

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 Maritime Lunch Petanque 2 pm	2 Table Tennis Snooker Reading Maldon Film Club	3 Ten Pin Bowling Spanish Swimming	4 Petanque 10 am Continuing French	5 Mah Jong	6	7
8 Handicrafts Petanque 2 pm Table Tennis German Whist	9 Table Tennis Snooker	10 Ten Pin Bowling Spanish Painting Bridge	11 Scottish Dancing Petanque 10 am French Conversation Reading Essex Rivers	12 Canasta Sing for Pleasure	13	14
15 Meeting 1.30 pm	16 Table Tennis Snooker	17 Ten Pin Bowling Spanish Swimming Clock Repairs	18 Petanque 10 am	19 Mah Jong	20	21 Strollers Heybridge Basin
22 Petanque 2 pm	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 BOXING DAY	27	28
29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE Ten Pin Bowling				

I have guessed the December calendar entries this month, and I would advise you to check with your co-ordinator as to the date of your next meeting.

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



The University of the Third Age

MALDON AND DISTRICT



Jazz Night
The Hugh Rainey Jazz Band
Saturday 8th November

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NOVEMBER 2008

VOLUME VIII NO. 6

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

Web Site: www.maldon3a.co.uk

FROM THE CHAIR



The National Office quite often refers to the fact that one of the central aims of the U3A is to promote learning and, if you have read the latest U3A News, there are always articles promoting this view.

I have, over the last six weeks or so, been unable to attend many group activities and have noticed that I soon got out of touch with what was happening locally and national.

On reflection I realised that at nearly every group meeting there is always some kind of topical conversation with reference to local, national or world events between any number of people and it is by listening or joining in that helps to keep me abreast of current affairs. Once again it seems that whatever the group or social activity we choose to attend we are learning all the time..

Alan Buck
Email: alan-buck@talktalk.net

Maritime

Our **December** meeting will be in the Maldon Little Ship Club on **Monday 1st starting at 11.00 am**, there will be a short Maritime themed DVD followed by our annual Christmas Buffet

Malcolm Case

Local History

Our final meeting of the year is on November 24th 1.30 pm at The Maldon Little Ship Club. Our talk is on Essex Workhouses by John Drury. All members are welcome.

Our programme for 2009 is displayed elsewhere in the newsletter.

Mary Burd

Ten Pin Bowling

After six successful years and meeting almost every Wednesday morning we have had over 300 meetings and as about thirty to forty of us take part every week and play about three games each, ten 'frames' in each - well that is an awful lot of 'bowling' (you can do the sums!). But as all those who come along know that the actual bowling is just an excuse really to get out, have some fun, meet a lot of nice people and have a little exercise. The scores are not important - there are no teams, leagues or tables!

On **Wednesday December 17th** we are having a **special party day** so put this date in you diary - you **must** come - we are hoping to break our attendance record of 54!

There will no organised meeting on Christmas Eve but there will be lanes booked if you want to come down. New Years Eve - back to normal(?). Interested in joining us - any Wednesday- just ring David Arnold on 01621 853866 for all the details.

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 John Almond	01621 853893 Ex. Dir.	Poetry	Jo Robson	01621 828236
Newsletter Editor	Jan Robertson	01245 225657	Reading 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
Environmental Studies	Fred Lane Bill Fancourt	01621 816181 01245 225569	Ten Pin Bowling	David Arnold	01621 853866
Essex Rivers	Beryl McDonell	01621 842093	Tai Chi	Susan Oram	01621 856899
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			
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

Report from the October Committee Meeting

We are still looking for a volunteer to help with the AV equipment. If you are able to assist with this, please contact John Robson or Paul Costa.

We have a new website, as we had exceeded space allocation on the old one. The new address is: www.maldonu3a.co.uk. We hope members will use the site, as it contains a lot of information about the activities, past and present, of the group.

It was reported that the new members enjoyed the coffee morning that was held recently, and that the area quiz was well attended.

Plans are in progress to hold another Open Day next year.

