The University of the Third Age

MALDON AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

STRICTLY COME DUCKLING

I expect some of you are watching "Strictly Come Dancing" and I could not resist this delightful picture

October 2017

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR

Now the colder weather is approaching it is more important then ever to keep an eye on vulnerable neighbours. We are well placed for members but there is always room for more, at least at the moment.
An ideal way to achieve this would be to introduce them to our organisation.
Other U3A's have formed groups to look out for and assist people on their own who are in distress or just lonely.. Loneliness can lead to depression which is dangerous.
Why not spare a few minutes to think who among your neighbours might be at risk.

As far as I am aware all our groups are functioning well and I would encourage everyone to make good use of them. If you consider your group is full and cannot take new members why not start, or help to start a second one.
In the past some individuals have accused us of being "clicky". an exclusive group can cause this feeling.

The four Maldon U3A's have an agreement that they will not charge any members from these groups a joining fee if they wish to take part in one of their activities.

Keep well, wrap up warm and hope to see you at our next Meeting.
Brian Johnson

Maritime

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday November 6th** meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00am for an illustrated talk by James Byam-Shaw on “Rowing”. James has hands on experience of a wide range of rowing boats including the reconstruction of the bronze age Argo of the Jason and his Argonauts legend. He will give a brief history of rowing from around 1500 BC to the present day via the various fighting galleys to the sliding seat racing craft of today. James will bring, for display outside, a 25ft by 18inch (around 14" on the waterline) double scull, a model of a proposed human powered propeller driven camping boat of comparable efficiency and an example of flapping fin propulsion from a Hobie canoe as examples of possible future directions for the human powered propulsion of boats.

Any U3A Member is very welcome to join the group.

Malcolm Case.

Aviation

The trip to the "Battle of Britain Air Show" was a great success. The Display was quite fantastic. Some of the highlights included the R A F Falcons Parachute team, a mock battle of first World war aircraft with pyrotechnic sound and visual effects. There was also a display by sixteen Spitfires and five Hawker Hurricanes. The first time in many years that so many Hurricanes have been seen.

At our last meeting I advertised the wrong talk "The Commonwealth Squadron" which turned out to be "The Confederate Air Force" However it was enjoyed by all and It does mean we will have the other talk at another time.

Our next meeting on the **17th October** is entitled " Battle in the Skies” over Maldon and the Dengies” and will be given by Stephen Nunn a very well known local Historian and lecturer Not to be missed.

On **November 21** we hope to have a Lecture on Barnes Wallis and the "Wellington".

December 19 will be a film with refreshments (Wine and Mince Pies) and discussion.

Brian Johnson E-mail brianpurleigh@hotmail.co.uk

Singing for Pleasure

If singing makes you feel good but you are not brave enough to join a choir, you may like to join our group.
We sing simple songs in harmony (sometimes!) – and laugh a lot.
You don't have to be able to read music, although it helps if you can follow the notes up and down the scale.
We meet on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month from 10am until noon at The Plantation Hall in Heybridge.
For more information please contact
Sue Garnham

Local History Ground Trip to Canterbury September 25th

We left Maldon shrouded in cloud and rain and arrived in Canterbury just after 10 am to lovely sunshine. The morning was given over to free time. Some members decided to visit the Cathedral while others visited museums or took trips on the river. After lunch we all met up in the Butter Market ready to meet our two Tour Guides for a walking tour of Canterbury and the Cathedral Precincts.
The guides were very knowledgeable and pointed out some of the many hidden gems around the town such as the Medieval Ducking Stool and the Inn where Queen Elizabeth I had dinner with a Gentleman!
As we went around the Precincts it was interesting to see the different phases of the buildings from the original to the more modern additions such as the new statues of The Queen and Prince Philip.
I think everyone will agree it was very enjoyable day.
Kathy Goff

Local and General History.

The next meeting will be on **Monday 23rd October** when the speaker will be Christine McDonalds who is talking about

'Mundon Facts and Fables'

Sylvia, Jane & Kathy look forward to seeing you at Maldon Town Hall starting at 2pm.

