The University of the Third Age

MALDON AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

July 2019

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR

Hello Everyone

Welcome to my first “Message from the Chair”.

I hope that those of you who came along to the AGM and 21st Anniversary celebrations had an enjoyable afternoon. Once the formalities were swiftly taken care of, the refreshments were served along with entertainment from Steve Galler. There was also a splendid birthday cake which was ceremoniously cut by Beryl McDonnell, our first Chairman, helped by other past Chairmen, and shared out to everyone present.
A big thank you to everyone who helped make the afternoon go so well. Here’s hoping for many more.

I’m still trying to work out how I managed to find myself in the position of Chairman but would like to thank everyone who has wished me well in the role. This can only be done with the support of you all and, of course, the Committee and I would like to welcome both Penelope McAvoy and Liz Samson to the team.

Here’s looking forward to a successful and enjoyable time!

Shirley Macro

STROLLERS TOO

Tuesday 27th August – Maylandsea

This is a circular walk of approximately 4.5 miles walking along the northern shore of the Dengie peninsular where the River Blackwater flows to the sea and onto St Peter's Way enjoying the salt marshes, creeks, boats and birds.

We will meet in the car park at Hardy's Bar & Grill 36 Imperial Avenue Mayland CM3 6AH 1015 for a 1030 start.

Lunch will be available at Hardy's which we will choose on the day. Please let me know if you are coming on the walk and if you are staying for lunch no later than **Monday 19 August**.

Sometimes for reasons beyond our control the venue of a walk or lunch has to be changed.

Mary Burd –

ASTRONOMY

All meetings held at Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge. CM9 4RE at 7:30pm
The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 22nd July**.
We will be having a DVD on "Sky Viewing" and how to use "Astro Telescopes". This will be followed by a discussion on both subjects.
If you have an Astro Telescope or Astro Binoculars, then please bring them with you.
Any U3A member is very welcome to join the group.
Malcolm Case

CANASTA

Just a reminder that there will be no meeting during August but the Canasta group will resume play again on **13th September**.
My thanks to members for their attendance and support in making this a good fun group.
Iris Slaney

LOCAL HISTORY

The next meeting for the Local History Group is on **Monday July 22nd** at the Town Hall at 2p.m.

Our speaker is Dr Michael Thomas for his talk "The Vyne -A House of many Faces" This is a National Trust property, just north of Basingstoke, which is probably just a bit too far for a day trip. However Dr Thomas was a guide there, so will be able to bring the History of the House to us, with its many phases from Tudor Times to Victorian.

Set in beautiful grounds the House has a fascinating story and is well worth a visit if you are ever that way.

Meanwhile come to the meeting on **July 22nd** and hear all about it.

Kathy is still taking names for our Suffolk Symphony Trip on **September 23rd** when we will visit Snape Maltings for coffee which is included, before we travel on to Aldeburgh where there is plenty of choice to have lunch or you can bring your own packed lunch.

Afterwards we move on to visit Sir Benjamin Britten's Red House before the return journey. The cost is £45.50 each, so if you wish to book please bring your cheque book with you.

Kathy, Jane and Sylvia

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Bob and Grahams Big Balti Night.

Monday 12th August 7:00 for 7:30pm.

At Balti Bhujon, 24 Mill Rd Maldon.

Please contact
Graham Evans 01621 742524 or
Bob Gowers 01621815482 for details.
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MALDON U3A SOCIAL GROUP
PRESENT

AN AFTERNOON SUMMER BUFFET FEATURING

“KIND OF BLUE”

THURSDAY 25TH JULY – 2 - 4:30pm

AT THE BELL PUB – MAIN ROAD,
WOODHAM FERRERS, CM3 8RF

EXTENSIVE BUFFET WITH LIVE MUSIC

TICKETS ON SALE AT £10

Rosemary Case
Email: rosemarycase@talktalk.net

2019 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

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

Thurs. July 25	Afternoon Buffet with Entertainment by "Kind of Blue"
Mon. Aug. 5	Tour the Sussex Seaside—Maritime
27/29 Aug.	Third Age Trust AGM & Conference
9/13 Sept	5 days holiday to North Wales—Maritime
11th Oct	Beetle Drive, Plantation Hall
Fri. Nov. 29	Film Show with Afternoon Tea

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

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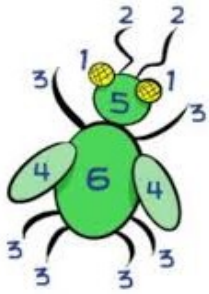
BEETLE DRIVE with PLOUGHMANS SUPPER

FRIDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2019



AT PLANTATION HALL, HEYBRIDGE

TIME 6.30 FOR 7.00 TILL 10.00

TICKET PRICE £6, ON SALE at AUGUST MAIN MEETING

CONTACT ROSEMARY CASE –
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MARITIME

