

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1 Ten Pin Bowling	2 Discussion Continuing French Poetry Ballroom Dancing Country Dancing Pétanque 2 pm	3 Canasta	4	5
6 Maritime Pétanque 10 am	7 Table Tennis Snooker Luncheon Club Reading	8 Ten Pin Bowling Spanish Painting Bridge	9 French Conversation Ballroom Dancing Reading Pétanque 2 pm	10 E A S T E R	11 E A S T E R	12 T E R
13 E A S T E R	14 Table Tennis Snooker Aviation	15 Ten Pin Bowling Luncheon Club Clock Repairs	16 Continuing French Country Dancing Pétanque 2 pm	17 Canasta	18	19 Strollers Tillingham
20 Pétanque 10 am <b>OPEN DAY</b> Meeting 1.30 pm	21 Table Tennis Snooker Gardening Aviation	22 Ten Pin Bowling Spanish Painting Bridge Writing for Fun Family History	23 Computers 2—4 pm French Conversation Music Appreciation Pétanque 2 pm	24 Mah Jong Sing for Pleasure <b>St. Georges Day Celebration</b>	25	26
27 Astronomy Local History Handicrafts Table Tennis Beg. Whist German Pétanque 10 am	28 Table Tennis Snooker	29 Ten Pin Bowling	30 Country Dancing Pétanque 2 pm			

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

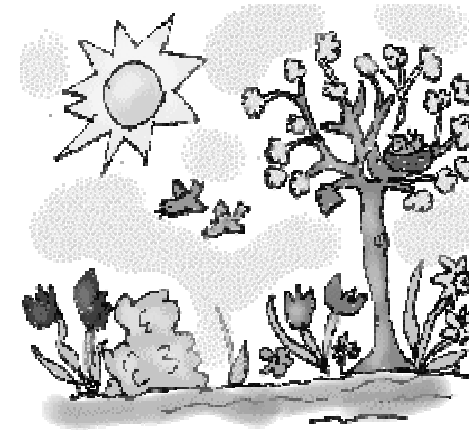
Newsletter Editor: Mrs. Jan. Robertson, 6 Blenheim Close, Danbury, CM3 4NE Tel. 01245 225657 email Jan8085@aol.com



The University of the Third Age

# MALDON AND DISTRICT

## NEWSLETTER



Spring has sprung—hopefully!

MARCH 2009

VOLUME VIII NO. 10

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

Web Site: [www.maldonu3a.co.uk](http://www.maldonu3a.co.uk)

## FROM THE CHAIR



At last the weather seems to be improving so I presume most of you are now thinking ahead as to what comes next and, judging by the “**Calendar**”, page 7, it looks like little effort is needed to fill your diaries as the events that have been arranged by our co-ordinators and social committee seem to grow and grow.

Heybridge U3A is now a fully up and running organisation and again proves that the U3A is a massive benefit to all of us.

Once again I remind you that subscriptions are due by the 1<sup>st</sup> May.

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

### A reminder to all co-ordinators

The current financial year ends on March 31<sup>st</sup>, please could I have your accounts for the year as soon as possible after this date. Separate accounts for your cash account and banked money please. If you do not hold any money please can you confirm this. If you require any help please let me know. Thank you.

Rosemary Case, Treasurer  
Tel 01245 329435 email  
rosemarycase@talktalk.net

### Bird Watching

Next meet will be Sat. **April 4th**  
Tollsbury Wick 10.00 am to meet  
in the public car park

Also arranging with Essex  
Wildlife a Nightingale walk at  
Fingringhoe Wick Visitors Centre  
on April 30th 7.30pm to be  
confirmed. If interested please  
phone me asap as places are  
limited Donations £5.00p to EWL  
Pat

### Clock Repairs

Group will be meeting on Wed  
**April 15th** at Stan's house  
Stan

### Local & General History

There will be no meeting in March  
as we have the visit to Apsley House  
and the Geffrye Museum. On  
**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March** the coach  
will leave the West Maldon  
Community Centre at 9.00 am.

We next meet on **Monday 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**April 2.00 pm** at The Maldon Little  
Ship Club. Our talk is “The Tudors  
at New Hall” by Tony Tuckwell.

