The University of the Third Age

MALDON
AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

HOPE NOT

January 2017

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR

From the Chair

I would like to start by wishing you all a very happy New Year on behalf of your committee and myself.

This is when we all make new resolutions and I sincerely hope one of yours is to continue supporting and enjoying Maldon & District U3A. I would like to think that some of you will endeavour to find ways to participate in some way in your U3A. The majority of the work organizing functions and group activities does tend to fall on the same members and as we are all getting older, ***new blood*** is always needed.

If you can find a way of helping please do.

Keep well and I hope you enjoy the year ahead.

Brian Johnson

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.

Local History

The first meeting for 2017 will be on **Monday January 23rd** at 2 pm. at the Town Hall, Maldon, when our speaker, John Dean, will give a talk on The Siege of Colchester.
We are hoping that this talk will link up with our proposed Walking Tour of Colchester in June.
The meeting **on February 27th** will be a talk on Langford and Langford Grove. Kathy will also have details of our trip to Knebworth House on **Monday April 24th**, so please bring your cheque book if you wish to go.

All members are very welcome and we wish you a Very Happy and Healthy New Year.
Kathy, Jane and Sylvia.

London Walks & Talks **Programme for 2017**

March 15th	Talk by Maggie Piper at West Maldon Community Centre.
April 19th	Guided Walk by John Halligan in the City of London.
May 17th	Talk at WMCC by David Williams
June 21st	Walk in London
July 19th	Talk at WMCC by John Halligan
September 20th	London Walk
October 18th	Talk at WMCC by Maggie Piper

Janeen Trew
Christine Speed

Family History

We will be meeting on **Wednesday 25th January** at 58 Augustine Way, Bicknacre, commencing 2.30pm. This meeting will be discussing the future of this group.

Family History Beginners

This group will be meeting on **Friday 27th January** at the above address, commencing at 10.00am.
Will any member who wishes to attend/not attend either of these groups please let me know.
Alan Buck

Aviation

The talk on the Messerschmitt 262 was well received in November and enjoyed by all, our thanks to Brian Austin. The talk and film on the Hawker Hunter in December was a success, possibly due to the addition of Wine and Mince Pies. Our first meeting will be at the Purleigh Pavilion at 2 pm **Tuesday 17th January** when we will have a return visit from Ralph Tyrall, 2nd World War Lancaster crew member. Not to be missed.

Trips to be arranged this year include:

Sunday 5th March, The Imperial War Museum

Sunday May 7th Shuttleworth Collection Flying Day

Saturday 10th September at I W M Duxford

Brian Johnson

Tree Recognition

The year finished with a suitably festive meeting on 13th December. Now that most trees have lost their leaves, but there are plenty of fallen leaves under them, it is a perfect time to relearn the shapes of winter trees from a distance. The group will reconvene on **14th March 2017.**

Veronica Smith

Current Affairs

For those who haven't already met me, I moved back to Maldon last March after nine years in Clacton. I was a member of the U3A there, also Fundraising co-ordinator/treasurer for the MS Society. I also was an active member of the Tendring Probus club.

Current Affairs is a friendly group who discuss matters of interest, political, religious, in fact anything. We have a laugh and are sometimes more serious but come along and see for yourselves. We are hoping for some men to join our group to add variety to our discussions.

Linda Rooney

Just Jazz

We will meet at the Maldon Little Ship Club on Monday 16th January at 7.30pm. There will be a bar, a film and of course lots of superb Jazz.

See you there!

Jim and David

Maritime

The next meeting of the Maritime Group is on **Monday February 6th,** meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00 am for an illustrated talk by Gordon Davies. “There is a lot of sailing interest in the group in the sense of people who built dinghies or have relatives who have gone on long voyages. We'll look at some of the characters who were around then, in the 1960s and 70s, like Frank Dye who sailed his Wayfarer dinghy to Iceland and Norway amongst other places, and innovators like James Wharram with his interesting lifestyle”.
Al U3A members are 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 of the Astronomy Group is on **Monday 23rd January**, starting at 7:30pm; if weather and cloud conditions allow then we will do some observing of Mars and Venus, both visible to the south west. If weather and clouds prevent any observing then there will a DVD on “On our night sky”.

