

CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS

Hello All,

Thank you to all those who made the AGM go off so smoothly. It is important for the governance of our u3a and hopefully we will not need to have any changes to the constitution for a good few years now. I am also delighted to note that our u3a outings are literally back on the road, thank you Moira.

Back to the topic of Desborough Bowling club. I have heard that 2 of our members suffered blows to the head by the car park barrier descending on them while they were walking under it. Fortunately, neither was seriously hurt but it could have been much more serious. I am delighted that many members are walking to the Bowling club, but if you do, please make sure you walk between the barrier control boxes to avoid any possibility of injury. It's a good general rule never to walk under any raised barrier. Thank you to the 2 members who shared this with me so that we can make sure it does not happen to others.

While we currently have a full committee. At the next AGM a number of positions will need to be filled. So that there is good continuity it would be great if anyone interested in serving next year would contact me so that suitable training and mentoring can take place. This is particularly true for 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.

One more little thing happening in May is of course the Coronation. My arrival in the world missed the last Coronation by a couple of months so this is a first for me. Enjoy this celebration and share it with others.

John Twyde,
Chairman

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to new and returning members

Jane Cotton, Tim Burt, Alan Cassidy, Sonia Chandler, Anne Evans, Pat Crowle,
Sue Depol and John Diack

Maggie Kearney Membership Secretary 01628 637160

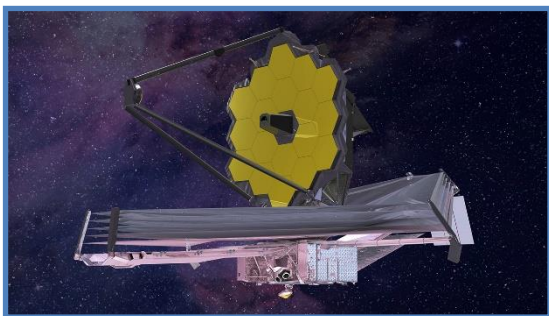
Registering on to the Maidenhead u3a website

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.

MAY 2023 MONTHLY MEETING **Tuesday, 9 May 2023 at 2.30pm**

In May, we are lucky to have as our guest speaker professional Roland Pease, who presents Science in Action every week on the BBC World Service. His interests range from the origin of life to the fate of the Universe. In 2020, the UK Press Gazette called Science in Action the "best radio journalism" of the pandemic.

Roland's talk is titled 'The James Webb Space Telescope - picturing the Universe in a new light'. Orbiting a million miles from Earth and with powerful, infrared vision, the \$10 billion JWST, successor to NASA's Hubble Telescope, has seen close to the edge of the visible Universe. It has peered deep into the shrouded hearts of stellar nurseries where stars are born, and into the remnants of exploded stars. Roland shares some of the scientific and construction highlights, and remarkable images from its first nine months of operation. Here is an early image:



"Cosmic Cliffs" in the Carina Nebula

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.



London Explorers

attended a piano recital in the Grand Temple in Freemasons Hall.

and enjoyed their lunch



LONDON EXPLORERS GROUP

Many of you will have heard about the **London Explorers Group**. The original group is now full, but in view of the amount of interest, it may be possible to set up another group.

A London Explorer group includes and involves everyone in the group. Every member chooses a month, and either on their own or together with another member, takes on the job of researching a venue, planning a trip and ensuring everyone in the group has the information they need to attend and enjoy the day. Only group members (or if there are spaces, members of Group 1) can come on the trips.

The existing London Explorer Group has been going since Sept 2021, and every month since then a trip has been arranged.

A get-together of those interested in setting up and becoming part of a second group has been arranged for **Monday 15th May, 2.00 – 4.00** at

Woodlands Park Community Centre, Manifold Way, Maidenhead SL6 3GW.

Several members of the existing group will be there to answer your questions.

If there is sufficient interest in a second group, this can go ahead, as long as 1 or 2 people agree to convene it. Steve and I will obviously be on hand to help anyone taking on this role.

You do not need to let us know whether or not you intend to come to this meeting. Just turn up. However, you may wish to ensure you are part of the excitement of the birth of a new group!

Janet Rose – 07762339873

Steve Rose - 007903416530

janetcrose@btinternet.com

stevelrose@hotmail.co.uk

Ukulele (Maideteles)

We are a flourishing and growing group, with membership now at 14. New members are always welcome. We performed for a second time at Sandown Park Care Home in March and we also have a gig planned for the Cox Green Townswomen's Guild at the end of June. If anyone would like us to perform at a venue, please let Sarah Mawhinney know.

