

CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS

Hello All

The Christmas party went well and thank you to all those members who let us know they enjoyed it. Your feedback was much appreciated. I would also like to again thank all those members of the committee and co-opted helpers all of whom contributed towards that success.

As we approach 2022, I would like to wish all our members a Happy New Year.

Yet more uncertainty seems the order of the day with the arrival of the Omicron variant. On one hand the infection rates are very high, but it also seems that the impact of catching this variant is milder, but that is still not based on enough data to be sure.

Until things become clearer most groups seem to be taking a cautious approach to meetings early in 2022, and I think this is prudent until the situation becomes clearer. Overall, I think we will all learn to live with Covid with less impact on our day to day lives in 2022.

Stay safe and well.

John Twydle
Chairman

JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING

Rightly or wrongly, we have decided that the risks from the Omicron coronavirus variant are too uncertain for us to go ahead with the January meeting, where Gerald Ratner was due to speak. We shall seek another date with him when conditions are suitable.

In place of the physical meeting, we will be holding a Zoom meeting when the u3a Chairman, John Twydle, will talk about his experiences introducing CT (Computerised Tomography) to the NHS. CT scanning is equivalent to a much-improved form of X-ray which many of you may have experienced. Details of the virtual meeting are below. We hope as many of you as possible will join the meeting.

John Twydle trained at Middlesex Hospital as a Radiographer from 1972 to 1974. During 1976, he worked at Northwick Park Hospital in Harrow where the first Computerised Tomographic (CT) body scanner was installed. John will talk about the history of CT scanning and some of his experiences in helping to introduce this new technology to the NHS.

Philip Ratcliffe is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Maidenhead u3a Zoom Meeting

Time: Tuesday Jan 11, 2022 02:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting by clicking on the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5851172637>

Meeting ID: 585 117 2637

The meeting will open approximately 20 minutes before the start time.

It's that time of year again!

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.

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

OUR 2021 CHRISTMAS u3a PARTY

The best party I've been to in my 20 years as a u3a member.

We would like to convey our thanks to the Committee for the lovely party yesterday. The food was delicious and it was a very enjoyable occasion. We got to meet some new members. Thank you all for your hard work.



Thanks to you, John, and your team for such a successful event. I had never been to a u3a Christmas party before and was really impressed by the organisation, the food, the venue, the entertainment - everything.

The bands were great and the country dancing excellent. I thoroughly enjoyed myself! Some great Christmas jumpers too!

We did live up to the u3a mantra – Live, Laugh and Learn - in more ways than one.



A warm welcome to JACQUELINE COX who joined us in December.

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

GROUP NEWS

New Year, New Group?

Maybe now that Christmas and New Year celebrations are behind us, that little thought that you had about leading or joining a new group is coming to mind again....

Three people have shown an interest in a French Conversation group but we are still looking for a convener for that one. If any of you are interested in this one, or any of the other groups listed below please do call me, Kathy Bell, on 07752 660537 or email me at groups@maidenheadu3a.org.uk.

As a result of recent appeals in the newsletters, we are pleased to report that new groups Ukulele, Fun with Flowers, Art Appreciation, Canasta and Yoga have been set up and have started meetings, or expect to do so in the New Year. (See more details in the programme section)

These potential new groups are still seeking more members and conveners:

Asian Cooking
Beginners Italian
Beginners Spanish
Debating

Gardening
Grumpy Old Women
Needlecraft

QUIZ NIGHT

We may not be Masterminds or able to answer all Ann H's Newsletter quiz questions (ouch..!), but Maidenhead u3a quizzers give it a good go at our monthly events, held normally at The Shire Horse pub on 1st Monday of each month, 7.15 for a 7.30pm start.

Max four persons per team, and £1/head to provide a few little prizes.

Derek Searle is the new Quizzitor following Jean Myhill's sad passing, and promises to keep up Jean's standards - but with a few twists and extras. (Derek's contact details are in Programme information)

And here's the first twist: to get the ball rolling and your post Xmas/NY brains in gear - and, of course, Covid willing - we're breaking the 'first Monday' rule and will meet just this time on the second one: **10 January**. Do come along, forget about dark winter nights, and join in the fun..! "

1. What were the middle names of: (a) William S. Gilbert (b) Winston S. Churchill (c) Harry S. Truman (d) Francis S. Fitzgerald?	11. What is the difference between gauchos and ganchos?
2. What word links a musical instrument, a junior officer, and an ice cream?	12. What is the difference between a but and a ben?
3. What was the relationship between Adam, Benjamin, Caleb, Daniel, Ephraim, Frankincense, Gideon?	13. To an artist, what colours are (a) cerulean (b) viridian (c) van dyke?
4. What would you do with both cats' eyes and onion skins?	14. What was the purpose of putlog holes?
5. In which films were these the last lines? (a) "well, nobody's perfect" (b) After all, tomorrow is another day " and (c) "I've got a great idea!"	15. "After you, Claude". "No, after you, Cecil". Which radio comedians used this regular salutations?
6. Add together the missing numbers in these book titles (a)Years a Slave (b)Years before the Mast (c)Years in Tibet. (d) Round the World inDays (e)Days in Peking.	16. What is. the difference between perihelion and aphelion?
7. What is Cullen Skink?	17. What was the original purpose of the bowler hat?
8. What links a bird and a book?	18. Where would you find the xylem and phloem?
9. What is the purpose of a 'trembleuse'?	19. What was manufactured by Lloyd Loom?
10. Which aircraft was nicknamed the String-bag?	20. What is fescue?

