Learn, Laugh, Live

MALDON
AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

Membership Renewals are due by no later than 30th April 2020
(see page 3)

March 2020

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

website: **www.maldonu3a.co.uk/**

FROM THE CHAIR

Hello

Welcome to this month's newsletter which, I'm sure, you will find an interesting read. Liz Samson, our Newsletter Editor does an excellent job in putting it together and your contributions are needed to keep it as informative as possible. If your group would like a mention, has been out and about, had a good speaker or is planning an event, please let Liz know. Her email address is listed on the contacts page.

I am very pleased to say that Graham Webster is now feeling much improved and has returned to his role as Treasurer. I was happy to be able to hand it all back to him, although I did feel rather important writing out all those cheques.

February's monthly meeting was something different indeed. We were entertained by John Pierce, aka Painterotti. He delivered a variety of songs from straight opera to show and pop songs. Extremely entertaining and loud!

Whilst on the subject of the monthly meetings, thanks to the offers of help at the last meeting we are introducing teas and coffees at the beginning of the meetings, on a trial basis to start. I would like to thank the Ladies who volunteered their services, much appreciated.

Looking ahead, in June the U3A is holding a National Awareness Day. You may already have read about this in your TAM magazine and along with the other local U3As, we have decided to take part in this and have booked the Town Hall, Maldon, for Thursday, 4th June 2020. (Official date is 3rd June, but this was unavailable.)

Plans are taking shape and I will pass on more details in due course. The idea of the day is to promote the U3A as an organisation and we will be asking for your support with this but, as already mentioned, more to come later. One of the ideas in the TAM was a "flash mob"! Any volunteers?

Best wishes,
Shirley Macro

2020 - 2021 Membership Subscription Renewals

Subscriptions: Are due by no later than the 30th April 2020. Please use our website MaldonU3A.co.uk and complete the forms under "Membership Renewal". If you are unable to do this then renewal forms are available at the sign-in desk at the monthly meetings or from the Membership Secretary. Each member must complete a separate form. **Annual subscription is £20.00 per person,** which can be paid by Bank Transfer into Barclays Bank, account name – **MaldonU3ASubs; sort code 20-54-30; Account number 53198995, the reference you use MUST be your forename and surname – with no space e.g. johnsmith**; or 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 able to gift aid your subscription. 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 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 website maldonu3a.co.uk**. Cheques will not be banked before the **1st May 2020,** however if you pay by 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.**

Outing to V&A 20th May 2020

There are a few seats left for this trip to a fantastic museum covering the decorative arts – and it's FREE.

If you missed it there's a BBC2 6-part series on the V&A called ***Secrets of the Museum***. There we can see how they care for the millions of items in their collection.

Tickets £16. Coach leaves WMCC 8.30. Danbury pickup on request.

Contact Sheila Epps

MARCH BIRDWATCHING

On a crisp but clear early spring day, seven members of the birdwatching group visited the Essex Wildlife Trust reserve at Abberton Reservoir. Highlight of the visit was a peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) perched low in a dead oak tree.

The bird is the world's fastest animal, reaching more than 240mph as it swoops on prey, which can range in size from blue tit to black-backed gull. As we sat in a hide, a sparrow-like bird with distinctive black and white head settled momentarily in front of us – a male reed bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*) getting into his breeding plumage.

Out on the water, as a lone great crested grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) dived for food, there were plenty of ducks to be seen including wigeon (*Anas penelope*), teal (*Anas crecca*), tufted duck (*Aythya fuligula*) and goldeneye (*Buccephala clangula*).

A successful morning was rounded off with hot chocolate and coffee in the visitor centre. And when we got home, Pat and I were amazed to see a red kite (*Milvus milvus*) swoop low over the back garden!

Next meeting **Sunday April 5th**, Two Tree Island SS9 2GB.
Meet in lower car park.

Mike Bagshaw

Monday 20th April Meeting

Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm
Speaker
Steve Scruton - "Dreams Can Come True"

Steve works as a freelance broadcaster for the BBC and alongside new partners hosts events and passes on his experience through training.

