



The University of the Third Age

MALDON AND DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 Maritime	2 Table Tennis Snooker Luncheon Club Reading Maldon Film Club	3 Ten Pin Bowling Wine Circle Swimming	4 Continuing French Discussion Country Dancing Essex Rivers	5 Canasta Environmental Making Music	6 Bird Watching East Mersea	7 Bird Watching East Mersea
8 Handicraft German Photography Whist	9 Table Tennis Snooker Maldon Film Club	10 Ten Pin Bowling Spanish Painting Bridge	11 French Conversation Ballroom Dancing Reading	12 Mah Jong Sing for Pleasure	13 Mah Jong Sing for Pleasure	14
15 Meeting 1.30 pm	16 Table Tennis Snooker Aviation Maldon Film Club	17 Ten Pin Bowling Clock Repairs Swimming	18 Continuing French Ballroom Dancing Country dancing	19 Canasta MacMillan Coffee Morning Social-Quiz Town Hall	20 Strollers Little Baddow	21 Strollers Little Baddow
22 Local History Visit to St. Albans Handicraft German Whist Astronomy	23 Table Tennis Snooker Gardeners Marks Hall New Members Coffee Morning	24 Ten Pin Bowling Spanish Painting Bridge Writing for Fun Family History Grand Inter U3A's Quiz	25 Computers 1-3 pm French Conversation Essex Rivers Music Appreciation Poetry Ballroom Dancing	26 Mah Jong Sing for Pleasure	27 Exhibition of Patchwork & Quilting Hyde Hall	28 Exhibition of Patchwork & Quilting Hyde Hall
29	30 Table Tennis Snooker Maldon Film Club					

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

Newsletter Editor: Mrs. Jan. Robertson, 6 Blenheim Close, Danbury, CM3 4NE Tel. 01245 225657 email Jan8085@aol.com



The intrepid Maritime Group visiting Chester & Liverpool and the Tall Ships Race on a four day trip in July

AUGUST 2008

VOLUME VIII NO. 3

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

Web Site: www.maldon3a.idps.co.uk

FROM THE CHAIR



I was pleased that so many members were present at our 10th Anniversary celebration and seemed to appreciate and enjoy the afternoon. Once again this confirms that our U3A is going from strength to strength and proves that the members must be satisfied with the way co-ordinators are handling their groups, so well done everybody and roll on the next ten years.

I have been asked by several members if there will be a new members coffee morning this year, the answer I am pleased to say is YES. All new members will be invited. If any member who joined last year but was unable to attend would like to come you will be more than welcome. The meeting will be held on Tuesday 23rd September at the Octagon Room, St Mary's Church, Church St, Maldon from 10 till 12 noon.

The Executive Committee are still looking for a volunteer to organise the speakers for our general meetings. If any member wishes to accept this post please get in touch with our secretary (Pamela Turnbull)

Alan Buck
Email: alan-buck@talktalk.net

Local & General History

On Monday 22nd September we are to visit St Albans and Verulamium. The coach will leave the West Maldon Community Centre at 9.00 am and pick up at Eves Corner bus stop Danbury at approximately 9.10 am. We anticipate returning to Maldon around 6.00 pm.

In October we meet back at The Maldon Little Ship Club on Monday 27th for a video on The Crusades. 1.30 pm start. All members are welcome.

Mary Burd

Handicrafts

I have decided, after nine years, to retire from organising this group and Marian Manning has very kindly volunteered to take over from me. Marian is very enthusiastic and has lots of new ideas for our group. We will now be meeting at the Purleigh Pavilion on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 10-12 pm commencing 8th September
Jan Robertson

Strollers

Sunday 21st September 10.30 a.m.
Meet at The Rodney, Little Baddow for a walk of 4 miles.
Sunday lunch available.
Contact Frank Stokes, tel: 01245 223579 for further details.

Maritime

Our meeting on Monday September 1, starting at 10.00 in the Maldon Little Ship Club will be an illustrated talk by a member of the Essex Police Marine Unit based at Burnham-on-Crouch entitled, 'Policing the Essex rivers and coastline'.

