

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 Petanque 10 am Maritime Possibly to Gravesend	2 Table Tennis Snooker Luncheon Club Reading	3 Ten Pin Bowling Wine group	4 Discussion Continuing French Poetry Petanque 2 pm	5 Mah Jong	6 Bird Watching Abberton Reservoir	7 Bird Watching Abberton Reservoir
8 Petanque 10 am Handicrafts German Photography Whist	9 Table Tennis Snooker 9/12th Worcester Gardeners Trip	10 Ten Pin Bowling Luncheon Club Painting Bridge Spanish	11 French Conversation Reading Petanque 2 pm Country Dancing	12 Canasta Sing for Pleasure	13	14
15 Petanque 10 am Meeting 1.30 pm AGM	16 Table Tennis Snooker Aviation	17 Ten Pin Bowling Clock Repairs	18 Continuing French Petanque 2 pm	19 Mah Jong	20	21
22 Petanque 10 am Handicrafts German Whist Astronomy Local History	23 Table Tennis Snooker	24 Ten Pin Bowling Painting Bridge Spanish Family History Writing for Fun	25 Computers 2-4 pm French Conversation Music Appreciation Petanque 2 pm Country Dancing	26 Canasta Sing for Pleasure Gardeners Glen Chantry	27	28
28 Petanque 10 pm	30 Table Tennis Snooker					

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

MAY 2009

VOLUME VIII NO. 12



The University of the Third Age

MALDON AND DISTRICT



Visit to view the Aircraft Carrier “HMS Illustrious”
moored at Greenwich on Friday, 8th May

“Jazz-u-like”
St Mary & St Margaret Church
Friday 12th June
8.00pm

Contact Colin Maddison on 01621 828505 for information”

Subject: Speed Cameras on the Dartford Crossing Bridge

During last week, there were SPECS average speed cameras erected on the QE2 "Dartford" Bridge in Essex/Kent.

They start just before the bridge and end before the tolls at the end.

So if you are driving to Kent, beware.

If you have driven by and not seen them last week, it's because they are mounted on a road gantry rather than on the normal yellow or blue poles.

Pictures here: <http://btst.co.uk/QE2BridgeCameras/>

BLACKWATER U3A

Contact:
Dorreen Linton, Chairman
01621 853428

SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS U3A

Contact
Rosemary Dorado, Chairman
01245 321102

HEYBRIDGE U3A

Contact
Ruth Tyler, Chairman
01621 869865

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 June

Astronomy

April's discussion on the Big Bang theory, though we've dealt with it several times, still produces a lot of interesting discussion.

May 25th is about planets and the probes that have been sent to them. 7.30 at the WMCC.

Molly

Local & General History

Tuesday 26 May is the first visit to New Hall school. For those booked on the visit we meet at the school at 2.00 pm. If you are unable to come will you please let Alfred Couldrey know on 01245 226259 or 07784 789418.

A second visit has now been arranged for **Monday 13 July**. Those who put their name on the waiting list will be given details in due course. This visit is now full.

Our next visit will be on **Monday 22 June** to the Sir Alfred Munnings Museum and Dedham. The cost for this is £3 and car share. Please contact me if you are interested in coming or let me have your cheque if you have not done so already.

Mary Burd

Family History

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 27th May at 2.30 pm and will be held at 58 Augustine Way, Bicknacre.

Please bring your queries, researches and personal histories.

Maritime

The Princess Pocahontas Trip from Tilbury up the Thames to Chelsea on 8th July will leave West Maldon Community Centre at 8:45 am.

Aviation Group

On Tuesday May 19th we will be having a talk and 'film' at Maldon Little Ship Club at 2 pm.called 'Alex Henshaw, who is he?'

This summer we will be having a nice day in the country and a nice day at the seaside.

