The University of the Third Age

MALDON
AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

Maritime—Medway Queen

Talk—June 8 and visit to Chatham Dockyard and the Medway Queen on Monday, 6th August

July 2018

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR

Hello everyone, this is Alec Fraser writing on behalf of Brian Johnson. Some of you will know that Brian has been spending yet more time in hospital, this time as a result of a nasty fall which has necessitated a hip replacement operation at Broomfield. I'm pleased to report he is progressing well, and has been moved to St Peter's in Maldon to continue his recovery.
Brian maintains his normal cheerful positive attitude and again sends you all his best wishes and thanks for cards, visits and help.
And speaking as Aviation Group Co-ordinator he urges all those interested in the Air Ambulance Service to attend the meeting at Purleigh Pavilion on **Tuesday 17th July** at 2pm.
On his behalf I thank all who attended the recent AGM, all who helped set up the Hall, and especially to Shirley and her team of helpers who provided the strawberries and cream.
Can we stress yet again the importance of signing in at the main meetings which is vital for reasons of safety and of our administration.
Here's wishing you all a happy and healthy summer!

Treasurer

Graham and Marrie Webster are moving in July to Hatfield Peveral.
If you were used to dropping off information to Graham, re the Treasurer, please note they have moved.

Sending out Monthly email newsletters.

My apologies over the past few months but I have a dreadful broadband connection in my area, more off than on, so Malcolm and I are working on finding a solution to this problem.
Watch this space.
Jan R

Egyptology

There will not be a meeting in August.
The next meeting will be on **September 11th.**
Kathy Goff

Just Jazz

There will be no meetings of the Just Jazz Group for the months of July and August.

Maritime

Our trip to Chatham Historical Dockyard on **Monday 6th August** will leave from West Maldon Community Centre at 8:15am, please park your cars at the far end of the car park and if possible please car share.
Malcolm Case

Astronomy

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 23rd July** at Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigboro Road, Heybridge CM9 4RE starting at 7:30pm.
Nik Szymanek will be giving an Astronomy Photo Presentation.
Nik is renowned for his photographic images of deep space and during his talk will tell us how he gets these pictures using his Astro telescope and a SLR camera.
All U3A members are welcome to join the meeting.
Patrick Forsyth

Poetry Reading

Our last meeting's subject was the Cornish Poet, Charles Causley, whose work was unfamiliar to most of us. After reading from his largest compilation we all knew a lot more about a poet who had served in the Second World War Navy, and had written, with a good sense of humour for children, and yet is comparatively unknown.
If anyone has any books, other than his collective poems, and is willing to lend them to our group, please give me a ring.
Jo Robson

Strollers

Sunday 19 August - Pleshey

This is a 4.5 mile circular walk around the lovely village of Pleshey on paths, bridleways and some minor roads. It is reasonably easy walking and there are no stiles.

We will meet in the car park at Pleshey Village Hall, The Street, Pleshey CM3 1HB at 10.15 for 10.30 start. Lunch will be arranged at The Rose and Crown in Great Waltham. It is about 10 minutes drive from Pleshey. They usually want orders placed in advance, so please contact me if you require lunch and I will send you a menu. Please let me know if you are coming on the walk and if you want lunch no later than **Friday 10 August** when I have to confirm lunch numbers.

Sometimes, for reasons beyond our control, the venue of a walk or lunch 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 last minute changes.

Alan Clarke -

Strollers Too

The next walk for Strollers Too is on **Tuesday 28th August,** for a walk of 3.25 miles, with superb views towards Southend on Sea.

Please meet at The Three Horseshoes, Althorne, CM3 6DP.

10.15a.m.for a 10.30 am start. Lunch is available.

Please let me know if you are coming by **Tuesday 21st August.**

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:

Art Appreciation

Another glorious June day saw five of us from Maldon U3A join the Maldon Art Club coach for a visit to the 250th Royal Academy Summer Exhibition in Piccadilly.

The official guide includes: "Visitors to the exhibition will experience an extraordinary array of works curated this year by Grayson Perry, which reaches the furthest corners of the RA's galleries and spreads further still onto the streets of London's West End in a fitting celebration of art made now" It was certainly an amazing experience with over thirteen hundred diverse paintings and other offerings, some from unknowns, some from RA

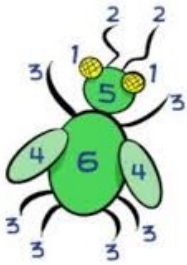
Members, costing many thousands of pounds. The most noticeable were 'Royal Valkyrie' a huge, hand-made, woollen, felt, crochet flying 'spaceship' by Joana Vasconcelos, dominating the central hall, (not for sale!) and a massive, double sided, photographic 'perspective' drawing by David Hockney on six sheets of Dibond (also NFS) dominating one end of the gallery.

