Learn, Laugh, Live

MALDON
AND DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

Out and About with Strollers
See page 6

June 2020

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR

I will start on a similar theme to last time and say that I hope this message finds you all fit and healthy. Since then, the restrictions have lifted slightly and maybe that has allowed some you to get out a bit more and meet a family member or friend for a chat, of course, whilst observing the distancing rules. It doesn't seem likely that any group meetings will be able to commence any time soon but I would like to hear from any groups who have managed to stay in touch regularly and the methods you are using, emails, Zoom sessions, Facebook, etc.

I have just been reading the newsletter sent out by the National Office and it contains lots of information and ideas. If you haven't joined up yet please do so by going to www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter and sign up for the newsletter, which you will receive via email. If you don't have email, they are now producing a Bite Sized PDF Newsletter which can be printed off. If you receive this newsletter by post and you would like me to send you a copy of the National Office one, please let me know and I will sort this out for you.

The Committee managed another successful Zoom meeting and discussed various items, including looking forward to when and how we will be able to start meeting again. Although not the same as being in a room together, it was lovely to see each other. If you haven't already tried using one of these types of communicating platforms, I would recommend you have a go with family and friends if you possibly can.

If you have paid for any trips or outings which have been cancelled and not heard anything regarding possible refunds or re-bookings, please contact the co-ordinator concerned to confirm details. I am fairly certain this has already been done as I was contacted about the trips I had planned to go on and cheques not paid in had been shredded.

You have all received your new white plastic credit card size bar coded membership cards together with a U3A lanyard and covering letter, please note that this is the only membership card that you will receive for as long as you are a member of Maldon & District U3A and this card MUST be taken to every main monthly and all group meetings as proof of your membership.

I would love to hear from anyone with ideas or suggestions as to how we, as an organisation, can stay connected and keep our U3A family going forward together.

Best wishes,
Shirley Macro

BIRD WATCHING GROUP Weekend of 2nd and 3rd May 2020

The group should have visited Rye Mead Reserve on the first weekend in May but like everyone we stayed at home.

The RSPB encourages the public to spend an hour one weekend in January taking part in the great British Bird Watch, observing and recording the birds seen in "your" location.

The group carried out its own observations in their gardens over that first weekend of May, recording their observations. Some members offered bribes of fat balls, bird food etc. which did not appear to increase the number of birds observed.

Here are the results of the ***Little Maldon Bird Watch.***
House Sparrow 12, Collard Dove 10, Blackbird 6, Robin 6, Wood Pigeon 3, Great Tit 2, Blue Tit 2, Dunnock 2, Gold Finch 2, Magpie 1.

What is interesting having recorded my observations from early May I spent an hour in my garden on 22nd May and was surrounded by what can only be described as a nursery flock of young Starlings attacking the fat balls and crash landing into the various trees which surround the garden The Starling was completely absent from our observations earlier in the month.

Peter Gaywood

AVIATION NOTES

Despite Covid restrictions, two interesting aviation projects in the UK are progressing.

The rebuild of **HAWKER TEMPEST MW763** (recovered from POONA Western India in 1979!) is progressing at the Air Leasing, Sywell facility; the aim is to get it to fully airworthy state with the correct BRISTOL CENTAURUS radial engine. See **www.airleasing.co.uk/**

The remanufacture of a **DH MOSQUITO** using the remains of Serial Number RL249 recovered from woods near RAF Coltishall (it crashed in 1949) is progressing under the auspices of The People's Mosquito.

A complete new fuselage mould/jig is nearing completion to enable a fuselage to be made using Canadian Sitka spruce which was used by DH CANADA in their wartime production of the Mosquito. See **www.peoplesmosquito.org.uk/**

Heard of **ATA**? **Wartime Air Transport Auxiliary**; this was the organisation that flew completed aircraft from the factory to the RAF airfields, men and women pilots. There is a new website with a database of their activities. **www.atamuseum.org**

Chris Samson

U3A BRIDGE

The U3A Bridge Club is alive and well and playing together online. Quite a number of us have braved the technology and meet online at 6.30 for about an hour. This is enough since we are not distracted by other things and just get on with the games. We get through quite a lot in that hour.

We have been guided along by Jean Healey and play in groups so we know each other which makes it personal. It also means that we often ring each other up afterwards to moan or congratulate according to how the evening went. It's a lot of fun and lovely to have a date every night.

