



Learn, Laugh, Live

# MALDON AND DISTRICT

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February 2020

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

Web Site: [www.maldon3a.co.uk/](http://www.maldon3a.co.uk/)

## FROM THE CHAIR



I hope you have all had a good U3A month attending the variety of different activity groups available. Take a look at the updated website at [www.maldonu3a.co.uk/](http://www.maldonu3a.co.uk/) and you will see that the calendar is now on the home page and by clicking on the subject, you will be taken to the activities page where more information about that group is available. It may spark your interest to try a different activity.

On the subject of activity groups; sadly, the Whist group has now closed but, good news, the Aviation group is back up and running. Once the season starts again, there will be a change to the meeting time for the Croquet group – details to follow once finalised.

If anyone has an idea for an interest/activity group not presently available, please get in touch.

Don't forget to get your names down for the Cyber Crime presentation on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020. As this is a joint venture with the Maldon Cluster U3As, the seats are limited so don't miss out. More details in this newsletter. At last month's members' meeting I read out an Essex Police Fraud Alert System (EFAS) about Amazon Prime Scams. I have included it in the Newsletter for your information. I have no wish to alarm anyone but feel we should all be aware of these horrible scams which we can all easily fall prey to. We have received several calls of this nature over the past few months on our house telephone – luckily have put the 'phone down every time.

On a brighter note, we had an excellent talk in January from Veronica Smith on her travels in Russia and even learned some Russian phrases. If you haven't made it to one of the monthly members' meetings yet, please do try to come along as they are very varied in topic and interesting.

Best wishes,  
Shirley Macro

## **AVIATION GROUP**

As you may know we are restarting the Aviation Group. Our first meeting in January went well, so we are hoping it will be a success. We will meet at Purleigh Pavilion as usual, 2 pm every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in the month.

I am not very mobile so will need help with the venue and with any trips that we organize.

At our next meeting on **Tuesday February 18th** there will be a presentation by Chris Samson, one of our group, on “The Silver Spitfire - The Longest Flight” which promises to be very informative and entertaining.



I look forward to seeing you and remember all U3A members are welcome.

Brian Johnson

## **VISIT TO THE V & A Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May**

The current programmes on BBC 2 showing the work of conservators working on some of the Museum's wonderful objects, inspired me to arrange this visit. The V & A has long been a favourite of mine since there is such a huge variety of exhibits - sculpture, ceramics, paintings clothes, jewellery... I could go on and on. Therefore, it will be free rein to wander to look at what you like.

For economy's sake I would like to fill the coach so if some members simply want a ride into London to do their own thing, then please indicate with (coach **only**) after their name and if there are places that will be fine. There are cafes in the building.

We plan to leave from **West Maldon Community Centre at 8.30** and depart from London at 3.30. Cost £15

Enquiries Sheila Epps

## ***STROLLERS***

The next walk is on **Sunday 15th March** for a walk of 4.8 miles, combining a good stretch of walking in Essex farmland, and along the sea wall beside the Blackwater.

Please meet in The Chequers Car Park, Goldhanger CM9 8AS 10.15am for 10.30am start.

Lunch is available.

Please let me know if you are coming by **Monday 9th March**.

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:

## ***ASTRONOMY GROUP***

Meet at 7:30pm

All meetings held at Chigboro Fishing Club,  
Chigborough Road, Heybridge CM9 4RE

Due to bad weather last month, our meeting was cancelled, so hopefully our next meeting on **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February** will go ahead. We will be night sky observing – with particular reference to the star “Betelgeuse”. Should the sky be overcast then we will have a DVD on an Astronomy subject. We will also be discussing the planned trip to the Bayfordbury Observatory on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March**.

Any U3A member is welcome to join the group.

Malcolm Case

## Monday 16th March Meeting

Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

Speaker

Sarah Millerick - "Marie Curie Nursing"



### ***FUTURE SPEAKERS***

April 20th 2020

Steve Scruton - "Dreams Can Come True"

May 18th 2020

James Taylor– Comic Postcards

June 15th 2020

AGM plus entertainment

*The above events may be subject to change.*

### ***MARITIME GROUP***

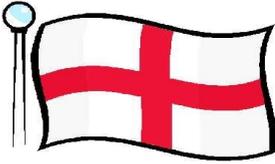
The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March** – for a talk by John Rogers – on "East Coast Magic". This will be a personal view of the magic of sailing around the east coast told in pictures and stories – from John's long, over 70 years, association with sailing the east coast.