At our meetings we will be taking bookings for our trips on Sunday 28th June to the Norfolk & Suffolk Aviation Museum and the East Anglian Transport Museum . Free trips on all the buses, trams etc at this great day out. The cost of this will be £15.25 , coach and all entrance fees included. Highly recommended.

Also Lowestoft Seafront Air Festival on Friday 24th July, this will be about £10 for a day at the seaside sitting on the prom with an ice cream watching the planes over the water.

So bring your cheque books.

All our talks & trips are open to all members of our U3A.

David Arnold 01621 853866

Strollers:

There will be no walk in June as the date coincides with Father's Day.
Gill

Proposed new Group—Botany

Some of us have thought that we should like to start a botany group, which could look at wild flowers and trees both outside and possibly in more detail inside. We could identify plants either with their 'proper' Latin names or with the common names. We might include non-flowering plants such as ferns and mosses, and in the autumn, fungi. The group is as always with U3A open to anyone with or without any knowledge of plants and the format we take will depend entirely on what the group wants.

The date and time suggested is every Friday fortnightly in the afternoon, but that too is up for discussion. The venue will depend on how many want to join and so might be members' houses.

As you can see it seems pretty vague at present but I am sure that with a few of us we can get something going. I have some knowledge of botany having taught it which is why I have been asked to put it together but I don't have to be the leader. If you wish to join us, please sign up at the Meeting or ring me Veronica Smith on 01621 828176

Gardening

From the **9/12th June** we are off to Worcester City to visit six gardens and time to explore Worcester itself.

Friday, June 26 we visit Glen Chantry, Islams Close, Wickham Bishops. Wol & Sue Staines are retiring at the end of this year so this will be your last chance to walk round their wonderful garden. Meet you in the car park at 2.30 pm and please pay your own entrance fee of £3.50 at the desk and teas are extra. This visit is open to all members. Lifts can be arranged.

Heybridge U3A Gardening Group

Monday, 15th June . Visit Newland Cottage and Chippins, B1352, 3 miles E of Manningtree at 2 pm.

Contact Pat Yates on 01621 892866 if you would like to join them and for more information.

Gardens Open in June

Sunday 7 June.	Maldon Open Gardens 2 pm - 6 pm
Sunday, 7 June	Purleigh Open Gardens 2—5.30 pm
Sunday, 14 June	Danbury Open Gardens 11—4 pm
ditto	Blackwater Country Show
Sat. 20 th & Sun. 21 June	Tollesbury Open Gardens. 11 am – 5 pm
ditto	Great Totham Open Gardens. 11 am – 5 pm

Car Sharing

The Committee is offering the following guidelines to members for a voluntary donation towards the cost of the journeys when car sharing. Up to 40 miles return: £2.00 Over 40 miles return: £3.00

LUNCHEON CLUB VENUES -

Times 12.15 pm

TUESDAY 2nd June The Peldon Rose, Peldon

Co-ordinator: Mike Wood Tel. 01245 222839

WEDNESDAY 20th May The Ship, Tiptree

Co-ordinator: Fred Lane Tel. 01621 816181

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.



Pagliacci
(Clowns)
Ruggiero Leoncavallo

Not in front of the Waiter
(Under the Aspidochelone)
Music by Jacques Offenbach



Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th July 2009
Bouncers, Wickham Hall Lane,
Wickham Bishops, Essex CM8 3JJ

Box Office:
Maldon T.I.C. - 01621 856503
Witham T.I.C. - 01376 502674

www.operaintheorchard.co.uk

BAR and BBQ
serving:
Local Beer and Wine
Roast Pork from local farmer



Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th July 2009
Bouncers, Wickham Hall Lane,
Wickham Bishops, Essex CM8 3JJ

Gates Open: 14.00hrs

Performance: 17.00hrs

Interval (for picnic):
18.00 to 19.30hrs

Tickets:
£20.00 before 1st July
£25.00 after 1st July

Box Office:
Maldon T.I.C. - 01621 856503
Witham T.I.C. - 01376 502674

for further information:
01621 894112 • 07789 966161
www.operaintheorchard.co.uk

June Meeting
Wickham Bishops Village Hall at 1.30 pm

AGM
and Strawberry Tea



ST GEORGE'S DAY

It was great to see that almost everyone had risen to the occasion and decked themselves out in red and white for the St George's Day celebration on Friday 24th April at WMCC. There were some innovative home-made outfits and one brave English gentleman came resplendent in deerstalker hat and plus fours!

