

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1 Bird Watching Northey Island.
2 Maritime "Bombs at Teatime" 2 pm Town Hall	3 Table Tennis Snooker Luncheon Club Reading	4 Ten Pin Bowling Swimming	5 Discussion Continuing French	6 Canasta	7	8
9 Handicrafts German Photography Whist	10 Table Tennis Snooker Aviation 2 pm	11 Ten Pin Bowling Spanish Bridge Painting	12 Ballroom Dancing French Conversation Reading Country Dancing	13 Mah Jong Sing for Pleasure	14	15
16 Meeting 1.30 pm	17 Table Tennis Snooker St. Pauls Cathedral	18 Ten Pin Bowling Swimming Clock Repairs Luncheon Club	19 Ballroom Dancing Continuing French	20 Canasta	21	22 Strollers
23 Local History Handicrafts Astronomy German Whist	24 Table Tennis Snooker	25 Ten Pin Bowling Spanish Bridge Painting Family History Writing for Fun	26 Ballroom Dancing Computers French Conversation Music Appreciation Poetry Country Dancing "Billy Elliott" — Victoria Palace Theatre,	27 Mah Jong Sing for Pleasure	28 Bird Watching Chigborough Lakes	

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. Robertson225657 email Jan8085@aol.com

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HAPPY NEW YEAR
2009

JANUARY 2009

VOLUME VIII NO. 8

Reg. Charity No. 1086182

Web Site: www.maldon3a.co.uk



The University of the Third Age

MALDON
AND DISTRICT

FROM THE CHAIR



The Christmas and New Year celebrations have passed into history and we can now look forward to getting back to our normal way of life (attending U3A group events). During 2008 some of our groups reached a natural conclusion and, as is our custom it seems, new groups were organised and are progressing well. We are still maintaining an average of approx 40 group activities which are self funded and well organised by the various co-ordinators.

The Co-ordinators work tirelessly throughout the year to make sure that their group activity runs smoothly and beneficial to their members and, for doing this, I think they deserve to be praised for their contribution in making Maldon & District U3A the success that it is.

The Social Committee gave us another year of successful events and I am sure we are all looking forward to the 2009 program.

The waiting list for membership to our U3A has been steadily growing throughout the year and in order to alleviate this it was decided that we join together with Blackwater U3A and attempt to form a new U3A

After inviting all people on the two waiting lists to a meeting on the 9th January at Plantation Hall to discuss this, it was agreed by the over 40 attendees that they would form a new group to be called "Heybridge U3A".

The response was overwhelming and hopefully this new group will now reduce our waiting list to a manageable level.

Alan Buck
Email: alan-buck@talktalk.net

Strollers.

There WILL be a walk on Sunday 15th February but the venue has yet to be decided.
Please contact Gill Stone for details, nearer the time.

Family History

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, 28th January

Please bring your queries, researches and personal histories.

Frank Stokes

Computer Group

Les Barclay's proposal for the next Computer Group ie. 22nd Jan. is to give a demonstration of transferring music from records into computer files and then burning them onto a CD.

Anyone interested in joining us for this different aspect of computing.?

We are always open to any new ideas, but not forgetting the basic knowledge which we think we know but find we have forgotten.

CO-ORDINATORS

Chairman	Alan Buck	01245 227709	Mah-Jong	Molly Polden	01621 856507
Vice Chairman	Beryl McDonell	01621 842093	Maritime History	Malcolm Case	01245 329435
Secretary	Pamela Turnbull	01376 510084	Music Appreciation	Enid Hall John Skuse	01621 891618 01245 224059
Treasurer	Rosemary Case	01245 329435	Painting	Joyce Stokes	01245 223579
Membership Sec.	John Robson	01621 828236	Petanque (Boule)	Barbara Arnold	01621 853866
Speaker Sec.	Joyce Cotterell	01621 858287	Photography	Mary Richardson	01621 857829
Committee	Paul Costa	01621 853893	Poetry	Jo Robson	01621 828236
Newsletter Editor	John Almond	Ex. Dir.	Reading 1st Tuesday	Christine Elgin	01621 858146
	Jan Robertson	01245 225657	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 Margaret Dale	01621 828605 01268 765239	Swimmers	Gill Rowsell	01621 740619
Clock Repairs	Stanley Clements	01245 223427	Table Tennis	Gordon Hardy Julie Doidge	01245 223012 01621 841205
Computers	Jan Robertson	01245 225657	Beginners	Beryl McDonell	01621 842093
Discussion	Ray Harman	01621 891736	Ten Pin Bowling	David Arnold	01621 853866
Family History	Frank Stokes	01245 223579	Theatre Group	Enid Hall Sheila Epps	01621 891618 01621 850467
Continuing French Conversation	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

STAMP COLLECTORS

Are there any out there?