If anyone else would like advice about online Bridge, or who would like to join us I know Jean Healey would be glad to help.
She keeps us all in line in the nicest possible way. I call her Head Girl.

Sheila Epps

WINE GROUP 3

So for those of you who tried to guess our surprise bottle in last month's newsletter the answer was a Spanish White Rioja - Marques de los Rios 2018. It was purchased from Morrisons before the lockdown at £7.75.

Currently Wine Group 3 are having fortnightly get togethers via Zoom. Everyone has a bottle to hand which they talk about to the other members. We are also having a quiz during the session. This is in addition to our surprise monthly bottle!

It is an ideal way to stay in touch with members especially those living on their own and we also have a WhatsApp group for daily contact. Unfortunately we feel it will be some time before we are able to meet up as a group as we used to especially as we meet in each other's houses.

Take care, stay safe and keep drinking the wine!!

Mary & Paul Coordinators

Wanted to borrow:
The Black Death by Philip Ziegler and A Suitable Boy by Vikram Seth.
Can anybody help?

Veronica Smith

LOCAL HISTORY

Hello Everyone,
We trust you are well and coping with the current pandemic.
Please be advised that the meetings organised for June 22nd and July 27th have been cancelled. There is no meeting in August, and the outing for September is most likely to be cancelled as well. We will continue to monitor the situation and inform you of any changes that may take place.

I hope that any of you who watched "The Darkest Hour" on TV over the VE75 weekend saw scenes of Churchill on the London Underground. This was filmed at Mangapps Railway Museum at Burnham as explained by our speaker John Jolly at our January meeting.

Keep well and Keep Alert!
Best Wishes Kathy, Jane and Sylvia

King Charles II (29 May 1630 – 6 February 1685)

Following the end of our experiment with Republicanism in 1660, Charles was "invited" back and took on the role of monarch following on from his father Charles I. Charles' escapades after his defeat at the Battle of Worcester during the Civil Wars remained important to him throughout his life. He took great delight and bored listeners with stories of his escape for many years. Many accounts of his adventures were published, particularly following the Restoration. He seemed to delight most in his ability to sustain his disguise as a man of ordinary origins and to move unrecognised through the land.

He is also well known for his success with the ladies. Charles had no legitimate heirs but acknowledged a dozen by seven mistresses, including five by Barbara Villiers, Lady Castlemaine. His other mistresses included Moll Davis, Nell Gwyn, Elizabeth Killigrew, Catherine Pegge, Lucy Walter and Louise de Kerouaille, Duchess of Portsmouth. During his lifetime he was often nicknamed "Old Rowley", the name of his famous racehorse, a notable stallion.

His subjects disliked having to pay taxes that were then spent on his mistresses and their children, many of whom received dukedoms or earldoms. The present Dukes of Buccleuch, Richmond, Grafton, and St. Albans descend from Charles in unbroken male lines. Diana, Princess of Wales, was descended from two of Charles' illegitimate sons, the Dukes of Grafton (mother Barbara Villiers) and Richmond (Mother Louise de Kerouaille). This eventually leads us to Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, who, as second in line to the throne, is likely to be the first British monarch descended from Charles II.

Shirley Macro

OUT AND ABOUT WITH STROLLERS

Following my last report, many Strollers have been in touch with their news. Here is what they have to report:

We are strolling most days. **A&A**

We still go for short walks when we can. **P&B**

I walk to the river then along the sea wall trying to keep out of the way of other walkers. **MC**

We too are walking most days, apart from when it is very windy. We have a circular route across the footpaths around here, as you say, we are so lucky to have beautiful countryside around us. **M&S**

Been heading through the woods to Forrester Park, the bluebells are a beautiful sight, really lifts the spirits. Quite a few ducks around and spotted what looked like a green parakeet!! Maybe an escapee! **MH**

I'm so lucky to have bluebell woods to walk to in every direction from my home. **CB**

I have been walking most days either down the hill to the golf course along the river or in a couple of woods which are full of bluebells **CP**

I too have been having a daily walk. The weather, of course, has been exceptional and so everywhere looks great. I've really enjoyed seeing everyone's gardens which are immaculate because of the work put into them. I have loved seeing the wonderful bluebells in Shut Heath Wood and South Wood. We may be in lockdown but we are so lucky to have this weather in which to enjoy some of our local surroundings. **JM**

I'm just walking a mile every day round the local fields. Missing you all and looking forward to meeting up again. **LA**

