



The University of the Third Age

MALDON AND DISTRICT

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
2 Whist	3 Table Tennis	4 Ten Pin Bowling Wine group 1	5 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Scottish Country Dancing Discussion Group Rummikub 2 Poetry	6 Mah Jong Sing for Pleasure Canasta	7 Bird Watching Hanning- field Reservoir	8
9 Maritime Holiday 5 day trip to Nth Wales Whist	10 Table Tennis Egyptology	11 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Luncheon Group	12 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Croquet Rummikub 1 Reading French Conversion History—Tudor	13	14	15 Strollers
16 Meeting 1.30 pm Just Jazz	17 Table Tennis	18 Ten Pin Bowling Luncheon Group	19 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Scottish Country Dancing	20 Mah Jong Sing for Pleasure Canasta	21	22
23 Astronomy Local History Whist	24 Table Tennis Wine group 4 Strollers Too	25 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Wine group 2 Writing for Fun	26 Ten Pin Bowling Petanque Croquet Wine group 3 Music Appreciation French Conversation	27 Cribbage Macmillan Coffee Morning	28	29
30 Whist						

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



Summer Holidays

August 2019

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

Web Site: www.maldon3a.co.uk

FROM THE CHAIR



Hello Everyone

After such a hot and humid few days, I must say it's a relief to start feeling a bit more comfortable as far as the weather's concerned.

I went along to the Summer Buffet organised by the Social Group and, as always when organising any event, the weather played its part.

Usually, the comment is that it would have been lovely to be outside but typically it's raining. However, this time it was – it would be lovely to be outside but it's too hot! Luckily for us the venue had air conditioning, so we stayed inside in the cool for a very enjoyable afternoon's entertainment by "Kind of Blue" and a lovely buffet. Well done and thank you to the Social Group.

At last month's members' meeting we had a very interesting speaker, who seemed to really engage with the audience and certainly generated a lot of interest if the number of questions asked was anything to go by. However, we do really need someone to take on the job of Speaker Secretary in order to keep the meetings going in the future. If you think you would like to take on this role, please contact me.

We are also looking for a new Treasurer to take over from Graham Webster at the next AGM. Without a Treasurer, we will not be able to continue to run so it is important that we start now looking for his replacement. If we can find a replacement for Graham quickly, this does allow time for a smooth handover. Please, if you feel you can take on this role get in touch with either myself or Graham, who will give you more information about the role.

Thanks for your support.

Shirley Macro

CO-ORDINATORS

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

Your Committee

Chairman	Shirley Macro
Vice Chairman	Malcolm Case
Secretary	Judith Johnston
Treasurer	Graham Webster
Membership Secretary	Malcolm Case
Newsletter Editor	Jan Robertson
N/L Apprentice	Liz Samson
Committee	Andrew Simmonds Alec Fraser Penelope McAvoy
Web Master	John Bowen Tony Groves
Social Group	Michael Childs
AV Equipment	Mike Flack
Essex Assoc. of U3A's Committee	Malcolm Case

NATIONAL OFFICE

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Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 6th September

ASTRONOMY GROUP

There will not be a meeting of the group in August – Bank Holiday – the next meeting of the group will be on **Monday 23rd September**.

Full details about this meeting will be in the September Newsletter.

Astronomy Group programme for the remainder of 2019

September 23rd, talk by Jon Howorth on Cosmic Ray Telescopes.

October 28th, Astronomy Quiz.

November 25th, weather permitting , then Night Sky Observing.

December - No meeting.

Malcolm Case

EGYPTOLOGY

The next Egyptology Group meeting will be on

Tuesday September 10th from 2-4pm.

Kathy Goff

UKULELE PLAYERS

Looking for like-minded ukulele players who would be happy to come together weekly, preferably during the day to jam together. I am still a novice but would enjoy improving my playing with fellow ukulele lovers. Look forward to hearing from anyone who would be interested.

