The University of the Third Age

MALDON AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

Maritime visit to Chatham
'Medway Queen'

September 2018

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR

From the (Vice) Chair
Hello everyone and welcome to your October newsletter.
Firstly, an update on our Chairman Brian who is still making steady progress and we expect to see him at meetings very soon.

Secondly, I would like to thank you all for your co-operation during the medical incident at the August meeting. We asked you all to "stay put" while the emergency services arrived so that they would not be delayed by a rush of vehicles leaving the car park. Also thanks for your quiet, orderly exit and help putting the furniture away.

Thanks are also due to our members who promptly stepped up and gave assistance and comfort to the gentleman who had been taken ill, and to those others who helped manage the situation.

There was sufficient concern for the Air Ambulance to be called (arriving after almost everyone had left). The red helicopter landing on the small field behind the Hall was an impressive sight and a surprise for the neighbours!

Obviously there was no question that the talk had to be cancelled, and Roger Hance, our August speaker, will hopefully be returning early next year.

Finally, it is a pleasure to report that our patient appears not to have suffered any lasting damage and was allowed home after treatment.
Alec Fraser
Vice Chairman

Maritime

The next meeting of the Maritime Group is on **Monday 1st October** starting at 10:00 am at the Blackwater Sailing Club, Basin Road, Heybridge Basin. John Johnson Allen will be giving a talk entitled
"Too Shallow for the Navy: Maritime Mesopotamia 1914-17".
It is the story of the Royal Navy's support for the military campaign in Mesopotamia. On the Tigris & Euphrates rivers, the Royal Navy sailors were awarded over 160 medals for gallantry, including three VCs, in what were often close quarters battle encounters.
All U3A members are very welcome to come to the meeting.
Malcolm Case

Aviation

We shall meet as normal on the **18th September** at Purleigh Pavilion with a showing of the new up to date " Dam Busters".
In October we shall have a power point presentation called "The World's Worst Aircraft". I hope to see you there.
Brian Johnson

Local History

The next meeting for the Local History Group is on **Monday September 24th** when we have our trip to Kent.
For those of you already booked, the coach will leave West Maldon Community Centre at 8.30 am with a further pickup at Danbury at 8.45am. At the time of writing there are two spare seats, so if anyone would like to join us please contact Kathy on 01621 840271.
We hope you all have a very enjoyable day, and we will reconvene at Maldon Town Hall in October.
Kathy, Jane and Sylvia.

Art Appreciation

There will be no Art Group meeting in October, the next will be at Judith Johnston's house in Little Baddow on **Tuesday 13th November** at 2pm, where we will each bring along a copy of a personal favourite (or least favourite) painting to discuss.
Andy Simmonds

NEW DISCUSSION GROUP—Engineering

I propose to host a weekly engineering-themed discussion group based around two series of half-hour lectures from 'The Great Courses'. The plan is to watch a lecture from "Understanding the Inventions that changed the world", followed by coffee and discussion. We will then watch a lecture from "Understanding the World's Greatest Structures", followed by another discussion. The meetings will be held on Friday afternoons from 2-4pm in my home in Danbury, and continue for 24 weeks, starting on **Friday 5th October**. Numbers are limited, so please contact me to reserve a place and get more details.
Tony Groves

Family History Main Group

This will resume on **Wednesday 26th September** at 58 Augustine Way, Bicknacre, CM3 4ET commencing at 2.30pm

Family History Beginners

This group will be meeting at the above address on
Friday 28th September commencing at 10.00am.
Members wishing to attend should let me know

Croquet Group

Since the last newsletter the Croquet Group have met twice at Forrester Park Golf Club for more fun and games playing croquet. Our new players are quickly picking up the rules of the game and are finding their skills improving – keep your eye on the ball, don't lift your head, swing the mallet with follow through!! There are just a few more sessions before the close of season, so if you fancy having a go, please come along and join us on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. The next session will be **Thursday, 27th September,** meet at 2.00pm for a 2.15pm start. There is a small charge of £5.00 to cover equipment and lawn hire. For further information please contact Jean Healey or Shirley Macro

