



The University of the Third Age

# MALDON AND DISTRICT

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New group  
London Walks and Talks

March 2014

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

Web Site: [www.maldonu3a.co.uk](http://www.maldonu3a.co.uk)

*FROM THE CHAIR*



After all the rather wet weather it is lovely to see the sun shining and gardens starting to dry out and spring to life again.

May I remind everyone that we will need new members to join the Committee in June. If anyone feels that that they can help, please contact me or any member of the Committee.

If any member who has any queries or comments about our U3A, will you please contact either me or any Committee member.

Malcolm Case

### ***Notice for all Co-ordinators***

As I am sure you are aware the financial year of our U3A ends on **31 March 2014.**

I should therefore be grateful if you would let me have the following for the year ended 31 March 2014

1. Invoices/receipts which you have not already passed to me for amount paid from your group bank account.
2. A cash account. This should show the cash held at 1 April 2013, the cash receipts and payments during the year, and the cash held at 31 March 2014.
3. Supporting invoices/receipts for the above cash transactions.
4. If there have been no cash transactions during the year please let me have a statement to that effect.

Please ensure that you let me have the above no later than 30 April 2014.

Martin Cook

Treasurer

## ***Local & General History***

Our next meeting is on **Monday 24 March** when Lyn Collins is coming to tell us about The Chelmsford Prison Independent Monitoring Board.

All members are always welcome to join us. We meet at 2 pm at Maldon Town Hall - the cost is £2.

Our following meeting is about the History of Saffron Walden on **28 April**.

## **FLANDERS – “LEST WE FORGET”**

As part of the commemoration of the First World War this group is proposing a visit to Flanders. We would possibly go in Spring 2015 and part of the visit would be to relevant sites of interest – 3 days/2 nights in duration. An idea of the cost currently is £250 on a bed and breakfast basis. We have started an expression of interest list and if you would like your name added please contact me.

Mary Burd  
Co-ordinator

## ***Egyptology***

At our February meeting we enjoyed on screen two lectures from our dear friend Professor Bob Brier

The first one was:

The Early Years of Ramses the Great, son of Seti 1 named as eldest son, but had no brothers. Ramses went on to father 52 sons. ‘Ra’ means sungod; ‘mses’ means is born.

The second lecture was:

Ramses later years, a truly remarkable life; his burial chamber is considered to have more treasure than any other room in the ancient world ever held.

As always, a very interesting report from our member Sue in Egypt who visits such interesting places and is so knowledgeable, together with her reports on what is happening there now.

About 20 of us meet each month at The OAK HOUSE in MALDON on the second Tuesday afternoon at 2 pm,

You are always welcome to join us

Joyce Cotterell

## ***Gardeners***

**Tuesday, April 29** Our first meeting of the year is the Plant Swap at the home of Mave Studholme, 8 Perry Road, Tiptree, C05 0UA. We had a lovely afternoon at Mave's pretty garden a few years ago and keep our fingers crossed for another sunny day. Your cakes would be appreciated and please bring a chair.

**Tuesday, May 13** We visit the home of Edwin Parsons and Ian Roxburgh at Wood View, 24 Chapel Road, Gt. Totham, CM9 8DA.

A new garden for us to visit. Only about 6 miles from Maldon.

## **Holiday to the South Coast & Isle of Wight, 1st to 4th July.**

As a reminder, your balance of £264 becomes payable by the **29th April**, earlier if possible. Cheque made out to "Just for Groups"

## ***Strollers***

**Sunday 20th April.** - Boreham

We are doing the walk that was cancelled in February. It is 3.75 miles along the canal and the river. Meet in the road near the church for a 10:30 a.m start. Lunch is booked at The Six Bells, Boreham.

As it is Easter Day I need numbers by **Wednesday 16th April**.

Please let Gill Woods know if you are coming.

## ***Strollers Too***

Tuesday 22 April. Meet at the The Norton community pub, 54 Latchingdon Road, Cold Norton, CM3 6JB at 10:15 for a 10:30 start. This is a circular walk of 4.5 miles around Cold Norton and Stow Maries, mainly off road and with one or two easy stiles. Lunch available at The Norton if required. As I've persuaded the chef to come in specially (it's his day off) please let me know in advance if you will staying for lunch so that I can give him an idea of numbers. Contact: Alan Clarke

## ***Rummikub in Danbury***

A group meets in Danbury Village Hall, to play Rummikub, on the second Thursday of the month – 10th April – at 2pm. We would like to welcome anyone who wishes to join us.