All members are welcome.  
Mary Burd

### Strollers

Sunday 19th April Tillingham  
OS grid ref: 993037  
Meet at The Cap and Feathers at  
10.30a.m. for a walk of approx 4  
miles. Lunch available.  
For further information contact  
Sylvia Cousins: 01621 853597

## CO-ORDINATORS

Chairman	Alan Buck	01245 227709	Mah-Jong	Molly Polden	01621 856507
Vice Chairman	Beryl McDonell	01621 842093	Maritime History	Malcolm Case	01245 329435
Secretary	Pamela Turnbull	01376 510084	Music Appreciation	Enid Hall John Skuse	01621 891618 01245 224059
Treasurer	Rosemary Case	01245 329435	Painting	Joyce Stokes	01245 223579
Membership Sec.	John Robson	01621 828236	Petanque (Boule)	Barbara Arnold	01621 853866
Speaker Sec.	Joyce Cotterell	01621 858287	Photography	Mary Richardson	01621 857829
Committee	Paul Costa	01621 853893	Poetry	Jo Robson	01621 828236
	John Almond	Ex. Dir.	Reading		
Newsletter Editor	Jan Robertson	01245 225657	1st Tuesday	Christine Elgin	01621 858146
Social Committee	Dorothy Denmark	01245 223960	2nd Thursday	Sheila Epps	01621 850467
Astronomy	Molly Tring	01621 854732	Scottish Dancing	Shirley Grummett	01621 853288
Aviation	Bill Fancourt	01245 225569	Singles Dining	Sue Oram	01621 856899
Ballroom Dancing	Jo Robson	01621 828236	Sing for Pleasure	Sylvia Carpenter	01621 854905
Bird Watching	Pat Clements	01245 223427	Snooker	Bill Fancourt	01245 225569
Bridge	Sheila Epps	01621 850467	Spanish Conversation	Wilma Turner	01621 851510
Canasta	Marian Manning Margaret Dale	01621 828605 01268 765239	Strollers	Gill Stone	01621 853948
Clock Repairs	Stanley Clements	01245 223427	Swimmers	Gill Rowsell	01621 740619
Computers	Jan Robertson	01245 225657	Table Tennis	Gordon Hardy Julie Doidge	01245 223012 01621 841205
Discussion	Ray Harman	01621 891736	Beginners	Beryl McDonell	01621 842093
Family History	Frank Stokes	01245 223579	Ten Pin Bowling	David Arnold	01621 853866
Continuing French	Sylvia Carpenter	01621 854905	Theatre Group	Enid Hall Sheila Epps	01621 891618 01621 850467
French Conversation	Bill Stichbury	01621 855828	Whist	Molly Polden	01621 856507
Gardeners	Jan Robertson	01245 225657	Wine Circle	Zandra Cardy	01621 828984
German	Jenny Plumb	01245 226112	Writing for Fun	Pat Sizer	01621 892201
Good Companions	Beryl McDonell	01621 842093			
Handicraft	Marian Manning	01621 828605			
Local History	Mary Burd Alfred Couldrey	01621 843020 01245 226259			
Luncheon Club	Mike Wood Paul Costa	01245 222839 01621 853893			

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

## FOR SALE

- 1/ Cine Camera, mint , in de-lux case....  
SANKYO Super CM (Super 8 film)
- 2/ Prinz-Oxford Super-eight Editor
- 3/ 8mm PYRAMID Splicer De-Lux  
all still boxed.

Contact Tony Cuthbert on 01621 856094

### 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, 10th April

## *Astronomy*

### **An Anomaly in the Space-Time Continuum!**

The March meeting of the Astronomy Group is on the 30th March, not the 23rd! We have Allan Bell with "Relativity for Beginners", so not to be missed! 7.30pm, WMCC.

Last meeting, with Andy Mowbray of Castle Point was fascinating information about the outer limits of our solar system, including the *BOW-WAVE* it produces as it hurtles round the galaxy. April's meeting, on the 27th, is about the history of the Big Bang Theory. The Royal Institution outing did not have materialise

## *Aviation Group*

We had a first class speaker to talk to us at our February meeting. The author Graham Smith talked about Aviation in Essex from the earliest days to 1940. He will be coming again for us to hear more on similar topics.

This month on March 17<sup>th</sup> at 2pm in the Maldon Little Ship Club we are having a speaker to talk about Air Marshall Sir Hugh Dowding and his leadership of Fighter Command during the Battle of Britain and a 'film' too.

We will also be sorting out all the details for the trips and booking places as well so don't miss out. Come along.

