The University of the Third Age

MALDON
AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

Visit to the BBC Broadcasting House
sitting on the One Show Sofa
London Walks and Talks

July 2015

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR

At the May meeting, there was an issue with the disabled parking spaces at Wickham Bishops village hall. We have raised this matter with BHSA Management Committee and I quote from their reply.

"Many thanks for the clarification of dates and other relevant details. It does seem that whoever spoke to the individual concerned on the day was not part of the BHSA and had no authority to do so. Thanks for your efforts in managing parking on the meeting days. I intend to visit the Cotton Scatterers this coming Monday and also to come along before your next meeting which I believe is the 20th July. It is important that we resolve parking for people with a disability and if need be we can temporarily designate more spaces if we know the numbers. I will assume therefore that you expect up to four blue badge holders to need to park at a regular monthly U3A meeting. It is also relevant that we designate any temporary spaces where they are most appropriate to the user, i.e. side entrance or front entrance. I will update you prior to your July meeting".

I have recently met with the Chairs of the other three U3As in Maldon. It was a very useful meeting and we shall continue to co-operate and share information. Two of the Chairmen had only recently been elected and so it was good that we could talk about the various skills that our members possess. We all would still like to make use of the Plume School facilities, particularly the use of the computer suite. We shall pursue that as a shared facility.
There was also a feeling that, as an Organisation we should publicise ourselves more actively. As these ideas become facts, I will share them with you.

We have recently purchased items for the Audio Visual equipment at a cost of £380. These are a hand held radio mike, two table stands for microphones and a portable CD/DVD/Flash drive unit.
My congratulations to the team representing Maldon and District U3A in winning the Essex Inter U3A Quiz which was held on Tuesday July 7th .

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

Architecture

No meeting in August.

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.

Gardeners

Tuesday, July 21 at 2.30 pm. Visit to Paternoster House, Barnhall Road, Tolleshunt Knights, CM9 8HA home of Mr. & Mrs. Bradley,
Peaceful 5 acre garden. Ornamental kitchen garden and extensive lawns with large shrubberies. Two beautiful ponds and enclosed flower garden. Price: £7 including entrance and refreshments.

Tuesday, August 25. Plant Swap and Afternoon Tea at the home of Doreen Bowen, 15 Peartree Lane, Bicknacre, CM3 4LS at 2.30 pm. Please bring chairs and cakes. Also any seeds you might have collected this year. Everyone is welcome to join us at both venues.

Cribbage

The cribbage group is running well. We have 10 members playing on a regular monthly basis with a reserve list of 2/3 members.
I would like to add to the reserve list another couple of players as it is not always convenient for the players to come every month due to other engagements. We will not be meeting in August.

Pat Clements

Do you mean us?

At Ten Pin Bowling the other morning there were lots of us playing and making a lot of noise as usual when a older client came in to book a game. Seeing us all there he turned to the receptionist and said 'Are those the Third World crowd?'
So now you know.

Maritime

Monday August 3rd No meeting due to unavailability of The Blackwater Sailing Club.

Monday September 7 Trip with City and Village Tours to "Midsummer Murders Country & the Goring Gap Cruise". Fred Lane is organising this trip. The total cost, which is to be advised, will include coach, driver's gratuity, coach parking, coffee/tea/biscuits on arrival at Dorchester and lunch. For further details and to sign up for this trip, please see Fred Lane.

Monday October 5 Meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin,at 10:00 am for an illustrated talk by Alison Mainwood on "Sailing in Sweden".

Monday November 2nd Meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00 am for an illustrated talk by John Johnson-Allan on "The Merchant Navy in the Battle of the Atlantic", profusely illustrated by Captain Richard Woodman, looking at the ships and the men of the Merchant Navy, together with the naval task of escorting convoys. This talk would have been given by Captain Richard Woodman but due to ill health he is unable to give it.

Monday December 7 Meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00 am for an illustrated talk by Tony Tring on "Henry Morgan, his life and times".

