The University of the Third Age

MALDON
AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

Visit to Flanders—Lest we Forget
3 day trip 27/29th April
Local History

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2015?

MARCH 2015

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR

The Notice Boards have been moved closer to the group sign up tables for ease of use. There are several new notices from the Third Age Trust and details of all of our Activity Groups.

Following the last committee meeting, it has been agreed by your committee to have a "Comments Book" at the sign in tables. 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 suggestions or concerns about our U3A, then could they please contact either myself or any committee member, so that these matters can be addressed. Could I ask, as a matter of courtesy, that if you wish to contact us by telephone, that you do so between 9:00am and 8:00pm weekdays – thank you.

Your committee would request that if you sign up and pay for social or other events, and then find that for whatever reason you are unable to go, that you please let the organiser know as soon as possible so that anyone on the waiting list can then attend.

The Aviation group has now taken off and is gaining altitude, I wish it a successful flight.

~~~~~~

Message from the Treasurer to all Co-ordinators

I would be grateful if you would let me have the following for the year ended 31st 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 April 1, 2014, the cash receipts and payments during the year and the cash held at March 31, 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.
~~~~~~

Local & General History

Our next meeting is on **Monday 23 March,** 2 pm at Maldon Town Hall, when we have another returning speaker. David Petts is coming to tell us about Cholera - a germ that changed cities.
All members are welcome to join us - the cost is £2 per session.

We do not have a meeting in April as we have our visit to Flanders.
If anyone on the trip wants to be picked up at Eves Corner, Danbury on **27 April** can you please let us know. The time will be advised later.

THE VERNACULAR GEORGIAN HOUSE

On **Saturday 27 June** there is to be a day of talks on the above subject. This is to be held at Maldon Town Hall and Tim Howson, one of our recent speakers, is taking part. This is being organised by Essex Historic Buildings Group and further information can be found on www.ehbg.co.uk

Once again can I remind members that this group will fold at the end of 2015 if no new co-ordinators can be found. Perhaps a few of you would like to step forward so that the group continues to run.

Mary Burd
Michael Blackwell

Maritime

There is no meeting in either April (Easter Monday) or May (first Bank Holiday Monday).
The next meeting of the group will be on **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.
Those going on the "Three Queens" trip in May must pay the balance for the trip before **April 4th.**

Gardeners

Tuesday, 21st April. We have planned our first outing to the Poplar Garden Nursery, Coggeshall Road, Marks Tey, CO6 1HR (A120) where we can have a good look round and you can choose all your bedding plants etc. and enjoy a cup of tea. See you all there at 2.30 pm.
The 2015 programme will be available at the March meeting.
Jan Robertson

London Walks and Talks

We are back—**Wednesday, March 18th** at West Maldon Community Centre. Ian Bevan will be giving a talk entitled "Boxers, Bandits and A Blind Beggar". Talk begins at 2.30 pm. Entrance fee £2.
Janeen Trew and Christine Speed

Strollers

The next walk is on **Sunday April 19th**, meeting at 10:15 am for a 10:30 am start. If you wish to come on the walk, then could you please contact me by no later **than April 12 th.** I can then advise you of the actual venue and final details.
Malcolm Case.

Strollers Too

Walk is on **March 24th** rom The Anchor at Runsell Green Danbury.CM3 4QZ. Meet at 10.15 for 10.30 start.
Please let me know by Monday, **March 16th,** if you want to have lunch.
Christine Speed
Walk for **28th April**, meet 10.15 for a 10.30 start.
A 3¾ mile Estuary walk to Goldhanger to have lunch at a Pub,
Start point map ref. 079 877, Saltcote Sailing Club car park, Wharf Road, off Goldhanger Road, Heybridge.

Family History Group 1
Next meeting will be at Tom Tit Lane on the 25th March commencing 2.30pm
Family History Group 2
Next meeting will be held on the 27th March at 10.00am in Bicknacre.
Alan Buck

Astronomy

The next Astronomy group is on **Monday 23rd March** starting at 7:30pm at Stow Maries Aerodrome, for a talk by Richard Yelland on the star sign Sagittarius. This talk will include details on the star sign and also on the stars and constellations that can be seen.