All U3A members are very welcome to come to the meeting.

Patrick Forsyth
Sylvia Beament

Strollers

Sunday 19h February. Beeleigh
For the first walk of 2017, please meet at the river end of Tesco car park at 10.15 am for 10.30 start. This local walk of approx. 4.5 miles, will take us past Beeleigh Abbey and Maldon Hall. Lunch will be taken at a local pub.
Please let me know if you are coming/want lunch by **Monday 13th February.**
Gill Stone

Strollers Too

Tuesday 28th February. Goldhanger.
Please meet at St Peter's Church, CM9 8AS (there is roadside parking)
!0:15 for a 10:30 start.
This is a walk of approx. 5 miles, followed by lunch at The Chequers.
Please let me know by **23rd February** if you are coming/want lunch.
Gill Stone

60's Evening

Entertainment from

Rock 'n' Roll Dave

Wednesday, 22 February

At Maldon Town Hall

6.30 for 7.00 to 10.00

A choice of Chicken or Scampi and Chips, with
Black Forest Gateau to follow,
Please bring your own Drinks and Glasses
Tickets £12.50,
from Barbara Byam-Shaw,

Come along and enjoy yourself, dress optional,
tickets on sale now.

2017 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

Wed. 22 Feb	A 60s Evening with "Rock and Roll Dave" - Social
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
Mon. 24 April	Easter Afternoon Tea at WMCC—Social
Mon. 24 April	Visit ot Knebworth House - Local History
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
October	Posh Frocks Do—date to be confirmed

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

Writing for Fun

Myself and Pete Norman (who is with a nearby U3A) contributed stories to the book "A Great Little Gallimaufry" which I edited and set up for sale to raise funds for Farleigh Hospice.

It is a pleasure to report that I sold every one of the 100 copies I bought – many thanks to members who bought a copy; I have already been able to send several hundred pounds to the hospice. Copies remain available from the Farleigh shops and it is to be hoped that the sum raised will go into the thousands.

Meantime all members of the group have more stories to write and our meetings start again on **25 January.**

Patrick Forsyth

Architecture

On **Friday, 10th February** we have an illustrated talk on "British Government Bunkers for World Wars II and III". I have seen part of this presentation before, and there are some extraordinary constructions that very few people know about. West Maldon Community Centre, 2.30 pm. All welcome.

Judith Johnston

"Half a Sixpence"

Wednesday 8th March 7.30 at the Noel Coward Theatre, London

Following rave reviews and a record-breaking run in Chichester, Cameron Mackintosh and Chichester Festival Theatre's critically acclaimed hit musical Half a Sixpence is now playing at the Noel Coward Theatre in London's West End.

This new stage version of Half a Sixpence, the musical adaptation of H.G. Wells's semi-autobiographical novel 'Kipps: The Story of a Simple Soul', is a completely fresh adaptation which reunites book-writer Julian Fellowes (Oscar-winning screenwriter and creator of Downton Abbey) with George Stiles and Anthony Drewe, the musical team that co-creator Cameron Mackintosh first put together to create the hit stage adaptation of Mary Poppins with Disney. The score is inspired by and features several of composer David Heneker's exhilarating songs from the original production, including "'Flash Bang Wallop", "Money to Burn" and "Half a Sixpence". With audiences on their feet every night you won't want to miss this "joyous production" (Evening Standard), so book your tickets today!

We will be leaving Tesco's at 3.00pm with a pick up in Danbury. The cost will be £54 which includes the coach. If you wish to go please contact Pat Riddell by email at patricia.riddell@sky.com or telephone or Maisie Randall as soon as possible. Pat and Maisie will give you their postal address so that you can send them a cheque payable to "Maldon & District U3A"for £54 per ticket. Pleases advise them if you wish to be picked up in Danbury.

U3A ANTHEM

To the tune of Blowing in the Wind.