Our Social Committee had billed the event as 'suitable English entertainment', and how very suitable it turned out to be. We were in for a real treat when Dave Sealey in conjunction with 'Essex on Tour' gave us an evening with Stanley Holloway. It was obvious from the start that Dave held that great English entertainer in both high regard and affection. A captivating performer, Dave virtually became Stanley Holloway when he delighted us with his monologues, songs and anecdotes covering Stanley's entire career history.

How the memories flooded back when he performed such numbers as 'Brown Boots' and 'With Her Head Tucked Underneath Her Arm'. He had us chuckling throughout the evening, and we were all singing along when he rounded off his performance in the role of Alfred Doolittle with 'I'm Getting Married in the Morning' and 'With a Little Bit of Luck'.

Our Social Committee and helpers served us an excellent cold supper at half time, on tables set out in red and white with flags flying. The meal, of course, included the very English roast beef, cheddar cheese and apple pie!

What a resounding success and fitting celebration for our National Day. It has set a high standard for next year. Well done Social Committee.

Mave Studhoime

Have a look on our website www.maldonu3a.co.uk to view John Bowen's excellent photos of the event.

Desk Top Publishing

This is a new group and four of us had a most entertaining afternoon last week designing birthday cards. If you would like to join us, please give me a ring Jan Robertson on 01245 225657

U3A Badges

New badge holders will be available at the May/June meetings for your name badge and Membership Card

Bird Watching Group

“A nightingale sang in Berkley Square”, not very likely according to the Essex Wildlife expert Peter Dwyer more probably a robin but at Fingringhoe we were about to hear the real thing. For 2 hours we slowly moved round the reserve with every bush reverberating to the sound of this little bird, which managed to stay out of the sight of this member of the group throughout our visit. Whilst the nightingale was elusive we did see and hear chaffinch chiffchaff and white throat .

The groups regular outing this May was to Two Tree Island, Leigh on Sea, our quest was to see waders some of which hopefully would be nesting and maybe have young.. As we made our way to the first hide curlew and avocet were observed,.

The second hide overlooked a lagoon where we observed oyster catchers and avocets nesting whilst a family of avocets moved through the shallows heads down with their long beaks swishing through the mud searching for food.

The lagoon was clearly a safe haven for many species made even safer by an electric fence and regular patrols of volunteers trying to prevent predators and collectors from stealing the avocet eggs.

Next month we are off to Abberton.

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### **Hi-Di-HI**

**Friday, 19th June  
Maldon Town Hall  
Price £5  
Doors open at 7 pm**

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’. U3A Members only.

Tickets available from: Janet Buck

Tel. 012450227709

### **"Solution Budget"**

Dear Mr. Darling,

Please find below some suggestions for fixing Britain's economy. Instead of giving billions of pounds to banks that will squander the money on lavish parties and unearned bonuses, use the following plan. You can call it the Patriotic Retirement Plan:

There are about 20 million people over 50 in the work force. -

Pay them £1 million apiece severance for early retirement with the following stipulations:

- 1) They MUST retire. Twenty million job openings - Unemployment fixed.
- 2) They MUST buy a new British car. Twenty million cars ordered - Auto Industry fixed.
- 3) They MUST either buy a house or pay off their mortgage - Housing Crisis fixed.
- 4) They must send their kids to school / college / university - Crime rate fixed
- 5) Buy £50 of alcohol / tobacco a week recovers your money back in duty / tax etc

It cannot get any easier than that!

