



The University of the Third Age

MALDON AND DISTRICT

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September 2019

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

Web Site: www.maldonu3a.co.uk

FROM THE CHAIR



Hello Everyone

As you will know, our monthly Members' meetings are planned well ahead of time, up to a year or more in advance. However, sometimes events take over and changes have to be made. The August meeting was one of these. Unfortunately, the speaker arranged was unable to fulfil the commitment due to circumstances but luckily we are fortunate to have members willing to stand in at a moment's notice. Our grateful thanks to David and Brigette Whiteing, who entertained us with a travelogue of their visit to China.

While on the subject of monthly meetings, we are still in the need of a Speaker Secretary to take on the job of booking speakers.

Please contact me if you would be interested in having a go at this.

One of the annual events we hold is the New Members' Coffee Morning.

If you are a new member of our U3A, you should have received an invitation via email or letter from Malcolm Case, the Membership Secretary. This year's meeting will be on the 17th October and it is a chance for new members to meet the Committee and some of the Co-ordinators who run the different activity groups. If you have not had a chance to let Malcolm know if you will be attending or not, please could you contact him. Have fun attending the various groups on offer.

Best wishes

Shirley Macro

P.S. We are still on the hunt for a replacement Treasurer to take over next year – anyone interested?

Newsletter Editors

Liz Samson and I are working together on the monthly newsletter with the view of me retiring shortly. Can you please send any copy etc. to us both in the next few months to:

Jan356771@gmail.com and liz.samson@btinternet.com

ASTRONOMY GROUP

The next meeting of the Astronomy Group is on **Monday 23rd September** starting at 7:30 pm at the Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge. CM9 4RE. Dr Jon Howorth will be giving an illustrated talk on "Cosmic Ray Telescopes". This will include the discovery of Cosmic Rays; ACE Explorer; OWL and the Cerenkow Array Telescopes.

All U3A members are very welcome to join us.

Malcolm Case

MARITIME GROUP

The next meeting of the Maritime Group is on **Monday 7th October**, starting at 10:00 am. Derek West will be giving an illustrated talk on his travels from New Zealand to Antarctica by ship.

Please note that the meeting venue has changed due to building work at the Blackwater Sailing Club. The new venue is **WICKHAM BISHOPS VILLAGE HALL**, Church Road, Wickham Bishops. CM8 3JZ. We will be meeting at Wickham Bishops Hall for at least the next seven months.

Whilst at the new venue, we will continue to have our usual talks and of course our usual tea/coffee and biscuits. Once the building work at the Blackwater Sailing Club is completed we will return there.

Any questions, then please contact me.

All U3A member are very welcome to join us.

Malcolm Case

CROQUET

The season is sadly nearly at an end for this year and we will have to hang up our mallets and tuck away the hoops and balls! However, weather permitting, we should be able to fit in one or two more sessions before the lawns are closed for maintenance to get them ready for next season. Hopefully, we will have already met this month with the next one scheduled for **Thursday, 26th September** and, fingers crossed, maybe the **10th October** too. We meet at Forrester Park Golf Club, Great Totham. Please contact either Jean Healey or Shirley Macro for more information.

**DENGIE & DISTRICT U3A
EXPLORING HISTORY GROUP
THE HISTORIC DOCKYARD CHATHAM
THURSDAY 31 OCTOBER 2019**

The cost of the trip is currently £45 - but it is hoped that a large attendance will enable a partial refund to be made to all participants. The cost includes coach travel; discounted admission to the Dockyard; an Introductory Tour (45 mins); and a Guided Tour of the Victorian Ropery (45 mins).

The timetable includes free time - to climb aboard 3 naval ships, to view exhibitions and collections (all at no extra cost)

The coach will depart from Burnham at 09:00; and from Jacks Centre, Burnham Road, Latchingdon, CM3 6EX, at 09:20, with return approximately 5:30pm.

Lunch is available on site (at extra cost) - details to follow.

Bookings are only secured upon receipt of full payment.



For further information, please telephone Roger Ware on 07989188038, or send an email to rogerandann@waremail.net

STROLLERS TOO - Tuesday 22nd October 2019

Chigborough Wildlife Reserve and Fisheries, Start point - Fisheries Car Park, right hand side of Chigborough Road in direction from Goldhanger Road, Heybridge. Post Code CM9 4RE, Map Ref. 878 083, Start time 10.30 arrive 10.15 (to select Lunch etc.) Lunch will be available at Chigborough Barns Café, which provides a variety of light lunch options and can cater for all dietary needs.