How many times did you say in your youth
You'd never be old and grey
You said you'd never shirk and you'd never give up work
And retirement seemed a million miles away
But the time has come around, yes and very soon you've found
You need a way to keep old age at bay
The answer my friend is join a U3A
The answer is join a U3A

How many groups can you fit in a week?
Five, six or maybe even more
You've joined Astronomy and you've traced your family tree
Played Bridge, Chess and learned to paint and draw
You can walk, dance and sing and do almost anything
Why don't you get the time to mop the floor?
The answer my friend is you joined a U3A
The answer is you joined a U3A

How many times do you think to yourself
The garden needs a weed and a dig
The fridge needs a clean 'cos the cheese is turning green
And the pile of ironing's looking rather big
You need to clean the loo but have better things to do
And what the hell—you couldn't give a fig
The reason my friend is you've joined a U3A
The reason is you joined a U3A

Yes the answer my friend is you joined a U3A
You joined the **BRILLIANT Maldon U3A**

Art Appreciation

We spent a morning browsing some of the many masterpieces in The National Gallery and after lunch we all trooped into the 'Beyond Caravaggio' exhibition in the Sainsbury Wing. After a short film, we viewed the superb collection of works by the Italian Master (1571-1610) and his many followers. A great innovator from a young age, Michelangelo Merisi Caravaggio, a controversial figure but a towering genius of his time. He was very much copied by many contemporaries until long after his untimely death at only 39.

Another successful visit to London for sixteen Art Group members, courtesy of an excellent drive by David Gillespie.

The next meeting of the Art Appreciation Group on **Tuesday 7th February** will be showing a DVD and Ann-Marie Deacon has kindly offered to hold the meeting at her house in Danbury.

Andy Simmonds

Baroque by Caravaggio

Constable's "The Haywain"

Sunflower Van Gogh

CHRISTMAS MEETING/PARTY

Our members enjoying the afternoon

Bob and Clare, our excellent entertainers

Veronica thanking Marrie for her inspiring Christmas stage display.

A bouquet to Clare from Brian

WATER LEAKS

What do **YOU** do if you have a burst water pipe or leak?
Do **YOU** call a neighbour or relation?
Can **YOU** find the stop cock?
Can **YOU** turn it off yourself?
As most of us get older we have to wait for outside help. If it is for an emergency plumber at an unsocial hour it could cost you £300 just for the call out.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

There is a relatively cheap solution. You get a device called **SURE STOP** fitted. All you will see is a switch that looks like and operates like an electric switch but is blue, fitted where you can reach it. This will turn off the mains water to the house immediately. Now you are back in control.
Leaks and water damage are hard to clear up and insurance companies deduct the excess from the costs.
Save yourself the worry and look at **www.surestop.co.uk**
or phone 0845 643 1800 for help.
We heard about this over Christmas and will be fitting one very soon.
Clare Urry

Chris, a local man.
He has become known for his humorous talks to groups of all types.

20th February Meeting
Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm
Speaker
Chris Winter
"Growing Old Disgracefully"

Blackwater Probus Club

I am proposing to set up a Probus Club for men and women in the Maldon area. A Probus Club is for retired and semi-retired Professional and Business people who are of character and respected in their communities. Clubs meet regularly for fellowship and an extension of their interests. Meetings will be held monthly at a local venue and there will be a membership fee to cover administration, speakers and hire costs.
The meetings will include a speaker and optional lunch (which will be payable separately).
Further information on Probus Clubs can be found on the internet.

Linda Rooney

Another Probus Club

We at **Witham and District Probus Club** welcome the forthcoming launch of the new Blackwater Probus Club and encourage all those interested to contact Linda.

Just for information, Witham Probus meets for lunch on the last Friday of the month at the Rivenhall Hotel and is a traditional men's group, with a Ladies' Lunch every third month.
Contact Alec Fraser, Secretary

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES

Times 12.30 pm

TUESDAY **7th February Venue to be advised**
Co-ordinator: Gerry

WEDNESDAY 15th February at The Whalebone, Sth Woodham Ferrers
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
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, 19th February

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

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. Jan Robertson