

CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS

Hello All,

This month I want to focus on our responsibility to keep each other safe. Let me introduce you to "Risk Assessments"; these are documents that demonstrate we have thought about the risks involved in any of our events and have considered what actions we can take to minimise the risk of accidents during a u3a activity. For the vast majority of what we do we only need to do a risk assesment once or every few years. For other events such as the walking group or London Explorers we may need to do risk assesments for each trip or a generic assesment that covers all eventualities.

Now I will be the first to admit that filling out a risk assesment form does not fill me with joy. However, the good news is that our leaders at u3a head office recognise this fact and have crafted a selection of generic risk assesments that just need to be filled in. Members of the committee can help if you are still struggling. This responsibility falls on Convenors and those organising a trip or visit. Risk assesment forms are available on request from me and if you need help please just ask. The important thing is to save the risk assesment and be able to produce it on request.

I have not been overwhelmed by the response to my request for members to consider joining the committee, so I am repeating the appeal. Particularly to some of the newer members; there is no faster way of getting involved with your u3a than to join the committee. No commitment, but come and have a chat to see if it's something you might be able to do.

Best Wishes

John Twydle

Maidenhead u3a Chairman

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to new and returning members

Patricia Norcutt, Shirley Clarke, Janice Waterman, Christine Denniford and
Charlotte Hoare.

Maggie Kearney Membership Secretary 01628 637160

JUNE 2023 MONTHLY MEETING
Tuesday, 13 June 2023 at 2.30pm

In June, Frances Jones will give a talk on the 'The Magic of the Alphorn'. She will introduce you to the wonderful world of mountains and cows, and the alphorn that was used by the cowherds to manage their herds in the high Alpine pastures.



Frances will describe how 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. Its 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 an unmissable attraction to be heard at every Swiss tourist location during the summer season.

Frances Jones is a Classical musician, principally playing oboe and French horn. She heard a CD of alphorn music in 2004 and was instantly smitten. She is the only professional alphorn player in the UK and through her website and personal contacts has invitations to perform, give lectures and teach alphorn all over the world – including Switzerland! She recently completed a PhD about the influence of the alphorn on Classical music, now a fascinating book 'The Alphorn through the Eyes of the Classical Composer'.

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.

Some people have missed the alphabetical list of groups with the names of conveners. This month we have added one as an **appendix** to the Newsletter. If it helps you, please let us know. All the information is, of course, on the **u3a website**.

POSSIBLE NEW GROUPS

Whist

Whist is a simple trick taking game, played in pairs. The players sitting across from each other are a team and together they try to get as many tricks as possible. If you like the sound of this, or are already a player, and would like to form a group with like minded people, please contact Kathy Bell.

Backgammon

Backgammon is a two player board game played with counters and dice on tables boards. It is the most widespread western members of the large family of tables games, whose ancestors date back nearly 5,000 years to the regions of Mesopotamia and Persia. If you are already a player, or would like to become one, and would like to form a group with other u3a members please contact Kathy Bell.

Philosophy

Are you a thinker? Would you like to share your thoughts with other u3a members and perhaps learn about some of the great philosophers of our times? If you are interested in being part of a u3a Philosophy group please contact Kathy Bell.

London Explorers II Vacancies

Great news! After a successful meeting we are now starting a second LONDON EXPLORERS group (London Explorers 2). Membership of group 1 has grown to 30 members so it is high time to start a new group and we already have 12 interested members.

As a reminder – the group organises one trip to London every month, planning the route, activity, coffee and lunch stops and then invites members of the group to come along, supplying all the details and leading the trip. Members of the group are expected to plan one visit to London every 6-12 months dependent upon the numbers in the group. It's best (but not compulsory) to work in pairs to do this, and we recommend a pre-trip to your chosen venue to finalise all the details of the trip.

