The University of the Third Age

MALDON
AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

May 2019

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR

From the Vice Chair

Spring is well and truly here, cuckoos and nightingales are singing, the ramblers are rambling and as always U3A is out there. As I write, wine drinkers are concluding a visit to France, we look back on a successful Police Choir concert organised by our Social Group- it is all going very well!

Next month's AGM will celebrate our 21st birthday with food, strawberries, cake, and entertainment. It would be great if our Chairman Brian could be there to join in the cake cutting ceremony with past chairmen. He's been settling into his new home, but is recovering from another nasty fall.

Good news is that a last minute spurt in membership renewals has taken us well past the 400 mark once more- remember we always ask for early renewal to avoid stress on our Membership Secretary – if membership lapses it makes a lot of extra work for him.

We still need new committee members, including a Newsletter person and critically a new Speaker Secretary. Here's an idea, how about a job-share. One could do the meet-and-greet (looking after the speaker on the day) and the other could find and book speakers, from the U3A list and other sources, for the months ahead. This could appeal to two different types of person. Lots of help will be available and for a flying start Veronica has got us booked up until the end of the year.
Best wishes
Alec Fraser

LOCAL HISTORY

There is NO MEETING in May as it is a BANK HOLIDAY.
Our next meeting at Maldon Town Hall is on **Monday June 24th** when our speaker, David Newman, will give a talk on the History of Osea Island.
Meanwhile enjoy all the delights of Spring.
Kathy, Jane and Sylvia

ASTRONOMY GROUP

The next meeting of the group will be on **Monday 24th June** starting at 7:30 pm at Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge. CM9 4RE.
Joe Marshall will be running an Astronomy Quiz. This will be an interesting, informative and fun evening, so please join us.
Malcolm Case

MARITIME GROUP

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 3rd June**, starting at 10 am at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Basin Road, Heybridge Basin.
David Griffiths, who is a retired Royal Naval Submariner, will be giving a talk on "Life Aboard a Submarine".
Any U3A member is very welcome to join the group.
Malcolm Case

WRITING FOR FUN

The group continues to meet regularly and continues to produce many stories over the months.
Patrick Forsyth

TREES

Despite some missed visits by one or two of our group who have had injuries, we have had some very good tree walks and I think generally the members are getting familiar with many of our native trees, both with and without leaves (the trees that is).
We shall continue fortnightly throughout the summer.
Anyone is most welcome to join us - no previous knowledge is required.
Veronica Smith

STROLLERS

Our next walk will be on Sunday 16th June.
Please meet at 26 Seagers, Great Totham, CM9 8PB for a shortish walk around the village, hopefully taking in Shut Heath Wood.
As this falls on Father's Day we will be having a bring and share lunch instead of the usual pub lunch. Please let us know if you will be coming and what you are bringing to share by Saturday 8th June.
Brenda Heal - email bjheal@btinternet.com

STROLLERS TOO - Tuesday 25 June 2019 – South Hanningfield

This is a 3 mile circular walk around the Hanningfield farmland on paths, bridleways and some minor roads. It is reasonably easy walking and there are a couple of easy stiles.

We will meet in the car park at The Old Windmill,
South Hanningfield, CM3 8HT at 10.15 for 10.30 start.
Lunch will be available at The Old Windmill. Please let me know if you are coming on the walk and if you want lunch, no later than Monday 17 June 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 do not tell me you are coming I cannot advise you of any last minute changes.

Alan Clarke –

JUST JAZZ

The next meeting of the Just Jazz group will be held on the **20th May** at the Maldon Little Ship Club at 7.30pm where we shall hear some amazing Jazz and also see a film on Jazz Piano Players.
Jim Light

TABLE TENNIS

Our Tuesday Table Tennis is from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm.
Everybody knows about the health benefits of activity, but Table Tennis is considered one of the most foremost 'Brain Sports' In the world.
A brain sport simply is a workout for your brain and has long been known in Japan as an aid to the common Western afflictions, but not a cure. It is a great alleviation to stress, imagine letting your frustrations out on whacking a few balls.
So unlike Chess, probably the greatest brain game, but little movement, Table Tennis might be something for you consider.
Our group is friendly and it is important to have a sense of humour, after all we are all there for a pleasurable time. There are one or two players who play in local leagues and they can be called upon for Table Tennis advice.
If you would like to have a try out, please contact me and I look forward to welcoming you to our group.
Louis Gunn

