The University of the Third Age

MALDON
AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

Happy Christmas everyone

December 2018

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR

Vice Chairman's Christmas message

Hello everyone

Welcome to the December 2018 Newsletter.
If you are reading the email version, can I urge you all to attend our December celebration at Wickham Bishops Village Hall, which will be up to the usual high standard. Entertainment this year will be provided by famous singer and banjo player Steve Galler.
Food will be Sandwiches, Nibbles and of course Cakes…..

If you are reading the print version, you are already there, so stop reading, socialise, eat, drink and listen!

Your Chairman Brian Johnson and your hard working Committee wish you all a Happy Christmas and a joyful, safe and healthy 2019 with our Maldon U3A.

With warmest regards
Alec Fraser
Vice Chairman

Rummikub

We are meeting at my house, 63 Hoynors, Danbury CM3 4RL, on **Thursday 13th December** at 2pm. Please come along to our friendly group where you will be made very welcome. No previous knowledge of the game is necessary. Looking forward to meeting you along with all our members.
Colin Beckett

Aviation

The **Tuesday 18th December** meeting will be at Purleigh Pavilion at 2 pm as usual. There will be a power point presentation on the first World War Sopwith given by Mr G Davis.
As well as the normal refreshments there will be mince pies and wine to make it more festive.
I very much hope to be there and we can talk about next year's activities.
Brian Johnson

Just Jazz

The Just Jazz group will meet at the Little Ship Club on **Monday 17th December** at 7.30pm. The bar will be open and I believe David has already compiled an excellent programme.
Jim Light and David Coombes

Astronomy

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 28th January** starting at 7:30pm at Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge CM9 4RE. There will be a presentation on the "Stars to be found in star sign Aquarius" by Jimmy Byam-Shaw.
If clear skies then we will also do some night sky observing.
Malcolm Case

Theatre Group

We returned to the Royal Albert Hall this year to enjoy the Classic Spectacular. We heard some of the best classical music played by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the British Imperial Military Band under John Rigby, the superb conductor who brought the whole evening together.
The Royal Choral Society sang with Peter Auty (tenor) and James Cleverton (baritone). The Classic Spectacular Dancers danced amongst the audience in the stalls and the thundering cannons and indoor fireworks accompanied the 1812 Overture, followed by red, white and blue balloons descending from the ceiling,
A wonderful evening was had by all.

The Theatre Group organises trips to London Theatres four or five times each year to see plays and musicals. Usually we can take 53 people on a coach. They now have 63 seater coaches which we will be using, as the tickets are sold within a few hours of e-mails being sent to interested people. We usually have a long waiting list.
If your e-mail address is not down on our list and you would like to go on these visits, give your e-mail address or telephone number to
Rosemary Case

"Beating loneliness"

Sir – Further to the suggestion that doctors should advise their elderly patients to join a club or take cookery lessons in order to stop loneliness (report, October 15), about seven years ago my partner's doctor advised him to join the University of the Third Age, as he was suffering from depression.
He actually did as he was told, and the first person he met there was me. We have been very happy partners ever since."
Item contributed by Beryl McDonell.

Trees

I have been asked by several members if this group could run again next year and I am delighted to do so. My preference is to run it fortnightly on Tuesday mornings between 10.00 am and 12.00 am, but the day of the week on which it will run is entirely dependent on the preference of the people who want to be included so for the moment do not let that be a decision maker. I should like to start in March and initially meetings will be held at my house in Danbury. Most of the meetings in spring and summer will be outside. Please let me have your name, phone number and email address if this group appeals to you.
Veronica Smith

Strollers

There will be a coffee morning on **Sunday 20th January** to discuss the programme for the year. New members welcome.
We are meeting at The View Café, Osea Leisure Park, Heybridge CM9 4SA.
Time: 10.30 for 11.00 am.
Please let me know if you are coming by **Monday 14th January**.
G Stone:

Strollers Too

There will be a coffee morning on **Tuesday 22nd January** to discuss the programme for the year. New members welcome.
We are meeting at The View Café, Osea Leisure Park, Heybridge CM9 4SA.
Time: 10.30 for 11.00 am.
Please let me know if you are coming by **Wednesday 16th January.**
G Stone:

POSH FROCKS DO

Thursday, 28th February 2019

at The Bull, Gt. Totham

6.45 for 7pm

With a menu choice for a 3 course meal

A drink on arrival

Entertainment by Diane Moore

Tickets £35 on sale now from

Barbara Byam-Shaw at the November Meeting

or telephone

Cybercrime Presentation:

We have recently received an invitation from Chelmsford U3A to attend their Cybercrime Presentation. Several of you came our own event last October but I know that there were some members who were unable to attend. If you would like to go along to the Chelmsford event, here are the details.

