The University of the Third Age

MALDON
AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

November 2016

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR

On Thursday 27th October at Maldon Town Hall we were able to welcome new members to our U3A.

The coffee morning was well attended and proved to be a great success, due mainly to the efforts of Alan Clarke, Sylvia and Colin Beckett, Jan Robertson and the Coordinators who attended, our thanks to them.

The stores would have us believe that Christmas is already here, as you will discover if you wish to buy a present other than for Christmas. However, preparations do have to be made and I can report that your committee have arrangements well in hand for our Christmas meeting. First class entertainment and refreshments so keep the **19th of December** free.

Can I remind everyone that we have a suggestion book and if you feel that anything can be done to improve our Group please tell us about it.

Brian Johnson E-mail brian-purleigh@hotmail.co.uk

Boxing Day

Invitation to anyone who is on their own on Boxing Day
Come and join Jan and Pat Clements at
Jan's
for Lunch and Afternoon Tea
6 Blenheim Close, Bicknacre, CM3 4NE
12—4 pm
Donation of perhaps a cake and the odd bottle
would be welcome.
Please contact Jan Robertson
if you would like to join us.

Aviation

On the 18th October the Aviation Group had one of its best meetings ever. With the room full to capacity we had a short film on the Lancaster Bomber and the crew. The meeting was then opened to a question and answer session with our three guests, all ex aircrew who flew in Lancaster bombers between 1943 until 1945. It was indeed a privilege to hear their stories first hand and wonder at the courage these men showed that they were able to carry on when 45,000 of their comrades were killed and a further 9,600 were seriously injured. Our sincere thanks to them.
At our meeting on the **15th November** we shall have a lecture on the "The Enigma of the World's First Jet Fighter", and on **20th December** our meeting (with wine) will be on the most successful aircraft made since the last war, "The Hawker Hunter" with a film.
May I remind all those going to RAF Hendon on **Thursday 24th November** the coach will leave Tesco's car park at 9-30am .
If you wish to join the coach at Danbury please let me know.
Brian Johnson

U3A Ten Pin Bowling

Wednesday and Thursday Joint Christmas meeting.

On **Wednesday December 21st** both groups are going to play together – just like the old days. There will be bowling on Thursday as usual but we like it when we can play with old friends for a change.
Christmas Lunch has been booked in Henri's Steakhouse after bowling.
You can bring any non-bowling members of the U3A to lunch.
As there are no clashes this year with holidays we will bowl every Wednesday and Thursdays into the New Year.
More details and bookings taken later on.
David Arnold

Treasurer's message for Co-ordinators

Due to my recent hip operation can you please, for the remainder of this month and early-December, Group Co-ordinators, the Speaker Secretary and any other persons requiring cheques, continue to contact me with the relevant details.
I will then prepare the required cheques which can be collected from me at 128 Goldhanger Road, Heybridge, CM9 4QS.
Graham Webster

Architecture

The next meeting will be held on **Friday, 9 December,** when Veronica Smith will tell us more about the Maldon Conservation and Design Awards and the work of the SPAB. 2.30 pm in the Jubilee Lounge at West Maldon Community Centre. All welcome.
Judith Johnston

Just Jazz

The next meeting of the Just Jazz group will be on **Monday, 21st November** at The Maldon Little Ship Club at 7.30pm.
Plenty of good Jazz and a bar are available.
Date for Just Jazz in December is **Monday, 19th.**

Maritime

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 5th December** - meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 11:00am. There will be a short Maritime themed DVD followed by a power point presentation on the proposed trips for 2017, this will be followed by details of our 2017 programme. Please bring your cheque book with you so that you can sign up for the various trips, sign -up sheets will be available on the day.
We will finish with our annual Christmas Buffet.
Malcolm Case

Astronomy

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 28th November** at 7:30pm at Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge. CM9 4RE. Weather conditions permitting, then we will do some observing. Should the weather be against us, then a DVD will be shown together with information on the night sky for December. Please bring your telescopes/binoculars with you.

