



The University of the Third Age

# MALDON AND DISTRICT

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Maypole

May 2014

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR



Our sixteenth AGM is on **Monday 16 June** . I am very pleased to tell you that five members have agreed to join the Committee. However, this still leaves one vacancy, so if you feel that you could help with the continued smooth running of our U3A, then please contact me or any current member of the Committee.

The AGM will be followed by Strawberries and Cream.

I have had some suggestions for new groups, these being **Architecture, Cribbage and Geology**. If you are interested in any of these subjects, there are sign-up sheets for those interested on the table at the side of the hall, or please contact me, so that preliminary meetings can be arranged in order to start the groups.

I realise that Christmas is a long way off, but as a Committee we have to start organising light Christmas entertainment early for our December Meeting to enable us, hopefully to get what we want. On this occasion, we are struggling. If any member has any ideas for our Christmas meeting, could you please either contact me or Marrie Webster – thank you.

Malcolm Case

### ***Strollers Sunday 15th June***

Meet in the car park of Hatfield Peverel Village Hall Maldon Rd CM3 2HP at 10.15 for a 10.30 start.

The walk around this area is approx. 4 miles.

Lunch is available at the Wheatsheaf.

Contact Jean Cuthbert

### ***Strollers Too***

**Tuesday 24 June** we will meet at The Whalebone, Chapel Road, Fingringhoe CO5 7BG - 10.15 for a 10.30 start. The walk is approximately 4 miles over bridleways and minor roads with views of the Colne Estuary. Please contact me if you wish to car share.

Mary Burd

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

We do not have a meeting in May as we are going to the Galleywood Heritage Centre. For those booked on the visit for **Tuesday 27 May** we meet 1.30 pm at the Centre.

The following meeting is on **Monday 23 June** when we have a returning speaker. Chris Thornton will be coming to talk about Thomas Paycocke and the Essex Cloth Trade.

All members are always welcome to join us.

We meet at 2 pm at Maldon Town Hall - the cost is £2.

Mary Burd—Co-ordinator

### ***Petanque***

The Maldon group meet every Thursday at 2 pm in the Prom Park.

We only play in good weather, not rain.

If any U3A members are interested in joining us, please contact

Jack Veash

## ***Astronomy***

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 23rd June** at Stow Maries Aerodrome, starting at 7.30 pm—for a talk by Peter and Amanda Basset on “The History of Mount Palomar Observatory”, which used to be the largest telescope in the world.

The Palomar Observatory is located in north San Diego County, California. It is a world-class centre of astronomical research that is owned and operated by the California Institute of Technology. The observatory is home to five telescopes which are nightly used for a wide variety of astronomical research programs. The research is conducted by Caltech’s faculty, post-doctoral fellows and student, and by researchers at Caltech’s collaborating institutions.

All U3A members are very welcome to join us.

Malcolm Case

## ***Theatre***

The **17th June** trip to see ‘Jersey Boys’ has two tickets for the show now available (Cost for a ticket including coach fare £40.50). We also have spare seats on the coach for anybody who wishes a trip to London for the day at a cost of £13.00.

The coach will leave West Maldon Community Centre at 10.00am and leave London at 5.45pm for the homeward journey.

For any further information please contact Alan Buck

## ***Theatre***

There will be a trip by coach to the matinee of '**The 39 Steps**' on **Wednesday, 24th September 2014.**

Ticket Price will be £19.50 and approximately £16.00 for the coach.

If interested please contact Pat Riddell on or Maisie Randall. Ticket money will be collected immediately and the coach money by the August meeting.

Pat & Maisie

## ***Family History***

There will be no meeting this month as we are visiting Kew. Those participating will meet in the foyer at Kew 10.30am - 11.00am.

