The University of the Third Age

MALDON
AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

EASTER

April 2017 **NO MONTHLY MEETING THIS MONTH**

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR

Firstly I would like to thank everyone who sent get well messages to me following my fall. I am pleased to report that due to some amazing work by the Burns Unit at Broomfield and the A & E my healing is progressing extremely well.

With Easter now upon us and the better weather. I hope as many as possible can take advantage of the outside activities arranged by our various Groups.

There are still a few seats available for the Aviation trip to "The Shuttleworth Collection".

Strollers have arranged walks if you want to enjoy the countryside in good company and the Astronomy group will be night sky viewing on Monday 24th of this month.

The Easter Themed Afternoon Tea is on Thursday 20th April at West Maldon Community Centre which is an opportunity to meet up for a chat with friends.

There are other events so make good use of your U3A.
Brian Johnson

Distribution of the April newsletter

As you know we will not be having a main Monday U3A meeting on the 17th April as it is the Easter weekend.

The newsletter will be emailed to everyone who has email access, as usual. However, can we ask friends who know someone without email access to collect a copy from Reeves Ironmongers in High Street Maldon or the Tourist Office, Maldon and deliver the newsletter to their friend/s. after **18th April**
We will be happy to post a copy to anyone unable to get a coy.
Contact Jan Robertson for help if necessary on or Alan Clarke

Aviation

Last month Peter Bickers gave us a lecture with Powerpoint on the Westland Twin engine fighter which was in service with the R A F between 1940 and 1943. Not much was known about this aircraft which was eclipsed by the Spitfire and Hurricane.
At our next meeting, which will be on **Tuesday April 18th** the subject will be "The meeting of the Giants". A Lancaster Bomber which was rebuilt in Canada and flown across the Atlantic. It joined up with the one from the Memorial Flight and they flew together.
There are still a few seats left for our trip to the flying day at Shuttleworth on **Sunday**, **7th May.** This is an excellent day out with a multitude of aircraft flying and lots to see in the museum and gardens. Cost £36.
Duxford Battle of Britain Air Show is on Saturday 23rd September
This is also booked and the cost including admission and coach is £39-50. I have booked and paid for the coach park. I do not want your cheques until July (unless you post date them for July). I am hoping that this coach will leave from WMCC, but you will be advised in good time and it will also collect at Danbury en route. You will also need chairs for this event. There are still eight seats available for this event.

Brian Johnson, Tresco, Pump Lane, Purleigh, Chelmsford CM3 6PF.
Tel 01621 828497

TEN PIN BOWLING GROUP

We are going to celebrate our 750th meeting on **April 26th**.
We have played almost every week for nearly 15 years.
Our celebration will take the form of a Lunch in Henri's Carvery at Madison Heights. The cost will be £5.95.
All bowlers, old and new, are invited with their U3A friends.
Just let me know if you are coming, either at bowling or by email at:
wantz@btinternet.com
David Arnold

Strollers

Sunday 21st May

Meet at 10.15, for a 10.30 start, at The Sports and Social Club car park, Main Road, Danbury CM3 4NQ.
The walk will be around Lingwood Common for approximately 4 miles.
Lunch will be at 'The Griffin' , Main Road, Danbury.
(please let me know if you are staying for lunch).
Colin Beckett

Strollers Too

Tuesday 23 May

Please meet at The Old Crown, Messing, CO5 9TU at 10.15am for a 10.30 start. The walk is approximately four and a half miles long, over farmland and through ancient woods (4 stiles). Please let me know by 9 May if you want to book lunch; we will choose from the menu before walking.
Christine Bishop .

London Talks and Walks

John Halligan is our London guide on **Wednesday, April 19th** when we will discover the "The Modern City of London".
The talk on **Wednesday, May 17th** will be given by David Williams and is entitled "The Changing Skyline". Talk will be at West Maldon Community Centre at 2.30 p.m. Entrance fee £2.
Bookings for the walk in Rotherhithe Village on **Wednesday, June 21st** will be taken at the May meeting.
Janeen Trew Christine Speed

Just Jazz

No meeting in April as it clashes with Easter.