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**Maldon Victorian Evening**      Thursdays, 4th and 11th December  
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Free Junk Swap - Saturday 29th November

Maldon Baptist Church Hall. 10 am – 12 noon. Bring along unwanted items; books crockery, tools, music, toys, kitchenware and look at 'treasures' brought by other people and take home whatever you want. Special collection of old mobile phones, spectacles, computers and ink cartridges for charity.
Enquiries: Jo Stark 01245 358951

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

Deadline for next newsletter: **Friday, 5th December**

Strollers

The Strollers will meet at Daisy Meadow Car Park, Heybridge Basin on Sunday 21st December at 10.30 am for a 3 mile walk. All are very welcome and you will enjoy a gentle walk by the river away from the pre-Christmas rush! There is a selection of eating places at Heybridge Basin should you wish to eat after the walk.

Contact – Colin Beckett 01245 222163 for further details.

Ballroom Dancing

Just to confirm that Ballroom Dancing will run on the following dates : 13th, 20th & 27th November. There will be no class on the 6th November.

We will not be meeting in December, but hope to start up again on the Thursday 8th January, 2009.

I would say to all our group - Keep watching Strictly Dancing, Learn and practice and KEEP DANCING!
Jo

Astronomy

October's meeting was very successful, members joining in a discussion about the wonderfully named particles that may or may not be in the Hadron Accelerator.

Unfortunately Allan Bell cannot come for November 24 meeting, so we are going back to basics, showing how to use a "Planesphere" and about the constellations. We hope to see Allan in February.
Molly Tring

Aviation Group

Our programme will be a mixture of talks and 'films' during the winter and visits to museums and Air displays next summer.

There will be no meeting in December.

On January 20th, a visit to the **RAF Museum, Hendon.**

A repeat visit (by popular demand) to this well laid out and interesting exhibition. The cost will be virtually 'coach only' as it is free entry - so only £8 each. Leaving Maldon at 9 am. This is open to all members of the U3A, so why not come? Book Now! (David Arnold on 01621 853866)

In February we are changing the date of our meeting to avoid a 'clash' of dates with the London – St Pauls trip. Ours will now be on the second Tuesday afternoon 10th - 2 pm at the Maldon Little Ship Club, when there will be a talk etc.

Singles Dining

Having started the very successful Singles Dining Group some year ago, Ray White has decided to retire and Sue Oram has kindly agreed to be the new co-ordinator.

Family History

Our next meeting will be on Wed, 26th November at 2.30 pm
Please bring your queries, researches and personal histories.
Frank Stokes

Music from the 50's.

I'm sure you will have a great number of letters re: Ray Speller, but I'd like to add mine, I had heard and seen him about a year ago, but no matter because he was as refreshingly funny and informative as ever. It was great fun listening to so many Old Favourites -I drove home happily humming and singing some of The Oldies. By one of those coincidences that frequently happen, the very next day dropped through my letterbox was a Music catalogue and inside -tantalising offers of Music of the 50's, Music of the 60's, Music of the 70's. Did I succumb to temptation? Yes I did, for, like Oscar Wilde, "I can resist anything except temptation." Thank you to whoever arranged for Ray Spiller to entertain us so thoroughly.

Patricia Willis

Although I have not received any more emails, everyone I have spoken to since the meeting said what a really enjoyable afternoon and brought back so many memories. Thank you Pat for finding Ray.

By chance I found the following information on the Mature Times website www.maturetimes.co.uk—Jan

It's time to tune in again to the Fabulous 50s Radio Show, which only plays records released between 1950 and 1959 - and has even been picked up as far away as Alaska.

The Forest FM community radio station, is the brainchild of Paul Peters and Geoff Kemp, both from the New Forest, where they own and run an old "Grace Brothers" style department store.

