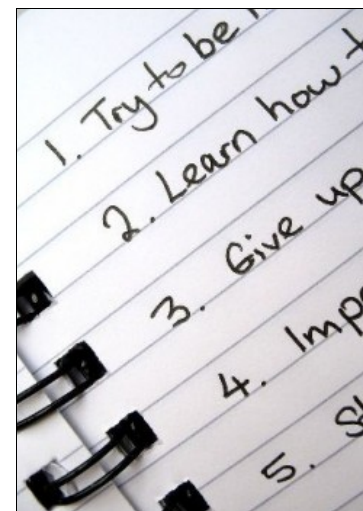


January programme

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--|---------------------------|---|--|---|----------|--------|
| 2 | 3 Petanque | 4 Monthly meeting | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 Theatre Planning STEAM Gardening | 10 History | 11 Art Group Patchwork Luncheon Group 3 | 12 Birdwatching Reading Music Appreciation | 13 Golf Singing for Pleasure | 14 | 15 |
| 16 Table Tennis Scrabble | 17 Petanque | 18 Luncheon Group 1 Rural Essex Woodturning Art Group | 19 Family History | 20 Luncheon Group 2 Photography | 21 | 22 |
| 23 Astronomy | 24 Art Appreciation | 25 Art Group Theatre Buildings of High Street | 26 Walking Craft Group | 27 Social event Golf 2 Singing for Pleasure | 28 | 29 |
| 30 Table Tennis | 31 | | | | | |

Blackwater U3A newsletter January 2012



What's your resolution?



Reg. Charity No. 1113334

From the Chair

A very Happy New Year to you all. I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas and are looking forward to enjoying lots of different U3A activities in 2012.

Don't forget our AGM in March is not too far away; that's when we decide who will be on the committee for the next year or so. Could this be one of your New Year's resolutions for 2012?

We have a policy of rotation so that new people come in and leave each year. This means there will be several vacancies starting in April 2012. If you think you might help and join our committee, why not get in touch with myself or one of the committee and find out if it could be for you.

Obviously, there is work to be done to run Blackwater U3A, but we like to try and make it fun.

Dennis Eraut

New groups

At the start of the New Year, I will be putting out signing up sheets for some possible new groups requested by members.

- Different religions around the world
- Creative writing
- Badminton
- Cookery
- Investments, savings and other financial matters
- Volunteers to help with cataloguing at Essex Records Office
- Wellbeing Group
- Darts

Please look out for the signing up sheets if you would be interested in joining these groups or contact me direct. If anyone has any more ideas for different groups, please let me know.

Dorreen Linton 01621 853428

Social Group

Chinese meal - 27th January £15

Games evening - 9th March

Legal London - Thursday 19th April 2012 . Would those people who have booked to go please pay the final amount of £23.00.

The Royal Saville Gardens, Windsor - Thursday 3rd May. An all-day trip including lunch and afternoon tea on the boat. £40.00

