theatre nursing. Mary became chairman of the National Association of Theatre Nurses and continued her career in nurse management to become Regional Nursing Officer for North East Thames.

She was director of the Florence Nightingale Foundation from 1996-2010, raising substantial funds for scholarships to develop nurses' careers in the modern NHS. She remains an honorary vice-president of the organisation. Mary took over as president of Maidenhead Rotary club in June 2020.

The talk will again be held at the Desborough Bowling Club at 10 Green Lane, Maidenhead SL6 1XZ (Green Lane is just off Stafferton Link and Bray Lane; there is plenty of free parking). Please aim to arrive between 2.00 and 2.15pm, wearing your mask.

Covid protection - We recognise that, while government regulations have relaxed, u3a members may still be vulnerable even though the majority of our members may have been double vaccinated & had a booster. As we are meeting indoors, please wear a mask as soon as you arrive to ensure the greatest level of mutual protection. **If you have not been vaccinated or cannot wear a mask, PLEASE DO NOT COME.** Our concern is to do everything we can to protect all our members.

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

GROUP NEWS

GO - a new group?

GO is a board game and, according to the British GO Association, originated over 3,000 years ago in China and is very much a part of oriental culture.

One of GO's best features, unlike almost all other games, is the **handicapping system** which allows players of very different strengths to play a proper game, giving each player a 50% chance of winning. For more information about the game, go to <https://www.britgo.org/whatisgo>

A new member, Iain Attwell who is a keen GO player, would like to start a group. To find out more, please contact him on 01628 676792 or by email at wintergarden@talktalk.net



To lovers of Italy....

We now have enough potential members for a Beginners' Italian group but as yet no convener. If you would like to, or you know anyone who could lead this group, please contact Kathy Bell on 07752 660537 or email her at groups@maidenheadu3a.org.uk

Fluency in Italian is not essential, just some basic knowledge to get everyone started and then to learn together.

A Christmas Sparkle

As we have all been very wary of mixing and of closed environments over this past year, my wife and I decided that Christmas away from home would be an exciting change. We settled upon a classic country cottage in Broadway in the lovely Cotswolds.

Arriving late afternoon, we found our temporary home in the High Street - a yellow Cotswold stone three bedroom cottage which included a welcoming log fire, fully decorated Christmas tree and winter warm Aga. The floors and stairs creaked and low ceilings added to its atmosphere.

After preparing and enjoying an evening meal in the farmhouse kitchen/breakfast room, we settled down in the cosy lounge on soft wine red sofas to plan our local outings and country walks.



The Broadway hunt meets on Boxing Day in the main high street, with the glorious pink velvet coats of the 'Master of hounds' and his pack of 40 dogs. Many local men and women 'ride out' with the hunt as do tiny children on their Shetland ponies (with their parents holding tight to the reins). It's a truly colourful spectacle on this wet chilly day. Hundreds brave the early morning start and line the Main Street.

27th December saw us visit the only privately owned castle in England, Sudeley Castle, for a light spectacular!! Safely walking throughout the grounds and courtyard we entered the gardens and secure pathways as they were transformed into colourful grottos. The walls, ceilings and statues were filled with subtle coloured lighting, with a magnificent lawn of rainbow spotlights, and which revolved around a multicoloured spectrum. An amazing experience...so well done all their team.

The village of Whichcombe, close by, gave us our supper destination.

Our memories this Christmas included many walks in the Cotswold hills, then coming home to our roaring wood fire.....the chimney guiding us back with its spiralling wood scented wispy smoke.

So we look forward to our next cottage adventure.

George Bourne



Maidenhead u3a Woodland Copse

Thank you so much to those members who have supported our campaign to buy a copse as part of the u3a's national campaign to plant 5000 trees in the Brecon Beacons.

Our own target was to buy 100 trees. I am delighted to say that members purchased 88 trees and the committee agreed to fund the additional 12 trees from our funds.

Now we will have a copse named after our u3a with a plaque. The trees are being planted in the planting season between November 2021 - March 2022 in a dedicated area in the Brecon Beacons National Park.

