

MAIDENHEAD

July 2023

(Registered Charity No. 1074907)

CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS

Hello All,

Well, who would have thought that a talk by an Alpen horn player could be so interesting, and entertaining. If you were not at the monthly meeting, you missed another treat.

We learnt all there was to know about Alpen horns, laughed about the various ways to get an Alpen horn on to a plane and call cows, and we were all alive at the end of it, so we definitely lived up to our motto. This is one of u3a's strengths, to introduce topics that normally we would never come across. See page 9 for Philip Ratcliffe's review of the talk.

It's been good to see several of our newer members getting involved in multiple activities, I know it's not easy to find the right niche for new members, but I would urge you to persevere and seek support from any committee member if you need help. You reap what you sow.

We are well on the way to reaching our target of recruiting more members, if you have friends that are not members, sign them up and enjoy u3a with more of your friends. The new members bring diversity, new expertise and enthusiasm to our groups. Make them welcome.

Best Wishes

John Twydale

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Brian Feldon, Sheila Tinuoye, Naresh & Sharda Atreya, Nic Yannacopoulos,

Bob Presland and Chas Watson.

Maggie Kearney Membership Secretary 01628 637160

JULY 2023 MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, 11 July 2023 at 2.30pm

Humanity's mortality rate is ultimately 100%, and we all wonder what it will be like for us. Hospices are known for easing the transition, but what do they really do in practice? And as you drive along the Windsor Road towards Windsor, what goes on inside that big new development by the lake? Come to the talk in July and you will find out from Michael Gaffney's presentation on the 'The Hospice Movement and the Making of the Thames Hospice'.

He will explain the history of the hospice movement worldwide and in the UK. More specifically, he will cover the history of the Thames Hospice, the services it offers and where it is today.



Michael became a Thames Hospice volunteer in 2019 as part of the Day Therapy Unit. He now volunteers on the three wards/wings assisting staff, patients, their friends and families. He is taking part in two hospice fundraising activities this year: a jazz concert in Windsor and a 40 mile trek through the Grand Canyon in September. He retired from British Airways in 2018 after over 35 years' service, ending his career as a Cabin Service Director and Line Trainer, training hundreds of pilots and cabin crew.

The talk will be held at the Desborough Bowling Club at 10 Green Lane, Maidenhead SL6 1XZ. Please aim to arrive between 2.00 and 2.15pm. To avoid problems with parking, **please share rides if possible**. You may park in the spaces for buses. **If the bowling club car park is full, you can park in front of Lidl or Homebase which are a short walk away for up to two hours, ideally having made a purchase.**

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 complete information about each group, including the name and contact number of the Convener, is on the **u3a website**.

POSSIBLE NEW GROUPS

There are now a few members interested in **Whist** and **Philosophy** so if you would like to be part of the development of these new groups, or a new **Backgammon** group, please contact Kathy Bell.

Explorers 2 and 3

There has been lots of enthusiasm for Explorers 2 and the group is now full. We are starting to arrange our first trips starting in September 2023. There was so much interest that we have started a list for Explorers 3. So far, we have 8 people on the list. Please contact Linda (threeAmain@gmail.com or 07962 255743) if you are interested in joining Explorers 3. Once we have a few more names we will arrange a meeting to see how we can officially start the group.

London Explorers on a recent trip

Canal Capers - on the boat



and by the water



Group Meetings in July

Lunch Club

Lunch Club will be held on Thursday July 27th, venue to be decided, MEN NEEDED!!!

Film Club Monday 24th July

1.45 for a 14.00 start at the Studio, Berry Hill , Taplow SL6 0DA. We will show "Chocolate".

Photography

Meet at the Studio, Berry Hill at 11.15 topic for 11th July is Horizons.

Science Group

Meet at Larkspur House, Mill Lane, SL6 0AG. Melanoma Awareness will be the topic

Long Walk 3.8 miles 13th July

Meet at Eton Wick Recreation Centre SL4 6LT at 10.15 for a 10.30 departure to walk along parts of the Thames and Jubilee rivers. Flat walk no obstacles. Lunch at the Palmers Arms for those that want lunch afterwards. Leader John Twydle 07786854920

Short Walk 2.2 miles 19th July

Meet at the Oak and Saw pub SL6 0ET at 10.30 for a 10.45 depart for a short 2.2 mile walk down to the Jubilee River and back up to the pub, 2 short but steep sections on the walk. Lunch at the pub afterwards for those that want it. Leader John Twydle 07786854920

Social Walk 1.8 miles 25th July

Meet at Jenners Café for Coffee SL6 8NP at 10.30 followed by a flat walk afterwards on both sides of the river and back via Boulters. Leader John Twydle 07786854920.

Nature Amble

Our July Amble will be on Friday 21st July when we will walk across fields from Pinkney's Green towards Cookham, looking for meadow flowers, butterflies, insects, and birds. All are welcome. Contact Jill Waites.

Dog Walking

Due to holidays etc we will not meet in July. We will arrange a start date in August.

Yoga

The Monday afternoon Yoga Group will hold its last session this term on Monday 3rd July, then we will not be meeting again until Monday 11th September.

