The University of the Third Age

MALDON AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

Our most successful Open Day
on 21st September
at Maldon Town Hall

October 2015

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR

Following our Open day held on Monday 21st September at Maldon Town Hall, I would like to thank all coordinators who displayed their group's activities so well, my thanks also to all those who helped set up the tables and chairs, served teas and coffees and all who made the afternoon so successful.
The event was very well attended by members of our U3A and members of the public and we estimate that over the afternoon some 200 to 300 people came to see what the U3A is all about, including the Mayor and Mayoress of Maldon who commented favourably on our friendliness and diversity of activity groups. One of the reasons for the Open Day was, in line with the Third Age Trust, to raise awareness of the University of the Third Age, I believe that we achieved this, so thank you for your support in making this such a successful event.

Could I please ask that you always bring your cheque book to meetings so that you can pay at the time of booking for any group or social event you might wish to attend. I would go so far as to say that NO booking should be made without an accompanying payment. The reasoning behind this is so that the organiser of any event (social or group) has a guaranteed income to cover the expenses incurred and does not have to waste time and money chasing payment.

Could I ask members who belong to the smaller interest groups, that if they are unable to attend a meeting for whatever reason, that out of courtesy, they inform the group coordinator.

Should any member have any constructive comments to make on any U3A issue, please do not hesitate to contact either me or any Committee member or use the comments book which is available at the main meeting.

Malcolm Case
malcolmcase@talktalk.net

Astronomy

All meetings held at Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge. CM9 4RE at 7.30 pm.

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday October 26th** – Speaker from E2V who will give an illustrated talk on the Rosetta probe and other projects for space exploration that they are and have been involved in, including the New Horizons probe to Pluto and beyond. If weather conditions allow, then we will do some observing of the stars and planets, so if you have a telescope or binoculars then please bring them with you.

All U3A members are very welcome to join us.

Malcolm Case.

Maritime

The next meeting of the group is on **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".

The talk which is profusely illustrated by Captain Richard Woodman, looks at the ships and the men of the Merchant Navy, together with the naval task of escorting convoys.

All U3A members are very welcome to join us.

Malcolm Case

Geology Group

The Geology Group welcomed two new members to our meeting in October. We had a talk on the Pre-Cambrian and Cambrian periods in the earth's history, Ie. the period between the possible formation of the earth about 4,600 million years ago and up to 550 million years ago. After a tea and biscuits, we resumed with a film on the formation of Loch Ness which involved the period we had been talking about. A very stimulating and enjoyable afternoon.

Next meeting is at the WMCC on 6th November when we shall continue with our advance through the millennia. New members always welcome.

Enid Hall and Sylvia Cousins

Just Jazz

Just Jazz will be meeting on October 19th at the Maldon Little Ship Club at 7.30pm where we will have another selection of Jazz and the second part of the film.

Jim Light and David Coombes

Strollers

Our next walk will be on **Sunday 15 November.** Please meet in Wickham Bishops Village Hall car park at 10.15 for a 10.30 start. The walk is about four miles long and will take us to woodland to the north of the village. Lunch can be arranged at The Chequers, but I need to know numbers in advance please as it is a very popular venue.
Contact: Christine

Strollers Too

The next walk will be on **Tuesday, 24th November**.
Contact Gill Stone

New - Weekenders 2

Following on from Open Day, several people showed an interest in forming this new group to meet the growing need of members without partners who would like to link up with others in a similar situation. We were motivated by the group which has been in existence for the past nine years.

After our initial get together on Saturday, we have decided to proceed with this idea and would like anybody else who finds themselves at a loose end on Saturdays or Sundays to get in touch with me.

Geraldine Stratford

Trees Group

The Trees Group met for the last time on 6th October, but from its ashes a new one has formed. It will start on **Tuesday 10th November** and initially will start by meeting at my house in Danbury. Several people have given their names to me and I have contacted them all, but there will still be room for any more who might like to join us. We shall concentrate mainly on learning how to recognise and identify our native trees.
Please contact me if you would like to be included in this new group.
Veronica Smith

Plantagenet History Group.

At the Open Day several members, some old and some new, showed an interest in joining us at our monthly meeting in the WMCC on the second Thursday of each month at 10am.
You are very welcome to visit us in November, as in October we are attending a talk at the Braintree Museum on The Magna Carta and its effect on the county of Essex.
Beryl McDonell

Aviation Group.