I have a large collection but have not added to them for about 50 years. I have resurrected the collection and would like to add to it. Have any Collectors' stamps that they may like to swap. I have a lot of pre 1950 duplicate stamps.

Call Alfred Couldrey on 01245 226259

U3A Summer Schools 2009

The annual U3A Summer Schools will be held on the 20/23 July at Harper Adams College, Telford and 24/27 August at Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester. The Full board residential cost is £299 per person. Full details of the courses available will be on the Notice Board at the Monday Meetings or from our Secretary, Pamela Turnball.

BLACKWATER U3A

Contact:
Dorreen Linton, Chairman
01621 853428

SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS U3A

Contact
Rosemary Dorado, Chairman
01245 321102

NATIONAL OFFICE

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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, 6th February

Local & General History

We meet on Monday 26th January 2.00 pm at The Maldon Little Ship Club. Our talk is "Chelmsford – a stroll thru time" by Peter Turrall.

Monday 23rd February – Roy Walters will be coming and his talk is entitled "Stand by your beds".

All members are welcome.

Mary Burd

Maritime

Our meeting in February will be on Monday the 2nd starting at 10:00 am at the Little Ship Club on The Hythe, Maldon; we will be having a talk by the Essex Marine Police; all are welcome. Malcolm Case

Gardening

I am working on our programme for this year, please bear with me, I still have some loose ends to finalise.

First meeting will be at the Mundon Village Hall in March sometime.

I will be handing out the booking forms for the Worcester trip on 9/12th June in February and they will have to be filled in and returned to me, accompanied with a deposit.

There are still a few seats available on this trip, so please contact me, if you are interested in joining us..

Jan Robertson

Bridge

This group has been going since the very start of our U3A. We meet twice a month - 2nd and 4th Wednesdays - and we have a very relaxing and enjoyable afternoon. You don't need to come with a partner and we always seem to manage to make up playing groups. We have tea and biscuits too!

We would very much like to see old friends who may not have been with us for a while and would also welcome newcomers.

If you have the knowledge of the bidding system but feel a little rusty, why not come along as an observer and then join in when you feel comfortable. We don't go in for big retrospective disputes about lost hands - though we do like to reconsider play sometimes in order to improve.

Sheila Epps tel 01621 850467.

Astronomy

January 26th, 7.30 pm at the WMCC. Subject will be "Time". Everyone welcome. Molly Tring

Visit to St Paul's Cathedral

Tuesday 17th February -departure 8.45 am from West Maldon Community Centre. We will transfer to Somerset House after the morning visit at St Paul's and will be able to get lunch there.

Sheila Epps



A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY PARTY

Fifty members of the Ten Pin Bowling Group gathered at Madison Heights on Wednesday 17th December to celebrate a special birthday for one of the original and most regular attendees of the group. The member was Harry Allpress and the birthday was *Harry's 90th* which actually fell on the 21st December.

The co-ordinator of the group, David Arnold, together with Barbara had organised a little celebration for the day complete with a cake that had been provided by the caterers at Madison Heights, a huge candle that symbolised 90 years and a bottle of champagne. After short speeches from David and Harry, Harry was presented with an original copy of the Daily Telegraph that had actually been printed on his birthday. Members of the group had contributed to this special gift. Although in previous years Harry had always brought in a large tin of chocolates to share amongst the other players on his birthday, Ian Nairne had taken over this duty for Harry's special day.



Christmas Lunch

The combined Tuesday and Wednesday lunch clubs had their annual Christmas Lunch at the New Times in Tiptree on Wednesday December 10th. There were nearly sixty of us having a great time, the noise level, as usual, exceeded the Health and Safety guidelines! The food this year was even better than last, plenty of it and very well cooked. In the free raffle there were some good prizes which added to the fun. Thanks to Mike Wood who was the organiser this year. Thanks too to him and Paul Costa for the work they do throughout the year.

David Arnold

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES -

TUESDAY 3rd February at The Queen Victoria , Maldon

Co-ordinator: Vaun Legerton Tel. 01621 840664

WEDNESDAY 18th February at the "The Ship" at Tiptree.

