The University of the Third Age

MALDON
AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

April 4—Ten Pin Bowling will have bowled for 800 weeks
Thank you David Arnold for your dedication.

Have you paid your U3A Subscription for 2018?

April 2018

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR

With the better weather, when it comes, we think of gardening. Several members have said that it is a shame we do not have a gardening group. In fact we lost a potential member because of this. How about one or two of you starting a new group? I feel sure it would be very popular.

The question of members of other U3As using our Groups and vice versa has cropped up again. To clarify the situation, we, Maldon & District U3A, allow members of other U3A's groups to join our groups without making them join as full members. This is not the case with some other U3As. Individual groups make their own rules. However there is one important proviso, if the group is full, our own members take precedence, as is the position at the moment with Ten Pin Bowling.

As ever, please support your co-ordinators and help where possible. When booking for trips please pay at the time of booking, as this makes life so much easier when venues and coaches have to be paid in advance. The treasurer cannot advance money under any circumstances as this is against the rules of the Charity Commission.
Brian Johnson

London Walks & Talks

Ian Bevan will lead our walk around The Inns of Court in London on **Wednesday, April 18th**. The walk visits Gray's Inn, Lincoln's Inn, Inner Temple and Middle Temple and traces the history of the English legal system. As we wander through the alleyways and courts of this historic part of London, we will discover the traditions of The Inns of Court and hear lots of anecdotes about famous barristers past and present.
Janeen Trew
Christine Speed

Astronomy

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

Monday April 23rd – Three short films on "Star gazing basics, how to orientate the night sky"; "Guide to using small telescopes" and "Using Barlow lens with your telescope".
May – no meeting – Bank Holiday.
Monday June 23rd - talk by Molly Tring on "The Hubble Telescope".
Monday July 23rd – talk and presentation by Nick Szymanek on "Space Photographs". Nick is a world renowned photographer of our solar system and universe.
Monday September 24th – Astronomy Quiz or a visit to Bayfordbury Observatory. Visits last around two hours and include a talk from one of the astronomy students, a tour of the sky in the Planetarium, and a peek through the telescopes at Bayfordbury (weather permitting).
Monday October 22nd – Night sky observing or a visit to Bayfordbury Observatory visits last around 2 hours and include a talk from one of the astronomy students, a tour of the sky in the Planetarium, and a peek through the telescopes at Bayfordbury (weather permitting).
Monday November 26th – Astronomy Group Dinner.
December – no meeting as its Christmas Eve – look out for Santa and his sleigh.

Patrick Forsyth

Botany Group.

Several members have asked that botany should restart after Easter and I shall be canvassing them to determine the most suitable day and time for our meetings, which will be held probably once a fortnight. The intention is to have an initial one to familiarise ourselves with how plants are identified, and further meetings outside to practice this in the field – weather permitting – throughout the summer. However, the group is rather small and it would be much better for everyone if a few more people could join us.
Pond Weed **D**oes anybody need a bucket full or so of Horned Pond Weed? I have plenty to remove from my pond.
Veronica Smith

Visit to Henry Moore Studio and House in Much Hadham, Herts Friday, July 13th

Leaving West Maldon Community Centre at 9.30 am and departing Hertfordshire at about 4.30 pm. Let me know if you want a pick up in Danbury.

This should be an interesting visit to the home of one of Britain's most eminent sculptors. There will be a tour of the studio and house and of course the sculptures outside. There is a café. Mobility scooters can be hired or you can take your own.
We will not need to travel through London for this so hopefully the journey will not be too arduous.

