The University of the Third Age

# MALDON
# AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

Woodbridge Tide Mill

Visit by Maritime Group

on

**Monday 1st August**

JULY 2016

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

*FROM THE CHAIR*

I would like to repeat what I said after the AGM I feel very honoured to be asked to chair what must be one of the best U3A groups in Essex and possibly in the country.

My first duty must be to pay homage to those people who have made it so. Firstly our retiring Chairman, Malcolm, who has worked tirelessly to maintain and improve the standard of our group. I am only now realizing the amount of time and effort he has spent to make this so. He is a very hard act to follow. Also Martin Cook our Treasurer and Marrie Webster, long time Vice Chaiman, both of whom deserve our grateful thanks for their efforts on our behalf over the last few years.

We should be very pleased that Kym Marshall Secretary, Alan Clarke, Membership Secretary, Jan Robertson, Newsletter Editor and Veronica Smith, Speaker Secretary, are carrying on with their sterling work. We must also not forget the other members of the committee, Andrew Simmonds, Judith Johnston, Sylvia Beckett and the four new people joining us. Alec Fraser, Vice Chairman, Graham Webster, Treasurer and Shirley Macro, Committee Member. Ken Cooper will take over the AV equipment from Jim Light who we also thank for his long service.

I shall make mention of the Web site and Social committee next month.

## Brian Johnson **TREASURER**

I have now taken over the role of Treasurer from Martin Cook.
So any future requests for cheques etc should be channelled through me.

At the monthly meetings at Wickham Bishops, I plan to be available for "**things financial**" from around 12.45pm.
Graham Webster

***Aviation***

The Air Show at Duxford " Meet the Fighters " on **10th September.** I will go ahead if there is enough interest. The cost for the ticket and coach will be £38. The coach will leave Tesco's at 9 am. I have provisionally booked the coach but must confirm quickly. If you wish to go please let me know by the date of our next meeting **19th July.**
Brian Johnson

***Aviation***

We had an excellent meeting in June. As well as the planned film on the "Vulcan Bomber" and the talk "What goes up may come down" we had an unexpected additional item. Peter Bickers had, a few days before the meeting, flown from Biggin Hill in a Second World War Spitfire. The Spitfire, that had been in action from 1944, had within 2 days shot down a Messerschmitt Bf 109. Peter's flight took him to the coast and past Beachy Head. He was able to tell us something about the aircraft and its history also we saw a film of him and the flight.

Our meeting on **Tuesday July 19th** at Purleigh Pavilion will include a Power Point presentation by Brian Austin on the Typhoon, Tempest and Sea Fury. I hope to see you there.
Brian Johnson 01621 828497***Architecture***

The Architecture group is organising a visit to the local Greek Orthodox Monastery on **Friday, 9th September,** in the afternoon. All members are very welcome to join us. Tea and cake are to be provided.
Please contact Sheila Epps or Judith Johnston

## Lock up

**We are seeking help from a member who has space in their garage or a similar building for a lock up cabinet.**
**If you have a suitable place, please contact one of the committee**.

### *Astronomy*

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

**Monday July 25th** – Discussion and demonstration on the use of telescopes and binoculars suitable for astronomical observing. If you have a telescope or binoculars, then please bring them with you.

No meeting in August.

All U3A members are very welcome to join the group.

Malcolm Case

### *Maritime*

The next trip is on **Monday 1st August** – day trip to Bawdsey Transmitter Block Museum, Suffolk – part of the home chain radar system from World War II, tea and coffee on arrival (included in the price). Following this, we will then be visiting the Woodbridge Tide Mill for a guided tour and the chance to see the mill in operation. Lunch will be taken near to Woodbridge. The coach will depart from Tesco Maldon Car Park at 8:00am prompt.

Malcolm Case

### *Local History*

The final meeting before the summer break is on **Monday July 25th** when Ben Crussell, a history graduate associated with Maldon's Military Museum, will give his talk on "The History of Armour 1066-1550".

The meeting will be at Maldon Town Hall at 2pm at £2.00 per person.

If you are planning a visit to the Museum over the summer, maybe with the grandchildren, this will be an ideal opportunity to improve your knowledge and impress the family!

