



The University of the Third Age

MALDON AND DISTRICT

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APRIL 2016

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

Web Site: www.maldonu3a.co.uk

FROM THE CHAIR



In order for our U3A to continue beyond the AGM in June, we **MUST** have volunteers for the vacancies. Currently there are no volunteers to stand for Vice Chairman and Treasurer. I cannot stress enough the need for members to come forward to fill these vacancies. With over 400 members surely there must be those amongst you who can help.

If at, or before, the AGM in June, no one has come forward then under the terms of our Constitution, Third Age Trust and Charity Commission rules, we will have to close which would be a great disappointment as I believe that we are a very successful U3A; so please volunteer to prevent the closure of our U3A.

Any Maldon & District U3A member is eligible to volunteer and to be voted on to the executive committee at the AGM.

It is extremely important that if you attend a monthly main meeting at Wickham Bishops hall you sign in on arrival, be you a member or a visitor. This is because we need to know who is attending the meeting in case of an emergency.

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

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I volunteered last year to join the Executive Committee as Vice Chairman, and have to say that I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the team, to the point that I have again volunteered (subject to member's approval at this year's AGM) to take over from Malcolm at our next AGM as Chairman.

The past year has been extremely worthwhile and very productive. It is a great pleasure to be with such a dedicated and hard working group of people. I would encourage you to join us and contribute to the smooth and successful running of our U3A.

Brian Johnson

## ***Local & General History***

The next meeting is on **Monday April 25** when Dr. Jane Pearson will give a talk on "Marks Hall: The Decline and Fall of an Essex Jacobean Mansion" There will also be an opportunity to book for the to visit to Faversham and Whitstable "Apples and Oysters" day trip on **26th September**.

On **Monday, May 23** Tony Tuckwell will explain "How Unfashionable Essex and Chelmsford got their Diocese and Cathedral".

All meetings are held at Maldon Town Hall at 2pm. at £2.00 per session.

Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you there.

Kathy, Jane and Sylvia.

## ***Maritime***

There is no meeting in May as it's a Bank Holiday.

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

All U3A members are very welcome to come to the meeting.

Malcolm Case

## ***Astronomy***

Meet at 7:30pm

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

The next meeting is on **Monday April 25th** when Alison Mainwood will be giving a talk on "Stellar evolution". This talk will be on how stars are formed from the gas in the universe which condenses under the action of gravity. But the only elements present after the Big Bang were hydrogen, and perhaps a little helium. So how come the stars and planets now contain all the elements we observe? We can see a whole range of stars of different sizes, brightness and colours. What is known about how they develop and eventually fade out and die? What will be the fate of our sun and when? How do astronomers know all this anyway?

All U3A members are very welcome to come to the meeting.

Malcolm Case

## ***Strollers Too***

### ***Tuesday May 24 - Broad's Green***

This walk will take us by lakes, along field paths and country lanes near the village of Broad's Green. Meet at the Rose and Crown pub at Minnow's End, Great Waltham. CM3 1AG. at 10.15 for a 10.30 start.

Please let me know by **Tuesday, May 17** if you wish to stay for lunch.

Parking for all walkers will be available at the pub.

Christine Speed -

## ***Strollers***

### ***Sunday May 15 - Tillingham***

We will meet in the public car park by the playing fields just past the centre of Tillingham at 10:15 for a 10:30 start. This is a 3.5 mile circular walk on reasonably flat paths. A carvery Sunday Lunch will be available at The Star in Steeple.

I have to book, so if you require lunch please let me know at least a week in advance of the walk.

Alan Clarke

## ***London Walks & Talks***

Ian Bevan will be the speaker on **Wednesday, May 18** at West Maldon Community Centre. Ian's talk is entitled "Victorian Leisure and Pleasure". Talk begins at 2.30 p.m. Entrance fee is £2.

On **June 2** we have an all-day visit to London. At 11.45 there is a backstage tour of the Drury Lane Theatre and at 14.00 Ian Bevan will lead a guided walk of "Theatrical London".

More information of our June walk will be available at the May meeting.

Bookings for the June visit will be taken at our meeting on **May 18th**.

Please note that the Theatre has advised that the tour involves a lot of stairs.

Janeen Trew

Christine Speed

### ***Current Affairs Discussion Group***

By the time you read this we will have had our last meeting for the winter season. It was decided to break for the Summer as so many people want to go on outings and enjoy Summer pastimes. Our next meeting will be in the Autumn. Watch this space for the date and place.

If you think you might like to come please email me on corburry@talktalk.net and I will send you the details a few weeks before.

Thank you to our last coordinator Ray and all the fascinating subjects our members have introduced us to.

One thing for sure we never all agree but we do learn to understand other people's points of view.

