The University of the Third Age

MALDON
AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

AVIATION
DUXFORD VISIT
Saturday, 23rd September

AUGUST 2017

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR

The holiday season is now in full swing and I hope baby sitting grand children is not taking up to much time, enjoyable as it may be.

It is to be hoped that those of you who are lucky enough to be visiting Portsmouth with the Maritime Group, Duxford with Aviation Group or Canterbury with the Local History Group will have good weather and an enjoyable time.
There are still a few seats available for Duxford.
Please see Aviation for details.

Once again I must apologies for the mix up with last month's speaker. Please be assured this was beyond our control. As it was, it was enjoyed by some but not by others. We do try to book speakers with general appeal but it does not always work. The planned speaker will return at another time.

With regard to trips and events, a lot of time and effort goes into arranging these and your support is essential if they are to be successful.

The response to my idea of a holiday group was encouraging and I will be getting back to those members who have shown an interest.

Please keep safe and well.
Brian Johnson

Architecture

No meeting in August. I am trying to arrange a guided walk in London on **Friday, 8th September**.
The cost would be £8-10, plus train fare to Liverpool Street.
A minimum number is required for this, so if you are interested, please contact me - all are welcome.

Judith Johnston
judith@johnstons.me.uk

Strollers
Sunday 17 September

Please meet at The Swan, Little Totham CM9 8LB at 10.15 to start the walk at 10.30. The walk is about five miles, mostly over farmland, fairly level terrain, lovely views, no stiles. The pub is preparing a roast dinner just for us and need to know in advance if you would like chicken or beef.
So it is very important that you let me know by **Friday 8 Sept**ember if you wish to stay for lunch.
Christine Bishop, christinembishop19@gmail.com.

Strollers Too

Tuesday, 26th September

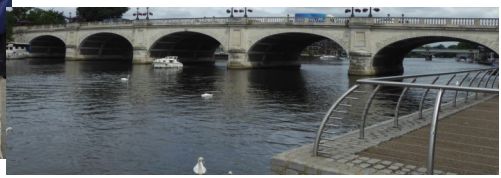
This month's walk will be around the Purleigh area, starting and finishing at the The Bell Pub at Purleigh.
The walk is about four miles and most of the terrain is good.
However, it is quite hilly in parts, which makes for spectacular views, and some small parts are quite overgrown so shorts are not recommended!
There around six stiles, two of which are quite high and difficult to cross, and two bridges. If you feel that this may cause you a problem please contact us for further details.
We have advised The Bell of our visit and you can park at the pub.
If you wish to have lunch, on arrival please go inside the pub and order and pay for your meal, making sure you tell them you are with the 'Helen and Martin Cook' group booking so that they can reserve sufficient tables.
This is important as they get a lot of walkers and it can get very busy.
Usual start time of 10.30 am.
Finally, please let us know if you will be taking part by telephoning us by the Sunday evening prior to the walk.
Helen and Martin Cook

Maritime

Visit on Monday July 3rd to Kingston Upon Thames/Windsor/River Thames Boat Trip. A 8:00 am start from Maldon got us to Kingston Upon Thames by 10:15 am, where we met our Blue Badge Guide James, who gave us a brief overview of the plan for the day and then escorted us to The Rose Theatre café where there were very welcome teas, coffees and biscuits waiting. Following this James took us on a very interesting one hour walk around Kingston Upon Thames, showing us the Guildhall, where in 1850 a large stone recovered from the ruins of the chapel of Saint Mary, which collapsed in 1730, and regarded as the Coronation Stone, is situated. We then visited Market Square and finally crossed Clattern Bridge (this name refers to the noise made by horses' hooves clattering across the bridge) before re-joining the coach. James explained that Kingston was granted a charter by King John in 1200. Kingston was built at the first crossing point of the Thames upstream from London Bridge and a bridge still exists at the same site. It was this "Great Bridge" that gave the town its early importance in the 13th century.

We left Kingston and went by coach to Windsor, following the Thames past Henry VIII's Hampton Court, en route James gave us an excellent commentary on the various villages and their history. At Windsor, we had free time for lunch before joining our river cruiser "Hampton Court" at 3:00pm, for our two hour cruise to Runnymeade. The river cruise took us through three locks passing the Queen's vast parklands with views of the castle, through Datchet Mead and Edward the Confessor's Old Windsor before arriving at Runymeade in time to purchase ice-creams before boarding our coach for the journey home.

