

Chairman's Thoughts

Hello All,

As I write my first Chairman's thoughts I have a sense of optimism, partly because it's warm and sunny outside, partly because I am an optimist by nature and partly because I probably have yet to realise the magnitude of the responsibility I have taken on. By now many of our members will have had both their Covid jabs and as yet, nothing has thrown us off track for the next release of lockdown. I know many convenors are considering restarting activity and some already have. It was great to see 19 members (in 4 socially distanced groups) walking part of the Thames path this morning (20th April).

We are working towards finding a new venue for our monthly meeting and I hope we can start face to face main meetings together again in June; keep your fingers crossed on this one.

One member asked me if the u3a could be more "social" and I see no reason why not. Talk to those committee members you know about what you would like to see your u3a do. If you don't know a committee member, contact me; my contact details are at the end of the newsletter.

I am looking forward to some of the new groups like The London Explorers and the Bucket List group to get active to encourage our current and new members.

As always, we have a couple of committee vacancies - Publicity is vacant and Linda Main is wearing the Membership Secretary and Treasurer's hats - we need a couple of dynamic helpers for the existing team; talk to us if you are interested.

Stay safe and well.

John Twytle, Maidenhead u3a Chairman

Monthly talk for May

We are not yet able to re-start live monthly meetings, but we are pleased to be able to offer you a streamed talk for May.

Time Gentlemen Please



Have you ever wondered why there are 24 hours in a day, 60 minutes in an hour, and 60 seconds in a minute? This talk by Baz Hamblin will explain everything about time and the calendar. The talk will be streamed on **Tuesday, 11 May at 2.30pm**. You will need to register in advance at <https://mirthy.co.uk/u3a-maidenhead/> Once registered you will receive a confirmation email with a unique link in it to access the talk. You will be sent a reminder email too. If you register and do not receive the confirmation email, please check your junk or spam folders, or email alex@mirthy.co.uk direct.

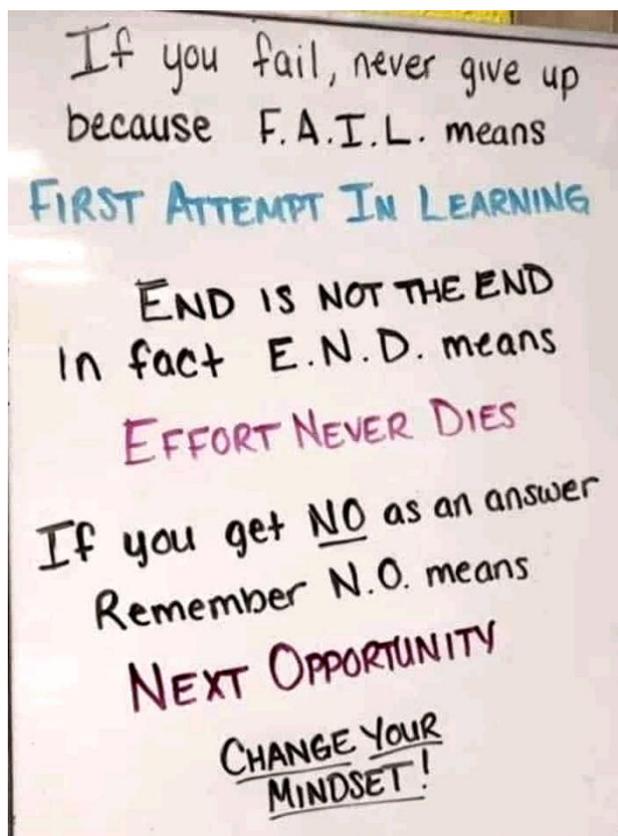


The talk will last around 50 minutes, but the format does not permit questions afterwards. Your feedback will be welcome at speakers@maidenheadu3a.org.uk

Since the reopening of pub gardens on 12th April, both Spanish for Holidaymakers groups have met on Zoom earlier than usual at 10am and then moved to the Horse and Groom garden in Hare Hatch for a social lunch.