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

Trees

Our last meeting for the year will be on **Tuesday 8th December** at 10.00 am. We shall only go out if the weather is suitable. Otherwise, we shall meet indoors and review all we have done. We shall recommence in the New Year on **Tuesday 14th March**, and continue meeting fortnightly again.
Veronica Smith

Egyptology.

There is no meeting in December and the next meeting will be on

Tuesday 10th January at 2pm in the Oak House Maldon,
All members are welcome to attend.

Local History

Our last meeting for this year is on **Monday November 28th**, when Charlie Haylock will give his talk on "The Origins and Development of Spoken English". Mr Haylock is an entertaining speaker, extremely knowledgeable linguist, and a best-selling Suffolk author who also writes for the East Anglian Daily Times.

There will be NO MEETING in December but a copy of the 2017 programme will be available at the November meeting.
All meetings are held at Maldon Town Hall at 2pm at £2.00 per session.
Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you there.
Kathy, Jane and Sylvia

Family History

The next meeting will be held on the **23rd Novemb**er at 58 Augustine Way, commencing 2.30pm. Please let me know if you will be attending or not.

Family History (Beginners)

I regret that due to unforeseen circumstances we cannot hold our meeting on the **26th November**.

No meetings in December.
Alan Buck

Strollers and Strollers Two

There are no Strollers in December.
Gill Stone

Current Affairs

We had a good meeting this month with 9 people – our best for a long time.
We can still cope with a couple more but several people didn't turn up so it is difficult to gauge.
I wish someone else would take it on. In the meantime I do my best.
Next meeting Thursday, **1st December.**
Clare Urry

Social Event

Evening Concert with *'Just Us'*

at the United Reformed Church, Maldon

Thursday 1st December 2016

Time 6.30 for 7.00 to 9.30 pm

Tickets £5 includes tea/coffee and biscuits during interval

Tickets from Barbara Byam-Shaw:
On sale now

"***JUST US***" are a very professional local quartet of lady singers who will perform for two one hour sessions, singing songs from each decade starting in the 1920s to the present day, mostly songs from the musicals.
As we do not intend to make any profit from the evening this makes it a very inexpensive evening which includes light refreshments in the interval.

On Wednesday evening, **22nd February** at Maldon Town Hall we have arranged a '60s Night with (by popular request) 'Rock and Roll Dave' entertaining us. We will be providing a 60s style supper with tickets priced at £12.50.

Do come along and enjoy this fun social evening. Tickets on sale at the November meeting from Barbara Byam-Shaw.

2016/7 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

Thurs. 24 Nov.	Visit to Hendon RAF Museum - Aviation
Thurs. 1 Dec	An Evening Concert with 'Just Us' at the URC - Social
Tues. 6 Dec.	Theatre visit to "Aladdin"
Thurs. 8 Dec	Luncheon Clubs combined Christmas lunch—Foresters Park
2017	
Tues. 10 Jan	Visit National Gallery –Art Appreciation
Wed. 22 Feb	A 60s Evening with "Rock and Roll Dave" - Social

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

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London Theatre

A reminder to all members who have paid to go to "Aladdin" on the **6th December** that the coach leaves TESCO car park at 3.00 pm.
Any queries please contact Alan Buck

Unfortunately the proposed visit to the Southbank Philharmonia Orchestra in February has been cancelled due to lack of interest.

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FAB (fitness and balance) Class.

Tuesdays from 11.15 to 12.15 at St Peter's Hospital Social Hall

Have fun and keep fit in this low impact exercise class. The class is designed to help improve muscular strength, balance and improve cardiovascular fitness.
Exercise can help lower blood pressure, cholesterol, control blood sugar levels and help reduce stress and anxiety.

Come and have a go, first class is free!. Men and women are welcome.

