



Maldon and District

Newsletter



Strollers Tuesday – February Walk

See page 16

March 2023

www.maldonu3a.co.uk

Registered Charity 1086182

FROM THE CHAIR



Liz Samson has edited this excellent publication for four years and has done a superb job. She now wishes to pass on the task. We are looking for a new editor and a seamless change.

At the last monthly meeting we learned about Geoffrey de Havilland and enjoyed some very interesting slides of the planes he designed. Also, we saw the Art Deco office he had built and learned that Olivia de Havilland and Joan Fontaine were indeed family members. A minor local connection was that Crittall windows were used in the Art Deco office, which is now a police station with an integral museum. An excellent and enthusiastic presentation.

For our next meeting, something completely different as we have a visit from our Essex High Sheriff, Nicholas Alston. We wait to see how this office evolved and what it involves.

Our meeting in April will celebrate our 25th anniversary and promises to be very special. It will include entertainment by Triple Fuse, refreshments and, of course, cake. Malcolm Case is preparing a review of the 25 years so any contributions will be welcome. My contribution will be a card from our King thanking us for the condolences we sent on the death of his mother.

Ken Hazell

FROM THE EDITOR

As Ken mentioned I am ready to handover the newsletter role to someone else. Many thanks for all your contributions and help over the last few years. I have enjoyed my time learning something new and about all our many and varied u3a activities.

To maintain continuity until a successor is found please send contributions for next month to me in the normal way.

Liz Samson

STROLLERS SUNDAY & TUESDAY GROUP

The walk scheduled for Sunday 19th March has been postponed as it is Mothering Sunday, and will be scheduled for later in the year.

Malcolm Case

STROLLERS SUNDAY

For **Sunday 16th April** we are organising a walk around Cock Clarks, this walk is mainly off road without any stiles or steep inclines for approximately 3½ to 4 miles.

The walk will start and finish at the 'Fox and Hounds' pub where we can prebook lunch. 10:15 for a 10:30am start.

Please let me know if you will be joining the walk and whether or not you will be staying for lunch no later than the 2nd April.

Robert Heal

STROLLERS TUESDAY GROUP

The walk on **Tuesday 28th March** will be in the Maldon area and will involve both urban and rural walking.

Lunch has been arranged at the Queen Victoria Public House, Spital Road, Maldon, CM9 6ED.

Meet at the Queen Victoria at 10.15am for a 10.30am start.

Please note that parking is not permitted at the pub, so please park opposite in Acacia Drive or in St Giles Crescent (road adjacent to pub).

Please let me know if you intend to walk and if you would like lunch by Monday 20th March. I cannot guarantee availability for lunch after this date.

Chris Speed

SOCIAL ORGANISING GROUP

Social Evening, 22nd February

If you missed this event,
you missed a treat!



From the nicely laid out tables to the silly quizzes and making up limericks it was great fun and very enjoyable. The food was good, baked potatoes, a variety of fillings and salad, followed by apple pie and cream, all served at the table.

The scoring for the best answers or limerick (see selection) was judged by audience appreciation and this was measured by the old and trusted method of using a clapometer. This was obviously of an original pre-electric design as it was manually operated by pulling a string. Despite that, the scoring was fair with many receiving full marks.



The pancake tossing competition provided the physical challenge, with the winner giving a very impressive display of tossing. Malcolm Case was at a disadvantage though; as a left-hander he was hampered by being provided with a right-handed frying pan – that was his excuse for his lack of prowess at tossing!

There was a running memory game throughout the evening with various items being shown. These were shared out at the end of the evening by randomly selecting numbers from a bag. Our table won a very nice jug but the top prize without doubt was a cabbage of the finest quality from M&S.

Thanks to the Social Organising Group and all involved in putting on such a fun evening.

