Learn, Laugh, Live

MALDON
AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

January 2020

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR

Hello Everyone

Happy New Year to you all and welcome to a new decade. I remember as a young child working out how many years to the millennium and now, we are already in 2020 and I'm now thinking – how did that happen!?

I had a very enjoyable morning and Christmas lunch with the Bowling Group. My expertise on the bowling front is quite erratic, although I am quite skilled at running the gully and completely missing the pins all together. Thank you to my playing partners for putting up with me and for the encouraging words of advice – I think I did manage at least one strike. The lunch was very good too.

As part of the Cluster Group of U3As in this area, South Woodham Ferrers and Crouch Valley have been invited to join us. Representatives from these two U3As will be attending a Cluster Group meeting this month. One thing we have planned for this year is another Cyber Crime talk by Barry Linton and Essex Police – further details in this newsletter.

Best wishes,
Shirley Macro

MARITIME GROUP

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 3rd February** at Wickham Bishops Village Hall, Snows Corner, Wickham Bishops, Witham CM8 3JZ starting at 10:00 am for a 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.

Any U3A member is very welcome to join us.

Malcolm Case

CHRISTMAS MEETING

An excellent Christmas meeting with entertainment from Claire and Bob.

ASTRONOMY GROUP

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 27th January 2020** starting at 7:30pm at Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge CM9 4RE.

If weather conditions allow, then we will be night sky observing. We will be mainly observing the star "Betelgeuse" which according to current observations has "dimmed" ,this could be due to the star going "Supernova". Betelgeuse is generally the eleventh-brightest star in the night sky and second-brightest in the constellation of Orion. It is a distinctly reddish, semiregular variable star whose apparent magnitude varies between +0.0 and +1.3. Classified as a red supergiant Betelgeuse is one of the largest stars visible to the naked eye. If Betelgeuse were at the centre of our Solar System, its surface would extend past the asteroid belt, engulfing the orbits of Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, and possibly Jupiter.

Should weather conditions preclude observations, then we will have a DVD and discussions on "The Night Sky".

Any U3A member is very welcome to join us.
Malcolm Case

FAMILY HISTORY BEGINNERS

The next meeting will be held at 58 Augustine Way, Bicknacre, CM3 4ET on the **31st January** from 10.00am until 12.00 noon.

I would be grateful if members wishing to attend let me know
Alan Buck

Monday 17th February Meeting

Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm
Speaker
John Pierce – "Painterotti"

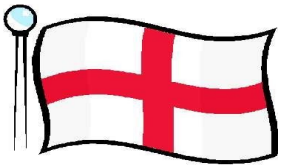
John Pierce is a singing painter dubbed 'Painterotti', after his discovery at Maldon URC. He impressed the judges on Britain's Got Talent with an incredible operatic performance of Nessun Dorma.

FUTURE SPEAKERS

March 16th 2020	Sarah Millerick - talk on "Marie Curie Nursing"
April 20th 2020	Steve Scruton - "Dreams Can Come True"
May 18th 2020	James Taylor– Comic Postcards

The above events may be subject to change.

Our U3A Saint George's Day Celebration



A Barn Dance with -
The St. George Barn Dance Band,
At Maldon Town Hall,
On **Friday 17th April**, 6.30 for 7.00

Only £7, with a 'Bring and Share Supper' tickets on sale in February.

Book your place for a Barn Dance designed for OUR Age Group.

Good Fun with gentle exercise. More details to follow.

STROLLERS TOO

The next walk is on **Tuesday 25th February** for a walk of 4.5 miles to Beeleigh Abbey and along The Blackwater.

Please meet at Beeleigh Falls, 10.15am for 10.30am start.
Lunch is available.
Please let me know if you are coming by **Wednesday 19th February**.

Sometimes, for reasons beyond our control, the venue of a walk has to be changed after being advertised in the U3A magazine. So it is **very** important that anyone hoping to go on the walk informs me, whether they want lunch or not.
Contact Gill Stone

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUE

The Whalebone Inn at South Woodham Ferrers
on **Wednesday 19th February**
at 12.30pm for 1.00pm

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.

