The University of the Third Age

MALDON
AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

OPEN DAY

Monday, 21 September

Maldon Town Hall
1 pm to 4 pm

Come along and see what we do

August 2015

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR

Both ourTreasurer Martin and I will complete our three years on the Executive Committee in June 2016 and will be standing down then. To enable our U3A to continue, the post of Chairman and Treasurer must be filled so I urge you to consider our replacements.

Following several members' requests and on advice from the Third Age Trust, your Committee have agreed that in future, organisers of trips or activities should request emergency name and contact details from members attending the trip or activity. This information is to be kept by the organiser and with a copy being forwarded to Jan Robertson if possible. This information request will be incorporated in the Co-ordinators' Guidelines and, starting next year, be requested on the membership renewal forms.

Our main monthly meeting next month will an Open Day at Maldon Town Hall starting at 1:00pm until 4:00pm. I would encourage all members to try to come along and bring friends or family to see what we and the U3A do. The Mayor and Mayoress of Maldon will be joining us at about 2:00pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits will also be available.

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 or use the comments book which is available at the main meeting.

Malcolm Case malcolmcase@talktalk.net

Astronomy Group

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday September 28th** starting at 7:30pm. Mark Willis will give an illustrated talk entitled "A tour through the solar system expressed in clock time: 12PM Sun 12:03 Mercury etc".
Please note that the venue for this meeting is at Chigboro Fisheries, Chigborough Road, Heybridge, Maldon, CM9 4RE.
All U3A members are very welcome to join the group.
Malcolm Case

Architecture

Friday 11 September

New Towns in Essex - a 20th Century Town Planning History by Gareth Gunning who was at one time the Countryside Officer in the Essex County Planning Department. More recently he taught social sciences for the OU, and has lectured in town and country planning for nearly 40 years. We meet in the Jubilee Lounge at the West Maldon Community Centre at 2.30 pm. All welcome.
Judith Johnston

Gardeners

Tuesday, August 25 Plant Swap and Afternoon Tea at the home of Doreen Bowen, 15 Peartree Lane, Bicknacre CM3 4LS. Bring your plants and enjoy a cup of tea.
Tuesday, September 8 We visit Altons Nursery (said to be the largest nursery in Essex) on the A127 Arterial Road, near Wickford, SS12 9JG.
Have a good look round and a cup of tea. Come and join us at 2.30 pm.
Jan Robertson

Local & General History

We do not have a meeting in August.

We still have some places on our trip on **September 28** - **The Good, The Bad and the Ugly**. This is by coach to London and starts with meeting our Blue Badge Guide in Trafalgar Square for a day looking at London's statues, public art and monuments commencing in the West End and finishing in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park with an included visit to the Arcelor Mittal Orbit - the UK's tallest public sculpture! There is minimal walking during the day. The cost is £37.
Please contact us if you would like a place.
Mary Burd
Michael Blackwell

London Walks & Talks

There are still a few places for our walk in Clerkenwell on **August 19**.
Please contact Janeen if you are interested.
Our speaker in September has had to cancel her talk, because of health issues.
So there will be **NO MEETING in September**.
Our walk on **Thursday, October 22** will be in the City of London, as we were unable to secure a booking for Lambeth Palace. The walk will be led by Ian Bevan.
The visit to Lambeth will be re-scheduled for September 2016.
Apologies for any inconvenience the above may cause.
Janeen Trew
Christine Speed

Aviation

Another good meeting in July. Fred Lane's talk on the Halifax Bomber was very enjoyable and well received.
At our next meeting on **Tuesday August 18** David Arnold will give a talk about Albert Ball, the First World War flying ace. Not to be missed and hopefully a chance to see one of the type of planes he flew.
At the **September 15** meeting we will have a talk on the history of the "Spitfire". As always a chance to view the Aerodrome and have a chat over Tea/Coffee and Cake in the Mess.
Please ensure if you are on the Clacton trip, that Ian or I have a contact telephone number for use in an emergency. Brian Johnson .

