

**MAIDENHEAD****November 2023**

(Registered Charity No. 1074907)

**CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS****Hello All,**

This month I want to say a big thank you to you all. Earlier in the year the committee set a goal to get membership back to pre-Covid levels over a 5-year period. When we set the goal, our membership was 490 members and we needed to recruit 140 new members to reach our target of 630.

Advertising in the Maidenhead advertiser fell on completely stony ground with not a single response. Our members have always been our strongest advertisement and so it has proved.

You have encouraged friends and acquaintances to sign up and to date our numbers have swelled to 570, a fantastic result, well on the way to our target.

Our next challenge is to retain and involve those new members; to that end we will hold a new member's meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November to help them to engage with the groups and conveners.

You have encouraged the new members to join but you are part of the retention process too, when you come to a main meeting and you don't know the person to your left or right, introduce yourself. It's actually pretty daunting coming to a u3a meeting if you do not know anybody, so help us to make those new members feel welcome.

In addition to the thanks above, there are many members who work above and beyond to make all of the meetings work smoothly.

Thank You,

**John Twydale Maidenhead u3a Chairman****WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

Cheryl Wilde, Sue Houlston, Peter Bysshe, Alison Salter, Jacqui Byrne, Diane Harker and Sandy Edwards

## **NOVEMBER 2023 MONTHLY MEETING**

**Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 2.30pm**

### **'Net Zero – A Critique' Neil Record**

Climate Change is an important topic that we have not addressed recently in our monthly talks. Our speaker in November will be **Neil Record**, a British businessman, author and economist. Neil was one of the pioneers of currency risk management, writing the first textbook on the subject. After working at the Bank of England and the private sector, he set up his own financial business which presently manages over \$80 billion in currency exposures for corporate clients. Until recently Neil was Chairman of the Institute of Economic Affairs, and was a visiting fellow at Nuffield College, Oxford. He is a supporter of the think-tank the Global Warming Policy Foundation which is sceptical of catastrophic anthropogenic climate change.

Neil will critique the concept and policy of achieving Net Zero emissions by 2050, a matter of vital national and international significance, and one of considerable controversy with huge implications for costs and allocation of scarce resources.

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.**

Prospective or non-members who would like to attend the talk as a u3a 'sample' should please first contact the Membership Secretary, Maggie Kearney, on 01628 637 160 or [membership@maidenheadu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@maidenheadu3a.org.uk).

**PLEASE ENSURE YOUR PHONE IS SWITCHED OFF OR SET TO SILENT.**

**NEW** – The Bowling Club has catering facilities, so if you wanted to meet with friends before the meeting for a cup of tea or a light lunch, this could be a good opportunity to arrange to get together. Please be sure to clear away by 2 pm so that the room can be readied in time for the talk.

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](mailto:speakers@maidenheadu3a.org.uk)

## **GROUP NEWS**

### **Potential New Groups**

There is still some interest in the formation of the groups below, but we still need a few more members and a convener for each group.

- **Calligraphy** - for the artistic amongst you.
- **Bird Watching** - perhaps a new interest for the spring.
- **Enjoying Shakespeare** - is there a retired English teacher out there who would like to share their knowledge with eager and interested group members?
- **Mouth Organ/Harmonica** - for the musicians in our midst.
- **Whist** - still seeking more members to make up the tables.

if you are interested in any of these groups please contact Groups Convener, Kathy Bell, on 07752 660537 or [kathy.bell1@btinternet.com](mailto:kathy.bell1@btinternet.com)

### **Singing for Pleasure**

Several members of this once very popular group would love it to be revived but, after the conveners who led it so successfully for many years had to step back, we have been unable to find a pianist, or anyone to lead the group, perhaps, using recordings instead of a piano. If you are a music lover just waiting for this opportunity, or would like to join the group if it can restart, please contact Kathy Bell.

