The University of the Third Age

MALDON
AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN

OCTOBER 2014

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR

Following on from the article in Septembers Newsletter and subsequent emails, about a POSSIBLE venue change, several of you have asked why your committee is considering a change.
There are several reasons; one of these is the lower number of members at present. If we held our meetings in Maldon, there is the possibility that we might increase our membership. However, we do recognise the potential difficulties of using Maldon Town Hall and we are considering these carefully.
The Board of Trustees of Wickham Bishops Hall have clarified the nature of our current relationship with them as defined by their Constitution. This raises some queries which relate to our geographical location and their requests that we become involved with tasks and preparation for their fundraising events.
We are currently in discussions with the Wickham Bishops Hall committee to try and resolve these issues and we will of course keep you all advised of progress.
Your committee would like to thank all of you who have responded to our request for your comments on this issue.
Malcolm Case
malcolmcase@talktalk.net

Theatre Outings

Andrew Lloyd Webber's "CATS"

"CATS" is returning to London at the Palladium for a limited season and we have reserved tickets for the matinee on **Wednesday 25th February 2015.**
Ticket price £35 (payable immediately). This price may reduce if we sell enough tickets, if so any extra paid will be refunded by a reduction in the coach fare which will be about £13
For tickets please contact –
Rosemary Case

Local & General History

Change of Speaker

Due to illness we have a change in our speaker for **Monday 27 October**.
We now have Tim Howson - Conservation Officer from Maldon District Council - coming to give his talk entitled "Discovering historic houses in the Maldon District". This may be of interest to members of the new Architecture group.
All members are welcome to join us - 2 pm at Maldon Town Hall.

Our last meeting in 2014 is on **24 November** when Pip Wright is coming to tell us about East Anglia via a bus pass.
Our 2015 programme will be available at this meeting.
Mary Burd Co-Ordinator

Rummikub in Danbury

A group meets in Danbury Village Hall, to play Rummikub, on the second Thursday of the month – the next meeting will be on **13th November** – at 2pm. We would like to welcome anyone who wishes to join us.
Please contact me for further information
Colin Beckett

Computers

We have just started our Autumn term for Sept/Oct/Nov. We are a friendly Computer Discussion Group who sit round a laptop and screen and play on the web and hopefully help each other with our computer problems*.*
Would you like to join us*?* You must have some computer skills
Meet at WMCC on the 4th Thursday each month at 2 – 4 pm*.*
Jan Robertson

Family History Group One

We shall be having our next meeting on the **29th October** at 49 Hopping Jacks Lane CM3 4PJ, commencing 2.30pm. The aim of this meeting is to determine how the group may proceed. Your input will be much appreciated.

Family History Group Two (for beginners)

The next meeting for this group will be on the **31st October** at 58 Augustine Way Bicknacre, CM3 4ET commencing 10.30 am

Astronomy

The next meeting of the group is on Monday 27th October at Stow Maries Aerodrome, Hackmans Lane, Cold Norton, starting at 7:30 pm when Alison Mainwood will give an illustrated talk on "Dark matter and dark energy".
How do we measure the distance to stars and galaxies? How do we know the universe is expanding? How do we know how much matter is in galaxies? What happened after the Big Bang and how do we know? What is the Cosmic Microwave background and what does it tell us? Why has dark energy been postulated? How do we know how much normal matter, dark matter and dark energy there is? What are the more promising explanations and experiments? Can amateur astronomers contribute?
All U3A members are very welcome to join us.
Malcolm Case

Maritime

The next Maritime event is on **Monday 3rd November**, leaving West Maldon Community Centre at 7:45am, for a guided tour of Trinity House, London, and a guided tour of All Hallows Church. Lunch, which is not included in the price, has been arranged at The Kitchen at the Tower. There will be time to view the Poppy display at the Tower of London. There are two places available on the coach for anyone who would like to visit the Poppy display but please note that we will be dropped off and picked up adjacent to the Tower of London only.
Malcolm Case.

Maritime

Following October's talk about the new gallery at The National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, there will be a visit to this gallery for a guided tour "Nelson Navy, Nation" on **Monday 1st December**, departing West Maldon Community Centre at 8:30 am, cost including coach and drivers gratuity is £10.00. Following the guided tour there will be free time to visit other displays including the "Ships, Clocks and Stars" exhibition.
If you would like to come on this trip, then please let either me or Alan Buck know.
Malcolm Case

Canasta

We are changing the start and finish time from 1.30 to 3.30 pm as from the next meeting **Friday 24 October** 2014
Carol Craven

An unusual day out—Watts Gallery

On October 2nd, blessed by late summer sunshine, 14 of us made our way to Compton in Surrey to the Watts Gallery. This was a visit in three parts- gallery, chapel and house which worked well since we had refreshing walks in between each venue. So often when visiting galleries your interest is still there but the body flags and needs fresh air.

