



The University of the Third Age

MALDON AND DISTRICT

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Happy New Year

January 2015

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

Web Site: www.maldonu3a.co.uk

FROM THE CHAIR



Rosemary and I would like to wish you all a very Happy, Healthy and Peaceful 2015.

This is the message that we have received from MacTheatre, our entertainment at our Christmas meeting:

“We thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon with such a warm and engaging audience and appreciated all the thought and planning that had gone into the day. It was brilliantly organised and managed, beautifully set-up and all the extra touches of greenery and decorations created a lovely atmosphere to perform in”.

Following my earlier updates, your Committee is still discussing and actively seeking an alternative venue for our monthly meetings. We will of course keep you all fully informed of developments.

Following discussion at today’s Committee meeting, we felt that it would be useful to let you know that under The Third Age Trust, we are all covered by their Public Liability Insurance. If you would like further details of this, then please contact any member of your Committee.

Your Committee has also been discussing changes to the monthly meetings. Starting in February for a trial period, the doors will open at the usual time of 1:30pm and the meeting will start at 1:45pm with the Co-ordinators’ announcements until 2:00pm. The speaker will then entertain us until approximately 3:00pm. There will then be an opportunity for you to sign up for outings, lunches etc before the meeting closes at 3:30pm.

Currently we have a membership of 402 and still have vacancies. If you know of anyone who would like to join, please ask them to contact our Membership Secretary. Our average attendance for 2014 at the monthly meetings was 130.

If any member has suggestions or concerns about our U3A, could they please contact me, or any Committee member, so that these matters can be addressed.

Malcolm Case
malcolmcas@talktalk.net

Canasta

We have a few spaces if anyone is interested in joining us to play canasta. We are willing to teach if you need to learn the game. This is an enjoyable game with a very friendly group.
Carol and Elaine

Strollers

Next walk: **Sunday 15th February.**
Meet at 10:15 for 10:30 start.
Details will be available at the January coffee morning;
or contact Colin Beckett

Strollers Too

Next walk: **Tuesday 24th February.**
Meet at 10:15 for 10:30 start.
Details will be available at the January coffee morning;
or contact Gill Stone

Local & General History

Happy New Year to all members.

We start 2015 with our first meeting on **Monday 26 January**, 2 pm at Maldon Town Hall, when Roger Smith is coming to talk about the History of Stow Maries Aerodrome.

On **23 February** our talk is The History & Restoration of Hylands House.

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

We still have a few places on our three day visit to Flanders from 27 to 29 April - please contact us for further details.

Mary Burd
Michael Blackwell

Antiques

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 19th February. The venue is to be confirmed.

German

We have now had two meetings to discuss the continuation of the German group which has suffered from poor attendances over the past few months. We shall be meeting again on 22 December with the remaining members, but we have decided that the group will cease in its current format at the end of December.

It is sad that we have found it necessary to disband the group, but we seem to have lost our way and only a very small minority wanted to see it continue.
Jenny Plumb

Gardeners

Everyone is asking me what are we doing this year. I wish to stand down but nobody has come forward, so I am suggesting that we arrange three Members' Afternoon Tea Garden Parties/Plant Swaps. These have proved to be our most popular outings in the calendar and perhaps we could have just two or three NGS visits per year?

I therefore need **three volunteer members to open their gardens for the Afternoon Tea Garden Parties**. It does not involve much, we bring our own urn, large teapot, cups, cakes, chairs etc. and it is all about sitting around chatting with friends in a lovely garden. Your garden does not have to be big or perfect - we all have our problems!

Please volunteer, we want this group to continue.

Jan Robertson

Architecture

The next meeting of the Architecture Group will be held on **Friday, 13th February**, in the Jubilee Room at the West Maldon Community Centre, at 2.30pm. Our speaker will be Tim Howson from Maldon Council. New members are always welcome.