There will be **NO MEETING in AUGUST.**

Enjoy the break and come back refreshed and revitalised for our trip to Whitstable and Faversham, Kent on **September 26th.**

Kathy, Jane and Sylvia

### *Strollers*

**On Sunday 21st August** we are meeting at 10.15 for a 10.30 start at The Green Man, Little Braxted, Green Man Lane, Little Braxted, CM8 3LB.  The walk is approx. 5 miles.  Please let me know by 12th August if you wish to stay for lunch.

### *Trees*

In June on the first of our two monthly meetings we had a most enjoyable walk from Madison Heights, on the Maldon bypass to the lane leading to the tip. Sounds awful but it has some very good examples of trees including the lovely grey poplars opposite the tip entrance.
On **Tuesday 12th July** we shall be visiting the golf club of another of the group's members to look at the extensive tree planting there. The venue for the meeting on **Tuesday July 26th** has yet to be confirmed.
All members are very welcome to join us.

### *London Walks & Talks*

Elaine Beckett will be our speaker on **Wednesday, 20th July** at West Maldon Community Centre. Elaine's talk is entitled "Coffee Houses-a wakeful and civil drink". Talk will begin at 2.30pm. All members welcome. There will be no meeting in August, so there will be the opportunity, at the above meeting, to book for our visit to Lambeth and Lambeth Palace on **Thursday, 8th September.**
Janeen Trew
Christine Speed

### *Strollers Too*

**Tuesday 23 August – Pleshey**

This is a 4.5 mile circular walk around the lovely village of Pleshey on paths, bridleways and some minor roads. It is reasonably easy walking and there are no stiles. Some of the nettles were a bit feisty so shorts are not recommended.

We meet in the car park at Pleshey Village Hall, The Street, Pleshey CM3 1HB at 10.15 for 10.30 start. When we trialled the walk their pubs were only serving sandwiches, so lunch has been arranged at The Rose and Crown in Great Waltham, where we dined in May. It is about 10 minutes' drive from Pleshey. They want orders placed in advance, so please contact me if you require lunch and I'll send you a menu.

Alan Clarke

### *Poetry*

Poetry was cancelled last month and we may have an August meet, but anyone interested should check with me end of July
Jo Robson

## *MARITIME TRIP*

BRIGHTLINGSEA MONDAY 4TH JULY

On a lovely sunny Monday morning at 8:30am, 39 members left Maldon to visit Brightlingsea. We had an excellent drive there and on arrival we split into two groups, one group visiting the Brightlingsea Museum, while the other group visited the Pioneer Sailing Trust, we changed venues after lunch. Both venues offered tea and coffee on arrival, most welcome after the coach journey.

The Pioneer Sailing Trust was set up in 1999 initially to restore the "Pioneer", and now builds "Gigs" and restores old sailing ships. We were shown around the yard by two very enthusiastic shipwrights, both of whom had served an apprenticeship at the yard. All staff at the yard were very willing to answer our questions and took great pride in demonstrating their work. We were shown a partially restored smack and also a gig being constructed, a fascinating operation. We were also shown a gig in the process of being painted, this was followed by viewing a completed one.

The Brightlingsea Museum was founded in 1989, on arrival there we were shown around by Jack and Brian, both extremely knowledgeable and able to explain all about the various exhibits. In one room there were exhibits about World War I and the part Brightlingsea played in it; in the second room there were exhibits about the history of Brightlingsea. Following the tour of the museum, Brian took some of us for a short walk around the town. We all met up for a buffet lunch at the Yachtsmans Arms, a very welcome break.

On our way back to Maldon we stopped at All Saints Church where we were all given a guided visit, the church is believed to date back to the 1250s and has, around the walls of the nave, a series of memorial tiles, some of which date back to 1872. The concept of these tiles was born after the tragic year of 1883 when a large number of Brightlingsea men lost their lives in the North Sea. The tiles bear witness to the various losses suffered by this seafaring community. It is believed that such a memorial is unique in this country and is well worth seeing.

Restoring a Smack

Completed Gig.

Brightlingsea Museum.

Memorial Tiles in the Church

## 2016 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

| | |
|---|---|
| Mon. 1st Aug. | Visit to Bawdsey Radar Museum & Woodbridge Tide Mill |
| 8/11 Aug. | National U3A Summer School—History of the Americas |
| 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 |
| Fri 9 Sept. | Visit to Greek Orthodox Monastery—Architecture |
| Sat. 10 Sept. | Visit to Duxford - Aviation |
| 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 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.

