



Melbourne Area Derby (MAD) u3a activities restarted as soon as government guidelines allowed. A well-attended open day kick-started summer activities including an outing to the local Tollgate Brewery. All groups are now up and running, with new groups starting or in the pipeline. See the full list of active groups below. To join up or find out more see our website or contact a committee member. When you've joined a group, you'll receive regular updates from the group leader. If there is a new group, short course or taster session you would be interested in starting, perhaps in partnership with another member, just get in touch.



Forthcoming all-member meetings

General meetings are usually on **the first Thursday of the month, from 2.30pm** at Melbourne Assembly Rooms (unless otherwise stated). They may be subject to change, so please check closer to the day.

- Dec 2nd, Festive Quiz and social.
- Jan 6th, via ZOOM; talk on Espionage. (Zoom details will be emailed)
- Feb 3rd, talk on an American Road Trip.
- March 3rd, talk on French Wine.

NEW! GERMAN CONVERSATION

A new German conversation group now meets on Zoom every Wednesday morning, with a view to practise and improve their German conversation.

For details contact Jackie on madu3abussec@gmail.com

Who do you think you are?

MAD u3a **Family History group** currently meets once a month in Melbourne Library where members make use of the free access to family history websites and help each other to "break down brick walls" in their research.

Fascinating facts have been discovered; a new branch of a family in New Zealand, a previously unknown sister of a member's father, and a local man who emigrated and became the first mayor of a town in South Australia.

The discovery of a bigamous marriage came to light from information gleaned from online newspapers, marriage certificates and the 1939 Register.

At the beginning of 1935 'Jane' left her husband (a sergeant in the Coldstream Guards) and their 4-year-old son, and moved to Derbyshire to work using her maiden name. She soon met an eligible young bus conductor, telling him that she was single, and they married later that year. Just 6 days after the ceremony she confessed what she had done to her first husband! The police were informed and Jane was arrested, admitting to the offence. Her defence was that she had been bored living in the army camp. She was "*bound over to be of good behaviour for 12 months*". Her second 'husband' moved away from the area and was still unmarried and working as a chauffeur in Windsor in 1939. Why not try the Family History Group and see what you can discover? Contact Sue via the website or madu3agroup@gmail.com

HISTORY

The history group is proving very popular and has nearly doubled in size since before lockdown. The group now meets on the 2nd Friday of the month in a larger room at Melbourne Assembly Rooms. Having finished the Tudors, the next topic is Famous Women.

TV Art and Art Appreciation

TV Art & Art Appreciation have recently merged and the group will continue to offer both face to face meetings and Zoom discussions. TV Art meets at 7.30pm on the second Thursday of the month on Zoom to discuss art-themed TV programmes.

The art appreciation group meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 1.30pm in the lounge at Melbourne Assembly Rooms. This year the focus is on European Art of the second half of the C19 & early C20 starting with early Impressionism.

All sessions are member led. In October Elsie (pictured) gave a fabulous presentation on early Impressionism.



Like so many of our members, Elsie has a wealth of experience that she kept quiet about until she was persuaded to share. She has a long career in Art and Design. Following Art school and teaching in the UK, Elsie was drawn to the modern and exciting design developing in Scandinavia. She joined an

architect’s office in Sweden where she learnt technical skills of planning and presentation and later became the interior decorator for an American/Swedish firm exporting furniture and refurbishing clubs throughout Europe. Returning to England, teaching suited family life. Retirement didn’t stop Elsie; she studied for a City and Guilds and a Diploma in Stitch Textiles. For many years she exhibited paintings and textiles and on moving to Melbourne joined the Derby Stitch and Textile Group, where she designed their group project, ‘The Industrial Heritage of Derbyshire’, now hanging in Derby.

SCRABBLE

The Scrabble group is now meeting on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 1.30pm in the Thomas Cook Hall. There’s space for a few more players: if you wish to join let Frances know at madu3agroup@gmail.com

Current affairs

The meetings are usually on the third Friday of the month at 2pm in a local pub; the venue rotates so sign-up to be kept informed. Discussions have included HS2, climate change and the NHS. The January meeting will differ slightly from the usual format; we’ll take part in a roleplay with members as magistrates deciding on cases...should be fun. New members welcome.

CRAFTING

Crafting has moved to the first Tuesday of the month and now meets at Melbourne Assembly Rooms.

Laughter Therapy

There are a few spaces available in the Laughter Therapy group; it meets via Zoom for 15minutes every Friday during autumn and winter. Contact Frances at madu3agroup@gmail.com

Dance

Dancing is a fun way to help coordination, balance, and stamina. **French dancing**, led by Diana, continues to meet monthly and new members are very welcome.

