

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1 Mah Jong Making Music	2	3
4 Maritime	5 Table Tennis Snooker Luncheon Club Reading	6 Ten Pin Bowling Wine Circle Picnic	7 Continuing French	8 Canasta Sing for Pleasure	9	10
11 German Whist Photography	12 Table Tennis Snooker	13 Ten Pin Bowling Spanish Bridge Painting	14 Essex Rivers French Conversation Reading	15 Mah Jong	16	17 Strollers
18 <b>Meeting 1.30 pm</b>	19 Table Tennis Snooker <b>Globe Visit</b> Gardeners	20 Ten Pin Bowling Clock Repairs Luncheon Club	21 Continuing French <b>Picnic at Heybridge Basin</b>	22 Canasta Sing for Pleasure	23	24
25	26 Table Tennis Snooker	27 Ten Pin Bowling Spanish Bridge Family History Painting Writing for Fun <b>Poetry—visit to Snape</b>	28 Essex Rivers French Conversation	29 Mah Jong	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, 6 Blenheim Close, Danbury, CM3 4NE Tel. 01245 225657 email Jan8085@aol.com

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*10th ANNIVERSARY  
Celebration*

JULY 2008

VOLUME VIII NO. 2



The University of the Third Age

**MALDON  
AND DISTRICT**

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

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

## FROM THE CHAIR



At one of the first 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee meetings it was decided that I ask one of the members of the “ Writing for Fun “ group if they could come up with a poem or short story suitable for inclusion in the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Newsletter. Such was the response that a booklet has been printed and included with this newsletter.

I hope you all enjoy reading the booklet as much as I have and I thank the Writing for Fun group for the time and effort that they must have put in to produce this.

I would like to remind all members that the July meeting will not be as normal with lists out for signing up for forthcoming events so, therefore, you will have to find the details in the newsletter of any events you wish to attend and telephone the co-ordinator to book your place.

The members of your Exec Committee receive a fair number of telephone calls relating to many things and, as far as possible, try to answer all your enquiries promptly. Although we are pleased to help at any time might I suggest that unless it is an emergency could these calls not be made on Sundays?.

Please don't forget that the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting (28<sup>th</sup> July) is by ticket admission only.

Alan Buck

## Strollers

### Sunday 17th August.

Meet at Fox and Hounds, Cock

Clarks for walk of 4 miles

Please park at rear of pub.

Roast lunch available.

Contact Margaret England, tel:

01621 828419 for further details.

If you would like a lift, contact me on 01621 853948.

Gill Stone

## Local & General History

We have no meeting in August.

Our next visit will be to St Albans and Verulamium on

**Monday 22 September** – this trip is currently full. Any Members booked on this visit who have not paid, could they please forward a cheque for £18 payable to Maldon & District U3A to me at the address below.

Mary Burd 11 Beaumont Way

Maldon CM9 5NA

Tel: 01621 843020

## Maritime

Our next meeting will be on Monday August 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at The Little Ship Club, The Hythe, Maldon; for a talk and slide show on “Sailing the Pacific Ocean”.

The September meeting on Monday 1<sup>st</sup>, is still being arranged, details will be announced later.

Malcolm Case

## 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	Music Making	Valerie Lyndon	01621 851769
Membership Sec. Committee	John Robson Joyce Cotterell Paul Costa John Almond Jan Robertson	01621 828236 01621 858287 01621 853893 Ex. Dir. 01245 225657	Painting	Joyce Stokes	01245 223579
Newsletter Editor			Petanque (Boule) Group	Barbara Arnold	01621 853866
Social Committee	Dorothy Denmark	01245 223960	Photography	Mary Richardson	01621 857829
Astronomy	Molly Tring	01621 854732	Poetry	Jo Robson	01621 828236
Aviation	Bill Fancourt	01245 225569	Reading 1st Tuesday 2nd Thursday	Christine Elgin Sheila Epps	01621 858146 01621 850467
Ballroom Dancing	Jo Robson	01621 828236	Scottish Country Dancing	Shirley Grummett	01621 853288
Bird Watching	Pat Clements	01245 223427	Singles Dining	Ray White	01621 891598
Bridge	Sheila Epps	01621 850467	Sing for Pleasure	Sylvia Carpenter	01621 854905
Canasta	Marian Manning Margaret Dale	01621 828605 01268 765239	Snooker	Bill Fancourt	01245 225569
Clock Repairs	Stanley Clements	01245 223427	Spanish Conversation	Wilma Turner	01621 851510
Computers-	Jan Robertson	01245 225657	Strollers	Gill Stone	01621 853948
Discussion	Ray Harman	01621 891736	Swimmers	Gill Rowsell	01621 740619
Environmental Studies	Fred Lane Bill Fancourt	01621 816181 01245 225569	Table Tennis	Gordon Hardy Julie Doidge	01245 223012 01621 841205
Essex Rivers	Beryl McDonell	01621 842093	Ten Pin Bowling	David Arnold	01621 853866
Family History	Frank Stokes	01245 223579	Theatre Group	Enid Hall Sheila Epps	01621 891618 01621 850467
Continuing French	Sylvia Carpenter	01621 854905	Whist	Molly Polden	01621 856507
French Conversation	Bill Stichbury	01621 855828	Wine Circle	Zandra Cardy	01621 828984
Gardeners	Jan Robertson	01245 225657	Writing for Fun	Pat Sizer	01621 892201
German	Jenny Plumb	01245 226112			
Handicraft	Jan Robertson	01245 225657			
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

