The University of the Third Age

MALDON
AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

Call My Wine Bluff
Thursday, 20th November

November 2014

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR

From the Chair

Following on from your Committee's report last month, we are still actively engaged in discussions with Wickham Bishops Hall and continue to look for alternative venues; we will of course keep you fully informed.
The number of members attending the monthly meetings has been dropping, and your Committee would be interested to know if there is any reason for this.

Malcolm Case
malcolmcase@talktalk.net

Newsletter

I have been having trouble with sending out the PDF copies to our members each month. If you do not receive your copy on the Monday of the Meeting, can you please email me on ***Jan356771@gmail.com*** so that I can investigate the problem.
Many thanks
Jan Robertson Newsletter Editor

Local and General History

We meet for the last time in 2014 on **Monday 24 November** when Pip Wright is coming to tell us about Exploring East Anglia by bus pass.
Pip is a very interesting speaker so do come along to hear him.
Our 2015 programme will be available at this meeting.
All members are welcome to join us - 2 pm at Maldon Town Hall.
Mary Burd Co-Ordinator

Maritime

Monday 1st December 2014, visit to the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, for a guided tour of the latest display gallery followed by a visit to the exhibition on Clocks and Longitude and then free time to visit any part of the Museum.
Depart West Maldon Community Centre at 8:30am. Please park your cars at the far end of the WMCC car park. Return journey, depart the National Maritime Museum at 5:00pm.
May 24th – May 27th 2015, trip to Liverpool to see the "Three Queens" when they will be all together in the River Mersey, to celebrate 175 years of the Cunard Line

Astronomy

The next meeting is on **Monday 24th November** at Stow Maries Aerodrome at 7:30pm for 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, some observing of the stars and planets.
If you have binoculars or a telescope, please bring them with you.

Strollers/Strollers Too

There will be no walks in December.
We will meet in January, at 8 Beeches Rd, Heybridge, to decide on our programme for 2015.
Strollers: **Sunday 18th January**
Strollers Too: : **Tuesday 27th January**
Gill Stone

Architecture

There will be no meeting in December. The next meeting on **9th January**, will be held in the Jubilee Lounge at the West Maldon Community Centre
Please contact me for further information.
Judith Johnston email: judith@johnstons.me.uk

Cribbage

The inaugural meeting of this group will be on **Friday 5th December 2014**, starting at 2:00pm at 30 The Spinnaker, South Woodham Ferrers, CM3 5GL. If you have a cribbage board and cards, please bring them with you. Hope those who signed up for this group can make this date, if not, then please let me know.
Malcolm Case

U3A Ten Pin Bowling at Christmastime

Wednesday and Thursday Joint Christmas meeting on **Wednesday December 17th.** We are going to have all 12 lanes and both groups are going to play together – just like the old days. I have booked lunch in Henri's Steakhouse, after bowling. We will choose from the menu when we start on the day.
You can bring any non-bowling members of the U3A to lunch.
There will be no bowling on **Thursday 18th December**
This will be our last official meeting until January - **Wednesday 7th.** and **Thursday 8th -** to avoid the holidays.
David Arnold

Theatre Outings

"White Christmas" 26 November

The coach will leave West Maldon Community Centre at 10.00 am, as usual please park at the far end of the car park. The coach will leave London at 6.00pm.
Contact Rosemary Case 01245 329435 or email rosemarycase@talktalk.net

"The Sixteen at Christmas" 12 December

The coach will leave West Maldon Community Centre at 4.00pm, please park at the far end of the car park and we will leave London immediately after the concert. Contact Sheila Childs

"CATS" 25 February 2015

All the theatre tickets have now been sold. The coach fare is £13.00 but as we did get a reduction in the price of the theatre tickets we will only need to collect £7.50 from everyone who has purchased a theatre ticket. We do have some places on the coach and if anyone wishes to have a day in London then £13.00 coach fare will be payable. The coach will leave West Maldon Community Centre at 10.00 am and leave London at 6.00 pm. Please pay the coach fare no later than the January Main Meeting.
Contact Rosemary Case or email rosemarycase@talktalk.net

Family History Group 1

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday **3rd December** at 58 Augustine Way, Bicknacre, CM3 4ET at the usual time of 2.30pm.

