The University of the Third Age

MALDON AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

AGM June 2016

We need volunteers for
Chairman,
Vice Chairman,
Treasurer,
Membership Secretary,
Committee Member,
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.

March 2016

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

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. I cannot stress enough the need for members to come forward to fill these vacancies.

Any Maldon & District U3A member is eligible to volunteer and to be voted on to the Executive Committee at the AGM.

Our April main meeting, on **Monday 18th,** will be a "Birthday Meeting" to celebrate the 18th birthday of the Maldon U3A and also to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. There will be a variety of entertainment during the afternoon. There will also be tea with a Birthday Cake.

It is extremely important that if you attend a monthly main meeting at Wickham Bishops hall, you sign in on arrival, be you a member or a visitor. This is because we need to know who is attending the meeting in case of an emergency.

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

London Walks & Talks

Our walk on **Wednesday, April 20th** will be led by David Evans, who will guide us through St. Pancras, Old and New. This walk complements the talk in March given by Elaine Beckett.
Our speaker on **Wednesday, May 18th** will be Ian Bevan, whose talk is entitled "Theatrical London". The talk will begin at 2.30 p.m. at West Maldon Community Centre. Doors will open at 2.15 p.m. Entrance fee is £2.

Strollers

Little Waltham on **Sunday 17th April** – we are meeting at 10.15 for 10.30 start, at the village public car park (free parking). This is signposted next to the Memorial Hall. The walk is 3¾ miles and lunch will be available at the 'White Hart' pub for those who wish. Please let me know if you want to have lunch because I have to pay a deposit, £5 per person, beforehand.
Contact – Colin Beckett

trollers Too

The April walk will be in the Tollesbury area on **Tuesday 2**6 **April.** Please meet by Tollesbury Church gates in the Triangle (Square?) at 10.15 am for a 10.30 am start. You can park in the Triangle or a little further down Church Street.
The planned walk is about four miles on a circular route on the flat on good paths - Church Street, sea wall, Prentice Hall Lane, playing fields back to the Church. Lunch can be taken at the Queen's Head, Tolleshunt d'Arcy.
I have booked lunch for 10/12 people but they do not need numbers in advance.
Contact: Eunice Legerton

Music Appreciation

Music Appreciation next month will be on **Thursday 31st March** and not on the normal 4th Thursday of the month.

Aviation

As expected our February meeting was a great success. Peter Bickers' lecture on the "Mosquito" was, as always, very informative and the amount of research done was impressive and interesting. Thoroughly enjoyed!
In March we have a talk on the Lancaster Bomber given by Ralph Tyrall who was a navigator on this aircraft.
I shall be sending out a questionnaire to those members going on the Martlesham trip on **Sunday, 3rd April**, asking for their meal choice, Emergency Contact number and where they wish to join the coach (Maldon or Tiptree.)
The talk on **Tuesday, April 19** will be given by Geoffrey Charge and entitled "A Light-Hearted view on Air Traffic Control"

Brian Johnson

Astronomy

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

Monday March 28th – No meeting Easter Monday - Bank Holiday

Monday April 25th a talk by Alison Mainwood on "Stellar evolution". This talk will be on stars are formed from the gas in the universe which condenses under the action of gravity. But the only elements present after the Big Bang were hydrogen, and perhaps a little helium. So how come the stars and planets now contain all the elements we observe? We can see a whole range of stars of different sizes, brightness and colours. What is known about how they develop and eventually fade out and die? What will be the fate of our sun and when? How do astronomers know all this, anyway?

All U3A members are very welcome to join us.

Malcolm Case

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A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER TO ALL CO-ORDINATORS

As I am sure you are aware, the current financial year of our U3A ends on **31 March 2016.**

I should be grateful if you would let me have the following for the year ended **31 March 2016**:-

Invoices/receipts which you have not already passed to me for amounts paid from your group bank account.
A cash account. This should show the cash held at **1 April 2015**, the cash receipts and payments during the year, and the cash held at **31 March 2016**.
Supporting invoices/receipts for the above cash transactions.
If there have been no cash transactions during the year please let me have a statement to that effect.

Please ensure that you let me have the above no later than **30 April 2016.**

Martin Cook
Treasurer
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You will now be planning your few days away in 2016,

How about joining us to explore Kent?

Four Day Holiday "Exploring Kent"

5/8th July 2016

Hotel: Holiday Inn, Rochester

Price: £355 p.p.

Half Board, All entrants and Drivers gratuity paid

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

Still a few places left

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Visit to Eltham Palace—July 7th 2016

This visit is being organised by the Architecture group but all members of U3A are cordially invited to join us.

