The University of the Third Age

MALDON
AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

Our 18th Birthday Celebrations on April 18th

May 2016

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR

I am delighted to be able to tell you that we now have volunteers for Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and two committee members, this now means that, subject to them being voted in at our AGM in June, our U3A can continue. My thanks to all those who have volunteered.

I do hope that you all enjoyed last month's eighteenth birthday celebrations.

The AGM of the Association of Essex U3As was held on the 6th May. Following the election of members on to the committee, various issues were discussed which included information on the members of the National Executive Committee (based in Bromley) being unpaid volunteers and who are also Trustees of the U3A; there are paid members of staff who are directly responsible to the NEC members. There are now 53 U3As within Essex and within the Maldon area there are some 1000 U3A members.

Following a recent meeting of the Chairmen from Maldon, Blackwater, Limebrook and Heybridge U3As, further discussion took place on the use of the Plume School facilities such as their computing suite, woodworking facilities etc. Should anyone be interested in using any of the Plume School facilities or would like to have more information then please contact me. The Plume School are asking for help with placing their students on work experience, if any member knows of a company that would assist with this, could you please let me know and I will pass the information on to the school.

It is extremely important that when you attend a monthly main meeting at Wickham Bishops hall, you sign in on arrival. 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
malcolmcase@talktalk.net

Maritime

The next meeting of the Maritime Group is on **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.

All U3A members are very welcome to join us.
Malcolm Case

Astronomy

All meetings held at Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge. CM9 4RE at 7:30pm.
The next meeting of the Astronomy Group is on **Monday May 23rd** for a talk by Mark Willis - this talk involves using radio broadcasts recordings. Taking some short bursts of radio hits from 4 years ago, as well as events from 2011, this is what the citizens of an 'M' class planet (like our Earth) would be receiving right now at Proxima Cetauri - our nearest star. Then, 2007, (8 light years away), the bright star Sirius. 1967 - Radio 1 is launched - The Beatles recording 'All You Need Is Love' is watched via satellite by over 2 billion people. (48 light years). 1964 - The first offshore pirate radio stations (51 light years) 51 Pegasi which is a star very similar to our own Sun. A race of 'Pegasians' on an Earth type planet (assuming they've built multi-band radio receivers, will have just picked up the first Radio Caroline signals (as of last year). Until we reach the point where the very first regular radio stations, 1905, are being received (110 light years). Before 1898 the very first, perhaps (118 light years) no alien civilisation will be able to hear even our first broadcasts. Beyond 119 light years - there is radio silence from Earth.
If we speculate that there may be alien civilisations, then within this 119 light year circle, it seems reasonable to assume that at least a tiny percentage of the millions of stars here will have some means of receiving our signals if they have a similar level of technology to ours in 2015.
All U3A members are very welcome to join the group.
Malcolm Case

Plantagenet History Group

Visit to Leeds Castle

On **Thursday, July 14th** we will be visiting the Castle and would like to invite non members of our group to join us. There will probably be about twelve seats available on the coach. The travel cost will be approximately £13.
Please contact Beryl McDonell or Kathy Goff for further information.

Local History

On April 25th we had an interesting talk on the Marks Hall Mansion and Estate, which during WW2 served as a base for both American and British Air Force personnel, flying bombers from nearby Earls Colne Airfield. Post war the mansion was totally demolished, but the foundations of the nearby church remain with a font still used occasionally for christenings. The estate was left to the nation in 1932 and a Trust, set up in 1971, has worked hard to restore the earlier neglect.

Opened to the public in 1993, the Marks Hall Estate is a delightful place to visit, and now we have a further insight into its history and the important part it played in WW2, another dimension has been added to the enjoyment of the day.

There is still time to visit the Marconi Exhibition, which is open every weekend until May 29th at the original factory on Hall Street, Chelmsford, CM2 0HG and is well worth a visit.

The next meeting is on **Monday May 23rd** when our speaker will be Tony Tuckwell, who will give a light hearted talk on "How unfashionable Essex and Chelmsford got their Diocese and Cathedral".

For our meeting on **Monday June 27th** David Newman's talk will be on "Smuggling on the Blackwater".

All meetings are held at Maldon Town Hall at 2 pm. at £2.00 per session.

Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you there.

Kathy, Jane and Sylvia.

Bird Watching

Saturday 7th May.

