

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1 Bird Watching	2
3 Petanque 2 pm Maritime	4 Table Tennis Snooker Luncheon Club Reading Maldon Film Club	5 Ten Pin Bowling Swimming Wine Circle	6 Petanque 10 am Discussion Continuing French Poetry	7 Mah Jong	8	9
10 Petanque 2 pm Table Tennis Handicrafts German Whist Photography	11 Table Tennis Snooker	12 Ten Pin Bowling Spanish Painting Bridge	13 Petanque 10 am French Conversation Country dancing Essex Rivers Reading	14 Canasta Sing for Pleasure	15	16 Strollers
17 Meeting 1.30 pm	18 Table Tennis Snooker Aviation Maldon Film Club	19 Ten Pin Bowling Clock Repairs Luncheon Club	20 Petanque 10 am Continuing French	21 Mah Jong	22	23
24 Petanque 2 pm Table Tennis Handicrafts German Whist Astronomy Local History	25 Table Tennis Snooker	26 Ten Pin Bowling Spanish Painting Bridge Family History	27 Petanque 10 am French Conversation Computers Country Dancing Essex Rivers Music Appreciation Writing for Fun	28 Canasta Sing for Pleasure	29	30

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

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



The University of the Third Age

MALDON AND DISTRICT



**Henry VIII, his Queen and Courtiers
welcomed their guests from the
Maritime Group to Dinner on
Monday evening, October 6 at the
Little Ship Club, Maldon**

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2008

VOLUME VIII NO. 5

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

Web Site: www.maldonu3a.co.uk

FROM THE CHAIR



Over the last few weeks we senior citizen's have seen the cost of living rising and this has once again highlighted the benefits we get from our U3A.

At this moment in time what more do you want other than spending a morning or afternoon in pleasant company doing something you like that doesn't cost you an arm or a leg?

I also wonder whether the present economic crisis could lead to a group being formed to find out more about the control Banks and Financial Institutions have on the county's cost of living and how it affects us, have we a volunteer to look into this?

The recently held new members coffee morning seemed to be appreciated by those that attended and hopefully will encourage them to join in with more activities.

Alan Buck.
Email: alan-buck@talktalk.net

U3A Maldon Website

We now have a new Web site address [www. Maldonu3a.co.uk](http://www.Maldonu3a.co.uk). This is due to the fact that we were running out of room on our previous website and this new one gives us space for including the Newsletter which can be downloaded direct.

Astronomy

We had a most interesting talk by Andy Mowbray, telling us the things that are mistaken for alien invaders, from Thai Lanterns to Venus. There were only two that were not explained by astronomers, nor the British or US military, *so there may still be something out there!*

Our next meeting **Oct 27th 7.30pm** WMCC we invite people to find out what this Hadron Collider is all about, lots of info on the net etc. Why do they want to find the Higgs' boson particle? Tony will help with some of the weird names they give other particles, but will have a separate DVD in case things get too serious! All welcome, especially our new members from other U3As.

Molly Tring

Gardeners

Our September visit to Markshall, Coggleshall was most enjoyable, although we did choose the coldest day yet. However, 17 hardy members turned out to brave the cold wind and it was voted that we visit again next spring. See John's photos on our web. site

Our last meeting this year is **Tuesday, 21st October** to a Plant Swap at the home of Liz & Bryan Jones, 36 Acacia Drive, Maldon, 01621 857031 at 2.30 pm and hope for a dry afternoon!