Barbara Brand 01621 853218

Coordinators

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Interest Group Coordinator | Dorreen Linton | 01621 853428 |
| Art | Anita Sandison | 01621 741351 |
| Art Appreciation | Dorreen Linton | 01621 853428 |
| Birdwatching | Peter Leggett | 01621 852377 |
| Community Garden | Dorreen Linton | 01621 853428 |
| Crafts | Sheila Wallis | 01621 856667 |
| Family History | Geoff Pugh | 01621 843297 |
| French beginners | Val Wilson | 01621 842455 |
| Gardening | Jennifer Fowler | 01245 222834 |
| Golf | Alan Chapman | 01621 816860 |
| History | Dorreen Linton | 01621 853428 |
| Local Theatres | Sheila Rowsell | 01621 740820 |
| London Theatres | Gill Cato | 01621 740153 |
| Luncheon Club 1 | Di Johnson | 01621 828490 |
| Luncheon Club 2 | Kathy Leggett | 01621 852377 |
| Luncheon Club 3 | Pam Mills | 01621 874883 |
| Maldon High Street | Dorreen Linton | 01621 853428 |
| Maritime Group | John Wallace | 01245 225093 |
| Music Appreciation | Mani Koenig-Roach | 01621 854235 |
| Patchwork & Quilting | Molly Middleton | 01621 859914 |
| | Gill Reeves | 01621 855845 |
| Petanque | George Wallis | 01621 856667 |
| Photography Group | George Wallis | 01621 856667 |
| Reading Group | Pat Wade | 01621 740253 |
| Rural Essex | Dorreen Linton | 01621 853428 |
| Science, Tech, Medicine | Alan Chapman | 01621 816860 |
| Scrabble | Sylvia Harden | 01621 858506 |
| Social Group | Barbara Brand | 01621 853218 |
| Spanish | Sue Watson | 01621 852941 |
| Table Tennis | John Mundy | 01621 854065 |
| Walkers | Dorreen Linton | 01621 853428 |
| Wine Group | Stella Bradbrook | 01621 854235 |
| Woodturning | Charles Middleton | 01621 859914 |
| Joint groups with Maldon U3A | | |
| Astronomy | Alan Chapman | 01621 816860 |
| Ballroom Dancing | Jean Smith | 01621 843054 |
| Singing for Pleasure | Jacky Holmes | 01621 854108 |
| Snooker | Brian | 01621 842619 |
| Tenpin Bowling | David Arnold | 01621 853866 |
| Scottish Dancing | Shirley Grummett | 01621 853288 |
| Trouble-Shooters | Liz or Bryan Jones | 01621 857031 |

Current Committee Members 2011/12

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Dennis Eraut | Chair | 01621 829758 |
| Val Wilson | Vice-Chair | 01621 842455 |
| John Wallace | Vice-Chair | 01245 225093 |
| Adrian Stockton | Treasurer | 01245 225081 |
| Dawn Mundy | Secretary | 01621 854065 |
| Barbara Brand | Social Activities | 01621 853218 |
| Dorreen Linton | Interest Group Coordinator | 01621 853428 |
| Sheila Rowsell | Committee Member | 01621 740820 |
| Sheila Wallis | Committee Member | 01621 856667 |
| Peter Holmes | Co-opted Member | 01621 854108 |
| Gill Cato | Co-opted Member | 01621 740153 |

Local U3A contacts

Maldon—Joyce Cotterell 01621 858287
 South Woodham Ferrers—Heather Richardson 01245 320205
 Heybridge—Peter Thorpe 01621 850828
 Limebrook—Paul Madge 01621 855883

Third Age Trust

Information technology resources - Older and Wiser books published in partnership with the Third Age Trust could support knowledge and learning - contact Scott Smith on 01243 70441 or email scsmith@wiley.com - Flyer available at monthly meeting.

Public & products liability insurance - period covered: 1st January to 31st December 2012 - copy of correspondence on Blackwater U3A file available at monthly meeting.

Sound recording license - License authorising the use of sound recordings subject to PPL's control by all member sites - covering 1st January to 31st December 2012 - sight of copy of correspondence available at monthly meeting.

Latin Group - if you are interested in this subject and would like to consider setting up a group, Mary Roe of Dunstable U3A could be the person to contact on 01582 664074

Third Age Trust have sent details of future events. Contact Dawn Mundy for further information.

2nd February 2012 - U3A invites you to a special concert 'In Honour of Saint Cecilia' at The Queen's Chapel of the Savoy at 2.00pm. Tickets: £18 pp. Contact National U3A Office on 02084 666139.