Shirley and Geoff Macro

A Small Selection of Social Evening Limericks

*A Tiptree couple went walking
They really couldn't stop talking
They fell in a bog
And then lost their dog
But they never stopped walking and
talking*

*A lady who joined u3a
In the merry month of May
She joined the Committee
Which was a great pity
And was completely led
astray*

*A Sailor from old Maldon Town
Decided to become a Clown
He purchased a carrot
Instead of a Parrot
And he did really bring the house
down*

*A lady who lived at Bicknacre
Fell in love with the local Pie
Maker
He gave her a roll
And some Toad in the Hole
And to the Midwife he soon
had to take her*

MONTHLY MEETING

Monday 17th April 2023

Wickham Bishops Hall Doors open at 1:30 for 1:45 start

Our 25th Anniversary Celebration

Join us for Celebrations
with
Refreshments and
Musical Entertainment
from Triple Fuse



Triple Fuse is a group of professional singers fusing musical theatre and opera together, covering everything from Les Mis, Mamma Mia, Nessun Dorma, the Prayer and much more.

They are Kirstie, Katie and Pedro.

Please remember your Membership Card

MONTHLY SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2023

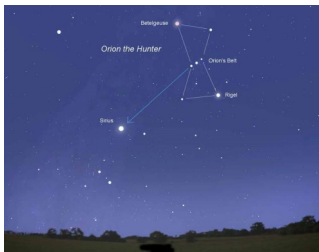
May 15th	Dr James Taylor	Dazzle: Disguise and Disruption in War and Art
June 19th	Fran Sandham	Dr Livingstone I Presume?
July 17th	Tim Turner	Fakes & Forgeries
August 21st	Linda Knock	An Aspect of Hylands House
September 18th	Cherith Lowry	The Gibberd Garden

October 16th	Julie Miller	The Combined Military Services Museum – One man’s obsession
November 20th	Patrick Forsyth	Unaccustomed as I Am . . .
December 18th	Christmas	tba

If you know of any speakers you can recommend please contact the Speaker Secretary. Theresa Byles

ASTRONOMY GROUP

The next meeting of the Astronomy group is on **Monday 27th March** at The Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge, CM9 4RE for a talk on the Orion Constellation, this will include the stars Rigel, Sirius, Betelgeuse and the Orion Nebula. If weather conditions allow, then we will also do some night sky observing so please bring your telescopes, binoculars with you.



Orion Nebula

Malcolm Case

The Big Balti



The next curry event will be held on **Monday 27th March** at the Balti Bhujon restaurant Mill Road Maldon 6:30 start

To add your name to the list please contact the following.

Graham Evans, Bob Gowers

SOCIAL ORGANISING GROUP

THE SOCIAL ORGANISING GROUP PRESENT -- AN EVENING OF SEA SHANTIES WITH THE MOTLEY CREW



Date – 27th April 2023

Time – 7.00pm to 10.00pm

Venue – Blackwater Sailing Club

Basin Road, Heybridge, CM9 4SD

Supper – A Fisherman's or Ploughman's Supper

Tickets – £15 u3a Members only

A pay bar will be available

[Please bring your own cup, plate, bowl, knife, fork and spoon](#)

For tickets contact – Rosemary Case

Next Social Event organised for 2023

Tuesday 14th November

Cockney Evening

Maldon Town Hall

Details nearer the date when tickets will be on sale.

Mike Childs



FILM GROUP

Another interesting meeting when we had plenty to talk about, although mainly centred on just one of the film choices.

"Oranges and Sunshine" gave us all something to think about. Difficult to say that we enjoyed it but the film depicted very well the story of a social worker taking on the challenge of finding the families of children that had been transported to another country. It seems quite unbelievable that that went on well into the 1970s and possibly later, and had we been born in different circumstances something that could easily have happened to one of us. If that alone wasn't bad enough, when the children arrived, some were very cruelly treated by so called Christian organisations. A very powerful film and praise to all involved in exposing this terrible scandal. **Score: 8**

"A Hologram for a King" – Not quite so well received. Despite starring Tom Hanks this was a dismal film with a poor storyline. Couldn't really see any point to it and it's not surprising that it didn't do particularly well at the cinema. **Score: 4**

The next selections for viewing are:

"A Simple Plan" – 1998 crime thriller starring Bill Paxton, Billy Bob Thornton and Bridget Fonda. Two brothers, their friend and one of the brother's wife discover a crashed plane containing \$4.4 million in cash. They go to great lengths to keep the money a secret but begin to doubt each other's trust, resulting in lies, deceit and murder.