I am delighted to say that the u3a exceeded its target of 5,000 trees in just three months. Well done everyone.

A very special thank you to Chris Smith, Margaret Baxter, Mo Wright, Michael Cross, Nuala Smith, Norman Phillips, Maggie Kearney, Jackie Price, John Twydale, Nigel & Ann Furneaux, Anne Clark, Gurdial Singh, Carmella De Souza, Jill Braxton, Linda Main, Brenda Finnigan, Heather Deakin, John Bowers, Jenny & Barry Alder and Hilary Brodie. You have all done us proud.



Wanted - Examination Invigilators at Desborough College

The Examinations Officer has asked if anyone within our u3a would like to help out with invigilating exams at Desborough College.

The work is seasonal - in fact with exams being cancelled there has been very little work! It is not the most exciting job but there is a good team and it pays £11.54 per hour. You need to be mobile and have an attention to detail. If you are interested in knowing more, please contact Alison Hatcher, Exams Officer on 01628 634505 ext 533.

Submissions to Newsletter

If you wish to send us photos, please ensure that they are no more than 500kB 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 are: .docx, .doc, .jpeg (.jpg) & .xls or .xlsx.

Please email us anything that you would like us to consider for the **March** newsletter NO LATER than 19th February 2022.

Thank you.

Pat Laković & Nuala Smith

newsletter@maidenheadu3a.org.uk

newsletter.maidenheadu3a@gmail.com

February Quiz

(Answers are further on in the newsletter)

1. By what name is Gordon Sumner better known?	11. Where did medieval noble families keep their carpets?
2. In ITMA (It's That Man Again), who were we urged not to forget?	12. What type of animals are the following? (a) palomino (b) mangalica (c) dexter (d) wyandotte (e) toggenburg (f) appaloosa (g) anglo-nubian (h) kunekune (i) Brumby (j) vaynol
3. Who wrote The Ballad of Dangerous Dan McGrew?	13. Hester Bateman was one of the first women makers in what craft?
4. If one bought a suit, shirt, tie, spare collar from the tailor Montague Burton, how was this referred to?	14. What links Casey Jones and Coshier Bailey?
5. In which year was the Thames Barrier opened?	15. Where is the original Betty's Tea-Room?
6. Which animal is referred to as (a) brock (b) tod?	16. How many seas in the world are called after colours?
7. The BBC perpetrated a spectacular April Fool programme on Panorama in 1957 about what subject?	17. Where could one go to find the O'o bird?
8. In which comics did the following appear? (a) Big Eggo (b) Lord Snooty (c) Korky the Kat (d) Minnie the Minx (e) Desperate Dan (f) The Bash Street Kids (g) Dan Dare (h) Keyhole Kate (i) Biffo the Bear	18. How were Jennifer Patterson and Clarissa Dickson Wright better known?
9. What is a schiltron?	19. What was Frankenstein's first name?
10. Where is your acnestis?	20. Which playing card is known as 'the curse of Scotland'?



