

CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS

Hello All,

This month my mind continues to focus on the future of our u3a. I am delighted to report that we have had commitment from a couple of members to come and see what the committee does. In April 2024 three members of the committee complete their terms of office.

We still need more, not just to fill specific roles but also to bring new ideas and perspectives to the committee. It is vital we recruit to the committee so that there can be continuity of the management function within our u3a.

The roles are varied and it's a great way to get to know other members of our u3a. Call me on 07786 854920 to find out more or talk to any committee member.

I also want to thank our conveners, the unsung heroes of our u3a; without their dedication, expertise, organisational skills and hospitality we would not have much of a u3a, so thank you.

I have been at a couple of u3a event in the last 4 weeks where the atmosphere was really buzzing with conversation between members, great to see.

John Twyde

Maidenhead u3a Chairman

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Lizbeth Williams, Sue Shaw, David & Pamela Smith, Shirley Twist, Isobel Wilkinson, Alan Woodley, Andrea Doolan, Sue Kitson, David Homer, Jean Townsend, Jay Oldknow, Deb White, Martin & Maria Tate, Doreen Webster, Pater Middleton and Helen Green

2023 MONTHLY MEETING OCTOBER

Tuesday, 24TH 2023 at 2.30pm

Please note that the meeting will be on the 4th Tuesday not the 2nd

The Speaker in October will be Rear Admiral Chris Parry. He is an author and historian and a noted commentator on military and world affairs. He will talk about "The World Today".

Chris Parry joined the Royal Navy in 1972, finishing his service as Director General, Development, Concepts and Doctrine, a role he held until his retirement in 2008.

Since June 2008, Parry has worked in the private sector and as a writer, broadcaster and speaker. He served as the first chair of the British Government's Marine Management Organisation from April 2010 to November 2010.

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 by emailing to membership@maidenheadu3a.org.uk.

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

GROUP NEWS

Potential New Groups

There has been some interest in the formation of groups for **Calligraphy, Enjoying Shakespeare, Mouth Organ/Harmonica and Whist**, but we need some more members so, if you are interested in any of these groups, or any others listed below as potential new groups, please contact Groups Convener, Kathy Bell, on 07752 660537 or kathy.bell1@btinternet.com and she will be able to put like-minded people in contact with each other. As always, if you would like to be convener of any of these groups, we would love to hear from you.

Archaeology
Armed Forces
Bird Watching

Board and Table Games
Collectables and Antiquities
Cooking for Friends
Mathematical Musings

Croquet
Geology
Opera at Home

Philosophy

After a very lively inaugural meeting of the newly formed philosophy group to discuss the way forward, Jack Kerbel has taken the role of convener. The meetings, for the time being, will be held on the third Monday of each month, in the afternoon, at Jack's home. Eleven members have shown interest which should create some inspired discussion. We look forward to our first get-together on Monday 16 October. Philosophy is full of complicated jargon which we intend to ignore and simply or not so simply answer some of life's perplexing questions. Our discussion will be around, and probably over and under as well, the following:

'Is the mind the same as the brain, or do we have souls?'

What a wonderful opportunity to learn from others' perspectives.

London Explorers 3

The first meeting of this new group was attended by 16 people, all of whom decided to go ahead and join. Carol Cameron volunteered to be the convener so all in in place for great trips to London

Garden Visits

The next visit will be on Wednesday 25th October. Venue to be decided.

Group Notices for October

Scrabble Vacancy

There is now a vacancy in this group. For the next few wintery months we will meet at 2 pm.

Science

The Science group will meet at 2.30 on Thursday 19 of October at 14.15 at Larkspur House, Mill Lane. We will have an Open Forum, so bring an object and talk about it for 5 minutes, or introduce us to some New Tech. The host will be Jacqueline Turner.

Short Walk 5th October

Meet at 11am at The Jolly Woodman Pub, Littleworth Common SL1 8PF. The walk is approximately 2 miles on farmland, woods and country lanes, with one slight incline and it can be muddy. Lunch at the pub if required. Walk Leader Cliff Sparkes .

Longer walk 11th October

Meet at the National Trust car park, Cookham Moor, SL6 9SB at 10.15 for a 3.5mile flat walk along the Thames, taking in views of the river and Winter Hill. There is a short but steep walk up Winter Hill if the group is feeling especially energetic! Lunch at The Crown afterwards for those who want it. Kate and Derek Minter 07974 377455 are the walk leaders.

