

# Blackwater U3A

## Newsletter

### March 2019



Reg. Charity No. 1113334

## From the Chair

If you are reading this in the paper newsletter it's too late but if you are reading this on the website just a reminder that our March meeting is on **MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH NOT WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

As a group our U3A has been very generous in its support of various local charities over the past few years. As many of you may know as a charity ourselves we are not allowed to directly give money to other charities but can support them by allowing them access to our members who by donations, raffles and goods provide help to those charities. I and the committee have recently received comments from our members about the amount of support being asked for and that they feel Blackwater U3A is becoming a fund raiser to these charities and this is not what we should be doing. The committee has agreed that in future the only times we will support other charities is when we have a social event where a raffle would be allowed and run by a nominated charity. I know that this will seem mean to some of you, but your committee must abide by the strict guidelines laid down by the Charity Commission and also listen to its members' requests.

It is pleasing to note that our membership is growing and that we now have 240 members. Five of these new members looked at our website and decided we were the one to join and, on that note, our new website has now reached the testing stage with a small sub-committee of dedicated people putting lots of information onto it. We are still looking for a Webmaster and of course with the AGM coming up, committee members.

I make no apologies for repeating this request/plea as without your committee there is no Blackwater U3A so come on we don't bite, join up!!

All the best.

*Peter*

## Third Age Trust

Notification of Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at 11.15 am at The East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham.

A National Study Day for Languages is to be held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at Aston University, Birmingham.

To find out more or book please refer to Robyn Slade.

*Robyn Slade - Secretary 01621 928536*

## News update

### **Annual General Meeting and This is your U3A – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May**

There is no speaker booked for the Annual General Meeting but as usual we will be having tables in the main hall for groups who wish to display.

Co-ordinators, if you require a small or large size table, could you contact me either on 01621 843855, or [johnhayes675@outlook.com](mailto:johnhayes675@outlook.com)

*John Hayes, Committee Member 01621 843855*

### **Blackwater U3A Holiday to Devon – 2019**

Many of you have enjoyed the BU3A holidays over the past few years and recently, some have asked where are we going this year? I am pleased to inform you that we plan to visit Devon in June. The holiday will begin on a Monday when we board the coach in Maldon for the journey south. The itinerary starts as we stop at a place of interest for lunch before travelling to our hotel where we will settle to enjoy good company and visits to selected locations. The planning is in the hands of Just for Groups, a company that has provided us well. If you would like to receive information about the dates, itinerary, hotel and cost, email your details and possible requirements (single, double or twin room) with no obligation to [dawnmundy21@btinternet.com](mailto:dawnmundy21@btinternet.com). Sign up sheets will be available at the monthly meeting.

### **Membership renewal form**

Membership renewal is due on 1st April 2019. The renewal form can be found within this newsletter.

## Support and Befriending Group

If you are in need of some help or support, please phone one of the following numbers and they will try to put you in touch with someone who can help.

Sheila Rowsell	01621 740820
Dennis Eraut	01621 829758
Christine Wright	01621 853171

## April newsletter deadline

The deadline for the April newsletter is **Friday 22nd March 2019**—

*Contributions to Frances Butcher, [fabbutcher@talktalk.net](mailto:fabbutcher@talktalk.net) - 2 Milton Road, Maldon.*

## History Group

At our well attended February meeting Dennis gave a talk on the Peasants Revolt, 1381. This was a really excellent talk that was much appreciated by all. Dennis took us through the build up to why this happened; the feudal system and the Black Death causing a shortage of labour. But most of all the taxes being levied to support the wars in France and advances in religious thinking and misuse of the church's privileges. Then we were given a detailed account of how the uprising started and spread from Essex into Kent and beyond; the King's actions to try and stop the rioting and finally the retribution on the leaders of this failed attempt to gain the many freedoms we enjoy now.

Please sign up for the following

12<sup>th</sup> March Walk London Rotherhithe. London Guide

9<sup>th</sup> April Walk London Inns of Court. London Guide.

14<sup>th</sup> May Coach trip to enjoy Penschurst Place.

24<sup>th</sup> June MONDAY Coach trip to Wingfield College with the Gardening Group.

