

CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS

Hello All,

Maidenhead u3a was founded in 1998 which makes us 25 years old this year. As a committee, it's not only our job to make sure things run smoothly on a day to day basis, but also that our management is up to date. During the last year one of the committee members pointed out that what was written in our constitution was not what we did in practice. So we commenced a full scale review of our 25 year old constitution. One member of the committee led those efforts and we should be very grateful to Pat Laković for her tenacity and hard work.

We soon became aware that the current "model" constitution from Head Office had many more sections than our old constitution and was far more up to date. At an extended committee meeting we reviewed all the sections and decided to adopt the model constitution with some minor amendments. We submitted the tweaked model constitution back to head office for approval, which we now have. As a result, in March you will be able to request copies of the revised constitution which we will present for your approval at the AGM in April.

While I am sure not too many of you will dive into every section, it's important that our u3a is up to date.

John Twyde

Chairman

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

Beverly Eastwood, Ken Gallagher, Pam Evans, Vivian Allport, Ruth Burgess, Patricia Phillips, Maggie Scott, Penny Bysshe, Douglas Markovits, Viviane Holland, Avril Jones, Edward Exler, Jack Kerbel, Kathryn Shaw, Susi Ulph, Julie Trimming and Jeanette Sperling.

99% of all new members heard about Maidenhead u3a from a friend, so please do continue to spread the word about us and all the interest groups we have.

Thank you again for renewing your membership for 2023. If you have any queries do get in touch.

Maggie Kearney Membership Secretary 01628 637160

membership@maidenheadu3a.org.uk

MARCH MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, 14 March 2023 at 2.30pm

Our guest speaker in March is Rob Preece, Communications Manager at The Howard League for Penal Reform, a charity working for less crime, safer communities and fewer people in prison. He will give us a talk on

The State of Prisons Today

Today, the UK has over 80,000 people in prison, the highest number in Western Europe. There are frequent reports in the news about appalling conditions and abuses in British jails. Find out from an expert the truth about British prisons, what is being done, and what needs to be done.

Rob Preece has worked on some of the Howard League's most successful campaigns, including Books For Prisoners, which overturned government restrictions preventing people in prison receiving books from family and friends. He was formerly a journalist, specialising in crime and politics.



The Howard League was established in 1866 and named after the prison reformer John Howard. The charity aims to reduce the harm caused by crime and punishment and to build a safer and fairer society for all.

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.** We no longer require anti-Covid masks to be worn, but anyone who wishes to wear a mask is welcome to do so.

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

2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We give notice today that the 2023 AGM will be held on

Tuesday, 11th April at 2.30pm

in the Desborough Bowling Club.

We will distribute the Agenda and the Minutes of the last AGM held on 12th April 2022 with the April newsletter.

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.

Puzzles We now have a convener for a Puzzles Group which would concentrate on working together on more “intellectual” types of puzzle such as: Sudoku, Number Jig, Piecework, Strip Trick and Code Word. For further details please contact Shirley Hitchcock preferably by email yelr1hz@gmail.com, or message her mobile no 0776806882 or Kathy Bell.

Threads & Needles Maidenhead u3a's answer to Knit & Natter. We have members knitting, crocheting, mending and sewing, so bring along your 'on-your-lap' crafts and we can share tips and hacks. New members welcome, Contact Maggie Kearney.

Book Group 2

The next meeting will be on 8th March at 1-30pm. Book - American Dirt by Janine Cummins. Venue: Jessie Cooper. New members welcome.

The Wednesday Lunch Club will be at The Golden Ball on **Wednesday, 1st March**. For more information contact Lyn Reed.

Aviation Group The March presentation will now be a visit from Keith Fostekew, who many will know as the curator of the Museum of Berkshire Aviation at Woodley. He will present “**The Air Survey Co of White Waltham**”.

Photography Group You do not need any fancy equipment to be a member; in fact most of us are using the cameras on our phones. Each month we choose a topic and share our efforts over tea/coffee. It's a good way to learn from others and share our interest. The topic for March is **Bridges**.

We meet on 2nd Tuesday of each month at 11.15 in the studio at the Courtyard, Berry Hill, Taplow SL6 0DA. Convener is John Twydle 01628 621644. Come and join us.