George Watts was a very eminent Victorian painter and sculptor – somewhat out of fashion now – but his legacy includes a delightful Arts and Crafts Gallery, recently restored. He painted the great and the good of his time and lived a long life more or less covering Queen Victoria's. He also married twice, women who were each 30 years his junior – one of whom was Ellen Terry. That marriage was very brief but his second marriage to Mary Seaton lasted 18 years to his death and was much more significant. Mary was an artist in her own right and together with local villagers created a gem of a chapel which is worth the journey alone. The third part of the package is the house they had built nearby which includes both George and Mary's studios.

It all makes a delightful day out. If you are ever near Guildford make a detour and visit.

We were able to use the services of Viking Transport and their volunteer driver and would highly recommend them for small group visits.

Sheila Epps

Theatre Group—"The 39 Steps"

On Wednesday 24th September 34 of us left Maldon for London Theatre land, the weather was kind, as was the traffic, arriving In plenty of time for lunch. Show started at 3 pm. We were all very curious as to how "The 39 Steps" would be transferred to the stage, also as a comedy.

We were not disappointed. The cast consisted of only four people and it was a very fast-moving and funny play which everybody enjoyed.

Pat Riddell

Advance Notice

4 Day holiday in the Midlands - Places of Interest.

I am putting together another four day holiday to the Midlands from **7-10th July** next year, visiting Ironbridge, RAF Cosford and Shipton Hall etc.

Full details later. Put the date in your diary.

Jan Robertson

Strollers

The meeting in **November is on Sunday 16th**; meet at the car park between Penny Royal Road and Bicknacre Road near the "Cricketers Arms" pub, Danbury, post code CM3 4ED, grid reference TL 780 042 at 10:15 am for a 10:30 start. The walk is about 4 miles; there are a few stiles but is classified as a gentle countryside walk through Danbury Country Park and the surroundings. Lunch can be taken in the Cricketers Arms (to be confirmed). Please let us know if you will be joining the walk.
Michael & Marian Manning

Photography

The photography group meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 2:00 pm in the Linton room at the West Maldon Community Centre. We cover skills development, clinics to tackle members' photographic questions and problems and show our recent photos.
Please contact Michael Manning

London Walks & Talks

Our last meeting of 2014 took place on October 15th, when we had an interesting guided tour through the "Alleyways of the City of London".
Meetings begin again on **March 18th 2015** when our speaker will be Ian Bevan, whose talk is entitled " Boxers, Bandits, and a Blind Beggar"
[History of the Bethnal Green Area of London]
Thanks to all members for your support in 2014 - we really appreciated it.
Janeen Trew and Christine Speed

Strollers Too

Meet on Tuesday, **November 25th** at 10.15 for 10.30 start from The Chequers, Wickham Bishops CM8 3NN. Parking is available, but limited, so please car share if possible.
Walk is approx. 4.5 miles within the Parish of Wickham Bishops. Lunch available at The Chequers. Please let me know if you are walking by Monday, November 17th and whether you require lunch.

Bird Watching

The next months will find the group at Mill Beach on **Sunday 2nd November** and Tollesbury Wick on **Saturday 6th December**.

2014/5 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

List of Events and Outings during the year.

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
Mon. 1 Dec.	Visit to National Maritime Museum—Maritime
Fri. 12 Dec	"The Sixteen at Christmas" - Theatre visit
2015	
Wed. 25 Feb	"Cats" Theatre visit
27/29 April	Flanders - Lest We Forget. - Local History
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.

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CALL MY WINE BLUFF

Thursday 20th November

at Maldon Town Hall
arrive 6.30 for 7 pm
Refreshments:
French Bread and Pate
Ticket Price: £10

Tickets available from Barbara Byam Shaw

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Winter Heritage Talks Programme - Maldon District Council

Tuesday 4 November 7 pm at The Friends Meeting House, Bull Lane, Maldon - No charge

"***Maldon Inns & Alehouses"*** - John Smith

Tuesday 2 December

"*Edward Bright, the Fat Man of Maldon and his family"* - Lynne Raymond

2015 titles to follow.

