



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No. 2011/1

January 2011

Contacts:	Peter Thorpe	Chairman	01621 850828
	Brenda Dewar	Secretary	01245 400492

From the Chairman

There was a Christmas theme to our December meeting, when Keith Baldwin (no relation to our Maureen) entertained us with his seasonal repertoire of humorous anecdotes and stories. Keith's career in both the Army and Police Service honed his communication skills. Now in retirement, he is in demand for his popular and amusing presentations to groups such as ours. Keith enthralled us with a wide variety of readings from classical and modern authors, journalists and poets, all of which were delivered in his dramatic and humorous style.

Another pre-Christmas treat was the Theatre Group visit to the Royal Albert Hall for a "Christmas Carol Singalong". It was an amazing experience to be singing traditional Christmas carols and songs with the superb London Concert Orchestra and Chorus and that fantastic organ.

We are delighted that as more people hear about the magic of the U3A, the more they want to join. We in turn welcome new members and are especially pleased when it is our U3A they choose to join. An "old" friend of mine (by that I mean a friend whom I have known since childhood!) has just joined a new U3A in Hertfordshire. He excitedly explained to me a couple of days ago that - "it was like looking through a keyhole and seeing all the good things available inside". I had not seen my introduction to the U3A in quite the same terms, but I certainly can understand his feelings. Membership of the U3A is as much about giving as it is about receiving and I urge our new members to become actively involved. Join the interest groups that appeal to you or form an interest group in a new subject and discover for yourself, the magic that is the U3A.

You are reading these scribblings in 2011 and I hope that you have fond and happy memories of the festive season. However, as I write this stuff, the "big-day" is yet to come (such are the editorial pressures during December) and I am interested in the answer to the question - will it be, (or was it) - "white"?

I hope that 2011 is a happy, healthy and prosperous year to you all. Some of you will be going on an adventure. Others may be moving home or doing all

manner of things. So, where ever you go or what ever you do, I hope you find your experiences rewarding and enjoyable.

Peter Thorpe

thorpe101@btinternet.com

From the Editor

If you are interested in gardening, especially roses, there are some books and magazines which are currently gathering dust and may be of interest to an U3A gardener. Look on page 7 for more details.

I believe that the content, standard and interest in the monthly news sheet has come a long way over the last 12 months. This is in the main due to those who contribute each month. The CoGs who provide interesting reports on what they have been involved in and the activities that are programmed for the weeks and months ahead. Also to the Committee members who provide information originating from many sources to aid the smooth running of our U3A and maintain interest in it. My thanks to you all.

Have you looked at the Heybridge U3A web pages? Those who receive this News Sheet electronically can view these pages now by clicking on the following link but make sure you are 'on-line' first:

<http://www.heybridgeu3a.org.uk> .

We hope to expand it as the months progress into the New Year and would welcome your comments on this new facility or on ways you would like it developed. I have not put down my ideas as this News Sheet is yours as is the content of the Heybridge U3A WEB site.

This advance copy of this News Sheet is again being circulated to all members who have provided their email addresses to the Membership Secretary. If you have an email address and have not received an emailed copy of this News Sheet please let me know, preferably by email (Email address below).

The Diary on the last page has been updated through to the end of February 2011. It is important that you as COG's, members of Groups or just members of Heybridge U3A, keep me up to date. If anyone has an interesting story, relevant pictures or activity that relates in some way to The Heybridge

U3A or the U3A movement as a whole, then please contact me.

Most will know the publication procedure. Copy should normally be with me by the last Friday of the month. Please continue to send details to me, preferably by email, at ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk with 'U3A' or preferably 'Heybridge U3A' in the title. Alternatively see me at the Monthly Meeting to decide other methods of providing copy. Publication will take place some seven to ten days later.

Ian Newman.

Heybridge U3A Meetings

The next Meeting is on Friday 14th January, starting at the normal time of 14.00, in the Plantation Hall, Heybridge. This month we have a talk on the Farleigh Hospice telling us about the work it does in the community and how it helps the people of Maldon. In February we have a historical talk on Henry John Hatch the first Chaplain to Wandsworth Prison. March is the month in the year when the AGM is held

From the COGCo (Group Co-ordinator)

I am writing this article for the January 2011 News Sheet but it is still the middle of December as Ian wants to put this "to bed" before Christmas so I am in a bit of a time warp. It reminds me of the time when I was at work, doing accounts for the previous month, invoices for the present month and preparations for the following month. I still sometimes have a problem knowing what day it is, never mind what month.