## WANTED

Material, wool and any craft items wanted for our Handicrafts group.  
We would be grateful if you could have a sort out and donate to us.

Many thanks.

Jan Robertson, 01245 225657

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## Digital Photo Magazines

I have a large number of the above magazines available to any keen photographers. If I brought them to a Monthly Meeting I fear they would take over the allotted Magazine Swap space, so if you think they could interest you, then please contact me on 01621 842 093.

Beryl McDonell

### BLACKWATER U3A

Contact:

Dorreen Linton, Chairman  
01621 853428

### SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS U3A

Contact

Rosemary Dorado, Chairman  
01245 321102

### NATIONAL OFFICE

19 East Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1QH  
Tel 020 8466 6139 Email national.office@u3a.org.uk  
Web site www.u3a.org.uk  
Resource Centre: email: resource.centre@u3a.org.uk

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 8th August

## Gardeners

### Tuesday, June 17

Our first real garden visit this year was to a joint visit to NGS Burnham and Latchingdon. A beautiful warm sunny afternoon and two very different gardens. Our thanks to Corinne Layton for the wonderful cakes and tea.

**Tuesday July 1** A visit to the garden of Mr. & Mrs. Leese in Bradfield, near Manningtree. Another lovely warm afternoon, the garden was so colourful and full of flowers, due to the compost put on the garden, we were all so envious. Mr. Leese has access to this compost through his work.. It proves that good compost is the answer to a wonderful garden.

### Tuesday, July 22

Visit to 219 Hockley Rd, Rayleigh, home of Mr & Mrs. Brickwood  
This visit rearranged from May which was cancelled due to the wet weather

### Tuesday, August 19

Return visit to the garden of Paul Spracklin, 42 Greenwood Avenue, Stn Benfleet. A real WOW garden, a visit not to be missed.

### Tuesday, September 23

Visit Markshall, Coggeshall. Over 100 acres of arboretum. Guided tour arranged.

## Computers

No meetings in July and August, next meeting **25th September**

## Photography

Thanks to those who came to the June meeting when we looked at some beautiful and interesting photos from Egypt and the Ukraine as well as from the Canal Du Midi. Nearer to home we discussed shots taken of "All Saints" and of the Bluebell woods.

There will be no meeting in July but do keep taking photos for us to discuss later.

**Monday Aug 11** is our next meeting when we plan to visit Paper Mill Locks at Little Baddow  
Meet at WMCC at 2 pm to car share or meet us there.

Mary Richardson

## Family History

There will not be a meeting in July so our next gathering will be on Wednesday **August 28th** at 2.30 pm. It will be held at 15 Pear Tree Lane, Bicknacre. Histories of ourselves, family members and ancestors will be welcome.

Frank Stokes

## Astronomy

Next Meeting **Monday, July 28**

Talk by Tony Dagnel  
about Sir Bernard Lovell OBE  
West Maldon Community Centre  
at 7.30 pm. Open to all members

### A note from the Treasurer

At the AGM it was agreed to increase subscriptions by £1.50. This is because the Third Age Trust is proposing an increase of £1.00 on the Capitation Fee payable to them, from £2.50 to £3.50 per member per year. I was asked at the AGM when they had last increased this fee and I apologise for not knowing the answer. I have since checked with them and the last increase was 2001/2002.

With rising costs we also felt it necessary to raise an additional 50p per member. Subscriptions payable on May 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 will therefore be £16.50 for full members and £6.50 for social members.

It was also agreed to change our financial year to run from 1<sup>st</sup> April until 31<sup>st</sup> March in order to give more time for the preparation and examination of the accounts for presentation at the AGM and to bring us in to line with other U3As. This financial year will therefore only be for 11 months from May 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009.