We arrived back in Maldon by 7 pm.



Weekenders

As weekends keep on coming, we, as a group, continue to find varying activities to enjoy together. We meet monthly for coffee, idle chatter and most importantly to decide how we are going to spend future weekends. At the moment we are fourteen in number and just about squeeze into our sitting rooms as in recent times much down sizing has been taking place. During the past year we have visited local art shows when we have often been tempted to buy, but not many purchases are actually made. This is probably because the thought nowadays of actually hanging it on the wall makes us think twice. We enjoy going to the theatre, usually to the Mercury in Colchester, or to the Tractor Shed in Latchingdon. If you have never been to the latter we thoroughly recommend that you do so. They are a great Amdram group. When returning from Colchester we usually have fish and chips preceded by a glass of wine at the White Horse or at the Blue Boar.

Once a year, in the Summer months, we hire a Viking Bus to take us further afield. Last summer we visited Aldeburgh. We are very fortunate that David Gillespie willingly drives for us. It is much appreciated.

This past year a few of us have been further afield, in fact to Chatsworth for two days with Readers Holidays. It was certainly a very hot weekend. En route we stopped in Bakewell for tea and a slice of cake which turned out to be a "pudding!" Chatsworth was so hot on the Monday that we just could not bear to be inside the house, so just took a buggy ride round the grounds. Our overnight stay in the hotel was enlivened by a cockney lady who "adopted" us. She could have been Barbara Windsor.

Just before last Christmas we joined Philip's Coaches for a Christmas lunch and show at Aldeburgh and we made our usual visit to the Christmas Show at Hylands House. This has become an annual event.

Other weekends are often spent supporting local drama or music groups or just playing Rummikub together.

It is just great to have each other's company.

To bring us up to date, a couple of weeks ago we enjoyed a lunch together in one of our member's gardens, good food and wine and company.

Beryl McDonell

Plantagenets

For two years we have been studying this era in our country's history. We have gained our knowledge from books, visits and on line.
We have found the years from 1154 to 1485 a most interesting period which the majority of us had never studied at school whether we had been students in the 50s, 60s or 70s!
The story of these centuries is one of contradictions: on one hand the violent tale of political turbulence, periodic warfare, rebellions and assassinations; on the other hand it is the account of an emerging nation forging its own political system.
However, it is now time to move on to the Tudor period with the accession of Henry VII so would you like to join our very friendly group who, as well as learning, always find something to laugh about.
Beryl McDonell

Local History

The Coach pick up point for the Canterbury Trip on
Monday 25th September has been changed to West Maldon Community Centre, Sunbury Way, Maldon leaving at 8.30 am.
Please park your cars towards the back of the car park.
Kathy Goff

Egyptology

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday September 12th** at 2pm.
The venue has been changed to 180 Fambridge Road Maldon.
Kathy Goff

Gardeners

We had a most enjoyable Plant Swap on the 11th July in the garden of Liz Wood in Danbury. In spite of impending rain, which fortunately did not happen, we sat in her lovely garden and had tea and home made cakes, and chatted to our gardening friends. Thank you Liz.
Jan Robertson

2017 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

4/7th Sept.	Four day trip to Portsmouth etc. — Maritime
Wed. 20 Sept.	Walking in the Royal Parks with guide—London Walks & Talks
Sat. 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
Wed. Oct. 18	Finding out about "A City with Three Hearts" with guide
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.

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A Very Special Evening

Maldon and District U3A

'Posh Frock Do'

at The Willow Room, The Bull, Great Totham

Thursday 19th October

Time, 6.45 for 7.00 till 11.00

An arrival drink, a 3 course meal (you choose) and tea or coffee

Entertainment - Dianne Moore sings

Tickets £32 (Limit 70 so book early)

Tickets from Barbara Byam-Shaw

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Wine Group 4

Well, this month's meeting was hosted by Jill and John Challis. I can only say they went above and beyond the call of duty. They had to partake of numerous tastings of food and wine to accomplish their splendid Spanish wine and tapas evening. The unsuspecting group gathered ready for wine and our usual light supper of cheese and biscuits, only to be met with a feast of tapas to accompany every wine. We tried and tried but could not conquer all the food and then Jill said, oh, I have also got our usual supper – we then all agreed whole heartedly that she really didn't need to provide any further food, we were full, however we did manage to polish off most of the wine!

