

CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS

Hello All,

My thoughts this month as I sit here shivering, are about the welfare of all our members. Particularly at this time of year, reach out to your friends in u3a and share a coffee or a chat and more importantly use someone else's heating if you can! If you need support do not suffer in silence, talk to someone; we can't support you if we do not know support is needed.

For those alone, the new Solos group has started up and looks to have a good core of members - if you are interested check the newsletter.

Our monthly meeting in January was very well attended and thanks go to Philip Ratcliffe, our Speaker Secretary, for arranging yet another excellent speaker. Hayley talked to us about her 14 years' experience working as a Crime Scene Investigator (CSI) in the Metropolitan Police.

Her talk was interesting, informative and sprinkled with anecdotes of her time visiting crime scenes. I believe 128 members were at the talk. I am not sure if that's a record but certainly the best we have had in recent memory.

Thank you to the two members who have agreed to join the committee; introductions next month.

John Twyde

Chairman

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Eileen Swygart, Sandra Drummond, Joanna Sears, Tim Tregidgo, Jennifer Smith, Nano Kwatra, Pat & John Lawson, Margaret Woodley, John Poate, Irene Cameron, Gerri Suggett, Sue Thomson and Carole Prior.

Membership Renewals

Thank you to those of you who have renewed your membership for 2023.

There are still over 100 members who have yet to renew, so we would appreciate your renewing as soon as possible. **At the end of February, those who have not renewed will be marked as resigned and will no longer be eligible to attend the monthly meetings or interest groups.**

If you have any queries do get in touch.

Maggie Kearney

Membership Secretary

Telephone: 01628 637160

Email: membership@maidenheadu3a.org.uk

FEBRUARY MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, 14 February 2023 at 2.30pm

Our guest speaker in February is **David Horton**. He will give us a talk on **Spitfire Women and the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA)**.



Founded at the outbreak of World War II, the ATA was a civilian organization which made an enormous contribution to victory by taking over from service pilots the task of ferrying RAF and RN warplanes between factories, maintenance units and front-line squadrons. During the war, 1,250 men and women from 25 countries ferried a total of 309,000 aircraft of 147 different types, without radios, with no instrument flying instruction and at the mercy of the British weather. Often they were presented with a type of plane they had never seen before. Air Transport Auxiliary's headquarters was at White Waltham airfield near Maidenhead from February 1940 until 30th November 1945.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

David Horton has been a volunteer at the Heritage Centre since 2011. In his working life he was a senior lecturer in aviation studies at the former City of London Polytechnic, latterly London Metropolitan University, retiring in 2009. Prior to that he worked for the **TWA** airline at Heathrow Airport for 19 years in flight planning and before that 5 years in the RAF Signals branch.

The talk will be 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

GROUP NEWS

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

The Guitar group

This group is now established and will meet fortnightly from **Tuesday, 7th February, 2pm to 4pm** at a member's home. They will be working in a folk/rock style with strumming and picking and have room for one more member. If you are interested please contact Gerri Suggett on 01628 824185 or email gerri.suggett@googlemail.com for full details.

Practical Gardening

Three people are now interested in this group but more members are needed before we can set it up, so if you are concerned about your garden after the strange weather that we have had during the last year and are interested in sharing problems and solutions as Spring approaches, please contact Kathy Bell.

Lunch on Wednesdays

This group is now established with Lyn Reed as convener. It is open to all u3a members on a first come, first served basis as numbers have to be limited at the venues. It will meet on the 1st Wednesday of the month initially. As Lyn is away quite frequently, she would like a co-convener to share the organisation of the lunches. The first meeting will be on **Wednesday, 1st February**. If you are interested in this group, and/or in being co-convener, please call or text, Lyn Reed, on 07913 305407.

Computer Programming

Some members have enquired about a computer group, with a particular emphasis on computer programming. If this interests you, please call Kathy Bell.

Art Appreciation

Our trip to Petworth Park was a great success. We saw works by JMW Turner, William Blake, John Flaxman and others featured in the galleries. We learned a great deal about Lord Egremont and his wife who were great art collectors. An unexpected Spider-Man in the chapel made the trip memorable for a number of reasons!

