The University of the Third Age

MALDON AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

Theatre Visit
Wednesday, 24th August

AUGUST 2016

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR

Well, I am into my second month and getting more used to what is involved.

I have had some strange inquiries and comments but I suppose that goes with the job. August is usually a quiet month with people on holiday or looking after grandchildren but as you will see from the newsletter there is still plenty going on.

Andy Simmonds has kindly volunteered to compile an inventory of our equipment and it would be very helpful if you would let him know the location of anything you may have or know where it is. He may well be asking for volunteers to find out what we have under the stage at Wickham Bishops.

Alan Clarke now has an accurate membership list. It is always difficult with people, for one reason or another, not renewing.
We are able to take in some new members so if you know someone who wishes to join please tell them.
Also please remember to inform Alan if you change your telephone number or E-mail address.

Brian Johnson

Astronomy

All meetings held at Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge. CM9 4RE Meet at 7:30pm.

There is no meeting of the group in August, our next meeting will be on ***Monday September 26th*** – for a talk by Professor Stephen Dodds, 'How Space Telescopes are Controlled'. This talk will be supported by a PowerPoint presentation including some animations and a simple model of a space telescope with rotatable solar panels.
Any U3A member is very welcome to join us.
Malcolm Case

Maritime

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 5th September** – Meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00 am for a Maritime themed DVD – titled "Colne Maritime".
We will also be discussing the final arrangements for the trip 8th – 12th September. five day trip to Exeter, including a visit to Dartmouth Royal Naval College and Bristol Maritime area, amongst many other places, of Maritime interest.
Please ensure that you bring with you on this trip photographic ID, either a Passport, Bus Pass or Driving Licence, without one of these you will not be allowed entry to Dartmouth Royal Naval College.
Any U3A member is very welcome to join us at the meeting on the **5th September.**
Malcolm Case

Aviation

We had another interesting and enjoyable lecture in July given by Brian Austin on three aircraft, The Typhoon, Tempest and the Sea Fury.

Our next meeting on the **16th August** I shall be telling the story of a top secret RADAR station built during the cold war on the Kent coast and my stay at RAF Manston.
I look forward to seeing some of you there.
Brian Johnson

Family History

There will be no meeting in August for either of the two groups.

Strollers Too

Our next walk will be on **Tuesday 27 September**. Please meet in the car park of **The Swan at Chappel**, postcode CO6 2DD, at 10.15 for a 10.30 start. The walk will take about two hours over approximately four miles and includes wonderful views of the viaduct and surrounding countryside; only one stile to negotiate. Please let me know in advance if you will be staying for lunch.
Christine Bishop

Antiques

We had a very entertaining afternoon for the Antiques group. The subject was spoons. You would not believe the variety of spoons one can get. Just a few are caddy, grapefruit, soup, egg, serving, ones with badges from various towns and countries, some with enamel bowls some in silver, some in pewter.
I am sure I have missed some out.
However we all enjoyed our afternoon.
Liz Wood

Just Jazz

The Just Jazz Group will begin again on **September 19th** at the Maldon Little Ship Club starting at 7.30pm and there will be a bar. We play a mix of Traditional and Contemporary Jazz and there is usually a short film.
New members are very welcome.
David Coombes and Jim Light

London Walks & Talks

On Thursday, September 8th there is a guided morning walk in Lambeth led by Ian Bevan and, in the afternoon, a tour by Palace guides of Lambeth Palace.
The talk on **Wednesday, September 21st** will be given by Fiona Fullerton and is entitled "A Walk on the Wild Side" [notorious London Alleyways]. The talk begins at 2.30 p.m. at West Maldon Community Centre. Cost £2.
All members are welcome.
At this meeting bookings will be taken for the walk on **Wednesday, October 19th**, when John Halligan will guide us around "Historic Spitalfields".
Further details of the walks and talks can be obtained from Janeen Trew or Christine Speed.
Janeen Trew
Christine Speed

Plantagenet History 1154 -1485.