27th March 2012 – U3A Explores Science at the Royal Institution, 21 Albemarle St. London W1. Speakers: Dr. John Manlove – Forensic Science; Dr. Suzie Sheehy – Accelerated Dreams; Prof Tim Wheeler – Food Production in a Changing Climate. Tickets: £18 including refreshments. Contact in writing: Third Age Trust, 19 East St. Bromley, Kent. BR1 1QE

16th-19th July, 2012 - Summer School 1 - Harper Adams, Telford
20th-23rd August 2012 - Summer School 2 - The Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester. Full board residential accommodation available. A wide choice of course subjects.

February newsletter deadline

Deadline for the February newsletter is Friday 20th January.
 Contributions to ian@ianlinton.demon.co.uk 51 Washington Road, Maldon, CM9 6BN

History Group

December talk : Stephen Nunn – The Great War

Stephen Nunn gave an illustrated talk about Maldon, Heybridge and the Great War of 1914-18. The talk gave an account of the residents of Maldon who have given their lives for town and country. It reflected the character of the town in 1914 and the impact on the town of the Zeppelin raid. Stephen also covered the activities of the Royal Flying Corps at Goldhanger aerodrome and the secret Naval Base at Osea.

He told the stories of the families involved in the fighting and details of the 248 Maldon and Heybridge men who made the ultimate sacrifice. As you walk around Maldon, you will still see the effect the war had on the town. At Heybridge Basin, St George's Church was formerly the Sergeants' Mess. Other local families to have suffered losses were the Grantham family at Beeleigh Abbey whose memorial tablet is in All Saints Church.

There is so much more to read and find out about the local families involved in the so-called Great War 'to end all wars' of 1914-18. I have a copy of Stephen's book on the subject if anyone would like to have a read.

Events for 2012

Tuesday 10th January - The year starts with Norman Jacobs giving us a talk on the History of the British Museum. West Maldon Community Centre at 2 pm, £3.00.

Tuesday 14th February - Bourne Mill, Colchester is the subject of the February talk. West Maldon Community Centre at 2 pm, £3.00.

Tuesday 13th March – Dickens and London Exhibition. Full but I am running a reserve list.

Thursday 19th April – Legal London. Full, but we are running a reserve list.

Tuesday 8th May – Visit to Finchingfield and Spains Hall

Tuesday 12th June – Abbey and Chapel, Coggeshall

Tuesday 10th July – Creeksea Place

Monday 16th July – Woodham Walter Church and Village

Tuesday 11th September – Bawdsey Manor

Signing up sheets will be available for all these events or contact me if you are interested. *Dorreen Linton 01621 853428*

Historical Buildings of the High Street

We will be meeting on Wednesday, 25th January at the Oakhouse for an update on members' research and then visit a local venue. I would like to thank members for contacting me regarding their personal knowledge of our High Street and I will be contacting them to find out more this year.

Dorreen Linton 01621 853428

Scrabble Group

Meetings are every 3rd Monday of the month. New members welcome. *Sylvia Harden - 01621 858506*

Art Group

We have returned to Mundon Victory Hall and we start again on January 12th

Please contact Anita on 01621 741351 asandison@gmail.com for details.

Speakers' Corner

Our monthly general meetings feature a wide variety of guest speakers. The meetings are held at West Maldon Community Centre on the first Wednesday of the month. Remember doors now open at 2.00.

February: - Mike Sandison of the Essex Wildlife Trust on The Geological History of Essex. Mike will investigate how and when our small corner of Britain came into existence, its subsequent wanderings around the globe and the dramatic changes it has experienced during this time – climate, sometimes land, sometimes sea, the impact of distant mountain building events.

March - The speaker will be an Officer of St. John's Ambulance Brigade. Within the presentation time there will be a slot for a Question and Answer session on what to do if an incident occurs that requires you to administer First Aid or to call the emergency services.

Please email Dawn Mundy or inform the signing-in desk with details of your question/s so that our speaker is well prepared on the day.

