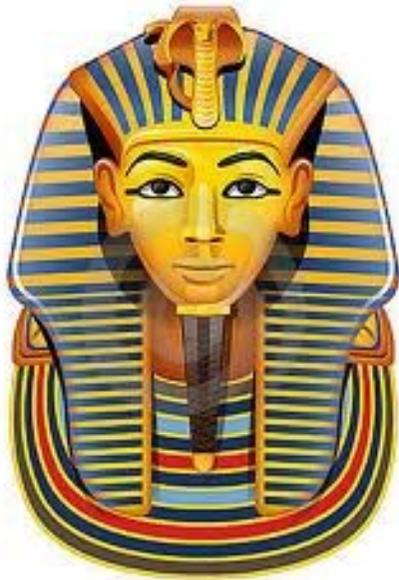




The University of the Third Age

MALDON AND DISTRICT

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dreamstime.com

Egyptology - 2nd Tuesday

FEBRUARY 2015

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

Web Site: www.maldonu3a.co.uk

FROM THE CHAIR



The Notice Boards have been moved closer to the group sign up tables for ease of use, there are several new notices from the Third Age Trust and details of all of our Activity Groups.

Following the last committee meeting, it has been agreed by your committee to have a “Comments Book” at the sign in tables. Please feel free to add any comments about the monthly meeting. Your opinion can be anonymous if you wish.

Currently we have a membership of 407 and still have vacancies. Our average attendance for 2014 at the monthly meetings was 130, which is slightly down on the previous year. The attendance at last month’s meeting was 155.

Should any member have suggestions or concerns about our U3A, then could they please contact either myself or any committee member, so that these matters can be addressed.

Following my earlier updates, your committee continue to discuss and actively seek an alternative venue for our monthly meetings. We will of course keep you all fully informed of developments.

Malcolm Case
malcolmcase@talktalk.net

2015 Group Activities Booklet

We no longer have this booklet printed, but it will be sent out by email PDF to all members on Broadband this month. If you would like a printed copy please contact Jan Robertson

Architecture

The next meeting of the Architecture Group will be held on **Friday, 13th March**, in the Jubilee Lounge at the West Maldon Community Centre, at 2.30 pm. Our guest speaker will be Patricia Stewart, a chartered architect, and her subject is "The Evolution of Architecture: How Engineering and Materials Determine the Style of Buildings".

All U3A members are very welcome to join us.

Judith Johnston

Antiques

Last month's topic was "Antique Carpentry Tools". What a display Amanda had prepared for our meeting. Most of the tools had belonged to her father and had been used in the building of the staircase in their hall. In fact most of the tools were older than any of us! The selection ranged from large and small wood planes, saws of numerous varieties and more specific tools for joinery namely hand drills, chisels, pliers and bradawls. After tea and biscuits the usual U3A discussions commenced. This month's subject is Wedgewood China on **19th February**.

Liz Wood

Maritime

Monday March 2nd trip by coach to visit the Aviation import facilities on the river Thames, including visiting the Jetty and if a ship is on the Jetty, going on board. The trip will also include visiting the Thames Port Container Terminal. **Coach will depart WMCC at 0815.**

Lunch, cost of which is not included, can be taken in the café in London Gateway terminal. We plan to depart the Terminal at about 1600.

Malcolm Case

Maritime

Please note that payment for those going on the 'Three Queens' trip in May must be made before **April 4th**. Payment details are on your letter of confirmation which you will already have received.

Any problems then please contact me.

Malcolm Case

Local & General History

Our next meeting is on **Monday 23 February** 2 pm at Maldon Town Hall when we have a returning speaker Nick Wickenden who is coming to tell us about “The History & Restoration of Hylands House.”

All members are welcome to join us - the cost is £2 per session.

Our following meeting is on **23 March** and the subject - “Cholera: A germ that changed cities”.

For those going on the three day visit to Flanders from **27 - 29 April** the balance of payment is due by the **13 March**. Unfortunately we have had people cancel from the trip so the payment is as quoted on your acknowledgment letter. No further invoice will be sent so please send your balance payment (cheque payable to Simply Groups Client Account) directly to Simply Groups.

If anyone is interested in joining us on the visit please contact us for further details.

