The University of the Third Age

MALDON
AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

Summer Holidays

AUGUST 2014

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

Web Site: **www.maldonu3a.co.uk**

FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to our new Committee members, Kym Marshall, Judith Johnston, Andy Simmonds, Sylvia Beckett and Veronica Smith: thank you for volunteering. Also my thanks to those members who are remaining on the Committee.

Viking Transport is a voluntary group that has a minibus, and as our U3A is a member we can use their services. However, although they do have a pool of drivers, it may not always be possible to get one of them, so could we provide our own driver? This would require someone o go on a day course with them. Is there be anyone who would be prepared to upgrade to do this sort of thing? You have to have a D1 on your licence.

Two new groups have started: Architecture, which will meet on the second Friday of each month, and Geology, which will meet on the first Tuesday of each month. Further details of these two groups are in this Newsletter.
I wish both of these groups every success.

I have had a suggestion for another new group, Chess, for those who can play and for those who would like to learn. If you are interested, please contact me or Daron Gunson (01621 891118) so that a preliminary meeting can be arranged in order to start the group.

As you are all aware, we have a very good website – just enter **Maldon u3a.co.uk** in your browser to view it. If any U3A member, especially Co-ordinators, would like any U3A matter included, please contact either me or our web master, John Bowen.

Malcolm Case
Telephone 01245329435
malcolmcase@talktalk.net

Local & General History

We do not have a meeting in August.

On **Monday 22 September** we have a visit to the White Cliffs & Walmer Castle. The cost of this is £36 including coffee or £30 if you are an English Heritage member. We still have some places available - please contact me on 01621 843020 or email maryburd43@yahoo.co.uk if you wish to book a place.

Mary Burd Co-Ordinator

Astronomy

Stowe Maries Aerodrome. Meet at 7:30pm

The next meeting will be on **Monday 22nd September** – Malcolm Case to give a talk on the star sign "Virgo". This talk will include the history of the sign together with the stars that can be seen in this constellation. If clear skies, then some observing, both Saturn and Mars will be visible, low in the sky and towards the south west. If you have a telescope or a good pair of binoculars, please bring them with you.

All U3A members are very welcome to join the group.

Malcolm Case

Maritime

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 1st September,** meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00 am for an interesting, illustrated talk on "The challenges of displaying museum collections in the new Naval History Gallery at the National Maritime Museum" by Dr James Davey, Curator of Naval History, National Maritime Museum, Greenwich.

All U3A members are very welcome to join the group.

Malcolm Case

London Walks & Talks

Our speaker on **September 17** will be Elaine Beckett whose talk is entitled "London Street Names". Meeting at WMCC. Starts at 2.30 p.m., doors open at 2.15 p.m.

Bookings will be taken at the September Meeting for our walk on **October 15** when our guide will be Ian Bevan, who will guide us through the "Alleyways of the City of London."

Janeen Trew 01245 227645 janeentrew@hotmail.co.uk

Christine Speed 01621 854073 rspeed6441@btinternet.com

Geology

The first meeting of this group was held on Wednesday 30th July when a Co-ordinator, venue and meeting day and meeting format were discussed. The Co-ordinator is Enid Hall and the meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of every month, starting at 2:00pm, at St Martins, The Ridge, Little Baddow CM3 4SX,
Enid's email is enid@een34.plus.com and her telephone number is 01621891618.

The next meeting of meeting of the group will be on **Tuesday 2nd September** at the above address, starting at 2:00pm; if you like to join the group could you please let Enid know.

Architecture

The first meeting of this group was held on Wednesday 30th July when a Co-ordinator, venue and meeting day were discussed. The Co-ordinator is Judith Johnston and the meetings will be held on the second Friday of every month, starting at 2:30pm, at St Martins, The Ridge, Little Baddow CM3 4SX, telephone number 01245223662, email judith@johnstons.me.uk.

The next meeting of the group will be on **Friday 12th September** at the above address, starting at 2:30 pm; if you wish to join the group please let Judith know.