In London Explorers 1, I have had some wonderful trips to London and developed some great friendships. They are very happy to share their itineraries with new Explorers! It really is not onerous; it is very enjoyable seeing how people love and appreciate the visits you plan. So, if you are interested in joining the group now is the time to take action. Please contact Linda Main by phone (07962 255743) or email (threeAmain@gmail.com) to express an interest in joining or for more information.

Puzzles - Vacancies

The Puzzles group is a happy band of three at the moment and would love some more members to join them, so if you enjoy word, numerical and logic puzzles and would sometimes like to work on them in the company of other people please contact convener Shirley Hitchcock on yelr1hz@gmail.com or by phone on 01628 663168.

Beer Appreciation - Update

The Beer Appreciation group is taking a break for a couple of months during the summer, but will be back soon. Bob and Ann have big plans for this group. To be a part of this new venture, and for more information, please contact them at bob.beauchamp@btinternet.com or give them a call on 01628 639014.

New Conveners

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. 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.

LONDON EXPLORERS 1 at Battersea Power Station



“On the 5th May we had a great day, visiting the refurbished Battersea Power Station. We went round the small museum, and after a lovely lunch, returned to go up in the lift for spectacular views of London. We returned home via the Clipper, again with great views as we sailed along, and back on the wonderful Elizabeth line. Many thanks to Jenny and Sue for their excellent organisation.”



Garden Visit on Wednesday 14th June to Lullingstone Castle and the World Garden

Meet at 9am Maidenhead Leisure Centre car park. The cost is £36. It includes the Coach, admission, and guided tour of Buildings and Gardens. The postcode is RG426HN. Currently I have 10 seats available on the coach. The outing is available to anyone who wants to come. Please contact mauramcginley17@gmail.com 01628629088. Mobile 07767446349.

Group Meetings in June

Nature Amble

On our May amble we found plants we have not seen before, and a pair of Greylags with goslings. The June amble will be a week later than usual, on 23rd June when we will walk to Hurley Chalk Pit to look for orchids and chalk loving plants. All are welcome, for details contact Jill Waites'

Creative Writing – 1 Vacancy

The Creative Writing group which meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 10am, has a position for one extra member. Please contact Mo Wright on 01628 630023.

Book Reading 1 - Vacancies

We are a friendly group and meet on the third Wednesday of each month. We read a wide range of books, and we all make suggestions, which are then put into a reading list for the coming months. We would welcome a new member or two, so if you are interested please contact me and arrange to come and meet us.

Pauline Sparkes (convenor) 01753 64249 paulesparkes@live.co.uk

Film Club Monday 12th June.

The Thomas Crown Affair (Original) 14.00 at The Studio, The Courtyard, Berry Hill, Taplow, SL6 0DA.

Photography

The topic in June will be 'SPEED'

Lunch Club

It will be held on Thursday June 22nd – venue to be decided. New Members, ESPECIALLY MEN!!, always welcome.

Science Group

Change of venue for this month only. The Studio, The courtyard, Berry Hill, Taplow SL6 0DA.

“What are the chances of us being hit by an asteroid”

John Twytle 07786854920

Art Appreciation

The group will meet again on the 1st June. Apologies for the cancellation of the May trip to the Victoria and Albert museum. This was due to unforeseen circumstances.

Scrabble

Please note that the Scrabble Group meets on the last Monday of the month (26th June) at 14.15 until 16.15. Please contact

Hilary Brodie 01628 522331.

Short Walk Thursday 8th June.

Meet at the Shire Horse, Bath Road, Littlewick Green, Maidenhead

SL63QA at 10:45 for 11:00 start.

