

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
4 BANK HOLIDAY Petanque 10 am	5 Table Tennis Snooker Luncheon Club Reading	6 Ten Pin Bowling Wine Group	7 Discussion Continuing French Poetry Petanque 2 pm	8 Mah Jong Sing for Pleasure	9	10 Bird Watching Two Tree Isl.
11 Handicraft Petanque 10 am German Photography Whist	12 Table Tennis Snooker	13 Ten Pin Bowling Luncheon Club Painting Bridge Spanish	14 Country Dancing French Conversation Reading Petanque 2 pm Maritime –Harwich Visit Concert Saxology	15 Canasta	16	17 Strollers EastMersea
18 Petanque 10 am Meeting 1.30 pm	19 Table Tennis Snooker Aviation Gardeners	20 Ten Pin Bowling Clock Repairs	21 Continuing French Petanque 2 pm	22 Mah Jong Sing for Pleasure	23	24
25 Handicraft Local History Astronomy Whist German Petanque 10 am	26 Table Tennis Snooker Local History Visit to New Hall	27 Ten Pin Bowling Painting Bridge Family History Spanish Writing for Fun	28 Computers 2- 4 pm French Conversation Music Appreciation Petanque 2 pm Country Dancing	29 Canasta	30	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, 4NE Tel. 01245 225657 email Jan8085@aol.com



The University of the Third Age

MALDON AND DISTRICT



Apsley House
No. 1 London
Hyde Park Corner

Geffrye Museum
Shoreditch



**Local History visit to Apsley House and Geffrye Museum
March 25**

APRIL 2009

VOLUME VIII NO. 11

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

Web Site: www.maldon3a.co.uk

FROM THE CHAIR



I would like to remind you all that the June meeting will be the “ A G M “ and, if any member wishes to apply to be accepted on the Executive Committee a nomination form must be used. Jan Robertson (our newsletter editor) has served her three year term and has stated she is willing to stand for re-election but this still leaves a vacancy to fill. The nomination form can be found in the newsletter and must be completed and returned to the Secretary by the 25th May.

The cut-off date for payment of annual subscription is fast approaching so if you have still not paid please try to do so by the end of this month.

We are still looking for a home for the A V Equipment (preferably in Maldon) so has anyone a space in their garage to house a storage cabinet. If you have please contact John Robson to discuss this further.

Alan Buck
E-mail: alan-buck@talktalk.net

Strollers

Sunday 17th May. - East Mersea
Meet at The Dog and Pheasant at 10.30a.m for a walk of approx 4.75 miles.

Map:OS Explorer 184 (GR 055146).
Lunch available.

For further information contact
Gill Stone: 01621 853948

Monday Table Tennis

After a most successful first season with more and more balls remaining on the tables, as opposed to being rescued from the floor, it is time to put our bats away until September 14th.

However we do hope that all the players can keep their fingers crossed that the W.M.C.C. does not find a group who wish to hire the hall on the 2nd and 4th Mondays all year round as, naturally, it would be given preference to our seasonal hire. (We are penciled in on their calendar)

Barbara and Beryl.

Family History

Our next meeting will be on
Wednesday, 29th April at
2.30 pm and will be held at
Audrey's house, Telephone 01621
816320

