



The University of the Third Age

MALDON AND DISTRICT

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Autumn

NOVEMBER 2015

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

Web Site: www.maldonu3a.co.uk

FROM THE CHAIR



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 me 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, it important that a successor is found. If you feel that you can take on this role then please speak to Jim Light.

At a recent meeting between the Chairmen of Maldon, Heybridge, Blackwater and Limebrook U3As, discussion took place on several topics, amongst which were : Exploring English – Magna Carta - Improve your English language skills while exploring the Magna Carta - the 800 year old 'great charter' which shaped the world. A course with “Future Learn” starts November 30th for three weeks, two hours per week of study. If you would like to join this course or would like further details, then please contact me.

We also discussed was the use of the Plume School during the evenings for any subject. I am asking members who may be interested in using the school's facilities to let me know and also to advise what they might like to do.

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
malcolmcas@talktalk.net

Aviation Group

This month's talk was on flying aircraft models by Brian Austin with a powerpoint presentation and some huge examples. 6 to 8 feet wing span, quite amazing. Thank you Brian.

Next month **Tuesday 17th November** 2pm at Stow Maries, the talk will be by Geoff Charge who was in aircraft design most of his working life.

15th December the talk will be held at **Purleigh Playing Field Pavilion** by Alan Matthews and will trace the origins of RADAR back to just after the First World War.

Brian Johnson

Theatre Group

Forty -four members joined the coach to London to see "Beautiful", the Carole King musical, at the Aldwych theatre. All the old hits from the late 50s and early 60s, a really good production, a lively entertaining story of her life. A very enjoyable show with very good journeys both ways.
Joyce Cotterell

Maritime Group

The next meeting of the Maritime Group is on **Monday December 7th** 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". This will be a very interesting talk on Henry Morgan, giving details of how, why and where he operated and details of his life.
All U3A members are very welcome to join us.
Malcolm Case

Astronomy Group

The next event of the Astronomy Group is on **Monday 23rd November**, this will be a car sharing visit to the Whipple Museum of Astronomy and Science in Cambridge for a guided tour. If you would like to join us, then please contact Patrick Forsyth on 01621 859300.
Any U3A member is very welcome to join us on this visit.
Malcolm Case

Local & General History

Our last meeting for this year is on **Monday 23 November** 2 pm at Maldon Town Hall when Lynne Raymond is returning to speak to us, this time about Edward Bright, The Fat Man of Maldon and his family. All members are welcome.

We are very pleased to announce that three new co-ordinators will be running this group from January. They are Jane Coombes, Sylvia Cousins and Kathy Goff.

The 2016 programme will be available at the November meeting.

‘ALL OUR WATERLOOS ‘ – Monday 22 February 2016

This full day trip includes a visit to the V & A Museum and an Anglo/French lunch. The cost is £41.50. The morning spends time looking at French influences around London and after lunch a guided tour of the French exhibits within the museum. Further details can be obtained from Kathy Goff

Trees Group 2

The group made a very successful foray into Blakes Wood, Danbury, on Tuesday 3rd November. It was very muddy underfoot, but the weather was mild and bright. The group was surprised at how many different trees could be identified in a short distance. For the next meeting on **10th November** hopefully everyone will be able to demonstrate their knowledge of them.

The group will be meeting theoretically once a fortnight until Christmas, on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, from 10.00am to 12.00am.

For more details each time, please contact Veronica Smith

Fitness & Balance Class

Some years ago the Maldon U3A held a two year Well Being group covering many topics, the outcome being a class which was created for members and non-members of the U3A, with an instructor. This class has carried on for many years, we meet at St Peter's Hospital Gym every Tuesday at 11.15 with a lady instructor Sam. Any member is welcome to join us; we work hard but also have lots of laughs.

If you are interested in joining then please contact Jean Cuthbert or Malcolm Case

Music Appreciation

Our group usually meets on the fourth Thursday of each month between 2pm and 4pm at the homes of one of our two co-ordinators; Enid in Great Totham or, occasionally, John Skuse in Danbury. The format used is for members to bring their CDs or tapes of music they would like others to hear, and which are based on a theme chosen the previous month. Quite often that theme will be based on music from a continent or sometimes the work of one composer. From time to time, we broaden the choice somewhat by basing our afternoon on music associated, however tenuously, with a letter from the alphabet. At our last session we played music by, amongst others, Mahler, Mozart and Mascagni and learned a little about Nikolai Medtner before listening to a movement from his 2nd Piano Concerto. A 1910 recording of the great Irish tenor John McCormack set the group thinking of Josef Locke which brought forth a chorus of "Hear My Song." Gareth Malone would have been proud of us!

