The University of the Third Age

MALDON
AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

Container Cranes at London Gateway
Maritime visit

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2015 SUBSCRIPTION?

APRIL 2015

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR

I hope you all had a lovely Easter break, we certainly had the weather for it.

The layout of the hall has been changed slightly. The Magazine and Jigsaw swap tables have now been moved to alongside the stage. This is to make more room at the sign in tables.

Marrie Webster, our Vice Chairman, has to stand down at the AGM in June. As required by our constitution, we have to have a Vice Chairman to allow us to continue. If anyone feels that they would like to take on this role, could they please contact either me or Marrie.

Our representative on the WMCC management committee, Robin Goody, has decided to stand down. If anyone would like to take on this role, which involves attending one meeting a month on the second Thursday, in the evening, then please contact me.
At our March meeting we were told that we could not use the eastern end of the car park at Wickham Bishop Hall. Since then, Marrie, Fred and I have had a meeting with the Chairman of the Hall's Management Committee and have reached a compromise on this issue. If possible, could you avoid using the eastern end of the car park, adjacent to the hall. This is to allow other hall users car parking space. Thank you for your understanding on this issue.

West Maldon Community Centre advise that the car park is normally open from 7am until after the time of the last booking in the Centre, when it is locked for security purposes. If groups associated with the WMCC wish to use the car park for parking during off-site trips, they must inform the Booking Officer so he can advise on the availability of space, and he can inform the Rangers and the Gatekeeper accordingly.

Following recent committee meetings, it has been agreed by your committee to have a "Comments Book" at the sign in tables at the main meeting. Please feel free to add any comments you may wish about the monthly meeting. It is entirely up to you if you wish to say who has left the comment. Should any member have any constructive comments to make on any U3A issue, please do not hesitate to contact either me or any Committee member.

Malcolm Case
malcolmcase@talktalk.net

Local & General History

We do not have a meeting in April as we have our three day visit to Flanders starting on **Monday 27 April.** For those on the trip we are departing 7 am from Morrisons, Maldon and 7.10 am from Eves Corner Danbury.

DON'T FORGET YOUR PASSPORT!!

Our following meeting is on **Tuesday 26 May** about the History of Salt Extraction around the Blackwater.
All members are welcome to join us - the cost is £2 per session.

We are still looking for people to take over this group at the end of 2015!

Co-Ordinators	Mary Burd	maryburd43@yahoo.co.uk
	Michael Blackwell	blackwell67@btinternet.com

Strollers Too

Tuesday 26th May There will be no walk this month.

Music Appreciation

Members of the group chose as their theme for the March meeting "Time and Travel." Music played ranged from Holst's "The Planets" to Frank Sinatra's incomparable version of "It's Very Nice To Go Trav'ling.
The lyrics of this song appealed to the group and Sammy Cahn and Jimmy Van Heusen should be mentioned for their closing lines, "But it's so much nicer to come home. No more customs, Burn the passport, No more packing and unpacking, Light the home fires, Get my slippers, Make a pizza."
Sammy Cahn will struggle to get a mention during our April meeting which will now be held on **30th April** and not on the 23rd as mentioned in the last newsletter. The subject will be "Baroque Music" and no doubt Handel, Vivaldi and perhaps Purcell will share top billing.
Please contact either Enid Hall or John Skuse if you are interested in joining the group which usually meets on the 4th Thursday of each month from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

Photography

The Photography group has now closed after five years. Numbers have been falling and we are running out of fresh topics. It is felt that it has run its course but if anyone wishes to restart it, perhaps in a different form, then please have a go.
Mike Manning

Aviation

At our March meeting we received a very interesting and informative talk on Concorde, as seen through the eyes of an engineer, given by Alec Fraser who actually worked on components for this aircraft. This was a very well constructed lecture and much appreciated by the members.

Tuesday, April 21st meeting, start 2 pm There will be talk on the 'Wright Brothers' given by Peter Bickers. This will be the first on our return to Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome, Hackmans Lane, Purleigh, CM3 6RN.

Sunday 30th May. Visit to the Bentley Priory and the de Havilland Mosquito Museum. The coach will cost £14-50. Would you please ensure that your cheques for this are handed in on or before the May meeting or sent to Mave Studholme.

Friday, August 28th. A trip to the Clacton Air Show is arranged. Details and cost will be advised in due course. There will also be other trips arranged including Duxford in September.