Frank Stokes

CO-ORDINATORS

Chairman	Alan Buck	01245 227709	Mah-Jong	Molly Polden	01621 856507
Vice Chairman	Beryl McDonell	01621 842093	Maritime	Malcolm Case	01245 329435
Secretary	Pamela Turnbull	01376 510084	History		
Treasurer	Rosemary Case	01245 329435	Music	Enid Hall	01621 891618
Membership Sec.	John Robson	01621 828236	Appreciation	John Skuse	01245 224059
Speaker Sec.	Joyce Cotterell	01621 858287	Painting	Joyce Stokes	01245 223579
Committee	Paul Costa	01621 853893	Petanque (Boule)	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		
Astronomy	Molly Tring	01621 854732	1st Tuesday	Christine Elgin	01621 858146
Aviation	Bill Fancourt	01245 225569	2nd Thursday	Sheila Epps	01621 850467
Ballroom Dancing	Jo Robson	01621 828236	Scottish	Shirley	01621 853288
Bird Watching	Pat Clements	01245 223427	Dancing	Grummett	
Bridge	Sheila Epps	01621 850467	Singles Dining	Sue Oram	01621 856899
Canasta	Marian Manning	01621 828605	Sing for	Sylvia Carpenter	01621 854905
	Margaret Dale	01268 765239	Pleasure		
Clock Repairs	Stanley Clements	01245 223427	Snooker	Bill Fancourt	01245 225569
Computers	Jan Robertson	01245 225657	Spanish	Wilma Turner	01621 851510
Discussion	Ray Harman	01621 891736	Conversation		
Family History	Frank Stokes	01245 223579	Strollers	Gill Stone	01621 853948
Continuing	Sylvia Carpenter	01621 854905	Swimmers	Gill Rowsell	01621 740619
French	Bill Stichbury	01621 855828	Table Tennis	Gordon Hardy	01245 223012
Conversation			Beginners	Julie Doidge	01621 841205
Gardeners	Jan Robertson	01245 225657		Beryl McDonell	01621 842093
German	Jenny Plumb	01245 226112	Ten Pin Bowling	David Arnold	01621 853866
Good Companions	Beryl McDonell	01621 842093	Theatre Group	Enid Hall	01621 891618
Handicraft	Marian Manning	01621 828605		Sheila Epps	01621 850467
Local History	Mary Burd	01621 843020	Whist	Molly Polden	01621 856507
	Alfred Couldrey	01245 226259	Wine Group	Zandra Cardy	01621 828984
Luncheon Club	Mike Wood	01245 222839	Writing for Fun	Pat Sizer	01621 892201
	Paul Costa	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

STRIPPED PINE DRESSER

Height: 1950mm (6' 3")
Width: 1360mm (4'5½) inclusive of base plinth
Depth: 445 mm (1'5½) inclusive of base plinth
TOP: Fretwork to sides.
2 display/plate shelves with cup hooks.
3 small drawers under which provide shelf no. 3
BASE 3 door storage with interior shelf;
3 drawers above.

Contact: **Pat Long 01621 817762**

BLACKWATER U3A

Contact:
Dorreen Linton, Chairman
01621 853428

SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS U3A

Contact
Rosemary Dorado, Chairman
01245 321102

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, 8th May

Photography Group

There will be no meeting in April as our Mon falls on Easter Mon. However we will have a table at the Maldon U3A Open Day on Mon 20th April.
Our next meeting will be at Beeleigh Weir on May 11th at 2pm.
Mary Richardson.

Local & General History

We meet on Monday 27th April **2.00 pm** at The Maldon Little Ship Club. Our talk is by Tony Tuckwell and is entitled "The Tudors at New Hall".

All members are welcome.

The visit to New Hall on Tuesday 26th May is full. However I am holding a waiting list with the hope that a second visit can be arranged at a future date.

If you are interested please let me know.

Mary Burd

Astronomy

Our talk by Allan Bell " Relativity for beginners" was interesting, and not too mind boggling. He talked about aeroplanes machine-gunning cars (!), and looked at clocks as aeroplanes whizzed past, had physicists in lifts and suspended in space- all good fun!

Next month is a DIY with a DVD about the Big Bang theory. It is on **April 27th at 7.30pm in the WMCC.**

Everyone is welcome.

Molly Tring

Maritime

There is **NO meeting on Monday 4th May** (Bank Holiday). There are two trips arranged for May, the first one is on the 8th May to London see an aircraft carrier, for further details please contact Alan Buck; the second trip is on 14th May to visit Trinity House Harwich, coach departs The West Maldon Community Centre at 10:00am, (this is the first of the two trips, the second is on the 15th October), please contact me if you are not sure which trip you are booked on.

Our next visit is on Monday 1st June to the London Port Authority Gravesend, details are still being finalised, if you would like to come on this trip then please let me know.

The trip to the RNLI College Poole, Bournemouth, trip around the Isle of Wight on the "Waverly" and guided tours of Southampton from the 11th to the 13th September; there are six places still available, if you would like to come on this trip then please contact me.

Malcolm Case

Wine Group

We had a meeting to discuss the future of the group, with all the interested members present.

We decided that we would like to continue the Wine Group, and had a good discussion about how we could achieve it.

We have decided that as we are now a much smaller group we will not be using the Jubilee Room in future. Instead we are going to meet in each others homes, with more or less the same format as before. The main change really is that we shall be restricted to numbers, purely because of the logistics of fitting everyone in our homes. We have made up a diary for the next six months, and will see how it works out.

