



It's hard to believe that autumn is nearly upon us. Whilst some groups have taken a summer break, all are about to resume their regular schedule of meetings. For full details visit www.u3asites.org.uk/melbourne-area.

Three u3a groups in particular (garden visiting, photography and walking), have made the most of the summer, enjoying the beauty of our rural surroundings.

All groups will be represented at our **annual showcase event on October 5th, 2pm at Melbourne Assembly Rooms**. This is open to anyone interested in learning more about the u3a and the twenty groups we have on offer locally. Consider bringing a friend or just pop in to explore all our groups and meet other members over tea or coffee. Additionally, there's a range of one-off events; some are included in this newsletter but look out for new events notified to members by email.

Members who cannot access the internet or do not use email are kept informed by attending our monthly meeting or by personal contact from a committee member.

USEFUL MADu3a CONTACTS

Membership: madu3amem@gmail.com

Chair: madu3achair@gmail.com

Enquiries: madu3ainfo@gmail.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(NON-GROUP ACTIVITIES)

Guests are welcome to try two meetings, activities or groups before deciding to join.

September Tuesday 26th, 11am, cycle ride, Hicks Lodge, National Forest Cycle Centre

September Thursday 28th, 11am-1pm, Meditation Taster, Melbourne, £3

November Thursday 9th, 12.30 – 3.30pm, Sharpes Pottery visit, Swadlincote, £7.50

December Friday 1st, 2pm, Festive Wreath Making, Melbourne, £12

December Friday 22nd, Christmas lunch, Melbourne Assembly Rooms, £22.50.

Booking essential for all activities; contact madu3aevents@gmail.com.

MONTHLY MEETINGS, Melbourne Assembly Rooms (no booking required)

October Thursday 5th, 2pm, Open meeting with Groups Showcase. All welcome.

November Thursday 2nd, 2pm, speaker on the tradition of rapper dancing (£1)

December Thursday 7th, 2pm, Christmas Social; entertainment from 'Off the Record'

January Thursday 4th, 2pm, Board Games (£1)

February Thursday 1st, 2pm, 'In conversation' with author Mark Eklid, (£1)

The National u3a website offers an impressive range of on-line courses, for instance , learning about the Commonwealth War Graves Commission or the mind of Van Gogh. Available at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

New MADu3a Trustee, Dominic Clarke



Dominic joined MADu3a in October last year after semi-retiring from his position as a Consultant at the University Hospitals of Derby and Burton.

His first taster of a guided walk around the Donnington estate was so enjoyable that he volunteered to organise a historical 'walk and talk' around Barrow village, with the help of the church wardens from St. Wilfred's church in Barrow.

His main interest is visiting historical sites and he also enjoys walking around our beautiful countryside.

Dominic joined the committee of MADu3a at the recent AGM and looks forward to becoming more involved starting with helping at MADu3a's presence at Melbourne Festival September 16th/17th where he hopes to recruit some new members!

Raising awareness



Plucky MADu3a members volunteered to run a 'Human Fruit Machine' at the 2023 Melbourne Carnival, raising awareness of the u3a whilst having fun. Young observers rated the stall as 'awesome' and the 'best thing'. Look out for Sue and other MADu3a volunteers at MARS helping at the Melbourne Festival Art Trail on September 16/17th.

GROUP NEWS



The **Cycling group** is inviting members to join them on a ride around the National Forest Cycle Centre at Hick's Lodge, Ashby on **September Tuesday 26th**. Bikes can be hired for off-road rides of 2km to 7km. We will meet at the centre for coffee, cycling or walking. Car shares will be arranged. Alternatively, you can cycle there with the Road Cycling Group (14 miles each way)! madu3aevents@gmail.com

The **Short Breaks Group** is visiting the heart of Wales on **May 20th 2024** for 5 days. Using a local Coach holiday company they will explore some of the most picturesque coastlines and countryside mid Wales has to offer. The break includes heritage railway rides on the Vale of Rheidol and the Rheilfford Talylyn Railways plus a visit to the Elan Valley to see historic landscapes, thriving wildlife and the working legacy of Victorian engineering. For full details contact Jackie on madu3abussec@gmail.com

The **Walking Group** are planning a new season of walks including a 4 mile Archaeological Trail around Calke Park led by a Calke volunteer Colin Stewart, on **November Wednesday 8th**.

Motorcycling? Our friends at neighbouring Derby u3a are keen to set up a Motorcycling group, email madu3achair@gmail.com if you are interested.



The **Photography step-by-step Group** has been out and about visiting Lea Gardens in May to photograph stunning Rhododendrons and explore different viewpoints. The planned June visit to Attenborough Nature

Reserve was cancelled due to Download traffic but a small group went to Staunton Harold Reservoir to photograph Orchids. In July they ventured to Belper River Gardens and Cromford Canal, and in August they focussed on getting the best from images taken with mobile phones. This group is enjoyed by members with phones, compact cameras and DSLR's. They meet on the first Wednesday of the month (timings may vary due to the time of the year) at fairly local locations, occasionally venturing further afield.