London Theatre Outings

Classic Spectacular – Royal Albert Hall – **Thursday 16th November.**
We will be leaving Tesco Car Park at 3pm with a pick up at Danbury. (Let us know if you wish to board the bus in Danbury). Please offer lifts to other people from your area so that we have fewer cars and park on the right as you enter **the car park. Car registration numbers to one of us as soon as possible please.**
The show begins at 7.30pm so you will have time to have some food before the show. There are four restaurants/cafes in the Albert Hall and lots of places in Kensington. You will receive your tickets on the coach.

If you require any further details contact Jean Cuthbert 01621 856094 or Sheila Childs

Current Affairs Discussion group

The group needs new members who can commit to a monthly meeting. It is unfortunate that several members decided not to attend the last meeting which was therefore cancelled. The next meeting is **Thursday, 5th October**. I am also stepping down as co-ordinator so if anyone wishes to volunteer please contact me. Linda Rooney

Astronomy

The next meeting of the group is on Monday 23rd October, meeting at Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge. CM9 4RE at 7:30pm. Weather conditions permitting, then we will be Night Sky observing. Sunset is at 5:50pm and Orion should be visible to the south east. Please bring your telescopes or binoculars.
Any U3A Member is very welcome to join the group.

Family History

This group will recommence meeting on the fourth Wednesday of every month from the **25th October**. The meeting will be start at 2.30pm and be held at 58 Augustine Way, Bicknacre.

Family History Beginners

This group will be meeting on the last Friday of every month commencing 10.00am on **the 27th October** at 58 Augustine Way, Bicknacre. Will all members wishing to attend please let me know by e-mail or telephone. E-mail alan-buck@talktalk.net

Writing for Fun

The group continues to meet each month, primarily writing and reading stories as well as enjoying a social gathering where chatter investigates other aspects of writing and ranges wider. Already two members, largely as a result of egging each other on, have written novels and had them published.

Now Patrick Forsyth has a second novel due out. ***Loose Ends*** again set partly in and around Maldon will be published in November and, providing the publishing process goes smoothly, Patrick hopes to have copies available at the November meeting. Watch this space!

Just Jazz

The October meeting of Just Jazz will be held on Monday evening **October 16** at the Maldon Little Ship Club at 7.30pm.
There will be a bar and as usual some first class Jazz.

Architecture

The penultimate meeting will be held on Friday, 10 November, 2.30 pm at West Maldon Community Centre. Our speaker, Malcolm Holmes, is making a return visit to tell about his involvement with the restoration of Kentwell Hall.

Any U3A member is most welcome to join the meeting.
judith@johnstons.me.uk

Handicrafts

We are a group of ladies who meet twice a month on the second and fourth Mondays at 10.00 in the Cold Norton Village Hall.
We have a thoroughly relaxed approach to all types of Handicrafts – sewing, knitting, card making, occasionally some beadwork, you name it, we try it. We also manage to fit in a cup of coffee. Interested?
Contact Marian Manning

2017/8 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

Tues. Oct. 17	Visit Rotherhithe Village—London Walks & Talks
Tues. Oct. 17	Balti Night
Tues. Oct. 24	U3A Study Day at Plume School
Thurs. Oct. 19	"Posh Frocks Do" at The Bull, Gt. Totham - Social
Wed. Nov. 15	Finding out about "A City with Three Hearts" with guide - London Walks & Talks
Thurs. Nov. 16	Classic Spectacular, Royal Albert Hall, - London Theatres
Thurs. Nov 23	New Members Coffee Morning
Tues. Dec. 19	Balti Night
2018	
Fri. Feb. 9	A Magic Evening—Social
Tues. Feb. 20	Balti Night

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

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LONDON WALKS AND TALKS

Tuesday, October 17th

David Williams will be the guide for our visit to Rotherhithe Village in London -- an area south of the River Thames, which developed in the late nineteenth /early twentieth century with trade from the Baltic. Today the traditions and religions from Norway and Sweden remain.