After a year, it was a real treat to meet again in person. The weather was extremely kind to us and the pub is doing a great job.

Kathy Bell



Posted by Pamela Fabianska on FB at the page u3a: Keeping in Touch

I'm not a great fan of FB, but members of this group post lots of interesting news as well as really funny jokes!

It's a private group so you have to ask to join.

Calling all u3a Bridge Players!

This is for everyone who plays Bridge, whether or not you are a member of one of the established groups.

Many of you are already enjoying playing Bridge online. For those who haven't tried it, I can reassure them that it is extremely easy - it's the Bridge which is tricky, not the online aspect. All you need is a laptop or a tablet. You can play at any time, provided of course that there are three others who want to play at the same time, and you don't need to commit to a particular day or time - you can play every day, once a month or whenever! Some of us enjoy playing in the evening, others prefer to play during the day.

I am very happy to talk through the process of getting started, with anyone who is interested. Please email Susanna at susannavj@hotmail.com and she will arrange to phone you.

WORLD WAR 2 FILMING at WHITE WALTHAM AIRFIELD



Most of these were taken by Bill Teasdale on 19th April.

(My understanding is that these are non-flying props')





Eileen Rogers at Cliveden



The Quiz Returns! (Answers towards the end of the newsletter)

1. What are the Queen's racing colours?
2. In which country is the world's largest lava lake?
3. Name the four Marx Brothers.
4. What was Pangaea?
5. How many and which US presidents have been assassinated in office?
6. What TV character drove a car with registration number 246 RPA?
7. What used to be the significance of Psalm 51, verse 1?
8. What is an ashet?
9. What did Churchill describe as 'a terminological inexactitude'?
10. Whose catchphrase was "It's being so cheerful that keeps me going."?
11. Before 1984, what was the name of Burkina Faso?
12. Who are the Toon Army?
13. What is 'pronking'?
14. Trawler registrations - which ports?
a) BE (b) NN (c) UL (d) YH (e) WY
15. What was the occupation of Skimbleshanks?
16. Which town name appears most frequently in the British Isles?
17. Who is Walter Plinge?
18. Where is Swinley Bottom?
19. What is the shortest book in the Old Testament of the Bible?
20. Who was known as The Napoleon of Crime?

After many months of minimal information about groups, this is first time I am giving details of all the groups that we think are active or are planning to become active. More details are available on our website but make sure you have registered as a user first.

If you wish to join a group please ring the convenor, even if it is known to be full. You can always be entered on a waiting list.

May / June Programme

ACTIVITY	DAY(s) in MONTH, TIME		CONTACT	TELEPHONE	NOTES
Ancient Literature	3 rd Thurs	14.30	Mick Stringer	07836 211314	Meets on Zoom: We will finish our reading of The Golden Ass & try to decide whether it's a serious work of spiritual enlightenment or just a gigantic (& sometimes dirty!) joke. Then we'll probably move on to Sophocles' Oedipus plays & see where Freud got his (probably wrong) ideas from!
Aviation	2 nd Thurs	14.30	Bill Teasdale	672873	Meets on Zoom: Mike Whitehouse will celebrate the anniversary of Operation Chastise, the famed Dambusters raid of 1943. If you are not on the group's contact list, contact Bill Teasdale.
Book Reading 1	3 rd Wed	14.00	Pauline Sparks	01753 642490	Meetings continue on Zoom.
Bridge E	Every Mon	13.30	Malcolm Geary	07973 193439	Group members await government instructions re meeting at home. RBWM has unilaterally cancelled visitor parking - how to operate simply & effectively now needs to be arranged.
Bridge F - Beginners			Susanna Jones	07583 447789	See entry on page 2.
Carpet Bowls	24 th May & every Mon thereafter	14.00	George Bourne	07792 570353	Fifield Memorial Hall, Fifield.
French Improvers	2 nd Wed	10.30	Evelyne Withey	627603	Meetings continue on Zoom.
French 2	2 nd & 4 th Wed	10.00	Margaret Scharff	666218	Meetings continue on Zoom.
German Advanced	2 nd -& 4 th Frid	10.00	Rhona Latham	638740	Meetings continue on Zoom.
German Conversation	Every Wed	14.30	Vreny Breadon	07900 831041	Meetings continue on Zoom.
Latin	2 nd & 4 th Mon	10.30	Mick Stringer	07836 211314	Meets on Zoom. We will continue our exploration of the Catiline conspiracy, reading Tacitus' description of the death of Seneca & try our hand at some more of Catullus' poems.
Lunch Group	Thurs, 27 th May	TBC	Linda Rahmatalla	671766 / 07740 853952	The Windsor Castle, Maidenhead. Only 6 per table, so please make sure you email Linda on freelin@talktalk.net if you plan to go.
Photography for Beginners	2 nd Wed	14.00	Jenny Leverett	07838 173655	Meetings continue on Zoom.
Play Reading 2	2 nd Frid	14.00	Janet Rose	624709	Contact Janet for more information.
Poetry 1	TBC	TBC	Barrie Williams	01189 349525	Barrie plans to restart this group when possible; contact him for further information.

