



The University of the Third Age

MALDON AND DISTRICT

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Maldon U3A Christmas Celebrations
Please note our December newsletter on show

Thank you Tony Groves for your expertise.

January 2019

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

Web Site: www.maldonu3a.co.uk

FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Members

Latest news on Brian our Chairman- having recently been unwell again he's now out of hospital. At the time of writing, he's at home and feeling somewhat better. He sends you all his best wishes.

Following our successful Christmas event, we launch into 2019, another special birthday - at the AGM in the summer our Maldon group will achieve the magnificent age of 21!

Now is the time of year when we like to thank our co-ordinators and helpers for all the wonderful work they do, without which there simply would be no U3A.

Thinking about the AGM reminds us that some Committee members will be coming to the end of their term, and we will be calling for new help to keep the Maldon Group going. You, our members have masses of talent, experience and skill. Please think about coming forward yourself or suggesting someone you know.

See you all at the January meeting

Kind regards,

Alec Fraser, Vice Chairman



Christmas Meeting

STROLLERS

Sunday 17th February 2019 - Maldon

10:00 for 10.30 am.

Please meet in the Butt Lane carpark for a walk of approx. 4 miles beside the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation to Beeleigh Falls, returning via the River Chelmer.

Please let me know by **Monday 11th February** if you are coming/require lunch.

STROLLERS TOO

Tuesday 26th February 2019 – South Woodham Ferrers

10:00 for 10:30 am.

Please meet in the riverside car park after Marsh Farm for a walk of 3.75 miles beside the River Crouch.

Please let me know by **Thursday 21st February** if you are coming/require lunch.

Local History

The first meeting for 2019 for the Local History Group is on

Monday January 28th at 2pm at Maldon Town Hall.

Our speaker is local historian Clive Potter, who will give a talk on

"The life and buildings of A H Mackmurdo", a nationally important Arts and Crafts architect based in Gt. Totham.

Kathy will have details of our trip to the London Postal Museum on

April 29th, so please bring your cheque books if you wish to go.

Further to our talk in November 2018 by Charlie Haylock, copies of the History of Your Surname will be available to those of you who submitted surnames for his presentation.

All members are welcome to join us and we wish you all

A Very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Kathy, Jane and Sylvia

RHS Chelsea and Hampton Court Flower Shows

In 2018 I organised a trip by coach to RHS Hampton Court. This year I am planning a similar visit but to Chelsea instead. This show runs during the third week in May. However, the crowds at our previous visit were overwhelming and I would prefer to go on one of the two Members Days, when the crowds are much smaller. Therefore, I am sorry, but that will exclude any of us who are not themselves members of the RHS. (Unlike other RHS shows, you cannot get in as a guest of someone who is a member). I shall ask for a show of hands at the Monday meeting to gauge interest and will be collecting names and contact details immediately.

Veronica Smith

Bird Watching Group

5th January 2019

This month the group stayed local choosing to visit Heybridge Basin.

With the tannoy from Maldon Gig Race a distant sound we headed north past the tempting smells from the riverside café.

With the tide racing in such waders that were feeding were visible from the sea wall with small flocks of Black Tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) in the majority.

The Black tailed Godwit is a large wader which in winter plumage has grey to grey brown upper shading to white below the species has a long beak pinkish with black towards the tip.

Whilst the waters were rising and dispersing the waders to the adjacent fields, the group witnessed an murmuration over Northy Island and then watched a flock of Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) scurry across the diminishing mud looking for lug worms and small molluscs.

The dunlin is the smallest common wader, grey brown back, black grey breasts, white underparts, black legs and small black down curved bill.

The cold weather eventually persuaded the group to return to the aforementioned café for warming coffee and hot chocolate.

February meeting Burnham Marina **Sunday 3rd February 10.00am.**

Meet Carpark by sea wall, past the Dengie Hundred Sports Hall.

Photoshoppery Group

I am contacting the U3A groups within our cluster to invite any of your members to join my Photoshoppery group. I have been running this group for Limebrook for the last few years from my front room but numbers have increased and we are now at the Jubilee room at WMCC. This means we have space for even more members.

The aim of the group is to develop our skills at photo manipulation using the Photoshop elements software.

Experience is not necessary!