The galleries were packed with visitors as usual for this annual cultural jamboree, and we came out at 4pm dazzled by the afternoon sunlight for the coach home, and also dazzled by the colourful spectacle we had witnessed.

It was a good day out for art lovers.

Andy

Note there will be no Art Appreciation meetings in July or August



Afternoon Beetle Drive

At Langford Village Hall

Friday, 12th October

1.45 for 2.00 start until 4.00 pm

Tea and Cake in the interval

Just bring yourself and enjoy a fun afternoon

Tickets £4

Tickets from Barbara Byam Shaw

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Local History

The next meeting of the Local History Group is on **Monday July 23rd** at 2pm at the Town Hall when Patrick Chaplin will present his talk entitled:

"***The History of Langford Waterworks and The Museum of Power"***

Patrick is a well known Local Historian, especially of Langford, so do come along to what will be a very interesting and informative talk, on not only the Museum but the local area as well.

Kathy will also be taking names for those of you who wish to go on the "Kentish Curios" Trip, on **Monday September 24th,** so please bring your cheque books and select your menu if you wish to join us

Thank you to those of you who joined Alan Pamphilon, despite the very hot weather, for a very informative walk down Moulsham Street, Chelmsford on **June 25th**. Alan thoroughly enjoyed meeting you all.

There will be NO MEETING in August as it is a BANK HOLIDAY.

Meanwhile enjoy the lovely weather and stay cool.

See you on July 23rd.

Kathy, Jane and Sylvia
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2018 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

Mon. Aug. 6	Chatham Dockyards & Medway Queen—Maritime
Mon. Aug. 13	Balti Night
3/6 Sept	4 day trip to North Norfolk—Maritime
Mon. Sept. 24	Kentish Curios—Local History
Fri. Oct. 12	Beetle Drive—afternoon at Langford VH
Thurs. Nov **22**	Classical Spectacular— Royal Albert Hall - Theatre
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.

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Botany

Our visits have been affected by members of the group being on holiday (how dare they!) and so our scheduled outing for June 22nd did not take place. Our July visit scheduled for 6th will go ahead but the 20th July will be moved to the following **Friday, 27th July**. Sessions start at 10.00am and lasts for 2 hours. We have covered several of the typical meadow flowers so far and will be moving on to those in more extreme habitats such as salt marsh and shady woodland.

Veronica Smith

HELP

NEW CO-ORDINATORS WANTED

Surely there are newish members who have hobbies and work related interests that could be passed on to our members?

Come on, when we retirees joined in the 90's at the launch of the Maldon U3A, we all set up groups and in some cases are still running them.

I immediately volunteered to set up three Groups.

After 18 years I have decided to retire but no-one has come forward to continue these groups.

Why not—where are you all?

Jan Robertson
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LONDON THEATRE OUTINGS

Our visit in November 2017 to the Classic Spectacular was very successful. We enjoyed it so much that many members have asked if we could go again this year so we have booked it for November22.

Classical Spectacular
Royal Albert Hall
Thursday 22 November at 7.30pm

The most popular classical music show in the UK returns to the Royal Albert Hall in November. From the very best classical music and state of the art technology to electrifying multi-coloured laser displays and the famous thundering finale to the music of the 1812 Overture!

Tickets are £63.00 each which includes the coach. The coach will leave Tesco's at 3.00 pm with a pickup in Danbury. If you wish to go please contact Sheila Childs by email at sheilaachilds@icloud.com or by phone on 01621 842687 as soon as possible. Sheila will acknowledge receipt of your email and give you her postal address so that you can send her a cheque payable to "Maldon & District U3A" for £63.00 per ticket. Please give her your car registration number if you will be parking at Tesco's and let her know if you wish to be picked up in Danbury.

Rosemary Case

Another Scam

A member was walking to her car at Madison Heights when she was approached by a young man and asked could he borrow her mobile phone to ring home as he had forgotten his. She said no as she did not have one. Later, they observed this same lad walking down the road on his mobile. He was obviously hoping to take the mobile and run off. **Beware……**

Reading Group

Usually we read the same book in the Group and discus it but recently we each brought a book we had enjoyed and talked about it in turn. This resulted in a very interesting discussion of each book and much swapping at the end of the meeting.
Here is a list of our latest good reads. Do have a try. We welcome any new member to our very enjoyable group.