Family History Beginners Group

The next meeting for this group will be on the **28th November** commencing 10.00am

PROPOSED NEW 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

Maritime Trip to Trinity House and All Hallows Church on November 3

Trinity House, London was amazing, it has been burnt and bombed three times since being first built. Our Guide was so interesting and explained everything clearly. From the paintings and exhibition items to models of boats, some even made from bone and hair, all were incredible.
The 65 lighthouses that are still operational around the country are no longer manned and the remaining light vessels are also unmanned and are anchored fore and aft with their positions being maintained by GPS with control of all the remote navigational aids being from Trinity House, Harwich.

All Hallows by the Tower is the oldest Church in the City of London and our guides gave us wonderful descriptions of the history of the church, which goes back some 2000 years. Roman pavements and a Saxon arch survived the Great Fire of London 1666. In 1940 the church was bombed and only the tower and walls remained, but the late Queen Mother laid a new foundation stone in 1948 and the church was rebuilt.
How lucky were we to be dropped off at the Tower where the “River of Poppies” was so near completion. The display was so awesome that we could understand the attraction that they had for the crowds of people that had attended.
Lunch at the Kitchen Café by the church was an experience that we all enjoyed with Andrew the waiter entertaining us.
Thank you to the Maritime team for a most interesting and enjoyable day out.

CALL MY WINE BLUFF

Thursday 20th November
at Maldon Town Hall
arrive 6.30 for 7 pm
Refreshments:
French Bread and Pate and Cheese
Ticket Price: £10

Tickets available from Barbara Byam Shaw

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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
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2014/15 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

List of Events and Outings during the year.

Thurs. 20 Nov	Call My Wine Bluff - Social
Wed. 26 Nov.	"White Christmas" - Theatre visit
Mon. 1 Dec.	Visit to National Maritime Museum—Maritime
Fri. 12 Dec	"The Sixteen at Christmas" - Theatre visit
2015	
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—"3 Queens" - Maritime
7/10 July	4 day trip to the Midlands—Places of Interest

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

Essex Association Study Day

The Committee would like to thank all of you who took part in this day, whether as students, group leaders or valuable helpers. Without you it could not have taken place.

There was on offer the opportunity to study or participate in 23 subjects ranging through the arts, sciences and general well being, and all of them led by U3A members. Isn't this a great organisation which enables us not only to share with others existing knowledge or expertise, but also to learn new skills!

Will there be the same opportunity next year? Hopefully yes, if members volunteer either to serve on the Study Day Committee or to lead a group. The existing organisers are asking you to give these requests some thought.

Beryl McDonell (Committee Member)

Knitters:

The Fish & Chip Baby Jumpers Appeal has now finished. No more please, just finish the one you are knitting and send to "Knit for Peace", Radius Works, Back Lane, London NW3 1HL.
Many thanks. Jan Robertson

Beetle Drive

Forty members attended and enjoyed a nostalgic evening of this old favourite parlour game. The Drive was won by Andy Simmonds with Janet Buck winning the Booby Prize. For those who do not know what is involved, it is a game first marketed in the early 1950s under the name of Cootie Drive (cootie was a name for lice from the First World War) The name was soon changed to Beetle. The game is played with a dice, having to get a 6 for a body 5 for a head etc. these are drawn on a card, the first person to get a whole Beetle calls out, stopping the round. The two people who win on each table of four move in a clockwise direction to the next table, There are 24 games in all with a refreshment break at half time. (Home made cakes etc.)

We hope more members will join us at a future social event.

This is such a fun evening, takes us back to our childhood. I have attended every one since David Arnold introduced it to the Social programme: Jan R.

Mike Childs

Strollers Too

Tuesday 28th October, the sun shone brightly on the ten people who came along for a three mile stroll. The walk started and finished at The Cart Lodge Tea room, wound its way through the Essex Wild Life Trust site with sightings of various water birds, then through the playing fields off Scraley Road, to end with a circular tour of the Chigborough Lakes. The weather and the scenery made the day, with plenty of time to 'Stop and Stare'.

Mike Childs

Antiques. October meeting

Andy, our speaker for the day, brought with her a midget camera made of Bakelite, which was classed as a spy camera in 1917. She went on to explain how Cloisonné was made, as somebody had brought a vase and we had two small vases which were also Cloisonné. Next was a cast-iron humidifier which was very heavy but was passed round; it could also be used for Potpourri.

