



The University of the Third Age

# MALDON AND DISTRICT

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**EASTER**

**Have you paid your 2014 Subscription?**

APRIL 2014

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

FROM THE CHAIR



Our AGM is getting ever closer and we still have two vacancies on the Committee.

Please do consider joining us to ensure the continued smooth running of our U3A, for without the Committee, our U3A cannot function.

When the sun shines, doesn't everything seem to be so much nicer? I hope that everyone enjoys their Easter break.

Malcolm Case

### **ASSISTANCE REQUIRED!**

Volunteers to help set up the Hall before the Main Monthly Meeting are desperately needed by Fred Lane. *Strong, agile, youngish people* please contact Fred

## **Study Day - 28th October—Plume School, Maldon**

### **Enrolment Forms**

The Study Day Committee will be sending out the enrolment forms towards the end of June when it is recommended that interested members return their completed form asap.

Please sign the list, which will be available at the May Monthly Meeting, if you wish to receive a form, either by hand or electronically. If you are unable to come to this meeting, please get in touch with me so that you can be added to the list.

Beryl McDonell

Essex Association Committee Member

## ***Strollers***

**Sunday 18 May.** Meet at the The Bell pub, The Street, Purleigh, CM3 6QJ at 10:15 for a 10:30 start. This is a circular walk of about 4.6 miles around Purleigh and Hazeleigh, mainly off road and with three or four easy stiles. Lunch is available at The Bell if required.  
Contact: Alan Clarke

***Strollers Too*** will be meeting half an hour earlier than usual at 10.00 o'clock on **Tuesday 27th May**. This is so that any Stroller wishing to visit Galleywood Heritage Centre with the History Group at 1.30 will be able to do so and will also have time for lunch in the Horse and Groom.

The walk is a 4 mile walk which takes about two hours. It starts from Galleywood Common car park. This is the first car park that you pass on the left having left the A12 at the Galleywood turn off to take the B 1007 We shall drive to the Horse and Groom after the walk as this saves time. If we walked from the pub we would need 40 more minutes. The pub is very close to the Heritage Centre. Hopefully anyone who wants to do both will be able to do so. The History stroll will cover the Common whereas our walk starts from the Common.

## ***Local & General History***

Our next meeting is on **Monday 28 April**. The speaker will be Linda Ketteridge who is coming to talk about the History of Saffron Walden. All members are always welcome to join us. We meet at 2 pm at Maldon Town Hall - the cost is £2.

In May we do not meet as we have our Walk & Talk at the Galleywood Heritage Centre on **Tuesday, 27 May**. I still have a few places if anyone is interested. It is a car share and the cost is £5 including afternoon refreshments. Please contact me for further details.

Mary Burd Co-ordinator

## ***Maritime***

### **A Trip on the River Thames - 2nd June**

This trip will leave West Maldon Community Centre at 0800 on **Monday 2nd June**. We will travel by coach to Dorney (Bucks) where we meet our Blue Badge Guide and, after a stop for refreshments in the village, we have a coach tour via Dorney Lake (if possible) then on to Eton. We then have free time for lunch either in Eton or across the river in Windsor. After lunch there is a river cruise from Windsor to Boulters Lock. The boat trip will take about 1 hour 45 minutes, refreshments are available on the boat. All refreshments must be paid for separately. This trip is fully subscribed and there is a waiting list.  
Fred Lane - Trip organiser

## ***Gardeners***

**Tues. April 29** - Plant Swap at the home of Mave Studholme, 8 Perry Road, Tiptree, CO5 OUA at 2.30 pm.

Please bring own chairs and cakes

**Tues. May 13** - Visit Wood View, 24 Chapel Rd, Gt. Totham CM9 8DA  
Home of Edwin Parsons & Ian Roxburgh at 2.30 pm. £6 entry

***Blackwater Petanque Group*** has been going for a few years now.

Maldon's U3A co-ordinator, David Arnold helped us in the beginning by coaching and informing us about the rules, etc.