Weather conditions permitting, then we will do some observing of the night sky. If you have a telescope or binoculars then please bring them with you.

On **Friday 20th March** - a partial eclipse of the sun will be visible between 8:24 and 10:40 am.

Aviation

At the first meeting of the Aviation group we watched the Alexander Korda film 'Conquest of the Air', showing the history of flight - from men strapping wings to their arms, the first straw-fired hot air balloon, the progress of ballooning, and the development of aircraft right through to the first passenger planes at the end of WWII.

We discussed the Air Shows available this year, and two members volunteered to arrange outings. We also had two offers to give talks, and a couple of offers of future help, which was heartening.

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 17th March** 2.00 pm in the Jubilee Lounge, WMCC, when Alec Fraser will give a talk on Concord, with an accompanying DVD.

We are pleased to announce that from **Tuesday April 21st** our meetings will be held at Stow Maries Aerodrome. Further details in next month's newsletter.

Our first outing is on **Saturday 30th May**, a visit to Bentley Priory Museum (the home of Fighter Command) which opened last year, and also the De Havilland Mosquito Museum. Combined entrance to the Museums is £19 plus coach fare TBA depending on numbers.

A sheet will be available to book a place on this trip, at both the main U3A meeting and the Aviation meeting on **Tuesday 17th March,** so please have your diaries and cheque books ready.

Andy Simmonds

Mave Studholme

Theatre Outings

"CATS"

For the first outing of 2015, 32 of us went to see CATS at the London Palladium. This was a new production and according to those who had seen the previous production, there was a lot more dancing in this one, but it was very enjoyable. Kerry Ellis's rendition of "Memories" was excellent.

The next Theatre outing will be on **Wednesday 3rd June** to see "**GYPSY**" at the Savoy Theatre for the **EVENING** performance commencing 7.30pm. The cost of tickets will be £39.50 per person plus coach fare of £11.00. Coach pick-up will be at West Maldon Community Centre at 3.00pm. Tickets cannot be booked without payment. For tickets please contact Alan Buck on 01245 227709.

For your information - The 16 – Choral Pilgrimage 2015
This is at Chelmsford Cathedral on **November 7th 2015**.
The concert starts at 7.30pm with a pre-concert talk at 7.00pm. Tickets will be going on sale on 2nd April. As yet there are no details of prices.
Exclusive Box Office 0333 666 3366 – booking fees will apply.

Antiques Group

Wedgwood Pottery, 100% turn out combined to give everybody an enjoyable afternoon.

Josiah Wedgwood, born 1730 in Burslem, Staffs created British Pottery as an Art form. His earnest efforts were to refine the material and in 1763 he took out a patent for a beautiful cream coloured porcelain known as "Queen's Ware". Later in 1775 the sculptor Flaxman was employed to design white cameo reliefs on a blue background. The new factory they had moved to in 1769 he called "Etruria" where he also built himself a mansion and where he died in 1795. Through his influence, the grand trunk canal was built joining the Mersey Trent and Severn Canals. Other wares made by them were Jasper Ware and Portland Blue.
In 1986 Waterford Glass bought out Wedgwood.

Needless to say members had brought numerous examples for us to admire.
Liz Wood

2015 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

Fri. 27 March	Afternoon Social Event
27/29 April	Flanders - Lest We Forget - Local History
24/27 May	4 day trip to Liverpool—"Three Queens" - Maritime
Wed. 3 June	"Gypsy" Savoy Theatre Evening Visit - Theatre
Thurs. 11 June	Magna Carta visit to British Library—Plantagenet History
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
25/27 Aug	U3A Nat. Conference & AGM, East Midlands Conf. Centre
Mon. 21 Sept	Maldon U3A Open Day, Town Hall
Mon. 28 Sept	Monuments & public art of London & Olympic Park—L.Hist