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 & .xls or .xlsx.

Some of you may have noticed the use of a second email address - we hope we haven't confused any of you by introducing a new one as you may receive emails from newsletter.maidenheadu3a@gmail.com The email address newsletter@maidenheadu3a.org.uk is still valid; we can receive and respond to either of them.

Please email us or phone comments or anything that you would like us to consider for the February newsletter NO LATER than 22nd January 2022.

Thank you.

Pat Laković & Nuala Smith

(newsletter@maidenheadu3a.org.uk)

January Programme

Group information below is accurate as at 3rd 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	The January meeting will be on Zoom on 20 th January. We will complete our reading of Aristophanes' Clouds, then make a start on Plato's Symposium, with its varied theories on the nature of love. This group is currently at max capacity, but if there were sufficient interest I would consider starting a new one. Contact Mick by phone or e-mail him at mick_stringer@hotmail.com .	
Art Appreciation	1 st Frid	10.30	Mandy Taylor	01628 298107	This new group is now full and meetings will start soon. Mandy is considering starting a second in 2022. 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	Due to the considerable rise in the Covid infection rate, it has been decided to postpone Brian Madge's presentation to, at the earliest, April. Hopefully, our proposed February and March presentations will go ahead as planned.	V
Book Reading 1	3 rd Wed	14.00	Pauline Sparkes	01753 642490	Book: The Plot by Jean Hanff Korelitz. Venue Barrie Williams, tel. 01189 349525. Please let Barrie 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. Hopefully, there will be no need to revert to bridge online.	
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 Twytle	01628 621644		
Canasta	2 nd Frid	10.30	Christine Wilkinson	07887 887579	All being well, the group will meet on 14 th January.	V

ACTIVITY	DAY(s) in MONTH, TIME		CONTACT	TELEPHONE	NOTES	V / W
Carpet Bowls	Every Mon	14.00	George Bourne	07792 570353	Our group returns on 10th January and is looking forward to our “Christmas Party“ in February (as a family time is being enjoyed in December and our diaries are all too full!)	
Classical Music	2 nd Mon	14.15	John Noakes	01628 637399	Meet at Mollie's (01628 415821). Please let her know that you will be coming.	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	01628 635488	Meet at Shire Horse pub.	
Current Affairs 1	4 th Tues	14.30	Barbara Warmesley	01628 522255	Barbara has taken over from Malcolm Stebles. Meetings will be at her house, 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-convenor 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	We meet at Sandra's in Cookham (01628 522234). Please let her know that you will be coming.	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	We restart our Zoom meetings on 12th January .	W
French Advanced	3 rd Thurs	15.00	Ian Ross	01628 626849		V
Fun with Flowers			Chris Smith	01628 663764	There is room for 2 more members. Please contact Chris by phone or on cwemail@sky.com if you are interested.	V
Garden Visits	4 th Wed	12.00	Maura McGinley	01628 629088	No meeting in January. Next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, 23 rd February for the Annual Lunch. Venue to be confirmed.	
German Advanced	2 nd & 4 th Frid	10.00	Rhona Latham	01628 638740	We enjoyed a festive meeting in December when we enjoyed German Christmas delicacies and, of course, a glass of Gluehwein. We now look forward to resuming face-to-face meetings in the New Year.	

ACTIVITY	DAY(s) in MONTH, TIME		CONTACT	TELEPHONE	NOTES	V / W
German Conversation	Every other Wed	14.00	Vreny Breadon	07900 831041	Note change of time.	
History	2 nd Frid	14.00	Chris Sayers	01628 620647	We ended 2021 meeting socially distanced in one member's home - it was lovely to be meeting again. The history group has decided to begin the new year by exploring the history of South America. The group's members have a wide variety of historical interests including ancient, modern, social and political. We have included all these interests in our programme for the beginning of 2022, so it will be very enjoyable listening to presentations that include all these interests. We have vacancies for any member who would like join us, so please contact Chris if interested.	V
Jazz Appreciation	2 nd Mon	14.00	Kath Evans	07743 572146		V
Latin	2 nd & 4 th Mon	10.45	Mick Stringer	07836 211314	The Latin Group will continue to meet on Zoom. The January meetings will be on the 10 th & 24 th . We'll be reading and translating pieces from the Latin Vulgate Bible, Ovid's tale of Ceres' search for Proserpina, observations on Julius Caesar from the writings of Suetonius and anything else that takes our interest. Anyone with some knowledge of the language, however sparse and rusty, is welcome to 'drop in' for a taster. Contact Mick by phone or e-mail him at mick_stringer@hotmail.com .	V
London Explorers			Janet Rose	01628 624709		
Lunch Club	Monthly		Linda Rahmatalla	01628 671766 07740 853952	Next meeting is Thursday, 27 th January. Venue to be decided.	
Mah Jong	1 st & 3 rd Wed		Jill Waites	01628 628993	Please contact Jill for details.	
Meditation	2 nd Wed	14.30	Marie Krag	01628 632683	Note change of day. Now 2nd Wednesday in the month. mariekrag@talktalk.net	
MOTO (Members on their own)	Mainly Sundays		Jean Gale	01628 825107		
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		