If anyone has any questions regarding the U3A finances please do not hesitate to contact me.

Rosemary Case

### ASSOCIATION OF ESSEX U3A's

The above Association is holding a

### GRAND INTER U3A's QUIZ

on

**Wednesday, September 24th**

at the Great Baddow Millennium Hall.

I am sure that we would like to pit our wits against the other groups, so, please, if you feel you could be one of our team, contact me on 01621 842093 and I will arrange a meeting of all interested parties.

Please get in touch by **July 28th**.

With 400 Members I feel sure we can find 10 eager participants. The actual team will have 8 people, but we will need 2 people to be on stand by!!

*This is a call for all EGG Heads.*

Beryl McDonell  
Essex U3As Representative

**LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES -**

**TUESDAY August 5 at the Victoria Inn, Burnham**  
Co-ordinator: Mike Wood      Tel. 01245 222839

**WEDNESDAY August 20 at The Ship, Tiptree at 12.30 pm**  
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.

**Fitsteps Walks**

A range of accompanied walks throughout the Maldon District are available varying in length from 1 – 3 miles.

The walks take place three times a week and are led by up to three trained volunteers and are suitable for all levels of fitness. They are ideal for those who are new to exercise, recovering from an illness or just wish to make new friends.

The walks include town and country, ancient woodland, seawalls and marinas. Enquiries: 01621 854477 or 07960 168859. www.fitstepshealthwalks.org.uk



**HEATHROW TERMINAL 5**

Although the original opening of Terminal 5 was rightly described as a disaster, little has appeared in the media since that date. However, when we used the terminal at the beginning of June for a trip to the USA it worked marvellously. I had used the BA website to check-in, book our seats and print our boarding passes before we left home. Therefore on arriving at the terminal, at around mid-day on a Wednesday, we just had to drop our checked luggage off at the ‘Bag Drop Desk’ where there was no queue at all. We then moved to the security area where again we virtually walked straight through with no hold up.

On our return flight, at the end of June, after landing at 10.30 am we moved swiftly through passport control and arrived at the luggage carousel at 11.00 to see our first bag arrive at 11.03! Our remaining luggage swiftly followed and we were through customs by 11.10.

This report will not of course appear in any of the daily papers or on the TV news. I wonder why?

Bill Fancourt

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**August 18th Meeting**  
**Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm**  
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**Speaker**  
**Josie Stephenson**  
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**Talk about “China”**  
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**RIVER BLACKWATER GROUP**

The weather forecast promised a good day and so it was eleven members of the group met at West Maldon Community Centre on the 26th of June to visit Mersea Island. The visit had two objectives, first, to look at the activities at the EEC. site "MERSEA OUTDOORS" and secondly, survey a section of the beach at the Country Park.

The EEC. site had been acquired by the county in 1949, as a very run down property which the Army had occupied during World War 2, as part of the beach defences.

The 300 or more children at the site were enjoying the sunny weather and the challenging obstacles confronting them, including a simulated rock climbing wall, a high wire aerial runway, a mock-up of a pot hole complex they could crawl through and in addition mountain biking along the sea wall, archery and swimming in the fresh water pool. The Camp site is available to all Essex Schools and Youth Organisations and has developed over the years to provide challenging activities for young people.

Most of our party said, they would like to try the aerial runway. We are still young at heart.!

Before going to the beach at the Country Park, we had our picnic lunch. "The Country Park is a very large open area, leading down to where the River Blackwater and the Colne meet and flow into the North Sea.

On the beach and under the expert guidance of Veronica, we were looking for shells of oysters. periwinkles. cockles and mussels, the most common shellfish on this part of the shore

We formed a line some five or six yards apart and the metal frames Veronica had provided, were to be dropped on the beach and the shells within the frame counted and recorded. Then to pick up the frame. take two paces forward, turn 90 degrees, take three paces and drop the frame, avoiding the temptation for looking for a more promising spot. This process we did 24 times. By this method we had surveyed 10 square meters.

Harry .Allpress

***Wine Group.***

We shall be meeting at 2 pm in the Prom lower car park for a picnic for our August 6th meeting. Please bring whatever you plan to sit on, and your own picnic food and drink. We shall meet up in the car park and decide where we are going to picnic. Lets hope the weather co-operates!

Zandra

## VISIT TO CHISWICK HOUSE and THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY FACTORY

It was unfortunate that our visit to Chiswick House on Tuesday May 27<sup>th</sup> was cut so short owing to severe traffic congestion en route.

