The University of the Third Age

MALDON AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

MERRY CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 2015

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR

Last month there were some issues over the use of the car park. Could I please ask you, whenever possible, to avoid using the part of the car park which is adjacent to the side entrance to Wickham Bishops Hall. I have requested a meeting with the Chairman of the BHSA and the other user group to try to resolve this issue, in the meantime thank you for your co-operation.

I would like to advise Coordinators who organise trips out by coach, that following advice from the West Maldon Community Centre, we can no longer use the centre's car park on a Saturday or Sunday.

At the AGM in June and in subsequent Newsletters, our current Treasurer Martin Cook and I have stated that we complete our three years on the committee at the AGM in **June 2016** and will not be seeking re-election. In order for good management and financial stability it is essential that successors are found for both posts in order for our U3A to continue. Should you feel that you can take on either of these roles then please speak to either Martin or myself as soon as possible.

Our Audio Visual equipment has been operated and managed by Jim Light for the last four years. Jim has stated that he wishes to stand down from this role at the AGM in **June 2016**. In order to maintain continuity and ensure that we have the use of this vital equipment, then it is important that a successor is found. If you feel that you can take on this role then please speak to Jim Light.

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.

Enjoy today's Christmas Entertainment.

Rosemary and I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful 2016.

Malcolm Case
malcolmcase@talktalk.net

Art Appreciation

Gainsborough's House - January 5th

Nearly 50 U3A members have so far expressed an interest in the group, nine of those from the recent Open Day.

Twenty members have already booked to go on the January trip, but some regulars have not yet responded to my email - please let me know whether you wish to come.

Also those requiring a lift please nudge me if you have not yet organised one.

The next outing will be to Thomas Gainsborough's House - museum and gallery in the flourishing Suffolk market town of Sudbury - on **Tuesday 5th January**. We have booked lunch for 12 noon, followed by a 1 hour guided tour of the largest collection of Gainsborough paintings anywhere. We will use our own transport and car sharing will be encouraged.

Cost of the guided tour including admission is £9 (Art Fund members only pay £4) and lunch in the house will be a further £8.50.

Contact me if you wish to go on this trip.

Andy Simmonds

Aviation

Our talk in November was on aircraft design and was given by Geoff Charge who has been involved with aircraft design all his life and worked on a great variety of planes. An excellent afternoon.

On the **15th December** we meet for the first time at the Pavilion at Purleigh Playing Fields (Howe Green Road, Purleigh, CM3 6PX) 2 pm start.

The talk will be by Alan Matthews on the development of Aircraft detection from after the First World War up to and including RADAR.

Alan was a Marconi Apprentice, advanced to production, development and finally travelled the world for Marconi.

Refreshments this month will include Wine and Mince Pies.

Brian Johns

Trees

The group met for its last meeting before Christmas on December 8th, and demonstrated accumulated knowledge of tree recognition with a series of questions and puzzles, helped along with mince pies. There will be a break during January, and the group will meet for the first time in 2016 on **Tuesday 9th February,** venue t.b.c.

Veronica Smith

Local & General History

We do not have a meeting in December but would like to wish all our members

"A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year".

As Michael and I are stepping down as co-ordinators we would like to thank all our members for their support over the past nine years.
We have thoroughly enjoyed running this group and have tried to provide a varied and interesting programme of talks and visits over the years.
We look forward to the group continuing under the leadership of our new co-ordinators Jane Coombes, Sylvia Cousins and Kathy Goff.

The 2016 programme is shown on page 5 in this newsletter.

Monday, January 25th meeting – Colchester's Military History – Jess Jephcott.

Monday 22 February - **ALL OUR WATERLOOS**" –
This full day trip includes a visit to the V & A Museum and an Anglo/French lunch.
The cost is £41.50.
Further details can be obtained from
Kathy Goff

STROLLERS - Sunday 17th January

Coffee morning at 8 Beeches Road, Heybridge CM9 4SL @ 10.30 am to discuss the programme of walks for 2016.
Please let me know if you are coming.
Gill Stone

STROLLERS TOO - Tuesday 26th January

Coffee morning at 8 Beeches Road, Heybridge CM9 4SL @ 10.30 am to discuss the programme of walks for 2016.
Please let me know if you are coming.
Gill Stone

Architecture

No meeting in December.
Friday, 8th January Proposed visit to the Palladian Design Exhibition "The Good, The Bad, and the Unexpected" at the RIBA, Portland Place.
Contact judith@johnstons.me.uk for further information.

