

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 Discussion Scottish Dancing Poetry	2 EAST	3 ER	4 Bird Watching Old Hall Marshes
5 EASTER MONDAY	6 Table Tennis Snooker Plant Swap Luncheon Club	7 Ten Pin Bowling Swimming Meteorology Wine Circle	8 Ballroom Dancing French Conversation Reading Petanque 2 pm	9 Sing for Pleasure Mah Jong	10	11
12 German Handicrafts Photography Table Tennis Beg. Maritime Dinner	13 Table Tennis Snooker Aviation	14 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Painting	15 Scottish Dancing Petanque 2 pm	16 Botany Canasta	17	18 Strollers
19 Main Meeting 1.30 pm	20 Table Tennis Snooker Gardeners Aviation	21 Ten Pin Bowling Swimming Clock Repairs Luncheon Club	22 Ballroom Dancing Computers French Conversation Music Appreciation Petanque 2 pm	23 Sing for Pleasure Mah Jong Social Evening	24	25
26 Astronomy German Handicrafts Local History Table Tennis Beg.	27 Table Tennis Snooker	28 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Painting Family History Writing for Fun	29 Scottish Dancing Petanque 2 pm	30 Canasta		

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

NEWSLETTER



Spring

MARCH 2010

VOLUME 1X NO. 10

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FROM THE CHAIR



At last it seems that spring is here so we can shake off our winter blues and look forward to joining in with as many U3A activities as our diaries allow. On checking through mine I could not help but notice the annual subscription must be paid by the end of next month so please don't be late with your payment.

At the general meeting last month I mentioned that we were looking into the usage of "Viking minibuses" for small groups. If any organiser wishes more information please contact John Almond who has all the relevant details.

Alan B

A note to all Co-ordinators

I would like to remind all co-ordinators that the current financial year ends on **March 31st**. Please can I have your accounts up to and including that date, along with all relevant receipts as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. Separate returns please for cash accounts and ring fenced bank accounts. Nil returns are required. Any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you.

Rosemary Case
Treasurer.

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

VIDEO TAPES

I have been given over 70 videos, all sorts, classics, thrillers, shows etc.

I wondered whether we could have a **Video Swap** at the Monday Meetings like the magazines and jig saws which have proved to be very popular.

I do need a volunteer to take on this task

Any takers please?

Jan Robertson on 01245 225657

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
Web site www.u3a.org.uk
Resource Centre: email: resource.centre@u3a.org.uk

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 9th April

Local & General History

We do not have a meeting in March.

For those booked on The Olympic London trip – **Monday 22 March** - we leave the West Maldon Community Centre at 9.00 am and then pick up at Eves Corner Danbury at 9.10 am. Morning coffee and lunch are included in this trip. We leave London at approximately 4.45 pm.

Contact telephone number on the day is Mary Burd 07801 430566.

We meet again on **Monday 26 April** when our talk is entitled “The Life & Times of Matthew Hopkins The Witchfinder General”.

If you want to join us you will be most welcome -

2.00 pm at the **Town Hall** – cost **£1.50**.

As the Historical Walk around Maldon has proved popular we are running a second one on **Wednesday 30 June**. Some of you have your names down for this so can you please note the date and let me have your cheque for £3 in due course.

Mary Burd

Strollers

The Strollers will walk on **Sunday 18th April** at 10.30 in Little Waltham. Meet at the village car park (free) – grid reference 711128 – this car park is situated between the Church, and Main Street, next to the Memorial Hall. There are local eating places and Colin will check this out prior to the day. Contact: Colin Beckett 01245 222163 for further information.

Botany

We have resumed our meetings after our Christmas break, which take place on 1st and 3rd Friday of each month at WMCC at 10.00am, and were pleased to welcome another new member. We looked at the structure and functioning of bulbs, corms, tubers and rhizomes, and we now know the difference between them. We have also had a very close look at catkins, those decorative male wind pollinated flowers so abundant at the moment, which we shall continue at our next meeting, along with the detailed structure of daffodils.

We are planning a visit to Warley Place on **March 19th**.

For further details please contact Veronica Smith at 01621 828176.

