

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 Continuing French Discussion	2 Mah Jong	3 Bird watching Beeleigh	4 Bird watching Beeleigh
5 Maritime	6 Table Tennis Snooker Reading Luncheon Club	7 Ten Pin Bowling Spanish Swimming	8 French Conversation Scottish Dancing Reading Ballroom Dancing Essex Rivers	9 Canasta Sing for Pleasure CELIJH	10 11	11
12 Handicraft German Photography Whist	13 Table Tennis Snooker	14 Ten Pin Bowling Spanish Painting Bridge Swimming	15 Continuing French Ballroom Dancing	16 Mah Jong	17 18 Strollers Coffee morn.	
19 Meeting 1.30 pm	20 Table Tennis Snooker Aviation RAF Museum, Hendon	21 Ten Pin Bowling Spanish Clock Repairs Luncheon Club	22 French Conversation Music Appreciation Computers Scottish Dancing Ballroom dancing Essex Rivers	23 Canasta Sing for Pleasure	24 Theatre "Nanjing Kunqu Opera"	25
26 Handicraft Local History Astronomy German Whist	27 Table Tennis Snooker Co-ordinator's Lunch	28 Ten Pin Bowling Spanish Painting Bridge Family History Writing for Fun	29 Ballroom Dancing	30 Mah Jong	31	

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

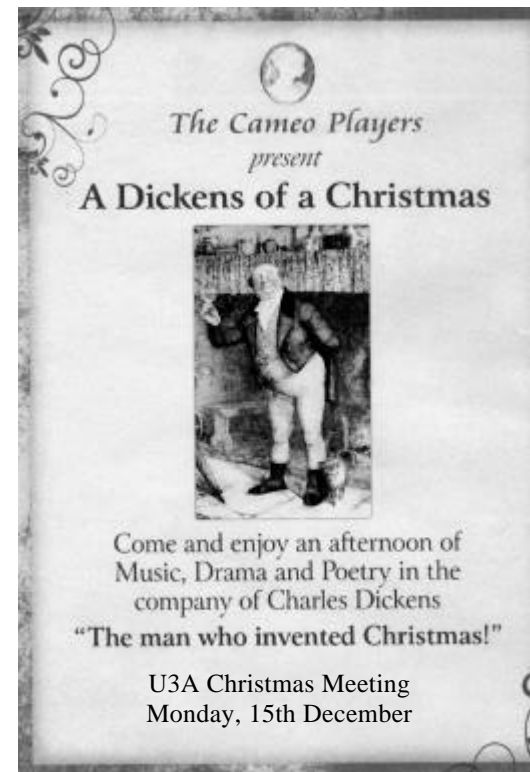
Newsletter Editor: Mrs. Jan. Robertson Tel. 01245 225657 email Jan8085@aol.com

NEWSLETTER



The University of the Third Age

MALDON AND DISTRICT



DECEMBER 2008

VOLUME VIII NO. 6

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

Web Site: www.maldon3a.co.uk



FROM THE CHAIR



Ballroom Dancing

Just to let you know Ballroom Dancing finished on 27th November, but we hope to start up again on the 8th January, 2009. Same place, same time - West Maldon Community Centre, Thursdays, all but the first in the month, 2.45 until 4.15 pm. £2.50 a session.

Jo Robson

Poetry

The group will be meeting in January with the theme of women poets of the second half of the twentieth century. For date and venue please give me a call.

Jo Robson

Local & General History

Seasonal Greetings to all our members and we hope to see you at our meetings during 2009.

The important thing to remember for next year is that our meetings at The Maldon Little Ship Club will commence at **2.00 pm**.

Our first meeting will be on Monday 26 January and is a talk entitled "Chelmsford – A stroll thru time" – given by Peter Turrall.

All members are welcome.

Mary Burd

The Xmas break will soon be with us so may Janet and I take this opportunity to wish all members a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

The Social Committee once again will be organising our Christmas meeting therefore I would like to say a huge "thank you" on your behalf for all the time and effort they have put in and, judging by the success they have had with their social events of the past year, look forward to it being an enjoyable afternoon.