I see You	Claire Macintosh
Eleanor Oliphant is completely fine	Gail Honeyman
Admissions	Henry Marsh
How it all began	Penelope Lively
Monsoon Summer	Julia Gregson
Burial Rites	Hannah Kent
Olive Kitteridge	Elizabeth Strout

Sheila Epps

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Table Tennis

Every Tuesday from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm an enthusiastic group of players come to play table tennis at West Maldon Community Centre. We are a very friendly group that is encouraging to newcomers, particularly as the co-ordinator is a qualified table tennis coach. Our playing standards vary with some players participating in local leagues.
We do charge £2.50 which includes the obligatory cup of tea or coffee.
Louis Gunn

Aviation

The June meeting consisted of an excellent video about Ken Wallis, famous as proponent, designer and constructor of autogyros and for his off- and onscreen roles in the James Bond film. Many of us were unaware of his outstanding war record in Bomber Command where he earned the nickname of "Crasher Wallis" due to his ability to limp home in crippled Wellingtons and walk away from the subsequent crash landings!
For the July meeting we will have a presentation by the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance on how their Helicopter Emergency Services are provided. This will be on **Tuesday 17th July** at 2pm in Purleigh Pavilion, our normal venue. Don't miss it!
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Petanque

Our U3A made the Petanque Terrain in Prom Park 10 years ago.
Having played in a variety of places, car parks, gardens, driveways etc. our U3A Petanque Group approached Maldon District Council in 2006 to see if they could help us have a proper place to play. Eventually after many meetings and much correspondence they agreed to help with certain conditions. They had no money budgeted for this, it was estimated to cost at least £3000, £8000 by commercial experts. External grants were not available for any sport that was not 'Olympic'. They would provide the site and materials to our specification. The design and construction would be by our U3A and to International Competition standards. Not just spreading out gravel and making do. This terrain when finished would be available to all members of the public (not just us) so had to meet Health and Safety Regulations. It must not need council staff to run or maintain it.

The term 'terrain', by the way, covers the whole site and each game takes place on a 'piste', we would have been happy with just one but they insisted that we made it big enough for four pistes so making it a much bigger job.

The design and the site were approved at the beginning of 2008, the materials obtained, much was already available in the park stores, and we began in earnest with the construction in April. The park people took the existing turf off to be used elsewhere. We dug down a further foot or so and barrowed the soil off site to be taken away. The area is about 16 x 8 metres (50 x 25 Feet) so that is about 9 tons. After laying a drain across the site a barrier membrane was put down. On top of this a layer of hardcore, about 10 tons, was barrowed in and on top of this was a layer of walnut size stones was raked flat and machine flattened. Finally the thinner layer of fine gravel was laid on top. The whole area was surrounded by about 160 feet of new 'sleepers' that were pinned down with long steel rods.

The team of 25 volunteers from our U3A, both gentlemen and ladies, completed this task to everyone's satisfaction and we played our first games in July 2008.
It must be one the prettiest Petanque (Boule) terrains in the country as it overlooks the lake and the river, shaded by trees.

If you have not seen it or played on it please do so and remember the hard work that members of our U3A did for not only for ourselves but for the whole community.
David Arnold -- Foreman

Visit to the RHS Hampton Court Flower Show on Thursday 5th July

Some 34 of us left Maldon and Danbury by 9.30 am for Hampton Court, and, despite considerable traffic on the later stages of the M25 and in the residential areas around Hampton Court, we made good time. The coach park is some distance from the showground but it was a straightforward walk between them. The grounds of the palace are immaculate and very peaceful, with wide herbaceous beds against red brick walls, but of course, we were not there for them. Once inside the
showground we were dazzled by an array of paths lined by stalls selling everything garden related. We made slow progress along them as there was just so much to see. The show gardens as always were a delight and it was interesting to see up close what we had seen on the BBC review programmes each evening, and to speak to the garden designers who quite rightly were proud of their work and their gold or silver medals awarded by the judges. There were quirky exhibits such as a giant crocheted watering can and flower pots and very seductive garden ornaments in bronze or the current fashionable rusted iron.

The plants were superb: despite the weeks of drought they were looking healthy and lush. It wasn't all about showing off though. The Battlefield Garden reminded us of the sacrifice made for us that we remember 100 years on. However, the marquees were the places to see glorious flowers. The Rose Marquee was stunning and heavily scented while I found it almost impossible to leave the huge Floral Marquee. It was quite amazing. Everywhere the plants were in such good condition and so floriferous. They were covered in bees too. There were workshops to attend and lectures to listen to, and food and drink of all kinds. I had my customary Pimms to cool down. I could have done with several more hours to see everything except that stamina is a limited quality for me now.

