

November programme

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1 CommGarden	2 Monthly meeting	3 Music Appreciation	4 Birdwatching	5	6
7 Table Tennis Maritime	8 CommGarden History	9 Art Group Luncheon Club 3 Patchwork	10 Reading Ballroom	11 Golf Singing for Pleasure	12	13
14 Science/Tech	15 CommGarden	16 Art Group Luncheon Club 1 Woodturning	17 Family History	18 Photography Social event	19	20
21 Table Tennis Scrabble	22 CommGarden Art Appreciation	23 Art Group Historical Buildings	24 Walking Craft Ballroom	25 Luncheon Club 2 Singing for Pleasure	26	27
28 Astronomy Gardening	29 CommGarden	30 Art Group				

Blackwater U3A newsletter November 2011



www.blackwateru3a.co.uk

Reg. Charity No. 1113334

From the Chair

The new U3ALimebrook U3A

The first meeting proper of the new U3A was a great success. The new Chairman Paul Madge opened the meeting and over 60 signed up to join Limebrook U3A. He gave a short speech about starting Interest Groups and then sign up papers were put out for about 8 Groups. There were many signatures for each proposed new Interest Group.

After discussion among the interested people, many groups formed a coordinator and had already planned a first meeting. Further groups will be formed in the future. What an excellent beginning and great credit goes to all the steering committee. They are recruiting for new members.

For contacts:

Chairman - Paul Madge 01621 855883

Membership Secretary - Beverly Hunt 01621 781048

Autumn colours

We have been fortunate to have lovely weather and many sunny days in October so the colours on the trees are fabulous. No wonder they inspired the British landscape artists such as Gainsborough. How many of you can capture the scene in a painting or a photo to share? For those of you who don't do pictures, just look, be in the moment, remember it and enjoy it.

Dennis Eraut

December newsletter deadline

Deadline for the October newsletter is Friday 25th November.

Contributions to ian@ianlinton.demon.co.uk 51 Washington Road, Maldon, CM9 6BN

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

News update

Interest Groups finances

Our end of financial year procedures require me to report on all assets held by our U3A. This includes the Blackwater U3A bank accounts AND monies held by coordinators and event organisers. Would ALL coordinators and other persons that hold, or who have held money during 2011 on behalf of Blackwater U3A please complete the simple End of Year Financial Statement - (Form G) and return it to me before 31st December. Copies of this form are available on the signing-in table or by email from me *Adrian Stockton, Treasurer ap.stocktn@btinternet.com*

Community Garden Group

Members of this group would like to thank all Blackwater U3A members for their contribution to our garden via their donations towards refreshments at the September and October monthly meetings. Members of the team have purchased a variety of bulbs – daffodils, iris, narcissus, crocus, chionodoxa, tulips and anemones as well as blue and yellow pansies so the spring garden should look good. Thank you all for your support. *The Community Garden team*

Charity Soup lunches

First Tuesday of the month this year at Maldon Little Ship Club. 12 – 2, minimum contribution £3.00.

1st November - Sea Change 6th December - RNLI

Details from Diana Rogers 01621 853841 diana.rogers2@btinternet.com

Christmas carol concert

Maldon Choral Society with St Johns School Choir, Danbury present a traditional Christmas carol concert conducted by Dr Gillian Ward Russell on Saturday, 17th December 2011 7.30pm at All Saints Church, High Street, Maldon. Tickets from The Tourist Information Office, Wenlock Way, Maldon 01621 856503 or reserve by telephone 01621 853220

Third Age Trust

Thursday 17th November 2.30-4.00pm - National Institute of Medical Research Annual Meeting at NIMR London NW7. Admission by ticket only, free entry.

Wednesday 14th December 2.30-4.30pm - First U3A Christmas Concert with traditional carols and mulled wine at St. John's, Waterloo, London SE1. Tickets £16.

