The University of the Third Age

# MALDON AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

Spring

**NO MEETING ON EASTER MONDAY 17th APRIL**

February 2017

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

*FROM THE CHAIR*

First I must apologize for the problem with the AV equipment at our last Meeting. The problem has been identified and is being rectified.

Also for the last minute change to the advertised lecture Veronica was wonderful and managed to rearrange our speaker at the last moment.

The Plume Academy has approached the Maldon U3As to help them sort out their archives and catalogue the contents. Our committee member Shirley Macro has been asked to organize this and will be looking for help from some of our members. See page 11.

The Christmas Party was well received and I think enjoyed by everyone.
If you have any concerns with our groups or can offer any suggestions which will benefit, please inform the Committee

# YOUR U3A NEEDS YOU

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REQUIRED**

After four years in post, Alan Clarke is standing down from the Committee at the AGM in June and a replacement is sought. If you are interested in taking up this position, please contact Alan at alanlclarke@gmail.com and he will arrange to meet you and brief you on the role and what it entails.

**COMMITTEE SECRETARY REQUIRED**

Kym Marshall, in accordance with our Constitution, must retire at the AGM in June and a replacement is sought. If you are interested in taking up this important role please contact Kym

## *Aviation*

January's lecture by Ralph Tyrall was to a full house and was well received.
At our next meeting on **Tuesday, February 21st** the subject will be "Blue Steel" , the nuclear missile which would have been delivered by the Avro Vulcan, and the story of our deterrent up to the present day presented by Alec Fraser.
**Tuesday, March 21st** there will be a power point presentation given by Peter Bickers on the Whirlwind twin engine fighter developed by Westland.
Peter always delivers a first class lecture.
**Tuesday, 18th April.** Brian Austin will present the story of the Canadian Lancaster rescued and rebuilt.
**Sunday, 5th March** The trip to HMS Belfast and the IWM London is confirmed so I shall be requiring the cheques at the next meeting from anyone who has not yet paid.
Full details of the trips to The Shuttleworth Collection and Duxford IWM will be published in due course.
Other trips have been asked for including The Royal Air Force Memorial at Capel-le-Ferne and Brooklands which can be organized if there is enough interest.
Any other suggestions please let me know.
Brian Johnson

## *London Walks & Talks*

The 2017 season begins on **Wednesday. March 15** when Maggie Piper will be our speaker. Her talk is entitled "Castles and Fortresses". The talk will focus on the Tower of London and Windsor Castle and will also refer to the Palace of Holyrood. The meeting will be at West Maldon Community Centre.
The talk will start at 2.30 p.m.
All members are welcome. Entrance fee is £2.

At the March meeting information will be available for the walk on **Wednesday, April 19th** when John Halligan will guide us around the "Modern Buildings in the City of London".
Members will have the opportunity to book for this walk at the March meeting.
Janeen Trew
Christine Speed

### *Maritime*

The next meeting of the Maritime Group is on **Monday March 6th** meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00am for a talk by Linda Pargeter on "The life of a Norfolk Trading Wherry". The talk will give a brief history of the Norfolk Wherry followed by details on the working life of the "Maud", its rescue and subsequent restoration.
Any U3A member is very welcome to come to the meeting.
Malcolm Case

### *Astronomy*

Meet at 7:30pm
All meetings held at Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge. CM9 4RE
The next meeting is on **Monday 27th February**, weather conditions allowing, then we will do some observing if the weather is against us, and recently it has been, then will have a presentation by Alan Chapman on "The US Moon Landings ", true or false? If you have a telescope or a good pair of binoculars then please bring them with you. All U3A members are very welcome to come to the meeting.
Patrick Forsyth or Sylvia Beament

### *Just Jazz*

The Just Jazz group will meet on the **20th February** in the Maldon Little Ship Club at 7.30pm. As usual there will be a bar and some wonderful Jazz selected by David, and there might be another film!
Jim Light and David Coombes