Alan B

Email: alan-buck@talktalk.net

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	01621 891618
Treasurer	Rosemary Case	01245 329435		John Skuse	01245 224059
Membership Sec.	John Robson	01621 828236	Painting	Joyce Stokes	01245 223579
Speaker Sec.	Joyce Cotterell	01621 858287	Petanche (Boule)	Barbara Arnold	01621 853866
Committee	Paul Costa	01621 853893	Photography	Mary Richardson	01621 857829
	John Almond	Ex. Dir.	Poetry	Jo Robson	01621 828236
Newsletter Editor	Jan Robertson	01245 225657	Reading 1st Tuesday	Christine Elgin	01621 858146
			2nd Thursday	Sheila Epps	01621 850467
Social Committee	Dorothy Denmark	01245 223960	Scottish Dancing	Shirley Grummett	01621 853288
Astronomy	Molly Tring	01621 854732	Singles Dining	Sue Oram	01621 856899
Aviation	Bill Fancourt	01245 225569	Sing for Pleasure	Sylvia Carpenter	01621 854905
Ballroom Dancing	Jo Robson	01621 828236	Snooker	Bill Fancourt	01245 225569
Bird Watching	Pat Clements	01245 223427	Spanish Conversation	Wilma Turner	01621 851510
Bridge	Sheila Epps	01621 850467	Strollers	Gill Stone	01621 853948
Canasta	Marian Manning	01621 828605	Swimmers	Gill Rowsell	01621 740619
	Margaret Dale	01268 765239	Table Tennis	Gordon Hardy	01245 223012
Clock Repairs	Stanley Clements	01245 223427	Beginners	Julie Doidge	01621 841205
Computers	Jan Robertson	01245 225657	Ten Pin Bowling	Beryl McDonell	01621 842093
Discussion	Ray Harman	01621 891736	Theatre Group	David Arnold	01621 853866
Environmental Studies	Fred Lane	01621 816181	Whist	Enid Hall	01621 891618
	Bill Fancourt	01245 225569		Sheila Epps	01621 850467
Essex Rivers	Beryl McDonell	01621 842093	Wine Circle	Molly Polden	01621 856507
Family History	Frank Stokes	01245 223579	Writing for Fun	Zandra Cardy	01621 828984
Continuing French	Sylvia Carpenter	01621 854905		Pat Sizer	01621 892201
French Conversation	Bill Stichbury	01621 855828			
Gardeners	Jan Robertson	01245 225657			
German	Jenny Plumb	01245 226112			
Good Companions	Beryl McDonell	01621 842093			
Handicraft	Marian Manning	01621 828605			
Local History	Mary Burd	01621 843020			
	Alfred Couldrey	01245 226259			
Luncheon Club	Mike Wood	01245 222839			
	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

What's on in Maldon December/January

Saturday 20th December

Wickham Bishops Country Music Club presents 'Garry Blackmore Band' .
Wickham Bishops Village Hall. 8pm – 11.30pm. Bring your own food and drink.
Adults £5, children under 14 free. Enquiries: 01245 491252

Thursday 1st January

New Year's Day Crank Up. Museum of Power, Langford. 10am – 4pm.
Engines will be running in the museum, miniature train rides and model village.
£3.50 adults , £2 child.
Enquiries: 01621 843183 www.museumofpower.org.uk

Sunday 4th January

Maldon Mud Race. 11.30am. (To be confirmed) World famous wacky race across
the estuary at low tide, many competitors in fancy dress. Enquiries: 01621 856503
www.maldonmudrace.com

Wednesday 7th January

Maldon Film Club. '2 Days in Paris' Maldon Town Hall. 8pm.
Enquiries: 01621 788233 www.maldonfilmclub.info

Saturday 17th January

Film: 'Peak Oil – Imposed by Nature'. Maldon Town Hall. 3pm. Part of the
'Transition Maldon' season of films and talks to raise awareness of the twin
challenges of Peak Oil and Climate Change. To be followed by an open space
event. Donations of £2 welcome. Enquiries: 07726 869772 www.transitiontowns.org

Fridays 23rd & 30th January, Saturdays 24th & 31st January.

