The University of the Third Age

MALDON
AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

January 2016

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR

Your committee continue to investigate alternative venues for our monthly meetings, and we will continue to update you all on progress. Should any member know of a venue in the Maldon area, sufficiently large enough to accommodate our monthly meetings, then please let any committee member know.

I would like to remind members that all members of the Committee and Social Committee together with co-ordinators and trip organisers pay exactly the same as everyone else for all U3A activities.

Please do read page 9 of this Newsletter, “Maldon U3A needs you”. Unless volunteers come forward then our U3A will not be able to continue beyond the AGM in June.

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.

A very Happy and Healthy New year to you all.

Malcolm Case
malcolmcase@talktalk.net

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Found this delightful brooch at Wickham Bishops Hall after the Christmas Meeting. Is it yours?
Contact Jan Robertson

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We have U3A lapel badges for sale at only £1
Contact Kym Marshall at the Monday Meetings if you would like one

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Astronomy

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

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday January 25th** – when Mike Haynes will be giving an illustrated talk on Gamma Ray Astronomy.

All U3A members are very welcome to join us.

Malcolm Case.

Maritime

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 1st February** – meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00am for an illustrated talk by Peter Hesketh "Around the World by Container Ship"- more an observation of a cargo ship and its working ports than a cruise.

All U3A members are very welcome to join us.

Malcolm Case

Bridge for the Curious

Have you played bridge in the past and are a bit rusty; or have you never played and would like to? If so, this group could be for you.
We go slowly and there is plenty of revision.
Everyone gets to play set hands and we often discuss the bidding and play.
The aim is to have fun! ***Interested?***
Contact Gill Stone;

London Theatre Outings

Guys & Dolls Savoy Theatre London
Our first outing of 2016 will be on Thursday March 3rd to the matinee performance of Guys and Dolls at the Savoy Theatre. Ticket price £44.00 which includes the coach. The coach will leave Tesco's at 10.00am. If you wish to go please contact Rosemary Case on 01245329435 or by email at rosemarycase@talktalk.net and please can we have an emergency contact number.
Rosemary Case

Christmas Lunch
Combined Tuesday and Wednesday Luncheon Groups

Dear Mum
Today I went to our U3A's combined Luncheon Groups Christmas Lunch at Forrester Park Golf Club, you know, the one on the way to Tiptree. On arrival greeted at the door "shall I take your coat" and into the bar area where Christmas cards were being exchanged and 59 members anxiously awaited the call for lunch. In the delightful setting upstairs we settled down to a four course lunch, the quality of the food and service was excellent. I wondered what the balloons on the table were for, I soon found out. They were blown up and released to fly around the room accompanied by vulgar screech and much laughter, one landing in an unfortunate's sweet!!

A gift of bulbs was given to a Geoff, fortunately a gardener, to celebrate his birthday accompanied by a rousing "Happy Birthday".

The luncheon was brought to a close with a vote of thanks to all co-ordinators especially today's Paul and Mike.

Ten Pin Bowling

The joint Wednesday and Thursday group get-together and lunch, two days before Christmas, went very well with 44 bowlers and 53 dining. It was nice to see each other again.
If you used to bowl please try to come back in the New Year. It is good fun, remember.
If you have not been before all the details are in the Activities Booklet or ring me,
David Arnold

Strollers - Sunday 21st February.

We shall meet at The Brewers Arms car park, Bicknacre at 10.30 am. The post code is CM3 4HD. The walk is about 4 miles long through woodland and along quiet country lanes. There are no stiles and no open fields. We thought as it will probably still be very muddy that lanes might be a good option. A quite nice Sunday roast can be had at at the Brewers Arms.
Kym Marshall

Strollers Too – **Tuesday 23rd February**

We will be walking the old railway line from Maldon to Wickham Bishops (approx. 4.5 miles), returning by bus.
Please meet at the far end of Tesco's car park at 10.15 am for 10.30 start.
Lunch will be at The Mitre.
Contact Gill Stone: to let me know if you are coming,
or if you need more details.