Jenny Plumb

SUNDAY STROLLERS

Our next walk will be on **Sunday 15th September**. Please meet at The Swan, Rayne, CM77 6RQ at 10.15 am for a 10.30 start. The walk is approximately 3 miles long, fairly level and mostly off-road, including a small part of the Flitch Way, no stiles.

Please let me know by **Friday 6th September** if you will be joining us and if you will be requiring lunch, which we need to pre-order before walking. Sometimes, for reasons beyond our control, the venue of a walk or lunch has to be changed after being advertised in this newsletter, so please be sure I have your contact details in case of last minute changes.

Christine Bishop

BEETLE DRIVE with PLOUGHMANS SUPPER

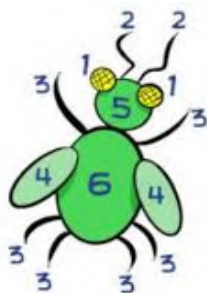
FRIDAY 11th OCTOBER 2019

AT PLANTATION HALL, HEYBRIDGE

TIME 6.30 FOR 7.00 TILL 10.00

TICKET PRICE £6, ON SALE at AUGUST MAIN MEETING

CONTACT ROSEMARY CASE –



Bob and Grahams Big Balti Night.
Monday 14th October 7:00 for 7:30pm.

At Balti Bhujon 24 Mill Rd Maldon.

Please contact

Graham Evans 01621 742524 or

Bob Gowers 01621815482 for details.



SAFE PERSONAL ALARMS

The police are recommending that we should all carry one when out and about. Look on line to purchase. They cost about £9 for three.



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Following on from our successful '**Kind of Blue**' afternoon with buffet on the 25th July, the band wanted to let people know of other dates in case some might like to see them perform again - certainly some from the Jazz Group might be keen.

The venue is the same place which is  
The Bell Pub at Woodham Ferrers.

Dates are as follows:

September 2nd, October 28th, November 25th, & December 8th

No admission cost. Full details later.

Ian Stevens

**Just Jazz**

Just Jazz Group will start again on **Monday 16th September** at 7.30pm in the Maldon Little Ship Club.

All being well there will be a Bar and a Film.

Jim Light (co-ordinator)

**LUNCHEON CLUB VENUE**

Times 12.30 to 2.00 p m

**WEDNESDAY 18th September at Bella's Italian Bistro, Burnham**

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.

## Croquet

I have recently been reading about the history of croquet and was quite surprised to learn that it was once a very popular sport. Some believe that it developed from the French game of Pall Mall but arguments link Pall Mall more to golf than croquet. What is known is that the game travelled from Ireland to England around 1851. A Miss MacNaghten observed French peasants playing a game with hoops made of willow rods and mallets of broomsticks inserted into pieces of wood and introduced it into Ireland. The first comprehensive code of laws was published in 1864 by John Jacques. At first, croquet was most popular among women. It was a new experience for them to play a game outdoors in the company of men. Early games of croquet were carefully chaperoned. Tight croquet, which is the practice of putting a foot on the ball and sending the opponent far away into the bushes, allowed the young men to go into the bushes with the young women to search for the ball. The game's popularity grew in the 1860s where garden parties began to be called croquet parties.

1868 saw the formation of the All England Croquet Club with the purpose of creating an official body to control the game and unify the laws. They needed to find a ground and in 1869 leased four acres in Wimbledon. In 1874 there was a decline in the game among women who felt it had become too scientific. Also in that year, a game was patented called Sphairistrike, soon to be known as lawn tennis. In 1875, one lawn at the club was set aside for lawn tennis. In April 1877, the club changed its name to the All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club and in July 1877 the first lawn tennis championship was held at Wimbledon. Croquet began to decline as tennis grew and proved itself to be a money maker. In 1882, croquet was deleted from the club title. However, followed a resurgence in popularity, in 1899 the name was restyled again to the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, which it remains today. This was not at the present site but another which remained the headquarters until 1922. It could be argued that tennis would have never become popular if it hadn't been for croquet and its lawns.