The walk was from the Amenity Centre through to the Northey Island Causeway. Very good weather. Birds spotted as follows: Shelduck, Whitethroat, Coot, Mallard with young chicks, Oystercatcher, Tufted Duck, Brent Goose (5 on the water large number flying in}, Common Tern, Redshank, Regular Cuckoo calls and then two spotted flying over, numerous Black- headed Gulls. With the tide coming in fast little opportunity to see many Waders.

Next meeting: **Sunday June 5th**. East Mersea, Cudmore Grove. Pay & Display car park 10.00 am.

Citizens Advice have a vacancy for a receptionist on Tuesday mornings from 10:00 - 13:00. This is a voluntary post. Interested?
Contact Gill Stone

Family History

This month's meeting will be held at 58 Augustine Way commencing 2.30pm on **Wednesday 25th May.**
I would appreciate an E-mail if you wish to attend.

Family History for Beginners.
This month's meeting will be held at 58 Augustine Way CM3 4ET commencing at 10.00am on **Friday 27th May.**
Please let me know if you wish to attend.
Alan Buck

London Theatre Outings

"The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time" at **Gielgud Theatre**, on **Thursday 2nd June.**
The coach will leave Tesco's at 3.00pm followed by a Danbury pick up. If you wish to be picked up in Danbury please make sure you have advised David Arnold.

"Showboat" at The New London Theatre
on **Wednesday 31st August** at 7.30pm
The ground-breaking classic musical "Show Boat" sails into London's West End for the first time in almost 20 years, direct from a hugely successful and critically acclaimed run at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre.
Set against the backdrop of America's Deep South at the turn of the 20th Century, Showboat tells a powerful story of freedom, loyalty and above all, love. The show's Broadway premiere in 1927 changed musical theatre forever, and this lavish new production proves that its timeless themes and peerless music remain as vital, passionate and moving as ever.
So hop on board the Cotton Blossom show boat, and be swept away by one of the most romantic musicals of all time, directed by Daniel Evans and featuring the timeless songs Ol' Man River, Make Believe and Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man from Jerome Kern, with lyrics and book by Oscar Hammerstein II.
We will be leaving Tesco's at 3.00pm with a pick up in Danbury. The cost will be £58.50 which includes the coach. If you wish to go please contact Jean Cuthbert as soon as possible. Jean will acknowledge your email and give you her postal address so that you can send her a cheque payable to "Maldon & District U3A" for £58.50 per ticket.

Barbeque

Wednesday 13th July

Langford Village Hall

6.30 to 10.00 pm

Ticket Price £12

A variety of meats, vegetarian alternative, salad and dessert, bring your own drink, plates and cutlery.

Entertainment by Rick Crawford

Tickets on sale now from Barbara Byam-Shaw

London Walks & Talks

Ian Bevan will be our speaker on **Wednesday, May 18t**h at West Maldon Community Centre. His talk is entitled "Victorian Leisure and Pleasure", where he will speak of the development of London's Theatreland in the Victorian Era. Talk will begin at 2.30 pm. Entrance fee £2.

All members welcome.

At the above meeting there will be the opportunity to book for our Wednesday **June 15th** visit to London. We will have a guided morning tour of the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane and in the afternoon a guided walk in London's Theatreland. The tour of the theatre will be led by professional actors and the afternoon walk will be led by Ian Bevan.

Further information will be available at the May meeting.

Please note that the Theatre has advised that the tour involves lots of stairs.

Janeen Trew

Christine Speed

Petanque has now commenced playing in the Prom Park on a Thursday at 2 pm. It is a very simple game and we play for fun, do come and join us.

Jack Veash

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.

17/21 May	5 day Holiday. Chateaux & Vineyards of the Loire—Wine 3
Thurs. 2 June	"The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time" Theatre visit to Gielgud Theatre
Thurs. 9 June	Essex Inter-U3A Quiz Day
Wed. 15 June	Guided tour of Theatre Royal and Theatreland—London Walks
5/8 July	4 day Holiday - 'Exploring Kent' - Jan Robertson
Thurs. 7 July	Visit Eltham Palace—Architecture
Wed. 13 July	BBQ at Langford Village Hall—Social
Thurs. 14 July	Visit to Leeds Castle—Plantagenet
8/11 Aug.	National U3A Summer School—History of the Americas
15/28 Aug	National U3A Summer School— Assorted
Wed. 31 Aug	"Showboat" Theatre Visit
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.