Wednesday 17th April 2019 9.30-13.00.

Presented by Barry Linton and David Gibb, who is a police officer. It will be at Hamptons (formally Marconi) Tydmans, off Beehive Lane, Chelmsford CM2 9FH. There will be a fee of approximately £5.00 (exact amount to be confirmed), includes tea, coffee and biscuits. Parking is available.

If you are interested, please contact me and I will pass on your details to Chelmsford U3A.

Shirley Macro, 01621 854856 thehighperch@yahoo.co.uk

Following on from this, the slide presentation used by Barry and David at the presentation is available at http://conference.u3a.org.uk/workshops/

2018/2019 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

Wed. Dec. 19	Bowlers and U3A members Christmas Lunch at Henri's
2019	
Mond. Jan 7	Visit to Greenwich Maritime Museum.—Maritime
Thurs. Feb 28	Posh Frocks Do at The Bull, Gt. Totham
Mond. Apl 29	Visit to London's Postal Museum—Local History
Tues. Apl. 30	Essex Police Choir Concert, United Reformed Church
Mond. July 1	Bawdsey Radar Museum - Maritime
Thurs. July 25	Afternoon Buffet with Entertainment by "Kind of Blue"
Mond. Aug. 5	Tour the Sussex Seaside—Maritime
9/13 Sept	5 days holiday to North Wales—Maritime
Fri. Nov. 29	Film Show with Afternoon Tea

Art Appreciation

The next meeting will be on **January Tuesday 8th** at 2pm at my home in Hatfield Peverel.
We will be looking at the paintings of Giovanni Antonio Canal, known as Canaletto.
Canaletto was the great Italian master, who documented Venice and its canals in fine detail, with many paintings and sketches.
Let me know if you wish to attend as space will be limited.
In the meantime a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year to everyone!
Andy

Lets all wallow in nostalgia.... Ahh...Memories!!

This takes me back .....Just for a minute, forget everything stressful and read this.....
Close your eyes and go back in time... Before the Internet or the Apple Mac. Before semi-automatics, joy riders and crack.... Before SEGA or Super Nintendo...

Way back.....

I'm talking about Hide and Seek in the park. The corner shop. Hopscotch. Butterscotch. Skipping. Handstands. Football with an old can. Beano, Dandy, Buster, Twinkle and Dennis the menace. Roly Poly. Hula Hoops, jumping the stream, building dams.
The smell of the sun and fresh cut grass. Bazooka Joe bubble gum. An ice cream cone on a warm summer night from the van that plays a tune. Chocolate, vanilla or strawberry or maybe Neapolitan or perhaps a screwball.
When around the corner seemed far away and going into town seemed like going somewhere. Earwigs, wasps, stinging nettles and bee stings. Sticky fingers. Cops and Robbers, Cowboys and Indians, and Zorro. Climbing trees. Walking to school, no matter what the weather. Running till you were out of breath, laughing so hard that your stomach hurt. Jumping on the bed. Pillow fights. Spinning around, getting dizzy and falling down was cause for giggles. Being tired from playing....remember that? The worst embarrassment was being picked last for a team. Water balloons were the ultimate weapon. Football cards in the spokes transformed any bike into a motorcycle. Choppers and Grifters, eating raw jelly.

Remember when...

There were two types of trainers - girls and boys, and Dunlop Green Flash - and the only time you wore them was at school for P.E. You knew everyone in your street - and so did your parents. It wasn't odd to have two or three "best" friends. You didn't sleep a wink on Christmas Eve. . When 25p was decent pocket money.. When nearly everyone's mum was at home when the kids got there from school. When it was considered a great privilege to be taken out to dinner at a real restaurant with your parents. When any parent could discipline any kid, or feed them or use them to carry groceries and do errands yet nobody, not even the kid, thought a thing of it. When being sent to the head's office was nothing compared to the fate that awaited a misbehaving student at home. Basically, we were in fear for our lives but it wasn't because of drive-by shootings, drugs, gangs etc. Parents and Grandparents were a much bigger threat! - And some of us are still afraid of them!!
Didn't that feel good? Just to go back and say, Yeah, I remember that!

Remember when....

"Race issue" meant arguing about who ran the fastest.
Money issues were handled by whoever was the banker in "Monopoly".
The worst thing you could catch from the opposite sex was germs. And the worst thing in your day was having to sit next to one. Having a weapon in school meant being caught with a catapult.
Nobody was prettier than Mum. Scrapes and bruises were kissed and made better. Taking drugs meant orange-flavoured chewable aspirin. Ice cream was considered a basic food group...getting a foot of snow was a dream.
Older siblings were the worst tormentors, but also the fiercest protectors .
If you can remember most or all of these, then you have LIVED.