CO-ORDINATORS

Chairman	Alan Buck	01245 227709	Mah-Jong	Molly Polden	01621 856507
Vice Chairman	Beryl McDonell	01621 842093	Maritime History	Malcolm Case	01245 329435
Secretary	Pamela Turnbull	01376 510084	Music Appreciation	Enid Hall	01621 891618
Treasurer	Rosemary Case	01245 329435		John Skuse	01245 224059
Membership Sec. Committee	John Robson	01621 828236	Music Making	Valerie Lyndon	01621 851769
	Joyce Cotterell	01621 858287	Painting	Joyce Stokes	01245 223579
	Paul Costa	01621 853893	Petanque (Boule) Group	Barbara Arnold	01621 853866
	John Almond	Ex. Dir.	Photography	Mary Richardson	01621 857829
Newsletter Editor	Jan Robertson	01245 225657	Poetry	Jo Robson	01621 828236
Social Committee	Dorothy Denmark	01245 223960	Reading 1st Tuesday 2nd Thursday	Christine Elgin Sheila Epps	01621 858146 01621 850467
Astronomy	Molly Tring	01621 854732	Scottish Country Dancing	Shirley Grummett	01621 853288
Aviation	Bill Fancourt	01245 225569	Singles Dining	Ray White	01621 891598
Ballroom Dancing	Jo Robson	01621 828236	Sing for Pleasure	Sylvia Carpenter	01621 854905
Bird Watching	Pat Clements	01245 223427	Snooker	Bill Fancourt	01245 225569
Bridge	Sheila Epps	01621 850467	Spanish Conversation	Wilma Turner	01621 851510
Canasta	Marian Manning Margaret Dale	01621 828605 01268 765239	Strollers	Gill Stone	01621 853948
Clock Repairs	Stanley Clements	01245 223427	Swimmers	Gill Rowsell	01621 740619
Computers-	Jan Robertson	01245 225657	Table Tennis	Gordon Hardy Julie Doidge	01245 223012 01621 841205
Discussion	Ray Harman	01621 891736	Ten Pin Bowling	David Arnold	01621 853866
Environmental Studies	Fred Lane Bill Fancourt	01621 816181 01245 225569	Theatre Group	Enid Hall Sheila Epps	01621 891618 01621 850467
Essex Rivers	Beryl McDonell	01621 842093	Whist	Molly Polden	01621 856507
Family History	Frank Stokes	01245 223579	Wine Circle	Zandra Cardy	01621 828984
Continuing French Conversation	Sylvia Carpenter Bill Stichbury	01621 854905 01621 855828	Writing for Fun	Pat Sizer	01621 892201
Gardeners	Jan Robertson	01245 225657			
German	Jenny Plumb	01245 226112			
Handicraft	Marian Manning	01621 828605			
Local History	Mary Burd Alfred Couldrey	01621 843020 01245 226259			
Luncheon Club	Mike Wood Paul Costa	01245 222839 01621 853893			

If for any reason you do not receive a posted newsletter within a week of the Meeting, (if you did not attend the Meeting) please contact John Robson on 01621 828236

FOR SALE

'Antique Pine' King-size Headboard and two 3 drawer matching bedside tables.

Not very old. £40 ono.

Ring Doreen and Bob Monk 01621 869212

Lost at 10th Anniversary Meeting

Necklace - a black cord and copper detail

Contact Liz Wood on 01245 222839 if found please.

September 15th Meeting Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

Speaker

Howard Bodger

on

“Talking Books for the Blind”

BLACKWATER U3A

Contact:

Dorreen Linton, Chairman

01621 853428

SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS U3A

Contact

Rosemary Dorado, Chairman

01245 321102

NATIONAL OFFICE

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Tel 020 8466 6139 Email national.office@u3a.org

Web site www.u3a.org.uk

Resource Centre: email: resource.centre@u3a.org.uk

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 5th September

Astronomy

July's meeting, with Tony Dagnell's talk on Sir Bernard Lovell (who is still alive, 94!) and Jodrell Bank was well received. Not only his determination built this wonderful triumph, but he built a lot with his own hands, helped by wife, daughter and two friends. Our audience came from six other U3As, thanks to Jan's adverts.

August there will be no meeting.

Sept 22nd (not 29th) Andy from CPAC will return, telling us about "Strange things in the Sky" which sounds fun. 7.30 pm WMCC.

