The University of the Third Age

MALDON AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

Afternoon Tea on Easter Thursday, April 20
with entertainment
West Maldon Community Centre
Come and join us

March 2017

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR

From the Chair

The bad luck with our speakers for the main meeting seems to continue. The last minute indisposition of the February speaker could have been a real problem but for our own Peter Bickers who very gallantly stood in at the last moment, our sincere thanks to him. Let us hope things get back to normal now.

Happily we have solved the question of the new Membership Secretary but we still need a replacement for Secretary. This is the opportunity for someone to get involved with the running of our U3A and is a very important position. If you wish to learn more of what is involved please contact Kym Marshall

With well over 400 members the work of running the group within Maldon & District U3A seems to fall on a small number of enthusiastic people**.** As in life the more you put in the more you get out.

Please help where you can.

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. We will be happy to post a copy to anyone unable to get to Maldon. Contact Jan Robertson for help if necessary

Aviation

In February we were treated to a first rate lecture by Alec Fraser on the "Blue Steel " Nuclear missile which would have been delivered by our "V" Bombers. This was very well received by a full house.

Tuesday March 21st

This month the lecture will be on the "Westland Whirlwind" a twin engine fighter in use between 1940 until 1943 and will be given by Peter Bickers. Peter always delivers a well researched and informative audio/visual presentation.

Tuesday April 18th Brian Austin will present a film on the rescued Canadian Lancaster.

The sign up list for **Shuttleworth Collection** trip on the **7th May** is out and filling up so if you wish to go on this excellent day out please put your name down.

We have missed out two years running for the **Duxford Air Show.**
This year I would really like to arrange the trip on **Sunday 9th September,** but I need to know early to ensure it will be possible. I will prepare a list for the next meeting.
No cheques required at this stage.
Brian Johnson

Trees

The group met on **14th March** for the first time this year at Danbury Lakes, to identify and compare bud opening on the trees there. The next meeting will follow as usual on the 4th Tuesday of the month, ie. 28th March and then Tuesday, **11th April and 25th April** etc. For information and details of venues contact Veronica Smith

Botany

I have been asked to restart the Botany group after a lapse of nearly four years. I propose to do this after Easter, and concentrate on identifying wild flowers found during walks which we shall take as a group. If you are interested, please let me know either in person, or by phone/email, and I shall then try to fix regular meeting times to suit everyone.
Veronica Smith

Local History

The next meeting will be on **Monday March 27th** at the Town Hall for a talk on "The Rise and Fall of Colchester's Good Time Girls 1855-1895" This will be given by Dr. Jane Pearson, who is making a return visit after her talk last year on "The Marks Hall Estate".
There will be no meeting in Maldon on **April 24th,** as, for those of you who have booked, we have our trip to Knebworth House.
Following on from our talk on Langford in February, a copy of the book by Irene and Patrick can be borrowed from Maldon Library.
It is well written and a fascinating read.
Look forward to seeing you on **April 24th**
Kath, Jane and Sylvia

Strollers

Sunday 16th April Chigborough
Please meet at Chigborough Fishing Lodge Car park, Chigborough Road, off Goldhanger Road, Heybridge at 10.15 a.m. for 10.30 start. The walk will be about 3 miles round Chigborough Lakes and some of the surrounding area.
As it is Easter Sunday please bring a packed lunch for the end of the walk. Even though we are not booking lunch, could you let me know if you are coming. Geraldine Stratford

Family History Group

The next meeting will be on the **29th March** at 58 Augustine Way, Bicknacre, commencing 2.30pm.

Family History Beginners Group

The next meeting for this group will be on **Friday 31st March** at the above address commencing at 10.00am.
Would members of both groups please let me know if you will be attending.

Strollers Too

In February fourteen of us went to Goldhanger for our monthly outing. This lovely walk combined a good stretch of walking in Essex farmland with a decent hike on the sea wall alongside the estuary on the River Blackwater. It was a great day for walking, but it was not without incident!

At one stage some members of our group disappeared without trace. However, all ended well, and we enjoyed a super lunch at The Chequers.

The photos below shows where they were.

1st Caption: What do you think these Strollers are doing?
2nd Caption: They were rescuing a sheep that had been caught in the thicket. This took quite a while as all they had was a small penknife
3rd Caption: On his/her way.

Our next walk is on **Tuesday 25th April** 10.15 for a 10.30 am start. It will be a circular walk of just under 5 miles from The Bell, Woodham Walter CM9 6RF - you can park opposite. The walk is over a varied terrain with views across rural Essex. I will have further information at the walk in March.