Cost £30 includes transport, ticket and driver's tip.
Cheques payable to Maldon and District U3A.
Please contact Sheila Epps immediately if you would like to join this outing.
Post your cheque to 69 Norfolk Road, Maldon CM9 6AT

Maritime

There is no meeting of the Maritime Group in May as it is a Bank Holiday. The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 4th June** for a talk on the "Medway Queen", further details will be in next month's Newsletter.
Malcolm Case

Royal Air Force Centenary 13th to 15th July

The Royal International AIR TATTOO will be held at RAF Fairford, near Swindon and is likely to be the best Air Show ever. The distance will most likely mean an over night stay. Unfortunately I have a very important family event on that weekend so will not be able to attend. This is the opportunity for someone to step up and organize what would be a great weekend. I would give any help needed.
They could use the Aviation Group resources.
Brian Johnson

Groups

I have been updating the Group Activities booklet for 2018 and am concerned that we have seven groups discontinuing this year, mainly due to the fact that the co-ordinators have been running them for some years and wish to have a change.
Tuesday Luncheon Group. Eunice and Vaun Legerton are moving south to be nearer their family so we need a new Co-Ordinator to run the Tuesday Luncheon Group, any takers? Liz Wood has also decided to give up Antiques after many years.

Antiques, Architecture, Computers, Current Affairs/Discussion
Gardening, London Walks and Talks
Tuesday, Luncheon Group

We are very proud that we have such a varied programme and it would be a shame if we cannot find some willing volunteers to take up the challenge, in fact, any hobby that you would like to share with the members. We have had Painting, Drama, German, Smart phones, Photography and even Clock Repairs on the list in the past.
There is no limit as to the activities we can enjoy.
Jan Robertson

Aviation

The trip to Brooklands last week was a great success and enjoyed by those who came. There was such a vast variety of things to see. The bus museum was so large that one of our group got lost. He must have been looking for the bus home.
Our next proposed visit is to The Trenchard Museum and James McCudden Flight Centre at Royal Air Force Halton on **15th May.**
As this is an active station photo proof is required to get in. There is no charge for entry and the cost of the coach will be around £15 but this may alter if we are forced to use the council mini bus which David Gillespie has volunteered to drive. It will be leaving at 9am from WMCC.
Next month at our meeting on **April 17th** will be a film and discussion on the film or anything you like!
Brian Johnson

A full house of our Members packed the Wickham Bishops Hall to hear a presentation by former BBC Essex presenter Steve Scruton and Ian Wyatt, who acted as his sound man.

It was called “My Life in Radio” – basically the realization of the dream of Steve as a youngster to be on the radio in later life.

He started the story by saying he was born in 1951 - much to the amusement of all present who were born a year or two earlier! To refresh memories Ian played a series of high quality sound recordings which were the favourites of the BBC in the early years. Starting with Children’s Favourites with Uncle Mac; The Archers which of course is still running; Pick of the Pops with Alan Freeman; Sports Report which is still running but on a DAB channel; Desert Island Discs which played 3300 episodes and was started by the BBC in 1942 to lift the spirit of the nation.
Ian also played excerpts from Down Your Way when the BBC first got out and met the ordinary person in the street; Jimmy Young Show where he interviewed many people, and Family Favourites where you could smell the roast Sunday Dinner, maybe with burnt Yorkshire Puddings.

Then Steve required the audience to remember Radio Luxemberg on 208 metres in the Medium Wave Band but as such could only reliably hear it in the UK after it was dark.

Next was the entry in 1964 of Radio Caroline positioned off the Essex coast on 199 metres and staffed by a new generation of disc jockey playing nearly non-stop pop music – much to the annoyance of HMG and the BBC. Radio London soon joined Caroline until HMG introduced the Marine Offences Act in 1967. Steve was fascinated by Radio Caroline as were the young generation who continued to listen to Radio Caroline as an illegal transmitting station – serviced from Holland.

By this time Steve was leaving school and still wanted to be involved with radio but chose a career as a TV repairman which he enjoyed for some 20 years.

In 1976 he joined Hospital Radio at St John’s Hospital and then slowly made inroads into the newly formed BBC Essex Radio running the Afternoon Show from 1990 for 22 years.

Ian had an idea of enhancing the BBC by staging BBC Pirate Radio in Harwich in 2004/2007/2009 and last year – culminating meeting the Queen through their efforts of promoting Harwich.

Steve and Ian have been requested to compere the 2018 Clacton Air Show so if you go there tell them you listened to his presentation today.

