

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 Poetry Petanque	2 Botany Family History Mah Jong	3	4 Bird Watching Chigborough Lake
5	6 Table Tennis Luncheon Club Gardeners Gt Bentley Maritime Trip to Lea Valley	7 Ten Pin Bowling Meteorology Wine Group 1 & 2	8 French Conversation Reading Scottish Country Dancing Petanque	9 Canasta	10	11
12 German Handicrafts Photography Whist	13 Table Tennis Gardeners' 4 day Trip to Rutland	14 Ten Pin Bowling Swimming Bridge Painting	15 Petanque	16 Mah Jong Botany	17	18 Strollers Thaxted
19 Meeting 1.30 pm	20 Table Tennis Aviation	21 Ten Pin Bowling Clock Repairs Luncheon Club	22 French Conversation Music Appreciation Scottish Country Dancing HOG ROAST	23 Canasta	24	25
26 Astronomy German Local History Handicrafts Whist	27 Table Tennis	28 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Painting Writing for Fun Family History	29 Petanque	30 Mah Jong	31	

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

NEWSLETTER



HOG ROAST

Thursday, 22nd July

Langford Village Hall

JUNE 2010

VOLUME 1X NO. 12

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

Web Site: www.maldonu3a.co.uk



The University of the Third Age

MALDON AND DISTRICT

FROM THE CHAIR



As this will be the last time I have the opportunity to write my monthly comments I would like to say that the last three years have proved to me what the U3A is really about.

I have learned from group meetings and outings far more than I would have thought possible. I have also learned that whatever the activity it is always enjoyable, and the friendship and camaraderie is second to none. Being Chairman has made me realise that our U3A does not need new direction as it still continues to be successful in all areas. The co-ordinators have run their groups with admirable ease and have coped with any new rulings from National Office without any difficulty. My thanks go to them for this.

Alan Buck

Computers

We have decided to have a break as our members have various commitments during the next three months, so see you all again on the 23rd September.

Canasta Group

We meet on alternate Friday afternoons in the West Maldon Community Centre. Of late our numbers have dropped slightly, so if you are interested in joining us we would be delighted to see you
Please contact Marian Manning on 01621 828605 for more details.

Wine Circle

The new wine group is going strong. With mainly new members it meets now in the evening of the first Wednesday of every month in members homes. Various wines are presented, tried and discussed. Some are a real revelation others are pretty awful. All part of the learning experience. Currently we are finding out about the wines of the Loire Valley. This group is full but only a few more are required to make it worthwhile to start another group along the same lines. Why not contact the co-ordinator Graham Boswell on 01621 828874?

CO-ORDINATORS

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

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

Old £20 notes

Please note that the old £20 notes will cease to be legal tender from

30th June 2010.

Therefore they will no longer be accepting these as a form of payment from 30th June 2010 and they would advise changing up any that you have prior to this date at your bank

BLACKWATER U3A

Contact:

Dr. Dennis Eraut, Chairman

01621 829758

SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS U3A

Contact

Heather Richardson, Chairman

01245 320205

HEYBRIDGE U3A

Contact

Peter Thorpe, Chairman

01621 850828

NATIONAL OFFICE

19 East Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1QH

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, 9th July

Strollers

Thaxted: 18 July – 10.30 a.m.

5 mile undulating walk. Meet at Thaxted town car park, to leave at 10.30 a.m. Roast lunches available at the Swan but there are several other eating places in the vicinity.

Contact Margaret England on 01621 828419 .

Local & General History

On Monday 28 June we have our visit to Ely. The coach will leave the West Maldon Community Centre at 8.30 am. We anticipate leaving Ely at 4.30 pm. Please leave your cars at the far end of the car park. Contact on the day Mary Burd 07801 430566.

Then on Wednesday 30 June there will be the next Historical walk around Maldon - for those booked on this please meet the guide at 2 pm in the Butt Lane Car Park in Maldon.

Our next meeting is on Monday 26 July 2 pm at the Town Hall when the speaker will be David Petts and his talk is entitled "Marsh Fever in the Thames Estuary". All members are welcome.

Mary Burd

Family History

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 30th June at 2.30 pm and will be held at 15 Peartree Lane, Bicknacre. Please bring your queries, researches and personal histories.