*Co-ordinator Jim Skelly 01621 740799 Dennis Eraut, Keith Davis.*

## Places of Worship

The Parish Church of All Saints with St Peter, Maldon was our visit of choice on 5<sup>th</sup> February which included a privileged tour of the fourth oldest building in Maldon, the Vicarage. Built in about 1350 it has served the vicars of the parish since that time, except for a period in the 18<sup>th</sup> century when the vicar was housed in the grander Friary House and his curate lived at the vicarage. We made our way through the priest's door into this beautiful church whose unique triangular tower dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> century. A charter of 1189 by Richard 1 conveyed the churches of All Saints, small in area with responsibility for the centre of the town, the merchants and guilds providing chantry priests for the chantry chapels and St Peter's whose area covered the edge of town and surrounding countryside to the Abbot and Canons of Beeleigh Abbey. Sir Robert D'Arcy, MP in 1422 for Maldon, built the large house known as D'Arcy's Tower, now the Moot Hall. On Robert's death in 1448 he left money which founded the D'Arcy chantry housed in the D'Arcy Chapel; built prior to his death. Dedicated to the Holy Trinity the south aisle was added in 1330 with splendid wall arcading, noted as some of the finest 14<sup>th</sup> century work in the county. In 1699 the original three bells were replaced by six that were recast in 1922 and two trebles added.

The chancel and chapels are from the 15<sup>th</sup> century with the south chapel built in memory of Sir Robert D'Arcy. On display is the framed burial record of the Revd Lawrence Washington, formerly Rector of Purleigh, a loyalist clergyman, ejected from his living and buried somewhere in the churchyard (1652). The Revd Washington was the great-great grandfather of George Washington, First President of the United States of America. The Washington Window, given by the citizens of Malden, Massachusetts, can be admired in the south wall of the D'Arcy Room.

Two memorials of note are: The Thomas Cammock memorial dated 1602 dedicated to Thomas, his two wives and 22 children. Thomas paid for Maldon's first convenient water supply. The biggest memorial is to Edward Bright, 'Fat Man of Maldon' who died in 1756, aged 29 and weighed 279.4 kilos.

Enter All Saints to discover its tranquillity and unique history that people have created during the many centuries it has stood in Maldon's High Street.

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March: St Margaret's Church, Margareting - 2.00 pm at the church

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April: St Paul's Cathedral - meet at Sandon's Park and Ride 9.00 am - train to Liverpool Street station. Entry to the Cathedral using the 2for1 Offer. Guided tour from 11.00 am (£5 pp). Car share to Park and Ride.

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May: St Clement's Church, Leigh-on-Sea. Car share arranged.

*Contact Dawn Mundy, Co-ordinator to register interest and request more information 01621 854065 [dawnmundy21@btinternet.com](mailto:dawnmundy21@btinternet.com)*

## **Local Theatre Group**

### **'That'll be the Day'**

Twenty hardy theatre goers braved a bitterly cold evening on a trip to the Civic Theatre in Chelmsford to see That'll be the Day. Many of us were not sure quite what to expect, even though this was the 33<sup>rd</sup> edition of the show, but the whole performance entranced us all. The musicians and singers were excellent and the comedy interspersing the songs was hilarious! The show started with an audio-visual showing of a 'Back to the Future' take off and so took the production to the year of 1955 and thereafter the many songs started from that year. Obviously most of us remember the music from that era and so sat happily tapping our feet along with the beat and giving enthusiastic applause to the greats of the 50's and 60's, before being led through the 70's and even onto the 80's.

Too many individual acts to recount but a few were Everly Brothers, Gene Pitney, Roy Orbison before we then saw an audio visual of Radio Luxembourg (who remembers doing their homework listening to this?) and a great audio visual of the old NME awards. We were rewarded with a very clever Cliff Richard medley, then onto an incredible Mick Jagger take off with various visual and spoken innuendos that had the audience in stitches! Of course Elvis, Abba, Madonna, Lulu and Whitney also had a place. To my mind the Michael Jackson take off was just brilliant, every action (even the moon walk) acted to perfection! It was indeed a joyous show, so well executed with the many costume changes and differing music styles, and cleverly produced by Trevor Payne, who even signed autographs and spoke to many in the foyer at the end.

*Terri Hardcastle*



I have now booked Cirque Berserk for a matinee performance on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Please can the people who expressed interest in going now sign the sheet to confirm that the day and time suits them. It sounds fun with 30 jugglers, acrobats, aerialists, dancers, drummers and dare devil stuntmen showcasing the finest in traditional circus thrills and skills. It will be car share unless there are more than 30 people going.

I haven't seen anything in June, July or August that I think would be popular for members, but if you are interested in any local show that you would like to go to, please let me know.

