The University of the Third Age

MALDON
AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

Harvest Time

SEPTEMBER 2014

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR

Your Executive Committee has been discussing the possibility of changing the Main Meeting venue from Wickham Bishops Hall to Maldon Town Hall. This is only a proposal at the moment, it would not be necessary to change our format and the meeting would still begin at 1.45pm with doors opening at 1.30pm. The Town Hall can accommodate the same number of people as Wickham Bishops Hall and has the same facilities.

Your Committee is only considering this move at the moment and would welcome and appreciate any feedback you might wish to share with us, as we seek to make an informed decision. Do you think a move to Maldon Town Hall would be a good idea and be of benefit to our members?

We stress that at the moment this is only at the discussion stage, no decisions have been made. If you do wish to comment, please contact me or any Committee member, contact details are on the inside of the back cover of the Newsletter.

We look forward to receiving your comments.

Malcolm Case

London Walks and Talks

Our speaker on **Wednesday September 17** will be Elaine Beckett whose talk is entitled "London Street Names". Meeting at WMCC starts at 2.30 p.m., doors open at 2.15 p.m.
Bookings will be taken at the September Meeting for our walk on **October 15** when our guide will be Ian Bevan, who will guide us through the "Alleyways of the City of London."

Strollers

The walk on **Sunday October 19th**—meet at the White Hart pub car park in The Street, Little Waltham, post code CM3 3NY
Explorer map 183 grid ref 709 130 at 10.15 for 10.30 start. The walk is approx. 4.5 miles of fairly level ground with several footbridges, a couple of stiles and interesting river scenery. Lunch is available.

Strollers Too

Meet on **Tuesday 28th October** at 10.15 for 10.30 start, venue Chigborough Cart Lodge, Post Code CM9 4RE, off Goldhanger Road, Heybridge, OS Map Ref. 878084.
This flat walk takes in the Essex Wild Life Trust Chigborough Lakes site and the picturesque Chigborough Lakes. Lunch is available at the Cart Lodge. Please park at the Fishery Car Park opposite the Cart Lodge.
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Ten Pin Bowling

Hopefully we are starting to find a way out of the problem of being over-crowded. A small relief has been made for the Wednesday Group by starting the new Thursday Group, there were sixteen of us on the first morning.
It is early days yet and more needs to be done. No solution will be perfect or even good but we have to try our best. It is a shame but we have to live with it.
David Arnold

Local and General History

On **Monday 22 September** we have our visit to the White Cliffs and Walmer Castle. For those booked on the trip we leave the West Maldon Community Centre at 8.30am - please leave your cars at the far end of the car park as usual. We hope to be back by 6.30pm - depending on the traffic of course.

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For our meeting on **27 October** we have Tony Tuckwell returning to speak to us - the title of his talk will be "How unfashionable Essex & Chelmsford got their Diocese and Cathedral".

All members are welcome to join us - 2 pm at Maldon Town Hall.

Mary Burd Co-Ordinator

Local and General History

Flanders - Lest we Forget 27 - 29 April 2015

There are still spaces on this 3 days/2 nights trip including dinner, bed & breakfast at a cost of £314.00 per person. There is a single supplement of £24.00.

Day 1 - Ferry crossing to Calais. Visit to Chateau de Grand Bigard for guided tour and the Floralia Spring Flower Exhibition.

Day 2 - Morning cruise from Nieuwpoort to Diksmuide through Flanders Fields. This is followed by a guided coach tour of Flanders Battlefields travelling to Ypres for the Last Post ceremony.

Day 3 - Visit to Tournai and on to the Plugstreet Memorial to the Missing.

This is a brief itinerary - should you wish to have more information please contact me on maryburd43@yahoo.co.uk or 01621 843020.

Mary Burd Co-ordinator

Canasta

There will be no Canasta on the 26th September due to the hall being pre booked.
Elaine Bane

Botany

If there is demand, this group could reopen fully. At present, members go out on field trips to locations throughout Essex. but this will stop during the winter months.

Trees Originally, it was planned to run this group from September 2013 to December 2013. However, demand meant that it continued to the end of July 2014. We shall be having a refresher session on Tues. 11th November at 2.0 pm.

Just Jazz is back.

A new series of meetings starts at the Maldon Little Ship Club on **15th September at 7.30pm.**

Everyone is welcome, there is a Bar and the good ladies usually provide Nibbles!

See you all there.

Peter Becket t and Jim Light.

Maritime

The next Maritime Group meeting is on **Monday 6th October 2014** at **The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00am** for an interesting, illustrated talk by John Johnson-Alan on "T E Lawrence and The Royal Navy's Red Sea Fleet in the early 1900s".

All U3A members are very welcome to join us.

Malcolm Case

Gardeners - Two visits this month as follows:

Tues. September 23 at 2.30 pm to the home of Mrs. Sue Jackman, 60 Colchester Rd, Gt. Totham CM9 8DG. A ¾ -acre keen plantswoman's garden.