12.30 for 1.00 pm

Co-ordinator: Paul Costa Tel. 01621 853893

What's on in Maldon February/March 2009

Monday 2nd February

Heritage Winter Talk. Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Maldon. 7.30pm – 9pm. Doors open 7pm. Talk entitled 'The Repair of the Sea Wall at Fambridge in 1906 by the London unemployed' by Beryl Board.
Enquiries: Building Conservation Team, Maldon District Council 01621 854477.

Tuesday 3rd February

Maldon Film Club. 'Ten Canoes' Maldon Town Hall. 8pm.
Enquiries: 01621 788233 www.maldonfilmclub.info

Wednesday 18th February

Maldon Film Club. 'Bicycle Thieves'. Maldon Town Hall. 8pm.
Enquiries: 01621 788233 www.maldonfilmclub.info

Saturday 28th February

Wickham Bishops Club of Jazz. Wickham Bishops Village Hall. 8pm. Doors open 7pm. Featuring 'A Tribute to the Late Tom Collins. Bring your own drinks and glasses. Enquiries: Derek 01621 892015 or Gordon 01621 891717.

Wednesday 4th March

Maldon Film Club. '4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days' Maldon Town Hall. 8pm.
Enquiries: 01621 788233 www.maldonfilmclub.info

Saturday 7th March

Sing Vicar of Dibley. United Reformed Church, Maldon. 12.30am – 5pm.
Singing workshop. £32 including music refreshments and high tea. Evening concert at 6.30pm – donations to Farleigh Hospice.
Enquiries: Ann Barrett 01621 776788 singannie@dsl.pipex.com www.beginnersplease.com

Tuesday 17th March

Maldon Film Club. 'Persepolis' Maldon Town Hall. 8pm.
Enquiries: 01621 788233 www.maldonfilmclub.info

Saturday 28th March

Wickham Bishops Club of Jazz. Wickham Bishops Village Hall. 8pm. Doors open 7pm. Bring your own drinks and glasses. Enquiries: Derek 01621 892015 or Gordon 01621 891717.

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

Head Office details as at 1.1.09

Total U3A groups in Gt. Britain	707	(660 in 07)
Total members	207725	(187466 in 07)

I have produced a survey of our 2008 Maldon membership, but cannot vouch for its complete accuracy - Jan

400 Members

115 Couples

136 Single Females

36 Single Males

148 Average attendance Monday Meetings

17 Attended Monday Meeting only

38 Attended No Main Meeting and no groups

66 Attended no groups

93 Attended one group

65 Attended two groups

56 Attended three groups

42 Attended four groups

22 Attended five groups

17 Attended six groups

11 Attended seven groups

9 Attended eight groups

6 Attended nine groups

7 Attended ten groups

3 Attended eleven groups

2 Attended twelve groups

1 Attended thirteen groups

(These figures do not include Social event attendance)



Bird Watching Group
trip to the Ouse Washes -
Saturday 6th December 2008



What a brilliant performance it was - ‘billed’ as a spectacular with a cast of thousands ... it did exactly what it said on the tin!

Act I was a comfortable hide near Manea, where, while we munched our sandwiches, our superbly knowledgeable driver and guide, Steve, pointed out and identified countless different breeds of birds ... plus two rats and a plump black and white cat!

Act II was Welney. Each Autumn the Ouse floods the surrounding fields, creating the largest area of washland in the UK, a unique wetland habitat, refuge to literally thousands of Whooper, Mute and Bewick swans, who fly South from Iceland and Northern Europe for some seasonal British Winter warmth. (!) Welney is equipped with a state of the art hide, warm and comfortable and a perfect place to view the multitude of birds. Twice a day, the Lady of the Lake wheels her wheelbarrow through the shallow water scattering feed around, across, but more often onto, the flocking birds in a magnificent feeding frenzy; hundreds of Pochards mobbing the larger swans for pole position near the barrow.

In all we saw over forty different breeds of birds, it made the long journey and the chilly day truly worth it.

But as the sun set in a bright red line on the horizon, we slipped outside for the splendid finale – vast swirling flocks of swans swarming out of the gloom just a few dozen feet above our heads, the thrumming beat of their wings and their haunting whooping calls announcing their arrival. It was absolutely stunning watching these huge, magnificent birds silhouetted against the rapidly fading sunset sky as they swooped in to take their place at the second sitting. Absolute magic!