Long Walk - Thursday, 9th March

Meet at Eton Wick Village Hall SL4 6LT at 10.00 for a 10.15 departure.

Flattish circular 4 mile walk alongside parts of the Jubilee River and Thames surfaces generally paved or gravel. Walk Leader is John Twydle. Contact him on 07786 854920.

Lunch at the Palmers Arms for those that wish it.

Lunch Club will be on **Thursday, 30th March**, venue to be decided. New members always welcome.

Garden Visits Group Visit to Cliveden National Trust on **Wednesday 22nd March @ 13.00**. Convener: Maura McGinley. Phone 01628 629088 or 07767 446349.

Nature Amble The first amble of the year will take place on **Friday, 17th March**, when we will walk along the Green Way and Stand Water looking for signs of Spring. All are welcome; please contact Jill Waites for details.

Short Walk - Tuesday, 21st March

Walk Leader Cliff Sparkes. Meet at 11am for 11.15am start at The Royal Standard Pub, Wooburn Common, **HP10 0JS** (next to Odds Farm). A 2 mile level walk on country lanes and farm land. Lunch at the pub afterwards if desired. Contact Cliff on 07786 854920.

Ukulele Group Our friendly group of strummers is pleased to announce that we have a new convener. Sarah Mawhinney has kindly taken over from Carolyn Bell who originally set up the group.

The group has now grown to 14 and we welcome all new members at any level. We have our first gig this year in March, returning to Sandown Park Nursing Home.



So, if you fancy learning a new hobby, you are very welcome to join us and see what we do, have a sing along and a cuppa. Just turn up or contact Sarah on sarahpmawhinney@gmail.com Mob # is 07900251418

We meet at White Waltham Parish Hall, SL6 3SG, every Wednesday morning at 10.30 -

Guitar Group



We are a very new group who love the guitar. We are still finding our feet with regard to style but we all get on very well and are enjoying our playing.

We are mainly playing folk/rock but a few of us are also exploring early classical pieces.

We have also discussed playing a bit of Dire Straits in the future, so watch this space!

Late News! The new **Beer Appreciation** group invites **you** to its inaugural meeting at the **Craufurd Arms**, 15 Gringer Hill, Maidenhead, SL6 7LY at **1.30pm** on **Thursday, 30th March 2023**. (Toasted sandwich and a pint for £5).

The aim is to explore the world of beer in all its variety and complexity, to learn how diverse styles and tastes are developed, and to foster the social atmosphere in which beer is best consumed. More later.

Still calling new conveners

If you would like to set up a group, please get in touch with Groups Coordinator, Kathy Bell, or another committee member. All contact details are shown on the last page.

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, register for an ID. 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 Bowl, s every week Classical Music, 2 nd French Conversation, 2 nd Jazz Appreciation, 2 nd Quiz, 1 st (evening)
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, 2 nd & 4 th	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 (Ukelele) 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 Bridge C, every week Cribbage, 2 nd & 4 th Current Affairs 2, 2 nd Exploring World Faiths, 1 st Family History, 3 rd French Advanced, 3 rd German Conversation alternate weeks Play Reading 1, 1 st Popular Music, 3 rd Science, 3 rd
Friday	Art Appreciation, 1 st Canasta, 2 nd & 4 th Creative Cards 1, 2 nd & 4 th Creative Cards 2, 1 st & 3 rd German Advanced, 2 nd & 4 th Nature Amble, 3 rd Rummikub, 1 st & 3 rd Spanish Improvers 3, 1 st & 3 rd	Fun with Flowers, 3 rd History, 2 nd Play Reading 2, 1 st

Quiz 19 by Ann Hay

(answers further on in the Newsletter)