"Dark Waters" – 2019 US legal thriller. The story dramatises Robert Bilott's case against the chemical manufacturing corporation DuPont after they contaminate a town with unregulated chemicals. It stars Mark Ruffalo as Bilott, along with Anne Hathaway, and Bill Pullman.

Both on BBC iPlayer

Next meeting is on Wednesday, **29th March at 7.30pm**

Shirley Macro

Birdwatching Group Programme 2023

1st April	Blue House Farm	Meet in car park
13th May	Bird ringing at Landguard Fort, Felixstowe	(To be confirmed)
3rd June	Fingringhoe Reserve	Meet in visitor centre car park
2nd July	Wallasea Island	Meet in RSPB car park
	No meeting in August	
9th September	Bradwell	Meet in St Peter's Chapel car park
8th October	Walton on the Naze	Meet in Naze Tower car park
4th November	Two Tree Island, Leigh-on-Sea	Meet in car park
3rd December	Maldon promenade	Meet by Rossi's ice cream kiosk

All rendezvous times 10am unless otherwise stated.

For full locations details or car share requests please contact:

Peter Gaywood

Michael Bagshaw

"Sound" Person "Still" Required

The basic sound kit is now easily carried in a briefcase and quickly plugged in at the side of the stage behind the curtain. Setting up the projector is unchanged and is also quite simple.

Please see any member of the Committee and we can have an informal chat/demo at the next meeting. Support and training will be provided, as well as written instructions.

Alec Fraser

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

The photography group continues to meet monthly via Zoom.

The next meeting is on **Wednesday 15th March at 7.30pm.**

The subject for March is "Anything Yellow".

Visit the photography page on our website to see the varied selection of pictures. www.maldonu3a.co.uk/photography/photography.php

New members are most welcome, pictures can be of any standard that you have taken yourself.

Recent February pictures: 'Anything Red'



David Whiteing



Geoff Macro



Carol Bates



Rosie Bartley-Crozier

Tony Groves webmaster@maldonu3a.co.uk

MARITIME GROUP

Our **April 3rd** meeting is a trip to Dover Castle, coach will depart from The West Maldon Community Centre at 8:15 am, please park your cars at the far end of the car park.

There will not be a meeting in May, the next meeting will be on **Monday 5th June** for a talk by Jimmy Byam Shaw on small boat building.

Malcolm Case

MARITIME GROUP Programme 2023

Mon 1st May	No meeting – Bank Holiday
Mon 5th June	Talk by Jimmy Byam Shaw on “Small Boat Building” .
Mon 3rd July	Talk by Barbara Jones of Lloyds Register about the History of Lloyds over the past 260+ years .
Mon 7th August	Your ideas please for a trip as we cannot meet at the club.
Mon 4th September	Talk and updates by John Rayment on the Restoration of the Sailing Barge “Pudge” .
Mon 2nd October	Talk by Simon Gregor who will take us on a virtual stroll along the Thames from Vauxhall to Westminster, uncovering some of London’s rich history along the way. Sometimes on the embankment, and sometimes diving into quaint side streets, this talk will explore not only big sights like the Palace of Westminster and the Tate Britain Gallery, but also some of the less well-known history lurking in the back streets, with the Thames itself providing a constantly-flowing thread linking the city together.
Mon 6th November	Talk by John Pomfrett on City of Lakes and Rivers – waterways in and around Berlin . Following a brief introduction to the early, largely natural river navigations that served Berlin from its founding in the 13th century, this talk traces the development of the canals and river navigations around Berlin.