Family History

The next meeting will be held on the **27th January** at 58 Augustine Way, CM3 4ET commencing 2.30pm.

Family History Beginners

The next meeting for this group will be held at 58 Augustine Way, CM3 4ET on **29th January** commencing 10.00am. I would appreciate members letting me know if they wish to attend or not.
Alan Buck

London Walks & Talks

Two dates for the diary:
Wednesday, March 16th at West Maldon Community Centre.
Talk - The Story of the Grand Midland Hotel.
Wednesday, April 20th
Walk - St. Pancras - Old and New.
Janeen Trew -
Christine Speed -

Trees

After a winter break, the Trees Group will reconvene on **February 9th** at 10.00am. The venue is a member's house – please phone me for details.
The group meets regularly on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.
Veronica Smith

New Group

SINGING FOR FUN

Are there any ladies and gentlemen interested in getting together to sing popular songs for fun on a weekday afternoon? We will also need a pianist with a keyboard (or access to one) to accompany us. The idea is to meet up for a light and happy session where we can relax and have fun singing a variety of songs of our choosing.
If interested, please call Pam Baldwin

Art Appreciation

Twenty three members of the Art Appreciation Group enjoyed a lovely day in Suffolk. An excellent light lunch (including delicious cakes) was followed by a very informative guided tour of Thomas Gainsborough's three storey Georgian house in the centre of Sudbury. It was bought for a mere £240 by his father John Gainsborough. The tour included his painting room, his study, as well as several rooms with a selection of landscapes and the wonderfully detailed and lifelike portraits for which Gainsborough was renowned.
Born in Sudbury in 1727, the youngest of 10 children, he had a prodigious talent from an early age. He produced a superb self portrait at the age of 12 and was sent to London at 13 by his father to receive training. He went on to become one of the most celebrated artists in England. He became the Court Painter, and painted George III and Queen Charlotte. His career was marred only by his regular clashes with The Royal Academy and Sir Joshua Reynolds in particular, who went on to become President of The Royal Academy instead of him. Reynolds criticised his landscape methods and stated that blue should never be used as a painting colour. Gainsborough responded by producing his most celebrated work The Blue Boy.
Gainsborough died in 1788 of throat cancer, an ongoing complaint his doctors had consistently failed to diagnose.

Due to my extended holidays there is currently no meeting planned for February, but Judith Johnston has kindly offered to host a gathering when each member will talk for a few minutes about a painting, an artist, or a painting related subject, on **Tuesday 1st March**. Space is limited to 15 so first come first served.
Contact Judith on judith@johnstons.me.uk. or Tel. 01245 223662.

2016 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

Fri. 12 Feb.	D'ukes Musical Entertainment—Maldon Town Hall—Social
Mon. 22 Feb.	'All our Waterloos' —London Visit—Local History
Thurs. 3 March	Guys & Dolls Savoy Theatre London—Ldn Theatre Group
Tues. 10 May	American Supper with entertainment.—Social
17/21 May	5 day Holiday. Chateaux & Vineyards of the Loire—Wine 3
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

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

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GREAT ENTERTAINMENT

By the D'ukes UKULELE on

Friday 12th February at

MALDON TOWN HALL

An evening with a ploughman's supper

Arrive 6.30 for 7.00 pm start

Members please bring own drinks and glasses

Ticket price: £12.50

Tickets available from Barbara Byam Shaw
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Are you an active member?

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed?
Or are you just contented that your name is on the list?
Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the flock?
Or do you meet in private and criticise and knock?

Do you take an active part to help the work along?
Or are you satisfied to be the kind to just belong?
Do you work on committees? -to this there is no trick,
Or leave the work to just a few, then talk about the clique?

Please go to meetings often, and help with hand and heart,
Don't just be a member, but take an active part.
Think it over, you know what's right from wrong.

Are you an active member, or do you just belong?