Aviation

Squadron Leader Graham Laurie will give a talk on the **History of Royal Flight**. Beginning in 1981, it spanned the conversion from the Hawker Siddeley Andover to the BAe 146, and took in a time when Royal air travel was at its height. By the time he retired in December 2000, he'd been around for the end of the Queen's Flight itself, and its replacement by the re-designated No 32 (The Royal) Squadron. Along the way, having flown the Prince of Wales more than 700 times and completed nearly 2,300 Royal flights, he'd played his part in events of global significance. This topic may be of interest to people who are not members of the Aviation group and a few extra places will be available. As we have an external speaker, the cost is £5 pp. **If you would like to attend please call Bill Teasdale on 01628 672873.**

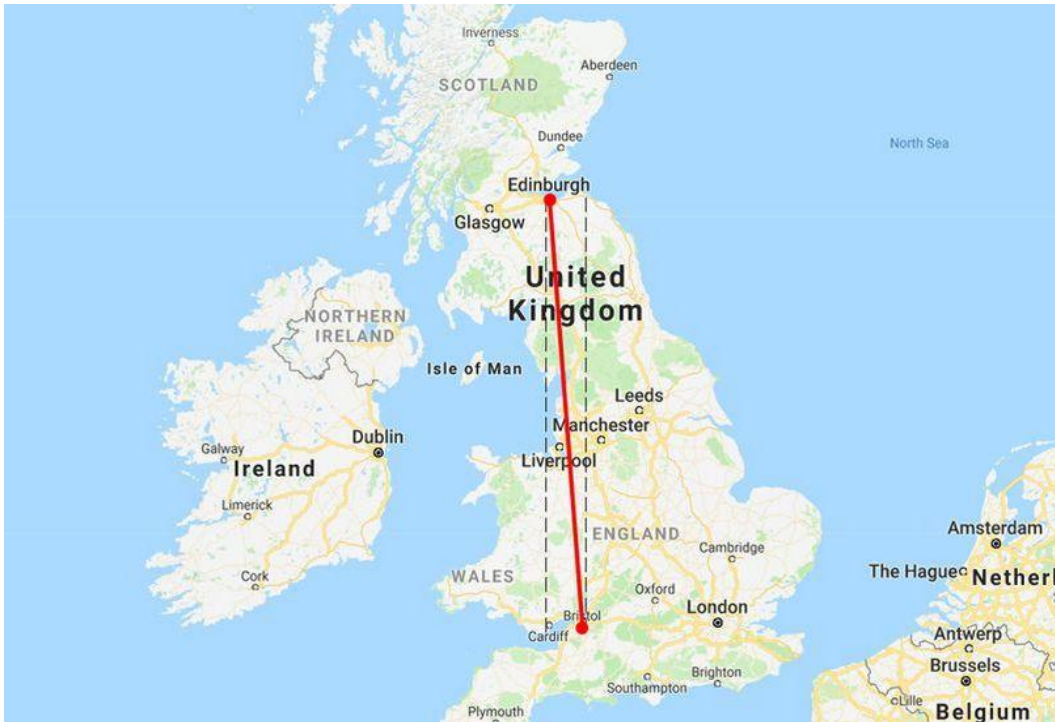
Sailing along the Jurassic Coast

In 2022, 16 members of Maidenhead u3a, in 2 groups, took a sailing experience for 6 hours travelling from Portland Harbour across Weymouth Bay to Mupe Bay and back. We have currently 6 members who would like to go in 2023 but we need a minimum of 8 to make the trip viable. The cost is approximately £95 plus a contribution toward transport. The plan is to go in mid June. If you are interested please contact John Twydle at jtwydle@gmail.com

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.

Did You Know that Edinburgh is west of Bristol?



The longitude of Edinburgh is 3.18 degrees west of Greenwich while Bristol's is 2.58 degrees.

NEWSLETTER NEWS

One of the joint Newsletter Editors, Pat Laković, is resigning from the role in March. Pat has done great work to make the newsletter informative, attractive and interesting over the last 4 years. **Barbie Bellman** has volunteered to become a Newsletter Editor working with Nuala to carry on the job of keeping members up to date with news and changes in our u3a. During the next 2 - 3 months Pat, Nuala and Barbie will organise the transition.

The editors are considering some changes to the Programme section of the Newsletter. Most groups have developed their own way of sharing information and their members do not need to consult the programme in the Newsletter. Also a large proportion of the information there does not vary from month to month. At present, all conveners are contacted and all information is checked. This takes a good deal of time and effort. The proposal is to concentrate on providing details that vary each month such as those relating to walks, outings and similar and will also include the details of groups which have vacancies.