New Group

Our next meeting will be on Friday 2nd July at 10.00 am and will be held at 56 Augustine Way, Bicknacre.

Frank Stokes

Ballroom Dancing :

There will be no Ballroom sessions through June, July and August, but rest assured we will be practising wherever we are and looking forward to starting up again in September. Remember 2nd and 4th Thursdays 2.45 to 4.15 up to Christmas. Enjoy the Summer!

Jo Robson

Maritime

Lea Valley Trip, Tuesday July 6th.

The coach will the West Maldon Community Centre at 0800 hrs; could you please park your cars at the far end of the car park. We anticipate being back in Maldon by about 1830 hrs.

Malcolm Case

Meteorology

The next meeting of this group is on Wednesday July 7th at The Little Ship Club, Maldon, starting at 1430 hrs. There will be an illustrated talk by Colin Cardy and Don Baines on "The History of Weather Forecasting"; this will also include information about the Shipping Forecast. All U3A members are welcome.

Malcolm Case & John Robson

Botany

'The botany group will be meeting as usual on the 1st and 3rd Fridays in June, at 10.00 am at W.M.C.C. We shall be continuing to look at plant Families and their characteristics in our ongoing quest to be able to identify plants, and as summer is getting closer, and so much is springing into life, we shall look at new plants that we had no time to do last year. We welcome new members; current members frequently bring specimens for us to examine and remember. (The last part is for some of us the hardest!) For any further information, please contact Veronica Smith on 01621 828176'

Gardeners

Trip to **Rutland leaving Tuesday, 13th July**. Can you please meet the coach in the Morrison's Car park by 8.30 am, coach leaving 9.00 am sharp.

Our visit Byndes Cottage, Pebmarsh, despite the dreadful weather forecast, was a great success. Beautiful large garden, immaculately presented. Lovely couple who made us so welcome and the weather stayed sunny. For those who did not join us, you can visit Byndes Cottage with Heybridge U3A as below.

Tues. July 6 Visit to "The Old School House" Gt. Bentley CO7 8LD
2.30 pm Formally planned garden, planting is relaxed, mixed borders and ponds etc.

Entrance and Teas £5.50

Heybridge U3A Gardening Group

Monday, 19th July at 2.30 pm

Byndes Cottage, Pebmarsh, near Halstead, CO9 2LZ

Cost £4. Please contact Pat Yates on 01621 892866 if you wish to join them.

Cash ISA's

Have you checked with your Investment Company what interest they are paying on your Cash ISA's from previous year's.? According to my Financial Advisor some of them are only paying 0.20%. You will have to look around for a better rate ie. perhaps 2.50% or more and move them.

JR

Energy Bills

I have recently received a horrendous bill for my Electricity and Gas. - I know we have had a long and cold winter but! I contacted my supplier and the assistant told me that she can put me on a new tariff and it would save me £25 per month. So for the sake of a phone call I have saved myself £300 a year!

My advice, give your supplier a ring and check your tariff.

JR

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES -

Times 12.15 pm

TUESDAY 6th July at "The Hurdlemaker" at Woodham

Mortimer

Co-ordinator: Mike Wood

Tel. 01245 222839

WEDNESDAY To be advised

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.

Aviation Group

On Sunday 6th June twenty U3A members made the trip to the Shuttleworth D-Day Air Display. Fifteen by way of the excellent and cheap Viking Mini-bus, five by car share. Arriving early we had plenty of time to tour around the site before the flying display – we were spoilt for choice as to which areas to visit. Eight hangars housed vintage cars and other vehicles, a collection of impressive aircraft including the world’s oldest airworthy aeroplane, the Bleriot XI Monoplane and many other various related displays. A Big Band played wartime numbers to add to the nostalgic atmosphere. Other treats included UK’s largest Bird of Prey Centre and Owl sanctuary (they too had a flying day!) and the large picturesque Regency Garden which many enjoyed.

A few took the opportunity to take a tour around the line of some of the aircraft involved in the later flying display enjoying being able to get close up to many of the aircraft peering into the engines and the cockpits

We took our places by the wire right next to the planes and munched while we watch the Airshow. All the planes were no later than WW2 and one had actually taken part in the invasion. No jets or bombers. A downpour at 4.30 put an early end to the display but we are used to that now.