1. Which was the first London tube station to have an escalator?
 2. What is the Severn Bore?
 3. Where would one find ailerons?
 4. What was the name of Henry VIII's elder brother?
 5. What name used to be given to the waitresses in Lyons Corner Houses?
 6. Where would you choose the one-and-threes, one-and-nines, or two-and-threes?
 7. The colours of the suffragette movement were Green, White and Violet. What slogan did the initials indicate?
 8. In which of the world's seas or oceans are contained the largest number of shipwrecks?
 9. Who is the lead singer of the folk group The Pogues?
 10. If a creature is described as melanistic, what does it look like?
 11. What is the only food that koalas will eat?
 12. What is the real name of Aircraftsman T.E.Shaw?
 13. What is the better-known name for the battle of Senlac Hill?
 14. What is the difference between a plantigrade animal and a digitigrade one?
 15. What is (a) a widow's peak? (b) a grass widow?
 16. Which 1948 Western film featured characters Thomas Dunson, Matthew Garth, Groot, and Cherry Valance?
 17. On the Beck map of the London Underground system, what colours are:
(a) District line (b) Northern line (c) Piccadilly line (d) Jubilee line (e) Elizabeth line?
 18. What is the difference between (a) metatarsals and (b) metacarpals?
 19. Where would one find the Mohorovičić Discontinuity?
 20. How did archy the cockroach write his stories of mehitabel the cat?
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Spitfire Women Review of monthly meeting held on 14th February 2023

Speaker David Horton's subject was the work of the women in the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) during WWII. Headquartered at White Waltham, it was a civilian unit created to fly fighter and bomber aircraft from factories to airfields when there was an acute shortage of trained male pilots.

During the war, 1,152 men and 166 women in the ATA delivered 309,00 aircraft of 147 different types. Initial training started in Tiger Moths with no radio or instrument flying instruction. Pilots had to fly with only a compass and map in all weathers, but never at night.

At first, women wore skirts but that proved impractical for flying aircraft so they later wore trousers. Warm gear was essential as planes were not heated. One woman, Lettice Curtis, flew six different aircraft to six different locations on the same day, before nightfall, without mishap. Another flew under the Severn railway bridge, not realising the tide was in, and had a very narrow escape. Yet another crash landed her Swordfish and finished up in the first aid post. Inevitably there were casualties, and they were also attacked by enemy aircraft and had to take evasive action. Deaths were more often due to foul weather than mechanical failure. The graves of some pilots who lost their lives are in All Saints graveyard.

Initially, female pilots were paid 20% less than males, but from 1943 they were paid the same as men. Male pilots were mostly those pilots too old to enlist in the RAF or disabled in some way, such as having only one arm!

David showed a short war film of female pilots and photos and stories about some of them before concluding this well-attended lecture.

Submissions to Newsletter - especially Pictures

If you wish 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 we use to insert these files requires considerable additional effort. Acceptable formats are: .docx, .doc, .jpeg (.jpg) & .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 March newsletter NO LATER than **23rd March 2023**.

Thank you

Nuala Smith & Pat Laković

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

South East u3a Forum Summer School

The 2023 Summer School will take place at the University of Chichester from **4th to 7th September**, inclusive. All courses are tutored by experienced u3a members. There will be a range of subjects, academic through to practical and active. Information will be in the Third Age Trust's monthly newsletter at <https://u3asites.org.uk/southeastu3aforum/home> and in the Spring edition of the 'Third Age Matters' magazine.

Sally Ingledew, South Central Network Manager
07772368919 / 01329667509

Answers to March's Quiz Any queries, email Ann at annghay@icloud.com

1. Earls Court.
2. Periodically the Severn flows upstream, often quite violently, and people like to try to ride on the wave or Bore using boards.
3. On the rear edges of aeroplane wings.
4. Arthur.
5. Nipples.
6. In cinemas, differently priced areas of the auditorium.
7. Give Women Votes.
8. The Goodwin Sands, in the southern part of the North Sea.
9. Shane McGowan.
10. Abnormally dark skin lacking normal colouration.
11. Eucalyptus leaves and twigs.
12. T.E.Lawrence.
13. Battle of Hastings 1066.
14. A plantigrade one walks on flat feet and hands, a digitigrade walks on its knuckles.
15. (a) on a person's forehead where the hair grows forward in a peak (b) a woman who is frequently left alone while her husband is out enjoying himself, often at sport.
16. Red River.
17. (a) green (b) black (c) dark blue (d) grey (e) purple.
18. (a) are bones in the toes (b) are bones in the fingers.
19. It is the layer between the earth's crust and its mantle.
20. By diving headlong on to the typewriter keys; hence he could not manage capitals.
(Created by Don Marquis).

Committee Members & other u3a links

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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



**Spring
is here
at last**

Nuala Smith