The University of the Third Age

MALDON
AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

December 2016

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR

Last month I mentioned the initiative put out by the National Office regarding disabled and house bound people. As a person who lives alone I can understand loneliness and the demoralising effect it can have. The difference is that I am mobile and have a large family to keep an eye on me.

This problem is even more distressing at this time of year it being Christmas. If you do not feel able to make contact on your own, perhaps join a group or use one of the many Charities which concentrate on helping these people. Make someone smile at Christmas.

I hope to see many of you at the Christmas Party.

Please help to make it a happy afternoon and let's make 2017 very special.
Brian Johnson

Astronomy

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 23rd January** , at Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge. CM9 4RE starting at 7:30pm. If good weather and clear skies, then it will be an observing evening so please bring your telescopes and binoculars; if the skies are not clear then there will be DVD on our "Night Skies".

Patrick Forsyth and Sylvia Beament.

Family History

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, **25th January** at
58 Augustine Way, Bicknacre, CM3 4ET

Beginners class will be held on **Friday 27th January** commencing 10am at
58 Augustine Way, Bicknacre, CM3 4ET
Please let me know if you will or will not be attending.
Alan Buck

Art Appreciation

The Art Group is meeting on **Tuesday 10th January** at 9am at Maldon Tesco for a trip to the National Gallery with entry to the Caravaggio Exhibition.
This is currently fully booked but we have a short waiting list for this trip.
We normally meet on the first Tuesday of each month, from 2pm to 4pm and we view and discuss paintings - we do not actually paint.
Andy Simmonds

Architecture

Our meeting on **Friday, 13 January**, will be an illustrated talk by Malcolm Holmes on Fallingwater, Frank Lloyd Wright's iconic house in southwest Pennsylvania, built in the late 1930s.

On **Friday, 10 February** we have an illustrated talk on "British Government Bunkers for World Wars II and III". I have seen part of this presentation before, and there are some extraordinary constructions that very few people know about. West Maldon Community Centre, 2.30 pm. All welcome.

Judith Johnston

Current Affairs Discussion

The Group held its usual lively meeting on Ist December when the new Co-ordinator Linda Rooney was introduced. Having seen my plea in the last Newsletter she kindly volunteered. I am sure she will lead the group through more tortuous subjects where we usually agree to differ.
This month we discussed various subject that have dropped off the media radar like the Chilcot Report and Junior Doctors' pay and conditions and current matters such as modern crimes such as sexting which was explained to the more innocent members.
The next meeting will be **January 5th** in Danbury.

Just Jazz

The next meeting of Just Jazz will be at the Maldon Little Ship Club at 7.30pm on the **19th December.** There will be a Bar and Nibbles and we hope to have a film plus, of course - Great Jazz.
Jim Light

Geology

There will NOT be a meeting of the Geology Group on **Tuesday, 3rd January.**

Aviation

The trip to R A F Hendon was a great success and seemed to be enjoyed by all who went. A very quick run down and back, at least until Oak Corner where we encountered the tail back for the Victorian Evening. Thanks to the non-existence of traffic control it took some of us a further 2 hours to get home!

We had a very good lecture this month on the Messerschmitt 262 which demonstrated that, but for Hitler's stupidity, how much damage could have been done to the war effort.
On the **20th December** the talk with a film will feature the "Hawker Hunter" the most successful aircraft built post 1945.
In addition to our usual refreshments there will be Wine and Mince Pies.
At our **17th January meeting** we will welcome back Ralph Tyrall who flew in a Lancaster Bomber 43/45 who will talk about his service and involvement with the Cadets.
Details of our February trip to the Imperial War Museum will be published as soon as they are ready.
Brian Johnson

Trees

The year finished with a suitably festive meeting on **13th December**. Now most trees have lost their leaves, but there are plenty of fallen leaves under them, it is a perfect time to relearn the shapes of winter trees from a distance.
The group will reconvene on **14th March** .
Veronica Smith

LUNCHEON GROUPS - CHRISTMAS MEAL

Once again all the lunch groups combined to have their Christmas get together at Forresters Golf Club. Sixty one participants ate their way through a three course meal of various choices followed by coffee and mince pies!