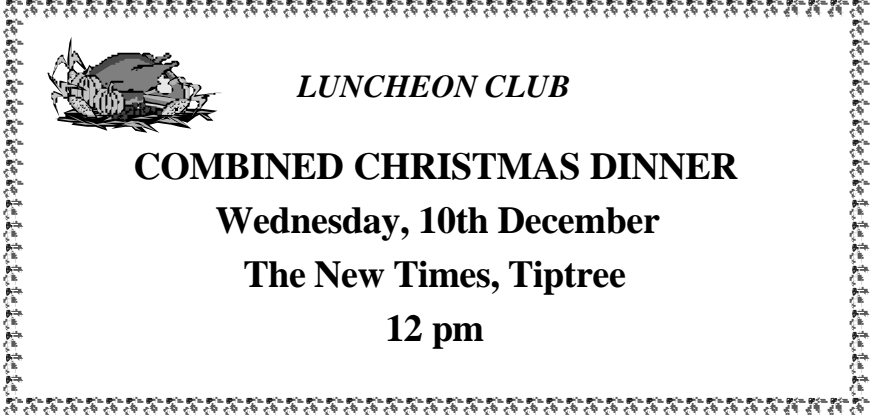
The Fabulous 50s Radio Show is broadcast every Wednesday from 10 pm-midnight, and again on Sunday from 2 pm to 3 pm on Forest FM, 92.3. It is also available as a podcast from "American Oldies" station KFMJ .

And if you've got a request or a song you haven't heard for years, then try the "lost record spot" and write in. Paul and Geoff are happy to help.
Email: fab50.radio@yahoo.com or write to: Forest FM, Unit 2, Enterprise Park, Verwood, Dorset, BH31 6YS.

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### **Visit to st Paul's Cathedral**

Will all those who have signed up to this visit on February 17th 2009 please send their cheque for £13.50 payable to Maldon U3A to Sheila Epps,



***LUNCHEON CLUB***

**COMBINED CHRISTMAS DINNER**

**Wednesday, 10th December**

**The New Times, Tiptree**

**12 pm**

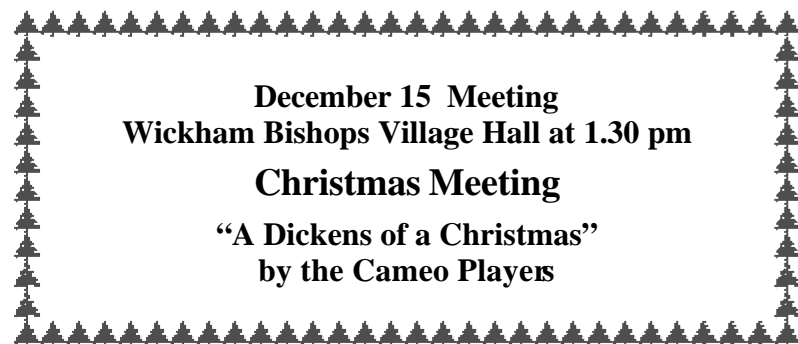
## Free download "tasters" of new novels

For six months the publishing giant, Penguin, has been trialing PDF 'taster' downloads of books - allowing readers to browse the opening pages of each book as a sample. As of March 17th 2008 they will have over fifty titles available online, and will continue to upload the first chapters of every single new fiction title each month.

The PDFs work on iPhones, Palms and Blackberrys, or can be read on your computer screen or printed off. It's an ideal way to discover new authors quickly, easily - and for absolutely nothing

And the 'tasters' aren't just the first few pages of the books, or extracts arbitrarily chosen from the 'best bits'. Penguin include full prologues, the entire opening chapter, and in many cases several chapters, thereby allowing the reader to decide for themselves whether this is the book they want.

"The addition of Penguin Tasters to [www.penguin.co.uk](http://www.penguin.co.uk) is in line with our existing online marketing mission, and will allow those readers to get a preview of the books they've been waiting for as well as encouraging them to try something new."



## Fireworks

Bonfire Night isn't like it used to be, I suppose that's a sign of growing older – but don't worry, I'm not going to ramble on about eating chips out of newspaper or how many Woodbines you could buy for a tanner – but when I was young, Bonfire Night was ... well, it was more fun!

