The University of the Third Age

MALDON
AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN

November 2017

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR

I, along with most of you, must have been asked on many occasions what the U3A is and what are the benefits of being a member.

Well, apart from all the activities you can participate in and the various trips you can take, it occurred to me that the biggest benefit was being able to mix with like minded people.

If you were fortunate to attend the "Posh Frock Do" on 19th October this was amply demonstrated. The evening was a great success, thanks to Mike and his team and was enjoyed by all. The food was very good and the entertainment superb. I was not able to dance (I hope to next time) but I enjoyed watching every one else and it struck me then that what made the evening such a success was there were no inhibitions and everyone thoroughly enjoyed each others company.

This I think is what helps to makes Maldon & District U3A a success. What with a monthly Meeting, monthly newsletter, outings, Christmas party and 45 groups, what more could you ask for.

If you can think of anything else please let the committee know.
Keep well and hope to see you at the next meeting.
Our membership is pretty full but we can squeeze in a few more.

Brian Johnson

Car Parking at Wickham Bishops Hall

Due to the lack of adequate parking spaces at the Hall for our Monday meetings we are asking our members to car share where possible. Thank you.

Group Meetings. As is it the holiday period, please always check with your co-ordinator as to the next date in December and January for your next meeting.

Aviation

Our speaker at the last meeting was one of the best we have ever had. Stephen Nunn gave an excellent talk about Maldon and Dengie during the 2nd World War, with information about ARPs, Fire Service, Home Guard, Observer Corps and many other people who were involved.
He gave special emphasis to the many aircraft, our own and enemy planes which crashed in the area, with types and locations.
Tuesday, November 21st the talk will be on Barnes Wallis and the Wellington Bomber.
Tuesday December 19th will be a film and general discussion, with wine and mince pies and I hope social.
I also wish to discuss which trips to arrange for next year.
Brian Johnson

Maritime

The next meeting of the Maritime Group is on **Monday 4th December** at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Basin Road, Heybridge Basin. Please note that this meeting will start at 11 am. There will be short nautical themed DVD, which will be followed by discussions on our 2018 programme. Please bring your cheque books with you as there will be trips to sign up for.
Malcolm Case

Astronomy

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 27th November**, starting at 7:30 pm at Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge. CM9 4RE. If clear skies then we will be Night Sky observing so please bring your
binoculars and telescopes. If overcast then there will be short presentation on tips for observing the Night Sky.
Any U3A member is very welcome to join the meeting.

Bridge

Last U3A Bridge of the year is **December 13th**. Resume on **January 10th** and then 2nd and 4th Wednesdays as usual.
Sheila Epps

London Theatre Outings

Here are the details of our first outing for 2018 and also some very important information regarding Car Parking.

Cirque du Soleil

Tuesday 13th February 7.30pm at The Royal Albert Hall

Cirque du Soleil returns to the iconic Royal Albert Hall in 2018 with its never before seen in the UK show, OVO!

A colourful carnival of crazy crickets, amazing ants and flexible fleas, OVO uncovers the natural world at our feet. Rush headlong into an ecosystem teeming with life, where insects work, eat, crawl, flutter, play, fight and love.

Crawling with fun, OVO is a non-stop riot of energy and movement featuring many of Cirque du Soleil's mind-blowing signature acts including a stunning 14m high flying trapeze act – the biggest of its kind!

We will be leaving Tesco's at 3.00pm with a pickup in Danbury. The cost is £66.50 per ticket which includes the coach. This show has been very popular and all the tickets have now been allocated but if you would like to go on the waiting please contact David Arnold by email at wantz@btinternet.co or by telephone on 01621 853866

Very Important note on Car Parking at Tesco's

We notify Tesco's of the registration number of all cars parked in their car park while we are attending shows. This is very important as penalty notices of £70 will be issued for any car registration numbers not notified so please advise the trip organiser of your registration number when you book tickets. PLEASE NOTE that it is your responsibility to notify the trip organiser should you change your registration number.

