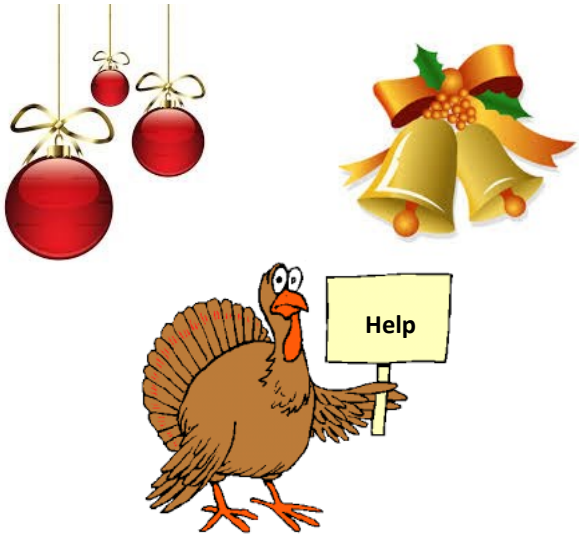
The University of the Third Age

MALDON AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER



HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND
NEW YEAR

DECEMBER 2014

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR

Further to my article in last month's Newsletter, we have visited Maldon Town Hall and had discussions with the Town Clerk. We have been advised that for safety reasons, no more than 120 people should be seated in the hall. As our monthly attendance numbers vary between 102 and 173 then your committee does not feel that this venue is a practical alternative. We have also been told that there is no additional secure storage available at the hall for all of our AV and other equipment.

We are continuing to investigate alternative venues in the Maldon area and will of course keep you fully informed of progress.

Should any member have suggestions or concerns about our U3A, then could they please contact either myself or any committee member, so that these matters can be addressed.

The Astrology Group has had its first meeting, details have been in the Newsletter, and I wish it every success.

The Cribbage group has held its inaugural meeting, full details in this Newsletter and I wish it every success.

Finally Rosemary and I and all of your Committee would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful 2015.

Malcolm Case
malcolmcase@talktalk.net

Local and General History

We do not have a meeting in December so wish all our members a very Happy Christmas.

Our programme for 2015 is printed within and our first meeting of the year is on **Monday 26 January**, 2 pm at Maldon Town Hall when Roger Smith is coming to talk about the History of Stow Maries Aerodrome.

All members are welcome to join us.

As we announced at our November meeting 2015 this will be the last year Michael and I will act as co-ordinators for the group. We have decided the time is right to step down from leading this group after nine years, to enable others to take it forward in whatever way they choose. The bottom line of course is that if no new co-ordinators are found then the group will fold at the end of 2015 - this decision is up to you!

Please contact us for more information.

Mary Burd Michael Blackwell

Strollers

There will be a coffee morning at 8 Beeches Road, Heybridge, CM9 4SL on **Sunday 18th January** at 10:30 am to plan our walks for the year.
Please let me know if you are coming.
Gill Stone:

Strollers Too

There will be a coffee morning at 8 Beeches Road, Heybridge CM9 4SL on **Tuesday 27th January** at 10:30 am to plan our walks for the year.
Please let me know if you are coming.
Gill Stone:

Maritime

The next meeting of the Maritime Group is on **Monday 5th January**, at the Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin starting at 11:00am. There will be a short maritime themed DVD followed by discussions on our 2015 programme. This will then be followed by the group's annual buffet.

Malcolm Case

Astronomy

There will not be a meeting of the Astronomy Group in December. Our next meeting will be on **Monday, January 26th**, at Stow Maries Aerodrome, starting at 7:30pm, for an illustrated talk on the star sign "Sagittarius". 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, so please bring your telescopes and binoculars with you.
All U3A members are very welcome to join us.

Malcolm Case

Geology

The Geology group is now well established and is enjoying some very interesting meetings. We were very lucky to have Linda Powell to talk to us at the December meeting. Linda's enthusiasm for and wide knowledge of her subject makes her a most stimulating speaker and with her selection of maps and rock samples, gave us a most interesting and entertaining afternoon.
The Group meets on the first Tuesday afternoon of the month and as from **6th January,** will be meeting in the Jubilee Room at West Maldon Community Centre. To date, we have eleven regular members but in future, will be able to welcome more. If anyone would like to join us, (by the way, we are all just interested beginners), please give Enid Hall a ring on 01621 891618 or just come along on 6th January.

Cribbage

The first meeting of this group was held on Friday, 5th December. After much discussion it was agreed that all future meetings would be on the fourth Friday of each month, starting at 2:00pm. The next meeting will be at Pat Clements, on **Friday, 23rd January 2015**. If you would like to join the group please contact either Pat or Malcolm
Case

Proposed Aviation Group

The inaugural meeting of the proposed new Aviation Group will be on **Wednesday, 28th January** in the Jubilee Lounge, West Maldon Community Centre, starting at 2:00pm, to discuss the way forward for the group.