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

Botany

This year, in glorious February sunshine, we have enjoyed a walk looking at what has survived the winter. There are other similar walks in the pipeline. We do not meet on a regular day or even at regular times, but usually try to meet on Friday mornings and often include lunch to look at our specimens.
For details or perhaps suggestions of where to go, please phone Veronica Smith

Trees

The first meeting of the year on **Tuesday 10th March** was a revision session to wake up our memories and dredge up all that we have learnt so far. We shall meet again at 2.00pm on **Tuesday April 14th** when, depending on the weather, we shall go out into the woods and identify trees as they are breaking into leaf. Everyone is welcome and no knowledge is required. You will need a notebook and a polythene bag. We shall probably meet monthly after that. (Not every two weeks as we did all last year).
Please contact Veronica Smith for details of venue and times

Bird Watching Group—February

Langdon Hills Reserve is the largest inland reserve owned by Essex Wildlife Trust. It is an example of social history as well as various wildlife habitats. Part of the area is made up of Plotlands. These are areas of land bought up by developers in the 1920s and 30s and sold to Londoners for use as holiday homes. The Plotlands experiment lasted until the 1980s when the last owner's land was compulsorily purchased by Basildon Development Council and the area handed over to Essex Wildlife Trust.

The group walked round the site hearing numerous birds calling but only just catching glimpses as they moved between the trees. We heard two separate woodpeckers beating upon tree trunks just out of our sight. As the day went on our patience was rewarded with sightings of Goldfinch, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Jay, and Dunnock. Whilst walking round the lake on the site we saw a Carrion Crow (Corvas corone corone) but this bird was remarkable as it was leucistic which meant that this bird had white wings. Leuciem is an abnormal plumage condition caused by a genetic mutation which prevents pigment, particularly melanin, from being properly deposited on the bird's feathers. Whilst not being rare it is not very common to see a bird with this variation in plumage.

Another date for your diaries is **April 4th** when we shall visit the Phyllis Curie Reserve at Great Leighs.

~~~~~~

Maldon Lunchtime Concert Series

Date: 8th Jan 2015 - 10th Dec 2015 Time: 13:00 On this day every month

Cost: Free (donations accepted)

United Reformed Church, Market Hill, Maldon. CM9 4PZ

Concerts are on the second Thursday of the month.

Coffee and tea available from 12.15pm. No ticket necessary. Bring your lunch.

Thursday 9th April	Saxology - saxophone quartet
Thursday 14th May	Voigt String Trio
Thursday 11th June	David Brooker and Gaynor Manthorpe - piano and clarinet. Works by Mozart, Weber and Milhaud
Thursday 9th July	Christine Stevenson - piano. Works by Beethoven, Brahms, Debussy and Liszt
Thursday 13th Aug,	Antoine Mitchell and Jeremy Ballard - piano and violin. Works by Mozart and Beethoven
Thursday 10th Sept.	Pauline Curtis - mezzo-soprano
Thursday 8th Oct,	Mary Pells and Martin Knizia - viola da gamba and harpsichord
Thursday 12t Nov,	Angela Jung and Molly Parsons-Gurr- violin and cello
Thursday 10th Dec.	Peter Dollimore - piano. Works by Elliott and Butler
~~~~~~

Discussion Group (What`s In a Name)

February 6th brought our first meeting of 2015 and although somewhat depleted in numbers, we managed to find plenty to talk about. The first topic being and using the unfortunately manufactured press title “Three Parent Babies”. This of course was intended to alarm the readers into believing something which in fact was not strictly true. Although space here does not permit a full scientific explanation, it was evident that recent developments in replacing certain DNA faulty constituents by healthy ones from another donor was now possible and only required a licence from Parliament for it to proceed. The prospects of avoiding some of the awful diseases such as MS, cerebral palsy, motor neurone and perhaps many more must appear as a heaven-sent opportunity that could change peoples lives in the future and no doubt those affected would congratulate whole heartedly our scientific research staff and probably grant them a well-deserved knighthood if they had the power to do so. It seems therefore almost inconceivable that anybody should put obstacles in the way of this valuable and life-changing development, least of all the churches, both Catholic and English, and even some MPs. However, doubts have been raised on grounds of safety and ethics by these bodies whom it would appear do not have sufficient confidence in our professionals who have been researching this process over 20 years. On the question of ethics and playing God, many diseases and treatments over the last six decades have been discovered by research scientists playing God and long may they continue in this role so that awful life-destroying diseases such as `Dementia. Alzheimers, Parkinsons, Motor Neurone, for which there is no cure today, might one day in the future be eradicated for all time. “Who Knows”.