Wednesday,November15th

Maggie Piper will be our London guide as we examine the "City with Three Hearts". The walk will take us to the religious, charitable and financial areas of this part of London.

Further information can be obtained from Janeen or Christine

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Macmillan Coffee Morning

Many thanks to everyone who came along for a nibble and a natter and/or donated to my Macmillan Coffee morning.

41 people came and £445 was raised - even the rain did not dampen our spirits!!

Mary Burd

MARITIME GROUP VISIT TO PORTSMOUTH SEPTEMBER 4th

Day 1 – Having left on time, we arrived slightly behind schedule for our coffee stop at Guildford Cathedral - the Cathedral Church of the Holy Spirit. It is modern, red brick and, frankly, not much to look at from the outside. However, the interior is another matter – lofty pillars, huge space and light, very dignified. They were working on the organ, and I was told it takes £3,000 a day to run the cathedral.

Thence to the Kennet and Avon Canal where we took a short cruise on the barge "Kennet Valley". Steve was our guide and the horse was Monty. The sun came out and we travelled very slowly for about an hour, including going through a lock, just for the experience. Then Monty turned round and brought us back. It was a relaxing and restful afternoon – a foretaste of rest of the holiday perhaps? Not at all! We then wended our way by a very circuitous route to our hotel The Meon Valley Marriott Hotel & Country Club just outside of Southampton.

Day 2 – The main purpose of our visit to Portsmouth Dockyard was to view the Mary Rose for an update on our last visit in 2013. To recap: the ship was raised in 1982, and since then has been washed, sprayed, dried and preserved in a purpose-built museum, shaped as an "Oyster" with the Mary Rose, the "Pearl"

within. The museum was designed on 3 levels running the length of the ship, to represent lower, main and upper decks. Walkways between the galleries afford views in one direction to the starboard side of the ship and onto which video clips can be projected, and in the other direction into galleries where hundreds of artefacts are positioned opposite where they were found. At both ends of the walkway further galleries interpret the collection and our very knowledgeable guide gave us a great insight into how Tudor life would have been on board. Since 2016, the viewing windows have been replaced on the 2 lower levels by continuous glazed panels and the upper level has been left open for the public to have an uncluttered view of the now completely dry ship. A truly magical experience. Other ships to explore included HMS Victory, where since 2016 visitors can follow in the footsteps of Nelson, from the time the ship embarked for the voyage to Cape Trafalgar to the aftermath of the battle with the French. HMS Warrior, launched in 1860, was the fastest, largest and most powerful warship in the world, but never fired a shot in anger. After a varied career, she now provides visitors with an insight into life on board an elite ship from the Victorian era. The comparatively small HMS M.33 was the only one of two ships to survive WW1, and the only one from the Gallipoli Campaign. Built on orders from Winston Churchill, and fully restored in 2015,she was designed to operate in shallow coastal waters. In dockyard building's there is a vivid account of the 36 hour War at the Battle of Jutland in June 1916, whilst the National Museum of the Royal Navy demonstrates how Britain became a dominant seapower and showcases treasures from the past 350 years. Boathouse 4 reflects the building's original use as a small boat building and repair facility.

A harbour tour is a lovely way to finish the day, and this time we were fortunate enough to seethe latest Aircraft Carrier, about 35 times larger than HMS Victory. When fully operational in 2020 she will be HMS Queen Elizabeth, and already is proving a major attraction.

A truly wonderful day, which could easily be extended into a week.