Maldon Pantomime. 'The Wizard of Oz' 7.30pm Friday. 2.30pm & 7.30pm
Saturday. Tickets available from Tourist Information Centre (from 4th December)
01621 856503. secretary@mapspanto.org.uk or www.mapspanto.org.uk.
Enquiries: Roy Williamson 01621 892498

Guinness Independence at Home Gardening Scheme

The organisation offers a Gardening Scheme to assist elderly and/or disabled
residents of the Maldon district. The Agency uses volunteers to carry out small
gardening jobs. For more information on the scheme please contact Tracey
Howard on 01245 39212

NATIONAL OFFICE

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

Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, 9th January

Strollers

Instead of a walk on Sunday 18th
January, there will be a coffee morning
at 8 Beeches Road, Heybridge to discuss
our plans for the coming year.
Please let me know if you are able to
come/ unable to come but willing to lead
a walk.
Gill Stone - 01621 853948

Swimming

Our 2009 dates for the start of next year
at the Blackwater Leisure Centre
9.00-9.45 am (pay on entry)

Please confirm you will be attending—
preferably the evening before, to the
following numbers

Jan. 7, 14, Feb. 4

Marion Gaywood on 01621 852742

Feb. 18, Mar. 4, 18

Gill Rowsell on 01621 740619

Tai Chi

Due to the illness of the instructor we
have had to suspend the start of Tai Chi
Classes.

If you are interested in joining a class,
give Sue Oram a ring on 01621 856899
who can give you more information.

Clock Repairs

Wed. Jan.21st
Meet at my house 10.00am
Stan Clements

Wine Group

We shall not be meeting during January
and February of 2009.

Our next meeting will be on
Wednesday 4th March 2009 at 5
Henney Close, Cold Norton. If any
members of the group would like to
meet at 2 pm we can have a discussion
as to whether we would like to continue
as a group, or if it is time to put the
corkscrew back in the drawer, the
glasses back on the shelf.....
I think you get the idea!

We have been going for 5 years, and
during that time we have had lots of
fun, learnt even more, and had some
great outings Oh, and drunk some
super wines!

Some groups have a natural lifetime,
others can just slightly change direction
and come at the subject afresh.

We shall see what category we shall
come into.!
Zandra

Petanque

We have decided to have a break until
the spring, see you then.
Barbara Arnold

Bird Watching

Jan 4th 09
Beeleigh and canal walk
Meet at Tesco Maldon car park
10.00am

Environmental Group

Three people attended what was to have been a meeting to decide on this group's future, so it will be of no surprise when it is stated that it has obviously run its course.

I am sure that the twenty or so people who met monthly gained a great deal of knowledge concerning this serious issue of today and will now be thinking hard about the many issues which were raised.

It was good that it's members played a great part in stimulating each other to carry out greener practices!

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Some of you may like to find in the library or indeed purchase this book "Hot Flat and Crowded" by Thomas Friedman which is a most thought provoking work. True it is written with a slant on America, but he brings in the rest of the world, especially the Oil Kingdoms of the Middle East and China and, as citizens of the world his writing will hopefully make us all sit up and take notice, in particular Big Businesses and Governments.

Beryl McDonell

## ***Aviation***

We had a wonderful afternoon at the November meeting when, after a video on the 'Lancaster,' we had a talk from Sdr Ldr Ralph Tyrell on his experiences in the RAF during the war and his time flying operations in Lancaster's. A real privilege to be allowed to hear his very personal views and feelings.

Afterwards I came across the following quote from 'The Pantan Family': *However great you consider the Lancaster to be, it must be understood that it will never be as great as the men who flew it.*

In January (20th) our meeting will take the form of a visit to RAF Museum, Hendon, if you haven't booked yet there may be a couple of cancellations.

Then in February we shall have our talk by the aviation author Graham Smith on 'Aviation in Essex from 1900 to 1940' – some fascinating stories here too.

Maldon Little Ship Club at 2.0pm on Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> (note that it is a week earlier than usual due clash with the London outing). Plenty of room if you want to come along. It will not all be about the planes.

We decided that we will carry on with our usual monthly meetings (Third Tuesday afternoons) during the summer as it was felt that it is easy miss out booking for events (and there are plenty of them!) without regular contact.

