Learn, Laugh, Live

MALDON
AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

December 2019

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR

Hello Everyone

I can't quite believe it but 2019 is almost at an end, just a few days to go and Christmas will be upon us and then onwards to another New Year. I have now completed my first six months as Chairman and, so far, it has been a very enjoyable experience. As yet, I haven't been to visit many of the different groups but hope to make a good start in the next few weeks once the festive season is over and done with for another year.

I am very pleased to announce that the Maldon and District U3A website has been updated and, I think, made more user friendly and interesting to look at. Our very grateful thanks should go to Tony Groves for all the hard work he has put into this update, which will now be readable not only on a computer/laptop but also tablets and phones. Please take a look and I think you will agree that Tony has done an excellent job.http://www.maldonu3a.co.uk/

Before I wish you all the usual Season's Greetings, don't forget we are still searching for a new Treasurer and Business Secretary to take over at the next AGM. As mentioned before, we need these officers for our U3A to continue to run – please contact either myself or Graham Webster for more information.

With my very best wishes for a Happy Christmas and healthy New Year – see you in 2020!

Shirley Macro

Maritime - RNLI 5p Collection Pots!

As members of the Maritime group know we have been collecting for the RNLI since we visited lifeboat stations in Wales on our holiday in September.

We use the small Wilkins of Tiptree pots or similar to collect 5p coins - although 20ps are also collectible! The idea has been in place at various outlets in the town for over a year now.

Since we started in the U3A we have collected **£43.45** which has been donated to the Maldon branch of the RNLI who were suitably impressed by the amount we had raised.

We plan to keep this project ongoing so if anyone would like to support a very good cause empty pots will be available at the Maritime meetings or please ask Malcolm or myself for one at the main meeting.

Mary Burd

TEN PIN BOWLING

There will not be any official U3A Ten Pin Bowling on New Year's Day but it will be back to 'normal' for **Thursday 2nd January**.

David Arnold

AVIATION GROUP

The Purleigh playing field committee have very kindly held our booking for the **3rd Tuesday** in the month open for us without charge.

I am hoping to restart our meetings in January. Please keep a lookout for speakers and please think how you can help and what trips you would like to go on. I am just about mobile but will need some help !!!

Look forward to seeing you all.

Best wishes Brian Johnson

STROLLERS for BBC CHILDREN in NEED

Sunday 17th November 2019

Thank you to all those who came on the walk and to those who have given a donation. The total raised this year is **£477.00**.

Malcolm Case & Gill Stone.

STROLLERS

There will be a coffee morning on **Sunday 19th January 2020** 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 am for 11.00.
Please let me know if you are coming by Monday 13th January.
G Stone:

STROLLERS TOO

There will be a coffee morning on **Tuesday 28th January 2020** 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 am for 11.00.
Please let me know if you are coming by Wednesday 22nd January.
G Stone:

CANASTA GROUP

Just a reminder that our last meeting this year is on **20th December** and we reconvene on **Friday January 17th 2020** at 2pm as usual.

We are sad to be losing one of our valued players who, together with her husband, is moving away from our area; however, it is a new beginning for them and we wish them all the very best of luck in their new home and new surroundings.

We are pleased to have welcomed a new player recently who hadn't played this game before but who is enthusiastic to learn and making great progress. We are still able to accommodate one or two more players, so please contact me on , if you are interested in joining us.

Wishing all our members a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year. Iris Slaney

Monday 20th January Meeting

Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

Speaker

Veronica Smith
Russia Today

FUTURE SPEAKERS

February 17th 2020	John Pierce – "Painterotti"
March 16th 2020	Sarah Millerick - talk on "Marie Curie Nursing"
April 20th 2020	Steve Scruton - "Dreams come true"

The above events may be subject to change.

BIRD WATCHING GROUP

Heybridge Basin December 8th

A bright and breezy Sunday morning saw nine members on the sea wall , looking over an abundance of waterfowl on the mud flats. Readily discernible were flocks of dark bellied Brent geese, which had travelled some 2,500 miles from their breeding grounds in Siberia. Essex is the winter home of a quarter of the world's population of these birds.
Also present were Wigeon, another winter visitor from Iceland and northern Europe, with some coming from Russia. They were accompanied by teal – the smallest European duck. The black and white undersides of startled lapwings made a vivid contrast with the blue as they rose into the sky.
A few of the delightful ringed and little ringed plovers were to be spotted among other waders on a gravel spit.
A pleasant morning was rounded off with seasonal mince pies and coffee kindly provided by Peter and Marion Gaywood!