### **Classical Music Group**

With some regret we have decided to close the Classical Music Group. There are not enough of us to successfully keep it going and despite several attempts to attract new members we have failed to increase our numbers. It has been an enjoyable experience for us and we would like to thank you all for the help and encouragement we have received but it is now time for us to call a halt. Thank you again,

**John Noakes**

### **Aviation – a message from the convener, Bill Teasdale**

A few months ago, I informed the Group that I would be standing down as convener of the end of the year. The Group was formed 10 years ago, with a committee of 5 sharing the duties, which included booking the speakers, usually external, or arranging visits to museums and booking the venue. As costs were involved, the group has been self-financing.

Each month, the group has been sent an email or newsletter of forthcoming events of interest. We kept going during COVID with newsletters and Zoom. Sadly, I am the sole survivor of the original group.

If the group is to continue, a convener will need to come forward from the main body of the u3a. One member of the Group has volunteered to assist with monthly communications, but obviously the other aspects need to be addressed. I have records of speakers and presentations, and will of course assist a willing volunteer.

Two speakers have been booked already for January and May, which will help

## Group Notices for November

### Bridge for Beginners – Vacancies

This group has been renamed. It is now **Bridge for Beginners and Improvers** and it now meets on every Monday at 09.30. There are vacancies.

### Film Club

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> at 14.00 **The Grand Budapest Hotel**

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> at 14.00 **Angels and Deamons**

Location, The Studio, The Courtyard, Berry Hill, Taplow, SL6 0DA

### Photography

Meet on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> at 11.15 The Studio, The courtyard, Berry Hill, SL6 0DA. This month's subject is **Railroad Tracks**.

### Science Group

Meet on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> at 14.15 at Jacqueline Turner's house, Larkspur Cottage, Mill Lane, Taplow. The topic will be **electric cars**, led by Andrew Hallmark.

### Longer Walk Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> of November

Meet at Huntswood Golf Club, Taplow Common Road, Burnham, SL1 8LS at 10.00 for 10.15 start of a fairly easy walk of about 3.5 miles to Hitcham and back. Parking and lunch available at the Golf Club for those who want it. Walk leader Wendy Jones 075130 10724.

### Shorter Walk Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> of November

Meet outside the cafe at Cliveden, National Trust at 10.45 to walk at 11.00. It is just under 2 miles, some steps to walk down at the start of the walk otherwise easy.

Lunch and drinks available at the Feathers. Walk leader Maggie Snook 07837 487233

### Aviation

The speaker will be Steve Skinner, with a thought provoking presentation, "**Concorde, was it really worth it ?**"

### Lunch Club

Meet on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>, venue to be decided. New Members always welcome.

### Art Appreciation

Meet on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1030-1230. We are looking at and discussing the early work of **Henri Matisse**, up to around 1911. Members of the group are invited to send their chosen picture / sculpture via email to John Twydale.

### Garden Visits

There will be a planning meeting for 2024 at St Joseph's Parish Centre on 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 13.30. Contact Maura Mc Ginley for details on 01628 637160 or [mauramcginley17@gmail.com](mailto:mauramcginley17@gmail.com).



## London Explorers I

London Explorers I at lunch in The red Lion after a Fabulous tour of the Houses of Parliament



## London Explorers 2

For the inaugural outing of London Explorers II, 11 of us visited The Charterhouse in Charterhouse Square. Despite the rain, we had a great day out – The Charterhouse was amazing – we had our own very knowledgeable tour guide and we all enjoyed it.



## Ukulele Workshop with Phil Doleman



On 11<sup>th</sup> October, the Maideleles Ukulele Group hosted a workshop at St Joseph's Parish Centre in the town. The workshop was a first collaboration event with attendees from Windsor and Slough u3a ukulele groups joining in the fun. The tutor for the afternoon was the World renowned ukulele player and teacher, Phil Doleman.

Split into 2 sessions, Phil firstly took the group on a deep dive into developing solid strumming patterns and, after a well-earned tea break, then concentrated on how to arrange songs for ukulele groups. Both sessions involved plenty of playing for everyone.

After two hours of intensive learning (and laughing) Phil rounded off the afternoon with a couple of songs from his performance repertoire before he set off for Hertfordshire to do it all again in the evening!



In all, 32 strummers attended the workshop and the feedback, from both beginners and more experienced players alike, was excellent. It's certainly something we will look to do again in the future.