Clare Urry

### ***Trees***

The group met in March as usual on the second and fourth Tuesdays for two excellent walks in the woods. The weather was superb on the last one and almost too warm, and had brought out the early butterflies. As usual, we did not need to walk very far because there are just so many different trees to be seen in the woods around Danbury. Invariably we recognise at least ten within 200 or so. The second walk was particularly fulfilling because we found several examples of the less common Sessile Oak.

We shall meet on **Tuesday 12th April** at my house in Danbury for a bit of revision and go for another walk on **Tuesday 26th April** when many more trees will be in early leaf. All are welcome to join us.

Veronica Smith

### ***Family History***

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 27th April** at 49 Hopping Jacks Lane commencing 2.30pm.

### ***Family History Beginners***

This meeting will be held on **Friday 29th April** at 58 Augustine Way, Bicknacre commencing 10.00am.

Alan Buck



**American  
Supper and Social  
Tuesday, 10th May  
Maldon Town Hall**

6.30 for 7.00 till 10.00 pm

Ticket Price: £5

An American theme, so come appropriately dressed, but no Guns or Spurs  
please

Music Entertainment

Please bring a plate of savoury food to share  
and your own drinks, glasses, plates, cutlery etc.

Tickets available from Barbara Byam-Shaw

***Bird Watching Group***

The Sand Martin has brown upper parts, under parts, white with brown breast band and a weakly forked tail, these particular birds were observed at Minsmere Reserve by the group on a recent visit.

“One swallow does not a summer make”

If that saying is true what do 200 Sand Martin Riparia riparia make. The obvious answer is a wonderful aerial display as they chased their prey of small flying insects circling above the steep sandy bank where they have their burrows. Our visit gave us close up views of Marsh Harrier patrolling the reed beds, we heard close by the elusive Cetti's Warbler Cettia cetti the song of which was louder than the engine noise of a passing ranger's vehicle. This passerine is unusual in that the male is larger than the female, both are a dark rufous brown above with pale grey below short wings, long rounded tail.

The **7th May Meeting** is in Maldon, meeting at the Amenity Centre Park Road, 10.00am.

**Reminder – Eltham Palace trip July 7**

Still some places left for this visit to a very interesting Art Deco house.  
£20 covers travel and entrance.

## 2016 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

### Events and Outings during the year

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

|                   |                                                               |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday 8 May      | Shuttleworth Museum—Aviation                                  |
| Tues. 10 May      | American Supper with music entertainment.—Social              |
| 17/21 May         | 5 day Holiday. Chateaux & Vineyards of the Loire—Wine 3       |
| Thurs. 2 June     | Theatre visit to Gielgud Theatre                              |
| Sunday 5 June     | National Croquet Day                                          |
| Thurs. 9 June     | Essex Inter-U3A Quiz Day                                      |
| Mon. 4 July       | Trip to Brightlingsea—Maritime                                |
| 5/8 July          | 4 day Holiday - ‘Exploring Kent’ - Jan Robertson              |
| Thurs. 7 July     | Visit Eltham Palace—Architecture                              |
| Wed. 13 Jul       | BBQ at Langford Village Hall—Social                           |
| Mon. 1 August     | Trip to Bawdsey Radar Museum & Woodbridge Tide Mill -Maritime |
| 8/11 August.      | National U3A Summer School—History of the Americas            |
| 15/28 August      | National U3A Summer School—Assorted                           |
| 8/12 September    | 5 day Holiday - to Exeter - Maritime                          |
| Mon. 26 September | Visit to Faversham & Whitstable - Local History               |
| Tues. 25 October  | Essex Study Day—Plume School                                  |

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

### **Geology**

At their April meeting, the Geology Group listened to a fascinating talk by Stuart Baldwin entitled “Fossils can change your life”. From a varied professional background in Electrical Engineering, Pharmacy, Computer Marketing and University Lecturing, since 1936, Stuart has pursued his twin hobbies of book collecting and fossil hunting. He became one of the leading dealers in the UK for Palaeontology and Geology books and developed a business manufacturing fossil replicas for education and museums.

Stuart brought with him various unusual fossils, among which was a snake within which one could discern the remains of a small crocodile, the remains of the snake’s last meal. We were shown huge mammoth teeth, a rare fossil of an octopus, sea lilies which despite their name, were animals, as well as the more familiar ammonites and trilobites. Examples of dinosaur vertebrae, sea urchins, mammoth tusks and the skull of a sabre-toothed tiger were just a few more examples which illustrated Stuart’s talk and provided a most interesting and enjoyably interactive afternoon.

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday, May 3** when Sue Ginn will be explaining the mysteries of Geological Maps. New members always welcome.



### **Aviation**

The Group had a very enjoyable visit to The RAF Control Tower Museum at Martlesham Heath on the **April 3rd**.