### *Egyptology*

We will meet at The Oak House, Maldon High Street at 2pm on **March 14th** and will catch up on news from Sue Robinson, who is currently in Egypt, followed by a couple of DVDs. We look forward to seeing you and any new members who care to join us.
Kathy Goff

### *Strollers Too*

**Tuesday 28th March**. Danbury walk.
Please meet in The Griffin car park, Main Road, Danbury CM3 4DH at
10.15 for 10.30 start. If you require lunch please let us know by 20th March.
You can see menu on line if you wish. We will have menu sheets on the day.
Pauline & Bob

## MARITIME GROUP TRIP
## Monday September 4th to Thursday September 7th 2017

The trip will include visits to Guildford. A horse drawn canal cruise on the Kennet and Avon Canal. A full day at Portsmouth Dockyard, including a guided tour of the "Mary Rose" museum; HMS Victory, HMS Warrior, National Museum of the Royal Navy, "Action Stations", HMS M.33, Boathouse 4 and a harbour cruise. We will also visit the Submarine Museum in Gosport (with a guided tour of the museum and HMS Alliance), National Maritime Operations Centre (this is where HM Coastguard control our coastline) and the Hovercraft Museum. There will also be a visit and guided tour of the Warsash Maritime Academy which is the United Kingdom's primary training academy for Merchant Navy Officers, we will visit the Bridge and Engine Simulators, Seamanship centre and Fire training ground.
We will be staying at the Meon Valley Marriott Hotel & Country Club, Shedfield, Southampton.
The cost per person is £438.00 on a Dinner, Bed and Breakfast basis.
The price includes the trip as described and entry to attractions.
For further details and a booking form, please contact Malcolm Case

### *Local History*

The next meeting will be on **Monday February 27th** at 2p.m. at the Town Hall, Maldon, for a talk on " Langford and Langford Grove."
This talk will be given in tandem by two speakers, Patrick Chaplin and Irene Allen, who are well known locally.
Irene lives in Langford, and after her Degree in Humanities, studied for her Masters in Local History. Patrick, a former resident of Langford. and known to some of you as Dr Dart, has a very keen interest in Local History.
The meeting on **March 27th** will see a return visit of Dr Jane Pearson for her talk on "The Rise and Fall of Colchester's 'Good Time Girls' 1855-1895"
Outstanding cheques for those going to Knebworth House on April 24th will also be collected.
Looking forward to seeing you.
Kathy, Jane and Sylvia

### *Antiques*

We had a meeting of the Antiques group last Thursday, which went very well. I have a few LLadro ornaments and I read the information about how the factory started and how they progressed and flourished from the 1950s until the present day. The members all brought something to exhibit as well which was very good and we had a most enjoyable afternoon.
We are looking for some more enthusiastic members to join us.
The next meeting will be on the **16th February** at 49 Hopping Jacks Lane, Danbury and the subject will be Boxes and Treen (antique wooden boxes)
Liz Wood

### *Wine Group 4*

We held our January meeting at the home of Jill and John Challis on Saturday evening. It was not our usual monthly meeting!! We were dressed to kill In our formal attire, each couple provided a course paired with their choice of wine. The result was superb, a six course meal with accompanying wines - it goes without saying that we are requesting a Michelin star!
The company as always was excellent combined with the food and wine, a fantastic evening was had by all, grateful thanks to Jill and John for opening their home to us and taking on the main course and clearing up -
We recommend this idea to the other three wine groups, it was great fun.
Ann Goody

### *Family History Group 1*

Owing to a conflict of dates the next meeting for this group will be held on the **Wednesday 1st March** at 2 Brook Cottage, Tom Tit Lane, Woodham Mortimer, CM9 6TD commencing 2.30pm. Please confirm to Jenny if you will be attending.

