

CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS

Hello All,

Firstly, some apologies are in order because of the failure of the audio visual last month at Desborough Bowling Club half way through Mary Spink's talk on Florence Nightingale. While we are not directly responsible for the audio visual service at this venue, we would normally have had a back up in place and we did not on this occasion - that was my direct responsibility and I apologise for letting you and Mary down. Mary did a fantastic and professional job of completing her talk despite the challenges.

I went to the u3a Quiz Night for the first time in February and had a fun evening. If you have not been before I would encourage you to give it a go.

Several activities in our u3a were suspended during the last two years and we need to get some of them running again. As always I am appealing for a few more members to get active again. About 60 members support all the groups and functions that go on in Maidenhead u3a, out of approximately 600 members. Please talk to me or any other committee member if you want to help.

Thank you to the 60.

John Twydle

Membership News

A warm welcome to:

Sandra Brooks, Geoff Selvidge, Angela Millard, Mike Smith and Michael Watts who joined us recently.

FINAL Renewal Reminder (if you haven't yet renewed your membership for 2022)

Your annual subscription was 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.

Thank you to all who have renewed your membership for 2022; there are still a few members who have yet to renew. Please contact Maggie Kearney, Membership Secretary (contact details on last page of newsletter) if you wish to renew OR if you have decided NOT to renew, so that we can keep our database up-to-date.

> **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

2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We give notice today that the **2022 AGM** will be held on **Tuesday, 12th April at 2.30pm.**

We will distribute the Agenda, Minutes of the last AGM held on 13th April 2021 with the April newsletter.

MARCH MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, 8th March at 2.30pm

From Philip Ratcliffe, Speaker Organiser

Our talk this month will be given by David MacLeod on

‘The Wonderful World of Whisky’

David is a Scot who worked for BOAC and later became a consultant. He has lived in Maidenhead since 1980. Apart from whisky, his interests include public speaking, genealogy, and the Clan MacLeod. He is a trustee of a local charity.

In this light-hearted and informative talk, David will provide insights into the world of whisky - what it's made of, how it's made, where it's made and how to buy it by the cask ... that's if you like it as much as David does!

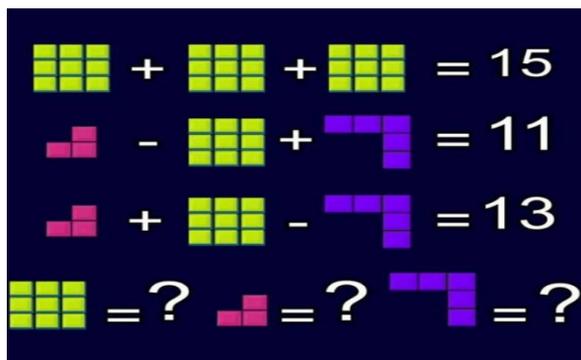
David doesn't guarantee that you'll be a whisky lover by the end of the talk, but you will have an appreciation of what goes into this distinctive spirit. The u3a regrets that free samples are unlikely!

The talk will again be held at the Desborough Bowling Club at 10 Green Lane, Maidenhead SL6 1XZ (Green Lane is just off Stafferton Link and Bray Lane; there is plenty of free parking). Please aim to arrive between 2.00 and 2.15pm, wearing your mask.

Covid protection - We recognise that, while government regulations have relaxed, u3a members may still be vulnerable even though the majority of our members may have been double vaccinated & had a booster. As we are meeting indoors, please wear a mask as soon as you arrive to ensure the greatest level of mutual protection. **If you have not been vaccinated or cannot wear a mask, PLEASE DO NOT COME.** Our concern is to do everything we can to protect all our members.

NB We now hope that Gerald Ratner will be speaking at a later date.

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



Answers on page 11.

GROUP NEWS

Calling New Conveners

We are always looking for new groups for our members so if you have an interest or skill in anything at all and would like to share and explore it with others, please contact Kathy Bell on 07752 660537 or email her at groups@maidenheadu3a.org.uk

We are particularly looking for a **Convener** for the **Theatre group**. If you enjoy going to the theatre and would like to organise theatre outings, please contact Kathy.

