

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 Maritime	2 Table Tennis Snooker Luncheon Club	3 Wine Circle Ten Pin Bowling Gardeners, Mundon Hall Meteorology	4 Scottish Dancing Discussion Poetry	5 Canasta Botany Family History (2)	6	7
8 Handicrafts Photography German Table Tennis Beg. Whist	9 Table Tennis Snooker	10 Ten Pin Bowling Swimming Bridge Painting	11 Ballroom Dancing French Conversation Reading	12 Mah Jong Sing for Pleasure	13	14 Bird Watching
15 <b>Meeting 1.30 pm</b>	16 Table Tennis Snooker Aviation	17 Ten Pin Bowling Clock Repairs Luncheon Club <b>Tea Dance</b>	18 Scottish Dancing	19 Canasta Botany	20	21 Strollers Stow Maories
22 Handicrafts Local History Olympic Tour Astronomy German Table Tennis Beg Whist.	23 Table Tennis Snooker	24 Ten Pin Bowling Swimming Bridge Painting Family History Writing for Fun	25 Ballroom Dancing Computers 1 pm French Conversation Music Appreciation	26 Mah Jong Sing for Pleasure	27	28
29	30 Table Tennis Snooker	31 Ten Pin Bowling				

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, Tel. 01245 225657 email Jan8085@aol.com



The University of the Third Age

# MALDON AND DISTRICT



Tea Dance  
Wednesday, 24th March

## NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2010

VOLUME 1X NO. 9

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

Web Site: [www.maldon3a.co.uk](http://www.maldon3a.co.uk)

## FROM THE CHAIR



Please make a note in your diaries that by the end of April you must pay your subscriptions. We have a waiting list so prompt payment of £19.00, to secure your full membership, or £7.50 for Social membership, for the 12 months May 2010 – April 2011 is essential. This year individual application forms must be completed to comply with regulations covering Gift Aid donations (See page 9). The amount repaid to our U3A this past year was more than £1,100.00 .

In May some of the Social Committee members will be retiring and in order to keep the continuity of social events we need help for the remaining members of the committee. Any members that wish to help in the assistance of the Social committee please get in touch with one of the current members and they will arrange a meeting with you to discuss how this may be achieved.

Alan Buck  
Email: alan-buck@talktalk.net

### *Sing for Pleasure*

If any former members of this group still have copies of the little songbooks, could they please return them to me. Tel. 016211 854905

Sylvia Carpenter

### *Gardeners*

We start our new season with a meeting at Mundon Village Hall on **Wednesday, 3rd March** when we will have the new programme available. I will show our latest film presentation of the Rutland Holiday in July and then a talk and demonstration by Brian Carline on Pelargoniums and Fuchsias. Start at 2.30 pm. Could we have some volunteers to make some home made cakes like last time please, they were delicious.

I have cancelled the Otley outing due to lack of interest.