Zandra

Philately – embryo Group

A small group of very novice stamp collectors are meeting at my house on Tuesday 21st April at 7.00pm to compare notes, swap a few stamps and try and increase our knowledge. If you would like to join us to see if we have shared interests please contact me by email at corburry@talktalk.net or by phone 01621 842619 for my address.

Clare Urry

Ballroom Dancing :

We will be hanging up our dancing shoes until 10th September when I hope to see you all again after a great summer break.

Jo

Gardeners

Held a most successful meeting at Mundon Village Hall in March with over 50 members attending.

Our first outing will be a Plant Swap on **Tuesday, April 21** at the home of John & Phil Calthorpe, 2.30 pm.

Car sharing please.

Tues. May 19 we visit Brian & Wendy Wickendon's garden 164 Point Clear Road, St. Osyth at 2.30 pm.

Sign up at Meeting or give me a ring
Jan

Heybridge U3A have formed their own Gardeners Group and would be happy for our members to join them.

Monday, May 11 at 2.30 pm
Green Island Gardens, Park Rd,
Ardleigh

Please contact Pat Yates on 01621 892866 if you wish to go.

Poetry:

A very short verse from our Spring session :

Spring in the Bronx

Spring is sprung,
Duh grass is riz

I wonder where dem boidies is.
Duh little boids is on duh wing -
But dat's absoid:

Duh little wing is on duh boid.

Anonymous.

Next meeting on 7th May at my house.

Subject: Summer

Look forward to seeing you.

Jo Robson

Notes

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES -

Times 12.15 pm

TUESDAY 5th May at Queen Victoria < Maldon

Co-ordinator: Mike Wood Tel. 01245 222839

WEDNESDAY 20th May at The Ship, Tiptree

Co-ordinator: Fred Lane Tel. 01621 816181

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.

The Holiday Group of Rayleigh USA

The Holiday Group are proposing to arrange an early Spring (Mar/April) holiday to Norway using the services of Hurtigruten, The Norwegian Coastal Voyage -with the object of travelling beyond the Arctic Circle with strong possibilities of seeing the Aurora Borealis at a time of lengthening days and clear nights.

You may have seen the splendid TV programme over Christmas featuring Joanna Lumley which highlighted the wonders of this time of year

We are looking towards Spring 2010 as a target time.

We will arrange a presentation by Hurtigruten within the next few months at a venue in Rayleigh where a Representative will answer any questions you may have.

At the present time we have about 6 members interested.

If any of your members are keen to know more please contact

BRIAN KERSEY

Tel. **01268 743959** e.mail: brian.kersev@skv.com

If we can recruit 10 or more, considerable savings can be made which would reflect in the overall price.

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• **May Meeting** •

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

•

• Speaker •

• **“Laughter Yoga”** •

• by Helene Buck •

•

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ESSEX RIVERS GROUP

We would like to thank all USA members for their support of our joint venture which we undertook with Blackwater.U3A

During the past two years we have been helped by individuals, as well as groups such as Bird Watching, Painting, Writing and Maritime, and, as a climax to our research we were delighted to welcome so many friends to our exhibition.

It was most gratifying for us to see how interested you were in discovering the importance of the estuary in the recreational well being of we local residents, as well as being necessary to the success of so many local industries.

Our intention was to lodge our findings in the Records' Office more or less straight away, but we have been persuaded to firstly share them with the Plume School and maybe with more local residents and visitors to Maldon. Watch this space!

After paying all our expenses we are holding the sum of £50 which is being ring fenced for us in Maldon's USA account. If we do not use it for future displays, then this sum of money will be given to a local charity.

As a group we would like to recommend the great satisfaction which can be gained from research undertaken over a set period of time.

Group Members

AVIATION GROUP

Don't forget that on Tuesday April 21st. we will be having a talk on the work of the helicopters of the emergency services at Maldon Little Ship Club at 2 pm.

On Tuesday May 19th we will be having a talk at Maldon Little Ship Club at 2 pm. called 'Alex Henshaw, who is he?'

At our meetings we will be taking bookings for our trips on Sunday 28th June to the Norfolk & Suffolk Aviation Museum and the East Anglian Transport Museum . The first being near Bungay and the Transport Museum near Lowestoft. Free trips on all the buses, trams etc at this great day out. The cost of this will be £15.25 , coach and all entrance fees included. Highly recommended. Also Lowestoft Airshow on Friday 24th July, this will be about £10 for a day at the seaside watching the planes over the water. What could be nicer?