Forthcoming events -

April 25<sup>th</sup> Calendar Girls Cliffs Pavilion £33.60

May 30<sup>th</sup> Annie Cliffs Pavilion £37.35.

September 22<sup>nd</sup> **Sunday matinee** Cirque Berserk Cliffs Pavilion £21.60 if over 20, or £24.30 if under 20

All will be travel by car share as usual except for Calendar Girls.

*Sheila Rowsell, Co-ordinator 01621 740820*

## London Theatre Group

On a sunny, mild February day 33 of us set off to London to see 'The Book of Mormon'. This satirical musical is full of life, laughter, energy, parody and profanity.

It tells the story of two young men sent, on their obligatory missionary work, to Uganda. Supposedly 'buddies' they actually have nothing in common apart from their age and that they are Mormons. One was eager to lead and hoping for an upmarket placement, the other excited to be going on an adventure and to have a 'friend'. We follow their time in a small village, living a life far removed from their previous one and experiencing many unfamiliar customs and beliefs.

Several controversial topics are touched upon (sexual orientation, rape, AIDS, FGM etc.) as well as religious, racial and cultural differences. The humour and mockery, I felt, made me think and talk more about the issues that were raised. The majority of our party were so positive about the production especially the music, stage presentation and dancing, but there were some negative comments.

The following quotes are from what Jackie, Margaret, Phil and Sue wrote to me (by invitation)

- One of the main characters thinks that magic is in Orlando and definitely not in Uganda. His missionary buddy shows him the magic is in life and survival ... The energy of the show was incredible and the cast must have been so physically fit because it was not a large cast and they were on the go the whole time ...
- So here was humour, often over the top vulgar but held together with just enough wit to make the theme telling - and of course enough to generate high hilarity for some. With much of the narrative told in song, the vocal numbers may not endure though the notion of the tale may. The production was slick and the choreography excellent. As ever with contentious themes let's say it was an entertaining experience.
- An unexpected treat, bright, vibrant and funny. The production had us laughing throughout. The choreography and set design were marvellous. A thoroughly entertaining afternoon.

I close with an observation - of Steph's delight in an oft repeated doleful lament of one of the Ugandan characters, 'I have got maggots in my sc-----'

I will soon be asking for suggestions for our next trip to London - please let me know your thoughts, by phone or post if you don't get to the monthly meetings.

*Brenda Broom, Co-ordinator 01621 841520*

# Reading Group

## **'Lincoln in the Bardo'**

This is George Saunders first novel (he usually writes short stories) and it won the Man Booker prize in 2017. The story takes place during one night – President Lincoln's son was placed temporarily in a tomb over night after dying of typhoid.

The 'Bardo' of the title is that space described in the Tibetan Book of the Dead as the space between death and the next stage. Most of the story is told in short sentences, by those abiding in the cemetery, who are in this intermediary space but who do not understand that they are indeed dead.

Only half of the reading group managed to read the book as faced with seemingly disjointed sentences by unknown characters it was difficult to become immersed in the story. Once I understood what was being described I loved it. I found Saunders to be a good writer, often humorous and found the idea of an intermediate space after death intriguing.

Due to the disparity between those who read the book and those who didn't the marks out of 10 ranged from 8 to 0.

*Rachel Floater*

## **'My Name is Lucy Barton' by Elizabeth Strout**

We start to know who Lucy Barton is when she has to go into a New York hospital to have her appendix out. Complication sets in and she ends up staying for nine weeks.

Her husband contacts her estranged parents and Lucy wakes up one day to find her mother sitting at the end of her bed. As Lucy's reminiscences unfold we learn about her poverty stricken childhood that at times seems quite abusive. It seemed to me to be like meeting a new friend for coffee and learning pieces about their life at each meeting. The mother who sits with her in the hospital appears to be a very different, softer woman than the one who brought Lucy and her brother up. We feel Lucy's longing for her mother's love.

Later Lucy meets an author, whose books she has read, in a book shop who leaves a lasting impression on Lucy which causes her to decide to become a writer. It is this fictional writer whose autobiography we are reading.



This is quite a short, easy to read book that was liked by most of the group and instigated a lot of discussion. There is a sense of wholeness of the story and yet we are not told it all, we have to piece a lot of her life together ourselves. The average mark out of 10 was 8.