We are organising a trip to the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, for **Saturday September 19th,** departing Tesco's Maldon at 8:30 am and plan to leave Duxford when the flying is over at about 5:00pm. This late summer Air Show commemorates the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. It honours the role in the Battle of Britain of RAF Duxford, the home of the first squadron to fly Spitfires and also some of the RAF's best known fighter pilots. There will be a few contemporary jets but the focus will normally be on historic warbirds, military and civilian aircraft and rare combinations. The museum gates open at 8:00am and flying starts at 2:00pm.
The cost per person is £38.50. This includes the coach, driver's gratuity and entrance to Duxford. Lunch is NOT included.
Please contact Malcolm Case if you would like to come on this trip.

Theatre Group

MISS SAIGON

Thursday 27th August at 2.30 pm. Leaving WMCC at 10.00am
It is fully booked at the moment but in case anyone cancels and you wish to go on a waiting list to see this popular musical please get in touch.
It is the matinee at Prince Edward Theatre, London.
The tickets are in the Dress Circle and are less than half price.
£69.50 tickets for only £32.50 Total cost is £43.50 per member which includes theatre, coach fare, gratuity and parking.
Contact: Barbara & David Arnold. .

Antiques Group

Last month the topic was "silver" with each person asked to bring some silver. First to be seen was a Teapot and Jug of the 1920s and several Victorian napkin rings. These were followed by a large silver cup which a member had won at the Danbury Flower Show which for years had been won by the same Danbury family. Research showed that they had owned a nursery.

After this came a card case engraved with the name of 'A Breeze' which belonged to a singer whose brother was Alan Breeze, a singer on the Billy Cotton Show and a relative of a member. Showing our age - everyone remembered the Show. We next saw a beautifully hand beaten vase which had yet to be hallmarked! Then was a Half Hunter watch which had been given to a member's father by a marine engineer who said that he had no relatives to leave it to, and he didn't feel very lucky this time as he went to join a convoy of ships in 1942. A most interesting and varied afternoon was had by all.
Liz Wood

Art Appreciation

A reminder that the visit to the Munnings Gallery in Dedham is on **Tuesday 25th August** with a guided tour from 11am to 12.30 pm followed by tea and biscuits. There will be time afterwards to browse the exhibits further and to explore Castle House and its grounds. Anybody wishing to go and not yet signed up, please let me have your cheque for £10 made out to Maldon & District U3A.
If you haven't yet organised your transport and need a lift please let me know.
Anyone coming on the outings please let me have an emergency contact telephone number.
Tuesday 6th October We will be going to the well known Fry Gallery in Saffron Walden, so please make a note in your diary.
Andy Simmonds

The Maritime Trip to Goring Gap on Monday 7th September

We will leave West Maldon Community Centre at 0745 sharp.
Please park your car at the far end of the carpark.
If you have any problems before the day please ring Fred Lane on 01621 816181

Family History

The next meeting of the Family History Group will be on the **30th September** at 58 Augustine Way CM3 4ET.
The next meeting of the Beginners group will on the **25th September** 10.00 am at the above address.
Alan Buck

A COCKNEY EVENING

with Cockney Pride entertainment

Tuesday 24th November

at

MALDON TOWN HALL

Arrive 6.30 for 7.00 p.m. start

An evening with a Sausage and Mash Supper with Apple Pie Dessert

Members please bring own drinks and glasses

Ticket price: £12.50

Tickets available from Barbara Byam Shaw

2015 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

Wed. Aug. 19	Walk through Clerkenwell - Ldn Walks
Tues. Aug. 25	Visit to Munnings Gallery, Dedham —Art Appreciation
25/27 Aug.	U3A Nat. Conference & AGM, East Midlands Conf. Centre
Thurs. 27 Aug.	"Miss Saigon" Prince Edward Theatre, London - Theatre
Fri. 28 Aug.	Clacton Air Show - Aviation
Mon. 7 Sept.	Midsomer Murders Country & Goring Gap Tour—Maritime
Sat. 19 Sept	Visit to Duxford Aerodrome - Aviation
Mon. 21 Sept.	**Maldon U3A Open Day, Town Hall**
Mon. 28 Sept.	Monuments & public art of London & Olympic Park—L.Hist
Tues. 6 Oct.	Visit to Fry Gallery, Saffron Walden - Art Appreciation
Thurs. 12 Oct.	"Beautiful" Aldwych Theatre, London - Theatre
Thurs. 22 Oct.	Walk in the City of London - Ldn Walks
Tues. 24 Nov.	Cockney Evening - Social
2016	
Fri. 12 Feb.	D'ukes Musical Entertainment—Maldon Town Hall—Social
17/21 May	5 day Holiday. Chateaux & Vineyards of the Loire—L. Hist