Everyone seemed to really enjoy the day because this place and the airshow are not crowded and the planes are of a time we remember.

By the time you read this we will have had our crowded second meeting at Stow Maries Aerodrome, more of that later.

There are now only a few places left for our Summer outings, firstly to Rougham Air Display and Car Show (Sunday August 15th.) which is not all about planes, more of a ‘family’ day out. This is only £23 including entry Then Duxford Battle of Britain [70th. Anniversary] Airshow (Saturday Sept. 4th.) this will be a chance to see the new collection of photos of Duxford in WW2, pilots, planes etc. which been extensively reviewed in the press. This is £29 including entry

Everyone is welcome to our meetings and our outings. Any questions? Contact David Arnold 01621 853866

Local History -

Maldon Historic Walk - May 25

We all 25 of us met in Butt Lane car park, there had been a change in the weather overnight from very hot sun, to lower temperature and a brisk wind. Christine our Green Badge Guide gave us a brief history of Maldon across the centuries the origin of the name and its importance of the Town as a centre of trade.

I will not disclose too many details as this will spoil the walk for the second group taking the journey through history.

From Butt Lane we walked up the High street stopping at the Church House the home of Edward Bright his commemorative plaque is in the Walk through to the White Horse Car Park and was made by one of our walkers Catharni Stern so we were in good company. Onward to the former St Peters Church rebuilt after its collapse and now the Plume Library, Then to All Saints with an inside and outside look at the building members also showing interest in the current refurbishment works.

Onward passed the Blue Boar no time for a drink to wash down its history. Now down hill passed the Cromwell pump to the river, then along the footpath to the park. We stopped by the Victorian Lake and listened to the history of Brithnoth most members opting to return to the town rather than walking to his statue as the breeze had a nip about it and a cup of tea beckoned us all. Nearly two hours had flown passed we thanked Christine and went our way with much more knowledge of the town in which most of us live

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• **July Meeting** •

• **Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm** •

•

• Speaker •

• Barry Kaufman Wright •

• “Role of Police Wildlife Crime Officer” •

•

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HOG ROAST

Langford Village Hall

Thursday 22nd July

Ticket's £6.00

Open from 6.00 pm for a 6.30 start

(Umbrella's and Gazebo's optional)



U3A members only!

Hog Roast —Thursday, 22nd July

Please reserve me Ticket's) @ £6 each

I enclose my cheque for £.... made payable to
'Maldon & District U3A'

Name's) of Member's)

Janet Buck 01245 227709

Maritime Group

Voyage up the Thames

On the first of June we had the 'voyage' up the Thames from Westminster to Hampton Court. We went on the river pleasure boat, MV Kingswood, built in 1915 and one of the little ships that went to Dunkirk almost exactly 90 years previously to rescue many of our soldiers.

Weatherwise it started with steady light rain which made being outside a bit wet but we mostly sat in the saloon chatting and watching the ever-changing scene outside. The things we do best.

Past Parliament, past the office blocks, past the expensive apartments that have replaced all the old wharves and warehouses. Hardly a yard of riverbank is undeveloped. The skipper regaled us with insights into the history of the river; some of it may have been true. Is it true, for instance, that the prisoners who were to be deported to Australia went down river from Millbank Prison and written on the side of the boats was POM (Prisoners of Millbank) from which the Australians call us all Poms? True or False?

On past the ruins of Battersea Power station. Past Chelsea and Fulham Football Ground, Craven Cottage, didn't see the cottage though. Along the course of the Boat Race to Chiswick. Slowly under the bridges we gradually made our way up the ever-narrowing river.

Fortified with coffee or wine or even double brandies we slowly made our way up river. 'Look there's a heron!!' 'There's another one.' There were in fact hundreds of herons, some on their nests. Ducks, geese, coots, swans, even grebe were spotted as well. The trees became more and more part of the riverbank. Past Syon House with another horrible story about Henry VIII from the skipper. We didn't stop at Kew. Ham house on the hill, near the British Legion Poppy Factory. Then through the Richmond half tide lock, which keeps the depth water upstream at least 1.72m. Then the second lock at Teddington. Then Kingston, the bungalows with their own moorings.