DOG WALKING: A New Group?

A new member is keen to start a Dog Walking group.

If you and your dog are interested in joining others for varied walks in the area, please get in touch with Kathy Bell.

LUNCH CLUB

This group meets once a month for a nice lunchtime meal in a congenial location.

Linda Rahmatalla, the group's convener, would like to welcome new members to the group. You will need an email address to receive menus & send your choices to Linda.

Please contact her on 01628 671766 or by email at freelin@talktalk.net

FRENCH CONVERSATION

Some of you have expressed an interest in a French Conversation group. We now have a French lady, Isabelle, who is prepared to lead such a group. Meetings would be on a Monday, once a month initially from 11am to 1pm.

Some knowledge of French is required, however rusty; this group is not suitable for complete beginners.

If you are interested, please contact Kathy Bell, Groups Coordinator (details above).

PLAY READING 1

Sadly my earlier appeal to attract more male participants to the group met with little success so I am trying again.

The group is on the cusp of disbanding if we cannot increase our membership. Yes, it would be wonderful to find one or two more gentlemen, but we also extend a warm and grateful welcome to any ladies with a latent desire to tread the boards, at least virtually, so that we can extend the range of our play choices – no previous acting experience necessary.

Please give serious thought to the prospect of sharing some hugely entertaining and pleasurable afternoons in relaxed company and surroundings.

And there is often cake!

Barrie Williams (01189 349525)

HELP NEEDED

Assistant Website Editor

The job of keeping the Maidenhead u3a website current is no mean feat and Nigel Roper, our webmaster would appreciate some help. He has written a comprehensive training manual for all aspects of our website so if you are that way inclined and would like to either use your existing web editing skills or develop your IT skills in that direction, please contact Nigel at web@maidenheadu3a.org.uk or ring him on 01628 636893.

Thames Valley Network (TVN) Rep

Maidenhead u3a is a member of TVN which holds quarterly meeting (currently on Zoom) for its member groups. As it is made up of so many u3a groups, it is an excellent source of information, national u3a trends & so on which, we could use for our benefit.

The Committee would like someone to take on this role & become our interface with TVN. If you are interested, please contact John Twyde on 01628 621644 / 07786 854920 or email him at chairman@maidenheadu3a.org.uk

ABC to Read

A Berkshire charity, ABC to Read, is recruiting volunteers to train as reading mentors for local school children who are unable to read. The charity has had u3a members in the past and they are ideal.

If you are interested in doing this important job of helping out, go to the charity's website at <https://www.abctoread.org.uk/about/> or contact the charity on 0118 951 1336.

P.S. Note from Editor: To comply with safeguarding legislation, you will need an Enhanced Disclosure from the Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) before you can work in a school as a volunteer. This is likely to be arranged by either the charity or the school.

Maidenhead National Trust Association

Eltham Palace & Hornimann Museum & Gardens

20th March 2022

u3a members and friends are welcome to join the group for this trip.

A coach will leave Braywick car park at 9am and return by 6.15pm approx. Car parking at Braywick is free on Sundays. Cost is £35 (£30 if you are an English Heritage member).

Send your cheque, made out to Maidenhead National Trust Association, to:

Maggie Kearney, 18 Wayside Mews, Maidenhead SL6 7EJ

together with your contact details or call her on 01628 637160 for more information.

Please book by 13th March.

Simpler Times

Someone asked me the other day “What was your favourite fast food when you were growing up?”.

“We didn’t have fast food when I was growing up” I informed him.... All the food was slow! “C’mon, seriously...where did you eat?” he persisted. “It was a place called ‘at home” I answered.” Mum cooked every day and when Dad got home from work, we sat down together at the dining room table, and if I didn’t like what was on my plate I was allowed to sit there until I did like it.

I continued to tell him how I had to ask permission to leave the table. But there are some other things that I could have reminded him about my childhood too.