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

BBQ on 29th July at Langford Mill

What a great evening it turned out to be, the weather was kind in spite of the forecast, the food and the entertainment were appreciated and we all had a good social event. That's what U3A is about, we look forward to seeing you all at the Cockney Evening in November.
Mike Childs and your Social Committee

Local & General History

VISIT TO SAFFRON WALDEN & AUDLEY END

Saffron Walden: a town so near and yet so unfamiliar to many of us. After a pleasant coach ride through the pretty Essex countryside, we arrived just as the rain stopped. Once in groups, led by four well-informed and enthusiastic guides who clearly loved their home town, we were treated to a tour of the town's many fascinating historical buildings. Saffron Walden has the largest turf maze in Europe, the largest parish church in Essex and three Grade1 and 27 Grade 2* buildings, making it an extremely attractive town to visit. The guides added information about the philanthropic Gibson family, Quakers whose impressive range of gifts to the town in Victorian times are still being used today apart from the fountain in the market square which looks striking but no longer works. We were left with tantalising suggestions of other highlights to visit, such as the oldest purpose built museum in the country, the Fry Art Gallery which houses a collection of paintings by the Bardfield group of artists and Bridge End gardens, these last two also gifted by Francis Gibson. As we departed for Audley End, many could be heard planning further visits after having this excellent introduction to a town which relied on the saffron crocus for its first phase of prosperity, wool for its second and its proximity to London, Cambridge and Stansted for its third.

We spent a most enjoyable afternoon stepping into history at Audley End House now owned by English Heritage. This beautiful Jacobean building was once a Benedictine Monastery during the reign of Henry VIII (1509-47). Through the centuries it has been owned briefly by King Charles II (1660-85) other owners included many Lords, Earls and a Countess. The last owner was Richard Neville, the 3rd Lord Braybrooke who moved into Audley End in 1820. During the Second World War Audley End served as training headquarters of the Polish section of the Special Operations Executive. The house was purchased for the nation from the 9th Lord Braybrooke in 1948.

The house is situated over three floors. The Great Oak Panelled Hall has family portraits and oil paintings on the walls and has access to other floors via a ceremonial staircase to the Saloon, Drawing Room, Sitting Room, the South Library and then the Main Library. The main Dining Room was set for dessert. All rooms have ornate ceilings, large fireplaces, family portraits, oil paintings and an eclectic mix of historical artefacts. The spectacular Gothic chapel has stained glass windows and wood carved furniture. The bedrooms, sitting rooms and dressing rooms have fireplaces, French furniture with rich furnishings and the same reproduction wallpaper is used throughout the apartments which even included a State Suite. The Nursery suite is on the top floor with uniform wallpaper of a 'vine' design and even a schoolroom. Outside is the kitchen,

The gardens are truly wonderful and are worth a visit by themselves with formal landscaped gardens by Capability Brown, a great lawn, Adams stone bridge crossing the river Cam. There are many beautiful trees and flowers and a lake with fountains in the Mount Garden and Parterre. Across the rolling lawns and in the distance is the view of The Temple of Victory on Ring Hill.

Most of us then retreated to the Servants Hall Tea Room for a welcome cream tea or cake before returning to the coach for our return journey home after a delightful afternoon.

Mary Reeve and Win Sutherland.

