The University of the Third Age

MALDON
AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

Happy Christmas everyone

December 2017

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR

Well, in case you had not noticed Christmas is here.
Our Meeting on **Monday 18th** will, as always, be party food and mulled wine with professional entertainers with minimum formalities.
If any Coordinators wish to make any announcements please see me before we start the festivities.
Especially at this time we must remember those in need of help.
Car share if possible, and give a lift if anyone needs assistance to get to the hall.
I am sorry for arranging the Holiday Group meeting at the same time as the Luncheon Club Christmas meeting on the **7th December,** this was a mistake but all those who contacted me will be kept informed.
Keep safe, keep well and have a very happy Christmas.
Brian Johnson

Newsletter

If you have email and are not receiving the monthly newsletter please let me know and we can sort out whether I have put a dot in the wrong place.
Many thanks.
Jan Robertson: jan356771@gmail.com.
Newsletter Editor

Strollers

There will be a coffee morning on **Sunday 21st January 2018** to discuss the programme for the year. New members welcome.
We are meeting at The View Café, Osea Leisure Park, Heybridge CM9 4SA. Time: 10.30 am for 11.00.
Please let me know if you are coming by **Monday 15th January.**
Gill Stone: 01621 853948/ gillstoneuk@yahoo.co.uk

Strollers Too

There will be a coffee morning on **Tuesday 23rd January 2018** to discuss the programme for the year. New members welcome.
We are meeting at The View Café, Osea Leisure Park, Heybridge CM9 4SA. Time: 10.30 am for 11.00.
Please let me know if you are coming by **Wednesday 18th January.**
G Stone:

Art Appreciation

The Art Group usually meet on the first Tuesday of the month from 2pm to 4pm. Our next meeting however will be on **Tuesday January 9th** at Pam McMahon's house in Latchingdon.
In a change to the previous plan we will discuss
'The Impressionists'; Renoir, Monet, Manet, Degas, Toulouse Lautrec, Cezanne and Van Gogh.
Our next gathering after that will be on **Tuesday 6th February** when we will look at the celebrated Spanish painter Francisco José de Goya y Lucientes - otherwise known as Goya.
Some group members have also already signed up to combine with the Eves Corner W.I. trip to London's Tate Britain Gallery on **Tuesday 13th March** next year and there are still some seats available. If you are interested, please respond to Barbara Spring on 01245
223394 or barbaraspring25@outlook.com and let her know you are from Maldon U3A
If you have any queries contact me.
Andy Simmonds

Astronomy

There will not be a meeting in December.
Our first meeting of 2018 will be on **Monday 22nd January.**
Patrick Forsyth

Just Jazz

There will be no meeting of the Just Jazz group in December.
We will resume meetings in January, February and March on the third Monday as usual in The Queens Head on the quay. They do not use the dining room in these months.
They are not charging us for hire of the premises so everybody must buy their drinks and nibbles at the bar.
A 7.30pm start on **January 15** at The Queens Head.
Jim Light

Aviation

Our meeting this month on **Tuesday 19th** will, I hope, be social with wine and mince pies. After a film I want a general discussion on ideas for trips next year and lectures. Brian Austin is arranging a trip to "The Trenchard Museum" and "James McCudden Flight Heritage Centre" at RAF Halton Aylesbury. Details later.
At our January meeting we are taking the opportunity of a presentation by a Sunderland pilot who flew during the war. This is a rare chance to hear from one of the few. In view of his age and frail condition, a back up talk by Richard Creak on how to fly a Vampire will be in reserve.

