

CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS

Hello All,

Bits of January were pretty chilly, so I hope you managed to stay warm over the first three weeks. I took advantage of a few warm spaces in the month at a variety of u3a meetings. Our conveners are always great hosts, thank you for your ongoing efforts to keep your groups active and viable.

This time of year is not my favourite, it usually either chilly or damp and grey. Yes, the days are slowly getting longer again, but slowly. So, it's nice to have a change of scenery to lift the spirit a bit. I was born in Weymouth in Dorset and so I am a bit of a sea person. I enjoy being at the coast "off season" its quieter and sometimes the winter storms can be spectacular. A few hardy souls are sea bathing but at this time of year it seems that 5 minutes is enough.

I am still exploring the possibility of getting a coffee morning started and hope to have an offering in March.

Just a reminder about the Everyone Health programme. To sign up, contact 03330 050095 or e-mail clinical.contactcentre@nhs.net

Best Wishes,

John Twyde

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Jill Chadwick, John Seymour, Pauline Checkley, Liz Cardno, Maggie Hendry, David Gladwin, David Grant, Jennifer Williamson, Angela Silvey, Joanne Atkin, Carole Holmes, Liz Annetts, Gita Turakhia, Aaron Bram, Liz Bateson and Helen Linsdall.

Membership Renewals 2024

Many thanks to all those who have renewed your membership for 2024.

This year's membership cards are a lovely shade of mauve, you will either have printed one out at home or have requested me to send you your card by post, so you can readily check if you have renewed. But if there is any doubt do get in touch with me.

Maggie Kearney, Membership Secretary

GROUP NEWS

London Explorers III

The inaugural outing was on 18th January to The National Maritime Museum and Cutty Sark. There were nine of us and although it was a cold day we were blessed with sunny blue skies. The museum offered a range of activities which suited everyone and we went our different ways before meeting up for lunch in the Parkside Cafe in the museum. We had pre-booked a table in a separate area of the cafe and after enjoying a pleasant lunch made our way to Cutty Sark, where we were able to log on to a tour guide via our mobile phones.



Setting up new Groups

Now that the new year is well under way and we start to feel more like venturing out of our houses, we, your committee, are as always seeking to set up new groups for you, and particularly for our new and prospective members.

We have sent out many suggestions for this and I have lists of interested people for several of them but we cannot set up a new group unless we have a convener.

If there is any subject at all that you would like to share with others, or if an existing group is full, please think about leading a group of your own, or setting up a second group in the case of one of our over-subscribed groups.

Once the group is established, and we would, of course, help you with this, the convener role is really not too arduous and can be very rewarding. Certainly, leading my Spanish groups has been a highlight of my own retirement and has brought me many new friends and experiences. Responsibilities can be shared amongst all members of the group.

For further information on becoming a convener please contact me, Kathy, Groups Coordinator, by email on kathy.bell1@btinternet.com or call me on 07752 660537

Meditation Group

We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2pm. New members are welcome. No experience is necessary. Do come for a bit of relaxation and a nice social chat. Marie Krag
Tel: 01628 632 683.

French 2

We have currently have some vacancies. Contact Pat Laković on 01628 666218 if you are interested.

The History Group

The group has begun a new programme studying medical history through the ages and across different cultures. The new programme is proving to be very interesting historically, socially and culturally and we would be really pleased for you to join us. We meet on the 2nd Friday of the month from 2-4pm. Please contact convener Chris Sayers at sayerscm@btinternet.com or call on 01628 620647 for further information.

MOTO (Members On Their Own)

The group has closed due to lack of a volunteer to take over from the retiring convener. This is mainly a Sunday Lunch group and all that a new convener would have to do is to agree with the members which restaurants they would like to visit and then make a rota for all members to take it in turns to make the reservation each month. If you would like to help to resurrect this group please contact me, Kathy, contact details as above.

Pickleball Group

The group is up and running with Mark Burley as the convener. Contrary to last month's update we ARE looking for extra members. There have been no sessions so far in January due to lack of numbers, and the intention is to restart them in February. Please contact Mark at markwburley@btinternet.com or on 07711 952044 if you are interested in trying pickleball and joining the group.

Book Reading 2

There are now vacancies in this group and we would like to welcome some new members. We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 1pm to 3pm at a member's home in Maidenhead. If you would like to join this friendly group, please contact Bobby Maunsell on 01628 828279 or by email to roberta.maunsell@live.co.uk

German Advanced

We now have vacancies in our group and would welcome enquiries. The group meets on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month from 10.00 to 12.00. Please contact convener Rhona Latham at rhonalatham@btinternet.com or call 01628 638740

Group Notices for February

Science - 15th of February at the usual venue. The topic has yet to be decided.

Film - Thursday 22nd of February and Tuesday the 27th

We will show “**Run Fat Boy Run**” on Thursday at 14.00 and “**Kate and Leopold**” on Tuesday at 14.00. Both at The Studio, The Courtyard, Berry Hill, Taplow SL6 0DA. Jenny Webb and John Twyde.