Please note for this month only we are meeting on **Wednesday 21st October** instead of the Tuesday because of a clash of bookings. The talk will be given by Brian Austin on the making and flying model aircraft. Brian has many years experience and we look forward to a most interesting presentation.
In November the talk will be given on **Tuesday 17th November** by Geoff Charge who was concerned with aircraft design and for this month we will be joined by some members of Southend U3A.
Last month the lecture by Brian Bickers on the Spitfire covered every aspect of its development through the war and was excellently researched and received.
I look forward to seeing you there
Brian Johnson

Local & General History

CHANGE OF SPEAKER!

Our next meeting is on **Monday 26 October** 2 pm at Maldon Town Hall. Unfortunately our programmed speaker is unable to attend but we have been lucky to get a replacement.

Katharine Schofield, a Senior Archivist at the Essex Records Office, is coming to give a presentation on The Magna Carta.

All members are welcome.

Our last meeting of the year is on **Monday 23 November** when Lynne Raymond is returning to speak to us this time about The Fat Man of Maldon. The programme for 2016 will be available on this day.

Mary Burd
Michael Blackwell

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 p.m. start

Members please bring own drinks and glasses

Ticket price: £12.50

Tickets available from Barbara Byam Shaw

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THEATRE OUTINGS
BOOKING THEATRE OUTINGS

When we book a theatre outing we the put tickets on hold. The tickets are on hold for approximately 28 days and at the end of the 28 days we either have to pay for them or cancel them. As you can appreciate we can only pay for the tickets booked and paid for by members. Therefore the timing is important, so we put the tickets on hold as the newsletter goes to print in order to give us as much time as possible. To speed this process up if you would like to be notified by email as soon as we put the tickets on hold please send your name and email address to Rosemary Case. We will then email you with the details of the show and contact details.
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2015/16 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.

Thurs. 22 Oct.	Walk in the City of London - Ldn Walks
Tues. 24 Nov.	Cockney Evening - Social
2016	
Fri. 12 Feb.	D'ukes Musical Entertainment—Maldon Town Hall—Social
17/21 May	5 day Holiday. Chateaux & Vineyards of the Loire—Wine 3

London Walks & Talks

Our last meeting of 2015 is on **October 22nd**, when we are visiting the Shoreditch and Hoxton area of London.
Meetings will resume again on **March 18th** 2016, when Elaine Beckett will give a talk entitled "Story of The Midland Grand Hotel" [St. Pancras], at the West Maldon Community Centre.
The walk in April 2016 will be led by David Evans and will complement Elaine's talk by looking at St. Pancras Old and New.
Janeen Trew
Christine Speed

Ten Pin Bowling at Christmastime

We have trouble when Christmas falls around Wednesday or Thursday.
This year the last Thursday meeting falls on Christmas Eve so we will all meet on the Wednesday. We will all bowl together which will be excellent, it could be crowded but that will be part of the fun.
As last year we will have a Joint Ten Pin Bowler's lunch at Henri's Steakbar to follow at 12.30 choosing from the special Christmas Festive menu.
At the October and November meetings we will be taking firm bookings.
Non-bowling partners and friends can join us for lunch if you like.
Please make a note of the change in your diary.
We have vacancies for new bowlers both days every week.
Quite a few members at the Open Day expressed an interest in coming along so perhaps now is the time to act.
David Arnold.

Discussion Group

We met on the 1st October primarily to decide whether to continue the group with our present numbers. No prospective people emerged from `Open Day`. If anybody is interested please ring me at 01621 891736 for details.
Our happy few then proceeded with the first topic of the afternoon which seemed inevitable due to the enormous publicity, namely, the election of our new Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn. Leaving politics aside for the moment to gauge reactions it was quite apparent that Jeremy`s talents as a ventriloquist did not go unnoticed whilst standing during the National Anthem for none of the zoom lenses from the media managed to detect the slightest lip movement. The Queen no doubt was not perturbed in the slightest although perhaps an eviction order to leave Buckingham Palace might have provoked some Royal Utterances. Seriously, however, he did come across in a friendly and congenial manner to those of the Labour supporters who were looking for change after their drubbing at the General Election and perhaps had insufficient time to really study the implications of some of his extreme views. However, it is early days yet and no doubt some softening of his stance on certain issues will be evident in the near future if he is to remain.
A full-page spread in the Maldon Standard consisting of opposition remarks concerning the proposal for a Chinese Nuclear Power Station at Bradwell caught one member`s eye as a topic for discussion. Anybody who can cast their minds back some 50 years when plans were afoot for a new nuclear station at Bradwell will recall the same opposition then although the opposers' names have changed. That station was shut down in 2002 after 40 years of operation providing many units of electricity, employment for many, improvement of the town's water supply and roads, not to mention the influx of money for the area. Let`s hope that the new Chinese station will have the same result although no doubt most of us will not be around to reap the benefit.
A pleasant afternoon had by us few who would be delighted to share it with others so come along and give us a try.
Ray Harman