So bring your cheque books.

Our aim this year is to go to free (or nearly so!) events and only pay for the coach. Although we will be looking into going to the favourite air display of many of our people at the Shuttleworth Collection. This is small but impressive air display, which suits us better than the vast crowds elsewhere, but this is not free! It will cost overall £31 each. This will be on Sunday September 6th. Let me know what you think. All our trips are open to all members of our U3A.

David Arnold 01621 853866

**'WARNING FROM POLICE
BEWARE OF PAPER ON THE BACK WINDOW OF YOUR VEHICLE--
NEW WAY TO DO CAR JACKINGS (NOT A JOKE)'**

From one of our members'

Just last weekend on Friday night we parked in a public parking area. As we drove away I noticed a sticker on the rear window of the car. When I took it off after I got home, it was a receipt for petrol. Luckily my friend told me not to stop as it could be someone waiting for me to get out of the car.

Then we received the above email from the Police yesterday:

You walk across the car parking, unlock your car and get inside. You start the engine and shift into Reverse. When you look into the rear view mirror to back out of your parking space, you notice a piece of paper stuck to the middle of the rear window. So, you shift into neutral, unlock your doors, and jump out of your car to remove that paper (or whatever it is) that is obstructing your view. When you reach the back of your car, that is when the carjackers appear out of nowhere, jump into your car and take off. They practically mow you down as they speed off in your car.

And guess what, ladies? I bet your purse is still in the car. So now the carjacker has your car, your home address, your money, and your keys. Your home and your whole identity are now compromised!

Here is another one from a member

February 2009. Alicante airport rental pick-up car park.

12.30 pm. Four friends, A, B, C and D. - female, 60 plus, widely travelled, active, alert. Luggage stowed in boot of hire car. Coats and bags on back seat. A and B in front seats checking controls. C outside front of car checking dents and scratches, D doing same at rear.

Man appears, flourishing map and shouting, forces his way into back seat at the same time as woman in car which has drawn up a short distance away, distracts D by demanding directions to Barcelona. Man darts away from friends' car with C yelling and hanging on to his T-shirt which tears and C falls heavily. D, following, stops to help C. B grabs hold of door of the now moving get-a-way car. D sees danger of B falling under car, runs and grasps B who is forced to let go as car is accelerating and swerving violently. B and D are swung round but manage not to fall. Get-a-way car gets away.

12.31 pm. Four furiously angry and shaken women take stock. Two stolen handbags each variously containing money, credit cards, passports, driving licences, mobiles, keys, spectacles, medication, etc. etc. One badly bruised and swollen arm. At least he didn't have a knife.

We've all seen the warnings. We all know the risks but...

Do you remember when...

No, of course not, you would have been too young...

...when, no matter how much you had enjoyed the school day, you enthusiastically joined the mad stampede through the school gates to freedom beyond, while the echoes of the school bell were still fading in your ears? But it wasn't the journey home that was so exciting...it was Mrs Paisey's that was the focus of this small boy's mind. As I entered the magical world of inevitable tooth decay, my spirits would be lifted at the delights spread out before me, some just beyond the reach of the tiny remainder of the weeks pocket money. A hand would rummage about carefully amongst those few mysterious, sticky things that always seem to inhabit small boys' pockets everywhere. A few coins would be prised apart and counted, then the selections, the difficult decisions, would be made.

The Lucky Bag was always a favourite, a mystery assortment of farthing chews and Blackjacks, a sherbet dip, a strange flying saucer shaped pink sweet that melted down in the mouth into sweet nothing, a couple of pink shrimps and a plastic Christmas cracker style toy.

Then there were the fabulous Wagon Wheels – so named because they were absolutely massive and, when laid out across the hand, would overlap the edges of the palm, oozing sweet brown chocolate onto warm fingers. (is it me, or are they much smaller nowadays?)

If there was a particular girl to impress, there was always the Love Hearts, but you had to be really careful who was looking over your shoulder when you were purchasing those!

A small tube of swizzlers, multicoloured sherbet sweets, which were tasty enough on their own, but absolutely deadly when dropped into the neck of an unsuspecting friend's cola bottle. They produced an instant Vesuvius of dark froth, which surged out of the mouth of the bottle, threatening to choke as the poor victim frantically swallowed, trying to consume his hard earned drink before it disappeared.