The Group's visit to "Sussex Seaside" is on **Monday 5th August**. The coach will leave from West Maldon Community Centre at 8:00 am, please park your cars at the far end of the car park and if possible, car share. There will be a pick-up at Eves Corner at about 8:10 am.
Traffic permitting, we should arrive at Old Pevensey by 10:30 am, our Blue Badge guide will join us here. On arrival we will have tea/coffee/biscuits (included in the price) before taking a short stroll around Pevensey. This will be followed by a two-course lunch at a local pub (included in the price). After lunch we will take a coach tour onto the South Downs to view Beachy Head Lighthouse and to hear stories of shipwrecks, smugglers and she-devils. There will be time for afternoon tea in Eastbourne (not included in the price) before starting our journey back to Maldon at about 4:45 pm.
Malcolm Case

TREE RECOGNITION

The group will continue to meet throughout the summer. Anyone is welcome to join our walks if they would like to. We are adding recognised trees to our list each time we meet, using shape, leaves, flowers and now fruits to help identification.

Gilbert & Sullivan Festival at Bury St Edmunds 13th/14th September

Please let me know by email if you would like to be included on this trip. We shall probably be going to the matinee, allowing time to get back on the same day. Details of shows and times to follow.
Please look up the website for more information.

Veronica Smith

Local Events in July/August/September

July 20 Summer Festival at Audley End
July 20/21 Crouch Valley Festival of Food & Drink, Riverside Park, Burnham on Crouch
July 20 Southminster Flower Show and Fun Dog Show
July 27/28 Stow at War, Stow Marie Gt War Aerodrome
July 20/Sept. 8 The Original Great Maze at Blake House Craft Centre
Aug. 3 Wrabfest—A boutique music festival at A House for Essex, Black Boy Lane, Manningtree CO11 2TP
Aug 3/4 The Victorian War Horse at Audley End—Equestrian w/e
Aug. 3 Bradwell Flower Show and Dog Show
Aug. 10/11 Ukulele Concert—Sth Woodham Ferrers Maldonukulelegroup
Aug. 17/18 Smoke & Fire Festival, Prom. Park, Maldon
Aug. 24/31 Burnham Week
Aug. 25 Bell Meadow Day, Woodham Walter Country Fair
Aug 18/19 Wildlife Fair at Beth Chatto, Elmstead Market
Aug.31/Sept 1 Annual Wine Festival, New Hall Vineyard
Sept. 8 Maldon Oyster & Seafood Festival

For more local events visit https://www.visitmaldondistrict.co.uk/events

DISCUSSION GROUP

Seven of us met this month and had lively discussions covering many topics. We shall not be meeting in August but shall reconvene on the first Thursday in September - **September 5th**.
If you would like to join us we are a friendly group which welcomes new members. You do not have to be super intelligent to join!
Contact Bryan Jones .

Bird Watching Group

This month the Group visited Walton on the Naze with the expectation of seeing resident waders and hopefully Buntings warblers and possibly Woodpeckers on the walk down to the mud flats and water's edge.
The walk to the sea through woodland and grass lands was unnaturally quiet a solitary Kestrel(Falco tinnunculus) made a pass over us on its way back to the Naze tower where a nest box had been erected in which a brood of young Kestrel chicks were being raised.
Whilst the absence of birds was disappointing we were able to enjoy some of the many butterflies that live on the Naze including Meadow Brown (maniola jurtina)
Gatekeeper (pyronia tithonus) also known as the small meadow brown.
Essex skipper (thymelicus lineola) and /or the small skippers (thymelicus sylvestris) these two are hard to distinguish from each other but were more likely to be the more common small skipper.
No rarities but good to observe nonetheless.
Our visit was also eventually rewarded with sightings of what we had come to see Oystercatcher (haematopus ostralegus) with its distinctive black and white plumage red legs and long red orange bill
Back at the Naze Tower we were able to closely observe the family of Kestrels at relatively close quarters, possibly we should have stayed there with ice creams from the café.
No meeting in August, our next meeting **7th September** at Hanningfield Visitors Centre 10.00 am.
Peter Gaywood

Maldon & District U3A 21st Birthday AGM July 15, 2019

Some of you very kindly filled in the yellow cards of memories of your time with our U3A since 1998.

The U3A is a fantastic organisation. I have happy memories of being on the Social Committee and in the early days cooking large amounts of food. Marion Condon

I will never forget the knobbly knees competition at Hi Di Hi Maldon on Mud Evening. (unsigned.)

European Group– Having Nigel Farage to speak to us and then going to Strasbourg to the European Parliament (unsigned).

Being persuaded to join a Committee when I said I'd finished with all that. Marrie Webster

Strolling around the Essex countryside with like-minded people—great (unsigned).

I thought the holiday to the Iron Bridge and all the outings were very well planned and the whole holiday was great (unsigned).