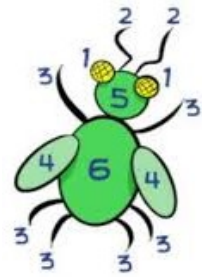
WINE GROUP 3 - SUMMER EVENT

For their summer event this year Wine Group 3 visited two of the vineyards on the Dengie Peninsula. The first was Crouch Ridge where we were taken on a very informative guided tour by Ross Lonergan, the co-owner. This was followed by tastings of their Estate white, rose and Pinot noir wines from 2016 & 2017. Samantha Lonergan provided the tasting information on these. This was followed by their Blanc de Blanc sparkling wine 2016 which was served with lunch.

After lunch we moved on to Clayhill Vineyard where the owner Dale told us how his vineyard had started. We then tasted a sparkling Chardonnay, a white and Pinot noir from 2016. All the wines were very different to the previous vineyard which was only a mile down the road!! We then tried a selection of liqueurs. Clayhill has a very nice coffee shop which is open at weekends!!

The day provided the group with lots of information about the grapes in this area, mostly Chardonnay and Pinot Noir which are becoming increasingly popular for the local wines. Purchases were made at both the venues and members had a very enjoyable day. If you haven't tried the venues yet they are well worth visiting.

Mary and Paul - Coordinators



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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'Something to look forward to in November'

Social Evening

Wednesday, November 28

Maldon Town Hall

Entertainment by Marshall King

6.30 for 7.00 pm until 10.00 pm

Please bring your own plate, knife, fork, spoon, drink and nibbles.

A choice of Supper is available.

Tickets £15

Tickets from Barbara Byam-Shaw,

Tickets available from the September meeting.
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2018/9 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

Mon. Sept. 24	Kentish Curios—Local History
Mon. Sept. 24	Astronomy Quiz night
Fri. Oct. 12	Beetle Drive—afternoon at Langford VH
Wed. Oct. 24	Cyber Crime Prevention—WMCC
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.

Heybridge U3A

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Friday– Saturday 7th/8thDecember 2018

Here is a fantastic opportunity to step aboard Cruise and Maritime's lovely cruise ship, '**THE MAGELLAN'**. at Tilbury.

No need to worry about sea-sickness! We board the 'Magellan' on Friday afternoon, enjoy a delicious five course dinner followed by a fabulous show. Stay overnight with breakfast the following morning. Included in the price are welcome cocktails and half a bottle of wine per person with the meal – and all without putting to sea at all!

Twin cabin, inside - £99.00 per person
Twin cabin, outside - £109 per person
Single cabin, inside - £109 per person
Single cabin, outside - £119 per person

For more information, please contact Liz Cawdell, Events Secretary, Heybridge U3A
Email: eventssecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk
https://www.cruiseandmaritime.com/overnight-events

Astronomy

The next meeting of the group will be an **Astronomy Quiz** on Monday **24th September** at Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigboro Road, Heybridge CM9 4RE starting at 7:30pm.
The format will be teams of around three or four people pitting their wits on multiple choice questions similar to those in the August Newsletter. It promises to be an evening of amazing astronomy facts, and lively discussion over the answers!

Here are the answers to the questions in the August Newsletter:
1. The last astronaut to step off the Moon's surface was A: Gene Cernan. He was a member of the Apollo 17 crew along with Harrison Schmitt and Ronald Evans. Evans was the Command Module Pilot while Cernan and Schmitt landed on The Moon.
2. The diameter of the Moon is C: 3,476 km.
3. The second most abundant element in the Sun is B: Helium. The Sun generates its energy by nuclear fusion of hydrogen nuclei into helium.

To whet your appetite for the quiz evening here are three more questions:
1. Which planet is known as the Evening Star?
   A: Mercury B: Venus C: Mars
2. How many moons does Mercury have?
   A: 0 B: 2 C: 4
3. Which one of these is the name of a "sea" on the nearside of The Moon?
   A: Sea of Holes B: Sea of Dreams C: Sea of Fertility

Discussion Group

The Discussion Group meets on the first Thursday of the month at 2pm at members' houses. We are a friendly and informal group where there is room for agreement and disagreement, laughter and serious views and anything is up for discussion!
We welcome new members.
The next meeting will be at Dorothy Denmark's - on **Thursday 4th October.**
Brian Jones

Strollers

Sunday, 21st October—Messing

Please meet at the Old Crown Pub, Messing, CO5 9TU at 10:15am for a 10:30am start. The walk starts and ends in the pretty village of Messing, named as "Best Kept Village in 2007 & 2008".