Tues. September 30 at 2.30 pm. Another popular Plant Swap at the home of Mike and Liz Wood, 49 Hopping Jacks Lane, Danbury CM3 4PJ

Please bring your own chairs and some cakes.

Wed. November 19 Meet at Mundon Village Hall at 2.30 pm for a cup of tea and a presentation of the South Coast holiday enjoyed in July. Some cakes would be appreciated.

French Conversation

"Bienvenue tout le monde" . "Le Groupe Francaise" will recommence on **Thursday 25th September** at 2.00pm so why not come along and join our small gathering and prepare yourselves for that occasional trip across "La Manche". There are no grammar book exercises, games or idiomatic expressions to commit to memory , just simple conversational type everyday French with which we all help each other, so come along and give it a try!
If you are interested and want to know more contact Ray Harman

Theatre Outings

White Christmas 26th November
Please pay the coach fare of £10 per person by the October Main Meeting. The coach will leave West Maldon Community Centre at 10.00 am and will be leaving London at 5.45 pm. There are a few coach-only seats available. If anyone would like to beat the Christmas Shopping Rush, **The Sixteen at Christmas 12th December**
Please pay the coach fare of £11 per person by the October Main Meeting. The coach will leave West Maldon Community Centre at 4.00 pm which will, traffic permitting, give us time to arrive at the theatre at 6.30 pm enabling us to have a snack before the show starts at 7.30pm.

Astronomy

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 22nd September** at Stow Maries Aerodrome starting at 7:30pm – 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 of, hopefully, Saturn and Mars and many other stars. If you have a good telescope or binoculars, please bring them with you.
All U3A members are very welcome to join us.

Malcolm Case

2014 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

List of Events and Outings during the year.

Mon 22 Sept	The White Cliffs and Walmer Castle - Local History
Wed. 24 Sept	Theatre - 'The 39 Steps'
Thurs. 25 Sept	Barn Dance at Mundon V.H.
Thurs. 2 Oct	Watts Gallery, Guildford
Wed. 15 Oct	Searching Alleyways of the City of London - London Walks
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
Wed. 26 Nov.	"White Christmas" - Theatre visit
Fri. 12 Dec	"The Sixteen at Christmas" - Theatre visit
2015	
27/29 April	Flanders - Lest We Forget.

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

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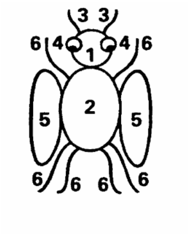
Social Event—date for your Diary



Beetle Drive,

Friday 17th October at

Plantation Hall, Heybridge,
6.30 for 7.00 start.
Tickets £4.00
Tea Coffee and Cakes served during the interval.

Tickets from
Barbara Byam-Shaw,
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ESSEX ASSOCIATION STUDY DAY
Tuesday, October 28th at the Plume School.

The Study Day Committee is looking for helpers on the day.

Members to man the signing in desk at 8.30 am and 12.45pm.
To act as guides around the building.
To man the main entrances from 8.30 am and from 12 noon.
To act as Car Park attendants from 8.15 am until 10 am and from 12 noon until 1.15pm
To manage the tea trolleys pre the commencement of the morning session from 8.45 am 10 am and from noon until 1.15 pm.
To be of assistance to any member with disabilities.

If you are able to help please get in touch with me at the address below stating any job preference you may have.

If it is at all possible I will arrange a time and place when we can meet for a preliminary chat, but it is most important that we do get-together on Monday, October 27th at the Plume School at 11 am, so that we can learn the lay out of the building and its environs. Therefore, the Committee are asking you very kindly to help us on two consecutive days. However, you could be coming on the Tuesday anyway to join one of the classes.

Beryl McDonell

Full groups are:
Digital Photography (all day); Watercolour (all day); Pen and Wash (am); Acrylics (all day); Recognising Trees; Hand Chimes (am and pm); English Patchwork (all day); Geology; Ukulele (pm)
All other groups still have spaces – but some are filling fast.
People who have applied for a group that is full have been given another of their choices. Di is ringing anyone who has a problem with their application.

Wine Trip to Kent – Tuesday 12 August

A collection of 40 members from all four wine groups and other sundry hangers-on assembled at the West Maldon Community Centre at 0830 and set off for sunny Kent, picking up another couple in Danbury on the way. A short delay at the Dartford Crossing saw us arrive at our first winery at 10.40, a mere 10 minutes behind schedule.

Chapel Down winery in Tenterden is one of the largest in England. They have 20 acres under cultivation locally and a further 100 acres on the North Downs. Our party was divided into two and led around the vineyard by guides Susie and Jo. One of the highlights was observing the bottling plant in action as it processed, capped and labelled bottles of sparkling wine.

We tasted between six and seven wines in a small tasting room where our guides talked us through the wines and provided detailed tasting notes. Most of the wines were well received; only the Union Red (Pinot Noir/Rondo blend) seemed to disappoint.

After a quick look around their shop we were all bundled back onto the coach by Paul and off we zoomed to Biddenden Vineyard, a mere 25 minutes away. There we were greeted by our loquacious guide, Malcolm, who ushered us into their small café for a delicious ploughman's lunch.