Thanks are due to everyone who made it happen, especially Mandy and the Maidelele girls who organised the top quality refreshments and the meeting and greeting. Thanks are also due to Linda Main for her help in handling the

accounting for the event.



## Creative Cards

We celebrated a birthday in our group with a lunch/tea party, with some friends.

1. What is Beethoven's only opera?
2. The flag of which country bears horizontal stripes of dark red and white, the stripes not being of the same thickness?
3. To whom was it asked "Aside from that, Mrs ..... how did you enjoy the play?"
4. What are microliths?
5. To the Americans they are bobbypins. What do the British call them?
6. What was the original name of the BBC?
7. Name the 'Three Little Maids from School'
8. Where would you find an off fore?
9. For what might one use a sheepshank and a sheet bend?
10. What was the former name of the Principality Stadium?
11. Which is the smallest country in mainland Africa?
12. The Romans called it Mona on their invasion of Britain. What do we call it?
13. In heraldry, what is the significance of a label?
14. What is the longest-running ( a ) musical in London ( b ) play in the world?
15. What were the old names of these African countries? (a) Botswana (b) Malawi (c) Burkina Faso?
16. Pestle and mortar - which is which?
17. Which is the older auction house, Christies or Sothebys?
18. What is laudanum?
19. There are 5 kinds of owl native to Britain- can you name them?
20. Why do many metal pint tankards have glass bases?



## Looking Ahead



### THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Have you bought your ticket Yet? There is still time.

**Entry by ticket only, £10 per person.**

**BEFORE 20<sup>th</sup> November** apply for your ticket from the Treasurer, Linda Main; ring her on 07962 255743 or email her at [treasurer@maidenheadu3a.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@maidenheadu3a.org.uk).

**AFTER 20<sup>th</sup> November** apply for your ticket from the Membership Secretary, Maggie Kearney; ring her on 01628 637160 or email her at [membership@maidenheadu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@maidenheadu3a.org.uk)

**6th December at 2pm – 4pm** at Burnham Park Hall, Windsor Lane, Burnham SL1 7HR

Remember to register your car on arrival at reception to avoid any parking fines.

## Christmas at Wimpole

Maidenhead National Trust Association has a day trip to 'Christmas at Wimpole'

*"An after-dark illumination trail with over a million twinkling lights and seasonal sounds. During the day the Mansion House will be decorated for Christmas, with festive food and drink in the restaurants and cafés and local choirs singing Christmas Carols."*

Sunday 27 November, leaving Braywick by coach at 12.30pm and returning by 8.30pm. Cost is £48 for adults and £ 45 for children.

Please contact Maggie Kearney for more information (01628 637160).

## Thames Valley Network

Our regional network of u3a groups also has a regular programme of events, some on Zoom and some in person. Visit <http://u3atvnetwork.org.uk> for more information. For example, on

**Wednesday 15th November at 10.30 on zoom** Clive Aronson will give a presentation on Abba at 10:30. The fee for this event is £1.00 per device.

## u3a Talks on Zoom

The u3a national website hosts a number of talks on Zoom each month. They are free to all u3a members. To find out more about them, go to [www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational](http://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational) events. They cover a huge variety of topics.

## Holiday by coach to Versailles, Valencay & Chateaux of the Loire

**Windsor u3a** have organised this 7-day Coach holiday, starting on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024** for a group of 30. Crossing by EuroTunnel, the first night will be in a hotel near Versailles. The next five nights will be at Hotel Hilton Garden Inn, Tours Centre. There will be visits to Versailles Palace, Amboise (Chateau de Clos Luce and Chateau Gaillard); Chateau de Valencay with wine tasting; Chateau Cheverny and Chateau Chaumont. One day at leisure in Tours. The cost is £1,290 per person sharing a twin/double room. Transport and hotel bed and breakfast is included plus three dinners and all chateaux entrance fees. Single supplement £450. Full itinerary and booking information available from Pat Oldcorn at [pat.oldcorn@btinternet.com](mailto:pat.oldcorn@btinternet.com) or phone 01753 855744.