But the jewel in Mrs Paisey's crown was her capacious freezer in which she kept a huge selection of delicious ice creams; but it was not the ice creams that won my heart, it was the Jubblys. Triangular cartons of orange juice which, though completely boring when poured into a glass, became absolutely magical when frozen. Squidged so it poked up like a miniature yellow iceberg out of the top, a frozen Jubbly was hours of fun; you could scrape your teeth along the edge, drawing thin slivers off the ice, or else you could suck furiously at a corner until all the juice had gone and you were left with a shiny white icy lump, all ready to bite off whole. Then, every few minutes, you could let it back down into its sleeve and drink the freezing cold juice that had been melted by the heat of a small hand. They were my absolute favourite and the journey home was all too often sound-tracked by slurping, scraping and crunching.

Nowadays, the kids queue up for their Pick 'n Mix *[written before Woolworths closed!]* – it just isn't the same, is it?

Pete Norman – Writing for Fun

BIRD WATCHING PROGRAMME

2009

Sun, 3rd May

2 Tree Island 10.00 am Meet in far car park

Sun. 7th June

Abberton Reservoir 10.00 am Meet in car park

Sun. 5th July

Fingringhoe Reserve 10.00 am Meet in car park

August No Meet

Sun. 6th Sept.

Lee Valley Fishers Green (Junction on rt hand bend) 10.30 am

Sun. Oct. 4th

Heybridge Basin 10.00 am Meet in car park

Sun. Nov. 1st

Hanningfield Reservoir 10.00 am Meet in car park

Sat. Dec. 5th

Maldon Quay 10.00 am Hythe area

Social Evening March 20th

The cake makers were out in force again – and very nice too. Attendance was good and not only did we have tea and cakes but sandwiches too. For our entertainment the Social Committee had devised a musical item in the form of a quiz – a compilation tape had been made of musical pieces all associated with places and we worked in teams on our tables to spot the place.

Then later two “volunteer” teams showed off their collective mathematical genius by responding to questions fired at us by Dorothy. Since we had a different number hanging round our necks, we demonstrated the answer with lots of pushing and shoving of the relevant members. Clear? Anyway the audience seemed to enjoy it – probably glad they didn’t have to do it. But a good time was had by all
A very reasonable evening!

SE

2009 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

List of Events and Outings during the year.

Mon 20 Apr	OPEN DAY
Fri. 24 Apr.	St George's Day Celebration — Social
Fri. 8 May	London to view Aircraft Carrier—Maritime
Thurs. 14 May	Trip to Trinity House, Harwich - Maritime
Thurs. 14 May	Concert featuring Saxology - Social
Tue. 26 May	Visit to New Hall School, Chelmsford — Local History
9/12 June	4 day trip to Worcestershire to view Houses and Gardens
Fri. June 19	Hi-di-Hi Evening—Social, Maldon Town Hall
Mon. 22 June	Visit to Dedham & Sir Alfred Munnings museum –L. History
Sund. 28 June	Norfolk & Suffolk Aviation Museum—Aviation
Wed. 8 July	Trip on the River Thames from Tilbury - Maritime
Sat. 11 July	Barbecue—Langford Village Hall—Social
20/23 July	U3A Summer School - Harper Adams College, Telford
Fri. 24 July	Lowestoft Airshow - Aviation
Mon 3 Aug	Trip to Wivenhoe Barrier & Nottage Institute - Maritime
Aug.	“Lunch by the Lock” Social date to be arranged.
24/27 Aug.	U3A Summer School - Royal Ag. College, Cirencester
Sund. 6 Sept	Shuttleworth Collection - Aviation
11/13 Sept	Trip to Poole/RNLI/Bournemouth etc. - Maritime
Thurs. 24 Sept	Quiz—Maldon Town Hall—Social
Mon. 28 Sept	Visit to Copped Hall & Waltham Abbey—Local History
Thurs. 15 Oct	Trip to Trinity House, Harwich - Maritime
Thurs. 22 Oct	“Sixties Evening” Maldon Town Hall - Social
Sat. 21 Nov.	Beetle Drive, Langford Village Hall - Social
Fri. 8 Jan	Ceilidh— Social

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

European Health Insurance Card—old E111 form

If you have one of these cards, please have a look and see if it is still valid
Can be renewed or apply for a new one on the web for free.
www.ehic.org.uk/Internet/home.do or www.dh.gov.uk/travellers

Ryanair Flights

From October they will no longer accept Driving Licences as identification for internal flights, you will need a full passport.