Hope to see you all. Brian Johnson

LOCAL & GENERAL HISTORY GROUP—2018 Programme
Venue: Maldon Town Hall

Date	Subject	Speaker	Additional Info.
22 Jan.	Medieval Religion, Myths and Ghost stories	Ben Crussell	
26 Feb.	Rural Essex in Victorian and Edwardian Times	Peter Layzell	
26 Mar.	"Where there's a Will there's a Way"	Lynne Raymond	
23 Apl.	A visit to Newmarket Home of the Sport of Kings		Details tba
28 May	NO MEETING— BANK HOLIDAY		
25 June	Walking Tour of Moulsham Street Chelmsford		Details tba
23 July	History of Langford Water Works and Museum of Power	Patrick Chaplin	
August	NO MEETING—BANK HOLIDAY		
24 Sept.	"Kentish Curios" A visit to less well known parts of Kent		Details tba
22 Oct.	From Rural Essex and Suffolk to Battles of the Somme	Kate Cole	
26 Nov.	The History of Surnames	Charlie Haylock	
December	NO MEETING		

Note: All meetings will be held in Maldon Town Hall commencing at 2 pm.
Price £2.00 per session but could be more for some speakers.
For coach trips the price includes coach, entrance fee and driver gratuity.
All members very welcome to join us.
Further information from Kathy Goff
Jane Coombes

Speakers for January – June 2018

Monday, January 15 *Ian Keable*: Ian is a popular and entertaining speaker on a variety of topics, many of them political or literature based. He will be talking to us about **James Gillray,** generally agreed to be the first political cartoonist and satirist. He made a name for himself by showing no favours to anyone during the Eighteenth Century, including the Royal Family notably George III, and William Pitt the Younger.

Monday, February 19 *Oliver Hall*: Oliver's talk is entitled : **Tax, Care and Toy Boys**' . He is representing the Co-operative Estate Planning group. The talk is designed for people in our age groups and might well prove very helpful as we make decisions about our property.

Monday, March 19 *Steve Scruton/ Ian Wyatt*: Steve is well known for his long years with Essex Radio. His talk is entitled '**My Life in Radio**' during which he will tell us about it and how he came to be involved. He will be accompanied by his 'techie' Ian, who will be assisting as required.

Monday, April 16 *Dr Jane Pearson*: Jane is a lecturer in the History Department at Essex University. She offers several talks, ours is entitled **' Essex Workhouses of the Eighteenth Century'**.

Monday May 21 *Kate Cole*: Kate is known for historical re-enactments and talks.
Her talk for us is called: '**The Witches of Elizabethan Essex'**
This should be alarming - but reassuring at the same time perhaps.

Monday, 18th June A.G.M.

2017/8 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

Tues. Dec. 19	Balti Night
2018	
Fri. Feb. 9	A Magic Evening with Supper — Social
Mon. Feb. 12	Balti Night
Tues. Feb. 13	Cirque du Soleil, Royal Albert Hall—Theatre
Thurs. Mar.13	Visit to Tate Britain Gallery –Art Appreciation
Thurs. Mar. 22	An Afternoon Film Show — Social
Thurs. June 14	Evening BBQ - Social
Mon. Aug. 6	Chatham Dockyards & Medway Queen—Maritime
3/6 Sept	4 day trip to Nth Norfolk—Maritime
Fri. Oct. 12	Beetle Drive
Wed. Nov. 28	Social Evening with Entertainment.

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

A Magic Evening

Friday 9th

with a Ploughman's Supper and Dessert

7.00 for 7.30, till 10.00

at Maldon Town Hall

Please bring your own drinks and glasses.

Tickets £10 from Barbara Byam Shaw

Strollers and Strollers Too – Encounters with Animals

As the year comes to a close it is good to look back on the experiences of our walks. We have strolled over many acres of beautiful Essex countryside. Sometimes it is farmland, round the edges of fields or straight across the middle if the footpath takes us that way. It is quite strange being up to one's armpits in oats! We have walked through woods, alongside rivers, past pools and lakes we would never have guessed existed, and have battled the wind along the sea walls.