Yet another year has passed in our search for knowledge of this turbulent period in our island's history. The Plantagenets descended from Geoffrey, Count of Anjou, a handsome, belligerent, red headed young man born in 1113, who always wore a sprig of yellow broom blossom (planta genista) in his hat. However, Geoffrey never visited England, took little interest in the affairs which is when our story of this dynasty really begins.

As a group we find out about each reign's domestic and foreign policies, but also what is happening in the rest of the then known world. So far we have followed the Crusades and the lives and exploits of Genghis Khan and many more interesting people both religious and political. It is a group where all our members contribute with knowledge gleaned from both books and modern technology.

Once a year we go to relevant historic events or buildings. Hence our recent visit to Leeds Castle which was the first one to be built of stone in England in Norman times. It eventually passed into Plantagenet hands in the reign of Edward I because his much loved wife bought it. This building remained in the royal family, (usually through the monarch's wives) throughout this historic period.

We are a large group of about twenty very friendly people, who could make room for a few more.

Beryl McDonell

Current Affairs Discussion

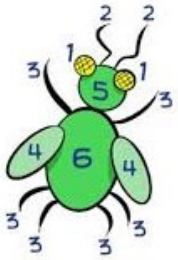
Welcome back after the summer break to everyone interested in joining this group to discuss anything relevant to life in today's world.
Last year we had several new members and we could still take another one or two. Rhona Greenway will be hosting the next meeting at her house on **Thursday October 6th** at 2pm.
Please ask her for directions if you have not been there before.
I look forward to seeing you all at the November meeting, if not before, when I am back from my travels.
Clare Urry

Trees Recognition Group
We shall meet again on **Tues 13th September**, venue tbc..

A date for your Diary

"An Old Favourite"

A Beetle Drive



at Plantation Hall Heybridge,
on **7th October**
6.45 for 7 o'clock start

Ticket price £4 includes refreshments at half time
Tickets from Barbara Byam-Shaw:
On sale from August meeting.

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BBQ in July

We have been holding BBQs at Langford Village Hall for many years and have even survived torrential rain under umbrellas and gazebos etc.
Oh what a hardy lot we are!

However this year's BBQ was blessed with perfect weather, sunny and warm. We all sat round our tables with friends, wine etc. and enjoyed the excellent BBQ food, followed by the delicious sweets produced by our members.

As an old timer of about 17 years at this event, I looked around and found that I knew most of the members present.

My question: Why are all the newish members, who have joined in the past 16 years, not joining us at this most enjoyable yearly event?
You even get musical entertainment laid on in the Village Hall later in the evening.

You do not know what you have been missing.

Jan Robertson

Please support the Social Events, the Committee work so hard to entertain us.
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2016 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

15/28 Aug	National U3A Summer School— Assorted
Wed. 24 Aug	"Showboat" Theatre Visit
Thurs. 8 Sept.	Visit to Lambeth & Lambeth Palace—London Walks
8/12 Sept.	5 day Holiday - to Exeter - Maritime
Mon. 26 Sept.	Visit to Faversham & Whitstable - Local History
Fri. 7 Oct	Beetle Drive at Plantation Hall - Social
Tues. 25 Oct.	**Essex Study Day—Plume School**
Thurs. 1 Dec.	An Evening Concert with 'Just Us' at the URC - Social
Tues. 6 Dec.	Theatre visit to "Aladdin"

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

Maldon and District U3A

Evening Concert with 'Just Us'

At the United Reform Church

Thursday 1st December 2016

Time 6.30 for 7.00 to 9.30

Tickets £5 includes tea/coffee and biscuits during interval

Tickets from Barbara Byam-Shaw:
On sale from August meeting.

Theatre Group SHOWBOAT August 24th 2016

The coach will be leaving **TESCO CAR PARK AT 3 pm.**
Please let Jean or Sheila know if you wish to get on the coach at Danbury.

