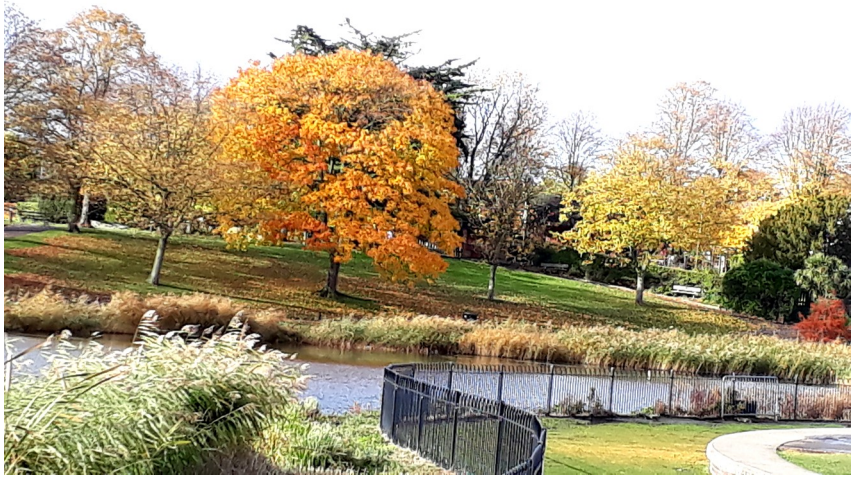
Learn, Laugh, Live

MALDON
AND DISTRICT



NEWSLETTER

Christmas Meeting - Monday 16th December

November 2019

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR

Hello Everyone

October has whizzed past and it's time for another message "From the Chair".

I hope those of you who came to last month's Members' Meeting enjoyed listening to Arthur Brooks with his tales of the Music Hall. It was very entertaining and interesting to hear about the old days of the Music Hall and it was just amazing how many of us could recall the words to some of the old songs, bearing in mind many of them were from the late 1800s/early 1900s.

This month's meeting will be something entirely different from Fran Sandham with a talk entitled "My Solo Walk Across Africa" – and this variety of interests and topics is what I really enjoy about the U3A, whether it's the speakers or the individual groups.

Sadly, there has been little interest in filling the positions of Treasurer or Business Secretary. Please, we do need your support with this, as for our U3A to continue after our next AGM in 2020 it is important that both these positions are filled– contact either myself, Graham Webster or Judith Johnston for further information.

Shirley Macro

JUST JAZZ

The Just Jazz group will meet on **Monday 18th November** and **Monday 16th December** at the Maldon Little Ship Club at 7.30pm. There will be a bar and a film.

Jim Light

WINE GROUP 3

Wine Group 3 are not meeting in December.

Mary Burd

STROLLERS/STROLLERS TOO

There will be no walking in December.

Gill Stone

ART APPRECIATION GROUP

There will NOT be an Art Group meeting in December.

Andy Simmonds

LOCAL HISTORY

The next meeting is on **Monday November 25TH** at 2PM at MALDON TOWN HALL.

Our speaker is Peter Layzell for his talk entitled: "Arrest ye Merry Gentlemen or Christmas in Uniform" - a light-hearted look at police work over the Festive Season.

As this is our last meeting before Christmas, light refreshments will be served after the talk, so do come along to enjoy the fun.

There will be NO MEETING IN DECEMBER.

Kathy, Jane and Sylvia

MARITIME GROUP

The next meeting of the Maritime Group is on **Monday 2nd December**, **starting at 11:00 am**, the venue for this meeting and all subsequent meetings is Wickham Bishops Village Hall, Snows Corner, Wickham Bishops, Witham CM8 3JZ. At this meeting we will be discussing the programme for 2020, the programme will include talks and trips. This will be followed by our usual Christmas celebrations.
Malcolm Case

HELP Keep Our Maldon U3A Going

As Shirley mentioned in "From The Chair" we do need to make sure that we fill Treasurer and Business Secretary positions after the next AGM in June 2020.