We kids would loiter impatiently around the house at a loose end while it gradually grew dark, then a mad rush upstairs for pole position by the back bedroom window; there we'd watch for an hour or more as the neighbours two doors down and others at the back gathered in their gardens and set off their fireworks. The horizon would be lit up by rockets and the occasional colourful burst of Roman Candle fire and everywhere would get very smoky indeed. When we had enjoyed their fireworks and it had all begun to die down, it was time for our own.

The local sweet shop sold boxes of Brocks fireworks, which were always called 'BUMPER' or 'MONSTER' in great big red fiery letters and had exciting pictures of massive colourful pyrotechnics to entice you to part with your 7s.6d. This you could always top up with a few penny bangers, some Jumping Jacks, to annoy your big sister, and the obligatory packet of sparklers.

Dad always allowed us a small bonfire provided it was kept to a patch of garden far enough away from the apple tree and the fence so that the Fire Brigade would not be inconvenienced. When that was finally alight, a milk bottle was placed in the centre of the lawn, a rocket was gingerly placed in it, the blue touch paper was lit and we retired to a safe distance, just as the instructions required.

Despite how many other fireworks you had seen earlier, the sight of your own first rocket surging skywards was magical. Ok, so it didn't clear the rooftops by that much, there was no explosion at the top and no ball of bright colour, but that didn't matter, it was our very own! This was followed closely by something claiming to be Mount Vesuvius, but, in fact, had that really been the case, Pompeii would probably still be intact today; the jet of silver fire a couple of feet high lasting for about ten seconds was hardly cutting edge, but it was great. Then there was Golden Rain, Silver Rain, Star Burst, Aerial Bomb and other similar misnomers. Invariably, one of the fireworks would fizzle out just before it went off and someone brave (for 'brave', read 'stupid'!) would crawl up to it with a large kitchen match to poke inside to try and persuade it to catch. (I still have all my fingers to this day, more by luck than judgement!)

The Catherine Wheels always seemed to be a bit of a disappointment, the nail hammered into the fence was never quite level and a handy stick was always needed to prod it until it spun wildly for a couple of seconds before dangling again, spurting the last of its fire down the fence. Then Jumping Jacks leaping unpredictably around the garden, while big sister waved a sparkler about, trying to spell her name in the air. The entire 'BUMPER' box would last us about fifteen minutes, then it was back inside to warm up with a mug of cocoa in front of the fire.

Since then, I have seen countless organised displays, the biggest, most colourful and certainly the loudest fireworks you could ever wish for; and Health and Safety conscious all the way. But, spectacular as they are, there is something missing, something personal; I think they used to be more fun ... and yes, for a small urchin of a boy, the added delicious hint of danger!

Pete Norman – Writing for fun

**MALDON U3A  
LOCAL & GENERAL HISTORY GROUP MEETINGS 2009**

| <i>Date Information</i> | <i>Subject</i>                                                          | <i>Speaker/Additional</i>                                 |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Mon.</b> 26 Jan      | Chelmsford - A stroll thru time"                                        | MLSC Peter Turrall                                        |
| <b>Mon.</b> 23 Feb      | "Stand by your beds"                                                    | MLSC Roy Walters                                          |
| <b>Wed</b> 25 Mar       | Visit to Apsley House and Geffrye Museum                                | Cost £23.00<br>Pick up 9.00 am                            |
| <b>Mon</b> 27 Apr       | "The Tudors at New Hall"                                                | MLSC Tony Tuckwell                                        |
| <b>Tues</b> 26 May      | Visit to New Hall School Chelmsford with Tony Tuckwell                  | Car share<br>Meet 2.00 at New Hall                        |
| <b>Mon</b> 22 June      | Visit to Dedham and Sir Alfred Munnings Museum<br>Leave Maldon 10.00 am | Cost £3 +<br>Car Share<br>Meet 1.45 pm at<br>Castle House |
| <b>Mon</b> 27 July      | Women and Family in Medieval Essex"                                     | MLSC<br>Dr Jennifer Ward                                  |
| August                  | No Meeting                                                              |                                                           |
| <b>Mon</b> 28 Sept      | Visit to Copped Hall and Waltham Abbey                                  | Cost £24<br>Pick up 9.00 am                               |
| <b>Mon</b> 26 Oct       | "Maldon through the Lens"                                               | MLSC Stephen Nunn                                         |
| <b>Mon</b> 23 Nov       | "The Diary of a Poor Suffolk Woodman"                                   | MLSC Pip Wright                                           |
| Dec                     | No Meeting                                                              |                                                           |