Ballroom Dancing

We will be starting back for a new term of Ballroom Dancing on Thursday, 11th September at 2.45 prompt start until 4.15 at the West Maldon Community Centre. Our teacher, Jean Smith, will be happy to see us all and any newcomers wishing to join. The fee for the 1½ hour session of £2.50 will be paid in advance if possible - £15 for six weeks. Remember Jean has another commitment on the first Thursday of the month, so we don't meet on that day. Any queries please give me a call. Jo Robson.

Computers

Our 25th September meeting will commence 1-3 pm as we again clash with the Ballroom Dancing. Jan

Swimming

The group will start again on Wednesday, 3rd September at 9.00 am at the Blackwater Leisure Centre, and it would be great to welcome some new members.

Future dates are as follows:

September 17 October 1 & 15
November 5 & 19 December 3 & 17
Please telephone to confirm on each occasion, that you will be there.

Many thanks,

Gill Rowsell 01621 740619

Gardeners

A lovely afternoon was had by our enthusiastic group at the garden of Harry & Heather Brickwood's in Rayleigh. Harry is a perfectionist and there was not a weed to be seen in this colourful garden. The cakes were wonderful as well!

Tuesday, August 19

Return visit to the garden of Paul Spracklin, 42 Greenwood Avenue, Sth Benfleet SS7 1LD A real WOW garden, a visit not to be missed. I will be away so Mike Wood is in charge for this afternoon. 01245 222839

Tuesday, September 23

Visit Markshall, Coggeshall. CO6 1TG Over 100 acres of arboretum. Guided tour arranged.

Newsletter by Email

Would you like to receive your newsletter on an PDF file email? If you do not collect your newsletter at the Monday meeting, I can send this direct by email, it will mean you can either read it online or print it off.

(This would obviously save us on printing and postage)

Would you like to give it try? you can always revert to the normal method of delivery if you wish.

If so, please email me on Jan8085@aol.com and I will send you the next issue on a trial.

Jan Robertson, Newsletter Editor.

10TH ANNIVERSARY.

As the founder of this U3A I would like to express my thanks for our celebrations on July 21st. I wish to congratulate everyone who contributed in any way to making this such a happy occasion. Standing on the platform I felt so proud to be a member of this friendly, talented and hard working group of people.

Beryl McDonell (Dorothy!!)

MY THOUGHTS FOR OUR FUTURE

I recently read an article written by a young man called Andrew O Hagan on Senator McCain's seeming resistance to change. He, Andrew was baffled by the notion that at 65 one should close down, because one was past it! Unlike his own granny, who, at that age bought herself a bright red bomber jacket and bleached her hair and declared that she most definitely was not over the hill! Or like Maria Amelia Lopez of Galicia in Northern Spain, who at the age of 97 has become the world's oldest blogger!! We may not want to wear a red bomber jacket or take up blogging, but, as members of this U3A we must aim to do as much as we can to ensure that Maldon continues to be so successful. We must emulate our original 48 members and be prepared to, not only attend groups, but to have a go at starting some new ones.

I recently saw a film about Max Harding, a Film Director from Connecticut, who felt his life needed a new direction, so undertook a world tour. At one of his stopovers he decided to dance in the town square and soon found himself in the midst of fellow dancers. However, they were not following his steps. They were interpreting the music in their own way, but still dancing with the same enthusiasm and joy. What a great analogy for us!

In 1998 Maldon's Dance began. Now in 2008 our steps may be different, but what is important is that, in the words of Bruce Forsythe we

"KEEP DANCING".

Beryl McDonell

Look on our website www.maldonu3a.idps.co.uk for photos of the 10th Anniversary meeting. While you are there, have a look at Maritime, Gardeners and the Barbecue.

John Bowen, our webmaster, does us proud and we should support him by clicking regularly on to our website, you will be amazed at the content.



U3A 2009 Diaries

Size 3¼" x 6"

Price £1.90 per diary

Please **order and pay** for your Diary at the August onwards Meetings or contact me, Jan Robertson, on 01245 225657.

Early booking recommended as supplies are limited at Head Office

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES -

Times 12.15 pm

TUESDAY 2nd September at the "The Angel" Broomfield Rd,
Broomfield

Co-ordinator: Mike Wood Tel. 01245 222839

WEDNESDAY No Lunch this month

Co-ordinator: Paul Costa Tel. 01621 853893

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,

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Please come and join me for my annual Coffee Morning and help make a difference to people living with cancer.



