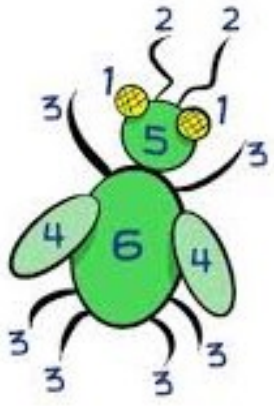
The University of the Third Age

MALDON AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER



Beetle Drive

7th October

A fun evening

September 2016

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR

My thanks to everyone who came to the meeting in August.
With such good weather it must have been hard to leave your garden.

The monthly meetings are very important if you want to keep abreast of all that is going on.

I would also like to thank Beryl McDonell of Weekenders and Andrew Simmonds of Art Appreciation for telling us all about their Groups. This was well received and we shall ask two Co-ordinators each month to inform us briefly about their groups.

Fred Lane, who for many years has supervised the opening and closing of the Wickham Bishops Village Hall for our Monthly meetings and ensured the room is correctly set out is not able to continue because of family needs. We sincerely thank him for all he has done for us in the past.
Malcolm Case has agreed to take over Fred's role, but we still need additional volunteers to help set the hall up.
This is very important and we hope somebody will volunteer.

Please remember the:

Essex Association Study Day on Tuesday, 25th October.

Our own Malcolm Case is a committee member of the Essex Association of U3As and will answer any questions you may have, but be quick because spaces are filling up.

Brian Johnson
E-mail brianpurleigh@hotmail .co.uk

Aviation

Our meeting this month dealt with a top secret RADAR developed in the early 1950s and the life of a conscript at that time.
At our next meeting on the **20th September** there will probably be a film.
There will be a visit to the RAF Museum Hendon in November.
This is one of the biggest Museums of aircraft in the country.
Please let me know if you want to join us.
Brian Johnson

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 September 26th** – a talk by Professor Stephen Dodds, 'How Space Telescopes are Controlled'. This talk will be supported by a PowerPoint presentation including some animations and a simple model of a space telescope with rotatable solar panels. The talk commences with an introduction to the orientation requirements of space telescopes. The means of achieving the required orientation are then explained, starting with the basic principles of three-axis spacecraft attitude control and the associated sun sensors and star sensors for measuring attitude angles. Then momentum exchange attitude control actuators, i.e., reaction wheels and control moment gyros are explained. Finally, an introduction to the feedback control systems required to achieve automatic orientation of the telescope is given.
Any U3A member is very welcome to join us.
Malcolm Case

Maritime

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 3rd October** at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00 am 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.
Any U3A member is very welcome to join us.
Malcolm Case

Geology

The Geology Group started its new season with a stimulating discussion on the latest news from geological scientists that earth has entered a new geological epoch, (do read the separate item – it's really fascinating). Next, Sylvia told us of several exploratory excursions she had made over the summer, with the result that we decided that for the next meeting (**4th October**) the group will visit Walton-on-the-Naze. After our usual tea and biscuits, we watched a DVD on the formation of the Grand Canyon - a spectacle familiar to all of us through film and, for some, a visit, but how many of us stop to wonder at the how and why and when of its formation.

These are some of the questions our group seeks to answer. If you would like to find out more about the story of our world, come and join us. We usually meet at the West Maldon Community Centre on the first Tuesday of the month .
We would love to welcome you.

Enid Hall. Sylvia Cousins.

Old, older and...right now

The Geology group usually spends its time looking back to past ages and through what is called deep time: the Jurassic epoch (145 million years ago) the Triassic epoch (200 million) and so on. Each epoch is divided from other by clear, worldwide markers.

At our last meeting we suddenly found ourselves focussing on a new era starting here and now. Currently we are in the Holocene epoch, which began only 12,000 years ago and is the period during which humanity has developed civilisation (of a sort!). Now the scientists are suggesting that we designate the start of a new epoch, to be called the Anthropocene: an era marked by humanity's activities leaving a mark that will be evident through future ages.