History - Vacancies

We have finished looking at the social history of Britain through the ages and have now begun our next project. We decided that each be encouraged to give a small historical presentation on any subject that interested us. Please join us as we have vacancies, and the talks we give usually turn out to be discussions and definitely not lectures.

Ukulele - Vacancies

This group is thriving, with two gigs coming up. One for the Townswomen's Guild in Cox Green on June 29th the other at Oak House Care Home in Wexham on July 5th . We now have a member who plays a tea chest base which gives another dimension to the group's sound. We're always keen for others to join us, beginner or not.

Scrabble - Vacancy

There is room for one more member.

Aviation

July's guest speaker will be Graham Laurie, and the "History of Royal Flying". Until his retirement in 2000, Graham had completed over 2300 worldwide flights of members of the Royal Family, in Andovers and BAe 146s.

Garden Visits

The group will meet on Wednesday 26th July. The venue will be confirmed by email.

Threads and Needles Group



Members are admiring Pat Lacovic's bed throw. This was a labour of love completed over 2 years. Pat is on the left in the picture.

1. Who was the opponent of John Isner in the 11-hour marathon of men's singles at Wimbledon ?
 2. What was the name of the Titanic's captain ?
 3. Why did the wealthy of the 18th and 19th centuries frequently have their dining-rooms painted pea-green?
 4. Outside London, which Museum/Art Gallery is most visited in the UK?
 5. What reward could one have claimed after identifying Lobby Lud?
 6. Which is the longest canal in the UK?
 7. What is the smallest breed of (a) antelope (b) deer?
 8. What colour is red tape?
 9. Of which building was it said that it looked as though St Paul's had pupped?
 10. What is the oldest mounted statue on public view in London?
 11. On what occasion would Caspar the Cat be invited to dine at the Savoy Hotel?
 12. What are the silver hallmarks of (a) London (b) Sheffield. (c) Birmingham (d) Edinburgh and formerly (e) Chester?
 13. What is/was a vardo?
 14. In heraldic terms, what is the attitude of a lion (a)walking (b)looking at us(c) rearing
 15. What is the other name of the lapwing?
 16. What is the origin of the phrase 'daylight robbery'?
 17. Why would a single aileron not be of much use?
 18. Who was willing to marry Peggotty?
 19. Where would one find a pontil mark?
 20. Which comedian used to say "Tatty-bye" on leaving the stage?
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[Programme of Group Meetings](#)

Below is a list of the groups currently active in Maidenhead u3a, listed in day order of the week - morning / afternoon. If you need any more information about what any group does, you can find it at <https://www.maidenheadu3a.org.uk/groups/> **WITHOUT having to log in.**

Convener contact details are available at www.maidenheadu3a.org.uk/groups/. You will first need to Log In or if you don't have a Log In you should register for an ID. The instructions on how to register are given above. If you are unable to access the internet, ask another u3a member to help you or contact Kathy Bell. You can find her contact details at the end of this newsletter.

Sunday Groups: Sunday Bridge every week and MOTO (Members on Their Own) once a month.

Variable Days: London Explorers, Walks, Film, Solos and Bucket List.

	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	<p>Dog Walking, 2nd & 4th Latin, 2nd & 4th</p> <p>Spanish Improvers 2, 1st & 3rd</p>	<p>Bridge E, every week Carpet Bowls, every week Classical Music, 2nd French Conversation, 2nd Jazz Appreciation, 2nd Quiz, 1st (evening) Scrabble, Last Mon</p>
Tuesday	<p>Creative Writing, 1st Photography, 2nd Spanish for Holidaymakers 1, 1st & 3rd Spanish for Holidaymakers 2, 2nd & 4th Spanish Improvers 1, every 2 weeks</p>	<p>Art Untutored, 1st & 3rd Current Affairs 1, 4th Family History, 3rd Food and Nutrition, 3rd Guitar, fortnightly Poetry Reading, 1st</p>
Wednesday	<p>Bridge F (beginners) every week French, 2nd & 4th French Improvers, 1st & 3rd Garden visits, 4th (time depends on destination) Maideleles (Ukulele) every week</p>	<p>Book Reading 1, 3rd Book Reading 2, 2nd Lunch on Wednesdays, 1st Mahjong, 1st & 3rd Meditation, 3rd</p>
Thursday	<p>Threads and Needles, 3rd</p>	<p>Ancient Literature, 3rd Aviation, 2nd Beer Appreciation, 4th Bridge C, every week Cribbage, 2nd & 4th Current Affairs 2, 2nd Exploring World Faiths, 1st</p> <p>French Advanced, 3rd German Conversation, alternate weeks Play Reading 1, 1st Popular Music, 3rd Practical Gardening, 1st Science, 3rd</p>
Friday	<p>Art Appreciation, 1st Canasta, 2nd & 4th Creative Cards 1, 2nd & 4th Nature Amble, 3rd Rummikub, 1st & 3rd</p> <p>Spanish Improvers 3, 1st & 3rd Creative Cards 2, 1st & 3rd German Advanced, 2nd & 4th</p>	<p>Fun with Flowers, 3rd History, 2nd Play Reading 2, 2nd Puzzles, 3rd</p>

u3a Talks on Zoom

The u3a national website hosts a number of talks on Zoom each month. They are free to all u2a members. To find the go to [www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational events](http://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational%20events). They cover a huge variety of topics. The first one in the month on July 6th is about **Richborough Castle**.