To round off the afternoon we were told the history of Monart Glass which is made in Scotland. To accompany this we saw examples from Andy's husband's extensive collection

Liz Wood

4 day Holiday to the Midlands—Places of Interest
7/10th July 2015

Hotel: Copthorne Hotel, Merry Hill, Dudley
Price £299 or £319 depending on numbers on the coach
Single Supplement £45 Insurance £10

Day 1: NGS — Chalkhouse Green Farm, Kidmore End
Lunch in Wallingford Town
Day 2: R.A.F. Museum, Cosford
Shipton Hall with House and Garden tour
Day 3: Ironbridge, Blists Hill Victorian Town
The Iron Bridge and Tollhouse
Severn Valley Steam Train
Day 4: Time at Merry Hill Shopping Centre and Canal walk
Millets Farm Centre, Frilford, nr. Abingdon
Home

Interested?

Jan Robertson email Jan356771@gmail.com

Gardeners

Wednesday, 19th November Meeting at Mundon Village Hall at 2.30 pm when we will be giving a presentation of our next four-day holiday in the Midlands, "Places of Interest" based in Dudley, visiting Ironbridge, RAF Cosford, Shipton Hall etc., from 7th/10th July.
Do come if you are interested in joining us next year. We will be showing photographs of our very successful holiday on the South Coast in 2014.
We also have tea and home-made cakes as per our Gardeners' tradition.

Astrology

The U3A Astrology Group met for the first time on **Wednesday 5th November** and the six of us planned our structure for subsequent meetings. We have decided that we have an ideal number and have closed this group.
However, I am very happy to start a second group, so please contact me if you are interested.

Liz Jones

Discussion Group *Have I got news for you*

Our intrepid discussion group met once again to scan the headlines for important topics of interest, only to be confronted with a full page spread of George Clooney enjoying his honeymoon in Venice . A two minute silence was then observed for all his lady fans of the group having just lost Gorgeous George to the state of matrimony although perhaps the silence was a hint to move on to more important things. Who knows? Anyway Mama Mia, arrivederci and good luck to him.

Our second item of news proved more challenging and focused on "Curtsying for the Queen? It really is not necessary". The Queen claimed that the practice is not necessary and that her Majesty is quite relaxed about whether people do or not. What may have befitted the social customs of the 18th and 19th centuries was not necessarily right for modern times, so Cherie Blaire is exonerated and will not be sent to the Tower after all, with all the other Republicans. There are, it seems, sorts of myths that come from the annals of time concerning bowing and curtsying, but there are no hard and fast rules and if you can`t do it or don`t want to, that's fine. No disrespect is intended!

As few of us are ever likely to meet the Queen in person, the Discussion Group did have the pleasure of meeting her lookalike Jeanette Charles on a number of occasions She always made a contribution to the discussion in our group and she recently had the closure of her 40-year reign reported in the Maldon Standard, together with all the famous people she had met including Mohammed Ali, Liberace, Russell Harty, and Michael Caine, to name but a few. I am sure the group would join me in conveying our best wishes to her in her retirement and trust that she is winning her battle against arthritis.

Another entry in the Maldon Standard brought a gasp of surprise on learning that in a recent survey Maldon residents were deemed to be among the top five most miserable in the U.K. In a survey 165.000 people were asked to rate their life satisfaction, happiness etc. and on a scale of 0 to 10, residents in the district averaged only 6.84 for happiness. There, of course, followed two columns of comments from quite happy people content with their lot in this district and if the surveyor had come to our U3A monthly meeting, I am sure he or she would have found many more.

Although somewhat depleted in numbers, a pleasant afternoon had by all four happy members.

Ray Harman

"Your Phone number will reveal your Age.

I do not know who discovered this? Really accurate.

It will take about 15 seconds, read and do it at the same time so that you will not lose the fun.

[1] Take a look at your last digit of your mobile phone number

[2] Use this figure and multiply by 2

[3] Then add 5

[4] And then multiply by 50

[5] And then add the number 1764

[6] The last step; with this number, subtract your birth year.

Now you see a three-digit number.

The first digit is the last digit of your phone number, the next digits is your actual age for this year!

Surprising?

Let's go out to spread the joy!

This is a very interesting maths problem.