LOCAL & GENERAL HISTORY GROUP
VENUE: MALDON TOWN HALL

MEETINGS 2016

Date	Subject	Speaker	Additional
25 Jan	Colchester's Military History	Jess Jephcott	
22 Feb	Full day trip "All Our Waterloos" A look at London's French Quarter And a Master Class in French Style at the V&A		Cost £41.50 tbc
28 March	NO MEETING Easter Monday		
25 April	Marks Hall: Decline and Fall of An Essex Jacobean Mansion	Dr Jane Pearson	
23 May	How Unfashionable Essex and Chelmsford got their Diocese and Cathedral	Tony Tuckwell	
27 June	Smuggling on the Blackwater	David Newman	
25 July	The History of Armour 1066-1550	Ben Crussell	
August	NO MEETING		
26 Sept	"Apples and Oysters" A visit to historic Faversham and Whitstable and A short stop at Brogdale's Orchard		Cost tba
24 Oct	The Norman Conquest in Essex	Jennifer Ward	
28 Nov	The Origins and Development of Spoken English	Charlie Haylock	
December	NO MEETING		

Note: All meetings will be held in Maldon Town Hall
Commencing at 2pm. Price £2.00 but could be more for some speakers.
For coach trips the price includes coach, entrance fee and driver gratuity.
All members very welcome

Further information from
Kathy Goff
Jane Coombes
Sylvia Cousins

COCKNEY EVENING

Those who hadn't seen them before didn't know what to expect from Cockney Pride. Straight from the start they had us all tapping our feet and singing along to the old songs that we all seemed to remember. The music was non-stop. The drummer and pianist were very good. John, the leader, in his pearly costume sang the most of the old tunes with hardly a pause. Terri Morgan, the lady singer, the Pearly Queen, was a real delight, she had been with Joe Loss for years. She sang a few ballads beautifully and led us in singing and to finish in a sort of Conga around the hall.

We hadn't had so much fun in years, singing, waving flags, dancing about and generally behaving like silly devils.

The bangers and mash and then apple pie in the interval were top nosh! There were loads of potatoes to cook and mash plus the sausages. It was exactly on time.

Thanks again to Marion, (not forgetting Peter) for the food and Mike and the rest of the Social Committee for all their hard work, from organising it all in advance to serving the food on the night, then clearing up after us. The Social Committee is to be congratulated on making the evening such a success for us all.

Davis Arnold

2016 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

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

Tues. 5 Jan	Visit to Gainsborough House, Sudbury—Art Appreciaton
Fri. 8 Jan.	Visit to Palladian Design Exhibition—Architecture
Fri. 12 Feb.	D'ukes Musical Entertainment—Maldon Town Hall—Social
Mon. 22 Feb.	'All our Waterloos' —London Visit—Local History
Tues. 10 May	American Supper with entertainment.—Social
17/21 May	5 day Holiday. Chateaux & Vineyards of the Loire—Wine 3
Wed. 13 July	BBQ at Langford Village Hall—Social
5/8 July	4 day Holiday - 'Exploring Kent' - Jan Robertson
9/12 Sept.	5 day Holiday - to Exeter - Maritime
Mon. 26 Sept.	Visit to Faversham & Whitstable - Local History

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GREAT ENTERTAINMENT

By the D'ukes UKULELE on

Friday 12th February at

MALDON TOWN HALL

An evening with a ploughman's supper and pudding

Arrive 6.30 for 7.00 pm start

Members please bring own drinks and glasses

Ticket price: £12.50

Tickets available from Barbara Byam Shaw
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WINE GROUP 3

Chateaux & Vineyards of The Loire - 17/21st May 2016

We currently still have a few places available on this five day holiday, but only double or twin rooms available as our single room allocation is currently fully booked. The holiday is being run in association with Simply Groups and will be 5 days / 4 nights and includes the following:

Return coach travel from Maldon with short cross channel ferry crossings.
4 nights bed & buffet breakfast at the 3 star Grand Hotel de Tours.
Dinner nightly at local venues / restaurants.
Excursions to various chateaux, entrances, 5 wine tastings and guides.