A very sociable time was had by all and thanks to Paul and Alan for making all the arrangements.
Pencil in the **7th December 2017.**

60's Evening

Entertainment from

Rock 'n' Roll Dave

Wednesday, 22 February

At Maldon Town Hall

6.30 for 7.00 to 10.00

A choice of Chicken or Scampi and Chips, with

Black Forest Gateau to follow,

Please bring your own Drinks and Glasses

Tickets £12.50,

from Barbara Byam-Shaw, 01621 854539

Come along and enjoy yourself, dress optional,

tickets on sale now.

2017 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

Tues. 10 Jan	Visit National Gallery –Art Appreciation
Wed. 22 Feb	A 60s Evening with "Rock and Roll Dave" - Social
Mon. 24 April	Easter Afternoon Tea at WMCC—Social
Thurs. 13 July	BBQ at Langford Village Hall - Social
October	Posh Frocks Do—date to be confirmed

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

Strollers

There will be a coffee morning on **Sunday 15th January** to discuss the programme for the year.
We are meeting at The View Café, Osea Leisure Park, Heybridge CM9 4SA.
Time: 10.30 a.m for 11.00.
Please let me know if you are coming by **Monday 9th January.**
G Stone:

Strollers Too

There will be a coffee morning on **Tuesday 24th January** to discuss the programme for the year.
We are meeting at The View Café, Osea Leisure Park, Heybridge CM9 4SA.
Time: 10.30 a.m for 11.00.
Please let me know if you are coming by **Wednesday 18th January**.
G Stone:

MARITIME GROUP 2017 PROGRAMME

Monday January 2, NO meeting, Bank Holiday.

Monday February 6 meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00 am, for an illustrated talk by Gordon Davies. “There is a lot of sailing interest in the group in the sense of people who built dinghies or have relatives who have gone on long voyages. We'll look at some of the characters who were around then, in the 1960s and 70s, like Frank Dye who sailed his Wayfarer dinghy to Iceland and Norway amongst other places, and innovators like James Wharram with his interesting lifestyle”.

Monday March 6, meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00am for a talk by Linda Pargeter on “The life of a Norfolk Trading Wherry”. The talk will give a brief history of the Norfolk Wherry followed by details on the working life of the “Maud”, its rescue and subsequent restoration.

Monday April 3 meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00am for a talk by Alison Mainwood on "Sailing in the Baltic”. Alison will talk about the last two summer cruises. “In 2015, we sailed along the north coast of Germany as far as Poland, and in 2016 we sailed up the west coast of Sweden into Norway as far as Oslo. I will talk about some of the places we visited, concentrating on Second World War history this time”.

Monday May 1 No meeting – Bank Holiday

Monday June 5 meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club at 10:00am for an illustrated talk by John Johnson Allan on the use of “Hospital Ships during the War”. The First World War was a global conflict and therefore Britain needed to move troops to battlefields around the world. It was also necessary to remove wounded troops for treatment either to hospitals or on specially equipped ships. The Merchant Service (as it was known at that time) provided the troopships and hospital ships. The size of the Merchant service at that period made this possible, as in 1913 Britain’s merchant fleet was 47% of the world's merchant fleet – effectively every second ship that was seen flew the British Red Ensign. The Admiralty paid tribute to the men of the merchant fleet after the war: "the Mercantile Marine, from the beginning, faced this unprecedented form of warfare with indomitable courage, magnificent endurance and a total disregard of danger and death, factors which the enemy had failed to take into account and went far to defeating his object."

Monday July 3 – trip with City and Village Tours to “This Country called England”. Day trip to Kingston Upon Thames, tea/coffee/biscuits on arrival followed by a short tour; then by coach to Windsor and a two-hour boat trip on the river Thames finishing at Runnymeade. Cost per person is £43.00, this includes the coach, coach parking, driver’s gratuity, Blue Badge Guide, tour as described, but excludes lunch. For further details please contact Malcolm Case.

Monday August 7 – day trip to Harwich to see the replica "Mayflower" being constructed. Also included is a visit to the Harwich Harbour Authority in the afternoon. Cost per person is £16.00, this includes coach, coach parking, driver's gratuity, donation to the "Mayflower Trust", tea/coffee/biscuits on arrival at the Mayflower yard but excludes lunch. For further details please contact Malcolm Case.