Thank you both for a very pleasant afternoon’s entertainment.
John Bowen

2018/9 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

Mon. Apl. 23	Trip to Newmarket—Local History
Tues. May 15	Proposed visit to Trenchard Museum - Aviation
Thurs. May 17	"The Play That Goes Wrong" - Duchess Theatre
Thurs. June 7	U3A Essex Quiz 2– 4 pm
Thurs. June 7	Evening BBQ - Langford VH— Social
Thurs. July 5	Visit to RHS Hampton Court Garden Show
Fri. July 13	Visit to Henry Moore Studio, Much Hadham
Mon. Aug. 6	Chatham Dockyards & Medway Queen—Maritime
3/6 Sept	4 day trip to North Norfolk—Maritime
Fri. Oct. 12	Beetle Drive—afternoon at Langford VH
Wed. Nov. 28	Social Evening with Entertainment by Marshall King
2019	
Feb 28	Posh Frocks Do

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

Croquet: A game for you?

National Croquet Day on **Sunday 13th May 2018** will celebrate this interesting and often addictive game - one that is increasing in popularity. Maldon Croquet Club are inviting U3A members to come along and have a go that morning.

Croquet is played by young and old alike and can be played to a very high standard by people who are not as agile as they used to be!

We play Golf Croquet often with a competitive edge. If you watch any Croquet game, even one between friends, it's clear that the urge to win takes over! However, there is no atmosphere between players, just enjoyment in what can be an addictive game.

We play at Forresters Park Golf Club, Beckingham Road, Gt Totham. CM9 8EA.

For more information please contact Jean Healey 01621 334371.
Or jeanahealey@sky.com

A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER TO ALL GROUP COORDINATORS

I am sure you are all aware that the financial year of our U3A ended on **31st March 2018.** Indeed some Groups have already sent me the information I need about their finances for the year ended 31st March, for which I sincerely thank you.

For those Groups that have not yet sent me the information for the year ended 31st March 2018, I shall be very grateful if you could do so as soon as possible.

Invoices/receipts which you have not already passed to me for amounts paid from your group bank account.
A cash account. This should show the cash held at 1 April 2017, the cash receipts and payments during the year, and the cash held at 31 March.
Supporting invoices/receipts for the above cash transactions.
If there have been no cash transactions during the year please let me have a statement to that effect.

Please ensure that you let me have the above no later than 30 April.
Graham Webster Treasurer

Just Jazz

The April meeting of Just Jazz will be held in the back room of The Swan in Maldon High Street at 7.30pm on **Monday 16th.** This room is behind the bar. Please note we are not meeting in the large Cygnet Suite in the Swan car park!!

Local History

The next meeting is on **Monday April 23rd** when we have our trip to Newmarket. For those of you who are going, please assemble at the WEST MALDON COMMUNITY CENTR**E**, parking cars at the rear of the Car Park, and ready for the coach to leave at 8.45 am. For those of you leaving from Danbury, we should be at the bus stop at Eves Corner by 9am.
Enjoy your day.
Kathy, Jane and Sylvia

2018/2019 Subscription Renewals

Membership subscription renewals are due no later than the end of April 2018. DO IT NOW: You do not have to wait until April.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Enrolment / renewal forms 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 2018. For security reasons we do not accept cash.

DATA PROTECTION LAW is changing as from the 25th May this year and in order to comply, the Membership Renewal Forms have been changed in line with the Third Age Trust guidance, you will note that we now ask you to indicate that you agree with your data being used by ticking the "I Agree" box then signing and dating where indicated, please ensure that you do this. One of the principles of the new regulations is that personal data "Belongs" to the individual, and anyone who uses it has to have consent.

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.

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 2018.
If you have not renewed your subscription by the 1st May 2018 you will no longer be a member.

Membership Secretary: Malcolm Case, 30 The Spinnaker, South Woodham Ferrers, Chelmsford. CM3 5GL.

MALDON U3A – FINANCIAL RESERVES – THE REALITY

In recent weeks, comments by several members suggest that there may be a growing perception that the Committee has overseen the accumulation of an "excessively high" level of financial reserves.