Friday 19 September

10 am to 12 noon
at

11 Beaumont Way.
Maldon

Look forward to seeing you.
Mary Burd



Purleigh Flower Show

Village Hall
Purleigh

Saturday, 30th August

2 pm – 5 pm

It is a real old fashioned Flower Show with cakes, jams, handicrafts as well as the flowers and vegetables.

Come and visit us

**Exhibition of Patchwork and Quilting
by the Peverel Quilters**

at

RHS Hyde Hall, Rettendon

Saturday. 27th & Sunday 28th September

10 am to 5 pm

Normal RHS admission charges.

Local History Group Visit July 14th

Did you know that you could see in Colchester evidence of a Roman Theatre which held 3,500 people?

Did you know that Colchester has the only surviving Roman arch in this country which is still in daily use? (Approaching the Mercury Theatre)

These were just two of the fascinating facts the group learnt on their walk around Colchester with our Blue Badge Guide.

The walk took about an hour and a half starting from the Castle gates and it was totally engrossing. Our guide took us through the history from the time of the Roman emperor Claudius, up to the present day stopping off to look at a wide variety of buildings from every age.

Highly recommended – though I will say that many of us who took the bus, were very glad of a nice sit down on the way home.

Sheila Epps

Maritime

Trip on the *MV Pocahontas* to watch the Blackwater Barge Match
Forty-two seasoned young salts from the Maritime Group crossed over from the Blackwater Estuary to the Thames on Saturday July 12. We boarded *MV Pocahontas* at Gravesend and followed the barges in the 78th Annual Sailing Match from the starting line all the way downstream to the North Oaze Buoy off Shoeburyness and back. On both legs, we motored close alongside one barge after another, and there was a knowledgeable commentary telling its history as well as pointing out landmarks on both shores such as the remains of the Mulberry Harbour off Southend. Most of the competing barges were familiar to us from The Hythe – in full sail, they were a superb sight and gave so many great photo opportunities throughout the day. These barge matches have been taking place off and on ever since 1863 when they were started by Henry Dodd. The DJs at the pirate radio station on Red Sands Fort waved to us as we passed. And we admired the alacrity with which each barge crew raised and lowered the leeboards every time they ‘went about’ while tacking on the return leg. We even learned to call the back-end of a barge the transom, not the stern. In the end, because of the strong westerly, it was going to take too long for the barges to tack all way back up to Gravesend. So the match was abandoned at that stage, with *Marjorie* being declared the overall winner.

We’d waved our binoculars, cameras and packed lunches throughout the voyage and at the end thanked Malcolm Case for arranging a wonderful day out. He even made sure it never rained while we were afloat.

Ralph Lavender



ANNUAL BARBECUE

Was it going to rain or stay dry? That was the question all day. In excess of 120 members (including many new faces) descended on the Langford Village Hall with their essentials for the evening – plates, chairs, wine, gazebos and umbrellas!



A few spots of rain fell as people gathered and then the food was served. Burgers, sausages, chops, gammon steaks accompanied by a variety of salads. The vegetarians were catered for as well. All delicious. At this point umbrellas were down but then the rain increased and we all headed to the hall to collect our desserts – trifle, apple pie or fruit salad. – scrumptious

By now it was really pouring and a sea of umbrellas covered the field! As usual we took it all in our U3A stride and some even started singing! Some managed to crowd under gazebos and lots got very wet!

Our thanks go once again to the Social Committee and also the stalwart cooks for a very enjoyable evening - even if it was cut short!
Mary Burd

Social News

Oops, sorry, I'm afraid the new management slipped up on ordering fine weather for the barbecue. We'll try to do better next year. We sold over 120 tickets and I don't believe anybody went home hungry. My thanks to 'the team' for all their hard work – committee members, chefs and numerous helpers. And you were magnificent, ever stoic in adversity. Very British! Very Wimbledon!

Next month will be much simpler. Just turn up round about noon with a picnic lunch at the lock in Heybridge Basin and bring along any suitable games you may have. Then we will see what develops.

