PROGRAMME – APRIL 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 Maritime Whist	2	3 Wine Group 1 Ten Pin Bowling	4 Ten Pin Bowling Discussion Poetry Rummikub 2 Scottish Country Dancing	5 Mah Jong	6	7
8 Handicrafts Whist	9 Table Tennis Egyptology Art Appreciaton	10 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Luncheon Group	11 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Croquet French Conversation Reading Rummikub 1	12 Canasta Sing for Pleasure	13	14
15 Meeting 1.30 pm Just Jazz	16 Table Tennis Aviation Geology	17 Ten Pin Bowling Luncheon Group	18 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque History - Tudors Scottish Country Dancing	19 **E A S T E R**	20	21
22 **E A S T E R**	23 Table Tennis Stollers Wine Group 4	24 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Wine Group 2 Writing for Fun	25 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Geology 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	Ten Pin Bowling Petanque			

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,

The University of the Third Age

MALDON AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

Spring has arrived

MARCH 2019

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR

From the (Vice) Chair
Hello Everyone
The 2019 season is well under way and I would especially like to thank the Social Organising Group for the recent successful "Posh Frocks Do"-
Well done!
Lots more good things are still to come this year from all of our Groups.
March has been living up to its reputation as a windy month- time is passing and only a couple of weeks to British Summer time. Also a month and a half to the end of April deadline to renew your U3A membership- if you haven't already paid, see Malcolm soon.
Jan still needs help with the Newsletter (see below) - we will soon need a speaker secretary and an AV person to fill Committee vacancies.
Do not forget that there are only two more meetings here before the AGM and our 21st Birthday party. We want to be able to celebrate having a full Committee. Food, drink and entertainment will be on hand!
Alec Fraser

Committee Vacancies
Newsletter Editor

I am so surprised that we have not received any interest in taking over the position of Editor of our monthly Newsletter. I am not in the best of health at the moment and might have to give up my favourite job.

THIS COULD MEAN THAT YOU WOULD NO LONGER HAVE A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER.

The newsletter can be produced in either Word or Publisher and we have back- up to help you set it up. I have never found it a tie, all the co-ordinators send in their news and material and it is just a case of setting it out.

All great fun and creative.

We need to find a small band of volunteers who could produce the newsletter, then it would not be an inconvenience if you wish to go on holiday etc.

PLEASE SOMEONE VOLUNTEER

Jan Robertson on 01245 225657

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

BLACKWATER U3A	HEYBRIDGE U3A
Contact	Contact
Mrs. Brenda Broom	Mrs. Jarvis
01621 841520	chairman@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

LIMEBROOK U3A
Contact
Christine Dove, Chairman
01621 855859

Your Committee

Chairman	Brian Johnson	Brian-purleigh@hotmail.co.uk
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Vice Chairman	Shirley Macro	thehighperch@yahoo,co.uk
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Social Group	Michael Childs	mikesheila@talktalk.net
AV Equipment	Ken Cooper	Ken_cooper@hotmail.com
Essex Assoc. of U3A's Committee	Malcolm Case	Malcolmcase@talktalk.net

NATIONAL OFFICE
52 Lant Street, London, SE1 1RB
Tel 020 8466 6139 Email national.office @u3a.org
Web site www.u3a.org.uk
Resource Centre: email: resource.centre@u3a.org.uk

Just Jazz

Just Jazz is a cosy and friendly U3A bunch, who meet on the 3rd Monday at The little Ship Club on Maldon Quay.
David Coombes plays some great Jazz (mainly Trad) and at our last meeting Jim Light presented a film of Jools Holland's big band.
Our next meeting will be on Monday 18th March at 7.30pm.
You can order modestly priced drinks from the bar, and nibbles will be provided.

Wine Group 4

In February for the third year running we held our black tie event. Six courses with matching wines. Each couple preparing a course and accompanying wines. Once again we were so lucky that Jill and John Challis offered us their home to host the event, even offered accommodation to four of us, what stars they are.
Gill and Geoff Cory kicked off the evening with canapés and bubbles
Wendy and Terry Wakefield followed with the starter
Ann and Robin Goody the fish course Jill and John Challis the main.
Mira and Ray the dessert Carol and Tony Bates finishing with the cheese.
Needless to say the evening, food and wine, plus games (it is amazing what you can make with balloons) were once again a fantastic success. Thank you to everyone for your contributions but a huge and special thank you to Jill and John.
Wine Group 4 can certainly recommend this format to other groups, and of course so nice to get dressed up.
Ann Goody

Yearly Accounts

Our Treasurer, Graham Webster has requested that all Co-ordinators send in their End of Year accounts to him by the end of March as it is our End of Year. Email: gjwebster@gmail.com
Many thanks.