In 2013 we started a U3A Summer League. My husband emailed a number of Essex U3As to invite them to participate in this friendly league. The only take up was from Billericay and Basildon. So the U3A Summer League was born and we made friends and even caught up with people known to our family. Blackwater put in two teams and Billericay put in three - It was great, very friendly, and helped us to hone our skills. During the time of Blackwater's growth with petanque John and others participated in one of the Essex Winter leagues - the wins were very few and far between, but it was a valiant start. The reason for all this rambling is to ask all local U3As to ask your membership if there are any people who would like to form a joint Petanque team to play in a Summer League. Blackwater play on the first and third Tuesday afternoon at the Prom - all are welcome to turn up and have a go, share the fun. John Mundy will be pleased to take enquiries on [harriers5@btinternet.com](mailto:harriers5@btinternet.com)

Dear Chairman and Fellow U3A Members,

I was horrified at a group meeting yesterday to learn that our U3A is likely to close at the end of June this year. Why? We will not have a secretary because as of this date no one from our 400 members has volunteered.

I joined the U3A because it was an organisation where every individual member was expected to share their life experience with others to make "Lifetime Learning" a reality. Groups were co-ordinated by members but every member of the Group was expected to contribute by giving a presentation, contributing to the discussion, hosting, organising field trips, doing research etc. It was not an organisation for people who simply wanted to chat and be entertained.

Why doesn't she volunteer if she feels so strongly, I hear you ask? I would, but bad health and a commitment to spend time in France every year excludes me. I hope I pull my weight in other ways. I have led sessions or part sessions in all the groups I belong to; given presentations on subjects I am familiar with and researched and presented new topics; hosted many times; last year I had the privilege to lead a session on Architecture at the Essex Study Day. My husband has separately done as much.

Many members have also done the same and we now have a U3A epitomising the U3A culture thanks to them. However there are a large number of our ever-changing 400 members who cannot hold their hands up and say they are contributing all that they can.

Surely there is one person, or pair working together, who in their long life, gained enough confidence to step forward to fill this role. Don't leave it to someone else or in June 2014 our U3A will cease to exist!

Clare Urry

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### ***Another milestone for the Ten Pin Bowling Group***

We will be marking the 600th meeting of our Ten Pin Bowling Group on Wednesday 21st May. Yes, six hundred meetings!

Even though we have in the order of 40 to 50 of us playing each week there is still room for you. We recently had a record week when there were 55 of us, so we must be doing something right! Interested in joining us?

David Arnold

**ASTRONOMY GROUP 2014** - Updated

STOW MARIES AERODROME

Meet at 7:30pm

**Monday 28th April** – Mike Childs to give a talk on the star sign “Pisces”, this talk will include the history of the sign together with the stars that can be seen in this constellation. If clear skies, then some observing, sunset is at approximately 8:14pm, so please bring your telescopes and binoculars.

**Monday May 26th** - Bank Holiday – No meeting

**Monday 23rd June** - A talk by Peter and Amanda Basset on “The History of Mount Palomar Observatory”, which used to be the largest telescope in the world

**Monday 28th July** – Ralph Lavender to give a talk on the star sign “Leo”, this talk will include the history of the sign together with the stars that can be seen in this constellation.

**Monday 25th August** – Bank Holiday – No meeting

**Monday 22nd September** – Malcolm Case to give a talk on the star sign “Virgo”, this talk will include the history of the sign together with the stars that can be seen in this constellation. If clear skies, then some observing

**Monday 27th October** – Alison Mainwood will give an illustrated talk on “Dark matter and dark energy”.

How do we measure the distance to stars and galaxies?

How do we know the universe is expanding?

How do we know how much matter is in galaxies?

What happened after the Big Bang and how do we know?

What is the Cosmic Microwave background and what does it tell us?

Why has dark energy been postulated?

How do we know how much normal matter, dark matter and dark energy there is?

What are the more promising explanations and experiments?

Can amateur astronomers contribute?

**Monday 24th November** – Tony Tring will a talk on the star sign “Scorpio”, this talk will include the history of the sign together with the stars that can be seen in this constellation. If clear skies, then some observing

**Monday 22nd December** – Richard Yelland will give a talk on the star sign “Sagittarius”, this talk will include the history of the sign together with the stars that can be seen in this constellation. If clear skies, then some observing

All U3A Members are very welcome to join us at any of the meetings.