Malcolm Case

Mah Jong

We have some vacancies in our group which meets in the Linton Room, West Maldon Community Hall at 2– 4pm on alternate Fridays, see the newsletter calendar for dates. We are a very friendly group and are happy to teach new members. Do give us a try.
Molly Polden

Antiques

For our November meeting we had a fine selection of cups and saucers which included items from Minton, Crown Derby, Shelley, Foley, Royal Albert and Royal Worcester. Everybody had brought something which goes to show a cup and saucer is a very collectable item. Needless to say we rounded off the afternoon with a good cup of tea and biscuits.

There will be no meeting in December so our next meeting will be on the **15th January.**

Liz Wood

Theatre Outings

45 members went to see Irving Berlin's "White Christmas", starring Aled Jones and Tom Chambers, an excellent show to start the festive season. By the time you read this we will also have been to see "The Sixteen at Christmas" which is a traditional carol concert.
We look forward to seeing more shows next year starting with "Cats" in February. Please pay the coach fare of £7.50 for those who have purchased theatre tickets, or £13.00 for the coach only by the January Main Meeting. Suggestions for shows/plays to see are always welcome.
Rosemary Case

HEY PRESTO
EVENING OF MAGIC

on

Wednesday 28th January

at

Maldon Town Hall

Arrive 7.00 for 7.30 pm

A Ploughman's Supper will be served followed by a dessert

TICKET PRICE: £10

Members to bring own drinks and glasses

Tickets available from Barbara Byam Shaw

2015 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year.

Wed. 28 Jan.	Hey Presto II - An Evening of Magic
Wed. 25 Feb	"Cats" Theatre visit
Mon. 2 March	Trip to Shell Haven & London Gateway—Maritime
Fri. 27 March	Afternoon Social Event
27/29 April	Flanders - Lest We Forget - Local History
24/27 May	4 day trip to Liverpool—"Three Queens" - Maritime
7/10 July	4 day trip to the Midlands—Places of Interest
27 July	Guided walk in Saffron Walden & visit Audley End—L.Hist
28 Sept	Monuments & public art of London & Olympic Park—L.Hist

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

Call My Bluff Wine Evening

On Thursday 20th November we arrived at the Town Hall to test our knowledge of wine tasting. The panel of Kathy, Ken and Maisie was ready to begin; Rosemary, our compere for the evening, started to introduce the evening's events when Malcolm found the sound system, which had worked earlier, had begun to make pouring rain noises. After much deliberation and activity, the evening started without microphones. Rosemary spoke very loudly, but when the panel began, those of us at the back of the hall could not hear the descriptions, so made up our own and then we couldn't read the true or bluff signs. I do not think I have ever seen our wine group members laugh so much, it made a hilarious evening, we just guessed who was bluffing.

During the interval we had a quiz, then the microphones were working.

Apparently the three white wines in the first half were French, Italian and New Zealand.

Really delicious paté and cheese refreshments were served.

Now to serious red wine tasting. Did we believe everything they said? Not really.

The red wines were from Chile, Australia and Spain.

Thank you Carol, and all the Social Committee, for such an enjoyable evening.

Joyce Cotterell

LAST MINUTE XMAS CAKE

1 Sample the whisky to check for quality

2 Take a large bowl, check the whisky again to be sure it's of the highest quality. Pour one level cup and drink, repeat. Turn on the electric mixer, beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl, add 1 teaspoonful of sugar and beat again.

3 Check the whisky again in case it has deteriorated. Turn off the mixer. Beat two leggs and add to the bowl, chuck in the cup of dried fruit, mix on the tuner, if the fired druit gets stuck in the beaterers, pry loose with a screwdriver.

4 Sample the whisky once more, next sift two cups of salt or something, who cares? Now sift the lemon juice and strain the nuts. Add one tablespoon of sugar or whatever you can find.

5 Grease the oven, turn the cake tin 350 degrees. Don't forget to beat up the turner. Throw the bowl out of the window, check the whisky again and go to bed.