2020 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

2020

7th February	Call My Wine Bluff, Maldon Town Hall
10th February	Balti Night
17th April	St George's Barn Dance, Maldon Town Hall
4th May	Maritime visit to the London Canal Museum
13th May	Cyber Crime
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.

Cyber Crime and how to protect yourself

Wednesday, 13th May 2020, Town Hall, Market Hill, Maldon
You may recall that a couple of years ago we had a joint event covering Cyber Crime and how we can protect ourselves.

We have decided to run another session with Barry Linton and a member of Essex Police as a joint Cluster Group event, as we feel this is a topic well worth revisiting.

The date will be **Wednesday, 13th May 2020,** at Maldon Town Hall, Market Hill. It will be a morning session, time to be confirmed but probably around 9.30am start. Numbers will be limited so please let me know if you would like to come along and I'll put you on the list.

Shirley Macro

LOCAL HISTORY

Hello Everyone. We hope you are well and have had a very enjoyable Festive Season.
The first meeting of 2020 is on **Monday January 27th** at Maldon Town Hall at 2pm when our speaker is John Jolly for his talk on "The History of Mangapps Railway Museum".

This will demonstrate how John's enthusiasm for trains led him to a lifetime's obsession for creating a museum, which many of you may have visited; and if not it is well worth a visit.

Kathy will have details and be taking names for our first outing on **Monday April 27th** for "An East Anglian Panorama", so if you wish to go please bring your cheque book.

We wish you All A Very Happy and Healthy 2020 and look forward to seeing you on January 27th.
Kathy, Jane and Sylvia

AVIATION GROUP

The group is restarting on **Tuesday 21st January** at 2 pm, Purleigh Pavilion with a talk by myself on " The World's Worst Aircraft ".

We will continue depending on support.
Brian Johnson

STROLLERS

The next walk is on **Sunday 16th February**, for a walk of 3.75 miles, beside the River Crouch. Please meet at The Riverside Car Park, South Woodham Ferrers, just after Marsh Farm, 10.15am for 10.30am start. Lunch is available.
Please let me know if you are coming by **Monday 10th February**.

Sometimes, for reasons beyond our control, the venue of a walk has to be changed after being advertised in the U3A magazine. So it is **very** important that anyone hoping to go on the walk informs me, whether they want lunch or not.
Contact Gill Stone

New Year`s Choice

Christmas gone and first month`s passed
Small wonder if some groups will last,
Those tennis bats and balls still fly
As `Third Age` members do or die
Ten-pin Bowling`s at its peak
For those with arms that do not creak
Whilst bending low to take their aim
And wonder if they`ll rise again
Rummikub sounds heaven sent
I wish I knew just what it meant
But pause for just a moment do
The French group may be just for you
So why not join a language class
And stun those Frenchies at long last
Sing for pleasure if that`s the choice
I only wish I had the voice
Egyptology sounds so old
I wonder if I should be bold
Although our memories perhaps have stalled
There was a time we knew it all
So don`t despair and give a shrug
It`s always there The Luncheon Club

Ray Harman

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

Note - This Social event is open to ALL Maldon and District U3A Members, not just Wine Group members, it is designed as a good fun evening that all can join in.

RECENT CELEBRATIONS

Molly Polden's 90th birthday at Mah Jong 13th December

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

BOTANY / TREES

Each year I run either a group looking at wild flowers or a group identifying trees throughout the year.

It depends on how many people ask for either. So far, I have been asked by one person to do Trees again this year but it will depend entirely on whether there are enough people to make the group viable.

Please let me know preferably by email, if you are interested in either of these two topics. My preferred time/date for taking the group is Tuesday morning, once a fortnight, but that is totally open for discussion.
Veronica Smith

Two Suspicious Father Christmases Gatecrash Balti!

MEMORY LANE AND PEOPLE POWER IN OUR MIDST

WEST MALDON COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Centre has been, and still is important to many members. Our U3A started out there and our main Meeting was held there for many years.

Sheila Epps recalls her involvement in this project.

I walked round to the Community Centre yesterday. I sat on a bench and enjoyed the sunshine and reflected that the WMCC is such an integral part of the area – but it almost didn't happen.