Our next two meetings will be at Great Totham, one on **26th November** when the theme will be Russian Music, and the next on **17th December**. Please contact one of the joint co-ordinators if you would like to attend on an occasional or regular basis.

Bird Watching

December Birdwatching will meet on **Saturday December 5th** at Heybridge Basin Daisy car park at 10.00am.

Antiques

We had our usual six monthly visit from Andy, who used to deal in antiques. As usual she brought several artefacts which included an ancestor's silver topped Regimental Sergeant Major's Malacca cane. She dated and discussed items including silver spoons, tea knives, pottery bookends with unusual figures. We also welcomed a new member with her interesting items and curios.

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 19th November** at Woodlands, Park Lane, Tolleshunt Knights, CM9 8HB, when the topic will be "Bygones".

Liz Wood

GREAT ENTERTAINMENT
By the D'ukes UKULELE BAND



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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***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](mailto:judith@johnstons.me.uk) for further information.

## 2015/6 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. 23 Nov.  | Whipple Museum of Astronomy and Science in Cambridge    |
| Tues. 24 Nov. | Cockney Evening - Social                                |
| Sun. 13 Dec.  | Royal Festival Hall, Christmas concert - Theatre        |
| Fri. 12 Feb.  | D'ukes Musical Entertainment—Maldon Town Hall—Social    |
| Mon. 22 Feb.  | 'All our Waterloos' —London Visit—Local History         |
| 17/21 May     | 5 day Holiday. Chateaux & Vineyards of the Loire—Wine 3 |
| 5/8 July      | 4 day Holiday— 'Exploring Kent'                         |

### ***Discussion Group***

It is the end of an era. The Discussion Group, ably lead by Ray Harman, has been meeting at various members' homes for more years than I have been a U3A member. He feels it is time he retired as co-ordinator so has stepped down. Thank you Ray for the many excellent meetings. We will miss your research into a wide range of subjects and everyone will miss your Newsletter contributions. Discussion Group meetings have been the highlight of my U3A months. The group though small, has decided it wants to continue under a new banner "Current Affairs Discussion".

The next meeting will be **3rd December**.

Do you read the newspaper or see the News on TV and burst to argue? Do you miss the arguments/discussions you used to have with your partner? Maybe you know their argument too well or are you now on your own.

If you answer yes to these things come and join the Current Affairs Discussion Group. We talk about anything and everything. All may disagree but no one takes offence. Often other people have more knowledge and insight than the press and you leave with a better understanding and sometimes may even change your own view.

It is exciting! Come and meet us and you will be hooked.

We meet the first Thursday in the month.

Phone me Clare Urry

## ***Tuesday Luncheon Group***

We had a warm welcome on our return to the Blue Strawberry for the November Luncheon when we welcomed Philip Sterry's return. Food was plentiful, the pavlovas outstanding, company was good and we had our own room!

There will be a joint luncheon in December at the Forresters and our next luncheon will be on the **Tuesday 12th January** at the Queen Victoria, Maldon, usual time.

## ***Art Appreciation***

The Art Group successfully restarted in 2015, meeting at 2pm on the first Tuesday of each month, initially with a couple of house visits followed by several enjoyable trips - to the Art Cafe in West Mersea, to The Munnings Collection in Dedham and to The Fry Gallery in Saffron Walden. In all cases our trips happily have been combined with lunch or with tea and biscuits and cakes.

Over forty U3A members have expressed an interest in the group including several from the recent Open Day, and 18 members came to Saffron Walden. There will be no meeting in December.

The next planned 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

## ***Car Sharing***

The Committee is offering the following guidelines to members for a voluntary donation towards the cost of the journeys when car sharing. Please use your own discretion. Up to 40 miles return: £3.00. Over 40 miles return: £4.00.

## **Proposed Four Day Holiday “Exploring Kent”**

**5/8th July 2016**

Hotel: Holiday Inn, Rochester

Price: £355 p.p.

Insurance £10 Single Supplement £45

- Day 1 Am. Chatham Historic Dockyard  
Pm. Teapot Island, Yalding
- Day 2 Am. Hornby Visitor Centre, Margate  
Pm. Shepherd Neame Brewery, Faversham. Lunch and Tour.
- Day 3 Am. Walmer Castle and Gardens  
Pm. Dover Castle
- Day 4 Am. Explore Rochester Town  
Pm. Kent County Show

Full details and Booking Form available from  
Jan Robertson

### **The importance of a ‘Power of Attorney’**

#### *Case History:*

My brother’s wife has just been admitted into a home with acute Dementia. Because they do not have a ‘Power of Attorney’ he is unable to access their investments and bank accounts without his wife’s signature, which is now impossible. It will take several months to allow him to obtain the legal right of access to these funds.