Antiques

We had a most enjoyable meeting in March discussing Antique Boxes and Treens. Unfortunately no meeting in April as it clashes with the Easter Afternoon Tea on April 20.
Liz Wood

Maritime

There is no meeting in May , the 1st being the May Bank Holiday.
The next meeting of the group is on **Monday June 5th**, meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club at 10:00am for an illustrated talk by John Johnson Allan on the use of “Hospital Ships during the War”. The First World War was a global conflict and therefore Britain needed to move troops to battlefields around the world. It was also necessary to remove wounded troops for treatment either to hospitals or on specially equipped ships. The Merchant Service (as it was known at that time) provided the troopships and hospital ships. The size of the Merchant service at that period made this possible, as in 1913 Britain’s merchant fleet was 47% of the world's merchant fleet – effectively every second ship that was seen flew the British Red Ensign. The Admiralty paid tribute to the men of the merchant fleet after the war: – "the Mercantile Marine, from the beginning, faced this unprecedented form of warfare with indomitable courage, magnificent endurance and a total disregard of danger and death, factors which the enemy had failed to take into account and went far to defeating his object."
All U3A Members are most welcome to join us.
Malcolm Case

Astronomy

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 24th April**, at 7:30pm.
All meetings are held at Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge. CM9 4RE. If weather conditions are favourable then we will be Night Sky observing but not until at least 8:45pm. We will start the meeting with a talk by John Bowen on NASA’s Moon exploration of the 1960’s and 1970’s.
Please bring telescopes/binoculars with you. Any U3A members are most welcome to join us.
Patrick Forsyth

Afternoon Tea on Thursday April 20

Due to a cancellation we have two places available at the above Afternoon Tea.
Ring Barbara Byam Shaw to secure a place.

MALDON U3A GROUP COORDINATORS - Annual Account

Notes from our Treasurer—Graham Webster

The Accounts have to be formally audited and then presented at our June AGM and also to the Charity Commissioners.

It is therefore important that our Accounts present as full and accurate picture of our finances for 2016-17.

In this respect, could you please let me have the following information for the Group(s) of which you are the Coordinator.

1) Your Group(s) opening petty cash balance plus the amount "banked" with Maldon U3A as at 1st April 2016.
2) Your Group(s) income for the 12 months to 31st March 2017 broken down where possible into categories of income (e.g. members subs, receipts for trips, etc.
3) Your Group(s) expenditure for the 12 months to 31st March 2017 broken down where possible into categories of spending (eg. speakers' fees, payment for trips, room hire etc).
4) Your Group(s) closing petty cash balance plus the amount "banked" with Maldon U3A as at 31st March 2017.

Please advise me if your Group(s) answer to any/all of the above questions is zero.
Thank you.
Graham Webster

Local History

This is a reminder that our next meeting on **Monday April 24th** is the outing to Knebworth House.
For those of you booked on this trip please be at Tesco's Bus Stop for departure at 08.30 am. Should we have to change our departure venue at the last moment, Kathy will phone everyone with new details.

Our next meeting at the Town Hall is on **Monday May 22nd**, when Christine Whybrow will give a talk on "Broomfield's Princely Burial Site". All U3A members are welcome.
Kathy, Jane and Sylvia

2017 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

Thurs. 20 April	**Easter Afternoon Tea at WMCC—Social**
Mon. 24 April	Visit to Knebworth House - Local History
Sund. 7 May	Visit to The Shuttleworth Collection - Aviation
Tues. 16 May	"An American in Paris" Dominion Theatre - Theatre visit
Thur. 8 June	U3A Essex's Annual Quiz night
Fri. 9 June	Visit to Greek Orthodox Monastery — Architecture
Mon. 26 June	Walking tour of Colchester — Local History
Mon. 3 July	Day trip to Kingston upon Thames — Maritime
Thurs. 13 July	BBQ at Langford Village Hall - Social
Mon. 7 Aug.	Trip to Harwich to see replica of "Mayflower" - Maritime
4/7th Sept.	Four day trip to Portsmouth etc. — Maritime
Sund. 23 Sept.	Visit to Duxford IWM — Aviation
Mon. 25 Sept.	Walking tour of Canterbury — Local History
Tues. Oct. 24	**U3A Study Day at Plume School**
Thurs. Oct. 19	Posh Frocks Do at The Bull, Totham - Social