Theatre Group

I have been running this Group almost since our U3A was formed – and Enid joined me some time later. We both feel that we would now like to hand over organisation of the Group to someone else.

We have enjoyed a wonderful variety of performances over the years at our three local theatres in Colchester, Chelmsford and Southend and no doubt will both continue to go to the theatre – but arranged by someone else.

In our U3A we are fortunate to have a large membership – many of whom are fairly recent members, and it is healthy for any organisation to change and not rely on the same people to stay put and continue doing the same things. I am sure this will not happen to Maldon U3A.

Please have a word with me if you think you might like to take on this group. It is not difficult and both Enid and I would be very willing to pass on any tips for the smooth running of the Group.

Sheila Epps 01621 850467
Enid Hall 01621 891618

Music Group - and all other interested music lovers

The London Mozart Players will giving a concert in Maldon at The Plume School on Friday March 26th.

Tickets on sale from the reception desk at the school.

This is quite a coup to have such a well known group here in Maldon and now that the Plume has its new performing theatre space I think there will be opportunities for other events.

Sheila Epps

Swimming

My new dates for the summer term as follows:

7th & 21st April
15th & 19th May
2nd, 16th & 30th June
14th July

Blackwater Leisure Centre—9 to 9.45 am
Gill Rowsell

SPEAKERS FOR 2010

- Monday, 15th March - Patrick Forsyth - A Journey into Print
Monday, 19th April - Gary Egerton - Private detective to rich and famous
Monday, 17th May - Keith Baldwin - All the Queens Horses & All the Queens Men
Monday, 21st June - AGM
Monday, 19th July - Barry Kaufman Wright - Role of Police Wildlife Crime Officer
Monday, 16th August - Simon Gilbert - Opera to the Musicals
Monday, 20th September - Interest Day
Monday, 18th October - Jenny Gibbs - My Life in Rural Turkey
Monday, 15th November - Soil, Sweat & Tears - Brian Carline
Monday, 20th December - Christmas meeting

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES -

Times 12.15 pm

TUESDAY April 6 at The Chequers Inn, Goldhanger
Co-ordinator: Mike Wood Tel. 01245 222839

WEDNESDAY April 21 at The Ship, Tiptree
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.

Bird Watching Group

The March adventure for the group was at the Phyllis Currie reserve Gt. Leighs This 22 acre nature reserve is run by Essex Wildlife Trust who at this present time are busy renovating one of the pair of ponds that form the focal point of the reserve so the hoped for Kingfisher remained as elusive as did nearly every other bird one might expect to see .

The wooded area of the reserve is being maintained with the help of the Forestry Commission with hybrid poplar/sycamore being replaced by native trees grown from seed hence the abundance of green cylinders sticking out of the woodland floor with minuscule trees hiding within.

The woods were full if not with the sound of birds but with bird boxes, bat boxes and we presumed mammal boxes, festooning the more mature trees. These boxes varied in size from what looked like small barrels for owls and members of the falcon family right down to very small nest boxes for the local population of Blue and Great Tits some of which we eventually managed to see if only fleetingly as they scurried backwards and forwards in the canopy high above us.

After a very pleasant two hours of trying to identify birds by their song we returned to the car park and saw what we later identified as a Fieldfare Turdus Pilaris. This winter migrant is a member of the Thrush family. Usually seen in large flocks it is slightly smaller than a Mistle Thrush with grey head and rump chestnut back and wings, with a heavily spotted yellow orange breast.

Hopefully next month's visit to Old Hall Marshes will prove to be as interesting but more productive on the bird watching front.

Peter Gaywood

Family History

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday, 31st March** at 2.30 pm Please bring your queries, researches and personal histories.

New Group

Our next meeting will be on **Friday 19th March** at 10.00 am Frank Stokes

Gardening

We held our first meeting on the 3rd March at Mundon Village Hall when we had a presentation of our forthcoming Rutland trip in July, then tea and homemade cakes, followed by a demonstration by Brian Carline on pelargoniums which was most entertaining and informative.. The 2010 programme is now available.

Tues. March 30 2.30 pm Visit to Brian Carline's garden at Beechmill, Church Rd, West Hanningfield followed by tea at the Hanningfield Reservoir.

