The University of the Third Age

MALDON AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

AGM June 2016
We need volunteers for
Chairman,
Vice Chairman,
Treasurer,
Membership Secretary
Representative on the
Wickham Bishops Management Committee.

In order for good management and financial stability it is essential that successors are found for the above posts in order that our U3A can continue beyond the AGM in June.

Please let any member of the executive committee know if you feel that you can help, you would be most welcome to attend any committee meeting.

February 2016

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR

From the Chair

In order for our U3A to continue beyond the AGM in June, we must have volunteers for the vacancies as shown on the front cover. Unless volunteers come forward unfortunately Maldon & District U3A will then have to close at the AGM which would be a shame as we have some 400 members.

Following a recent meeting between myself and the Chairmen of Blackwater, Limebrook and Heybridge U3As, the use of the Lower Plume School was discussed at length. The school would be available any time out of term time and any time after 6:00 pm term time. The school can offer rooms suitable for most interest groups including amongst many others, woodworking, cookery, languages and a computer suite. The school also has two 17 seater mini buses which can be hired on a supply your own driver basis. If any member or coordinator would be interested in using the school's facilities could you please contact me.

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

Family History

The next meeting will be held on the **24th February** at 30 The Spinnaker, South Woodham Ferrers, CM3 5GL commencing at 2.30pm.

Family History (Beginners)

This group will meet on the **26th February** at 58 Augustine Way, Bicknacre, CM3 4ET, commencing 10.00 am.

Please let me know if you wish to attend

Alan Buck

Strollers Too

The next walk is on **Tuesday 22nd March.**
Please meet at the car park of: "The Ship PH" (Tiptree, CO5 0PQ) at 10:15 for a 10:30 start. The walk is circular and approximately five miles long.
Afterwards we will lunch at "The Ship".
Please let me know if you require lunch at "The Ship" by **Monday 14th March.**
I have provisionally booked a table for 12 persons.
Contact: David Griffiths

Aviation

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 16th February** at Purleigh Pavilion 2 pm. when we will have a talk on the Mosquito Fighter/Bomber given by Peter Bickers. Peter always researches his subject very thoroughly so we can look forward to an interesting afternoon.
On **Tuesday, March 15th** we will have a talk by Ralph Tyrall on the Lancaster Bomber. Ralph was a navigator on this aircraft.
Sunday, April 3rd. Trip to Martlesham Control Tower Museum and RAF Bentwaters. Leave Tesco's at 9.30 am and arrive at Martlesham Control Tower Museum at 11 am for a tour and short lecture. After lunch, on to RAF Bentwaters and arrive back in Maldon about 6.30 pm The cost of the coach and Museums will be £20. Lunch, which is not included, can be booked at the 'Douglas Bader' which offers a good lunch for under £10 or bar snacks. I would however need to book this ASAP.
Unfortunately we are restricted to 30 people on this trip. Some members have already registered their interest so if you wish to go please let me know ASAP.
Sunday, May 8th The trip to Shuttleworth is also confirmed. Details later.
Brian Johnson

Maritime

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 7th March** at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10 am for an illustrated talk by P. Mukundan on Marine Piracy Today – Challenges and Responses. This will be a very interesting talk in view of current day marine piracy across most of the oceans of the world. All U3A members are very welcome to join us.

Malcolm Case

Wine Group 4

A couple of places have become available in Wine Group 4. We meet (usually) on the fourth Tuesday of the month in each others' houses. If you are interested in learning about the fascinating world of wine in a relaxed and convivial atmosphere, please contact:
Alan Clarke .

Art Appreciation

As Andy is away, there is no meeting in February, as previously advised. Judith is hosting a meeting on **Tuesday 1 March**, when each member is invited to talk for a few minutes about a painting, an artist, or a painting related subject. Space is limited to 15, so first come first served. Please contact Judith Johnston

Local History

The next meeting on **February 22** is our trip to London for "All our Waterloos". The coach leaves West Maldon Community Centre 8 am sharp and will be picking up in Danbury at 8.10 am. . (The trip is fully booked but I do have a waiting list).
Kathy Goff
There will be no meeting in March as it is Easter.
The next meeting at the Town Hall Maldon will be on **Monday April 25th** at 2pm. Talk by Dr. Jane Pearson on 'Marks Hall, Decline and Fall of an Essex Jacobean Mansion'.