Contact David Arnold (01621 853866) for more information

## *Maritime*

Our next meeting is on **Monday April 6<sup>th</sup> starting at 10:00 am at The Little Ship Club, The Hythe, Maldon**, our speaker is Nigel Harmer, he will be talking about the history of his job as river bailiff and about the history of the river Blackwater; all are very welcome.

Those who put their names on the list for the September 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> trip to Poole/Bournemouth/Southampton and have been given a booking form, could you please return it, completed, together with a cheque for the deposit payable to Bowens Travel Ltd, to myself as soon as possible please, those who have not yet received a booking form but would still like to go on the trip, then please contact me as soon as possible. The final itinerary for this trip will issued in April.

Those going to Trinity House Harwich on May 14<sup>th</sup>, the coach will leave the West Maldon Community Centre at 10:00 am, please park your cars at the far end of the car park. Lunch will be taken at a local hostelry in Harwich.

## *Family History*

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, 1st April at 2.30 pm and will be held at 49 Hopping Jacks Lane, Danbury.

Please bring your queries, researches and personal histories

Frank Stokes.

## Reading Group

Reading groups are very popular and seldom have vacancies since meetings are held in members homes with limited space.

Enquirers are usually give the advice to start a new group and the Tuesday Readers group did just that in October 2000 and have enjoyed stimulating meetings ever since.

We are a friendly group and enjoy our discussions on significant fiction of contemporary and classical publication interspersed with various genres of non-fiction. Recent authors include D.H. Lawrence, Kazuo Ishiguro, Alex McCall-Smith and Howard Spring, the latter, kindly lent from the bookshelf of a member of the group.

Membership fluctuates, but at this present moment we can, just about, squeeze in a few more! We meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month.

If you would like to join us, or for more information

Ring Christine Elgin on 01621 858146

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## *Petanque*

Well the spring is nearly here and we are starting the petanque again. We will be playing (weather permitting) on the lovely terrain in the Prom Park.

Organised games will be Monday at 10.00 and Thursday at 2pm. Later we will be playing on Tuesday evening at about 6 when the lighter evening arrive. We have also been asked to demonstrate to the general public some weekends during the summer. If you want a relaxing outdoor activity which is fun and **free** why don't you come along?

Contact Barbara Arnold on 01621 853866 if you want more information.

## *Gardening*

Our first meeting is on Wednesday, **18th March** at Mundon Village Hall at 2.30 pm to discuss our Summer programme. A short presentation of our trip to Worcester in June and Gill Rowsell has offered to give a short talk on her entry in the Chelsea Flower Show in 2007.

Tuesday, **21st April** we are visiting the garden of Brian & Phil Calthorpe, 46 Brookland Tiptree for a Plant Swap at 2.30. pm.

The 2009 programme will be available at the Monday meetings and at Mundon Village Hall in March

I still have 2 doubles and 2 singles available on the Worcester trip.–

**any takers?**

Jan Robertson



**Friday, 1st May**  
Coffee Morning 'Cake Break'  
In aid of the M.S. Society  
10-12 pm  
Christine Elgin,  
Nursery Bungalow, Wantz Haven  
Princes Road, Maldon

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## **LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES -**

Times 12.15 pm

**TUESDAY 7th April at The Old Windmill, South Hanningfield**

Co-ordinator: Mike Wood Tel. 01245 222839

**WEDNESDAY 15th April Venue to be confirmed.**

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.

Maldon Sinfonia  
**Sat. 28th March**

All Saints Church  
7.30 pm

Programme:

Hebrides Overture, Mendelssohn  
Chanson de Nuit, Elgar  
Chanson de Matin  
Walk to the Paradise Garden, Delius  
Symphony No.4, Beethoven

Admission by programme £7, £4 Concessions, under 16 free.  
Programmes available Fiona Hill 852844

~~~~~  
Maldon Orchestra

**Friday, April 3rd,**

URC Market Hill,  
7.30 pm

Conductor Ben Markham.

Programme includes music from

Handel's Water Music,  
Mozart "Impressario",

Haydn "Surprise" Symphony and  
Bernstein's "West Side Story"

Free, with a collection for the Maldon Young Carers.

.....  
April Meeting

Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

20th April

***OPEN DAY***  
.....

## *Social News*

I want to take this opportunity to thank all those people (mostly ladies, I think) who in the past year have contributed so much to the success of our social events by making cakes and puddings. They always go down so well. At the Social Evening last March I made a list of volunteers and I shall make up a new one this month to enable those people who feel "cooked out" to sit back and take a break and other, perhaps new, members to have a go. We do pay you for your ingredients and we insist that you accept this because it means we can ask you again!

We are also looking for new talent on the committee. Any offers?

It was unfortunate that the worst snow for nearly 20 years coincided with our film show and I am sorry that some of you were unable to come when it was finally shown. You can read all about it in this newsletter. Refunds will be paid out at the monthly meeting.