Brian Johnson

Bird Watching

Hanningfield Reservoir in early spring is a good place to view Great Crested Grebe (Podiceps cristatus), engaged in their elaborate courtship displays which include facing each other and shaking of heads then synchronised diving. The grebe has a long white neck and red dagger-like bill. The bird develops black double horned crest and chestnut "frills" about the head in the breeding season. The pair build a floating nest made up of water weeds taking turns to incubate the eggs. The birds have the endearing habit of carrying the chicks on the back of one of the adults whilst the other brings food.
The group will visit Fingringhoe Wick on **Saturday May 2nd**
Then Rye Mead Lee Valley on **Sunday June 7th**

Peter Gaywood

Trees

There will be a visit for members of the group and anyone else who is free to join us on **Tuesday 28th April** at St John's Church, Danbury. Meet in the car park at the front of the church. We shall be walking the areas around the church where there are some interesting trees. Could anybody in the group who is not able to come please phone me or Pat Clements, so that we do not wait in vain for you. Thank you.

Poetry -

As our theme is 'Love' this month I thought you might like to read this short Pam Ayres poem :

Love is like a Curry

Love is like a curry and I'll explain to you,
That love comes in three temperatures, cold, hot and vindaloo,
Of course it's like a curry, it cannot be denied,
For both are full of spice and both have dishes on the side.

We will of course be reading lots more romantic stuff like The Bard's sonnets, so here's to love, Spring, and all the trappings that keep us young!

Jo Robson

Family History Group 1

The next meeting will be held on the **22nd April** at Hopping Jacks Lane, Danbury, and will commence at 2.30pm

Family History Group 2 (Beginners.)

The next meeting will be held on the **24th April** at Augustine Way, Bicknacre commencing 10.00am. Anyone who wishes to attend this group please let me know .

London Walks and Talks

Our meeting on **Wednesday May 20th** is in MALDON TOWN HALL at 2.30 p.m. The speaker will be Maggie Piper and her talk is entitled, "Royal Residences". Entrance fee is £2. All members are welcome.
On **June 17th** we have organised a guided tour of the Bloomsbury area of London in the morning and, in the afternoon, we have a tour of BBC Broadcasting House. Bookings for our June events will be taken at the May meeting.

Strollers

The next walk will be on **Sunday 17 May**. Please meet in the car park of the Swan at Chappel, postcode CO6 2DD, at 10.15 for a 10.30 start. If you require lunch we can choose from the menu before walking. The walk will take about two hours and includes wonderful views of the viaduct and surrounding countryside; only one stile to negotiate! For further information please ring Christine Bishop

Proposed new Group — Art Appreciation

There will be an inaugural meeting for the proposed Art Appreciation Group. This group will be specifically aimed at viewing and discussing existing paintings as works of art. It will not involve 'doing' actual painting and it will not cover any other areas of 'art' such as films, theatre, dance, media, ancient buildings, statues or architecture.
The meeting will be at my house, Penylan, Nounsley Road, Hatfield Peverel, CM3 2NF on **Wednesday 22nd April** at 2pm.
If you haven't already done so, please add your name to my sign-in list (at the U3A monthly meeting)
Andy Simmonds

Gardeners

Tuesday May 19 Visit Kelvedon Hall, Kelvedon Hatch, CO5 9BN, home of Mr & Mrs Inglis. Meet at 2.30 pm Cost £7 p.p. Varied 6 acre garden surrounding a pretty C18 farmhouse. A blend of formal and informal spaces interspersed with modern sculpture.
Everyone welcome to join us. Please contact Jan Robertson as I have to let the owners know the numbers for tea and cakes.

Holiday to the Midlands 7/10th July

Can I please have your balance of £274 at the April Meeting me

Maritime

Monday May 4th , No Meeting, Bank Holiday.

May 24th – May 27th, trip to Liverpool to see the "Three Queens" (Queen Mary 2, Queen Elizabeth, Queen Victoria) all together in the River Mersey, to celebrate 175 years of Cunard Line. Full itinerary and booking forms available from either Malcolm Case or Alan Buck. This trip is full, however, we are still taking names if anyone is interested, which will go on the waiting list.

Monday June 1st , meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00 am for an illustrated talk by Trevor Sapey of the Mary Rose Trust. The talk will consist of a PowerPoint presentation on the history, sinking and raising of the Mary Rose, along with the conservation and the new museum. Trevor will talk briefly about costumes (as he will be wearing one!) and its importance at this period of time. Finally he will hand around some real and many replica artefacts to discuss life on board.