A 2 mile walk through the Thicket south of A4 with one steep downhill section with hand rail support. **Walk**

Leader is Anne Clark 07879 847375

Walk and River Trip Tuesday 20th of June

Meet at Maidenhead Quay at 10.45 for a 11.00 departure to Windsor. Return trip departs at 16.15 to be back at Maidenhead at 17.45. Please purchase your ticket online ahead of time for the best price (£23.40) from [French Brothers Boat Trips - Maidenhead to Windsor Service - BOOK ONLINE](#) As the cost of the trip has gone up significantly suggest bringing a picnic for consumption prior to walk. **Walk Leader John Twytle 07786854920.**

Quiz 27 by Ann Hay

(answers further on in the Newsletter)

1. In which city might you have been able to visit Rick's Bar?
2. Before nationalisation, Britain had four railway companies. Identify (a) GWR (b) LMS (c) SR (d) LNER
3. What is meant by 'to pitchpole'?
4. What have these in common - The Unthanks, The Silly Sisters, The Young'Uns and Merry Hell ?
5. What is the difference between England and Ireland when referring to "the black stuff"?
6. (a) Which European country has the oldest national anthem? (b) Which European nation has no anthem?
7. Where does Princess Anne come in line of succession to the throne?
8. What wartime service was nicknamed the Wavy Navy?
9. From what infirmity did Nelson suffer?
10. Which Scottish King was killed by an exploding cannon?
11. What was the name of the villainous innkeeper in Les Miserables?
12. Which action song was the favourite of King George VI ?
13. In which British city would you find CubittTown, Hither Green, Mudchute, Seven Dials?
14. Why did Patrick Brontë refuse to allow curtains anywhere in the Haworth Rectory?
15. Where was the greatest loss of shipping in a single day?
16. By what name is the Gravelly Hill Interchange more usually known ?
17. Where can you find a gnomon?
18. What caused the abandonment of many deserted villages in England?
19. Which French artist painted The Raft of the Medusa?
20. What was the original quarrel?

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



Walking Group visit Bluebells
in Ockwells Park in May



u3a Talks on Zoom in June

The u3a has a regular programme of talks via Zoom. All of them are free.

Monday 5 June 2pm – Driving Tips to Save Money and the Planet from IAM RoadSmart

Thursday 8 June 2pm – Expedition Cruising: An Antarctic Adventure

Friday 16 June 2pm – Leo – The World's First Business Computer

Thursday 22 June 10am – Into the mind of an artist. Van Gogh Part 1

See the u3a events website for more information.

Answers to June's Quiz

Any queries, email Ann at annghay@icloud.com

1. In Casablanca
2. Great Western Railway. (b) London. Midland and Scottish (c) Southern Railway (d) London and North Eastern Railway
3. For a small vessel in a stormy sea, if she is facing the land and a big wave comes up behind, it will lift her stern until the boat somersaults.
4. They are all current groups of folk singers.
5. In England it is Tarmac, in Ireland Guinness.
6. (a) The Netherlands; from the 16th century (b) Austria
7. Fourteenth
8. The Royal Naval Reserve, on account of their sleeve insignia not being in straight lines.
9. Seasickness.
10. James II of Scots, in 1460, at Roxburgh Castle (not in warfare)
11. Thenardier
12. Under the Spreading Chestnut Tree.
13. All are areas of London
14. He had a paranoid fear of fire.
15. At Scapa Flow in 1919, when 52 warships were scuttled.
16. Spaghetti Junction
17. On a sundial, the upright piece which throws the shadow.
18. The Black Death
19. Theodore Gericault
20. The bolt from a crossbow

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
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	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**.

Last Minute Information

Maidenhead National Trust Association is having a day out to Longleat Safari Park on Sunday 11 June 2023. The coach will leave Braywick at 9am and return about 6.30pm. There will be time to tour the house and the safari park. The cost is £55 per person. If interested contact Maggie Kearney on 01628 637160 or 07786 501299. for more details.

Aviation Bill Teasdale will present "A lot of Hot Air", which will recall his involvement in hot air ballooning over 40 years, covering the rise of advertising balloons, and commercial passenger carriers.

Appendix

This is a list of the current groups with convener's names and contact details. It will be updated and included from time to time.