The show is at the New London Theatre, Drury Lane and it is likely that the driver will leave us and pick us up at the Aldwych. You will be close to Covent Garden and plenty of restaurants where you can have something to eat or wander round the stalls.
The show starts at **7.30 pm** and I imagine that the doors will open at about 7pm. It is due to finish between 10pm and 10.15pm.
Your tickets will be given to you on the coach.
Jean Cuthbert Sheila Childs
We have a waiting list for this performance so let us know quickly if you are not able to come.

The intrepid Kent group

Teapot Island

Hornby memories

Rochester Cathedral

Dover Castle

Chatham Dockyard

Our thanks to Colin Beckett for
these excellent photographs.

Exploring Kent—Four day visit

Setting off from Maldon, we headed for the Historic Dockyard at Chatham. A great variety of interests here which included Historic Warships, RNLI Lifeboat Collection, a tour of a Submarine and the Victorian Ropery (which is still producing rope today). You did not need to be a sailor, or one interested in the sea, to enjoy this experience. The guides offered a very well delivered message of our history which was informative and not without humour! A visit to 'Teapot Island' followed this, an exhibition with over 7,500 teapots on display.

Our second day started with a visit to the Hornby Visitor Centre….resurrecting lots of memories of toys from days gone by as well as the very modern ones of today. A model train person's dream! Lunch was at Shepherd Neame Brewery in Faversham. The hospitality was excellent, including Ale Cake, and the tour very interesting. Described as 'Britain's Oldest Brewer' this family business is still owned and run by the Neame family – currently the fifth generation. Sampling enjoyed by us all too!

A visit to Walmer Castle, with its beautiful gardens and well maintained Castle was a delight. The gardens offered beauty, in peaceful surroundings, to all that ventured into it. Delightful rose beds as well as walking amidst the fabulous herbaceous borders. We then visited quite a different castle – Dover Castle – this was an opportunity to learn of its extensive history and to see the enormous effort and work put in to restoring the buildings, and grounds, for all to enjoy.

En route home we visited Rochester and spent time in the town to enjoy the 'Restoration House and Gardens' and the Cathedral. Rochester Cathedral is the second oldest Cathedral in the country (second only to Canterbury) and is very well kept with superb floral arrangements adding to an atmosphere of calm retreat from the busy world outside. Those of us that went to see the Restoration House and Gardens found that to be excellent.

Finally, we visited the Kent County Show….a very large show which included local goods and services for us all to buy/look at/eat or just admire! The Flower Show, and those exhibiting animals, proved popular with us all. We then returned to our coach for the journey home.

Everyone enjoyed the holiday very much and many thanks go to Jan Robertson for organising it and to Pat Clements for 'managing' us all so well, no easy task but always done with good humour! Not to forget the wonderful driver, Phil, who was tested on more than one occasion with the hazards of narrow lanes and motorists that should have known better!
Sylvia Beckett

Architecture

Eltham Palace was initially a moated manor house, given to the future Edward II in 1305. The Great Hall, which still stands today, was added in 1470. Henry VIII and his sisters grew up here. In the 1930s Stephen and Virginia Courtauld were looking for a semi rural property, within easy reach of London, and they built a house adjoining the Great Hall, boasting ultra modern design and using the latest technology.

It is now Art Deco heaven!

Once we had got used to the "new fangled gadgets", we found they were very informative, and provided considerable detail about the rooms and furnishings, such as the rose pink leather chairs in the dining room, to complement the ladies' gowns.
Oh, the parties, the cocktails, the slinky dresses, the furs, the jazz, the golden bathroom – the centralized vacuum cleaner – what luxury!

The house is surrounded by beautiful gardens and a moat, complete with a heron fishing for its lunch.

Many thanks to Sheila Epps for arranging the visit, and a warm, sunny day.

Must ring Harrods about a pet lemur …

No meeting in August.