Malcolm Case

2015 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

27/29 April	Flanders - Lest We Forget - Local History
24/27 May	4 day trip to Liverpool—"Three Queens" - Maritime
Sat. 30 May	Visit to Bentley Priory Museum - Aviation
Wed. 3 June	"Gypsy" Savoy Theatre Evening Visit - Theatre
Thurs. 11 June	Magna Carta visit to British Library—Plantagenet History
Wed. 17 June	Walk thru. Bloomsbury & BBC Broadcasting Hse—Ldn Walks
Fri. 26 june	Backstage Tour of the National Theatre—Ken Cocks
Tues. 7 July	Essex U3A Assoc. Essex Quiz Night at URC, Chelmsford
7/10 July	4 day trip to the Midlands—"Places of Interest"
Mon. 27 July	Guided walk in Saffron Walden & visit Audley End—L.Hist
Wed. 29 July	BBQ at Langford VH - Social
Wed. Aug. 19	Walk thru. Clerkenwell—Ldn Walks—Ldn Walks
25/27 Aug.	U3A Nat. Conference & AGM, East Midlands Conf. Centre
Fri. 28 Aug.	Clacton Air Show—Aviation
Mon. 21 Sept.	Maldon U3A Open Day, Town Hall
Mon. 28 Sept.	Monuments & public art of London & Olympic Park—L.Hist
Web. 11 Oct.	Walk in Lambeth & tour of Lambeth Palace—Ldn Walks
Tues. 24 Nov	Cockney Evening—Social

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

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Programme - London Walk and Talks - 2015

May 20	Talk	Royal Residences	Maggie Piper
June 17	Walk	A Stroll through Bloomsbury and a guided Tour of BBC Broadcasting House	John Halligan
July 15	Talk	Clerkenwell	Elaine Beckett
Aug. 19	Walk	Clerkenwell. At the City's Doorstep	David Evans
Sept. 16	Talk	Heart of Empire at Bank Junction	Elaine Beckett
Oct. 22	Walk	Ambling in Lambeth and a guided tour of Lambeth Palace	Ian Bevan
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The Maritime Trip to Shell Haven & the London Gateway
Monday March 2nd 2015

When we arrived at the Shell Haven Site (north of the Thames), Malcolm took our driver and Alec Fraser into the Terminal for security clearance.
Our coach then took us all into the Terminal from where we were escorted into the control room for a welcome cup of tea. The terminal manager, Graham Hipkin, then gave us a comprehensive and detailed talk about this, the largest British Depot for Aviation fuel – Jet A1. This is unloaded from the ships using one of the very large pipelines on the jetty and taken to be stored in, initially, large tanks before being transferred via filters and coalescers to remove any water or sediments, to smaller tanks prior to being tested and delivered to the various airports by either road tanker or pipeline. Safety and cleanliness are paramount at all stages of the operation – there are no "Lay-bys in the sky". Jet A1 can be contaminated by water, bacteria or air, one of the most reliable ways of checking is by using a stainless steel bucket! The larger storage tanks cost £800,000 to clean and repair every two years. Each storage tank has its own foam line to cover the top surface in emergencies before the local fire brigade arrives. The 2005 Buncefield incident gave them new and valuable safety information regarding high level tank alarms and general monitoring of storage areas.
We then had a short drive to the jetty but a long wait for gate keys from both Shell Haven and the London Gateway Port.
After a delicious lunch we left this down to earth working atmosphere to go to the ultra -modern executive building at the London Gateway Port.
We had an illustrated talk about the company Dubai Port, which owns London Gateway. The terminal was financed by several banks in 2009 for the Arab Emirates (Dubai Ports recently bought the P & O Shipping Company – a shrewd move!).
The reasoning for this site was explained using maps and import/export strategies for Britain and the World.
When it is finally completed in 2026 it will be one of the three quickest, largest and private container ports in the world.
It has a fully automated lorry loading and unloading system which is controlled from the terminal headquarters by computer. The system is triggered by the lorry drivers themselves for safety reasons. Refrigerated containers have special areas with power points. Distribution is by road lorry and railways.
We drove between the enormous container handling cranes by the Thames for the huge sea-going container ships. Our coach was nearly as high as the yellow bases of them, the jetty is underpinned with large steel rods underground.
The area was once Shell Haven Oil Refinery and before being developed as a Container Terminal, it was necessary to find and to re-allocate the wildlife to new areas.
We had a surprise visit from the boss as he was finishing his lunch – a bag of crisps, who also emphasised their world power and strategies. He lives in Colchester.
It was an extremely interesting day with two very contrasting modern companies.
Thank you Malcolm for another excellent trip.
Jane Coombes

Shell Haven Terminal

Control Room, Shell Haven Terminal

Co-ordinators

Just a reminder, following the notice in the March Newsletter, to those who have not already responded, that, as I am sure you are aware, the current financial year of our U3A ends on 31 March 2015.