CO-ORDINATORS

Chairman	Alan Buck	01245 227709	Maritime History	Malcolm Case	01245 329435
Vice Chairman	Beryl McDonell	01621 842093	Music Appreciation	Enid Hall John Skuse	01621 891618 01245 224059
Secretary	Pamela Turnbull	01376 510084	Painting	Joyce Stokes	01245 223579
Treasurer	Rosemary Case	01245 329435	Petanque (Boule)	Barbara Arnold	01621 853866
Membership Sec.	John Robson	01621 828236	Photography	Mary Richardson	01621 857829
Speaker Sec.	Joyce Cotterell	01621 858287	Poetry	Jo Robson	01621 828236
Committee	Paul Costa John Almond Jan Robertson	01621 853893 Ex. Dir. 01245 225657	Reading 1st Tuesday 2nd Thursday	Christine Elgin Sheila Epps	01621 858146 01621 850467
Newsletter Editor			Scottish Country Dancing	Shirley Grummett	01621 853288
Social Committee	Dorothy Denmark	01245 223960	Singles Dining	Ray White	01621 891598
Astronomy	Molly Tring	01621 854732	Sing for Pleasure	Sylvia Carpenter	01621 854905
Aviation	Bill Fancourt	01245 225569	Snooker	Bill Fancourt	01245 225569
Ballroom Dancing	Jo Robson	01621 828236	Spanish Conversation	Wilma Turner	01621 851510
Bird Watching	Pat Clements	01245 223427	Strollers	Gill Stone	01621 853948
Bridge	Sheila Epps	01621 850467	Swimmers	Gill Rowsell	01621 740619
Canasta	Marian Manning Margaret Dale	01621 828605 01268 765239	Table Tennis	Gordon Hardy Julie Doidge Beryl McDonell	01245 223012 01621 841205 01621 842093
Clock Repairs	Stanley Clements	01245 223427	Beginners	David Arnold	01621 853866
Computers	Jan Robertson	01245 225657	Ten Pin Bowling	David Arnold	01621 853866
Discussion	Ray Harman	01621 891736	Tai Chi	Susan Oram	01621 856899
Environmental Studies	Fred Lane Bill Fancourt	01621 816181 01245 225569	Theatre Group	Enid Hall Sheila Epps	01621 891618 01621 850467
Essex Rivers	Beryl McDonell	01621 842093	Whist	Molly Polden	01621 856507
Family History	Frank Stokes	01245 223579	Wine Circle	Zandra Cardy	01621 828984
Continuing French	Sylvia Carpenter	01621 854905	Writing for Fun	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 Alfred Couldrey	01621 843020 01245 226259			
Luncheon Club	Mike Wood Paul Costa	01245 222839 01621 853893			
Mah-Jong	Molly Polden	01621 856507			