February Programme

Group information below is accurate as at 25th January 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 = Vacancies, 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 17 th Feb & will continue its reading of Plato's Symposium in an attempt to understand the true nature of Love. Despite the title of the book, this will be a work meeting and not a party so you don't need to bring a (virtual) bottle.	
Art Appreciation	1 st Frid	10.30	Mandy Taylor	01628 298107	This new group is now full. Mandy is considering starting a second group. Contact her if interested. mandyofart@gmail.com	
Art Untutored	1 st & 3 rd Tues	14.00	Peter Neville	01628 674097	Meets at St Joseph's Church Hall, Cookham Road, Maidenhead SL6 8AT.	V
Aviation	2 nd Thurs	14.30	Bill Teasdale	01628 672873	Our presentation will be by Pat Laković & Mike Potts, recalling an exciting trip made into Europe & across the Alps in a single engine, 2 seat Europa aircraft, based at White Waltham. At usual venue of new conference room in WLAC, White Waltham.	V
Book Reading 1	3 rd Wed	14.00	Pauline Sparkes	01753 642490	Book - Our Man in Havana by Graham Greene. 16 th Feb at Shirley Kay's home. Tel: 01628 527604. Please let Shirley know if you are unable to attend.	W
Bridge C	Every Thurs	14.00	Frances Foster	07548 306782	This Bridge group continues to meet in members' houses according to current regulations, common sense & members' wishes.	
Bridge E	Every Mon	13.30	Mal Geary	07973 193439	We meet on Mondays, usually with 1 or 2 tables. More hosts / players would increase # of tables. Contact Mal for information.	V
Bridge F - Beginners	Every Wed	9.30	Susanna Jones	07583 447789	Meet at Susanna's house. Separate rooms for each table.	V
Bridge on Sunday	Every Sun	14.30	Susanna Jones	07583 447789	Meet at Susanna's, as above.	
Online Bridge			Susanna Jones	07583 447789	Via BBO (free) website. More information from susannavj@hotmail.com	
Bucket List			John Twydale	01628 621644		
Canasta	2 nd Frid	10.30	Christine Wilkinson	07887 887579		V
Carpet Bowls	Every Mon	14.00	George Bourne	07792 570353	Fifield Memorial Hall. Fifield. No vacancies in this group at present.	

ACTIVITY	DAY(s) in MONTH, TIME		CONTACT	TELEPHONE	NOTES	V / W
Classical Music	2 nd Mon	14.15	John Noakes	01628 637399	Meet at John's house at Holyport on 14 th Feb. Please note change of venue.	V
Creative Cards 1	2 nd & 4 th Frid	10.00	Eileen Rogers	01628 639656		
Creative Cards 2	1 st & 3 rd Frid					V
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	14.30	Barbara Warmsley	01628 522255	Meetings are held at Spindlewood, High Road, Cookham SL6 9JT. The easiest approach is from Whyteladyes Lane; Spindlewood is the second house on the left.	V
Current Affairs 2	2 nd Thurs	14.15	Janice Waterman	01628 530770	Co-convener is Pam May. Her email is pam.may508@gmail.com	
Exploring World Faiths	1 st Thurs	14.30	Michael Gammage	01628 637801 07763 405699	New members welcome. No specialist knowledge required! Please call or email michael.gammage@outlook.com for details.	V
Family History	3 rd Tues	14.30	John Noakes	01628 637399	Meet at Pauline's on 15 th Feb (07849 857068). This may need to change so look out for an email. Please let her know if you intend to come.	V
French Improvers	1 st and 3 rd Wed	10.30	Evelyne Withey	07939 083996	Meetings continue on Zoom. There are 3 or 4 vacancies.	V
French 2	2 nd & 4 th Wed	10.00	Margaret Scharff	01628 666218		V
French Advanced	3 rd Thurs	15.00	Ian Ross	01628 626849		V
Fun with Flowers	3 rd Frid		Chris Smith	01628 663764	There is room for 2 more members. Please contact Chris by phone or on christine.smith@mrs-smithgroup.com if you are interested.	V
Garden Visits	4 th Wed	12.00	Maura McGinley	01628 629088	Next meeting is Wednesday, 23 rd Feb for the Annual Lunch. Venue to be confirmed.	
German Advanced	2 nd & 4 th Frid	10.00	Rhona Latham	01628 638740		
German Conversation	Every other Wed	14.00	Vreny Breadon	07900 831041		
History	2 nd Frid	14.00	Chris Sayers	01628 620647	The Feb meeting is cancelled due to Covid. We will resume in March.	V
Jazz Appreciation	2 nd Mon	14.00	Kath Evans	07743 572146	14 th Feb at Kath's house. New members welcome.	V