Tuesday 17th January 2012 12.45-4.45pm - The Marriage of Figaro, Opera Screening at the Odeon Cinema, Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H. Tickets £12

Apply for tickets to The Third Age Trust, 19 East Street, Bromley, BR1 1QE. Send SAE with cheques payable to The Third Age Trust. Telephone 0208 4666139

Luncheon Group 3

The venue for our October lunch was 'The Compasses' in Great Totham where we enjoyed a variety of meals from the tasty selection offered. Our next lunch will be on Wednesday 9th November. If you would like to join us please telephone Coordinator, Pam Mills 01621 874883

Scrabble Group

Meetings are every 3rd Monday of the month - November 21st, December no meeting. New members welcome. *Sylvia Harden - 01621 858506*

Art Group

We have returned to Mundon Victory Hall. Please contact Anita on 01621 41351 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.

November 2nd —Tom Corby, "Behind the scenes at Buckingham Palace," a light-hearted, anecdotal account of Tom's life as the Press Association Court Correspondent, the only writing journalist accredited to the royal household. It will include his daily routine behind the gilded railings and his travels around the world with the royal family. Tom is a member of Chelmsford U3A.

December 7th—Blackwater U3A celebrate Christmas! Our very own John Hayes will be there to entertain us. Tickets for the Christmas Lunch will be on sale at the November monthly meeting., £2.50 or ring Barbara on 01621 853218.

January 4th - Ivor Dallinger, Curator of the Stow Maries WW1 Aerodrome, will present a talk on the site and its history from 1916 to the present.

Refreshments & Meet & Greet rota

December Christmas party	Art, Birdwatching and Social Groups
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Music Appreciation Group

Our next meeting will be at Manni's on Thursday 3rd November, so please phone if you are coming. Our October meeting included Italian composers. Cherubini's String Quartet in E flat was new for me but I could easily appreciate that Beethoven thought him to be a composer of great virtuosity. Bellini's Vaga Luna che Inargenti was sung by Cecilia Barton; it was easy to believe that this beautifully-sung lyrical melody described the moon. Of course, we had to hear parts of Giuseppe Verdi's Traviata, involving the heartbreakingly tragic duet between Violetta and Alfredo's father where he asks her to give up his son. This she does, but admits it would kill her. After that, we felt we could not follow with any other pieces of Italian tragedy, but finished on a happier note with Rachmaninov's Rhapsody on a theme of Paganini. We shall be exploring some German and Austrian music next time. *Pat Willis*

Golfing Group

Our October golfing session was a return to our winter home at Woodham Mortimer Golf Driving range where our professional golfing instructor Ken helped us improve our putting.

Ken will also be taking us for our November golfing session at the driving range on Friday 11th November commencing at 11.00am. He has arranged for some of the group to arrive early at 10.00am to practice the putting techniques he taught us during our October visit.

Our golfing thought for this month is: "The man who can putt is a match for anyone." Willie Parks Jr., 20th century American professional golfer.
Alan Chapman, Coordinator 01621 816860

Science, Technology, Energy & Medical Group

The new STEAM group usually meets on the second Monday of the month at 9.30am, with alternative site visits of science/technology interest, followed by a talk the following month at West Maldon Community Centre on science, technology or medical topics.

Last month, the STEAM group visited the Royal Gunpowder Mills in Waltham Abbey which is an important heritage site with a remarkable true story. It is set in 170 acres of natural parkland, with more than 20 buildings to explore.

Our next talk will be on Monday 14th November at West Maldon Community Centre at 9.30am. Dr Tosck will be giving the group a talk and presentation on the medical subject of Radiation Therapy - the Inside Story. Please note, the STEAM group will not be meeting in December.

Our first meeting in the new year will be on Monday 9th January in the Jubilee room at West Maldon Community Centre at 9.30am when Dr David Petts will give a medical talk on the subject of Cholera, the Essex Plague. Our first site visit in 2012 will be on Monday 13th February when we will be visit the Combined Military Museum in Maldon at 9.30am for a guided tour and talk.

You will find a full list of talks and visits for the coming year on the Blackwater U3A website on the STEAM Group page.

For any more information regarding the above visits and meetings, contact Alan Chapman on 01621 816860.