Refreshments & Meet & Greet rota

| | |
|----------|-----------|
| February | French |
| March | Gardening |

Family History Group

At our December meeting, we started by talking about our memories and 'family heirlooms.' Linda had brought in a Princess Mary tin from the First World War and, by searching on Google, we were able to find other examples and details of their contents. Another member brought in a collection of postcards and letters; the names and details they contained had enabled him to make various links between family members, and we also looked at a carved wooden figurine brought back from Bavaria as a souvenir in the 1930s. Next month, we will talk about our recollections of 'the Ice Cream Man.' Using the computer, we then moved on to useful websites and looked at FreeBMD and particularly postems, a means of adding useful details which might help someone else searching the same entry. We also looked at Family Tree Maker and the role of gedcoms in transferring information from one programme to another. In future months, we will be looking at various occupations our ancestors did, starting with January's topic of lacemakers. This will be followed by a demonstration of the Family Search website. Foreign ancestors and keeping records are some of the other subjects we hope to investigate.

New members and particularly beginners are most welcome to join us on the third Thursday in the month, 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm in the Jubilee Lounge of the West Maldon Community Centre.

Angela Clarke Coordinator *Geoff Pugh* 01621 843297

Golfing Group

Our December golfing session was a return visit to Rivenhall Golf Course where the group entered the Blackwater Golfing Trophy. After an extremely challenging competition, the group enjoyed a very rewarding Christmas lunch at the Rivenhall clubhouse. The winner of the Blackwater Trophy was John Rowsell with Dorreen Linton a close second. For the record Tiger Woods third! At the January monthly meeting, a golfing VIP will be presenting John with his well-earned trophy. A full list of golfing events for 2012 can be found on the Blackwater U3A website. As usual, the group will be meeting on the 2nd Friday of the month to play at various "Pay & Play" courses. However, we have agreed that, in addition, on the 4th Friday of each month, the group will also meet at Braxted Park Golf Course at 10.00am, for an additional 9 hole session.

Finally, our golfing thought for the month is: "Golf is an awkward set of bodily contortions designed to produce a graceful result." Thomas D Armour (1898-1968, Scottish-born professional golfer)
Alan Chapman, Coordinator 01621 816860

Science, Technology, Energy & Medical Group

The STEAM Group usually meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 9.30am at West Maldon Community Centre, with alternate site visits of science/technology interests, followed by an interest talk the next month at West Maldon Community Centre, meeting at 9.30am in the Jubilee Lounge. You will find a full list of talks and visits for the coming year on the Blackwater U3A website on the STEAM Group page.

The next event will on Monday 9th January at 9.30am, when we have a return visit from Dr David Petts (remember his Dengie Marsh Fever talk). This time, he will be talking on the subject of Cholera "the Essex Plague." *For any more information regarding the above visits and meetings, contact Alan Chapman on 01621 816860.*

Rural Essex Group

Wednesday 18th January - We will start the year with Ed Heigham giving an interesting talk on the Tollesbury dig. Ed has lived in Tollesbury for 33 years and will be bringing along artifacts found on site. West Maldon Community Centre at 2 pm.

Wednesday 21st March - There will be a talk about Epping Forest its history, the wildlife and giving details of managing a Royal Forest West Maldon Community Centre at 2.30 pm.

Monday 14th May - A talk about the geology of Walton on the Naze

Wednesday 16th May - A guided tour of Priory Fields, Bicknacre

Monday 11th June - A visit to Walton on the Naze

Wednesday 20th June - A guided visit to Galleywood Common

Dorreen Linton 01621 853428

Craft Group

The Craft Group will meet on Thursday, 26th January at 2.30pm. We will be making something but will also be planning the year's programme.
Sheila Wallis 01621 856667

Art Appreciation Group

Tuesday 24th January - The year starts with a talk by one of our members on Picasso on at West Maldon Community Centre at 2 pm, cost £3.

Tuesday 28th February - We will be meeting at West Maldon Community Centre at 2 pm for a talk about the Braintree Textile Archives.

Tuesday 27th March - We will be visiting the Beecroft Gallery, Westciff.