The 3 mile walk is all on one level without stiles, off road except for about 200 yards at the beginning. There will be plenty of opportunity to stop and observe the wildlife and scenery. I suggest that you choose your footwear according to the amount of rain we have had beforehand as parts of the walk are prone to be slightly muddy in the wet.

Do not forget your binoculars.

Please let me know **by Tuesday 15th October** if you will be staying for lunch, so I can make a reservation.

Sometimes for reasons beyond our control the venue of a walk or lunch has to be changed, so when booking with me give me your contact details.
Mike Childs - .

STROLLERS - Sunday 20th October 2019

MAYLANDSEA 10:15 for 10:30 am start

Please park near Hardy's Bar & Grill, 36 Imperial Avenue CM3 6AH.

This is a circular walk of approximately 4.5 miles, walking along the northern shore of The Dengie Peninsula where the River Blackwater flows to the sea and onto St Peter's Way, enjoying the salt marshes, creeks, boats and birds.

Please let me know if you are coming/require lunch by

Monday 14th October.

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 do not tell me you are coming I cannot advise you of any last minute changes.

Gill Stone

LOCAL HISTORY

There will NO MEETING in September as the proposed trip to Suffolk was cancelled owing to lack of support.

However may we remind you that there are numerous museums in the local area which can satisfy your interest in Local History, and Local Heritage weekends are always good. The Chelmsford Museum has recently been refurbished, giving a comprehensive History of Chelmsford, and displays on several topics which we have experienced in recent talks and walking tours. The museum is open seven days a week and an enlarged café can cater to every taste. It is well worth a visit.

The next meeting at Maldon Town Hall will be on **MONDAY OCTOBER 28th** at 2p.m. when our speaker will be Neil Wiffen from the ERO for his talk "October 29th 1940- One day in the Battle of Britain".

Neil is an excellent speaker so do come along.

Meanwhile try and catch up with some of the local museums and enjoy.
Kathy, Jane and Sylvia

WINE GROUP 3

For our 2019 summer event the Wine Group 3 had a very pleasant bring and share summer lunch at one of our members' houses.

Starting with Mercier Champagne brought back from our holiday in France we moved on to various white and red wines from Alsace and other countries to accompany our meal.

The weather was absolutely glorious on one of the hottest days of the year and a very pleasant few hours were enjoyed by the group - as can be seen by the photo of the empty bottles!

Mary & Paul

Wine Group 3



2019/2020 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

11th October Beetle Drive at Plantation Hall, Heybridge

29th November Film Show and Afternoon Tea at WMCC

2020

7th February Call My Wine Bluff, Maldon Town Hall

17th April St Georges Barn Dance, Maldon Town Hall

2nd July Barbecue, Langford Village Hall

29th October Posh Frock Do at The Bull, Great Totham

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

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Note from Mike Childs, Coordinator of Social Organising Group

You will see on the Calendar that we have organised four varied events so far for 2020, some old favourites and some that have not been run for a long while. All of the events will be geared to you, our clientele and we hope you will support and come along and enjoy them. Each of the events will have more details (times, food, what you need to bring etc.) nearer the date. If you have any comments or ideas about the events we organise, please do not keep it to yourselves, just contact me or one of our group members.

Thanks, we hope to see you at our events.

Mike Childs

TREE RECOGNITION GROUP

The group had its final formal meeting last week with a session revisiting much of the work done over the last year. All in all, some 30 trees have been studied and hopefully members of the group will be able to identify at least two thirds of those with certainty. We have planned a walk to see trees in autumn and autumn colour on one of these dates:

Mon 13th, Tues 15th or Wed 16th October. The plan is to visit an arboretum or similar place. Everybody is most welcome to join us. There will be no test at the end of it! The final decision on date will depend on the weather. Please get in touch with me if you would like to join us so that I can let you have the meeting details.