ACTIVITY	DAY(s) in MONTH, TIME		CONTACT	TELEPHONE	NOTES
Poetry 2	1 st Tues	14.15?	Mike Gammage	637801	Meets on Zoom. BUT the first in-person meeting is planned for Tues, 22nd June . From June, meeting frequency changes to 1 st Tues (in person) & 3 rd Tues on Zoom. Ring Mike for more information.
Popular Music 2	TBC	TBC	Barrie Williams	01189 349525	Barrie plans to restart this group when possible; contact him for further information.
Science	3 rd Thurs	14.00	John Twyde	621644	"Medical Ultrasound - Joining the Dots". External speaker, Libby James, member of Princes Risborough u3a with over 40 years experience of medical ultrasound. Meets on Zoom.
Scrabble	Last Mon	14.15	Hilary Brodie	522331	Plan is to start at end of June.
Spanish Conversation	2 nd & 4 th Mon	10.00	Barrie Williams	01189 349525	Meetings continue on Zoom.
Spanish for Holidaymakers 1	1 st & 3 rd Tues	10.00	Kathy Bell	07752 660537	Meetings continue on Zoom.
Spanish for Holidaymakers 2	2 nd & 4 th Tues	10.00	Kathy Bell	07752 660537	Meetings continue on Zoom.
Spanish Improvers 1	2 nd & 4 th Tues	10.00	Barrie Williams	01189 349525	Barrie has kept in touch via email. Contact him for more info about restarting.
Spanish Improvers 2	1 st & 3 rd Mon	10.00	Barrie Williams	01189 349525	Meetings continue on Zoom.
Spanish Improvers 3	1 st & 3 rd Frid	10.00	Barrie Williams	01189 349525	Barrie has kept in touch via email. Contact him for more info about restarting.
Walks x 3 John Twyde 621644 / 07786 854920	Thurs, 13 th May	10.00	Ann Clark	Let John know if you are coming.	Meet in car park at the Flower Pot RG9 3DG at 10.00am for a 10.15am start. 3½ mile circular walk across ridge to Remenham Church, along River Thames to Hambleden Lock. Mainly level apart from initial climb to ridge. Level option available for those who need it. Lunch available afterwards in the Flower Pot on first come, first served basis. No prebooking available, reduced seating & table service only.
	Wed, 19 th May	11.00	John Twyde	Let John know if you are coming.	Short stroll of 1.85 miles, some slopes & kissing gates. Meet at village car park, Taplow SL6 0EX at 11.00 for a 11.15am start. Through Taplow village, across farmland to A4 & back via Jubilee River to Mill Lane & Berry Hill, Visit historic Taplow Court ice house. Lunch at the Oak & Saw if circumstances permit.
	Tues, 25 th May	10.30	Margarette Shore	Let John know if you are coming.	Meet at Pinkneys Arms, 1 Lee Lane SL6 6NU at 10.30am for a 10.45am start. 3 mile walk: cross Pinkneys Green, then across A308 & up through trees to pond. Carry on to just b4 what was Robin Hood pub, turn right on path, cross Golden Ball Lane to Malders Lane. Turn into nature reserve. After this, cross stile & turn right into farmer's field. Round farm yard & take path round Copas' land. Circular route back to Pinkneys Drive.