Tuesday 22nd May - We will join Sholto for a walk around a part of London.

Wednesday 27th June - We will be visiting the Red House, Bexleyheath and Hall Place.

Dorreen Linton 01621 853428

Walking Group

Our first walk of 2012 will be around the Danbury area, so anyone wanting to join us please meet at West Maldon Community Centre car park at 9.30 on Thursday, 26th January. The walk will be between 5-6 miles and will include the lakes and Lingwood Common. We will be finishing near a pub so there will be the choice of staying for a light bite or travelling straight back. This will be arranged by car share arrangements. Other walks this year will include Tillingham, Tiptree, Purleigh, Goldhanger, Heybridge Wood and Mundon.

Dorreen Linton 01621 853428

Maritime Group

Thanks to Roger Smith for his most interesting second part talk on 'Seaplanes in the Solent', on Monday 5th December.

January

There will not be a meeting in January as our normal date falls on a Bank Holiday and the next available time for the Linton Room is only two weeks before our scheduled meeting in February.

Monday 6th February: The Suez and Kiel Canals

I will give the second part of the 'Canal' talks, which proved so popular when Dennis and George took us through the Caledonian and Panama Canals, (in a manner of speaking!) I will deal mainly with the Suez Canal, but also cover the Kiel Canal. 2.00pm in the Linton Room, West Maldon Community Centre.

John Wallace 01245 225093

Local Theatre Group

Christmas Soirée at Hylands House

The Cameo Players' production was held in the impressive Banqueting Hall of the very attractive Grade II listed Hylands House. It was billed as, "An evening of music, drama and poetry celebrating Christmas around the world." Six members of the Cameo Players were joined by the duo, "Doublet", a guitarist and a flautist, who provided the music and singing accompaniment throughout the evening. Overall, the standard of performance was good and there was a good balance in the light-hearted mix of music, drama and poetry throughout. Accepting that the over-riding theme was "around the world", personally, I felt there was a lack of linkage between each element making this section of the programme seem a little disjointed and lacking in flow. Some of the sketches were inevitably better than others in performance and content.

There was universal approval and enjoyment of the amazing variety and quantity of small eats provided by Hylands House during the interval which were greatly appreciated by all. During the second half, we were entertained by the Players' unique production of a Robin Hood Pantomime which saw a less than able Robin Hood having to practice for an archery competition to the terror of Friar Tuck (who held the target board). The usual heroines, on this occasion Maid Marion and Little Joan, and villain (the Sheriff) were present and everyone was encouraged to cheer and boo as appropriate. It was a good amusing finale to an enjoyable evening.

Jenny Wall

Forthcoming events

Monday January 9th - Planning Meeting in the Linton Room at West Maldon Community Centre 10.30am.

Wednesday January 25th - Legally Blonde, a musical at Cliffs Pavilion. Matinee performance. Full

Monday February 20th - Agatha Christie's Murder on the Nile at the Palace Theatre. Evening. £21.15 Spaces left for this.

Tuesday March 20th - Sleeping Beauty with the Russian State Ballet at Cliffs Pavilion. £24.30. Evening performance. Please contact me quickly as seats are going fast and I may not be able to get more as it's only on for one day. Thanks.

I hope you have all enjoyed your Christmas break with friends and family, and are now ready to start a New Year full of U3A activities.

Sheila Rowsell 01621 740820

Table Tennis Group

Sessions take place on the 1st, 3rd and 5th (when applicable) Monday at West Maldon Community Centre. Four tables are available for play. Time 11.45 am to 1.30pm (please do not arrive before 11.40). Fee £3.00 per session. The group has been running since April 2010, numbers playing have grown and the current membership is over 20. Please note that the group is unable to take on any new members at the present time as we are running at full capacity. Should any members wish to join the group, please contact John Mundy to be placed on a waiting list.