Note: All meetings will be held in The Maldon Little Ship Club.  
Commencing at 2.00 pm. Price £1.50. All U3A members welcome.

For coach trips the price includes coach, entrance fee and driver gratuity.  
Pick up points West Maldon Community Centre and Danbury to be confirmed.

Further information from Mary Burd 01621 843020 email: maryburd@tiscali.co.uk  
and Alfred Couldrey 01245 226259

## Royal Mint commemorates 90th anniversary WWI

The Royal Mint has unveiled a series of 18 silver proof coins to commemorate 90 years since the end of the First World War on November 11th 1918. The timing of the collection is in recognition of the fact that this year's 90th anniversary is likely to be the last major anniversary to be witnessed by those who actually fought during this time.

The specially designed full set tells a complete story of the war, from tragic loss and heroic fighting to the final victory by the Allies. And the collection is united by the outline that frames each design - the poppy. Dave Knight, Director of Royal Mint Marketing said: 'We believe we have created a collection of exceptionally special coins to remember and honour the great courage our ancestors showed during the war effort. We are very proud of them and hope our customers will be as honoured to own them as we were to design them.'

Each coin can be bought gradually to complete the collection over time, and each set has a strict issue limit of 5,000 with an individual coin limit of 10,000. The first coin in the series is available at a special price of £22.50 and is accompanied by a replica Memorabilia Gift Pack. The sixth coin comes with a presentation case, while the twelfth coin is accompanied by 'An Officer's Manual of the Western Front 1914-1918'.

Every coin is accompanied by a unique Storycard which features information about the design inspiration and the historical background to the coin series.  
[www.royalmint.com](http://www.royalmint.com) or call 0845 60 88 222

NATIONAL ARMED FORCES MEMORIAL, Lichfield, Staffs  
NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

I am sure that a number of you will have heard of this memorial that was inaugurated by HM The Queen during 2007. The site itself occupies a large area that includes 130 memorials of all sizes for many different Army regiments, sections of the RAF, Navy and many civilian organisations as well as the huge central memorial consisting of a number of semi-circular walls on which are inscribed the names of every British serviceman and woman who has died in service since 1945. There is also a Far East Prisoner of War Memorial Building.

Because of the physical size of the memorial there is a small land train that you can ride on (£2 per head) to give you a very good guided tour of a large part of the site but if you want to read the inscriptions on the memorials you will need to go round by foot. Many of the memorials have been surrounded by newly planted trees, over 50,000 in total.

To see the site fully you should allow at least three hours. There is an excellent self service restaurant on site with a good selection of sandwiches and cooked meals. There is also a shop with books etc about the memorial and the various military units who are featured on the site.

The staff are very helpful and if you are looking for the name of a relative on the memorial wall they have a computerised database to help you. There is no charge for entry but they do ask for donations for parking to help them improve the surface of the car park.

The memorial lies just off of the A38 near the town of Lichfield in Staffordshire and is thus quite a long drive from the Maldon and Chelmsford area but the journey is well worth the effort and will be a moving experience for anyone who has served in the armed forces or who has a relative who has served.

They have a good web site at [www.thenma.org.uk](http://www.thenma.org.uk)  
Bill Fancourt

## 2008/9 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

List of Events and Outings during the year.

|                 |                                                          |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Sat. 29 Nov.    | Beetle Drive                                             |
| Wed. 10 Dec     | Combined Xmas Luncheon Club Lunch                        |
| Wed 27 Dec      | Ten Pin Bowling Party                                    |
| Fri. 9 Jan      | Ceilidh –Social                                          |
| Tues. 20 Jan    | RAF Museum, Hendon—Aviation                              |
| Sat. 24 Jan.    | Theatre “Nanjing Kunqu Opera” Mercury, Colchester        |
| Tue 17 Feb      | Visit to St. Pauls Cathedral - S. Epps                   |
| Mon. 2 February | Film Show "Bombs at Teatime" -Social                     |
| 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.