The meeting is being held at Wickham Bishops Village Hall, Snows Corner, Wickham Bishops, Witham CM8 3JZ starting at 10:00 am.

Any U3A member is very welcome to come to the meeting.

Malcolm Case

# 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

Tickets only £7 from Rosemary Case

with a '**Bring and Share Supper**'

Book your place for a Barn Dance designed for OUR Age Group.  
Good Fun with gentle exercise.

The '**Bring and Share Supper**' is part of the entry ticket for our St. George's Barn Dance.

Each U3A member brings a dinner plate or bowl size savoury dish to share with the whole group, i.e. a Quiche, Salad, Sandwiches, Sausage Rolls, etc.

This will be placed on the Buffet Table for the supper break.

Each member also needs to bring a Knife, Fork and Spoon, a Plate and Dessert Dish and your own Drink and Glass.

Desserts will be provided by the Social Organising Group.

We look forward to seeing you at this Social Event.

Mike Childs

## **LUNCHEON CLUB VENUE**

The Queens Head at Tolleshunt D'Arcy  
on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March**  
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

17th April	St George's Barn Dance, Maldon Town Hall
4 <sup>th</sup> May	Maritime visit to the London Canal Museum
13th May	Cyber Crime
4th June	U3A Awareness Day, Maldon Town Hall
2nd July	Barbecue, Langford Village Hall
3 <sup>rd</sup> August	Maritime visit to Ware and Hertford
5 <sup>th</sup> 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, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020, Town Hall, Market Hill, Maldon**

Barry Linton of Thorpe Bay U3A and David Anthony of Essex Police will be presenting a talk on Cyber Crime and how to be alert to the different scams and tricks, and how we can protect ourselves. The date is **Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020**, at Maldon Town Hall, Market Hill. It will be a morning session, time to be confirmed but probably around 9.30am start. This is a joint venture with Maldon U3A Cluster and numbers will be limited - please let me know if you would like to come along and I'll put you on the list.



Shirley Macro –

# U3A Birdwatching Group Programme 2020/2021

**2020**

8 <sup>th</sup> March	Abberton	Meet in car park
5 <sup>th</sup> April	Two Tree Island	Meet at lower car park
2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Rye Meads Reserve near Harlow	Meet in visitor centre car park
6 <sup>th</sup> June	Fingringhoe	Meet in reserve car park
5 <sup>th</sup> July	Minsmere Reserve Suffolk	Meet in centre
5 <sup>th</sup> September	Thurrock Thameside	Meet in car park
4 <sup>th</sup> October	Cudmore Grove, East Mersea	Meet in car park
7 <sup>th</sup> November	Hanningfield Reservoir	Meet in car park
6 <sup>th</sup> December	Maldon Prom	Meet by the Rossi kiosk
<b>2021</b>		
3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Phyllis Currie Reserve Great Leighs	Meet in car park at end of Dumney Lane
6 <sup>th</sup> February	Tollesbury Wick	Meet in car park by toilets

All rendezvous times 10 am unless otherwise stated.

For full details of locations or requests for car shares please contact Coordinators Peter Gaywood or Michael Bagshaw

## **JUST JAZZ**

The next meeting of Just Jazz will be on **Monday February 17th** at 7.30pm at the Maldon Little Ship Club.

There will be a Bar and a film featuring Louis Armstrong and the All Stars.

Jim Light



## **BIRDWATCHING**

A crisp and sunny winter's morning found eight of us strolling along Maldon promenade at very low tide towards Brithnoth, where we saw a huge selection of birds and waders.

As well as the usual flocks of Black Headed Gulls, we saw a couple of Lesser Black Backed Gulls, a few Herring Gulls, numbers of beautiful Teal Ducks, a lone highly coloured Wigeon that quickly flew off, some Redshank and many small Dunlin busily feeding from the mud flats. We also spotted one or two Grey Plover surrounded by dozens of spectacular Lapwings, many of them sitting then flying off in great 'murmurations' (is that the term for Lapwing 'clouds'?). There were also a few **orange/red beaked** Oystercatchers, a few Little Grebe (Dabchicks) ducking and diving in the narrow channel, and a lone Little Egret spotted in front of the distant barges. The watch was also blessed with the sight of two Swans flying over our heads and rounded off by the few of us remaining at the end, having tea and cakes in **The Barge Tearoom** on the farther quay.