He needs to raise about £48,000 per annum to pay for the home and he is worried out of his mind.

If only they had both taken out a ‘*Power of Attorney*’ when they made out their Wills and were in good health, none of this would have happened.

**None of us know what is in store for us in the future.**

## ***Ten Pin Bowling***

All those who come along know that the actual bowling is just an excuse to get out, have some fun, meet a lot of nice people, make new friends and have a little exercise. The scores are not important – there are no teams, leagues or tables! It's all very friendly and there are no inquests at the end of each game! We meet every Wednesday and Thursday morning at 09.45 at Madison Heights. You choose either of which you prefer. In total between 30 to 50 of us play each week!

At present two hours bowling costs £4.75 but this includes a cup of coffee and cake/biscuits and shoe hire. If you have your own bowling shoes the cost is £3.75. They have also provided us with a number of light bowling balls with specially enlarged holes for our older chubby fingers! So come along and join our happy band of bowlers!

Co-ordinator: David Arnold

Time: Every Wednesday and Thursday at 9.45-12 am

Venue: Madison Height Bowling Lanes, Maldon

## ***Writing for Fun***

### **BOOK SUCCESSES**

As a result of two members of the group goading each other to write “something longer” than the group’s regular short stories, Patrick Forsyth not only did just that but found a publisher: his novel ‘Long Overdue’ (set partly in Maldon and concerning a missing person) was published earlier in the year. One recent review (in the prestigious Good Book Guide) said: Patrick Forsyth has written many non-fiction books but this is his first novel. It comes with a real ear for dialogue and a pulse-quickenning sense of risk. As for Philip, he is a thoroughly well-rounded protagonist for whom you root from the start.

Now Peter Norman, who also wrote “something longer”, has also succeeded in getting his novel published. In ‘The Watermelon Man’ his protagonist is rendered unconscious after an attack and wakes with no memory, having to discover who he is and what has happened. To quote the blurb: nothing is as he had hoped. Both books are paperbacks, priced at £8.99 - with a discount for U3A members. Contact group coordinator Patrick Forsyth for more information

## **Important message from Crime Stoppers**

While driving on a rural end of the roadway on Thursday morning, I saw an infant car seat on the side of the road with a blanket draped over it. For whatever reason, I did not stop, even though I had all kinds of thoughts running through my head. But when I got to my destination, I called the Police and they were going to check it out. But, this is what the Police advised even before they went out there to check....

"There are several things to be aware of ... Gangs and thieves, mostly from Eastern Europe, are now plotting different ways to get a person (mostly women in to stop their vehicle and get out of the car.

There is a gang initiation reported by the local Police where gangs are placing a car seat by the road...with a fake baby in it...waiting for a woman, of course, to stop and check on the abandoned baby. Note that the location of this car seat is usually beside a wooded or grassy (field) area and the person -- woman -- will be dragged into the woods, beaten and raped, and usually left for dead. If it's a man, they're usually beaten and robbed and maybe left for dead, too.

Do not stop for any reason! Dial 9-9-9 and report what you saw, but do not even slow down.

If you are driving at night and eggs are thrown at your windscreen, do not stop to check the car, do not operate the wiper and do not spray any water because eggs mixed with water become milky and block your vision up to 92.5%, and you are then forced to stop beside the road and become a victim of these criminals.

This is a new technique used by gangs, so please inform your friends and relatives. These are desperate times and these are unsavoury individuals who will take desperate measures to get what they want."

### ***Theatre Group***

There are a few seats on the coach to the Royal Festival Hall on **Sunday 13th December** for anyone who would like to go into London to shop. The coach will leave Maldon Tesco Car Park at 10am and will leave London at approx. 6pm. The cost is £9 each.

Jean Cuthbert Sheila Childs 842687

### **Strollers/ Strollers Too**

Neither walking group will meet in December.

Advance notice: we will meet to plan the programme for next year -

**STROLLERS: Sunday 17th January 2016**

**STROLLERS TOO: Tuesday 26th January 2016**

Gill Stone 0162

**For Sale:**

2 sets of shelving for garage or shed. Each has 5 removable shelves, and stands approx. 5' tall. Easy to dismantle and assemble Each £10.00 or the pair £15.00.