Please contact me for further information

Colin Beckett

### ***Maritime***

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 7th April**, meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00 am for an illustrated and informative talk by John Pinder who is the Port Hydrographer for the Port of London Authority. He will be telling us how the Hydrographic Department operates, how surveys are carried out and how changes in techniques and equipment now give a lot more accuracy.

All U3A members are very welcome at the meeting.

Malcolm Case

### ***Astronomy***

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 24th March**, meeting at Stow Maries Aerodrome at 7:30pm for a talk on the star sign "Aries". This talk will cover the origins of the star sign and then go on to describe the stars that can be observed in this constellation. Weather permitting, we will also get some observing in; at our last meeting the skies cleared sufficiently for us to be able to observe Jupiter with four of its five moons. We will, if time permits, continue with our DVD presentation on "The Night Sky".

John Robson has decided to stand down as joint co-ordinator, and on behalf of the group I would like to thank him for all his hard work over the past years.

All U3A members are very welcome to join us.

Malcolm Case

### ***Antiques***

The subject for our last meeting was "Buttons". As host I had quite a variety of buttons displayed on velvet in frames. The ones that members brought were much older and more valuable. With the information from the "Net" and my book we covered a fair amount of the history of buttons. There were some amusing anecdotes including the one about the wartime popularity of pilots' buttons.

Liz Wood - Co-ordinator

# POSH FROCK DINNER



to be held at the  
Blackwater Sailing Club,  
Heybridge Basin

## Wednesday 23rd April

where a welcome drink will be served arrival from 6.45 pm  
followed by a

FOUR COURSE MEAL

Ticket price: £30

Dress: Formal      Carriages: 10.30 pm

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Please reserve.....Tickets for the "A Posh Frock Dinner"

I enclose my cheque for £.....made payable to Maldon and District U3A

Name of Members.....

Barbara Byam-Shaw,

If you are attending the Posh Frock Dinner, please can you give  
Barbara your cheques for your Drinks as soon as possible

***No further bookings can be accepted  
after the 21st March***

## 2014 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

List of Events and Outings during the year.

|                |                                                        |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Wed. 26 March  | Theatre—'The Lion King' - fully booked                 |
| Wed. 23 April  | "Posh Frock" Do—Social                                 |
| Tues 27 May    | Walk & Talk at Galleywood Heritage Centre. —L. History |
| Mon. 2 June    | Trip on River Thames—Maritime                          |
| Tues. 17 June  | Theatre—'Jersey Boys'                                  |
| Thurs. 10 July | Summer Picnic—Social                                   |
| 1/4 July       | 4 day trip to Sth Coast & Isle of Wight—Gardeners      |
| Mon 28 July    | Guided walk from Dedham to Flatford—Local History      |
| Mon 22 Sept    | The White Cliffs and Walmer Castle—Local History       |
| Wed. 24 Sept   | Theatre - 'The 39 Steps'                               |
| 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                              |

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

## NEWSLETTER

My sincere apologies for the newsletter not being printed in time for the meeting. However, we seem to have been able to deliver by hand and I took copies to Ten Pin Bowling where a lot of people collected their copy and also one for their friends. Dorothy Denmark delivered some in Danbury, Fred Lane took some for the Tiptree members. Copies were available at Reeves and the Tourist Office.

Alan Clarke posted the rest.

Unfortunately we will have the same problem in April when we do not have a meeting due to the Easter weekend.

Can I please ask you all to collect as above or contact Alan Clarke who will be happy to post you a copy.

## ***Theatre Group - "Jeeves & Wooster"***

On Wednesday 19 February the Theatre Group left Maldon at 10 am and arrived in London at 11.30 am After a walk and lunch, we all appeared at the theatre at 2.30 pm to see "Jeeves & Wooster" at the Duke of York's Theatre. Wooster opened with a joke to the audience, everyone laughed, and this continued throughout the performance. People were crying with laughter, no swearing or vulgarity, but so funny.

The acting by Matthew McFadyen, Stephen Mangan and Mark Hadfield was absolutely superb, so versatile and professional, only three actors taking so many character roles A hilarious show enjoyed by us all.

Thank you to Barbara and David, Janet and Alan and Rosemary for organising the day. After the performance we had time for a drink before boarding the coach home, arriving back in Maldon at 7.45pm

JC.