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Blackwater U3A events

St Andrews Night on Friday 28th November at West Maldon Community Centre 7.30 - 10.30 p.m. £7 including supper of homemade soup and french bread and delicious desserts. Tickets from Dorreen Linton 853428. Cheques payable to Blackwater U3A No 2 A/c. There are 14 tickets available.

History Event on Tuesday 13th January - Talk on Tudors in Essex at United Reform Schoolroom, Market Hill 2 - 4 p.m. £2.50p
Please ring Dorreen Linton on 853428 if interested

Tuesday 10th February - History of the Bradwell area, St Peter's Chapel and the Roman Fort of Othena at United Reform Schoolroom, Market Hill 2 - 4 p.m. £2.50p
Please ring Dorreen Linton 853428 if interested

Blackwater U3A Line Dancing

Line dancing - Wednesdays except the first - 1.30 p.m. to 2.30 p.m.
West Maldon Community Centre.

At the time of going to press there is nothing to report on the Jazz Night but I have every confidence that it was a great evening. If you have not already bought your ticket for the Beetle Drive, do so without delay: it is always great fun, and there is the added excitement this year as to whether Mary Burd, who won it last year and the year before, will go for her hat trick! As usual, there will be no sale of tickets at the Christmas meeting, so if you want to join us for the Ceilidh on 9th January now is the time to reserve your place. It is always an exhilarating evening. Our caller, Sue, will take you through the steps so there is no need to be an expert in Scottish dancing. Come and cheer yourselves up in the doldrums after the Christmas festivities.

Talking of Christmas, there will be mulled wine, non-alcoholic punch and mincepies galore at our meeting on 15 December. Afterwards we shall be entertained by the Cameo Players presenting "A Dickens of a Christmas". Not to be missed!

DD



BEETLE DRIVE



LANGFORD VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER

29th.

DOORS OPEN at 6.30 pm START AT 7

pm.

TICKETS £3.00 PER PERSON.

Tea, coffee and light refreshments will be served

THEATRE VISIT

Mercury Theatre, Colchester

SATURDAY 24th JANUARY 2009

7.30 pm

NANJING KUNQU OPERA

Tickets £8.50.

Essex County Council is sponsoring a unique cultural festival to mark a continuing and successful twenty year partnership with Jiangsu Province in China. Hundreds of events are taking place throughout Essex between July 2008 and March 2009.

To celebrate the Chinese New Year, the Mercury Theatre is presenting Nanjing Kunqu Opera who will perform three scenes from a popular opera – a comedy, a romance and a military scene – to a soundtrack of traditional music. With simultaneous translations in both Chinese and English, each scene is clearly introduced to create an immensely entertaining and completely understandable and accessible performance for everyone.

Kunqu Opera is one of the oldest forms of opera still existing in China with origins dating back to the thirteenth century and some of you may recall the opening ceremony of this year's Olympic Games when the style was included in some of the scenes.

Because Christmas falls when we would normally make a booking for this date and the theatre expects there will be a high demand for tickets, reservations are having to be made early. Accordingly, if you would like to attend, please sign the list at the meeting or telephone Enid on 01621 891618. Please note Enid will probably not be at home during the first week in December so please leave a message.

Cheques payable to Maldon and District U3A should be sent to Enid Hall, as soon as a possible please, and no later than **Monday 9 December.**



Jazz Concert:

On Friday 8th November, arriving midst fireworks celebrations throughout Maldon, a surprising number of music lovers came into the peaceful sanctum of the Town Hall. After being greeted by members of the social committee we took our seats at candlelit tables and prepared ourselves for the rising of the curtains, and Malcolm's introduction to the Hugh Rainey Jazz Band.