Social Group

Fish and chip supper and quiz night

Thank you to the 17 members who came along for the evening. The Jubilee Lounge was filled with laughter and chat. After a tasty supper, there was the quiz covering questions relating to watery and fishy questions. The scores were quite close ranging from 25 to 32; the winners were Adrian and Doreen, Sybil and Jenny Wall second, and Christine and Miriam third. Well done everyone for taking part.

Country Dance – Friday 18th November. We would like a few more people to sign up for the dance as we may have to cancel, if there is not enough support.

Christmas party - Tickets will be on sale at the November meeting for the Christmas party on 7th December, price £2.50.

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.

Photography Group

Our topic for October was Structures, in the widest sense. For November, I am proposing autumn/winter colour.

George Wallis 01621 856667

Family History Group

Fifteen members attended the October meeting, including one new member. Under 'Memories' we learned about some of the members varied 'collections'. This was followed by a practical, online demonstration of the Family Tree Maker and Find My Past software programmes - the two most popular in use today for family historians.

The programme for November will be:

1.30p.m. - 2.00p.m. Memories and/or Heirlooms.

2.00p.m. - 3.00p.m. Websites - Baptisms and Family Search.org

3.00p.m. - 4.00p.m. Looking at another software programme to create a family tree.

Beginners to Genealogy are always welcome; we plan to hold beginners and help me sessions with the assistance of some of our more experienced members.
Geoff Pugh 01621 843297

Reading Group

There were mixed reactions to 'The Legacy' by Katherine Webb, our book for October. Some found it to be an easy read, one or two found it confusing at the start as the prologue was set in 1905 and referred to at times, but much of the story was set more recently.

Two sisters inherit a house they visited in their childhood; one is keen to solve a mystery that occurred then. Another mystery dates back to 1905. There are three women involved in the story, all disappointing characters individually arousing pity, sadness and contempt. As the past and present converge, Erica and Beth, the two sisters, must come to terms with two terrible acts of betrayal and the heartbreaking legacy left behind.

Our next book is 'Ask Alice' by D. J. Taylor which we will discuss on 10th November.
Pat Wade (01621 740253)

Gardening Group

Most of us have finished harvesting fruit and vegetables from the garden, or maybe the allotment, and now it is time to start planning next year's planting.

I have received three different catalogues from Thompson and Morgan, Seeds, The Kitchen Gardeners and The Fruit, all 2012. Again they are offering 50 percent off all seed orders. Fifteen percent applies to seed potatoes, bulbs, onion sets, fruit, plants and garden equipment.

Our bulk order has to total £100. If we do want to order using the individual packing service (which would be easier for me) this will cost each person an extra £1.95. If you are interested in trying to make up a bulk order or seeing the catalogues please contact me.

Monday 28th November - Quiz and planning afternoon with tea. 2pm at The Linton Room at West Maldon Community Centre. Cost £3. Please come and enjoy a lighthearted afternoon and bring ideas for next year. Wendy and I would like some feedback of this year's programme too. We can take criticism! We look forward to seeing you. *Jennifer Fowler 01245 222834.*

Historical Buildings in Maldon Group

If there are any members who can tell me about our High Street I would really be interested to hear – whether it be the fact that they or a relative used to work in one of the shops or if anyone has any photos, newspaper cuttings or memories of our High Street. In fact anything covering our High Street in their lifetime would be interesting.

If you could jot down dates and the names of shops and their positions in the road and give them to me, that would help to fill in some of the gaps in the Maldon High Street time-line. Thanks.

On Wednesday 23rd November we will visit The Moot Hall, then refreshments at the Oakhouse with members' updates on their research. Please let Dorreen know if you intend coming along.