The walk is entirely rural, going through farmland and two ancient woods, seemingly miles from civilisation. The countryside around Messing is gently undulating. The walk combines lovely views with easy walking for about 4.5 miles with some four stiles to negotiate. One section of the route utilises concrete tracks which were originally part of Birch Airfield.

Please let me know no later than the **10th October** if you will be joining us. If you require lunch then we will choose from the menu before commencing the walk.

Please note that arrangements sometimes have to be changed at the last moment so I need to have contact details for you even if you do not require lunch.

Malcolm Case

Strollers Too

Tuesday 23rd October - Hanningfield Reservoir Nature Trails

Please meet in the car park at the Water's Edge Restaurant, Map Ref. TQ 737977, a sign posted turning off South Hanningfield Road (Not the Visitor Centre, on Hawkswood Road). A flat walk of 3.5 miles long, through woodland and meadows on established walks with plenty of opportunity to see the wildlife on and around the Reservoir, a halfway stop will be at the Visitor Centre. Lunch will be available at Water's Edge Restaurant, bookable on the day. Please let me know if you will be joining us by **16th October**.

Please note that arrangements sometimes have to be changed at the last minute so I need to have contact details for you.

Mike Childs,

Maritime Trip to Chatham Dockyard and the Medway Queen—August 6

On a glorious and hot August morning we set off from WMCC for Chatham.. After a welcome cup of tea or coffee and a delicious Danish pastry, we met Malcolm our guide and re-boarded the coach for a tour of the dockyard. Malcolm gave us a brief talk on the history of the dockyard which was established in the mid-16th century and closed in 1984. Among the ships built here was probably the best known warship HMS Victory, also HMS Gannet and the last boat built for the Royal Navy, the submarine HMS Ocelot. HMS Gannet and HMS Ocelot are both in the dockyard and open to the public as is HMS Cavalier. Malcolm pointed out several significant buildings including the Clock Tower, Sail and Colour loft, Admiral's Offices, Commissioner's House and the ropery. Malcolm also told us that because of its old buildings and cobbled streets the dockyard is used as a location for films and television programmes including "Les Misérables", "Call the Midwife", "Sherlock Holmes" and "The World is Not Enough" to name just a few. We ended the tour at the ropery where some of us took the guided tour and learnt about the skills of a rope maker. The ropery is still in use today and the ropes for the re-rigging of the "Cutty Sark" after the disastrous fire were made here. We then had free time to explore the dockyard further and visit the many exhibitions.

A day is certainly not enough time to see everything.

We left the dockyard at 3 pm and drove the short distance to Gillingham where the paddle steamer **Medway Queen** is being restored.

The **Medway Queen** was launched in 1924 and entered service on Thames estuary routes in May of that year. She was used as a minesweeper in WWII and is famous for her seven trips to Dunkirk in 1940. After the war she returned to her old route until 1963. From 1966 until 1974 she was a nightclub in the Isle of Wight. The ship was returned to the river Medway in 1984 and the hull has now been rebuilt with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the European Regional Development Fund. We had a brief talk on her history and boarded the ship in groups to see the work being undertaken to restore her. It is a mammoth task. After a welcome cup of tea or coffee we set off for Maldon at 5.pm .

Malcolm & Rosemary Case

Danger Tree exhibition – first time in Essex

– volunteers needed –

Created by award-winning artists Scarlett Raven and Marc Marot, and following critically-acclaimed showcases in London, Manchester, Belfast and Liverpool, the Danger Tree, commemorating the centenary of the end of WWI, will be coming to Maldon in the form of two exhibitions and we will need volunteers to help meet the needs of the many visitors expected at this ground-breaking event.