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

Trees

Sadly, after nearly two years this group has now been wound up. We had our last meeting on Tuesday 11th April. I really hope that all the members will now feel able to pass on their interest and knowledge.
Veronica Smith

Botany

Several people have shown interest in joining a new group to learn about our native wild flowers. I have quite a few names already and would like to be able to start after Easter with a preliminary meeting, before we go out on a botany walk. Could anyone who has not actually given me their name and a contact number or email address, written down please, do so asap, so that I can get this started. Thank you.
Veronica Smith

Study Day

Please note that the Booking forms will be sent out to the Association U3As at the end of June. I'm afraid I will not be processing any applications until I receive the completed booking forms and cheques.

The possible Study Day groups are now:

3 Art groups – 2 Water Colour, Acrylics
Computers – 2 different groups
Crochet, Lace
Family History
Geology?
History?
Jazz Appreciation
Maths
Philosophy
Shared Learning Projects
Wine Tasting
Writing – Non Fiction & Fiction
Beading
Country Dancing
Exploring Drama
First Aid
Hand Chimes
History of Trains
Latin
Patchwork
Trees
Ukulele

Singing was very popular but the leader cannot do the group again.
Do any of you know anyone who could take it on?
Finally, is there anyone in your U3A who could offer something new please give them my email address: Doug.harryman@talktalk.net.
Or contact Malcolm Case

Essex U3A

Planning for the Association of U3A's AGM and meeting is underway.
The main theme this time will be the role of U3A Chairman and there will be an opportunity for chairmen to discuss this in smaller groups.
Jeff Carter, the new East of England Trustee, will be there and will be sharing with us.

Malcolm Case

LAWYER STORY OF THE YEAR, DECADE AND POSSIBLY THE CENTURY

This took place in Charlotte , North Carolina .
A lawyer purchased a box of very rare and expensive cigars, then insured them against, among other things, fire. Within a month, having smoked his entire stockpile of these great cigars, the lawyer filed a claim against the insurance company. In his claim, the lawyer stated the cigars were lost "in a series of small fires." The insurance company refused to pay, citing the obvious reason, that the man had consumed the cigars in the normal fashion. The lawyer sued - and WON!

Delivering the ruling, the judge agreed with the insurance company that the claim was frivolous. The judge stated nevertheless, that the lawyer held a policy from the company, in which it had warranted that the cigars were insurable and also guaranteed that it would insure them against fire, without defining what is considered to be unacceptable 'fire' and was obligated to pay the claim. Rather than endure lengthy and costly appeal process, the insurance company accepted the ruling and paid $15,000 to the lawyer for his loss of the cigars that perished in the 'fires'.

NOW FOR THE BEST PART... After the lawyer cashed the cheque, the insurance company had him arrested on 24 counts of ARSON!!! With his own insurance claim and testimony from the previous case being used against him, the lawyer was convicted of intentionally burning his insured property and was sentenced to 24 months in jail and a $24,000 fine.
This true story won First Place in last year's Criminal Lawyers Award contest.

Architecture

Our next meeting will be on **Friday 12 May**, when Malcolm Holmes will tell us about his visit to Fallingwater, a house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1935 in rural South-West Pennsylvania. This should be a very interesting presentation, and I hope we will have a good turnout at the Jubilee Lounge, West Maldon Community Centre, 2.30 pm. All welcome.

A visit to the Greek Orthodox Monastery has been arranged for **Friday 9 June**. Numbers are limited. Please contact Sheila Epps at skepps@talktalk.net. There will be a small charge.

Judith Johnston

Charity Class 2017

Make a knitted twiddlemuff for people with dementia

What is a twiddle muff?

It is a knitted muff with items attached that a person with dementia can twiddle in their hands.

Why make one?

People with dementia often have restless hands and like to have something to keep their hands occupied. It provides a wonderful source of tactile and sensory stimulation and at the same time keeps hands snug and warm.

How to make one:

Materials needed:
A selection of leftover or odd balls of wool.
Needles: 8mm circular or 6.5mm straight.

1. Cuff

Cast on 45 stitches using 2 strands of double knitting wool or one strand of chunky wool**.** One plain colour works best. Work in stocking stitch (knit a row, purl a row) for 11 inches.