Co-Ordinators Mary Burd
 Michael Blackwell

Astronomy

Monday February 23rd - A talk by Gordon Davies on “Gravity”. Gravity is unique among the forces in nature in that it is the only one that we experience directly ourselves (e.g. by running up a flight of stairs), so we know a huge amount about gravitational forces. It may be fun to approach gravity from that point of view, using what we know, but probably do not realise that we know about it. Gravity is the glue that holds us on the Earth. How does it work? How does it make Black Holes?

Please note change of venue for this meeting only; we will meet at 7:30pm at 30 The Spinnaker, South Woodham Ferrers, CM3 5GL.

Malcolm Case

Gardeners

Where are all those volunteers to open their gardens for our Afternoon Tea/Plant Swaps this year?

Come on folks, it is not difficult, such an enjoyable afternoon for all our members.

Botany

The group had a most enjoyable wander round a garden and plant area in lovely winter sunshine in January. If you would like to come along for a similar stroll, looking at plants as they grow, with more detailed observations over lunch, do contact Veronica for details of our next outing.

Trees

Get the feel of our friendly group at our first meeting this year on **Tuesday 10th March** at a member's house in Danbury. We shall spend some time on revision since we have not met since before Christmas so a newcomer would not be disadvantaged.

Contact Veronica Smith on for information on both Groups.

London Walks & Talks

Group starts its 2015 season on **Wednesday, March 18th** with a talk by Ian Bevan entitled "Boxers, Bandits and A Blind Beggar: A History of Bethnal Green". Talk begins at 2.30 p.m. at West Maldon Community Centre.

Doors open at 2.15 p.m. Entrance fee £2.

Bookings for the walk on **Wednesday, April 15th**, which will be in the Bethnal Green area, will be taken at this meeting.

The guided walk will be led by Ian Bevan.

Janeen Trew

Christine Speed

Aviation

The proposed new Aviation Group will meet in the Jubilee Lounge, West Maldon Community Centre at 2.00 p.m. on **Tuesday 17th February**, and on the 3rd Tuesday each month thereafter.

We hope to move to Stow Maries Aerodrome when it re-opens in the Spring.

Please join us if you are interested in aircraft, aviation history and visits to airshows and museums.

We will be showing an aviation DVD at our first meeting.

Andrew Simmonds

Mave Studholme

Bird Watching

The group meets next on **Sunday March 8th** at Hanningfield Reservoir 10.00am.

Another date for your diaries is **April 4th** when we shall visit the Phyllis Curie Reserve at Great Leighs.



AFTERNOON TEA
with
BARRIE JAMIESON

Barrie Jamieson sings amusing songs about famous works of art.

FRIDAY 27th MARCH

at

West Maldon Community Centre

Doors open 2.30 for 3.00 pm

Tea, Sandwiches and Cake to be served

Ticket price: £6

Tickets available from Barbara Byam Shaw

Be quick, most of the tickets have gone.

2015 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

Events and Outings during the year

Wed. 25 Feb	“Cats” Theatre visit
Mon. 2 March	Trip to Shell Haven & London Gateway—Maritime
Fri. 27 March	Afternoon Social Event
27/29 April	Flanders - Lest We Forget - Local History
24/27 May	4 day trip to Liverpool—“Three Queens” - Maritime
Thurs. 11 June	Magna Carta visit to British Library—Plantagenet History
7/10 July	4 day trip to the Midlands—“Places of Interest”
27 July	Guided walk in Saffron Walden & visit Audley End—L.Hist
Mon. 21 Sept	Maldon U3A Open Day, Town Hall
28 Sept	Monuments & public art of London & Olympic Park—L.Hist

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

Geology

The group welcomed Ian Mercer, FGA to their meeting in February. Ian is a retired geologist and gemmologist who has worked for the Geological Survey and Museum and also for the Gemmological Association, and, to use his own words, has travelled the world to catch sight of its many wonders – including pebbles and mud, of which he found plenty in Essex.

His talk was entitled the Geology of Essex and he took us through time from when we were joined to the ancient continents five hundred million years ago, through the time when dinosaurs roamed our world, through various ice ages to the present day when the Thames no longer runs through Braintree although evidence remains of its past course. And did you know that, in geological terms, we are experiencing another ice age?

Ian was accompanied by another geologist, Ros Smith, and together, they spent a further time talking informally to the members answering questions and explaining the many samples they had brought with them.