I, too, like to go out walking early for my outdoor exercise. Two months ago I would never have dreamed of stepping out the door at 7.30 am and setting off for an hours' walk in Maldon!! At some stage in my walks I am in the Promenade Park and the park looks wonderful in the early morning sunshine that we have been blessed with, the trees are coming into full leaf and are an intense bright green and the flower beds are really colourful. By the river my Egret sits waiting for food as does the Cormorant on its post on the lake. There are waders in abundance at low tide and yesterday I heard the cuckoo for the first time. Nature continues its cycle, and it seems even more beautiful. I am also cheered by all the people (young and old) that I meet who all say "Good Morning" or "Hello" or "Hi ", or by the red-faced joggers who can only manage a wave as they rush past me. Human contact, even within social distancing limits is so important to one's well-being. **CS**

A walk out to Byrhtnoth in Maldon offers wonderful views of the town; and the river at high tide is so blue as it sparkles in the sunshine. **SC**

Yes a wonderful area to live in. I don't always walk everyday as the garden takes up most of my time, but living near the Prom is a bonus! Look forward to a stroll sometime in the future!! **MB**

I have certainly been taking full advantage of the lovely area in which I now live. I have walked pretty much every day and have completed some quite long walks both coastal and countryside. I eventually found lovely bluebells in Wood Corner Grove and returned home via Curling Tye Lane, Manor Road, Hoe Mill Bridge and back along the river to Beeleigh. **JC** (Limebrook U3A)

We walk our dogs every morning for 2 to 3 miles. Favourites are: Around Maldon golf club via the sea wall and canal. Through the nature reserve at Shut Heath Wood, near Wickham Bishops. Tiptree Heath. Even nicer when the Exmoor ponies arrive next month. Around Forresters golf club, although this will be 'out of bounds' once they start playing again. Elms Farm Park. A nice bit of variety for ourselves and the dogs! **AB**

I have been walking 6 days out of 7 each week for 5 weeks now. I stay where I can walk from home and I am doing about 2.5 miles each time. I walk mainly around the roads of Wickham Bishops. It is wonderful to see some of the beautiful gardens and so many birds around on the quiet back roads. **JC**

Thank you to everyone, and I am sure that there are lots of other U3A members who are enjoying walking in this lovely area. GS

SOME MORE SPRING FLOWERS

We are in the spring 'white' time at present with great swathes of **Hawthorn** (Crataegus monogyna) hanging from the hedges and stands of **Cow Parsley** (Anthriscus sylvestris) along the verges.

Cow Parsley is an umbel, that is, the small flowers are supported on little stalks arranged like the spokes of an umbrella. It has several country names including mother-die and kecks. The story is that your mother will die if you bring it into the house. Keck is another word for vomiting and both these names refer to the somewhat acrid smell of Cow Parsley. ***Did you know:*** the leaves can be eaten, although not once the plant is in flower.

My favourite verge plant is the **Greater Stitchwort** (Stellaria holostea), which forms mats among the grass. It is related to the carnation, although unscented, with each of the 5 petals deeply divided.
Did you know : the country name implies that the plant was used to relieve the pain of a stitch in the side after exercise.

Another that you might see now along verges is one of the twelve or so Wild Garlics. The one pictured, known as **Ramsons** (Allium ursinum), has a pronounced triangular stalk with bunches of bell-like flowers clustered at the top. The smell of all of them is distinctive and they were used in cooking. Our much larger onion and kitchen garlic, along with the several Alliums that have been cultivated for their colourful globular heads in the garden, are all close relatives.

Veronica Smith

BIRD QUIZ **Name the bird species** *from Gordon Davies*

All the photos were taken in Maldon. The first three are from last winter, the remainder from the end of April.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

Answers next month

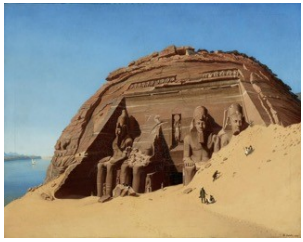
Visit to Lake Nasser in Egypt and to see the resituated artifacts after the flooding.

Sue Robinson Egyptology

Part 2 *Visit to the resituated sites*

Our aim was to visit the resituated sites - Kalabsha, Valley of the Lions, Amanda and Wadi-al Sebua, each ticket representing three Temples. All very individual, each touched in some way by the great Pharaoh Ramses II, who during his sixty-seven-year reign commissioned half the temple complexes still preserved and visited today. His name appears on almost all archaeological sites, his most important legacies at Karnak, Luxor, Ramusseum, Abydos and Abu Simbel.