1. Fidelio
2. Latvia
3. The newly-widowed Mrs Abraham Lincoln
4. Very small sharp pieces of worked flint, prehistoric arrow heads.
5. Kirbigrips
6. British Broadcasting Company
7. Yum-Yum, Peep-Bo, Pitti-Sing. (from The Mikado)
8. On a horse, the right front leg
9. Tying knots in rope
10. Cardiff Arms Park
11. The Gambia
12. The Isle of Anglesey
13. It is a fringed black band put on the top of a shield to indicate that this coat of arms belongs to the eldest son of the unlabelled shield owner.
14. (a) Les Miserables (b) The Mousetrap
15. (a) Bechuanaland (b) Nyasaland (c) Upper Volta
16. The mortar is the vessel containing stuff to be ground, the pestle does the grinding.
17. Sotheby's
18. A tincture of opium dissolved in liquid.
19. Barn, Tawny, Little, Short-eared, Long-eared
20. In the 18th century, the pressgang officials would frequently drop a shilling into a man's beer- mug and then say he had accepted the King's Shilling and therefore had joined the army. With a glass base, drinkers could check that their mugs were not affected.



## Bucket List

Members of the group enjoying an authentic Chinese lunch in Chinatown

## **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 22<sup>nd</sup> of the month.

Thank you, Nuala Smith & Jack Kerbel

[newsletter@maidenheadu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@maidenheadu3a.org.uk) and [newsletter.maidenheadu3a@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.maidenheadu3a@gmail.com)

## **Committee Members & other u3a links**

Chairman	John Twydle	<a href="mailto:chairman@maidenheadu3a.org.uk">chairman@maidenheadu3a.org.uk</a>	01628 621644
Treasurer	Linda Main	<a href="mailto:treasurer@maidenheadu3a.org.uk">treasurer@maidenheadu3a.org.uk</a>	07962 255743
Secretary	Janet Rose	<a href="mailto:secretary@maidenheadu3a.org.uk">secretary@maidenheadu3a.org.uk</a>	01628 624709
Membership Secretary	Maggie Kearney	<a href="mailto:membership@maidenheadu3a.org.uk">membership@maidenheadu3a.org.uk</a>	01628 637160
Groups Coordinator	Kathy Bell	<a href="mailto:groups@maidenheadu3a.org.uk">groups@maidenheadu3a.org.uk</a>	07752 660537
Speaker Organiser	Philip Ratcliffe	<a href="mailto:speakers@maidenheadu3a.org.uk">speakers@maidenheadu3a.org.uk</a>	07710 160786
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TVN Rep	Jenny Alder	<a href="mailto:tvn@maidenhead.org.uk">tvn@maidenhead.org.uk</a>	01753 859664

## **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, Solos and Bucket List.

<b>GROUP</b>	<b>CONVENER</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>	<b>DAY</b>	<b>TIME</b>
<b>A</b>				
Ancient Literature	Mick Stringer	07836 211314	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs	14.30
Art Appreciation	Mandy Taylor	01628 298107	1 <sup>st</sup> Fri	10.30
Art Untutored	Peter Neville	01628 674097	1 <sup>st</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues	14.00
Aviation	Bill Teasdale	01628 672873	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs	14.30
<b>B</b>				
Book Reading 1	Pauline Sparkes	01753 642490	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	14.00
Book Reading 2	Bobby Maunsell	01628 828279	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed	13.00
Bridge C	Frances Foster	07548 306782	Every Thurs	14.00
Bridge E	Mal Geary	07973 193439	Every Mon	13.30
Bridge for 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	
<b>C</b>				
Canasta	Christine Wilkinson	07887 887579	2 <sup>nd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> Fri	10.00
Carpet Bowls	George Bourne	07792 570353	Every Mon	14.00
Creative Cards 1	Eileen Rogers	01628 639656	2 <sup>nd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> Fri	10.00
Creative Cards 2	Eileen Rogers	01628 639656	1 <sup>st</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri	10.00
Creative Writing	Mo Wright	01628 630023	4 <sup>th</sup> Tues	14.15
Cribbage	Nigel Furneaux	07721 426768	2 <sup>nd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs	15.00
Current Affairs 1	Barbara Walmsley	01628 522255	4 <sup>th</sup> Tues	14.15
Current Affairs 2	Pamela May	01628 605432	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs	14.15
<b>D and E</b>				
Dog Walking	Sandra Brooks	07717 043462	2 <sup>nd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> Mon	11.00
Explore World Faiths	Michael Gammage	07763 405699	1 <sup>st</sup> Thurs	14.30
<b>F</b>				
Family History	John Noakes	01628 637399	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues	14.30
Film	Jenny Webb	01628 633399	Varies	
	John Twydle	07786 854920		
Food and Nutrition	Christopher Good	01628 628157	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues	14.00
French 2	Margaret Scharff	01628 666218	2 <sup>nd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed	10.00
French Advanced	Ian Ross	01628 626849	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs	15.00
French Conversation	Tim Lodge	01628 627882	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon	12.15
French Improvers	Evelyne Withey	01628 627603	1 <sup>st</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	10.30
Fun with Flowers	Chris Smith	01628 663764	3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri	14.00
<b>G</b>				
Garden Visits	Maura McGinley	01628 629088	Varies	
German Advanced	Rhona Latham	01628 638740	2 <sup>nd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> Fri	10.00
German Conversation	Vreny Beadon	07900 831041	Alternate Thurs	14.00