A thoroughly enjoyable and instructive afternoon.

Enid Hall

Strollers

Sunday 15 March

There will be no walk as it is Mother's Day.

Gill Stone

Strollers

The dates of walks for 2015 are:

April 19th. May 17th. June 21st. July 19th. August 16th.

September 20th. October 18th. November 15th.

Further details will be in the relevant monthly magazine.

Why not join us?

Gill Stone

Strollers Too

Our March Walk is **Tuesday, March 24th.**

Meet at 10.15 for 10.30 start at THE ANCHOR, RUNSELL GREEN, DANBURY, CM3 4QZ. Walk will be approx. 4.5 miles.

If you wish to have lunch please let me know by Monday, March 16.

Christine Speed

Strollers Too

The dates for walks in 2015 are:

April 28th. June 23rd. July 28th. August 25th. September 22nd. October 27th.

November 24th.

Further details will be in the relevant monthly magazine.

Why not join us?

Gill Stone



***Four Day Holiday to the Midlands—"Places of Interest"
7/10th July***

I need your deposit of £45 by the 29th February if possible please

Places still available, do come and join us.

Jan Robertson

2015/2016 Subscription Renewals

Membership subscription renewals are due no later than the end of

April 2015

One enrolment form is included with this newsletter, which can be photocopied if you need more. In addition they are available at the sign-in desk at the monthly meetings or from the Membership Secretary (see below). Each member must complete a separate form, but if you are a couple please pay by a single cheque.

The annual subscription is **£20.00** each and payment must be made by cheque, payable to Maldon and District U3A, together with your completed form(s) before the **1st May 2015**.

GIFT AID: Current Gift Aid regulations require a separate form to be completed by each individual. Gift Aid operates on the basis that HM Revenue and Customs treat your subscriptions as charitable donations; they assume that you have deducted tax at the basic rate before you pay your subscriptions and HMRC refund this tax to our U3A.

We would encourage members who pay more tax than the tax recoverable from their subscription, currently £5.00, to complete the Gift Aid form. The tax refunds we receive form a significant part of our income and help us keep the annual subscription low.

DO IT NOW: You do not have to wait until April.

Please hand your forms and cheques to the sign-in desk or post them to the address below as soon as possible. Cheques will not be banked before the

1st May 2015

If you have not renewed your subscription by the **1st May 2015** you will no longer be a member.

Membership Secretary: Alan Clarke, 39 St Stephens Road, Cold Norton, Chelmsford, CM3 6JE.

Theatre Outings

“CATS” Wednesday 25th February

The coach will leave West Maldon Community Centre at 10.00am, leaving London at 6.00pm. Theatre tickets will be given out on the coach.

As usual please park at the far end of the car park at WMCC.

If anyone wishes to be picked up in Danbury please let me know.

Thank you.

Rosemary Case

“My travel plans for 2015”

Older people should be allowed to drive fast. It's important they get to where they're going before they forget where it is.

I have been in many places, but I've never been in Cahoots. It seems you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone.

I've also never been in Cognito. I hear that no one recognises you there. I have however been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there.

I have made several trips there, thanks to my friends, family and work. I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I am not too much on physical activity any more. I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there too often. I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm. Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I find I am going there more often as I get older. One of my favourite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenalin flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get. I have yet to be in Continent, and I don't think I am ready to go there yet - it's an age thing. They tell me it is very wet and damp there. So I'm not planning to go there soon.

Computer Courses

U3A is all about learning new things. When I retired in 2010, I was determined to fill some of the gaps in my education and gain knowledge that I hadn't had time to do until then.

My first discovery was a company called:

"The Great Courses" (www.thegreatcourses.co.uk) that sells hundreds of lecture series on DVD and CD. Most consist of 24 or 36 half-hour lectures. So far, my partner and I have accumulated over 40 courses - some on DVD, but others on CD which we listen to in the car on long journeys. They are not cheap, but they have sale offers every month and most of ours have been purchased at a considerable discount from the list price.