FUTURE SPEAKERS

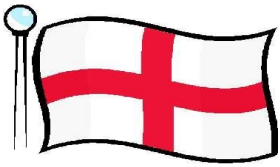
May 18th 2020	James Taylor– Comic Postcards
June 15th 2020	AGM plus Sonority Recorder Consort
July 20th 2020	Lindsey Whitehouse – "Life in Prison from a Governor's perspective"

The above events may be subject to change.

London Theatre Musical - 'The Prince of Egypt'

We have just one ticket to see "Prince of Egypt" at The Dominion Theatre on Tuesday 24 March 2020 at 7.30pm. The price is £44 which includes a £75 stalls seat and coach etc.
The coach will leave Madison Heights at 3.00pm with a pickup in Danbury.
David and Barbara Arnold are organizing this trip so please contact them by email or see them at the main meeting if you would like to join us.
PS. Please let them know if you would like to be added to the waiting list in case anyone else has to drop out.

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

Maritime - RNLI 5p & 20p Collection Pots

I am pleased to tell you that following the latest emptying of pots **£56.25** has been raised for the RNLI - 28 pots in total this time.

Thank you for your continued support. Empty jars will be available at the Main meeting or Maritime if you wish to help with this ongoing project.

Mary Burd

2020 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

2020

17th April	St George's Barn Dance, Maldon Town Hall
4th May	Maritime visit to the London Canal Museum
20th May	Visit to V&A Museum
13th May	Cyber Crime
4th June	U3A Awareness Day, Maldon Town Hall
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

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, 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. 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

AVIATION GROUP

At the February meeting we had a very enjoyable and informative presentation on the "Silver Spitfire" given by Chris Samson. This is the story of a rescued Spitfire rebuilt to an incredible standard. Stripped of everything not needed to fly i.e. guns and paint the whole plane was polished until it shone, hence the " Silver Spitfire". It was then flown right around the world. Although this was shown in weekly clips it must have been poorly advertised because no one knew about it, but for Chris this incredible story would have been missed.

Our next meeting on **Tuesday 17th March** will be a presentation with supporting film, on the "Lancaster" by David Gillespie who has actually flown in one. We are seeking new members to make the group more viable. So, come alone and join us.
We are organizing a trip to the Air Show at the Shuttleworth Collection on **Sunday 3rd May,** please let me know if you wish to go.

Brian Johnson

STROLLERS TOO

The next walk is on **Tuesday, April 28** for a walk of approximately 4 miles in Little Baddow.
Please meet at The General's Arms, The Ridge, Little Baddow, CM3 4SX at 10.15 for a 10.30 start.
Lunch is available and we will order prior to the walk.
Please let me know if you will be coming and if you want lunch by **Monday, April 20.**
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.
Christine Speed

TO ALL GROUP COORDINATORS

MALDON U3A ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2020

To help me prepare Maldon U3A's Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2020, could you please let me have the following information regarding your Group(s)' CASH transactions and balances.

1) The amount of CASH you received and the amount of CASH you spent on behalf of your Group for the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020. NIL RETURNS are required please.
2) The amount of CASH held by you on behalf of your Group as at 31st March 2020. NIL RETURNS are required please.

Please let me have this information, especially that for item 2) above, asap after 31st March.

I do not need details from you of your Group's cheque transactions as I already have these.
Many thanks
Graham Webster, Treasurer

STROLLERS

The next walk is on **Sunday 19th April**, for a walk of some 4.0 miles beside the river Crouch. Please meet in the Riverside car park, South Woodham Ferrers. The car park is just after Marsh Farm and is on the right-hand side of the road. Please meet at 10:00 am for a 10:15 am start. Lunch will be available at a local restaurant. **Please let me know whether or not you will be coming by no later than Monday 13th April**.

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

MARITIME GROUP

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 6th April at Wickham Bishops Hall, Snows Corner, Wickham Bishops, Witham CM8 3JZ starting at 10:00 am** for a talk by John Johnson-Allan on HMS Truculent, a British submarine of the third group of the T class. She was built as P315 by Vickers Armstrong, Barrow, and launched on 12 September 1942. HMS Truculent was lost following a post-war accident with a Swedish oil tanker in the Thames Estuary in January 1950.

Any U3A members is very welcome to come to the meeting.
Malcolm Case

ART APPRECIATION

The Group will be meeting again at long last on **Tuesday 7th April.**

2- 4pm at West Maldon Community Centre, to see a film of L S Lowry the painter entitled 'Mrs Lowry and Son'.