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

Free
Yamaha Electrone
B-4c 2 Keyboards. Pedals
Instruction book and organ music included
Prospective new owner collects.
Barbara Brown on 01621 859794

~~~~~  
**Free**  
26" JVC Television, black, old shape  
Digital compatible  
Excellent picture  
Jan Robertson on 01245 225657

**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, 7th November**

***Bird Watching Group***

**Saturday Dec. 6th** I am arranging a trip to the Ouse washes and then on to the Norfolk bird reserve at Welney.

At Welney, from a centrally heated Observatory, thousands of Whooper and Berwick swans will be arriving from Arctic Russia to take refuge amongst thousands of ducks, geese and other water birds.

We will travel in a mini bus with Steve who runs his own bird watching programmes locally. We have used his knowledge many times in our group.

If you are interested please phone me to reserve a place or to go on the reserve list.

Pat Clements  
01245 223 427

***Photography***

Many thanks to those who came to the last two meetings. We had a very nice afternoon in August at Paper Mill Lock along with dog walkers and artists so lots of interest to photograph!

For the Sept meeting we borrowed the digital projector and screen and successfully showed images from CDs.

Our next three Monthly meetings will be at WMCC the Linton Room from 2 - 4pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month i.e.

**Oct 13<sup>th</sup>. Nov.10<sup>th</sup>. & Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>.**

I plan to continue using the projector so please come and bring your CDs and prints and ideas for future discussion.

Mary Richardson

***Local & General History***

Our meeting on **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October** is at The Maldon Little Ship Club at 1.30 pm.  
We will be showing a video on "The Crusades" together with a slideshow of our visits this year.

On **November 24<sup>th</sup>** our talk is on Essex Workhouses by John Drury again at MLSC.

All members are welcome.

Mary Burd

***Maritime***

Our meeting in **November** is on **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>** starting at 10 am in The Little Ship Club, The Hythe, Maldon. It is a planning meeting for 2009 and into the beginning of 2010. We are already planning two trips for 2009, one to Scotland in August and one to Poole and Southampton in September. All members are very welcome, please come along with your ideas of things to do and places to visit.  
Malcolm Case.

***Blackwater U3A Line Dancing***

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

### ***Ballroom Dancing:***

We will continue to hold our dance classes through October at the WMCC 2.45 - 4.15 for £2.50.

However, if our numbers do not improve we will not be able to run beyond the end of the month.

Jo Robson

### ***Poetry:***

Our poetry group will be meeting at Christine Elgin's home on Thursday, 6th November, at 2 pm, when the topic will be 'Birds, feathered or otherwise'. Please give me a ring if you would like to join us.

Jo Robson

### ***Strollers***

**Sunday 16th November** 10.30 a.m.  
Please meet at The Cats, Woodham Walter for a walk of 3.75 miles.

Lunch available at The Queen Victoria, Woodham Walter.

Lifts available.

Contact Gill Stone - 01621 853948

### ***Table Tennis***

Do come and join our new group. Every 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at the WMCC. We are playing for fun, but it is also good exercise, especially when we pick up the ball from the floor (which is quite often!) We have to bring our own bats. For further info ring 01621 853866 or 842093

Barbara and Beryl

### ***Family History***

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd October at 2.30 pm and will be held at 49 Hopping Jacks Lane, Danbury.

Please bring your queries, researches and personal histories.

Frank Stokes

### ***Making Music***

Unfortunately due to our falling numbers I have decided to close this group at the moment.

If you should be interested in *Making Music* in the future, can you please contact me.

Valerie Lyndon 01621 851769

### ***Good Companions– ie. Weekenders***

Our new group is still growing. Since we were formed in September, members have dined on fish and chips, drunk much coffee, visited Colchester Museum, listened to the music of Armstrong Gibbs, visited the cinema, played Petanque, celebrated a birthday, partaken of Sunday lunch and are looking forward to being in Sherwood Forest with Robin Hood and playing cards.

No longer are Saturdays and Sundays a drag. Four of the group are going to a Christmas Market  
Want to know more then give me a ring on 01621 842093

Beryl McDonell

Notes

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

**TUESDAY 4th November** at the Queen Victoria, Maldon 12.30 pm  
Co-ordinator: Mike Wood Tel. 01245 222839

**WEDNESDAY 19th November** To be notified at Meeting  
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.



## ***Local History Group, Outing to St Albans. on September 22nd.***

The morning began with a guided tour of the Cathedral which takes its name from the first Christian martyr (AD 287) in Britain, Alban, a Roman convert who lived in Verulamium. The mighty cathedral and abbey church was founded in AD793 on the hill where he is thought to have been killed. There is a superb tapestry just inside the West door that shows the long, colourful and dramatic history of the cathedral. Whilst the building may not have quite the wow factor of say, Ely its largest nave in Britain comprises several architectural styles in its construction and reconstruction over the centuries. Visual items of interest included colourful murals, beautiful stained glass windows, intricate sculptured screens, and a stunning cross that was a gift from Prince Philip of Spain. The unique astronomical clock bequeathed by Richard of Wallingford was a superb piece of engineering for its day. All are examples of the amazing skills of our forefathers. Standing in such a building is a journey through time, not a moment in time.

After lunch it was time to see the remains of Verulamium, once the most important Roman town in Britain. Passing "The Old Fighting Cocks Inn", reputed to be one of the oldest inns in Britain, over the River Ver into a beautiful parkland, the tops of the trees just beginning to show autumnal colours. In the park we saw parts of the old city walls, London gate and foundations of houses and a temple. An interesting example of Roman technology was the hypocaust (underground heating system) seen in the foundations under a superb mosaic floor of one of the buildings. The great amphitheatre, which could seat 1,600 was the main entertainment centre, staging plays, gladiatorial events and public executions. The Romans were somewhat cruel, but the local tribe knew what was good for them and curried favour by working for them, providing slaves and other services.

Final place of interest visited was the Verulamium Museum. Apart from its audio/visual displays, there is a large collection of mosaic pavements, jewellery, glass, coins and many other objects reflecting life in Roman Britain. There were even skeletons, including those of children, in coffins on display.

Our thanks to Michael and Mary for arranging an excellent day out.