More recently, I have discovered the wonders of MOOCs on the Internet, which are predicted to revolutionise education across the globe. MOOC stands for "Massive Open On-line Course". One website is "Future Learn" (www.futurelearn.com), which is a consortium of UK universities. Each course has a fixed start date and duration - typically 4 - 12 weeks. Amazingly, the courses are completely free. After enrolling for a course, each week the professors put a series of short videos on the secure webpage plus links to a relevant website to read. There is a discussion forum on which to paste comments and at the end of each week, the professor uploads a feedback video in which he deals with aspects which have caused questions or difficulties. A course may have 10,000 students - something which would be unthinkable for conventional methods. A course typically requires around 3 hours per week, but how much time and effort you put into it is entirely up to you. I'm currently part way through my first course and I'm impressed by its content - and the excellent information available on the websites to which they provide links, and which I would not have visited otherwise.

I've found two similar USA websites: Coursera (www.coursera.org) and EdX (www.edx.org), which are both sponsored by major universities there. For individual talks, there is TED (www.ted.com), which originated from a 1984 conference on Technology, Entertainment and Design, but now has talks on almost anything. Courses from several other providers can be accessed for free, simply by logging in with your library card number as Essex libraries has purchased a corporate subscription:

The American commercial company

"Universal Class" (<http://essexlibraries.universalclass.com/barcode-login.htm?enter+code>) offers a wide range of subjects.

- "Transparent Languages" (<https://library.transparent.com/ukessex/game/ng/#/login>) has courses in nearly 100 languages.

- "Very Short Introductions" is a series of 400 books published by Oxford University Press, but which are available to read on-line (www.veryshortintroductions.com). "Very short" is perhaps an overstatement - they state that the average book has 144 pages, but that it still much less than a normal book, and I read one on-line quite quickly.

The links to the sites above are now on the 'Links' page on the Maldon U3A website. Have you used any of the above or do you know of other websites or learning media offering a wide range of subjects? If so, please e-mail me (AnthonyGroves1@Yahoo.co.uk) and I will add them to the website.

Tony Groves

Brandenburg Choral Festival - Spring Series

Tuesday 28th April

at the

Temple Church, Fleet Street, London

Details are available at

<http://www.brandenburg.org.uk/bcf-concerts/2015/4/28/vivaldi-gloria>

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**THAMES SAILING BARGE TRUST**

**FILM EVENING**

**Saturday, 7th March**

**“THE RESTORATION OF THE CENTEUR”**

Maldon Town Hall

7.00 for 7.30 pm start

Tickets £7.50 or £9.00 on the night

Contact the Maldon Tourist Office or ring 01376 561778

***LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES***

Times 12.15 pm

**TUESDAY 3rd March at The Bell, Woodham Walter**

Co-ordinator: Mike Wood

**WEDNESDAY 18th March at Henri’s Steakhouse, Madison Heights**

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

01621 854 065

Dawn Mundy, Chairman

HEYBRIDGE U3A

Contact

01621 841 066

Joyce Woodham, Chairman

THE LIMEBROOK U3A

Contact

01621 855 883

Paul Madge, Chairman

### **Your Committee**

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Chairman          | Malcolm Case    |
| Vice Chairman     | Marrie Webster  |
| Secretary         | Kym Marshall    |
| Treasurer         | Martin Cook     |
| Membership Sec.   | Alan Clarke     |
| Newsletter Editor | Jan Robertson   |
| Committee         | Fred Lane       |
|                   | Andrew Simmonds |
|                   | Judith Johnston |
|                   | Sylvia Beckett  |
|                   | Veronica Smith  |
| Web Master        | John Bowen      |
| Social Committee  | Michael Childs  |
| AV Equipment      | Jim Light       |

### **NATIONAL OFFICE**

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Web site [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)  
Resource Centre: email: [resource.centre@u3a.org.uk](mailto:resource.centre@u3a.org.uk)