### ***Theatre report***

The following trips have already been arranged, if interested please contact the organiser of that particular event.

|                                                     |               |                              |                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Lion King                                           | 26 March.     | Rosemary Case.               | All booked and paid |
| Jersey Boys.                                        | 17 June.      | Janet & Alan Buck.           | All booked and paid |
| 39 steps.                                           | 24 September. | Pat Riddell & Maisie Randall |                     |
| November / December. Christmas Event to be arranged |               |                              |                     |

Please ensure you pay by cheque, payable to Maldon & District U3A - promptly, as latecomers will be unlucky.

The committee is looking into ballet, opera and drama productions during 2015.

Any general enquiries to Rosemary Case or Joyce Cotterell

### ***Trees Group:***

We shall be meeting fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons between 2 and 4.00pm. We shall alternate between visits and indoor revision.

Next **Tues. 18th March**, we shall revisit the tree trail in Promenade Park.

Please join us if you can. We shall meet at the Information Kiosk.

Veronica Smith

## ***German***

The German group, which began in 2002, have decided to have a short break from their fortnightly meetings and will reconvene on **Monday 14 April**. We currently have ten members who have been regularly attending the group, but it was decided that it was time to take stock of the methods that were being used to continue with our German conversation during 2014 and beyond.

Once members have put forward their ideas we shall be in a better position to advise members via the newsletter of the future structure of the group.

Jenny Plumb

## ***Scottish Country Dancing***

Spring is in the air-it's official! So why not put a spring in your step by joining the Scottish Country Dancing Group;-country dancing with lively music and not a sword in sight.

The music, and our qualified teacher Sue, will soon have your feet stepping out the different sequences in various tempos, generating a release of endorphins for that "feel-good" factor.

You will be assured of a warm welcome, where the emphasis is very much on having fun whilst keeping fit.

We meet on alternate Thursday mornings at Mundon Village Hall from 10am-12 noon, with a coffee break halfway through; - March 27th is our next meeting- and further information, if required, can be obtained from our co-ordinator Shirley Grummett or Sylvia Cousins

## ***Family History***

There will be no meeting this month

**Wednesday, April 30** meeting will be at 49 Hopping Jacks Lane commencing 2.30pm.

Alan Buck

## **ASTRONOMY GROUP 2014**

### **STOW MARIES AERODROME Meet at 7:30pm**

**Monday 24th March** - Molly Tring to give a talk on the star sign "Aries". 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

**Monday 28th April** – Mike Childs to give a talk on the star sign "Pisces", 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

**Monday May 26th** - Bank Holiday – No meeting

**Monday 23rd June** - A talk by Peter and Amanda Basset on "The History of Mount Palomar Observatory", which used to be the largest telescope in the world

**Monday 28th July** – Ralph Lavender to give a talk on the star sign "Leo", this talk will include the history of the sign together with the stars that can be seen in this constellation.

**Monday 25th August** – Bank Holiday – No meeting

**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

**Monday 27th October** – Alison Mainwood will give an illustrated talk on "Dark Holes and Dark Matter".

**Monday 24th November** – Tony Tring will give a talk on the star sign "Scorpio", 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

**Monday 22nd December** – Richard Yelland will give a 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

Contact: Malcolm Case

## ***London Walks and Talks***

**Wednesday, March 19th** The group's first meeting will be on the subject of London Bridge. Neil Morley will be the speaker and he will talk about the history of London Bridge and its immediate environs.

2.15 for start at 2.30 p.m. at West Maldon Community Centre Fee: £2

### **Wednesday, April 23rd**

A Guided Walk to complement the talk has been arranged

The Walk will explore the history of London Bridge, riverside and its building, an area historically known as The Pool of London.

Details and Booking Form available at the above meeting and the Monday monthly Meeting.

Christine Speed & Janeen Trew

## **Subject: FW: ENGLISH - THE BEAUTIFUL LANGUAGE (OR LANGWICH?)**

### **Asylum for the Verbally Insane Author unknown**

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes,  
But the plural of ox becomes oxen, not oxes.  
One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,  
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese.  
You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice,  
Yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.

If the plural of man is always called men,  
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?  
If I speak of my foot and show you my feet,  
And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?  
If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,  
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?

Then one may be that, and three would be those,  
Yet hat in the plural would never be hose,  
And the plural of cat is cats, not cose.

We speak of a brother and also of brethren,  
But though we say mother, we never say methren.  
Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,  
But imagine the feminine: she, shis and shim!



## **Another Scam—From my Neighbourhood Watch—Jan**

I have received an email asking me to fill an application form so I can receive a refund that is due to me from the Inland Revenue. I thought it seemed suspicious and contacted HMRC. I was told that they would NEVER email regarding refunds. I thought our residents may be warned.