Eltham Palace in South London, is largely an Art Deco building dating from the 1930s built by the Courtauld family. However, there was a mediaeval building there - hence the word Palace in the title - and we will see the splendid Great Hall dating from 1470. There are extensive gardens to visit and a café for refreshment. The entrance cost includes a personal audio guide.

This should make a very interesting day out.

Vast sums of money have been spent on renovation and updating this property.

This is an English Heritage site so please indicate if you are a member since your entrance will be covered.

Cost will be £20 and travel arrangements will be printed in the Newsletter.

If you would like to join us, please contact:

Sheila Epps

Judith Johnston
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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

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LONDON THEATRE OUTINGS
"The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Tim"
Gielgud Theatre at 7.30pm on Thursday 2nd June

As a change from our run of musicals this time we are going to see the 'best play In London' - the National Theatre's award-winning production of "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time " playing at the Gielgud Theatre.
Winner of seven Olivier Awards and five Tony Awards, Mark Haddon's best-selling novel is brought to thrilling life on stage.
It has been given Five Star Awards from the papers with comments such as: Astonishing and Magical - An Ingenious adaptation - Magical and Moving – A phenomenal combination of storytelling and spectacle - A beautiful dazzling inventive show about the wonders of life.
We will be leaving Maldon Tesco's at 3.00pm with a pick- up in Danbury.
The total cost will only be £38.50 which includes the coach.
If you wish to go, please contact David Arnold for £38.50 per ticket .
Rosemary Case
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2016 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

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

Sunday 3 April	Visit to Martleham Aerodrome—Aviation
Sunday 8 May	Shuttleworth Museum—Aviation
Tues. 10 May	American Supper with music entertainment.—Social
17/21 May	5 day Holiday. Chateaux & Vineyards of the Loire—Wine 3
Thurs. 2 June	Theatre visit to Gielgud Theatre
Thurs. 9 June	Essex Inter-U3A Quiz Day
5/8 July	4 day Holiday - 'Exploring Kent' - Jan Robertson
Thurs. 7 July	Visit Eltham Palace—Architecture
Wed. 13 Jul	BBQ at Langford Village Hall—Social
8/11 Aug.	National U3A Summer School—History of the Americas
15/28 Aug	National U3A Summer School— Assorted
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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National U3A Summer Schools, August 2016
Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester

8/11 August— History of the Americas, Folk art applique
15/18 August—Cryptic crosswords; Garden design;
History of ideas; Italia; Maths

Booking forms for all the above available from: U3A National Office
Tel. 020 8466 6139 or www.u3a.org.uk members' area

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Blackwater U3A — Carpet Bowls

We have recently started a new Carpet Bowls group which meets at 2pm on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month in Danbury Sports Centre, Eves Corner, Danbury.

We are a bit short on numbers and would really welcome any of your members who would like to come along and give it a try.
I would be pleased to answer any questions, give me a ring.
Peter Holmes,

MARITIME GROUP 2016 PROGRAMME

Monday 4th April – meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00am for an illustrated talk by Amelia Hall – "Sailing on Tall Ships". This talk will include details of the ships and Amelia's experiences sailing on them.

Monday 2nd May – Bank Holiday, no meeting

Monday 6th June – meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00am for an illustrated talk by David Ottley, an ex-Royal Navy Submariner, his talk will be about the submarine service in Portsmouth and also on the WW2 submarine "Alliance" which is in the Portsmouth Museum.

Monday 4th July – day trip to The Pioneer Sailing Trust, Brightlingsea, for a guided tour. Following this there will be a harbour tour by boat for those who wish to go – at extra cost. From there we will go to the Brightlingsea Museum for a guided tour and also a talk about the role of the Harbour Commissioners. Then we will visit All Saints Church which has memorials to seafarers lost at sea. Cost, including coach, driver's gratuity, and donations but excluding lunch is £18.00**.**

Monday 1st August – day trip to Bawdsey Transmitter Block, 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. Cost, including coach, driver's gratuity, donations to both venues but excluding lunch is £25.00.

Monday 5th September – Meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00am for a Maritime themed DVD

September 8th – 12th 2016, five day trip to Exeter, including, amongst many others, a visit to Dartmouth Royal Naval College and Bristol Maritime area amongst many other places of Maritime interest.

Monday 3rd October – meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00am for an illustrated talk by Gordon Davies on "Changes in yachting in our time. Yachting has changed enormously in our lifetimes. In this talk we will look at some of the developments that took place when we were young(ish), focussing on the 1950s and 1960s when there were huge psychological and material advances in sailing.

Monday 7th November – meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00am for an illustrated talk by James Davey, "Nelson & Napoleon".