Aviation

Our meeting in December, the first at Purleigh Pavilion, went very well and we received an excellent talk from Alan Matthews on the origins of RADAR.
Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 19th January**, 2 pm start .
The talk will be by Roger Smith on the "Air Battle over Essex" 1915-1918.
Roger is a well known speaker and this promises to be very good indeed.
I look forward to seeing you there. The Pavilion, Howe Green Road, Purleigh CM3 6PX
All being well the February talk will be on the Mosquito Fighter/Bomber.

The proposed trips this year will include: The Imperial War Museum, Duxford; Shuttleworth; Martlesham Heath Control Tower Museum; Battle of Britain Memorial Centre at Capel Le Ferne, near Folkestone.
These will depend on interest. Also I would be glad to hear from anyone who is prepared to organize any of these trips or any others.
Brian Johnson

YOUR MALDON U3A NEEDS YOU

June 2016

We need volunteers for
Chairman
Treasurer
Representative on the Wickham Bishops Management Committee
AV Operator/Maintainer

In order for good management and financial stability it is essential that successors are found for all of the above posts in order for our U3A to continue.

If interested, come and join us at our Committee Meetings on the 2nd Monday at Plantation Hall, Heybridge at 10 am to meet our friendly members and find out about the running of our Group.

Contact a Committee Member for details.

Local History

Our final meeting for 2015 was very well attended for an interesting talk by Lynne Raymond on "Edward Bright, The Fat Man of Maldon and his Family" with Lynne correcting several inaccuracies of his story along the way.

We thanked Mary and her Support Team of Alf, Michael and Paul, for all their hard work involved in organising 57 talks and 33 outings (including a three day trip to Flanders) over nine years; all thoroughly enjoyed and much appreciated.
The happy afternoon finished with refreshments and wine, a lovely beginning for the Festive Season.

Our first meeting for 2016 is on **Monday January 25th** at 2pm at Maldon Town Hall, when our Speaker, Jess Jephcott, will give a talk on Colchester's Military History.
All members are welcome to join us- the cost is £2 per session.
Monday, February 22. Full day trip "All our Waterloos". A look at London's French Quarter and a Master Class in French style at the V & A.

We wish you all a Very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Kathy, Jane and Sylvia

Egyptology

The Egyptology group meet on the 2nd Tuesday in each month at The Oak House (between All Saints Church and the Town Clock)in Maldon High Street, upstairs at 2.00pm.

Tuesday, February 9, the first part of the afternoon will be varied with members' help on associated news items, perhaps something from the Internet. Occasionally we will have the latest news from Egypt from a member who spends part of the year there going on expeditions and is expert on the subject and life there today.

After a tea break and discussion we are starting a new course of study. by American Professor Bob Briers, who will give us a lecture on 'The History of Ancient Egypt' lasting about 30 mins. He is a great lecturer. These are detailed and fascinating. We have a very large TV screen to show all the DVDs etc.

You are very welcome to come and join us.

Joyce Cotterell

You will now be planning your holidays in 2016,
How about joining us to explore Kent
Still a few places left.

Four Day Holiday "Exploring Kent"

5/8th July 2016

Hotel: Holiday Inn, Rochester
Price: £355 p.p.
Insurance £10 Single Supplement £45

Day 1	Am.	Chatham Historic Dockyard
	Pm.	Teapot Island, Yalding
Day 2	Am.	Hornby Visitor Centre, Margate
	Pm.	Shepherd Neame Brewery, Faversham. Lunch and Tour.
Day 3	Am.	Walmer Castle and Gardens
	Pm.	Dover Castle
Day 4	Am.	Explore Rochester Town
	Pm.	Kent County Show

Full details and Booking Form available from
Jan Robertson

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U3A Legal Helpline

From 1st October 2015, Arc Legal Assistance, in partnership with Irwin Mitchell Solicitors, will be the new providers of the legal helpline service available to U3A members.
The legal helpline is operational 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and powered by a dedicated team of legal advisors divided into specialist teams.
The helpline is backed up by all departments within Irwin Mitchell, meaning you will receive a seamless service with the right expert for even complex queries. This unparalleled breadth and depth in terms of level of expertise available is something most other legal advice lines are not able to offer.

