



Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No. 2010/1

January 2010

Contacts:	Ruth Tyler	Chairman	01621 869865
	Peter Thorpe	Vice Chairman	01621 850828

From the Chairman

I hope you all had a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas. For the first time ever, I went away and really enjoyed being waited on, and no cooking to do!!

As I sit writing these notes for the first News Sheet of 2010 it is good to reflect on how far we have come as a new U3A in so short a time. I must firstly thank all the members of the Steering Committee who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes. Their efforts really go unseen, but are so necessary in the smooth running of a branch of what is a world-wide organisation, and has to be run under its terms and conditions. Thanks too to all the COGS, without whom we would not have our range of Group activities, which I know you all enjoy so much.

Here now is advance notice of our AGM. If you enjoy the activities you take part in, please make an effort to come, as it is your opportunity to show your appreciation of our efforts so far, and offer your services perhaps on the new Committee.

At the initial meeting of the Heybridge U3A it was stated that an Annual General Meeting (AGM) would take place in March 2010. I take this opportunity to announce that the AGM will take place on Friday 12th March promptly at 14.00, as we will have a full agenda to get through.

The proposed Constitution for the Heybridge U3A that is to be voted on at the AGM will be available to be read by Heybridge U3A Members at both the January and February monthly meetings as well as on the day of the AGM.

At the AGM a full committee of the Heybridge U3A, in accordance with the proposed Constitution, will need to be elected by the members. All members are eligible to be elected to the committee. It should be noted that not all the existing Steering Committee members will be offering themselves for election to the following positions:

- Chairman
- Vice Chairman
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Membership Secretary

- Speaker Secretary
- Social Secretary
- Interest Group Co-ordinator
- News Sheet Editor

The closing date for nominations is Friday 26th February 2010. The Nomination Form can be found on a separate attachment to the emailed version of this News Sheet. It can also be collected from the desk at the monthly meeting. If in any difficulty, speak to one of the current Steering Committee members. For the nomination to be valid, the completed and signed form must be handed, posted or emailed (the original signed copy must be handed to the Secretary prior to the AGM) to the Secretary or any other member of the Committee and received by above date. The names of Nominees and position will be published in the March issue of the News Sheet, which will be available prior to the AGM.

May I wish you all, as individuals, and members of our U3A a happy and healthy 2010.

Ruth

From the Editor

I am writing this piece with Christmas gone and the New Year yet to start. The presents have been opened, used or just put away for use later in the year.

Thank you all, for getting most of the News Sheet text to me before Christmas so that I could concentrate my efforts on Christmas.

The first meeting of the year is on Friday 8th January and we would like to see you there. See also the Social Secretary's section below. We would like you dressed for the occasion but nothing too extravagant. As this request will be late for some members, can you who have emails and read them before the monthly meeting pass on this request to those without email.

January has become a month of requests. Please make sure that you have read 'From the Chairman about the need for members to put themselves forward for committee positions and the voting that will take place at the March AGM. Also, please read the Membership

Secretary section about the subscriptions for the year 2010 – 2011.

The Diary on the last page has again been updated through to the end of February. Where no updated information has been provided by the COG of a group and in the past they have had regular days and time in the month I will repeat these days and times for February. If there is a mistake please tell me and I will correct it in the next issue of the News Sheet.

In the December issue I asked you if the content and layout of the News Sheet is what you want. Am I missing issues or subjects that you want to hear about? Do you read the News Sheet, or is it becoming repetitive? Please write, email or tell me and I will try and rectify or amend the News Sheet in the future.

The offer to distribute the various Group Programmes or Agendas for the coming year still stands. If you would like to produce and distribute them electronically, to those with email addresses, I can do this for you. Please discuss when you see me at the monthly meeting.

Most will know the publication procedure. Copy should be with me by the Friday 29th of January. Please continue to send details to me by email at ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk with U3A in the title. Typed copy can also be provided. Alternatively phone me, Ian Newman, at 01621 891184 or see me at the monthly meeting to decide other methods of providing copy. Publication will take place on the first weekend of February.

Heybridge U3A Meetings

The date of next meeting is Friday 8th January, starting at the normal time of 14.00 in the Plantation Hall, Heybridge and continuing until 17.00. We have Arthur Brooks with music from the days of the Music Hall, which will dovetail into the New Year Festivities. This should be a very enjoyable afternoon.

In February, Ray Spiller will give a talk on “Festive Records of the Hit Parade”. In March, we have Ian Valentine as our speaker with the subject “Searching for Miss Prance”.

U3A News

Your personal copy of the October 2009 ‘U3A News’ magazine is now available. Please pick up your copy of the magazine. They can be found at the back of the hall at the next monthly meeting.