Lake Nasser almost feels like being at sea without the waves, the horizon is vast, the sunrise and sunsets spectacular and the living is easy on our Dyhabia "Sai"- wonderful crew, proud to be Nubian, not Egyptian.



The icing on the cake is arriving at Abu Simbel, first glimpse thirty miles from the site. The rock temples at Abu Simbel are undoubtably among the most magnificent in Egypt and are directly on the shores of the lake, the gigantic figures on the temple facades look down upon blue water and the desert beyond.
Originally both temples were situated at the Second Nile Cataract, however left there they would have been submerged under the waters of the lake after the construction of the High Dam.
In 1964 these important temples were moved to their present site in a spectacular rescue project funded by various nations and UNESCO. Both temples were built in the reign of Ramses II to celebrate the 30th anniversary of his accession.

The large temple was dedicated to Amun-Ra of Thebes and Ra-Horakhty of Heliopolis - the chief deities of Upper and Lower Egypt. The smaller Northern temple was for the goddess Hathor, personified by the favourite wife of the great Ramses, the deified Queen Nefertari.

The grandeur of the larger temple has an atmosphere of power, propaganda exemplified in the wall carvings showing Ramses leading war campaigns and smiting his enemies, whilst the smaller temple shows Nefertari as the beautiful goddess Hathor.

There is still speculation as to the location and elaborate design chosen by Ramses, it is thought that there were cave temples here since very early times, cave worship was practiced throughout Nubia.
With the creation of his own temples Rameses took the decisive step to making the king equal to the gods, simultaneously demonstrating his claim to power over Nubia, its gold and copper deposits. Furthermore, the treasure chambers and storerooms, driven deeply into the mountain were an excellent place to store the ruler's riches acquired as tribute or by war.

Over thousands of years armies, merchants, caravans, and travellers passed by the temples leaving graffiti carved into the rock and upon the statues. In time the temples were forgotten, covered in huge dunes of sand, and remained undisturbed until the nineteenth century. On March 22nd 1813, the Swiss traveller Jean Louis Burkhardt discovered the heads of the Ramses colossi protruding from sand drifts but was unable to identify the figures and had no way of entering the interiors of the temples.
It was only in 1817 when the Italian strong man and water engineer Giamattista Belzoni began a systematic excavation of Egyptian tombs and temples that Abu Simbel was properly discovered.

As a footnote and example of both ancient and modern engineering here is an awe-inspiring fact that encapsulates the wonder of Abu Simbel:

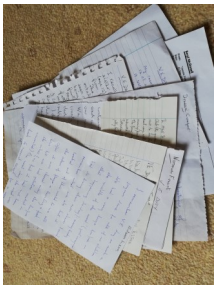
The temple axis is orientated to the east in such a manner that twice yearly on February 20th and October 20th, (one of those dates was Ramses coronation day) the figures in the sanctuary were directly illuminated by the rising sun.

This constantly recurring event was undoubtedly the object of worship and is a magnificent sight to see to this today. Since the temple was moved the dates have changed to February 21 and October 21st. Witnessing this on two occasions has been a great and awe-inspiring privilege.

It was a great trip, many miles travelled by train, boat and mini bus, touched by the hospitality and sense of humour of the Nubians we met, the care shown to us by our crew, drivers, chef, and porters who coped with vast amounts of luggage which on reflection was so much more than we needed, and of course the camaraderie, laughter and mutual support of our friends on board the Sai boat.

Memories of VE Day 1945

Collected by
Beryl McDonell



Pat Jones Wormingford Essex

We lived down a quiet lane in a tiny village, so we celebrated at home. My mum, brother John, my friend Sylvia, and her sister Joan, also two friends of my mother who were staying with us at the time, auntie Ede, who was always great fun and auntie Alice. My dad, who was chairman of the local branch of the British Legion wasn't there, (possibly celebrating at the village pub!). Auntie Ede organised us to sing and dance while she played the piano. We also played musical chairs. Afternoon tea consisted mainly of sardine sandwiches, which were a real treat and auntie Ede had made some ice cream. What a feast! Us kids also had the day off school. I think it was a national holiday. So, I just remember a very happy day.