South East Region

Events in MAY

Please go to <http://u3atvnetwork.org.uk/> for more details of each of the events below, their associated flyers and how to book.

The Sweetest Thing: the history of sugar

Friday, 7th May at 10.30 on Zoom

Talk by Ruth Nobbs.

This talk is FoC.

The History of Gardening

4 lecture course by Dr David Marsh, who is a Trustee of The Gardens Trust, a national campaigning body for the protection and support of our historic parks and gardens and designed landscapes. He is co-chair of their Education and Events committee. The morning will be divided into two sessions of about an hour each with a short break in between. All sessions are on Zoom.

Cost is £1 per device & lectures are open to u3a members only.

Part 1: Friday, 14th May at 10.30am

Part 2: Friday, 21st May at 10.30am

Parts 3 & 4: Check <http://u3atvnetwork.org.uk/> for details

George Gershwin & his Music

Tuesday, 18th May at 10.30am on Zoom

Talk by Clive Aronson.

Cost is per device is £2.

National News

There are many online events, learning activities and ideas listed at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/> LOTS of workshops and events are available BUT you need to keep an eye on when they are posted as you need to book very quickly to guarantee a place.

Their latest monthly newsletter (March) can be found at <https://us9.campaign-archive.com/?u=656ad5962b370cc9e2731d1ed&id=5b52f520ef>

Committee Members & other u3a links

Chairman	John Twyde	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	Linda Main	membership@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	07962 255743
Groups Coordinator	Kathy Bell	groups@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	07752 660537
Speaker Organiser	Philip Ratcliffe	speakers@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	01628 671220
Newsletter	Pat Laković	newsletter@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	01628 782038
Publicity	Vacant		
Website Editor	Nigel Roper	web@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	01628 636893

Websites & Social Media

Maidenhead u3a	www.maidenheadu3a.org.uk
Twitter	twitter.com/Maidenheadu3a
Thames Valley Network	www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk
Third Age Trust	www.u3a.org.uk

Submissions to Newsletter

If you wish to send me photos, please ensure that they are no more than 500kB each. Also, please do not email me .pdf files for the newsletter as I cannot get my open source software to insert these files without considerable additional effort. Acceptable formats are are: .docx, .doc, .jpeg & .xls or .xlsx.

Please email/send me comments or anything that you would like me to consider for the next newsletter by **23rd May**.

Thank you.

Pat Laković (newsletter@maidenheadu3a.org.uk; 01628 782038 / 07789 482632)

Answers to Quiz

1. Purple & red
2. The Democratic Republic of Congo
3. Groucho, Harpo, Chico, Zeppo
4. The original single continent of the world
5. Four - Lincoln, Garfield, McGinley and Kennedy.
6. Inspector Morse.
7. Called the 'neck verse'. A criminal could often escape the gallows if he could read and this was the test piece. Of course a lot of crooks would learn it by heart!
8. A large carving / serving dish.
9. A lie.
10. Mrs Mopp in ITMA.
11. Upper Volta
12. Newcastle United football team.
13. The stiff-legged high standing leap done by small deer, lambs etc.
14. (a) Barnstaple (b) Newhaven. (c) Ullapool (d) Yarmouth (e) Whitby
15. He was the Railway Cat.
16. Newtown
17. In theatre programmes, if an actor is doubling parts, traditionally this name is used.
18. It's part of Ascot Racecourse.
19. Obadiah (440 words).
20. Professor Moriarty (or Adam Worth, Master of Crime, or Mr Mistoffelees in 'Cats').