Judith Johnston

London Walks & Talks—dates for your diary

Wednesday 18 March History of Bethnal Green

Wednesday 15 April Guided Walk in Bethnal Green

Botany

There are no official dates for meetings scheduled for 2015 but the group will be meeting several times for botanical walks where all that is needed is a plant book and suitable shoes. We shall endeavour to provide the good weather needed.

For details, please contact Veronica Smith

Trees

The first meeting of the year for the Trees group will be on **Tuesday 10th March**. Everybody is welcome to either of these groups even if you feel that you do not know anything. You will almost certainly find that that is not true. For details please, contact Veronica Smith

Just Jazz

We meet in the Maldon Little Ship Club at 7.30pm to 9.30pm on the third Monday of every month from January through to June, and then from September to December.

We play mainly "TRAD", but if anyone has something they want to share with the group then bring it along on CD or Memory Stick.

Please itemise the tracks you want to listen to as this helps us to plan the evening.

There is a bar available and the evenings are very enjoyable.

Co-ordinators Peter Beckett and Jim Light

Family History Group 1

The next meeting will be on the 28th January at 37 Perry Road, Tiptree, CO5 0UB, commencing at 2.30pm.

Family History Group 2

The next meeting will be on the 30th January at 58 Augustine Way, Bicknacre, commencing at 10.00am.

Photography

The Photography group covers instruction, discussions on tips and problems and showing our own photos. The membership of the group has dropped such that it might not continue. So if you are interested in any aspect of photography, please come and enjoy our sessions.

We meet on the 2nd Monday of the month at 2:00pm in the West Maldon Community Centre.

Michael Manning

Proposed Aviation Group

The inaugural meeting of the proposed new Aviation Group will be on **Wednesday 28th January** in the Jubilee Lounge, West Maldon Community Centre, starting at 2:00pm, to discuss the way forward for the group.

Malcolm Case

Astronomy

The next meeting of the group is on **Monday January 26th**. We meet at 7:30pm in the Airmans' Mess at the Stow Maries Aerodrome. There will be 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. If you have a telescope or a good pair of binoculars, then please bring them with you.

All U3A members are very welcome to join us.

Malcolm Case

Theatre Group

Thank you to members who suggested ideas for theatre outings for the coming year, these are being discussed and investigated by this group.

Our first year has been very successful with visits to Jeeves & Wooster, Lion King, Jersey Boys, 39 steps, White Christmas and The Sixteen at Christmas.

These were all well supported and enjoyed by members.

The next visit is to Cats on **25 February**, tickets all sold.

Thank you to each member of the Theatre Group for organising these events.

Rosemary Case & Joyce Cotterell

Theatre Group visit to "The Sixteen at Christmas" in December

Our trip to "The Sixteen at Christmas" went really well. It was a lovely evening and after a good journey into the city, the driver Graham took us along the main London streets to see the lights. He dropped us close to the Queen Elizabeth Hall where we had time for a snack before taking out seats.

There were actually twenty in the Group singing beautiful carols, some in Latin and some in English. It was a pleasure to listen to their wonderful, perfect voices. After the performance they all came into the lobby and everyone sang carols together.

Outside, the lights on the Thames were an added bonus for us to see before our smooth journey home after a magical evening.

Jean Cuthbert

2015 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

	Events and Outings during the year
Wed. 28 Jan.	Hey Presto II - An Evening of Magic
Wed. 25 Feb	“Cats” Theatre visit
Mon. 2 March	Trip to Shell Haven & London Gateway—Maritime
Wed. 18 March	Talk on Bethnal Green—Ldn Walks & Talks
Fri. 27 March	Afternoon Social Event
Wed. 15 April	Guided walk in Bethnal Green—Ldn Walks & Talks
27/29 April	Flanders - Lest We Forget - Local History
24/27 May	4 day trip to Liverpool—“Three Queens” - Maritime
11 June	Visit to British Library and Temple Church—Plantagenet
7/10 July	4 day trip to the Midlands—Places of Interest
13/16 July	U3A Summer School, Harper Adams University, Shropshire
27 July	Guided walk in Saffron Walden & visit Audley End—L.Hist
3 Aug	Cruising in the Chilterns—City & Village Tours—Maritime
17/20 Aug.	U3A Summer School Royal Ag. University, Cirencester
28 Sept	Monuments & public art of London & Olympic Park—L.Hist

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

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### ***The Plantagenet History Group***

#### **Magna Carta Visit Thursday June 11th 2015**

To acknowledge the signing of the Magna Carta in June 1215 we have arranged a visit to the British Library to view this historical document, followed by a visit to the Temple Church.