Andy Simmonds

Crouch Ridge Vineyard Gourmet Evening

At the 'Call my Wine Bluff' evening we were all invited to share an evening with the Blackwater U3A at the Crouch Ridge Vineyard. It was to be a wine tasting of their seven wines with a gourmet tasting menu with each.

So a couple of us went along and had a very enjoyable and different evening. Each wine was introduced by the owners and so were all the unusual courses by the chef. He told us all the ingredients, how they were cooked and where to get them.

The Blackwater members were very welcoming and pleased to see us. That is how the 'Cluster' is meant to work and we would do it again.

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
Dave Catton
Bob Gowers for details

ASTRONOMY GROUP

The next meeting of the Astronomy Group will be on Friday 27th March, when we will be visiting the Bayfordbury Observatory which is near Harlow. During the visit we will see some of their seven optical telescopes and weather permitting view some interesting objects in the sky both looking through the telescopes and using the powerful CCD imaging cameras. We will meet some of the researchers and students from the University's School of Physics, Astronomy and Mathematics. The visit will also include expert demonstrations and talks on various astronomy topics.

The visit will start at 7:00 pm which means leaving Maldon by car at about 5:30 pm, the cost per person is £8.00 plus the share of petrol cost for the car driver/s. The duration of the visit is about two hours.
Please contact Malcolm Case if you would like to join us on the visit.
Malcolm Case

CLUSTER GROUP

South Woodham Ferrers U3A Art and Architecture Appreciation group is arranging a trip to the Wallace Collection in London. The date is **Tuesday, 28th April 2020**, meeting in London at 11.00am.
Please contact Chris Miles for further details, or check out their website.

TEN PIN BOWLING – ANOTHER MILESTONE

In May 2002 Madison Heights Bowling Lanes opened. They approached our U3A to form a 'Club' for retired people to have social meetings with Ten Pin Bowling for exercise and a new interest. Coffee and biscuits would be provided free and the morning would be at an especially low price to encourage this social activity especially for those who were lonely and didn't get out much. Friendliness was the key.

So in September 2002 we started the Maldon and District U3A Ten Pin Bowling Group to meet every week. There were about fifteen of us. The 'rules' were simple: U3A members only. No competitions or leagues. Scores are unimportant. Random playing partners. Husbands and wives do not play together. Teams stay together for the whole morning. We have one game then coffee break then a further one or two games more.

Now we have been meeting nearly every week for seventeen and a half years. On March 4th and 5th 2020 we had our **900**th weekly meeting. We have members from all around; Tiptree, Kelvedon, Witham, Chelmsford, Bicknacre, South Woodham Ferrers as well as Maldon and Heybridge of course. We not only play every Wednesday but our 'overflow' group meets every Thursday.
The total number of bowlers playing on the two days is around 50 + every week from the 85 members on the list.

Other U3As in the district meet there now following our example hopefully with the same ideals.
The original concept is still central to our aims and it seems to work quite well.

David Arnold

LOCAL HISTORY

Our next meeting is on **Monday March 23rd** at 2pm at Maldon Town Hall. Our speaker is local man Kevin Bruce for his talk entitled "RAF Bradwell Bay Airfield during World War 2".

Some of you may well have connections to this time and place, through family or friends so do come along for an interesting afternoon.

We have a note for your diary. Our proposed trip to Hatfield House will be on **THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 24TH** and NOT our usual Monday. Kathy will have more details later in the year, AFTER our trip to Suffolk.

Meanwhile enjoy congenial company at our meeting on March 23rd.

Kathy, Jane and Sylvia

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUE

Bella's Italian Bistro in Burnham on Crouch
Wednesday 15th April
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.

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
52 Lant Street, London, SE1 1RB

Tel 020 8466 6139 Email national.office@u3a.org

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

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

Deadline for next newsletter: Thursday 9th April 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	Colin Beckett
Rummikub 2	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
Wine Circle No. 2	Graham Boswell
Wine Circle No. 3	Mary Burd Paul Costa
Wine Circle No. 4	Ann Goody
Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth

PROGRAMME – April 2020

Check out the electronic calendar on the website
www.maldonu3a.co.uk/

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

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