MAIDENHEAD u3a

MINUTES OF AGM HELD via ZOOM on 13th APRIL 2021

Committee:	Chairman	Ian Ross
	Treasurer	John Twydle
	Newsletter	Pat Laković
	Membership	Linda Main
	Group Coordinator	Kathy Bell
	TVN	Jean Myhill
	Speakers	Philip Ratcliffe

Other Members: Approximately 33 participants

2. APOLOGIES for ABSENCE: Nigel Roper
Jill Powell
Margarette Shore
Vreny Breadon
Irene Doh
Rosemary Muncie

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM 2020 AGM MINUTES - none.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - Ian Ross

Our last AGM took place three weeks into the first lockdown and here we are, three months into the third. Unlike many u3as, we have remained open but our activities have been heavily restricted.

First and foremost, our community appears to have escaped the virus relatively lightly, thanks to the caution and understanding of our members. However, I feel deeply for those who have died before their time or, like me, have lost family or close friends from Covid or other causes.

Over recent years our membership has been stable, around 600. It normally falls at renewal time which largely reflects our ageing population and increases during the year as new members join. Following our latest renewal, we have 529 members and we expect this to increase as our activities resume and soon reach pre-pandemic levels. We thank our membership secretary, Linda Main, for her energy and persistence in optimising this result in difficult circumstances.

The annual subscription has been £16 for several years but for this year only we reduced it to £8 (about the cost of a very average bottle of wine!) because so many of our activities have not been possible. We gave members the option of leaving their subscription at £16 and 49% did so, for which we are very grateful. Even in such a quiet year we still have expenses, as John will explain, but our financial position remains strong, which will help us to support a good bounce back.

Many of our convenors soon got to grips with Zoom and the following groups have continued to meet virtually: Ancient Literature, Aviation, online Bridge, two French groups, both German groups, three Spanish groups, Latin, Book Reading 1, Play Reading 2, Poetry, Scrabble and Science. Walking groups have also met outdoors when the rules allowed. Many others are already planning their resumption and we hope all 70 will be back before long. Outings have not been possible but Maura McGinley had planned visits to Devizes, Stratford on Avon and Lymington last year and is considering rebooking these in the summer, along with further garden visits. We thank and congratulate all those convenors who have kept their groups going throughout this difficult year and our Groups Coordinator, Kathy Bell, who has supported them.

The newsletter has made a huge contribution to keeping us connected. I'm sure you will join

me in thanking Pat Laković for her energy and creativity, along with our poets, photographers, quiz masters and humourists who have raised our spirits through these dark days.

Normally 70-100 regulars attend the monthly meeting at SportsAble and enjoy the social contact as well as the speaker. Over recent months, Philip Ratcliffe has organised speakers, via Zoom, on American Presidents, the Russell-Coates Art Gallery and Aromatherapy, and as many as 150 people have logged in. We hope we will soon be able to meet again in person but this will be in a different venue as SportsAble is closing.

We are members of the Thames Valley Network (TVN), a collection of some 40 u3as, and Jean Myhill attends their quarterly meetings which are now run via Zoom. They organise a wide range of speakers, Study Days and other events which we advertise in the newsletter and all u3a members can attend. Several committee members have participated and found them to be excellent but there is very little uptake from other members. We recommend these and some of you may find Zoom is an advantage because it removes the need to travel.

Last week I received a call from the former Chairman of The Third Age Trust (that's the National Office) who was surveying a wide range of u3as and it was gratifying to receive feedback that our activity level in these restricted circumstances was ahead of the pack.