September is more cerebral. It is Quiz time again, in Maldon Town Hall on Friday 19 September, beginning at 7.00 o'clock (doors open 6.30 p.m.). Tickets, price £3 (same as last year) will be on sale at the August meeting and are also available – for this event only – from Maisie Randall on 01621-810646. Please try to limit your team to six people, but don't stay away if you don't have five other people with you,; we will happily make up teams when you arrive. The quiz will once again be set by Malcolm and Rosemary Case. And remember to bring drinks and nibbles. No food will be provided.

dd

REPORT FROM JULY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Jobs have now been allocated to the new committee. Please see the notice board for full details of the new committee and the roles held.

New committee members – John Almond and Joyce Cotterell

A change was agreed to the previous ruling on advertising, so that events deemed to be of interest to U3A members can be included in the newsletter. This motion was carried unanimously. Commercial advertising and obituaries continue to be excluded from the newsletter.

We will be holding a meeting to welcome all those members who have joined in the last few weeks. Arrangements for this are in hand, and further details will be announced shortly.

Full minutes can be seen by contacting the Business Secretary, Pamela Turnbull.

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## ASSOCIATION OF ESSEX U3A's

The above Association is holding a  
**GRAND INTER U3A's QUIZ**

on

**Wednesday, September 24th**

at the Great Baddow Millennium Hall.

I am sure that we would like to pit our wits against the other groups, so, please, if you feel you could be one of our team, contact me on 01621 842093 and I will arrange a meeting of all interested parties.

This is the last call for team members as, so far, we have only four people offering to be contestants. Are we going to be the only U3A not taking part? Surely not. We need you to represent us.  
(Blackwater recruited its team some time ago)

**YOUR U3A NEEDS YOU.**

Please ring me on 01621 842 093

Beryl McDonell

***This is a call for all EGG Heads.***

## Maldon Film Club

Our 4th Season begins on September 2nd with “La Vie en Rose”. Even if you’ve seen it already, in my opinion, it is worth a second viewing. This film and many other have been voted for by our members.

“The Kite Runner” which will be our 2nd film to be projected, is on the 16 September, a brilliant reflection of the book by Khaled Hosseini. For me, this book is one of the best, out of 43 I’ve read since belonging to a Tai-Chi based group we’ve been running for 4½ years.. Personally I don’t need nor expect film to be a mirror image of a book—I see films and books as different art forms, but, because I knew the book so well I was fearful almost from the beginning of the film, knowing what was going to happen. For me, it is a totally absorbing book and I have just begun Hosseini’s second book—“A Thousand Glorious Suns”

Those of the U3A who are already Film Club members I am sure will verify that we have become almost an extended family who have “taken the bad with the good”. For me members, the cost is £24 for 19 films, plus two social evening—for guests £3 per film.

“Bicycle Thieves” has been chosen for our classic film night on February 18,

Other members’ votes include

“Water” - 30th September

“When did you last see your Father?” - 7th October

“The Diving Bell & The Butterfly—21st October

“Waitress” - 4th November

“The Counterfeiters” - 18th November

“Son of Rambow” - 3rd December

Further details can be obtained from The Maldon Tourist Centre,

To become a member please contact (with a s.a.e. and cheque for £24 made payable to “Maldon Film Club”. C/o 17 Station Road, Tollesbury, CM9 9RB)

Or you may phone me—Patricia Willis on 01621 852784 for more information.

Our membership has maintained almost the 150 mark for three seasons.

Please come along and join us.

Patricia Willis

### *Environmental Group*

A waste of our time?

My small effort to save electricity, by using more efficient light bulbs, and petrol, by not using the car, amount to a fraction of a second of the energy wasted in the war in Iraq. Why should I bother? Anyway I am too old to worry about what will happen in twenty years time. Leave it to the others, I say. Or should I go to the Environmental Studies group and find out if there is something I can do about global warming, virtual water consumption, getting our country less reliant on oil and gas from overseas? What do you think?

Next meeting 5th September

## 2008 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

List of Events and Outings during the year.

|                |                                                              |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tues. 19 Aug   | Globe Theatre visit                                          |
| Thurs. 21 Aug. | Picnic at Heybridge Basin                                    |
| Mon. 1 Sept.   | Trip to Sth Coast & sail on ss Waverley and visit RNLI Poole |
| Fri. 19 Sept.  | <b>Quiz</b> —Social                                          |
| Mon. 22 Sept   | Visit to St. Albans Cathedral & Verulamium—Local History     |
| Tue. 23 Sept   | New Members Coffee Morning 10.30—12 noon                     |
| Wed 24 Sept    | <b>GRAND INTER U3A's QUIZ</b>                                |
| Mon. 6 Oct     | Dinner, theme ‘Mary Rose’ at Little Ship Club—Maritime       |
| Sat. 8 Nov.    | Jazz Evening—Social                                          |
| Sat. 29 Nov.   | Beetle Drive— Social                                         |

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



### PICNIC at Heybridge Basin LUNCH BY THE LOCK

Thursday, 21st August

12 noon to 4.00 p.m.