The **History Group** has just finished exploring the Hanoverians and is travelling back in time to start learning about Roman Britain. **Art Appreciation** will be researching the work of notable women artists and **Current Affairs** will be discussing topics as wide-ranging as Artificial Intelligence, polluting cars and the House of Lords.

National u3a news

If you use Burton-based **Riviera Travel**, you can choose to claim 10% of the total basic cost of holidays as a donation to u3a. When making a booking mention that you are a member of Melbourne Area Derby u3a and want to claim 'Affinity Commission' for your u3a. At the end of your holiday, Riviera Travel will make a donation to the Third Age Trust and MADu3a.

Contact Sue, the Groups' Coordinator if you would like more information about groups, or have ideas for new groups
madu3agroup@gmail.com

NEW OPPORTUNITIES!

Buongiorno! Hola! A new 'short course' language group is starting in 2024. Jackie is offering a six-week **Holiday Spanish Group** in January for those who want to learn some basic Spanish such as asking for directions, ordering food, days of the week, numbers and understanding key signs.

An **Italian for Complete Beginners Group** will follow in February. This will run until the end of the year: those who wish to continue can seek more advanced classes elsewhere.

Numbers will be limited to six people so please register your interest as soon as possible by emailing Jackie at
madu3abussec@gmail.com

A few more members are needed to allow us to set up an indoor **Pickleball Group**. Played on a badminton court, using round bats and hollow plastic balls over a tennis net, this new craze is great exercise for old bones!

We are looking for a volunteer to coordinate a **Theatre Visiting Group** to repeat this year's successful theatre visits.

Finally, it is hoped that an ad-hoc **Wine Appreciation group** will be set up early 2024 to hold occasional wine tasting events.

Contact madu3ainfo@gmail.com for details.

MADu3a CURRENT GROUPS (subject to change, see website for up-to-date details and availability)	
Art Appreciation. Currently focussing on female artists.	Monthly, Wednesday (pm), Melbourne Assembly Rooms (MARS)
Book groups. Three book groups; numbers are kept small.	Monthly. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday. Various times and venues.
Bowls. Seasonal Crown Green Bowling (usually March-September).	Monthly, last Wednesday (am) Kings Norton Bowling Club
Bridge. For players of all abilities.	Weekly, Monday (pm) Melbourne Sports Park (MSP)
Crafting. Exploring a range of techniques. All abilities.	Monthly, second Thursday (pm), Thomas Cook Hall, Melbourne
Current Affairs. Discussions on topical issues, held at various local pubs.	Monthly, third Friday (pm) Various venues
Family History. Supported research with access to Ancestry and Find My Past websites.	Monthly, second Wednesday (pm), Melbourne British Legion
French Dancing to live music. Beginners welcome; dances include waltzes, gavottes and Breton dances.	Monthly, last Thursday (pm) Thomas Cook Hall, Melbourne
Garden Visits. Spring/summer usually within 30 - 40 minutes' drive of Melbourne.	Various days, times, places
German Conversation. For people who speak some German and wish to practice and improve.	Weekly, Wednesday (am) In members homes or online via Zoom.
History. The current topic is Roman Britain.	Monthly, second Friday (pm). Melbourne Assembly Rooms
Photography. All abilities welcome. The group visits locations, shares photos and learn from each other.	Monthly, first Wednesday (pm). Various locations
Poetry Appreciation. Reading poetry and learning about poets. Numbers kept small.	Monthly, first Monday (pm) Members' homes
Road Cycling. For experienced road cyclers. 2 hours @ 12mph, including a break.	Weekly Tuesday (am), Starting at Melbourne or Breedon
Scrabble. All abilities welcome to this friendly group.	Monthly, fourth Tuesday (pm) Thomas Cook Hall, Melbourne
Short Breaks. Coordinates at least one holiday each year to Europe or within the UK.	Various dates & places
TV Art via Zoom. An informal group discussing recent art-themed TV programmes (autumn and winter).	Monthly, usually second Thursday (evening) via ZOOM
Walking Groups. Members arrange walks of varying length and difficulty to suit all needs.	Ad hoc, 2/3 times a month Various starting points
Walking Netball. Beginners welcome. No running allowed. Played outside.	Second and fourth Monday (am) Melbourne Sports Park (MSP)
Whist. All abilities. Beginners welcome. Two groups; choose to join both or just one.	Twice a month, Tuesday , 7-9pm, Thomas Cook Hall, Melbourne

*many groups charge a small fee to cover costs, eg room hire.

To join a group contact Sue, our Groups' Coordinator at madu3agroup@gmail.com or at the monthly general meeting, or sign-up on-line, or join in-person at the Showcase event on Thursday 5th October 2pm, Melbourne Assembly Rooms