~~~~~  
**GLOBE THEATRE AUGUST 20th**

Seats booked at a cost of £24 50p each. Payment is due on March 24th so would appreciate your cheques made out to Maldon U3A by Saturday 21st please. I will collect Coach Fare later in the year. We have not got a full coach this year so we will be welcoming people who just want a lift into the city. Just let me know nearer the time.

If you are not at the March Meeting please send cheques to me .

Beryl McDonell  
29 Gate Street  
Maldon CM9 5QF

~~~~~  
**Have you paid your  
SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2009/2010 yet?**

**Please fill in your form and send it to John Robson ASAP**

## What's in a Name

10 members of the 'Discussion Group' settled down once again to focus their attention on the 'Alleged Depravity' in our society today and although 'Depravity' is perhaps a strong adjective to use, it did reflect somewhat on a number of issues ranging from horrendous crimes against the innocent to the ethical standards of decency and conduct associated with broadcasting today.

The recent Jonathan Ross/ Russell Brand affair with the BBC naturally drew much agreed criticism from our group of mature 3rd Agers which perhaps was not that surprising for "We would say that Wouldn't We". The younger generation when interviewed, however wondered what all the fuss was about which in itself indicated a generation gap with differing standards of acceptability and to be fair it must be difficult to know where to draw the line without affecting the entertainment value of programmes to suit every taste.

Inevitably, 'Swearing' on TV was the next item on the agenda and our two notable heroes of the 'F' word, namely 'Jamie Oliver' and 'Gordon Ramsey' were on the witness stand. When watching their programmes, one could be excused for believing that it was impossible to cook a decent meal without the gratuitous use of the 'F' word mixed up with the ingredients, although perhaps a mild expletive might be understandable if the meal did not turn out as expected but only expressed in private and never on the air. However, even in private conversation innocent-sounding names such as 'Paki, Sooty and even Golliwog' can be detected by the antenna of certain narrow-minded politically correct individuals who can't wait to relay the poor unfortunate's name to the media for punishment.

The mention of the word 'Golliwog' provoked a very moving story from one of our ladies who as a small girl, longed for a golliwog as a present and on receiving it found to her dismay that underneath it was all white. Things are never quite what they seem!! There must be a moral there although the writer can't spot it for the moment. One thing is for sure, in spite of the numerous times the word 'Golliwog' was mentioned during the afternoon, nobody was expelled from the U3A or resignations mentioned which only goes to show what a sensible lot we all are in the U3A.

A pleasant and enjoyable afternoon was had by all with thanks to our host and hostess. Just for spite when I left in my car I pushed in an old music cassette entitled 'The Black and White Minstrel Show and thoroughly enjoyed the music all the way home.

My case comes up in a fortnight !!

Ray Harman

## **Driving Licences**

### **Unwitting motorists face £1,000 fines as thousands of photo card driving licenses expire**

Thousands of motorists are at risk of being fined up to £1,000 because they are unwittingly driving without a valid license.

The fiasco has come to light a decade after the first batch of photo licenses was issued in July 1998, just as they start to expire.

They risk prosecution after failing to spot the extremely small print on their photo card license which says it automatically expires after 10 years and has to be renewed - even though drivers are licensed to drive until the age of 70

To rub salt into wounds, drivers will have to pay £17.50 to renew their card - a charge which critics have condemned as a 'stealth tax' and which will earn the Treasury an estimated £437 million over 25 years.

At the heart of the confusion is the small print on the tiny credit-card-size photo license, Just below the driver name on the front of the photo card license is a series of dates and details - each one numbered.

**Number 4b** features a date in tiny writing, but no explicit explanation as to what it means.

The date's significance is only explained if the driver turns over the card and reads the key on the back which states that '**4b**' means 'license valid to'.

Motorists who fail to renew their licenses in time are allowed to continue driving. But the DVLA says they could be charged with 'failing to surrender their license', an offence carrying a £1,000 fine.

AA president, Edmund King said: 'It is not generally known that photo card licenses expire: there appears to be a lack of information that people will have to renew these licenses.'

**MARITIME GROUP  
2009 – 2010 PROGRAMME  
Revised**