Dorreen Linton 01621 853428

Rural Essex Group

Our visit to Chafford Gorge nature park is somewhere people would have been treading similar paths around a quarter of a million years ago. The area is a green space of approximately 200 acres in the former chalk quarries known as Warren Gorge, Lion Gorge and Grays Gorge, together with Mill Wood and Wouldham Cliffs. Our guide, Mike Sandison was very knowledgeable about the geology of the area. As we walked, Mike was able to tell about the history and the changes in climate and sea level and the fact that ancient rocks in the Scottish Highlands were transported more than 500 miles to Essex along the coast by longshore drift. The park provides home for a wide range of wildlife, fish, birds, bats, butterflies, and plant species which are dependant on the chalky conditions

We saw the amazing chalk cliff, the flint layer known as 'Whitaker's 3 inch Band. and the Thanet Sand layer and then the Thames gravel which meant that the earlier course of the Thames was 100 feet higher than now. The staggering timescale of this area with quotes such as 85 million years old and 65 million years old are really hard to imagine - there is a 25 million time gap in the layers with only a thin layer of green-coated flints called the Bullhead Bed. Mike took us to where we could see the Sarsens. These are giant sandstone boulders that were formed 20 million years ago when Britain's climate was similar to the Kalahari Desert. The boulders have rounded bumps on the surface which are 'growth structures' formed as the quartz slowly crystallised between the sand grains. The massive stones of Stonehenge are also sarsens.

Forthcoming events

Chris Tyas will be giving a talk about the Wallasea Island Wild Coast Project on Wednesday 9th November at the Friends Meeting Place at 8 pm. Donation to Essex Wildlife Trust £1.50p

Eddie Heigham will be giving a talk about the archaeology of Tollesbury and more on Wednesday 18th January at West Maldon Community Centre at 2 pm.

We will be combining with the STEAM group on Monday 14th May for a talk on the Geology of Walton on the Naze at 9.30 am at West Maldon Community Centre and we will be joining them on their visit to Walton on the Naze on Monday 11th June. *Dorreen Linton 01621 853428*

Birdwatching Group

Visit to Chafford Gorge

A big thank you to the drivers who delivered us safely and on time to the Essex Wildlife Trust Centre at Chafford Gorge in Thurrock. It is located in an old chalk quarry that now provides food and habitat for a variety of wildlife. We envied the views the residents of the cliff top houses must experience. This tranquil location is situated in the centre of a housing estate and is just a stone's throw from Lakeside Shopping Centre.

Chafford Gorge is the largest of the three local nature reserves, all of which are open to the public and in walking distance from each other. Our guide Ruth Barnes, who has guided us at other venues this year shared her knowledge and experiences of the site in an interesting and informative manner.

With Ruth's input, and in spite of the windy environment, we saw 19 bird species and heard many more. The cormorants roosting in the trees were majestic. The heron sat comfortably peering down into the lake which is well stocked with fish including pike, and newts. The kingfishers were flashes of copper and turquoise as they darted across the water. We were delighted to see them in two locations, more so when told that the warden Andy had never enjoyed such a sight at Chafford.

After a very pleasant walk along paths bordered with autumn clad trees and hedgerows, and observing the comic behaviour of the water birds, we retired to the local eatery, The Sandmartin, for a very enjoyable lunch.

Dawn Mundy

Friday 4th November - RSPB Reserve at Old Hall Marshes, Tollesbury, no facilities. Meet at 9 am at West Maldon Community Centre. Guide Paul Charleton. Followed by comfort break and hot drinks and/or own picnic lunch at Abberton Essex Wildlife Trust. Charge £3.50 each.

SATURDAY 3rd December - Goldhanger, the shore and sea wall, no facilities. Meet West Maldon Community Centre at 9.15am. Guide John Buchanon, followed by Carvery Christmas lunch at 1pm at Tollesbury Cruising Club Restaurant. Spouses of birdwatchers or birdwatchers not attending at Goldhanger are invited.