Aviation

We are organising a trip to the Imperial War Museum, Duxford for **Saturday September 19th,** departing West Maldon Community Centre at 8:30 pm and plan to leave Duxford when the flying is over at about 5:30 pm. 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 and military and civilian aircraft and rare combinations. The museum gates open at 8:00 am and flying starts about 2:00 pm.
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.

Family History

Both the Wednesday and Friday groups will not be meeting in July and August.
Alan Buck

Astronomy

Monday July 27 – PLEASE NOTE that this month's meeting will be held at Chigborough Farm Fishing Lakes Club House, Heybridge, Maldon CM9 4RE starting at 7:30pm for a talk by Tony Tring on "The Chemistry of the Heavens". All U3A members are very welcome to join us.

Monday August 24th – No meeting - Bank Holiday.

Our future programme is:

Monday September 28th – Mark Willis will give an illustrated talk entitled "A tour through the solar system expressed in clock time":
12pm Sun 12:03 Mercury 12:06 Venus 12:08 Earth Etc.

Monday October 26th – Speaker from E2V giving an illustrated talk on the Rosetta probe.

All U3A members are very welcome to join us.

Malcolm Case

Local & General History

On **Monday 27 July** our visit to Saffron Walden & Audley End will depart from the West Maldon Community Centre at 8.45 am - please park your cars at the far end of the car park. We are due to depart at 5.00 pm for the return journey. Contact number on the day are listed below.

No meeting in August.

We currently have some spaces on our trip on **28 September** - The Good, The Bad & The Ugly. This 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 Orbit. The cost is £37. Please contact us if you would like a place.

We are hopeful that this group will continue next year as we have some members who are interested in running it but they would like others to come forward to assist them - please get in touch if you would like to join them.

Mary Burd Michael Blackwell

Aviation

The last meeting was a great success. We had a talk with film from Mike Styman who covered the work done on St Kilda by the RAF including a history of the Island, which is the remotest part of the British Isles.
Our next meeting on **Tuesday July 21** at Stow Maries First World War Aerodrome will be given by Fred Lane at 2 pm on the Handley Page Heavy
Bomber, which saw service throughout the Second World War, but did not receive the credit it deserved.
Tuesday, August 18 David Arnold will give a very special talk about a First World War highly decorated pilot. Not to be missed.
Arrangements for the Clacton trip on **Friday, 28th August** are complete. The cost will be £11.50. It would help if you could hand your cheques to Ian Stevens or post to him at 25 Bassingham Crescent, Tiptree CO5 0PY.
Details of departure will advised.

Strollers

The walk on **Sunday August 16th** will meet at the Public Car Park off Writtle Green at 10.15 am. for 10.30 am. The walk is approximately 3¼ miles long, fairly level with no stiles, but long trousers and sturdy shoes or boots are advised. Lunch has been booked at the Horse and Groom, Roxwell Road CM1 3RU on the A1060, about a mile from the Writtle Car Park.

Strollers Too

Tuesday 25 August we will meet at The Hare & Hounds, Crayes Green, Layer Breton, CO2 0PN 10.15 for a 10.30 am start. Lunch will be chosen on arrival. The walk is approximately 4 miles over Layer Breton Heath, fields and bridleways with views over Abberton Reservoir. Suggest long trousers and boots!! Please contact me if you wish to car share.

Knitted Teddies

If you have been kind enough to knit these delightful Teddies for the local hospitals, can you please let me have them as soon as possible as they will be displayed at the Purleigh Flower Show on the 15th August and then distributed to the hospitals.

2015 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.

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
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
Web. 11 Oct.	Walk in Lambeth & tour of Lambeth Palace—Ldn Walks
Thurs. 12 Oct.	"Beautiful" Theatre Visit
Tues. 24 Nov.	Cockney Evening—Social

Art Appreciation

Our second meeting was at the Artcafe, West Mersea. It was well attended and very enjoyable in the Essex sunshine. Tea, coffee and cakes were consumed and the Artcafe display of paintings was inspected.