## ***HOTEL KEY CARDS***

Ever wonder what is on your magnetic key card? Never even thought about key cards containing anything other than an access code for the room!

Answer:

- a. Customer's name
- b. Customer's partial home address
- c. Hotel room number
- d. Check-in date and out dates
- e. Customer's credit card number and expiration date!

When you turn them in to the front desk your personal information is there for any employee to access by simply scanning the card in the hotel scanner. An employee can take a hand full of cards home and using a scanning device, access the information onto a laptop computer and go shopping at your expense.

Simply put, hotels do not erase the information on these cards until an employee reissues the card to the next hotel guest. At that time, the new guest's information is electronically 'overwritten' on the card and the previous guest's information is erased in the overwriting process.

But until the card is rewritten for the next guest, it usually is kept in a drawer at the front desk with **YOUR INFORMATION ON IT!**

The bottom line is: Keep the cards, take them home with you, or destroy them. NEVER leave them behind in the room or room wastebasket, and NEVER turn them into the front desk when you check out of a room. They will not charge you for the card (it's illegal) and you'll be sure you are not leaving a lot of valuable personal information on it that could be easily lifted off with any simple scanning device card reader.

For the same reason, if you arrive at the airport and discover you still have the card key in your pocket, do not toss it in an airport trash basket. Take it home and destroy it by cutting it up, especially through the electronic information strip!

If you have a small magnet, pass it across the magnetic strip several times. Then try it in the door, it will not work. It erases everything on the card.

Information courtesy of: Police Service.

## WD-40

### WD 40 - WHO KNEW?

I had a neighbour who had bought a new pickup. I got up very early one Sunday morning and saw that someone had spray painted red all around the sides of this beige truck (for some unknown reason). I went over, woke him up, and told him the bad news. He was very upset and was trying to figure out what to do- probably nothing until Monday morning, since nothing was open. Another neighbour came out and told him to get his WD-40 and clean it off. It removed the unwanted paint beautifully and did not harm his paint job that was on the truck. I'm impressed! WD-40 who knew?

Water Displacement -40. The product began from a search for a rust preventative solvent and degreaser to protect missile parts. WD-40 was created in 1953 by three technicians at the San Diego Rocket Chemical Company. Its name comes from the project that was to find a 'water displacement' compound. They were successful with the fortieth formulation, thus WD-40. The Corvair Company bought it in bulk to protect their atlas missile parts.

Ken East (one of the original founders) says there is nothing in WD-40 that would hurt you.

When you read the 'shower door' part, try it. It's the first thing that has ever cleaned that spotty shower door. If yours is plastic, it works just as well as glass. It's a miracle! Then try it on your stovetop... Voila! It's now shinier than it's ever been. You'll be amazed.

WD-40 Here are some of the uses:

- 1) Protects silver from tarnishing.
- 2) Removes road tar and grime from cars.
- 3) Cleans and lubricates guitar strings.
- 4) Gives floors that 'just-waxed' sheen without making it slippery.
- 5) Keeps flies off cows.
- 6) Restores and cleans chalkboards.
- 7) Removes lipstick stains.
- 8) Loosens stubborn zippers.
- 9) Untangles jewellery chains.
- 10) Removes stains from stainless steel sinks.
- 11) Removes dirt and grime from the barbecue grill.
- 12) Keeps ceramic/terracotta garden pots from oxidizing.
- 13) Removes tomato stains from clothing.
- 14) Keeps glass shower doors free of water spots.
- 15) Camouflages scratches in ceramic and marble floors.
- 16) Keeps scissors working smoothly.
- 17) Lubricates noisy door hinges on vehicles and doors in homes
- 18) It removes black scuff marks from the kitchen floor! Use WD-40 for those nasty tar and scuff marks on flooring. It doesn't seem to harm the finish and you won't have to scrub nearly as hard to get them off. Just remember to open some windows if you have a lot of marks.

A further 25 uses in the November newsletter

## 2008/9 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

List of Events and Outings during the year.

|              |                                                         |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Sat. 8 Nov.  | Jazz Evening - Social                                   |
| Sun. 16 Nov  | “The Elixir of Love” Theatre visit, Civic Theatre       |
| Sat. 29 Nov. | Beetle Drive - Social                                   |
| Wed. 10 Dec  | Combined Xmas Luncheon Club Lunch                       |
| Fri. 9 Jan   | Ceilidh - Social                                        |
| Mon. 2 Feb.  | Film Show "Bombs at Teatime" - Social                   |
| Fri. 20 Mar. | Social Evening with a difference - Social               |
| Fri. 24 Apr. | St George's Day celebration-Social                      |
| 9/12 June    | 4 day trip to Worcestershire to view Houses and Gardens |

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

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Theatre Outing

The Elixir of Love

(L'elisir d'amore) sung in English
by Donizetti

Presented by Swansea City Opera

Sunday November 16th 7.45 p.m.

Civic Theatre Chelmsford

Tickets £16.50

A charming comic opera which is full of memorable tunes.

Please send cheque payable to Maldon U3A to Sheila Epps, 69 Norfolk Road, Maldon CM9 6AT. Tel 01621 850467.

As usual we will car share as much as possible – please indicate whether you require a lift or are able to give one

Social News

The initial response for the Quiz was a little disappointing, but in the end about 40 people turned up at the Town Hall. Most of us discovered definite gaps in our knowledge and an increasing inability to retrieve the answers that we did know from the depths of our sub-conscious. But we uploaded quite a lot of new data to draw on for future occasions. For example, did you know that the first Olympic Games were held in BC 776, and that the City of Music is not Vienna or Salzburg, as you might think, but Nashville? In the end the gap between the first team and the last team was only 7 points, so honour was maintained all round. It was an enjoyable and challenging evening.

Another challenging evening will be the Beetle Drive at Langford Village Hall on Saturday 29 November. Numbers are limited for this event, so book early! Tickets, price £3, are on sale at the October meeting, together with tickets for the Jazz Night on Saturday 8 November, if you have not already booked that, at £8 each. And at the November meeting we shall be selling tickets for the Ceilidh on Friday 9 January 2009. Where has the year gone?

You won't thank me for reminding you that Christmas is just around the corner, and at our Christmas meeting we are having a different type of entertainment this year. More of that anon!

dd