To finish on a lighter note, a letter from our quarterly magazine drew attention to our changed meaning of certain words. We now appear not to have waiters and waitresses but `Servers`. All performers on stage are `Actors` whether they are male or female and chairmen are now chairpersons to avoid any hint of sexism. What`s wrong with `Madam Chairman`. It sounds better and more dignified. We oldies are afraid to talk of our `Gay youthful days` in case it may be misconstrued. Perhaps a new nomenclature could be found for `Co-ordinator`, the title of which seems to put people off from taking on the job!

But then again “What`s in a name”?

Ray Harman

FREE, 24-HOUR LEGAL ADVICE FOR U3A MEMBERS

Simply telephone

FirstAssist **01455 251 500**

and quote the following details:

Name **The Third Age Trust**

Number **70494**

*FirstAssist can advise U3A members on **any** legal issues, **not** just U3A-related ones!*

THE THIRD AGE TRUST

U3A

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Gala Opera

SATURDAY 11th July 2015

"BOUNCERS", WICKHAM BISHOPS, ESSEX CM8 3JJ

OPERA IN THE ORCHARD was founded by Robbie Bishop. Whilst he was working in Rome he went to many operas and realised that opera was enjoyed by all the family from grandparents to grandchildren. With this in mind he opened up the gardens of his home for performances of classical opera, encouraging families to see opera for themselves in a relaxed atmosphere; children come free with their families. This is our thirteenth year and many people have been coming from the beginning. This is still a family affair run by Robbie's children, grandchildren and friends.

We are thrilled to have Garden Opera returning to perform a ***Gala Opera***. The three previous years have been such a huge success; this is reflected in the many thank you letters we have received.

The evening will be compered by Peter Bridges who is the artistic and musical director of Garden Opera.
The singers enact the scene that they are singing in a very friendly and accessible manner. Some of the music will be sung in English and some in the original language and a 6-piece band will accompany them.

EARLY BIRD TICKETS £20pp BEFORE THE END OF MARCH

Price of tickets is **£30** (1st April to 8th July) **£40** (after 8th July)
Children up to 18yrs **FREE**
Performance; 17:00hrs (gates open 15:00hrs) Interval 18:00hrs – 19:30hrs
Camping - £10 per pitch per night.

FOR SALE

1 Set of outdoor Boules, unused. £5

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

1 Ladies pink Ten Pin Bowling Ball 8lb.
Pair Ladies Bowling Shoes size 7½
Bowling Bag
£15

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

Green Ten Pin Bowling Ball 10 lb.
Pair Men's Bowling Shoes size 9
Bowling Bag
£15
Contact Pam Bailey

~~~~~~

A Circulation Booster (hardly used)
together with 3 tubes of Reviving Leg/Foot Gel
£100 (Cost £200)

Daphne Shortland

~~~~~~

20th April Monday Meeting
Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

Speaker
"The man who discovered Beatrix Potter"
Andrew Wiltshire

The Computer group have been asked to do some investigation into the best system for Personal Alarm Systems.

There are many situations when it would be useful for someone to be able to contact you quickly. There are several pieces of technology which can do this at relatively low cost - which one is appropriate depends on the circumstances.

If both you and the other person are on the same premises, then the simplest solution is a normal ***wireless door-bell,*** obtainable from your local DIY shop. The bell unit can either be mains-powered (if you will stay within earshot of it), or battery-powered so you can carry it with you. If it is battery-powered, check that the range is more than adequate for the distance you will be from the other person. The range quoted will be in open air, but walls will decrease the range considerably. There are also purpose-designed nurse alarm units with the call button built into a neck pendant.