*Rachel Floater.*

*Kay Donald Clark, Co-ordinator 01621 742682*

## **Play Reading Group**

Eight members, and two new possible members, assembled at The Swan to read 'Slim Chance' by Peter Gordon.

This is a comedy with a frustrated branch organiser trying to run a very disorganised club. The arrival of a timid new member, together with the grim news from Head Office, forces them all to re-evaluate their reasons for trying to slim in the first place. Whilst their resolve is hardly strengthened, they are forced to dream up a scheme that will fulfil everyone's wishes whilst leaving honour intact.

Our next meeting will take place on the 14th March at The Swan at 10 a.m.

*Co-ordinator Anita Parkes 01621 857730*

## **Art appreciation**

Our next meeting on March 26th is a visit to the studio of Elizabeth Morris to learn about etching. We will leave West Maldon Community Centre at 1.00 pm for car share to West Mersea. Places are limited to the 12 who are signed up. We will have a reserve list.

On Wednesday April 24th we are going to the Henry Moore foundation at Perry Green, Herfordshire, for the day by car share. Details later but put the date in your diary.

Our last meeting in January was led by Shirley Mackenzie who had us all commenting on pictures from books. She then introduced us to the French neoclassical artists such as David Ingres and Delacroix with illustrations from books. Ingres is not so well known but beautiful portraits.

*Dennis Eraut, Co-ordinator 01621 829758*

## **Golfing Group**

The golf group usually meets twice a month; on the 2nd Friday of the month for the main event at one of Essex's beautiful golf courses and on the 4th Friday for the secondary golfing session, which is usually at Woodham Walters Bunsey Downs Golf Course, meeting at 10.00 am in the car park (unless specified otherwise).

Our next main event will be a visit to Birch Golf Course on Friday 8th March, when we will be playing 9 holes on this superb course with the Roman River criss-crossing it, making for some interesting and challenging golf.

Finally, our golfing thought for the month is

*"Golf is not a game of great shots. It's a game of the most misses.  
The people who win make the smallest mistakes"*  
*Gene Littler, USA professional Golfer*

Alan Chapman, Co-ordinator 01621 816860

## **Table Tennis Group 1**

We meet at West Maldon Community Centre each Monday between 9.15 and 12 noon. The session fee is £2.50 pp which includes refreshments. At the present time the group has reached its maximum number, but if you wish to register interest in joining the group when a vacancy occurs please contact the co-ordinator.

The section has organised a Table Tennis Tournament for the members. It has 8 groups of which 3 have taken place. The winner of the group goes forward to a knockout competition.

Group 1 competitors were Ann Brewer, Keith Davis and Liz Walden. Ann Brewer was the winner, but she had to work hard to beat runner up Keith- score 15/13, 8/11, 11/5.

Group 2 competitors were Paul Magner, Dave Taylor and John Rowsell. Winner Dave Taylor in two straight sets 11/9, 11/6.

Group 5 competitors were Chris Daines, Len Clark and Carolyn Bird. Chris won in two sets over runner up Len Clark. This was a close match with Chris winning 11/9, 11/8

*John Mundy, Co-ordinator 01621 854065*

## **Table Tennis Group 2**

We are a friendly group who meet at West Maldon Community Centre on Thursday afternoons between 2.00 pm and 4.30 pm. There are four tables for our use and we mainly play doubles in view of the numbers. The cost for the session is £2.50 which includes refreshments.

The standard of play continues to improve and we now have a regular qualified coach attending on the last Thursday of each month for those who wish to improve their game. We have a team playing in The Burnham League which is achieving good results.

We are unable to take any further new members at present as we are up to capacity. However names can be put on a waiting list if need be.

*All enquires to Kath Little, Co-ordinator 07762312838 or 01621891839*

## **Petanque**

Petanque takes place every Tuesday at the terrain in Promenade Park at 1.30 pm during the winter. We are a friendly group looking for new members to join us. Boules can be supplied given prior notice.

### **Blackwater & District U3A Petanque League**

Blackwater teams, Saints and Pirates will soon be competing in the above league. Saints and Pirates were the champions and runners up last season.

*John Mundy, Co-ordinator 01621 854065*

## **Short Walks Group**

The group meets at 10.00 am on the first Monday of each month at the West Maldon Community Centre. Our last walk was abandoned at the car park because of the rather unpleasant weather. The March outing on the 4th has been cancelled because of a clash with the rescheduled monthly meeting. The next walk will be on Monday 1st April starting at the Community Centre.