Ann Goody
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Art Appreciation

Twelve of us met up at the M11 Park and Ride and were in The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge by 11am for our second visit here.
A magnificent old building. It contains a vast amount of antique furniture, armour and porcelain but mainly priceless paintings, old masters from Europe and worldwide, including Rembrandt, Titian, Rubens, Canaletto, Constable, Gainsborough, Turner, Brueghel, Picasso and many others.
A tiring, but very enjoyable day, ended with a rather warm bus journey back to the Park and Ride.
There will be no Art Group Meeting in August or September.
Tuesday 3rd October will be our next date.
Andy Simmonds

Aviation

The trip to the North Weald Airfield Museum and Airfield was an enjoyable and interesting day. However I would warn anyone who intends to visit that the post code for the Museum and Airfield are the same but because of new development they are about two miles apart as some of our members found out.
The use of the Airfield spans both the first world war and the second. It was first opened in 1916 to defend London from the Zeppelins and it played a very important role in WW2, especially during the Battle of Britain.

I would remind members that there will not be a meeting in August.

There are still four seats available, due to cancellations for the Duxford Air Show on **Saturday, 23rd September** at the time of going to print.
£39 for coach and entry.
Our next meeting will be on **19th September** when the subject will be "The Commonwealth Squadron".
Brian Johnson

The Annual D'Arcy Day lecture

Saturday 2nd September 2017

7.15pm

at the Maldon Town Hall, Market Hill

The Friends of the Moot Hall, as part of its educational programme, sponsor an annual lecture which is free to the public.

This year it will be given by Benjamin Crussell and the subject is Western European Armour from 1050 to 1600 with period weapons and artefacts from the Combined Military Services Museum.

Bar Service by Maldon Brewing Company

Admission by ticket available free of charge from Maldon Tourist Information Centre

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Trees **-** Ash Tree survey.

Just a reminder to all you kind people who have been taking photos regularly of an ash tree near you, that I shall be collecting in all your photos at the September meeting. The photos should be mounted onto paper or thin card in month order and dated. They do not need to be large – probably something like 3 inches square would be plenty big enough especially if the tree is silhouetted so that the edges of the branches show clearly. They do not need to be glossy 'proper' photos. Print outs from your computer will do if they are clear. The exact location of the tree should be somewhere on the sheet or sheets of paper, and whether it is in a garden, by a road, in a woodland and so on. Don't forget to put your name on and a telephone number for contact. (If you would rather not give out your number, you might prefer your postal or email address.) I shall then be arranging for the sheets to be passed on to the group conducting the national survey on the decline of our ash trees.

Veronica Smith
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London Walks & Talks

On **Wednesday, September 20th** Sophie Campbell will be our guide in The Royal Parks of London.

Please note the following changes to our published programme

On **Tuesday, October 17th** we will be visiting Rotherhithe Village with our guide, David Williams.

We end the 2017 season on **Wednesday, November 15th**, when Maggie Piper will lead a walk in the City of London, entitled

"A City with Three Hearts".

If you require further details af any of the above walks please get in touch with Janeen or Christine.

Janeen Trew

Christine Speed

Geology

We have had two very enjoyable Field Trips over the last two months. In July we visited the home of Ros and Ian Mercer for a Master Class in Identifying Rocks and Minerals, using Hand Lenses and Microscopes. and helpful charts as an aide memoire.

In August we had a visit to Saffron Walden for a conducted tour of parts of the town and the Museum with Gerald Lucy.

In the town we saw huge boulders of Sarsen, Puddingstone and Septarian Nodule, collected from local fields, and an Ammonite Tunnel.

In the Museum we had a tour of the exhibits looking at Minerals, Fossils and Rocks, and a replica of the Meterorite that fell in nearby Ashdon in 1923. The original is in the Natural History Museum in London.