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 6th March

# CO-ORDINATORS

|                        |                                |                          |                                  |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Antiques               | Liz Wood                       | Mah-Jong                 | Molly Polden                     |
| Architecture           | Judith Johnston                | Maritime                 | Malcolm Case                     |
| Astrology              | Liz Jones                      | Music Appreciation       | Enid Hall<br>John Skuse          |
| Astronomy              | Malcolm Case                   | New Friends              | Liz Robson                       |
| Bird Watching          | Pat Clements<br>Peter Gaywood  | Petanque (Boules)        | Jack Veash                       |
| Botany                 | Veronica Smith                 | Photography              | Michael Manning                  |
| Bridge                 | Sheila Epps                    | Plantagenets             | Beryl McDonell                   |
| Bridge for the Curious | Gill Stone                     | Poetry                   | Jo Robson                        |
| Canasta                | Carol Craven<br>Elaine Bane    | Reading                  | Sheila Epps                      |
| Computers              | Jan Robertson                  | Rummikub 1<br>Rummikub 2 | Colin Beckett<br>Beryl McDonell  |
| Cribbage               | Pat Clements                   | Scottish Country Dancing | Shirley Grummett                 |
| Discussion             | Ray Harman                     | Sing for Pleasure        | Sylvia Carpenter                 |
| Egyptology             | Joyce Cotterell                | Smartphone               | Barry Samuels                    |
| Family History         | Alan Buck                      | Snooker                  | John Williams                    |
| French Conversation    | Ray Harman                     | Strollers                | Gill Stone                       |
| Gardeners              | Jan Robertson                  | Table Tennis             | Gordon Hardy                     |
| Geology                | Enid Hall                      | Ten Pin Bowling          | David Arnold                     |
| Handicraft             | Marian Manning                 | Theatre Outings          | Rosemary Case<br>Joyce Cotterell |
| Just Jazz              | Jim Light<br>Peter Beckett     | Trees                    | Veronica Smith                   |
| Local History          | Mary Burd<br>Michael Blackwell | Weekenders               | Beryl McDonell                   |
| London Walks & Talks   | Christine Speed<br>Janeen Trew | Whist                    | Molly Polden                     |
| Luncheon Group         |                                | Wine Circle No. 1/2      | Graham Boswell                   |
| 1st Tues               | Mike Wood                      | Wine Circle No. 3        | Mary Burd<br>Paul Costa          |
| 3rd Wed.               | Paul Costa                     | Wine Circle No. 4        | Alan Clarke                      |
| Eat & Meet             |                                | Writing for Fun          | Patrick Forsyth                  |
| 2nd Wed                | Joyce Cotterell                |                          |                                  |

# PROGRAMME – MARCH 2015

| Monday                                                   | Tuesday                                                         | Wednesday                                                                             | Thursday                                                                                                        | Friday                                                                                           | Saturday | Sunday                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------------------|
|                                                          |                                                                 |                                                                                       |                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                  |          | 1                                               |
| 2<br>Maritime<br>Visit to Shell Haven<br>Whist           | 3<br>Table Tennis<br>Snooker<br>Geology<br>Luncheon Group       | 4<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>Bridge for the Curious<br>Wine Circle 1                       | 5<br>Discussion<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>Poetry<br>Rummikub 2                                                      | 6<br>Smartphones<br>Mah Jong                                                                     | 7        | 8<br>Bird Watching<br>Hanningfield<br>Reservoir |
| 9<br>Handicrafts<br>Photography<br>Whist                 | 10<br>Table Tennis<br>Snooker<br>Egyptology<br>Trees            | 11<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>Bridge<br>Luncheon Group                                     | 12<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>Plantagenets<br>Reading<br>Rummikub 1<br>Scottish Country Dancing                      | 13<br>Canasta<br>Architecture<br>Sing for Pleasure                                               | 14       | 15                                              |
| 16<br><b>Meeting 1.30 pm</b><br>Just Jazz                | 17<br>Table Tennis<br>Snooker<br>Aviation                       | 18<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>London Walks & Talks<br>Luncheon Group                       | 19<br>Antiques<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>Bridge for the Curious                                                     | 20<br>Mah Jong                                                                                   | 21       | 22                                              |
| 23<br>Astronomy<br>Handicrafts<br>Local History<br>Whist | 24<br>Table Tennis<br>Snooker<br>Strollers Too<br>Wine Circle 4 | 25<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>Bridge<br>Family History<br>Wine Circle 2<br>Writing for Fun | 26<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>French Conversation<br>Music Appreciation<br>Scottish Country Dancing<br>Wine Circle 3 | 27<br><b>Social –Afternoon Tea</b><br>Canasta<br>Cribbage<br>Family History<br>Sing for Pleasure | 28       | 29                                              |
| 30<br>Whist                                              | 31                                                              |                                                                                       |                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                  |          |                                                 |

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

Newsletter Editor: Mrs Jan Robertson,