Some parents NEVER owned their own house, never wore Levis or trainers, never set foot on a golf course or had a credit card. Pizzas were not delivered to our home...but milk and newspapers were.

We didn’t have TV in our house until I was seventeen and of course it was black and white... and the station went off at midnight after playing the national anthem.

My parents never drove me to school as I bicycled to school or walked.

I never had a mobile telephone as the only telephone was on a ‘party line’. Before you dialled, you had to listen to make sure some people you didn’t know weren’t using the line.

There have certainly been a few changes in the films we watched in the cinema too. All films were made for everyone to watch without violence or most offensive language!!

We had a ‘Monday ‘wash day...Tuesday ironing and Wednesday housework and usually Friday shopping, as the ‘man of the house’ had brought home his weekly wage on the Thursday night.....and it all had to be allocated for Gas / Electricity / Rent / Insurance / Clothes Club and Food

Growing up isn’t what it used to be, is it?

George Bourne

Editor: I wonder what memories George’s young(er) companion will pass on to others in 50 to 60 years.

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 (.jpg) & .xls or .xlsx.

Please email us anything that you would like us to consider for the **April** newsletter NO LATER than **23rd March 2022**.

Thank you.

Pat Laković & Nuala Smith

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

March Quiz

(Answers are further on in the newsletter)

1. For what was a testudo used?	11. What are Louboutins?
2. What was the name of Darwin's exploration ship?	12. What is the former name of Eswatini?
3. To what did the Marquis of Granby's rules apply?	13. What would Scots children have meant by "a jelly piece"?
4. What is the world's heaviest flying bird?	14. "I taut I taw a....." what?
5. What product advertised itself as "not too little, not too much, but just right"?	15. What are "oddmedods"?
6. What according to the advertisement, is "Friday Night"?	16. What is "flehming"/or the "flehmen response"?
7. What is a repechaje?	17. Why is it technically incorrect to speak of the "Gobi Desert" or the "River Avon"?
8. Where would you expect to find a blind grommet?	18. Why is it technically incorrect to speak of the "Gobi Desert" or the "River Avon"?
9. What are the capitals of these American states? (a) Alaska (b) New York (c) Georgia (d) Arizona (e) South Dakota.	19. Which British bird sings underground?
10. What word applies to part of a boot and a sexy female?	20. In which film of 1922 did Garbo first speak?

Coming soon to a street near you!

Street golf



Council grass cutting team keeping out of the rain outside Ebbw Vale Hospital



March Programme

Group information below is accurate as at 23rd February 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.

ACTIVITY	DAY(s) in MONTH, TIME		CONTACT	TELEPHONE	NOTES	V / W
Ancient Literature	3 rd Thurs	14.30	Mick Stringer	07836 211314	Meets on Zoom on 17 th March to complete the reading of Plato's Symposium.	
Art Appreciation	1 st Frid	10.30	Mandy Taylor	01628 298107	This new group is now full. Mandy is considering starting a second group. 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	Meet at WLAC. The Garrison Players will present a rehearsed play reading of an excerpt from a play by Terence Rattigan " Flare Path". It is set in a hotel near a Bomber Command Station during WW2 and depicts the trauma of young crew flying daily dangerous missions over Germany & the women who wait for their safe return.	V
Book Reading 1	3 rd Wed	14.00	Pauline Sparkes	01753 642490	Book: Coopers Creek by Alan Moorehead; venue - Pauline Sparkes. The group is now full.	W
Book Reading 2	2 nd Tues	13.00 to 15.00	Bobby Maunsell	01628 828279	This new group will meet in member's homes.	
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.	
Bridge E	Every Mon	13.30	Mal Geary	07973 193439	We usually meet 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. New members welcome.	V
Bridge on Sunday	Every Sun	14.30	Susanna Jones	07583 447789	Meet at Susanna's. New members welcome.	V
Bucket List			John Twydle	01628 621644		
Canasta	2 nd & 4 th Frid	10.30	Christine Wilkinson	07887 887579		V
Carpet Bowls	Every Mon	14.00	George Bourne	07792 570353	Fifield Memorial Hall. Fifield. No vacancies in this group at present.	
Classical Music	2 nd Mon	14.15	John Noakes	01628 637399	We meet this month at Mollie's. Please let her know if you are coming. (01628 415821).	V