Strollers

The meeting in September is on **Sunday 21st**, meet at the car park of the "Sun & Anchor" pub, Steeple, post code CM0 7JY, grid reference TL 937 031 at 10:15 am for a 10:30 start. The walk is some 4.5 miles, there are a few stiles but the walk is mainly along the sea wall going in an anti-clockwise direction and is on the flat. Lunch can be taken in the Sun & Anchor pub, please let me know if you will be joining the walk and staying for lunch.
Malcolm Case 01245329435

Strollers Too

Meet on **Tuesday 23 September** at 10.15 for 10.30 am start at Woodrolfe Road Car Park, Tollesbury CM9 8SE, for a flat walk round (part of) Tollesbury Wick, approx 4.5 miles. Follow signs to Industrial Area/Marina; car park is signed "Recycling Point". OS Explorer map Blackwater Estuary 176, ref 967107. You may wish to bring your camera and/or binoculars. Light lunches available at Tollesbury Cafe.
Queries: Eunice Legerton 01621 840664 or 07837 138314 on the day.

Ten Pin Bowling

We're victims of our success! We have enjoyed over 600 meetings in nearly 12 years. Most players say that it's a very happy and sociable morning. You try as hard as you can but the scores are not important and are soon forgotten.
So what is the problem?
Perhaps you do not know that Madison Heights Bowling Lanes have closed the whole side that was lanes 13 to 22. The right hand side. That leaves only 12 lanes but as others use two lanes this gives us 10 lanes.
We have 80 or so current members. The most we have had one day recently was 55. Some rarely come and others only in the winter when other activities cease. The maximum we can reasonably take is 40 members. Five to a lane isn't practical unless in an emergency. We have to restrict the numbers in some way.

So what could be the answers?

Members from other U3As who have been supporting us, some for many years, could be asked to drop out and form a new group either jointly or specific to each U3A. We would give them every help and encouragement to do so. But this only is about half a dozen. We could start a second group to meet on another morning too. Unfortunately most have got used to Wednesdays and probably would not change unless forced to.

We will have to close membership for now until it is all sorted. We have always welcomed everyone who wants to come so this would be a shame to stop them playing for too long.

Perhaps I could ask all the current members to register if they are going to try to be regular, if they are willing to drop out or play on another morning.
This may be a difficult problem but unfortunately it has to be resolved and I am sure that between us we come up with a solution that suits everyone – well almost everyone

Please let me know what you think. Constructive ideas will help. Grumbling will not. It has happened! Looking forward to hearing from you all.
David Arnold Tel. 01621 853866 email: wantz@btinternet.com

PS. Warning: It is likely that shortly we will be having a price rise. The last was in February 2010 when it went up by 25p. So over four years later we can expect another. Possibly going up by £1 this time or even more to £5 per week. That is still about half the normal price.

Reading

What have we been reading?

Being retired gives us more time to indulge ourselves in reading for pleasure and our Reading Group adds an extra ingredient since discussing a common read often throws up unexpected issues.
We often find we're reading a book we might never have chosen ordinarily but which surprises us. Our range of authors widens and in addition to the given monthly book, there's a fair amount of swapping and recommendations.
The general gossip over tea is worth waiting for and there's no shortage of subjects.

A few recent titles .

Room by Emma Donoghue –an original, startling story of a mother and child confined to one room- told through the voice of the child

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd - not really about bees though they hover in the background. It's a story of a sad white teenager in race obsessed USA and the loving kindness of the black family who change her life.

The Garden of Beautiful Mists by Tan Twan Eng a beautiful, atmospheric mystery set in the Far East involving characters with a past and retribution.