Despite the challenges of the weather at times, too much rain or too hot, we have managed to get some good sessions of croquet in. If you would like to join us, we meet on the second and fourth Thursday afternoons, starting at 2pm, at Forrester Park Golf Club, Great Totham. There is a small fee to pay for the hire of equipment and lawns from Maldon Croquet Club and closed-in shoes should be worn – those balls and mallets are hard!

Our next date to meet is the **22nd August**.

Please contact either Jean Healey on 01621 334371 or Shirley Macro 01621 854856.



Wednesday Lunch Club enjoying an afternoon of croquet following their lunch with Maldon Croquet Club members at Forrester Park.



## “Kind of Blue” Afternoon Summer Buffet

On the hottest day ever recorded in the UK, we enjoyed a splendid afternoon's entertainment in Woodham Ferrers.

We all sheltered in the cool of the air conditioned Bell pub away from the searing 100 degree heat outside, and were fed and watered whilst listening to 'Kind Of Blue' quartet and their singer playing relaxing jazz. Congratulations to the Social Group for organising yet another successful and enjoyable event.

Andy



## 2019 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

|              |                                        |
|--------------|----------------------------------------|
| 9/13 Sept    | 5 days holiday to North Wales—Maritime |
| 11th Oct     | Beetle Drive, Plantation Hall          |
| Fri. Nov. 29 | Film Show with Afternoon Tea           |

Further details of the above events are available from your Co-ordinator or in the Newsletter.

### ***Tree Recognition***

It is very pleasant wandering through woodland at this time of year, when the trees are in full leaf and have the developing fruits on them, making identification easy. The group (theoretically) can now recognise 25 trees and we have started on the conifers.

Veronica Smith

### **Strollers Too - Tuesday 24 September 2019 – Stow Maries**

This is a 4 mile circular walk around the villages of Stow Maries and Cold Norton on paths, bridleways and some minor roads. It is easy walking and there are no stiles. We will meet in the car park at The Prince of Wales, Woodham Road, Stow Maries, CM3 6SA at 10.15 for 10.30 start. Lunch must be pre-ordered at the pub on the day. Please let me know if you are coming on the walk and whether you want lunch no later than **Monday 16 September** when I have to confirm lunch numbers.

Sometimes, for reasons beyond our control, the venue of a walk or lunch has to be changed after being advertised in this magazine. If you don't tell me you are coming I cannot advise you of any last minute changes.  
Alan Clarke

### **FOR SALE**

A Flymo Ventura 32, electric mower, hardly used. I have now found a gardener who brings his own mower. £45 please.  
Jan Robertson



I have a very nice copy of 'A Guide to the Birds of Essex' by Simon Cox, illustrated fully and with a huge number of facts and maps. Yours for £5.00 only which will go to charity.  
Veronica Smith

### ***FAMILY HISTORY BEGINNERS***

The next meeting will be held on **Friday 30th August** commencing 10.00 am at 58 Augustine Way CM3 4ET. Please let me know if you wish to attend or not.  
Alan-buck

### ***LOCAL HISTORY***

There is NO MEETING of the Local History Group for **August 26th** as it is a Bank Holiday.

The next meeting should be on **Monday September 23rd** for our proposed trip to Suffolk. However, we still have insufficient numbers to make the trip viable, so unless this changes by the time of the Main Meeting on **Monday August 19th** we may be forced to cancel.

The next meeting at the Town Hall at 2pm will be on **Monday October 28th**.

# Macmillan Cancer Support

Please come and join me for my annual get together for the above cause.

**Friday 27 September**

from 10 am to 12 noon  
at 11 Beaumont Way Maldon.

Mary Burd

## SPEAKER SECRETARY

We urgently need a Speaker Secretary as Veronica Smith has retired after a most excellent three years of service. She has booked speakers up to the end of this year, but from January 2020 we have nobody booked.