Rosemary Case

Local History

Our last meeting for this year is on **Monday November 27th** for an entertaining talk by Alan Pamphilon on "Historical Chelmsford".

Light refreshments will follow the talk.

There will be NO MEETING in December but a copy of the 2018 programme will be available at the November meeting.

All meetings are held at Maldon Town Hall at 2pm at £2.00 per session.

Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you there.

Kathy, Jane and Sylvia

Ten Pin Bowling

Our Christmas lunch this year is on **Wednesday 20th December** at 12.30 after bowling. Again it will be in Henri's Carvery at Madison Heights.
All members of the U3A are welcome to join us.
Just let me know if you are coming.
David Arnold
PS We will be bowling on 20th/21st and again on 27th/28th December. No break this year.

Egyptology

Just the name is enough to stir your imagination back to the start of recorded human history – to a time when all–powerful Pharaohs controlled a mysterious and fabulously wealthy empire which lasted virtually intact for over 5000 years.
The Egyptology Group studies this intriguing history. The people, the religion, the extraordinary art and buildings from the greatest and oldest of all civilisations.
Join us, all are welcome.
Kathleen Goff

London Walks & Talks

Our last walk of the 2017 season took place on **Wednesday**, **November 15th**, when we were shown the Three Hearts of the City of London.
We have two events in 2018 before we retire from organising the London Walks and Talks Group:
Wednesday, March 21st ---- Talk at West Maldon Community Centre by Ian Bevan.
Wednesday, April 18th ---- Walk in London led by Ian Bevan.

If you would be interested in taking over the organisation of this group then please contact Janeen or Christine.

Essex Study Day

Having served on the organising Committee for this event for several years I decided this was time to become a student. And, so it is in this capacity that I would like to thank them for all their hard work which culminates in a very successful day. Believe me a great amount of work over many months is needed to ensure its success.

So how did I spend my day? During the morning session I joined several railway enthusiasts to follow steam locomotive tracks.
The history of the development of locomotives to run on a track?
No I do not have a train set, but this mode of travel, both here and in the British Isles and abroad has played quite a big part of my life.

After lunch, having chatted to several U3A members from different U3As I joined the Latin Class. Would it take me back to my school days and a certain Miss Henderson. She with the gorgeous hair, which left flowing meant she was in a good mood, but if in a bun then expect her wrath. No it did not, but it was so interesting to be reminded that so much of our present day English has its roots in this ancient language.
Can I close by saying 'cave canem'.
The whole day indeed gave us the chance of making the most of our opportunity.
Beryl McDonell

Architecture

Friday, December 8th will be the last meeting of the Architecture Group. Mince pies!
Judith Johnston

Canasta

Friday, December 8th. Commence again in January.
Elaine Bane

Wine Group 3

No meeting in December.
Mary Burd

2017/18 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

Thurs. Nov 23	New Members Coffee Morning
Tues. Dec. 19	Balti Night
2018	
Fri. Feb. 9	A Magic Evening with Supper — Social
Mond. Feb. 12	Balti Night
Tues. Feb. 13	Cirque du Soleil, Royal Albert Hall—Theatre
Thurs. Mar. 22	An Afternoon Film Show — Social
Thurs. June 14	Evening BBQ - Social

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

A Magic Evening

with a Ploughman's Supper and Dessert

Friday 9th February

6.30 for 7.00, till 10.00

at Maldon Town Hall

Tickets £10 on sale now from Barbara Byam Shaw

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Proposed new "Holiday Group"

When I put forward the idea of a Holiday Group some members were very keen to explore the idea. Basically it would be aimed at people, like me, who do not like to holiday on their own, singles or couples and would enjoy the stress taken out of making all the arrangements such as hotel, travel, good rooms, airport transfers etc.

Travelling with like minded people whose company you know you will enjoy. I have seen how successful these groups can work.