Since my last article I have been with friends and their children to Madison Heights to play 10 pin bowling, something I do about once a year and it was very enjoyable so perhaps I might suggest it again to Weekenders. Mind you, it was probably the lunch at Izumi afterwards that made it such a good day.

Group Names, Co-ordinator, Contact Telephone

Group Name	Co-ordinator (COG)	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	Lesley Pomphrett	01621 817733
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 & 892626
Threads & Fabrics	Anne Thorpe & Pat Newman	01621 850828 & 01621 891184
Walking	Elizabeth Eastwood	01621 850618
Weekenders	Marilyn Corbett	01621 817518

This does not really need to be a weekend event so if anyone else is interested perhaps you might like to start a Group! When I first joined the U3A there was

some tentative interest in this group and perhaps now is the time to resurrect it. In fact, it is much cheaper to play in the daytime during the week. I do know that Maldon U3A has a 10 pin bowling group where we could probably play, but would not it be better to have our own.

I started my Christmas early with mince pies at the Scrabble Group at the end of November, followed by lunch with the Luncheon Club at the beginning of December and two days later a Christmas dinner at the New Times with Weekenders, i.e. turkey and all the trimmings.

As you will not be reading this until 2011, Christmas will be over and again I wish you all a healthy and prosperous New Year and hope this will be just as successful for all the Groups.

Gill Thorne 01621 852294

gillthorne2@hotmail.co.uk

Membership Secretary

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.

REPORTS

Art (Painting) Group

The Painting Group cancelled its December 3rd painting session in the Claydon Room due to the earlier bout of icy weather, after most members said they did not want to risk the journey in these conditions.

However, before the icy blasts returned we managed to fit in a delicious and convivial Christmas lunch at the Secret Garden in Maldon on December 10th, followed by our final painting session of the old year on the 17th December.

Christmas baubles and greenery were the main "models" for this final festive meeting of the year. Many of us discovered, trying to recreate these Christmas baubles and greenery in watercolours, the bright hues and light reflections on glass baubles presented quite a challenge.

We next meet at 14.00 on Friday, January 7th.

New members join us all the time and are always made welcome, so why not give us a whirl?

Gill Carpenter

Bird Watching

There was no Bird Watching in December.

Our first outing of 2011 will be on 28th January to Tollesbury Wick. We will meet in the Woodrolfe Road car park at 13.00 and afterwards at my house for a get together. We need ideas and suggestions to cover the next 6 months. If you would like to join this friendly group please ring me on 01621 869871 or email symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk.

Hope you can make it.

Maureen.

Bridge Group

For details about any bridge duplicate session please contact me, Liz, on 01621 843208 or email me at lisbethbazzard@talktalk.net

Computer Group

Our last meeting of 2010 was held on the 16th December.

A question was raised about the page settings for the News Sheet. As Ian is also the Editor the following are Ian's preferences. Other people will have other ideas and preferences. It was suggested that when members are submitting reports etc for the News Sheet, the font to use is Arial because of its clarity. A query was raised about the size of characters (10 pt.) and the options on line spacing (1.15). Changes to other aspects of the page layout were also discussed.

It was noted that most had found time to use the web site using the link below and looked at its contents.

(<http://www.heybridgeu3a.org.uk>)

It would be interesting to know how many other people had accessed the site, or to use the proper jargon, how many hits had been made. This will be investigated.

For the benefits of those whom were carol singing, or otherwise not able to come, we discussed very briefly short cuts in producing the HTML page code. A web site where a free HTML text editor can be downloaded. It is www.coffeecup.com/freestuff. This cut down program will give novices a start in producing text and will be invaluable when helping to develop the site.

In the spirit of seasonal goodwill the men (the ladies were outnumbered at our last meeting) not only produced the tea, coffee and handed out mincepies but also washed up.