Tues. April 6 2.30 pm Plant Swap at Mave Studholme's garden 8 Perry Road, Tiptree CO5 0UA 01621 815717 Could we have some homemade cakes please.

Tues. April 20 2.30 pm Visit to the home of Mr. & Mrs. Vaughan 19 Brookfield, Stebbing CM6 3SA A tranquil site leading down to Stebbing Brook. Features mixed borders, limestone rock garden, etc. and an unusually large pergola festooned with roses, clematis and jasmine.

Please sign up at the Meeting or give me a ring on 01245 225657 if you wish to join us.

Astronomy

Molly Tring has retired after stirling work setting up and organising excellent meetings and outings for the Astronomy group during the past eight years. Fortunately, we are lucky that John Robson and Malcolm Case have stepped in and offered to take over.

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· **April Meeting** ·

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

·

· Speaker ·

· "Private Detective to Rich & Famous" ·

· A humorous talk about his job as a private. detective to rich and famous.. ·

·

· Gary Egerton ·

·

.....



Barn Dance

Friday, May 14th

Maldon Function Suite (Maldon Football Club)

Doors open 7.00 pm....

Tickets £7.00.

Any member who paid for the Ceilidh will have been put on the list for this event and marked as paid, therefore, if you cannot attend, please let Janet Buck (01245 227709) know by the end of this month.

U3A members only!

Barn Dance on Friday, May 14

Please reserve me Ticket(s) @ £7.00 each

I enclose my cheque

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

Name(s) of Member(s)

Janet Buck

Aviation Group.

Just to remind you that we are having a talk on Stow Maries WW1 Aerodrome by Ivor Dallinger who is the curator there. (Tuesday March 16th at 2 pm in the Maldon Little Ship Club). Some of us went to hear him on Feb 2nd and it is a very good talk. Not only about what they are trying to do there but why it was there in the first place and who flew there and the planes they flew. Some very interesting and fascinating stories too.

Try not to miss it and bring your friends (U3A of course) It will be a chance too to volunteer to help with the work there.

We will also be talking about a date for our guided tour there as well.

We will also be booking and taking deposits (£10) for our trips to Shuttleworth D-Day Air Display (Sunday June 6th.), Rougham Air Display and Car Show (Sunday August 15th.) and Duxford Battle of Britain [70th. Anniversary] Airshow (Saturday Sept. 4th.)

Our April meeting will be on the 20th. at the Maldon Little Ship Club at 2 pm.

Special Request

If you or any of your relatives or friends would like to share their wartime RAF experiences with us we would be delighted to meet. They do not have to be U3A members

Any questions? Contact David Arnold 01621 853866

Petanque (Boule) Group.

The official restart date will be Thursday April 8th. at 2 pm in the Prom Park on 'our' Terrain. This will be the first Thursday after Easter. At the moment this is our only official weekly game, it may be extended to other days and times depending on demand.

Note for our 'Terrain Constructors': Blackwater U3A played all through the winter, so the drainage and the surface must be good!

Any U3A members are welcome.

Contact Barbara Arnold for more information, 01621 853866
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## **TOWN MAYOR'S CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT**

Supporting Local Charities

A quiz evening will be held on **Friday, 19 March** in the Town Hall, Maldon, starting at 7.30 p.m. A fish, chicken or vegetarian supper will be served during the evening. Tables are for six people and the cost is £8 per head.

Tickets are available from Jackie Good at the Town Hall, Maldon or she can be contacted on 01621 857373.

## 2010 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

List of Events and Outings during the year.

SPRING - New Beginnings  
Coughs and sneezes run their courses,  
temperature is on the up.  
Could it be those wintry forces  
have been conquered with a cup  
of that special secret nectar  
Grandma makes to fight all ills;  
honeyed liquid, laced with something  
never found in any pills.  
Soon the urge to chase the cobwebs,  
beat the dust from drapes and mats.  
Let fresh air fill every corner,  
move and waken sleeping cats  
who have wintered front of fireplace,  
curled up, when the embers cool.  
Soon they'll stalk the little sparrows  
unaware of fate so cruel.  
Twitterpating, nesting, mating  
every creature's in the mood.  
Sap is rising, advertising  
Spring is sprung, old loves renewed,  
whilst first loves will gently blossom  
filling air with joie de vivre.  
New beginnings, bright new innings,  
every hope we can conceive.