Eileen Leen

I remember VE Day as such a joyous time for all us children. We had a very large bonfire in the middle of the road! (just imagine that happening today). Everybody had to bring their own chairs. I can't remember what we ate but it looked out of this world to me, all the colour of flags and bunting and food. After it was cleared away the bonfire was lit, we had potatoes cooked in the ashes (no foil, it had not been invented). The next day the road was back to normal except for a very black hole in the middle of our road.

Norma Forest

I was lucky enough to have spent VE Day in London. A small group of us from our North London suburb got the underground from Manor House Station to Leicester Square. Everywhere was very crowded as was expected, with very, very happy people having a great time celebrating the end of the war. The atmosphere was fantastic, singing, dancing, and laughing everywhere. I remember we joined the end of a snake line and danced the conga that was weaving its way between the crowds. You really had to hang onto the person in front of you for fear of coming adrift.

We never stopped laughing. When we decided we should head for home we found that all the public transport had stopped for the night, so we started to walk, we hoped in the right direction. Once out of central London it was easier. All the streetlights had been turned on so we could see where we were going and there were people still celebrating everywhere inviting us to join in. So happy and friendly and thankful the war was over.

Edna Hutchinson

In 1945 I was a 13-year-old, living in York, and a member of the Honesty Girls' Club (the garden plant, nothing to do with truthfulness!). May 8th was our annual visit to the leader's garden, across the river by ferryboat. The fare was a halfpenny each way, well worth it, as it was almost a mile to our nearest crossing point.

The ferryboat man could talk about nothing except the end of the war. We were more interested in tea in the garden. Saturday 12th May was also dominated by tea – a wonderful street party with cakes and jelly, best frocks and party hats and someone playing the piano for us to sing.

A School Memory Beryl McDonell

I remember we had the day off school, but when we returned, we had a 'Special' Assembly, followed by a VE Day party!! We were given a cake box containing a sandwich, a scone, and a cake and of course our usual bottle of milk. We were not dressed in party clothes, but we girls did wear red, white, and blue ribbons in our hair. I do not know what the boys did, as our primary school had two departments Girls and Boys – and never did the twain meet!!

Doreen Cooper

My memory of the celebrations of VE Day was off a wonderful party my Dad organised. We lived in a Close consisting of twelve houses. There were about a dozen children who lived there, including my brother and me. Children from the local area were also included and there were quite a few of us.

I was six years old and remember we had fancy dress and I was Red Riding Hood wearing a lovely white dress which was made from my Mum's satin wedding dress, over this I wore a red cloak and carried a little basket of goodies. My brother was dressed as a cowboy in a check shirt and hat that my auntie wore in the Land Army.
We had a variety of sports after that, consisting of races, tug of war and high jumping. My Dad being a good carpenter made the high jump frame.

Afterwards we had tea sitting at long tables with our parents. Sandwiches, jelly, and cake that was all provided by neighbours. This all took place in our local park, which was about five minutes from where we lived.
A great day was had by all.

Masie Speller

My recollection of VE Day 1945 is of a street party. A very, very long table laden with lots of sandwiches, cakes, and drinks; you had to take your own chair. I cannot recall any events after the "tea". A piano was brought out and there was singing and dancing.

Alan Brand

I recall my father took my sister (age 14) and myself (age 12) to London by train from Walthamstow East London. The crowds in London were unbelievable like I have not seen since. Young children were being passed overhead, and fainting was commonplace.

My sister got separated from my father and myself and she made her own way home. I recall a stick, like a broom handle had gone through the roof of a car, I think from a firework. I think we were near Buckingham Palace.

We also had street parties. Ours was next to Wadham Bridge (North Circular Road), Highams Park (flats there now). I won two events, one for "Best Decorated Bicycle" and the other for "Blindfold Boxing". I received two books as prizes, which I still have.

John Wileman

I was 7 years old on that day and have only faint memories of the time.
I lived in an area of West London that was badly hit during the air raids with bomb damage all around us.

I do remember however the large street party that was organised. Of course, there were flags and bunting everywhere. I remember a party hat, made from newspaper.

There was also a huge bonfire in the street. A guy like figure of Hitler was paraded around before being burned on the fire.

On a personal note I think we should celebrate the war in Europe being over rather than victory. The German people are now our friends and allies.

Annette Porte War time Memories

Well, being in New Zealand at the time, luckily for me, I do not have many memories of that time, being only 4 when it started!

But some things I do remember, searchlights splaying out across the sky!!
Sitting on the front steps, waving to my Daddy, going off in his home guard uniform!!