Of course we don't always hit the jackpot, but interestingly some of our best discussions have been when some members disagree strongly with others about the book.
So if you would like to join us on the 2nd Thursday of the month you would be very welcome. Give us a try.
Sheila Epps Tel 01621 850467

Gardeners **-** Two visits this month as follows:

Tues. September 23 at 2.30 pm to the home of Mrs. Sue Jackman, 60 Colchester Rd, Gt. Totham CM9 8DG. A ¾ acre keen plantswoman's garden.
Tues. September 30 at 2.30 pm. Another popular Plant Swap at the home of Mike and Liz Wood, 49 Hopping Jacks Lane, Danbury CM3 4PJ
Please bring your own chairs and some cakes.
Wed. November 19 Meet at Mundon Village Hall for a cup of tea and a presentation of the South Coast holiday enjoyed in July.

2014 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

List of Events and Outings during the year.

Further details of the above events available from your Co-ordinator or in the Newsletter.

Wed. 20 Aug	Thames North Bank Walk, - London Walks
Tues. 9 Sept	Visit to British Museum - Egyptology
9/10 Sept	U3A AGM and Conference, Cirencester.
Mon 22 Sept	The White Cliffs and Walmer Castle - Local History
Wed. 24 Sept	Theatre - 'The 39 Steps'
Thurs. 25 Sept	Barn Dance at Mundon V.H.
Thurs. 2 Oct	Watts Gallery, Guildford
Wed. 15 Oct	Searching Alleyways of the City of London - London Walks
Fri. 17 Oct.	Beetle Drive - Social
Tues. 28 Oct.	Study Day, Plume School, Maldon
Mon. 3 Nov	Visit to Trinity House - Maritime
Thurs. 20 Nov	Call My Wine Bluff - Social
Wed. 26 Nov.	"White Christmas" - Theatre visit
Fri. 12 Dec	"The Sixteen at Christmas" - Theatre visit
2015	
27/29 April	Flanders - Lest We Forget.

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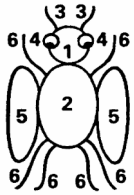

Social Event—date for your Diary

Beetle Drive,

Friday 17th October at
Plantation Hall, Heybridge,
6.30 for 7.00 start.
Tickets £4.00
Tea Coffee and Cakes served during the interval.

Tickets from Barbara Byam-Shaw, 77 Basin Road, Heybridge Basin, CM9 4RW
Telephone: 01621 854539
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ESSEX ASSOCIATION STUDY DAY

Tuesday, October 28th at the Plume School.

The Study Day Committee is looking for helpers on the day.

Members to man the signing in desk at 8.30 am and 12.45pm.
To act as guides around the building.
To man the main entrances from 8.30 am and from 12 noon.
To act as Car Park attendants from 8.15 am until 10 am and from 12 noon until 1.15pm
To manage the tea trolleys pre the commencement of the morning session from 8.45 am 10 am and from noon until 1.15 pm.
To be of assistance to any member with disabilities.

If you are able to help please get in touch with me at the address below stating any job preference you may have.

If it is at all possible I will arrange a time and place when we can meet for a preliminary chat, but it is most important that we do get-together on Monday, October 27th at the Plume School at 11 am, so that we can learn the lay out of the building and its environs. Therefore, the Committee are asking you very kindly to help us on two consecutive days. However, you could be coming on the Tuesday anyway to join one of the classes.

Beryl McDonell 01621 842 093 berylmcd@aol.com

Full groups are:
Digital Photography (all day); Watercolour (all day); Pen and Wash (am); Acrylics (all day); Recognising Trees; Hand Chimes (am and pm); English Patchwork (all day); Geology; Ukulele (pm)
All other groups still have spaces – but some are filling fast.
People who have applied for a group that is full have been given another of their choices. Di is ringing anyone who has a problem with their application.
Di is planning to bank cheques by the end of the week.

