



Spring is in the air and u3a members are looking forward to a range of group and special activities. Full details at www.u3asites.org.uk/melbourne-area

This time of year the organising committee is focused on membership renewals and preparations for the AGM on June 1st. You may not know that post holders, for instance Chair and Secretary, may only take on a role for three years maximum. As we approach our sixth anniversary a number of committee members will be stepping down. Change encourages fresh ideas and renewed energy but relies on members joining the committee every year.

In addition to formal roles there are many small but vital tasks, from making tea to distributing posters, which are essential in ensuring that MADu3a continues to thrive. Do get in touch if you'd like to know more about how you can contribute to our future success, whether in a formal or informal capacity. Email Margaret on madu3achair@gmail.com.

USEFUL MADu3a CONTACTS:

Membership: madu3amem@gmail.com

Groups: madu3agroup@gmail.com

General enquiries/events:
madu3ainfo@gmail.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(NON-GROUP ACTIVITIES)

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

COFFEE MORNINGS; renew your membership or introduce a friend (no booking required).

March Thursday 30th, 10.30am, Weston Village Hall, DE72 2BL.

April Tuesday 4th, 10.30am, Melbourne Assembly Rooms (optional presentation on Melbourne's history from 11am).

ZOOM TALK from an Australian u3a on the history of 'Melbourne, the Great Metropolis of the Southern Hemisphere, 1855-1875'.

April Tuesday 18th 10am. Log in details available from madu3ainfo@gmail.com

WALKS WITH HISTORICAL TALKS; learning walks of different lengths. Booking essential at madu3ainfo@gmail.com

April Thursday 13th, 11am, Ticknall plus optional pub lunch at the Staff of Life.

May Thursday 18th, 10am, Barrow plus Church tour and refreshments.

June Thursday 29th, 10.45am, Melbourne, plus pub lunch.

PICKLEBALL TASTER; Booking essential at madu3ainfo@gmail.com

April Tuesday 11th, 2pm, Melbourne.

MONTHLY MEETINGS, Melbourne Assembly Rooms (no booking required)

April Thursday 6th, 2pm; invited speaker on Melbourne's Thomas Cook, founder of modern tourism.

May Thursday 4th, 2pm; invited speaker on the recent History of the British Motor Industry.

HOGARTH EXHIBITION, Derby (see overleaf)

May Tuesday 16th, 11am book via madu3aevents@gmail.com

GROUP NEWS

The **Short Breaks Group** is preparing to tiptoe through the tulips at the Keukenhof Gardens in the Netherlands (pictured overleaf), also visiting Amsterdam for some sightseeing during a 4 day/3 night coach trip.

They are also heading to another spectacular garden in November to see the Kew Light Trail and will be stopping in Oxford for Christmas shopping after an overnight stay. The Group are planning a few trips each year.

The sun shone when the **Art Appreciation group** visited Leicester Art Gallery and its internationally acclaimed collection of German Expressionism. New members always welcome.

On **May 16th 11am** the Group has organised a **curated tour of the Hogarth Exhibition** at Derby Museum and Art Gallery open to all MADu3a members (small charge dependent on numbers). Contact Sharon for further information via madu3aevents@gmail.com



The **German Conversation Group** is looking for new members to join their weekly meeting either face to face or on Zoom. Meet Wednesdays at 10am.

Garden Visiting and Bowls

Both groups are restarting for the spring and summer seasons.

Photography Step by Step, as the name suggests, takes one step at a time at members' own pace using phones, compact cameras, DSLR's etc. They meet on the first Wednesday of the month (timings may vary according to the time of the year), staying fairly local with occasional trips away. Last year they had two full days out at the National Arboretum and Litchfield Cathedral. Other visits are planned this year.



Additionally, the group have been running a monthly theme; something to concentrate on in-between meetings (for anyone within the group who would like to take part). They share images using a private online group. New members always welcome.

FAMILY HISTORY

Change of venue for 2023

Family History has moved to a larger venue at the Melbourne British Legion on Derby Road.

They meet in the Bar which is open for the sale of tea and coffee as well as alcoholic drinks. There is plenty of space to lay out papers and laptops. A small charge has been introduced to cover the cost of the rent.

New members welcome.

MADu3a has **three book groups** but a fourth may be on the way. We will be holding an Open Book morning on June 8th, open to all members interested in reading. Email madu3achair@gmail.com to be kept informed.

Walking group

We are so lucky to have such wonderful walking country on our doorstep. The MADu3a walking group is now well established and over recent years has grown and diversified. There are now three to four walks on offer every month: a couple of medium length walks, a shorter walk and a 'last minute' walk. This year the group is hoping to offer a few longer walks as the days lengthen. The group has close links with the Melbourne Footpaths Group which helps maintain footpaths in the South Derbyshire area and offers a local monthly walk.

