



The University of the Third Age

# MALDON AND DISTRICT

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Knit a Teddy for the children in  
Broomfield Hospital Children's Ward  
See page 8

FEBRUARY 2019

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

*FROM THE CHAIR*



Hello again U3A Members

Welcome to our February Newsletter and as usual Jan Robertson our Editor has been working hard to compile this month's edition. You will see from her note on the opposite page that she is looking for help - we have one volunteer but this will need to be shared with another to cover holidays.

We will also be looking for two or three new committee members to take up vacant positions as from the AGM in June. This includes a Speaker Secretary to replace Veronica who has done such a fantastic job in selecting and booking not only speakers but entertainers also. We will also need a new AV person to replace Ken Cooper who has covered all our sound and vision requirements so well. We are thinking that as a non-committee position this also could be shared - if you feel this might be too technical do not worry as training will be given! See me or any of the Committee if you are interested in any of these positions.

U3A has reminded us that as a Charitable organisation we have to operate within a legal framework- Shirley and Malcolm recently attended a Seminar called "Keeping it Legal" and as a result we have a set of procedures available on file in case of need. If you are interested ask our Secretary, Judith Johnston or Membership Secretary, Malcolm Case.

Finally, getting back to the AGM- as mentioned this is our 21st Birthday so we are not going to miss the opportunity to make a party of it! Further details will be announced shortly

Alec Fraser, Vice Chairman

## ***Newsletter Editor***

I have been the Editor from the very early days of 1998 and have enjoyed every month producing this newsletter. It has kept me in touch with the members and all the activities.

I have always used the Microsoft Publisher programme which is very versatile and enabled me to be creative.

Unfortunately age is catching up with me and we need to find some other like minded computer buffs who would love to have a go once a month.

The Co-ordinators send in their news and I do not have to write anything. Full training will be available.

Please contact me—Jan Robertson if you are interested in having a go, I can assure you it is great fun.

Jan Robertson

### ***LOCAL HISTORY***

The next meeting of the Local History Group will be on

**Monday February 25th**

Our speaker is the well known local historian, Stephen Nunn, who will give his controversial take on the Battle of Maldon 991.

Whether you are new to the area or have been in Maldon long enough to recall the re-enactment in 1991, do come along to listen to his talk and contribute to what could be a lively debate afterwards.

All members are welcome.

Kathy, Jane and Sylvia

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

The next meeting will be held on **Friday 22nd February** at

58 Augustine Way, Bicknacre, CM3 4ET and will commence at

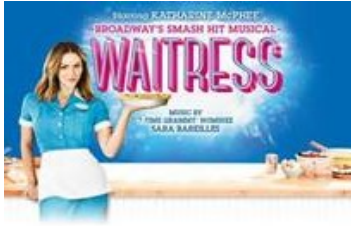
10 am. If you wish to attend please let me know by e-mail

alan-buck@talktalk.net or telephone

Alan Buck

## London Theatre Outing

Our next outing is to see



at the  
**Adelphi Theatre**  
on  
**Thursday, 13th June**  
at 7.30 pm

Tickets are £54.00 each which includes the coach. The coach will leave Tesco's at 3.00 pm with a pickup in Danbury.

If you wish to go please contact me by email: [rosemarycase@talktalk.net](mailto:rosemarycase@talktalk.net) or by phone

as soon as possible.

If you wish to be picked up in Danbury please let me know. I will acknowledge receipt of your email and give you my postal address so that you can send me a cheque payable to "Maldon & District U3A" for £54.00 per ticket.

Car registration numbers will be collected nearer the time.

Rosemary Case

### ***ASTRONOMY GROUP***

All meetings held at Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge. CM9 4RE starting at 7:30 pm.

The next meeting of the group will be on **Monday 25th February** when Mike Childs will be giving a talk on the stars and planets to be found in the star sign Pisces. Our March meeting will be a visit to Bayfordbury Observatory, date to be advised. There will be no meetings in April or May, all bank holidays. The June meeting will be an Astronomy Quiz. Any U3A member is very welcome to join the group.