Next meeting is on **Saturday January 4th** at Beeleigh Falls. 10am at the canal bridge car park.
Mike Bagshaw

Bob and Graham's Big Balti Night

Monday **10th February**
7:00 for 7:30pm.
At Balti Bhujon, 24 Mill, Rd Maldon

Please contact
Graham Evans or
Bob Gowers for details

LUNCHEON CLUB Christmas Lunch at Forresters

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUE

No Lunch in January

As I do not return from holiday until the second week in January, unfortunately there will be no lunch this month – sorry guys!

Co-ordinator: Paul Costa

2019/2020 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

18th December Ten Pin Bowling Festive Lunch for Bowlers and guests

2020

7th February	Call My Wine Bluff, Maldon Town Hall
17th April	St Georges Barn Dance, Maldon Town Hall
4th May	Maritime visit to the London Canal Museum
2nd July	Barbecue, Langford Village Hall
3rd August	Maritime visit to Ware and Hertford
5th October	Maritime visit to Upnor Castle
29th October	Posh Frock Do at The Bull, Great Totham

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

FAMILY HISTORY BEGINNERS

The next meeting will be held on the **31st January 2020** commencing at 10.00am at 58 Augustine Way, Bicknacre, CM3 4ET.
I would appreciate any member wishing to attend let me know
Alan Buck

ASTRONOMY GROUP

The next meeting of the group will be on **Monday 27th January**, full details will be in the January Newsletter. On behalf of the group, have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Peaceful and Healthy New Year.
Malcolm Case

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

We are a friendly group who enjoy fitness and fun, also tea, coffee and biscuits. Everyone welcome to join us for simple dancing, no experience necessary.
Shirley Grummett

Maritime Group Holiday to North Wales 9th to 13th September 2019

On the Maritime holiday to North Wales in September the group stayed in an hotel with an interesting history.

Here is the promised article on this Grade 1 listed building.

The Bulkeley Hotel in Beaumarais, Isle of Anglesey

This is a tale of ambition, dastardly tricks and retribution.

In 1829 an aristocratic gentleman, Sir Richard Bulkeley, who, as a Midshipman, is believed to be the last man to have spoken to Lord Nelson before he expired at the Battle of Trafalgar, was invited to entertain the young Princess Victoria when she came to Anglesey. The visit was to be in 1832, which gave him plenty of time to prepare. In this case he decided to build a special house for the occasion, a "beach villa".

He was a powerful man so didn't hesitate to knock down over 400 houses which might spoil the view. The architect was a Mr Hansom, whose other claim to fame is that he invented the Hansom cab. The house was built almost on the beach. The main feature was the grand staircase leading up to the room that the Princess was to occupy. The visit coincided with the local Beaumarais Royal Eisteddfod and there was to be a great reception with all the local bigwigs invited.

All, that is, except one! The other Big Cheese on Anglesey at that time was Lord Anglesey. He is reputed to have sat on horseback alongside the Duke of Wellington at the Battle of Waterloo, where he lost a leg but fought on with the other one and subsequently acquired the first ever artificial limb, made of black leather. He had not been invited to the party, so he devised a cunning plan.

As the Royal Party were crossing the bridge he intercepted them with the devastating news that there had been an outbreak of smallpox in Beaumarais. Shock horror all round! "What are we to do?" "Never fear – you are welcome to come to my humble abode and I will accommodate you." The news travelled fast by the 1830s equivalent of texting and soon all Sir Richard's guests were enjoying Lord Anglesey's hospitality – except Sir Richard, of course.

In 1837 Queen Victoria acceded to the throne. When she finally became aware of Lord Anglesey's deception she was not amused. The Anglesey family were ostracised and the Queen later returned to Beaumarais and stayed at the beach villa that had been built for her. So Sir Richard had entertained Queen Victoria, who was one of the most powerful figures in the world at that time, whereas Lord Anglesey had entertained a mere princess, and honour was satisfied.

It is said that the Bulkeleys and the Anglesey's still don't speak to one another but I don't know how true that is.

The beach villa is now a very comfortable hotel where we stayed in September. We walked up and down the grand staircase, which didn't really lead to anywhere except the Queen's bedroom. My abiding memory is of large gilt mirrors in every room including the bathroom, and a vast lounge full of huge leather armchairs.