CIRCULAR WALK from DEDHAM to FLATFORD - Local & General History

We met our blue badge guide Simon Gallup in the car park opposite the mill at Dedham. The mill is no longer working and is now residential accommodation. We started walking along the banks of the River Stour which is the border between Essex & Suffolk. It would originally have been the divide between the tribes of Angles & Saxons. The river side has recently had replacement black poplar trees planted along it. On the horizon we saw the house where Randolph Churchill lived. The River Stour originally was used by barges between Sudbury & Manningtree. The barges were pulled by horses which in places had to jump the tow path or be put onto the barges themselves to cross the river up to 33 times on the journey. Constable's painting of The Leaping Horse depicts such a scene. We continued along the river with Simon pointing out various places of interest until we reached Flatford. We then had some free time for refreshments, to visit the RSPB nature garden or view any of the other buildings including Flatford Mill & Willy Lott's House - not cottage as it has been called in the past! We then returned via Dedham Vale with views of Stratford St Mary & Dedham churches along the paths which would have been used by John Constable from his home in East Bergholt to school in Dedham. We ended our walk back in Dedham where members dispersed to either visit the church, other places of interest or to have lunch at one of the many eateries! This visit was a follow up of the talk given last year by Simon showing us the actual places and views depicted in Constable's paintings.
The walk was very enjoyable.

Mary Burd

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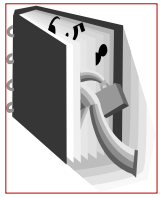
U3A 2015 Diaries

Size 3¼" x 6"

Price £2.00 per diary

Colour: Grey



Please order and pay for your Diary at the August/September Meetings onwards or contact me, Jan Robertson, on 01245 225657.

I have ordered 40 diaries this year, so first come first served, get your order in quick.
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Plantagenets (Replacing the Elizabethan Age Group)

Commencing in September we will be finding out about the Reign of the Plantagenets. This Dynasty arose from the union of Queen Matilda of England and her second husband Geoffrey of Anjou. The name derived from Geoffrey's nickname, which came from the sprig of broom that he wore in his cap (plantagenet).It ended with Richard 111's defeat at the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485.
If you would like to join us do come along to the first meeting on **Thursday, September 11** at 10 am in the W.M.C.C.
We are a very friendly group who enjoy finding things out together from books and on line, and from visiting relevant museums and buildings and from listening to visiting speakers.
For many of us, this will be the first time that we will be having the opportunity to study, in some depth, this period of our nation's history and, also, to discover what was happening in the rest of the world.

Beryl McDonell
01621 842 093

Tuesday Luncheon Group

I would like to thank our Chairman Malcolm for his recent comments and would say that without the support of members over the years I would have been without a job!!

We have three spaces at the moment. Interested? Give me a ring on 01245 222839
MIke Wood

Egyptology

London Visit by coach
Egyptology are visiting the British Museum on **Tuesday 9 September** and have spare coach seats at £14 each so if anyone wants to enjoy a day in London please contact me.
Joyce Cotterell 01621 858287

Who Can You Trust?

'Who Can You Trust', is a not-for-profit community interest company and is set up with the sole aim of alerting and advising people in the 55+ age group about the need to be on their guard against internet scammers, doorstep rogues, fake lotteries, ATM fraudsters, rogue builders, dating tricksters and cheque overpayment fraud.

But we will also be looking at other cowboy tradesmen like loan sharks and counterfeiters. Anyone who is out to rip off the elderly will come under scrutiny.

We have uncovered many stories of people who have been fleeced of thousands and despite warnings from the police, from Trading Standards and from Government agencies people are still falling for these scams.

We hope that by reading the many stories and warnings on our site, elderly residents will in future think twice about sending money to someone they don't even know or be on their guard when dealing with telephone calls from strangers who claim to be their friend.

A monthly magazine is published and posted on the website.

Contact: Peter Faulkener
110 Clifton Avenue, Benfleet, Essex SS7 5QU Tel: 01268 566743
Mob: 07958 465392 Email:peter@whocanyoutrust.org.uk or peterfau67@gmail.com
Web: www.whocanyoutrust.org.uk

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Future of The Friary, Maldon