If anyone has a talent for **ballroom dancing**, or even knows the difference between a quickstep and a foxtrot, there are members who want to learn from you. Contact madu3achair@gmail.com

Walking

We are so lucky in South Derbyshire to be surrounded by beautiful countryside and a wealth of footpaths. Recent walks have included Moira Furnace Country Park, Smisby Arboretum and Bradgate Park. The walking group is so popular that it's time to form three separate walking groups to give members more choice; short/medium/longer. Members can choose to join any group or all three.

The **new shorter walking group** will include some weekend walks; they will be no longer than three miles with some easy inclines and very few styles. For more information contact [Frances madu3agroup@gmail.com](mailto:Frances.madu3agroup@gmail.com)



Photography



The Photography group started in March 2021, initially via Zoom and now meeting on the first Wednesday of the month 2pm-4pm, but occasionally earlier when the weather is suitable for outdoor photography. The idea for the group came about when Lorraine heard about a free one-year online course for photography. Once you have signed up, weekly e-mails take you through the steps of the settings of your camera and how to apply them. The course also looks at composition and how to apply this to your own photography. There is no pressure to join the online course.

The ethos behind the group is to learn at your own pace with likeminded people. There is no need for expensive cameras, the idea is to learn to use what you already have and enjoy taking images to be proud of. Photography outings have included the Bluebell Arboretum in Smisby and the International Garden Photographer of the Year Exhibition at Calke Park, as well as sessions around Melbourne. Images are shared and reviewed via Zoom meetings. Anyone interested in joining the group can contact Lorraine via the website or madu3agroup@gmail.com.

**Help to shape the future of
Melbourne Area Derby u3a**

- Look out for a survey of members' opinions and ideas early 2022;
- Set up a new group, short course or taster session;
- Consider joining the Committee or becoming a Group Leader.

CONTACTS

Chair

madu3achair@gmail.com

Secretary

madu3abussec@gmail.com

Membership

madu3amember@gmail.com

Groups

madu3agroup@gmail.com

Website

<https://u3asites.org.uk/melbourne-area>

**Sign up for the national u3a
newsletter at**
<https://www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter>



NEW ACTIVITIES

FREE TASTER SESSIONS in **Tai Chi, Ballet** and **Yoga** have been organised for early 2022; these will be run by experienced instructors and are tailored to be accessible to all abilities (including chair-based exercises).

The sessions are open to both men and women, and no previous experience is required. Everyone is welcome but spaces are limited. Sign up by emailing Sue at madu3aevents@gmail.com

- **Tai Chi**, with Alan at Breedon Priory Health Club. Tuesday 18th January 2pm.
- **Yoga**, with Diana at Thomas Cook Memorial Hall. Wednesday 16th February 3.15pm.
- **Ballet for all ages** (Silver Swans) with Marion at Melbourne Assembly Rooms. Thursday 17th March 12noon.

These taster events are free thanks to a Community Action Grant from Derbyshire County Council.

It is also intended to set up a **Bowls group** and possibly a **road cycling group** and **third book group** if organisers come forward.

INTERESTED IN VISTING GARDENS?

A new Garden Visiting Group has been set up. This will include gardens opening for the NGS and similar organisations, as well as arboreta, botanic gardens and horticultural events. Most visits will be within 30 - 40 minutes' drive of Melbourne (car-shares will be organised), with the possibility of the occasional day trip further afield.

To find out more contact Jo via madu3agroup@gmail.com

or the website
<https://u3asites.org.uk/melbourne-area/groups>

CURRENT ACTIVITIES*	
Group	Frequency/venue
General all-member meeting	Monthly, first Thursday (afternoon) Melbourne Assembly Rooms
Art appreciation	Monthly, fourth Wednesday (afternoon) Melbourne Assembly Rooms
TV Art	Monthly, second Thursday (evening). Zoom
Book groups	Monthly In members' homes
Bridge	Weekly, Monday (afternoon) Sports Pavilion, MSP
Crafting	Monthly, first Tuesday (afternoon) Melbourne Assembly Rooms
Current Affairs	Monthly, third Friday (afternoon) Venue varies, usually in a local pub.
Family History	Monthly, second Wednesday (afternoon) Melbourne Library
French dancing	Monthly, last Thursday (afternoon) Thomas Cook Memorial Hall, Melbourne
Garden visits	To be arranged
German conversation	Weekly, Wednesday (morning) Zoom
History	Monthly, second Friday (afternoon) Melbourne Assembly Rooms
Laughter Therapy	Weekly, Friday (afternoon) Zoom
Photography	Monthly, first Wednesday (afternoon) Various
Physical activity taster sessions (Tai Chi, Yoga and Ballet for all ages)	Various days, times and venues January-March 2022
Scrabble	Monthly, fourth Tuesday Thomas Cook Memorial Hall
Walking groups	Ad hoc, 2 - 4 times a month

* days, times and venues may be subject to change. The most up to date information is emailed to group members or available on the website <https://u3asites.org.uk/melbourne-area/groups>