To gauge whether we can form such a group and, if so, what kind of holidays would be preferred I have booked the Claydon Room at the Plantation Hall, Heybridge for 2pm **Thursday 7th December**.
Please come along to find out how it will work and have your say.
Brian Johnson
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Art Appreciation

The Group watched two DVDs of the great Renaissance Artist/Sculptor Michelangelo at the home of Ann-Marie and Brian Deacon.
Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni was a sculptor, painter, architect, and poet of the High Renaissance, born in the Republic of Florence, who exerted an unparalleled influence on the development of Western art. He was born in 1475 in Caprese, Italy and died in 1564.
His most celebrated works are his Statue of David in Florence, his 'Pieta' Madonna and Child in St Peter's Basilica in Rome and of course his magnificent - 4 years in the making - 500sq metre fresco of nine scenes from the bible on the Sistine Chapel ceiling in The Vatican, together with the complex 'Last Judgement' (7 years to complete) on the Chapel's altar wall. He was later commissioned as architect to redesign the 4th Century Basilica of St Peters, whose great dome was not completed until after his death.
A devout Catholic and almost certainly a homosexual, he admitted that "he always lived as a poor man", his nature was rough and uncouth. He was by nature, a solitary and melancholy person who generally withdrew himself from the company of others. A prodigious worker who lived to 89 years old. Michelangelo has been described as the Archetypal Renaissance Man and one of the greatest painters of all time.
The Art Group will not have a meeting in December but will meet on **Tuesday, January 9th** at Pat McMahon's house in Latchingdon to discuss The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood.
We will meet on the **6th February** when we look at the celebrated Spanish painter Francisco José de Goya y Lucientes.

Some group members have also already signed up to combine with the Eves Corner WI trip to London's Tate Gallery on **Tuesday 13th March** next year. If you are interested **please respond to Barbara Spring or** barbaraspring25@outlook.com and let her know you are from Maldon U3A.
Andy Simmonds

"Posh Frocks Do"

A very well organised evening by our Social Group at an excellent venue with good food and service. Also a super singer in Diane Moore who kept everyone dancing through to carriages at 11pm.
I am sure everyone there enjoyed themselves - a terrific night.
Andy Simmonds

Bob & Graham's big Balti Night

Tuesday, 19th December
Monday 12th February

both 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@btin

Please note from the February, Balti Nite is moving from Tuesday to Monday due to the Restaurant closing on Tuesdays until further notice.

Trees Group

I am happy to start another group after Christmas and would like people to let me know if they are interested in joining. It is a good idea to start before the trees are in leaf so that we are ready for woodland walks in the spring.

Ash Tree Survey Several people have told me recently that they still have their photographs of ash trees which they forgot to give me. Unfortunately, the date has passed for the National Survey deadline. However, I am happy to take them from you and send them in anyway. Please remember to include the exact location of your tree and the month and year when each photo was taken. I shall collect them at our next Monday meeting.

Hampton Court Flower Show 2018

I am thinking of organising a visit to this RHS show next July and will be asking for a show of hands at the next Monday meeting to gauge whether it will necessary to hire a coach or a minibus. If you do not attend the meetings, please let me know by email whether you might be interested in this trip. There will be no obligation to attend – this is just a preliminary exercise to assess possible numbers.
Veronica Smith email:

Strollers and Strollers Too

There will be no walk in December for either groups.
Gill Stone

Geology

Our last meeting for this year will be on **Tuesday December 5th**
This will be another Master Class at the home of Ros and Ian Mercer, who very kindly have agreed to share some of their expert knowledge with us. There will be NO MEETING in January and we will recommence on **February 6th.**
Sylvia Cousins

Bird Watching Group

Recently the Bird Watching Group visited Languard Fort, Felixstowe. The fort is under the stewardship of English Heritage and open to the public daily. Part of the grounds are leased to a bird watching and ringing group and it was this part of the fort we visited. The fort was last used as an anti-aircraft battery and at the highest point on the outer wall was the communications room which today is the watchers' indoor viewing and ringing room.

The grounds outside were safe from the public and it is in this area that the nets were erected.

Birds caught were collected in soft bags which clearly calmed the birds, then a licenced member of the ringing team would extricate the bird, identify it, measure its wing whilst looking at the feather development to determine the age of the bird and then using a straw, blow on its breast to enable them to determine the condition of the bird.