ACTIVITY	DAY(s) in MONTH, TIME		CONTACT	TELEPHONE	NOTES	V / W
Latin	2 nd & 4 th Mon	10.45	Mick Stringer	07836 211314	Will meet on Zoom on 14 th & 28 th Feb. We will continue to enjoy the poetry of Horace and Ovid & the prose of Caesar. Contact Mick by phone or email him at mick_stringer@hotmail.com .	V
London Explorers			Janet Rose	01628 624709		
Lunch Club	Monthly		Linda Rahmatalla	01628 671766 07740 853952	Next meeting Thursday, 24 th Feb. Venue to be decided.	
Mah Jong	1 st & 3 rd Wed		Jill Waites	01628 628993	Please contact Jill for details.	
Maidenhead Nukes (Ukulele)	Every Wed	11.00 to 13.00	Carolyn Bell	07940 333709	One vacancy. Carolyn's email address is carolynbell64@gmail.com .	V
Meditation	2 nd Wed	14.30	Marie Krag	01628 632683	mariekrag@talktalk.net	
MOTO (Members on their own)	Mainly Sundays		Jean Gale	01628 825107	Next lunch is on Feb 20 th at the Spade Oak in Bourne End. Contact Veronica on 01628 638942.	
Nature Amble	3 rd Frid		Jill Waites	01628 628993	The season is now over for the winter.	V
Play Reading 1	1 st Thurs	14.00	Barrie Williams	01189 349525		
Play Reading 2	2 nd Frid	14.00	Janet Rose	01628 624709	We met on Zoom in Jan & everyone brought a story, an anecdote or poem to read for an enjoyable meeting. We will meet in person on 11 th Feb, Covid permitting.	
Poetry & Prose	3 rd Tues	14.00	Barrie Williams	01189 349525		V
Poetry 2	1 st Tues	14.30	Michael Gammage	01628 637801	In-person meetings start on 1 st Feb. We also meet on Zoom on 3 rd Tues. The group reads & discusses all sorts of poetry. To join, phone or email michael.gammage@outlook.com	V
	3 rd Tues	10.30				
Popular Music	3 rd Thurs	14.30	Barrie Williams	01189 349525		
Quiz	1 st Mon	19.15 for 19.30	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		V
Rummikub	1 st & 3 rd Frid	9.30 to 11.30	Kath Evans	07743 572146	4 th & 18 th Feb. Meet at Shire Horse pub. Note NEW times . 20 people max, so you <u>must</u> contact Kath on kmevans4012@gmail.com to confirm attendance. It is hoped to start a new group.	

ACTIVITY	DAY(s) in MONTH, TIME		CONTACT	TELEPHONE	NOTES	V / W
Science	3 rd Thurs	14.15	John Twydle	07786 854920	Meet on 17th Feb chez Mike Turner at Larkspur House, Mill Lane, Taplow SL6 0AG . Mike's phone # is 07545 504880. Subject TBA.	
Scrabble	Last Mon	14.15	Hilary Brodie	01628 522331	Meeting as usual on last Monday, 28th Feb at Hilary's house.	V
Spanish Conversation	2 nd & 4 th Mon	10.00	Barrie Williams	01189 349525		
Spanish for Holidaymakers 1	1 st & 3 rd Tues	10.00	Kathy Bell	07752 660537	Group 1 will continue to meet on Zoom .	
Spanish for Holidaymakers 2	2 nd & 4 th Tues	10.00			Group 2 will resume face-to-face meetings on 8th Feb .	
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	2 nd & 4 th Frid	10.00				
Walks	Various	Varies	John Twydle	01628 621644 07786 854920	<p>Thurs, 10th Feb: meet at 10.00 for 10.15am departure at The Oak & Saw pub, Taplow, SL6 0ET. Parking at pub or in village community hall car park. 3.8 mile walk via Taplow Station towards Eton Wick & return via Jubilee River & Berry Hill. Moderate incline up Berry Hill. Generally good surfaces throughout. Lunch at the Oak and Saw for those that want it afterwards.</p> <p>Tues, 22nd Feb: meet at Boulters Lock car park, Lower Cookham Road, SL6 8JN at 10.45 for 11.00am departure for 2.6 mile walk towards Cookham, crossing Battlemead Common to the river & back along the tow path. Flat but may be bit muddy & soft underfoot depending on precipitation in the days before the walk. Lunch at Boulters Lock for those that want it afterwards.</p> <p>Walks leader: John Twydle 01628 621644 or 07786 854920</p>	
Yoga	1 st Mon	14.30 to 15.30	Barbie Bellman	01628 773653 07740 288498	Meet at St Mark's Methodist Church, Allenby Road, Maidenhead. Note: there will be no meetings in school holidays. Further members welcome.	V