We left on time from Maldon and arrived early at the Control Tower. They do not open until the afternoon normally and as this was their first day this year they opened just for us. Which was kind as they had BBC RADIO Suffolk to contend with as well. We received a very warm welcome tea/coffee and biscuits and treated to an excellent lecture before exploring a really good museum. We then proceeded to the "Douglas Bader" for a good lunch where unfortunately the service was slow which in turn made us late for the Cold War Museum at Bentwaters. This however did not faze our hosts here who made us very welcome and stayed open late to accommodate us. A very enjoyable day out.

At our meeting in March we had one of the best talks ever by Ralph Tyrall MBE who flew 30 missions in a Lancaster Bomber as a Bomb aimer/Navigator when the survival number was six in the last war.

An incredible story which was a privilege to hear.

**Tuesday April 19th.** Our speaker will be Geoff Charge, his subject will be "A Light Hearted View On Air Traffic Control " and if time allows a quick lesson on how to fly a Jumbo Jet.

Next trip Shuttleworth Collection on **Sunday May 8th**. Two places left. The cost is £36 including coach and entrance fee.

**Tuesday, May 17** will be a talk on

"The Forgotten Flyers of Task Force 57 (The British Pacific Fleet 1943/45)".

Brian Johnson

## *Art Appreciation Group - Geedon Gallery, Fingrinhoe*

A small but select group of art lovers arranged to meet up in the Anchor Pub in Rowhedge by a picture window overlooking the receding tide of the lovely Colne estuary, inhabited by three (or maybe four) black headed gulls and two pied wagtails! After a very enjoyable lunch we left for the gallery down the winding lanes leading to the Fingrinhoe Nature Reserve and into a tiny yard marked 'Jaggers' containing an inconspicuous old barn. The small barn inside was transformed into a beautiful, light, sun-filled, wood beamed gallery, lined with over 100 oils, drawings, watercolours, pastels, temperas and prints, by a variety of contemporary artists. They included James Dodds marine paintings, Fred Cuming RA and Richard Bawden.

Jacqueline the proprietor kindly provided us with tea and biscuits and a mini tour of the exhibits which also included a variety of artefacts, taxidermy, bronzes, wood, ceramics and glass.

A very pleasant and enjoyable day ended as we made our respective ways home in the sunshine.

Andy Simmonds



## Scottish Country Dancing

We have been pleased to welcome several new members from the Blackwater U3A. There will be no meeting on **May 5** due to the local elections. We resume dancing on **May 19** and continue throughout June.  
Shirley Grummett

## IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

We all know that we are part of the growing “older population”. We all know the emergency services and the NHS are already fully stretched.

Here are three ways we can help ourselves get the best out of the services should we need them.

**BOX in the FRIDGE.** You can obtain small boxes from the pharmacies in which to put your current prescriptions and a sticker for the inside of the front door. An ambulance crew will see this and fetch the prescriptions. It saves you and relatives answering endless questions should you be taken ill.

**ICE.** Put the contact details for a friend or relative to be contacted in emergency under ICE on your mobile phone. Don't forget to ask them.

The emergency services will look here should you be taken ill away from home. If your phone is password protected you can get an app to put ICE on the front page or simply stick a label on the back of the phone.

Keep an insulated foil blanket in your car or hand bag. This could save someone's life whilst they wait for an ambulance. If it is you who are injured you can tell someone else where to find it. (They are very cheap on the internet).

I hope none of you ever needs these things but I know from personal experience that one of them works.

Clare Urry

## DVD Swap

We are going to start our DVD Swap at the **May** Meeting so can you please bring along your DVDs to this meeting and you will be able to enjoy many more DVDs that you have long forgotten and want to enjoy again.

We are still looking for more volunteers to take on this job.

Jan Robertson.

## OFFICIAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the eighteenth Annual General Meeting of Maldon & District U3A will be held on **Monday 20th June 2016** in Wickham Bishops Hall at 2:15pm. Any items that you wish to be included on the Agenda must be notified to the Business Secretary by **Tuesday 24th May 2016**.

The Nomination form is below and, if you wish to nominate someone as an Officer or Committee member, please complete the form and return it to the Business Secretary by **Tuesday 24th May 2016**. Forms will be available at the May meeting or, if requested, by post.

The Chairman and Treasurer have completed their term of office this year and will be standing down as will one member of the Committee.

**We will have vacancies for Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and one Committee Member.**

Kym Marshall  
Business Secretary

Eligibility for Office and to vote – All fully paid-up members for the year 2016/2017 are eligible to stand for Committee, and to attend and vote; except under the terms of our Constitution, where only one member from any one household shall serve on the Committee at one time.

Ordinary June monthly meeting – this will take place before the AGM at 1:45pm for the purpose of announcements and registering for events.