Monday 5th December - meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 11:00am for our Annual Christmas Buffet and discussion of the 2017 programme.

Art Appreciation Group

The March meeting was again kindly hosted by Judith Johnston and several members shared their favourite paintings.

Alec showed us the 'Lion Tamer' by Max Beckmann, recently discovered by the German authorities almost by chance as part of a huge hoard of great art held by Cornelius Gurlitt, much of it paintings looted by the Nazis in WW2.

Margaret discussed 'The Theatre' a famous impressionist piece by Auguste Renoir. Ellen narrated the amazing story of Joseph Duveen (later The 1st Baron Duveen) a British art collector, who in the '30s sourced a large number of European masterpieces (including Gainsborough's 'Blue Boy') for wealthy American collectors including Henry Frick, William Randolph Hearst and John D Rockefeller. He once famously commented, “Europe has a great number of masterpieces, America has a great deal of money!”

Soo discussed a peaceful, atmospheric sea piece called 'Morning Mist' by John Miller and Emer introduced us to Hendrick Mesdag's amazing 'Panorama Mesdag', a huge 14m high by 120m long (circular) tableaux of Scheveningen and its beaches, completed in only one year and displayed in the round in The Hague Gallery.

Andy and Chris presented watercolours of David Hurrell, a local artist who specialises in landscapes and still life – two sketches of Leigh On Sea and one of robins nesting in 'Grandpa's Boots' (all currently on display in the 'Simmonds Gallery').

Judith completed a splendid afternoon with a showing of a TV documentary investigating the history and provenance of Leonardo's iconic 'Mona Lisa'. The theory is that Lisa Gioconda, the original subject was in fact painted on the wood underneath the now world famous masterpiece.

Next meeting will be **Tuesday 5th April** to visit a local gallery, and also please keep your diary clear for **Tuesday 3rd May**.

Andy Simmonds

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DVD Swap at the Monday meetings

I cannot believe that I have received only one person enquiring about taking on this excellent idea for your home DVD viewings.

We have over 400 members. Where are you?

Jan Robertson
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Local and General History Trip to London "All our Waterloos"

On Monday 22nd February 48 members boarded the coach for an early start to so that we could attempt to get around all the road works in the centre of London and be at the Museum of London by 10.30 to meet our Blue Badge Guide Sarah (we were only 10 minutes late). Sarah then took us in to the Museum for a coffee and toilet break. We then re-boarded the coach and proceeded on our way around the centre of London where our guide gave a very informative and often amusing account of how France and the French people over the years have influenced the London, as we know it today. For example there were no restaurants or hotels until the French immigrants came, people stayed in coaching Inns before this period if they needed a place to stay.

As we made our way past St. Pauls and into Fleet Street we could see how the French language has influenced many street names over the centuries as, of course, French was spoken by many (especially the aristocracy) after the Norman Conquest. We went past the house where President De Gaulle made his address to the people of France during World War II and where there is a statue in his honour.

It was then time to make our way over to the south of the Thames to stop for a wonderful Anglo French lunch in the Mad Hatter Pub where we were served roast beef and a French style Bread and Butter pudding laced with French brandy and served with Crème Anglais.

After lunch we headed to Kensington to the Victoria and Albert Museum. Here we were able to view the newly opened European Gallery which houses many splendid pieces of French furniture, paintings and Sevres Porcelain. I think I can safely say we were all Frenched out by the end of an informative and interesting day.

This is the first trip that Sylvia, Jane and myself have organized as the new group co-ordinators and we would like to invite you all to our next trip planned for the September meeting titled "Apples and Oysters", details of which will be available at the April meeting.

Just a reminder that there is no meeting in March as it will be Easter.
Monday, 25h April meeting**.** Dr. Jane Pearson will talk about
"Marks Hall: Decline and fall of an Essex Jacobean Mansion".
Kathy Goff

Your U3A needs you - who me?

We have had gentle nudges from our Chairman recently asking for volunteers to step forward to offer themselves to serve on the Committee. This culminated in a strong cover page of the current Newsletter emphasising the need for members to fill key positions on our committee. This is essential for the continuation of Maldon U3A.

We are about to celebrate our 18th birthday in April and we can be proud of this lively organisation which continues to give us so much. But of course this does not happen by accident. We depend on each other to make it work and we cannot ignore this call for help expecting that someone else will step up to the mark and then we can all sit back and go on as before.

We all have something to contribute to U3A, not just as Committee members but in helping to run the Groups, which are the core of the organisation, and even though people may be shy about putting themselves forward, we know that we have all had many years of running families, jobs – even other organisations. Of course we all have something to offer of value – and we are not alone. There are always others to confer with and give advice.