David Arnold 01621 853866

Notes

### **BLACKWATER U3A**

Contact:

Dorreen Linton, Chairman

01621 853428

### **SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS U3A**

Contact

Rosemary Dorado, Chairman

01245 321102

### ***LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES -***

Times 12.15 pm

**TUESDAY 6th January at the Hurdlemakers, Woodham Mortimer**

Co-ordinator: Mike Wood Tel. 01245 222839

**WEDNESDAY 21st January at The Jack & Jenny, Witham at 12.30**

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.

## Report from the October Committee Meeting

We are still looking for a volunteer to look after the AV equipment. Additionally, we also need somewhere to store the equipment. If you can assist with this, or know of anywhere in the Maldon area where secure storage is available, please let the committee know.

Plans are being made for the Open Day to be held on 20 April next year. Further details will be published later.

Just as a reminder, if you wish to publish details in the Newsletter about an event in the area, which you think may be of interest to members, the details should be kept brief and not exceed more than two or three lines. Please note that we cannot accept any commercial advertising.

The general meeting in December will be the Christmas entertainment 'A Dickens of a Christmas', and light refreshments will be served.

### U3A Members and the OU's OpenLearn

The OU has provided over 5,000 hours of study material free on the web. All you have to do is go to the website, browse and then register to study a unit of your choice. The website address is:-

<http://www.open.ac.uk/openlearn/home.php>

The learning material is arranged in units, which take from 4 - 50 hours to study.

There are currently over 400 units, arranged in 13 topic areas, such as arts, history, business management, science and nature.

This could also be of interest to co-ordinators, as a group could agree to use the material as the basis for study and discussion.

When you register with OpenLearn, if you add the tag 'U3A member' to your list of interests on your profile, other U3A members using the OpenLearn website will be able to make contact with you.

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**January Meeting**  
**Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm**  
Speaker  
"THE HISTORY OF TELEVISION"  
Dr, Geoff Towler

## Christmas Eve

'Twas the night before Christmas when all through the house  
I searched for the tools to hand to my spouse.  
Instructions were studied and we were inspired,  
In hopes we could manage "Some Assembly Required."

The children were quiet (not asleep) in their beds,  
While Dad and I faced the evening with dread:  
A kitchen, two bikes, Barbie's town house to boot!  
And, thanks to Grandpa, a train with a toot!

We opened the boxes, my heart skipped a beat....  
Let no parts be missing or parts incomplete!  
Too late for last-minute returns or replacement;  
If we can't get it right, it goes in the basement!

When what to my worrying eyes should appear,  
But 50 sheets of directions, concise, but not clear,  
With each part numbered and every slot named,  
So if we failed, only we could be blamed.

More rapid than eagles the parts then fell out,  
All over the carpet they were scattered about.  
"Now bolt it! Now twist it! Attach it right there!  
Slide on the seats, and staple the stair!  
Hammer the shelves, and nail to the stand."  
"Honey," said hubby, "you just glued my hand."

And then in a twinkling, I knew for a fact  
That all the toy dealers had indeed made a pact  
To keep parents busy all Christmas Eve night  
With "assembly required" till morning's first light.

We spoke not a word, but kept bent at our work,  
Till our eyes, they went bleary; our fingers all hurt.  
The coffee went cold and the night, it wore thin  
Before we attached the last rod and last pin.

Then laying the tools away in the chest,  
We fell into bed for a well-deserved rest.  
But I said to my husband just before I passed out,

"This will be the best Christmas, without any doubt.  
Tomorrow we'll cheer, let the holiday ring,  
And not have to run to the store for a thing!  
We did it! We did it! The toys are all set  
For the perfect, most perfect, Christmas, I bet!"

Then off to dreamland and sweet repose I gratefully went,  
Though I suppose there's something to say for those self-deluded...  
I'd forgotten that BATTERIES are never included!