MALDON U3A LOCAL AND GENERAL HISTORY GROUP MEETINGS 2019

VENUE: Maldon Town Hall

DATE	SUBJECT	SPEAKER	Additional
28 Jan	The Life and Buildings of local Architect A. H. Mcmurdo	Clive Potter	
25 Feb	Where was the Battle of Maldon?	Stephen Nunn	
25 Mar	The Story of Bourne Mill, Colchester	Chris Thornton	
29 April	"The People's Post" A visit to London's Postal Museum		Details tba
NB 5th Monday			
27 May	NO MEETING: SPRING BANK HOLIDAY		
24 June	The History of Osea Island	David Newman	
22 July	"The Vyne- A House of many Faces" NT Property in Basingstoke	Michael Thomas	
26 Aug	NO MEETING: BANK HOLIDAY		
23 Sep	"A Suffolk Symphony" A visit to Aldeburgh and Snape Maltings		Details tba
28 Oct	"October 29th 1940" One day in the Battle of Britain	Neil Wiffen	
25 Nov	" Arrest ye merry gentlemen- or Christmas in Uniform"	Peter Layzell	
December	NO MEETING		

Note: All meetings will be held in Maldon Town Hall commencing at 2pm.
Price £2.00 per session but could be more for some speakers.
For coach trips the price includes coach, entrance fee and driver gratuity.
All members very welcome.
Further information from Kathy Goff
Jane Coombes 01621 855358 Sylvia Cousins

Bird Watching

On Saturday, 1st December a small group of six intrepid birdwatchers arrived at Abberton reservoir in very wet and windy conditions.
On the whiteboard in the Visitor Centre we saw that Great White Egrets had been spotted around the reserve. These are noteworthy, unlike the Little Egrets, which are locally a common sight these days.
We were told that a Grey Heron (a cousin of the Egrets, also much more commonly seen) had attached itself to the group, possibly taking an interest in one of the females!
Normally Grey Herons are solitary hunters.
We made for the nearest hide and to our amazement observed the Great White Egrets, and the Heron soon put in an appearance.
The heron appeared to be giving the Egrets a fishing lesson!
In the attached photo he has snatched a fish from the water while the Egrets look on attentively, one of the large white birds is startled by the sudden movement and takes off, an impressive sight. A little Egret joins the group, then we see them catching fish together.

Wonderful photographs by Alec Fraser, well done.

MALDON & DISTRICT U3A MARITIME GROUP 2019 PROGRAMME

As a group we have now been going for 18 years
(180 meetings plus numerous trips and holidays)

Monday 7th January – visit to Greenwich Maritime Museum – to see exhibitions on Pacific Encounters. Polar Worlds. Guided tour by Aaron Jaffer of Tudor & Stuart Seafarers and ship models exhibition. Relics from Captain Scott's expedition. Cost per person is £17.00 which includes coach, driver's gratuity and coach parking in London.
For details please contact Malcolm Case.

Monday 4th February – talk by Gordon Davies – For centuries sailors have been attracted to the Arctic, for profit and for adventure. In this talk we will look at the history of sailing in Arctic waters, from the search for the north-west and north-east passages to present day voyages in small yachts.

Monday 4th March – Retired Ship's Radio Officer Peter Watkins – will give a talk on the first Marconi steam yacht "Elettra".

Monday 1st April - talk by Jane Giles on sailing around the United Kingdom.

Monday 6th May – Bank Holiday.

Monday 3rd June – talk by David Griffiths on "Life Aboard a Submarine".

Monday 1st July – trip – A private and guided visit to Bawdsey Radar Museum (which has just re-opened after a lottery grant of £1.4 million which has been spent on new exhibits and a re-organisation of the Museum, and then to Harwich for guided tour of the LV18 Lightvessel. Cost per person is £30.00 which includes coach, drivers gratuity, parking, tea/coffee/biscuits on arrival at Bawdsey – for details please contact Malcolm Case.

Monday 5th August – trip – City & Village Tours, The Sussex Seaside, visit to Old Pevensey, South Downs, Beachy Head plus lots more. Cost per person is £50.00, this includes the coach, driver's gratuity, Blue Badge guide all day; tea/coffee/biscuits on arrival and a two course lunch – For details please contact Malcolm Case.