For more information please contact Malcolm Case

GROWING OLDER GRACEFULLY

Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking that I must say something
on every subject and on every occasion.
Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs.
With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all,
but You know Lord that
I want a few friends at the end.
Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details;
Give me wings to get to the point.
Seal my lips on my aches and pains.
They are increasing, and love of rehearsing them
is becoming sweeter as the years go by.
I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains,
but help me to endure them with patience.
I dare not ask for improved memory
but for a growing humility when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others.
Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.
Keep me reasonably sweet:
I do not want to be a saint—some of them are so hard to live with-
But a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil.
Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents
In unexpected people.
And, give me O Lord, the grace to tell them so.

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Art Appreciation

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Art Appreciation

Thirteen Art group members met at Andy's house to watch a superb 90 minute DVD showing the best paintings from possibly the world's greatest ever painter, Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn. He lived from 1606 to 1669. From Leiden his home town he moved to Amsterdam where he was regarded as the the best painter of the Dutch Golden Age, an era when there were many other superb painters including Van Gogh, Rubens, Caravaggio and Vermeer. He was renowned not only for his magnificent portraits and paintings but also he was the acknowledged master of etchings and drypoint. It is claimed (after much research and winnowing down) that he completed around 300 paintings, 2000 drawings, just under 300 etchings and 40 self portraits spanning his youth up to his older life - the last completed in 1668.

He is most highly regarded for his later works and his most famous paintings include The Night Watch, The Anatomy Lesson, The Syndics of The Drapers Guild, Woman Bathing In a Stream and Bathsheba at Her Bath. His paintings now hang in The Rijksmuseum Amsterdam, The Kunsthistoriches Museum in Vienna, The Louvre, The Metropolitan Museum and the Frick Gallery in New York, the Mauritshuis in The Hague, the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, The Wallace Collection and the National Gallery London.

He married Saskia, who died young, and they had a son Titus. Later he scandalously took his maid Hendrickje Stoffels as his lover, sadly she died in 1663 and his 26 year old son Titus died in 1668, 11 months before Rembrandt himself died aged 63. Like many painters he lived beyond his means, he over extended himself, he had to auction many of his possessions and move to a smaller house and he died nearly bankrupt and was buried in a pauper's grave.

There will be no Art Group meeting in December, and the next meeting will be a Viking Coach trip on **Tuesday, January 10th** to the National Gallery, including entry to the last week of the 'Beyond Caravaggio' exhibition. For those who have not yet paid please send me a cheque made out to 'Maldon and District U3A' for £27 to Penylan, Nounsley Road, Hatfield Peverel CM3 2NF. This trip is currently fully booked, but if anyone still wishes to go I can put your name on our waiting list in case some members drop out.

Andy Simmonds

Essex Wildlife Trust Talk
Fingringhoe Wick

14th December 8pm—10.15 pm

Religious Society of Friends, Quaker Meeting House, Butt Lane, Maldon, Essex, CM9 5HD.
Contact: Phil Luke Tel: 01621 853969 Email: phil@boxlodge.demon.co.uk.
Essex Wildlife Trust Warden, Matt Cole, will be presenting an illustrated talk about Fingringhoe Wick, the first reserve acquired by the Trust.
He will cover the past, present and future of the reserve.

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Purleigh Croquet Club

are seeking some new members to join them.
We already have Maldon U3A members participating.
If you should be interested please contact:
John Bendall Tel. 01621 827013 Mob. 07957 373425
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Maldon Heritage Winter Talks

Meetings held at the Friends Meeting House, Butt Lane, Maldon.
Doors open at 7 pm for a 7.30 pm start**.**

Tues. 6th December. Roger Beckett - "Maldon and Heybridge Ships, Mariners and Ship Owners in the Nineteenth Century".

Tues. 10th January. Joe Bispham - "The Mints of Maldon and Colchester. A Numismatic Historic of Essex from the 10th to the 12th Century".

Tues. 7th February. Kevin Bruce - "The Maldon District Coalminers".

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SEAFARERS CENTRE, TILBURY.