Bring food, tables and chairs, games.

Pub and tea room close by!

### QUIZ

Friday 19 September  
Town Hall

Doors open 6.30 pm Start .7.00 pm

Tickets - £3 - on sale at August meeting  
and from - Maisie Randall,

27 Bassingham Crescent, Tiptree CO5 0PY.

Phone 01621-810646 **for this event only**





### **Maritime Group's Liverpool Trip**

Forty eight members of the Maldon U3A left Maldon on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July and headed to Wrexham. On the way we stopped at the Wedgwood factory and had a very reasonable priced lunch in the Wedgwood Visitors Centre. Then we visited the Wedgwood Centre shop where we saw some of the beautiful pieces produced at the factory at not so reasonable prices. We then visited Bridgemere Garden World which must be one of the biggest garden centres I have ever visited. Then we made our way to the first of our two hotels, the Ramada Plaza Hotel Wrexham. After a very nice evening meal some of us retired to the bar for a few jar's before wending our way to our rooms.

Sunday morning we left Wrexham for Liverpool for a guided tour of Liverpool (European Capital of Culture). Then we headed to a parking spot between the Albert and Wellington docks where we were able at leisure to visit the tall ships moored in these docks. During the few weeks prior to this trip I had seen some adverse reports on Liverpool and its inhabitants. I was delighted to say that on all the occasions we visited Liverpool and surrounding districts the place was very clean and tidy and the people were very friendly. After seeing all of the tall ships in the Wellington dock and going on board the Mexican Naval Ship "Cuauhtemoc" Eileen and I headed for the Albert dock, passed the famous Liver building but this proved to be a tall ship too far so we headed up into the city centre where a very nice policeman told us where we could get a cup of tea. Then it was back to the coach via a Sunday Market in a disused tea warehouse. Although it had fallen to disrepair it was a nice piece of Victorian architecture and I was pleased to note that it was soon to be turned into apartments. Chester was our last stop of the day, where we made our way to the second of our hotels The Best Westminster Hotel. The hotel was somewhat smaller than the Ramada. The rooms were cosy to say the least and the food on the whole was good.

On Monday morning we made our way to Liverpool's Pier head to embark on Mersey Ferries (River Explorer) for a short trip up the River Mersey. While we were on the River, Phil our driver looked out the best place for us to view the Tall Ships leaving Liverpool. So we drove the short distance up the coast to New Brighton where we had an excellent view of these lovely vessels, unfortunately the wind was against them so they were not in full sail. Nevertheless the flotilla led by H.M.S. Argyll was a spectacular sight.

### ***Petanque***

We have now had our first few games (25 of us on our opening game) on our new terrain. Thanks again to the handful of our U3A volunteer workers who made it for us.

We have chosen to meet on Monday afternoons at 2.00, Tuesday evenings at 5.30 and Thursday mornings at 10 am. Because of the 'vagaries of the British weather' we do not always manage to play at these times but it is probably a case of 'phone a friend' to play together when the sun is out. We are hoping for an Indian Summer so that we can play well into the Autumn, during the day anyway.

We have been asked to demonstrate how to play at the 'Citizen's Day' on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August. If you could join us to help or watch for some of the time it would be much appreciated. It is from 10 to 3.30 pm.

Come and join us, it is a simple game and good fun in the open air.

To find out more please ring Barbara Arnold on 01621 853866

### ***Maritime***

Monday October 6<sup>th</sup> "Mary Rose Dinner". The balance of the money is now due, could those going please send me a cheque, payable to Maldon & District U3A, for £11.00 per person, to reach me by September 9<sup>th</sup> latest.

My address is 30 The Spinnaker, South Woodham Ferrers, CM3 5GL.