2. Muff Body

Continue with stocking stitch, but use up oddments of various textures of wool such as *chunky, mohair, ribbon etc until the work measures 23 inches. Two strands of double knit for two rows each gives a lovely assortment of colours. Cast off.*

3. Finishing

if working with straight needles, lightly iron the long strip, then neatly join the sides together using edge to edge stitch, with the knit side facing out. Turn inside out and push the one colour cuff up inside the muff body. Sew the two ends together, again using a neat *edge to edge stitch.*

4. Decoration

Now you can decorate the muff inside and out, with ribbons, beads, flowers, zips, loops, pom-poms, buttons etc. Knit a separate pocket for a favourite photo or hanky.
Be creative, but make sure each item is securely attached.

See Twiddlemuff on Google for further ideas.

OPEN GARDENS

Sunday 11th June

10.30am to 5pm

Danbury &
Little Baddow

Homemade lunches, tea, coffee & cakes
Pimms Tent, classic cars, miniature railway
Free transport between gardens
Tickets in advance £5.00 from
www.danburyopengardens.co.uk or from
White Elms Garden Centre, Blossom Hill Florist
and Meacock & Jones.

or pay on the day £6.00, call Margaret on 01245 222674

Farleigh Hospice Registered Charity No 284670

Take another look at our Website

Our website (**www.maldonu3a.co.uk**) is updated several times every month. The amendment table near the top of the home page lists the latest changes. I would like to draw your attention to three areas in particular:

a) The home page has details of the next main monthly meeting and a list of future outings and events.

b) Often, a report and photographs of the monthly meeting or an activity group's outing is added shortly after the event.

c) Clicking on "Links and Contact" in the top section will take you to a page which has links to many learning resources, including courses on almost anything, languages, "how to" instructional websites, e-books, e-magazines etc.

The monthly newsletter (without individual's telephone numbers) is also put on the website at about the same time that it is sent to members.

Our thanks to Tony Groves for his hard work in keeping this website up to date each month. Jan

A Gresham Professor, Martin Lloyd is the author of among other titles –
The Passport: The History of Man's most Travelled Document,
and an authority on the design of passports.

15th May Meeting
Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

Speaker
Martin Lloyd
'Becoming a Successful Author'

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES

Times 12.15 pm

TUESDAY **2nd May** at the Bell at Woodham Walter
Co-ordinator: Eunice Legerton

WEDNESDAY No luncheon Club in May, Paul is on holiday
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 Harden, Chairman	Angela Pleasance, Chairman
01621 858506	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

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Web Master	John Bowen
	Tony Groves
Social Committee	Michael Childs
AV Equipment	Ken Cooper
Essex Assoc. of U3A's	
Committee	Malcolm Case

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, 6th May
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CO-ORDINATORS

Antiques	Liz Wood
Architecture	Judith Johnston
Art Appreciation	Andy Simmonds
Aviation	Brian Johnson
Astronomy	Patrick Forsyth Sylvia Beament
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	Linda Rooney
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	Sue Garnham
Strollers	Gill Stone
Table Tennis	GorHardy
Ten Pin Bowling	David Arnold
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

PROGRAMME – MAY 2017

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 Maritime Whist	2 Table Tennis Art Appreciation Geology Luncheon Club	3 Ten Pin Bowling Wine Circle 1	4 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Current Affairs Poetry Rummikub 2 Scottish Country Dancing	5 Mah Jong	6	7 Aviation Shuttleworth Air Show
8 Handicrafts Whist	9 Table Tennis Egyptology Trees	10 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Luncheon Club	11 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque French Conversation Plantagenets Reading Rummikub 1	12 Architecture Canasta Sing for Pleasure	13	14
15 **Meeting 1.30 pm** Just Jazz	16 Table Tennis Aviation	17 Ten Pin Bowling Ldn Walks & Talks	18 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Antiques Scottish Country Dancing Wine Circle 3	19 Mah Jong	20	21 Srollers Danbury
22 Handicrafts Astronomy Local History Whist	23 Table Tennis Strollers Too Wine Circle 4	24 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Family History Wine Circle 2 Writing for Fun	25 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Computers French Conversation Music Appreciation	26 Canasta Cribbage Family History Sing for Pleasure	27	28
29 Whist	30 Table Tennis	31 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,