**1. April 6<sup>th</sup> Monday** – Meeting at 10:00 am at The Little Ship Club for a talk by Nigel Harmer about the history of his job as River Bailiff and the history of the River Blackwater..

**2. May 4<sup>th</sup> Monday** – Possible trip to London with a possible date change to 7th May

**3. May 14<sup>th</sup> Thursday** – first of two trips to Trinity House Harwich, can only take twenty people each time, lunch to be arranged.

**4. June 1<sup>st</sup> Monday** – Possible trip to south of France,

**Cancelled due to high cost, in excess of £1000.00.**

I am now trying to arrange a trip to the Port of London Authority HQ at Gravesend, visit will include history of the Port, and how the PLA operates, look at the Vessel Traffic management system, a visit to the Ship simulator plus whatever else can be arranged. Will travel to Gravesend by coach. Lunch to be taken locally.

**5. July 8<sup>th</sup> Wednesday** – trip on the River Thames from Tilbury, up river. Fred Lane arranging.

**6. August 3<sup>rd</sup> – Monday** – trip to Wivenhoe Barrier and The Nottage Institute. John Robson arranging.

**7. September 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>** – trip to south coast, Poole/RNLI/Bournemouth/ Trip on “Waverly”. Please return booking forms plus deposit cheques as soon as possible please, to Malcolm Case.

**8. October 5<sup>th</sup> Monday** – Meeting at 10:00 am at The Little Ship for an illustrated talk by Tony Cuthbert on the “Cunard Liners”.

**9. October 15<sup>th</sup> Thursday** – second trip to Trinity House Harwich, can only take twenty people, lunch to be arranged. Malcolm Case arranging.

**10. November 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday** – Meeting at 10:00 am at The Little Ship Club to discuss the programme for 2010.

**11. December 7<sup>th</sup> Monday** – Meeting at 11:00 am at The Little Ship Club, short Maritime DVD followed by Christmas Buffet.

**2010**

**1. January 4<sup>th</sup> Monday** – Meeting at 10:00 at The Little Ship Club, illustrated talk “History of Navigation” by Malcolm Case and John Robson.

**2. February** – Possibly at the Blackwater sailing Club – Maritime Dinner – theme to be decided, but may be either “The Cunard Liners” or “The Battle of The River Plate”.

**2009 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary**

List of Events and Outings during the year.

|               |                                                                |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fri. 20 Mar.  | Social Evening with a difference - Social                      |
| Wed. 25 Mar.  | Visit to Apsley Hse & Geffrye Museum — Local History           |
| Thurs. 26 Mar | “Humble Boy” Civic Theatre—Sheila Epps                         |
| Mon 20 Apr    | <b>OPEN DAY</b>                                                |
| Fri. 24 Apr.  | St George's Day celebration — Social                           |
| Mon 4 May     | Possible trip to London with a possible date change to 7th May |
| Thurs. 14 May | Trip to Trinity House, Harwich - Maritime                      |
| Thurs. 14 May | Concert featuring Saxology Quartet - 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                                        |
| Mon. 22 June  | Visit to Dedham & Sir Alfred Munnings museum –L. History       |
| Wed. 8 July   | Trip on the River Thames from Tilbury - Maritime               |
| 20/23 July    | U3A Summer School - Harper Adams College, Telford              |
| Mon 3 Aug     | Trip to Wivenhoe Barrier & Nottage Institute - Maritime        |
| 24/27 Aug.    | U3A Summer School - Royal Ag. College, Cirencester             |
| 11/13 Sept    | Trip to Poole/RNLI/Bournemouth etc. - Maritime                 |
| Mon. 28 Sept  | Visit to Copped Hall & Waltham Abbey—Local History             |
| Thurs. 15 Oct | Trip to Trinity House, Harwich - Maritime                      |

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



**ST. GEORGE'S DAY CELEBRATION**

*Friday, 24th April*

*West Maldon Community Centre*

*Start 7.30 pm*

*Price £8.00*

*Includes a Ploughman's Supper and  
Suitable English entertainment*

*Tickets available from Janet Buck 01245 227709*

Saturday 28 February 2009

I should have known better, after attending the History Group "Stand By Your Beds" talk the general theme of which was never volunteer for anything I turned up at the Essex Wildlife Chigborough Lakes nature reserve to be confronted by a cabal comprising in this case of only 3 members who volunteered me "as I had done such a good job after our last expedition "to be the groups news editor.

This time of year birds are busy pairing off and finding nest sights, when it is three pairs of Mute Swans in a confines of one of the reserves small lakes looking for the best position the neighbourly disputes can be aggressive noisy and spectacular displays of power.

The mute swan is one of our largest birds being distinguished from other breeds by its orange bill with black base.