All along the river there were extremely desirable properties some with gardens leading down to the water and occasionally boathouses too. How the poor people live!

We arrived at Hampton Court at 1.30, three and a half hours after we set off from Westminster, a distance of 25 miles. The rain had died away by then.

This only left time for a leisurely lunch and a quick look at the outside of Hampton Court Palace before it was time to board the coach at 4pm. Some had taken a picnic and managed to get inside the Palace but it really needs at least six hours to view it properly and to get your monies worth, £11.50! Another time perhaps.

A quick journey home of about 2 hours was extended to 3 1/4 hours by hold-ups at the Dartford Crossing. Tired but happy we eventually arrived back in Maldon at 7.15, twelve hours after we started off. A success? Undoubtedly so! We had a great time, so thanks to Fred Lane for organising it and Alan Buck on the day!

DA

MALDON AND DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Also known as

(MALDON U3A UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE (MALDON AND DISTRICT))

MALDON U3A

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE (MALDON & DISTRICT)

Registered Charity No. 1086182

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2010

Chairman : Mr Alan Buck
Treasurer : Mrs Rosemary Case
Secretary : Mrs Pamela Turnbull

Constitution adopted 19 October 1998

amended 19 March 2001, 17 June 2002, 9 June 2003, 21 January 2008

Objects

The objects of the U3A are:-

- (1) to advance the education of the public and in particular the education of older people no longer in full-time gainful employment in Maldon and its surrounding locality.
- (1) To provide facilities for leisure time and recreational activities, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the above persons in the interests of their social welfare.

Bankers

Barclays Bank, Maldon, COIF Charities' Deposit Fund, London and Nat West, Maldon

Examiner of Accounts

Mr John Smith-Daye, Lambert Chapman, 112b, High Street, Maldon, CM9 5ET

Trustees at time of signing Report:

The Management Committee:

Alan Buck	(Chair)
Beryl McDonell	(Vice Chair)
Rosemary Case	(Treasurer)
Pamela Turnbull	(Secretary)
John Robson	Jan Robertson
Paul Costa	Joyce Cotterell
John Almond	Doreen Warwick

Other Trustees

Appointment of additional Trustees: Two persons can be co-opted to the Executive Committee. Doreen Warwick was co-opted to serve from June 2009 to June 2010.

Income Reserves Policy: Reserves sufficient to cover a year's rent on the meeting hall and one excess payment on the Public and Products Liability insurance cover held by the Third Age Trust.

2010 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

List of Events and Outings during the year.

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 Hog Roast - Social
Fri. 13 Aug Picnic at Heybridge Basin
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.



PICNIC

At

HEYBRIDGE BASIN

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13

*Put this date in your diary and full details
next month*

Report of the Bird Watching Group

“Off went the van with my home packed in it,
I followed on with my old cock linnet”.

I, like the lady in the song had only had a close encounter with a Linnet looking at one through the bars of a cage, but on Sunday 06 June at Two Tree Island I saw my first wild and free Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*.

This small largely brownish finch has a white rump and variable areas of glossy pink on its crown and breast, it emits a musical and varied twittering one of the main reasons for their popularity in Victorian times. This sighting came at the end of morning session which had the arrrrrrh factor .

Two tree Island is an Essex Wild Life Reserve on the edge of the mud flats at Leigh on Sea the main attraction being a brackish water lagoon dotted with clearly identified islands , a major nesting site for Avocets .

We had timed our visit to coincide with the breeding season for Avocets, Black Headed Gulls, Common Terns and Red shanks . The Avocet with its striking black and white plumage stilt like bright blue /grey legs and long upturned beak had chicks that one of the local wardens described as “powder puffs.” That was just what they looked like if you ignored the disproportionately long legs and the sweet little upturned beak (Sorry back to dispassionate reporting)

The Black Headed Gull chicks being mottled brown were beautifully camouflaged when nestling down or even strutting around on the mud and shingle of the lagoon but fortunately they seemed to favour the green vegetation of their island homes which made spotting them so much easier.