If you are not on the same premises as the caller, then an **emergency *telephone dialler*** will call the pre-set phone number when the call button (normally in a neck pendant) is pressed. Some systems will call up to three phone numbers in sequence if the phone is not answered. Some systems will speak a pre-recorded message, others have call fobs which include a microphone so you can hear what the person is saying.
To find suitable products, do an Internet search using the phrases underlined above or seek advice from a reliable source/friend.
Tony Groves

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES

Times 12.15 pm

TUESDAY **7th April at the "The Bell" Boreham**
Co-ordinator: Mike Wood

WEDNESDAY **15th April at "The Ship", Tiptree**
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,

BLACKWATER U3A	HEYBRIDGE U3A
Contact	Contact
01621 854 065	01621 841 066
Dawn Mundy, Chairman	Joyce Woodham, Chairman

THE LIMEBROOK U3A
Contact
01621 855 883
Paul Madge, Chairman

Your Committee

Chairman	Malcolm Case
Vice Chairman	Marrie Webster
Secretary	Kym Marshall
Treasurer	Martin Cook
Membership Sec.	Alan Clarke
Newsletter Editor	Jan Robertson
Committee	Fred Lane
	Andrew Simmonds
	Judith Johnston
	Sylvia Beckett
	Veronica Smith
Web Master	John Bowen
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, 9th April

CO-ORDINATORS

Antiques	Liz Wood
Architecture	Judith Johnston
Astrology	Liz Jones
Astronomy	Malcolm Case
Bird Watching	Pat Clements Peter Gaywood
Botany	Veronica Smith
Bridge	Sheila Epps
Bridge for the Curious	Gill Stone
Canasta	Elaine Bane
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
Photography	Michael Manning
Plantagenets	Beryl McDonell
Poetry	Jo Robson
Reading	Sheila Epps
Rummikub 1 Rummikub 2	Colin Beckett Beryl McDonell
Scottish Country Dancing	Shirley Grummett
Sing for Pleasure	Sylvia Carpenter
Smartphone	Barry Samuels
Snooker	John Williams
Strollers	Gill Stone
Table Tennis	Gordon Hardy
Ten Pin Bowling	David Arnold
Theatre Outings	Rosemary Case Joyce Cotterell
Trees	Veronica Smith
Weekenders	Beryl McDonell
Whist	Molly Polden
Wine Circle No. 1/2 Wine Circle No. 3 Wine Circle No. 4	Graham Boswell Mary Burd Paul Costa Alan Clarke
Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth

PROGRAMME – APRIL 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge for the Curious Wine Group 1	2 Ten Pin Bowling Discussion Poetry Rummikub 2	3 E A S T E R	4 Bird Watch-ing Gt Leighs	5 EASTER
6 **EASTER** ***BANK HOLIDAY***	7 Table Tennis Snooker Geology Luncheon Group Trees	8 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Meet & Eat	9 Ten Pin Bowling Plantagenets Reading Rummikub 1 Scottish Country Dancing	10 Architecture Canasta Sing for Pleasure	11	12
13 Astrology Handicrafts Photography Whist	14 Table Tennis Snooker Egyptology Trees	15 Ten Pin Bowling London Walks & Talks Luncheon Group	16 Ten Pin Bowling Antiques Bridge for the Curious	17 Mah Jong	18	19 Strollers
20 **Meeting 1.30 pm** Just Jazz	21 Table Tennis Snooker Gardening Aviation	22 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Family History Wine Group 2 Writing for Fun	23 Ten Pin Bowling Computers French Conversation Music Appreciation Scottish Country Dancing Wine Group 3	24 Canasta Cribbage Family History Sing for Pleasure	25	26
27 ***Flanders 27/29th*** Astronomy Handicrafts Local History Whist	27 Table Tennis Snooker Strollers Too Wine Group 4	28 Ten Pin Bowling	29 Ten Pin Bowling	30		

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,