Architecture Group Visit

It has been decided to re- schedule the visit to The Greek Orthodox Monastery to a later date since the September one clashes with other events. Watch this space!
Sheila Epps

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Blackwater U3A—Visit to Fulham Palace and Gardens, Tuesday, 13th September

At present I have nine places available.
We will be leaving WMCC at 8.30 am. and expect to arrive at Fulham at 11 am.
The history tour will begin at 11.30 am. lasting 90 minutes. Lunch available.
A garden tour has been arranged 2 pm. – 3.30 pm. (Botanical and walled) 75 minutes. There will be time for a drink and look in the shop.
Leave 4.30 pm and expect to be home about 6.30 pm.
The cost is £25 p.p. Cheques payable to Blackwater U3A.
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ESSEX STUDY DAY TUESDAY, 25th October as at 8th August.

Three Study Day groups are full. 4 groups have been withdrawn .
Here are the groups that still have spaces
Whole Day groups: Digital Photography (almost full), Art 2 - Watercolour, Art 3 - Acrylics
Morning groups: Family History, Computing - Laptops, Writing - Non Fiction, Astronomy, Country Dancing , Drama, Maths, Trains - History, Wines
Afternoon groups: Writing - Fiction, Canals (almost full) First Aid, Parliament. Trains - Model, Singing
Application forms available at the Monday meetings from Malcolm Case and Jan Robertson

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WEEKENDERS

In September this group will have been meeting for the past eight years and we are often asked what we do!

It is group of members without partners who organise and enjoy many activities at the end of the week. We always meet at a member's house on the first Saturday of the month for a coffee morning so that we can suggest our coming activities.
It would fill up too much Newsletter space to give details of all our diverse activities! However here are a few.

We enjoy going to the theatre in Colchester and supporting the local Amateur Dramatic group in Latchingdon. Local productions are also very much on our list, be they music or pantomime. Earlier in the year we strolled through an open garden in Creeksea overlooking the River Crouch and enjoyed tea and cake baked by the family's Brazillian son in law.
A few weeks ago we hired a Viking bus and visited Aldeburgh and Snape. On the beach we were fortunate enough to be entertained by two groups from the local music festival who played music of our era!

Of course we also like to occasionally eat together and enjoy a glass or two of wine! There is still time this Summer to play Petanque, not perhaps played to the standard of Jack's Thursday group, but still good fun and maybe take a boat trip on the Blackwater.

Our group have inspired Blackwater and Limebrook to follow suit.
We wish them well and hope that they are as successful as ours.
Beryl McDonell
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For Sale

Cheval pine mirror, hinged, full length. vgc £15.00
Please contact Veronica Smith

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WE ARE MACMILLAN - WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING
FRIDAY 30th SEPTEMBER

Please come along to my annual Macmillan Coffee morning

from 10 am to 12 noon
at 11 Beaumont Way Maldon.
The usual coffee and cakes will be available together with plenty of chat – hopefully in the garden!
Everyone is welcome!
Mary Burd

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Speaker

Linda Scoles is American and has made her home in Suffolk. In this talk, she will be asking the audience how they would answer some of the questions in the citizenship tests. She is well known for her amusing and personal talks.

19th September Meeting
Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

Speaker
Linda Scoles

Art Appreciation Group – Jan Vermeer

There was a good turnout of fifteen at the Art Group at Andy's house for a discussion and film of the wonderful Dutch 'Golden Age' painter Johannes Vermeer. (1632-75).

He painted mainly interiors and portraits with predominantly women as his subjects – and most of his works were in a very small format. Due to his large family and his meagre output he was never wealthy, most of his paintings were sold to support him and his family and to pay off debts. After his death at 43 he faded into obscurity.

He was 'rediscovered' 200 years later in the late 1800s and is now regarded as one of the greatest painters of the Dutch 'Golden Age'.

An interesting afternoon was completed with the traditional tea and cakes.