Peter Leggett, Coor inator, 01621 852377

Local Theatre Group

Death by Fatal Murder

Death by fatal murder it certainly was; in the opening scene, the lady of the house, Nancy, discovered the body of a local police officer in an armchair at her country manor house in Bagshot set during the last war. There were three guests staying at the time; Enzo Garibaldi (played by Leslie Grantham - Dirty Den of Eastenders) who seemed a rather weak character, was joined by a rather mystical, very Welsh Blodwin Morgan, Miss Joan Maple, amateur sleuth, and Ginny Farquar, a forceful horsey character with a hideous laugh. The plot was weak, not helped by investigating officer Inspector Pratt's attempt at a strange accent which was difficult to understand. The plot unfolded very slowly with too few farcical incidents to liven it up, although some of Pratt's malapropisms which were audible, were amusing. Blodwin also deserves a mention for her quite frantic performance and seemed to be the most convincing character of the lot. Local Constable Thomkins, Pratt's assistant, was having a secret affair with Nancy. Supposedly dead husband, Squadron Leader Roger Allwright (Stiffy for short) who played Herr Otto Flick in Allo Allo, arrived on the scene with a none too convincing limp. Not long after this, one became confused by the whole thing. Who done it? I'm not really sure. Sufficient to say several people were not who they seemed to be. Not one I would recommend! *Stephie Eraut*

Thank you so much to Jenny Wall and Brenda Broom for holding the theatre fort for me while I was away in gorgeous Australia. NO I will not be demonstrating throwing a boomerang in public, but I will be in private on the farm with the grandchildren! I have now arranged a planning meeting for you all in January but, for the meantime, I have chosen several events for you to cover January and February.

Sunday December 11th - A Christmas Soiree at Hylands House by the Cameo Players. £14.

Monday January 9th - Planning Meeting, Linton Room West Maldon Community Centre at 10am.

Wednesday January 25th - Legally Blonde, a musical. Cliffs Pavilion, matinee performance. £24.30

Monday February 20th - Agatha Christie's Murder on the Nile. Palace Theatre, evening performance. £21.15

Please be prepared to pay at the November meeting or send a cheque.

Thanks *Sheila Rowsell 01621 740820*

Art Appreciation Group

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 22nd November at West Maldon Community Centre at 2 pm. The meeting will take the form of an Antiques Roadshow, so if anyone has anything of interest could they please bring it along for discussion. Other dates are listed in the October newsletter .

Dorreen Linton 01621 853428

Petanque Group

Fourteen members of the Petanque Group met on Tuesday (including one member from Maldon). We were very pleased to welcome four members from the Limebrook U3A who are starting up a new U3A group and will be meeting on a Thursday. We look forward to competing against them in 2012. Please note. The clocks go forward this month and as a result Petanque will start at 1.30 pm from Tuesday, 1st November.

George Wallis 01621 856667

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. It is a very friendly group, balls and bats provided. Coaching is given and new members are welcomed. The group has been running since April 2010 and numbers playing have grown with the turnout often over twelve people.

John Mundy 01621 854065

Walking Group

The report on the October walk will be too late for the November newsletter. Brenda Broom volunteered to lead a walk of approximately 7 miles from the Community Centre around the Beeleigh area and then along the sea wall to Northey Island and back to the Community Centre. The November walk will be around the Maldon area leaving the Queen Vic in Spital Road at 9.30 for a local walk and returning there at about 12 for a combined lunch with the Craft Group. Please could you sign up or let Dorreen know your interest. I will be pre-ordering menu choices so that we can fit in the timescale of 12 - 1.45.

New members are always welcome. The walks are between 5-6 miles and most of the group usually have a snack lunch at a local establishment, although car shares mean that there is the choice. Please come along with ideas for future walks for the coming months.

Dorreen Linton 01621 853428

Maritime Group

Visit to the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich 29 September

We thoroughly enjoyed our visit to the National Maritime Museum (the largest of its kind in the world). There is so much to see, including the Royal Observatory and its Meridian Line and displays, that everyone said that they will return in future to continue their exploration. Much of the museum is very modern, having been recently expanded, with state of the art displays, while other parts are housed in historic buildings, such as the Queen's House. Fantastic late summer weather made it a memorable visit!

Monday 7th November – Canals

Short illustrated talks by three of our members on some of the world's major canals. George Wallis will cover the Panama Canal, Dennis Erout the Caledonian Canal and John Wallace the Suez and Kiel Canals. 2.00pm at West Maldon Community Centre.