### *Family History Beginners*

The next meeting will be held on the **24th February** commencing 10.00am at 58 Augustine Way CM3 4ET.
Please let me know if you wish to attend
Alan Buck

## 2017 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

| | |
|---|---|
| Wed. 22 Feb | A 60s Evening with "Rock and Roll Dave" - Social |
| Sund. 5 March | Trip to HMS Belfast and the IWM London - Aviation |
| Wed. 8 March | 'Half a Sixpence' Theatre trip, Noel Coward Theatre |
| Wed. 19 April | Guided Walk by John Halligan in the City of London.– Ldn Walks |
| Thurs. 20 April | Easter Afternoon Tea at WMCC—Social |
| Mon. 24 April | Visit to Knebworth House - Local History |
| Thur. 8 June | U3A Essex's Annual Quiz night |
| 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 |
| Mon. 25 Sept. | Walking tour of Canterbury—Local History |
| Tues. Oct. 24 | **U3A Study Day at Plume School** |
| October 19 | Posh Frocks Do at The Bull, Totham |

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

## 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 on

### *Mah Jong*

We would like to welcome new members to our Mah Jong Group.
We meet on alternate Friday afternoons at 2.00 p.m. in the Linton Room at The West Maldon Community Centre. Even if you have never played before, do come and give it a try and we will be happy to teach you.
Mah Jong is a Chinese game, played at tables of four individual players.
The group play a very straightforward game, and it is social and not too serious.
Tea/coffee and biscuits are included in the cost of £3 per session.
For more information please contact Molly Polden on 01621 856507.

### *Strollers*

The next Sunday Strollers meeting is on **Sunday 19th March,** 10:15 am for a 10:30 am latest start. Meet at The Street, Roxwell, CM1 4PA car park. The walk, which is 4 miles, goes along Roxwell Brook through paddocks, past a boating lake and Skreens Park to The Old Mill House and finally back to the car park. There are 10 stiles, some of which can be easily negotiated and depending on how much rain we have had, parts of the walk may be a bit muddy. Lunch after the walk at The Chequers Pub; please let either me or Carole Parker know if you will be joining us on the walk.

Malcolm Case
Carole Parker

## ESSEX ASSOCIATION OF U3A's ANNUAL QUIZ

The Association is once again organising a Quiz, this will be held on

**Thursday June 8th** at Christ Church URC, 164 New London Road, Chelmsford. If you would like to join our U3A team, then please contact Sylvia Cousins

The Association is also organising a

## Study Day on Tuesday 24th October

at The Plume School, Maldon. If you would like to help in any way on the day, or would like to join one of the study groups, please contact Malcolm Case

# 2017/2018 Subscription Renewals

Membership subscription renewals are due no later than the end of **April 2017**

SUBSCRIPTIONS: One enrolment / renewal form is included with this newsletter, which can be photocopied if you need more. In addition they are available at the sign-in desk at the monthly meetings or from the Membership Secretary (see below). Each member must complete a separate form, but if you are a couple you may pay by a single cheque.

The annual subscription is £20.00 per person and payment must be made by cheque, payable to Maldon and District U3A, together with your completed form(s) before the **30 April 2017**. For security reasons we do not accept cash.

DATABASE: The enrolment forms are used to check our database. If you leave a box blank (say email or phone number) we shall assume that you want that information deleted from our existing records.

EMERGENCY CONTACT: Where couples are both members, please avoid using each other as emergency contacts. A third party is preferable, in case you are on the same outing.

GIFT AID: Current Gift Aid regulations require a separate form to be completed by each individual. Gift Aid operates on the basis that HM Revenue and Customs treat your subscriptions as charitable donations; they assume that you have deducted tax at the basic rate before you pay your subscriptions and HMRC refund this tax to our U3A. We would encourage members who pay more tax than the tax recoverable from their subscription, currently £5.00, to complete the Gift Aid form. The tax refunds we receive form a significant part of our income and help us keep the annual subscription low

## DO IT NOW: You do not have to wait until April

Please hand your forms and cheques to the sign-in desk or post them to the address below as soon as possible. Cheques will not be banked before the 1st May 2017. If you have not renewed your subscription by the 1st May 2017 you will no longer be a member.