Classical Music Group

Who is interested in Classical Music? The group is in need of additional members so if you enjoy listening to classical music in the company of like minds then please contact me, the group convenor. At our meetings we each bring along a CD or two and then decide the selection to play for that day's programme. There is of course always a break at some point for tea and biscuits. **John Noakes 01628 637399.**

Solos

The next meeting of the Solos Group will be on 16th May from 2-4pm at 91 Pinkneys Road, SL6. If you would like to come and are not already a member it is essential you phone me in advance - **Pauline Noden: 07701 354 490** as we are nearly at capacity. (We can start another group if there is enough demand so don't get disheartened.)

Walking in May

Longer Walk Tuesday 16th May

Meet at Huntswood Golf Club, Taplow Common Road, Burnham, SL1 8LS at 10.00 am for 10.15 am start of an easy walk of 4 miles through country lanes of north Burnham. Walk Leader is **Tony Jones 077 124 36933**. Parking and lunch available at the Golf Club.

Shorter Walk Tuesday 2nd of May

A level 2 mile walk round the periphery of Ockwells Park. Meet in the Car Park at Ockwells Park at 10.45 for an 11.00 departure. Snack Lunch afterwards at the café for those that want it. Walk Leader Pam Tyrrell. **07913566514**

Social Walk Thursday 25th of May

Meet at the "Orangery Café" at Cliveden at 10.30 for Tea/ Coffee and a short stroll afterward for those that want to.

Walk Leader is **John Twydale 07786854920**. If you are not an NT member but want to come please call John Twydale .

Nature Amble

Hoping the bluebells will be out on 28th April. Our next amble will be on 19th May when we will walk along the Thames path from the Sounding Arch to Bray Lock and back. All are welcome, for details please contact **Jill Waites**.

Book Reading 2

The start time has been changed from 1.30pm to 2 pm. **This group now has vacancies.**

French Conversation

Meet on the 15th of May for this month only.

Aviation

The speaker in May will be Clynt Perrott, from Swindon U3A, and the subject is "Britain's Forgotten Airlines". £3 per head as usual to cover the cost of the room.

Quiz

May's event will be on Monday 15th. We will then revert to the normal first Monday of the month i.e. June 5th.

Photography

9th May at 11.15. The topic is "**Balloons**"

Science

18th May at 14.30 The topic is "**The Development of the Electric Telegraph**"

Latin Group

We will meet at the usual time on the 15th and 22nd of May, reverting to the normal timetable in June.

Book Reading 1

The start time is now 2.30 pm. **This group now has vacancies.**

Lunch Club

Meet on 25th May. Venue to be decided. New members always welcome.

Art Appreciation

The meeting which would normally be on the 5th May has been postponed until June. However, we are also planning a trip in the latter part of May to the Victoria and Albert Museum. Mandy will email details to members.

Garden Visits

Meet on Wednesday 24th May at 2pm at **The Knapp**, Earley, Reading. RG6 7DD.

Maura McGinley 01628 629 088 and 07767 446 349.

Film Club

Tuesday 16th of May 14.00 showing "**The Boat that Rocked**"

Tuesday 30th May 14.00 showing "**Always**"

Garden Visits Group Annual Coach Outing.

The venue for this year's outing is **Lullingstone Castle and the World Garden** in North Kent, DA4 0JA on **14th June 2023**. The estate is set in one hundred and twenty acres of Kent countryside dating back to the Domesday Book and combines plant heritage with cutting edge horticulture. See photos on www.lullingstonecastle.co.uk. There is more information on Google.

The coach will depart from Braywick car park 9am. The cost will be £35. This includes the coach, admission and a guided tour of the buildings and gardens.

Cheques should be made payable to Maidenhead u3a.

If you wish to pay by bank transfer you pay to Maidenhead u3a Sort Code 309536 and Account number 02728719. The Payee reference should be Lullingstone.

Contact Mauramcginley17@gmail.com on 01628 629 088 or 07767 446 349 to sign up.