Geology Group

The fledgling Geology group enjoyed its third meeting with a visit to the Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences at Cambridge. The museum houses an internationally important collection of over one and a half million fossils, rocks and minerals. Originating in the collection of a seventeenth century collector and developed by Adam Sedgwick in the nineteenth century, the collection is continually added to and up-dated as more examples are discovered and knowledge extended. It is arranged by geological age and vividly illustrates the major changes in life through time. The group was shown round by an enthusiastic and very informative guide whose preceding talk had been to a wide-eyed group of six year olds who were captivated by the dinosaurs. Something for everyone! We all agreed that the venue was an excellent introduction to our subject and had further opened our eyes to the enormity of it, and we resolved on a follow-up visit in the near future. An extended lunch provided a fitting conclusion to what was a very interesting day.

Enid Hall

U3A Christmas Meeting
15th December
Wickham Bishops Village Hall
at 1.30 pm

The Mactheatre Group

'The Holly and the Ivy and.....the Mistletoe!'

History of the Mactheatre Group

Barrie Jaimeson and Nicola Esson live in Maldon and formed MacTheatre together. They have an extensive range of expertise and experience in theatre, film and TV. Amongst other things, Barrie worked at the Old Vic and has played in many Shakespearean roles for major theatres across the country. He has appeared in a film with Roy Hudd and on television in 'Tales of the Unexpected', 'Bergerac', 'The Bill' and various commercials. Barrie has worked alongside many illustrious names to record audiobooks.

Nicola has worked widely in the theatre and toured Ireland and England with the popstar Gilbert O'Sullivan, she has appeared on television and film with Robbie Coltrane, John Sessions and Celia Imrie and in Arts Projects throughout Essex for Essex County Council, using her skills in all aspects of theatre production.

Together, Nicola and Barrie devise and perform in many shows including the annual 'Shakespeare-in the- Park'. 'The Holly and the Ivy and..... the Mistletoe!' is their own seasonal compilation and is a most enjoyable way of celebrating Christmas customs across the years, in words and music.

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We are looking for some long strands of ivy for our table decorations at the above meeting. If you are over-run with ivy and wish to get rid of some, please contact Marrie Webster who will be happy to make arrangements to collect.
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Maldon Promenaders

present

TURN YOUR RADIO ON

Maldon Town Hall

Friday 28th November at 8 pm

Saturday 29th November at 2.30 pm and 8 pm

Balcony £8/Stalls £7 (Concessions £6 on Saturday only)

Tickets from Maldon Tourist Office

Wenlock Way (01621 856503

Or phone Trevor on 01621 856078

All Profits go to Local charities

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES -

Combined Christmas Lunch on

Thursday December 11

at the

Forrester' s Golf Club

12.30 for 1pm

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.

For Sale
Gent's bike in good condition. 21 gears (need adjustment)
£25.
Contact: Molly Tring

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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Resource Centre: email: resource.centre@u3a.org.uk

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 5th December

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
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 (Boule)	Jack Veash
Photography	Michael Manning
Plantagenet's	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

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 Astrology Maritime **National Maritime Museum visit** Whist	**2** Geology Luncheon Club	3 Bridge Bridge for the Curious Wine Circle 1 Ten Pin Bowling Family History	4 Discussion Poetry Rummikub 2 Scottish Country Dancing Ten Pin Bowling	5 Smartphones Canasta Cribbage	6 Bird Watching Tollesbury Wick	7
8 German Handicrafts Photography Whist	9 Table Tennis Snooker Luncheon Club	10 Ten Pin Bowling	11 Plantagenants Rummikub 1 **Joint Luncheon Groups** **Xmas Lunch** Ten Pin Bowling	12 Architecture Sing for Pleasure Mah Jong **"Sixteen at Christmas"** **Theatre trip**	13	14
15 **Christmas Meeting 1.30 pm** Just Jazz	16 Table Tennis Snooker	17 Bridge **Joint Ten Pin Bowling lunch**	18 Antiques Bridge for the Curious Scottish Country Dancing Reading	19 Canasta	20	21 Strollers
22 Astronomy Handicrafts Whist	23 Table Tennis Snooker Strollers Too	24 Family History Wine Circle 2 Writing for Fun	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 BOXING DAY	27	28
29	30 Table Tennis Snooker	31 NEW YEARS EVE				

Please check with your Co-ordinator as to the date of your December activity.

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.