## Possibility of a new build Nuclear Power Station at Bradwell

On Wednesday evening, 26<sup>th</sup> November, Pat and I attended the last of a series of meetings that had been arranged by British Energy to inform residents in the vicinity of Bradwell-on-Sea about their preliminary planning for the possible construction of a New Build Nuclear Power Station adjacent to the current Power Station at Bradwell. The existing power station is now being decommissioned. The meeting that we attended was at Cold Norton Village Hall and although I would have assumed that the subject was a fairly important one for local residents it would appear that as is frequently seen with the British psyche, 'Apathy Ruled', as only around twenty members of the public turned up.

The presenters from British Energy appeared to give a very fair and balanced presentation about their proposals and answered all the questions from the audience reasonably fully.

They indicated that there is still a long way to go before a final decision is made as to whether there will in fact be a new power station at Bradwell although Central Government does thankfully at last seem to have accepted that nuclear is the only possible way of providing a 'core' power source in the future.

Amongst the 'imponderables' that have to be decided before any building work would start is the possible purchase of British Energy by Electricite de France (EDF). The EDF offer is being considered by British Energy shareholders at the moment and a decision should be known by the end of the year. As EDF already run 58 nuclear power station in France their involvement would seem to be the best solution to getting our own nuclear generating capacity increased. The nuclear power stations in the UK currently produce only 17% of our total power needs compared with France's 80%. The UK Government is also considering the currently available types of nuclear power station designs.

If after all the inquiries have been completed and a decision to build at Bradwell is taken, then construction would not start before 2010/12 with completion in about 5 years.

If you would like to get any further information about the New Build Programme then British Energy have a web-site at [www.british-energy.com/newbuild](http://www.british-energy.com/newbuild)

Bill Fancourt



### *How to keep Squirrels off your nuts!*

Do you have problems with cheeky squirrels stealing the nuts you have put out for the wild birds? The RSPB have suggested dusting peanuts with chilli powder to put them off. It does not affect the birds at all but the squirrels do not like the taste. You can also use curry powder, cayenne pepper or tabasco sauce. Put a small amount in a bag with the nuts or seed mix and shake it up so they are coated but not hidden in the powder.

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Free home fire risk checks for older people

Domestic fires are a big killer... and older people are more at risk than the rest of the population.

Those with health or mobility problems will be at even greater risk. Over a third of those who are injured or killed in accidental house fires in England - 1,100 in 2006 alone - are 80 or over, and the Government's Fire Kills campaign is asking our readers to consider how well protected you are, and to follow their very helpful tips.

So what can you do?

- Silver surfers can go online to www.direct.gov.uk/firekills and take a self-assessment to highlight key danger areas and build a fire safety plan relevant to their home.
- If you aren't online, you can sign up for a free Home Fire Risk Check and get all the information and reassurance on fire prevention in the home from the trusted source of your local Fire and Rescue Service.

Relatives and friends - do you have an older relative, neighbour or friend who might need some help and information on fire safety? Make sure they are safe, pop in to check out what current prevention measures they have and helping them sign up for a Home Fire Risk Check.

MARITIME GROUP 2009 – 2010 PROGRAMME

- 1. January 5th Monday** – Meeting at 10:00 am at The Little Ship Club for a “Maritime Forum” organised by Sylvia Cousins.
- 2. February 2nd Monday** – Meeting at 10:00 am at The Little Ship Club for an illustrated talk about the “Essex Police Marine Unit”. Bill Fancourt arranging.
- 3. March 2nd Monday** – Meeting at 10:00 am at The Little Club for an illustrated talk by Dr Tim Voelcker on “Admiral Saumarez at the time of Admiral Nelson”.
- 4. April 6th 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. Bill Fancourt arranging.
- 5. May 4th Monday** – Trip on the River Crouch, lasting about 4 hours. Alan Buck arranging.
- 6. May 14th Thursday** – first of two trips to Trinity House Harwich, can only take twenty people each time, lunch to be arranged, cost to be advised. Malcolm Case arranging.
- 7. June 1st Monday** – Possible trip to south of France, still under discussion but will include meeting crew member of second world war French Battleship who will give a talk on his experiences, a visit to the port of Sete including the Maritime Museum amongst several other visits to places of general interest. Malcolm Case arranging.
- 8. July 6th Monday** – trip on the River Thames from Tilbury, up river. Fred Lane arranging.
- 9. August 3rd – Monday** – trip to Wivenhoe Barrier and The Nottage Institute. John Robson arranging.
- 10. September 11th to 13th** – trip to south coast, Poole/RNLI/Bournemouth/Trip on “Waverly”. Malcolm Case arranging.
- 11. October 5th Monday** – Meeting at 10:00 am at The Little Ship for an illustrated talk by Tony Cuthbert on the “Cunard Liners”.
- 12. October 15th Thursday** – second trip to Trinity House Harwich, can only take twenty people, lunch to be arranged, cost to be advised. Malcolm Case arranging.
- 13. November 2nd Monday** – Meeting at 10:00 am at The Little Ship Club to discuss the programme for 2010.
- 14. December 7th Monday** – Meeting at 11:00 am at The little Ship Club, short Maritime DVD followed by Christmas Buffet.