Along the way we have had many encounters with animals. Quite often paths go across fields where horses are kept and mostly they leave us alone. However, one persistent horse insisted on following us and then stood right in front of the stile we needed to cross to escape. It took some effort to move it away. Perhaps it was lonely. On another occasion a mare appeared to bring over her foal to proudly show us. We have had to crawl under a barbed wire fence to make a detour to avoid a herd of cattle blocking the footpath and recently a flock of geese decided to defend their territory. There's nothing so threatening as a goose with its neck stretched out and a glint in its eye.

Sheep are harmless and usually run away but a small flock decided to come and greet us along the sea wall near Goldhanger and followed us for quite a way. Further on we found one of them entangled in brambles and three members cut it free with the aid of a very small and not particularly sharp penknife. It trotted off to the rest of the flock without a backward glance.

We have seen many birds but usually are not able to identify them unless our expert birdwatcher is with us, apart from the recent egret which is unmistakeable. And for me the highlights have been the wild animals – the hares at Bradwell and the three deer chasing across the edge of a field near Cock Clarks.

We do also have little talks about local architecture or the history of places we pass through as well.

PS. No humans were harmed or injured during the making of our walks.
Geraldine Stratford

Maritime

There will not be a meeting in January.
The first meeting of the group in 2018 will be on **Monday 5th February.**

MARITIME GROUP PROGRAMME 2018

Monday 5th February – a talk by Gordon Davies "Yachting in the 19th Century".

Monday 5th March – a talk by Dr Aaron Jaffer "At sea with the Tudors and Stuarts".

Monday 2nd April – no meeting – Bank Holiday.

Monday 7th May – no meeting – Bank Holiday.

Monday 4th June – a talk by Pam Bathurst on the history up to present day of the Paddle Steamer "Medway Queen".

Monday 2nd July – a talk by Michael Tavernor on the role of "The National Coastwatch Institution".

Monday 6th August – trip to the historic dockyard at Chatham, guided tour included followed by a guided tour of the "Medway Queen".
For further details please contact Malcolm Case.

Monday 3rd to Thursday 6th September – trip to North Norfolk, includes visits to Ickworth House, St Georges Distillery, Langham Glass, Guided Maritime Trail tour of Kings Lynn, Sandringham Estate and House, Bure Valley Railway, Norfolk Broads Boat trip, guided tour of Norwich, visit to the Norfolk Wherry "Maud", guided tour of the Nelson Museum and the Time and Tide Museum or a visit to Peel Ports (Great Yarmouth Harbour Authority). We will be staying at the Wensum Valley Hotel, Golf and Country Club on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis.
For further details please contact Malcolm Case.

Monday 1st October – a talk by John Johnson Allen on:
"Too Shallow for the Navy: Maritime Mesopotamia 1914 – 1917".

Monday 5th November – a talk by John Rogers on the restoration and sailing of the "Essex Melody".

Monday 3rd December – Discussions on the 2019 programme.

Malcolm Case

SPOILT FOR CHOICE

Another year has passed us by
What will I do next year I sigh!
The “Ping Pong “takes a bit of nerve
But can`t remember the last to serve
The score stays secret in the main
Until one member shouts “That`s Game”
Now “Ten Pin Bowling” looks worth a try
But bending the knee might make me cry
And as I stoop to take great aim
I wonder if I`ll rise again
So something sitting down might do
The “French” looks good and useful too
A phrase or two could be your dare
When driving over to you know where
But don`t despair and sound amazed
When they reply in good Anglais!
“Sing For Pleasure” if you have the voice
On second thoughts it`s not my choice
Now “Botany” really should be seized
To learn about those birds and bees
Although perhaps our memories have stalled
There was a time we knew it all
So don`t despair and give a shrug
It`s always there “The Luncheon Club”
And so another Yuletide calls
A Merry Christmas One and All

Ray Harman

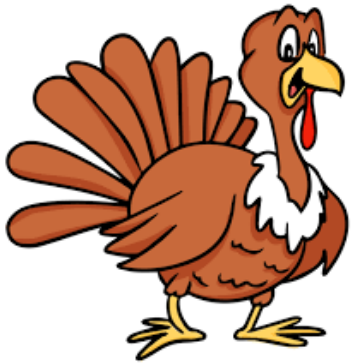
Writing for Fun

The latest book to emerge from this group and is published and now available.