Members of the Heybridge U3A Local History Group, and U3A members who read the Maldon Standard, will be aware that Adult Community Education is moving out of the Friary and into accommodation above Maldon Library. The future of the Friary is uncertain but members of the Local History Group recently had the opportunity to have a guided tour of the site, led by group members, and ex-Friary staff, Linda and Carol. During and following that visit we have gained additional information about the building's history but would very much welcome more. If any Maldon U3A member has any snippet of information about the building, or the people who have lived or worked or attended classes there over the years, we would be very interested to hear from them. May be you remember something quirky about someone you have encountered there or know something of how the layout of the building used to be. Perhaps you have some information about the Friary's history before it became part of adult education. Perhaps you know of someone else who knows something! If you can help, please get in touch with either Carol Greenhalgh or Linda Etherton.
Email george.smeed@virgin.net
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MacMillan Coffee Morning

WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING -

FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

Please come along to my annual Macmillan Coffee morning -

10 am to 12 noon

at 11 Beaumont Way Maldon.

Coffee and cakes will be provided as usual.

Mary Burd

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Help

Doll's Hospital

Does any member know of anyone who can restore a very old china doll to its former glory?

Beryl McDonell 01621 842 093

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Frank and Joyce Stokes have now moved to Arlesford and we met up with them on our Gardeners' trip to the South Coast in July. They are missing our Maldon U3A and although they have joined their local one it is not the same.

If you would like to make contact with them, please contact Jan Robertson for their address and telephone number. I am sure they would love to hear from you.

15th September Meeting
Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

Speaker
David Padwick:
'Frank Sinatra's Early Years in Words and Music'

The U3A Story

An updated version of Francis Beckett's U3A Story has now been published and is now available.
Just £1 a copy.
Sign up at the Monthly meeting or contact Jan on 01245 225657

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U3A Explores Science at the RI
Tuesday, 30th September

Royal Institution of Gt. Britain, 21 Albemarle St. Ldn. W1
1.30 pm start 5 pm finish
Subjects:
Kathryn Harkup on *Poisons*
Essi Viding on *Why do some people become psychopaths?*
Zoe Lauchin on *Materials Science*
Tickets £20 including refreshments.
Apply in writing to:
The Third Age Trust, 19 East Bromley, Kent, BR1 1QE
enclosing a 2nd class stamp for up to 4 tickets.

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES -

Times 12.15 pm

TUESDAY **2nd September at The Duke of Wellington, Hatfield Peverel**
Co-ordinator: Mike Wood Tel. 01245 222839

WEDNESDAY To be notified
Co-ordinator: Paul Costa Tel. 01621 853893

Note: If you sign up for the lunches and then find you are unable to attend for any reason, can you please notify the Co-ordinator as soon as possible, as
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BLACKWATER U3A	HEYBRIDGE U3A
Contact	Contact
01621 854065	01621 841066
Dawn Mundy, Chairman	Joyce Woodham, Chairman

THE LIMEBROOK U3A
Contact
01621 855883
Paul Madge, Chairman

Your Committee

Chairman	Malcolm Case	01245 329435	malcolmcase@talktalk.net
Vice Chairman	Marrie Webster	01621 843799	marriew1234@aol.com
Secretary	Kym Marshall	01621 828417	mashall.stowmaries@virgin.net
Treasurer	Martin Cook	01621 828921	martincook06@tiscali.co.uk
Membership Sec.	Alan Clarke	01621 828093	alanlclarke@gmail.com
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	Andrew Simmonds	01245 381020	andysimmonds45@gmail.com
	Judith Johnston	01245 223662	Judith@johnstone.me.uk
	Sylvia Beckett	01245 222163	sylviabeckett@btinternet.com
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AV Equipment	Jim Light	01621 854124	scyllalight@hotmail.co

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Tel 020 8466 6139 Email national.office @u3a.org
Web site www.u3a.org.uk
Resource Centre: email: resource.centre@u3a.org.uk