Mon 4th December	Talk by Simon Stephens of the National Maritime Museum Greenwich on “Model Boat building for the National Maritime Museum” . Followed by discussions on our 2024 programme and some Christmas cheer.
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All meetings are held at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Basin Road, Heybridge Basin on the first Monday of the month, starting at 10.00am.

Malcolm Case

Item from u3a National Newsletter—February

Services and Offers

u3a Offers and Services is the section of the newsletter offering discounts to u3a members and friends.



Save on your Fuel and Food at Morrisons

Have you signed up to our [u3a Click and Save Scheme?](#) This scheme gives friends and members of the newsletter access to a range of discounts on leading brands - such as 4% off your shop at Morrisons.

You can save on your weekly grocery shop, clothing and technology with a Morrisons Gift Card or eGift Card* and at Morrisons 339 petrol stations located throughout the UK.

**Terms and conditions apply. See website for details. Offers subject to change without notice.*

Link to Click & Save [u3a Click and Save Scheme?](#)

BIRD WATCHING GROUP

Visit to Heybridge on Saturday 5th March

Despite the seemingly never-ending cold snap, the seasons move on and with them the thousands of wildfowl that spend the winter on our Essex shores as they prepare to head for their breeding grounds in northern Europe, Russia, and Greenland.

They include brent geese, a flock of which came in to land on an incoming tide at Heybridge Basin just as 11 members were ending a chilly visit on March 5th. The geese – about the size of a mallard with short black neck and head – nest in the high Arctic, where food is plentiful but summer is short.

Food also seemed to be in good supply at Heybridge for a flock of around 200 dunlin. This small wader is a common sight on British beaches in winter. Their plumage is very variable, as is their length of bill. Those with longer bills breed in Britain on moorland, while the shorter billed variety – better able to retain body heat – nest in Iceland.

Another winter beach visitor which also nests on moorland in Britain is the curlew, which could be seen probing for food deep in the mud with its distinctive long downward curved bill which has a soft, sensitive tip helping the bird detect small crabs, shrimp and lugworms. The curlew has been seen as a bird of ill-omen in British and Irish folklore, perhaps because of their haunting call heard over their moor and grassland breeding grounds.



Curlew

The black-tailed godwit also has a long-curved bill, though this points slightly upwards. This large wader can be seen in substantial feeding flocks on the coast in winter, but has become a rare breeding bird in the UK and was placed on the 2021 red list of birds of conservation concern. The birds develop striking reddish-brown plumage in the breeding season and nests in wet grasslands where they form monogamous pairs that can last 25 years.



Godwit

A bird which does breed on the coast is the oystercatcher, a handsome black and white wader with a long orange-red bill and reddish-pink legs, a number of which could be seen feeding out on the mud. Britain supports an internationally important number of oystercatchers in winter, with up to 45% of Europe's population spending winter here.

Despite its name, the bird seldom eats oysters but favours bivalves like cockles and mussels. Though they breed on almost all British coasts, more have started breeding on farm and grassland over the past 50 years.

Mike Bagshaw

The group's next visit will be to Blue House Farm on **Saturday 1st April**, meeting at 10am in the car park.

ART APPRECIATION GROUP

There will be no meeting in April.

Judith Johnston

STROLLERS TUESDAY GROUP

Althorne Walk

Fourteen of us met at The Three Horseshoes, Althorne on Tuesday 28th February, for a walk of approx. 3.5 miles.

The village is built on the ridge between the rivers Blackwater and Crouch.

The pub faces the River Crouch, and as we descended the path towards Althorne Creek, we had far reaching views towards Southend. We crossed the railway line and walked beside the river to Bridgemarsh Marina. From there we walked uphill, pausing to wait for a train, before crossing the railway line again.



At the top of the road, there was time to read the village memorial, and enjoy the view over the vineyards.



Soon we were in the peaceful grounds of Althorne Church, unfortunately it was closed, so we strolled on, and were able to get a glimpse of the River Blackwater on our left, just before our walk ended.



As the pub is not open on a Tuesday, we drove a short distance to The Huntsman and Hounds for a tasty lunch.