Speaker Secretary Vacancy

I shall have completed four years in this position, and will therefore be standing down at the next AGM in June.
It would be useful to have a successor now who could 'shadow' me for a month or two and get a feel for the job.
Veronica Smith

Local History

The next meeting for the Local History Group is on **Monday 25th March** at 2pm. at Maldon Town Hall when our speaker will be Dr Christopher Thornton, who lives locally and who, among his many titles, is Chairman of the Friends of Historic Essex.

His talk will be on BOURNE MILL, a National Trust property in Colchester, which has close ties with prominent families from the Siege of Colchester.

There will be NO MEETING at the Town Hall on **Monday 22nd April** as it is Easter Monday, but for those of you who have already booked, there is an outing to the London Postal Museum on **Monday 29th April**

We look forward to seeing everyone on **25th March**

Kathy, Jane and Sylvia

Maritime

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 1st April** at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin, starting at 10:00 am. Jane Giles will be giving a talk on "Sailing around the United Kingdom by yacht". Calling in at various ports, Jane will recount the many adventures encountered on the journey, together with many pictures of places visited.

Any U3A member is very welcome to attend.

Malcolm Case

Tuesday Table Tennis

Our group meets from 2.30pm to 4.30pm and is as successful as ever and on average has around 16 participants playing doubles on four tables, mixing round regularly in a friendly atmosphere.

Most players had never played before, but they learn as they go along. Some have taken the opportunity to play elsewhere in order to improve and as a result have joined Clubs that enter teams in the Burnham and District Table Tennis.

Louis Gunn

Family History Beginners

The next meeting will be held **Friday 29th March** at 58 Augustine Way, CM3 4ET starting at 10.00am. I would appreciate members wishing to attend to let me know.

Alan Buck

The Social Organising Group would like to thank everyone who attended the **'Posh Frock Do'** on the 28th February at the Bull, Great Totham;
It was great to see everyone enjoying themselves . Mike Childs

Staying Healthy -
Wednesday, 10th April 2019, 10am - 12.30pm,

West Maldon Community Centre.

This is another joint venture with the other U3As in the Maldon and Heybridge area. We have organised speakers from a variety of organisations to give us information and advice on how to look after ourselves with a view to staying healthy and living independently. There will also be information leaflets, etc available from other organisations. Refreshments will be served during the interval.

There is no charge for this event but places are limited so, if you would like to come along, please contact me.

Shirley Macro,

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUE

Times 12.15 pm

WEDNESDAY There will be no Wed Lunch club meal in April as Paul is on vacation

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,

Tickets are on sale for

The Essex Police Choir Concert

This concert is exclusive to U3A Members,

Tuesday, 30th April

Time 7.00 for 7.30 to 9.30

the Choir will perform with a Guest Performer

The Venue - The United Reformed Church,
Market Hill, Maldon

Ticket Price £8 inc. Tea/Coffee and Cake in Interval.

Tickets available from Rosemary Case
at main meeting

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UKULELE CHARITY UKEFEST

Saturday, 17th August

South Woodham Ferrers Village Hall

10.30—5 pm

Ukulele Workshop run by Phil Doleman at 2 pm

Price £10

Ring Pete for tickets

Alzheimer's Society

Refreshments available all day

www. Maldonukulelegroup.co.uk

Maldon & District U3A Speakers booked for 2019

April 15th Bernard Lockett 'The Social & Political Satire of Gilbert & Sullivan'
Bernard is an authority on the pair and has written widely about them

May 20th Tony Diamond 'The History of Chocolate'
His talk includes myths and beliefs surrounding its discovery and enjoyment

June 17th **A.G.M.**

July 15th Andy Thomas The Crop Circle Mystery
Andy is an internationally renowned authority on conspiracy theory and strange phenomena like crop circles

August 19th Margaret Mills ' Mrs Beeton, the 'Original Superwoman'
Margaret is an historian with a particular interest in Victorian celebrities

Sept. 16th David Williams 'Pounds, shillings and Poverty'
David is an historian specialising in the history of various topics associated with London

Oct. 21st Arthur Brooks 'Old Time Music Hall'
Arthur will be giving a light-hearted talk to give a taste of music hall, with some music.

Nov. 18th Fran Sandholm 'My Solo Walk across Africa'
Fran is an explorer and professional speaker who writes and talks about his adventures

Art Appreciation

There will be no Art Appreciation Group in March due to holidays. Our next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday 9th April** when we will visit Christchurch Mansion in Ipswich, where the world famous sculpture by Rodin, 'The Kiss', is on display, as well as paintings by Constable amongst others.