*Ken Hudgell, Co-ordinator 01245 381586*

## **Walking Group**

For our walk in January seven of us met at West Maldon Community Centre to start our local walk. We headed to Spital Road to walk to Tesco to get onto the seawall, where we met up with two more walkers. Making our way around the canal we found the path through the housing estate to come out onto Heybridge Approach where we crossed over to walk through Elm Farm Park. Stopping at the frozen lake we took some lovely photos (see front cover). Peter then led us along paths around Beeleigh before coming out onto London Road. Deciding to go to St Peter's Café, we walked along Wellington Road to the rear entrance of the hospital grounds. Finding the Café we were all surprised at the lovely large busy room where we sat down to hot drinks and teacakes etc. After a good chat and a warm up we looked round the stalls selling books, jewellery etc., with some of us buying food stuff to help the homeless. We all enjoyed this lovely walk on a very cold day.

Come and join us for some Spring walks in our local countryside.

For our next walk meet at West Maldon Community Centre on Thursday March 28th at 9.30am. All made very welcome.

*Co-ordinators Sylvie Rivers 01621 852799 and Marg White 01245 321347*

## **Card Makers 1**

The card makers (group 1) are not meeting during March and April. Watch this space.

*For more information, please contact Robyn Slade 01621 928536.*

## **Cribbage Group**

Our February meeting was again a fun afternoon with 6 of us enjoying 3 games each. First round winners were Chris and myself, 2nd round winners were (again!) Chris and myself. Final play-off was a win to me.....amazing.....but I had been dealt some great cards. Next month's meeting venue to be confirmed.

*Terri Hardcastle, Co-ordinator 01621 929656*

## **Rummikub Group**

Nine of us met at Sylvie's house so we had three groups of three. Sally was the out-right winner - well done Sally. We have decided to play twice a month in the Winter so the next meeting will be on 7th March from 10.00 am until midday. Once again Sylvie said we can go to her house which is so good of her.

We still wonder about the rules but we get by, we all enjoy the game, and it keeps the little grey cells working. Thank you Sylvie, and Brian for making the coffee.

If anybody wants to be put on the waiting list phone me  
*Patricia Harding, Co-ordinator 01621 843099*

## **Luncheon Club 2**

On 25th February we enjoyed  
The Queen Vic in Spital Road.  
A gem of a pub in Maldon  
With ambience overload.

Newly decorated  
And given a spruce up all round,  
Good culinary expertise  
And friendly welcome can be found.

A lengthy and varied menu  
Suited a wide group of tastes.  
Our luncheon club regulars  
Were pleased with their plates.

Well worth a visit,  
The Queen Vic aims to please  
Maybe not on Burns night though!  
And you will dine with ease.

By Angie Newman.

*Kathy Leggett, Co-ordinator 01621 852377*

## Gardening Group

The long dry summer of last year is posing many questions for us gardeners. Should we alter the plants in our borders and concentrate on flowers and shrubs which are known to be drought tolerant and can also stand some cold temperatures or should we continue to buy some of our favourites and place them in another part of the garden? I shall try both and leave you to think about it!

The development of the new RHS garden Bridgewater in Salford seems to be going well. One of the most interesting aspects of this is the Wellbeing Garden. This is intended to meet the needs of people of all ages with mental and physical challenges. It will encourage them to grow and care for plants and to take more exercise in the fresh air. A series of circular paths will invite exploration and provide positive distractions and the provision of hidden spaces will allow people to sit quietly and contemplate.

Nurseryman David Austin, who is probably the best known and most successful rose breeder of the last 50 years, died in December aged 92. He had always had an interest in breeding roses but started his working life on the family farm in Albrighton. His first successful hybrid rose flowered in 1961 and was named after the florist Constance Fry. He began exhibiting his roses at The Chelsea Flower show in 1983. David Austin Roses Limited became known worldwide. Later he produced an annual catalogue and also a number of books. He received the highest awards from the RHS and other garden specialists and the OBE in 2007. He was a great man. The business is now managed by his son.

Our second winter talk this year was again a joint meeting with South Woodham Ferrers. Liz Huxley gave us an interesting and amusing talk on Attracting Wildlife into the Garden. She showed us some lovely photographs of wildlife. This was a well-attended meeting with some new members ...a good start to 2019.

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March** Guided walk at Warley Place. Cost £4. Meet at West Maldon Community Centre 10.00 am. Walk will be followed by lunch at The Thatchers Arms. Please order your meal beforehand by responding to Christine's email (or at March meeting).