A Priceless Present

The Christmas Tree is once more dressed
With pretty gifts for all the guests
No dollies, trinkets as years gone by
But Kindles, Tablets on branches lie
No need for all those gift-wrapped books
With words from whom for which one looks
That I-Pad there could save the day
And keep letter-writing well at bay
But thanking folks for all their gifts
Computer shorthand does not fit
Now Tablets with their Gigs galore
Could grant your wishes by the score
A finger touch upon the screen
Shows e-mails, photos, bright and clean
The Sony, Samsung smart phones bleep
Which make my mobile look antique
Computer games are all the rage
Family fun just a bye-gone age
When presents, gifts were not so dear
And treasured much through out the years
But of all these presents great and small
Good health and love must beat them all
As Christmas comes again and near
Give thanks you lasted one more year
And if this “Priceless Gift” exists
It should be on the Christmas List
So once again the “Yuletide” calls
A Merry Christmas to one and all

Ray Harman

MALDON U3A: LOCAL & GENERAL HISTORY GROUP
MEETINGS 2015 VENUE: MALDON TOWN HALL

Date	*Subject*	*Speaker*	*Additional Info*
26 Jan	The History of Stow Maries Aerodrome	Roger Smith	
23 Feb	The History & Restoration of Hylands House	Nick Wickenden	
23 Mar	Cholera A germ that changed cities	David Petts	
27/29 April	Lest we Forget - Visit to Flanders		
26 May Tuesday	History of Salt Extraction around the Blackwater	David Newman	
22 June	The Great War: Mobilization & Local Defences	Clive Potter	
27 July	Guided walk in Saffron Walden and visit to Audley End		Cost £20 To be confirmed
August	No Meeting		
28 Sept	The Good, The Bad & The Ugly: Statues, Monuments & Public Art of London & the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park		Cost £39 tbc Includes visit to Arcelor Mittal Orbit
26 Oct	Mud & Monuments: Archaeology of the Essex Coast	Ellen Heppell	
23 Nov	Edward Bright: The Fat Man of Maldon and his Family	Lynne Raymond	
Dec	No Meeting		

Note: All meetings will be held in Maldon Town Hall.
Commencing at 2.00 pm. Price £2.00. All U3A members welcome.

For coach trips the price includes coach, entrance fee and driver gratuity.
Pick up points West Maldon Community Centre and Danbury to be confirmed.

Take Care! A Scam

I had an email from my bank saying that they had stopped access to my account on line as they feared it had been hacked. To rectify this they advised me to click on the accompanying link.

I wasn't happy about this and so went into the local branch with a printed copy of the email. I was told that it was a fraud – there was a spelling mistake which is often a guide to such fraudsters. Also the bank's way of communicating when they suspect irregular action is not this way.

The important advice given is that **NEVER** connect using their printed link. Go to your account in your usual way with password etc and that is fine. This would apply to any other unsolicited advice concerning money.

Watch out – there are rogues about.
Sheila Epps

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Christmas is fast approaching—Another Scam

Royal Mail & The Trading Standards Office are making people aware of the following scam:
A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a Premium rate number).
If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £315 for the phone call.
If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 020 7239 6655.

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Town Mayor of Maldon's Charity Events 2015

Venue: Maldon Town Hall

Friday 20th February—Town Mayor of Maldon's 2nd Quiz Night
Friday 20th March—A Talk by the Town Mayor
"Barges and the River Blackwater"
Contact Maldon Town Council on 01621 857373 or
administration@maldontowncouncil.gov.uk
for details and to book tickets

MALDON DISTRICT HERITAGE WINTER TALKS

Tues. January 13 "In and around Heybridge in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries"
Speaker: Beryl Claydon

Tues. February 3 "Maldon's place in English History"
Speakers: Robert Long and Stephen Nunn

Tues. March 3 "Beeleigh Mill and its Steam Engine—its Past, Present and Future"
Speakers: by The Beeleigh Mill Restoration Group

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Heybridge U3A

FEBRUARY 2015. A guided tour of Basildon Tractor Plant has been arranged for 13.00 on **Wednesday, 25th February 2015.** I am fascinated and over-awed on seeing these huge tractors on our Essex roads. They look like giant 'Tonka Toys'! So I am looking forward to seeing them being put together bit by bit. The robot painting area should be well worth the trip and while there we may also 'interact' with moving parts of the vehicle. The tour will last approximately three hours and will cost £6.00 each, including tea, coffee and biscuits on arrival. We have made a booking with Viking Transport to collect the group from Plantation Hall at 12.00 and return us at about 4.30 pm It may be best to take sandwiches for lunch, to eat on the bus. The cost of transport will be £5.00, Please sign up early to avoid disappointment as 15 is the maximum number for this trip. Payment in full (£11.00) due **by 20th January 2015**.
Please contact Pat Smith for more information.

19th January Meeting
Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

Speaker
"The Art of Magic"
Talk and demonstration by Paul Clancy
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Farleigh Hospice

Farleigh Hospice is delighted to announce that additional funding will allow them to enhance further the essential services it provides to people affected by life limiting illnesses across mid Essex. The care which they offer will cut down unnecessary admissions to hospital.

The service available will operate between 8 am and 10.30 pm whether or not the patient is previously known to the Hospice. The advice line will provide direct access to a New Contact Team and its specialist nurses.