We can take 35 people to both venues which are provisionally booked, so if you would like to join us please get in touch with me as soon as possible.

The cost for the Library is £10 and for the Church £3. The coach fare will be collected at a later date.

Please make out your cheque for £13 to Maldon and District U3A.

Beryl McDonell

### ***Combined Tuesday and Wednesday Lunch Group Christmas Lunch***

The event was held at The Forrester Park Golf Club on Thursday 11th December. Sixty two members enjoyed a delicious meal in a delightful setting and a good time was had by everyone. Both the quality of the food and the service by the staff were excellent. One inspired idea was to have balloons on the tables which were blown up and released to fly around the room to much laughter by the big kids that we know we are!

We have already booked the same venue for next year on 10th December, so put it in your diary now and we hope we will have an equally good time then.  
Paul Costa

### ***Bird Watching***

Tollesbury Wick Saturday 6th December 2014

The sky was blue and it was one of those wonderful autumn days when you could see forever. We walked round the marina noting the activity among the boating fraternity, most of whom were wearing Santa hats and heading for their respective craft carrying large quantities of wine.

Whilst the sun shone down upon us the wind ripped through us making observing birds with a telescope or through binoculars a painful experience but we were rewarded with views of Teal (*Anas Crecca*) the smallest native duck and Wigeon (*Anas Penelope*) the male with its chestnut head and pale yellow forehead, its body pearl grey and with a white forewing.

The "santa" flotilla made its way out along the creek as we were observing a flock of Avocet (*Recurvirostra Avosetta*) feeding on a fast receding sand bank.

I alluded earlier to the clear skies and just before the end of our visit we saw in the distance an aerial display of wading birds - Plovers, Sandering, Lapwings and possibly Stints. All of these birds have black or brown backs with bright white breasts and they performed a black and white ballet in front of us .

Had it been a flock of Starlings we would have witnessed an Murmuration but it was spectacular even without a name.

We next meet on **7th February** when we are travelling to Langdon Hills, Essex Wildlife Reserve, meeting in the Reserve car park at 10.00 am.