Forthcoming MADu3a walks include;

- Donington Estate Deer Park;
- Foremark Reservoir, led by the newly appointed NT Ranger;
- Calke Estate looking at some of the archaeological features.

If anyone is interested in setting up a 'Long Walks group' or 'Walking with dogs group', please get in touch.

How do I set up a new group?

Setting up a new group in something that interests you could not be easier; you may like to start by holding a taster session to gauge interest, then move to a short course or regular session. Contact our Groups' Coordinator, Sue, for more information at madu3agroup@gmail.com.

Perhaps you would like to lead the group organising Theatre Visits or set up tasters for Birdwatching or a 'Repair workshop', or know someone who might be interested. Let Sue know.

Lyn is starting a **new Crafting Group**, meeting monthly in Melbourne every second Thursday afternoon. Join the group via the website or by emailing madu3agroup@gmail.com.

Meals out and wine evenings



Our Christmas meal and February wine-tasting were very well received. The next meal will be at Leddy's, Melbourne's newest restaurant on Wednesday June 7th.

Melbourne Connections

Last year MADu3a set up a link with a branch of the u3a in Melbourne, Australia. At their request, we delivered a Zoom presentation to Australia on 'our' Melbourne. This April Tuesday 18th 10am Melbourne City u3a Australia will deliver a Zoom presentation to us on the history of 'Melbourne, the Great Metropolis of the Southern Hemisphere, 1855-1875'. Email madu3ainfo@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

And in case you missed it last year, the presentation on a short history of Melbourne, Derbyshire will be given in person on Tuesday April 4th 11am at Melbourne Assembly Rooms (tea/coffee from 10.30am).

VILLAGES PROJECT

MADu3a has secured a small sum from South Derbyshire Small Grants Scheme to fund three events in local villages (eg coffee mornings, quizzes). If you are interested in teaming up with other MADu3a members to set up an event in your village contact Margaret at madu3achair@gmail.com.



Well done David, Marjorie, Jackie, Di (above) and Sue (not pictured) for forming the MADu3a team at the recent Melbourne Village Charity Knockout Quiz; a sterling effort by all. It's hoped that quizzing will continue informally in various local venues.

NATIONAL u3a LEARNING

Membership of MADu3a includes access to a range of free on-line activities. Local member Mike, from Barrow, describes his experience of using the national u3a website:

"I look at the national u3a website most days. First, I go to the Online Events page, which can be found at www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events. This lists all forthcoming presentations on a wide variety of subjects. In the past, I have participated in presentations as diverse as astronomy, geology and Japan, as well as photography and family history (I belong to the corresponding MADu3a groups). The Zoom presentations are free; clicking on a listed event takes you through to Eventbrite to register for that presentation. The Zoom app is not needed to participate as the events can be accessed in your web browser via a link that is sent by email a couple of days before the presentation date. The events usually end with a question and answer session.

Secondly, I visit the National Programmes page, www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes. This lists a wide range of on-line activities. I frequently submit photographs to 'u3a Eye' and 'Found in Nature'. Much less frequently, one of my photographs is selected for the national u3a website. 'u3a Eye' gives participants a monthly theme and 'Found in Nature' encourages outdoor photography of the natural world. One of my photographs (below, taken at Melbourne Pool) was selected for a news item on the national u3a website and Lorraine (MADu3a Photography Group Leader) was invited to describe the activities of the MADu3a photography group. This can be seen at www.u3a.org.uk/news/learning-news/photography-initiatives.



Finally, I view Interest Groups Online (formerly Trust u3a) at www.u3asites.org.uk/trustu3a/welcome which offers virtual interest groups (for a small annual fee).

It is also worthwhile browsing the various pages on the national u3a website as there is much of interest to be found to supplement membership of MADu3a".

The **National u3a website** is found at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/news>

| MADu3a CURRENT GROUPS (subject to change, see website for up-to-date details and availability) | |
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| Art Appreciation. Currently focussing on early 20 th century art. | 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 'weekend literary group'; 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. A friendly group for players of all abilities. | Weekly, Monday (pm) Melbourne Sports Park (MSP) |
| Crafting. A new group starting in May. | Monthly, second Thursday (pm), 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 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) Online via Zoom or in members homes |
| History. The current topic is the Hanovarians. | 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 |
| 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. | Monthly, third Tuesday , 7-9pm, Thomas Cook Hall, Melbourne |

To join a group or find out more please contact the Group Leader directly by using the email facility link on the Group's page of the MADu3a website or via the Groups' Coordinator at madu3agroup@gmail.com or speak to a Committee Member at the Monthly meeting.