DD

<u>STEAM GROUP</u> (Science, Engineering and Medicine)
Blackwater U3A has invited interest in their STEAM group. The next meeting is **Monday 13th January** at West Maldon Community Centre. The talk by Dennis Eraut is on the prostate.
Further details from Jon Howorth

All Saints Church, Maldon, Christmas Tree Festival

The Christmas Tree Festival was held over the week-end of 6th- 8th December and Marrie Webster and I put up a tree on behalf of Maldon & District U3A.

The Church was full of decorated trees and looked very festive. This is the second year running that the Festival has taken place and has been well supported by various clubs, groups and organisations in the area.

Hope that some of you managed to get along to see the Festival.
Shirley Macro

MALDON & DISTRICT U3A
SOCIAL ORGANISING GROUP
PRESENT
CALL MY WINE BLUFF
WITH
A PLOUGHMANS SUPPER
FRIDAY 7th FEBRUARY 2020
6.30pm for 7.00pm until 10.00pm
AT
MALDON TOWN HALL
TICKETS £15.00
From – Rosemary Case

MALDON U3A LOCAL AND GENERAL HISTORY GROUP MEETINGS 2020
VENUE Maldon Town Hall

DATE	SUBJECT	SPEAKER	ADDITIONAL INFO
27 Jan	The History of Mangapps Railway Museum	John Jolly	
24 Feb	Virtual Tour of Maldon Moot Hall	Penney McAvoy Mike Fogg	
23 Mar	RAF Bradwell Bay Airfield in WW2	Kevin Bruce	
27 Apr	"An East Anglian Panorama"		Details tba
25 May	NO MEETING: BANK HOLIDAY		
22 June	The Story of Silver End	Jackie Nesbitt	
27 July	The History of Burnham	Margaret Smith	
24 Aug	NO MEETING: BANK HOLIDAY		
Sep	A visit to Hatfield House		Details tba
26 Oct	The Agricultural Riots of 1830	Roger Smith	
23 Nov	The making of a Maldon Journal - 1990-1993	Patrick Chaplin	
28 Dec	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.

Further information from Kathy Goff , Jane Coombes Sylvia Cousins .
All members welcome.
Jane Coombes

MALDON & DISTRICT U3A
MARITIME GROUP 2020 PROGRAMME

Monday 6th January – Part 2 of David Griffiths' very interesting talk on "Life Aboard a Submarine".

Monday 3rd February – Talk by Alison Mainwood on "A Brief History of Women in Yachting". Most of the people you see and hear of in small yachts are men - why? We will look at several very notable women who are the exceptions to this and see how they now can compete with men on (almost) equal terms, but few still choose to do so.

Monday 2nd March – talk by John Rogers – "East Coast Magic", a personal view of the magic of the east coast told in pictures and stories – from his long, over 70 years, association with sailing the east coast.

Monday 6th April – talk by John Johnson-Allan on HMS Truculent, a British submarine of the third group of the T class. She was built as P315 by Vickers Armstrong, Barrow, and launched on 12 September 1942. Truculent was lost following a post-war accident with a Swedish oil tanker in the Thames Estuary in January 1950.

Monday 4th May – trip to the London Canal Museum and canal boat trips. **Cost per person is £32.00**, this includes the coach, driver's gratuity, coach parking, tea/coffee/biscuits on arrival, guided tour of the Museum and canal boat trips through Islington Tunnel. Depart West Maldon Community Centre at 8:30 am. Please park your cars at the far end of the car park.

Monday 1st June – talk by Dr Meghan Barford from the National Maritime Museum Greenwich on "Maps and Cartography".

Monday 6th July – talk by Janet Hall on the steam tug "Brent". She was built in 1945 by William Pickersgill, Sunderland for the Ministry of War Transport and designated TID 159, meaning Tug Inshore Defence. These steam tugs were one of the first UK ventures into all welded prefabricated steel shipbuilding. Most were used by the Admiralty and TID 159 was the last to be built. She was sold to the Port of London Authority (PLA) at a subsidised price to replace wartime losses and renamed BRENT. Working in the Dredging Department and Enclosed Dock System of the PLA she was eventually laid up in 1969 and sold to a shipbreaker in 1970. BRENT was saved by a private buyer in 1971 and by 1973 had won an award at the Greenwich Festival as Best Kept Privately Owned Power Craft. She is the only steam powered vessel to have attended on the Thames at the Queen's Coronation in 1953 and the Silver Jubilee in 1977.