From the COGCo (Group Co-ordinator)

I hope that you all enjoyed Christmas and that 2010 will be both prosperous and fulfilling. If you want to make a New Year resolution you might consider joining another of our interest groups or if you have yet to experience the special nature of a group to pick one and try it. We have

a wide range of topics on offer and you will find a friendly welcome from the COG and the other group members when you make contact. Perhaps you have been considering becoming a COG and getting another group started – now is the time, if you want help please ask.

Group Names, Co-ordinator, Contact Telephone

Group Name	Co-ordinator	Telephone Number
Ballroom Dancing	Joint with Maldon Jo Robson *	* 01621 828236
Bird Watching	Maureen Lenoir	01621 869871
Bridge	Lisbeth Bazzard	01621 843208
Coffee Morning	Margaret Brown	01621 854885
Computer	Tina Abeysekera	01621 858635
Esperanto	Peter Groves	01245 227018
Family History	Joint with Blackwater Roger Smith *	*01621 843054
Gardening	Pat Yates	01621 892866
Local History	Carol Greenhalgh	01621 840339
Luncheon	Beth Jeffries	01621 853403
Maritime & Coastal	Brenda Dewar	01245 400492
Painting	Michael Kempen	01621 892974
Petanque	Barbara Barbrook	01621 855605
Photography	Peter Thorpe	01621 850828
Reading & Books	Ann Lees	01245 225153
Scrabble	Ruth Tyler	01621 869865
Theatre	Gill Bridle & Janet Morley	01621 892587 & 01621 892626
Threads & Fabrics	Anne Thorpe & Pat Newman	01621 850828 & 01621 891184
Walking	Elizabeth Eastwood	01621 850618
Weekenders	Jan Stroud	01621 859766

There are no new groups on the horizon at the present and there are many of the “standard” U3A interests that we do not cover. We do not have groups for members with interests in music, languages, writing, philosophy, particle physics etc. There are however, lists of names of members interested in some of these subjects waiting for someone to act as a catalyst and get things going. There are also plenty of blank forms available for whatever topic you fancy.

Reflection:- If appreciation stems from understanding, then the sharing of knowledge is the great gift of friendship.

I am pleased to announce that the **Photography group** is underway. The members have agreed to meet on the first Thursday of every month at 13.00 until 15.00. We have managed to book the Claydon Room at the Plantation Hall and the first meeting will be held on 7th January 2010. If you are interested in taking pictures or if you want to explore why some photos look better than others - come along.

Now that we are becoming established as a U3A, perhaps we should arrange for our groups to display what we do, both as a celebration of our achievements and to encourage others to join us. Your (especially COGs) views please.

Please remember the second principle of the U3A.

Peter Thorpe

Membership Secretary

If you receive this News Sheet by email you will find an attachment to that email that provides a re-enrolment form that you can print. The completed form and a cheque will need to be given to the Membership Secretary by the end of March 2010 to maintain your membership. This renewal of membership applies to all existing members. If you pick up your News Sheet at the monthly meeting then this form can be collected as you enter the hall.

If you are not a member and wish to join, please contact Lisbeth Bazzard on 01621 843208 or by email lisbethbazzard@talktalk.net You can also write to her at 2, Silver Street, Maldon, Essex. CM9 4QE or speak to her at the monthly meeting.

From the Treasurer

There is nothing to report this month.

From the Secretary

There is nothing to report this month.

From the Social Secretary

The first social activity that is being provided by the Heybridge U3A is an informal gathering following the January monthly meeting at Plantation Hall. The speaker whose subject is "Old Time Musical Hall" has agreed to stay and provide a selection of music and there will be a light buffet provided. It would be helpful if those intending to stay and enjoy the hospitality would indicate before the 1st January 2010 to either Martyn or Madeleine Garwood by phoning 01621 892499 or by email, m_garwood@sky.com, so that we can suitably cater for the numbers attending. It should be an enjoyable social

event and we would like to see as many in attendance as possible.

Come along on Friday 8th January at 14.00, to the Heybridge U3A monthly meeting afternoon in clothes that match that of the meeting, 'Music Hall songs'. Ladies, come along in dresses and possibly a shawl, maybe a bonnet and waistcoats or similar for the men. It is up to you.

REPORTS

Art (Painting) Group

Watch this space for our report at the end of January. Note that our first meeting of the New Year will be on Friday 15th January at 14.00.

Bird Watching

Our next meeting, if you would like to join us, will be on 22nd January to Abberton Reservoir Nature Reserve. No experience needed just your company.

My email address is symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01621 869871.