And the big cardboard carton, which sat on the kitchen bench into this we put:

A huge tin of powdered milk.
A huge tin of golden syrup.
A huge box of oatmeal.
A huge bag or box of sugar.
A huge tin of prunes.

And many other things, which I now can't remember!?
As soon as it was full, it was all wrapped up and sent to my grandma in England, for her, my two aunties, and my four cousins.
I think she lived with one of the aunts, I'm not sure where or how it was used on arrival in England.

But those are my two everlasting memories of the war!!!

After the war my greatest memories are of attending the ANZAC memorial dawn service at the Cenotaph on top of the hill, with my Dad. Old soldiers marched up the hill first, and you could hear their boots clomping all the way up through the trees. Then there was a service, and wreaths were laid! But to me there was a perfectly magical moment. From there we could see across Auckland, and the harbour, to Rangitoto Island, and every year without fail. God made the sun break over Rangitoto, just as the pipers played The Last Post. I thought God was so clever to make it break just at that moment!

Terry Johnson

This is my contribution to the VE Day stories of the war.
I was four and with mum and dad in the indoor shelter in Redbridge. I could see the searchlights scouring the sky when suddenly a sheet of flame like a meteorite lit up the. sky. It was in fact a Junkers 88, it crashed not far away. Mum and dad rushed out of the house to see the outcome. The next morning, as usual, I went to call on my friend Tony Murray. His house had been the victim and was demolished by the bomber killing Tony, his sister Nina, and their Mum. Their dad was in the Navy.

The smell of burning has stayed with me after all these years. Their dad was sent home on compassionate leave. He must have been totally devastated.
There we are. A sad, sad story.

Note library pictures supplied by the editor

TEN THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT CUTTY SARK

1. What is the ***Cutty Sark*****?** *Cutty Sark* is the world's only surviving extreme clipper. Most of the hull fabric you see today dates back to its original construction. Clipper ships are marked by three design characteristics - a long, narrow hull, a sharp bow which cuts through the waves rather riding atop - and three raking masts.

2. How old is the ***Cutty Sark*****?** *Cutty Sark* is 150 years old. During its years as a British merchant ship, *Cutty Sark* visited sixteen different countries and travelled the equivalent of two and a half voyages to the moon and back.

3. What does ***Cutty Sark*** mean? *Cutty Sark* takes its name from a poem by Robert Burns called *Tam O'Shanter*. It refers to a short nightie worn by one of the main characters in the poem, a young, attractive witch called Nannie.

4. When was ***Cutty Sark*** built? Launched on 22 November 1869 in Dumbarton, Scotland, it embarked on its maiden voyage from London to Shanghai on 16 February 1870. On its first voyage, *Cutty Sark* carried 'large amounts of wine, spirits and beer', and came back from Shanghai loaded with 1.3 million pounds of tea.

Cutty Sark was built to last for just thirty years but served as a working ship for fifty -two years, a training ship for twenty-two years and has been open to visitors in Maritime Greenwich for sixty years.

5. Why was ***Cutty Sark*** built? *Cutty Sark* was built for the China tea trade but would carry a vast array of cargoes during its career. *Cutty Sark* carried almost 10 million lbs of tea between 1870 and 1877.

The opening of the Suez Canal marked the end for sailing ships in the tea trade and so *Cutty Sark* had to find new employ. It transported a variety of cargoes, including over 10,000 tons of coal, before finding its calling in the Australian wool trade. It would transport more than 45,000 bales in its career.

6. What is ***Cutty Sark*** famous for? *Cutty Sark* represents the pinnacle of clipper ship design and was one of the fastest ships of its day. Aged 14 years, *Cutty Sark* started recording remarkably fast passage times, under her Master Richard Woodget, and became the dominant ship in bringing wool from Australia to England.

Cutty Sark has survived heavy seas, war, neglect, obsolescence, fire, and old age to be here in Greenwich.

7. How many people served on the ***Cutty Sark*****?** 653 men served on it as a British ship. The majority of those who served on it did so only once, signing up for a round voyage from London and back again. They ranged in age from a fourteen-year-old apprentice to a fifty-six-year-old sail maker. They came from more than thirty different countries around the world.