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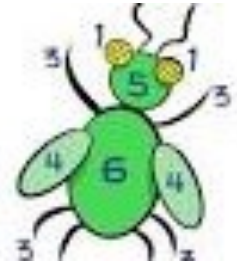
**A date for your Diary**

**"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: phone 01621 854539

On sale from August meeting.

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# Essex Inter-U3A Quiz Day

On **Thursday June 9th** eleven teams of eight people from U3As across Essex met in Chelmsford for the Annual Quiz.
This year the team representing Maldon and District U3A i.e. Denise and Richard Yelling, Alec and Margaret Fraser, Jane and David Coombes, Chris Bishop and Andy Simmonds, were in third place with Leigh-on-Sea second and Basildon and Billericay first.
Our congratulations to them for their valiant effort.
Because we won last year, it was also our turn to organise the Quiz and refreshments this year.
Our sincere thanks to Bill and Muriel Stephens, who prepared the questions, checked the answers and conducted the afternoon so efficiently. To Kathy Goff and Mary Hall who helped with the refreshments and Richard, Denise and Chris who helped arrange the tables beforehand.
A busy but very pleasant afternoon was had by all.
Sylvia Cousins

## *Bird Watching*

Abberton Reservoir has increased in size hugely over the last few years. The old visitor centre beloved of those avid bird watchers is long gone and where it stood is now under several feet of water.
The new visitor centre is where the group met for their visit. Sky larks Alauda artvensis have colonised the site's pristine flower meadows. hovering high above visitors, then parachuting down to land in the long grass always some way from the actual nest site.
A group of young Pied wagtails Motacilla alba remained stubbornly on the footpath in front of the group until a frantic adult persuaded them into safer territory.
The reserve has an abundance of resident geese and other wildfowl but a flotilla of mainly Canada geese Branta Canadensis numbering in excess of 800 still made an impressive sight. This goose has a black neck and head with a white chin patch extending upwards behind the eye, the back, breast and wings are grey brown with a white patch at the rump.
There is no meeting in August. The next venue is Bradwell Shell Bank, meet in car park for St Peters 10.00am on **Sunday 4th September.**
Peter Gaywood

**ART GROUP - CHRISTCHURCH MANSION MUSEUM**

On a beautiful, sunny June day, a select group of ten members gathered in the lovely Christchurch Park, Ipswich to enjoy lunch in the tiny tea room before Erica and Joan took us on our guided tour of the Museum.

Christchurch Mansion began life as a 12th Century Priory before it underwent extensive renovation and additions to both house and gardens. Having hosted both Queen Elizabeth I and Queen Mary Tudor, it is an impressive mix of Gothic, Elizabethan, Restoration, Victorian and Rococo styles.
Owned successively by the Withypoll and Devereux families it was bought by the Fonnereau (Huguenot traders) family in 1735 and finally was gifted to Ipswich in 1894 by Felix Cobbold.

The Mansion contains intricate walnut wood panelling, classical busts, flock wall coverings, stitch craft, a book collection, ancient tapestry, furniture, clothing and clocks, and impressive ceramics, china, glassware and porcelain collections and the unique 1610 Hawstead Panels as well as many family portraits. There is also a tribute to a local man, Thomas Eldred, who together with Thomas Cavendish, circumnavigated the world in 1588.

Our tour concluded with magnificent collections of John Constable and Thomas Gainsborough paintings in the Wolsey Gallery. (The largest Constable collection outside London). There were also works by other Suffolk artists including Alfred Munnings, Phillip Wilson Steer, George Cotman, John Moore and Leonard Squirrell. We also saw canvasses by Joshua Reynolds and drawings by Camille Pissarro.

We emerged blinking once again into the sun before heading home.

There will be a meeting on **Tuesday 2nd August** when we will be showing an art related DVD at my house in Hatfield Peverel.

Andy Simmonds

# ESSEX ASSOCIATION STUDY DAY

**An opportunity for you to take part in two Study Group Sessions of your choice**

**TUESDAY 25th OCTOBER 2016, 9.00am to 3.30pm, at**
**THE PLUME SCHOOL, MALDON CM9 6AB**

The Study Groups will all be led by U3A members who have offered the subjects as listed on the next pages. We are very grateful to them for their work. There is a wide variety of topics, and we have tried to give an indication of what each topic will be about. Most do not involve any previous knowledge, so there is a great opportunity for you to sample a new subject that interests you, or perhaps to take further some aspect of a subject that is already familiar to you .