Malcolm Case

## 2014 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

### List of Events and Outings during the year.

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

|                |                                                           |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Wed. 23 April  | “Posh Frock” Do - Social                                  |
| Wed. 21 May    | Maida Vale & Little Venice Walk - London Walks            |
| Tues 27 May    | Walk & Talk at Galleywood Heritage Centre. - L. History   |
| Mon. 2 June    | Trip on River Thames—Maritime                             |
| Tues. 17 June  | Theatre—’Jersey Boys’                                     |
| Tues. 24 June  | The Annual Essex Inter-U3A Quiz Day                       |
| Sat. 28 June   | Kentwell Hall, Elizabethan Fair Day - Elizabethan History |
| Thurs. 10 July | Summer Picnic—Social                                      |
| 1/4 July       | 4 day trip to Sth Coast & Isle of Wight - Gardeners       |
| Mon 28 July    | Guided walk from Dedham to Flatford - Local History       |
| Tues. 12 Aug   | Wine Tasting in Kent—Wine Group 3                         |
| Wed. 20 Aug.   | Thames North Bank Walk, - London Walks                    |
| Mon 22 Sept    | The White Cliffs and Walmer Castle - Local History        |
| Wed. 24 Sept   | Theatre - ‘The 39 Steps’                                  |
| Fri. 17 Oct.   | Beetle Drive - Social                                     |
| Wed. 15 Oct    | Searching Alleyways of the City of London - London Walks  |
| Tues. 28 Oct.  | Study Day, Plume School, Maldon                           |
| Mon. 3 Nov     | Visit to Trinity House - Maritime                         |
| Thurs. 20 Nov. | Call My Wine Bluff - Social                               |

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

### **KENTWELL HALL Elizabethan Fair Day Saturday, June 28th**

The Elizabethan History Group are arranging a coach trip to Kentwell Hall and would like to invite any U3A members to join us. We can thoroughly recommend the event. Price: Entrance to Kentwell Hall is £17 payable on the day and approx. £10 coach fare, payable in advance.

Please ring me as soon as possible if you would like to come.

Beryl McDonell

## ***Discussion Group***

The group gathered once more on the 6th March with the focus firstly on the controversial proposal of the government to centralise the medical records of everybody online so that in the event of an accident or an incident requiring medical information of the person outside normal doctors` operating hours, details such as blood group, allergies or other special medication applicable to that person could be easily available to the N.H.S and their staff. Although this proposal seems sensible and useful to doctors and their staff in treating patients, some concern was expressed on the matter of privacy and confidentiality, bearing in mind the ease with which certain undesirable hackers could access one`s personal details. However, in response it is worth noting that these days, with use of credit and debit cards of all descriptions, insurance policies and bank accounts on line etc. real privacy is a thing of the past and perhaps the advantages in this case outweigh the disadvantages.

Continuing on with the topic of health, one member referred to a few newspaper titbits, of which there are many these days, telling us how to keep fit, mentally and physically, in our advancing years, assuming first of course that we are not all binge drinkers and lighting up our first fag of the day at breakfast time. Suggestions of regular physical exercise such as walking, swimming, dancing etc. to keep our feeble limbs working did not come as a great surprise. Nor indeed did the passion for crossword and other forms of puzzling to maintain our mental faculties. All these suggestions, it should be said, are well catered for in our own U3A and if crosswords are not your cup of tea, then come along and enjoy one at our `Discussion Group` in an atmosphere of stimulating conversation and extend your life span in so doing.

Ray Harman

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## **Wine Tastings in Kent—Tuesday, August 12**

The Wine Groups are arranging a coach trip and spaces may be available to any U3A member. The proposed itinerary is as follows:

Depart West Maldon Community Centre at 0830.

Arrive Chapel Down Winery Small Hythe at 1030 for a guided tour and tastings.

Leave approx 1230 to travel to Biddenden Vineyards.

On arrival a ploughman's lunch will be served - followed by a guided tour and tastings. Leave approx 1630 to arrive back in Maldon 1800.

Total cost including lunch £37.

To book a place please contact Paul Costa

## London Walks & Talks 2014 – Diary

|               |                                                              |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wed. April 23 | Walk to complement London Bridge Talk - Neil Morley          |
| Wed. May 21   | Walk—Paddington & Little Venice - Maggie Piper               |
| Wed. June 18  | Talk—Paddington & Little Venice—Maggie Piper                 |
| Wed. July 16  | Talk - The Thames - North Bank—Michael Gilbert               |
| Wed. Aug. 20  | Walk - Thames North Bank - Michael Gilbert                   |
| Wed. Sept. 17 | Talk - London Street Names - Elaine Beckett                  |
| Wed. Oct. 15  | Walk - Searching Alleyways of the City of London - Ian Bevan |

Talks will be held at the West Maldon Community Centre at 2.30 pm

Details of the visit in May and a Booking Form are available from

Christine Speed

Janeen Trew

### ***Theatre Group***

Those who have booked for the **17th June** trip to see “*Jersey Boys*” must let me have their cheque for the coach trip (£13.00 per person) by the May meeting.