ART GROUP - Jan Van Eyck

This month 's meeting was Tuesday May 14th at WMCC. 15 members saw a DVD looking at the life and many works of Jan Van Eyck the celebrated Flemish painter 1390 - 1441. 'The father of early Netherlandish Painting' he was allegedly the 'Founder of Oil Painting'. It was narrated by Jules Cashford.
We also viewed a detailed examination of Van Eyck's 'The Arnolfini Marriage' narrated by Waldemar Januszczak.
There will not be an Art Group meeting in June.
Andy Simmonds

WINE GROUP 3 - HOLIDAY TO CHAMPAGNE & ALSACE

Members of Wine Group 3 together with other members interested in wine have recently returned from a seven day holiday sampling the various varieties in the Champagne and Alsace regions of France.

Following an overnight stop in Reims we had a very interesting guided tour of Cathedrale Notre-Dame which was the location for the coronations of Kings of France.

This was followed by a visit to the Taittinger Champagne House. Onwards staying south of Strasbourg for four nights we visited a total of five family run vineyards in Obernai, Riquewihr, Ammerschwihr and Colmar along La Route des Vins! These were interspersed with sightseeing and on occasions experiencing the local cuisine.

We also had a scenic boat trip around the centre of Strasbourg. Our return journey, once again, staying near Reims incorporated a very interesting tour of the Mercier Champagne House.

Overall a very pleasant experience - learning lots about the regions, their vineyards and gastronomy! Once again our coach was heavily laden with our purchases -Cremant d'Alsace, Riesling, Pinot Gris, Pinot Noir, Gewurtztraminer and of course Champagne!

Mary Burd and Paul Costa, Coordinators

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUE

Times 12.15 pm

WEDNESDAY 19th June at Bella's Italian Bistro in Burnham on Crouch

Co-ordinator: Paul Costa Tel. 01621 853893

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.

Visit to the London and Postal Museum

On April 29th members of the Local History Group set off for a trip to London and the Postal Museum.
After a welcome cup of coffee at the Museum of London , our very knowledgeable guide gave a brief history of the Royal Mail, which was established by Henry V111 in 1516 as a royal postal service.
It was James 1 who extended this service to Edinburgh, and Charles1 who first made the service available to the public in 1635.

The GPO was officially established by Charles 11 and mail continued to be paid for on receipt.

The Penny Post was introduced in 1840 and the Penny Black became available in May of that year so that all mail was now prepaid.
Pillar Boxes were introduced in 1852 and quickly changed from green to the familiar red.

We had a short walk in the surrounding area where significant buildings, coffee houses and inns were pointed out before the coach took us to Exmouth market for lunch.

A short distance away was the Postal Museum at Mount Pleasant, where state of the art exhibits demonstrated five centuries of postal history, and there was a chance to blow the mail horn.

The highlight for most of us was a ride on the hidden tunnels of the Mail Rail- a unique piece of industrial heritage, that kept the capital's communication network flowing for over 75 years and with very interesting film shows of how the system kept working even at the height of the Blitz.

After a very welcome cup of tea we returned to Maldon and thanked Kathy for a very enjoyable day.

Sylvia Cousins

Local History trip to the Postal Museum and Postal Railway"

Tiny train, built to carry passengers, arrives at the station!

Proposed new group—Chess

Tony Tring is looking for a member to join him in Maldon for a weekly Chess Game. Please give him a ring on 01621 854732 if you should be interested.
It has occurred to us that perhaps there are other members who would like to play Chess on a regular basis.
Please give me a ring if you are interested.
Jan Robertson

BIRD WATCHING

The group met on the 4th May on what has become an annual pilgrimage to the Essex Wildlife Trust Reserve at Fingringhoe.
The hope was to see Nightingales *Luscinia megathynchos*. With reddish brown upper parts and paler brown under parts about the size of a Robin it is not much to look at but it is an incomparable songster.
We heard the song which seemed to be all around us, the males marking their territories in song which were long and varied.
Despite our best efforts we failed to see one Nightingale but the diversity of habitat at the Wick Reserve meant we did see other birds of interest such as the Great spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* with its strongly contrasting plumage, black moustache extending to its back, underparts white with red patch on its neck and tail underparts.
A welcome sight was a Greenfinch *Carduelis chioris,* a yellow green finch with a robust beak. This species has suffered huge losses over the last ten years and has disappeared from many domestic gardens.
The next group meeting is on **1st June** at Abberton Visitor Centre at 10.00am
Peter Gaywood

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the twenty first Annual General Meeting of Maldon & District U3A will be held on **Monday 17th June 2019** in Wickham Bishops Hall at 1:45 pm.