For further information:

www.farleighhospice.org
info@farleighhospice.org
01245 457300

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BBC Radio 4 programme "Gardeners' Question Time".
They are putting on a programme at Chelmsford on
Monday, 9th February.
It will be hosted by the Galleywood Horticultural Society
(nothing to do with the U3A).
Doors will open at 5.30 pm and information on the event or the £3 tickets can be obtained from Mrs Sarah Walters on 01245 473 191

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES

Time 12.15 pm

TUESDAY **13th January** at The Queen Victoria, Maldon
Co-ordinator: Mike Wood

WEDNESDAY **21st January** Venue to be arranged
Co-ordinator: Paul Costa

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.

BLACKWATER U3A	HEYBRIDGE U3A
Contact	Contact
01621 854 065	01621 841 066
Dawn Mundy, Chairman	Joyce Woodham, Chairman

THE LIMEBROOK U3A
Contact
01621 855 883
Paul Madge, Chairman

Your Committee

Chairman	Malcolm Case
Vice Chairman	Marrie Webster
Secretary	Kym Marshall
Treasurer	Martin Cook
Membership Sec.	Alan Clarke
Newsletter Editor	Jan Robertson
Committee	Fred Lane
	Andrew Simmonds
	Judith Johnston
	Sylvia Beckett
	Veronica Smith
Web Master	John Bowen
Social Committee	Carol Priest
AV Equipment	Jim Light

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Web site www.u3a.org.uk
Resource Centre: email: resource.centre@u3a.org.uk

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 9th January

CO-ORDINATORS

Antiques	Liz Wood
Architecture	Judith Johnston
Astrology	Liz Jones
Astronomy	Malcolm Case
Bird Watching	Pat Clements Peter Gaywood
Botany	Veronica Smith
Bridge	Sheila Epps
Bridge for the Curious	Gill Stone
Canasta	Carol Craven Elaine Bane
Computers	Jan Robertson
Cribbage	Pat Clements
Discussion	Ray Harman
Egyptology	Joyce Cotterell
Family History	Alan Buck
French Conversation	Ray Harman
Gardeners	Jan Robertson
Geology	Enid Hall
German	Jenny Plumb
Handicraft	Marian Manning
Just Jazz	Jim Light Peter Beckett
Local History	Mary Burd Michael Blackwell
London Walks & Talks	Christine Speed Janeen Trew
Luncheon Group 1st Tues 3rd Wed. Eat & Meet 2nd Wed	 Mike Wood Paul Costa Joyce Cotterell
Mah-Jong	Molly Polden
Maritime	Malcolm Case
Music Appreciation	Enid Hall John Skuse
New Friends	Liz Robson
Petanque (Boules)	Jack Veash
Photography	Michael Manning
Plantagenets	Beryl McDonell
Poetry	Jo Robson
Reading	Sheila Epps
Rummikub 1 Rummikub 2	Colin Beckett Beryl McDonell
Scottish Country Dancing	Shirley Grummett
Sing for Pleasure	Sylvia Carpenter
Smartphone	Barry Samuels
Snooker	John Williams
Strollers	Gill Stone
Table Tennis	Gordon Hardy
Ten Pin Bowling	David Arnold
Theatre Outings	Rosemary Case Joyce Cotterell
Trees	Veronica Smith
Weekenders	Beryl McDonell
Whist	Molly Polden
Wine Circle No. 1/2 Wine Circle No. 3 Wine Circle No. 4	Graham Boswell Mary Burd Paul Costa Alan Clarke
Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 NEW YEAR	2 Smartphones	3	4 Bird Watching Hythe Quay
5 Maritime Whist	6 Table Tennis Snooker Geology	7 Ten Pin Bowling Astrology Bridge for the Curious Wine Circle	8 Plantagenets Reading Rummikub Ten Pin Bowling	9 Architecture Sing for Pleasure Mah Jong	10	11
12 Handicrafts German Photography Whist	13 Table Tennis Snooker Egyptology Luncheon Club	14 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Luncheon Club	15 Antiques Scottish Country Dancing Bridge for the Curious Ten Pin Bowling	16 Canasta	17	18 Strollers Coffee Morning
19 **Meeting 1.30 pm** Just Jazz	20 Table Tennis Snooker	21 Ten Pin Bowling Luncheon Club	22 Computers Music Appreciation Wine Circle Antiques Ten Pin Bowling	23 Sing for Pleasure Mah Jong Cribbage	24	25
26 Local History Handicrafts Astronomy Whist	27 Table Tennis Snooker Strollers Too Coffee Morning	28 Aviation Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Family History Wine Circle Writing for Fun	29 Scottish Country Dancing Ten Pin Bowling	30 Family History Canasta	31	

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I try my utmost to get the calendar correct each month, but I would advise you always to check with your co-ordinator as to the date of your next meeting. Jan Robertson Email: jan356771@gmail.com