Jan Robertson

## CO-ORDINATORS

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Alan Buck</b>	<b>01245 227709</b>	Luncheon Club	Mike Wood	01245 222839
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	<b>Beryl McDonell</b>	<b>01621 842093</b>		Paul Costa	01621 853893
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Pamela Turnbull</b>	<b>01376 510084</b>			
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Rosemary Case</b>	<b>01245 329435</b>	Mah-Jong	Molly Polden	01621 856507
<b>Membership Sec.</b>	<b>John Robson</b>	<b>01621 828236</b>			
<b>Speaker Sec.</b>	<b>Joyce Cotterell</b>	<b>01621 858287</b>	Maritime	Malcolm Case	01245 329435
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Paul Costa</b>	<b>01621 853893</b>			
	<b>John Almond</b>	<b>Ex. Dir.</b>	Meteorology	Malcolm Case	
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	<b>Jan Robertson</b>	<b>01245 225657</b>		John Robson	01245 329435
<b>WebMaster</b>	<b>John Bowen</b>	<b>01245 224677</b>			01621 828236
			Music Appreciation	Enid Hall	
Astronomy	Molly Tring	01621 854732		John Skuse	01621 891618
					01245 224059
Aviation	David Arnold	01621 853866	Painting	Eileen Lane	
	Fred Lane	01621 816181			01621 816181
			Petanque (Boule)	Barbara Arnold	
Ballroom Dancing	Jo Robson	01621 828236			01621 853866
Bird Watching	Pat Clements	01245 223427	Photography	Michael Manning	
					01621 828605
Botany	Veronica Smith	01621 828176	Poetry	Jo Robson	
					01621 828236
Bridge	Sheila Epps	01621 850467	Reading		
			2nd Thursday	Sheila Epps	
Canasta	Marian Manning	01621 828605			01621 850467
	Margaret Dale	01268 765239	Scottish Dancing	Shirley Grummett	
					01621 853288
Clock Repairs	Stanley Clements	01245 223427	Sing for Pleasure	Sylvia Carpenter	
					01621 854905
Computers	Jan Robertson	01245 225657	Snooker	John Williams	
					01621 828461
Desk Top Pub.	Jan Robertson	01245 225657	Strollers	Gill Stone	
					01621 853948
Discussion	Ray Harman	01621 891736	Swimmers	Gill Rowsell	
					01621 740619
Family History	Frank Stokes	01245 223579	Table Tennis	Gordon Hardy	
				Julie Doidge	01245 223012
Continuing French	Sylvia Carpenter	01621 854905	Beginners	Beryl McDonell	01621 841205
French Conversation	Bill Stichbury	01621 855828			01621 842093
			Ten Pin Bowling	David Arnold	
Gardeners	Jan Robertson	01245 225657			01621 853866
			Theatre Group	Enid Hall	
German	Jenny Plumb	01245 226112		Sheila Epps	01621 891618
					01621 850467
Good Companions	Beryl McDonell	01621 842093	Whist	Molly Polden	
					01621 856507
Handicraft	Marian Manning	01621 828605	Wine Circle	Graham Boswell	
					01621 828874
Local History	Mary Burd	01621 843020	Writing for Fun	Pat Sizer	
	Alfred Couldrey	01245 226259			01621 892201

**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**

FREE

2 Tapley 33 teak wall units - bookcase/storage - 32"X20"X9"  
in excellent condition.

1 open shelves & 1 with sliding doors (removable)

Fixed with inclusive spirit level brackets.

Buyer to collect please. Ken & Kathy James 01621 815564

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Amendment for Group Activities 2010 booklet

**Meteorology Group**—should read:

Time: **1st Wednesday** at 2.30—4.30 pm.

**Photography Group** as follows

Time: **2nd Monday** at 2 -4 pm

Venue: WMCC, Linton Room

**BLACKWATER U3A**

Contact:

Dorreen Linton, Chairman

01621 853428

**SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS U3A**

Contact

Heather Richardson Chairman

01245 320205

**HEYBRIDGE U3A**

Contact

Ruth Tyler, Chairman

01621 869865

**NATIONAL OFFICE**

19 East Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1QH

Tel 020 8466 6139 Email [national.office@u3a.org](mailto:national.office@u3a.org)

Web site [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

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

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 5th March

***Local & General History***

We had a huge response to our first meeting in the new venue and we hope it continues! Our next meeting is on **Monday 22 February** when we welcome back John Drury who is going to talk about “Historic Treasures of Essex”.

If you want to join us you will be most welcome - 2.00 pm at the **Town Hall** – cost £1.50.

We do not meet in March as some of us are going on The Olympic London trip.

Mary Burd

***Strollers***

**Sunday 21st March 2010**

Meet at Stow Maries Village Hall CM3 6SL at 10.30 am for a 2 hour stroll over the local hills and along the disused railway line. The Prince of Wales is there at the end of the walk should you need lunch! Kym Marshall 01621 828417

***Photography***

The Photography Group has re-started! It will meet on the 2nd Monday of each month between 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm in the Linton Room of the West Maldon

Community Centre. The aim is to improve our photographic skills from setting up the camera through to processing the images.