Are asking for donations of :
Toothbrushes - single pre wrapped
Toothpaste (in tubes)
Flannels
Deodorants
Shampoo
Shower gel
Christmas cards
Chocolate treats
or
Any financial donation

If you can help, then please give your donations to Malcolm Case who can be contacted

Thank you for your help.
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Lunchtime Carols at Maldon United Reformed Church

Maldon United Reformed Church, Market Hill, Maldon, Essex, CM9 5PZ

15th December - 13:00-14:00

Contact: Churches Together in Maldon Tel: 01621 850748 Web: www.ctim.org.uk
Free entry. Donations welcome. Readings and carols for audience participation. Coffee and tea are served from 12.15 onwards. Bring your own lunch and feel free to come and go as you please.

Christmas Meeting 19th December
Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

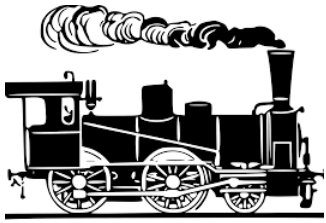
Christmas Entertainment

Christmas Fayre at Museum of Power

Museum of Power, Steam Pumping Station, Hatfield Road, Langford, CM9 6QA

Sunday, 11th December - 10:00-16:00

Contact: Maldon Tourist Information Centre Tel: 01621 856503
Email: tic@maldon.gov.uk Web: www.museumofpower.org.uk
Pre-booking (including Santa, refreshments and a ride on the steam railway) £8.00 per head. General admission on the day (no Santa visit included) £5.00.
Come along and meet Santa! Stalls, music and miniature steam train rides. (suitable for ages 2-12)



LUNCHEON CLUB VENUE

Times 12.15 pm

Thursday, 8th December—Combined Christmas Lunch at Foresters Park

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
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Treasurer	Graham Webster
Membership Sec.	Alan Clarke
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	Tony Groves
Social Committee	Michael Childs
AV Equipment	Ken Cooper
Essex Assoc. of U3A's	
Committee	Malcolm Case

NATIONAL OFFICE
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Resource Centre: email: resource.centre@u3a.org.uk

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 9th December

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
Canasta	Elaine Bane Gerry Brooks
Computers	Jan Robertson
Cribbage	Pat Clements
Current Affairs Discussion	Clare Urry
Egyptology	Kathleen Goff Sue Robinson
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	Eunice Legerton
3rd Wed.	Paul Costa
Eat & Meet 2nd Wed	Joyce Cotterell
Mah-Jong	Molly Polden
Maritime	Malcolm Case
Music Appreciation	Enid Hall John Skuse
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
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	Ann Goody
Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 Ten Pin Bowling Scottish Country Dancing Current Affairs Poetry Rummikub **Concert "Just Us" Social**	2 Mah Jong	3 Bird Watching Abberton	4
5 Maritime at 11 am Whist	6 Table Tennis **Theatre "Aladdin"**	7 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge	8 Ten Pin Bowling Plantagenets French Conversation Reading Rummikub Trees Combined Luncheon Lunch	9 Canasta Architecture Sing for Pleasure	10	11
12 Handicrafts Whist	13 Table Tennis	14 Ten Pin Bowling	15 Ten Pin Bowling Music Appreciation Scottish Country Dancing Antiques	16 Mah Jong	17	18
19 **Meeting 1.30 pm** Just Jazz	20 Table Tennis Aviation Wine Circle 4	21 Ten Pin Bowling (joint meeting & lunch) Bridge Wine Circle 2 Writing for Fun	22 Ten Pin Bowling French Conversation Wine Circle 3	23	24 **CHRI**	25 **STMAS**
26 **BOXING DAY**	27 Table Tennis Trees	28 Ten Pin Bowling	29 Ten Pin Bowling	30 Mah Jong	31	

As this is the Christmas period, please check with your co-ordinator as to the date of your next meeting.

Newsletter Editor: Mrs Jan Robertson,