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)
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

Quiz 21 by Ann Hay

(answers further on in the Newsletter)

1. What is Corrievrechan ? (Coirebhreacain?)
 2. What was a penny lick?
 3. What is the shortest sentence in the King James Bible?
 4. What and where in the U.K. are the Wainwrights?
 5. Which country in South America is the only one where Spanish is not used?
 6. Where are your vitreous humours?
 7. What were The Ashes originally?
 8. What is the first line of Mrs Hemans' poem 'Casabianca'?
 9. In which English county is Rime Intrinseca?
 10. What is meant by 'the angels' share'?
 11. Which country always leads the Olympic Games procession?
 12. What is known in USA as a pinto?
 13. Put the following boxers' weights in order from low to high - welter, fly, feather, cruiser, bantam
 14. What is a 'death penny'?
 15. What is the origin of the phrase 'sleep tight'?
 16. After what major event were two men simultaneously shot with the same bullet?
 17. Where would you go to find the O'o bird?
 18. What is the more usual name of the orchestral instrument the English Horn?
 19. What was the difference between the wartime Anderson shelter and the Morrison shelter?
 20. Who was the most important of the ' Eight men of Moidart'?
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The Coronation

On 6th May we celebrate the coronation of Charles III. Many of us, all-be-it vaguely for some, will remember the last coronation in 1952, glued to a tiny TV screen with all the neighbours crammed into a small room. This time, much of the nation and the world will be glued to very much larger screens, watching the spectacle in glorious colour. Let's enjoy the wonderful state occasion and raise a glass or two with our families and friends to mark a new era in our royal history.

Thinking of the Monarchy, do you know all of Charles III's predecessors?

Here is a song to help you remember.

Thanks to Ann Hay

Willie, Willie, Harry, Stee,
Harry, Dick, John, Harry Three,
One, Two, Three Neds, Dick the Bad
Harry twice, then Ned the Lad

Mary, Bessie, James the Vain,
Charlie, Charlie, James again.
William-and-Mary, Anna Gloria
Four Georges, William, and Victoria

Edward Seven, Edward Eight,
(Who had no interest in the state),
George and Elizabeth, lasting long,
Followed by Charles to end our song.

Last Month's Speaker was Bobbie Darbyshire

Bobbie is a successful author who entertained us with her delightful talk, "*A beginning, a muddle & an end: where do novelists get their ideas from?*", illustrating her talk with quotes from a wide range of authors. Bobbie used to sign her books at Waterstones, and introduce herself as a visiting author. On one occasion a man bellowed "No!" at her then apologized for thinking she had said "Visiting orphan"!

Writers are often inspired to write from something they personally find problematic; so, the story takes them and readers on a journey of discovery. But she emphasized that most novels are fiction not autobiography. For a novel you need structure, a narrative journey, suspense and surprise, character growth and an author who sees beyond their own point of view.

She explained how questions and answers are key to getting from the initial idea and first tentative sentence to a whole complex detailed novel. Anything you write raises questions, and the ideas come from trying to answer them. Her writers' group is a valuable source of questions of which she has not thought or has been dodging.

Some writers rush to a first draft without planning. Others plan in detail before writing a single word. Both methods have drawbacks, so instead, Bobbie and others form a rough idea of characters and story, notions of a few key scenes, and a sense of how the story will end. Then

they start writing, guided by the sketch but not pushing the characters to follow it, observing how they act naturally and asking questions about them. More invention follows. Bobbie recommended always having a notebook at hand for when inspiration strikes.

She briefly described her four novels, "Truth Games"; "Love, Revenge and Buttered Scones"; "Oz"; "The Posthumous Adventures of Harry Whittaker": and read extracts from them. Her fifth, "The Third Bus", is out in October 2023. Signed copies of her books were very popular with our members.

Answers to May's Quiz

Any queries, email Ann at annghay@icloud.com

1. A dangerous whirlpool off the coast of north west Scotland
2. A small glass used for selling ice cream in
3. Jesus wept
4. Mountains in the Peak District
5. Brazil, where Portuguese is used
6. In your eyes.
7. The bails from the wicket used in the first England versus Australia match.
8. "The boy stood on the burning deck"
9. Dorset
10. The amount of whisky that naturally evaporates during cask storage.
11. Greece.
12. A piebald or skewbald horse
13. Fly, feather, bantam, cruiser, welter
14. A coin issued during World War 1 to the family of a soldier killed in battle, with his name and rank marked on it.
15. In mediæval times, beds were frames with ropes strung across. After a while the ropes sagged and needed to be tightened to give the sleeper a better night
16. The Gunpowder Plot Two conspirators were killed by pursuers
17. Don't bother; they lived only in Hawaii and are now extinct
18. Cor anglais
19. The Anderson was dug into the ground and roofed over. The Morrison was indoors, usually involving a large strengthened table with metal or thick wooden surrounds.
20. Charles Edward Stuart (Bonnie Prince Charlie) landing on the Scottish coast with his supporters.

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 **23rd May 2023**.

Thank you Nuala Smith & Jack Kerbel
newsletter@maidenheadu3a.org.uk or newsletter.maidenheadu3a@gmail.com

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