Alan Buck

### ***Antiques***

The subject for last month was glass. It is quite a wide subject as there are so many types, such as crystal, lead crystal, engraved, moulded, blown & stained glass.

The origins are not known for certain. Some say the Phoenicians first started the process; however, things have progressed considerably over the centuries. We had many samples to examine which included champagne flutes - unfortunately no bottle accompanied them; also a cake dish and again the cry went up “where are the cakes?” Nobody seemed to mention the fact that the decanter was empty! However, we enjoyed our tea and biscuits before wending our way home after an entertaining afternoon.

### ***Family History***

The next meeting will be on the **30th April** at 49 Hopping Jacks Lane commencing 2.30pm. The subject matter will be a memory of a childhood holiday when you were between the age of five and thirteen.

We will also discuss the forthcoming visit to Kew.

Alan Buck

## MARITIME GROUP 2014 PROGRAMME—Updated

1. **Monday 5th May**, no meeting, Bank Holiday
2. **Monday 2nd June 2014**, a trip on the River Thames; “The Royal River Explorer”, visiting Dorney village, Eaton then a coach tour of the Thames Villages which would include Old Windsor and Datchet. This to be followed by a cruise on the River Thames. We will have a Blue Badge guide with us for the whole day.
3. **Monday 7th July 2014**, meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00 am for an illustrated talk by Richard Thomas on “Waterway Wonders”. This talk is a “Tour” of some of the engineering marvels around the waterway system including Foxton Inclined Plane, Pont-cysyllte Aqueduct, Harecastle Tunnel, Anderton Boat Lift and Bingley Five Rise Locks among others perhaps not so well known.
4. **Monday 4th August 2014**, meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10: 00 am for an informative illustrated talk by the Essex Police Marine Unit. This unit is based in Burnham on Crouch and patrols a large area of Essex.
5. **Monday 1st September 2014**, meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00 am for an interesting and illustrated talk on “The challenges of displaying museum collections: the new Naval history gallery at the National Maritime Museum” by Dr James Davey, Curator of Naval History, National Maritime Museum, Greenwich.
6. **Monday 6th October 2014**, meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00am for an interesting, informative and illustrated talk by John Johnson-Alan on “The Royal Navy’s Red Sea Fleet in the early 1900’s”.
7. **Monday 3rd November 2014**, visit to Trinity House, London; maximum people allowed on the visit is 50, split into two groups. First visit at 10:00am, second visit at 3:00pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided.
8. **Monday 1st December 2014**, meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 11:00 am for a discussion on our plans for 2015 followed by our Christmas Buffet.

All U3A members are very welcome to come to any of our meetings

Malcolm Case

## The Lion King—Theatre visit

On 26 March we filled the coach at West Maldon Community Centre and were driven to London to see The Lion King. There was plenty of time for us to split into groups to find coffee and have a wander round Covent Garden, followed by lunch in various venues around the area before we met back at the Lyceum Theatre for the show.

It proved to be a non-stop spectacular, with catchy tunes, fantastic costumes and brilliant acting performances, especially the actors representing animals, who moved with uncanny realism. We all enjoyed it, as did the various school parties in the audience, who were spellbound.

A big thank you to Rosemary for organising the tickets, and Alan for organising the coach, which delivered us safely back to Maldon in the evening.

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### Interested in playing Chess?

I am wondering whether there would be sufficient demand for us to set up a Chess Group? I belong to one in the Witham U3A Branch and this is very successful. We meet monthly in members' homes, and our members have a range of abilities in Chess, which we manage successfully to accommodate.

So that I can gauge the degree of interest for a new Group for Maldon, will anyone who is interested please contact me  
Daron Gunson

### ***Rummikub in Danbury***

A group meets in Danbury Village Hall, to play Rummikub, on the second Thursday of the month – **8th May** – at 2pm. We would like to welcome anyone who wishes to join us.

Please contact me for further information  
Colin Beckett



Trinity Methodist Music and Drama Group  
present

**CALAMITY JANE**

Chelmsford Civic Theatre

**13th to 17th May**

Box Office: 01245 606505

**The Annual Essex Inter-U3A Quiz Day  
will be held on**

**Tuesday June 24th at 1.40pm for 2.00pm at  
Christ Church URC**

**164 New London Road, CHELMSFORD CM2 0AW**

Following a request for volunteers at the monthly March meeting, we have names for more than the requisite eight-member team, so contact will be made nearer the time to see who is still available and who is willing to be on standby.