Monday September 4th to 7th – Portsmouth Dockyard visit to include the Mary Rose Museum (with a guided tour), harbour cruise, and all other attractions included on the day; the Submarine Museum in Gosport (with a guided tour), National Maritime Operations Centre, Hovercraft Museum, horse drawn canal cruise on the Kennet and Avon Canal, visit to Warsash Maritime Academy (which includes a visit to the Bridge and Engine Simulators, Seamanship centre and Fire training ground), lunch at extra cost in the Academy Restaurant. The hotel is the Meon Valley Marriott Hotel & Country Club. The cost per person is £438.00, this includes the trip as described, entry to attractions as described and driver's gratuity. For further details and a booking form, please contact Malcolm Case.

Monday October 2 meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club at 10:00am for an illustrated talk by Mike Childs "Cruising around Cape Horn".

Monday November 6 meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club at 10:00am for an illustrated talk by James Byam-Shaw on "Rowing". James has hands on experience of a wide range of rowing boats including the reconstruction of the bronze age Argo of the Jason and his Argonauts legend. He will give a brief history of rowing from around 1500 BC to the present day via the various fighting galleys to the sliding seat racing craft of today. James will bring, for display outside, a 25ft by 18inch (around 14" on the waterline) double scull, a model of a proposed human powered propeller driven camping boat of comparable efficiency and an example of flapping fin propulsion from a Hobie canoe as examples of possible future directions for the human powered propulsion of boats.

Monday December 4, meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 11:00am for our annual Christmas buffet and discussions on our programme for 2018.

All meetings held at The Blackwater Sailing Club , Basin Road, Heybridge Basin, Heybridge. CM9 4SD at 10:00 am

MALDON U3A LOCAL AND GENERAL HISTORY GROUP MEETINGS
2017
VENUE: MALDON TOWN HALL

DATE	SUBJECT	SPEAKER	ADDITIONAL INFO
23 Jan	The Siege of Colchester	John Dean	
27 Feb	Langford and Langford Grove	Patrick Chaplin & Irene Allen	
27 Mar	The Rise and Fall of Colchester's "Good Time Girls" 1855-1895	Dr Jane Pearson	
24 April	A visit to Knebworth House		Details tba
22 May	Broomfield's Princely Burial Site	Christine Whybrow	
26 June	A Walking Tour of Colchester		Details tba
24 July	Local Medieval History	Ben Crussell	
August	NO MEETING		
25 Sept	A Walking Tour of Canterbury		Detail tba
23 Oct	Mundon Facts and Fables	Christine McDonald	
27 Nov	Historical Chelmsford	John Pamphilon	
December	NO MEETING		

Note: All meetings will be held in Maldon Town Hall, commencing at 2p.m.
Price £2.00 per session but could be more for some speakers.
For coach trips the price includes coach, entrance fee and driver gratuity.
All members very welcome.
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A Priceless Present

The Christmas Tree is once more dressed
With pretty gifts for all the guests
No dollies, trinkets as years gone by
But Kindles, Tablets on branches lie
No need for all those gift-wrapped books
With words from whom for which one looks
That I- Pad there could save the day
And keep letter-writing well at bay
But thanking folks for all their gifts
Computer shorthand does not fit
Now Tablets with their Gigs galore
Could grant your wishes by the score
A finger touch upon the screen
Shows e-mails , photos, bright and clean
The Sony, Samsung smart phones bleep
Which make my mobile look antique
Computer games are all the rage
Family fun just a byegone age
When presents, gifts were not so dear
And treasured much through out the years
But of all these presents great and small
Good health and love must beat them all
As Christmas comes again and near
Give thanks you lasted one more year
And if this “Priceless Gift” exists
It should be on the Christmas List
So once again the “Yuletide” calls
A Merry Christmas to one and all

Ray Harman

For Sale

Panasonic KX-R191 Electronic Typewriter and
8lb Ten Pin Bowling Ball
Offers
Gill Gore

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Wanted: Passengers and drivers for **Danbury's Community Bus ('The Flyer'**). Danbury's Community Minibus service was started as a millenium project by the Parish Council, but it is now part of Chelmsford Community Transport. It operates on Monday and Friday mornings to bring people from the eastern half of Danbury and from Little Baddow to the centre of the village and back again. However, its future is in doubt due to declining passenger numbers and a shortage of volunteer drivers.