The next meeting, a trip to the Munnings Collection at Dedham will **NOT now be on Tuesday 4th August.** Instead we will be going three weeks later, in the morning of **Tuesday 25th August** for a special conducted 'Highlights Tour' from 11 am to 12.30 pm, which costs £10, but which also includes tea and cakes (an absolute necessity for this group!). I have had very good reports about the tea rooms at Castle House.

After the tour and refreshments, we will be able to loiter a little longer to see the rest of this wonderful collection and take in the lovely house and grounds. Transport will once again be using our own cars and preferably car sharing for the modest journey out beyond Colchester.
The address is: Castle House, Dedham, CO7 6AZ

Andy Simmonds.

Bird Watching

The last group visit was to Rye Mead, a RSPB Reserve situated just off the A414, NE of Harlow. If any members are thinking of visiting the reserve please remember you approach the site via a toll road which will cost you 50p each way.

The reason for the group's visit was to see Kingfishers, a pair of which we and a group of mainly men with paparazzi type camera lens duly did. Their pictures of the adult birds were stunning as were those of the group's own photographer whose pictures will be available to see at the Open Day in September.

Rye Mead has a variety of habitats, one of which is a reed bed where we observed Reed Bunting (Calcarius lapponicus) precariously hanging on to the reed heads as they swayed in the breeze This striking bird has black head, bill, throat with a white moustache stripe, reddish brown upper parts striped black.

A family of Coot were feeding in a small pond within the reed bed right in front of the hide when suddenly a Kestrel swooped down talons out just failing to gather the coot chick.

There will be no meeting for the group in August.

The next destination is Salcott cum Virley on **4th September.**

Meet at the Church at 10.00am.

Theatre Group

"**MISS SAIGON**"

One person is not able to go so we have one ticket available. If you want this ticket or want to go on a waiting list to see if anyone else cancels please get in touch. The tickets are in the Dress Circle and are less than half price.

£69.50 tickets for only £32.50. It is the matinee at Prince Edward Theatre, Ldn.

Thursday 27th August at 2.30pm. Leaving WMCC at 10.00am.

Cost is £43.50 per member which includes coach fare, gratuity and parking.

Contact: Barbara & David Arnold. as soon as possible.

"BEAUTIFUL"

The Carole King Musical

We have been very lucky to obtain reduced price tickets at £35.00 each for this very popular show on **Monday 12th October 2015** at 7.30pm at the Aldwych Theatre – there are no reduced price matinee tickets available until 2016.

The coach will be £11.00 making a total of £46.00. If you would like to go please contact Joyce Cotterell on and let her have a cheque for £46.00 payable to Maldon & District U3A. Prompt payment is essential as we will have to pay the Theatre at the beginning of August.

A Stroll Through Bloomsbury, followed by a Tour of the BBC.
London Walks & Talks

This was a very full and enjoyable day out. We met John, our walk guide, at The British Library, and from the very beginning he filled our minds with stories of the history of the area, as we walked from place to place, stopping here and there.

Everyone will have different highlights to their own tastes, but I was particularly interested in the Coram Foundation (the Foundling Hospital opened in 1739), Woburn Walk, the delightful period shops still surviving unchanged since they were built for the Bedford Estate in 1822. St Pancras Church, and the link extinguishers in Woburn Square (I'd recently read a book in which link men were mentioned). We finished at St George's Bloomsbury, one of the 50 churches built by Nicholas Hawksmoor, an architect we had come across on an earlier London Walk.

From here we took the tube to the BBC, where we arrived with time for a snack before joining our guides for the tour.

This is well worth doing, fascinating to see a little bit behind the scenes in this hive of industry. To hear what went on in the newsroom to be seen immediately after we had entered, on several levels below us through a wall of windows on our right, and to watch the 'goings on' as it was explained by the guide. She spoke about the concentration needed by the men and women in front of the cameras, with information coming visually, into their ears, on printouts coming in continually, and having to respond immediately to any crisis that might develop while they were on air. How did they do it? Incredible. There was activity to be seen over the whole area, with the actual broadcasting section on one side, where a programme was going out, which we could see live on the TV screen on the wall near us.