We all agreed that it had been a lovely morning.

Gill Stone

Photos Kym Marshall

MAH-JONG

Meeting dates in March and April.

March: 3rd, 17th, 31st.

PLEASE NOTE: No Meeting 14th April.

Restart 28th April at 1.45 for a 2pm start.

For more information please contact:

Mags Pell



AVIATION GROUP

As some of you may know Chris Tressider, who restarted the Aviation Group last November, has had to relinquish the Co-ordinator role.

Not wishing to see his good work go to waste I have volunteered to step up.

We had an interesting meeting last month with an illustrated talk by Richard Turner from the Bosted Airfield Historical Trust.

Firstly, we will carry on meeting at the Danbury Cricket Pavilion at the entrance to the top car park overlooking Danbury Cricket pitch on the last Friday of the month at 11 am.

Broadly, my aim is to offer Aviation themed talks/films interlaced, in better weather, with visits to museums/facilities – initially, within reasonable travelling distance.

To that end I am looking for one or two others to help in this process.

Our next meeting is on **Friday 31st March** at 11am for film about the B29 abandoned on the edge of the Greenland icecap, preceded by a talk by me covering the background on how it got there and the B29 as an aircraft.



We live in a county rich with aviation activity of all kinds going back over a long time and much of the knowledge of this history is still within many of our working lives. I would like to hear if any members have stories, anecdotes etc of the many companies/activities that we can learn about?

Chris Samson

Aviation Programme next few months 2023

Sunday 23rd April 10am	Southend Airport – visit to the Open Day for the Vulcan Bomber Restoration Trust. There is an entry fee of £8 per visitor. Hopefully, we can arrange car-pooling.
Friday 26thMay 11am	Danbury Cricket Pavilion – short talk by me followed by film of the Hughes giant size transporter seaplane nicknamed “Spruce Goose”.
Friday 30th June	Visit to de Havilland museum at Salisbury Hall near Hatfield. Hopefully, we can arrange car-pooling. There is an entry fee of £12 per visitor.
Friday 28thJuly 11am	Danbury Cricket Pavilion – TBA
August	Summer break
Friday 29th Sept 11am	Danbury Cricket Pavilion – illustrated talk by fellow member David Gillespie on his flight of a lifetime in the restored Canadian Lancaster.

WELCOME

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Roberta (Bobby) Bruce

Patricia (Pat) Burke

Robert Jones

Anne Mills

Jane Rainbird

Christine Saddinton

You in
your 3rd
age

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Thank you to all those members who showed such an interest in the topic of our meeting in February which was "The Workhouse at Maldon and the associated Poor Laws." It certainly made us appreciate the many benefits we have enjoyed during our lifetime.

Our next meeting is on **Monday March 27th** at 2pm at the Town Hall when our speaker will be Neil Wiffen for his talk on "***The contribution of Essex to provisioning the forces of Edward III around 1337***".

As you may have heard, "An army marches on its stomach" so this talk will tell the story of how Edward III procured sufficient food for his vast army as he began his assault on France at the beginning of what became known as the Hundred Years War and the important part that Essex played in satisfying those demands. Neil is a well-known speaker, who last year gave us the "History of the Darcy Spice Apple!"

There is no meeting at the Town Hall on April 24th, as for those of you who have registered, we will have our first outing of the year to Colchester Castle Museum. Kathy has details.

We look forward to seeing you at the Town Hall on March 27th.

Kathy and Sylvia

POETRY GROUP

The next meeting of the group is on **Thursday 6th April**, the poetry for discussion will be based around "Spring", there are many poets who have written on this subject.



Thomas Grey



Thomas Nashe

The meeting starts at 2:00 pm and will be in a member's house.

Jo Robson



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Members Graeme and Peta Verney would like to share their experience of the event below. They said it is great fun but the word needs to get around to encourage more to attend to keep it going.

Colchester United Community Foundation run a fortnightly health and social club on a Friday morning between 10am–12pm for anyone aged over 60, inside the function suite at Maldon and Tiptree FC.

