



MAD u3a at Melbourne Festival

Interest groups are said to be the lifeblood of the u3a. Here, in our relatively small u3a, we run a varied programme of activities, with hopefully something to suit everyone in a friendly environment. The groups are listed on page 4 and information is regularly updated on our website (<https://u3asites.org.uk/melbourne-area>).

Consider turning your hand to something new or simply enjoying a favourite interest or pastime in a group setting.

The vision of u3a is to make lifelong learning a reality for those of us who are now retired or semi-retired. Groups are run by members for members; and as members, we try to contribute to the running of groups in any way we can. Our group sizes also vary, as do ways of learning, both online but mostly face to face.

Should you wish to try out a new group, either contact the Group Leader directly via the website or email Sue, our new Groups' Coordinator at madu3agroup@gmail.com.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

October 18th 7-9pm

WHIST EVENING. Thomas Cook Hall, Melbourne. £3 admission includes tea or coffee. Open to all, including those who have never played before. Email Linda madu3avicechair@gmail.com

November 3rd 2.30-4pm

MEMBER MEETING. Melbourne Assembly Rooms. Guest speaker on Home Energy and Climate Change. £1 including tea or coffee.

November 16th 1.30pm

GUIDED TOUR of St Helens Church and Community Heritage Centre, Ashby de la Zouch. £3 donation. Optional early pub lunch. Email Linda madu3avicechair@gmail.com

December 1st 2.30-4pm

CHRISTMAS QUIZ AND SOCIAL
Melbourne Assembly Rooms.

If you are not yet a member **you may like to try a group, event or meeting before joining.** Why not come along to our monthly meeting, usually held on the first Thursday of the month, 2.30pm at Melbourne Assembly Rooms.

If you enjoy an interest not on offer which you would like to share with others, **you might consider setting up a new group.** You do not have to be an expert, neither do you have to do everything yourself. Groups can be seasonal, ad hoc or short-term, at least in the first instance. To chat through an initial idea contact Sue, the Groups' Coordinator.

SUE KERR, GROUPS' COORDINATOR



Sue spent her childhood in the Lake District and North Yorkshire. She studied Geography at University followed by a PGCE and a career in teaching and sixth form management. Retiring in 2013, Sue moved to Melbourne in 2019 with her partner Paul on return from living in Japan. Knowing nobody in the area, the u3a gave Sue the opportunity to meet new people with similar interests and she is now active in several u3a interest groups and became Groups' Coordinator in May.

Sue has been learning Japanese for over 3 years and has started volunteering for the National Trust at Calke Abbey.

REGIONAL NEWS

The Derbyshire u3a Network celebrated the u3a's 40th anniversary by organising a Photography Competition and a county-wide walking baton relay, both featuring MADu3a members.

The **Photography Competition** attracted more than 70 entries in two categories, including this stunning photo of Melbourne Pool by MADu3a member Lorraine Dowell, who featured amongst the winners.



All entrants can be viewed at <https://u3asites.org.uk/derbyshirenetwork>

Melbourne Area Derby ((MAD) u3a took part in the **Derbyshire u3a Network walking baton relay**. A golden baton (pictured) was walked around all 17 Derbyshire Network u3as, starting and finishing in Derby. The final leg from Melbourne to Alvaston Park was led by u3a Walking Group leader Sharon Clark.



Derbyshire u3as have also started a series of **Walk & Talk events** highlighting the local history of our towns and villages (dates below). MADu3a members are welcome to take part; for booking details email Margaret at madu3achair@gmail.com. Look out for the Melbourne Area Derby u3a Walk and Talk next year.

Bolsover u3a

Tuesday 11th October, 10.00 - 12.00

Belper u3a

Sunday 23rd October, 14.00 - 16.00

Matlock Area u3a

Monday 31st October, 10.15 - 12.30

Ashbourne and District u3a

Thursday 3rd November, 14.00 - 15.30

Interested in Quizzing? Look out for details of forthcoming MADu3a quizzing opportunities!