French Conversation

Ann Lester has agreed to share it with me, in which case she will do the second Thursday of the month and I will continue with the fourth Thursday as usual in members' houses.
Ray Harman and Ann Lester

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly—Local History

The sun was shining as we set off bright and early on our coach trip to see some of London's statues and monuments. After coffee at Methodist Central Hall (site of the first meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations in January 1946) we met our very knowledgeable and entertaining Blue Badge guide in Parliament Square to be introduced to Nelson Mandela, Mahatma Gandhi, Abraham Lincoln, Jan Smuts, David Lloyd George and Winston Churchill and learn a little about each of them and their place in our history. As we happened to be there at 12.00 noon we heard Big Ben striking the hour, and were reminded that this name refers only to the bell. The tower is called the Elizabeth Tower, and the clock is known as The Clock (!).

Back on the coach we benefitted from good views of many familiar and less familiar landmarks as we were driven through central London. In Whitehall we all recognised the Cenotaph and the new memorial to the women who served in World War II. We also saw Nelson's Column and Landseer's lions in Trafalgar Square, and were informed that the lions were fashioned from bronze from captured French cannons.

In Green Park we alighted to view the new memorial to Bomber Command, unveiled in 2012 by the Queen, to commemorate 55,500 airmen from, amongst others, Britain, Canada, Poland and Czechoslovakia. We also saw war memorials erected by New Zealand, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Australia.

After lunch we embarked again to be driven through East London to E20, the new postcode devised to identify the Olympic Park and surrounding area. Our guide's fascinating talk made it feel as if we were time-travelling through Whitechapel, Mile End and Bow, with their histories of immigration by many different groups of peoples from French Huguenots to Bangladeshis, illustrated by, for example, mosques, and the building where William Booth founded the Salvation Army. The 114.5 metre-high ArcelorMittal Orbit was the winning design for a centrepiece of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, designed by Anish Kapoor, and funded in great part by Lakshmi Mittal. Contrary to appearances it is not a helter-skelter, but it is planned to add an enclosed slide next year, which will take 40 seconds to descend.

We declined the opportunity to climb 450 steps and went up in the lift to the two enclosed viewing platforms. The weather continued to favour us with a lovely clear day and we enjoyed the view of London and its most famous landmarks all around. Large mirrors on the top platform even permitted an upside-down view, which was most intriguing; the guide on that floor showed some of us the optical tricks which the mirrors created.

Many thanks are due to Mary, whose powers of organisation are legendary, from the travel arrangements to the weather; she will be greatly missed as our Local and General History Co-ordinator.

Christine Bishop

ART APPRECIATION GROUP - FRY GALLERY
SAFFRON WALDEN

Eighteen of us met up in the beautiful but historic Market Place of Saffron Walden (including four new recruits from the recent Open Day) on Market Day, with the historic old square filled with various stalls. Amazingly with the number of folk around we all managed to squeeze into Wilkins' Courtyard Tea Room for an excellent lunch before we processed through the mediaeval streets to the gallery for 2 pm, during a break in the weather.

The Fry Gallery is small but crammed full of pictures, collages and ceramics, from lithographs to linocut, engravings, woodcut, oils, watercolour, tapestry, gouache, pastel, ink drawings and etchings.
The artists were all from the Great Bardfield Group in the 1930s to 50s, including: Ravilious, Bawden, Rowntree, Rothenstein and Aldridge.
Also exhibiting was Grayson Perry who featured on an interesting video describing the gallery and its contents.

An enjoyable day was rounded off by a walk round the delightful restored Bridge End Garden behind the gallery, in a welcome burst of sunshine.