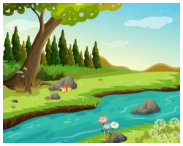
8. What damage did the ***Cutty Sark*** sustain? *Cutty Sark* survived storms which ripped its rudder off on two occasions, survived a dismasting in the First World War and a terrible fire in 2007. In the year before the fire, the majority of *Cutty Sark*'s original fabric had been removed. This meant that, while devastating, the fire was nowhere near as destructive as it could have been. Over 90% of the ship's hull structure is original to 1869.

9. What was her name changed to? ***Cutty Sark*****'s** ageing owner, John 'Jock' Willis sold off his fleet to a Portuguese firm in 1895 and was renamed *Ferreira*. It served as *Ferreira* for twenty-seven years and then, following another exchange of ownership, as *Maria do Amparo* for a number of months.

10. Did you know? ***Cutty Sark*** is home to the world's biggest collection of figure-heads – the carved wooden figures that adorn ships' prows – thanks to a bequest by an eccentric maritime history lover.

Information from the National Maritime Museum **www.rmg.co.uk/cutty-sark**

RIVER QUIZ Answers By Malcolm Case



- World's Longest river – The Nile at 4160 miles
- Worlds widest river – The Amazon at 6.8 miles
- Where is the Irrawaddy river – Myanmar (was Burma) at 1373 miles long
- River Nile – is 6650 km long
- African country to meet tribes who live alongside the Omo river – Ethiopia
- The river Tigris runs through – Iraq, Turkey and Syria
- Australia's longest river – The Murray
- The Mississippi does not run through or borders – Georgia
- Lake Titicaca, which river flows out of the lake – The Desaguadero, Bolivia
- Europe's longest river – The Volga at 2294 miles
- How many European countries does the Danube run through – 10 (Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova, Ukraine)
- Dnieper river runs through – Russia, Ukraine and Belarus and is 1420 miles long
- UK's longest river – The Severn at 220 miles (The Thames is 215 miles, the Mersey 70 miles, the Trent 185 miles)
- Several countries do not have rivers, which of those on the list do – Morocco (which has several rivers)

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 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

Website https://www.u3a.org.uk/

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

Deadline for next newsletter: to be advised, just send contributions

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
Wine Circle No. 2 Wine Circle No. 3 Wine Circle No. 4	Graham Boswell Mary Burd Paul Costa Ann Goody
Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth

From the Editor

Many thanks for all the contributions for this newsletter. I have saved some articles over for next month, but please keep them coming.
I am pleased to hear from you with any suggestions, articles, useful tips.

Liz Samson

Some useful contacts

U3A newsletter express **www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter**

Latest U3A News **www.u3a.org.uk/**

Contacts from Maldon Council

www.maldon.gov.uk/homepage/7040/coronavirus_covid-19

U3A Covid advice links

www.u3a.org.uk/covid-advice-links

www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/

CORONAVIRUS: WHO CAN YOU EXPECT CALLS FROM

We are aware that residents are being contacted by an array of support services and organisations. Therefore, we are providing guidance on phone numbers which are not fraudulent and are there to provide genuine support. These are the numbers that we are aware of, there will be other genuine numbers that are available and we will update this list as soon as we are aware.

YOU CAN EXPECT CALLS FROM

1. 0333 305 0466 - **NATIONAL SHIELDING HELPLINE**
   What is it? While you are at home 'shielding' a government support service may contact you by letter, email or telephone. This team is contacting you to understand your food and wellbeing support needs and will always identify themselves with their name and as a representative of the National Shielding Helpline.
2. **PHONE NUMBER ENDING** 1116, 5737, 6268, 2675 2795 **OR** 4497 - **LOCAL MALDON DISTRICT COMMUNITY SUPPORT CHECK**
   What is it? Colleagues from Maldon and District Community Voluntary Service will be calling extremely vulnerable individuals to understand if they require any additional support.
3. **NHS/ MID ESSEX CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP**
   What is it? You may receive a phone call from your local practice, the CCG or any provider that you are registered with to ensure that they have the most up to date clinical information in order to provide any necessary support.
4. **ESSEX WELFARE SERVICE**
   What is it? If you have recently been discharged from hospital you may receive a phone call from Essex Welfare Service within 3 working days of your discharge. This call is to ask how you are and see if you have everything you need.

MALDON COMMUNITY CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE
01621 851997
8am - 8pm, 7 days a week

MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Silver Line

The Silver Line is the only free confidential helpline providing information, friendship and advice to older people, open 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

0800 4 70 80 90 **www.thesilverline.org.uk**