***Maldon U3A***

***You will now all be thinking about a holiday***

***How about joining our four day holiday in July***

**‘Places of Interest’ in the Midlands**

**7/10th July 2015**

**Hotel: Copthorne Hotel, Merry Hill, Dudley**

**Price £299 or £319 depending on numbers on the coach**

**Single Supplement £45 Insurance £10**

**Day 1: NGS — Chalkhouse Green Farm, Kidmore End**

**Lunch in Wallingford Town**

**Day 2: RAF Museum, Cosford**

**Shipton Hall with House and Garden tour**

**Day 3: Ironbridge, Blists Hill Victorian Town**

**The Iron Bridge and Tollhouse**

**Severn Valley Steam Train**

**Day 4: Time at Merry Hill Shopping Centre, Dudley**

**and Canal walk**

**Milletts Farm Centre, Frilford, nr. Abingdon**

**Home to Maldon**

## **MARITIME GROUP 2015 PROGRAMME**

1. **Monday February 2nd**, meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00 am for an illustrated talk by Gordon Davies on "Boojum, the barge yacht". The boat was built in 1908 as a small cargo barge (similar to 'Cygnet'). She was bought and converted to a yacht by Major-General Sir Alfred Bayly. The Maldon connection is that on retirement, the Baylys sailed the barge yacht to the near Continent nine times, with Bertie Hedgecock as the professional crewman. He was one of the Hedgecock family who, for 80 years, ran the boatyard in Maldon that is behind the Marinestore. After the General's death Eva Bayly lived on the boat in the Hedgecock's yard, and died on board in 1941.
2. **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 08:15, cost per person is £10.00 which includes coach, driver's gratuity and guides. 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 16:00.
3. **Monday April 6th** No Meeting, Easter Monday
4. **Monday May 4th** No Meeting, Bank Holiday.
5. **May 24th – May 27th**, trip to Liverpool to see the "Three Queens" all together in the River Mersey, to celebrate 175 years of Cunard Line. Full itinerary and booking forms are available from either Malcolm Case or Alan Buck. This trip is full; however, we are still taking names for the waiting list.
6. **Monday June 1st** meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00 am for an illustrated talk by Trevor Sapey of the Mary Rose Trust. The talk will consist of a PowerPoint presentation on the history, sinking and raising of the Mary Rose along with the conservation and the new museum.
7. **Monday July 6th**, meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00 for an illustrated talk by David Tournay of the Pioneer Sailing Trust.
8. **Monday August 3rd**, trip with City and Village Tours to "Cruising in the Chilterns". Details and sign-up sheet from Fred Lane.
9. **Monday September 7th**, meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00 for an illustrated talk by John Johnson-Allan on "The Merchant Navy in the Battle of the Atlantic", profusely illustrated by Captain Richard Woodman. This looks at the ships and the men of the Merchant Navy, together with the naval task of escorting convoys.
10. **Monday October 5th**, meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00 for an illustrated talk by Alison Mainwood on "Sailing in Sweden".
11. **Monday November 2nd**, meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Heybridge Basin at 10:00 am for an illustrated talk by Tony Tring on "Henry Morgan, his life and times".
12. **Monday December 7th**, meeting at The Blackwater Sailing Club at 11:00 to discuss our programme for 2016, which will include a five day trip to Dartmouth and Falmouth, and for our usual Christmas Buffet.

## 2014 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

Head Office details as at 1.1.15

Total U3A groups in Gt. Britain 952 (915)

Total members: 341,531 (320,521)

I have produced a survey of our 2014 Maldon membership  
but cannot vouch for its complete accuracy - Jan

397 Members (400) (Last year's figures in brackets)  
208 Couples (222)  
149 Single Ladies (141)  
40 Single Gentlemen (37)  
323 Members who receive PDF email copies of newsletter (318)  
0 Waiting List (19)

Average attendance over eleven Monday Meetings (130)

41 Attended No Main Meeting and No Groups (50)  
77 Attended Monday Meeting only (10)  
128 Attended no Main Meeting (129)  
77 Attended no groups (87)  
88 Attended one group (99)  
86 Attended two groups (73)  
40 Attended three groups (36)  
37 Attended four groups (36)  
20 Attended five groups (25)  
13 Attended six groups (21)  
17 Attended seven groups (8)  
7 Attended eight groups (10)  
7 Attended nine groups (1)  
3 Attended ten groups (3)  
1 Attended eleven groups (1)  
1 Attended fourteen groups (0)

## **Ten Pin Bowling**

We had a very eventful year what with half of the lanes closing and having to split into two groups.

While they were doing the building work we had to put up with all the inconvenience that this caused. We were rewarded with a free meal in the new restaurant though. This left us with only ten lanes and no chance of using the other lanes which had disappeared. So we had either to be crowded with playing five to a lane or split into two groups. We now meet on Thursdays as well as Wednesdays. We have plenty of space for new members with this arrangement.

Another milestone this year was our 600th weekly meeting. We are now up to 631.

David Arnold

## Heybridge U3A

### Trip to Westminster on **Friday 20th March**

We now have five vacant seats. We leave by coach from the bus stop at Tesco Extra on the Fullbridge at 08.00 and the hours between our arrival at approximately 10.30 and when we leave Westminster at 15.00 will be free time in London, though 25 of our members are booked on a tour of the Supreme Court, Parliament Square, at 14.00.