**PLEASE SOMEONE COME FORWARD AND VOLUNTEER TO TAKE ON THIS MOST IMPORTANT TASK.**

David Williams is an historian specialising in the history of various topics

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. . . . .
.   Monday, 16th September Meeting   .
. Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm .
.                                     .
.                               Speaker .
.                               David Williams .
.   "Pounds, Shillings and Poverty" .
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. . . . .

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## Crop Circle Mystery

I must confess that this subject did not arouse in me too much interest but Andy Thomas's talk kept me spellbound with its both factual and mystical information.

And this, I thought, is what our monthly talks are all about—you just never know what you will be presented with.

21 years of talks have been arranged by our Speaker Secretaries and they all deserve our thanks. It is not an easy job for us for as the old saying goes 'you cannot please all the people all the time etc.' but our monthly meetings would not be same without them.

Beryl McDonell

## Treasurer

At the AGM on 17/06/2019, I was elected Treasurer of Maldon and District U3A for a 3-year term. But prior to my election, I had made it clear that it was my intention to serve for just the first year of this term.

To try to ensure a smooth transition following my departure, it might be prudent to start searching for a willing successor.

The early identification of such a person gives a good opportunity to shadow the Treasurer's transactional work, as well as to oversee important but less frequent activities such as Bank Account reconciliations, returns to the Charities Commission, Gift Aid claims to HMRC, and preparing the annual Receipts and Payments Account and the Balance Sheet.

Graham Webster

## Tudor History Group

We have just brought to an end this period in our island's history by visiting Oxbrough Hall in Norfolk. It is a stunning manor house built by Sir Edward Bedingfield in 1482 but which also leads us into Stuart Times which we will start looking at in September.

As we shuttled about this period we came to the conclusion that many of us do not know or perhaps not remember much about the 1600 except perhaps for the Gun Powder Plot and the Great Fire of London.

If you would like to join us as we delve into the 17th Century, then do come along on the **2nd Thursday of the month** from 10 am to 12 noon at the West Maldon Community Centre starting on the **12th September**.

We are often asked how we research our past. The answer being through books, historical magazines and, of course, instantaneously on our iPads and phones.

Beryl McDonell



Oxbrough Hall

## A Brief History on the Maritime Group

The group started in October 2001 with the first meeting being in my house, about 12 members attended. We discussed details on what the group hoped to achieve, decided on a format, day of the week and time. – always the first Monday in the month at 10:00am. The group was initially called the Maritime History Group.

Following the first meeting, our subsequent meetings were in the river bailiffs' rooms on The Hythe in Maldon. However, as numbers increased we had to find an alternative venue. After some discussion it was agreed to meet at The Maldon Little Ship Club on The Hythe.

Here we had many interesting talks on a wide variety of subjects and during one meeting, we decided to re-name the group as The Maritime Group.

At this venue, apart from talks, we also had the first Maritime dinner to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar with a guest speaker and some 60 members, all in period costume. The group's second dinner was based on the theme of "The Mary Rose". One of our members was the Guest speaker, and some 70 members all of whom came dressed in period costume.

In 2004 we also started Maritime themed holidays with the first one being to the south coast. Since then we have had a further thirteen such holidays, some to Scandinavia and also to Belgium. One holiday took us to Liverpool to see the "Three Queens" which were all in the port at the same time.

As numbers attending meetings increased, we moved to The Blackwater Sailing Club. Here we continued to have interesting speakers talking on various Maritime subjects; one talk was given by the Chief Officer of the "Canberra" during the Falklands conflict, another talk was on sailing the world by only using cargo ships. We also had a talk on the re-rigging of the Cutty Sark after the fire.

As a group we continued to have Maritime dinners, with a further three being held at The Blackwater Sailing Club. All of dinners were always well attended with members coming dressed for the occasion.

Our Maritime themed holiday for this year is to North Wales.

Since the group started we have had 180 meetings, five dinners and, including this year, fifteen Maritime holidays.

Malcolm Case