Monday 9th to Friday 13th September – Nautical themed holiday to North Wales – five days - £594.00 per person. This includes the coach, driver's gratuity, dinner/bed/breakfast at the Hotel which is on the seafront in Beaumaris; entry to all attractions as shown on the itinerary – For details and a booking form, please contact Malcolm Case.

Monday 7th October – talk by U3A member Derek West on Sailing around Antarctica.

Monday 4th November – talk by Jimmy Byam-Shaw on "Boat Building".

Monday 2nd December – annual Christmas buffet and discussion on the 2020 programme.

All meetings held at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Basin Road, Heybridge Basin, Heybridge. CM9 4SD at 10:00 am.

Malcolm Case

SEAFARERS CENTRE – TILBURY

On behalf of the Seafarers Centre in Tilbury, thank you to all who have given donations, all were gratefully received. The centre currently plan on distributing some 2000 presents to seafarers during the Christmas period. The manager of the centre asks if donations could be continued throughout the year, if you can donate knitted hats, scarves, gloves etc. plus any toiletries then please give them to Malcolm Case who will ensure that they are delivered to the centre.

Malcolm Case

Discussion Group

We had a very enjoyable Discussion Group this month. We generally pick out bits and pieces that are in the news - globally or locally - and we talk about anything that is concerning us that we wish to get off our chests, eg the parking at Broomfield, issues around the NHS, grandchildren, the youth of today, U3A issues, building projects etc.

We welcome new members to our meeting in Maldon on January 3rd from 2pm-4pm.

For details please contact Bryan Jones

Marion Pettet will be talking about her life as a stage director and manager in the theatre, including her years with Chelmsford Ballet.
Her talk will be illustrated with pictures and props.

Monday 21st January Meeting
Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

Speaker
Marion Pettet
'A Peep behind the Scenes'

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 11th January

Some Christmas Cracker jokes—sorry

What is good King Wenceslas' favourite pizza?

One that's deep-pan, crisp and even

Why did Santa's helper see the doctor?

Because he had low "elf" esteem!

Why was the turkey in the pop group?

Because he was the only one with drumsticks!

What do you call a train loaded with toffee?

A chew chew train

What do Santa's little helpers learn at school

The elf-abet

Why did no-one bid for Rudolph and Blitzen on eBay?

Because they were too deer

What is the best Christmas present?

A broken drum, you cannot beat it!

What do you call a blind reindeer*?*

No eye deer

What does Santa do when his elves misbehave?

He gives them the sack

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUE

Times 12.15 pm

WEDNESDAY Sorry but no meal in January as Paul is on holiday (again!)
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

HEYBRIDGE U3A
Contact
Mrs. Jarvis
chairman@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

LIMEBROOK U3A
Contact
Christine Dove, Chairman
01621 855859

Your Committee

Chairman	Brian Johnson
Vice Chairman	Alec Fraser
Vice Chairman	Shirley Macro
Secretary	Judith Johnston
Treasurer	Graham Webster
Membership Secretary	Malcolm Case
Newsletter Editor	Jan Robertson
Speaker Secretary	Veronica Smith
Committee	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

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CO-ORDINATORS

Antiques	Awaiting new members
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
Croquet	Jean Healey Shirley Macro
Discussion	Bryan Jones
Egyptology	Kathleen Goff Sue Robinson
Family History	Alan Buck
French Conversation	Ann Lester
Geology	Enid Hall
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. Eat & Meet 2nd Wed	Paul Costa 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 Rummikub 2	Colin Beckett 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 Wine Circle No. 3 Wine Circle No. 4	Graham Boswell Mary Burd Paul Costa Ann Goody
Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1 **NEW YEAR**	2	3 Discussion	4 Canasta	5 Bird Watching Heybridge	6
7 Whist Maritime Greenwich Museum	8 Table Tennis Egyptology Art Appreciation	9 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Luncheon Group Wine Group 1	10 Ten Pin Bowling French Conversation History—Tudors	11 Scottish Country Dancing Sing for Pleasure	12	13
14 Handicrafts Whist	15 Table Tennis Aviation	16 Ten Pin Bowling	17 Ten Pin Bowling	18 Canasta	19	20 Strollers **Coffee Morning**
21 **Meeting 1.30 pm** Just Jazz	22 Table Tennis Strollers Too **Coffee Morning** Wine Group 4	23 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Wine Group 2 Writing for Fun	24 Ten Pin Bowling French Conversation Wine Group 3	25 Cribbage Family History Sing for Pleasure	26	27
28 Astronomy Handicrafts Local History Whist	29 Table Tennis	30 Ten Pin Bowling	31 Ten Pin Bowling			

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.