1. Sting.	11. On tables, or occasionally hung on walls. (French tapis = carpet = tapestry).
2. The diver.	12. (a) horse (b) pig (c) cow (d) hen (e) goat (f) horse (g) goat (h) pig (i) horse (j) cow (k) cow
3. Robert Service.	13. Silversmith.
4. The Full Monty.	14. Railway engines.
5. 1984.	15. Harrogate.
6. (a) badger (b) fox	16. Four - black, red, white, yellow.
7. Spaghetti farming in Switzerland.	17. You can't. It lived formerly in Hawaii but now it's extinct.
8. (a), (b), (d), (f) & (i) were all in the Beano; (c), (e), (h) were in the Dandy; (g) was in the Eagle.	18. The Two Fat Ladies.
9. An early military formation or phalanx.	19. Victor.
10. It is the spot between the shoulder blades which you cannot scratch.	20. The 9 of diamonds (the message ordering the Massacre of Glencoe was scribbled on it).

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
Groups Coordinator	Kathy Bell	groups@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	07752 660537
Speaker Organiser	Philip Ratcliffe	speakers@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	07710 160786
Newsletter	Pat Laković	newsletter@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	01628 782038
	Nuala Smith	newsletter@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	01628 541685
Website Editor	Nigel Roper	web@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	01628 636893

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

2022 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INFORMATION

Your annual subscription is due on 1st January 2022. Membership is £16 (per person) for the whole year. If you require newsletters to be printed and posted to you, a supplement of £12 is required.

Hence if you are a single member your options are:

- a) **£16 Membership only;**
- b) **£28 membership with printing and postage**

If you can pay by standing order this will help reduce the time we spend in the administration of your subscription each year. The good news is that once set up future renewals will be automatic.

Thank you if you have already signed up to our **Gift Aid Scheme**. The money we receive back from HMRC (currently 25% of your subscription) goes towards the benefits our members receive. If you are not signed up to this scheme but are a taxpayer and wish to do so, please tick the box at the end of the form.

SEND THE COMPLETED FORM TO: Maggie Kearney, 18 Wayside Mews, Maidenhead SL6 7EJ

If you decide not to renew, please email Maggie at membership@maidenheadu3a.org.uk or call her on **01628 637160** so that we don't chase you for payment.

To: **Maggie Kearney Maidenhead u3a, 18 Wayside Mews, Maidenhead SL6 7EJ**

This renewal is for _____ Membership No _____
 and _____ Membership No _____

21.

My payment includes the following: (tick which apply)	<input type="checkbox"/>	£16 single subscription	My total payment is: £
	<input type="checkbox"/>	£32 joint subscription	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	£12 for posting of monthly newsletter	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	£12.20 Associate membership	

I am making payment by:

- Cheque (enclosed) made payable to **Maidenhead u3a**
- Bank transfer **Account Name** - Maidenhead u3a
 Account Number - 02728719
 Sort Code - 30-95-36
 Reference - please use your surname, initial(s) and membership number(s) if known
- Standing order If paying by this method for the first time, you can request a Standing Order form from your bank; after you complete the form return it to your bank.
 OR if you are an internet banker, you can do this online yourself.
 See 'Bank transfer' above for bank details.
- In person Pay in person at the monthly meeting using your debit or credit card.
- PLEASE SEND ME A GIFT AID DECLARATION FORM AS I HAVE NOT YET JOINED THE GIFT AID SCHEME.**
 (if you are unsure if you have previously signed up for gift aid please contact Linda Main, Treasurer for clarification)