There is a tea room at Christchurch Mansion for lunch and there will be a one-hour guided tour of the Mansion included after lunch.

Transport will be in own cars and car sharing is encouraged. Please contact your nearest colleagues and arrange a lift if you want one or offer to carry if you have spare capacity. Further details will be sent out to the Group nearer the day.

Andy Simmonds

PS Do not confuse the above with Ipswich Museum which is a totally different location.

Geology Group

Please note that future meetings of the Geology Group will meet at 2p.m.
on the THIRD Tuesday of the month instead of the FIRST.
Our next meeting will therefore be on Tuesday 16th April at 2p.m.
with DVDs on Volcanoes and Earthquakes.
During the summer we propose to make several field trips to places of
local geological interest.
If any member is interested in joining us please contact me on the number listed
below as the venue can change from month to month.
Sylvia Cousins

Astronomy

The group's next event is on **Wednesday 20th March**
Visit to North Essex Astronomical Society with a the talk by Gary Auker on
"NASA's Human Mars Mission Plans".

Doors open at 7.30 pm with the talk starting at 8.00 pm.
Typical charge £3. Free refreshments are provided.

Address: Henry Dixon Hall, Henry Dixon Road, Rivenhall, Witham CM8 3HR.
Note: If using satnav the post code may not take you directly to the hall.
Suggest directions: Follow the "Braxted Wall" road to the A12 underpass.
The entrance road to Henry Dixon Hall is on the right immediately after going
under the A12. It is signposted.
Please contact Malcolm Case if you would like to attend.

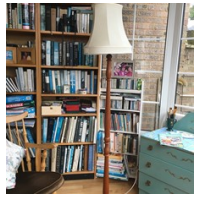
Discussion

Ten of us gathered this month for a very lively discussion covering many
different topics - political, social and local.
Our next meeting will be in Wickham Bishops on **Thursday 4th April**
2pm - 4pm. All are welcome.
For details please contact Bryan Jones

Strollers

There will be no walk on Su**nday 21st April** as it is Easter Sunday.
Gill Stone (co-ordinator)

For Sale
Decent, traditional standard lamp in wood.
Large clean shade.£20
Sheila Epps



Tree Recognition Group

We have made an excellent start and can now recognise at least 10 trees not yet in leaf, relying solely on bark, silhouette, shape, colour and arrangement of buds, and have learnt the different types of leaves ready for when they fully emerge.
The group meets every other Tuesday morning at 10.00 am and will start to spend these times outside as soon as the weather can be relied on.
The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 19th March** venue to be confirmed.
Veronica Smith

Bernard Locket Bernard is a well-known broadcaster and authority on the musical theatre of Gilbert and Sullivan. He is involved with the important Gilbert and Sullivan Festival which is held every year, and has studied the life and times of the two men. He will be talking to us about the Social and Political Satire of their work, cleverly reflected in Gilbert's words with their parodies of the social times of Victorian England. He will be illustrating his talk with music and pictures and has said that he never minds his audience joining in.

15th April Meeting
Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

Speaker
Bernard Lockett

"The Social & Political Satire of Gilbert & Sullivan

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 9th April

2019- 2020 Subscription Renewals

Membership subscription renewals are due no later than the end of April 2019

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Enrolment / renewal forms are available at the sign-in desk at the monthly meetings or from the Membership Secretary (see below). Each member must complete a separate form, but if you are a couple you may pay by a single cheque. The annual subscription is £20.00 per person and payment must be made by cheque, payable to Maldon and District U3A, together with your completed form(s) before the 30 April 2019. For security reasons we do not accept cash.

DATABASE: The enrolment forms are used to check our database. If you leave a box blank (say email or phone number) we shall assume that you want that information deleted from our existing records.

Data Protection Law Membership Renewal Forms are in line with the Third Age Trust guidance. One of the principles of the regulations is that personal data "Belongs" to the individual, and anyone who uses it has to have consent, please tick the "I Agree" box on the form, date and sign it to indicate your acceptance.

EMERGENCY CONTACT: Where couples are both members, please avoid using each other as emergency contacts. A third party is preferable, in case you are on the same outing. Please also ensure that you have the consent to publish the name and telephone number of the person/s named as your emergency contact.

GIFT AID: Current Gift Aid regulations require a separate form to be completed by each individual. Gift Aid operates on the basis that HM Revenue and Customs treat your subscriptions as charitable donations; they assume that you have deducted tax at the basic rate before you pay your subscriptions and HMRC refund this tax to our U3A. We would encourage members who pay more tax than the tax recoverable from their subscription, currently £5.00, to complete the Gift Aid form. The tax refunds we receive form a significant part of our income and help us keep the annual subscription low.

