

CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS

Hello All,

Last month I talked about setting up a regular coffee morning in town where people could just pop in for a chat and a cuppa. To try and get this moving we will meet at the café in the library on Wednesday the 27th of March between 10 and 11am. Depending upon the turnout, we will continue to evolve the idea based on the input of those that turn up. I want to also thank Bill and Pam Teasdale for their efforts over many years to provide that service pre covid.

We have the AGM in April, and we are always looking for more members to join the committee, particularly the newer / younger members who are new to u3a. It's a great way to get involved with our u3a and to widen your circle of friends / contacts. If interested speak to me or another member of the committee, my contact details are at the end of the newsletter.

On Wednesday the 13th of March a local Charity called Men's Matters is holding a health and wellbeing Fayre for older men **and** those that support them, at the Library in Maidenhead between 1.30 and 4.30 pm. The event is free. Twenty- six local organisations including Maidenhead u3a will have stands there. If anyone is free to join me let me know. For more information go to <https://www.mensmatters.org>

As always, a big thank you to all those members that make Maidenhead u3a happen.

Best Wishes, John Twydle

WELCOME TO NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

Matthew Kemp, Helen & Bernie Schueler, Marilyn Smith, Eileen & Aidan Haughey, Teresa Neighbour, Kath Pinto, Marie-Christine Geary, Nadine Boissaud-Cooke, Joan & Paul Burrow-Newton, Ian & Jan Gilchrist, Chris Dennison, Clare Lyonette, Janet Lawson and Carol Huntington.

GROUP NEWS

A busy start to the year for the Maideleles!

It's only a few weeks into the year but the Maideleles have already played 3 gigs!

Our first was entertaining the Residents of Blyton House in Bourne End at the end of January. The full ensemble turned out and played a selection of old time favourites and sixties pop. The audience were enthusiastic and the hospitality offered when we finished playing was outstanding. At the end of the show the players mingled with the residents talking ukulele and offering them a 'strum'.

Into February and a small section of our group played during the interval at the **Little Red Ridinghood** panto at Cox Green Community Centre. The audience sang along lustily with us as all the songs were long-standing favourites. Much fun was had by everyone.



On 12th February another section supported Linda Main and **'The Entertainers'** at the Monday Club in Burnham Methodist Hall. These gigs are particularly enjoyable as it is proper 'Music Hall' stuff and the Maideleles provide musical interludes whilst the Entertainers change costumes between their sets. The 'Monday Clubbers' had a great time and enthusiastically did all the arm movements and sang the choruses of 'YMCA' before



joining in with the Grand Finale of 'Bring Me Sunshine'.

With 20 members in the group now, we are now at capacity for our weekly meetings in White Waltham Parish Hall; we have come a long way in just 2 years!

Top left: Blyton House 31st Jan

Top right: The final, Burnham Monday Club 12th Feb

Bottom left: Cox Green Panto 10th Feb

Bottom right: The Burnham 'Village People'

SETTING UP NEW GROUPS

We now have a new convener for the **MOTO** (Members On Their Own) group. This is principally a Sunday lunch group which provides company and an outing on what can be a lonely day. Lyn Reed, who also runs the Lunch on Wednesdays group, is happy to take over the organisation of MOTO, beginning with a lunch on Sunday March 17th, and then twice a month initially, visiting all kinds of different restaurants. To cover for holidays a volunteer to act as co-convener would be helpful. If you would like to join, or rejoin this group, please contact Lyn on 07913 305407, or email her at lyn.reed123@googlemail.com for further information and details of the first outing.

SOLOS

This was a support group for people living alone or caring for a loved one, where they could share their concerns about new challenges and possibly make new friends. Unfortunately, this group is closing as none of the members felt able to take over the convener role. If you would like to help to resurrect this group, or join or rejoin it, please contact me, Kathy, contact details as above.

THEATRE

We have had several enquiries from some of our newer members about a theatre visits club. This was a very successful group for many years but now needs a new convener to make the bookings and organise transport where necessary. Once the group was set up, members could take turns in organising a trip. If you would be interested in helping to set up this group again, please let me, Kathy, know.

As ever, if there is any subject at all that you would like to share with others, or if an existing group is full, please think about leading a group of your own, or setting up a second group in the case of one of our over-subscribed groups. For further information on becoming a convener please contact me, Kathy, Groups Coordinator, by email on kathy.bell1@btinternet.com or call me on 07752 660537.

COFFEE MORNING

Coffee morning in town where people could just pop in for a chat and a cuppa. To try and get this moving we will meet at the café in the library on **Wednesday the 27th of March between 10 and 11.00**, and depending upon the turnout we will continue to evolve the idea based on the input of those that turn up.

John Twydle 07786 854920

AVIATION GROUP - A message from the new convener, Derek Searle

“From The Red Arrows to The Dambusters; from airports to the aircraft using them; from military actions to current civilian air ambulances. The MU3A Aviation group has a fascinating variety of subjects covered and talks made by guest speakers. We meet every 2nd Thursday of the month at West London Aero Club in White Waltham, in itself a wonderful and memorable venue - and with a very nice bar/restaurant.