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 5th September

CO-ORDINATORS

Antiques	Liz Wood	01245 222839
Architecture	Judith Johnston	
Astronomy	Malcolm Case	01245 329435
Bird Watching	Pat Clements	01245 223427
	Peter Gaywood	01621 852742
Botany	Veronica Smith	01621 828176
Bridge	Sheila Epps	01621 850467
Bridge for the Curious	Gill Stone	01621 853948
Canasta	Carol Craven	01621 858137
	Elaine Bane	01621 841777
Computers	Jan Robertson	01245 225657
Discussion	Ray Harman	01621 891736
Egyptology	Joyce Cotterell	01621 858287
Family History	Alan Buck	01245 227709
French Conversation	Ray Harman	01621 891736
Gardeners	Jan Robertson	01245 225657
Geology	Enid Hall	01621 891618
German	Jenny Plumb	01245 226112
Handicraft	Marian Manning	01621 828605
Just Jazz	Jim Light	01621 854124
	Peter Beckett	01621 859006
Local History	Mary Burd	01621 843020
	Michael Blackwell	01245 227206
London Walks & Talks	Christine Speed	01621 854073
	Janeen Trew	01245 22764
Luncheon Group		
1st Tues	Mike Wood	01245 222839
3rd Wed.	Paul Costa	01621 853893
Eat & Meet		
2nd Wed	Joyce Cotterell	01621 858287
Mah Jong	Molly Polden	01621 856507
Maritime	Malcolm Case	01245 329435
Music Appreciation	Enid Hall	01621 891618
	John Skuse	01245 224059
New Friends	Liz Robson	01621 858553
Petanque (Boule)	Jack Veash	01621 815467
Photography	Michael Manning	01621 828605
Plantagenet's	Beryl McDonell	01621 842093
Poetry	Jo Robson	01621 828236
Reading	Sheila Epps	01621 850467
Rummikub 1	Colin Beckett	01245 222163
Rummikub 2	Beryl McDonell	01621 842093
Scottish Country Dancing	Shirley Grummett	01621 853288
Sing for Pleasure	Sylvia Carpenter	01621 854905
Smartphone	Barry Samuels	01621 816561
Snooker	John Williams	01621 828461
Strollers	Gill Stone	01621 853948
Table Tennis	Gordon Hardy	01245 223012
Ten Pin Bowling	David Arnold	01621 853866
Theatre Outings	Rosemary Case	01245 329435
	Joyce Cotterell	01621 858287
Trees	Veronica Smith	01621 828176
Weekenders	Beryl McDonell	01621 842093
Whist	Molly Polden	01621 856507
Wine Circle No. 1/2	Graham Boswell	01621 828874
Wine Circle No. 3	Mary Burd	01621 843020
	Paul Costa	01621 853893
Wine Circle No. 4	Alan Clarke	01621 828093
Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth	01621 859300

If you are still having trouble receiving your monthly Newsletter,
please contact Alan Clarke, our Membership Secretary on 01621 828093

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 Maritime Whist	2 Table Tennis Snooker Geology Luncheon Club	3 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge for the Curious Wine 1	4 Discussion Petanque Poetry	5 Mah Jong Smartphones	6	7 Bird Watching Rainham Marshes
8 German Handicrafts Photography Whist	9 Table Tennis Snooker Egyptology British Museum	10 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Luncheon Club	11 Scottish Country Dancing Petanque Reading Rummikub 1	12 Architecture Canasta Sing for Pleasure	13	14
15 **Meeting 1.30 pm** Just Jazz	16 Table Tennis Snooker	17 Ten Pin Bowling Plantagenet's London Talk Luncheon Club	18 Antiques Petanque	19 Mah JOng	20	21 Strollers
22 Astronomy Local History White Cliffs Handicrafts Whist	23 Table Tennis Snooker Gardeners Strollers Too	24 Bridge Ten Pin Bowling Theatre 'The 39 Steps' Wine 2	25 Barn Dancing-Mundon VH Computers French Conversation Music Appreciation Petanque Wine 3	26 Canasta Rummikub 2 Sing for Pleasure	27	28
29 Whist	30 Table Tennis Snooker Gardeners					

I try my utmost to get the calendar correct each month, but I would advise you to always check with your co-ordinator as to the date of your next meeting.

Newsletter Editor: Mrs. Jan. Robertson, 6 Blenheim Close, Danbury, CM3 4NE Tel. 01245 225657 email:Jan356771@gmal.com