Social Walk 24th October

Meet at the Shire Horse, Bath Road, Maidenhead SL6 3QA at 10.45. There's plenty of places to park. It will be 2 miles with some steep downhill steps. We will walk along Cherry Garden Lane through a pleasant wooded area, then around footpaths within the Woolley Firs Nature Reserve. 1 hour approximately. Those who wish lunch/ drinks/snacks can get them at the Shire Horse. Walk leader Jeannie Otun, 07756 002188.

Film Club

In October we hope to show "The Ghost" and "Girl with the pearl earring."
Dates and times will be circulated at the end of the month.

Lunch Club

Lunch Club in October will be held on **Thursday 26th**. Venue to be decided.

Art Appreciation

We will resume our usual meetings in Taplow on Friday **October 6th**. The topic, as before will be William Hogarth . Choose 1 picture for discussion and send it by email to John Twyde . I shall be looking at Picture 2 from Marriage a la Mode 1743 in the National Gallery. Before we look at pictures, I will give a brief synopsis of the importance of Hogarth in British Art and where he sits in "The history of art in England".

Nature Amble Friday 24th October

We had lovely weather for the September amble and found many signs of plants flowering out of season. The October amble will be the last of the year. We will walk along the Jubilee River noting signs of autumn. As it is the last amble in 2023 we will have (for those who wish) lunch at the Palmer's Arms. For details, please contact Jill Waites on 01628 628993.

Aviation

Martyn Suggett has suggested a discussion on how the requirements of Airlines influence the development of Airports.

Current Affairs 2

This group has closed after many enjoyable discussions.

Meditation

The group will meet the first Wednesday, October 4th this time only instead of the 3rd Wednesday as normal.



Maideles, the Ukulele Group

The group has joined with two other local groups to present a workshop with the renowned ukulele player Phil Doleman.

It will be on the 11th of October 2023 at 13.00 to 16.30 in St Joseph's Parish Centre, 36 Cookham Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7EG. There is free parking.

The group is looking forward very much to this session with Phil.



Phil Doleman

Phil has travelled all over the UK, Europe and the US performing and leading workshops at festivals, theatres and clubs. He has performed on BBC radio and TV, and shared stages with some of the world's finest players. He is a regular contributor to Uke Magazine and has composed pieces for the London College of Music, ukulele grades, and he is the author of several books including "How Music Works On The Ukulele", "How Songs Work On The Ukulele" and "Blues Ukulele".

This fun, interactive workshop will be suitable for all levels of player.

Phil is not only a great player and teacher but an all-round good bloke too!



Used Stamps

Please bring used postage stamps to our monthly meetings; these are collected for the RNIB Charity.

Old Stamps

Please don't use old stamps that don't have the barcode on. They are no longer valid. If you use these old stamps the addressee will have to pay again for the pleasure of getting your letter!

But you can still return unused stamps without a barcode to the Royal Mail for the Stamp Swap Out scheme see [Stamp Swap Out Form for under £200 \(royalmail.com\)](https://www.royalmail.com/stamp-swap-out-form)

Christmas and commemorative picture stamps without barcodes are still valid for postage.



THE EVENT of the YEAR!

Maidenhead u3a CHRISTMAS PARTY

Those of you that attended last year's Christmas party will remember what a wonderful time we had. This year will be no exception so get your tickets now! These will be offered on a first come first served basis. Here are the details:

Date: WEDNESDAY, 6th December at 2pm

Venue - Burnham Park Hall, Windsor Lane, Burnham SL1 7HR

Entertainment – The Occasions Singers, but also plenty of opportunity for chatting with friends and new acquaintances.

Party food, tea, coffee provided – please come with an appetite. Pay bar available.

Entry by ticket only - £10 per person. Apply for your ticket to the Treasurer, Linda Main; ring her on 07962 255743 or email her at treasurer@maidenheadu3a.org.uk. Tickets will then be sent to you with details of how you can pay and directions to the venue. You can also purchase tickets at our October and November monthly meetings.

There is plenty of parking available; however, do try to car share, if at all possible. **YOU must register your car on arrival at reception to avoid any parking fines.**

PLEASE ADVISE OF ANY SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS

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 a base of glass?