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April** Ardleigh Gardens-Mayfield and Charity Farms £6.00  
West Maldon Community Centre 1.30 pm

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May** Combined coach visit with History group to Penshurst Place.  
Cost £25

**Monday 24 June** Wingfield College, Suffolk and Peter Beales, with history group. Cost £32.00

Please sign the forms if you would like to come to any of these visits and pay preferably by cheque.

If for any reason you are unable to come, please ring either *Christine Hall 01245 382133* or *Jennifer Fowler 01245 222834*.

## **Flower Arranging**

Our February meeting saw the group plaiting, folding and rolling leaves to add interest to our arrangements and photographs of our efforts can be seen on our interest board at the monthly meeting.

The next meeting will be on 26<sup>th</sup> March when our theme will be 'Easter' using yellow flowers and twigs in the arrangements, but I'm sure there will be eggs within the displays.

We meet in the Jubilee Room from 9.30 am - 11.30am. If interested in joining the group please contact

*Di Martin, Co-ordinator 01621 856347.*

## **Birdwatching**

The last week has seen sun and a return of warmer weather. It has been a pleasure to walk along the hedgerows with the dogs listening to the different spring birdsong, there's a positive joyous lift to their voices.

There was in excess of 200 Fieldfares in the meadow this morning and these will be the last of our visitors for this season; the previous Fieldfares left for the continent some time ago. Chaffinches, Greenfinches, Goldfinches, Dunnocks and all the Tits are very vocal now. The weather has inspired the Starlings to start nesting in our eaves so I hope we don't have a cold snap.

Last Thursday's talk at the Henry Dixon hall took us on a journey near and far to favourite places of our speaker Pete, whose bird photography was excellent. He took us on a trip which ranged from Coggeshall to Portugal.

Our first field trip of the year will be to Chigborough Lakes which will already have taken place by the time you read this.

*Stephy Eraut (Co-ordinator) 01621 829758*

## Community Garden

Our U3A garden at the top of Fambridge Road on the junction into White Horse Car Park, is breaking into colour. The area is planted with yellow (sunshine) and blue (water and skies) plants depicting the National U3A colours. We have received comments that the yellow does seem the more eye-catching colour for passers-by.

Since 2010 we have entered the annual Maldon in Bloom competition as a community garden run by Blackwater U3A members. The intention is to enter again this year.

If you would like to come along to some of our tidying up sessions, please contact me on [Dorreen@ianlinton.demon.co.uk](mailto:Dorreen@ianlinton.demon.co.uk)

## Science, Technology, Energy and Medical Group

The S.T.E.A.M group usually meets on the 2nd Monday of the month, at 9.30 am at West Maldon Community Centre, with alternate site visits of scientific / technological interest, followed by an interest talk the following month in the Jubilee Lounge, commencing at 9.30 am.

Last month the group had a visit to a Secret Underground Bunker (*can't tell you # well as it's a secret!!!!*) But it is where devolved central government and military commanders would have run the region had the UK been attacked and nuclear war broken out.

Our next STEAM event will be a talk on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March commencing at 9.30 am in the Jubilee Lounge, where there be a joint meeting with the Tree Recognition Group. The talk will be on the subject of how to recognise a tree without any leaves on it and without the need to refer to a specialist tree photo book. At the meeting everyone in attendance will be given a free tree recognition kit.

Finally to simulate your mind, a mind bending puzzle:

A man leaves hospital and begins to walk home. On his journey he passes a phone box which begins to ring. Instead of answering it he punches the air and runs all the way home cheering. WHY?

For the answer come to our next STEAM event.

*Alan Chapman, Co-ordinator 01621 816860*



## **Maldon & District U3A Astronomy Group**

The Astronomy Group usually meets at Chigborough Fishing Club HQ, Chigborough road, off Goldhanger road, Heybridge, at 7.30 pm on the 4th Monday of the month. The group, as our name implies, is made up of members of the local U3As. At our meetings, films and talks relating to astronomical topics are shown / discussed and when the opportunity arises, the group's large telescopes are used for night sky viewing. This is usually very good at Chigborough due to lack of light pollution. The group also visits locations and sites of astronomical interest.

Our next observation night will be on Monday 25th March, commencing at 7.30 pm. Depending on sky conditions we may also be showing an astronomical film.