Burnham Table Tennis League

The season is fast approaching the halfway point. In Division 2, West Maldon B have moved up to third from bottom. Ray Cheung Blackwater member has now won 14 matches with a 58 percent win ratio. Remaining on the bottom are Maldon F which includes John Mundy who is also a Blackwater member. John still remains at two wins. In Division 3, Maldon U3A A team have moved up to fourth. Richard Skidmore has overtaken Bill Puxley as the main points winner. Richard now has 19 games to Bill's 17 wins. Maldon G are still in 3rd place having won 8 matches with 3 defeats. Rob Sachs of Maldon U3A has slipped slightly in form, but has still won 19 matches with a 63 percent win ratio. Maldon U3A member Ross Wheeler is doing well with 13 wins and 57 percent win ratio. John Mundy has also played for them with 3 wins and a 60 percent record.

Maldon H is currently bottom of the league and has three U3A members from three different U3A groups - Dorothy Malone from South Woodham, Keith Lawson of Blackwater and Bill Stichbury of Maldon. Both Dorothy and Keith are playing in the league for the first time. The team has just won its first match against St. Lawrence B 7-3 after losing the previous week 8-2 to the same team. It must be pointed out that the St. Lawrence team put out much weaker team members. Still it's a nice feeling to get a win. Bill Stichbury has now won 4 matches, Dorothy Malone 3 and Keith Lawson 1.
John Mundy
01621 854065

Photography Group

The Photography Group will meet at my house at 10.00am on Friday, 20th January. Subject as agreed at December meeting.

George Wallis 01621 856667

Gardening Group

January 9th - Talk "From field to NGS garden in three years" Mr Briwick. 2pm Stow Maries Hall. Cost £4.50 (organised by South Woodham Ferrers U3A). Please do come, it sounds very interesting. Please sign up at January Meeting and pay. I will be away until 11th January so please contact Wendy on 01245 223459 with any problems
February 9th Talk by Mr Tim Carter of Longplants Nursery, Romford. 2pm at Stow Maries Hall. Cost £4,50 including tea. Mr Carter is an amusing speaker who is passionate about plants. He grows all his own plants and will bring some to sell. (joint meeting with South Woodham Ferrers U3A)

February 20th - Visit to The Old Rectory Boreham to see snowdrops and Cyclamen. More details in January.
Jennifer Fowler 01245 222834.

Reading Group

Last month's book was 'The Help' by Kathryn Stockett, which illustrates the life in 1962 between coloured maids and the white families for whom they work in Jackson, Mississippi. The story is narrated in turn by three women, two coloured maids and one white woman whose unlikely cooperation enables them to write a book, told in the voice of a black person, about the complicated racial relationships of the time. All three of the main characters are under a great deal of pressure to keep their relationship a secret, which probably would not have been otherwise tolerated. By changing the names and the location of the book, they endeavour to reveal the real situation without exposing themselves and other contributors to the real danger of retribution.

There are many moving stories, which illustrate the true love that exists between the maids and the white children they raise. Along with the affection and humour there are the disturbing hidden effects of these complicated relationships, which are outrageous and difficult for the reader to comprehend. The book follows the progress of their project and how it ultimately changes their own lives and, in its own way, contributes to the gathering civil rights movement of the 60s. An amazing story with great characters. The Reading Group thought the book was well written, both enjoyable and enlightening and would certainly recommend it as a MUST READ. *Beryl Jennings, Coordinator Pat Wade (01621 740253)*

Birdwatching Group

Blessed are the Birdwatchers for they shall inherit sunshine! It was ever thus, once again; on Saturday 3rd December when, under a big blue sky, we walked the seawall at Goldhanger. Our guide was John Buchanon. His recognition skills are remarkable, not only in terms of skill, but also of eyesight. Who else could identify a few small Meadow Pipits flying together, which to us would only be – “little brown jobs, Lab’s”?