There is currently debate about an exact starting date, though 1950 seems to be a favourite. There is also debate about what the prime indicator of the switch from one epoch to another should be taken to be; remembering whatever it is must be noticeable worldwide. The front runner is the residue of the first man-made nuclear explosions, which seems to make sense, though another is (seriously) of all things, chicken bones, early evidence of man's move towards KFC perhaps. So some of us will, if we are old enough, soon be able to say we have lived in two different epochs.
The Geology group normally meets for a chat, investigation of such matters and tea on the first Tuesday of the month, if you have an interest in this sort of thing do join us.

Computer Group

Our Autumn sessions commence on the 4th Thursday of each month, ie. **22nd September**. We are a discussion group who meet at WMCH, in the Linton Room at 2 pm. We have a laptop, projector and a screen with website access. We never know what we are going to talk about, just leave it up to the members present who want answers to problems they have encountered and hope these can be discussed and resolved. It always ends with a lively chat.
If you would like to join us please give me a ring.
Jan Robertson on

Strollers

On **Sunday October 16th** we are meeting at the car park of the Bell Pub and Chimes Restaurant, Main Road, Rettendon CM3 8DY, meet 10.15 -10.30 am. for a walk of about 4.5miles.
This walk involves a bridleway which could be muddy if there has been rain, and part of the route goes uphill to afford wonderful views over the Essex countryside.
Please let us know, as soon as possible, and no later than **October 2nd** if you would like lunch which has been booked at the Chimes Restaurant, at very reasonable prices.
Jane Coombes
Sylvia Cousins

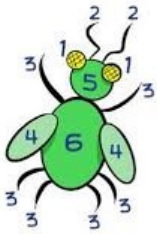
Strollers Too

I will be leading the walk for **Tuesday 25th October**. It will be in the Fuller Street area north of Terling, details will be available from the October main meeting, contact Mike Childs .

Just Jazz

The Just Jazz group will meet on the **19th September** at the Maldon Little Ship Club at 7.30pm. Further meetings will be held on the third Monday of the month for October, November and December.
A bar is available and a film may be shown.
Jim Light and David Coombes.

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:

On sale from September meeting.

Come and join us, it is such a fun evening.

Maldon and District U3A

Evening Concert with 'Just Us'

at the United Reform Church, Maldon

Thursday 1st December 2016

Time 6.30 for 7.00 to 9.30

Tickets £5 includes tea/coffee and biscuits during interval

Tickets from Barbara Byam Shaw

On sale from September meeting

Canasta

Canasta starts **Friday, 16th September** at 1.30pm, after our nice summer break.

New members always welcome.

Elane Bane and Gerry Brooks

2016 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

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 with 'Just Us' 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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London Theatre Outings

We purchase theatre tickets through a ticket agency and put tickets on hold for 28 days. During this time we have to inform you, the members of the proposed outing, collect and bank your cheques and then pay for the tickets sold and cancel any unsold tickets. As you will appreciate it is a tight timescale hence the initial notification by email of the proposed outing and the need for prompt replies and payment. Tickets can only be purchased for U3A members and once tickets are purchased refunds can only be made if your ticket is sold on.
If any member is not receiving email notification and would like to do so please contact to be added to the list.

London Walks & Talks

Jean Fullerton will be our speaker on **Wednesday, September 21st** with a talk entitled "A Walk on the Wild Side" ----- a look at notorious London alleyways. Talk will commence at 2.30 p.m. at West Maldon Community Centre.
All members are welcome. Entrance fee -- £2
On **Wednesday, October 19th** our walk will be in Historic Spitalfields, when John Halligan will be our guide.
Further information and the opportunity to book for the October walk will be available at the September meeting.
JanEen Trew
Christine Speed
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Bawdsey Radar Museum and Woodbridge Tide Mill