*Alan Chapman, Co-ordinator 01621 816860*

## **Computer Group**

Last month we looked at photographs; how to file them and how to carry out simple editing. Next month's meeting is at 2.00 pm on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March when we will be looking at ways to download music files and how to create your own play lists. If you would like to join the group, please do get in touch.

*Peter Holmes, Co-ordinator 01621 854108 [peterholmes4427@gmail.com](mailto:peterholmes4427@gmail.com)*

## **Geography and Geology Group**

I hope everyone enjoyed February's talk from Alan.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 1st April at 2pm in the Linton Room, when Peter Harden will talk about Hot and Cold Geysers.

Please note the time change to the 1st Monday of the month 2pm.

*Keith Davis, Co-ordinator 01621 843217*

# Blackwater U3A

## Denbies Wine Estate Visit

Friday September 20<sup>th</sup> Coach trip to Denbies Vineyard, Dorking, Surrey located in an area of outstanding beauty leaving WMCC at 8.45am.

Vineyard Tour morning.  
Wine Tasting afternoon.

Cost £30.00 per person.  
Deposit £15.00 required.

Lunch available in the Conservatory

The signup sheet and full details will be available at February's monthly meeting. Or contact Sylvie Rivers  
01621 852799

## Speakers' Corner

Our monthly general meetings feature a wide variety of guest speakers. The meetings are held at West Maldon Community Centre on the first Wednesday of the month (EXCEPTION, March meeting on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March). Remember doors now open at 2.00pm

<b>4<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>MONDAY</b>	Keith Sargeant - 'The life of a Fire Officer, part 2 Investigation and Forensics'
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	Tony Diamond - 'The History of Chocolate'
<b>1<sup>st</sup> May</b>	Annual General Meeting
<b>5<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Lindsay Whitehouse – 'How Porridge compares to prison life today'
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> July</b>	Ann Hardy – 'For Richer for Poorer - love and marriage through the ages, plus a few Royal wedding dresses'

## Refreshments, plus 2 members for Welcome Team

<b>MARCH</b>	Wine Group 1, Reading and Play Reading
<b>APRIL</b>	Walking Group and Photography
<b>MAY</b>	Petanque and Rummikub

Doors will be open for helpers and co-ordinators setting up tables at 1.30pm. Doors open for other members at 2pm. If you have insufficient members between the two groups, please contact me in advance.

**Welcome Team:** Please have two appropriate members of your groups arrive at 1.30pm and, if possible, man the doors immediately. Badges can be obtained from the signing-in table.

## Set-up and clear-up rota

<b>MARCH</b>	Real Ale and STEAM
<b>APRIL</b>	Local and London Theatre Groups plus Luncheon Gp 2
<b>MAY</b>	Golf and History

When setting up the hall, please start with the row furthest away from the speaker, leaving sufficient gangways as normal. When clearing up, please do not put the chairs away until requested by a committee member.

*Thank you all for your co-operation, Frances*

## Committee Members 2018/19

Peter Harden	Chair	01621 858506
Paul Allen	Vice Chair	01621 856303
Chris Daines	Treasurer	07973 342283
Robyn Slade	Secretary	01621 928536
Brenda Broom	Membership Secretary	01621 841520
Gill West	Minutes Secretary	01621 851372
Keith Davis	WMCA representative	01621 843217
Frances Butcher	Group Coordinator	01621 853352
John Hayes	Speaker Organiser	01621 843855
Ron Martin	Database Manager.	01621 856347
Gill Guiver	Monthly Meeting Reception	01621 928868
Sylvia Rivers	Social Organiser	01621 852799
Peter Holmes	Equipment Manager	01621 854108

### Newsletter Production:

Gerry Davis                      01621 843217  
 Frances Butcher                01621 853352

### Local U3A contacts

Maldon                              General contact number 01245 225657  
 South Woodham Ferrers      Maureen Stockton 01621 741655  
 Heybridge                         Linda Etherton 01621 843702  
 Limebrook                         Christine Dove 01621 855859

### Joint groups with Maldon U3A


Astronomy                         Alan Chapman                      01621 816860  
 Scottish Dancing                 Shirley Grummett                 01621 853288  
 Singing for Pleasure             Jacky Holmes                       01621 854108  
 Tenpin Bowling                  David Arnold                        01621 853866