2010

- 1. January 4th 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

Fri. 9 Jan	Ceilidh –Social
Tues. 20 Jan	RAF Museum, Hendon—Aviation
Sat. 24 Jan.	Theatre “Nanjing Kunqu Opera” Mercury, Colchester
Mon. 2 February	Film Show "Bombs at Teatime" -Social
Tue 17 Feb	Visit to St. Pauls Cathedral - S. Epps
Fri. 20 Mar.	Social Evening with a difference -Social
Wed. 25 Mar.	Visit to Apsley Hse & Geffrye Museum — Local History
Fri. 24 Apr.	St George's Day celebration — 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
Mon. 22 June	Visit to Dedham & Sir Alfred Munnings museum –L. History
Mon. 28 Sept	Visit to Copped Hall & Waltham Abbey—Local History

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

Direct Debit

I am resolved to continue paying my BT bill by cheque. The bill just received, has an ancillary charge:

Payment Processing Fee...£4.50 (for processing my payment)

Unless I am hurled into a debtors jail, I shall adopt a retaliatory measure. Pay for the genuine services using one cheque, a second for £4.50. The reasoning being, if it cost BT £4.50 to process one cheque, it will cost BT £9.00 to process two.

Thus I will make a profit of £4.50 every time I pay up. I owe this inspiration to my apprenticeship when accounting for ENRON. I could solve the global economic crisis (For a fee of £4.50...)

Iain Nairne

Christmas Bubble and Squeak-style Burgers

with poached egg and cranberry relish

Serves 2

Preparation time less than 30 mins Cooking time 10 to 30 mins

Ingredients

For the burgers

100g/3½oz turkey slices	100g/3½oz cooked Brussels sprouts
1 free-range egg, beaten	salt and freshly ground black pepper
50g/1½oz plain flour	25g/1oz unsalted butter
1 tbsp olive oil	

For the relish

25g/1oz butter	1 tbsp olive oil
100g/3½oz cranberries	2 tbsp brown sugar
½ orange, juice and zest	

For the poached egg

1 tbsp white wine vinegar	2 free-range eggs
salt and freshly ground black pepper	

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4.
2. For the burgers, place the turkey, Brussels sprouts and egg into the bowl of a food processor and blend to combine.
3. Season well with salt and freshly ground black pepper.
4. Dust a little flour onto your hands and shape the mixture into four patties. Add more flour to your hands if necessary.
5. Heat the butter and oil in a frying pan over a medium heat.
6. Add the burgers to the pan and fry for one minute on each side.
7. Place the burgers onto a baking sheet, transfer to the oven and bake for about five minutes, or until cooked through.
8. For the relish, place all the relish ingredients into a small frying pan and cook gently for about eight minutes, until the cranberries have softened.
9. For the poached eggs, add the vinegar to a small frying pan filled with simmering salted water.
10. Crack the eggs, one at time, carefully into the pan 11. Place a lid on the pan and cook for two minutes, or until cooked to your liking.
12. Remove the eggs with a slotted spoon and drain on kitchen paper.
13. Serve two burgers on each plate with a poached egg and a drizzle of the relish around each serving.

The address in my consciousness at this time of year flows from the two heartlands in my life: one from my origins in Brooklyn with a US zip code of 11203 and the other my home for the last 31 years, Great Totham, CM9 8NX. As an amalgam of both cultures I am often asked how to compare the celebrations of Xmas from one country to another. From experience, I believe there is no way that America can compete with the UK when it comes to Xmas festivities.