We were asked if we could give thought to producing group pages as mini projects on the new website next year. We agreed to come up with

some fresh ideas and discuss them when we meet again on the 20th January 2011 (13.00 as usual), our regular meeting day.

In the meantime a happy New Year is wished to all.

Audrey

Coastal and Marine Group

To brighten our winter days here is a taster of our programme for 2011. We start 2011 with Tony's fascinating and very amusing talk about the Royal Yacht Britannia, so come along and join us at the Blue Boar on Friday January 21st at 14.00.

The Coastal and Marine Group have decided to visit the Greenwich Maritime Museum on Friday February 18th, with a visit to the Nottage Museum in Wivenhoe in March. Hopefully we shall have a talk by Will about Felixstowe in April, and a trip to Mistley in May. Southwold should be lovely in June for our visit to the lighthouse and for July, August and September we are looking at a voyage on the Waverley, a visit to see the seals at Burnham and perhaps a sail up the Deben. Orford Ness is in the diary for October. When dates and times have been confirmed all the details will be inserted in the monthly News Sheet update.

We meet on the third Friday of the month and will try to organise our visits out and about on these days. We are looking forward to an eventful 2011 and hope that you can join us.

Brenda Dewar.

01245 400492

Discussion Coffee Morning

Our last coffee morning of 2010 was held on 17th December at Gill Thornes house where we were treated to some very tasty home made cheese straws and nibbles, a nice touch.

The first meeting in 2011 will be at my house on Friday 21st January at 11.00. Details will be available at the next meeting or you can telephone me, Margaret Brown, on 01621 854885.

Family History Group

There was no meeting in December. The next meeting will be on Thursday 24th February between 10.30 and 12.30 at my house.

I look forward to meeting everyone again. If anyone is interested in joining the Family History Group, please see me at the February monthly meeting at Plantation Hall where I can tell you then what we do. I will have venue maps available.

Lesley Pomphrett

lesleypommy@hotmail.com

Gardening Group

There is nothing to report this month but watch this space in the February issue.

Pat Yates, 01621 892866 or pat.yates@tesco.net

Local History Group (LHG)

The group decided not to meet in December but are looking forward to our next meeting on the 18th January. I have been lucky to have enlisted, as a speaker for that afternoon, Tim Howson who is a conservation officer with Maldon District Council. Tim is going to talk about 'A thousand years of windows in the Maldon District'. I heard Tim's talk recently, as part of the 'Winter Heritage Talks' series, and was very impressed by what he had to say - so much so that I very much look forward to hearing it all again! Without giving anything away I can say that I have begun to look at windows in the town and around with a completely new eye.

We meet at 14.00 in the Oak Room of the Blue Boar [wear something warm]. All are very welcome to join us. If you wish to come, please call Carol on 01621 840339, e-mail george.smeed@virgin.net or look for the sign-up sheet at the next general meeting.

Carol Grenhalgh

Luncheon Group

Twenty Two very brave people braved the weather to eat Christmas Lunch at The Duke of Wellington, Hatfield Peveral. Although it was not the best meal that we have had this year it was not the worst and the company made up for that. I hope a very nice and jolly time was had by all.

I must say I was pleased it was only a short distance to travel.

Our next meal will be at the Colchester Institute on the 21st January. The next venue will be on the March 4th. I am looking at The Prince of Wales in Great Totham,

I personally missed this one and had good reports from those who attended so I would like to try this venue.

Beth

01621 853403.

Petanque Group

Although we have officially hibernated through this very cold spell some hardy souls, I hear, are still

playing. So if you fancy a game out in the fresh air on the Prom, please telephone Alf Bell on 01621 840158 and he will be able to help you. The Petanque Group will be starting for the summer season on 14th March 2011.

Barbara Barbrook.

Photography Group

We were unable to meet in December due to the inclement weather and the snow covered car park at Plantation Hall. Assuming that the same fate will not prevent us meeting in January, we will discuss how to take photographs of textured objects. We will also be looking at the "texture" photographs taken by our members since our last meeting.