~~~~~

## JAZZ NIGHT

featuring

**THE HUGH RAINEY JAZZ BAND**

with

**Special guest JOHN CROCKER**

**Maldon Town Hall**

**Saturday 8 November**

**7.30 p.m.**

**(Doors open 6.45)**

**Price £8**

**A few tickets left if you are quick. Contact Janet Buck**

Note to the Editor

Wot's *sesquipedalian*? Your article in last month's newsletter gave me a lot of downheartedness, so I shouted *supercalifragilisticexpialidosis* and felt inexplicably better.

Then I thought my orthography might be inappropriate.

Please enlighten

Marie Bishop

## Maldon Film Club

Our 4th Season began with "La Vie en Rose" and a Full House; we needed to put our more chairs and almost ran out of wine! Our second film, "The Kite Runner" was equally successful. Membership numbers have reached 164.

**Tues. 4th Nov "Waitress"**

**Tues. 18th Nov. "The Counterfeiters"**

**Wed, 3rd December** we are screening "Son of Rambo", set in 1980's, two boys from different backgrounds form a partnership to try and make their own version of Rambo. This evening makes also the event of our first Social Evening of the season beginning at 7.30 pm and not the usual 8 pm

**Now for 2009**

**7th Jan** "Two days in Paris". English/French subject matter. Two days in the relationship of a New York based couple. From 'the blurb' it sounds as if it could be dynamic.

**21st Jan.** "Once" - English. A unusual romance which tells of the partnership between a Dublin busker and a Czech immigrant pianist who communicate through lyrics. Music and Dublin sound like a delightful contribution.

Into February—We begin with "Ten Canoes" which from the write up, I truly want to see. Language: Aboriginal/English

The ambience of the swamps and forests have been superbly captured apparently.

Our Classic Film Night features "Bicycle Thieves" - Italian, a very popular choice from our members.

We have, we hope, produced a good diversity of films, re theme and language Do come and join us for a bit of fun.

Pat Willis



## Monday Multi-Sports

We are a friendly group of people who meet on a Monday afternoons at Danbury Sports and Social Centre from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm to take part in a variety of different sporting activities, followed by tea and biscuits in the lounge bar at the end of the session. We don't take our sports too seriously, so whatever your standard come and join us. The emphasis is on having fun, whilst hopefully getting fitter. We currently play badminton, carpet bowls, indoor (short) tennis, snooker and table tennis. We decide what activities to pursue each week depending upon the interests of the people who turn up on the day. If the sports we currently undertake don't suit you then still come along and suggest other sports you would also like to participate in and if there is sufficient interest we will endeavour to set these up.