Please contact me if you are coming

Antiques

We had a good meeting last month, everybody loved the colours and designs on the Shelley china, some of which was from 1935.

Unfortunately you do not see very many items for sale these days.

Liz Wood

Easter Themed
AFTERNOON TEA
With Entertainment

Thursday, 20th April

2.30 for 3.00 until 4.30 pm
West Maldon Community Centre.

Tickets £7

From Barbara Byam-Shaw

2017 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

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
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
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. 9 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.

TEN PIN BOWLING

Things to sort out.

This is a popular group, meeting as we do on every Wednesday and Thursday morning. We have a problem with this as we do not have enough room for everyone who wants to join us. So for the moment unfortunately we will have to close the group to new members. We have 77 members on our list.

If you have been a bowler in the past and will not be coming back for any reason please let me know and maybe I can shorten the list.

Another contributing factor is that the lanes are due to be overhauled and refurbished soon. We do not know when and so this will give us even less access to the lanes. We may have to play five or six to a lane, change the times or even temporarily close altogether while this work is being undertaken.

It would be a shame particularly as on 19th. and 20th. April we will be celebrating our 750th week bowling. That is since we started almost 15 years ago.

Thank you.

Maritime

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday April 3rd** meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00am for a talk by Alison Mainwood on "Sailing in the Baltic". Alison will talk about the last two summer cruises. "In 2015, we sailed along the north coast of Germany as far as Poland, and in 2016 we sailed up the west coast of Sweden into Norway as far as Oslo. I will talk about some of the places we visited, concentrating on Second World War history this time".
All U3A members are very welcome.

Malcolm

ASTRONOMY GROUP PROGRAMME 2017

Meet at 7:30pm
Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge. CM9 4RE

The programme for 2017 is:

Monday 27th March	Night Sky Viewing, please bring your binoculars and/or telescopes – sunset 7:25pm, civil twilight approximately 30 minutes after sunset
Monday 24th April	Night Sky Viewing, please bring your binoculars and/or telescopes – sunset 2012pm, civil twilight approximately 30 minutes after sunset
Monday 22nd May	Amazing images from the Hubble Deep Field telescope.
Monday 26th June	A quick rundown on the Solar System and Universe beyond.
Monday 24th July	How the Universe works – Magnetaroids, Blackholes and Quasars
Monday 28th Aug.	No meeting – Bank Holiday
Monday 25th Sept.	Night Sky Viewing, please bring your binoculars and/or telescopes – sunset 6:51pm, civil twilight approximately 30 minutes after sunset
Monday 23rd Oct.	Night Sky Viewing, please bring your binoculars and/or telescopes – sunset 5:50pm, civil twilight approximately 30 minutes after sunset
Monday 27th Nov.	Astronomy Group Quiz Night and discussions for our 2018 programme.

U3A Members are very welcome at any of these meetings.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION of U3As

STUDY DAY 24th October

The Plume School, Maldon

The booking forms and information will be available from the 30th June.
Listed below is the latest group information.

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

Singing was very popular but the leader cannot do the group again.
Do any of our members have anyone who could help?
Malcolm Case

Art Appreciation

There were 16 members this time - again at Ann-Marie and Brian Deacon's house to see a second DVD of 'Great Artists' narrated by Tim Marlow.
The next meeting will be **Tuesday 11th April**, at 2pm at my house in Hatfield Peverel, so let me know if you want to attend as numbers will again be limited.
Andy Simmonds

London Walks & Talks

John Halligan will be our London walk guide on **Wednesday, April 19th.** He will show us some of the iconic modern buildings in the City of London.

The talk at West Maldon Community Centre on **Wednesday, May 17th** will be given by David Williams. His talk, entitled "The Changing Skyline", will take a look at the city architects of today and compare the challenges they face with those of Christopher Wren, Inigo Jones, Horace Jones and others from past centuries.

Talk begins at 2.30 p.m. Entrance fee:- £2

At the May meeting there will be the opportunity to book a place on the walk on **Wednesday, June 21st**, which will be in the Rotherhithe area of London. More information about this walk will be published in the April newsletter.

Janeen and Christine would also like to inform members that, as from April 2018, we will be retiring from organizing the London Walks and Talks Group.

Hopefully, other members will be interested in taking it over.

Please contact Janeen or Christine for further information about any of the above topics.

Janet Trew Christine Speed

Just Jazz

There will be a Just Jazz meeting on **20th March** at 7.30pm in the Maldon Little Ship Club.

A bar will be available plus lots of exceeding good Jazz and a film featuring Louis Armstrong.

Please be aware that there will not be a Just Jazz meeting in April due to Easter.