The gents on stage sparkled in their red satin waistcoats and multi-striped ties, filling the hall with the sounds of brass, keyboard, tympani and strings. The special guest, John Crocker who had played with the Chris Barber band for 34 years, played clarinet and tenor sax with such alacrity we thought he would fall off his chair. The whole eight-piece band played their various instruments with such enthusiasm it gave us all the feeling they too were enjoying themselves.

There were tunes from Humphrey Littleton, the Duke, Benny Goodman and Louis Jordan; from struts to marches, the Jersey bounce, swinging blues and Louis Armstrong's ballads like 'Give me a kiss to build a dream on' and Duke Ellington's Creole love call.

Names like Hindustan, Copenhagen and Caledonia coursed through the evening of traditional New Orleans jazz, and Dave on keyboard gave us a brilliant performance of Fats Waller's 'Honeysuckle Rose' with the rest of the band joining in for 'Your feet's too big' and 'The Royal Garden blues'.

A lesson I learned was that it all happened in the Storeyville Red Light district until they closed them down on account of there being a health risk to the sailors, and where did they go? Why New Orleans, the tunes Farewell to Storeyville and Bourbon Street Parade part of its history.

One joyous member on her way out summed it all up with one word — FAB! Thanks to David for booking the band, and here's to the next time.

Jo Robson

MALDON & DISTRICT U3A — SOCIAL EVENT

CEILIDH

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 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.'

Tickets available from:

Janet Buck

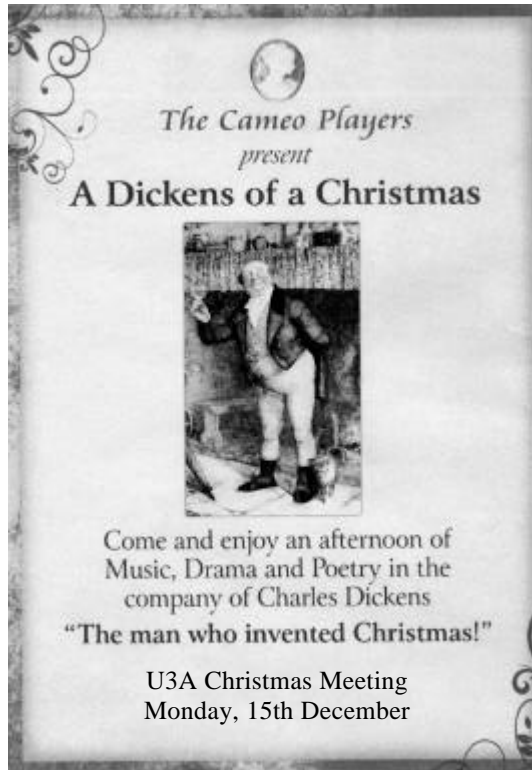
01245-227709

Enquiries:

Dorothy Denmark

01245-223960

U3A members only!



CEILIDH on 9 January 2009

Please reserve me Ticket(s) @ £7.00 each

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

Name(s) of Member(s)

Phone No.....

Another Year

Another year has passed us by
 What have we done this year and why?
 Our ping pong bats we waved with skill
 To notch up yet another kill
 For those whose skills are not yet ripe
 A starter group is just in sight
 The `Rivers Group` has come alive
 With talks and visits near and wide
 Beachcombing may not be your style
 So patient be and rest a while
 For tides recede at such a pace
 You could be in the town's `Mud Race`
 But for those whose wants are hard to please
 With `Luncheon Club` you sit at ease!
 Although this may not be your choice
 So `Sing For Pleasure` with good voice
 Budding authors in disguise
 Could maybe win the `Booker Prize`
 Aviators still at large
 But Mariners may prefer their barge
 `Family History` bear in mind
 For criminal ancestors you may find
 But for those whose distant shores desire
 A foreign language might inspire
 So rest assured third agers do
 There's still a lot that you can do
 Yours is not to reason `Why`
 Join a group and do or die

An Optimist

Ray Harman