At present the cost for the coach is estimated at £17.00 pp but will be reduced if more seats are taken up.

If any of your members would like to join us please contact me

Pat Smith

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• **16th February Meeting** •  
• **Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm** •  
•  
• Speaker •  
• Bob Milne •  
• Former Head of Forensics at New Scotland Yard •  
•  
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## **Bus Services 31 and 31X**

With reference to the withdrawal of bus services 31 and 31X from the Mundon Road bus stops (Chelmsford side of Mundon roundabout) can I ask members to support efforts to retrieve the services?

First Essex are to review the situation in the New Year, and many of us who relied upon the services from Maldon to Chelmsford would be grateful for your input.

Please go to First Essex Website [www.firstgroup.com/ukbus/essex](http://www.firstgroup.com/ukbus/essex) and then to the "Contact us" page where there is a short form to fill in, including bus route numbers.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Wilma Turner

### **Useful Tips**

Place the Broccoli stalk in a bowl of water and put it in the fridge. It will last for at least two weeks.

A farmer on BBC Essex Radio also recommended that you put your stalks of Brussel Sprouts in a bowl of water and it will last much longer.

Give these a try, they work for me.

Jan R

### ***LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES -***

Times 12.15 pm

**TUESDAY 3rd February at "Bob & Gerry's Surprise" Scrimshaws" SWF**  
Co-ordinator: Mike Wood

**WEDNESDAY 18th February To be notified**  
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 841 066

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  | Carol Priest    |
| AV Equipment      | Jim Light       |

### **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, 6th February

# 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.<br>Eat & Meet | Paul Costa                     | Wine Circle No. 4        | Alan Clarke                      |
| 2nd Wed                | Joyce Cotterell                | Writing for Fun          | Patrick Forsyth                  |

# PROGRAMME – FEBRUARY 2015

| Monday                                                   | Tuesday                                                  | Wednesday                                                                                            | Thursday                                                                                                                     | Friday                                                           | Saturday                                  | Sunday          |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------|
|                                                          |                                                          |                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                              |                                                                  |                                           | 1               |
| 2<br>Maritime<br>Whist                                   | 3<br>Table Tennis<br>Snooker<br>Geology<br>Luncheon Club | 4<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>Astrology<br>Bridge for the Curious<br>Wine Circle                           | 5<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>Discussion<br>Poetry<br>Rummikub 2                                                                   | 6<br>Mah Jong<br>Smartphones                                     | 7<br>Bird<br>Watching<br>Langdon<br>Hills | 8               |
| 9<br>Handicrafts<br>Photography<br>Whist                 | 10<br>Table Tennis<br>Snooker<br>Egyptology              | 11<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>Bridge                                                                      | 12<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>Scottish Country Dancing<br>Plantagenets<br>Reading<br>Rummikub 1                                   | 13<br>Architecture<br>Canasta<br>Sing for Pleasure               | 14                                        | 15<br>Strollers |
| 16<br><b>Meeting 1.30 pm</b><br>Just Jazz                | 17<br>Table Tennis<br>Snooker                            | 18<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>Luncheon Club                                                               | 19<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>Antiques<br>Bridge for the Curious<br>Reading                                                       | 20<br>Mah Jong                                                   | 21                                        | 22              |
| 23<br>Astronomy<br>Local History<br>Handicrafts<br>Whist | 24<br>Table Tennis<br>Snooker<br>Strollers Too           | 25<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>Bridge<br>Family History<br>Wine Circle<br>Writing for Fun<br>Wine Circle 4 | 26<br>Ten Pin Bowling<br>Scottish Country Dancing<br>Computers<br>French Conversation<br>Music Appreciation<br>Wine Circle 3 | 27<br>Canasta<br>Family History<br>Sing for Pleasure<br>Cribbage | 28                                        |                 |

**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,