Meanwhile we will continue to practise for the right answers and hope that Rosemary and Malcolm will give us the right questions!

Thank you and Good Luck

Sylvia Cousins

**LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES -**

Times 12.15 pm

**TUESDAY 4th May at The Anchor, Danbury**

Co-ordinator: Mike Wood

**WEDNESDAY 21st May** Lunch Club meal for May will be the "apology" meal at The Warren Golf Club. Note that this is only open to attendees of the 2013 Christmas Lunch.

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,

BLACKWATER U3A

Contact

01621 854 065

Dawn Mundy, Chairman

HEYBRIDGE U3A

Contact

01621 841 068

Joyce Woodham, Chairman

THE LIMEBROOK U3A

Contact

01621 855 883

Paul Madge, Chairman

### **Your Committee**

Chairman	Malcolm Case
Vice Chairman	Marrie Webster
Secretary	Patricia Riddell
Minute Secretary	Glenna Wilkins
Treasurer	Martin Cook
Newsletter Editor	Jan Robertson
Committee	Fred Lane
	Dorothy Denmark
Web Master	John Bowen
Social Committee	Carol Priest
AV Equipment	Jim Light

**If you are still having trouble receiving your monthly Newsletter,  
please contact Alan Clarke, our Membership Secretary**

#### **NATIONAL OFFICE**

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Resource Centre: email: [resource.centre@u3a.org.uk](mailto:resource.centre@u3a.org.uk)

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 9th May

# CO-ORDINATORS

Antiques	Liz Wood	Mah-Jong	Molly Polden
Astronomy	Malcolm Case	Maritime	Malcolm Case
Bird Watching	Pat Clements Peter Gaywood	Music Appreciation	Enid Hall John Skuse
Botany	Veronica Smith	New Friends	Liz Robson
Bridge	Sheila Epps	Petanque (Boule)	Jack Veash
Bridge for the Curious	Joyce Yates Gill Stone	Photography	Michael Manning
Canasta	Carol Craven Elaine Bane	Poetry	Jo Robson
Computers	Jan Robertson	Reading	Sheila Epps
Discussion	Ray Harman	Rummikub 1 Rummikub 2	Colin Beckett Beryl McDonell
Egyptology	Joyce Cotterell	Scottish Country Dancing	Shirley Grummett
Elizabethan Age	Beryl McDonell	Sing for Pleasure	Sylvia Carpenter
Family History	Alan Buck	Smartphone	Barry Samuels
French Conversation	Bill Stichbury Ray Harman	Snooker	John Williams
Gardeners	Jan Robertson	Strollers/Too	Gill Stone
German	Jenny Plumb	Table Tennis	Gordon Hardy
Handicraft	Marian Manning	Ten Pin Bowling	David Arnold
Just Jazz	Jim Light Peter Beckett	Trees	Veronica Smith
Local History	Mary Burd Michael Blackwell	Weekenders	Beryl McDonell
London Walks & Talks	Christine Speed Janeen Trew	Whist	Molly Polden
Luncheon Group 1st Tues 3rd Wed. Eat & Meet 2nd Wed	Mike Wood Paul Costa Joyce Cotterell	Wine Circle No. 1/2 Wine Circle No. 3	Graham Boswell Mary Burd Paul Costa
		Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth

# PROGRAMME – MAY 2014

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 Discussion Petanque Poetry	2 Canasta Rummikub 2 Smartphones	3 Bird Watching Rye Mead	4
5 BANK HOLIDAY	6 Table Tennis Snooker Luncheon Group	7 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge for the Curious Wine group 1	8 Elizabethan History Petanque Reading Rummikub 1 Scottish Country Dancing	9 Mah Jong Sing for Pleasure	10	11
12 German Handicrafts Photography Whist	13 Table Tennis Snooker Egyptology Gardeners	14 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Luncheon Group	15 Antiques Bridge for the Curious Petanque	16 Canasta	17	18 Strollers
19 <b>Meeting 1.30 pm</b> Just Jazz	20 Table Tennis Snooker	21 Ten Pin Bowling London Talk Luncheon Group	22 Computers French Conversation Music Appreciation Petanque Scottish Country Dancing Wine Group 3	23 Mah Jong Sing for Pleasure	24	25
26 BANK HOLIDAY	27 Table Tennis Snooker Strollers Too Local History Walk	28 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Family History Wine Group 1 Writing for Fun	29 Petanque	30 Canasta	31	

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

Newsletter Editor: Mrs. Jan. Robertson,