Michael Manning

***Ballroom Dancing***

Just to confirm we are meeting on 2nd and 4th Thursday afternoons in the month. Ladies or Gentlemen on their own are welcome to come and join us. Jo Robson

***Family History***

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 24th February** at 2.30 pm and will be held at , Danbury. Please bring your queries, researches and personal histories.

**New Group**

Our next meeting will be on **Friday 19th February** at 10.00 am and will be held , Little Baddow.

Frank Stokes

### **Maritime**

The next meeting of the group will be on **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March** starting at 10:00 am at The Little Ship Club on The Hythe, Maldon; there will be a talk by Graham Smith on H.M. Customs & Excise. This, I'm sure will be a very interesting talk, all are very welcome to attend.  
Malcolm Case.

Would those members who have signed up for the Lea Valley Trip on **Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> July** and requested lunch please include the cost of the lunch when making out their cheque. This will streamline matters at the Gunpowder Mills exhibition. We can pay for all the entrance fees and lunches with one cheque.

To remind you, the cost of the trip is £31-50 and the finger buffet lunch is £6-75 = £38-25 total.

You can pay at the next Maritime meeting or the next U3A monthly meeting or, if you wish,,

CM0 8BW (01621 785486)

Ken Cocks

### **Botany**

The Botany group has started again after the Christmas break and will be meeting as before at 10.00 am at the West Maldon Community Centre on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of every month. We shall be looking at spring plants, particularly bulbs and corms, initially. New members are very welcome at any time. Please contact Veronica Smith on 01621 828176.

### **Theatre**

#### **“Sister Act” on 17th March**

Coach Fare £8.25 including Drivers Tip.

Please could you let me have your cheque by March 8th made out to Maldon

U3A

Beryl McDonell

#### **Cirque Du Soleil - Update.**

We will be attempting to book seats for either Saturday July 31st at 4 pm or Sunday August 1st at 1 pm. Please let me know which performance you could attend.

Beryl McDonell 01621 842093

### **Speaker - U3A member -Patrick Forsyth. Monday, 15th March**

“A Journey into Print” for readers, travellers (armchair or actual), potential or actual writers.

Light hearted talk on Patrick's desire to get into travel writing. why he wanted this and decided to do it.

Getting a publishing deal, deciding where to travel, and struggling with the writing process.

And of course the journeys made.

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### **F A B—fitness and balance**

U3A members have been attending these Tuesday morning sessions for the past 3 years. If you are looking to keep fit and take part in exercise as part of a healthy lifestyle, then a FAB class could be just what you are looking for.

Sessions at St. Peter's Hospital: Tuesday 10-11 am

11.30=12.30 am (advanced)

Friday: 11—12 pm

Contact John on 01268 741352 or 07956 654297

### **LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES -**

Times 12.15 pm

**TUESDAY 2nd March at The Green Man, Little Braxted**

Co-ordinator: Mike Wood Tel. 01245 222839

**WEDNESDAY 17th March at The Queen's Head on the Hythe**

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, as places have to be booked at the venues.





## Tea Dance

Wednesday, 24th March

West Maldon Community Hall

Doors open 1.45 pm, Dancing starts 2.15 pm

Price £4 including cream tea

"You've watched them dancing on television all winter. Now is your opportunity to trip the light fantastic and you won't be voted off if you make a mistake. Come and join in or just watch and listen to the music (it actually has tunes) and enjoy the tea."

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### Tea Dance on Wednesday, 24th March 2010

Please reserve me ..... Ticket(s) @ £4.00 each I enclose my cheque

for £.... made payable to 'Maldon & District U3A'

Name(s) of Member(s) .....

Tickets from Janet Buck on 01245 227709

## MARITIME GROUP 2010 - 2011 PROGRAMME

### 2010

**1. March 1<sup>st</sup> Monday** – Meeting at The Little Ship Club at 10:00 am for a talk by Graham Smith about “Customs & Excise”.