Malcolm Case 0

## 2019 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Thurs. Feb 28  | Posh Frocks Do at The Bull, Gt. Totham  |
| Tues. Mar. 26  | Concert—Waltham Singers with Salomon Orchestra<br>at Saffron Hall, Saffron Walden |
| Mond. Apl. 8   | Balti Night   |
| Wed. Apl. 10   | Staying Healthy— WMCC   |
| Mond. Apl 29   | Visit to London’s Postal Museum—Local History                                     |
| Tues. Apl. 30  | Essex Police Choir Concert, United Reformed Church                                |
| Tues. May 21   | Visit to Chelsea Flower Show  |
| Thurs. June 6  | Essex U3A Quiz  |
| Thurs. June 13 | Theatre outing to “Waitress” at the Adelphi Theatre                               |
| Mond. July 1   | Bawdsey Radar Museum - Maritime   |
| Thurs. July 25 | Afternoon Buffet with Entertainment by “Kind of Blue”                             |
| Mond. Aug. 5   | Tour the Sussex Seaside—Maritime  |
| 9/13 Sept      | 5 days holiday to North Wales—Maritime  |
| Fri. Nov. 29   | Film Show with Afternoon Tea  |

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

### Visit to Chelsea Flower Show—21st May 2019

Please do not forget to let me know if you would like to be included in this visit to the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

We are going on Members Day, when hopefully it will not be too crowded, but of course you **MUST** be a member of the RHS to be admitted.

Veronica Smith

### ***TREE RECOGNITION GROUP***

Our first meeting for this year will be on **19th February** at 10.00 am at my house. Please email me if you would like to be included and have not yet given me your details.

Veronica Smith vjsmith8696@gmail.com

## ***SUNDAY STROLLERS***

Will be on **Sunday 17th March**, meeting at 10:15 am for a 10:30 am start. This is a 4.5 mile walk starting in Steeple and taking in some parts of the St Peter's Way; the walk follows Blackwater Estuary sea wall anti clockwise until we return to Steeple. There are great views of Osea Island, and the intertidal salt marsh and mud flats provide habitat for various birds. It is reasonably easy walking and there are three stiles.

We will meet in the car park of The Star pub. Lunch will be arranged at The Star. Please let me know no later than **Friday 8th March** if you are coming on the walk and if you want lunch.

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.

Malcolm Case Email [malcolmcase@talktalk.net](mailto:malcolmcase@talktalk.net)

## ***STROLLERS TOO***

**Tuesday 26 March 2019** Please meet at the Green Man, Little Braxted CM8 3LB at 10.15 am for a 10.30 start. The walk is partly on (possibly muddy) footpaths and partly on the road but it is fairly level all the way and there are no stiles. Lunch will be available at the Green Man. Please inform me by 15th March if you will be joining us and if you will be requiring lunch.

Sometimes, for reasons beyond our control, the venue of a walk or lunch has to be changed after being advertised in this magazine so please be sure I have your contact details in case of last minute changes.

Carole Parker - [caroleparker1941@btinternet.com](mailto:caroleparker1941@btinternet.com)

## ***JUST JAZZ***

The next meeting of Just Jazz will be on the **18th February** at 7.30pm at the Maldon Little Ship Club where we can expect another evening of stunning Jazz selected by David Coombes.

## **MARITIME GROUP**

All meetings are held at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Basin Road, Heybridge, starting at 10:00 am.

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 4th March**. Retired Ship's Radio Officer Peter Watkins will give a talk on the first Marconi steam yacht "Elettra". The talk will cover the early days when the yacht was named "Rovenska" and owned by the Archduke of Austria, as well as its requisition by the Admiralty, and service in WW1, its purchase and use as a floating laboratory by Marconi in the 1920s and 1930s. Its appropriation by the Germans in WW2, and its sinking by the allies on the Dalmatian coast. Finally, its fate on return to Italy. Peter will bring a model of the yacht to the talk.

Any U3A member is very welcome to join the group.

Malcolm Case 01245 329435.