DO IT NOW: You do not have to wait until April.

Please hand your forms and cheques to the sign-in desk or post them to Malcolm Case, Membership Secretary, 30 The Spinnaker, South Woodham Ferrers, Chelmsford. CM3 5GL Cheques will not be banked before the 1st May 2019.
If you have not renewed your subscription by the **1st May 2019** you will no longer be a member.

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.

Mond. Apl. 8	Balti Night
Wed. Apl. 10	Staying Healthy— WMCC
Mond. Apl 29	Visit to London Postal Museum—Local History
Tues. Apl. 30	Essex Police Choir Concert, United Reformed Church
Tues. May 21	Visit to Chelsea Flower Show
Thurs. June 6	Essex U3A Quiz
Thurs. June 13	Theatre outing to "Waitress" at the Adelphi Theatre
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
Sat. Aug. 17	Ukulele Concert—Sth Woodham Ferrers
9/13 Sept	5 days holiday to North Wales—Maritime
Fri. Nov. 29	Film Show with Afternoon Tea

Strollers Too

Tuesday 23rd April CHAPPEL AND THE COLNE VALLEY

10:15 for 10:30 am start, Chappel lies on the A604 between Halstead and the A12 to Colchester – CO6 2DD.

A magnificent 19th century railway viaduct crosses the Colne valley near Chappel. A pretty village, the peaceful river Colne and some lovely countryside combine to make this a very special walk.

Please meet in the village car park, past The Swan, on the left near the church, for a walk of 3.50 miles.

Please let me know by **Tuesday 16th April** if you are coming/require lunch. 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 do not tell me you are coming I cannot advise you of any last minute changes.

Gill Stone

Monday Meeting, 18th February

Suzanne Gaywood was introduced at our Monday Meeting in February as the lady who does the Grenada Flowers at Chelsea Flower Show.

In starting her presentation, with the aid of her computer, she said she was born and raised in Grenada, married an Englishman and moved to Woodham Walter near Maldon. She used her flower arranging skills to arrange flowers in the local church and then in 1989 she assisted the Windward Islands team in exhibiting at Chelsea.

Using the experience gained she decided to exhibit in 1998 for Grenada and was awarded Silver followed by Silver Gilts in 1999 and 2000.

Once allocated an area, one has to design a theme – in 2001 this was around a wooden hut built by Poulton Portables of Danbury but modified on-site to satisfy the judges at Chelsea. One side of the hut was open to the public – the whole area was covered with beautiful exotic flowers from Grenada and for this she was awarded her first Gold Award. In total she was awarded 10 Gold Awards, a Silver, and five Silver Gilts – what an achievement.

Flushed with success she arranged to exhibit again but her husband reasoned that they could design and build the next "set" in their back garden with the assistance of neighbours. They called themselves 'the Chelsea 8'. This was the format adopted for the next 16 exhibits.

Each year Suzanne had to think of an exhibition theme involving churches, sandy shore lines, water wheels, special buildings used to dry nutmegs (Grenada being the second largest producer in the world), representation of the dreadful Hurricane Ivan which hit Granada in 2004, 'Island in the Sun', to name but a few.

The Grenada Tourism Authority has been a leading sponsor of the exhibition. Typically 80 boxes of flowers are flown in each year with some 80% grown by Suzanne's friend Denis Noel who exports Ginger Lilies, Heliconias and other exotic flowers throughout the world. This exhibition shows to the typical 150,000 people who visit each year what a wonderful Country Grenada is to visit with its trees, lush vegetation and flowers.

In 2011 she was made a MBE in recognition for her Services to Tourism in Grenada and to Horticulture. She showed a slide of her Investiture by the Queen who had a few words with her at that time.

She showed a number of slides of each year she exhibited and with some of the Grenada born personalities at Chelsea including Lance Sergeant Johnson Beharry, VC, Ainsley Harriot, Emma Thompson, Joanna Lumley, Sir Trevor Mc Donald, and a host of other celebrities including our Queen, who was a regular visitor, the High Commissioner for Grenada, Mr Joslyn Whiteman and Mrs Catherine John to whom she passed the baton to continue exhibiting in 2015.

Suzanne now uses her knowledge of the island and horticulture to show groups of visitors around private gardens in Grenada in November. www.gardentours.co.uk

A lovely afternoon of photographs of beautiful flowers, interesting stories told in a pleasant manner.
John Bowen with grateful assistance from Suzanne.