The reserve is a mixture of woodland, meadow and lakes this varied habitat means there is an extensive collection of birds to try to observe. I say try to observe because throughout our visit we heard a Green Woodpecker with its laughing call mocking us as we searched high and low for it all to no avail

Whilst slip sliding along a muddy path through one wooded section we spotted through the bushes across a lake a sturdy goose with pink bill and legs .The bird was buff coloured with a reddish brown back and grey under parts and a patch round the eye. The more expert amongst the group recognised this as an Egyptian Goose with approximately only 1000 individuals in the country a rare sighting indeed.

We were now on a roll next on the list was a large group on Cormorants who had chosen their site well, the chigborough lakes being a well know trout fishery

Returning to our cars we happened across a couple who had been tending their bee hives and we were allowed to taste a little honey and gained an insight into the art of beekeeping whilst the Green woodpecker laughed at us from its hideaway.

Peter Gaywood

Thank you Social Committee for inviting us to take part in an afternoon of Film Nostalgia, along with the sheer enjoyment of eating such delicious home made cakes, for the making of which you had not deprived your family of their weekly sugar ration!

I am sure that we older "oldies" remember sitting with our "hatted" mothers in cinemas and village halls across the land taking in all such information, which was going to help us win the war.

Five inches of water in the bath! Was it enough to cover bare essentials? Winston Churchill apparently complied with this ruling and I have a picture of his rotund body lying in a puddle of water!

I felt a bit sorry for the two little girls chosen to cook the cabbage didn't you?, especially for the one who boiled it to death. I am sure they would much rather have been making jam tarts.

And what about the mashing of tea, as they say in Yorkshire. Urns in Naafi Canteens seemed to warrant a lot of hard work being spent on them or does it only seem that way since the era of the teabag! A cup, a dangling bag and boiling water from the electric kettle aren't we lucky?

Did you find yourself wanting to laugh at some of the procedures in the cleaning of the kitchen? The one dishcloth appeared to be used to do every little job and was probably only boiled once a week on a Monday! However, a fortune was not spent on specialized cleaning fluids and we didn't suffer from tummy upsets, because we built up a natural immunity by being exposed to germs from an early age.

Wasn't it great to see children actually playing together in the school yard? How many times did your big ship sail in the "illy ally oo on the last day of September"?

And then we were instructed how to deal with NITS. Remember the Nit Nurse as she parted our hair looking for the eggs of the louse, and the utter shame if one was found to have such an infestation! !Yes it does happen today, but not as often, because children do not seem to play games together anymore and are not crowded into classes of forty plus. However, I am told that, in fact, they are now harder to get rid of. How many of us had a sly scratch last Thursday, well at least we ladies. I

suppose that a lot of the men were just grateful that if lice were lurking in the Town hall, then they would have just skated off the top of their heads!!

The WI Movement seemed to be bombarded with lectures to boost the morale of its members and to inform them how to overcome hard times. Have we come full circle, as we are now assailed with Government initiatives to weather the recession and, indeed, save the planet, which may turn out to be a lot harder than winning the Second World war!!! But will they resort to propaganda films on BBC. television? Only time will tell!

Beryl McDonell.



## The Courtauld Gallery

The Courtauld Gallery, which some members visited after our tour of St. Pauls, is situated in Somerset House in the Strand, It is a private gallery and has an interesting history.

Arthur Hamilton Lee, 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Lee of Fareham, was an influential politician and he had built up a large art collection which was housed in the country house named Chequers. In 1917 he gave this estate to the nation with an endowment as a permanent country residence for British Prime Ministers.

Samuel Courtauld, of the company who developed rayon as a silk substitute, was a friend of Lord Lee and was also interested in art and together they decided to found the Courtauld Institute of Art, which started as a teaching school and is now the holder of a world class art collection.

It is a comprehensive collection which ranges from old masters through the Impressionists such as Van Gogh, Renoir, Cezanne to more modern works and includes porcelain and silver collections.

At the present time there is a special exhibition of marriage chests from Florence in Renaissance times. These large chests were adorned with gold and fine carving and decorated with secular paintings on the outside. At the time of a marriage they would have been filled with expensive clothing and furniture for their homes, and would have been kept in the bedroom.