The common Terns were still incubating eggs whilst the Red Shanks were only at the courtship stage with the males displaying by wildly flapping their wings in front of the females who on the evidence seen on our visit were unimpressed or possibly had headaches.

Next month the group meets at Chigborough Lakes EWT car park on Sunday 04 July at 10:00

Peter Gaywood

7 Subscriptions for 2010/2011

The Treasurer informed members that, in preparing a budget for the current financial year, based on 2008/2009 costs and allowing for a 5% rate of increase for inflation, there would be a deficit of approximately £700 for the year 2009/2010. Allowing a further 5% increase in costs for the financial year 2010/2011 would result in a deficit in excess of £1,000. The Executive Committee, therefore, proposed that subscriptions for 2010/2011 should rise by £2.50 for full members to £19 and by £1 for social members to £7.50. There followed a general discussion from members regarding newsletter and postage costs. All members agreed that they wished to continue to receive a newsletter on a monthly basis. In answer to questions regarding possible hand delivery of newsletters by members, the Chairman informed the meeting that this idea was already under consideration by the Executive Committee and further details would be available shortly.

The Chairman reminded members that they could opt to have their newsletter sent electronically and asked those interested to make arrangements for this with the newsletter editor. Frank Stokes then proposed that members accept the motion to increase the membership fees for the year 2010/2011 by £2.50 for full members and £1 for social members. This was seconded by Jean Cuthbert. The motion was carried unanimously by the members.

8 Election of Committee Members

Jan Robertson had completed her three-year term, but was prepared to stand for re-election. There having been no other nominations for the post, she was elected unopposed to serve for a further three-year term. The Chairman reminded the members that there was still another vacancy for a committee member, and asked if anyone would like to volunteer to serve on the committee. There were no volunteers.

9 Any Other Business

There being no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

Signed (Chairman) Date.....

MALDON & DISTRICT U3A
MINUTES OF ELEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 15 JUNE 2009
AT WICKHAM BISHOPS VILLAGE HALL

Present Mr Alan Buck (Chairman)
Mrs Rosemary Case (Treasurer)
Mrs Pamela Turnbull (Business Secretary)
A total of 101 members (including the above)

1 Apologies

Mrs Joyce Cotterell, Mr Geoff Cotterell, Mrs Anna Williams, Mr David Williams, Mrs Avril Ellis, Mr Philip Ellis, Mr Malcolm Case, Mrs Carol Smith, Mr Alan Smith, Mrs Brenda Thain, Mrs Maisie Randall and Mr John Randall.

2 Minutes of Tenth Annual General Meeting

These had been circulated and were approved and signed as a correct record.

3 Annual Report

This had been circulated and was approved.

4 Chairman's Report

The members received the Chairman's report.

5 Examined Accounts for year ended 31st March 2009

The Treasurer presented the examined accounts for the year ended 31st March 2009. After explanations were given to two questions raised by members, the accounts were unanimously approved.

6 Appointment of Examiner for the Accounts for financial year 2009/2010

Mr John Daye-Smith of Lambert Chapman was approved as examiner for the accounts for 2009//2010. Following a question from the floor as to whether the accountant was chosen via a tender process, the Treasurer explained that the U3A did not pay for the services provided by Lambert Chapman but, should the selection be open to tender and an alternative firm selected, then this would incur costs for the U3A.

Gardeners Go to Pot

My normally tranquil life has been blown apart these past few weeks with recurring nightmares. I'm in court.

"The charge is that you were in the possession of drugs. Do you plead guilty or not guilty?"

"Not guilty" I stammer; "It's all the fault of the U3A Gardeners." Then I go on to tell how I was lured into attending the Group's plant swap in the spring of last year. There I was delighted to be given a packet of Thompson and Morgan seeds with a picture of an attractive white flower on the front. I sowed all the seeds but only one germinated but, as promised on the packet, a succession of beautiful white flowers blossomed in due course. My joy was compounded when the flower gave way to attractive pods rather like chestnut casings which, in turn, produced a myriad of seeds. I sowed some of these seeds and now have several healthy new plants.