I moved to Maldon in 1986 to a new house in Longship Way. Sometime later it was proposed to build a large estate of houses on the fields at the rear of Longship Way. For many years Dorreen Linton had been lobbying and fundraising for a community centre for this part of Maldon, this now became urgent. Dorreen's small committee had diminished so she called a public meeting to try to inject some new blood and re-arouse public interest. I attended this meeting and found myself on a committee to see this project through.

Planning permission for the housing estate had been agreed, and that a community centre would be included. The road and the houses came along very nicely but the community centre was simply a shell – walls, roof and doors but nothing else. No fittings of any sort. The committee pressured the local council to see this building finished. They dragged their feet and said at one point that we might consider re–mortgaging our houses to raise funds! The money was eventually found from grants from local councils, fundraising and donations from other organisations.

We had to decide on every single item that went into that building from kitchen and toilet fittings to teaspoons and curtains. I oversaw ordering the goods from various catalogues that specialised in public buildings. We eventually felt we should have a Public Open Day so the local community could see what was happening. And we wanted to drum up business.

The agreement with Maldon District Council was that it was their building, but we were running it. That meant financially our income would come from hirers and the committee would have to balance the books.

Of course, it was a great day in 1994 when we had the official opening. Our bookings flowed in and groups of all types eagerly found their local home. We made good money and always ploughed it back into the Centre, improving furnishings and facilities. We had to work hard to get the Car Park sorted out - and eventually a children's playground was set up at the side of the Hall.

Quite soon people began booking the Centre for weddings, parties, concerts and other events. It is used as a voting station and for Blood Donor sessions. Currently three local U3A Groups use it for regular meetings. Badminton, Judo and Table Tennis groups have been users almost from the beginning. Our local Councillor has her Saturday morning Surgery there.

After a few years we needed more space. At that time, we had a large hall, a small meeting room and kitchen. So, an extension was proposed. MDC said we could go ahead but we would have to raise money for it. So then began another period of fundraising. I oversaw that and with guidance found this huge book of Charities which gave money to deserving causes. I wrote masses of begging letters some of which replied with cheques. The Euro had recently been introduced and so there were lots of redundant coins from various European currencies which could be turned into English cash – if I could find a bank to do it. Eventually, I did find someone who introduced me to a willing source. I think that was worth about £3,000. Finally, we had £30,000 and so with an equal amount from MDC the building went ahead. And that's how we got the Jubilee Room.

I was on the Committee of WMCA for 13 years – towards the end as Chairman. Many of those who were there at the beginning stayed for years. We were an excellent team. I am proud of what we did together. The only person who was paid was our Caretaker who did a marvellous job. I think things are different now and a few more people are paid but by and large it is run by volunteers. I use the building twice a month to play Bridge so will keep an interested eye on things.

Now an even larger estate of houses is being built along Fambridge Road and Limebrook Way there will surely be a need there for their own community centre.

Sheila Epps

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

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

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday 7th February 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

PROGRAMME – February 2020

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1 Birdwatching	2
3 Maritime Whist	4 Table Tennis	5 Ten Pin Bowling Wine Group 1	6 Ten Pin Bowling Scottish Country Dancing Discussion Poetry Rummikub 2	7 Mah Jong Call My Wine Bluff	8	9
10 Handicrafts Whist Balti Night	11 Egyptology Table Tennis	12 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Meet & Eat	13 Ten Pin Bowling French Conversation Rummikub 1 History-Stuarts Reading	14 Canasta Sing for Pleasure	15	16 Strollers
17 **Meeting 1.30** Just Jazz	18 Table Tennis Geology Aviation	19 Ten Pin Bowling Luncheon Group	20 Ten Pin Bowling Scottish Country Dancing	21 Mah Jong	22	23
24 Astronomy Handicrafts Local History Whist	25 Strollers Too Table Tennis Wine Group 4	26 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Wine Group 2 Writing for Fun	27 Ten Pin Bowling French Conversation Music Appreciation Wine Group 3	28 Cribbage Canasta Family History Sing for Pleasure	29	

Check out the new electronic calendar on the web site
http://www.maldonu3a.co.uk/

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