Alan Buck

## ***Maritime***

### **A Trip on the River Thames - 2nd June**

This trip will leave West Maldon Community Centre at 0800. We will travel by coach to Dorney (Bucks) where we meet our Blue Badge Guide and, after a stop for refreshments in the village, we have a coach tour via Dorney Lake (if possible) then on to Eton. We then have free time for lunch either in Eton or across the river in Windsor. After lunch there is a river cruise from Windsor to Boulton's Lock. The boat trip will take about 1 hour 45 minutes, refreshments are available on the boat. All refreshments must be paid for separately. This trip is fully subscribed and there is a waiting list.

Fred Lane - Trip organiser

## ***German***

The German group have been meeting twice a month, with an average of ten members for over eleven years, but it was decided that perhaps it was time to take a look at what we do and how the group should continue in the future.

After a discussion on 14 April it was agreed by members present that perhaps we should meet only once a month instead of twice and that we should include German culture into the sessions. It was also agreed that we need to include more opportunities for speaking the language in a discussion type environment. Taking this on board we have agreed that our next meeting will take place on **Monday 12 May** and will continue on the second Monday of the month in future. We hope that the new structure will provide members with more incentive to practise speaking the language and to learn more about German culture and traditions.

Jenny Plumb German Group Co-ordinator

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

The next meeting will be the guided tour of the Paddington & Little Venice area of London on **May 21st**.

The meeting on **June 18th** Venue WMCC Time: 2.30 p.m.

This will be a talk by Maggie Piper on the Maida Vale District of London, where she will discuss the importance of the area and the social changes. She will also show how the area has recently seen major re-development.

The talk on **July 16th** will be on the subject of the North Bank of The Thames and will be given by Michael Gilbert.

Details of the August Visit will be available at the July meeting.

Janeen Trew or Christine Speed

# THE 2014 SUMMER SOIRÉE

**Thursday 10th July**

Venue - Danbury Church Meeting Room,  
Main Road Danbury

Time 6.00 for 6.30 pm

Ticket £10 per head



Fun and Games and a Delicious Supper will be provided,  
Just bring your own Crockery, Cutlery, Drinks and Glasses.  
(Ticket numbers are limited)

Please reserve.....Tickets for the **SOIRÉE**

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

Name of Members.....

Barbara Byam-Shaw,



## ***Viking Transport***

Volunteer car and minibus drivers urgently required in the Maldon and Burnham areas. It provides transport for groups and individuals that are unable to access public transport. Residents may want to be able to go shopping, visit their doctor etc. All Volunteer drivers are vetted and have a Criminal Record check. Drivers work when they wish and receive mileage expenses. They can use their own vehicles or drive one of our four wheelchair accessible minibuses.

If you have some spare time and want something worthwhile to do, or have difficulty obtaining suitable transport, please contact Viking on 01621 843164—9am to 2pm for more information.

## 2014 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

List of Events and Outings during the year.

Wed.. 21 May	Maida Vale & Little Venice Walk - London Walks
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'
Tues. 24 June	The Annual Essex Inter-U3A Quiz Day
Thurs. 10 July	Summer Soirée - Social
1/4 July	4 day trip to South Coast & Isle of Wight - Gardeners
Mon 28 July	Guided walk from Dedham to Flatford - Local History
Tues. 12 Aug	Wine Tasting in Kent—Wine Group 3
Wed. 20 Aug.	Thames North Bank Walk, - London Walks
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'
Fri. 17 Oct.	Beetle Drive - Social
Wed. 15 Oct	Searching Alleyways of the City of London - London Walks
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

### ***Antiques Group***

Another interesting afternoon with Andy Tourle discussing a number of antiques which she had brought with her, including a silver headed Malacca cane with military connections. Members had brought a wide selection of items including jewellery, a large ewer, and a child's miniature tea service and an Eagle Annual. Before she left Andy asked us to identify an "object" for which there were many suggestions, none of which were right.

We were then told that even the dealers had no ideas.

Liz Wood

## ***Bird Watching***

Rye Mead Nature Reserve - 03 May 2014

Rye Mead is a RSPB reserve on the outskirts of Harlow in the Lee River Valley with lakes and flowing water of the River Lee itself.