Any items that you wish to be included on the Agenda must be notified to the Business Secretary not later than **Thursday 6th June**.

The Nomination form is below and, if you wish to nominate someone as an Officer or Committee member, please complete the form and return it to the Business Secretary not later than **Thursday 6th June.**

Forms will be available at the May meeting or, if requested, by post.

There are vacancies for three Committee Members.

Judith Johnston,

Business Secretary email: Judith@johnstons.me.uk

Secretary_maldonu3a@outlook.com

Eligibility for Office and to vote – All fully paid-up members for the year 2019/2020 are eligible to stand for Committee, and to attend and vote; except under the terms of our Constitution, where only one member from any one household shall serve on the Committee at one time.

The usual June monthly meeting – this will take place after the AGM at 2:15 pm for Entertainment and a Birthday Tea with Birthday Cake.

Nomination Form for Committee Members 2019

Position	Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by	Nominee's Signature

Subject: FW: ENGLISH - THE BEAUTIFUL LANGUAGE (OR LANGWICH?)

Asylum for the Verbally Insane Author unknown

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes,
But the plural of ox becomes oxen, not oxes.
One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese.
You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice,
Yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.
If the plural of man is always called men,
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?
If I speak of my foot and show you my feet,
And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?
If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?
Then one may be that, and three would be those,
Yet hat in the plural would never be hose,
And the plural of cat is cats, not cose.
We speak of a brother and also of brethren,
But though we say mother, we never say methren.
Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,
But imagine the feminine: she, shis and shim!

Let's face it - English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England We take English for granted, but if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square, and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham. Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend. If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? Sometimes I think all the folks who grew up speaking English should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane.

In what other language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? We ship by truck but send cargo by ship. We have noses that run and feet that smell. And how can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites?

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out, and in which an alarm goes off by going on.

So if Father is Pop, how come Mother isn't Mop?
And that is just the beginning--even though this is the end

A MUSICAL EVENING WITH THE ESSEX POLICE CHOIR

We enjoyed an eclectic (their word) mix of music to suit all tastes delivered in a professional manner (no scores to refer to, all from memory) by about 30 mostly ex-cops and associated police workers. And what a lovely sound they made! They were supported by a group of younger ladies called "Spectrum", looking very striking in their jewel-coloured tops and colour-co-ordinated folders, and they sang beautifully too. The Police Choir accompanist added a touch of humour with some very funny readings. The two choirs complemented each other – and they complimented each other too at the end, which was rather nice! The cakes were also up to the usual high standard that we expect of the U3A. In fact, it was a splendid, most enjoyable evening which overran by half an hour because everybody was having such a good time!
Can we thank the Social Organizing Group for the excellent evening.

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,

Local Events in May/June

Sat. 25th May– 2nd June	Carters Steam Fair, Prom Park
Sat. 8th June	Blackwater Barge Match
22-30th June	Burnham Art Trail
22nd June –6th July	Maldon Festival
Sun. 23rd June	Blackwater County Show
Sat. 29th June	Armed Forces Day, Stow Maries

2019 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

Tues. May 21	Visit to Chelsea Flower Show
Thurs. June 6	Essex U3A Quiz
Mon. June 10	Balti Night
Thurs. June 13	Theatre outing to "Waitress" at the Adelphi Theatre
Mon. July 1	Bawdsey Radar Museum - Maritime
Thurs. July 25	Afternoon Buffet with Entertainment by "Kind of Blue"
Mon. Aug. 5	Tour the Sussex Seaside—Maritime
Sat. Aug. 17	Ukulele Concert—South Woodham Ferrers
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.

ART APPRECIATION

This month's meeting was **Tuesday May 14th** at WMCC. Over 20 members saw a DVD looking at the life and works of Jan Van Eyck the celebrated Flemish painter 1390 -1441. 'The Father of early Netherlandish Painting' he was allegedly the 'Founder of Oil Painting'. It was narrated by Jules Cashford.
We also viewed a detailed examination of Van Eyck's 'The Arnolfini Marriage' narrated by Waldemar Januszczak.
There will not be an Art Group meeting in June.
Andy Simmonds

Summer Concert Sat 15th June at Great Waltham Church

A medley of music by Brahms, Bach, Bruchner and Britten from the renowned Waltham Singers.
Tickets from Veronica Smith

FREE TO A GOOD HOME

Molly Polden has a lovely large Hoya plant to give away as it has overtaken her small bathroom, would you like it?