**2. April 5<sup>th</sup> Monday – Easter Monday – No meeting.**

**3. April 12<sup>th</sup> Monday – Four course Maritime Dinner at The Blackwater Sailing Club; theme “The Royal Yacht Britannia” and the Royal family entertaining dignitaries from Foreign lands. 1900 hrs for 1930 hrs. Deposit of £15.00 please, total cost will be between £25.00 - £30.00. Please see Malcolm Case for further details.**

**4. May 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday – May Bank Holiday - No meeting.**

**5. May** – Date to be advised - Sail Taster Day – John Robson arranging

**6. June 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday** – Trip on the River Thames to Hampton Court, cost £19.00 per person, Fred Lane arranging.

**7. June 22<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday** – Five day trip to Hartlepool’s Maritime Experience. Cost £398.00, single supplement £80.00; staying at the Durham Marriott Hotel Royal County on a Dinner, bed and Breakfast basis. Price includes entrance to the Maritime Experience, a river cruise, the Beamish Open air Museum, Locomotion, Guided tour of Durham Cathedral, half day escorted Blue badge Guide of Durham. For further details and a booking form please see Malcolm Case.

**8. July 6<sup>th</sup> Tuesday** – Trip to Lee Valley which Ken Cocks is arranging.

**9. August 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday** – trip to Felixstowe Docks – John Robson arranging. As details become known, they will be published.

**10. September 6<sup>th</sup> Monday** – illustrated talk by A. Cuthbert on “The Royal Yacht Britannia”.

**11. October 4<sup>th</sup> Monday** – Meeting at The Little Ship Club at 10:00 am for an illustrated talk by Stephen Nunn on “Barges on the Blackwater”.

**12. November 1<sup>st</sup> Monday** – Meeting at 10:00 am at The Little Ship Club to discuss the programme for 2011.

**13. December 6<sup>th</sup> Monday** - Meeting at 11:00 am at The Little Ship Club, short Maritime DVD followed by Christmas Buffet.

### 2011

**1. January 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday – Bank holiday – No meeting**

**2. February 7<sup>th</sup> Monday** – meeting at The Little Ship Club, talk on “Sailing around the World”.

**3. March 7<sup>th</sup> Monday** – initially meet at The Little Ship Club, thence a guided walking tour of “Maritime Maldon” with Stephen Nunn.

## Computers



For all of us who feel only the deepest love and affection for the way computers have enhanced our lives, read on.

At a recent computer expo (COMDEX), Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry and stated,

***'If GM had kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving \$25 cars that got 1,000 miles to the gallon.'***

In response to Bill's comments, General Motors issued a press release stating:

If GM had developed technology like Microsoft, we would all be driving cars with the following characteristics

1. For no reason whatsoever, your car would crash.....twice a day.
2. Every time they repainted the lines in the road, you would have to buy a new car.
3. Occasionally your car would die on the motorway for no reason. You would have to pull to the side of the road, close all of the windows, shut off the car, restart it, and reopen the windows before you could continue. For some reason you would simply accept this.
4. Occasionally, executing a manoeuvre such as a left turn would cause your car to shut down and refuse to restart, in which case you would have to reinstall the engine.
5. Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was reliable, five times as fast and twice as easy to drive - but would run on only five percent of the roads.
6. The oil, water temperature, and alternator warning lights would all be replaced by a single 'This Car Has Performed An Illegal Operation' warning light.
7. The airbag system would ask 'Are you sure?' before deploying.
8. Occasionally, for no reason whatsoever, your car would lock you out and refuse to let you in until you simultaneously lifted the door handle, turned the key and grabbed hold of the radio antenna.
9. Every time a new car was introduced, car buyers would have to learn how to drive all over again because none of the controls would operate in the same manner as the old car.
10. You'd have to press the 'Start' button to turn the engine off.

PS - I'd like to add that when all else fails, you could call 'customer service' in some foreign country and be instructed in some foreign language how to fix your car yourself!!