Cost: Depending on numbers approximately £609 pp.

If you would like further information or a booking form please contact
Mary Burd

Bird Watching

Heybridge Basin **5th December**

The group's visit to Heybridge Basin took place in the teeth of a howling gale. The gusting wind made it difficult for watchers and the birds endeavouring to feed on the mud flats. The group watched Teal (Anus crecca) Europe's smallest duck swimming along the water's edge and Common Sandpipers, Redshanks and Knot as they scurried about each searching for different food. The Redshanks (tringa tetanus) drilling its long bill deep into the mud searching for worms whilst the Common Sandpipers (Actitis hypoleucos) and the Knot (claiddris canutus) both having a shorter bill searched for crustaceans just below the surface of the mud.

Sunday, 3rd January. The group will meet at Beeleigh Falls at 10.00 am.
If you would like to start the new year with a morning in the fresh air you are most welcome to join us.
Co-ordinators: Pat Clements and Peter Gaywood

Maldon Little Ship Club Sponsored Row & Gig Race, Hythe Quay, Maldon

Sunday, 27th December. Cost: Free to spectators Time: Approx. 12 oclock
A fun event raising money for the RNLI
Enquiries: John Rogers

MARITIME GROUP 2016 PROGRAMME

All U3A Members are very welcome to join us at any of the meetings

1. **Monday 4th January** – meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club at 11:00am for our annual buffet and to discuss our programme for the remainder of 2016, which will include a five day trip to Exeter, including a visit to the Royal Naval College Dartmouth, Appledore Shipyard, Horse drawn Canal trip plus lots more; cost based on a minimum of 41 going will be £469.00 per person. Please contact Malcolm Case if you would like to join us.

2. **Monday 1st February** – meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00 am for an illustrated talk by Peter Hesketh "Around the world by container ship - more an observation of a cargo ship and its working ports than a cruise".

3. **Monday 7th March** – meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00am for an illustrated talk by P. Mukundan on Marine Piracy Today – Challenges and Responses.

4. **Monday 4th April** – meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00am for an illustrated talk by Amelia Hall – "Sailing on Tall Ships". This talk will include details of the ships and Amelia's experiences sailing on them.

5. **Monday 2nd May** – Bank Holiday, no meeting.

6. **Monday 6th June** – meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00am for an illustrated talk by David Ottley, an ex-Royal Navy Submariner. His talk will be about the submarine service in Portsmouth and also on the WW2 submarine "Alliance" which is in the Portsmouth Museum.

7. **Monday 4th July** – day trip to The Pioneer Sailing Trust, Brightlingsea, for a guided tour and talk by David Tournay of the Pioneer Sailing Trust. Cost to be advised.

8. **Monday 1st August** – day trip to Bawdsey Transmitter Block, Suffolk – part of the home chain radar system from World War II. Following this, we will then be visiting the Woodbridge Tide Mill. Cost to be advised.

9. **Monday 5th September** – Meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00am for a Maritime themed DVD.

10. **September 8th** – 12th 2016, five day trip to Exeter, including, amongst many others, a visit to Dartmouth Royal Naval College and Appledore Shipyard.

11. **Monday 3rd October** – meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00am for an illustrated talk by Gordon Davies on the "History of Yachting with a focus on the Maldon Area".

12. **Monday 7th November** – meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00am for an illustrated talk by James Davey, "Nelson & Napoleon".

13. **Monday 5th December** - meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 11:00am for our Annual Christmas Buffet and discussion of the 2017 programme.