## **MARITIME GROUP**

Five Day Trip to North Wales  
**September 9th to 13th inclusive**

We will be staying in the Bulkeley Hotel in Beaumaris for four nights on a dinner/bed/breakfast basis. The itinerary – visit to Coventry Transport Museum, Blaenau Ffestiniog and the Llechwedd Slate quarry for a Quarry Explorer tour (all above ground), Portmeirion, Conway castle and Conway RNLi station, Betws-y-Coed (photo stop only), National Slate Museum for slate splitting demonstration (possible chance to try your hand at this), Electric Mountain tour, Holyhead Docks tour, Llanfairpwllgwyll Station (photo stop only), Plas Newydd House, Swallow Falls (photo stop only), Llangollen and a two hour canal journey including crossing the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct (ploughmans lunch included).

For details and a booking form please see Malcolm Case,

## **Teddies Knitting Pattern**

Knitting pattern below.

Do have a go, they are very easy and it is lovely to know that some little child will have comfort of a teddy while in hospital and to take home.

### **Knitted Teddy Bear Pattern—Medium 8 inches**

Teddies can be made in a variety of styles. The pattern describes a teddy with pants and a shirt, but the pattern can be varied. The important thing is that the teddy has a personality of its own!

8 ply wool (no angora or mohair)

Needles: No. 9 (3.75 mm) or No. 10 (3.35 mm) needles.

Loose knitters use No. 10.

Legs and Pants

Leg 1 Cast on 8 stitches. Knit 30 rows. Leave stitches on needle.

Leg 1 Same as Leg 1

Pants - Joint both legs by knitting across both legs. Knit 14 rows to finish pants.

Shirt Change colour for shirt. Knit 14 rows

Sleeve Cast on 8 stitches at the beginning of the next two rows. Knit 12 rows

Next 2 rows cast off 8 stitches (this forms the arms)

Head Knit 22 rows.

Cast off.

Repeat this procedure to obtain the other side of the Teddy.

**FINISHING**

Join up leaving a gap at the top of the head for filling.

Fill with toy filling.

Sew top of head together.

Gather around the base of head to form neck.

Pinch corners of head and sew to form ears.

Sew on face

(You can always give him boots or socks, stripes on his shirt and buttons. etc.)

Jan Robertson

## ***Discussion Group***

We had another very enjoyable Discussion Group this month. We generally pick out bits and pieces that are in the news - globally or locally, and we talk about anything that is concerning us that we wish to get off our chests.

Our next meeting is on **March 7th** 2pm-4pm at Deed House in Maldon. New members are always welcome.

For details please contact Bryan Jones

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

**Monday April 8th**

7:00 for 7:30pm.

At Balti Bhujon, 24 Mill Rd. Maldon.

Please contact Graham Evans or  
Bob Gowers

U3A Balti night photo taken by Andy Simmonds in February captured the happy atmosphere created by U3A members and staff. New members of the Balti night always welcome.





## **Essex U3A Quiz**

The Association is once again organising a Quiz, which will be held on **Thursday June 6th** at Christ Church URC, 164 New London Road, Chelmsford, from 1.40 pm. to 4 pm.

Refreshments will be served before the Quiz begins.

There should be fourteen U3A teams of eight people, from across Essex, competing, and following the announcement at our January Main Meeting, we have had a very good response, but are always pleased to have extra names as backup should they be needed.

Last year our team came second, and we did in fact win in 2015.

Here's hoping for another fun afternoon.

Sylvia Cousins

## ***Music Appreciation***

Our January meeting was given the theme of the letter 'M' which encouraged members to come up with a wide selection of music. We started with a movement from Mahler's 1st Symphony followed by two short guitar pieces by Mendelssohn and Mudarra. Next came an excerpt from Wagner's Die Meistersinger and an extract from a Mozart flute quartet. Our two hours sped by with other works by Massenet, Bruch, Boccherini, Puccini and Mussorgsky including some astute uses of our theme. We concluded in lighter mood with some jazz from My Fair Lady followed by Glen Miller's Moonlight Serenade and Marlene Dietrich singing "Falling in Love Again" and "What a voice"!

Our next meeting is on the 21st February and details are available from either coordinator re joining the group.