Jo Robson

Writing for Fun



|                    |                                                         |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 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                                 |
| Fri. 14 May        | Barn dance - Maldon Football Club - 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—Wickham Bishops Hall           |
| Tue/Sat 22/26 June | 5 Day trip to Hartlepool and area - Maritime            |
| Tue. 28 June       | Visit to Ely etc. - Local History                       |
| Wed. 30 June       | Historic Walk round Maldon - Local History              |
| Tue/Fri 13/16 July | 4 Day trip to Rutland and area - Gardeners              |
| Thur. 22 July      | Barbecue - Social                                       |
| Fri. 13 Aug.       | Picnic - Heybridge Basin - 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.



### SOCIAL EVENING

**Friday, 23rd April**

West Maldon Community Centre

7.00 till 10.00 pm

Price £1

Bring your own nibbles and drinks

Sandwiches will be provided.

This event is very informal and it encourages members to mingle and chat without the restrictions of a set format. The Social committee hopes you will come and join us in what we hope will be a happy and relaxed atmosphere. You are welcome to just turn up on the night and pay at the door.



## The History of 'APRONS'

I don't think our kids know what an apron is.

The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath, because she only had a few, it was easier to wash aprons than dresses and they used less material, but along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven.

It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears....

From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven.

When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids.

And when the weather was cold grandma wrapped it around her arms.

Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove..

Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron.

From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls. In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees.

When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds.

When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men folks knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner.

It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that 'old-time apron' that served so many purposes.

### REMEMBER:

Grandma used to set her hot baked apple pies on the window sill to cool. Her granddaughters set theirs on the window sill to thaw.

They would go crazy now trying to figure out how many germs were on that apron.

I don't think I ever caught anything from an apron.



## Discussion Group

### What The Papers Say

The discussion group met once again in February after a prolonged Christmas break due to the weather and the fact that some of us were not quite fit for purpose. However, armed with newspaper cuttings the analysis of current affairs began with the dominating news item of the week, namely `The Chilcot Enquiry` on the Iraq War . Interesting comments were made on observing the wriggling and squirming in their seats of certain members of the Government endeavouring to find words to justify the conflict and protect the previous `Prime Minister` Tony Blair`. It was only when Boadicea herself in the name of `Clare Short` came riding in on her chariot of fire that the real picture began to emerge and so with cries of Clare Short for `Premier` the discussion moved on to less serious matters

One news extract observed that in the past, whenever that was, three things were hardly ever mentioned namely `Health, Money and Sex. Today it seems that is all anybody talks about. Health and money were dealt with fairly swiftly by our members although `Sex` took considerably longer on account of our age group. Possible censorship does not permit any further reporting of this subject but if any newcomers care to join us, all will be revealed.

Footballer of the week was `John Terry` who appeared to excel at `Playing Away` rather than at home provoking questions as to whether one's private life should affect one's career. Private life it would seem is not afforded to those in the public eye within focus of the media and therefore perhaps should take a little more care not to get caught.?

`Racism` raised its ugly head when a London taxi driver was called to account for displaying a Union Jack flag on the top of his cab with the words `English Spoken Here`. This appeared to be almost as ridiculous as the employment exchange who was severely criticised for advertising a position with the wording "Reliable Person Wanted" This it was claimed was discriminatory against the `Unreliable`. Words I think escaped us all !!

Unusual headlines like `Why women have the last laugh with jokes` and `Clint Eastwood and `John Wayne got it right after all drew some attention. University research departments apparently spent time and money trying to discover why women used more parts of their brain to appreciate comedy than men and why it was that the cowboy reacting to the fast-drawer of the gun, was usually the winner. What an awful waste of time and money was the comment until it was explained that this research did infact benefit the study of `Dementia and Alzheimer's. Things are never what they seem One thing is for sure however "Don't believe all you read in the newspapers. Our thanks to Our hosts Ken and Doreen for their hospitality

A pleasant afternoon had by all  
Ray Harman