To access the legal helpline,
please call 0344 770 1040 and quote 'U3A Legal Helpline'
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Heybridge U3A Outings

Join us on a trip **to Newmarket on Monday 14th March** and be part of 260 years of racing history! We plan to join their 'Short Head Tour', which includes visits to the Newmarket gallops and a top Newmarket trainer's yard; followed by tea/coffee at The National Stud and finally a tour of The National Stud. The morning ends at 12.30 when we can have lunch (details later), before we leave at 15.00. The complete cost of the tour will be approximately £30.00 pp. Late risers be aware – we must meet at 06.45 and leave promptly at 07.00 as the tour starts at 09.00. Ford's Coach will collect us from Tesco on the Fullbridge.

A visit to **Hever Castle** in Kent, the 13th Century childhood home of Ann Boleyn is now booked for **Thursday 21st April**. As well as the usual and very interesting panelled rooms with fine furniture and antiques, there is a rare collection of Tudor portraits and a group of life-sized costumed figures which almost bring the Tudor times to life. Entrance fee is £11.65. More details later. Travel will be with Ford's Coach from Tesco's Car Park on the Fullbridge and will cost approximately £15.00.
If any of your members wish to join us they should please contact me -
Pat Smith on patcleary98@sky.com

'The Fascination of Canals' by Clare Urry

Illustrated by photographs and drawings, we will look at the "Who, Why, How and When" of canals around the world, covering some man-made and natural wonders.

15th February Meeting
Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

Speaker
'The Fascination of Canals'
Clare Urry

The Maldon Society Talks:

United Reformed Church Hall, Market Hill, Maldon. CM9 4PZ.

The Maldon Society's latest season of talks held on the first Thursday of the month. Doors open at 19:15. Raffle. Donations on the door. All welcome.

4-02-2016 Listed Buildings - What's this all about? - Ian Hume

3-03-2016 The Dengie Hundred Villages at the turn of the Century - Kevin Bruce

7-04-2016 The Essex Regiment in the First World War— Ian Hook

5-05-2016 The drama & social implications on society of the Black Death - Dr Dennis Eraut

Enquiries: Maldon Tourist Information Centre 01621 856503 or email: tic@maldon.gov.uk

Heritage Winter Talks

Friends Meeting House, Butt Lane, Maldon, CM9 7H

Doors open at 7 pm, finish 9 pm. Free Admission

2-02-2016 A Century of social housing within the Maldon District 1895-1995 - Peter Leggett

1-03-2016 Historic Houses in the Maldon District - recent discoveries - Tim Howson

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES

Times 12.15 pm

TUESDAY **February** **To be notified**
Co-ordinator: Mike Wood

WEDNESDAY No Meeting in February, Paul is on holiday**.**
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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Web site www.u3a.org.uk
Resource Centre: email: resource.centre@u3a.org.uk

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 5th February

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	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
Snooker	John Williams
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 – FEBRUARY 2016

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 Maritime Whist	2 Table Tennis Snooker Geology Luncheon Group	3 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge for the Curious Wine Circle 1	4 Ten Pin Bowling Current Affairs Poetry Rummikub 2	5 Canasta	6	7 Bird Watching Hanningfield
8 Astrology Handicrafts Whist	9 Table Tennis Snooker Egyptology Trees	10 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Luncheon Club	11 Ten Pin Bowling French Conversation Plantagenets Reading Rummikub 1 Scottish Country Dancing	12 Sing for Pleasure Mah Jong Architecture	13	14
15 **Meeting 1.30 pm** Just Jazz	16 Table Tennis Snooker Aviation	17 Ten Pin Bowling London Walks & Talks Luncheon Club	18 Ten Pin Bowling Antiques Bridge for the Curious	19 Canasta	20	21 Strollers
22 Astronomy Handicrafts Local History "All our Waterloos" Whist	23 Table Tennis Snooker Strollers too Trees Wine Circle 4	24 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Family History Wine Circle 2 Writing for Fun	25 Ten Pin Bowling Computers French Conversation Music Appreciation Scottish Country Dancing	26 Cribbage Family History Sing for Pleasure Mah Jong	27	28
29 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,