The next birdwatching will be **Sunday 8th March** at Abberton.



## **Essex Police Fraud Alert System (EFAS)**

Amazon Prime Scams – Unsuspecting members of the public are targeted with automated calls which tell them a fraudster has used their personal details to sign up for an Amazon Prime subscription. The victim is then instructed to press 1 to cancel the transaction. When they do this, they are directly connected to the real scammer who poses as an Amazon customer service representative.

The criminal tells the victim the Amazon Prime subscription was purchased fraudulently and that they need remote access to the victim's computer in order to fix a security flaw that will prevent it from happening again. The victim is instructed to download an application called Team Viewer and asked to log onto their online banking account. The software download grants the fraudster personal and financial details.

Other variants of the crime involve victims being told they are due a refund for an unauthorised transaction on their Amazon account or telling victims their subscription will be "renewed" for £39.99. The call will then say that you should "press 1" to speak with an "account manager".

Do not press 1, simply hang up immediately.

Amazon will never contact you in this way, and the call being completely unsolicited should also set off alarm bells.

## **Refreshments at Monthly Members' Meetings**

Following lengthy discussions, the Committee have decided to trial having refreshments (no charge) – tea/coffee and biscuits - at the beginning of the monthly Members' meeting. The plan is to open the doors at 1.15pm to allow time for the refreshments to be served and everything cleared away before the speaker starts. However, we will need your support to get this going. If we can get enough volunteers, it could be run on a rota basis and, if all the Activity Groups took part, this would happen approximately once every three years! It is hoped to start at the April meeting – if you would like to offer your services please contact me.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks, Shirley Macro

## **Bob and Graham's Big Balti Night**

**Monday 13th April**

7:00 for 7:30pm.

At Balti Bhujon, 24 Mill, Rd Maldon

Please contact  
Graham Evans or  
Bob Gowers for details



### ***STROLLERS TOO***

The next walk is on **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March** for a walk of 4.8 miles on Mersea Island.

Please meet at The Fox Inn, East Road, West Mersea CO5 8SA.  
10.15am for 10.30am start.

Lunch is available.

Please let me know if you are coming by **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March**.

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:

### ***WINE GROUP ONE***

The members of Wine Group One decided on Wednesday evening to close the group. It had been going for over 15 years so had run its course. Over the years we have all enjoyed the fun and fellowship and learning about all the aspects of wine, especially the tasting. Without U3A and its principles this wouldn't have happened.

Wine Group Two is still going strong.

Graham Boswell

## ***LOCAL HISTORY***

The next meeting of the Local History Group is **Monday February 24th** at the Town Hall at 2pm.



Our speaker is U3A member Penney McAvoy who, with help from Mike Fogg, will give an illustrated virtual tour of the Moot Hall. Penney is one of the official guides there, and even if you think you know the Moot Hall well, new facts are always coming to light.

With many steps and stairs to negotiate, this talk is especially aimed at those of you who might find an actual tour challenging, so do come along and relax in the relative comfort of the Town Hall.

There are still a few tickets left for our outing to Suffolk on **April 27th**, so if you have not booked and would like to go, please bring your cheque book.

Kathy, Jane and Sylvia

## ***STEAM GROUP*** (Science, Engineering and Medicine)

**Blackwater U3A** has invited interest in their STEAM group. The next meeting is **Monday 9th March** 9.30 am at West Maldon Community Centre. The talk by Jon Howorth is a discussion about Global Warming. "GLOBAL WARMING - Why - What Can We Do?"

Further details from Jon Howorth

## 2020 - 2021 Subscription Renewals

**Subscriptions:** These are due by no later than the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020. One renewal form is included with this newsletter, they are also available at the sign-in desk at the monthly meetings or from the Membership Secretary or on the web site [Maldonu3a.co.uk](http://Maldonu3a.co.uk). Each member must complete a separate form. **Annual subscription is £20.00 per person.** This can be paid electronically into Barclays Bank, account name - **University of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age, Maldon & District, Subscription;** sort code **20-54-30;** Account number **53198995,** the reference you use **MUST be your forename and surname – with no space eg johnsmith.** If you wish, you can still pay by cheque which should be made payable to **Maldon & District U3A.** The completed form(s) and payment must be made before the **30 April 2020.** We do not accept cash. **The form MUST be returned to the Membership Secretary.**

**Data Protection Law and Database:** The Renewal forms are used to check our database. Please tick the box on the form if your details are unchanged from your original renewal, i.e. email, telephone numbers, emergency contacts etc. As a U3A we comply with the General Data Protection Regulations. Please tick the “I Confirm” box on the form to show your continued acceptance.