This talk takes the audience on a virtual tour of one of the most important Roman sites in Britain; not to be confused with Caesar's brief visitations 100 years earlier. Richborough or Rutupiae, as it was known by the Romans, is considered the primary location for the invasion of Britain by the Romans in AD 43.

In 2021 the amphitheatre was excavated, for only the second time. This talk includes an update on the new understandings gained during this exciting time. This virtual tour lasts about 40 minutes.

Later in the month there are talks on Crosswords, Van Gogh, Coral Atolls in the Indian ocean and many more. Just open up the web site.

Thames Valley Network

Our regional network of u3a groups also has a regular programme of events, some on Zoom and some in person. To see what is coming up visit <http://u3atvnetwork.org.uk>

June monthly talk – 'The Magic of the Alphorn'

Frances Jones introduced us to the wonderful world of mountains and cows, and the alphorn used by the cowherds to manage their herds in the high Alpine pastures. A classical musician, she heard a CD of alphorn music in 2004 and was instantly smitten. She is the only professional alphorn player in the UK and recently completed a PhD about the alphorn.

Frances started her talk by producing an impressive nine-foot-long alphorn, on which she played a haunting tune to introduce its magical sound. Using the horns of various animals, she showed that the origins of the alphorn lay in hollowed-out horns being blown into.

The alphorn has been known about as a tool for the Alpine herdsman since the earliest records. It was an essential piece of equipment for calling the cows and for communication in the high mountain meadows. The cowherds in Switzerland used the alphorn to lead their cows to the upland pastures during the warm days of summer. Each cowherd had his own signature call, recognised only by his own animals and calling them to be milked away from other animals with which his own may have been intermingled. Isolated in the uplands during the summer season, the cowherds would trumpet their individual calls in the evening to tell their families in the distant lowland villages that all was well. Failure to call would result in a family member climbing the mountain to investigate.

The alphorn's musical properties are a secondary phenomenon. Since the days of the Grand Tour, it has become an iconic symbol of Switzerland; today it is played by thousands of Swiss as a hobby, and is heard at every Swiss tourist location during the summer season.

Frances showed pictures illustrating the alphorn's cultural history and how it is made. The alphorn has no tuning holes or keys and is played solely by changing the shape of the mouth. The notes played depend upon the natural frequencies of the horn. She finished with a fascinating video of her playing her alphorn in a field in England. The sound caused the cows in an adjoining field to rush across to find out what it was all about! All-in-all Frances' talk was totally engrossing and much discussed at the end of the meeting.

[Answers to June's Quiz](#)

Any queries, email Ann at annghay@icloud.com

1. Nicolas Mahut
2. Edward Smith
3. It was believed that the colour promoted good digestion, but it contained arsenic !
4. Kelvingrove, Glasgow
5. Five pounds
6. The Grand Union, 137 miles from London to Birmingham
7. (a) the Royal antelope (10 inches tall) (b) the Pudu (13 inches tall)
8. Pink
9. The Royal Pavilion, Brighton
10. Charles 1, in Charing Cross.
11. If there would have been thirteen guests at table; a ceramic model of black cat Caspar with a napkin round his neck, sitting on the dining-table, would make fourteen.
12. (a) King's Head (b) leopard regardant (c) anchor (d) castle (e) 3 wheat sheaves and sword.
13. An old horse-drawn gypsy caravan
14. (a) passant (b) regardant (c) rampant
15. Peewit, occasionally called green plover
16. The Window tax, where if you had more than a certain number or size of window, you either paid extra tax or you had to brick up the extra ones, thus depriving you of light and air.
17. You need them in pairs. It is the hinged section on the rear of aeroplane wings (unless you wanted one as a replacement)
18. Barkis in David Copperfield
19. On the base of hand-blown glass items
20. Ken Dodd

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 750kb 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.

Please email us anything that you would like us to consider for the June newsletter NO LATER than **21st June 2023**.

Thank you Nuala Smith & Jack Kerbel

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

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	Nuala Smith	newsletter@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	01628 315446
	Jack Kerbel	newsletter@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	01628 604935
Website Editor	Nigel Roper	web@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	01628 636893
TVN Rep	Jenny Alder	tvn@maidenhead.org.uk	01753 859664

Registering on to the Maidenhead u3a website

You will be able to see a lot of relevant content without registering on to the website, but there is often information that you can only see if you are registered. So, you will need a login.

Our website can be found at <https://maidenheadu3a.org.uk/> Click this link (or copy and paste into your search engine) and then hover over the 'Login' tab, scroll down and click on 'Register' to complete the on-line form. In a couple of days or so you will receive a confirmation email from the webmaster, Nigel Roper, and you will be able to login.

Any problems please contact **Maggie Kearney or Nigel Roper**.

The Social Walk at Cliveden in May

Tea or coffee in the Orangerie followed by a short stroll through the estate