Pete Norman



Since then Governments have dithered over energy policies assuming that renewables such as wind generators and conservation would fill the generation gap caused by the decommissioning programme. This illusion **has** now been realised albeit years too late and nuclear power is once more in favour. The construction period for a modern nuclear station is about eight years. which means that in the not too distant future our energy supplies will be very reliant on gas from Russia with all the insecurity that implies and so, history repeats itself with the possibilities of yet another nuclear station at Bradwell with opposition and apprehension as before and to add insult to injury the French may well build it for us !! Will we ever learn??

What lies in the future for our energy supplies is anybody's guess but one thing remains a certainty for Bradwell-On-Sea, it will never be that quiet, peaceful backwater it once was.

Ray Harman

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***ESSEX RIVERS' GROUP INVITATION.***

Blackwater and Maldon U3As invite you to an Open Afternoon on Wednesday March 11th in the WMCC at 2 pm, when we would like to share with you the results of our research on what is happening on the Blackwater Estuary today.

We will give you more details in the February Newsletter.

Dorreen Linton  
 Beryl McDonell

. . . . .  
 :  
 : **February 16 Meeting** :  
 : **Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm** :  
 : Speaker :  
 : **“Honey Bees: Evolution, Life, Products & Uses”** :  
 : Mr. Stuart Baldwin :  
 :  
 . . . . .

## Nuclear Power at Bradwell once again

I could not help but read with some interest and perhaps a little nostalgia, the report by Bill Fancourt on the possibilities of a future new power station at Bradwell.

I say nostalgia, having spent the last 24 yrs of my working life at the now decommissioned plant, arriving there during its construction stage in the late 50`s early 60`s when nuclear power was very much in its infancy and Bradwell locality just a quiet peaceful backwater. It was not surprising therefore that much opposition prevailed from the local inhabitants and unlike the apathy experienced by Bill at his meeting, Bradwell village hall was packed to the doors, standing room only!

Public figures such as Tom Driberg complained that it would spoil his view of the Blackwater whilst Sir John Betjeman expressed concerns over the loss of aesthetic qualities of the Estuary, both of which were instrumental in forming a petition against the project. However, local people recognised the employment potential, the possible influx of money to the area not to mention the improvements in the infra-structure of the region all at Central Electricity Generating Board`s expense. It is interesting to note that the whole inquiry process lasted no longer than eight months and on the 1st January 1957 contractors moved in and preparation work began.

Five years it took to build the station at a cost of £60m then and the first units of electricity went out to the National Grid in July 1962. which it should be said was no mean feat in those early days of nuclear technology. with many unknowns. Bradwell it should be remembered was only one of 6 initial nuclear plants which provided 20% of our generation in the O.K., all of which are now decommissioned.

These stations were often referred to as `Big Expensive White Elephants` that should never have been built and although admittedly expensive, one should not forget that these stations because of their operational advantages over conventional fossil fuel plants, kept the lights burning during the miners strike of 1984 as well as other times of fossil fuel difficulties.

Bradwell during its 40 years of generation has supplied the National Grid with 60 billion units of electricity worth about £1.5 million at today`s prices, employed thousands of staff and seen millions of pounds ploughed into the Essex economy. with a safety record second to none.

These early `Magnox` stations as they were called were the pioneers of nuclear power at a time when this country led the world in nuclear technological skills and which in itself projected a bright future. However, this dream came to an end with the cancellation of Sizewell C in the late 70`s and no further stations were built.

A golden opportunity lost indeed!!

## 2009 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

List of Events and Outings during the year.

|                 |                                                          |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 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                   |
| Thurs 26 Feb    | “Billy Elliott”—Victoria Palace Theatre, Beryl McDonell  |
| Wed Mar 11      | Open Day—Essex Rivers Group                              |
| Fri. 20 Mar.    | Social Evening with a difference - Social                |
| Wed. 25 Mar.    | Visit to Apsley Hse & Geffrye Museum — Local History     |
| Thurs. 26 Mar   | “Humble Boy” Civic Theatre—Sheila Epps                   |
| Fri. 24 Apr.    | St George's Day celebration — Social                     |
| Mon 4 May       | Trip on the River Crouch—Maritime                        |
| Thurs. 14 May   | Trip to Trinity House, Harwich - Maritime                |
| 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 6 July      | Trip on the River Thames from Tilbury - Maritime         |
| 20/23 July      | U3A Summer School - Harper Adams College, Telford        |
| Mon 3 Aug       | Trip to Wivenhoe Barrier & Nottage Institute - Maritime  |
| 24/27 Aug.      | U3A Summer School - Royal Ag. College, Cirencester       |
| 11/13 Sept      | Trip to Poole/RNLI/Bournemouth etc. - Maritime           |
| Mon. 28 Sept    | Visit to Copped Hall & Waltham Abbey—Local History       |
| Thurs. 15 Oct   | Trip to Trinity House, Harwich - Maritime                |

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

### SOCIAL NEWS

Christmas is now a distant memory. We hope you enjoyed our Dickensian entertainment and the now traditional Ceilidh to herald the New Year, and thank you to those who braved the bitter cold to attend the latter.