Ten Pin Bowling

On the 4th May we celebrated 700 weekly sessions at Madison Heights.
That is nearly fourteen years since we first started.
Both the Wednesday and the Thursday groups went into Izumi for lunch.
A total of between forty and fifty of us meet each week and play about three games, so that is an awful lot of games over the years.
Long may it continue.
David Arnold

Ten Pin Bowling

On Wednesday May 4th the members of this group celebrated the 700th game since it was founded by David Arnold. During the coffee break we thanked David for all his hard work over the last 14 years.
It was good to see present about a dozen bowlers who have been playing for all those years as well, of course, all who are now keen players of this somewhat "infuriating " game.
Beryl McDonell

Our most enjoyable 18th Birthday Celebration

Our thanks to Marrie Webster and Veronica Smith for their imaginative hall decorations, Marian Condon for the wonderful cake and all the helpers who made this such an entertaining afternoon.

By popular demand we attach Jo's lovely poem of our 18th Birthday

Maldon & District U3A – 18th Birthday

A milestone in our history
Our 18th Birthday stands
It doesn't seem so long ago
When Beryl joined the strands
Of just a few enthusiasts
And from that small beginning
A strong and vibrant branch was formed
It's blueprint justly winning.

We've covered many great events
Since nineteen ninety eight;
Royal, Jubilee and birthdays,
We had to celebrate.
We had a go at everything
From faiths to the EU.
We covered subjects as diverse
As Bridge to sailing crew.

With concerts, Galas, dances
And trips of every kind.
Some Study Days and workshops
And shows that were sublime.
The barbeques and quizzes
And Ceilidhs, dressed to kill.
And speakers covering topics that
Were never run of mill.

We've all become a family
With fun and problems too.
We moan and care and learn a lot
Like all big families do.
And now we're letting down our hair
It's time to say 'Well done'
We're proud of all that we've achieved
Today it's time for FUN.

Jo Robson

Strollers

Sunday 19th June. 10.15 for 10.30 am start
As this is Father's Day, please meet at 8 Beeches Road, Heybridge CM9 4SL for a local walk. For further information, contact Gill Stone:

Strollers Too

Tuesday 28th June - Kelvedon.
This is a circular walk around the outskirts of Kelvedon.
Meet at The Railway Tavern, 182 High Street, Kelvedon CO5 9JD for 10.30 start.
Please let me know by Tuesday 21st June if you wish to stay for lunch.
Parking is available at the Pub.
Patricia Riddell -

Aviation

By the time this newsletter is available we will have had our trip to the Shuttleworth Collection which I am sure will have resulted in a really good day out. We have decided to postpone our RAF Hendon visit until the autumn as this is not dependent on the weather. Some members however are keen to visit the RAF Memorial at Capel-le-Ferne, near Folkestone, along with the Kent Battle of Britain Museum in July. There will of course be Duxford in September. These trips will only take place if there is enough interest.
I will be putting sheets out at the next meetings along with the costs.
At our next meeting we will be having a power point presentation entitled "The Forgotten Flyers of Task Force 57 (The British Pacific Fleet)"
by Brian Austin.
Brian Johnson

Visit to Eltham Palace July 7th—Architecture Group

Travel arrangements.
Departure from West Maldon Community Centre at 9.30am. Please park your car on the far side of the Car Park. Picking up in Danbury at 9.40 am at the bus stop near Sports' Centre.
There is a cafe at Eltham Palace and also gardens to visit.
We will leave there at approx. 4 pm.

Sheila Epps

Art Appreciation

Our monthly outing on Tuesday was to the wonderful Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. Ten group members gathered in Trumpington Street, initially to sample the delights of the museum cafe and their 'to die for' carrot cake.
There are 17 galleries of paintings comprising collections of British, European, French, Italian, Spanish and Dutch masterpieces.

Among the highlights are paintings by Italian artists, especially those of the Venetian school, with masterpieces by Titian, Veronese, Bellotto and Canaletto; a superb collection of landscapes of all schools, including outdoor oil sketches by Corot, Turner and Constable; a distinguished group of portraits and portrait miniatures by British artists from the 17th to the 20th century, and a remarkable range of works by French Impressionist painters.