I should therefore be grateful if you would let me have the following for the year ended 31 March 2015:

1. Invoices/receipts which you have not already passed to me for amounts paid from your group bank account.
2. A cash account. This should show the cash held at 1 April 2014, the cash receipts and payments during the year, and the cash held at 31 March 2015.
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.
5. If you have any queries relating to the above please do not hesitate to contact me.

Finally, please ensure that you let me have the above no later than 30 April.
Martin Cook

Calling all Knitters - Knitted Teddy Bear

These Teddies will be donated to small children staying in Mid Essex Hospitals covering Chelmsford, Maldon and Braintree. They will be able to take them home after their stay.

Teddies can be made in a variety of styles. The pattern describes a teddy with pants and a shirt, but the pattern can be varied. The important thing is that the teddy has a personality of its own!
8 ply wool (no angora or mohair)
Needles: No 9 (3.75 mm) or no 10 (3.25mm) needles

Pattern available at the meetings

Backstage Tour of the National Theatre, South Bank on Friday 26th June

You may remember that last year we visited the Royal Opera House scenery workshops at Thurrock followed at a later date by a visit to the Opera House itself at Covent Garden. The National Theatre on the South Bank do it all under one roof— design and construction for the three auditoriums.

We have arranged for exclusive tours on **Friday 26th June**.
The coach will leave West Maldon Community Centre at 08.00.The cost will be £20 including driver's tip. The early start is necessary because tours must finish well before matinees commence. The tours take about an hour and a quarter. The last group will finish at about 1.00 pm leaving time to enjoy the delights of the South Bank before the coach leaves at 4.30 pm.

If you wish to book please ring Sheila Epps to secure a place.
When you have booked please the send your cheque and Tel. No. to me

This arrangement is necessary because I shall be away a lot during the next few weeks.

This should be a very enjoyable trip.

Ken Cocks

Petanque

We have now commenced our summer season and meet in the Prom Park every Thursday at 2 pm. New members always welcome to join us.
Jack Veach

Balance

Ladies, forget what your Mother taught you!
Do NOT keep your legs together.

After taking a tumble the other day, falling over my own two feet,
I appreciated the good sense they teach at the "Falls Clinic".
They train you to stand with your feet slightly apart to improve your balance and to keep them apart, especially when turning.
Hang onto something and try it for yourself. If your feet are close together, as you turn, the back foot has to step over the front. When you are young and sprightly this happens quickly and easily, but as the feet grow heavier it is easy to catch one foot on the other

Please practise and avoid a nasty accident when you get older.
Clare Urry

ASTRONOMY GROUP PROGRAMME 2015
STOW MARIES AERODROME

Meet at 7:30pm

Monday April 27th – Cancelled due to U3A trip to Flanders.
Monday May 25th – No meeting Bank Holiday
Monday June 22nd – An illustrated talk by Peter Bassett "Are we Alone" With all the 200 billion stars in our galaxy, a large proportion now known to have planets, surely there must be other civilisations out there somewhere asking the same question... "Are we Alone?" The talk includes Crop Circles, a fair consideration of UFOs and other fringe subjects on this popular matter. Props include an alien, a model flying saucer, and radio telescope demo. The more serious science to this can even be done at home.
Monday July 27th – meeting at Stow Maries Aerodrome at 7:30pm for a talk by Tony Tring on "The Chemistry of the Heavens"
Monday August 24th – No meeting Bank Holiday
Monday September 28th – Speaker from E2V – Rosetta probe etc, to be confirmed.
Monday October 26th – Possible visit to Cambridge.
November 23rd – Possible visit to Greenwich and the observatory
December 28th – No meeting

FOUND

Found in the car park of Wickham Bishops Hall after the last meeting - a pair of ladies black stretchy driving gloves. Are they yours?
Contact: David Arnold

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MacMillan Fundraiser

Wine Tasting Evening

With Ploughman's Supper and Musical Entertainment

Friday 24th April from 7.30 pm
Danbury Village Hall

Tickets £15

Contact Liz on 07711 370360

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Trinity Methodist Music & Drama
Proudly Present
GILBERT AND SULLIVAN'S

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

12th TO 16th May

7.45 pm Civic Theatre, Chelmsford
2.45 pm Saturday matinee
Box Office: 01245 606505 or www.chelmsford.govuk
Alf Couldrey and Veronica Smith