Membership Secretary: Alan Clarke, Chase End, Cobbins Chase, Burnham on Crouch, CM0 8QF.

## Bird Watching Group

2017 has started well for the group. The January visit to Rainham Marshes Reserve had us counting the number of species we saw, amazingly it was a total of 40 and we missed Owls and Woodpeckers in the wooded area of the reserve.
In particular the Group did see a group of Snipe (Gallinago gallinago), the bird has a very long bill, is short legged and its plumage has under parts brownish with black markings and whitish stripes they are up to 27 cm long weighing in about 110 grams. Within one of the reed beds we saw Reed Buntings (Emberiza schoenicius) with its black head throat and bill and white moustachial stripe, the upperparts reddish –brown striped black.
February found the group staying within the Maldon boundary at Heybridge Basin. The tide was low but still on the ebb affording the group views over the vast expanse of mud where we saw colony of Avocet (Recurvirostra avosetta) a large elegant black and white shorebird with long blue grey legs and upturned bill.
March meeting **Sunday 5th** Thorndon Country Park meet at visitor centre 10.00 am
April meeting **Saturday 1st** Two Tree Island meet at furthest car park 10.00 am
Peter Gaywood and Pat Clements

## *Art Appreciation*

There were 15 members at Ann-Marie and Brian Deacon's house to see a splendid DVD of 'Great Artists' narrated by Tim Marlow. The Baroque and Renaissance artists featured were Peter Paul Rubens, Titian, Pieter Bruegel (The Elder) and El Greco.
It was fascinating to see their varied styles, all of them were brilliant masters of their trade and were revered and much sought after in their day. Interesting also to see the number of masterpieces they produced, Rubens for example produced more than 3000 works compared to another Baroque Dutch artist Vermeer who left only 34.
The next meeting will be **Tuesday 7th March,** again at Ann-Marie's house in Danbury, so let me know if you want to attend as numbers will be limited.
Andy Simmonds

## Volunteers Needed

Storing and Cataloguing Archives

In a joint project with Plume Academy and the local U3A groups it is hoped to set up a group of volunteers to take on the task of sorting and cataloguing the archives of the Plume Academy. As you can imagine these go back quite some time and are in need of some tidying. If you are a former student or employee of the Plume it may be of particular interest to you. Once basic sorting of everything into containers has taken place, the cataloguing of items can then begin. This is when your support would be welcome. If you feel you would like to get involved in this interesting local project and have some time to spare please contact me with your name and contact details.
Many thanks,
Shirley Macro Maldon and District U3A

## Blackwater U3A Holiday 2017
## A 7 day holiday is booked to the Isle of Man between 3rd to 9th September.

The half board accommodation at the Rutland Hotel, Douglas costs £675 per person (+ £60 pp total single supplement) and includes full luggage handling, ferry and coach travel. After an early pick up in Maldon we travel to Heysham for the ferry to Douglas on Sunday 3rd September, returning on Saturday 9th September. Optional no age limit personal travel insurance is available through our travel agent Just for Groups at £35 per person.
If you would like to register your interest or to know more please ring or email Dawn Mundy ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

A collection of weekly magazines "History of the First World War". Originally published around 1970 in 128 issues. Issues 26-29 and 31 to 128 available free to anyone in the group.

Please contact James Morgan if you are interested.

## TWO SCAMS

(1) There is a SCAM which sends very realistic e-mails to folk offering a tax refund.. I received one today but was concerned at the way I was addressed, by my e-mail address rather than name, and it also talked of a tax return I had sent (which I have not!) As a result I rang the HMRC responsible for me and my tax payments to be told that they had received a large number of calls and it is a SCAM as they, HMRC, would certainly not e-mail folk directly. Sadly, people had done as the e-mail asked and did the link to start the process for their 'refund'…..this is when the SCAM asks for bank details apparently. This is now safely deleted from all our methods of receiving e-mails - co-incidentally we have someone coming this week to look at our computers and I shall ensure we are 'safe'.