There are significant holdings of Dutch and Flemish paintings, among which are distinguished works by Ruisdael, Hobbema, Hals and Rubens. The collection of French paintings has grown significantly in recent years with the gift, bequest and purchase of paintings by Poussin, Delacroix, Géricault, Courbet and Monet among others.
Having started our trip at 3pm the closing time of 5pm came all too soon, and we had hardly scratched the surface of this magnificent collection.
Please note in your diary **Tuesday 7th June** for our next meeting.

Anyone interested in joining the group
Andy Simmonds

DVD SWOP
Bring your DVD's along to the meeting and enjoy some new evening watching

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the eighteenth Annual General Meeting of Maldon & District U3A will be held on Monday 20th June 2016 in Wickham Bishops Hall at 2:15pm. Any items that you wish to be included on the Agenda must be notified to the Business Secretary by **Tuesday 24th May 2016.**

The Nomination form is below and, if you wish to nominate someone as an Officer or Committee member, please complete the form and return it to the Business Secretary by Tuesday 24th May 2016. Forms will be available at the May meeting or, if requested, by post.

The Chairman and Treasurer have completed their term of office this year and will be standing down as will one member of the Committee.

We will have vacancies for Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and one Committee Member.

Kym Marshall

Business Secretary

Eligibility for Office and to vote – All fully paid-up members for the year 2016/2017 are eligible to stand for Committee, and to attend and vote; except under the terms of our Constitution, where only one member from any one household shall serve on the Committee at one time.

Ordinary June monthly meeting – this will take place before the AGM at 1:45pm for the purpose of announcements and registering for events.

Nomination Form for Officers & Committee Members 2016

Position	Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by	Nominee's Signature
Chairman				
Vice Chairman				
Membership Secretary				
Committee Member				

Blackwater U3A

We are arranging a coach trip to Bressingham Steam Heritage Museum and Gardens on **Wednesday 15th June** and wondered if members of Maldon U3A might like to join us on this trip.

We have hired a 51 seater coach which will leave West Maldon Community Centre at 8.15am and will return at approx 6.00pm.

The cost per person is £11.50 for coach seat and £9.50 for Bressingham group entrance fee (ie £21 total).

At Bressingham there are 20 acres of RHS award winning gardens . As well as the famous steam museum , fairground rides and as the visit will be on a "steam day" the locomotives will be operating.

There is also the "Dad's Army" collection, which allows you to wander through Walmington-on-Sea, looking at the original props and vehicles used in the TV series.

I do hope some of your members can join us on this coach trip

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES

Times 12 for 12.15 pm

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TUESDAY 7th June at The Wheatsheaf, Hatfield Peverel

Co-ordinator: Eunice Legerton

vaunandeunicelegerton@btinternet.com

WEDNESDAY 15th June at Bella's Italian Bistro in Burnham at 12.30 pm

Co-ordinator: Paul Costa

20th June Meeting

Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

AGM

Followed by a

Strawberry Tea

BLACKWATER U3A	HEYBRIDGE U3A
Contact	Contact
Peter Holmes, Chairman	Angela Pleasance, Chairman
01621 854108	

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, 10th June

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 Cotterell
Luncheon Groups	
1st Tues	To be advised
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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge for the Curious Wine Circle 1	2 Petanque Ten Pin Bowling Rummikub 2 Scottish Country Dancing Theatre visit—Gielgud	3 Mah Jong	4	5 Bird Watching
6 Maritime Whist	7 Table Tennis Snooker Art Appreciation Geology Luncheon Group	8 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Luncheon Group	9 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque French Conversation Plantagenets Reading Rummikub 1 Essex U3A Quiz day	10 Architecture Canasta Sing for Pleasure	11	12
13 Handicrafts Whist	14 Table Tennis Snooker Trees Egyptology	15 Ten Pin Bowling Luncheon Group Ldn visit—Theatre Royal	16 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Antiques Bridge for the Curious Scottish Country Dancing	17 Mah Jong	18	19 Strollers
20 **AGM** **Meeting 1.30 pm** Just Jazz	21 Table Tennis Snooker Aviation	22 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Family History Wine Circle 2 Writing for Fun	23 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque French Conversation Music Appreciation Wine Circle 3	24 Canasta Cribbage Family History Sing for Pleasure	25	26
27 Astronomy Handicrafts Local History Whist	28 Table Tennis Snooker Strollers Too Trees Wine Circle 4	29 Ten Pin Bowling	30 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Scottish Count ry Dancing			

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. Jan Robertson.