Chiswick House was designed in the 1720s by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Burlington and built in beautifully landscaped gardens. It was and remains a show house for the much admired architecture of Palladio and Inigo Jones and offered a wonderful backdrop for the treasures collected by Earl Burlington on the Grand Tour.

After a welcome cup of coffee we did have a chance to see the beautifully renovated Blue Velvet Room a special feature of which was the ceiling with pairs of massive curving brackets and a central panel depicting Architecture with its possible Masonic connotations.

A brief glimpse of the many paintings that still adorn the adjoining rooms – but bare of furniture which mostly went to Chatsworth – and then we were off on our way to Richmond and the Poppy Factory.

Chiswick House and Gardens is certainly worth a visit but would take a whole day to see it all.

Sylvia Cousins.

We were welcomed to the factory by our excellent guide John who told us how it all began. In 1922 a Major George Howson M.C. an engineer who served on the Western Front in the Great War founded the Disabled Society and with a grant of £2,000 set up a small factory off the Old Kent Road with five ex-servicemen and here the first British poppies were made.

The poppy had been chosen as that was the only flower that grew amongst the carnage of the war.

Then into the factory where we spoke to the workers it was interesting to see the different designs, the Royal Families' were all individual – the Queen's in particular. The factory produces over 35 million Remembrance Poppies, 500,000 other types, 5 million Remembrance petals and up to 100,000 wreaths.

We finished our visit in the small shop buying souvenirs.

Thank you Mary for a most enjoyable day – somewhere I'd often thought I would like to go and U3A made it possible.

Molly Polden.

## Welsh Evening.



As soon as you walked in to the Maldon Town Hall on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>. June you were sure you were in the right place.

The welcoming signs in Welsh and the whole place decorated with Welsh flags and bunting. The tables were set out most attractively for six or seven people.

Lots of us dressed with a Welsh influence, ladies with their traditional bonnets etc. and the men in Welsh rugby shirts or as miners complete with lamp! There were some accessories like leeks (which were eaten, raw, with the cheese!) or a large inflatable daffodil (which remained intact), Well done to those who made an effort!

The entertainment was by the South Woodham Ferrers Male Voice Choir under their young director John Trent Wallace. A man not only leading and arranging the music for this modern creative choir but with such a good sense of fun. The range of music was from musicals to more traditional pieces. Very varied and good to listen to. We also had an interlude with a charming young lady playing flute solo and a 'duet', one piece composed by John Trent Wallace himself.

At the interval we had Welsh cheeses and bread followed by Bara brith, home made of course. More than enough for everyone. All washed down with the drinks we had brought with us which made us ready for the second part of the concert with two delightful solos one Italian Opera and then one 'Matt Monroe' style.

But the main part of the evening was getting together with our U3A friends and chatting and 'putting the world to rights'.

A shame some members missed such a good evening out, what terrific value, and thanks again to our social committee for all their hard work on our behalf.

David Arnold

### Bara Brith

11 ozs mixed dried fruit (currants, sultanas, cherries any mixture)

4 ozs demerara sugar

1 cup of strong cold tea

Soak the above overnight

Add 1 well beaten egg

½ lb S.R.flour

Bake in a greased 2lb loaf tin

190 C, 375F, gas mark 5 for 40 -50 minutes

Serve sliced and buttered

Of interest to the Family History group and Genealogy researchers

### 'Times archive'

The 'Times Archive' is the consumer-facing online interface to the full-text archive of The Times newspaper (London). This free archive covers the years 1785 to 1985. Unlike the commercial Gale version of the archive, which requires access via a university terminal or Athens, this public website is free to use as of June 2008. Users can search by keyword or phrase without registering, but a simple free sign-up process is required in order to then see the page images that appear in the results. The search and results interfaces are clean and simple to use. All newspaper content is offered, not simply the main news items. There are also classified adverts, notices, and display advertising, among many others elements.

The editors state, at the website's launch in June 2008, that... "Over the next months, we'll be adding The Times post-1985, as well as The Sunday Times from its launch in 1822." The editors state however, also at June 2008, that the service will only be free "for a limited period of time". The newspaper pages have apparently been scanned from microfiche, and so there may be some errors in the automatic OCR transcription of text. This website will be a vital public resource for historians and also for many other types of researchers.

<http://archive.timesonline.co.uk/tol/archive/>

Every issue of The Times newspaper published between 1785 and 1985 has been digitally scanned. Users can save, print and e-mail articles. Search to find what was in the news the day you were born. Look to find names in the birth, marriages and death notices that might fit into your family tree. There's a rich hoard of information for the Maritime and Aviation Groups or you may simply be curious to know what it was that prompted Karl Marx, Charles Darwin, Oscar Wilde, Queen Victoria and many others to write to the Editor.