The Quiz by Ann Hay (answers further on in the Newsletter)

1. Why is Dogkennel Lane in Dulwich so named?
 2. What is involved in the process of faggoting?
 3. Which was the eldest of the Brontë sisters?
 4. In which sports did these succeed (a) Magic Johnson. (b) Precious McKenzie?
 5. What should one do with a muffineer?
 6. Where is the largest extent of mediæval window glass in Britain?
 7. Where is the shortest pier in England?
 8. Which English Prime Minister had (a) the most and (b) the fewest re-elections to the position?
 9. What famous London monument is exactly 56 metres high?
 10. What is 'planishing'?
 11. Who was the lead singer in the West Country folk group The Wurzels?
 12. What was Ben-Hur's first name?
 13. What is the oldest board game still played today?
 14. Why are the downstairs front curtains of 10 Downing Street 18 inches below floor length?
 15. What garment/accessory is called after Sam Browne?
 16. What word links part of a vessel and the seeds of the beech tree?
 17. In which film did a building appear to crash down on Buster Keaton?
 18. Which is the only London tube station to have the word London in its name?
 19. Which is the only bird to lay an egg that is profoundly pointed?
 20. In 19th Century workhouses, inhabitants were frequently occupied in picking oakum. What was this and why was it wanted?
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Photography Group December Topic - 'Curves'



Derek Minter

Rachelle Walker



February Programme

Group information below is accurate as at **27th January 2023**. 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 / EMAIL ADDRESS	NOTES	V / W
Ancient Literature	3 rd Thurs	14.30	Mick Stringer	07836 211314	We will meet by Zoom at the usual time & day.	
Art Appreciation	1 st Frid	10.30	Mandy Taylor	01628 298107	Next meeting is on 3rd February . See more info in Group News.	
Art Untutored	1 st & 3 rd Tues	14.00	Peter Neville	01628 674097		V
Aviation	2 nd Thurs	14.30	Bill Teasdale	01628 672873	See entry in Group News.	V
Book Reading 1	3 rd Wed	14.00	Pauline Sparkes	01753 642490	Next meeting is on 15th February . Book - A Dutiful Boy by Moisin Raidi. Venue: Ros Shotter	W
Book Reading 2	2 nd Wed	13.00 to 15.00	Bobby Maunsell	01628 828279	Meet on 8th February . Book - Take My Hand by Doren Perkins-Valdez Venue: Marie Krag New members welcome.	V
Bridge C	Every Thurs	14.00	Frances Foster	07548 306782	This Bridge group continues to meet in members' houses.	
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 07786 854920	2023 trips are now being planned. Contact JT If you are interested in joining the group.	
Canasta	2 nd & 4 th Frid	10.00 to 12.00	Christine Wilkinson	07887 887579	Meet at The Shire Horse pub on A4.	
Carpet Bowls	Every Mon	14.00	Jenny Alder	01753 859664	Fifield Memorial Hall, Fifield. We now have a waiting list.	W
Classical Music	2 nd Mon	14.15	John Noakes	01628 637399	We meet at Mollie's . As there are so few of us, please let her know if you will be coming (or not). Phone 01628 415821.	V

ACTIVITY	DAY(s) in MONTH, TIME		CONTACT	TELEPHONE / EMAIL ADDRESS	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					
Creative Writing	4 th Tues	10.00	Mo Wright	01628 630023	This group has recently restarted and has vacancies.	V
Cribbage	2 nd & 4 th Thurs	15.00	Nigel Furneaux	07721 426768	Meet at Shire Horse pub on A4. 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. If anyone is interested in joining, please contact Sandra.	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 Jocelyn's . Please ensure she knows to expect you (or not). Call 01628 620275.	V
Film	Wed 16 th Tues	14.00 to 16.00	Jenny Webb & John Twydle	jenny.webb50@btinternet.com jtwydle@gmail.com	In February, we will meet at The Studio, The Courtyard, Berry Hill, Taplow, SL6 ODA. a) Tues, 21 st at 14.00: "The Truman Show" b) Tues, 26 th at 14.00: "Talking Sides" Maximum number is 16; please inform John or Jenny by email if you wish to come.	
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 have one vacancy.	V
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

ACTIVITY	DAY(s) in MONTH, TIME		CONTACT	TELEPHONE / EMAIL ADDRESS	NOTES	V / W
Garden Visits	4 th Wed	12.30	Maura McGinley	01628 629088 07767 446349	22 nd Feb Annual Lunch. Details TBC by email.	
German Advanced	2 nd & 4 th Frid	10.00	Rhona Latham	01628 638740	We are still looking for new members.	V
German Conversation	Alternate Thurs	14.00	Vreny Breadon	07900 831041	Meet at Vreny's home.	
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	Richard Kellaway	01626 482605	Note that Richard has taken over from Kath Evans.	
Latin	2 nd & 4 th Mon	10.45	Mick Stringer	07836 211314	We will meet by Zoom at the usual time & day.	V
London Explorers	Monthly	Varies	Janet Rose	01628 624709	There are no vacancies but there is a waiting list.	W
Lunch Club	Monthly	Varies	Linda Rahmatalla	01628 671766 07740 853952	Lunch Club will be on Thursday, 23rd February . 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! We now have vacancies.	V
Meditation	3 rd Wed	14.00	Marie Krag	01628 632683	We have 2 vacancies.	V
MOTO (Members on their own)	Mainly Sundays		Jean Gale	01628 825107		
Nature Amble	3 rd Frid		Jill Waites	01628 628993	I look forward to seeing you all in March when I restart the ambles.	V
Photography	2 nd Tues	11.15	John Twydle	07786 854920	Meet 11.15 on Tues, 14 th February at The Studio, The Courtyard, Berry Hill, Taplow, SL6 0DA. The topic is Hearts . Send images to John beforehand.	
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	This 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 on A4 on Monday, 6th February . Email Derek at drs05drs@gmail.com for more information.	V