Figures as high as £24,000 have been (mis-)quoted. The actual total of our bank balances is currently just over £20,000, of which some £6,500 is collectively owned by our Activity Groups for their committed future expenditure, and thus outside the jurisdiction of the Committee.

So this leaves a total of around £13,500 under the Committee's auspices.

But not all of this remaining £13,500 is available to the Committee to allocate as it chooses. Around £5,500 of the total is set aside to cover future potential eventualities and liabilities. These include provisions for the replacement of audio-visual and computer equipment and for the risk that we may become liable for insurance payments arising through our vehicle-hire arrangements with Community 360.

This leaves the Committee with discretionary jurisdiction over reserves totalling some £8,000. These are equivalent to around 7.5 months of our monthly spending in the 2017-18 financial year. At this level, they are not excessive, being only marginally above the Third Age Trust's and Charity Commissions's recommended reserves-spending ratio of 6 months.

Our reserves-spending ratio inevitably varies during each financial year, reflecting the relative timing of income and expenditure flows. The Committee's policy is to pursue a prudent financial strategy that protects the interests and minimises the risk exposure of members. Our target is to keep the reserves-spending ratio within a 6-12 months' target range during the year, and to achieve an average ratio of around 9 months for the year as a whole.

Graham Webster Treasurer April 2018

Strollers

Walk - Sunday 20 May - Burnham on Crouch

This is an easy 4 mile walk across flat farmland lying to the east of Burnham followed by a quick dash, sorry, slow stroll back along the sea wall. Many of you will be pleased to know there is only one very low stile. We will meet at 10:15 outside Bella's Italian Bistro, 80 High Street, Burnham-on-Crouch, CM0 8AA where lunch will be taken after the walk. The walk will start at 10:30.am. As parking can be a problem on the High Street you may wish to know that there is free car park on Providence CM0 8JU, which is close to Bella's.

Please let me know if you are coming on the walk and if you want lunch no later than Friday 11 May when I have to confirm lunch numbers. Sometimes, for reasons beyond our control, the venue of a walk has to be changed after being advertised in this magazine. If you don't tell me you are coming I cannot advise you of any changes.

Alan Clarke

Strollers Too

Please note that due to conditions underfoot the April walk on **Tuesday, April 24th** will begin and end at The Bell, Woodham Walter, CM9 6RF. The walk will be very muddy on some footpaths.

Meet at 10.15 for 10.30 start. Please let me know if you are walking. If you are having lunch after the walk please let me know by **Monday, April 16** - we will choose our lunch prior to the start of the walk.

Christine Speed

The May walk for Strollers Too is on **Tuesday 22nd May**, for a walk of approx. 5 miles. Please meet in the Woodrolfe Green carpark, Tollesbury, CM9 8ST. 10.15a.m. for 10.30a.m. start.

Lunch is available. Please let me know if you are coming by **Thursday 17th May.**

Sometimes, for reasons beyond our control, the venue of a walk has to be changed after being advertised in the U3A magazine. So it is very important that anyone hoping to go on the walk informs me, whether they want lunch or not.

Contact G Stone:

MINI-BUS HIRE FOR SMALL-GROUP TRIPS

Maldon and District U3A has recently joined Community 360, a not-for-profit scheme that hires out mini-buses with drivers to small groups in and around Maldon. If preferred, it is possible to provide your own driver, but that person must be a member of Maldon U3A and have been assessed and approved by Community 360.

The cost of mini-bus hire is just £1.20p per mile, with a minimum charge of £40 per trip. But the price of any trip in excess of 100 miles must be negotiated and agreed with Community 360.

Groups that wish to take advantage of this scheme must pre-book a mini-bus at least 5 days before their planned trip on 01621 843164, and make it clear that your Group is part of the Maldon and District U3A.

Groups are responsible for paying their own hire/parking/fines/cleaning/ etc. fees. But the cost of vehicle insurance is included in hire fees. Any excess payments due following accidents or damage to vehicles will be met from central funds.