Report on September 2023 monthly talk by Deborah Morgan

This brief report does not, in any way, detract from the brilliant, informative and fascinating presentation by our speaker in September who was Deborah Morgan from the Alan Turing institute for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

As we are all aware, AI has been very much in the news recently. Deborah explained very clearly what AI is and also what AI isn't. It has the vast potential to transform society with many expected benefits and potential threats. Deborah further explained that to create a machine with the power needed for so many varied tasks will be extremely expensive with cooling systems (just for one) using a vast amount of water.

Deborah explained her interest in AI regulation and her PhD research which is in the exploration of the use of regulatory 'sandboxes' for AI. She also highlighted how AI systems can be responsibly used with complex systems of public services.

At Turing, Deborah is supporting research to improve public services and outcomes for citizens through the responsible and effective adoption of AI by the government.

The hall was full to bursting and many interesting questions were asked at the close of Deborah's enthusiastic presentation.

Looking Ahead



Future Speakers at the Monthly Meeting

November

BBC historian and Oxford professor, Dr Janina Ramirez, will be talking about her latest Sunday Times bestselling book, *Femina*, and introducing us to forgotten but powerful medieval women including Cookham's Saxon Queen Cynethryth, the Cookham Abbey abbess.

December

There will be no speaker as we will have the Christmas party.

January 2024

The talk will be given by Dr Rev Nick Henderson on "This England – where did it come from?"

u3a Talks on Zoom

Are you interested in

Art? How to age well? History? Cooking? Cycling? Odd Number Patterns?

These are just a few of the topics covered on the u3a national website. In October you can watch and, in some cases get involved, in about 20 events. They are all on Zoom and they are free to all u3a members.

To find out more about them, go to [www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational events](http://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational%20events). They cover a huge variety of topics.

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.

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 someone'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.

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 newsletter.maidenheadu3a@gmail.com

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**.

Committee Members & other u3a links

Chairman	John Twydale	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	Maggie Kearney	membership@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	01628 637160
Groups Coordinator	Kathy Bell	groups@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	07752 660537
Speaker Organiser	Philip Ratcliffe	speakers@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	07710 160786
Newsletter	Nuala Smith	newsletter@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	01628 315446
	Jack Kerbel	newsletter@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	01628 604935
Website Editor	Nigel Roper	web@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	01628 636893
TVN Rep	Jenny Alder	tvn@maidenhead.org.uk	01753 859664

Maidenhead u3a website www.maidenheadu3a.org.uk

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 I, II and III, Walks, Film, Solos 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	Bill Teasdale	01628 672873	2 nd Thurs	14.30
B				
Beer Appreciation	Bob Beauchamp	01628 639014	4 th Thursday	
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 F - Beginners	Susanna Jones	07583 447789	Every Wed	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
Classical Music	John Noakes	01628 637399	2 nd Mon	14.15
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	4 th Tues	14.15
Cribbage	Nigel Furneaux	07721 426768	2 nd Thurs	15.00
Current Affairs 1	Barbara Walmsley	01628 522255	4 th Tues	12.45
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	Margaret Scharff	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
Guitar	Gerri Suggett	07760 191343		

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	
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 (Ukulele)	Sarah Mawhinney	01628 781057	Every Wed	10.30
	Geoff Selvidge	07817 415677		
Meditation	Marie Krag	01628 632683	3 rd Wed	14.00
MOTO (Members On Their Own)	Jean Gale	01628 825107	Mainly Sundays	
Nature Amble	Jill Waites	01628 628993	3 rd Fri	10.15
P				
Photography	John Twydle	07786 854920	2 nd Tues	11.15
Philosophy	Jack Kerbel	01628 604935	3 rd Mon	14.00
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	01628 822562	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	Hilary Brodie	01628 522331	Last Mon	14.15
Solos	Pauline Noden	07701 354 490	3 rd Tues	14.00
Spanish (Hols) 1	Kathy Bell	07752 660537	1 st 3 rd Tues	10.00
Spanish (Hols) II	Kathy Bell	07752 660537	2 nd 4 th Tues	10.00
Spanish Improve I	Barrie Williams	01189 349525	2 nd 4 th Tues	10.00
Spanish Improve II	Barrie Williams	01189 349525	1 st 3 rd Mon	10.00
Spanish Improve III	Barrie Williams	01189 349525	1 st 3 rd Fri	10.00
T, W and Y				
Threads and Needles	Maggie Kearney	01628 637160	3 rd Thurs	11.00
Walks (various)	John Twydle	07786 854920	Varies	
Yoga	Barbie Bellman	07740 288498	Every Mon	14.30