Day 3 – Today we visited The Royal Navy Submarine Museum and HMS Alliance, which has been a museum ship and memorial since 1981 to the 534 submarines and 5,300 submariners lost in the war. There were 61 crew members – no restrictions on height or weight but the bunks were pretty small. The men would stay in the same clothes for ten weeks but no problem because all you could smell was smoke and diesel! Goods were stowed everywhere. They took on enough fresh food to last 10 days, then it was tins. But because of condensation the tins often lost their labels so the two chefs had no idea what they might be serving – gives a new meaning to the term "pot luck"! Surprisingly, they could fire torpedoes from both bow and stern. There was an escape hatch at the rear. It was good to be able to experience all this knowing that we were several feet above ground and not under water! There was time to visit the museum and also the "Holland One", the first submarine in the Royal Navy in 1901. Thence to the Hovercraft Museum which houses over 60 Hovercraft of various designs. The "Princess Anne" used to ply across the Channel in about 40 minutes but was overtaken by more modern means of transport. We saw a military model which went to the Arctic in 1972, with a sonar device for mine detection and early microwave technology which was later developed for our kitchens. There were also lots of novelty craft including an ice cream van hovercraft developed by the Top Gear team. But no time to linger – the National Maritime Operations Centre awaited. Since 2014 this has been the Search and Rescue centre which oversees and assists with operations around the whole of the UK – costal ops, maritime ops, aeronautical ops. They coordinate all rescue resources – lifeboats, helicopters, ambulances etc. All we saw were some of the 96 operators sitting at their screens which we were told give information from around the country on matters Maritime; the Operators man the centre 24/7, and if the IT system fails there is instant back-up.

Day 4 – The morning of our final day was spent visiting the Warsash Maritime Academy, which is part of Southampton Solent University's Maritime and Technology Faculty and claims to educate and train seafarers "from the cradle to the grave". They use very realistic simulators, which we were able to experience on the Bridge, in the Engine Room, the Liquid Cargo Simulator and the Radio Office, as well as a glimpse of the Fire Department where they start fires, don amazing fire-fighting suits and put them out. The most fun was the bridge, where one of our number took the helm through Sydney Harbour, narrowly missing the Opera House and various smaller vessels. We could feel the swell of the sea under our feet, and even had to adapt to our "land legs" afterwards!

Then it was homeward bound. As ever, Malcolm and his team had produced a well-organised, variable, interesting and exhausting holiday enjoyed by all. Our thanks to everyone concerned.

Dorothy Denmark and Sylvia Cousins.

HMS Victory

Submarine Museum Portsmouth

Hovercraft Museum

HMS Queen Elizabeth

Mary Rose

Canal Boat

Art Appreciation

Fifteen Art group members met in October, to view a DVD of the great Renaissance artist Raffaello Sanzio of Urbino - better known as Raphael. Born 1483 he tragically died suddenly from an unidentified fever in 1520 at the age of only 37. His work is admired for its clarity of form, ease of composition, and visual achievement of the Neoplatonic ideal of human grandeur. He was known as 'The Master' and as 'The Divine'.

His output was prolific - he travelled from Urbino his birthplace to Perugia then on to Florence and finally to Rome. At each place he was influenced by the work of his various mentors at the time and he easily overtook them with his wonderful painting skills. At Rome he became the official painter for two Popes, Julius II then Pope Leo X. He was also put in charge of the rebuilding of St Peters Basillica shortly before he died.

He followed in the footsteps of his contemporaries Michelangelo and Leonardo Da Vinci, forming the Great Trinity of the Italian High Renaissance. His best known work is The School of Athens in the Vatican Stanza della Segnatura, among many Frescoes he was commissioned to paint in the Pope's private chambers.

He never married but is reputed to have had many lovers.

He is buried in a magnificent marble sarcophagus in the Pantheon in Rome.

Andy Simmonds

Maldon Promenaders Present

A Musical Tribute to:

Maldon Town Hall

Friday 24th November at 8:00pm

Saturday 25th at 2:30pm and 8:00pm

Balcony £10 / Stalls £8 (Concessions £7 on Matinee only)

Tickets available from:

Maldon Tourist Information, Wenlock Way (01621 856503)

Or Phone Trevor on 01621 856078

All profits go to Local Charities

Buddies Children Centre and H.E.L.P (Help & encouragement for lone parents)

See our website: www.maldonpromenaders.co.uk

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Promenaders Quiz Night

Team of 6

Saturday, 28th October

West Maldon Community Centre

8 pm

Bring your own drink, glasses and nibbles.