Maldon District Council, with the support of Maldon Town Council, is pleased to announce a collaboration with Scarlett Raven and Marc Marot to present Danger Tree. The event comprising two different free interactive art exhibitions commemorating the centenary of the end of World War I, will be held, with the kind permission of the Trustees, at the Maeldune Centre and the Moot Hall in Maldon. There will also be a pre-exhibition evening talk by Marc Marot in the United Reformed Church in Market Hill, Maldon, with the kind permission of the Minister.

Our volunteers will be given full training and be invited to the pre-exhibition talk at the United Reformed Church on **25 October**. The timeframe for the exhibitions runs from **27 October to 13 November** at the Maeldune Centre, and from **27 October to 18 November** at the Moot Hall.

To register an interest in becoming a volunteer or for more information about what is involved, please contact the Maldon District Tourist Information Centre: email: tic@maldon.gov.uk.

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Chatham Visit

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The World's Biggest Coffee Morning 2018

Everyone is welcome to come to my coffee morning for

Macmillan Cancer Support.

Friday 28 September

from 10 am to noon.

Venue: 11 Beaumont Way Maldon.

Mary Burd

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Bob & Graham's big Balti Night

Monday 8th October

at 7:00 for 7:30pm

at BALTI BHUJON 24 Mill Road, Maldon.

Please contact Graham Evans

Or Bob Gowers

Speaker: The speaker for October is Dr Jane Pearson, a member of the history department at Essex University. She will be talking to us about 18th Century Essex Workhouses. We are pleased that she is able to come back to us as she was displaced on site by another speaker who turned up unexpectedly, unbooked, on Jane's day in July 2017.

15th October Meeting
Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

Speaker
Dr. Jane Pearson
"18th Century Essex Workhouses"
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Cyber Crime Presentation
Wednesday, 24th October 2018

10.00am to 12.00pm

West Maldon Community Centre

Barry Linton of Westcliff U3A and David Gibbs from Essex Police will be giving a presentation on how to protect ourselves from Cyber Crime. If you use credit/debit cards, a computer, iPad, tablet or smart phone you many find yourself a victim of cyber crime. However, we can help to protect ourselves and Barry and David have prepared this presentation to give us the advice and information we need.

The meeting will take place at the West Maldon Community Centre, doors open at 9.30am for coffee/tea, with the meeting starting at 10.am.

There are just a few seats left so if you would like to join us please contact Shirley Macro

Botany

We had a very wet morning for our last walk of the season and spent it indoors with a cup of tea, discussing various plant lists that we have compiled. There will be no more botany walks this year.

Both Trees and Botany will start again next year if there is a demand.

Veronica Smith

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUE

Times 12.15 pm

WEDNESDAY 24th October at Three Horsehoes, Althorne

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
chairman@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

LIMEBROOK U3A
Contact
Christine Dove, Chairman

Your Committee

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

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	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, 8th October
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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
Current Affairs Discussion	Bryan Jones
Engineering Discussion	Tony Groves
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 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 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

PROGRAMME – OCTOBER 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 Maritime Whist	2 Table Tennis Art Appreciation Geology	3 Ten Pin Bowling Wine Group 1	4 Ten Pin Bowling Discussion Group Petanque Poetry Rummikub 2 Scottish Country Dancing	5 Mah Jong Discussion - "Engineering!	6	7 Bird Watching Two Tree Island
8 Handicrafts Whist Balti Night	9 Table Tennis Egyptology	10 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge	11 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Croquet French Conversation History—Tudors Reading Rummikub 1	12 Canasta Sig for Pleasure **Beetle Drive**	13	14
15 **Meeting 1.30 pm** Just Jazz	16 Table Tennis Aviation	17 Ten Pin Bowling	18 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Scottish Country Dancing	19 Mah Jong	20	21 Strollers
22 Astronomy Handicrafts Local History Whist	23 Table Tennis Wine Group 4 Strollers Too	24 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Family History Wine Group 2 Writing for Fun **Luncheon Group** **Cyber Crime**	25 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Croquet French Conversation Music Appreciation Wine Group 3	26 Canasta Cribbage Family History Sing for Pleasure	27	28
29 Whist	30 Table Tennis	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.

Newsletter Editor: Mrs Jan Robertson,