Andy Simmonds

Tiptree Study Day on Monday October 26 at Thurstable School, Tiptree

Some speakers took part in the Plume School workshops last year and the Architecture (Clare Urry) will be a repeat of that session.
There are limited spaces in Architecture/Geology and First Aid
The workshop sessions will be run in classrooms at Thurstable School and will last for approx 2 hours. There will be tea/coffee etc available before the morning session and at lunch time. If you are doing am and pm sessions please bring a packed lunch if you wish.
There will be a fee of £2 per person payable for the day.

Geology	First Aid
Parliament	Architecture
Creative writing	Maths

Taxation and finance session run by a representative from Holmes & Hill solicitors is also now available.

If any Maldon members are interested they can contact me at mail@glwilliams.plus.com (after 4.30pm) and I can advise on available places and further details.

Gareth Williams
Tiptree U3A Treasurer

British Heart Foundation

Volunteer's Needed

Your local shop needs your help, if you have any free time and enjoy meeting new people, please contact us.
Various days and times available.

Call:01621 841638

British Heart Foundation
75a High Street, Maldon, Essex CM9 5EP

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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Lovely dark brown leather revolving armchair and matching footstool, 100cms in height. Very good condition.
Bargain at £70.00

Veronica Smith

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Macmillan Coffee Morning

A big thank you to everyone who came to my Macmillan Coffee morning in September - the wonderful total of £410 was raised on the day and with additional donations. Many thanks

Mary Burd.

November Speaker

Mark Lewis is a designer-maker specialising in silver smithing and jewellery. A qualified teacher and lecturer, he has his own art and design consultancy, and offers some 50 or so varied topics for talks, ranging from artists to folklore, and lighthouses to cutlery. He is currently lecturing at the Goldsmith's Centre and at Birmingham University, and has been involved with extensive repair and restoration of jewellery and precious metal items.

16th November Meeting
Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

'A Mark of Quality – the History and Practice of Hallmarking'

Speaker
Mark Lewis

Maldon Promenaders

Present a

Quiz Night

At West Maldon Community Centre, Sunbury Way, Maldon on Saturday 31st October 2015 at 8:00 p.m.

Entrance £3.50 each

Teams of 6-ish

For further information ring Sandra on Maldon 855158
Bring your own drinks, glasses & nibbles

Proceeds to this year's charities
Help and Encouragement for Lone Parents and
Cruse Bereavement

Maldon Promenaders Present:

In The News

A humorous and musical look through the daily newspaper

Maldon Town Hall

Friday 27th November at 8:00pm

Saturday 28th at 2:30pm and 8:00pm

Balcony £10 / Stalls £8 (Concessions £7 on Matinee only)

Tickets available from:

Maldon Tourist Information, Wenlock Way (01621 856503)

Or Phone Trevor on 01621 856078

All profits go to Local Charities

HELP (Hope and encouragement for lone parents)

CRUSE Bereavement Care

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES

Times 12.15 pm

TUESDAY **3rd November** - Venue to be advised
Co-ordinator: Mike Wood

WEDNESDAY Due to proximity of Christmas Lunch, there will be no lunch in November.
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
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
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Web site www.u3a.org.uk
Resource Centre: email: resource.centre@u3a.org.uk

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 6th November

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 Ann Lester
Geology	Enid Hall
Handicraft	Marian Manning
Just Jazz	Jim Light David Coombes
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 Weekenders 2	Beryl McDonell Geraldine Stratford
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 – NOVEMBER 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1
2 Maritime Whist	3 Table Tennis Snooker Art Appreciation Geology Luncheon Group	4 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge for the Curious Wine Circle 1	5 Ten Pin Bowling Discussion Poetry Rummikub 2 Scottish Country Dancing	5 Canasta	7	8
9 Astrology Handicrafts Whist	10 Table Tennis Snooker Egyptology Trees	11 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge	12 Ten Pin Bowling French Conversation Plantagenets Reading Rummikub 1	13 Architecture Ma Jong Sing for Pleasure	14	15 Strollers
16 **Meeting 1.30 pm** Just Jazz	17 Table Tennis Snooker Aviation London Walks & Talks	18 Ten Pin Bowling	19 Ten Pin Bowling Antiques Bridge for the Curious Scottish Country Dancing	20 Canasta	21	22
23 Astronomy Handicrafts Local History Whist	24 Table Tennis Snooker Strollers Too Wine Circle 4	25 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Family History Wine Circle 2 Writing for Fun	26 Ten Pin Bowling Computers Wine Circle 3 French Conversation Music Appreciation	27 Ma Jong Cribbage Family History Sing for Pleasure	28	29
30 Whist						

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,