The range of art in what is quite a small Gallery makes interesting viewing and there is always something new to be found.

Joyce Stokes

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### Mobile & Land line Phones Alert

If you receive a phone call on your mobile from any person, saying that he or she is a company engineer, or telling you that they're checking your mobile line, and you have to press #90 or #09 or any other number, end this call immediately without pressing any numbers.

There is a fraud company using a device that once you press #90 or #09 they can access your 'SIM' card and make calls at your expense.

## "BILLY ELLIOT"

What a drama was unfolded on Thursday, 26th February on the stage of the Victoria Palace Theatre.

We were privileged to enter into the life of a young boy whose one desire was to become a ballet dancer!. Not all that easy anyway, but particularly not so, when you are the youngest member of an uncouth, male dominated family, in a coal mining community out on a strike forced upon them ,by not only a Tory Government, but one led by a woman Prime Minister!!

Brad Wilson, who played the part of the young boy was outstanding, but then so was the whole cast who brilliantly interpreted the production.

During this talented performance we both laughed and cried and at the end we were moved to give the cast a prolonged standing ovation.

A Group of Theatre Goers

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## Naturalists/Ecologists Corner

Charles Darwin had a thing about worms. His final book was about their impact on soil, and their contribution to the evolution of other species.

Are you interested in these important creatures too?

The daughter of one of our members is working at Imperial College on a project with the Natural History Museum which is doing a soil and earthworm survey. They need small groups around the country to help them. If you want to find out more look at the website [www.OPALexplorenature.org](http://www.OPALexplorenature.org),

This is an ideal and short project for members of our U3A who are interested in the environment and would like to help.

Contact David Arnold in the first instance to see what we can do (01621 853866)

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## APRIL OPEN DAY 2009 - MONDAY, APRIL 20th

Even if you do not usually attend our Monthly meetings do try and come to this one. It will be a great opportunity to see what our U3A has on offer, because please do remember that the U3A's raison d'etre is its groups.

## The Tea Dance

It's the Sunday Tea Dance and they'll all be here today,  
Aches and pains forgotten, dance the afternoon away,  
Foxtrots, [quicksteps](#), waltzes, some are slow but some still nifty,  
With memories of how it was way back in 1950  
Norman's in the toilet and he's struggling to pee,  
He's got trouble with his prostate, and he'll likely miss his tea.  
Eddy's got a new love that he met in [Thornton](#) Heath,  
She does a lovely tango, but she hasn't any teeth  
His latest fancy footwork nearly broke his partner's neck  
She mistook his outside swivel for a travelling contra check  
Ida's had her hair done and she's ready for the saunter,  
She had a [vindaloo](#) last night and it's coming back to haunt her,  
[Florry's](#) mini-skirt's revealing when she's spinning in a jive,  
She really shouldn't wear a thong approaching 85.  
They've had their tea and cake and chat and had a little laugh,  
And gamely rise with creaking knees to face the second half.  
Norman's made it back in time for rumba number one,  
His [cucaracha's](#) very neat, but he's left his flies undone.  
[Vera's](#) fallen over in a massive crimplene heap  
Bert's got indigestion and Mabel's fast asleep  
Its last waltz time and they get up for [Humperdinck's](#) old tune  
And then, goodbye, good luck, take care,  
God willing see you soon

Author unknown



SOCIAL EVENT

CONCERT

# SAXOLOGY QUARTET

## THURSDAY, 14th May

### United Reformed Church, Market Hill

**Start 7.30 pm**

**Price £5.00**



Saxology has established a place among the UK's foremost saxophone quartets thanks to its rich blend of diverse repertoire, imaginative musicianship and flawless technique. This exciting local quartet offers a varied musical programme unmatched by other chamber music groups, revealing the saxophone's remarkable versatility and expressive range. This year marks the group's 20th anniversary. See website: [www.classical-artists.com/saxquar/](http://www.classical-artists.com/saxquar/)

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:

Janet Buck  
58 Augustine Way,  
Bicknacre,  
CM3 4ET

01245-227709

Enquiries:

Dorothy Denmark

01245-223960

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**Saxology, Thursday, 14th May**

Please reserve me ..... Ticket(s) @ £5.00 each

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

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

PhoneNo.....