After making a firm booking with Community 360, please advise our Treasurer (gjwebster123@aol.com or 01621 843799) of the date of your trip and the hire-charges payable.

Graham Webster, April 2018

Kate Cole is a professional speaker on topics of Essex and Suffolk local history. Her talk will be about Essex Witches. Apparently, Essex identified double the number of witches as Herts and Suffolk put together.
Kate will examine why, and what constituted witchlike behaviour.

21st May Meeting
Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

Speaker

Kate Cole
"Essex Witches"

Summer Spanish BBQ

At Langford Village Hall

Thursday, June 7th - 6.00 to 9.30 pm

Food will be a choice of -
BBQ Meats, Paella (Fish or Vegetarian) or a mix of all three
With Maldon Ukulele band and Quizzes to keep you entertained
Bring along your Table and Chair, Knife, Fork, Spoon, Plate, Bowl and your own Drink and Glass.
Tickets £13 on Sale Now from -
Barbara Byam-Shaw telephone
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

Ten Pin Bowling

Well, we have just completed our 800th weekly meeting. There was a total of 55 bowlers on the two days, Wednesday and Thursday. Sixteen of us have been bowling since 2002. We are full to capacity at the moment and have a waiting list. The photos that were taken will be on the Website - http:/www.maldonu3a.co.uk/.
David Arnold

Art Appreciation - Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday May 8th**. The SWF U3A lecture on "How to view paintings" is at Champions Hall, on **Wednesday 30th May**. Contact Chris Miles for details

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES

Times 12.15 pm

WEDNESDAY 16th May Venue to be advised
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
Contact
Peter Harden, Chairman
01621 858506

HEYBRIDGE U3A
Contact
Jenny Parker, Chairman
01621 843581
jennyparker14@hotmail.com

LIMEBROOK U3A
Contact
Christine Dove, Chairman

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

~~~~~~

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, 7th May
~~~~~~

CO-ORDINATORS

Art Appreciation	Andy Simmonds
Aviation	Brian Johnson
Astronomy	Patrick Forsyth
Balti Night	Bob Gowers Graham Evans
Bird Watching	Pat Clements Peter Gaywood
Botany	Veronica Smith
Bridge	Sheila Epps
Canasta	Iris Slaney
Computers	Awaiting new Co-ordinator
Cribbage	Pat Clements
Egyptology	Kathleen Goff Sue Robinson
Family History	Alan Buck
French Conversation	Ann Lester
Geology	Sylvia Cousins
Handicraft	Marian Manning
History—Tudors	Beryl McDonell
Just Jazz	Jim Light David Coombes
Local History	Sylvia Cousins Jane Coombes Kathleen Goff
London Walks & Talks	Awaiting new Co-ordinator
London Theatre Outings	Rosemary Case Joyce Cotterell
Luncheon Groups	
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
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 Table Tennis Geology	2 Ten Pin Bowling Wine Group 1	3 Poetry Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Rummikub 2 Scottish Country Dancing	4 Mah Jong	5	6 Bird Watching Fingringhoe Wick
7 **BANK HOLIDAY**	8 Table Tennis Egyptology Art Appreciation	9 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Luncheon Club	10 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Rummikub 1 History—Tudors Reading French Conversation	11 Canasta Sing for Pleasure	12	13 Croquet
14 Whist Handicrafts	15 Table Tennis Aviation - **Visit to Trenchard Musieum**	16 Ten Pin Bowling Luncheon Club	17 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque **Theatre Visit** Scottish Country Dancing	18 Mah Jong Sing for Pleasure	19	20 Strollers
21 **Meeting 1.30 pm** Just Jazz	22 Table Tennis Strollers Too Wine Group 4	23 Ten Pin Bowling Writing for Fun Wine Group 2 Family History Bridge	24 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Wine Group0 3 Music Appreciation French Conversation	25 Canasta Cribbage Family History Sing for Pleasure Family History	26	27
28 **BANK HOLIDAY**	29 Table Tennis	30 Ten Pin Bowling SWF U3A Art Lecture	31 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Scottish Country Dancing			

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,