Audley End

Strollers

Sunday 20 September. Meet at The Star pub, The Street, Steeple, CM0 7LF at 09:45 for a 10:00 start. This is an easy walk, mainly along the sea wall. It is approx. 4 miles with 4 stiles, 3 easy and one a bit more challenging, and a bar across a footbridge. Nothing too difficult. Please advise me in advance if you intend to stay for a carvery Sunday lunch afterwards so that I can book the necessary tables.
Contact: Alan Clarke

Strollers Too

Tuesday 22nd September.
Meet at Prince of Wales pub, Prince of Wales Road, Great Totham, CM9 8PX. 10.15 for 10.30 start. This is a circular walk of approx 4 miles between Great Totham South and Totham North.
Lunch at Prince of Wales. Please let me know the day before if required.
Geraldine Stratford:

U3A Visit to West Midlands and Ironbridge

Tuesday 7th July

It was warm and overcast when we left Maldon and travelled towards Oxfordshire. We followed the River Thames, through Marlow to Chalkhouse Green Farm, Kidmore End. The last part of the journey was along picturesque, single track lanes.

Mr and Mrs Hall, the owners, welcomed us to their farm. We were split into two groups to have conducted tours of the farm, finishing with tea and delicious cake. The farm consisted of a traditional farmstead with a one acre garden. The garden had a herb garden, shrubs, old fashioned roses, including a mulberry tree. The rare breed farm animals included an ancient breed of British White cattle, Suffolk Punch horses, donkeys, Berkshire pigs, piglets, chickens, ducks and turkeys. We stopped in Wallingford for lunch then continued to our hotel at Merry Hill, Dudley.

Wednesday 8th July

Our first visit was to RAF Museum, Cosford, Shropshire. The RAF museum at Cosford is a great day out for anyone interested in the RAF, aircraft or engineering. Admission is free, and there are four main sites covering different aspects of the history of the RAF, the aircraft it used through WW1, WW2, and the Cold War, and rockets and engines. There are plenty of aircraft to see ranging from the earliest from WW1 through to more recent examples such as TSR2 and Harriers. There are lots of interactive displays and exhibits to interest just about anyone.

We stopped for lunch at Albrighton Garden Centre then travelled to Shipton Hall, Much Wenlock. Shipton Hall is an Elizabethan manor house with rococo interiors added by Thomas Pritchard, the builder of the famous Iron Bridge. It has Georgian stables, old walled garden and a Saxon church. We had a conducted tour of the house, which was very interesting then free time to visit the church and view the garden, completing our visit with tea and cakes.

Thursday 9th July

The weather today looked promising as we were to visit Blists Hill Victorian Town. Here you can experience life as it was over 100 years ago through the sights, sounds and smells of a recreated Victorian town. The characters give you a fascinating insight into their daily lives, in their cottages, shops and places of work. You can exchange your money at the bank for pounds, shillings and pence.

I think everyone enjoyed their visit finding it nostalgic and informative.

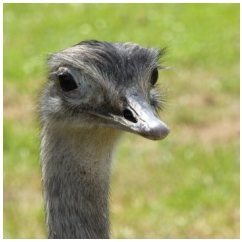
We had a short visit to the town of Ironbridge to view the famous bridge and visit the Toll House. This afternoon visit was a very welcomed steam train ride from Bridgnorth Station to Kidderminster, following the River Severn.

It was very restful, watching the delightful scenery passing by.

Friday 10th July

It was decided to forgo our retail therapy session at Merry Hill Shopping Mall so we could set off home a bit earlier. We stopped for lunch at Millets Farm Centre, Abingdon and still managed to arrive in Maldon at 4.30 to everyone's delight. Thanks to our driver Mick and special thanks to Pat Clements for taking care of us all whilst on the trip and Jan Robertson for organising the holiday.

Jan Brown



Selection of photos of the Midlands trip

Knitted Teddy Bears

Thank you all so much for your effort. I have given eleven Teddies to Carol Smith for distribution to the local hospitals. Many more have been knitted from other sources.