Or email madu3ainfo@gmail.com

MELBOURNE CONNECTIONS

This project involved researching the history of 'our' Melbourne, highlighting connections between Melbourne Derbyshire and Melbourne Australia. Sue Webster and Lorraine Dowell provided historical photographs which were used to contrast Melbourne old and new using contemporary photographs taken by Lorraine. Margaret Whitehead used these to make a powerpoint presentation which was delivered by Sue Kerr using a script researched by members of the group and coordinated by Sharon Clarke.



One connection that Sue Webster uncovered was the billeting of Australian sailors stationed in the UK during WW2 with families in Melbourne (pictured above), a fascinating story that she is still researching.

The zoom presentation took place on 27th September and was very well received by our Australian counterparts.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this project, including those who attended the 'dress rehearsal' and made useful suggestions.

We hope to be able to show the presentation again and publish some of the photographs.

Interested in Local History? If there's sufficient interest, Margaret would like to set up a group focused on exploring local Midland history. Email her at madu3achair@gmail.com if you're interested in joining an initial steering group.

GROUP FOCUS – TV ART

The **TV Art Group** was set up during Covid Lockdown and has just continued! It meets monthly, usually the second Thursday of the month, @ 7.30pm on Zoom. It operates much as a book group, selecting one or two TV programmes on art topics which are watched at leisure and discussed. The format works well and over the last couple of years the group has discussed programmes about well-known artists such as Matisse, Cezanne, Tracey Emin as well as about some lesser known ones including Maggi Hambling, and Paula Rego.

The group has 'had a go' at most things and even embraced some Lockdown favourites; Bob Ross, Grayson Perry, Landscape Artist of the Year and Fake or Fortune. With the colder weather approaching the evening Zoom format may well appeal!



Paula Rego 'The Dance'

To find out more about TV Art contact Sharon via the MADu3a website or email madu3agroup@gmail.com

Your membership of MADu3a includes subscription to the national u3a magazine, delivered to your door. You can also sign up for their newsletter and online courses at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/> and join other u3as at a reduced rate.

CURRENT GROUPS (NB subject to change, see website for up-to-date details)	
	Frequency/venue
Art Appreciation. This year the focus is on European Art of the second half of the C19th & early C20th.	Monthly, Wednesday (pm), Melbourne Assembly Rooms (MARS)
TV Art via Zoom. An informal group discussing recent art-themed TV programmes.	Monthly, usually second Thursday (evening) via ZOOM
Book groups. Currently two book groups and a literary group; each meet monthly. Numbers kept small.	Monthly Various venues
Bowls. Seasonal Crown Green Bowling (usually March-September)	Monthly, last Weds (pm) Kings Norton Bowling Club
Bridge. A friendly group for players of all abilities.	Weekly, Monday (pm) Melbourne Sports Park (MSP)
Crafting. Restarting in 2023 (tbc)	Monthly
Current Affairs. Discussions on topics of the day, held at various venues (usually a local pub!)	Monthly, third Friday (pm) Various venues
Family History. Supported research with access to Ancestry and Find My Past websites.	Monthly, second Wednesday (pm), Melbourne Library
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 within 30 - 40 minutes' drive of Melbourne.	Various days, times, places
German Conversation on Zoom. For people who speak some German and wish to practice and improve.	Weekly, Wednesday (am) Online via Zoom
History. The current topic is the Stuarts.	Monthly, second Friday (pm) MARS
Laughter Therapy. A winter ZOOM activity for 10 minutes every Friday.	Weekly, Friday (pm) Online via Zoom
Photography. All abilities welcome. The group visits locations, share 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
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.	2 nd and 4 th Monday (am) MSP

USEFUL MADu3a CONTACTS:General enquiries: madu3ainfo@gmail.comGroups (Sue): madu3agroup@gmail.comMembership (Alison): madu3amem@gmail.comWebsite: www.u3asites.org.uk/melbourne-area