The American November Thanksgiving weekend is a unique family celebration of turkey and trimmings in a nearly 400 year old re-enactment of the English Pilgrim immigrant's survival of their first winter. Native American 11 kilo wild turkeys, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes and pumpkin were foods eaten by Native American Indians in their north-eastern habitat and shared in this first harvest meal. This menu is not usually repeated less than a month later for Xmas. Instead, roast beef, ham or pork, are likely choices.

Christmas in the US is a very short holiday; no Boxing Day and the country does not shut down production. It is right back to work and on Xmas Eve most stores will be shut by afternoon (although public transport does not cease on Xmas Day itself). For those of faith, there is an abiding sense of religious significance. It seems fewer gifts are exchanged (although some may be of higher value).

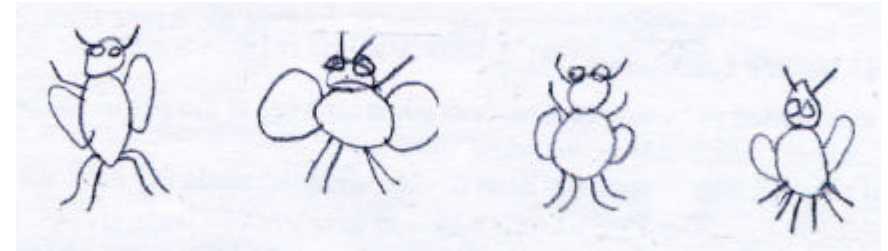
In no way does a US Xmas come close to the celebrations experienced here. I am still filled with a sense of enormous nostalgia at my first UK Xmas and Boxing Day in 1972; dinner ran into high tea, games and pleasantries went on for hours and then it all started up again the next day..... continuing throughout the week with festivities, for what seemed an interminable period away from work, until the New Year rolled in and by which time I had expanded into the shape of a turkey.

My new found Golden Years are pleasantly tempered with contentment. Clearly I love both countries. Yet soon I will pick garden fresh holly and sprouts and festoon lights through my tree, making no contest between 11203 and CM9 8NX and staking my claim for Yuletide here in Maldon for 2008 and for many more to follow. Happy Xmas, Good Health and Peace to Maldon and District U3A!

Myra S. Houlding-
Writing for Fun

Further uses of WD40

- 19) Bug guts will eat away the finish on your car if not removed quickly!
 - 20) Gives a children's play gym slide a shine for a super fast slide.
 - 21) Lubricates gear shift and mower deck lever for ease of handling on riding mowers.
 - 22) Rids kids rocking chairs and swings of squeaky noises.
 - 23) Lubricates tracks in sticking home windows and makes them easier to open.
 - 24) Spraying an umbrella stem makes it easier to open and close.
 - 25) Restores and cleans padded leather dashboards in vehicles, as well as vinyl bumpers.
 - 26) Restores and cleans roof racks on vehicles..
 - 27) Lubricates and stops squeaks in electric fans.
 - 28) Lubricates wheel sprockets on tricycles, wagons, and bicycles for easy handling.
 - 29) Lubricates fan belts on washers and dryers and keeps them running smoothly.
 - 30) Keeps rust from forming on saws and saw blades, and other tools.
 - 31) Removes splattered grease on stove.
 - 32) Keeps bathroom mirror from fogging.
 - 33) Lubricates prosthetic limbs.
 - 34) Keeps pigeons off the balcony (they hate the smell).
 - 35) Removes all traces of duct tape.
 - 36) Folks even spray it on their arms, hands, and knees to relieve arthritis pain.
 - 37) Florida's favourite use is: 'cleans and removes love bugs from grills and bumpers.'
 - 38) The favourite use in the state of New York WD-40 protects the Statue of Liberty from the elements.
 - 39) WD-40 attracts fish. Spray a LITTLE on live bait or lures and you will be catching the big one in no time. Also, it's a lot cheaper than the chemical attractants that are made for just that purpose. Keep in mind though, using some chemical laced baits or lures for fishing are not allowed in some states
 - 40) Use it for bites. It takes the sting away immediately and stops the itch.
 - 41) WD-40 is great for removing crayon from walls. Spray on the mark and wipe with a clean rag.
 - 42) Also, if you've discovered that your teenage daughter has washed and dried a tube of lipstick with a load of laundry, saturate the lipstick spots with WD-40 and re-wash. Presto! Lipstick is gone!
 - 43) If you sprayed WD-40 on the distributor cap, it would displace the moisture and allow the car to start.
- PS. The basic ingredient is FISH OIL.