London Theatre Outings

GUYS AND DOLLS

The coach will depart from Tesco's at 10.00 am on **Thursday March 3rd**.
Theatre tickets will be handed out on the coach.
If you wish to be picked up in Danbury please let me know
Rosemary Case

'Exploring Kent' Holiday 5/8th July

Can I please have your deposits by the **26th February** if you have booked.
I still have places available. If you are interested please contact
Jan Robertson

Wine Group 3– LAST OPPORTUNITY!

Chateaux & Vineyards of The Loire - 17/21st May 2016

This is your final chance to join us on this holiday but only double or twin rooms are available as our single room allocation is currently fully booked.

The holiday is being run in association with Simply Groups and will be 5 days / 4 nights and includes the following:

Return coach travel from Maldon with short cross channel ferry crossings.
4 nights bed & buffet breakfast at the 3 star Grand Hotel de Tours.
Dinner nightly at local venues / restaurants.
Excursions to various chateaux, entrances, 5 wine tastings & guides.

Cost: Depending on numbers approximately £609 pp.

If you would like further information or a booking form please contact Mary Burd

Mary Burd & Paul Costa

Astronomy

All meetings held at Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge. CM9 4RE. The next meeting of the group is on **Monday February 22nd** at 7.30 pm when Professor Carolin Crawford of Cambridge Institute of Astronomy will be giving a talk on "Saturn and its Rings".
I am reliably informed that Carolin's talk is extremely interesting, so do please join us. All U3A members are very welcome to join us.
No meeting in March as it is Easter.
Malcolm Case.

Strollers

The Sunday strollers meeting is on the **20th March**, 10:15am for a 10:30am start. Please meet at the Kings Head Public House, Bradwell on Sea CM0 7QL. The walk is approximately 4 miles of stony and grassy paths with some road walking. Lunch can be taken at either the Green Man or The Cricketers Public Houses, to be confirmed on the day. Please let me know if you will be coming on the walk.
Malcolm Case .

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

2016 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

Mon. 22 Feb.	'All our Waterloos' —London Visit—Local History
Thurs. 3 March	Guys & Dolls Savoy Theatre London—Ldn Theatre Group
Mon. 18 April	Maldon U3A 18th Birthday Celebration
Tues. 10 May	American Supper with music entertainment.—Social
17/21 May	5 day Holiday. Chateaux & Vineyards of the Loire—Wine 3
Thurs. 9 June	Essex Inter-U3A Quiz Day
Wed. 13 July	BBQ at Langford Village Hall—Social
5/8 July	4 day Holiday - 'Exploring Kent' - Jan Robertson
8/12 Sept.	5 day Holiday - to Exeter - Maritime
Mon. 26 Sept.	Visit to Faversham & Whitstable - Local History
Tues. 25 Oct.	Essex Study Day—Plume School

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

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The Annual Essex Inter-U3A Quiz Day

will be held on

Thursday June 9th 2016

Christ Church URC 164 New London Road, Chelmsford CM2 0AW

at 1.40 for 2.00 pm

Please could we have volunteers to make up an eight-member team for a challenging but enjoyable afternoon of keen competition.
Tea and biscuits are provided and the afternoon should finish about 4 pm.
As winners of last year's Quiz, Maldon and District U3A are this year's host, and members of that winning team will be either arranging Questions for the Quiz or helping with Refreshments. Chocolate Biscuit anyone?
Sylvia Cousins

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DVD Swap

We all have DVDs that we have watched and then never again.
Bring them along and swap and change monthly.
We need a volunteer who will oversee this collection which will be available at the Monday Meetings. (Like the Jigsaws and Magazines.)

You will always have first choice!

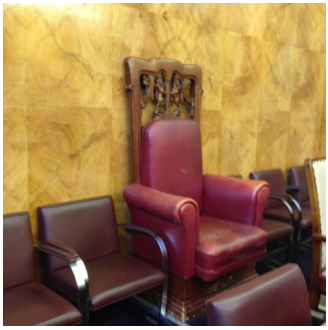
Contact Jan Robertson for details.

Architecture Group—Visit to London

Members of the group visited the Royal Institute of British Architects in Portland Place in January, and were impressed by this very light, spacious building constructed in only 15 months in 1933/34. The architect, George Grey Wornum, won a open competition that attracted 284 entries. He designed a deceptively simple building, but with complex interlocking volumes, in the Swedish modernist style, commissioned by architects for architects - so no pressure there!