ACTIVITY	DAY(s) in MONTH, TIME		CONTACT	TELEPHONE	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					V
Cribbage	2 nd & 4 th Thurs	15.00	Nigel Furneaux	07721 426768	Meet at Shire Horse pub. New members welcome	V
Current Affairs 1	4 th Tues	13.00	Barbara Warmsley	01628 522255	Meetings are held at Spindlewood, High Road, Cookham SL6 9JT. Contact Barbara for directions. Note: now meeting at 1pm.	V
Current Affairs 2	2 nd Thurs	14.15	Janice Waterman	01628 530770	Co-convener is Pam May. Her email is pam.may508@gmail.com	
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	We meet at Sandra's on 15 th March. Please let her know if you intend to come (01628 781538).	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		V
French Advanced	3 rd Wed	15.00	Ian Ross	01628 626849	In-person meetings have resumed. Note new day & time.	V
Fun with Flowers	3 rd Frid	14.00 to 16.00	Chris Smith	01628 663764	There is room for 1 more member. Please contact Chris by phone or on christine.smith@mrsmithgroup.com if you are interested.	V
Garden Visits	4 th Wed	14.00	Maura McGinley	01628 629088	23rd March. Visit to Compton Elms, Marlow Road, Pinkneys Green Maidenhead SL6 6NR.	
German Advanced	2 nd & 4 th Frid	10.00	Rhona Latham	01628 638740	This group has reverted to Zoom for the time being. Rhona hopes it won't be too long before members can meet up again.	
German Conversation	Every other Wed	14.00	Vreny Breadon	07900 831041		
History	2 nd Frid	14.00	Chris Sayers	01628 620647	We meet on 11 th March.	V
Jazz Appreciation	2 nd Mon	14.00 to 16.00	Kath Evans	07743 572146	14th March at Richard's home. New members welcome; contact Kath for more details.	V

ACTIVITY	DAY(s) in MONTH, TIME		CONTACT	TELEPHONE	NOTES	V / W
Latin	2 nd & 4 th Mon	10.45	Mick Stringer	07836 211314	Meets on Zoom on 14 th & 28 th March to look at at Catullus' poems and some more pieces from the Latin Vulgate, and explore further extracts from Lucan's Civil War and Cicero's 'On the nature of the gods'. Mick's email is mick_stringer@hotmail.com .	V
London Explorers			Janet Rose	01628 624709	London visits have been planned for the next 3 months & beyond. There are no vacancies at the moment.	
Lunch Club	Monthly		Linda Rahmatalla	01628 671766 07740 853952	Next meeting is on Thursday, March 24th , venue TBA. New members welcome. See more info in Group News.	V
Mah Jong	1 st & 3 rd Wed		Jill Waites	01628 628993	Please contact Jill for details.	
Maidenhead Nukes (Ukulele)	Every Wed	10.30 to 12.30	Carolyn Bell	07940 333709	The group is now full; Carolyn may consider starting another group if there is sufficient interest. Her email address is carolynbell64@gmail.com .	
Meditation	2 nd Wed	14.30	Marie Krag	01628 632683	Note: Meets on Wed 16th March not 9th. mariekrag@talktalk.net	
MOTO (Members on their own)	Mainly Sundays		Jean Gale	01628 825107	Nothing has been arranged for March as yet.	
Nature Amble	3 rd Frid		Jill Waites	01628 628993	The first amble of the year takes place on Friday, 18th March when we will walk across fields from Furze Platt towards Cookham to look for signs of Spring. All are welcome; contact Jill for details.	V
Play Reading 1	1 st Thurs	14.00	Barrie Williams	01189 349525	See 'Group News' for more information.	
Play Reading 2	2 nd Frid	14.00	Janet Rose	01628 624709	The group is now meeting in-person. It has no vacancies.	
Poetry & Prose	3 rd Tues	14.00	Barrie Williams	01189 349525	Sadly, this group has been suspended for the time being. We hope to resume later.	
Poetry 2	1 st Tues	14.30	Michael Gammage	01628 637801	In-person meetings are on 1st Tuesdays , Zoom meetings on 3rd Tuesdays . The group reads & discusses all sorts of poetry. michael.gammage@outlook.com	V
	3 rd Tues	10.30				
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	Meet at Shire Horse pub. Derek's email address is drs05drs@gmail.com	V
Recorder	1 st & 3 rd Mon	13.30	Edwina Shelley	07708 044152		V