Then to the 'One' studio, where we were told several stories of happenings in the past, and allowed to pose on the green settees for a group photograph. From there we walked across to the other building and were shown a news-reader's studio, where two of us were set to read news items from the autocue, and a third to give a weather report (no autocue for her). Then to the radio studio, where five of us were given parts in a small 'Horror' radio play and the rest watched. Very good it was too with the guides doing the sound effects, our members acting their socks off and we in the studio audience manfully fulfilling our applauding role.

Yes, that was excellent. Well done you two for organizing that. Thank you.

Plantagenet History

The Magna Carta Exhibition

We Plantagenets and friends spent a most interesting and informative day at the British Library and the Temple Church where we were able to view the documents as well as many artefacts connected with the Magna Carta.

This Charter of Runnymede, as it was first called, was not unique in Europe at the time, nor was it the first written promise of good government by a medieval king.

The refusal of the persistent demands by King John to swell his coffers to finance his wars in France led the Barons not only to refuse him, but to demand, in 1215, his signature to a set of articles known later as Magna Carta.

On John's death in 1216 a revised version was signed on behalf of the boy king Henry III.

In 1508 this Charter was printed for the first time thus consolidating its position within the English legal tradition. Over the next two centuries the Charter helped to inspire individual resistance and to empower popular protest.

Later in the 17th century it was exported to North America where it became a key constitutional text and embedded in the laws of several colonies. Eventually its influence can be seen in the draft of the Declaration of Independence in 1776 and many of its clauses incorporated in the American Bill of Rights in 1791.

It also appears in the judiciaries of South Africa and India. Because of its association with freedom and the rule of law it has inspired the drafts of modern documents such as the Declaration of Human Rights 1948 and the European Convention in 1958.

To this day four manuscripts exist; one in Lincoln Cathedral, one in Salisbury Cathedral and two in the British Library.

Our group wish to thank all the people who were able to share with us this unique experience only four days before the actual signing on June 15th in the year 1215.

Beryl McDonell

Burnham on Crouch U3A

BADMINTON & SHORT TENNIS

Every Tuesday
2pm - 3.30pm
at Dengie Sports Hall, Burnham on Crouch

Fancy trying Badminton to see if it's for you? Ever heard of Short Tennis? (Played on a Badminton Court with a small racquet with a soft sponge ball to make the whole game slower and suitable for older people.) Or thinking about starting a Group at YOUR Branch of U3A?

Molly and Sue are the respective Team Leaders and members (and visitors) are welcome to come along to the Dengie Sports Hall in Burnham and simply have a go, or watch others having a go at either or both of these fun sports!

We have the equipment, all you need is the curiosity to come along, some loose clothes and some trainers or rubber soled shoes. Come alone or bring a friend.

Badminton - This group meets at the Dengie Sports Hall.
When this group was formed many members had never played before whilst others had been playing for 20 years or more. Although it is a pleasure to win we are not aggressively competitive, just thoroughly enjoying the fun and exercise. You will need soft soled shoes or trainers and your energy.

Short Tennis - played on a Badminton Court with a lowered net and light racquets and a sponge ball. Short Tennis is a great alternative to the conventional game and is suitable for older people who want to keep active. Usually played as doubles the slower speed of the ball makes for a fun game for all ages and abilities.

This is a new group for our branch of U3A and we hope many of you will come along and 'have a go' on Tuesdays at the Dengie Sports Hall. Our group has room for more and we welcome members from other branches (the only proviso is that no Burnham member is displaced) and only charge £1 a session as long as you are a member of ANY U3A Branch.

You are welcome to JUST TURN UP, but if you'd rather know more or want to let us know you are coming just email me at badminton@bocu3a.com or shorttennis@bocu3a.com

Ballroom and Latin American Dance Lessons

My name is Alf Bell, co-ordinator of Heybridge U3A Ballroom and Latin American Dance group.
We will be resuming Ballroom and Latin American dance lessons on the **25th September** at 2pm until 4pm, then the 4th Fridays of October and November at Plantation Hall, Heybridge.