Group	Convener	Contact
Ancient Literature	Mick Stringer	07836 211314
Art Appreciation	Mandy Taylor	01628 298107
Art Untutored	Peter Neville	01628 674097
Aviation	Bill Teasdale	01628 672873
Beer Appreciation	Ann Beauchamp	01628 639014
Book Reading 1	Pauline Sparkes	01753 642490
Book Reading 2	Bobby Maunsell	01628 828279
Bridge C	Frances Foster	07548 306782
Bridge E	Mal Geary	07973 193439
Bridge F - Beginners	Susanna Jones	07583 447789
Bridge on Sunday	Susanna Jones	07583 447789
Bucket List	John Twydle	01628 621644 or 07786 854920
Canasta	Christine Wilkinson	07887 887579
Carpet Bowls	Jenny Alder	01753 859664
Classical Music	John Noakes	01628 637399
Creative Cards 1	Eileen Rogers	01628 639656
Creative Cards 2	Eileen Rogers	01628 639656
Creative Writing	Mo Wright	01628 630023
Cribbage	Nigel Furneaux	07721 426768
Current Affairs 1	Barbara Walmsley	01628 522255
Current Affairs 2	Pamela May	01628 605432
Dog Walking	Sandra Brooks	07717 043462
Exploring World Faiths	Michael Gammage	01628 637801 or 07763 405699
Family History	John Noakes	01628 637399
Film	Jenny Webb, and John Twydle	01628 633399 and 01628 637160
Food and Nutrition	Christopher Good	01628 666218
French 2	Margaret Scharff	01628 626849
French Advanced	Ian Ross	01628 627882
French Conversation	Tim Lodge	07939 083996
French Improvers	Evelyne Withey	01628 663764
Fun with Flowers	Chris Smith	01628 629088 or
Garden Visits	Maura McGinley	07767 446349
German Advanced	Rhona Latham	01628 638740
German Conversation	Vreny Beadon	07900 831041
Guitar	Gerri Suggett	01628 824185
History	Chris Sayers	01628 620647

Jazz Appreciation	Richard Kellaway	01628 482605
Latin	Mick Stringer	07836 211314
London Explorers I	Janet Rose	01628 624709
London Explorers II	Linda Main	07962 255743
Lunch Club	Linda Rahmatalla	01628 671766
		07740853952
Lunch on Wednesdays	Lyn Reed	07913 305407
Mahjong 麻将	Jill Waites	01628 628993
Maideleles (Ukulele)	Sarah Mawhinney and Geoff Selvidge	01628 781057 01628 631690
Meditation	Marie Krag	01628 632683
MOTO (members on their own)	Jean Gale	01628 825107
Nature Amble	Jill Waites	01628 628993
Photography	John Twydle	07786 854920
Play Reading 1	Barrie Williams	01189 349525
Play Reading 2	Janet Rose	07786 854920
Poetry Reading	Michael Gammage	01628637801
Popular Music	Barrie Williams	07763 405699
Practical Gardening	Jenny Alder	01189 349525
Puzzles	Shirley Hitchcock	01189 349525
Quiz	Derek Searle	01628 663168
Recorder	Edwina Shelley	01628 822562 or
Rummikub	Janice Walker	07801 926246
Science	John Twydle	07708 044152
Scrabble	Hilary Brodie	01753 852403
Spanish	Kathy Bell	07786 854920
Holidaymakers 1		01628 522331
Spanish	for Kathy Bell	07752 660537
Holidaymakers 2		
Spanish Improvers 1	Barrie Williams	07752 660537
Spanish Improvers 2	Barrie Williams	01189 349525
Spanish Improvers 3	Barrie Williams	01189 349525
Threads & Needles	Maggie Kearney	01189 349525
Walks	Various. Main contact: John Twydle	01628 637160 07786 854920
Yoga	Barbie Bellman	01628 773653 or 07740 288498