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday 6th September** when we hope to visit the magnificent Wallace Collection in London. (The "Laughing Cavalier" is there). This will however be subject to getting response from enough members to make a coach for the day a worthwhile option - otherwise train travel is an expensive alternative.
Andy Simmonds

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES

Times 12.15 pm

TUESDAY **6th September** at The Anchor, Runsell Green, Danbury
Co-ordinator: Eunice Legerton

WEDNESDAY **21st September** at Bella's Italian Bistro in Burnha**m**
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	Angela Pleasance, Chairman
01621 854108	

LIMEBROOK U3A
Contact
Christine Dove
01621 855859

Your Committee

Chairman	Brian Johnson
Vice Chairman	Alec Fraser
Secretary	Kym Marshall
Treasurer	Graham Webster
Membership Sec.	Alan Clarke
Newsletter Editor	Jan Robertson
Speaker Secretary	Veronica Smith
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	Judith Johnston
	Sylvia Beckett
Web Master	John Bowen
	Tony Groves
Social Committee	Michael Childs
AV Equipment	Ken Cooper
Essex Assoc. of U3A's	
Committee	Malcolm Case

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Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 9th September

CO-ORDINATORS

Antiques	Liz Wood
Architecture	Judith Johnston
Art Appreciation	Andy Simmonds
Astronomy	Malcolm Case
Aviation	Brian Johnson
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
Current Affairs Discussion	Clare Urry
Egyptology	Kathleen Goff Sue Robinson
Family History	Alan Buck
French Conversation	Ray Harman Ann Lester
Geology	Enid Hall
Handicraft	Marian Manning
Just Jazz	Jim Light David Coombes
Local History	Sylvia Cousins Jane Coombes Kathleen Goff
London Walks & Talks	Christine Speed Janeen Trew
London Theatre Outings	Rosemary Case Joyce Cotterell
Luncheon Groups	
1st Tues	Eunice Legerton
3rd Wed.	Paul Costa
Eat & Meet 2nd Wed	Joyce Cotterell
Mah-Jong	Molly Polden
Maritime	Malcolm Case
Music Appreciation	Enid Hall John Skuse
Petanque (Boules)	Jack Veash
Plantagenets	Beryl McDonell
Poetry	Jo Robson
Reading	Sheila Epps
Rummikub 1	Colin Beckett
Rummikub 2	Beryl McDonell
Scottish Country Dancing	Shirley Grummett
Sing for Pleasure	Sylvia Carpenter
Strollers	Gill Stone
Table Tennis	Gordon Hardy
Ten Pin Bowling	David Arnold
Trees	Veronica Smith
Weekenders	Beryl McDonell
Whist	Molly Polden
Wine Circle No. 1/2	Graham Boswell
Wine Circle No. 3	Mary Burd Paul Costa
Wine Circle No. 4	Ann Goody
Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Poetry Rummikub 2	2 Mah Jong	3	4
5 Whist Maritime	6 Table Tennis Art Appreciation Geology Luncheon Group	7 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge for the Curious Wine Group 1	8 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque French Conversation Plantagenets Reading 8/12th Maritime visit Rummikub 1 Scottish Country Dancing	9 Canasta Sing for Pleasure	10	11
12 Handicrafts Whist	13 Table Tennis Egyptology Trees	14 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Luncheon Group	15 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Antiques Bridge for the Curious	16 Mah Jong	17	18 Strollers
19 **Meeting 1.30 pm** Just Jazz	20 Table Tennis Aviation	21 Ten Pin Bowling Luncheon Group London Walks & Talks	22 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Computers French Conversation Music Appreciation Sottish Country Dancing Wine Group 3	23 Canasta Cribbage Sing for Pleasure	24	25
26 Astrology Handicrafts Whist	27 Table Tennis Strollers Too Trees Wine Group 4	28 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Family History Wine Group 2 Family History	29 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Writing for Fun	30 Mah Jong Family History Family History		

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, 6 Blenheim Close, Danbury, CM3 4NE