Monday 5th December - History of Seaplanes on the Solent

Roger Smith will give us the second part of his illustrated talk. 2.00pm at West Maldon Community Centre.

John Wallace 01245 225093

History Group

Sutton Hoo and Glemham Hall

Our last visit for this year was a two site day. First we travelled by car share (a special thank you to all my drivers for the day) to Sutton Hoo. In 1939, an archaeological excavation revealed the most amazing collection of treasures in a ninety-foot long Anglo-Saxon ship that had lain undisturbed for over 1300 years. The beautiful autumn weather allowed our members to enjoy the wonderful views over the river Deben and view Mrs Pretty's Edwardian country home where she first had the idea to find out more about the mounds on her Estate with the help of archaeologist, Basil Brown. Some walked to the Burial Mounds, while others enjoyed the Exhibition Hall telling the Sutton Hoo story. A short audio-visual presentation also gave the background history of the site. Everyone enjoyed the tasty range of food in the King's River Café.

The afternoon brought a fitting end to the group's outdoor season with a visit to Glemham Hall. Our guide, Philip, was living in a one bedroom flat in London when he received a telephone call that changed his life, the sudden death of his Uncle, Patrick Cobbold in 1994. Phillip was born at Glemham Hall and, as the eldest nephew, he inherited the estate. He laughed, "I came home to roost."

The first building on the estate was a moated manor house built in 1560 by Sir Henry Glemham. The Glemham family lived in the Hall for some 150 years from 1560-1709, after living in an earlier moated Manor House (the old Hall) in the park from the mid 13th century. The North family (Earls of Guildford) who owned the estate from 1709-1923 made many changes to the structure of the house, giving it a Georgian façade and feel. In 1923, the Cobbold brewing family purchased Glemham. There have only been three families owning the house which is Grade I listed. The family motto is 'remain strong in adversity' and, as Philip says, the challenge is not for the faint hearted.

Glemham Hall is a lived-in home for Phillip, his wife and family. During the tour of the house we were able to see the magnificent large circular millennium table of oak and ash whose base contains a time capsule which is not to be opened for another millennium and contains a wide range of everyday things for future generations to view. The beautiful wood-panelled library, unaltered since 1811, contains calf-bound books as well as a copy of the family tree and many family portraits. Along side these are displays about Ipswich Town Football Club (the family connection dating back to Philip's grandfather).

The tour revealed places where water has wreaked havoc with the plasterwork and windows. Work on renewing the roof has been finished and local craftsmen are now working on the many windows (365 windows in total - one window for every day of the year). I am almost certain that the areas members will remember most will be the Toy Room where we could reminisce about our childhood days, the room set aside for the train set, the servants quarters with numerous flies in residence and the cellars where someone had stayed a little too long sampling the ports, wines and champagnes.

The group ended the afternoon with refreshments in the conservatory where Phillip talked more about the Hall and his hopes for the future. He has two sons who have both shown an interest in becoming involved with the Hall and its estate, one an events manager and the other a chef in a London restaurant.

Please see the October newsletter for the list of forthcoming history events and sign up or call me to secure a place.

Local events

Maldon District Council's series of local historical talks will be held at The Friends Meeting House, Butt Lane starting at 7.30 pm. All the talks are free.

Tuesday 1st November - A pictorial history of Goldhanger – David Newman

Tuesday 6th December - The 1992 restoration of All Saints Spire and adventures with Cecil Hewett

Tuesday 3rd January - A nostalgic tour of the old Dengie Hundred – Michael Head

Tuesday 7th February - The Master of Little Braxted, the life and work of the Reverend Ernest Geldart, priest-architect 1848-1929 - James Bettley

Tuesday 6th March - The Life and buildings of A H Mackmurdo, a nationally important Arts and Crafts architect based in Great Totham

The National Trust Talks at the Cramphorn Theatre 7.45 Admission £2-£4 depending on membership

Wednesday 16th November – History on our doorstep , WWI Aerodrome at Stowe Maries by Ivan Dallinger

Wednesday 7th December – History of Butlins 1938-83 by Norman Jacobs
Dorreen Linton 01621 853428