Our next meeting is on 14 March, with a presentation by renowned WW2 author and commentator, Chris Goss, on **Channel Dash** - a daring escape bid by three German capital ships trapped at Brest in 1942 and ordered by Hitler to break out “at all costs”.

Too dry? Too heavy? Not at all! We are a group of old professionals and young (ha ha) amateurs alike - and we have outside “awaydays” too! Do come along to WLAC and join our group - we look forward very much to welcoming you.”

Science – 21st of March. **The James Webb Space Telescope.**

Please research the topic and bring anything with you or if in electronic form send to me before the meeting. The host is Jacqueline Turner, Larkspur Cottage, Mill Lane, Taplow.14.15 for a 14.30 start. Convener John Twydle 07786 854920

Film - Thursday 7th of March at 14.00.

We will show **Ex Machina** and we will show **“The Prestige”** on Tuesday the 19th of March. At The Studio, The Courtyard, SL6 0DA. Jenny Webb and John Twydle 07786 854920

Short Walk – 19th March

Meet at The Shire Horse car park 10.45 for a 11.00 start. SL6 3YN.

We will walk around the Maidenhead Thicket and Woolley Firs Nature reserve. Lunch/ refreshments at the pub. Walk Leader Jeannie Otun 07756 002188.

Long Walk – 7th March. Meet at 10.15 for a 10.30 start.

Join Paul and Linda Main for a flat 4 mile walk through fields, wooded and riverside paths in Eton and Boveney. Meet at the Ramblers Car Park in Boveney SL4 6QQ – take care as there are several large potholes on approach.

Wellies or sturdy waterproof boots are recommended as there was a lot of ground water and muddy patches along this scenic path when walked recently. Lunch at the Palmer Arms afterwards for those who wish. Walk Leaders Linda and Paul Main 07920 712634

Photography - Tuesday 12th of March at 11.15.

The Studio, The Courtyard, Berry Hill, Taplow SL6 0DA. The Topic is **Sweets**.
John Twydle 07786 854920

Lunch Club - Thursday March 28th, venue to be decided.

Art Appreciation – We are now full up and I have no plan to start a second group. If anyone else would like to offer a second group I would be happy to advise. Our next topic for discussion on Friday March 1 (10.30-12.30) will be the Art of James McNeill Whistler. Please send your chosen picture to John.

Garden Visits – Wednesday March 20th 2pm.

Venue. Compton Elms, Marlow Road, Pinkneys Green, Maidenhead SL6 6NR.
Maura McGinley 01628 629088 Mobile 07767446349.

Nature Amble - Friday 15th March

For the first amble of the year we plan to walk across fields and in woodland at Pinkney’s Green to look for signs of Spring. All are welcome, please contact Jill Waites for details.

Jazz Group - will meet first Monday in March instead of usual second Monday.

Book Group 2

The group is now at full capacity. There are 3 new u3a members joining us in March 2024.

Creative Cards 2

The group is now full and there are 2 on the waiting list.

Men-at-Alms: The Quirky Military Knights of Windsor – Simon Durnford

MONTHLY MEETING - Tuesday, 12 March 2024 at 2.30pm

The Military Knights of Windsor were founded in 1348 as a charity for impoverished men-at-arms.

This light hearted presentation will describe the group's history and include the stories of some past Knights (amongst whom have been crusaders, artists, con-artists, judges, freed slaves, free-booters, mad baronets, butlers and highly distinguished soldiers).

Our speaker, Simon Durnford's up-bringing was a mix of privilege, as the son of a naval officer, and poverty, when his father exchanged military for Holy Orders. He studied medicine at Guy's Hospital and then joined the army, specialising in aviation medicine. On retirement, he and his wife farmed livestock for fifteen years before he re-joined the service as the 655th Military Knight of Windsor.

The talk will be held at the Desborough Bowling Club at 10 Green Lane, Maidenhead SL6 1XZ.

Please arrive between 2.00 and 2.15pm. **More details are being sent in a separate email.**

2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

*We give notice today that the **2024 AGM** will be held on
Tuesday, 9th April at 2.20 pm in the Desborough Bowling Club.*

We will distribute the Agenda and the Minutes of the last AGM held on 11th April 2023 with the April newsletter. Please note the earlier start time.

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 750 kb 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. Email attachments are much easier for us than embedded pictures.

Please email us anything that you would like us to consider for the next newsletter NO LATER than the 22nd of the month.

Thank you, Nuala Smith & Jack Kerbel newsletter@maidenheadu3a.org.uk and 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
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Programme of Group Meetings

This is the list of current group meetings including contact details for Conveners. You can find more information about what any group does, at <https://www.maidenheadu3a.org.uk/groups/>
The Sunday Groups are: Bridge every week and MOTO (Members on Their Own) once a month.
Groups with Variable Days are: London Explorers, Walks, Film, Garden Visits and Bucket List.