Discussion Group

The “Discussion Group” returned once more after the Summer recess looking fit and ready to put the world to rights again in a world that seemingly requires drastic measures to counter violent extremism in its various forms in parts of the Far East and for which there appear to be no easy answers emanating from the very difficult decisions that our much-criticised national leaders have to make. The on-going saga of Syria, although starting out as an effort by so-called rebels to replace President Assad, appears to have developed into a free-for-all amongst other groups for different reasons, including the latest Islamic terrorists calling themselves “Isis”, which ironically has now made President Assad a potential ally of the West and not the baddy he once was!

There does seem to be an urgent need for sat-navs to be fitted to Russian tanks and armoured vehicles as they appeared to have lost their way and, according to Mr Putin, accidently strayed over the Ukranium border by mistake. Perhaps he could fund these simple devices and avoid a third world war, who knows ! Finally we turned our sights towards the age-old conflict between Israel and Hamas with one side not recognising the existence of the other, who in turn, continue to light the blue touch paper on their rockets to prove they are still there, killing thousands of innocent beings in the process and proving nothing.

Coming nearer to home and staying on the subject of sat–navs, some sympathy showed through for our “Born Again Christian” entertainer Sir Cliff Richard whose large mansion required an expensive helicopter to locate its position so that police, with the cooperation of the BBC, could search the premises without the knowledge of its owner. A cheap road map or sat-nav could surely have shown the way to this property and with no charges brought against our Cliff, it was probably not his best “Summer Holiday” as the song goes.

Sympathies, however, did not extend to Nick Clegg, who defended the launch of a £1 billion free meal scheme stating that giving a hot meal at lunchtime is as, if not more, effective than many of the literacy and numeracy initiatives in the past. With reports of a serious lack of primary school places and falling standards compared with many countries abroad , a few eyebrows were raised as to the wisdom of spending money in this way!

Other topics discussed included the Rotherham child abuse scandal , the removal of a 5 year old child from an NHS hospital for brain tumour treatment and others too detailed to mention here, so if you have opinions and wish to voice them, come and join us over a cup of tea and a chocolate biscuit.

Ray Harman

Egyptology U3A visit to The British Museum

Since the first travellers to Egypt uncovered ancient bodies wrapped and preserved in linen bandages, to discover what lay beneath has been an ongoing passion and interest to understand more about them. In the past tomb robbers ripped apart Mummies solely to retrieve sumptuous gold and precious-stoned amulets, placed on the body for its protection on the journey to the next life.

In Edwardian withdrawing rooms, an evening's entertainment could involve the unwrapping of a Mummy to discover both its structure and content; as the wrappings were removed, the contents became just dust and bandages.

The British Museum has a collection of approximately 400 Mummies, some displayed magnificently in the Egyptian Halls, others stored in the basement in a controlled environment to ensure their ongoing preservation.

Great respect for the dead and for the integrity of the remains of Egyptian Mummies has become an integral part of the protocol for preserving and exhibiting these ancient wonders of the world and all they tell us about the past.

The Ancient Lives, New Discoveries, exhibition at the British Museum this summer has used cutting edge, twenty first century, CT scanning and digital imaging to further enhance our knowledge of the skills of the embalmers of the ancient Nile in preserving the body as an eternal home for the spirit. These Mummies even today hold a vast amount of data which can transport us into the living communities of the remote past.

It is primarily from the human remains that we learn how long the ancient Egyptians lived, what they looked like, what illnesses they had to contend with: hardening of the arteries, very common cause of problems today, and chronic dental erosion causing huge and ongoing dental abscesses - very painful and, in the absence of antibiotics, a possible cause of septicaemia and death.

The daily concerns of their lives help explain why the afterlife was so important and why mummification and funerary ritual persisted broadly unchanged for more than three thousand years.

Today CT scanning has made it possible to allow us to peel away layers of wrappings and skin, observe amulets in situ, recognise hardened arteries and severe dental decay, a virtual exploration without disturbing the mummy. As a result we come face to face with individuals who seem remote from our world, yet very like us in the experiences, hopes and fears which shaped their lives.

This exhibition demonstrated and helped us realise how short their lives were, the challenges they faced from their environment, giving us admiration and empathy for their remarkable achievements so long ago, which still has resonance today.

Susan Robinson

Calling all Knitters

Fish & Chip Baby Jumpers and Hats - knitting pattern

Many babies in Africa are sent home wrapped in newspaper to keep them warm. The Fish & Chip Baby Jumper initiative provides jumpers and hats to keep these babies warm.

The jumpers are very easy to knit and can be knitted in one piece. Bright coloured stripes look attractive and are good for using up small oddments of wool.

Please do not use white or baby pastels as they are unlikely to be washed.

Many U3A Branches are supporting this appeal.

You can download the pattern from the web:
www,.glengatewools.co.,uk.
or patterns available at the Monday Meeting.