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**Blackwater U3A**

### *Line Dancing Group*

This will take place on Wednesdays starting 10th September from 1.30 - 2.30 p.m. at West Maldon Community Centre Price £2.50 Please ring Dorreen Linton Maldon 853428 if interested.

## 2008 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

List of Events and Outings during the year.

28/31 July	U3A Summer School Harper Adams, Newport, Shropshire
Thurs. 31 July	Barbecue
Mon. 4 Aug	Little Ship Club—Talk by HM Customs—Maritime
11/14 Aug	U3A Summer School, RAC Cirencester
Tues. 19 Aug	Globe Theatre visit
Thurs. 21 Aug.	Picnic at Heybridge Basin
Fri. 19 Sept.	Quiz
Mon. 22 Sept	Visit to St. Albans Cathedral & Verulamium—Local History
Wed. 24 Sept	GRAND INTER U3A's QUIZ at Gt. Baddow
Mon. 6 Oct	Dinner, theme 'Mary Rose' at Little Ship Club—Maritime
Sat. 8 Nov.	Jazz Evening
Sat. 29 Nov.	Beetle Drive
Mon. 1 Dec	Little Ship Club—Christmas Buffet—Maritime

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

### AVIATION



On Sunday June 8th, 36 members of the Aviation Group set out to The Biggin Hill Air show on a fine sunny day which looked ideal for flying. The journey started brilliantly until we left the M25 and ventured into the countryside. The traffic then ground to a standstill. Eventually, after about 5 hours, and viewing some flying from the coach, we arrived and enjoyed the afternoons flying display in ideal weather. There were all sorts of aircraft from passenger airliners to fast jets, helicopters and aerobatic displays. There were static displays, refreshments and trade stalls, but the crowds were so numerous that if you left your viewing spot, you never found your way back!

We left at about 6.00 pm and luckily, Biggin Hill had got their act together and the return journey was only an hour and a half. We arrived back in Maldon at 7.30 pm and despite the dreadful outward journey, we all enjoyed the day, but if we go next year - Start Earlier

Paul Costa

## *Maritime*

On Friday 13th June (sic) five intrepid novice sailors set out on the briny deep from Bradwell Marina for a taster day of yachting. The weather was kind - no rain, some sunshine and wind light to variable force 3 - 4. Our skipper Philip kitted us out with waterproof clothing (which did not inspire confidence), and off we set to board the 35 ft yacht "Brigantes". We set the sails and headed towards Brightlingsea. We all took turns at the helm and setting the sails on the various tacks and made good progress in breezy winds. We moored off Brightlingsea about 1.00pm and had our picnic lunch and one of the numerous cups of tea provided by our skipper.

After lunch, we headed back to Bradwell on the rising tide rounding various sandbanks along the way. During the day we saw numerous other vessels including fishing smacks, Maldon Barges and a rare visitor - Gipsy Moth IV.

We arrived back at Bradwell about 5.30pm. The day lived up to all expectations and was a totally new experience for all the U3A members. We would like to thank John Robson for organising the day and we would recommend it to other members in the future.

Paul Costa and Mary Burd



## *Petanque Terrain*

It is really amazing how much just a few U3A volunteers have done. Tons of soil and even more tons of stones have been shifted and raked out. The sleepers around the edge have all been fitted really securely. If it is not ready by the time you read this then it shortly will be. Admire the finished terrain when you next go down to Promenade Park. Thanks to the volunteers who have worked so hard not only on behalf of our U3A but for the benefit of the whole community.

## **VISIT TO HYLANDS HOUSE – 23 JUNE**

Another lovely trip by Local & General History Group when we visited Hylands House Chelmsford.

The House is now an imposing white stuccoed mansion with columns to entrance and it is amazing to discover this is wrapped around the original red brick Queen Anne style mansion which was built in 1732 at behest of Sir John Comyns for many years M.P. for Maldon. The property sits in a beautifully maintained park of around 500 acres.

We were fortunate to have as guide Diane who had the history of the building and previous owners at her fingertips. She kept us interested and amused as she extolled the details of changes made to the interior as we toured the building.

The House and park were purchased in 1966 by Chelmsford Borough Council mainly for use of the park as by this time the building had almost reached dereliction. However funds were later obtained from Heritage Lottery Fund which enabled the grand restoration to take place and the House is now a Grade II listed building.

The House and park are used extensively for various commercial purposes, scout jamboree in the park and who wouldn't enjoy a visit for a wedding perhaps?