There will **be NO MEETING in SEPTEMBER**

Weather permitting, we hope to have one more Field Trip in October.

Sylvia Cousins

Prom Night Festivities!

Not

The Last

Knight of the Proms!

Featuring the St Johns Prom Singers and all of the usual Prom Night favourites:
Lots of audience participation including Rule Britannia, Land of Hope and Glory, Jerusalem and much more
Bring whistles, balloons, flags, party poppers and anything else suitable for noise making during this riot of patriotism!

"A great night out for all the family"
Entry is FREE!!!
(with a retiring collection in aid of St John's Church)

St John the Baptist Parish Church, Danbury
Saturday 19th September at 7.00pm
stjohnbaptistdanbury.org.uk

Balti night

Graham and I have been attending a similar Balti night in South Woodham Ferrers organised for the U3A and it has proved to be a great success.

We have therefore organised an evening in Maldon for our own U3A
Do come and join us and we can see if this can be a regular event.
Bob and Graham's big Balti Night
Tuesday 17th October
at 7:00 for 7:30pm
at BALTI BHUJON 24 Mill Road, Maldon.
First and second course half price, no pre ordering
Please contact Graham Evans
Or Bob Gowers to book and for information.
Email u3amaldonbalti@btinternet.com

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Come for a Nibble and a Natter!
Please support my
Macmillan Coffee Morning
10 am to 12 noon -
Friday 29 September
at 11 Beaumont Way, Maldon

Mary Burd

Veronica Smith
Although by training a biologist, Veronica is very interested in the history associated with old buildings and is the Secretary of the Essex Regional Group. She will be talking about the Maldon and District Design and Conservation Award and putting members' knowledge of our built heritage to the test.

18th September Meeting
Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

Speaker

Veronica Smith
Maldon & District Design of Ancient Buildings
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MALDON COELIAC GROUP

In aid of coeliacuk - live well gluten free

Craft Fair

at

Cygnet Room, The Swan Hotel, High St. Maldon

on

Saturday, 26th August

10am until 2pm

Admission £1

Free tea or coffee

Contact: lindarooney1509@gmail.com

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Purleigh Flower Show
Saturday, 19th August
Village Hall
2 pm
Refreshments and Raffle

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES

Times 12.15 pm

TUESDAY **5th September at the Wheatsheaf, Hatfield Peverel at 12 for 12.15 pm**
Co-ordinator: Eunice Legerton

WEDNESDAY **To be arranged.**
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.
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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	Judith Johnston
Treasurer	Graham Webster
Membership Sec.	Malcolm Case
Newsletter Editor	Jan Robertson
Speaker Secretary	Veronica Smith
Committee	Shirley Macro
	Andrew Simmonds
	Liz Jones

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	Tony Groves
Social Group	Michael Childs
AV Equipment	Ken Cooper
Essex Assoc. of U3A's	
Committee	Malcolm Case

NATIONAL OFFICE
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Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 8th September
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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	Louis Gunn
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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2 Bird Watching	3
4 Maritime **4/7th trip to Plymouth** Whist	5 Table Tennis Luncheon group	6 Ten Pin Bowling Wine Group 1	7 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Poetry Rummikub 2 Scottish Country Dancing	8 Architecture Mah Jong Sing for Pleasure	9	10
11 Whist	12 Table Tennis Egyptology	13 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Luncheon Group	14 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque French Conversation Plantagenets Reading Rummikub 1	15 Canasta	16	17 Strollers
18 **Meeting 1.30 pm** Just Jazz	19 Table Tennis Aviation	20 Ten Pin Bowling London Walks & Talks **Walking Tour of Royal Parks** Luncheon Group	21 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Antiques Scottish Country Dancing	22 Cribbage Mah Jong Sing for Pleasure	23 **Aviation Duxford**	24
25 Astronomy **Local History Canterbury visit** Whist	26 Table Tennis Strollers Too Wine Group 4	27 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Family History Wine Group 2 Writing for Fun	28 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Computers French Conversation Music Appreciation Wine Group 3	29 Family History Canasta **MacMillan Coffee Morning** **Mary Burd**	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, 6 Blenheim Close, Danbury, CM3 4NE