Monday 3rd August – trip with Groups Direct to Ware and Hertford for a tour and a river cruise, along the picturesque flood plains of the river Lee, en route to Hertford we will pass through two original locks. A two-course lunch is included and then a two-and -a-half-hour cruise between Ware and Hertford on the river Lee. **Cost per person, £52.00**, this includes, coach, coach parking, driver's gratuity, boat trip and two course lunch. Depart from West Maldon Community Centre at 9:00 am. Please park your cars at the far end of the car park.

Monday 7th September – talk by Patricia Ezra of the Apostleship of the Sea. This talk is about the work of The Seafarers Centres around the world.

Monday 5th October – trip to Upnor Castle on the river Medway. Upnor Castle is an Elizabethan artillery fort opposite and a short distance downriver from Chatham Dockyard, at one time a key naval facility. The fort was intended to protect both the dockyard and ships of the Royal Navy anchored in the Medway. Following our visit, we will then go to Maidstone for a trip on the river Medway on board the "Kentish Lady". **Cost per person, £46.00,** this includes the coach, driver's gratuity, coach parking and lunch aboard the "Kentish Lady". Depart from West Maldon Community Centre at 8:00 am. Please park your cars at the far end of the car park.

Monday 2nd November - Talk by Gordon Davies – "Safety at Sea, 19th Century style". We will look at the development of safety measures in the 19th century, from the introduction of weather forecasts to the development of life-saving equipment.

Monday 7th December – Christmas buffet and discussion of the 2021 programme.

Meetings for January, February, March and April will be held at Wickham Bishops Village Hall.

Meetings for June, July, September, November and December will be held at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Basin Road, Heybridge Basin, CM9 4SD.

All meetings start at 10:00 am on the first Monday of the month.

Your Committee

Chairman	Shirley Macro
Vice Chairman	Malcolm Case
Secretary	Judith Johnston
Treasurer	Graham Webster
Membership Secretary	Malcolm Case
Newsletter Editor	Liz Samson
Committee	Andrew Simmonds Alec Fraser Penelope McAvoy Jan Robertson
Web Master	John Bowen Tony Groves
Social Group	Michael Childs
AV Equipment	Mike Flack
Essex Assoc. of U3A's Committee	Malcolm Case

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Deadline for next newsletter: Friday 10th January 2020

CO-ORDINATORS

Art Appreciation	Andy Simmonds
Aviation	Brian Johnson
Astronomy	Malcolm Case
Balti Night	Bob Gowers Graham Evans
Bird Watching	Peter Gaywood Michael Bagshaw
Botany	Veronica Smith
Bridge	Sheila Epps
Canasta	Iris Slaney
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—Stuarts	Beryl McDonell
Just Jazz	Jim Light David Coombes
Local History	Sylvia Cousins Jane Coombes Kathleen Goff
London Theatre Outings	Rosemary Case Joyce Cotterell
Luncheon Groups 3rd Wed.	Paul Costa
Meet & Eat 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
Tree Identification	Veronica Smith
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's Day	2 Ten Pin Bowling Discussion Poetry Rummikub 2	3	4 Bird Watching	5
6 Maritime Whist	7 Table Tennis	8 Bridge Meet & Eat Ten Pin Bowling	9 Ten Pin Bowling History-Stuarts Reading French Conversation Rummikub 1 Scottish Country Dancing	10 Mah Jong Sing for Pleasure	11	12
13 Handicrafts Whist	14 Egyptology Table Tennis	15 Ten Pin Bowling	16 Ten Pin Bowling	17 Canasta	18	19 Strollers
20 **Meeting 1.30** Just Jazz	21 Table Tennis Geology Aviation	22 Bridge Ten Pin Bowling Writing for Fun Wine Group 2	23 Ten Pin Bowling Music Appreciation French Conversation Scottish Country Dancing Wine Group 3	24 Cribbage Mah Jong Sing for Pleasure	25	26
27 Astronomy Handicrafts Local History Whist	28 Strollers Too Table Tennis Wine Group 4	29 Ten Pin Bowling	30 Ten Pin Bowling	31 Canasta Family History		

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: Liz Samson