P.S. If more money is needed, have all members of parliament pay back their falsely claimed expenses and second home allowances.

~~~~~

MARITIME GREENWICH TRIP

On Friday 8th May 34 of us took a coach trip to Greenwich and, as luck would have it, the weather was on our side because within an hour of our arrival the rain stopped and the sun came out.

The main attraction was the Aircraft Carrier HMS Illustrious which was moored in the Thames in order to take part in the Centenary of Flight celebrations. After viewing the Carrier we all spent time visiting the usual attractions of Greenwich, the Observatory, Maritime museum, The Queen’s rooms, The Painted Hall, the Market, etc, etc Those that visited the Observatory had an added bonus as an episode of “The Bill” was being filmed at the time.

The Navy had also put on a static display of a Sea Harrier and three helicopters and also a tent displaying the construction and armament of their two new Carriers, to be completed by 2015!!

We left at 1600hrs after a very enjoyable day.

AB

Getting older:

If for eating that extra cookie, or for not making my bed, or for buying that silly cement gecko that I didn't need, but looks so avante garde on my patio. I am entitled to a treat, to be messy, to be extravagant..

I have seen too many dear friends leave this world too soon; before they understood the great freedom that comes with aging.

Whose business is it if I choose to read or play on the computer until 4 AM and sleep until noon?

I will dance with myself to those wonderful tunes of the 60&70's, and if I, at the same time, wish to weep over a lost love I will.

I will walk the beach in a swim suit that is stretched over a bulging body, and will dive into the waves with abandon if I choose to, despite the pitying glances from the jet set.

They, too, will get old.

I know I am sometimes forgetful. But there again, some of life is just as well forgotten. And I eventually remember the important things.

Sure, over the years my heart has been broken. How can your heart not break when you lose a loved one, or when a child suffers, or even when somebody's beloved pet gets hit by a car? But broken hearts are what give us strength and understanding and compassion. A heart never broken is pristine and sterile and will never know the joy of being imperfect.

I am so blessed to have lived long enough to have my hair turning gray, and to have my youthful laughs be forever etched into deep grooves on my face. So many have never laughed, and so many have died before their hair could turn silver

As you get older, it is easier to be positive. You care less about what other people think. I don't question myself anymore. I've even earned the right to be wrong.

So, I like being old. It has set me free. I like the person I have become. I am not going to live forever, but while I am still here, I will not waste time lamenting what could have been, or worrying about what will be. And I shall eat dessert every single day. (If I feel like it)

2009 CALENDAR—Dates for your Diary

List of Events and Outings during the year.

Tue. 26 May	Visit to New Hall School, Chelmsford — Local History
9/12 June	4 day trip to Worcestershire to view Houses and Gardens
Fri. June 19	Hi-di-Hi Evening—Social, Maldon Town Hall
Mon. 22 June	Visit to Dedham & Sir Alfred Munnings museum –L. History
Sund. 28 June	Norfolk & Suffolk Aviation Museum—Aviation
Wed. 8 July	Trip on the River Thames from Tilbury - Maritime
Sat. 11 July	Barbecue—Langford Village Hall—Social
Mond. 13 July	Visit to New Hall School. Chelmsford - Local History
Fri. 24 July	Lowestoft Airshow - Aviation
Mon 3 Aug	Trip to Wivenhoe Barrier & Nottage Institute - Maritime
Aug.	“Lunch by the Lock” Social date to be arranged.
Sund. 6 Sept	Shuttleworth Collection - Aviation
11/13 Sept	Trip to Poole/RNLI/Bournemouth etc. - Maritime
Thurs. 24 Sept	Quiz—Maldon Town Hall—Social
Mon. 28 Sept	Visit to Copped Hall & Waltham Abbey—Local History
Thurs. 15 Oct	Trip to Trinity House, Harwich - Maritime
Thurs. 22 Oct	“Sixties Evening” Maldon Town Hall - Social
Sat. 21 Nov.	Beetle Drive, Langford Village Hall - Social
Fri. 8 Jan	Ceilidh— Social

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

Social News