If anyone is interested they can contact me via the Limebrook U3A website - just click on the link on the photoshoppery page Paul Madge

Paul Madge 10 Lambourne Grove Tel. 01621855883

paulmadge@gmail.com

Art Appreciation Group

Seventeen of us viewed a DVD of Canaletto, the most celebrated and prolific painter of Venice where he spent most of his life. In his later years he spent some time in London where much of his magnificent output now resides.

Joseph Smith, the Consul in Venice at the time and a major sponsor of Canaletto, was also a keen collector and before he died he sold his complete collection to George III, and much of it is now on view in Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle. Canaletto himself died quite poor, Joseph Smith however died a very wealthy man!

The next Art Group meeting will be on **Tuesday 12th February** at 2pm at Ann-Marie and Brian Deacon's house in Danbury, when we will study the wonderful Dutch and Flemish Renaissance painter Pieter Bruegel The Elder (and possibly his son Pieter Brueghel The Younger). Bruegel the Elder was a painter and printmaker from Brabant, known for his landscapes and peasant scenes.

Andy Simmonds

Astronomy

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 28th January** starting at 7:30pm at Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge CM9 4RE.

There will be a presentation on the "Stars to be found in star sign Aquarius" by Jimmy Byam-Shaw.

If clear skies then we will also do some night sky observing.

Any U3A member is very welcome to join the group.

Malcolm Case



POSH FROCKS DO

Thursday, 28th February 2019

at The Bull, Gt. Totham

6.45 for 7pm

With a menu choice for a 3 course meal

A drink on arrival

Entertainment by Diane Moor

Tickets £35

from

Rosemary Case

Maritime

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday 4th February** starting at 10.am at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Basin Road, Heybridge Basin CM9 4SD for a presentation by Gordon Davies – for centuries sailors have been attracted to the Arctic, for profit and for adventure. In this talk we will look at the history of sailing in Arctic waters, from the search for the north-west and north-east passages to present day voyages in small yachts.

Any U3A member is very welcome to join the group.

Malcolm Case

2019 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

Thurs. Feb 28	Posh Frocks Do at The Bull, Gt. Totham
Mond. Apl 29	Visit to London's Postal Museum—Local History
Tues. Apl. 30	Essex Police Choir Concert, United Reformed Church
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.

Just Jazz

The Just Jazz group will meet on **21st January** at the Maldon Little Ship Club at 7.30pm where we can expect to hear some awesome jazz.

Jim Light

Family History Beginners

The next meeting for the above group will be on **Friday 25th January** at 58 Augustine Way, Bicknacre, CM3 4ET commencing 10 am.

Members wishing to attend please let me know
or e-mail alan-buck@talktalk.net.

Alan Buck

2019 Diaries

I still have a few Diaries left and will be selling them on a first come first served basis at the next Monday meeting.

A bargain at £2.50 each.

MARITIME GROUP
MONDAY 7th JANUARY

VISIT TO THE GREENWICH NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

We left the West Maldon Community Centre at 8:00 am on an overcast and chilly morning, expecting a lengthy journey to Greenwich. Traffic was very light, so much so that we arrived early and had to wait for the museum to open. Once inside, it was off to the Sammy Ofer wing café for refreshments where our guide, Dr Aaron Jaffer (Curator of World History & Cultures) met us. Aaron had previously come to the Maritime Group and given us a talk on the Tudor and Stuart Seafarers.

We then went to the The Great Map where Aaron gave us a brief introduction to the museum and then gave details of the day's arrangements. We were split into three groups – Blackbeard, Diego and Bonny. Each group would visit three exhibitions at different times during the day.

Visits were to the Tudor and Stuart Seafarers gallery, our guide for this excellent exhibition was Aaron, who had designed and put it all together. There were interactive displays together with fascinating facts about the Tudors and Stuarts and Aaron gave us an interesting insight to their history.

Another visit was to the Artic Convoy exhibition where our guide was Lucy Dale (Assistant Curator), who gave detailed information on the men and ships which sailed on these hazardous convoys. The talk made us feel cold just listening to it. Lucy had several personal memories from surviving seamen from the convoys, which I found fascinating.

A further visit was to hear about Maps and Charts, this talk was given by Dr Meghan Barford (Curator of Cartography). Meghan gave an extremely interesting and detailed talk, showing us several centuries old maps and explained how maps and charts expanded as the known world was explored. She also explained how one cartographer would produce a map or chart complete with symbols such as fish or animals, which would then be copied by other cartographers around the world.