I understand that **Farleigh Hospice** would love to receive them for their children so if you would like to continue knitting—they only take about three evenings and you can use all your odd wool.
They are such fun, each one is different.
Patterns available from Jan Robertson

MacMillan Coffee Morning
WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING -
FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

Please come along to my annual Macmillan Coffee morning -
10 am to 12 noon
at 11 Beaumont Way Maldon.
Coffee and cakes will be provided as usual together with plenty of chat!
Mary Burd

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The victorious Maldon U3A members
of the Essex Inter-U3A Quiz

21st September

OPEN DAY
at Maldon Town Hall
1—4 pm
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Dengie Dart Bus Service

A NEW bus service called the Dengie Dart will carry sick people in remote areas to and from Broomfield Hospital in Chelmsford and St Peter's Hospital in Maldon. The eight-seater Mercedes minibuses come with leather seats and air-conditioning, and will make pick-ups at preset times between 5am and 10pm.

The scheme is run by the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE), a non profit-making charity. It costs £6 to £8 to get from Maldon to Broomfield, and about £15 to get to the hospital from the furthest part of the Dengie.

However, if you are over 65 it is completely free at off-peak times.

Danny Douglas, RCCE's transport and access to services officer, said: "It will cost two-thirds less than a taxi, and about a third more than a bus.

"We are trying to give people more options, make life more convenient for people, and make public transport cheaper. Our main aim is to improve rural accessibility and I think this will be a great success."

The new service – the first of its kind in Essex – means that anybody in selected Dengie parishes and Maldon can ring the Dengie Dart to arrive at five set times on Mondays to Fridays. It is run in partnership with Essex County Council and Arrow Taxis. Kevin Marshall, director at Arrow Taxis, on Station Road in Maldon, said: "We're teaming up to provide this new service to demonstrate that value for money can be achieved by using new solutions to public transport."

It outlines the service, which can be booked 30 minutes in advance in Maldon and 90 minutes in the rest of the parishes served in Dengie.

It covers Purleigh, Cold Norton, Mayland, Althorne, Stow Maries, Asheldham and Dengie.

"Concessionary pass holders will be able to access Broomfield and St Peter's Hospital for free just like they would be able to do on a bus ."

Full details of the service are available on RCCE website on www.rcce.org.uk

or call 0844 4773938.

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES

Times 12.15 pm

TUESDAY **1st September** The Duke of Wellington, Hatfield Peveral
Co-ordinator: Mike Wood

WEDNESDAY **16th September** Henri's Steak House, 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
Peter Holmes, Chairman	Joyce Woodham, Chairman
01621 854108	01621 841066

LIMEBROOK U3A
Contact
Christine Dove, Chairman
01621 855859

Your Committee

Chairman	Malcolm Case
Vice Chairman	Brian Johnson
Secretary	Kym Marshall
Treasurer	Martin Cook
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Newsletter Editor	Jan Robertson
Speaker Secretary	Veronica Smith
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	Andrew Simmonds
	Judith Johnston
	Sylvia Beckett
Web Master	John Bowen
Social Committee	Michael Childs
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Resource Centre: email: resource.centre@u3a.org.uk

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 11th September

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 Gerry 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 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 (Boules)	Jack Veash
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
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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1 Table Tennis Snooker Geology Luncheon Club	**2** Ten Pin Bowling Bridge for the Curious Wine Group 1	3 Ten Pin Bowling Discussion Petanque Poetry Rummikub 2	4 Mah Jong	5	6 Bird Watching
7 Maritime Goring Gap visit Whist	8 Table Tennis Snooker Egyptology Gardeners	9 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Luncheon Club	10 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Plantagenets Reading Rummikub 1	11 Architecture Canasta Sing for Pleasure	12	13
14 Astrology Handicrafts Whist	15 Table Tennis Snooker Aviation	16 Ten Pin Bowling Luncheon Club	17 Ten Pin Bowling Antiques Bridge for the Curious Petanque	18 Mah Jong	19 Aviation Duxford	20 Strollers
21 **Open Day** **Maldon Town Hall** **1—4 pm** Just Jazz	22 Table Tennis Snooker Strollers Too Wine Group 4	23 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Family History Wine Group 2 Writing for fun	24 Ten Pin Bowling Computers French Conversation Music Appreciation Petanque Wine Group 3	25 Canasta Cribbage Family History Sing for Pleasure Family History	26	27
28 Astronomy Handicrafts Local History Whist	29 Table Tennis Snooker	30 Ten Pin Bowling Family History				

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,