Entrance £4

To raise money for HELP and Encouragement for Lone Parents and Buddies Children's Centre

Contact tel. no 01621 855158. Sandra Stubbings.
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Strollers Too

Tuesday, November 28th

November's walk will be in and around Coggeshall.
Please meet at The WOOLPACK INN ,91 Church Street, Coggeshall, CO6 1UB. at 10.15 for a 10.30 start. We will order our lunch before we set off on the walk, which is approximately 4.1 miles.
The walk uses pavements, country roads, footpaths and riverside paths. There is one awkward footbridge, which has a stile at each end of the bridge. Remember too that it is November and some paths may be muddy and slippery ------ sensible footwear required!!

Strollers

Sunday November 19th

This month's walk will be starting from Cock Clarks for a distance of about 4 miles over reasonably flat countryside, and taking in woodland, fields and some minor roads
Please meet at the Fox & Hounds pub, CM3 6RF at 10.15 am for a 10.30 am start and where we will return for lunch. The pub is also serving breakfast from 9.00 am.
Parking is limited so please car share where you can; cars may be parked in the minor road to the right (as you look at the pub) of the pub.
The menu will include Sunday Roasts and is reasonably priced.
Marian and Michael Manning

Rev. Keith Lovell, formerly the vicar at St. Mary the Virgin, Tollesbury. Keith specialises in giving fascinating and knowledgeable talks on aspects of Essex and Suffolk history.

Meeting 20th November
Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

Speaker
Rev. Keith Lovell
"History of Essex through Foods"

Fauré's Requiem for All Souls' Day

Join the The Choir of St John the Baptist, Danbury,
and their friends, in the peace, calm and tranquillity of the
candlelit Church of St John's for a service of All Souls',
featuring Fauré's Requiem.

Sunday 5th November at 5pm

Everybody is welcome to join us
If you are a singer and would like to join the choir for this service,
please speak to Paul Hagger on 01245 400079 before 7th October.
If you wish to commemorate a departed friend or relative at this service,
please email Paul (paulhagger@btinternet.com) with their name for inclusion
on the list of the faithful departed.

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Bob & Graham's big Balti Night

Tuesday 19th December at 7:00pm for 7:30pm
Tuesday 20th February at 7:00pm 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@btinternet.com

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES

Times 12.15 pm

TUESDAY 7th November at The Blue Strawberry, Hatfield Peveral.
Co-ordinator: Eunice Legerton

WEDNESDAY 15th November at Bella's Italian Bistro, Burnham on Crouch
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
Contact
Peter Harden, Chairman
01621 858506

HEYBRIDGE U3A
Contact
Penny Parker, Chairman
pennyparker14@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
AV Equipment	Ken **Cooper**
Essex Assoc. of U3A's	
Committee	Malcolm Case

NATIONAL OFFICE
52 Lant Street, London, SE1 1RB
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 November
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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
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	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

PROGRAMME – NOVEMBER 2017

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1 Wine group 1	2 Current Affairs Poetry Rummikub 2 Petanque	3 Mah Jong	4	5
6 Maritime Whist	7 Table Tennis Art Appreciation Egyptology Geology Luncheon Club	8 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Luncheon Club	9 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque French Conversation Plantagenets Reading Rummikub 1	10 Architecture Canasta Sing for Pleasure	11	12
13 Handicrafts Whist	14 Table Tennis	15 Ten Pin Bowling Ldn Walks & Talks Luncheon Club	16 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Antiques **Classic Spectacular Theatre**	17 Mah Jong	18	19 Strollers
20 **Meeting 1.30 pm** Just Jazz	21 Table Tennis Aviation	22 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Family History Wine Group 2	23 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Computers French Conversation Music Appreciation Wine Group 3 Writing for Fun	24 Canasta Cribbage Family History Sing for Pleasure	25	26
27 Handicrafts Astronomy Local History Whist	28 Table Tennis Strollers Too Wine Group 4	29 Ten Pin Bowling	30 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque			

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,