Malcolm Case

### ***Aviation Group***

The dates for the Autumn in the Maldon Little Ship Club are booked for Tuesday September 16<sup>th</sup>, October 21<sup>st</sup> and November 18<sup>th</sup>. **All at 2 pm.**

We are starting with a talk on 'Seaplanes' (especially the early ones) with a video to follow. This will again be by one of our own members after a lot of research so please come and give your support.

Contact Bill Fancourt on 01245 225569 or David Arnold on 01621 853866 if you need more information.

### ***River Blackwater U3A Study Group***

Our first meeting in September will be on Thursday the 4<sup>th</sup> and not on Sept.11<sup>th</sup>. We are going to Bradwell Beach to make our second Shell Survey and will meet at the WMCC 9.15 am to car share.. Please bring your lunch. Anyone very welcome and if you are new and wish to know more then ring Beryl on 01621 842093.

## River Blackwater U3A Study Group

### Talk from Nigel Harmer, Maldon River Bailiff

When asked by the group what his job entailed Nigel ruefully replied “ If a job involves getting wet or muddy, call out the River Bailiff!” While this is probably true, of course there is a lot more to such a responsible, well-established job. There are records of a river bailiff since 1155 for the Maldon district. Nearby Colchester doesn't have a bailiff and so on occasions Nigel will be asked to do certain jobs for them – on a paying basis.

The bailiff is responsible for issuing mooring licenses and checking out the traffic on the river with regard to legality, safety and speed limits. These areas are continual sources of problems. Many boat owners are either moored in unregistered locations or have simply obtained a mooring without paying their dues. The area around Mill Beach is a particular trouble spot. However Nigel is in hot pursuit and the offending owners are noted, given warning and if this is ignored then their may be confiscated and eventually sold at auction. Compared with some other rivers in England the mooring charges are very reasonable. Another cause of concern is jet skiers. Whilst certain areas of the river are permissible for jet skiing, and speed limits imposed, again these are frequently ignored. Unfortunately this can lead to some very dangerous traffic when mixed with other users in small boats – particularly children. Also it is very surprising how some children are allowed to jet ski alone in unsuitable conditions. We heard how one foggy, Sunday morning when Nigel was out patrolling quite early in the day, he caught up with two children of 7 and 11, unaccompanied, heading for the beach. In fact they were nearly at the mouth of the Blackwater by then and had no idea where they were. When returned to their parents it was not appreciated by any one concerned.

Jet skiers are regularly prosecuted for infringement of the speed rules and Nigel has now built up a picture of the average Jet Ski owner; he reckons the novelty wears off after about 11 months and then the Jet Ski is put up for sale. But the problem continues since there's always a new owner on the river.

The biggest problem the Blackwater has is siltation. It is happening all along the rivers of East Anglia and is a very difficult situation to deal with since dredging only has a temporary effect. In just a few weeks the silt builds up again and the problem seems to get worse. The consequence of this is a serious one since the river could become un-navigable into Maldon. This would change the town in a radical way. There are examples of towns like Rye and Winchelsea, which used to be ports but which over time, have become land bound. The reason for increased rate of siltation is not known – could it be connected to climate change affecting tides and movement of water?

Our river bailiff is often called out on matters outside his remit – say rescuing a trapped swan – and this type of thing adds to his daily burden. He used to have an assistant but sadly not now, and because of the nature of current business practice spends more time than he would like office bound responding to emails etc. Also the restrictions imposed by his budget means he has to plan very carefully time on the water since his fuel allowance is finite, and in these difficult times of accelerating costs means rationing time on the river. We spent a very interesting morning with Nigel, who was full of knowledge and anecdotes about his unique job. We were left with impression of a man who knows the Blackwater thoroughly, loves his job and will continue doing it as well as he can.

Sheila Epps

Tuesday found us on our coach for a tour of Chester. With our Blue/Green Badge guide Gerard (a fountain of information) we toured this lovely old city with its scores of black & white buildings not all Tudor I hasten to add, some were built as late as the twentieth century. Part of this tour took us to the lovely village of Eccleston. The first Duke of Westminster built this village for his estate workers it includes the Village school and church which is built in the style of a cathedral. After the tour we went on to the Anderton boatlift. Being lifted fifty odd feet to the next water level while in a boat was quite an experience. The rest of the day was free time to wander at will around the City of Chester this gave Eileen and I a chance to see Chester's lovely cathedral and take in some of Chester's architecture.