**COST: £5.00 per person,** (non-refundable). Tea/coffee and biscuits are included in the price. Please bring your own packed lunch.

**LOCATION:** The Plume School, Fambridge Road, Maldon CM9 6AB Parking space is available.

**PROGRAMME:**

9.00 – 9.45: Arrival, registration and refreshments in the Hall
9.55 – 10.00: Introduction (in the Hall)
10.05 – 12.05: Morning Study Session
12.10 – 1.10: Lunch: **please bring your own food**. Coffee and tea will be provided
1.15 – 3.15: Afternoon Study Session
3.25: Conclusion (in the Hall)
3.30: Departure

**BOOKING:**

Bookings ***must*** be received by Saturday **4th September 2016**. The Study Day is only open to members of affiliated U3As. Numbers will have to be limited due to restricted facilities at the school and/or the popularity of the subject. Applications will be processed when the cheque is received.

Please complete the Booking Form and send it by **EMAIL** or by **POST** (email is preferred)
**BY EMAIL**: Doug Harryman via gill.harryman@talktalk.net ***(but cheque to be posted to Doug)***
**BY POST:** Mr D Harryman, 221 Chester Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 2LL Tel: 020 8508 3454

***POSTAL APPLICATIONS***: Please enclose a **stamped self-addressed DL envelope** with your booking form with a cheque for £5.00 per person made out to 'ESSEX ASSOCIATION of U3As'.
***EMAIL APPLICATIONS*:** No SAE required but **you will still need to post your cheque to Doug.**
*Group allocations will be made on receipt of your cheque. Cheques will usually be cashed when groups are finalised although note that this isn't a guarantee that your first choices have been successful. Note also that some groups have expenses for materials as indicated on the groups' list, payable to your group leader*

**INFORMATION:** details of your allocated study groups, and a location map for the Plume School, will be sent to you towards the end of **September**.

**STUDY GROUPS**

These are the Study Group sessions being offered. Each session will last for two hours. You will be able to take part in two groups, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, but ***please choose three for each session and list them in order of preference on the application form.*** Note that some groups are all-day. We will do our best to arrange for you to take part in the groups of your preferred choices, but this will depend on the number of applications.

## Essex Association Study Day – Tuesday 25th October in Maldon

Available Groups are now:
Four Art groups (Two Water Colour, Two Acrylics), Astronomy, Canals, Two Computing groups (iPads and Tablets), Country Dancing, Crochet/ Lace, Digital Photography, Exploring Drama, Family History, First Aid, Geology, Hand Chimes, History of Trains, Jazz Appreciation, Latin, Maths, Model Trains, Parliament, Philosophy, Poetry, Singing for Pleasure, Tree Recognition, Ukulele, Wine Tasting, Two Writing groups (Non-Fiction and Fiction) Art groups in particular always fill quickly so don't delay when you get the Form.

**The spaces are filling fast, it is imperative that you book as soon as possible.**

**Full details and Booking form will be available at the Monday meetings in July and August for those members who do not have email.**

**For your information**
**The West Maldon Community Centre will be closed from 15/29th August for maintenance.**
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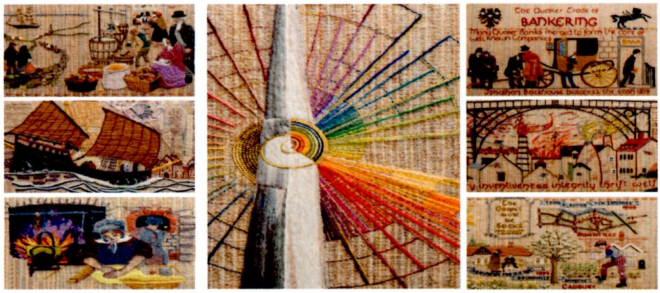
### Transport to Wickham Bishops Hall from Maldon for our Monday Meetings

There is a bus run by Stephensons **No 90,** that goes from Morrisons to Witham every half hour during the day. It calls at Tesco where you can leave your car and stops at Snows Corner and also in the main road at Wickham Bishops outside the hall.
It arrives at Wickham Bishops 11 and 41 minutes past the hour and returns to Maldon 28 and 58 minutes past the hour. You can use a bus pass if you have one.