Malcolm then took us on a guided tour of the vineyard, which he claimed was the oldest family-owned vineyard in England and Wales. The Barnes family, who grew apples there from 1953 until 1969, uprooted their orchards and began planting vines. They produced their first wines in 1973. However, because of their association with the apple trade the vineyard still produces apple juice and cider; all made from local apples sourced from the surrounding farms.

The tasting at Biddenden was poor compared with Chapel Down. There was no structure to it; one just queued up at the sales desk and sampled whatever one wished. But the amounts poured were too small to form reasoned opinions of their wines.

We departed at 16.20 and in spite of more fun and games at the Dartford Crossing, we arrived safe and sound at WMCC at 1845.

The weather was sunny all day, albeit breezy, and although rain threatened once or twice it never quite materialised. Thanks to Paul and Mary (or Rita as Paul called her – anyone know why?) for arranging such a super day out.

ALC

25th Anniversary

Essex History Day

Saturday 11th October

Basildon & Billericay culminate their 25th anniversary celebrations with a day of fascinating talks by four speakers, each talking about various aspects of Essex history. The speakers will be Lord Petre, William Tyler, Vincent Worley and Patrick Denny.

The function will take place at the Mayflower High School, on Stock Road Billericay, between 10:30 and 4pm, with **tickets costing just £17.**

The day will be broken down as follows:

10:30 am	Tea/ coffee and biscuits on arrival
11:00 – 1pm	Opening speakers
1:00 – 2pm	Buffet lunch
2:00 - 4pm	Closing speakers

We are happy to make tickets available to other local U3A's, but availability will be limited by hall size, so please buy early to avoid disappointment; it is expected that this will be a popular event.

Tickets are available from July by postal application, by submitting a **SAE** to: The 'A' Team, c/o **17 Falkner Close, Stock, CM4 9ND**.

Cheques should be made payable to **Basildon and Billericay U3A;** please indicate event (i.e. History Day) on reverse of cheque together with your relevant membership number(s) and U3A branch.

The venue has ample parking and is on the 100 bus route.

Limebrook U3A

"BARNUM"

Wednesday 1st October 2014

(2.30pm Matinee performance) at the Cliffs Pavilion, Southend

Last chance to book your tickets for this fantastic show!

£35 to include theatre ticket (balcony row I) and transport
Travel arrangements – Coach to and from West Maldon Community Centre

To reserve your tickets for this show which stars Brian Conley please contact Beverly Hunt either by email or telephone. Details below. Cheques, made payable to Limebrook U3A.

Remember that once you have paid for your tickets money cannot be reimbursed. I shall confirm precise travel arrangements nearer the date but at present the plan is to leave WMCC at 1200 and return by 1830 approx.

Heybridge U3A
Social Evening

Saturday, 25th October 2014

from 6.30pm on
at Plantation Hall .

There will be a small quiz, a free raffle, fish and chip supper and many board games to play.

Games played last year included Scrabble, Pictionary, Bridge, Rummikub and many more.
Members from all Maldon U3As would be very welcome to join us.
Tickets approximately £9.00

Your views on Immediate Care Services
Consultation on proposed service redesign
(including the closure of the walk-in service provided at
North Chelmsford Healthcare Centre)
Final date for feedback 30 October 2014

This consultation is part of a series of discussions to inform healthcare commissioning plans for 2015-2019 for the residents of mid Essex, including Braintree, Chelmsford and Maldon.
Published by NHS Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
Closing date for feedback – **30 October 2014**
Feedback form https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LTRHZJB
Available publicly from
http://www.midessexccg.nhs.uk/public- consultations/immediate-care
Key contact for further information
Rachel Harkes, Communications Manager rachelharkes@nhs.net 01245 459414
For enquiries and feedback meccg.ppe@nhs.net

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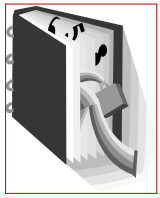
U3A 2015 Diaries

Available at the Monday Meetings
£2 each
They are going fast, be quick with your order



20th October Meeting
Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

Speaker
Peter Turrall MBE
"History of Marconi"
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For Sale:

Breadmaker. Tesco. Excellent condition.
Complete with instruction booklet. £6.00

Three Drawer desk.
Some water damage to top which could be sanded and revarnished.
£5.00

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Change of Bus Times

The times of the buses between Maldon and Chelmsford have changed because there is to be a bus to and from Burnham every half hour instead of hourly.
Maldon Milton Road @ 28 minutes past the hour and @ 2 minutes to the hour eg 9.28 and 9,58.
Chelmsford @ 5 minutes past and 35 minutes past the hour.
Time Tables are available at the Tourist Information Office.

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES -

Times 12.15 pm

TUESDAY **2nd October The Bell, Woodham Walter**
Co-ordinator: Mike Wood
WEDNESDAY No meal this month due to Paul's vacation
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.
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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
AV Equipment	Jim Light

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

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 10th October

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

PROGRAMME – OCTOBER 2014

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

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.