## 2010 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

List of Events and Outings during the year.

Wed 3 Mar.	Gardeners meeting at Mundon Village Hall
Mon 22 Mar	Olympic tour - Local History
Wed. 24 Mar.	Tea Dance - Social
Mon. 12 April	Maritime Dinner at Blackwater Sailing Club
Fri. 23 April	Social Evening - Social
Tue. 25 May	Historic Walk round Maldon - Local History
Sun. 6 June	Shuttleworth D Day Air Display - Aviation
Fri. 18 June	Cockney Evening - Social
Tue/Sat 22/26 June	5 Day trip to Hartlepool and area - Maritime
Tue. 28 June	Visit to Ely etc. - Local History
Tue/Fri 13/16 July	4 Day trip to Rutland and area - Gardeners
Thur. 22 July	Barbecue - Social
Sun 15 Aug	Rougham Air Display - Aviation
Sat 4 Sept	Duxford Battle of Britain Air Show - Aviation
Fri.. 24 Sept.	Beetle Drive - Social
Mon 27 Sept	Visit to Penshurst Place & Hever Castle - Local History
Fri. 29 Oct.	Hallowe'en Party - Social
Thurs. 25 Nov.	Quiz - Social

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

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## Social News

This is by way of being a valedictory note to thank you for your support over the last couple of years. I am now stepping down to allow someone younger, fitter and wider awake to take over. I have been lucky to have had a fantastic committee who have worked their socks off for you and will, I am sure, continue to do so. I thank them too.

Don't forget to buy your tickets for the Tea Dance on 24 March!

dd

## *Cricket*

Are you a Cricketer or have you been one, or are you just a groovy of the game on the Village Green or at County level?

If you are any of the above, would you like to come to a meeting arranged by Graham Pryke (yes he is Brenda and John's son -along with Blackwater members, when he would like to tell you what the E.C.,C, Club can offer retired people and indeed what you could offer them.

Date - time - venue will be announced.

Beryl McDonell

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### **How do you know when you are growing older?**

Everything hurts - what doesn't hurt, doesn't work.

The gleam in your eye is the sun glinting on your bi-focals.

You feel like the morning after, but haven't been anywhere!

Your little black book only contains names ending with MD

You get winded playing cards.

Your children begin to look middle-aged

You join a health club, but don't go.

A dripping tap causes an uncontrollable urge.

You know all the answers, but nobody asks the questions.

You look forward to a dull evening.

You need glasses to find your glasses.

You turn out the light for economy, not for romance.

You sit in a rocking chair but can't make it go.

Your knees buckle, but your belt won't.

Your back goes out more than you do.

You put your bra on back to front and it fits better.

Your home is too big and your medicine chest not big enough.

You sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there.

Your Birthday cake collapses under the weight of the candles.

Read by Richard Baker at the WI County Annual Meeting.

## **2010/2011 Subscriptions**

Membership subscriptions are due at the end of April, two enrolment forms will be included with each newsletter. These forms have been amended to take account of the current Gift Aid regulations, which require a separate form to be completed by each individual. The payment of subscriptions for couples, however, would be preferred by a single cheque.

**The annual subscription is £19.00 per member and payment must be made by cheque, payable to the Maldon and District U3A, together with a completed enrolment form before the 1<sup>st</sup> May.**

Gift Aid operates on the basis that HM Revenue and Customs treat our subscriptions as charitable donations; they assume that we have deducted tax at the basic rate before we pay our subscriptions and they refund this tax to our U3A.

We would encourage members who pay more tax than the tax recoverable from their subscription, currently £4.75, to complete the Gift Aid form. The tax refunds we receive make a significant contribution to our funds each year.

I will be happy to receive forms and cheques from February onwards at the main meetings or by post. Cheques will not be banked before the **1<sup>st</sup> May**.

**Anyone who has not renewed their subscription by the 1<sup>st</sup> May will no longer be a member.**

John Robson

Membership Secretary

Telephone 01621 828236