ACTIVITY	DAY(s) in MONTH, TIME		CONTACT	TELEPHONE	NOTES	V / W
Poetry & Prose	3 rd Tues	14.00	Barrie Williams	01189 349525	Meet on 18th January with 'Arrivals and Departures'.	V
Poetry 2	1 st & 3 rd Tues	14.30	Michael Gammage	01628 637801	Most meetings are 'in person', some on Zoom. The group reads & discusses all sorts of poetry. To join, phone or email michael.gammage@outlook.com	V
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	See more information before start of Programme Information. Next meeting is on 10th January . Derek's email address is drs05drs@gmail.com	V
Recorder	1 st & 3 rd Mon	13.30	Edwina Shelley	07708 044152	Meet is on Monday, 10th January only instead of 3 rd .	V
Rummikub	1 st & 3 rd Fri	10.30 to 12.30	Kath Evans	07743 572146	January dates are 7th & 21st January . Meet at the Shire Horse pub. Contact Kath on kmevans4012@gmail.com to confirm attendance. New members welcome.	V
Science	3 rd Thurs	14.15	John Twytle	07786 854920	Talk by Maurice; and bring something interesting to about. Hosts: Mike & Jacqueline Turner, Larkspur House, Mill Lane, Taplow SL6 0AG. Mike's phone # is 07545 504880.	
Scrabble	Last Mon	14.15	Hilary Brodie	01628 522331	Meeting as usual on last Monday in January.	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	Kathy's groups restart from 4th January on the usual days.	
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	2 nd & 4 th Fri	10.00				
Ukulele (Nukes)	Every Wed	11.00 to 13.00	Carolyn Bell	07940 333709	New schedule starts on 12th January . One vacancy. Carolyn's email address is carolynbell64@gmail.com .	V

ACTIVITY	DAY(s) in MONTH, TIME		CONTACT	TELEPHONE	NOTES	V / W
Walks	Various	Varies	John Twydle	01628 621644 07786 854920	Thursday, 13 th January. Meet at 10.00 for 10.15 start at Eton Wick Village hall, Eton Wick Road, Eton Wick, Windsor, SL4 6LT 4 mile flat walk, taking in portions of the Jubilee River and the Thames. Lunch afterwards at the Pineapple Pub, Covid permitting. Walk Leader: John Twydle 07786 854920	
Yoga			Barbie Bellman	01628 773653	The group still needs 5 more members to make it viable. Current members are making plans with the convener.	V



The Spanish for Holidaymakers groups listening to Spanish carols and enjoying a festive game of Loto - or Casa, casa as we renamed it, to practise our numbers, at our final meetings of the year. The chocolate prizes were keenly fought for!!

1. a) Schwenk b) Spencer c) He didn't have one. Both grandfathers had initials so tact dictated that he also had one d) Scott.	11. A Gaucho is a South American cowboy; a gancho is a step in the Argentine Tango.
2. Cornet.	12. This is a two-room cottage, the ben is the front room, the but at the back is the kitchen.
3. Brothers (Seven Brides for Seven Brothers).	13. a) blue b) green. c) brown
4. Playing marbles.	14. They were holes in the upper sections of castle walls to fix timber scaffolding in.
5. (a) Some like it Hot (b) Gone with the Wind (c) The Italian Job.	15. The Western Brothers.
6. $12 + 2 + 7 + 80 + 55$ (total is 156)	16. Perihelion is the closest distance to the Sun. Aphelion is the farthest distance
7. A Scots soup, made from smoked haddock.	17. Landlords had them designed by the Bowler firm to protect their gamekeepers if attacked by poachers.
8. Penguin.	18. In the cross-section of a tree.
9. It is the depression in a saucer where the cup fits to stop it sliding about, as it did in early ones.	19. Household furniture, especially armchairs.
10. The Fairey Swordfish, so called because one can carry everything in a string bag. Also because of the large number of stays. and struts.	20. A feathery grass native to UK.

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
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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 _____

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.
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 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)