Henry Vlll was very good (unsigned).

The Ballet of the "Three Queens" on the Mersey during our Maritime trip to Liverpool. (unsigned).

Making lots of new friends. All welcome at groups and meetings whether a couple or single. Rosemary and Malcolm Case.

Steve Gellar, our entertainer at the AGM and Christmas meeting.

Third Age Trust AGM and Conference

27 - 29 August

EAST MIDLANDS CONFERENCE CENTRE, UNIVERSITY PARK, NOTTINGHAM, NG7 2RJ

Cost (£115.00 per person non-residential, this covers cost of conference attendance. £325.00 per person residential – this is cost of hotel, dinner bed and breakfast and conference attendance) for Conference.

If you would like to attend, then your travel expenses together with the cost of the hotel will be paid by Maldon & District U3A. Please contact Malcolm Case on 01245 329435 or email malcolmcase@talktalk.net for further details.

Welcome to the Conference and AGM 2019.

Together we will be sharing our views, ideas and experience in this year's conference "Sharing Inspiring Learning". With workshops focusing on lifelong learning, managing new educational resources, finance for charities, and supporting the growth and development of U3As, there will opportunity to discuss, debate and enjoy the views of colleagues across the movement. There will also be some free time to share interests such as singing, ukulele playing, walking and many other choices. Please join us for the conference and enjoy time with U3A members from across the movement.

Location

East Midlands Conference Centre

Set in the tranquil grounds of Nottingham University, the UK's greenest campus, the EMCC offers professional conference facilities in the perfect location.

Orchard Hotel

Adjacent to the conference centre, the Orchard Hotel offers a four-star experience to guests. Student accommodation is also available.

Nottingham

Conveniently and centrally located, Nottingham is easily accessible by road, rail, air and canal. The University Park campus is a 10-minute bus ride from the city centre, and free parking is available onsite.

Maldon & District U3A

One of the mottoes of the University of the Third Age is "Learn, Laugh & Live". Now, do not worry about the University bit – it does not mean we are all deep in study and attending lectures but if you wish there are opportunities to learn about new interests and to go along to meetings and talks given by members or visitors. The Third Age part is directed to retired and semi-retired people who have the opportunity to come together and share a variety of educational, creative and leisure activities. From personal experience, I can confirm that I have learnt new things, made new friendships and had fun.

We have more than 40 different activity and interests groups run by the members themselves. These can take place in a variety of places, including members' homes, local halls, sporting venues and outdoors. If you have read any of our previous articles, you will realise that outings are also a big part of our activities.

We hold a members' meeting every month which gives us a chance to get together and catch up, also for different interest groups to share what they have planned. We also have speakers every month talking on a variety of different subjects.

If work commitments are much reduced or completely behind you, why not join us? We guarantee you a friendly welcome.

If you think you would be interested in joining the Maldon and District U3A, please take a look at our website – www.maldonu3a.co.uk, and then get in touch.

Monday, 19th August Meeting
Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

Speaker
Margaret Mills
Mrs Beeton,
the Original Superwoman

Your Committee 2019

Chairman	Shirley Macro
Vice Chairman	Malcolm Case
Secretary	Judith Johnston
Treasurer	Graham Webster
Membership Secretary	Malcolm Case
Newsletter Editor	Jan Robertson
N/L Apprentice	Liz Samson
Committee	Andrew **Simmonds**
	Alec Fraser
	Penelope McAvoy 1

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Web Master	John Bowen
	Tony Groves
Social Group	Michael Childs
AV Equipment	Mike Flack
Essex Assoc. of U3A's Committee	Malcolm Case

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUE

WEDNESDAY 21st August at 12.30 pm for 1.00 pm
at the New Times in Tiptree

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.
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Eve's Corner – July 2019

It really was a glorious day
Temperature around twenty seven.
I took my sandwich to the seat.
Sat on the edge of heaven.
The pond, alive with things to see;
Blue Damsel and wet Dragon
In Bullrush sanctity, which was
A perfect insect haven.
Below a Mum with speckled young,
All keen to learn her lesson
Tipping their tails and ducking their heads,
'Joy' was their one expression.
Some older Moorhen juveniles
Were sitting on the bank.
They rallied quickly for my crusts,
Coming up on either flank.
Amidst all this activity,
With traffic on the road,
A pocket of tranquillity
Where folk can capture mode
Of countryside in harmony
With juggernauts rumbling by.
A friendly chat upon a bench
Gave me hope and time to sigh.
With all the building not far off,
I hope they've left some space
For folks to sit and catch their breath
And slow down life's fast pace.

Jo Robson

NATIONAL OFFICE
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Resource Centre: email: resource.centre@u3a.org.uk

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 9th August

CO-ORDINATORS

Antiques	Awaiting new members
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
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
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

PROGRAMME – AUGUST 2019

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

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.