Please bring the service to the attention of everyone you know who might wish to use it, and do consider joining the rota of drivers. You do not need a special licence to drive the minibus and it involves only a couple of hours every three weeks.

To see the route, visit www.chelmsfordct.org and click on the 'Danbury Flyer' tab. Minor deviations from the standard route can be made at the driver's discretion.

If you are interested to join our team of volunteer drivers, contact Tony Groves

Chris Winter is a local man. He has become known for his humorous talks to groups of all types.

16th January Meeting
Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

Speaker
Chris Winter
"Growing Old Disgracefully"

NEW BOOK:

A new book, 'A Great Little Gallimauphry': a miscellany of stories linked to Essex, is being sold to raise funds for Farleigh Hospice.
The book effectively began life at our "Writing for Fun" group. Patrick Forsyth is both a member of that group and also on the Board of Trustees at Farleigh.
At each meeting members read stories and it was a short step to ask writers around the county to contribute material for no reward. A publisher prepared to do their bit for free was found and, the process of "assembling" this over, the book (selling for £9.99) will be available at the Christmas meeting.
The hope is that this will be seen as a useful (and easy to wrap) Christmas present and do well over the coming weeks. Patrick sneaked in one of his own stories. If you want to read that, and the rest, and make a contribution to this worthwhile cause, let him know – he will bring some copies to meetings or can be contacted on patrick@touchstone28.com

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Message to all Co-ordinators using the West Maldon Community Centre.
The Booking Officer is Duncan Field and his email is:
Duncan@wmcc.org.uk
for your 2017 bookings

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES

Times 12.15 pm

TUESDAY **January 10** We will be meeting on the second Tuesday in January for this month only at:
Intimo-Fresco Restaurant, Maldon.
Co-ordinator: Gerry Brooks

WEDNESDAY January 18 at The Generals Arms, Little Baddow
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.
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BLACKWATER U3A	HEYBRIDGE U3A
Contact	Contact
Peter Holmes, Chairman	Angela Pleasance, Chairman
01621 854108	01621 850310

LIMEBROOK U3A
Contact
Christine Dove, Chairman
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
Committee	Shirley Macro
	Andrew Simmonds
	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

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

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 6th January

CO-ORDINATORS

Antiques	Liz Wood
Architecture	Judith Johnston
Art Appreciation	Andy Simmonds
Aviation	Brian Johnson
Astronomy	Patrick Forsyth Sylvia Beaument
Bird Watching	Pat Clements Peter Gaywood
Botany	Veronica Smith
Bridge	Sheila Epps
Canasta	Elaine Bane Gerry Brooks
Computers	Jan Robertson
Cribbage	Pat Clements
Current Affairs Discussion	Linda Rooney
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	Sue Garnham
Strollers	Gill Stone
Table Tennis	Gord on 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
Wine Circle No. 4	Paul Costa Ann Goody
Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth

PROGRAMME – January 2017

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1
2 Whist	3 Table Tennis	4 Ten Pin Bowling Wine Circle 1	5 Ten Pin Bowling Current Affairs Discussion Poetry Rummikub 2	6 Canasta	7	8 Bird Watching
9 Handicrafts Whist	10 Table Tennis Egyptology Trees **Visit-Nat. Gallery-Art Appreciation**	11 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Luncheon Group	12 Ten Pin Bowling French Conversation Plantagenets Reading Rummikub 1	13 Architecture Mah Jong Sing for Pleasure	14	15 Strollers
16 **Meeting 1.30 pm** Just Jazz	17 Table Tennis Aviation	18 Ten Pin Bowling Luncheon Group	19 Ten Pin Bowling Antiques	20 Canasta	21	22
23 Astronomy Handicrafts Local History Whist	24 Table Tennis Strollers Too Trees Wine Circle 4	25 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Family History Wine Circle 2 Writing for Fun	26 Ten Pin Bowling Computers French Conversation Music Appreciation Wine Circl3e 3	27 Mah Jong Cribbage Family History Sing for Pleasure	28	29
30 Whist	31					

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