Then, on Thursday May 27th. my life was shattered when I read an article in "The Times" about Botticelli's painting "Venus and Mars", that hangs in the National Gallery – you know, it's the one showing an almost naked Mars asleep, watched over by Venus with four mischievous satyr up to no good. Traditionally it has been regarded as showing the conquering power of love but a new study suggests that it may illustrate the hallucinogenic power of drugs.

To quote the article, "A fruit held by a satyr in the bottom right of the picture has been identified as belonging to Datura stramonium, a plant with a history of sending people mad and making them want to strip off their clothes."

And the name on the packet of Thompson and Morgan seeds was I'll leave you to guess.

Prior to reading the article I had given a plant to the lady member who gave me the seeds so future meetings of the Gardeners group might be, shall I say, quite lively?

Does anyone know Max Clifford's telephone number? Perhaps a fortune awaits me once I've served my sentence.

Harry Bacon



Chairman's Report

Three years ago I accepted your nomination to become Chairman and during that time I have tried not to change the continuity of a successful U3A. I hope that in some small way I have helped to keep the balance between Educational and Leisure activities that has kept Maldon U3A the successful enterprise that we have become used to. I use the word successful because over the last three years I have met many representatives of other U3A's and have been asked on numerous occasions how we maintain our friendly status. The answer I usually gave was to the effect that our co-ordinators organise the running of groups how the members wish them to and we, the Executive Committee, just oversee them and advise of any changes they need to comply with that are received from National Office.

We continue to hold an annual Co-ordinators meeting as well as a new members meeting and we (the committee) try to speak to members whenever possible on a one to one basis even if only briefly. I learnt recently that some of the newer U3As have adopted this with some success.

The continued growth of people waiting to join our U3A had been reduced by the formation of Blackwater, South Woodham Ferrers and Heybridge but is still of some concern as the number of people wishing to join U3A's is on the increase and already has caused Blackwater to cap their membership. With the restrictive size of meeting halls in the locality there does not seem to be an easy solution to this problem.

The number of groups has remained at a consistent level with new taking the place of the retiring groups. From Astronomy to Writing for Fun there are too many to name them all but I would like to express my thanks to all the leaders of the groups, without your help we would not survive.

I could not have lasted as Chairman without the help and guidance of your Executive committee, Beryl McDonell has been of great help as Vice-Chairman, John Robson has done a sterling job with membership, Jan Robertson still produces a good newsletter, Paul Costa has been instrumental in the preparation of the Hall, Joyce Cotterell has given us a range of speakers, John Almond has bought us money in by the collection of Gift Aid, and Doreen Warwick has been assisting us for the last year. So thank you very much to all of them.

I have two people left to thank and to these I would like to give a special thank you as, without their assistance I do not think I would have had such an easy ride during my term of office, and these are, Rosemary Case (treasurer) who has done a magnificent job with our finances, and our secretary Pamela Turnbull has kept me on the ball as far as correct procedures were concerned. Finally I would just like to say thank you to all members for the encouragement they have given me for the last three years and wish the new committee all the best for the future.

Alan Buck

OFFICIAL NOTICE

The Twelfth Annual General Meeting of Maldon & District U3A

will be held on Monday, 21st June, 2010 at 2.15 p.m. at Wickham Bishops Village Hall for the purpose of transacting the following business:-

- 1 to receive apologies for absence.
- 2 To receive and approve the Minutes of the Eleventh Annual General Meeting held on 15th June, 2009.
- 3 To receive and approve the Annual Report for the year ended 31st March, 2010.
- 4 To receive the Chairman's Report for the year ended 31st March, 2010.
- 5 To receive and approve the examined accounts for the year ended 31st March 2010.
- 6 To appoint an examiner for the accounts for the year ending 31st March, 2011.
- 7 To confirm the subscriptions to be paid by members for the year 2011/2012.
- 8 To elect a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary to serve for three years.
- 9 To elect three committee members to serve for three years.
- 10 To consider any other business previously notified.

Pamela Turnbull,
Business Secretary.

NOTES

Eligibility for office and to vote

All paid-up members for the year 2010-2011 are eligible to stand for committee and to attend and vote.

Ordinary June Monthly Meeting

This will take place before the AGM at 1.45 p.m. for announcements and the booking of outings, etc. Strawberries and cream will be served after the AGM.