SOCIAL NEWS

We are looking forward to celebrating the English National Day on 24th April at the West Maldon Community Centre, starting at 7.30 p.m. Please dress for the occasion. Red and white are the national colours. Perhaps you could sport a red rose - although quite why our national emblem is a rose when we are celebrating in April I have never understood. Remember to bring your own drinks, glasses and nibbles to go with the Ploughman's Supper. And Dave Seeley will be entertaining us with his Stanley Holloway programme "With a little bit o' Luck".

Tickets are still available for the Saxology Concert on Thursday 14 May. .

After that comes the Barbecue in July. Are there any members out there who have a portable barbecue that they would be prepared to bring along on the evening of **Saturday 11 July** and then help with the cooking? Please let me know if you can help us out.

HI-DI-HI

Do you remember the 1950s? Simple pleasures, unsophisticated tastes, low-cost holidays - a bit like 2009 really. We invite you to turn back the clock and join us on **Friday 19 June** at Maldon Town Hall and in one evening we will let you experience the very best that a week at Butlins would have brought you.

Ray Spiller will be joining us with his collection of hit records of the period for you to twist and jive to and there will be suitable silly games and competitions. Hula hoop? Knobbly knees? Glamorous Grannies? And please come dressed appropriately! It shouldn't be too difficult for the ladies - a beehive hair-do, big skirt with lots of petticoats and a tiny waist. As for the gentlemen, do we have any Teddy Boys lurking among our membership? Can anyone still style their hair in a quiff and what I believe was called a DA? One gets quite nostalgic just thinking about it and I have great faith in your ingenuity and imagination!

Light refreshments will be served but bring your own drinks and nibbles, and remember that not a lot of wine was drunk in the 1950s - perhaps Coca Cola? All this for the bargain price of five bob a head! Well, with inflation and decimalisation it works out at £5 a ticket, but it's still amazing value for money! Tickets available from Janet ... and they will be on sale at the Open Day.

dd

IT'S A FUNNY OLD WORLD

It's a funny old world that we live in
Contrasting the rich and the poor
The love and the hate, the people who wait
For peace in their lands and not war
There's a contrast of too much and too little
Rich countries who throw food in the bin.
But where folk are so poor, desperately seeking more
And are starving and dying, it's a sin
We spend millions educating our children,
Many of whom don't even care.
Some truant from school and in class act the fool,
While to third-world children it's not fair
For them education is lacking,
While others trek miles to their school.
Our kids ride in a car and it's not very far.
On fine days make walking the rule
Some children are sold in the far east.
Some are dumped at the roadside to die.
While religion and laws are the principal cause
These children can't find parents - oh why?
Socialites seeking cosmetic changes
Want nose-jobs, larger breasts, by the horde.
They spend millions of pounds, how trivial it sounds
When some gross disfigurement is ignored.
In India a boy with a hare-lip
And cleft palate puts up with his lot.
Rich folk spend mega bucks on their nips and their tucks
Avoiding wrinkles, do they care?- not a jot!
If God looked down here on His Creation
What would He think of it then?
Would He just hate it? How would He rate it?
I think not more than four out of ten

Pat Sizer – Writing for Fun

History Group visit to Apsley House and the Geffrye Museum

On Wednesday March 25th. we had another great trip out to see Apsley House next to Hyde Park where The Duke of Wellington lived after the Battle of Waterloo. Inside is a glorious building all gold decoration and the walls covered from floor to ceiling with paintings. The silverware was unbelievable and the 'crockery' was fantastic. These were mainly gifts for having removed the 'dictator' Napoleon from dominating Europe. There was the giant statue of the 'Emperor' in the nude (except for a very small fig leaf) The guides were first class and you could easily have spent hours there but we had to move on. The coach passed through a part of London that we hardly knew existed, with shops and eating places from around the world, often with signs in their own language.

The Geffrye Museum is one of London's best-loved museums. It shows the changing style of the English domestic interior in a series of period rooms from 1600 to the present day. It started life as almshouses in the nineteenth century when Hackney was in the country on the outskirts of London.

We had a very pleasant lunch followed by an interesting talk by the director of the museum.

Most of us recognised much of the Victorian furnishings (our Grandparents'!) and then coming up to date with the stuff we had or aspired to!

It would be good to visit in December when the rooms are decorated for Christmas in the style of the age.