They came in all shapes and sizes!!

Beetle Drive

When I arrived at Langford Village hall on Saturday 29th November there was a buzz of excitement. It meant one thing, the Annual Beetle Drive was about to begin. Was the chatter from reading the instructions or keeping up with news from their friends? After a brief introduction by Alan and Dorothy, Bernard blew the whistle. The chatter changed to one, four, two, head, eye, body etc. until whoop "BEETLE" What excitement.

After twelve games we had a cup of tea or coffee and a slice (or two) of home made cake, then quickly back to business. Twelve more beetles were being drawn in various shapes and sizes. Eventually the last one was designed, but who was the winner? Mary Burd had left the country! Bill Fancourt was the winner with a handsome score. Daphne Swanson, Masie Randall and Liz Robson were the fortunate winners of the raffle. Although outside was wet and cold, inside was warm and enjoyable.

Those who did not attend missed a really entertaining evening. Our thanks go to those who arranged such a fun night.

Valerie Lyndon.

We are never too old to learn.

WHO KNEW THIS

I have been driving for over 50 years. I would think I should have noticed the little secret on my dashboard that was staring me in the face the whole time...I didn't...and I bet you didn't either...

Have you ever rented or borrowed a car and when arriving at the petrol station wondered...mmm, which side is the petrol filler cap?

My normal solution was to stick my head out the window, strain my neck and look, try to see in the side mirrors or even get out of the car!!

Well ladies and gentlemen, I'm going to share with you my little secret so you will no longer look like Ace Ventura on your way to the Petrol station or put your neck at risk of injury.

If you look at your petrol gauge, you will see a small icon of a petrol pump? The handle of the petrol pump will extend out on either the left or right side of the petrol pump?

If your tank is on the left, the handle will be on the left? If your tank is on the right, the handle will be on the right It is that simple!



C E I L I D H

at

THE SAVILLE SUITE

Maldon Football Club

Friday, 9 January 2009

7.30 p.m. (Doors open 6.45)

**Please bring a plate of "finger food" to share
(No soup!)**

**Bring savoury dishes only- the Social Committee will
provide dessert**

No bottles this time – there is a Bar

TICKETS: £7.00

Tickets available from Janet Buck , .

Social News

May I remind you that at future events tickets will be checked more strictly than they have been in the past. This is to ensure that we know exactly who is present at a function in accordance with Health and Safety legislation. We ask you to bear with us while we devise the most efficient system with minimum inconvenience to you all.

At the Christmas meeting the boxes will be available for you to reserve your tickets for the Ceilidh (£7), if you have not already done so, and for our February entertainment. This will take the form of an afternoon film show at the Town Hall on **Monday February,2** beginning at 2.00 o'clock. "Bombs at Tea time" is a programme of short public information films from the 1940s - nostalgic, interesting, quite touching and at times hilarious. We are sure that you will have lots to talk about afterwards and so there will be tea and cakes for everyone before you go home. And all this for just £2!

The Christmas entertainment this year is a little different. For several years the Cameo Players have performed at Hylands House before Christmas with a programme of seasonal readings and music and we have invited them to bring a little of the Christmas spirit to us with " A Dickens of a Christmas". We hope you enjoy the afternoon, and the Social Committee wish you all a very happy Christmas.

dd



Social Event

"Bombs at Teatime"

Town Hall

Monday February 2

beginning at 2.00 o'clock

Tea and cakes



Price £2

Tickets available from Janet Buck , or pay at January Monday meeting.

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Please reserve me.....Ticket(s) @ £2 each

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

Name of Member(s).....

PhoneNo.....