There is plenty of help and support and the sitting incumbents are more than willing to get you started.

Do you know someone outside the U3A that could be interested in joining and taking on the role. Neighbour/friend/relative/recently retired/about to retire?
Liz Samson

LONDON THEATRE OUTINGS

Classic Spectacular - Royal Albert Hall - **Thursday 21st November 2019**

We will be leaving Madison Heights Car Park (CM9 5LD) at 3pm with a pick up at Danbury, *let us know if you wish to board the bus in Danbury*.

The show begins at 7.30pm and so you will have time to have some food before the show. There are four restaurants/cafes in the Albert Hall which open 2 hours before each performance. You will need to book. (020 7589 8212 or royalalberthall.com/food)

You will receive your tickets on the coach.

If you require any further details contact Jean Cuthbert or Sheila Childs .

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUE

Christmas Lunch
on the **5th December** at Forresters

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.

WRITING FOR FUN

The December meeting is on **Wednesday 18th December**.
Patrick Forsyth

Sponsored *STROLLERS* in aid of Children in Need
Sunday 17th November 2019

10:15 for a 10:30 am start.

After our successful stroll last year, we are repeating it for this year.

Please meet in Daisy Meadow Car Park, Heybridge Basin for this circular walk of some 3.5 miles, along the canal towpath. We will meet by the steps leading up to the canal. This sponsored walk is open to **ALL** U3A members and their families. Dogs on leads are welcome.

If you would like to take part or sponsor us, then please contact either Gill Stone or Malcolm Case for further details and sponsor forms.

Essex Association of U3As Study Day

Geology

On **Sunday 1st March 2020** at Broomfield Village hall, 158 Main Road, Chelmsford. CM1 7AH, starting at 10:00 am, cost for the day, which includes lunch and associated equipment is £15.00.

Prepare to have your mind stretched by geological time and take a tour of Britain through time-travel spectacles, by looking at rocks, fossils and minerals that help to interpret the scenery and to work out what Britain was like in the past. There will be illustrated talks and hands on activities.

For more information, please contact Malcolm Case .

2019/2020 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

29th November Film Show and Afternoon Tea at WMCC
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
2nd July Barbecue, Langford Village Hall
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.

Bob and Graham's Big Balti Night

Monday 9th December
7:00 for 7:30pm.
At Balti Bhujon 24 Mill Rd Maldon

Please contact

Graham Evans or
Bob Gowers for details

ASTRONOMY GROUP

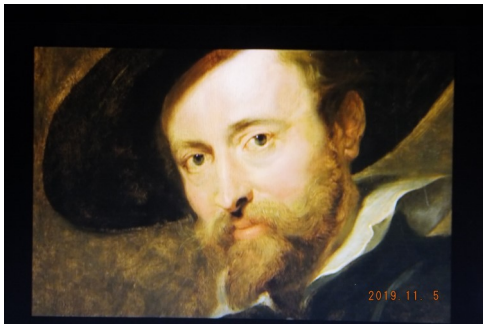
For details on the November meeting for this group, please contact Malcolm Case on . There will not be a meeting in December.
Malcolm Case

ART APPRECIATION GROUP

On bonfire day, an 18 strong Art Appreciation Group enjoyed a DVD study of the celebrated Flemish Baroque painter **Sir Peter Paul Rubens**.

A prolific worker, he produced over 1,400 works of art. He is considered the most influential artist of Flemish Baroque tradition, his highly charged compositions reference erudite aspects of classical and Christian history. He travelled to Venice, and was influenced by Titian, Veronese, and Tintoretto. He later travelled to Rome and Florence and he was also influenced by the works of Michelangelo, Raphael, and Leonardo da Vinci as well as the paintings of Caravaggio.

He married twice, both times to a bride He had eight children, his youngest child was born eight months after his death.
Rubens was born in 1577 and he died in Antwerp in 1640, he was knighted both in Spain and in England.