The stables and courtyard have been converted to restaurant/café and also a book & gift shop.

The details of alterations and amendments are too numerous to mention here but a visit is recommended.

Many thanks to Carol for arranging our visit. Mary Hughes.



## Memories from Overseas

Now I am living in Canada I feel that there is a big part of my life missing, that is all the years that I belonged to the Maldon U3A, all the places I visited, lovely gardens and stately homes, visits to see wonderful shows at the various theatres, brilliant performances such as Shoo Shoo Baby which I was not able to see this year, and the entertainment evenings which were arranged by the brilliant Social Committee. Luckily, I still have all the photographs that I took, and there are a great many. I was glad that I was able to introduce my friends from Tiptree to the U3A and I am sure that it has made a difference to their lives as well. I also enjoyed the great variety of guest speakers that we had over the years.

I am so grateful to Beryl for handing me that flyer as we left the exercise class at the Friary all those years ago and I end this message with "Long Live Maldon U3A"

Shirley Orchard

## Thank you.

U3A has saved my reason if not my life. Ernest had Alzheimer's for more than 6 years, steadily becoming more and more dependent on me. Leaving him for an afternoon while I went to Reading Group was a matter of forward planning and not easy. Then he went in to The Lodge Care Home where I visited every day. When he died there was a big hole in my life and I was quite ready to go with him, but U3A has helped to fill the gap and I have met so many kind people and made so many friends that I haven't time to be sad - I just enjoy you all so much.

Marie Bishop

## Social Events ANNUAL BARBECUE

Langford Village Hall  
Thursday 31 July 2008  
from 6.00 p.m.



### We will provide and cook the food

"If for any dietary reason you are unable to eat bangers, burgers, chops or gammon, will you please let me know on 01245-223960 by Wednesday morning 30th and we will try to provide an acceptable alternative."

### BRING EVERYTHING ELSE YOU NEED

tables, chairs, drinks, glasses, plates and cutlery (and possibly rugs, umbrellas and/or sunglasses)

The evening finishes when it is too dark to see what we are doing!

**TICKETS: £8**

A few tickets left, Contact: Janet Buck for tickets on 01245 227709



## PICNIC at Heybridge Basin LUNCH BY THE LOCK

Thursday, 21st August  
12 noon to 4.00 p.m.

Bring food, tables and chairs, games.  
Pub and tea room close by!

No problems with remembering to buy tickets for the August event. Just turn up at the lock at Heybridge Basin at noon on Thursday 21 August for LUNCH BY THE LOCK. Bring lunch with you - or buy it at the pub - and any outdoor pursuits that you can share with the rest of us. We'll be there until about four o'clock, so just come for as long as you can spare.

My thanks to those of you who produced the Bara Brith cakes for the Welsh Evening. See recipe on page 19.

## BERYL McDONELL'S MEMORIES

### U3A 1998

In 1995 I read about U3A in a glossy Magazine and stored it in my mind for future reference.

I retired in 1996 and spent a year doing up our recently required old house, but in the Sept. I saw an advert for Chelmsford U3A in the College prospectus, so Barbara Arnold and I attended one of their Monthly Meetings and came away thinking it was an interesting organization. However when we found that to attend groups, which is ,of course, its raison d'etre', we would have to constantly travel into the Chelmsford District, we backed off the idea of joining.

***Then "Eureka" I had an idea—-Let' start one in Maldon!***

I contacted Chelmsford and was invited to attend a few meetings which, if I remember correctly, had been set up to start one in Witham and Braintree. After about 3 meetings I came away with all the relevant info and all I had to do was to get cracking!!

I was told about a Volunteer Agency organisation which distributed a weekly Newsletter which might advertise our organisation. From this Ad I was approached by Bill Stitchbury and Phillipe Epps who were very interested in the idea. Then I coerced Anne Skuse's newly retired husband John to join us and he in turn persuaded his wife to become our secretary.

Behind the scenes both Archie and Barbara gave us much support  
In April '98 having done all the things required of us by National Office, we were ready to launch ourselves on Maldon and District!!

How did we do this? We booked the W.M.CC for the 22nd April and we invited Shirley Thew, who had been a U3A person for a very long time in Basildon and Billericay to come on the launch day to enthuse the potential members and roped in a couple of people to make tea.

We advertised in the local press, in the library, in Doctors' waiting rooms and on lamp posts.

On the day of the inaugural meeting I woke up at 4 am absolutely convinced that no one would turn up. But turn up they did, all 36 'brave' souls, who, by the end of the 'rousing speeches' and the clarion call, were eager to sign up to groups which people on the day volunteered to organise.