Bird Watching

Next meeting **Saturday 1st Ap**ril at Two Tree Island, Leigh on Sea at 10 am.

Pat Clements

London Theatre Outings

“An American in Paris”
Dominion Theatre
Tuesday 16th May

Experience the theatrical event of 2017 in this stunning reimagining of the Oscar winning film starring Gene Kelly, with George and Ira Gershwin’s most popular and timeless songs, including “I got Rhythm”, “S Wonderful” and “They can’t take that away from me”.

We will be leaving Tesco’s at 3.00pm with a pickup in Danbury. The cost will be £44 which includes the coach. If you wish to go please contact me by email . Pleases advise me if you wish to be picked up in Danbury.

We are aware of the parking situation with Tesco’s and will advise everyone going should there be any change in the arrangements.

London Theatre Outings

On **Wednesday 8th March** fifty members left Maldon by coach to London to see “Half a Sixpence” at the Noel Coward theatre. It was a great show with extremely talented dancers and singers. Charlie Stemp who played Arthur Kipps was an amazing brilliant dancer and by the encores very popular with the audience. The show was written by Julian Fellowes based on an original 1963 musical which featured Tommy Steele. A very enjoyable evening with good journeys both ways.

Our thanks to Rosemary for obtaining the tickets, Maisie and Pat for collecting the cheques, allocating the tickets and their organisation on the day and Alan for organising the coach.

Joyce Cotterell.

FOR SALE

Quingo Vitess 5 wheel mobility scooter.
Plus all weather Arc Canopy.
Hardly used. Will accept £900 ono.
Buyer will have to collect.

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Handyman/Gardener: A reliable local (Maldon) man is available for work at the rate of £12.00/hour. I am prepared to recommend him and provide a reference. Please contact me in the first instance: Veronica Smith ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

DVLA "Scam" – Beware !!!

This is a copy of a message that I have received.

"URGENT :DVLA Swansea have been trying to contact you. Click the link below for more information, http://.tax-disc.gov.uk/etc.etc. (This is not the one sent, did not want to reproduce it). It claims that I am owed a refund of £48 and that I need to claim it now. Please fill in the data on the attached form to allow them to make the refund. They want the usual stuff plus mother's maiden name, NI number, date of birth, bank and credit card details etc.
Way more than they would need to make a refund!
(The DVLA always send a cheque!)
Malcolm Case
IT IS A SCAM and looks very authentic.
Malcom Case

No April Meeting

at Wickham Bishops Village Hall
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MALDON LIFEBOAT BRANCH

Could you help us raise even more money?

We are a small fundraising branch, raising around £25,000 each year and we are based at Maldon Little Ship Club on Hythe Quay. We would like a few more volunteers to shake buckets, sell souvenirs and empty collecting boxes in clubs and pubs.

The RNLI operates not only in river estuaries like the Blackwater, but on beaches, helps with flood rescue and, of course, rescues at sea. Last year 442 lives were saved and 9,792 people were rescued. On average 22 people a day are helped by the RNLI.

If you would like to help, or learn more about our Branch please ring or email to:

Sue Woods 01621 853015 pwandsw@btopenworld.com

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES

Times 12.15 pm

TUESDAY 4th April at The Chequers, Wickham Bishops.
Co-ordinator: Gerry Brooks

WEDNESDAY 19th April at Bella's Italian Bistro, Burnham @ 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	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
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
AV Equipment	Ken Cooper
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, 7th April
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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	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 Bird Watching	**2**
3 Maritime Whist	4 Table Tennis Art Appreciation Geology Luncheon Group	5 Ten Pin Bowling Wine Group 1	6 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Current Affairs Discussion Plantagenets Poetry Rummikub 1 Scottish Country Dancing	7 Mah Jong	8	9
10 Handicrafts Whist	11 Table Tennis Egyptology Trees	12 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Luncheon Group	13 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque French Conversation Reading Rummikub 1	***14*** **E A**	**15** **S T**	**16** **Strollers** **E R**
17 **No U3A Meeting Easter**	18 Table Tennis Aviation	19 Ten Pin Bowling **London Walks & Talks** Luncheon Group	20 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Antiques Scottish Country Dancing Easter Afternoon Tea	21 Mah Jong	22	23
24 Astronomy Handicrafts **Local History—Knebworth Hse visit** Whist	25 Table Tennis Strollers Too Trees Wine Group 4	26 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Family History Wine Group 2 Writing for Fun	27 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Computers French Conversation Music Appreciation Wine Group 3	28 Canasta Cribbage Family History Sing for Pleasure	29	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