Jan Robertson

History Trip to Walmer Castle on 22nd September

We headed off on time, everyone looking forward to an interesting day. We had a good journey over the QE II Bridge and picked up our guide, Carol, in Kent.

Mary had arranged our mid morning stop to be somewhere rather special, The Grand Hotel at Folkestone. This did not disappoint. The hotel is in a stunning location on the Leys and has an interesting past.

From here we journeyed through the scenic Alkham Valley towards Dover. We stopped at the White Cliffs viewing point. As it was slightly misty we couldn't see France. Our guide Carol told us interesting facts as we travelled along.

From here we drove to Georgian Deal where we had time to have a leisurely lunch. I can recommend the cafe at the end of the Pier.

After lunch we spent the afternoon at Walmer Castle exploring the gardens and castle with just enough time to sneak in a cream tea before boarding the coach home. We arrived back in Maldon on time, having had a great day.

Thanks to Mary for organising such an interesting day and arranging perfect weather.

Janette Brown

Volunteers needed

Jigsaw Puzzles Swap

Could someone take charge of these puzzles, store and sort them for the Monday Meetings? It is such a popular pastime for our members.

Magazines Swap

Another very popular item at our Monday Meetings.
Someone needed to store and sort them.

Contact Janet Buck for information on both items.
Janet has been looking after them for the past few months.

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Writing for fun

At the group's regular meetings, as well as general chit-chat and tea/coffee and biscuits, members read their work to each other and this is always followed by discussion, some of which might be better described as critique. The spirit of this is supportive and constructive, though sometimes it goes further – and one line is that of suggestion: "If you can do this, why don't you do that?"
One such session, a while ago, led to certain members trying their hand at a full novel. And in one case (so far!) this has led to writing, rewriting (and rewriting) and submission to publishers; one of whom responded with acceptance and a contract to publish!

So, Patrick Forsyth's book "Long Overdue", a story of human nature and mystery set in part here in Maldon, is to be published by Stanhope Books in mid-November. If anyone wants a copy let Patrick know on patrick@touchstonetc.freeserve.co.uk and he will bring copies to the November/December meeting (depending on when they become available).
"Makes an excellent Christmas present" he says "and – to you just £6.99".
The published price is £8.99.
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FREE

Next 'Oslo' chair—a very comfortable chair
Needs re-upholstering, cats had a go!
Seems a shame to take it to the tip.
Jan Robertson

Not actual chair

WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING - 26 SEPTEMBER 2014

Once again another successful coffee morning - a big thank you to everyone who came or donated to my **Macmillan Coffee morning** the total sum raised was £330.

Mary Burd

FEERING & KELVEDON GARDEN CLUB
invite you to:
Talk by Ken Crowther on
WINTER COLOUR
at 8.00 p.m. on
TUESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2014
Feering Community Centre, Coggeshall Rd, Feering CO5 9QB
Price : £5 including refreshments
Visitors welcome

17th November Meeting
Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

Speaker
Terry Duffy
'Songs 1925-1975'

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 -

Times 12.15 pm

TUESDAY **4th November** at the Blue Strawberry in Hatfield Peverel
Co-ordinator: Mike Wood

WEDNESDAY **19th November at** Henri's Steak house at Madison Heights
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	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

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Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 7th November

CO-ORDINATORS

Antiques	Liz Wood
Architecture	Judith Johnston
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
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

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	2 Bird Watching Mill Beach
3 Maritime Trinity House, Ldn Whist	4 Table Tennis Snooker Geology Luncheon Club	5 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge for the Curious Wine Circle	6 Discussion Rummikub 2 Ten Pin Bowling Scottish Country Dancing	7 Poetry Smartphones Canasta	8	9
10 German Handicrafts Photography Whist	11 Table Tennis Snooker Egyptology	12 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Meet & Eat Luncheon Club	13 Plantagenants Reading Rummikub Ten Pin Bowling	14 Architecture Sing for Pleasure Mah Jong	15	16 Strollers
17 **Meeting 1.30 pm** Just Jazz	18 Table Tennis Snooker	19 Ten Pin Bowling Gardeners Mundon VH Luncheon Club	20 Antiques Bridge for the Curious Ten Pin Bowling Wine Circle Scottish Country Dancing	21 Canasta	22	23
24 Astronomy Handicrafts Local History Whist	25 Table Tennis Snooker Strollers Too	26 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Family History Writing for Fun	27 Computers French Conversation Music Appreciation Ten Pin Bowling Wine Circle	28 Sing for Pleasure Mah Jong	29	30

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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,