Our guide drew our attention to the massive bronze doors depicting London's river and its buildings, including the architect's children swimming in a pool. There is a wealth of etched glass panels, various woods, marble floors and columns, and plaster relief panels showing the principal trades in the building industry.

We also looked at the Palladio exhibition, many of the original drawings being from the RIBA's collection.
The coffee shop, restaurant, bookshop and library are open to the public.



REGIONAL VOLUNTEERS: WHAT, WHY & WHO,

One of the problems with any rapidly growing organisation such as ours is that it is easy to take for granted that all new U3As and our members are aware of everything that has gone before. It is also easy to forget that Committees change and not all the knowledge gained by those departing the scene is instantly absorbed by the newcomers.

This fact hit home for me when recently I was taken to task for referring to 'our RVs' and assuming all in the audience were aware that I was talking about our Regional Volunteers. Some people present had not heard of such beings whilst others were unsure as to their role. With the new year upon us I thought a look back at what our RV team found themselves involved in during 2015 would be a useful reminder for us all.

Over the year Regional Volunteers, singly or in conjunction with others, have been involved with the formation of twelve new U3As within the Region, supported the activities of the county based networks and cluster groups, worked on the series of Autumn Seminars, identified areas of need with regard to future support for U3As and worked with the Committees of U3As who have found themselves in need of support and guidance.

Training in the role is provided through the National Office and all of our RVs became involved following a few years serving on the Committee of their own U3A. In other words they have a bit of experience.
Currently our team consists of

Margaret Wainwright, St.Albans
June Welton, Huntingdon
Margaret Jowett, Harlow
Lyn Gray, Sudbury
Maureen Dennis, Broxbourne/Cheshunt
Keith Baker, Ashingdon & Rochford

together with Jennifer Simpson who is the Shared Learning Co-ordinator for the Region. In addition we have Brenda Copping, Potters Bar and Joyce Woodham, Heybridge who are actively involved with the team and awaiting training**.**

Whilst some work very closely with their county Network or Association it has been important that they are all prepared to work across boundaries if the need arises.
On a personal note, without this team, life would have been very difficult for me over the past three years; the continued growth of the Region makes it important that we do have people around the Region willing to give some time to aiding others who themselves voluntarily contribute to this great movement of ours.
Inevitably for one reason or another people come and go, so there is always room for others to become involved and I would be pleased to hear from anyone who thinks they could be interested in joining the team. I look forward to hearing from some of you.
Adrian Breacker
East of England Region Trustee

Maldon Town Car Parking charges

You may be aware that the MDC are recommending that the town centre car parks (excluding the Prom which we feel should be included) will be charging from 8 am to 10 pm., seven days a week with the variable rate as now, with further sub options to make the tariff 10% bigger and/or remove the linear charging (which means that people get time for extra age), to have parking charges from 8 am to 10 pm, Monday to Saturday and charge £1.50 on Sundays.

No other community in the Maldon District gets charged for car parking. It is unfair that Maldon residents, businesses and visitors are expected to pay out of hours. We have asked by how much the Prom charges would have to be raised to match the increase and as they will have a new attraction this year that should help compensate.

Could we please seek the views of our members as to what effect this would have on their Maldon community life. How many travel by car to attend events in the evenings and use the car parks?

We would like to present a head count to the MDC of the various organisations which would be affected.

Contact Maldon District Council with your concerns.

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In aid of MacMillan Cancer Support

AN EVENING OF MAGIC

With the MID ESSEX MAGIC SOCIETY

FRIDAY 26th FEBRUARY

MALDON TOWN HALL

8pm doors open 7.30pm

TICKET PRICE £10.00

PLEASE BRING OWN DRINKS AND NIBBLES.

There will be demonstrations at the tables and on Stage throughout the evening. This will include an award winning MAGIC CIRCLE ACT at the end of the evening.

Tickets available from Marion Condon
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2016/2017 Subscription Renewals

Membership subscription renewals are due no later than the end of **April 2016**

One enrolment form is included with this newsletter, which can be photocopied if you need more. In addition they are available at the sign-in desk at the monthly meetings or from the Membership Secretary (see below). Each member must complete a separate form, but if you are a couple please pay by a single cheque.

The annual subscription is **£20.00** each and payment must be made by cheque, payable to Maldon and District U3A, together with your completed form(s) before the **1st May 2016.**

The enrolment forms are used to check our database. If you leave a box blank (say email or phone number) we shall assume that you want that deleted from our existing records.