Wednesday saw us off to Liverpool again to catch the Mersey Ferry for a trip up the Manchester Ship Canal. I expected the canal to be lined with old warehouses and factories. Yes there was some industry along the canal but a large percentage of the canal goes through lovely countryside. It is now a home to many water birds, basically the canal is now clean enough to support wild life. We saw Kingfishers, Swans, Herons and Cormorants to name but a few. The canal, which was built to carry ships right to the heart of Manchester, is as deep as the Suez Canal was when it was built. This guaranteed that if a ship could sail through the Suez Canal it could sail up the Manchester Ship Canal. There were six swing bridges, one swing aqueduct plus four locks to negotiate. The approach to Salford Quays was truly magnificent we saw the Lowry Centre, Old Trafford, Home of Manchester United and the new BBC Centre under construction. This is where we ended our journey and boarded our coach for the journey back to Chester. Everybody I spoke to enjoyed the trip very much.

Well all-good things have to come to an end and Thursday saw us on our way home. We called at Wightwick Manor on the way back. This is a lovely manor house built at the end of the Victorian era by the Mander Family who had close ties with Wolverhampton having owned a paint and varnish factory in the city. After lunch at the Mermaid Pub we headed off on the last leg of our journey back to Maldon.

This is but a brief synopsis of what was for Eileen and I, a fun and interest filled six days.

In conclusion I would like to thank Malcolm and Rosemary for what I consider was a very nice and very well organised trip.

Fred Lane

## TALL SHIPS

As we stood on the wall at New Brighton  
We sighted first mast of the day,  
In the wake of a Royal Navy frigate  
All painted in battleship grey.

With full sails, they'd have looked like a young bride  
As she gracefully glides down the isle,  
But the strong wind was right on their noses  
Coming out of the Mersey in file.

There were some had a few flying topsails.  
Just enough to arouse a big sigh  
From the hundreds who stood on the bankside  
Snapping pictures with nostalgic eye.

From Russia and far Eastern Europe,  
Scandinavia, Mexico and Brazil,  
With crews of young trainees all working,  
Resulting in one magic thrill.

There were folk on the sands as the tide turned;  
Like a painting by Lowry they were,  
And the accents were all from the Midlands  
Floating over the tops of their 'eir'. (hair)

Leaving Liverpool ships went to Ireland,  
Where the start gun would shortly be heard.  
Then eastwards they'd cross sea to Bergen,  
Winging their way like a bird.

Such names as Glaciere of Liverpool,  
Lord Nelson, Pelecan, Westward Ho,  
Clyde Challenger, Leader and Royalist;  
Just some of them we got to know.

We sent them off, raising their spirits,  
Wishing fair winds and calm seas on their way.  
May experience build men for the future  
In whose hands all we have may well lay.

Jo Robson



## Theatre Group

We have had a quiet spell for a few months but Enid Hall and I have got together to plan some interesting visits between now and the end of January. We will be visiting Chelmsford and Colchester theatres for a play and two standard operas from Mid Wales opera and Swansea Opera. The fourth choice is an unusual one – a Chinese Opera. This is part of the Essex-Jiangsu Festival running until March 2009 all over the county. There are hundreds of celebratory events planned and the website is worth looking at [www.essex-china.org](http://www.essex-china.org). Also you can pick up an excellent brochure from the Tourist Information Centre.

## Theatre Outing

The Mercury, Colchester  
**Tuesday, 23rd September**  
**“Accidental Death of an Anarchist”**  
By Dario Fo

Tickets £7.50 (This is an excellent discount price)

Packed with razor sharp quips, this hilarious farce cuts to the heart of political corruption and exposes the manipulation of information by the media to tell the true story of an Italian anarchist who mysteriously fell to his death from the window of a police station.

From the writer behind *Men Behaving Badly* Simon Nye's version of Dario Fo's great satire about police brutality and underground activism in 1970's Italy has been updated and relocated to contemporary Britain. Where the forces of law order a society in such a way that journalist's investigative skills are perverted by the need for scandal, it takes a madman to reveal the truth.

Cheques payable to Maldon U3A as soon as possible please to Sheila Epps, 69 Norfolk Road, Maldon CM9 6AT

As usual we will car-share as much as possible.