There were downsides to the experience. There were too many people on the site, it was extremely confusing and easy to get lost since no individual maps were available with the tickets, but worst of all it was too hot –far too hot. Under every tree people were lolling trying to keep cool, and there were long queues at the stalls selling ice lollies. For some of our group it was too much and they were very grateful to get back to our comfortable air-conditioned coach.

N.B. The only person late getting back to the coach was the organiser, very shame-faced as when we arrived in the morning I had harangued them all about the need for strict timing. Once again, I am sorry I kept you all waiting.

Veronica Smith

Bob & Graham's big Balti Night

Monday 13th August

at 7:00 for 7:30pm

BALTI BHUJON 24 Mill Road, Maldon.
Please contact Graham Evans
or Bob Gowers

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Purleigh Gardeners FLOWER SHOW

Saturday, 11th August

Village Hall

2 pm

Refreshments and Raffle

Purleigh Gardeners are looking for new members, please contact Lindsey Bain on 01621 827066 for more details.

20th August Meeting
Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

Speaker
Roger Hance
Wildlife Photographer "Secret Life of a Wood"
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Let it Rain! Let it Rain! Let it Rain!

All Winter long we dreamed of sun;
Of trees with leaves, and flowers;.
Of clear blue skies, and seagulls' cries,
And endless daylight hours.
The snow was hard up in the north
But Spring was worth the wait;
The glorious bulbs a real delight,
The roses too were great.
And now we're into mid-July
We're crying out for rain.
The grass is scorched and dry as straw
And moorland fires - insane.
The barbeques have earnt their keep,
It now is such a pain.
I never thought I'd hear me say -
Let it Rain! Let it Rain! Let it Rain!

Jo Robson

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUE

Times 12.130pm

WEDNESDAY 15th August at The Queen's Head, Tolleshunt D'Arcy
There is a limit of 30 places, so first come, first served.
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

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Vice Chairman	Alec Fraser
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Treasurer	Graham Webster
Membership Sec.	Malcolm Case
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Committee	Malcolm Case

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Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 10th August
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CO-ORDINATORS

Antiques	Awaiting new Co-ordinator
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
Discussion	Bryan Jones
Egyptology	Kathleen Goff Sue Robinson
Family History	Alan Buck
French Conversation	Ann Lester
Geology	Enid Hall
Golf	Jennie Wilson
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	Paul Costa
3rd Wed. Eat & Meet 2nd Wed	Joyce Cotterell
	Molly Polden
Mah-Jong	Malcolm Case
Maritime	Enid Hall John Skuse
Music Appreciation	Jack Veash
Petanque (Boules)	Jo Robson
Poetry	Sheila Epps
Reading	Colin Beckett Beryl McDonell
Rummikub 1 Rummikub 2	Shirley Grummett
Scottish Country Dancing	Sue Garnham
Sing for Pleasure	Gill Stone
Strollers	Louis Gunn
Table Tennis	David Arnold
Ten Pin Bowling	Beryl McDonell
Weekenders	Molly Polden
Whist	Graham Boswell Mary Burd
Wine Circle No. 1/2	Paul Costa Ann Goody
Wine Circle No. 3	Patrick Forsyth
Wine Circle No. 4	
Writing for Fun	

PROGRAMME – AUGUST 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1 Ten Pin Bowling Wine Group 1	2 Ten Pin Bowling Discussion Poetry Rummikub 2	3 Canasta	4	5
6 **Maritime Chatham** Whist	7 Table Tennis Geology	8 Table Tennis Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Luncheon Group	9 Table Tennis Ten Pin Bowling Petanque French Conversation History—Tudors Reading Rummikub 1	10 Tale Tennis Mah Jong Sing for Pleasure	11 Purleigh Flower Show	12
13 Handicrafts Whist Balti Night	14 Table Tennis	15 Ten Pin Bowling Luncheon Group	16 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque	17 Canasta	18	19 Strollers
20 **Meeting 1.30 pm**	21 Table Tennis Aviation	22 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Wine Group 2 Writing for Fun	23 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque French Conversation Music Appreciation Wine Group 3	24 Cribbage Mah Jong Sing for Pleasure	25	26
27 **BANK HOLIDAY**	28 Table Tennis Strollers Too Wine Group 4	29 Ten Pin Bowling	30 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque	31 Canasta		

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.