Meghan has agreed to come to the Maritime Group next year and give a talk on Maps and Charts.

Our visit ended at 4:00 pm and it was back on the coach for the journey home, which was just as quick as the journey to Greenwich. We arrived back in Maldon at about 5:30 pm.

Malcolm Case

WHO is a senior citizen?

WHAT is one?

A senior citizen is one who was here before the Pill and the population explosion.

We were here before TV, penicillin, polio shots, open-heart surgery and hair transplants.

Before frozen food, nylon, Dacron, Xerox, radar, fluorescent lights, credit cards, ball-point pens and Frisbees.

For us, time-sharing meant togetherness, not computers or condos. Co-eds never wore slacks. We were before panty hose and drip-dry clothes, before ice makers and dishwashers, clothes dryers, freezers and electric blankets.

Before Hawaii and Alaska became states.

Before men wore long hair and earrings and women wore tuxedos.

We were before Leonard Bernstein and Ann Landers, plastic, the 40-hour week and minimum wages.

We got married first and then lived together. How quaint!

Closets were for clothes, not for coming out of.

Girls wore Peter Pan collars and thought cleavage was what butchers did.

We were before vitamins, disposable diapers, Jeeps, pizza, face lifts, Cheerios, instant coffee, decaffeinated anything and McDonald's.

We thought fast food was what you ate during Lent.

We were before Boy George and Chiquita Banana.

Before FM radios, tape recorders, electric typewriters, boom boxes, word processors, electronic music and disco dancing.

In our day, cigarette smoking was fashionable; grass was for mowing.

Coke was a refreshing drink, and pot was something you cooked in.

If we had been asked to explain CIA, NATO, UFO, VCR, GNP, MBA, BMW, HMO, SDI, NFL, JFK and MS; we'd have said "alphabet soup."

We are today's senior citizens, a hardy bunch when you think of how our world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make.

I'm pretty proud of us.

MARITIME GROUP

DAY TRIPS 2019

Monday 1st July – A private and guided visit to Bawdsey Radar Museum (which has just re-opened after a lottery grant of 1.4 million pounds which has been spent on new exhibits and a re-organisation of the Museum). Then to Harwich for lunch, at own cost and then a guided tour of the LV18 Lightvessel. Cost per person is £30.00 (based on a minimum of 40 going) which includes coach, driver's gratuity, parking, tea/coffee/biscuits on arrival at Bawdsey. Please contact Malcolm Case on 01245 329435 if you would like to come on the trip and for further details.

Monday 5th August – City & Village Tours "The Sussex Seaside". Light on the feet but rich on the senses, in the morning we enjoy off-the-beaten track Old Pevensey with morning coffee and lunch included. In the afternoon we take a panoramic coach tour across the South Downs to Beachy Head before stopping in Eastbourne for free time for tea.

Arrive at 10.30am for morning refreshments in an old oak beamed inn with an inglenook fireplace and a resident ghost. This morning we will stretch our legs with a gentle stroll along the picture postcard High Street past the Old Norman Mint and the ancient Court House to the romantic ruined Norman castle. This was once the Old Saxon Shire where William and his Norman knights landed 950 years ago to prepare for what became known as The Battle of Hastings. Back to the pub for a two course lunch before a scenic panoramic tour up onto the South Downs. At Beachy Head the rolling South Downs crash into the sea forming the tallest chalk cliffs in Britain. It's a spectacular sight and a fascinating place where we encounter stories of shipwrecks, smugglers and she-devils. Eastbourne "Built by gentlemen for gentlemen" became fashionable when Mad King George came here on holiday. We will sweep along the seafront to just the right spot to enjoy the famous Carpet Gardens and band stand and to find a spot for a cup of tea before heading home at 4.45pm.

Cost per person is £50.00 (based on a minimum of 40 going). This includes the coach, driver's gratuity, Blue Badge guide all day; tea/coffee/biscuits on arrival and lunch.

Please contact Malcolm Case if you would like to come on the trip and for further details.

Bob and Graham's Big Balti Night.

Monday February 11th

7:00 for 7:30pm.

At Balti Bhujon 24 Mill Rd Maldon.