18th May Meeting
Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

Speaker
"The Wandsmen of St. Paul's Cathedral"
Patrick Wilkins

A trip to the beautiful medieval house Audley End on **Friday 17th July.** Admission to the House and Gardens is free for us as U3A members, courtesy of English Heritage. Fords Coach will collect us from Tesco Extra on the Fullbridge, Maldon at 09.00. We stop first at Saffron Walden to eat our sandwiches, find somewhere for lunch, or just wander about that lovely old town, before journeying on to Audley End. Our visit ends at 16.00. Plenty of room on the coach, so please do sign up! Coach fare to be advised.
Pat Smith -

Afternoon Tea

A big thank you to all members who supported the 'Afternoon Tea' on Friday 27th March. The feedback showed that the entertainment and the tea were enjoyed and the format of the afternoon was a success.
Wednesday 29th July evening BBQ, including entertainment with a Country and Western flavour by "Steve and Katy" (remember the Posh Frock Do?), 6.30 start at Langford Village Hall, lots of fun and food, for a cost of £12 per member. Bring your own drinks, chairs and tables.
Tickets from Barbara Byam-Shaw

Another date for your diary - A Cockney Evening with "Cockney Pride" Maldon Town Hall, **Tuesday 24th November**, details to follow.
Mike Childs. Social Committee Chairman

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES

Times 12.15 pm

TUESDAY **Tuesday May 5 at The Blue Strawberry, Hatfield Peveral**
Co-ordinator: Mike Wood

WEDNESDAY No lunch this month, Paul is on holiday.
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
Peter Holmes, Chairman	Joyce Woodham, Chairman
01621 854108	01621 841 066

THE LIMEBROOK U3A
Contact
Paul Madge, Chairman
01621 855 883

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	Michael Childs
AV Equipment	Jim Light

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

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 8th May

CO-ORDINATORS

Antiques	Liz Wood
Architecture	Judith Johnston
Art Appreciation	Andy Simmonds
Astrology	Liz Jones
Astronomy	Malcolm Case
Aviation	Brian Johnson Mave Studholme
Bird Watching	Pat Clements Peter Gaywood
Botany	Veronica Smith
Bridge	Sheila Epps
Bridge for the Curious	Gill Stone
Canasta	Elaine Bane Geraldine Brooks
Computers	Jan Robertson
Cribbage	Pat Clements
Discussion	Ray Harman
Egyptology	Joyce Cotterell
Family History	Alan Buck
French Conversation	Ray Harman
Gardeners	Jan Robertson
Geology	Enid Hall
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	Mike Wood
3rd Wed.	Paul Costa
Eat & Meet 2nd Wed	Joyce Cotterell
Mah-Jong	Molly Polden
Maritime	Malcolm Case
Music Appreciation	Enid Hall John Skuse
New Friends	Liz Robson
Petanque (Boules)	Jack Veash
Plantagenets	Beryl McDonell
Poetry	Jo Robson
Reading	Sheila Epps
Rummikub 1	Colin Beckett
Rummikub 2	Beryl McDonell
Scottish Country Dancing	Shirley Grummett
Sing for Pleasure	Sylvia Carpenter
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	Graham Boswell
Wine Circle No. 3	Mary Burd Paul Costa
Wine Circle No. 4	Alan Clarke
Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1 Mah Jong	2 Bird Watching Fingring-hoe	3
4 BANK HOLIDAY	5 Table Tennis Snooker Geology Luncheon Club	6 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge for the Curious	7 Ten Pin Bowling Discussion Poetry Rummikub 2 Scottish Country Dancing Petanque	8 Architecture Canasta Sing for Pleasure	9	10
11 Astrology Handicrafts Photography Whist	12 Table Tennis Snooker Egyptology	13 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Luncheon Club	14 Ten Pin Bowling Plantagenets Reading Rummikub 1 Petanque	15 Mah Jong	16	17 Strollers
18 **Meeting 1.30 pm** Just Jazz	19 Table Tennis Snooker Aviation Gardeners	20 Ten Pin Bowling London Walks Luncheon Club	21 Ten Pin Bowling Antiques Bridge for the Curious Scottish Country Dancing Petanque	22 Canasta Cribbage Sing for Pleasure Art Appreciation	23	24 **Maritime 24/27th 4 day trip to Liverpool**
25 BANK HOLIDAY	26 Table Tennis Snooker	27 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Family History	28 Ten Pin Bowling Computers French Conversation Music Appreciation Petanque	29 Family History Mah JOng	30 **Aviation Bentley Priory Museum**	31

I try my utmost to get the calendar correct each month, but I would advise you always to check with your co-ordinator as to the date of your next meeting.

Newsletter Editor: Mrs Jan Robertson,