I was asked, by HMRC, to notify friends and family of this – should you have received this e-mail please ring your HMRC contact point and don't action it or open the links. I was asked to forward the e-mail to their fraud people at phishing@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk and assured this was safe to do so.

(2) Beware of an email which looks like it's come from Amazon showing goods that you've ordered. It asks you to click on a link if you haven't ordered the goods and says you have been alerted as the order was placed on a computer you haven't used before. If you open the email on your phone it looks believable, which is what my friend Christie did. She clicked on the link, the hacker got into her email, from there got into her Amazon account and changed her password. As Amazon stores your bank details then it is easy to buy goods. Christie was alerted by the bank and she had to get a new bank card. Luckily they were stopped from buying anything on her account.
Sylvia Beckett

*Tony Strange will be dressed as the King and has given many talks on the turbulent life of Henry VIII and is frequently called upon as an impersonator.*

**20th March Meeting**
**Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm**

**Speaker**
**Tony Strange**
**"The Life of Henry V111"**

**Parking at Wickham Bishops Village Hall**
**U3A Main Meeting on the third Monday of the month**

May we ask all members attending the Main Meeting not to park in the red zone shown on the map – see notice board. This is reserved, by agreement with the hall management, for another group which hires one of the smaller rooms in the Hall at the same time as our meeting and whose members have materials and in some cases equipment to bring in.

The space marked in green is for the sole use of the U3A speaker of the month or otherwise to bring in our own equipment.

There are 57 spaces available for U3A members and 16 for the other group. If you are unable to park in the Hall car park and have to park in Church Road please avoid blocking driveways or parking too close to road junctions. Do not park anywhere in Wooldridge Place which is for residents only. Please consider car sharing where possible.

Thank you for your co-operation.

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**FREE**

Help! I am trying to give away a still comfortable but slightly the worse for wear manual recliner armchair. It would be fine with a throw over the shabby bits. It is about 8 years old so fully complies with fire safety standards. I have been through all the usual channels with no success and am reluctant to take it to the tip. Does anyone know of a possible recipient, say someone wanting a chair in a shed, or who is furnishing a student room or similar. The only cost would be transport from my house in Danbury.

Veronica Smith

***LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES***

Times 12.130pm

**TUESDAY 7th March at The Three Horseshoes, Althorne**
Co-ordinator: Eunice Legerton

**WEDNESDAY 15th March at The Queens's Head, Tolleshunt D'Arcy**
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 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 |
| Newsletter Editor | Jan Robertson |
| Speaker Secretary | Veronica Smith |
| Committee | Shirley Macro |
| | Andrew Simmonds |
| | Judith Johnston |
| | Sylvia Beckett |
| 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, 10th March

# CO-ORDINATORS

| | |
|---|---|
| Antiques | Liz Wood |
| Architecture | Judith Johnston |
| Art Appreciation | Andy Simmonds |
| Aviation | Brian Johnson |
| Astronomy | Patrick Forsyth<br>Sylvia Beament |
| Bird Watching | Pat Clements<br>Peter Gaywood |
| Botany | Veronica Smith |
| Bridge | Sheila Epps |
| Canasta | Elaine Bane<br>Gerry Brooks |
| Computers | Jan Robertson |
| Cribbage | Pat Clements |
| Current Affairs Discussion | Linda Rooney |
| Egyptology | Kathleen Goff<br>Sue Robinson |
| Family History | Alan Buck |
| French Conversation | Ray Harman<br>Ann Lester |
| Geology | Enid Hall |
| Handicraft | Marian Manning |
| Just Jazz | Jim Light<br>David Coombes |
| Local History | Sylvia Cousins<br>Jane Coombes<br>Kathleen Goff |
| London Walks & Talks | Christine Speed<br>Janeen Trew |
| London Theatre Outings | Rosemary Case<br>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<br>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 | 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<br>Paul Costa |
| Wine Circle No. 4 | Ann Goody |
| Writing for Fun | Patrick Forsyth |

PROGRAMME – MARCH 2017

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

**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,