Please contact Graham Evans or
Bob Gowers for details.

Email u3amaldonbalti@btinternet.com

Big thank you to our friend Mr David Catton
who stood in for Father Christmas at the December Balti night.
at short notice.

David made it a fun evening and everybody received a present from him

Discussion Group

This group meets in members' homes and spends time putting the world to rights and consuming tea and biscuits. Topics may be topical or not, of major or minor significance, serious or less so, but always they allow views - sometimes strong views - to be expressed. Consequently we have a meeting that becomes not only an informative experience, but also an entertaining one.

One thing often leads to another and the conversation may sometimes stray into anecdotes and digressions which can be informative or fun too. For example, in debating older drivers and the possible desirability of tests for sight, health and driving competence, one member remembered something learnt many years ago from his driving instructor: keeping a safe (stopping) distance from the car in front is clearly sensible (though many a driver does not do so). And an easy way for everyone to ensure they do that is as follows: at 60/70 miles per hour it should be difficult to read the number plate of the car in front. If it is easily legible then you are too close!

Anyone interested in joining the Discussion Group should contact:
Bryan Jones

(Next meeting at Danbury on **Thursday 7th February** 2pm.)

Carrot cake

1 cup flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 cup castor sugar
2 eggs
1/2 cup veg oil
2.5 cups grated carrot

Sift flour/ baking powder/soda/cinnamon - stir in sugar
In separate bowl, beat eggs and oil together,
mix dry / wet and carrot mixtures together
stand 5min
180 degrees 25-40mins

Icing

50gram butter (melted)
150gm cream cheese
1/4 teaspoon vanilla essence
1 cup icing sugar



LUNCHEON CLUB VENUE

WEDNESDAY 20th February at Henri's Steakhouse at Madison Heights,
Maldon at 12.30 pm for their Carvery

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 Liz Jones ~~~~~
Web Master	John Bowen Tony Groves
Social Group	Michael Childs
AV Equipment	Ken Cooper
Essex Assoc. of U3A's Committee	Malcolm Case

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Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 8th February

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	
Astronomy	Malcolm Case	3rd Wed. Eat & Meet	Paul Costa
Balti Night	Bob Gowers Graham Evans	2nd Wed	Joyce Cotterell
Bird Watching	Peter Gaywood Michael Bagshaw	Mah-Jong	Molly Polden
Botany	Veronica Smith	Maritime	Malcolm Case
Bridge	Sheila Epps	Music Appreciation	Enid Hall John Skuse
Canasta	Iris Slaney	Petanque (Boules)	Jack Veash
Computers	Awaiting new Co-ordinator	Poetry	Jo Robson
Cribbage	Pat Clements	Reading	Sheila Epps
Croquet	Jean Healey Shirley Macro	Rummikub 1 Rummikub 2	Colin Beckett Beryl McDonell
Discussion	Bryan Jones	Scottish Country Dancing	Shirley Grummett
Egyptology	Kathleen Goff 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 David Coombes	Whist	Molly Polden
Local History	Sylvia Cousins Jane Coombes Kathleen Goff	Wine Circle No. 1/2 Wine Circle No. 3	Graham Boswell Mary Burd Paul Costa Ann Goody
		Wine Circle No. 4	
		Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth

PROGRAMME – FEBRUARY 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1 Canasta	2	3 Bird Watching
4 Maritime Whist	5 Table Tennis Geology	6 Ten Pin Bowling Wine Group 1	7 Ten Pin Bowling Discussion Poetry Rummikub 2	8 Mah Jong	9	10
11 Balti Night Handicrafts	12 Table Tennis Egyptology Art Appreciation	13 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Luncheon Group	14 Ten Pin Bowling Croquet French Conversation History Reading Rummikub 1	15 Canasta	16	17 Strollers
18 Meeting 1.30 pm Just Jazz	19 Table Tennis Tree Identification	20 Ten Pin Bowling Luncheon Group	2 Ten Pin Bowling	22 Cribbage Family History Mah Jong	23	24
25 Handicrafts Astronomy Local History Whist	26 Table Tennis Strollers Too Wine Group 4	27 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Wine Group 2 Writing for Fun	28 Ten Pin Bowling Croquet French Conversation Music Appreciation Wine Group 3			

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 Jan Robertson,