<b>H and J</b>				
History	Chris Sayers	01628 620647	2 <sup>nd</sup> Fri	14.00
Jazz Appreciation	Richard Kellaway	01628 482605	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon	14.00
<b>L</b>				
Latin	Mick Stringer	07836 211314	2 <sup>nd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> Mon	10.45
London Explorers I	Janet Rose	07762 339873	Varies	
London Explorers II	Christine Feldon	07941 253427	Varies	
Lunch Club	Linda Rahmatalla	01628 671766	Varies	
Lunch Wednesdays	Lyn Reed	07913 305407	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed	
<b>M and N</b>				
Mahjong	Jill Waites	01628 628993	1 <sup>st</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	14.00
Maideleles (Ukelele)	Sarah Mawhinney	01628 781057	Every Wed	10.30
	Geoff Selvidge	07817 415677		
Meditation	Marie Krag	01628 632683	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	14.00
MOTO (Members On Their Own)	Jean Gale	01628 825107	Mainly Sundays	
Nature Amble	Jill Waites	01628 628993	3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri	10.15
<b>P</b>				
Philosophy	Jack Kerbel	01628 604935	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon	14.00
Photography	John Twydle	07786 854920	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues	11.15
Play Reading I	Barrie Williams	01189 349525	1 <sup>st</sup> Thurs	14.00
Play Reading II	Janet Rose	07762 339873	2 <sup>nd</sup> Fri	14.00
Poetry Appreciation	Michael Gammage	07763 405699	1 <sup>st</sup> Tues	14.30
Popular Music	Barrie Williams	01189 349525	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs	14.30
Practical Gardening	Jenny Alder	01753 859664	1 <sup>st</sup> Thurs	14.00
<b>Q and R</b>				
Quiz	Derek Searle	01628 822562	1 <sup>st</sup> Mon	19.15
Recorder	Edwina Shelley	07708 044152	1 <sup>st</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon	13.30
Rummicub	Janice Walker	01753 852403	1 <sup>st</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri	09.30
<b>S</b>				
Science	John Twydle	07786 854920	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs	14.15
Scrabble	Hilary Brodie	01628 522331	Last Mon	14.00
Spanish (Hols) 1	Kathy Bell	07752 660537	1 <sup>st</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues	10.00
Spanish (Hols) II	Kathy Bell	07752 660537	2 <sup>nd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues	10.00
Spanish Improve I	Barrie Williams	01189 349525	2 <sup>nd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues	10.00
Spanish Improve II	Barrie Williams	01189 349525	1 <sup>st</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon	10.00
Spanish Improve III	Barrie Williams	01189 349525	1 <sup>st</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri	10.00
<b>T, W and Y</b>				
Threads and Needles	Maggie Kearney	01628 637160	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs	11.00
Walks (various)	John Twydle	07786 854920	Varies	
Yoga	Barbie Bellman	07740 288498	Every Mon	14.30