ACTIVITY	DAY(s) in MONTH, TIME		CONTACT	TELEPHONE	NOTES	V / W
Rummikub	1 st & 3 rd Frid	9.30 to 11.30	Janice Walker	01753 852403		
Science	3 rd Thurs	14.15	John Twydle	07786 854920	Meet chez Mike Turner at Larkspur House (phone 07545 504880) to discuss new battery technology and some of the latest research into Alzheimer's. Links to material will be sent about 1 week beforehand.	
Scrabble	Last Mon	14.15	Hilary Brodie	01628 522331	Meeting as usual on last Monday at Hilary's house.	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	Both Spanish for Holidaymakers groups are planning to meet in person from now on. However, we've worked out a "hybrid" system where some members can attend in person and others on Zoom, should this be necessary.	
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 and 3 rd Frid	10.00				
Walks	Various	Varies	John Twydle 01628 621644 07786 854920	Walk Leader - John Twydle	Thursday 10th March Meet at 10.00 for 10.15 start at Gossmore Recreation Ground Car Park, Marlow SL7 1QF . This is possibly the only free car park in Marlow! 4 mile walk on the level - along Thames Path towards Hurley then back across the fields. Last section may be muddy depending on weather in the days preceding the walk. Lunch (if wanted) at The George & Dragon.	
				Walk Leader - John Twydle	Wednesday 16th March. Coffee social and short walk if needed. Meet at The Lake House Café at 11.00. Map on website https://www.lakehousecafe.co.uk/	
				Walk Leader - John Twydle	Tuesday 22nd March. Meet at the National Trust car park, Cookham Moor at 10.45 for 11.00 departure. A 2.7 mile walk towards Bourne End and return. A few steps over the railway bridge. Lunch at the Kings Arms afterwards for those that want it.	
Yoga	Every Mon	14.30 to 15.30	Barbie Bellman	01628 773653 07740 288498	Meet at St Mark's Methodist Church, Allenby Road, Maidenhead. Note: there will be no meetings in school holidays. Group is now full.	W

Answers to March Quiz Any questions? Email Ann at annghay@icloud.com

1. Roman soldiers held their shields over their heads in close formation for protection (Latin for tortoise).	11. High fashion shoes.
2. The Beagle.	12. The Kingdom of Swaziland.
3. Boxing.	13. A jam sandwich.
4. The Great Bustard.	14. A puddy-cat.
5. Erasmic shaving foam.	15. Snails.
6. Amami night (shampoo)	16. The silent snarling of hostile felines.
7. In a race where the losing teams have a second attempt.	17. Because the word 'Gobi' means desert & Avon means river.
8. In the base of a pot like a salt or pepper shaker, a rubber plug filling the aperture where the pot is refilled.	18. It was the only bridge in London bombed during WW2 & two thirds of the force rebuilding it were women as so many (male) builders were in the services.
9. a) Juneau b) Albany c) Atlanta c) Phoenix e) Pierre.	19. The Manx Shearwater (very occasionally puffins).
10. Vamp.	20. Anna Christie.

Answers to maths puzzle

5, 12, 2

Committee Members & other u3a links

Chairman	John Twydle	chairman@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	01628 621644
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Secretary	Janet Rose	secretary@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	01628 624709
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Websites & Social Media

Maidenhead u3a	www.maidenheadu3a.org.uk
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Thames Valley Network	www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk
Third Age Trust	www.u3a.org.uk