Location: Danbury Contact: Veronica



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FOR SALE

Quingo Vitess Mobility Scooter

2 years old. One owner. Very Good Condition 8mph

Cost £2,200 ONLY £1,200 ono

Call David

Or Liz

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**CLAY PLANT POTS**

**ASSORTED SIZES**

Free to a good home

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The speaker on **Monday 16th November** is **Mark Lewis**, whose talk is titled

'The Mark of Quality:

the history and practice of hallmarking. He will explain this early form of customer protection, describe assaying techniques and give guidance on how to read and interpret a hallmark.

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21st December Meeting

Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm



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**Your Committee invite you to join them for
a Special Christmas Meeting**
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BAKE OFF'S BACK!

BBC baking contest The Great British Bake Off is returning in 2016 and the production team are currently looking for the next batch of great home bakers to take part. So who's the best baker you know? If you, or someone you know, can turn out a terrific tart, produce a perfect pie or serve up a sublime sponge, then please get in touch now.

For more information or an application form, go to:

www.thegreatbritishbakeoff.co.uk

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## **MALDON DISTRICT – HERITAGE WINTER TALKS 2015/2016**

The next talk is on **Tuesday 1 December** 7.30 – 9 pm at the Friends Meeting House, Butt Lane, Maldon.

“Wonder of Wonders – the Rev Henry Bate Dudley of Bradwell Lodge”  
by Kevin Bruce.

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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 Tel 01621 850467

LUNCHEON CLUBS

Times 12.15 pm

Combined Christmas Lunch on 10th December



BLACKWATER U3A

Contact

Peter Holmes, Chairman

01621 854108

HEYBRIDGE U3A

Contact

Joyce Woodham, Chairman

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
Social Committee	Michael Childs
AV Equipment	Jim Light

NATIONAL OFFICE

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Web site www.u3a.org.uk

Resource Centre: email: resource.centre@u3a.org.uk

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 4th December

CO-ORDINATORS

Antiques	Liz Wood	Luncheon Group	
Architecture	Judith Johnston	1st Tues	Mike Wood
Art Appreciation	Andy Simmonds	3rd Wed.	Paul Costa
Astrology	Liz Jones	Eat & Meet	
Astronomy	Malcolm Case	2nd Wed	Joyce Cotterell
Aviation	Brian Johnson	Mah-Jong	Molly Polden
Bird Watching	Pat Clements Peter Gaywood	Maritime	Malcolm Case
Botany	Veronica Smith	Music Appreciation	Enid Hall John Skuse
Bridge	Sheila Epps	New Friends	Liz Robson
Bridge for the Curious	Gill Stone	Petanque (Boules)	Jack Veash
Canasta	Elaine Bane Gerry Brooks	Plantagenets	Beryl McDonell
Computers	Jan Robertson	Poetry	Jo Robson
Cribbage	Pat Clements	Reading	Sheila Epps
Current Affairs Discussion	Clare Urry	Rummikub 1	Colin Beckett
Egyptology	Joyce Cotterell	Rummikub 2	Beryl McDonell
Family History	Alan Buck	Scottish Country Dancing	Shirley Grummett
French Conversation	Ray Harman	Sing for Pleasure	Sylvia Carpenter
Geology	Enid Hall	Snooker	John Williams
Handicraft	Marian Manning	Strollers	Gill Stone
Just Jazz	Jim Light David Coombs	Table Tennis	Gordon Hardy
Local History	Mary Burd Michael Blackwell	Ten Pin Bowling	David Arnold
London Walks & Talks	Christine Speed Janeen Trew	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
		Wine Circle No. 4	Paul Costa
			Alan Clarke
		Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth

PROGRAMME – DECEMBER 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1 Table Tennis Snooker Geology	2 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge for the Curious Wine Circle 1	3 Ten Pin Bowling Scottish Country Dancing Current Affairs Discussion Plantagenets Poetry Rummikub 2	4 Canasta	5 Bird Watching	6
7 Maritime Whist	8 Table Tennis Snooker Trees 2	9 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge	10 Ten Pin Bowling Xmas Luncheon Club French Conversation Reading Rummikub 1	11 Mah Jong Sing for Pleasure	12	13
14 Astrology Handicrafts Whist	15 Table Tennis Snooker Aviation	16 Ten Pin Bowling	17 Ten Pin Bowling Music Appreciation Antiques Bridge for the Curious	18 Canasta	19	20
21 Christmas Meeting 1.30 pm Just Jazz	22 Table Tennis Snooker Trees 2	23 Ten Pin Bowling plus Joint Xmas Lunch Bridge Wine Circle 2 Writing for Fun	24 French Conversation	25 CHRIST	26 MA	27 AS
28 Whist	29 Table Tennis Snooker	30 Ten Pin Bowling	31 NEW	YEAR		

Please confirm with your Group Co-ordinator as to the date of your December meeting.