### Nomination Form for Officers & Committee Members 2016

| Position  | Nominee              | Proposed by             | Seconded by | Nominee's |
|-----------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| Signature | <b>Chairman</b>      |                         |             |           |
|           | <b>Vice Chairman</b> |                         |             |           |
|           | <b>Treasurer</b>     |                         |             |           |
|           | <b>Membership</b>    | <b>Secretary</b>        |             |           |
|           |                      | <b>Committee Member</b> |             |           |



## **National Croquet Day - 5th June. Croquet – a game anyone can play**

National Croquet Day (**Sunday 5th June 2016**) celebrates this interesting and often addictive game – one that is increasing in popularity. Maldon Croquet Club invites you to visit their Club at Forrester Park, Beckingham Road, Great Totham, Nr Maldon, Essex CM9 8EA and to try 'The Croquet Experience'. The Club has four full sized lawns where Members also enjoy the facilities of the Golf Clubhouse for drinks and meals/snacks – not forgetting the wide range of social activities.

Croquet is a game where you use a long handled mallet to hit a ball through a series of hoops. It's a game of skill and tactics - not brute strength. Croquet is played by people of all ages - men and women compete on equal terms – the handicap system enables beginners to match better players, often giving them the fright of their life!!

Croquet is played by young and old alike – look to the world ranked under 25 players – look to schools and universities – let's not forget that Croquet can be played to a very high standard by people who are not as agile as they used to be! UK Croquet leads the world – many players are either world champions or are regularly in the "Top 10". The UK has croqueting talent – the list seems to be endless.

It's easy to start Croquet: Maldon Croquet Club welcomes new members and their coaches will "show you the ropes". Croquet is one of the easiest sports to start because as a beginner, all equipment is provided.

So just contact Jean Healey on 01621 843643 to arrange your own 'Croquet Experience' – or visit the web site at

<http://www.essexinfo.net/maldoncroquetclub/> -

**but take care - Croquet can be addictive!**

### **LUNCHEON CLUB VENUE**

Times 12.15 pm

WEDNESDAY No meal in May as Paul will be on the U3A wine club visit to the Loire"

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

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<br>Andrew Simmonds<br>Judith Johnston<br>Sylvia Beckett |
| Web Master        | John Bowen<br>Tony Groves                                              |
| Social Committee  | Michael Childs                                                         |
| AV Equipment      | Jim Light                                                              |

### **NATIONAL OFFICE**

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Resource Centre: email: [resource.centre@u3a.org.uk](mailto:resource.centre@u3a.org.uk)

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 6th May

# CO-ORDINATORS

Antiques

Architecture

Art Appreciation

# PROGRAMME – MAY 2016

| Monday                                                   | Tuesday                                                                          | Wednesday                                                                           | Thursday                                                                                         | Friday                                                           | Saturday                        | Sunday                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
|                                                          |                                                                                  |                                                                                     |                                                                                                  |                                                                  |                                 | 1                                            |
| 2<br>Whist                                               | 3<br>Table Tennis<br>Snooker<br>Art Appreciation<br>Geology                      | 4<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>Bridge for the Curious<br>Wine Circle 1                     | 5<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>Poetry<br>Rummikub 2                                                     | 6<br>Mah Jong                                                    | 7<br>Bird<br>Watching<br>Maldon | 8<br>Shuttleworth-<br>Collection<br>Aviation |
| 9<br>Handicrafts<br>Whist                                | 10<br>American Supper<br>Table Tennis<br>Snooker<br>Egyptology<br>Trees          | 11<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>Bridge<br>Luncheon Group                                   | 12<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>French Conversation<br>Painting/arts<br>Reading<br>Rummikub 1           | 13<br>Architecture<br>Canasta<br>Sing for Pleasure               | 14                              | 15<br>Strollers                              |
| 16<br>Meeting 1.30 pm<br>Just Jazz                       | 17<br>Table Tennis<br>Snooker<br>Aviation<br>17/21 Visit to Lohs<br>Wine Group 3 | 18<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>London Walks & Talks<br>Luncheon Group                     | 19<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>Bridge for the Curious<br>Scottish Country Dancing                      | 20<br>Mah Jong                                                   | 21                              | 22                                           |
| 23<br>Astronomy<br>Handicrafts<br>Local History<br>Whist | 24<br>Table Tennis<br>Snooker<br>Strollers Too<br>Trees<br>Wine Circle 4         | 25<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>Bridge<br>Family History<br>Wine Circle 2<br>Whist for Fun | 26<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>Computers<br>French Conversation<br>Music Appreciation<br>Wine Circle 3 | 27<br>Canasta<br>Cribbage<br>Family History<br>Sing for Pleasure | 28                              | 29                                           |
| 30<br>Whist                                              | 31<br>Table Tennis<br>Snooker                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                                  |                                                                  |                                 |                                              |

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.