Veronica Smith

MARITIME GROUP TRIP

Pevensey, South Downs and Eastbourne

On Monday 5th August, we left from a damp Maldon at 8:00 am for our journey to Pevensey by coach. We stopped to pick up our Blue Badge guide, Janet, before travelling on to Pevensey. By now the heavy rain had cleared to a slight drizzle. At Pevensey we stopped at The Smugglers Inn for a very welcome cup of coffee and biscuits. Pevensey is a village and civil parish in the Wealden district of East Sussex. The main village is located five miles north-east of Eastbourne, one mile inland from Pevensey Bay. The settlement of Pevensey Bay forms part of the parish. It was here that William the Conqueror made the landing in his invasion of England in 1066 after crossing the English Channel from Normandy. Pevensey is situated on a spur of sand and clay about 33 ft above sea level. In Roman times this spur was a peninsula that projected into a tidal lagoon and marshes. A small river, Pevensey Haven, runs along the north side of the peninsula and would originally have discharged into the lagoon, but is now largely silted up. The lagoon extended inland as far north as Hailsham and eastwards to Hooe. With the effect of longshore drift this large bay was gradually cut off from the sea by shingle, so that today's marshes are all that remain behind the shingle beach.

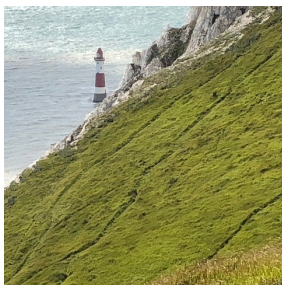
After having our coffee, our guide, Janet, described the various sights in the village before taking some on a damp, drizzly walking tour. Her commentary was very interesting and she gave a lot of information about the village and its buildings. Some of us decided to walk on our own, taking in the castle which is now looked after by English Heritage before walking to the next village where there was a Norman Church, and still the drizzle fell.

We then all returned to The Smugglers Inn for lunch, which was again, very welcome. By now the drizzle had cleared and the sun was shining, so after lunch we all returned to the coach for a drive through Eastbourne and on to the Sussex or South Downs which are a range of chalk hills that extends for about 260 square miles across the south-eastern coastal counties of England from the Itchen Valley of Hampshire in the west to Beachy Head, in the Eastbourne Downland Estate, East Sussex, in the east. We stopped on the South Downs to take the short walk to view Beachy Head Lighthouse which was built from 1900 to 1902 under the direction of Sir Thomas Matthews, the Trinity House Engineer-in-Chief, with the resident engineer during the construction being my Great Great Uncle.

The lighthouse was built and sited about 165 metres seawards from the base of the cliffs. For the construction, a temporary cable car from the cliff was installed for the transport of workers and stones to an iron ocean platform adjacent to the lighthouse. 3,660 tons of Cornish granite was used in the construction of the tower. The lighthouse was equipped with a first order revolving catadioptric optic made up of three double panels, giving two white flashes every 20 seconds; the light source was a Matthews-designed paraffin vapour burner. The newly-built lighthouse was also provided with an explosive fog signal, which was sounded every five minutes in foggy weather. Electricity first reached the lighthouse in 1975, whereupon an electric lamp was installed in the optic. The explosive fog signal remained in use until 1976 (when it was replaced by an 'ELG 500' electric emitter); at the time Beachy Head was one of the last lighthouses still using explosive signals. The lighthouse was fully automated in 1983 and the keepers withdrawn. A chalk fall on the cliff in 1999 severed the electric cable; during its repair the lamp and fog signal were replaced and upgraded. In June 2010, Trinity House announced in the five yearly "Aids To Navigation Review" that the light range would be reduced to 8 nautical miles and the fog signal discontinued. In February 2011, the work was undertaken and light range reduced by the installation of a new LED navigation light system. The old lens, though no longer in use, was left in situ. The fog signal was also discontinued at this time.

From here we returned to Eastbourne for a cup of tea before re-joining our coach for the journey home to Maldon, dropping off Janet our guide on the way. We arrived back in Maldon just after 7:00 pm.

Malcolm Case



A NOSTALGIC FILM SHOW with AFTERNOON TEA
FRIDAY 29TH November 2019

1.45 for 2.00 till 4.00

At WEST MALDON COMMUNITY CENTRE

We are showing two short films from the
U3A Resource Library

Tickets only £8

ON SALE AT SEPTEMBER MAIN MEETING

Available from Rosemary Case -

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**COMMUNITY 360 TRANSPORT**

Community 360's administrative system does not work well for us, with their invoices relating to the hire of minibuses by Maldon U3A Groups invariably being sent to seemingly random names/addresses in the organisation's records, rather than to the person who booked the minibus. In another attempt to get invoices sent to their correct destinations, could all future hirers of Community 360 minibuses please ensure, at the time of booking, that Community 360 registers their name and address and understands that it needs to send the invoice to that name and address. The invoice can, of course, subsequently be passed to me for settlement.