Andy Simmonds

BIRD WATCHING GROUP

Cudmore Grove Country Park
East Mersea

November 3rd was one of those beautiful sunny autumn days which was a blessing after the torrential rain of the previous few days. The group made its way down to the Colne Estuary and came across a flock of geese, Brent Geese to be precise "*Branta bernicla*" the smallest European goose feeding on the lush grass of an adjacent field. The birds breed in the Arctic tundra and they winter in on the North Sea and Channel coast, being the most maritime of all the geese.
The birds have very dark black colouration with a white mark on the side of the neck, grey breast and belly and an obvious white stern.

In amongst the Bents are a raft of Wigeon "*Anas Penelope*" a duck that also breeds on the Arctic tundra and winters here, a rather tenuous link as the Wigeon is now resident and wide-spread in the UK.

The male Wigeon has a grey back, flanks grey finely marked, breasts pink, head chestnut brown with a gold crown stripe. In our time at the Grove we were lucky to see numerous waders and woodland birds but no other migrants, it must still be too warm up north.

December meeting Heybridge Basin, meet Daisy Meadow Car Park **Sunday 8th December** at 10.00am

Peter Gaywood

A NOSTALGIC FILM SHOW with AFTERNOON TEA

FRIDAY 29TH November 2019

1.45 for 2.00 till 4.00

At WEST MALDON COMMUNITY CENTRE

We are showing two short films from the

U3A Resource Library

Tickets only £8

ON SALE AT NOVEMBER MAIN MEETING

Available from Rosemary Case -

TABLE TENNIS GROUP

We are a friendly bunch of Table Tennis enthusiasts who participate in one of our favourite pastimes **every Tuesday afternoon** from 2.30-4.30 pm.

We play at the lovely West Maldon Community Centre on four tables playing both doubles and singles and constantly mixing around i.e. everybody plays with everybody.

We have experienced players who enthusiastically discuss the sport and offer invaluable expertise on improving one's game. In addition the organiser is a licensed Table Tennis Coach.

So come and join us for a great mental stimulus, in the best brain sport in the world.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Louis Gunn

GEOLOGY GROUP

The summer Geology outings continued through until October.

We had a very nice day at Walton on Naze which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and walked along the Crag Walk built from boulders of larvikite imported from Norway.

We could clearly see the geological layers in the cliff face with London Clay, laid down about 50 million years ago, supporting Red Crag laid down about 2.4 million years ago and very much a feature of the Naze.

We had time to walk on parts of the beach but were unsuccessful in our search for Sharks' Teeth, but did notice how much the cliffs had eroded since our previous visit two years ago.

We found that local museums were an easier option (for the hips and knees) for viewing Geological Essex, and Colchester Natural History Museum is very well laid out to give the whole story of Essex from Late Cretaceous, 65 million years ago, through the dominant Eocene period and right through to the sand and gravels of the Pleistocene period about 0.6 million years ago.

At the museum in Burnham on Crouch the beach at Creeksea Cliffs was brought to us with samples of fossils, especially Sharks' Teeth, nicely displayed and annotated in glass cabinets.

We usually finish our afternoon with Tea and Cake so if Rock Cakes are on the menu, so much the better!

Our Winter programme begins this month with hopefully an in-depth view of Geological North America.