The first hide we visited overlooked a scrap where a pair of Garganey Ducks (*anas querquedula*) were resting. Smaller than a Mallard and longer than a Teal, the male has broad white stripes over the eyes which curve down and meet at the back of the neck. Breasts mottled, flanks finely barred with grey belly white and black. The Garganey is a rare summer visitor and its sighting caused quite a stir with the wardens.

Our group moved on towards the appropriately named Kingfisher Hide where the RSPB volunteers had built a false bank in which a pair of Kingfishers (*alcedo atthis*) had made a nest in one of the artificial holes. We arrived at the hide and were advised that one of the pair nesting in this bank had been close to the hide, perched upon a pole, long enough for all those there to take photographs - all just 10 minutes before we arrived. We waited patiently for an hour whilst the group of photographers showed us what we had missed, then suddenly there was a flash of iridescent blue as first the male then the female skimmed over the water and into their nest hole.

Kingfishers are the size of a sparrow with a dagger-like bill. , the male's bill is black and the female has a black upper and red base to the lower part. This pair were quite obviously used to the sound of the cameras, each taking some 15 shots a second as they perched on the strategically placed posts in front of the hide before flying off to catch more fish for their offspring hidden in their man-made tunnel.

Man has been responsible for a decline in the past of the vibrant bird with the polluting of streams and rivers, but the cleaning of the watercourses and the work of the RSPB volunteers are helping to redress the balance as well as providing the opportunity for all to see one of this country's most colourful birds.

Peter Gaywood

### **Another Scam/spoof**

Report another spoof email. This appears to come from Rapport/Trusteer . Rapport/Trusteer is an antiphishing software which banks may ask you to download to safeguard your password. This works on many other websites. However this spoof email asks you to download an update via an attachment. This appears to be a way of overriding your software so should be deleted



## OFFICIAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the sixteenth Annual General Meeting of Maldon & District U3A will be held on Monday 16th June 2014 in Wickham Bishops Hall at 2:15pm. Any items that you wish to be included on the Agenda must be notified to the Business Secretary by no later than **Monday 2nd June 2014**.

The Nomination form is below and, if you wish to nominate someone as an Officer or Committee member, please complete the form and return it to the Business Secretary by no later than **Monday 2nd June 2014**.

Forms will be available at the May meeting or, if requested, by post.

Two Officers will have completed their term of office this year and will be standing down as will two members of the Committee.

We will have vacancies for Vice Chairman, Secretary and three Committee members.

Patricia Riddell  
Business Secretary

Eligibility for Office and to vote – All fully paid-up members for the year 2014/2015 are eligible to stand for Committee, and to attend and vote; except under the terms of our Constitution, where only one member from any one household shall serve on the Committee at one time.

Ordinary June monthly meeting – this will take place before the AGM at 1:45pm for the purpose of announcements and registering for events.

### Nomination Form for Officers & Committee Members 2014

Position	Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by	Nominee's Signature

(Vice Chairman, Secretary and three committee members)

## ***How to be a Co-Ordinator (one way)***

Now and again someone will have an idea for a new Group but the thought of starting it up and running it seems too much to tackle – or indeed they may know very little about the subject which interests them. Take heart. In the spirit of U3A you are not alone. There is help at hand. Most importantly - is anyone else interested? That's easy to find out by putting out a sign-up list. Immediately you have interested helpers. This is a journey you will go on together.

Let me share my experience of doing just this a few years ago.

I was interested in finding out more about Islam – all we got from the media was pretty negative and I felt we were being manipulated by such presentation. I remembered a BBC series on Islam a few years before and knew that the U3A Resource Centre had videos of these programmes. We borrowed these tapes (free) and they were the basis of our course leading to discussion and a visiting Speaker. We held the meetings in a member's house. Having got through our investigations into Islam the Group was reluctant to disband and it was decided to look at other religions. We continued for another 2 years, inviting many speakers and going on various visits.