This hardy band became our first co-ordinators and they all arranged their own first meetings.

Our first Committee was made up of :     Beryl McDonell—Chairman  
   Bill Stitchbury —Treasurer  
   Anne Skuse —— Secretary

and the following Committee Members: Marion Condon, Doris and Alf Chapman, Phillipe Epps, John Skuse and Joyce Yates.

## I REMEMBER IT WELL

(So say Maurice Chevalier and Hermione Gingold in " Gigi") But did they? and I think that my" memories often years ago", when Maldon U3A was launched could reflect those of Chevalier and Gingold. I attended the Essex Libraries "Book Festival" this year where Katharine Whitehom spoke other book "Selective Memory", so what follows will be the same —Selective!

1998 was just one year since I "retired" from 37 years of teaching;! Had made the most of 1997 by travelling—and so was ready to begin a new era

My dear friend Peggy Downie (whom I still miss after almost four years) told me of the formation of our U3A, so I joined.

### ***What do I remember?***

I remember the friendliness of it all There were initially about fifty members and so at every meeting I knew 90% of them. They were people I'd met in various guises, but hadn't really" got to know", so that was a real bonus!!!!

The U3A grew and grew beyond the boundaries of the West Maldon Community Hall.

Trying to remember events, people, groups, into my mind "jumped a speaker Jane Chrisfield-Chapman's inspiring slide/talk about her lively portraits of famous people and Myra Wilkin's informative and humorous talk on Heraldry

I enjoyed immensely the French Conversation Group run by Bill Stitchbury.

Thank you William.

There have been so many great events including the one and only holiday I have taken with U3A in 2002 to the truly inspiring Cornish gardens, which was so well organised and was so friendly.

And for me, the visits to the Globe have become a must.

So when I leave which will be in 2009, I shall take with me so many good times.

Patricia Willis.

## Memories

I had heard of the U3A at a pre retirement course set up by Essex County Council and thought this sounds promising, something for everyone! And then I saw a notice in the local paper advertising an inaugural meeting for a Maldon one and was very keen to find out about it.

The entry for my diary dated April 20th 1998 reads thus - "Lots of people and lots of us joined. Looks hopeful for social life! June 15th offered to host reading group.

July 9th -5 Members met at my home and decided to meet monthly on the second Thursday of the month and we still do, but this month I have stepped down as Co-ordinator after almost 10 years!!

The first book we read was "Far From The Madding Crowd" Hardy. Then at the following meeting we agreed to read Poetry.

I have no record of the original five, but know that in January 99 we had eight members and they are still members today, so we must be doing something right!! Of course over the years our numbers have increased and are now twelve.

We read all sorts which results in lively debates!!

I am sure Sheila Epps will get as much enjoyment out of leading the group as I have had and of course I will be carrying on reading.

Chris Shaw

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Beryl.

I seem to remember you recalled what U3A was about and several of us thought of what we would like to concentrate on and start groups on. I decided on Local History, Frank Stokes chose Family History, John Daniels singing, John Skuse Music Appreciation, Dorothy Carnie a Reading Group. We also had a French Group start and we met at St. Cedds

Daphne Swanson

## Maldon & District U3A Newsletter No. 1

June 1998

Welcome to our first Newsletter! I am very pleased to report that we have several groups already up and running and several more about to start. So far we have Walking, French, Theatre, Discussion, Scrabble, Local History and Creative Writing all off to a good start.

### Bill Stichbury reports as follows:

**Walking/Hiking** - A short walk for some, from Maldon Church Hall to the Royal Oak at Woodham Mortimer. Very convivial, especially the half pints and door step sandwiches. Most walkers then made their way home from The Royal Oak, but 5 hardy souls who made the return walk were still in fine fettle, with only one blister between them to worry about.

**French Conversation** - Five participated last week and a couple more this week chez Bill!

**Theatre Group** - Three members of U3A, plus partners and friends, attended a superb production of Fiddler on the Roof at the Civic, Chelmsford. There were only 4 empty seats for this amateur production - wonderful I Bill Stichbury has done a brilliant job in getting these groups off the ground as well as being Treasurer and is now standing down from the Theatre Group as he is very heavily committed in other areas - so, /s there another Theatre Group convenor in the house ?

### Daphne Swanson has sent a report of the meeting of the Local History Group

A meeting of the Local History group was held in Room 20, St. Cedd's on Monday 8th June. Fourteen members attended. After general discussion regarding the 'way ahead' for the group, it was decided that to start with we would all keep to one topic - Churches, The members divided into twos and threes and chose the church they wished to research. If any other members who did not attend the meeting wish to participate, please make contact. The next group meeting will be Monday 13th July at 10.30 am in Room 20, St. Cedd's.