# THE QUAKER TAPESTRY
# AT CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL

**20 August - 3 September 2016**




**Exhibition opening times:**
**Monday to Saturday 10am - 4pm**
**Admission: Free**
**Groups welcome - please phone the Cathedral Office 01245 294498 to arrange a time**

**Full details are available on the Quaker Tapestry page of the Cathedral website**

**www.chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk**

Follow us: twitter.com/ccathedral, facebook.com/chelmsfordcathedral

Supported by AllChurches Trust Ltd

**15th August Meeting**
**Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm**

Speaker
Brian Collen
"History of Punch and Judy"

**Chelmsford U3A Special speaker meeting**

## Sir Paul Nurse FRS

**Director of the Francis Crick Institute**
**2001 Nobel Prize winner for physiology and medicine**

**Speaking on: "Doing Science"**

**Thursday, 15th September at 2.15 pm**
**Doors open 1.30 pm**
**Christ Church, New London Road, Chelmsford.**

**Tickets £2: Contact: Tony Boniface on 01245 266316**

## Catering

**We are still looking for some volunteers to help with our catering at the various events we organise during the year. ie. BBQ—salads and sweets. Beetle Drive, - cakes. Co-ordinators' lunch—purchase and arrange food. AGM—Strawberries. Xmas meeting—cakes etc.**
**Do you enjoy baking cakes? Making sweets etc?**
**None of this is very taxing or difficult.**

## PLEASE HELP

**Contact a Committee member**

***LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES***

Times 12.15 pm

**TUESDAY** **2nd August** at the The Chequers, Goldhanger,
Co-ordinator: Eunice Legerton

**WEDNESDAY** **17th August—**Venue to be confirmed
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 | 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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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, 5th August

# CO-ORDINATORS

| | |
|---|---|
| Antiques | Liz Wood |
| Architecture | Judith Johnston |
| Art Appreciation | Andy Simmonds |
| Astronomy | Malcolm Case |
| Aviation | Brian Johnson |
| Bird Watching | Pat Clements<br>Peter Gaywood |
| Botany | Veronica Smith |
| Bridge | Sheila Epps |
| Bridge for the Curious | Gill Stone |
| Canasta | Elaine Bane<br>Gerry Brooks |
| Computers | Jan Robertson |
| Cribbage | Pat Clements |
| Current Affairs Discussion | Clare Urry |
| Egyptology | Joyce Cotterell |
| Family History | Alan Buck |
| French Conversation | Ray Harman<br>Ann Lester |
| Geology | Enid Hall |
| Handicraft | Marian Manning |
| Just Jazz | Jim Light<br>David Coombes |
| Local History | Sylvia Cousins<br>Jane Coombes<br>Kathleen Goff |
| London Walks & Talks | Christine Speed<br>Janeen Trew |
| London Theatre Outings | Rosemary Case<br>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<br>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<br>Paul Costa |
| Wine Circle No. 4 | Alan Clarke |
| Writing for Fun | Patrick Forsyth |

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1**<br>Maritime<br>Bawdsey/Woodbridge<br>Whist | **2**<br>Table Tennis<br>Art Appreciation<br>Geology<br>Luncheon Club | 3<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>Bridge for the Curious<br>Wine Group 1 | 4<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>Petanque<br>Poetry | 5<br>Mah Jong | 6 | 7 |
| 8<br>Whist | 9<br>Table Tennis<br>Trees | 10<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>Bridge<br>Luncheon Club | 11<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>Petanque<br>French Conversation<br>Reading<br>Rummikub 1 | 12<br>Sing for Pleasure | 13 | 14 |
| 15<br>**Meeting 1.30 pm**<br>Just Jazz | 16<br>Table Tennis<br>Aviation | 17<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>Luncheon Club | 18<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>Petanque<br>Antiques<br>Bridge for the Curious | 19<br>Mah Jong | 20 | 21<br>Strollers |
| 22<br>Whist | 23<br>Table Tennis<br>Strollers Too<br>Wine group 4 | 24<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>"Showboat" Theatre<br>Bridge<br>Wine Group 2<br>Writing for Fun | 25<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>Petanque<br>French Conversation<br>Music Appreciation | 26<br>Sing for Pleasure | 27 | 28 |
| 29<br>**BANK HOLIDAY** | 30<br>Table Tennis | 31<br>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.**

Newsletter Editor: Mrs Jan Robertson,