Another warning about an expensive area code:

0809 Area Code We actually received a call last week from the 0809 area code. The woman said 'Hey, this is Karen. Sorry I missed you- get back to us quickly. I have something important to tell you.'

Then she repeated a phone number beginning with 0809.

We did not respond. This week, we received the following e-mail:

Do Not DIAL AREA CODE 0809,0284, and 0876 from the UK .

## **Not on track to collect 'winnings'**

I have ordered by mail order catalogues for years. I have had free gifts and prize draw money offered in return for an order.

I have never received any money and the free gifts either don't arrive or are rubbish.

***Bu hooray! At last, success.***

Some £25,000 is being brought to me by Mr. Lee on the Maldon 10.30 train, platform 2 on April 15.

Sadly I can't find the station.

Enid Lodge, Maldon

## **LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES -**

Times 12.15 pm

**TUESDAY 1st April at The Chequers, Goldhanger**

Co-ordinator: Mike Wood

**WEDNESDAY 16th April at Forrester Park Golf Club**

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, as places have to be booked at the venues.

BLACKWATER U3A  
Contact:  
01621 854 065  
Dawn Mundy, Chairman

HEYBRIDGE U3A  
Contact  
01621 841066  
Joyce Woodham, Chairman

THE LIMEBROOK U3A  
Contact  
01621 855883  
Paul Madge, Chairman

### **Your Committee**

|                   |                              |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Chairman          | Malcolm Case                 |
| Vice Chairman     | Marrie Webster               |
| Secretary         | Patricia Riddell             |
| Minute Secretary  | Glenna Wilkins               |
| Treasurer         | Martin Cook                  |
| Membership Sec.   | Alan Clarke                  |
| Newsletter Editor | Jan Robertson                |
| Committee         | Fred Lane<br>Dorothy Denmark |
| Web Master        | John Bowen                   |
| Social Committee  | Carol Priest                 |
| AV Equipment      | Jim Light                    |

Please note there will be no Monthly Meeting at Wickham Bishops Hall on Monday 21st April which is Easter Monday.

### **NATIONAL OFFICE**

19 East Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1QH  
Tel 020 8466 6139 Email [national.office@u3a.org](mailto:national.office@u3a.org)  
Web site [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)  
Resource Centre: email: [resource.centre@u3a.org.uk](mailto:resource.centre@u3a.org.uk)

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 11th April

# CO-ORDINATORS

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

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

# PROGRAMME – APRIL 2014

| Monday                                                             | Tuesday                                                | Wednesday                                                                                     | Thursday                                                                                                    | Friday                                  | Saturday | Sunday                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                    | 1<br>Luncheon Group<br>Drama                           | 2<br>Bridge for the Curious<br>Wine Circle (1)                                                | 3<br>Discussion<br>Poetry                                                                                   | 4<br>Canasta<br>Rummikub<br>Smartphones | 5        | 6<br>Bird Watching<br>Hanningfield<br>Reservoir |
| 7<br>Maritime<br>Whist                                             | 8<br>Table Tennis<br>Snooker<br>Egyptology             | 9<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>Luncheon Group<br>Bridge                                              | 10<br>Elizabethan History<br>Reading<br>Rummikub<br>Scottish Country Dancing                                | 11<br>Mah Jong<br>Sing for Pleasure     | 12       | 13                                              |
| 14<br>German<br>Handicrafts<br>Photography<br>Whist                | 15<br>Table Tennis<br>Snooker                          | 16<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>Luncheon Group                                                       | 17<br>Antiques<br>Bridge for the Curious                                                                    | 18<br>EASTER                            | 19       | 20<br>Strollers,<br>Boreham                     |
| 21<br><b>No Meeting</b>                                            | 22<br>Table Tennis<br>Snooker                          | 23<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>Bridge<br>Wine Circle (2)<br>Writing for Fun<br>London Walks & Talks | 24<br>French Conversation<br>Computers<br>Music Appreciation<br>Scottish Country Dancing<br>Wine Circle (3) | 25<br>Mah Jong<br>Sing for Pleasure     | 26       | 27                                              |
| 28<br>Astronomy<br>German<br>Handicrafts<br>Local History<br>Whist | 29<br>Table Tennis<br>Snooker<br>Gardeners, Plant Swap | 30<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>Family History                                                       |                                                                                                             |                                         |          |                                                 |

**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,