At the session you can expect around an hour of physical activity and an hour of time to socialise.

To keep the sessions varied we do a different activity every week and even go on trips out. For example, we have been to Tiptree JobServe Bowls Club to give bowls a go.

It is a great social group and a really positive environment for anyone who is looking to do something on their Friday mornings.

To sign-up or for more information please email:

Edward.king@colchesterunited.net

GERMAN CONVERSATION GROUP

Please note that the next two sessions (14th & 28th March) are both cancelled due to holidays etc.

We resume with the next session on April 11th at 2.00pm.

Howard Broadbridge

THE SILVER LINE

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

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.

YOUR COMMITTEE

Chairman	Ken Hazell
Vice Chairman	Theresa Byles
Secretary	Carol Bates
Treasurer	Geoff Cory
Membership Secretary	Malcolm Case
Newsletter Editor	Liz Samson
Speaker Secretary	Theresa Byles
Groups Co-ordinator	Malcolm Case
Committee	Alec Fraser Tony Groves Andrew Simmonds
Webmaster	Tony Groves
Social Group	Michael Childs

Contact the u3a Office

u3a

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u3a learn,
laugh,
live

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Deadline for next newsletter: 6th April 2023

CO-ORDINATORS

Art Appreciation	Judith Johnston Andy Simmonds	London Theatre Outings	Rosemary Case Sheila Childs
Aviation	Chris Samson	Meet & Eat	Joan Cummins
Astronomy	Malcolm Case	Mah-Jong	Mags Pell
Balti Night	Bob Gowers Graham Evans	Maritime	Malcolm Case
Bird Watching	Peter Gaywood Michael Bagshaw	Music Appreciation	tba
Bridge	Gill Cory	Padel Tennis	Ken Hazell
Canasta	Iris Slaney	Petanque (Boules)	Jack Veash Geoff Macro
Cribbage	Pat Clements	Photography	Tony Groves
Croquet	Geoff Macro Shirley Macro	Poetry	Jo Robson
Discussion	Pat Jones	Reading	tba
Film Club	Shirley Macro	Rummikub	Janice Martin
French Conversation	Ann Lester	Scottish Country Dancing	Diana Rogers
Garden	Theresa Byles Kris Taylor	Sing for Pleasure	Sue Garnham
Geology	Sylvia Cousins	Strollers Sunday & Tuesday Group	Malcolm Case
German	Howard Broadbridge	Tenpin Bowling	David Arnold
Handicraft	Marian Manning Brenda Heal	Wine Circle No. 2	Graham Boswell
History—Georgians	Kathy Goff	Wine Circle No. 3	Mary Burd
Just Jazz	Peter Condon David Coombes	Wine Circle No. 4	Ann Goody
Local History	Sylvia Cousins Kathy Goff	Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth

Comment on **“Third Age Matters”**
via **Patrick Forsyth** patrick@touchstone28.com

third age ^{u3a}
matters

Schedule of Events - April 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
					1 Bird Watching	2
3 Maritime	4	5 Tenpin Bowling Bridge Padel Tennis	6 Tenpin Bowling Rummikub Poetry	7 Good Friday	8	9
10 Easter Monday	11 German	12 Tenpin Bowling Meet and Eat Padel Tennis	13 Tenpin Bowling French History-Georgians Scottish Dancing	14 Sing for Pleasure	15	16 Strollers
17 Monthly Meeting	18	19 Tenpin Bowling Bridge Geology Photography Padel Tennis	20 Tenpin Bowling	21 Canasta	22	23 Aviation
24 Local History Astronomy	25 German Strollers Too Wine 4	26 Film Group Tenpin Bowling Padel Tennis Wine Group 2 Writing for Fun	27 Tenpin Bowling French Music App Wine Group 3 Scottish Dancing Social Evening	28 Cribbage Mah-Jong Sing for Pleasure	29	30

Schedule correct at time of publication – please confirm dates with co-ordinators.

Also check website www.maldonu3a.co.uk