Maureen

Bridge Group

There is only one bridge four that has been arranged for January. I hope at the next U3A meeting to discuss and arrange some fours for February. If you are interested please contact me.

Liz Bazzard 01621 843208

Computer Group

The Computer Group's last meeting of 2009 was held in the Claydon Room at the Plantation Hall on the 17th December with Vivienne in charge of refreshments as usual.

Pat demonstrated how to produce greeting cards using various designs and verse inserts. In all, six laptops were in use. It is hoped that members of the group will practice at home and bring the resulting cards to the next meeting.

Ian reported that he is enquiring about funding for the purchase of a computer, projector, screens etc. for the group and the rest of Heybridge U3A members. This could be a lengthy process.

Our next meeting is on 21st January at 13.00 where we will go through the basic procedures once more and deal with any further problems or queries.

Many thanks to Ian, Pat and Vivienne and here's to successful computing in 2010.

Audrey

Coastal and Marine Group

First of all, I am delighted to let you know that the Maldon Coastal and Maritime Group have invited any of us to join them on their "Hartlepool Maritime Experience Trip on June 22nd to June 26th". The cost is £398 per person for a 4 night stay, dinner, bed and breakfast, at the Durham Marriott Royal Hotel. The trip includes a full day at the Maritime Museum, a river cruise and a guided tour of Durham and its famous cathedral, with the use of an executive coach and courier throughout. Any one interested can either call Malcolm Case 01245 329435 or me. (01245 400492)

I am sure that it will not be long before our Group will be organising such trips, but we still have put together an interesting programme centred locally. Meetings will be held at the Blue Boar unless otherwise notified. The meetings are as follows:

- Friday 19th February; A talk by Glenn Cousins.
- Friday 19th March; A talk about sail making.
- Friday 16th April; A Stephen Nunn walk around Maldon (to be confirmed).
- Friday 21st May and June 18th; A barge trip and a trip to Harwich. These trips and dates have yet to be confirmed.

Other ideas for the summer include a trip to see the seals and perhaps a trip on the Mersea Ferry!! Cannot wait for summer! Looking forward to many interesting a varied events. Come along and enjoy, and we are always open for new ideas.

Brenda Dewar

Discussion Coffee Morning

The next discussion meeting will be in the New Year on 15th January at Gill Thornes' house. Details will be available at the next U3A meeting or phone Margaret Brown on 01621 854885 for details.

Gardening Group

A date has been fixed for the first meeting of 2010. This will be a planning meeting, which will be at Lesley Pomphrett's house in Tiptree on Monday 15th March at 14.00 (half-hour earlier than the summer meetings). She will provide her address and a map to those wishing to attend nearer the date.

Some people had agreed that it would be nice to visit a garden in February to see snowdrops possibly by coach to Anglesey Abbey, which also has a beautiful winter walk. I have come to the conclusion that if the weather was bad on the day of the visit then our money would be

wasted. A better idea would be to share cars, with the choice of calling the whole thing off if necessary at short notice. If anyone is interested in this idea, or in going to see snowdrops at a location nearer home, please would they e-mail or phone me in January. 01621 892866 or pat.yates@tesco.net

Local History Group (LHG)

Our 19th January meeting is at the Maeldune Centre for a talk on the Maldon tapestry. We must have names for this so please leave a message for Carol on 01621 840339 if you wish to come.

Luncheon Group

The first Luncheon of the New Year will be on Friday 29th January. We will meet at The Queens Head, Maldon at 12.30. Looking forward to seeing you all there. Please contact me if you would like to join us.

Beth 01621 853403

Petanque Group

We are now in a state of hibernation unless we have some hot sunny days in January, which is unlikely. We shall be starting again on the Monday following the March meeting unless the weather is dreadful.

I have contacted the Maldon Petanque Group and have said that we shall be challenging them to a match next Spring or Summer so we have something to aim for. Have a good rest and see you at the next meeting.

Barbara Barbrook

Reading and Books Group

The December book 'The Northern Clemency' by Philip Hensher gave rise to a very interesting discussion at this months Book Club meeting.

A Booker Prize finalist, it was a story of two families set against the background of social unrest in the 1970's and the subsequent social changes over the next 20 years. It was considered by all at the meeting as unnecessarily long and somewhat fragmented in its storyline.

Carole Overy very helpfully obtained some biographical details of the author which served to give us a much greater understanding of the origins of the novel and its characters. The writer seems to have drawn on many of his own feelings and experiences of life as a young man in Sheffield. His recollections of the details of life in the 1970's was remarkable. The writing was clear and fluent but it was felt that his characters were not particularly well drawn nor totally authentic in their behaviour and responses. Storylines were not always completed leaving the reader somewhat bemused about characters and situations within the novel.