The important thing to note is that the Group developed beyond my original plan because of the ideas of the members. I organised very little because the different tasks were shared out between us. Advice is available from the Chairman and Committee and there is also some financial help, if needed, towards starting up a Group. Don't forget to look at the DVDs etc at the Resource Centre which are freely available.

Good Luck  
Sheila Epps

## ***Gardeners***

Our first meeting this year in April was a Plant Swap in Mave Studholme's garden in Tiptree. The weather was lovely and we were able to sit out in Mave's well maintained garden - not a weed in sight - and enjoy our tea, chat and wonderful cakes that everyone brings along.

A really most enjoyable afternoon.

**Tues. June 17** Visit to RHS Hyde Hall, Rettendon at 2.30 pm.

Free for RHS members £4.90 for non members

Everyone welcome, come and join us, but can you please let me know as I have to notify Hyde Hall of numbers.

Jan Robertson

## **Rummikub in Danbury**

A group meets in Danbury Village Hall, to play Rummikub, on the second Thursday of the month – 12th June – at 2pm. We would like to welcome anyone who wishes to join us.

Please contact me for further information

Colin Beckett

## ***Wine Tastings in Kent—Tuesday, August 12***

The Wine Groups are arranging a coach trip and spaces may be available to any U3A member. The proposed itinerary is as follows:

Depart West Maldon Community Centre at 0830.

Arrive Chapel Down Winery, Small Hythe at 1030 for a guided tour and tastings.

Leave approx 1230 to travel to Biddenden Vineyards.

On arrival a ploughman's lunch will be served - followed by a guided tour and tastings. Leave approx 1630 to arrive back in Maldon 1800.

Total cost including lunch £37.

To book a place please contact Paul Costa



**More Time  
to Learn**



*U3A AGM and one-day Conference  
at the Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester  
9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> September 2014*



Details from NATIONAL OFFICE  
19 East Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1QH  
Tel 020 8466 6139 Email national.office @u3a.org  
Web site [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

### **LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES -**

Times 12.15 pm

**TUESDAY 3rd June at the Blue Strawberry in celebration of the  
150th Luncheon of the Tuesday group.**

Co-ordinator: Mike Wood

**WEDNESDAY 18th June at The New Times, Tiptree**

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 841 068

Joyce Woodham, Chairman

THE LIMEBROOK U3A

Contact

01621 855 883

Paul Madge, Chairman

### **Found**

**Mobile phone found at Mave's Plant Swap on the 29th April.**

**Is it yours? Contact Mike Wood**

### **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, 6th June

# CO-ORDINATORS

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

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

# PROGRAMME – JUNE 2014

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1
2 Maritime— <b>River Thames trip</b> Whist	3 Table Tennis Snooker Luncheon Group	4 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge for the Curious Wine Group 1	5 Discussion Petanque Poetry Scottish Country Dancing	6 Smartphones Canasta Rummikub	7	8
9 German Handicrafts Photography Whist	10 Table Tennis Snooker Egyptology Rummikub	11 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Luncheon Group	12 Elizabethan History Petanque Reading Rummikub	13 Sing for Pleasure Mah Jong	14	15 Strollers Hatfield Peveral
16 <b>Meeting 1.30 pm</b> <b>AGM</b> Just Jazz	17 Table Tennis Snooker Gardeners- Hyde Hall <b>Theatre- 'Jersey Boys'</b>	18 Ten Pin Bowling Luncheon Group London Talks	19 Antiques Bridge for the Curious Petanque Scottish Country Dancing	20 Canasta	21	22
23 Astronomy Handicrafts Local History Whist	24 Table Tennis Snooker Strollers Too <b>USA Quiz Day</b>	25 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Family History Wine group 2 Writing for Fun	26 Computers French Conversation Music Appreciation Petanque Wine Group 3	27 Sing for Pleasure Mah Jong	28	29
30 Whist						

**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,