### One day Summer School at Billericay - 22nd July 1998 - 10.00 am - 4.00 pm

We have had an invitation from Basildon and Billericay U3A, who are celebrating their 10th Anniversary, to attend a **One day Summer School** at The Fold, Billericay, There are many different activities on offer and admission is by programme £1.50. These are available from Monday 15th June by telephoning 01268 761613. Activities include - Art & Craft, Drawing, Photography, Languages, Workshops, Literature, Music, Poetry, Games, Antique Collections, Guided walks and Gardeners' Question Time. One particular activity of interest is a Poetry Performance/Reading hour when Philip Wells will share his work. This will be an opportunity for people in the audience to read their own poems -all **poets please note !**

**Monthly meetings will be held on the 3rd Monday of every month at the West Maldon Community Centre, 1.30 pm.**

### Maldon U3A

When one retires there's much to do. One looks around for something new. So one day Beryl made her way, to join the Chelmsford U3A. But then she thought:- "There is a snag. The journey can be quite a drag. What if the roads have snow and ice? That wouldn't be so very nice!" Then Beryl had a great idea. "We'll form a U3A right here." She phoned her many friends to ask, if they would help her with the task. And gradually the help was found to get the project off the ground. They planned a meeting - found a hall — but what if no-one came at all! Poor Beryl spent a sleepless night. Would everything turn out all right. She needn't have worried—We're pleased to say that they flocked to the Maldon U3A.

So now it's up and running well. The numbers have begun to swell. And if you've never been before, you'll get a greeting at the door. You'll wear a badge and make new friends. Return that badge when the meeting ends!! At break you'll get a cup of tea. Very good value for 20p. And if you really enjoyed that cup - you can always help with the washing-up!

So raise your glass and shout "Hooray for the Maldon and District U3A"

Poor Marion is run off her feet, finding speakers for our monthly meet. They come with many tales to tell. They hold our interest - inspire as well. But there was one memorable day, when the visiting speaker stayed away. Then a knight in shining armour came. To train our memories was his aim. He set a date in mid December. When was that date? I can't remember!

Please raise your glass and shout "Hooray for the Maldon and District U3A"

Now Bill strides out with his faithful dog. Come rain or shine, come wind or fog. A healthy walk is what you need - so join the walkers. It's moderate speed. It's never too late if you want to start, to try your hand at a form of art. And one day your praises might be sung, if you do a collage with elephant dung. Discussion groups are going strong. If you would like to join, then come along. Or come to Literature with Chris - so much to read - too good to miss. It's going well. It's here to stay. The Maldon and District U3A.

The groups are meeting every day. You could play bridge or read a play. There's a group for those who like to hear - some music pleasing to the ear. The history group is very keen. To many churches we have been. Creative writing needs inspiration. Perhaps you prefer French conversation. For table tennis you must be fit. Then contact John. You'll be a hit. Canasta and Scrabble too are played. The meetings are monthly at St.Cedd. And many thanks to Alf and Doris, who planned a shopping trip to Norwich. So raise your glass and shout

***"Hooray. We're the Maldon and District U3A."***

Joyce Yates

### U3A Start

I called in the Volunteer Office which was situated by the Quest Motors' Office in the High Street, not looking for a job, but to apologies for not having attended a Breakfast Meeting.

The Volunteer Group manager then asked me whether or not I would be interested in assisting a new group to get off the ground. When he told me it was The University of the Third Age my ears pricked up, because for a number of years I had studied with the Open University. I was given Beryl's address and realized that we already knew each other as she had helped me on a number of occasions with Books for the Housebound. So a quick phone call and a meeting was set up. even though Olive's words of "Not another job" was ringing in my ears.

Present at our first meeting in Beryl's house were Phillipe Epps, John and Anne Skuse, and myself. Somehow I was appointed as Treasurer and Membership Secretary!!

It is one of the best organisations I have ever been involved with, bringing great pleasure to many people of the Maldon District through its great variety of subjects and activities on offer.

Olive wasn't going to join until she was refused a ticket to go on an outing' as it was only available to members! Today she attends more groups than me!

Over the years I have run the following groups -Art Appreciation, Chess, Table Tennis, French Conversation and have also participated in the Comparative Religions Group as well, and of course leading many walks with my dog Ben!!!

At the inaugural meeting we estimated about 20 people but were overwhelmed when 60 people signed up.

Heady Days and what does the future hold?

Bill Stitchbury