Any ticks were removed and stored as the group were taking part in a scientific survey. All birds were weighed and if required they were ringed.

A flock of long tailed tits was caught and, as they were clearly a family group, retained until they could be released together.

During our stay we saw a large number of indigenous birds and just as we were leaving, the Warden of the site called out that they had a "green brown", birders' speak for a small special visitor, it was a Yellow Striped Warbler, a vagrant from Siberia. It was a first for Felixstowe.

Sunday, 3rd December—Meeting at Northey Island.

Peter Gaywood

Family History

There will be NO meeting for the main group this month.

Family History Beginners

The next meeting will be held on **Friday 24th November** at 58 Augustine Way, Bicknacre commencing 10.00am.

Please let me know whether or not you wish to attend.

For Sale

I had to buy some A4 Laminating pouches and the minimum
I could purchase was 100.
As I will never need this quantity
I am offering packs of 10 pouches for £1.20.
Available at the Monday meeting.
or contact: Jan Robertson

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The Maldon Orchestra

Saturday 2nd December

St Andrews Church Choir at Boreham Village Hall.
at 7.30pm
Phone Molly Tring for tickets
(£7.50)
In aid of the Church and the Salvation Army
Did you see our write up and photo in Maldon Life.
I am the demented midget behind the big cheque!
Molly Tring

18th December Meeting
Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

Christmas Meeting
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Plume Archive Evening
Monday 20th November

7-9 pm. in the Dining Room at Fambridge Road

Plume School has a collection of photographs from across the years that have been stored with the archive materials. Many of these photographs have no names, dates or location. We would like your help in trying to identify who is in the pictures, when they were taken and what the event was. Please come along and join us to help with this task. We have photos from the early 1900s through to the present day, so pupils and staff from all eras are welcome.
If you have any of your own photos of your school days, please bring them along so that we can scan them and add them to our collection.

We will also have the old school admission record books on display.

Are you or a parent/grandparent in these?

Refreshments provided and a chance to chat to old friends and colleagues. Do pass this invitation on—the more the merrier.
For further information, please contact Sarah Dignasse on dignasse@aspects.net.

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES

Times 12.15 pm

Joint Christmas Luncheon for the Tuesday and Wednesday Groups

at The Forresters

on

Thursday 7th December.

Contact: Eunice Legerton on 01621 840664

BLACKWATER U3A
Contact
Peter Harden, Chairman
01621 858506

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

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
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Resource Centre: email: resource.centre@u3a.org.uk

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 8th December
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CO-ORDINATORS

Antiques	Liz Wood
Architecture	Judith Johnston
Art Appreciation	Andy Simmonds
Aviation	Brian Johnson
Astronomy	Patrick Forsyth Sylvia Beament
Balti NIght	Bob Gowers Graham Evans
Bird Watching	Pat Clements Peter Gaywood
Botany	Veronica Smith
Bridge	Sheila Epps
Canasta	Elaine Bane Gerry Brooks
Computers	Jan Robertson
Cribbage	Pat Clements
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	3 Bird Watching Northey Island
4 Mah Jong Maritime Whist	5 Table Tennis Art Appreciation Geology	6 Ten Pin Bowling Wine Group 1	7 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Poetry Rummikub 2 New Holiday Group **Joint Luncheon Club lunch**	8 Architecture Canasta	9	10
11 Handicrafts Mah Jong Whist	12 Table Tennis	13 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge	14 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque French Conversation Plantagenets Reading Rummikub 1 Scottish Country Dancing	15	16	17 Strollers
18 **Christmas Meeting 1.30 pm** Just Jazz	19 Table Tennis Aviation	20 Ten Pin Bowling **Followed by Xmas Lunch**	21 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Antiques	22 Cribbage	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE
2525 CHRISTMAS DAY	22626 BOXING DAY	27 Bridge Family History Wine Group 2 Writing for Fun	28 French Conversation Music Appreciation Wine Group	29 Family History	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE

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.

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