Short Walk – February 8th at 10.45 for 11.00

It will be a 2.3mile flat walk. We meet at the Palmers Arms, Dorney, SL4 6QW. The walk is circular talking in bits of the Jubilee and Thames Rivers as well as Dorney rowing lake. Lunch afterwards for those who want it at the Palmers Arms. A few muddy sections if wet. Walk Leader John Twyde 07786 854920

Long Walk – 20th February at 10.00 for 10.15

Meet at the far end of Stubbings House/Garden Centre Car Park, SL6 6QL. The walk will be a circular walk via Maidenhead Thicket, Cherry Garden Lane and Littlewick and Burchetts Greens. The walk is flat and may be muddy if recent rain. Lunch possible afterwards at the Stubbings Garden Centre. Leader: Brian Roles 07761 993 27

Photography - Tuesday 13th of February at 11.15.

At the Studio, The Courtyard, Berry Hill, Taplow. The topic is **Architecture**. John Twyde 07786 854920

Lunch Club - Thursday February 29th venue to be decided.

Art Appreciation - Friday February 2nd

We will resume at John’s studio. The focus of study will be The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood. Our group is currently full. If you wish to be on the waiting list, please email mandyofart@gmail.com

Garden Visits - Wednesday 28th February 12.30pm

Meet at the Bull at Bisham, Marlow SL7 1RR.

Day Trip to Winchester

Maidenhead National Trust Association is organising a coach trip to Winchester city on **Sunday 25 February**. The cost is £35 per person. More information from Maggie Kearney, email: kearneymaggie@gmail.com or telephone: 07786 501299.

'Flemish Illuminated Manuscripts' – Dr Scot McKendrick

Monthly meeting on Tuesday 13th February, Desborough Bowling Club at 2.30 pm

This talk by a distinguished former curator at the British Library will introduce the less familiar illuminated manuscripts that offer some of the best evidence for our understanding of early Netherlandish painting between 1400 and 1550.

Dr Scot McKendrick was formerly Head of Western Heritage Collections at the British Library, where he had charge of western manuscripts, archives, rare books, music and maps. He is the author of numerous publications on manuscripts and medieval art.

An email will be sent to all with more detail.

Report on the January 2024 Monthly Meeting

This England, where did it come from? – by Nicholas Henderson

The lecture explored the extraordinary and troubled beginnings of today's England and Great Britain. It covered the epoch changing events of great cultures and their continuing influence. Starting with the Romans and their sophisticated society it continued with events up to those that, asserting the 'will of the people' have shaped our modern governance and constitutional monarchy. Nick Henderson's talk was copiously illustrated with many photographs of relevant churches and their salient features.

Feedback from the members who attended has been extremely positive.

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 events. They cover a huge variety of topics.

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 22nd of the month.

Thank you, Nuala Smith & Jack Kerbel

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

Committee Members & other u3a links

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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, Garden Visits and Bucket List.

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

H and J				
History	Chris Sayers	01628 620647	2 nd Fri	14.00
Jazz Appreciation	Richard Kellaway	01628 482605	2 nd Mon	14.00
L				
Latin	Mick Stringer	07836 211314	2 nd 4 th 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 882378	Varies	
Lunch Club	Linda Rahmatalla	01628 671766	Varies	
Lunch Wednesdays	Lyn Reed	07913 305407	1 st Wed	
M and N				
Mahjong	Jill Waites	01628 628993	1 st 3 rd Wed	14.00
Maideleles (Ukelele)	Sarah Mawhinney	01628 781057	Every Wed	10.30
	Geoff Selvidge	07817 615677		
Meditation	Marie Krag	01628 632683	3 rd Wed	14.00
Nature Amble	Jill Waites	01628 628993	3 rd Fri	10.15
P				
Philosophy	Jack Kerbel	01628 604935	3 rd Mon	14.00
Photography	John Twydle	07786 854920	2 nd Tues	11.15
Pickle Ball	Mark Burley	07711 952044	tba	
Play Reading I	Barrie Williams	01189 349525	1 st Thurs	14.00
Play Reading II	Janet Rose	07762 339873	2 nd Fri	14.00
Poetry Appreciation	Michael Gammage	07763 405699	1 st Tues	14.30
Popular Music	Barrie Williams	01189 349525	3 rd Thurs	14.30
Practical Gardening	Jenny Alder	01753 859664	1 st Thurs	14.00
Q and R				
Quiz	Derek Searle	0780192 6246	1 st Mon	19.15
Recorder	Edwina Shelley	07708 044152	1 st 3 rd Mon	13.30
Rummicub	Janice Walker	01753 852403	1 st 3 rd Fri	09.30
S				
Science	John Twydle	07786 854920	3 rd Thurs	14.15
Scrabble			Last Mon	14.00
Solos	Pauline Noden	07701 354490	Varies	
Spanish (Hols) 1	Kathy Bell	07752 660537	1 st 3 rd Tues	10.00
Spanish (Hols) II	Kathy Bell	07752 660537	2 nd 4 th Tues	10.00
Spanish Improve I	Barrie Williams	01189 349525	2 nd 4 th Tues	10.00
Spanish Improve II	Barrie Williams	01189 349525	1 st 3 rd Mon	10.00
Spanish Improve III	Barrie Williams	01189 349525	1 st 3 rd Fri	10.00
T, W and Y				
Threads and Needles	Maggie Kearney	07786 501299	3 rd Thurs	10.00
Walks (various)	John Twydle	07786 854920	Varies	
Yoga	Barbie Bellman	07740 288498	Every Mon	14.30