We have been running this successfully since January with members showing good development in the dances. We have had enquiries from other U3As in our area and would now like to open our group to your members who may be interested.

For comfortable learning and dancing we will limit the numbers of participants so we offer this chance on a first come basis.

Those interested should contact me Alf Bell

Antiques

Our subject for the afternoon was "Your Favourite Antique". We heard about a grandmother's wedding ring made into a signet ring for her grandson engraved with the school coat of arms, a scrap book dating back to 1957 for Mayflower II, a dressing table stool which had been recaned using an old instruction book for French Polishing which included caning. Other favourites included a Japanese figure which was very colourful and gilded, and two tiny dogs.
At our next meeting we will be discussing "Silver".
Liz Wood

17th August Meeting
Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

Speaker

Citizens' Advice Bureau

Advisor to talk about the many services available, which many people do not know about.

Heybridge U3A

I have made a provisional booking for a group to visit ***Bletchley Park*** on **Wednesday 21st October** and would like to invite any of your members to join us.

A visit is booked for the world famous Bletchley Park, until recently Britain's best kept secret, where the Government Code & Cypher School studied and devised methods which broke the code of German and Japanese communications in WW2.

The booking is for **Wednesday 21st October 2015**. Admission to Bletchley Park is £13.00 pp if 12 or more are in a group. Travel to be organised later.

Please contact Pat Smith on 01621 856569 or email patcleary98@sky.com for more details.

Essex Inter-U3A Quiz

On Tuesday July 7th nine teams of eight people from U3As across Essex met in Chelmsford for the Annual Quiz.

I am delighted to report that that the team representing Maldon and District U3A i.e. Kathy Goff, Bill and Muriel Stephens, Chris Bishop, Mary Hall, Anna Williams, Denise and Richard Yelling, were presented with the

Winners Cup for the U3A Brain of Essex.

The team were in the lead from Round 1 and finished 4 points ahead of their nearest rival.

Our congratulations to them all for their valiant effort, and a special thanks to other members who had agreed to be on standby for the day.

Lastly, our thanks to Basildon and Billericay for preparing and conducting the Quiz, and for providing refreshments beforehand. It should be noted that they were the winners last year.

Sylvia Cousins

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES

Times 12.15 pm

TUESDAY **August 4 at the The Bell, Woodham Walter**
Co-ordinator: Mike Wood

WEDNESDAY **No meeting in August**
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

LIMEBROOK U3A
Contact
Christine Dove, Chairman
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
Social Committee	Michael Childs
AV Equipment	Jim Light

NATIONAL OFFICE
19 East Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1QH
Tel 020 8466 6139 Email national.office@u3a.org.uk
Web site www.u3a.org.uk
Resource Centre: email: resource.centre@u3a.org.uk

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 6th August

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

PROGRAMME – AUGUST 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	2
3 Maritime Whist	4 Table Tennis Snooker Geology Luncheon Group	5 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge for the Curious Wine Circle	6 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Poetry Rummikub	7	8	9
10 Astrology Whist	11 Table Tennis Snooker	12 Ten Pin Bowling	13 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Reading Rummikub	14 Canasta Sing for Pleasure	15	16 Strollers
17 **Meeting 1.30 pm** Just Jazz	18 Table Tennis Snooker Aviation	19 Ten Pin Bowling Luncheon Group Ldn Walks & Talks Clerkenwell	20 Ten Pin Bowling Antiques Bridge for the Curious Petanque	21	22	23
24 Whist	25 Table **T**ennis Snooker Gardeners Strollers Too Wine Circle Art Appreciation	26 Ten Pin Bowling Wine Circle Writing for Fun	27 Ten Pin Bowling French Conversation Music Appreciation Petanque **Miss Saigon**—Theatre	28 Canasta Sing for Pleasure Aviation **Clacton Air Show**	29	30
31 Whist		Please check with your	Co-ordinator as some groups	are not meeting in August		

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,