Graham Webster, Treasurer



## **BIRDWATCHING – September**

With the first tang of autumn in the air, the group visited Hanningfield Reservoir where we found an abundance of waterfowl on the shore as swallows skimmed the water, feeding up on insects before their long journey south. Ducks included plenty of female shovelers (*Spatula clypeata*) with the heavy bills that give the duck its name. Tufted ducks (*Aythya fuligula*) were also to be seen in good numbers. These ducks – black with distinctive white sides – feed mainly on molluscs, for which they can dive more than 20 feet. Then of course there were the ever-present mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), the world's most widespread duck, found throughout the northern hemisphere and introduced to Australia and New Zealand, having been domesticated for more than 2,000 years. On the water, we saw a great crested grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*), busily diving for the small fish on which it feeds. These birds – known for their stylish courtship displays – were almost exterminated in the 19th century as their dense breast feathers were used to make ladies' muffs.

On the shore and water were flocks of Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*), with their black head and neck, and distinctive white 'chin strap'. These birds were introduced to Britain in the reign of Charles II and were kept as ornamental fowl in parks and the grounds of large houses. Britain's largest goose, it is now considered a pest because of the damage it does to crops. They were mingling with greylags (*Anser anser*), Britain's only native breeding goose, which are joined in winter by migrants from Iceland. And among this throng stood two grey herons (*Ardea cinerea*), still and seemingly aloof from everything going on around them.

Mike Bagshaw

### ***South Woodham Ferrers U3A History Group***

is organising a visit to Layer Marney Tower on  
**Tuesday 8th October.**

The opening is just for our groups, the visit includes a guided tour of the Tower, Church and Long Gallery which lasts about an hour and a half, followed by refreshments. We will then be free to explore the gardens until 5pm. The cost for the tour and refreshments is £15pp.

Meet at 1.45pm for tour start time of 2pm.

Please contact Kate Smith

## **Maldon Tourist and Visitor Information Volunteer needed**

The Maldon Visitor Information Centre will be opening up in the foyer of the Town Hall on **30th September**. Open on weekdays from 10.30am to 3.30pm, residents and visitors will be able to find out about local events, travel information and venues, as well as picking up pink and green recycling bags.

In addition, a new ticket purchasing facility for local performances will be set up in the Town Council Offices on the first floor of the Town Hall during office hours.

Key to ensuring visitors and local residents make the most of all the fantastic things there are to do in Maldon, volunteers will man the reception desk. You will enjoy meeting and talking to people about Maldon, be keen to help them and answer their queries as well as being able to search on the Internet for information.

If you would like to volunteer to be part of this exciting new opportunity please contact Jane Coleman (Town Clerk) 01621 857373 for an initial discussion.

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**Monday 21st October Meeting**  
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**Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm**  
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Speaker  
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Arthur Brooks  
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"A Taste of Music Hall"  
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I am a member of the British Music Society, my talks are light hearted and about the Music Hall days which began about 1850 - the number one form of entertainment in the UK for about 70 years. It became Variety ending about 1960 as TV came to the fore. I have given over 600 talks on the subject, all fees going to Essex Charities.  
Arthur Brooks

## ***The MALDON ORCHESTRA***

The Maldon Orchestra is celebrating its 70th anniversary with a concert at the Plume School, on **September 21st**. We have not had to advertise our concerts recently, as we have so many followers, but the Plume is a big venue.

I hope you know we were given an award (Pride Of Essex) for services to Essex, and it came with some money, so the tickets are very cheap, (£5) all of the money going to Home Start Essex. I will put notices up in the library etc.

Molly Tring on 01621 854732

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Bob and Grahams Big Balti Night.

Monday 14th October

7:00 for 7:30pm.

At Balti Bhujon 24 Mill Rd Maldon.

Please contact



LUNCHEON CLUB VENUE

Time 12.30pm for 1.00pm

WEDNESDAY 16th October at The Generals Arms, Little Baddow

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.

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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Web site www.u3a.org.uk
Resource Centre: email: resource.centre@u3a.org.uk

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 11th October

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	Ukulele	Jenny Plumb
Just Jazz	Jim Light David Coombes	Weekenders	Beryl McDonell
Local History	Sylvia Cousins Jane Coombes Kathleen Goff	Whist	Molly Polden
		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 – October 2019

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

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.