## Co-ordinators

Interest Group Co-ordinator	Frances Butcher	01621 853352
Art	Anita Sandison	01621 741351
Art Appreciation	Denis Eraut	01621 829758
Birdwatching	Stephy Eraut	01621 829758
Bridge	Christine Clark	01621 852694
Card Makers	Robyn Slade	01621 928536
Card Makers Group 2	Sylvia Harden	01621 858506
Community Garden	Dorreen Linton	01621 853428
Computers	Peter Holmes	01621 854108
Cribbage	Terri Hardcastle	01621 929656
Family History	Kay Donald Clark	01621 742682
Flower Arranging	Di Martin	01621 856347
French Intermediate	George Farrow	01621 858116
Gardening	Christine Hall	01245 382133
Geology & Geography	Keith Davis	01621 843217
Golf	Alan Chapman	01621 816860
History	Jim Skelly	01621 740799
Local Theatres	Sheila Rowsell	01621 740820
London Theatres	Brenda Broom	01621 841520
Luncheon Club 2	Kathy Leggett	01621 852377
Luncheon Club 3	Pam Mills	01621 874883
Patchwork & Quilting	Gill Reeves	01621 855845
Petanque	John Mundy	01621 854065
Photography	Ron Martin	01621 856347
Places of Worship	Dawn Mundy	01621 854065
Play Reading	Anita Parkes	01621 857730
Reading	Kay Donald Clark	01621 742682
Real Ale Group	Paul Allen	01621 856303
Rummikub Group	Pat Harding	01621 843099
Science, Tech, Medicine	Alan Chapman	01621 816860
Scrabble	Sylvia Harden	01621 858506
Short Walks	Ken Hudgell	01245 381586
	Jill Thomas	01621 852672
Social	Sylvia Rivers	01621 852799
Table Tennis 1	John Mundy	01621 854065
Table Tennis 2	Kath Little	01621 891839
Tree Recognition	Peter Marven	01621 840586
Walkers	Sylvia Rivers	01621 852799
	Margaret White	01245 321347
Weekenders	Dawn Mundy	01621 854065
Wine Group	Frances Butcher	01621 853352
Wine Group 2	Paul Allen	01621 856303
Writing Group	Charles Middleton	01621 859914

# March 2019 Programme

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
				1 Birdwatching	2	3
4 Table tennis 1 Monthly meeting	5 Petanque Places of Worship	6	7 Table Tennis 2 Rummikub	8 Golf	9	10
11 Table Tennis 1 French Gardening Group STEAM	12 Petanque History group	13 Art Group Luncheon Group 3 Cribbage Patchwork Wine Group 1	14 Table Tennis 2 Computers Play Reading Reading group Card Making Gp 2	15 Sing for Pleasure Photography	16	17
18 Table Tennis 1 Scrabble Gardening group	19 Petanque	20 Art Group	21 Table Tennis 2 Rummikub	22 Golf Lunch Group 2	23	24
25 Table Tennis 1 Astronomy French	26 Petanque Art Appreciation Flower arranging	27 Art Group Real Ale Group Writing for Pleasure	28 Table Tennis 2 Walking Group	29	30	31

				<b>BLACKWATER U3A</b>		M/SHIP NO.	
				MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM [V6 Feb 19]		Received	
Please return this form to Mrs. Brenda Broom, Membership Secretary, 38 Mariners Way, Maldon CM9 6YX							
	Title	Forename		Surname			
1							
2							
House No or Name and street							
Town & Post Code				Tel No.			
Mobile No 1				Mobile No 2			
e-mail address 1							
e-mail address 2							
I/We wish to renew my/our membership for the next year commencing 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2019 and the subscription of £20.00 <u>per person</u> is enclosed							
<b>Amount enclosed</b>				<b>£</b>			
<b>NOTE:</b> if you are registered for Gift Aid and are <b>NO LONGER</b> a tax payer please tick the box beside your signature.							
Signature 1				Date			Tick if no longer a tax payer.
Signature 2				Date			Tick if no longer a tax payer.
Cheques are payable to <b>Blackwater U3A</b> and the completed form should be handed to the Membership Secretary or posted to the above address.							
Please note that membership information and payment records will be held and used in accordance with the published policy of the Blackwater U3A							
The data will be used for administrative purposes relating to your membership, including gift aid claims, and will also be available to group co-ordinators and leaders for the organisation of events and activities.							
I agree to my name and address being shared with the Third Age Trust and our own newsletter distributors to enable distribution of Third Age Magazine, Sources, our own newsletter and similar material							