Tickets are still available for the film show “Bombs at Teatime” on 2 February.

On the 20th March we are holding another "Getting to know you" Social Evening at the West Maldon Community Centre on Friday 20th. This year there will be a little "in house" entertainment to make it a bit different. Refreshments will be provided with tea and coffee, but we invite you to bring your own bottles as well. There will be a charge of £1 and tickets will be available at the February and March meetings.

In April we shall celebrate St George's Day, so you might like to start thinking about what you might wear for an "English Evening"!

**Don't get scammed! 06/01/2009—Mature Times**

Each year UK consumers lose £3.5 billion to scams with the average victim losing £850, and older people are the most targeted and lose twice as much as other victims - according to the Office Of Fair Trading (OFT). Sadly, older people are often the principal targets.

The most common scams that target older people are:

Bogus prize draws

Mailings that give the impression that you have won a large cash prize and ask you to send a payment or make a purchase to claim your winnings: in fact you are just being offered the opportunity to participate in a prize draw with a tiny chance of winning and can enter for free.

Gordon Lishman, Director General of Age Concern, commented: "Many people feel they could never be scammed - but millions become victims. People of any age can be conned, but unfortunately unscrupulous fraudsters often target older people. The best defence is to know what to look out for, and always remember that if it sounds too good to be true - it almost certainly is."

**The top tips to avoid being scammed are:**

1. Be suspicious of unsolicited letters, phone calls, or emails asking you to send money – check out the sender and ask the opinion of family, friends or neighbours
2. If an offer looks too good to be true, it probably is – trust your gut instincts
3. Always think twice - ask yourself 'can I afford to lose money on this?'
4. Never send money to anyone who say's you've won the lottery or a big prize – you'll never see your promised winnings
5. Don't be rushed into sending off money by time sensitive deadlines
6. Never ring an 090 number unless you're certain how much the call will cost and know what you are likely to receive
7. Never disclose your bank account, credit card or personal details to people you don't know
8. Don't send money off just because a letter seems official. Scammers often use this trick.

If you haven't heard of them check them out before taking any action.

9. Scammers often use fake testimonials to support their claims but don't let them fool you - make your own mind up.

Those who care for older people are also being asked to look out for warning signs that the person may be a scam victim. For example, does the person you care for receive a lot of junk mail? Do they have a house full of cheap-looking goods such as jewellery or health products? Do they receive frequent calls from strangers or become secretive when discussing finances with family and friends?

If you think you have been the victim of a scam, or you suspect a scam - don't suffer in silence! Call Consumer Direct for clear, practical consumer advice on 08454 04 05 06

*THEATRE VISITS*

**"BILLY ELLIOT"**

**Thursday FEBRUARY 26**

Victoria Palace.

*Seats in the stalls @ £22.50 each A bargain !*

*Coach Fare--- £7. 25p---Total £29.75p*

I am sorry this is such short notice, but I could not do the arranging in the Autumn and then suddenly we were in the Festive Season.

Cheques for the combined amount to be made payable to Maldon and District U3A please. I must have payment by **Friday 30th of January**

Coach will depart at 10 am from the West Maldon Community Centre.

Beryl McDonell 01621 842 093 Ring me for my address.



**“HUMBLE BOY” by Charlotte Jones**

**Thursday March 26<sup>t</sup>**

Civic Theatre Chelmsford

7.45 pm

Tickets £14.50

This is an award winning comedy with a sting in its tail. Following the death of his father, 34 year old Felix Humble, a Cambridge academic, returns to his Middle England home and his difficult and demanding Mother. After a chaotic funeral, and the disappearance of his Father’s prized bees, it becomes clear to Felix that life at the Humble home will never be the same again. Past and present collide with love and uncertainty in this original and captivating play.

This play was very well received when it first ran in London a couple of years ago.

Please send cheques payable to Maldon U3A to Sheila Epps 69 Norfolk Road Maldon CM9 6AT