However, overall it was thought to have been a well written, but somewhat shocking story, which depicted the lives of ordinary people and history on the move.

The next meeting of the Book Group will be at Anne Thorpe's house on Wednesday 20th January 2010.

If you would like to join us, please call Ann Lees 01245225153. You will be very welcome.

Scrabble

No scrabble meetings have taken place in December. The arrangements for the beginning of 2010 remain unchanged and are repeated below for ease of reference:

- Wednesday 27th January at Jan Olley's; ring 01621 815223.
- Wednesday 24th February at Pam Archer's; ring 01621 815379.
- Wednesday 31st March at Beryl Claydon's; ring 01621 852082.
- Wednesday 28th April at Ruth Tyler's; ring 01621 869865.

Please ring the hostess for each meeting if you are able to join in.

More members are welcome for the winter months, but as our afternoons are in members' homes, it might be necessary to have two groups.

Ruth Tyler 01621 869865.

Threads and Fabrics

Our December meeting was, as usual, interesting and informative. At our last meeting we took work in progress. Several were knitting and the discussion turned to types of yarn (multicoloured and or textured) and their uses. Also, the accuracy of the manufacturers instructions, not always good and how varying needle sizes can alter the look of the work. During the afternoon, we all admired a beautiful patchwork quilt brought along to the meeting by one of our members. I wish I had her patience and skill. In January we are exploring crochet.

Finally, we have set the dates for our next three meetings; they are the 5th January, the 2nd February and the 2nd March.

For further information, please as usual contact Anne on 01621 850828 or Pat on 01621 891184.

Walking

Our December walk took place on yet another beautiful warmish sunny day, hard to think in all this snow and ice that it was only two weeks ago!

We met at the car park of the Dog & Pheasant pub in East Mersea and followed the route along Shop Lane, then down a pathway that eventually led us onto the sea wall. There we had a splendid view along Pyefleet Channel and across to Brightlingsea. We followed the sea wall path around to Mersea Stone and then along the beach past the Country Park, looping back to the pub in time for a welcome lunch.

The next morning walk followed by a pub lunch will be repeated in January, conditions allowing.

We will meet at the Cap and Feathers car park in Tillingham at 10:30 on Thurs Jan 14 (the week after the monthly U3A this time) to follow a 4-mile walk around the area, returning to the pub along St Peter's Way.

I will arrange pub car parking, please let me know if you can join us. All are welcome.

Elizabeth

Weekender

We battled blizzards and snowdrifts to get to Oliver's Nurseries, Witham on 19th December for our monthly coffee meeting. On the plus side, the scenery was fantastic - hopefully we can enjoy snow every winter. I did take a picture but unfortunately, I cannot upload photographs or use my-mail. We had a brilliant and fun meeting but on the serious side we spent quite some time discussing all forms of security, which was very informative. Hopefully, we have all taken something away from it. Thank you to those of you who braved the awful weather conditions.

Our next coffee meeting will be held in The Blue Boar, Maldon at 10.00 on Saturday 23rd January. Topic yet to be decided.

We also have another quiz on 23rd January at West Maldon Community Centre, Sunbury Way, Maldon at 20.00. Please put your name on the list at the monthly meeting if you would like to participate.

For information on the group please phone Jan Stroud 01621 859766.

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of you from the Weekenders.

Jan Stroud

Members HELP

Your views and input are needed for all future editions of the News Sheet. This can be in the form of reports about activities undertaken, activities to come, letters to the Editor or anything else that you think may interest other members.

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
4 th January	4	5 Threads and Fabrics 14.00	6	7 Photography 13.00	8 Monthly Meeting 14.00	9	10
11 th January	11		13	14 Walking 10.30	15 Painting 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00	16	17
18 th January	18	19 Local History 14.00	20 Book Group 14.30	21 Computer 13.00	22 Painting 14.00 Bird Watching 10.00	23 Week - ender Coffee at Blue Boar 10.00 and W. Maldon CC at 20.00	24
25 th January	25	26 Bridge afternoon	27 Scrabble 14.00	28	29 Submit News Sheet text Luncheon Group Painting 14.00	30	31
1 st February	1	2 Threads and Fabrics 14.00	3	4 Photography 13.00	5 Painting 14.00	6	7
8 th February	8	9	10	11	12 Monthly Meeting 14.00	13	14
15 th February	15	16 Local History 14.00	17 Book Group 14.30	18 Computer 13.00	19 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00 Coastal and Marine 14.00	20	21
22 nd February	22	23	24 Scrabble 14.00	25	26 Submit News Sheet text Painting 14.00	27	28

Program of Meetings and Visits

For details see articles and co-ordinators above.