ACTIVITY	DAY(s) in MONTH, TIME		CONTACT	TELEPHONE / EMAIL ADDRESS	NOTES	V / W
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	Meetings are now held at Shire Horse pub on A4. The group has vacancies.	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 is a small, friendly & relaxed group. Meet at Hilary's house.	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				
Threads & Needles	3 rd Thur	11.00 to 13.00	Maggie Kearney	01628 637160	Venue for Feb meeting TBC. New members welcome. Contact Maggie for more information.	V
Walk 1 Short walk	Thurs 9 th Feb	10.30	Maggie Kearney	07786 501299	Meet at First World War Memorial in Kidwell's Park behind Community Centre, 4 Marlow Road, Maidenhead SL6 7HY at 10.30. Walk around Maidenhead ending up in town centre. Lunch locally if desired.	
Walk 2 Long walk	Tues 21 st Feb	10.30 for 10.45	John Twydle Eileen Rogers	07786 854920	Meet at the Palmers Arms, Village Road, Dorney SL4 6QW for a 2½ mile flat walk. One small incline to Jubilee River & circle back to pub. Lunch at the Palmers Arms, if wished.	
Yoga	Every Mon	14.30 to 15.30	Barbie Bellman	01628 773653 07740 288498		

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 March newsletter NO LATER than **22nd February 2023**.

Thank you Pat Laković & Nuala Smith

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

u3a

Thames Valley Network

South East Region

The Great Exhibition of 1851 and its legacy

Tuesday, 7th February at 10.30 am on Zoom

A talk by **David Morton** on the history of the Great Exhibition, an idea from Prince Albert to showpiece the art, design, and manufacturing of the British Empire. It follows the controversial design, build and subsequent history of The Crystal Palace. We also learn about the legacy of The Great Exhibition and what remains today.



Please book electronically by clicking on the 'TICKETSOURCE' icon immediately below the event on www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk

Teasers

- Where in the nursery rhyme does it say humpty dumpty is an egg?
- Before they invented drawing boards, what did they go back to?
- Why are they called stairs inside but steps outside?

Answers to February's Quiz

Any queries, email Ann at annghay@icloud.com

1. Because Prince George of Denmark, husband of Queen Anne, kept his hounds there.
2. Either a technique in needlework, sewing two pieces of fabric together while leaving a slight space in between OR one in metalwork where two sheets of metal are folded together before the joint being soldered.
3. Maria, who died of TB in her teens.
4. (a) Basketball (b) Weightlifting, both representing the USA.
5. Sprinkle sugar: it is another name for a sugar sifter.
6. York Minster
7. Burnham-on-Sea
8. a) William Gladstone (4 times) (b) Earl of Bath (only in post for 2 days, in 1746) Walpole served 20 years 314 days, Douglas-Home 1year 1 day.
9. Nelson's Column.
10. A technique of decorating metal artefacts by tapping them with a small round-ended hammer to leave a pattern of dents.
11. Adge Cutler.
12. Judah.
13. The Japanese game GO.
14. If the windows should get blown out by a bomb, the heavily-lined curtains would belly-out, trapping the glass fragments, and prevent injury to anyone in the room.
15. A belt, particularly one with an over-shoulder strap as well as round the waist.
16. Mast.
17. Steamboat Bill.
18. London Bridge.
19. The guillemot.
20. It involved picking apart short lengths of old ropes, so the fibres could be forced into the joins in wooden vessels to make them more watertight.

Maidenhead National Trust Association

is organising a coach trip from Braywick Road car park, Maidenhead to Exhibition Road, London, dropping off near the Natural History Museum, on

Sunday, 26th February 2023

Cost £23.

For more information contact from Maggie Kearney on

membership@maidenheadu3a.org.uk

Committee Members & other u3a links

Chairman	John Twydle	chairman@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	01628 621644
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