Another lovely surprise, that was a bonus, was on the way home when the Queen came by our coach in her car, but she didn't wave back!

Thanks to Mary and Alfred for all their hard work.

B & D.A.

Hi-Di-Hi



Friday, 19th June
Maldon Town Hall
Price £5
Doors open at 7 pm

Tickets will be issued on a first come, first served basis upon receipt of booking form in the current newsletter, together with your cheque made out to 'Maldon & District U3A'. U3A Members only.

Tickets available from:

Enquiries:

Janet Buck
58 Augustine Way,
Bicknacre,
CM3 4ET

Dorothy Denmark

01245-227709

01245-223960

Would you like to use a Desktop Publishing programme?

It is such a versatile programme that you can produce posters, leaflets, newsletters, fly's, Birthday and Christmas cards etc. etc.

You will need a basic computer knowledge

I would be happy to teach anyone on a one to one basis or as a group.

Contact Jan Robertson on 01245 225657 if you are interested



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Hi-Di-Hi, Friday, 19th June

Please reserve me Ticket(s) @ £5. 00 each

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

Name(s) of Member(s)

Phone No.....

Discussion Group
A Modern Renaissance

`The Arts and Its Importance To Our Lives Today` was the focus for the March discussion and although it was generally agreed that we all appreciate art in its various forms, we are not always perhaps aware of it when going about our daily lives and lives indeed would be very dull without that appreciation.

The discussion then turned to the question as to where we derive this art appreciation. None of us confessed to be budding art students in our classrooms, colleges or universities yet we all seem to possess that inbuilt sense of what is `Beauty` and what is `Not Beauty` whether it is music, a stage performance, the written word , a piece of sculpture or simply a picture in a frame.

This is not to say that education and exposure to the arts at a young age is irrelevant, in fact quite the contrary is true. An 11 year study examined youth in low-income areas found that those who participated in arts programmes were much more likely to be high academic achievers, elected to class office and win academic awards and very young children showed a decrease in negative behaviours, an increase in attention span, commitment and tolerance.

The arts then is central to a civilised society and `Kids who create don't destroy` However, speaking as a simple leisure painter with little natural artistic ability who takes care over his pictures, it must be said that I still find difficulty in facing a large framed abstract painting with odd geometric coloured shapes and sizes which mean absolutely nothing to me and convince myself that I am viewing a piece of art. Likewise, after gazing at the exquisite figurative sculptures of Michael Angelo in Florence, the odd misshapen block of marble here with a hole in it doesn't really do much for me personally.

Modern contemporary artists such as Tracy Emin and Damien Hirst are also a complete mystery to me. Who would have thought that in leaping out of bed in the morning, I would have left behind me a work of art in the form of an unmade bed or in answering a call of nature, I would actually be seated on a work of art. I wonder whether the bricklayer who completed his small wall outside my house and left the surplus bricks in a tidy fashion realised he had become an artist overnight or the elephant who supplied his droppings to be displayed at the `Tate` was aware of his contribution to modern art. Winston Churchill once remarked when presented with his full standing portrait of himself and which he disliked immensely " This surely is a good example of modern art" and then at a later date put it to the torch. I too feel that temptation when gazing at some monstrosities that go under the name of art. Perhaps, sometime we will pass through this silly phase and have a `Modern Renaissance` returning once again to recognisable pictures and sculptures that we can all admire and value.

However. we are all different and `Beauty Does Indeed Lie In The Eye Of The Beholder`

Ray Harman

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the eleventh Annual General Meeting of Maldon and District U3A will be held on Monday, 15 June 2009 in Wickham Bishops Hall at 2.15 p.m. Any items that you wish to be included on the agenda must be notified to the Business Secretary by 30 April 2009.

There are two vacancies on the committee this year. Jan Robertson will have completed her three-year term, but is prepared to stand for re-election, and there is one vacant post. If you wish to nominate a member for these vacancies, please complete the nomination form below and return to the Business Secretary by 25 May 2009. Nomination forms will also be available at the April and May meetings or, if requested, by post.

Pamela Turnbull
 Business Secretary
 16 Epping Way
 Witham
 CM8 1NQ

Eligibility for Office and to Vote

All paid-up members for the year 2009/2010 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 the purpose of announcements and registering for events.

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Nomination Form for Committee 2009-2010 (2 Vacancies)

Nominee	Proposed by:	Seconded by:	Nominee Signature