Sylvia Cousins

Monday 16th December

Christmas Meeting

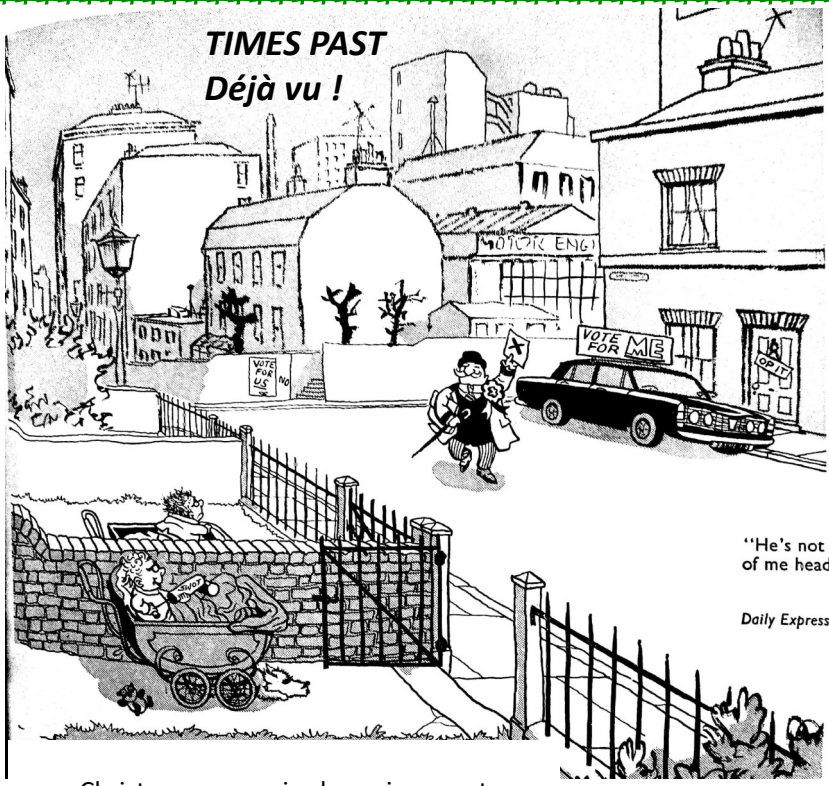
Claire Harper & Bob Holloway
Christmassy Music/Songs

Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

FUTURE SPEAKERS

January 20th 2020	Veronica Smith – Russia Today
February 17th 2020	John Pierce – "Painterotti"
March 16th 2020	Sarah Millerick - talk on "Marie Curie Nursing"

The above events may be subject to change.



CHRISTMAS PAST

Christmas memories long since past
For `Third Age` members they seem to last
With tiny tots all eyes aglow
And tinkling sleigh bells in the snow
Christmas carols at the door
All sung in good voice much adored
Mums and Dads awake at dawn
Christmas day has surely spawned
Those tiny tots now heard and seen
Utter cries "He`s Been, He`s Been"
Small presents strewn upon the bed
And wrapping paper torn to shreds
The Christmas tree in corner lies
Stands sparkling there for all to sigh
The branches sway with simple toys
Tailor-made for girls and boys
No mobile phones, Nintendo games
But greatly valued all the same

Today those gifts would strain the bough
Those tiny tots are bigger now
No self-made games around the room
But T.V on and `Boom, Boom, Boom!
`Third Age Members` sit and stare
And wonder if they should be there
That travel voucher looks divine
You could be sailing on the Rhine
So have good heart `Third Agers` do
And say farewell to hullabaloo
Pack your bags and `Have a Ball`
Merry Christmas to one and all!!

Ray Harman

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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Web site https://www.u3a.org.uk/

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

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 6th December 2019

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—Stuarts	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. Meet & Eat 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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1
2 Maritime Whist	3 Table Tennis	4 Ten Pin Bowling & Christmas Lunch Wine Group 1	5 Ten Pin Bowling Luncheon Club Discussion Petanque Poetry Rummikub 2	6 Canasta	7	8 Bird Watching
9 Big Balti Night Handicrafts Whist	10 Egyptology Table Tennis	11 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Meet & Eat	12 Ten Pin Bowling History—Stuarts Petanque Reading French Conversation Rummikub 1 Scottish Country Dancing	13 Mah Jong Sing for Pleasure	14	15
16 **Christmas Meeting** **1.30** Just Jazz	17 Geology Table Tennis	18 Ten Pin Bowling Writing for Fun	19 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque	20 Canasta	21	22
23 Whist	24 **Christmas Eve**	25 **Christmas Day**	26 **Boxing Day**	27	28	29
30	31 **New Year's Eve**					

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

PROGRAMME – December 2019