On a bright Monday morning at 8:00am, 51 members left Maldon to visit the Bawdsey Radar Museum Transmitter block and the Woodbridge Tide Mill.
An excellent journey with no traffic delays got us to Bawdsey ahead of time. We were met by John and Roy our two guides who gave us a brief overview of the museum and then took us inside to a very welcome cup of tea and coffee, with biscuits. We then went around the museum at our own pace to view all of the many and varied exhibits which gave an interesting history of the development of Radar (Radio Detection and Ranging); John and Roy always being on hand to answer our many questions. The Transmitter Block on the Bawdsey Manor Estate is part of the world's first operational Radar station. In 1935, in a field near to Daventry, Robert Watt and Arnold Wilkins successfully demonstrated that an aircraft could be detected using radio waves. The team soon needed more space and secrecy for research and in 1936 the Bawdsey Manor estate was purchased. The scientists became known as the "Bawdsey Boffins". The development work at Bawdsey resulted in the first ever operational radar station at Bawdsey which became the model for a chain of stations along the coast. Bawdsey remained operational as a research station into the 1990s and as a museum, has recently been awarded Lottery Funding.

We left Bawdsey at 12:00 and then went for lunch at the Wyevale Garden Centre near Woodbridge.

After lunch we went to the Woodbridge Tide Mill, where we were met by four guides who divided us into four groups and took each group around the Mill, each guide giving us a very interesting and informative tour which finished with a demonstration of the Mill in operation and milling wheat and we were able to purchase this freshly ground flour.

Woodbridge was one of the first tide mills in the country, and was unquestionably the last one working – operating for well over 800 years.
The earliest record of a tide mill on the River Deben is in 1170. It was owned by the Augustinian Priors for around 350 years until Henry VII confiscated it.
In 1793. The present mill was built on the site of earlier ones. It finally closed in 1957, it was saved and restored and opened to the public in 1973. The mill operates purely on water power, a large "Pond" is filled by river water during the flood tide, then during the ebb tide, the water is released from the pond to drive the large water wheel which in turn drives all of the milling equipment.

Malcom Case

Old Radio equipment used in research

Exterior of the Transmitter block

Model of Bawdsey Radio Tower

Entrance to Woodbridge Tide

Grinding the wheat

Woodbridge Tide Mill

Art Appreciation —
Visit to the Wallace Collection

There were 14 of us, very ably driven by David Gillespie in our Viking coach, who visited this magnificent art collection in Manchester Square, Central London.
After lunch in the lovely restaurant we had a 1½ hour guided tour of the three floors. We saw a superb collection of European old masters including Rembrandt, Canalletto, Gaudi, Ruebens, Poussin, Murello, Titian, Van Dyck, Velazquez, Constable, Gainsborough, Reynolds, Fragonard and many others. The highlight of the tour was the Great Gallery and a viewing of The Laughing Cavalier - Frans Hals most famous work.
Our next meeting will be **Tuesday Oct 4th** details later.
Andy Simmonds

Local History
Firstly a reminder to all members who have booked to come on the Local History trip to Kent on **Monday 26th September**. We will be meeting at Tesco's bus stop, Heybridge, leaving at 8.30am and picking up at Danbury at approx 8.40am.
Our next meeting at Maldon Town Hall will be on **Monday October 24th** when the subject is 'The Norman Conquest in Essex' with Jennifer Ward. The meeting starts at 2pm and all members are welcome to attend.
Kathy Goff

West Maldon Community Association

Sunbury Way, Keeble Park, Maldon CM9 6YH
Tel: 03000111995 (24 hour answer phone)
Website: www.westmaldoncommunitycentre.co.uk

The AGM for WMCC will be at 7.45 pm on **Thursday 13th October at the WMCC Hall.** There will be food and drinks and everyone is welcome.
We are desperately short of committee members so please come along and volunteer! If you would like to discuss beforehand what is involved then please do not hesitate to contact me on 07795 950183.
There will be the usual committee meeting after the AGM – we meet the second Thursday of each month.
Sarah Richardson

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Chelmsford Park & Ride route changes

Journeys will now operate from the Sandon P&R site via the City Centre to Chelmer Valley P&R site and vice versa.
If you want to shop in Chelmsford you have to get off at the Market/Library bus stop, otherwise you go onto the Chelmer site.
Additional peak hour journeys between Sandon and the City Centre.
For full information and a copy of the new timetable please go to www.essex.gov.uk/parkandride

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Family History Group

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 28th September** at 58 Augustine Way, Bicknacre, CM3 4ET commencing 2.30pm.