The group has not been formed all that long and we are looking for new members, both men and women. Whatever your age, whether retired, still at work but with Monday afternoons free, or at home looking after the children with a couple of hours to spare then come along and join us. You don't have to pay a membership fee, just pay for each session you come to. All of the equipment including badminton rackets is supplied. To cover the cost of the hire of the badminton courts, snooker table, rackets, tea and biscuits etc. the Sports Centre charge us the equivalent of £2.50 per hour per person i.e £5 for the two hour session. This is reduced to £4 if you become a member of the Danbury Sports and Social Club.

If you are interested call in and see us on a Monday afternoon or better still come along and join in. Alternatively, contact the Danbury Sports and Social Centre Tel No: 01245 224515 state your interest and ask them to pass on your name and telephone number to one of the current members so that they can give you a telephone call to answer any questions you may have.  
Sylvia Beckett

MALDON & DISTRICT U3A ----- SOCIAL EVENT

# BEETLE DRIVE

LANGFORD VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 29th.

DOORS OPEN at 6.30 pm START AT 7pm.

**TICKETS £3.00 PER PERSON.**

**Strictly U3A members only**

**Tea, coffee and light refreshments will be served**

**A great fun evening! Always popular.**

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

Tickets available from:

Janet Buck  
58 Augustine Way  
Bicknacre  
CM3 4ET

01245-227709

**See overleaf for booking form**

Enquiries:

Dorothy Denmark

01245-223960

## Jigsaw Swap

Are you a jigsaw fanatic? Would you like to bring your old ones to the Monday meeting and we can all swap and then bring them back when completed and enjoyed.

However, we will need a co-ordinator who will be responsible for collecting any jigsaws not taken and bring them back the next month—any volunteers?

Please contact Jan Robertson 01245 225657

This is the same arrangement we have with the magazines.

~~~~~

Beetle Drive Saturday, 29th November

Please reserve me Ticket(s) @ £3.00 each

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

Name(s) of Member(s)Phone No.....

MARY ROSE DINNER

The evening of Monday 6th October saw 62 members of the Maritime History Group assembled in the bar of the Maldon Little Ship Club for a commemorative dinner to remember the sinking of the carrack Mary Rose at Portsmouth in 1545.

While enjoying a glass of champagne and an excellent selection of canapés, members exchanged stories of the origins of the various Tudor period costumes that many of them were wearing.

At 8 Bells (20.00 hrs), the diners were summoned to the flag-bedecked mess deck by the Master-at-Arms, Frank Stokes. After a short welcoming speech by (Sire) Malcolme Case the diners enjoyed a magnificent meal of Catherine of Aragon's salmon, Ann Boleyn's ham, Jane Seymour's chicken and Kathryn Howard's potatoes together with a superb selection of salad. The dessert consisted of a selection of Katherine Parr's sweets together with cheese and biscuits. Coffee and mints completed the excellent repast.

After drinking a loyal toast to the Queen, a glass of port, members relaxed to listen to the guest speaker who was none other than HM King Henry VIII (AKA Tony Cuthbert). Tony regaled the audience with an amusing and informative talk about the support that Henry VIII had given to the fledgling Royal Navy in general and particularly to the construction of the Mary Rose. He detailed the large amount of modifications that were made to her during her life and which possibly led to her sudden capsizing whilst the King was watching her exercise in front of Southsea Castle in preparation for an attack on the dastardly French fleet which was involved in an abortive invasion of the Isle of Wight. As a souvenir of the evening, every member was given a small water glass that had been engraved with the words, 'Mary Rose'. Master John Robson asked members to thank Rosemary and Malcolm Case for their role in organising the excellent evening and they showed their appreciation with a sustained round of applause for not only Malcolm and Rosemary but also the other joint organisers, Tony and Jean Cuthbert and John and Jo Robson. Appreciation was also offered to Bridget, who had organised the preparation of the meal, her son who supervised the whole evening and of course the Case and Robson children and grandchild who did such an excellent job of serving the food and the plentiful supply of wine.

Liberty boats assembled at 23.00 hrs and the diners made their way home after enjoying another excellent Maritime History meal.

Bill Fancourt