You certainly did us proud for St George's Day: there was a sea of red and white, and I even saw Scots and Welsh people sporting the English national colours - no doubt with gritted teeth! Thank you all. Your next opportunity to dress up and join in will be at the Hi di Hi evening on Friday 19 June. Space is limited so please get your tickets from Janet in plenty of time.

In response to the suggestions that you made for future events, we are still discussing how to incorporate pole dancing into one of our evenings. (That was very popular!) But on a more practical level there will definitely be another Cockney Evening, probably in June 2010. So start collecting pearl buttons to sew on your coats.

The Annual Barbecue will take place on Saturday 11 July and tickets will be on sale next month.

dd

Neighbourhood Watch is very active in our area at the moment and I am receiving many items of scams etc. and I think it is worthwhile to keep you all up to date. Hope you agree.

Jan. Editor

A woman visited the toilet in John Lewis at Bluewater and hung her handbag on the back of the toilet door. As she carried on about her business, a hand suddenly appeared over the top of the stall and grabbed her bag clean off the hook!!!

She immediately reported the incident to the head of security, who in turn informed the manager of the store. A couple of days later she had a call to say her bag had been found, without her purse. She arranged a time to go and meet the manager to collect her things. On arriving at the John Lewis store at the agreed time, the manager was not expecting her - neither was the head of security - nothing had been found, no one had called.

When the lady got home, her house had been burgled, with no sign of forced entry, the Police believe they had used her Driving License for the address and her keys to let themselves in!! Purse/bag/wallet snatching is very common. Think about which items will disclose your address. Typically it will only be your diary and driving licence. Perhaps you could manage without carrying them with you all the time.

Please encourage everyone to ensure their security by:

- a) locking all windows & doors when leaving the property for shopping etc.
- b) ensure the back door is locked, if there is easy access from the front, when engaged in gardening - better to be safe than sorry.
- c) if going out for the evening, ensure that downstairs curtains at the front are drawn and lights on timers are set or radio, again on a timer
- d) ensure that no car or house keys are visible from front door or in the kitchen area as these are a magnet to uninvited guests.
- e) take the trouble to check your car doors are locked - it is very easy to forget in our desire to go indoors and get a cool drink, in what, hopefully, will be a warm summer

I am aware we all know these few simple rules but please take them as a gentle reminder not to give unwelcome visitors the opportunity of appropriating our property for their use.

Latest activity

- 1) Opportunist burglary in Woodham Ferrers, entrance was made by an unlocked door, various articles were stolen.
- 2) Two televisions & jewellery being taken from a house in Bicknacre, access was made via the locked front door which had been jemmied.
- 3) A workshop broken into in Woodham Ferrers - a generator was taken. A white transit van had been seen in the vicinity the day before. Unfortunately the number plate wasn't taken.

Derrick Area Coordinator for WF & B

OFFICIAL NOTICE

As notified in the April newsletter, the eleventh Annual General Meeting of Maldon and District U3A will be held on Monday, 15 June 2009 in Wickham Bishops Hall at 2.15 p.m.. Only those items previously submitted, in writing, to the Secretary can be included on the agenda.

Any nominations for the two vacant posts on the committee must be sent to the Secretary by 25 May 2009. A further nomination form is given below, and additional forms are available by post if so requested.

Pamela Turnbull
Business Secretary

Eligibility for Office and to Vote

All paid-up members for the year 2009/2010 are eligible to stand for committee and to attend and vote.

Ordinary June Monthly Meeting

This will take place before the AGM at 1.45 p.m. for the purpose of announcements and registering for events.

Nomination Form for Committee 2009-2010 (2 Vacancies)

Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by	Nominee's Signature