The Committee has been very stable and has continued to meet every month via Zoom but, as usual, there will be a few changes at this AGM. After a record six years on the committee, our Secretary and Publicity Officer, Mo Wright, has decided to stand down and we thank her for her tireless service to our u3a. In line with our Constitution and national u3a practice, I am also standing down today on completion of my three year term of office. I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to serve as Groups Coordinator and then Chairman over the last five years and I am confident our u3a will thrive once more as we emerge further from lockdown, hopefully in July. I would like to thank all my committee colleagues and our brilliant band of convenors for serving our u3a so well.

I am delighted to propose John Twyde, who is well known to many of you in the Walking, Science and Aviation Groups, as my successor as Chairman. Could I have a seconder please? John Morris seconded.

It remains for me only to wish you all well and hand over to John to deliver the Treasurer's report, propose the new committee and lead the rest of the meeting.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT - John Twyde

The accounts have been examined by Peter Upton Ltd. as last year, and the signed accounts are available for any member who wishes to see them. An extract was published in the April newsletter. As last year, the accounts include a more extensive report for the Charity Commission in line with current best practice. An exceptional year for our u3a which, in the circumstances, was able to keep many of its activities alive to some degree.

Firstly, the Statement of Assets, the simpler of the two pages, which simply shows how much cash we hold at the bank and equates to the surpluses which we have accumulated over the years since our inception in 1998. You will note that the cash at bank has increased by some £3,866 during the year and this represents a surplus of income over expenditure for 2020. This surplus was due to the lack of activity due to the Covid pandemic and the suspension of all face-to-face meetings for the majority of the year.

Membership was largely static with income from subscriptions and Gift Aid down slightly.

Overall income was down about £3,900 but £3,400 of this related to no income from outings.

I would draw your attention to two items, with the exception of the newsletter, nearly all normal costs dropped. Theatre costs incurred in booking visits five months ahead were eventually reimbursed but appear to show significant activity when in fact they did not take place.

These exceptional figures and the surplus made prompted me to recommend to the Committee that subs be reduced by 50% for 2021. There was some concern that those who paid directly to the bank would have additional administrative work and hence the option of a £8 donation which about 40% of members took up. Thank you.

I would like to thank Peter Upton for examining our accounts, and unless another examiner comes forward I would propose we use his services again to review the accounts for 2021.

While this year has been a struggle in many aspects of our lives Maidenhead u3a remains in a strong financial position.

I propose adoption of accounts. Seconded by Maurice Skinner

6. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER John Twydle proposed Peter Upton Ltd. as our examiner. This was seconded by Bill Teasdale.

7. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Current Committee:-

Chairman	John Twydle
Treasurer	Linda Main
Membership Secretary	Linda Main
Newsletter	Pat Laković
Group Co-ordinator	Kathy Bell
TVN	Jean Myhill
Speakers	Philip Ratcliffe

John Twydle proposed the current committee for re--2,election; Sheila White seconded this proposal.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER: Secretary - Janet Rose

John Twydle proposed Janet as the new Secretary, which was seconded by Ian Ross.

John thanked past and current committee members and convenors for their service.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ✓ Bill Teasdale pointed out that you could not have a u3a member as Auditor. John replied that he hoped one member had a family member or friend who could take over as Auditor. John was also thinking of co-opting one of his family to become Auditor for 2021/2.
- ✓ Philip Ratcliffe suggested it might be a good idea if Maidenhead u3a signed the Condolences Book for the Queen with regard to the sad death of the Duke of Edinburgh. This has now been done by John Twydle.
- ✓ Kath Evans asked John Twydle if she could be considered as Promotions representative. John said the Committee would discuss it as their next meeting.
- ✓ A brief mention was made of the possible new venues for u3a monthly meetings. Hopefully, we would get a room at the new Braywick Leisure Centre. An alternative is The Long Barn at Norden Farm. A final suggestion was the Town Hall. Kath Evans also suggested the new premises of Desborough Bowling Club. Philip will investigate and report to the committee next month.
- ✓ John thanked everybody for attending.

9. Date of next AGM - 12th April 2022