Patrick Forsyth will have copies available for purchase at the December meeting; the published price is £8.99 – special price to members £6.00 per copy. ***Loose Ends*** is his second novel. If you had a copy of the first, ***Long Overdue***, the new one has some of the same characters and is again set partly in Maldon.

Canasta

Elaine Bane and Gerry Brooks will be standing down as coordinators for Canasta. We are pleased to announce that we have two new coordinators to take over from us as from January, Iris Slaney and Beryl McDonnell. They are changing the time to 2 - 4 pm.
Iris Slaney 01621 891181. irissla@aol.com
Our dates for the New Year are:
5th Jan, 19th Jan, 2nd Feb, 16th Feb, 2nd March, 16th March



Free as a bird

I love to live on my own,
Rarely have a cause to moan
No one to say you can't wear that,
It is the most ridiculous hat.

I love to hear the telephone ring,
Even so it is such an intrusive thing.
Someone asking shall we do a show,
Go for a walk? I am never slow
To pack up and go, there is always
Time to spend with one of the friends
of mine.

Learning new things, I feel young at heart,
Often wonder when old age will start,
So I love to live alone
Enjoying just being on my own.

Ian is a popular and entertaining speaker on a variety of topics, many of them political or literature based. He will be talking to us about James Gillray, generally agreed to be the first political cartoonist and satirist. He made a name for himself by showing no favours to anyone during the Eighteenth Century, including the Royal Family notably George III, and William Pitt the Younger.

Monday, 15th January Meeting
Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

Speaker
Ian Keable
James Gilray—Political Cartoonist

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES

Times 12.15 pm

TUESDAY **9th January at The Ship, Tiptree (2nd not the 1st this month)**
Co-ordinator: Eunice Legerton

WEDNESDAY 17th January at The Whalebone (Skrimshaws)
South Woodham Ferrers at 12.30 pm
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
Contact
Peter Harden, Chairman
01621 858506

HEYBRIDGE U3A
Contact
Jenny Parker, Chairman
jennyparker14@hotmail.com
01621 843581

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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Web Master	John Bowen
	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, 10th February
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CO-ORDINATORS

Antiques	Liz Wood
Art Appreciation	Andy Simmonds
Aviation	Brian Johnson
Astronomy	Patrick Forsyth
Balti NIght	Bob Gowers Graham Evans
Bird Watching	Pat Clements Peter Gaywood
Botany	Veronica Smith
Bridge	Sheila Epps
Canasta	Iris Slaney
Computers	Jan Robertson
Cribbage	Pat Clements
Egyptology	Kathleen Goff Sue Robinson
Family History	Alan Buck
French Conversation	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 Whist	**2** Table Tennis Luncheon Group	3 Ten Pin Bowling Wine Group 1	4 Ten Pin Bowling Rummikub 2 Poetry	5 Canasta	6	7 Bird Watching Wat Tyler Country Park
8 Whist Handicrafts	9 Table Tennis Egyptology Art Appreciation	10 Ten Pin Bowling Luncheon Group Bridge	11 Ten Pin Bowling Rummikub 1 Plantagenets Reading Scottish Country Dancing	12 Sing for Pleasure Mah Jong	13	14
15 **Meeting 1.30 pm** Just Jazz	16 Table Tennis Aviation	17 Ten Pin Bowling Luncheon Group	18 Ten Pin Bowling Antiques	19 Canasta	20	21 Strollers
22 Astronomy Whist Handicrafts Local History	23 Table Tennis Strollers Too Wine Group 4	24 Ten Pin Bowling Writing for Fun Bridge Wine Group 2	25 Ten Pin Bowling Music Appreciation Wine Group 3 Scottish Country Dancing	26 Cribbage Sing for Pleasure Mah Jong	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,