Under his direction we focused on Curlew, Golden, Grey and Green Plovers, flocks of Dunlin and of the larger bird, the Knot, on the glistening mud flats. Redshank, occasionally present, drew our attention by its call, as did the flight of about three hundred growling Brent Geese. Of the duck species we saw Pintail and Widgeon and a prize sighting of a Red-breasted Merganser commonly associated with Scotland and Ireland where it breeds. Another rarity was a Marsh Harrier. It became extinct for a time in the early 20th century due to human persecution and, still without friends; we saw it being mobbed in flight by Crows. Another raptor, the Sparrow Hawk, was seen.

By 12.15pm all our thoughts turned to another species of bird – the Turkey. Feeling hungry in the keen air, we then made our way to the Tollesbury Cruising Club for our long table of decorations and Christmas lunch. Thirteen other members joined for our feast, to total twenty-four of us. The enjoyment of the morning spilled over to the banter and hilarity of the mealtime. So ended the last of our birdwatching events for 2011.

Future events

Thursday 12th January

Indoor meeting at the Henry Dixon Hall, Rivenhall End, with Witham & Braintree U3A and a few members of Maldon U3A. Talk and slides on otters and water voles by Darren Tansley, Water Wildlife Officer for Essex Wildlife Trust. Meet at West Maldon Community Centre at 9am for car share at £3.00 each. Admission £3.00 each payable at the door. Please sign on my signing up sheets beforehand.

Friday 3rd February. DIY Birdwatching

Marshes and seawall beyond Maldon Promenade. Birdwatching without a guide - bird recognition to test our skills unaided. Meet at West Maldon Community Centre at 9.30am.

Thursday 9th February

Indoor meeting at the Henry Dixon Hall, Rivenhall End, with Witham & Braintree U3A. Talk on Birds Of Prey by Barry Kaufmann-Wright. Meet at West Maldon Community Centre for car share at £3.00 each. Admission £3.00 each payable at the door. Please sign up beforehand.

Peter Leggett, Coordinator, 01621 852377 or on morning of event only 07881680260 or 07747667184

Petanque Group

I am very pleased to report that Blackwater Petanque team gained its first points on Sunday 11th December against the Feering Sun on what is regarded as being a most challenging piste. Congratulations to all the team. We will be continuing with our games on the first and third Tuesday of the month on the terrain in Promenade Park. Games commence at 1.30pm. *George Wallis 01621 856667*

Petanque Group Winter League

On Sunday December 11th, bottom-placed Blackwater U3A Petanque team travelled away to second-place team, The Bird In Hand (Earls Colne), and caused quite a stir when they won their first point of the season against a team that included a former England International. The team of Brian Butcher, Peter Holmes and Dorreen Linton had caused the home team problems in the triples by leading 7-6 before losing 13-8. In the doubles, Peter and Dorreen raced into a 9-2 lead before being pegged back, but then Peter trailed the Coche with his last boule for the team to win 13-9. Brian was unable to prevent The Bird In Hand from winning the singles. Final score 39-24 to The Bird In Hand. This result pushed The Bird in Hand down to third and Blackwater U3A to joint bottom on games, but with an inferior point difference.

It was especially nice to receive complimentary e-mails from the opposition saying how well Blackwater had played, especially on a difficult piste. A full report is on the Essex Petanque League website “League Reports.” The ethos this year for the team is to give everyone a chance of playing and learning the tricks of the trade by playing against good opposition. We certainly are learning about tactics in playing the game. We used seven players so far and intend to give others the chance to play. *John Mundy, Deputy Coordinator Competition Team 01621 854065*

Music Appreciation

We had to cancel our December meeting owing to illnesses and other commitments. We shall be having our meeting on the 12th January, not the 5th and we are invited to Manni's home at 2 pm continuing with our German and Austrian composers. So, please do ring him to say whether or not you will be coming on 01621 854188. Happy and healthy 2012 to everyone. *Pat Willis*