So please don't hold back. As a previous Chairman I know what I am talking about. I did not put myself forward but with encouragement from others I agreed to volunteer - ……and the Organisation survived!

Sheila Epps

Trees

The group went for a walk in the woods behind Little Baddow , the first possible this Spring, and proved how easy it is to recognise trees even without their leaves. We shall continue to meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. Our next walk will be on **Tuesday 22nd March at** 10.00a.m.. All are welcome to join us at the NT car park along Bicknacre Road, Danbury.
Please phone Veronica Smith

Bird Watching Group

Mill Beach was the latest destination for the group and on a bright clear cold Sunday morning the members set off towards Osea Island Causeway from the Mill Beach car park. The tide was just on the turn, the water reflecting" bluish" in the bright sunlight as it started to rush towards the mouth of the estuary. Near the causeway we saw a large flock of Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) sitting on an emerging mud island, their winter plumage being dull grey with pale spangling and buffish on the chest.

An adjacent mud flat was the temporary resting place for about 200 Black Headed Gulls (Larus ridibundus) . This abundant gull is silver grey above with white neck body and tail. In summer it has a dark brown hood whilst in winter this hood is incomplete.

The next visit on **2nd April** is Minsmere RSPB reserve, please contact the co-ordinators for details.

The **May 7th** visit will now be in Maldon. Meet at the Recycle Centre, Park Road, Maldon at 10.00am.

18th April Meeting
Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

***Celebration of Maldon U3A's 18th Birthday combined with the Queen's 90th B*irthday including entertainment, a Birthday Tea and Birthday Cake.**

Heybridge U3A

A visit to Hever Castle in Kent, the 13th Century childhood home of Ann Boleyn is now booked for **Thursday 21st April 2016**. Travel will be with Ford's of Althorne, from the bus-stop at Tesco on The Fullbridge.
The total cost for admission and coach will be £25.00.
Please contact me, Pat Smith on patcleary98@sky.com
or telephone 01621 856569 for more information or to reserve a seat

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Blackwater U3A

'THE DELIGHTS OF NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM''
Monday 13th - Saturday 18th June.
Full details from Dawn Mundy
01621 854065 or 07969686109

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Limebrook U3A

A visit to **The Imperial War Museum, Duxford**
Friday 27th May

This is the day before the Spring Air Show so there will be ample opportunity to watch incoming aeroplanes, practice flying displays etc.
There are 10 available places which I wish to offer to your U3A.
The total cost of the visit is £31
Full details available from Jo Madge on 01621 855883

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES
Times 12.15 pm

WEDNESDAY 20th April—Skrimshaws Restaurant at The Whalebone, South Woodham Ferrers
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

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
19 East Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1QH
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 April

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 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 Beryl McDonell
Plantagenets	Jo Robson
Poetry	Sheila Epps
Reading	Colin Beckett
Rummikub 1	Beryl McDonell
Rummikub 2	Shirley Grummett
Scottish Country Dancing	Sylvia Carpenter
Sing for Pleasure	Pam Baldwin
Singing for Fun	Gill Stone
Strollers	Gordon Hardy
Table Tennis	David Arnold
Ten Pin Bowling	Veronica Smith
Trees	Beryl McDonell
Weekenders	Molly Polden
Whist	Graham Boswell
Wine Circle No. 1/2	Mary Burd Paul Costa
Wine Circle No. 3	Alan Clarke
Wine Circle No. 4	Patrick Forsyth
Writing for Fun	

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1 Canasta	2 Bird Watching Minsmere	3
4 Maritime Whist	5 Table Tennis Snooker Art Appreciation Geology	6 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge for the Curious Wine Circle 1	7 Ten Pin Bowling Current Affairs Discussion Poetry Rummikub 2 Scottish Country Dancing	8 Architecture Mah Jong Sing for Pleasure	9	10
11 Handicrafts Whist	12 Table Tennis Snooker Egyptology Trees	13 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Luncheon Group	14 Ten Pin Bowling French Conversation Plantagenets Reading Rummibub 1	15 Canasta	6	17 Strollers
18 **Meeting 1.30 pm** **18th Birthday &** **Queen's Birthday** Just Jazz	19 Table Tennis Snooker Aviation	20 Ten Pin Bowling Ldn Walks & Talks Luncheon Group	21 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge for the Curious Scottish Country Dancing	22 Cribbage Mah Jong Sing for Pleasure	23	24
25 Astronomy Handicrafts Local History Whist	26 Table Tennis Snooker Strollers Too Trees Wine Circle 4	27 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Family History Wine Circle 2 Writing for Fun	28 Ten Pin Bowling Computers French Conversation Music Appreciation Wine Circle 3	29 Canasta Family History	30	

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,