Family History Beginners Group

The next meeting will be held at 58 Augustine Way, Bicknacre, CM3 4ET on **Friday 30th September** commencing 10.00am.
I would appreciate if those wishing to attend either groups to let me know in advance by e-mail or telephone.
Alan Buck

SCAM

I received an E-mail to-day from the tax office telling me i was to get a rebate on my tax of £350. It looked to be the real thing until I remembered the tax office would not have my E-mail address. I did not open it.
Tax office confirm they would never use an e-mail to advise you of a tax rebate.
Be on your guard
Brian Johnson

I just got a real HMRC rebate last week but it came by LETTER!
Always by letter, never by email
Andy Simmonds

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WE ARE MACMILLAN - WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING
FRIDAY 30th SEPTEMBER

Please come along to my annual Macmillan Coffee morning

from 10 am to 12 noon
at 11 Beaumont Way Maldon.
The usual coffee and cakes will be available
together with plenty of chat –
hopefully in the garden!
Everyone is welcome!

Nick Thomas has worked on several comedy shows for the BBC and now combines writing with giving talks.

17th October Meeting
Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

Speaker
Nick Thomas
"My Life as a BBC Comedy Screenwriter"
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Online shopping websites are being utilised by fraudsters to advertise non-existent drones of various specifications for competitive prices.

Drones are personal flying devices that often carry cameras and can be navigated remotely by smartphones or hand-held controllers. Fraudsters are capitalising on their recent popularity and advertising non-existent drones at a lower value than their recommended retail price to tempt buyers.

After victims agree to purchase the drone, the fraudsters request payment to be paid via bank transfer saying that it will quicken the delivery process. After transferring the money the buyers never receive the drone and the fraudster blocks the victim to prevent further conversation.

How to protect yourself:
Check the validity of the post.
Avoid paying by bank transfer and instead use an online payment option such as PayPal, which helps to protect you.
Check feedback online by searching the associated phone numbers or email addresses of the seller. Feedback will give you useful information about recent transactions other buyers may have made.
If the item is below market value consider whether this is an opportunity too good to be true.
If you have been affected by this, or any other scam, report it
Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040, or visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES

Times 12.15 pm

TUESDAY **6th September** at the Ferry Boat Inn, Fambridge
Co-ordinator: Eunice Legerton

WEDNESDAY **19th October at** Izumi's at Madison Heights
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
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Speaker Secretary	Veronica Smith
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	Judith Johnston
	Sylvia Beckett
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	Tony Groves
Social Committee	Michael Childs
AV Equipment	Ken Cooper
Essex Assoc. of U3A's	
Committee	Malcolm Case

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Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 7th October

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	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	2
3 Whist Maritime	4 Table Tennis Art Appreciation Geology Luncheon Group	5 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge for the Curious Wine Circle 1	6 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Current Affairs Discussion Poetry Rummikub 2 Scottish Country Dancing	7 Canasta BEETLE DRIVE	8	9
10 Handicrafts Whist Egyptology	11 Table Tennis Trees	12 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Luncheon Group	13 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque French Conversation Plantagenets Reading Rummikub 1	14 Architecture Mah Jong Sing for Pleasure	15	16 Strollers
17 **Meeting 1.30 pm** Just Jazz	18 Table Tennis Aviation	19 Ten Pin Bowling London Walks & Talks Luncheon Group	20 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Antiques Bridge for the Curious Scottish Country Dancing	21 Canasta	22	23
24 Whist Handicrafts Astronomy Local History	25 Table Tennis Strollers Too Trees Wine Circle 4 **ESSEX STUDY DAY**	26 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Family History Wine Circle 2 Writing for Fun	27 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Computers French Conversation Music Appreciation Wine Circle 3	28 Cribbage Family History Mah Jong Sing for Pleasure	29	30
31 Whist						

PROGRAMME – OCTOBER 2016

Newsletter Editor: Mrs Jan Robertson,