**Emergency Contact:** Where couples are both members, please avoid using each other as emergency contacts. Please also ensure that you have the consent to use the name and telephone number of the person/s named as your emergency contact.

**Gift Aid:** Please tick the “I want to Gift Aid” box on the form if you are able to gift aid your subscription. Gift Aid operates on the basis that HM Revenue & 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 tick the box on the 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 (even if paying electronically renewal forms must be completed for each member and returned) and cheques to the sign-in desk or post them to the address shown on the Membership Renewal form as soon as possible or use the web site [maldonu3a.co.uk](http://maldonu3a.co.uk). Cheques will not be banked before the **1st May 2020,** however if you pay by electronic bank transfer then your account will be debited immediately. **Membership cards will be posted to you. If you have not renewed your subscription by the 1st May 2020 you will no longer be a member.**

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

**NATIONAL OFFICE**

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

Resource Centre: email: [resource.centre@u3a.org.uk](mailto:resource.centre@u3a.org.uk)

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday 6th March 2020

# CO-ORDINATORS

Art Appreciation	Andy Simmonds	London Theatre Outings	Rosemary Case Joyce Cotterell
Aviation	Brian Johnson		
Astronomy	Malcolm Case	Luncheon Groups 3rd Wed. Meet & Eat 2nd Wed	Paul Costa Joyce Cotterell
Balti Night	Bob Gowers Graham Evans		
Bird Watching	Peter Gaywood Michael Bagshaw	Mah-Jong	Molly Polden
Botany	Veronica Smith	Maritime	Malcolm Case
Bridge	Sheila Epps	Music Appreciation	Enid Hall John Skuse
Canasta	Iris Slaney	Petanque (Boules)	Jack Veash
Cribbage	Pat Clements	Poetry	Jo Robson
Croquet	Jean Healey Shirley Macro	Reading	Sheila Epps
Discussion	Bryan Jones	Rummikub 1 Rummikub 2	Colin Beckett Beryl McDonell
Egyptology	Kathleen Goff Sue Robinson	Scottish Country Dancing	Shirley Grummett
Family History	Alan Buck	Sing for Pleasure	Sue Garnham
French Conversation	Ann Lester	Strollers	Gill Stone
Geology	Enid Hall	Table Tennis	Louis Gunn
Handicraft	Marian Manning	Ten Pin Bowling	David Arnold
History—Stuarts	Beryl McDonell	Tree Identification	Veronica Smith
Just Jazz	Jim Light David Coombes	Weekenders	Beryl McDonell
Local History	Sylvia Cousins Jane Coombes Kathleen Goff	Wine Circle No. 2 Wine Circle No. 3	Graham Boswell Mary Burd Paul Costa Ann Goody
		Wine Circle No. 4	
		Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth

# PROGRAMME – March 2020

Check out the new electronic calendar on the web site

[www.maldonu3a.co.uk/](http://www.maldonu3a.co.uk/)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1
2 Maritime	3 Table Tennis	4 Ten Pin Bowling	5 Discussion Group Poetry Rummikub 2 Scottish Country Dancing Ten Pin Bowling	6 Mah Jong	7	8 Birdwatching
9 Handicrafts	10 Egyptology Table Tennis	11 Bridge Meet and Eat Ten Pin Bowling	12 French Conversation History-Stuarts Reading Rummikub 1 Ten Pin Bowling	13 Canasta Sing for Pleasure	14	15 Strollers
16 Just Jazz <b>Monthly Meeting 1.30</b>	17 Aviation Geology Table Tennis	18 Luncheon Club Ten Pin Bowling	19 Scottish Country Dancing Ten Pin Bowling	20 Mah Jong	21	22
23 Astronomy Handicrafts Local History	24 Strollers Too Table Tennis Wine Group 4	25 Bridge Ten Pin Bowling Wine Group 2 Writing for Fun	26 French Conversation Music Appreciation Ten Pin Bowling Wine Group 3	27 Canasta Cribbage Family History Sing for Pleasure	28	29
30	31 Table Tennis					

**I try 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