Current Affairs Discussion Group

A select group enjoyed a lively discussion ranging from the parliamentary debate on "Air Strikes" to what is meant by "Smart Casual Dress Code". Members agreed to disagree about when men should wear ties.
At the November main meeting two members expressed interest in the group but having been thrown in at the deep end as co-ordinator I failed to note their phone numbers.
Would they, other interested people and old members, please phone me before our next meeting on **January 7th** 2 pm at 14 Mayflower Drive, Maldon. CM9 6XX.
We will be discussing up to the minute current affairs and "When is wildlife a pest and when is it not a pest and when should it be conserved or exterminated".
The group also decided to meet only in the winter, October to March, as there are so many things to do in the summer. So members of Summer Groups will be free now come to Discussion too.
Clare Urry

New Year's Day Crank-up

Friday, 1st January. Time: 10.00—17.00 Cost: Adult £4.50 Concs. £4.00 Child (under 15) £2.00
The Museum of Power, Hatfield Road, Langford, Maldon CM9 6QA
"Marshall" the Litteshall pumping engine will be run by compressed air and other oil/diesel engines will be running. Miniature Train Rides (additional charge)
Astraria Model Village open.
Enquires: 01621 843183 www.museumofpower.org.uk

Speaker for January Meeting

Local management consultant and author Andrew Wiltshire will give a brief outline of some of the humorous experiences he has enjoyed during sixty or so projects he has completed for clients across the world, under the umbrella heading of

'Where is the Fog?'

ASTRONOMY GROUP PROGRAMME 2016

All meetings held at Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge. CM9 4RE
Meet at 7:30pm.

All U3A members are very welcome to join us at any of the meetings.

1. **December 28th 2015** – No meeting

2016

1. **Monday January 25th** – Speaker: Mike Haynes will give a talk on Gamma Ray Astronomy.
2. **Monday February 22nd** – Speaker: Professor Carolin Crawford of Cambridge Institute of Astronomy will be giving a talk on Saturn and its Rings.
3. **Monday March 28th** – No meeting Bank Holiday
4. **Monday April 25th -** a talk by Alison Mainwood on "Stellar Evolution". This talk will be on how stars are formed from the gas in the universe which condenses under the action of gravity. But the only elements present after the Big Bang were hydrogen, and perhaps a little helium. So how come the stars and planets now contain all the elements we observe? We can see a whole range of stars of different sizes, brightness and colours. What is known about how they develop and eventually fade out and die? What will be the fate of our sun and when? How do astronomers know all this, anyway?
5. **Monday May 23rd** - a talk by Mark Willis - This talk involves using radio broadcasts recordings. Taking some short bursts of radio hits from four years ago as well as events from 2011 - this is what the citizens of an 'M' class planet (like our Earth) would be receiving right now at Proxima Cetauri - our nearest star. Then, 2007, (eight light years away), the bright star Sirius. 1967 - Radio 1 is launched - The Beatles recording All You Need Is Love is watched via satellite by over two billion people. (48 light years). 1964 - The first offshore pirate radio stations (51 light years) 51 Pegasi which is a star very similar to our own Sun. A race of 'Pegasians' on an Earth type planet (assuming they've built multi-band radio receivers, will have just picked up the first Radio Caroline signals (as of last year) Until we reach the point where the very first regular radio stations, 1905, are being received (110 light years). Before 1898 the very first, perhaps (118 light years) no alien civilisation will be able to hear even our first broadcasts. Beyond 119 light years - there is radio silence from Earth.
If we speculate that there may be alien civilisations then within this 119 light year circle, it seems reasonable to assume that at least a tiny percentage of the millions of stars here will have some means of receiving our signals if they have a similar level of technology to ours in 2015.
6. **Monday June 27th** – to be arranged
7. **Monday July 25th** – to be arranged
8. **Monday September 26th** – to be arranged
9. **Monday October 24th** – to be arranged
10. **Monday November 28th** – to be arranged
11. **Monday December 26th** – No meeting Boxing day