Please give her a ring on 01621 856507 to arrange collection.

Speaker Secretary

We shall need one or possibly two people to take over from me after the AGM. I say possibly two because the job is in two parts .

The first is to find the speaker. We need ten as we have ten ordinary meetings. There is an excellent list produced at least twice a year for Essex U3As with dozens of recommended speakers and lots of others are suggested by individual U3A members. They just need to be contacted either by phone or email, which can clearly be done at a time to suit oneself ; I fix up the entire year in August.

The second part is simply to welcome the speaker to the Monday monthly meeting, look after him/her, make them comfortable, check their material works with our video system, then introduce them and propose a vote of thanks at the end. Occasionally a speaker will need to be picked up from a local station.

The speakers for the rest of 2019 and possibly even the entertainer at Christmas are already booked so there is little to do for the next few months. I will be on hand with help and advice.

Monday June 17th Meeting
Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

AGM

21st Birthday Celebration

Bob and Grahams Big Balti Night.
Monday 10th June
7:00 for 7:30pm.
At Balti Bhujon 24 Mill Rd Maldon.
Please contact
Graham Evans or Bob Gowers for details.

Gilbert and Sullivan at Bury St Edmunds 13th/14th July

Our April speaker, Bernard Lockett, has reminded me that there will be several performances of G & S operettas at Bury over these two dates. If sufficient people are interested in seeing any of the shows which I believe include 'Pirates of Penzance' and 'Mikado', we could perhaps organise a group visit.
There will be a matinee on **Saturday 14th** which might be preferable. Let me know.
Veronica Smith.

CANASTA

We meet alternate Friday afternoons in Maldon.
We now have space for a couple more people to join us. If anyone is interested, please contact for further details.

YOUR COMMITTEE

Chairman	Brian Johnson
Vice Chairman	Alec Fraser
Vice Chairman	Shirley Macro
Secretary	Judith Johnston
Treasurer	Graham Webster
Membership Secretary	Malcolm Case
Newsletter Editor	Jan Robertson
Speaker Secretary	Veronica Smith
Committee	Andrew Simmonds Liz Jones ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
Web Master	John Bowen Tony Groves
Social Group	Michael Childs
AV Equipment	Ken Cooper
Essex Assoc. of U3A's Committee	Malcolm Case

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

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 8th June

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
Famil y History	Alan Buck Ann Lester
French Conversation	Enid Hall
Geology	Marian Manning
Handicraft	Beryl McDonell
History—Tudors	Jim Light
Just Jazz	David Coombes Sylvia Cousins
Local History	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
Tree Identification	Veronica Smith
Weekenders	Beryl McDonell
Whist	Molly Polden
Wine Circle No. 1/2 Wine Circle No. 3	Graham Boswell Mary Burd Paul Costa
Wine Circle No. 4	Ann Goody
Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1 Bird Watching Abberton	2
3 Maritime Whist	4 Table Tennis	5 Ten Pin Bowling Wine Group 1	6 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Discussion Group Poetry Rummikub Essex U3A Quiz	7 Canasta	8	9
10 Handicrafts Whist Balti Night	11 Table Tennis Egyptology	12 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Luncheon Group	13 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Croquet French Conversation Reading Rummikub Scottish Country Dancing Theatre -"Waitress"	14 Mah Jong Sing for Pleasure	15	16 Strollers
17 **Meeting 1.30 pm** **AGM** Just Jazz	18 Table Tennis Geology	19 Ten Pin Bowling Luncheon Group	20 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque	21 Canasta	22	23
24 Astronomy Handicrafts Local History Whist	25 Table Tennis Strollers Too Wine Group 4	26 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Writing for Fun Wine Group 2	27 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Croquet French Conversation Music Appreciation Wine Group 3 Scottish Country Dancing	28 Cribbage Family History Mah Jong Sing for Pleasure	29	30

PROGRAMME – June 2019

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, 6 Blenheim Close, Danbury, CM3 4NE Tel. 01245 225657