EMERGENCY CONTACT: You will find a new section asking for an Emergency contact. Where couples are both members, please avoid using each other as emergency contacts. A third party is preferable, in case you are on the same outing.

GIFT AID: Current Gift Aid regulations require a separate form to be completed by each individual. Gift Aid operates on the basis that HM Revenue and Customs treat your subscriptions as charitable donations; they assume that you have deducted tax at the basic rate before you pay your subscriptions and HMRC refund this tax to our U3A. We would encourage members who pay more tax than the tax recoverable from their subscription, currently £5.00, to complete the Gift Aid form. The tax refunds we receive form a significant part of our income and help us keep the annual subscription low.

DO IT NOW: You do not have to wait until April.

Please hand your forms and cheques to the sign-in desk or post them to the address below as soon as possible.
Cheques will not be banked before the 1st May 2016**.**

If you have not renewed your subscription by the 1st May 2016 you will no longer be a member.

Membership Secretary: Alan Clarke, 39 St Stephens Road, Cold Norton, Chelmsford, CM3 6JE.

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 am 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 either Jean Cuthbert or Malcolm Case

Speaker for March:

Tony Earle on The Thames Barge

His interest in barges was aroused when he got involved in making model boats, and sailing them in various locations. Following that, he became interested in barging generally and today he will give an illustrated talk on their history, uses, trips and cargoes.

Monday, 21st March Meeting
Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

Speaker
Tony Earle
The Thames Barge

East of England Regional Conference
Groups R Vs

Groups are the lifeblood of U3As. Featuring some of the study advisors, resource providers and policy makers, this conference provides a place to share ideas and hear new ways of learning the U3A way.

Tues 17th May 2016

from 10.30 to 3.30pm

at Burgess Hall, Westwood Rd, St Ives, Cambs. PE27 6WU

Keynote speakers

Len Street OBE, Former Chairman Third Age Trust

Marion Clements, Chairman U3A Education Committee.

Sue Radford, U3A Resources

Lunch and Groups' Fair

with stalls from Subject Advisors, Resources and SLP Coordinator

Open Discussion

Cost £9

This includes finger buffet lunch, tea and/or coffee

Contact jennifer.simpson176@gmail.com (from 8th February)

for booking form and Conference Programme

Initially places are limited to two members per U3A

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES

Times 12.30 pm

TUESDAY **1st March. To be advised**

Co-ordinator: Mike Wood

WEDNESDAY 16th March at The Ship, Tiptree

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
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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Tel 020 8466 6139 Email national.office@u3a.org.uk
Web site www.u3a.org.uk
Resource Centre: email: resource.centre@u3a.org.uk

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 4th March

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	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	Sylvia Cousins Jane Coombes Kathleen Goff
London Walks & Talks	Christine Speed Janeen Trew
London Theatre Outings	Rosemary Case Joyce Cotterill
Luncheon Groups	
1st Tues	Mike Wood
3rd Wed.	Paul Costa
Eat & Meet 2nd Wed	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	Colin Beckett
Rummikub 2	Beryl McDonell
Scottish Country Dancing	Shirley Grummett
Sing for Pleasure	Sylvia Carpenter
Singing for Fun	Pam Baldwin
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	Alan Clarke
Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth

PROGRAMME – March 2016

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1 Table Tennis Snooker Art Appreciation Geology	2 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge for the Curious Wine Circle 1	3 Theatre—Guys & Dolls Ten Pin Bowling Current Affairs Discussion Poetry Rummikub 2	4 Canasta	5	6 Bird Watching Mill Beach
7 Maritime Whist	8 Table Tennis Snooker Egyptology Trees	9 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Luncheon Group	10 Ten Pin Bowling French Conversation Plantagenets Reading Rummikub 1 Scottish Country Dancing	11 Architecture Mah Jong Sing for Pleasure	12	13
14 Handicrafts Whist	15 Table Tennis Snooker Aviation	16 Ten Pin Bowling Luncheon Group London Walks & Talks	17 Ten Pin Bowling Antiques Bridge for the Curious	18 Canasta	19	20 Strollers
21 **Meeting 1.30 pm** Just Jazz	22 Table Tennis Snooker Strollers Too Wine Circle 4 Trees	23 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Family History Wine Circle 2 Writing for Fun	24 Ten Pin Bowling Computers French Conversation Music Appreciation Scottish Country Dancing Wine Circle 3	25 E A	26 S	27 T
28 E R	29 Table Tennis Snooker	30 Ten Pin Bowling	31 Ten Pin Bowling			

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.