A New Year Resolution

Christmas comes but once a year
Thanks to God for that I hear
Another birthday has passed us by
Where has that year gone we all do sigh
But now a New Year looms ahead
Let`s scan those groups before I`m dead
There`s `Ten Pin Bowling` all the week
Although a slow lane I would seek
When kneeling down to up my score
I wonder if I`ll rise once more
The sound of `Ping Pong` has a ring
But ball-games really aren't my thing
Now `French` there has a useful sound
For those in tunnel Paris bound
But talk a little en francais
They answer you in good anglais
Could `Antiques` really make my day
To remind me of all I`d thrown away
And `Sing for Pleasure` needs good voice
So I really think I`m spoilt for choice
But there`s wine fermenting by the jug
I think I`ll join `The Luncheon Club`
So raise a glass for those Yuletide calls
A Merry Christmas one and all

Ray Harman

January 18th Meeting
Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

Speaker
'Where is the Fog'
Andrew Wiltshire

Tells of various humorous experiences and anecdotes which occurred during completion of more than 60 management consultancy projects across the world.

S.O.S

Is there someone out there who understands radios and could help me re-establish connection? I have what I believe was called a sound system – plays radio, tape and CDs. Not an ancient piece of work. Everything was working fine, but an inquisitive grand daughter has twiddled one knob too many and now I can't get the radio to work.
I do not know where you take these things for repair, perhaps someone can tell me – or am I meant to throw it away?

Sheila Epps

Maldon Town Christmas Parking

In case you were in any confusion, the free car parking on **Sat 12th, Sat 19th and Thursday 24th December** applies ONLY to the Maldon Town Centre car parks. The charges in the Promenade car park will still apply.

Chelmer Valley Park and Ride Car Park

A new shuttle bus service linking Chelmer Valley Park and Ride car park and Broomfield Hospital started on Monday, 30 November. A single deck full size bus will run every half hour between the two sites from 7am to 7pm Monday to Friday.

Times: Departs Chelmer P & R 7.37 am and then every 30 mins. until 18.25 pm
Departs Hospital 7.50 am and then every 30 mins until 18.40 pm

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES

Times 12.30 for 1.00 pm

TUESDAY **To be arranged.**
Co-ordinator: Mike Wood

WEDNESDAY **20th January** at The Generals Arms, Little Baddow
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
01621 855859

Your Committee

Chairman	Malcolm Case
Vice Chairman	Brian Johnson
Secretary	Kym Marshall
Treasurer	Martin Cook
Membership Sec.	Alan Clarke
Newsletter Editor	Jan Robertson
Speaker Secretary	Veronica Smith
Committee	Marrie Webster
	Andrew Simmonds
	Judith Johnston
	Sylvia Beckett
Web Master	John Bowen
	Tony Groves
AV Equipment	Jim Light

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Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 8th January 2016

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
Current Affairs	Clare Urry
Egyptology	Joyce Cotterell
Family History	Alan Buck
French Conversation	Ray Harman Ann Lester
Geology	Enid Hall
Handicraft	Marian Manning
Just Jazz	Jim Light
Local History	Kathy Goff Jane Coombes Sylvia Cousins
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 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2	3 Bird Watching Beeleigh Falls
4 Maritime Whist	5 Table Tennis Snooker Art Appreciation Geology Luncheon Club	6 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge for the Curious Wine Circle 1	7 Ten Pin Bowling Current Affairs Discussion Poetry Rummikub 2	8 Architecture Canasta	9	10
11 Astrology Handicrafts Whist	12 Table Tennis Snooker Egyptology Trees	13 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Luncheon Club	14 Ten Pin Bowling French Conversation Plantagenets Reading Rummikub 1 Scottish Country Dancing	15 Mah Jong	16	17 Strollers
18 **Meeting 1.30 pm** Just Jazz	19 Table Tennis Snooker Aviation	20 Ten Pin Bowling Luncheon Club	21 Ten Pin Bowling Antiques Bridge for the Curious	22 Cribbage Canasta	23	24
25 Astronomy Handicrafts Local History Whist	26 Table Tennis Snooker Strollers Too Trees Wine Circle 4	27 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Family History Wine Circle 2 Writing for Fun	28 Ten Pin Bowling Computers French Conversation Music Appreciation Wine Circle 3 Scottish Country Dancing	29 Family History Mah Jong	30	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.