Oh yes, tea and biscuits are included.

John Skuse

## 2019- 2020 Subscription Renewals

**Membership subscription renewals are due no later than the end of April 2019**

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** One enrolment / renewal form is included with this newsletter, which can be photocopied if you need more. In addition they are available at the sign-in desk at the monthly meetings or from the Membership Secretary (see below). Each member must complete a separate form, but if you are a couple you may pay by a single cheque. The annual subscription is £20.00 per person and payment must be made by cheque, payable to Maldon and District U3A, together with your completed form(s) before the 30 April 2019. For security reasons we do not accept cash.

**DATABASE:** The enrolment forms are used to check our database. If you leave a box blank (say email or phone number) we shall assume that you want that information deleted from our existing records.

**Data Protection Law** Membership Renewal Forms are in line with the Third Age Trust guidance. One of the principles of the regulations is that personal data "Belongs" to the individual, and anyone who uses it has to have consent, please tick the "I Agree" box on the form, date and sign it to indicate your acceptance.

**EMERGENCY CONTACT:** Where couples are both members, please avoid using each other as emergency contacts. A third party is preferable, in case you are on the same outing. Please also ensure that you have the consent to publish the name and telephone number of the person/s named as your emergency contact.

**GIFT AID:** Current Gift Aid regulations require a separate form to be completed by each individual. 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 complete the Gift Aid 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 and cheques to the sign-in desk or post them to the address shown on the Membership form as soon as possible. Cheques will not be banked before the 1st May 2019. If you have not renewed your subscription by the 1st May 2019 you will no longer be a member.

## "Staying Healthy In Your Third Age"

Another joint event has been organised with Blackwater, Limebrook and Heybridge U3As on the above theme. It will consist of speakers on various associated topics and other information leaflets, etc. will be available. The aim of this event is to raise awareness of how we can all help ourselves improve or maintain our health and wellbeing. It will take place at West Maldon Community Centre on

**Wednesday, 10th April,**

starting at 10am to 12.30pm, with a break for refreshments and a chance to look around.

As a shared event, places will be limited and, if you are interested in attending, please contact me as soon as possible either by email or phone.

Shirley Macro email: [thehighperch@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thehighperch@yahoo.co.uk) Tel. 01621 854856

### ***LUNCHEON CLUB VENUE***

Times 12.15 pm

**WEDNESDAY 20th March** at The Queens Head, Tolleshunt D'Arcy

This is a small venue so we are limited to 30 covers so first come, first served.

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.

BLACKWATER U3A  
Contact  
Peter Harden, Chairman

HEYBRIDGE U3A  
Contact  
Mrs. Jarvis  
chairman@heybridgeu3a.orgt.uk

LIMEBROOK U3A  
Contact  
Christine Dove, Chairman  
01621 855859

Your Committee

|                                    |                                       |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Chairman                           | Brian Johnson                         |
| Vice Chairman                      | Alec Fraser                           |
| Vice Chairman                      | Shirley Macro                         |
| Secretary                          | Judith Johnston                       |
| Treasurer                          | Graham Webster                        |
| Membership Secretary               | Malcolm Case                          |
| Newsletter Editor                  | Jan Robertson                         |
| Speaker Secretary                  | Veronica Smith                        |
| Committee                          | Andrew Simmonds<br>Liz Jones<br>~~~~~ |
| Web Master                         | John Bowen<br>Tony Groves             |
| Social Group                       | Michael Childs                        |
| AV Equipment                       | Ken Cooper                            |
| Essex Assoc. of U3A's<br>Committee | Malcolm Case                          |

**NATIONAL OFFICE**

52 Lant Street, London, SE1 1RB  
Tel 020 8466 6139 Email national.office@u3a.org  
Web site www.u3a.org.uk  
Resource Centre: email: resource.centre@u3a.org.uk

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 8th March

# CO-ORDINATORS

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

# PROGRAMME – MARCH 2019

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

**I try my utmost to get the calendar correct each month, but I would advise you always to check with your co-ordinator as to the date of your next meeting.**

Newsletter Editor: Mrs Ian Robertson,