GROUP	CONVENER	CONTACT	DAY	TIME
A				
Ancient Literature	Mick Stringer	07836 211314	3 rd Thurs	14.30
Art Appreciation	Mandy Taylor	01628 298107	1 st Fri	10.30
Art Untutored	Peter Neville	01628 674097	1 st 3 rd Tues	14.00
Aviation	Derek Searle	07801 926246	2 nd Thurs	14.30
B				
Book Reading 1	Pauline Sparkes	01753 642490	3 rd Wed	14.00
Book Reading 2	Bobby Maunsell	01628 828279	2 nd Wed	13.00
Bridge C	Frances Foster	07548 306782	Every Thurs	14.00
Bridge E	Mal Geary	07973 193439	Every Mon	13.30
Bridge: Beginners and Improvers	Susanna Jones	07583 447789	Every Mon	9.30
Bridge on Sunday	Susanna Jones	07583 447789	Every Sun	14.00
Bucket List	John Twydle	07786 854920	Varies	
C				
Canasta	Christine Wilkinson	07887 887579	2 nd 4 th Fri	10.00
Carpet Bowls	George Bourne	07792 570353	Every Mon	14.00
Creative Cards 1	Eileen Rogers	01628 639656	2 nd 4 th Fri	10.00
Creative Cards 2	Eileen Rogers	01628 639656	1 st 3 rd Fri	10.00
Creative Writing	Mo Wright	01628 630023	1 st Tues	10.00
Cribbage	Nigel Furneaux	07721 426768	2 nd 4 th Thurs	15.00
Current Affairs 1	Barbara Walmsley	01628 522255	4 th Tues	13.45
D and E				
Dog Walking	Sandra Brooks	07717 043462	2 nd 4 th Mon	11.00
Explore World Faiths	Michael Gammage	07763 405699	1 st Thurs	14.30
F				
Family History	John Noakes	01628 637399	3 rd Tues	14.30
Film	Jenny Webb	01628 633399	Varies	
	John Twydle	07786 854920		
Food and Nutrition	Christopher Good	01628 628157	3 rd Tues	14.00
French 2	Pat Laković	01628 666218	2 nd 4 th Wed	10.00
French Advanced	Ian Ross	01628 626849	3 rd Thurs	15.00
French Conversation	Tim Lodge	01628 627882	2 nd Mon	12.15
French Improvers	Evelyne Withey	01628 627603	1 st 3 rd Wed	10.30
Fun with Flowers	Chris Smith	01628 663764	3 rd Fri	14.00
G				
Garden Visits	Maura McGinley	01628 629088	Varies	
German Advanced	Rhona Latham	01628 638740	2 nd 4 th Fri	10.00
German Conversation	Vreny Beadon	07900 831041	Alternate Thurs	14.00

H and J				
History	Chris Sayers	01628 620647	2 nd Fri	14.00
Jazz Appreciation	Richard Kellaway	01628 482605	2 nd Mon	14.00
L				
Latin	Mick Stringer	07836 211314	2 nd 4 th Mon	10.45
London Explorers I	Janet Rose	07762 339873	Varies	
London Explorers II	Christine Feldon	07941 253427	Varies	
London Explorers III	Carol Cameron	07798 882378	Varies	
Lunch Club	Linda Rahmatalla	01628 671766	Varies	
Lunch Wednesdays	Lyn Reed	07913 305407	1 st Wed	
M and N				
Mahjong	Jill Waites	01628 628993	1 st 3 rd Wed	14.00
Maideleles (Ukelele)	Sarah Mawhinney	01628 781057	Every Wed	10.30
	Geoff Selvidge	07817 615677		
Meditation	Marie Krag	01628 632683	3 rd Wed	14.00
MOTO	Lyn Reed	07913 305407	Sundays	
Nature Amble	Jill Waites	01628 628993	3 rd Fri	10.15
P				
Philosophy	Jack Kerbel	01628 604935	3 rd Mon	14.00
Photography	John Twydle	07786 854920	2 nd Tues	11.15
Pickle Ball	Mark Burley	07711 952044	tba	
Play Reading I	Barrie Williams	01189 349525	1 st Thurs	14.00
Play Reading II	Janet Rose	07762 339873	2 nd Fri	14.00
Poetry Appreciation	Michael Gammage	07763 405699	1 st Tues	14.30
Popular Music	Barrie Williams	01189 349525	3 rd Thurs	14.30
Practical Gardening	Jenny Alder	01753 859664	1 st Thurs	14.00
Q and R				
Quiz	Derek Searle	07801 926246	1 st Mon	19.15
Recorder	Edwina Shelley	07708 044152	1 st 3 rd Mon	13.30
Rummicub	Janice Walker	01753 852403	1 st 3 rd Fri	09.30
S				
Science	John Twydle	07786 854920	3 rd Thurs	14.15
Scrabble				
T, W and Y				
Threads and Needles	Maggie Kearney	07786 501299	3 rd Thurs	10.00
Walks (various)	John Twydle	07786 854920	Varies	
Yoga	Barbie Bellman	07740 288498	Every Mon	14.30