Some of our members are considering purchasing a new camera and we recently had a discussion on the various types and brands of camera on the market. Members described the features of their own cameras to the group. Most modern digital cameras produce superb results, but as with most things - the more you pay the more features you get!!

If you are interested in photography and want to join us, we meet in the Claydon Room of the Plantation Hall, on the first Thursday of each month at 13.00 (lunch time!). We laugh as we learn and you are welcome.

Peter Thorpe

thorpe101@btinternet.com



Author – Peter Thorpe

Reading and Books Group

For this festive month whilst eating mince pies we discussed Ben Elton's 'Blind Faith'. A futuristic story where everyone knows everything about everybody.

Where sharing is valued above all and privacy is considered a dangerous perversion.

It was a savagely comic novel where religious intolerance is combined with a sex-obsessed, utterly egocentric culture. Nakedness was considered as modesty, independent thought subversive, and ignorance as wisdom. The rebel who dared to be different came to an untimely end.

Suffice it to say we saw some aspects of our own society reflected in this story.

Was it a chilling vision of what could come? That was the nub of our very interesting discussion.

We cannot say we enjoyed the book overmuch but it had a fascinating hold right to the end.

The next meeting of the book group will be held on Wednesday 19th January at 14.30 in the Meeting Room at Plantation Hall.

Ann Lees

01245 225153

email: annlees@yahoo.com

Scrabble

As we had to turn away potential scrabble members a decision was taken to use the Meeting Room at Plantation Hall for further meetings. The only afternoon available is Tuesday, so I have booked it for the following dates:

- Tuesday 25th January 2011
- Tuesday 22nd February 2011
- Tuesday 22nd March 2011.

Play will start promptly at 14.00, so please get there by 13.45, if possible, so that we can get organised.

I do hope this change will suit you all. I will arrange to take the necessary bits and pieces for tea/coffee etc. and we will discuss a small payment monthly to cover the cost of the room and refreshments. If you had noted the venues previously arranged for these three months please amend your diaries. There will, of course, be no need now to telephone before coming to a meeting but, I would like new members to ring me initially so that I can get their details on our register.

A Happy Christmas to you all and hope to see you at Plantation Hall in January.

Ruth 01621 869865

Theatre

We say a big thank you to Janet (with help from Gill) for arranging for us to be part of a cast of thousands

at this years "Christmas Carol Singalong" at the Royal Albert Hall. Jonathan Cohen conducted the London Concert Orchestra and Chorus, together with Sophie Louise Dann (singer) in an extravaganza of traditional Christmas carols and songs. The atmosphere in the vast hall was festive and joyful. We had a great time even if it snowed on our journey home!

Do not forget to watch this space for theatre visits in the coming months of 2011.



Jonathan Cohen conducts

Author – Peter Thorpe

Threads and Fabrics

Christmas decorations were the subject for our December Meeting and several members brought along samples and ideas on how to decorate our homes. We also discovered how to make gift boxes from last years Christmas cards, a great way of recycling old cards. Pam spoilt us with homemade cake and tea and showed us all the decorations she makes for the Farley Hospice Christmas Bazaar. We all went home eager to have a go with some of the ideas we had seen that afternoon.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 4th January at 14.00. Please contact Anne for further details.

Anne Thorpe

Walking

The weather eased to allow ten of us a most enjoyable walk in the winter sun along the seawall to the Northey causeway, then back around the prom in Maldon to our starting point at the Izumi for lunch. It was still icy underfoot for much of the way but all of us safely negotiated the pathways.

Our next outing, conditions permitting, will be as was planned originally for November last i.e. Danbury Country Park on Thursday 13th January, meeting at

13:30 at the pay & display carpark. (Further details of which one will be available in January.)

If you can join us please contact me on 01621 850618 or email e.m.e@talktalk.net

Elizabeth

Weekenders?????????

It's been a busy month for Weekenders with twelve members enjoying a performance of Sweeney Todd in Witham at the end of October and, on the 6th November, ten folk went to Izumi in Maldon. The Quiz and Jazz nights very often clash, as they did this month, but the brains of the Weekenders apparently did not do too well so I can only recommend they join the jazz groupies and give their minds a rest! A large group of us travelled to Norwich to indulge in some Christmas shopping on the 20th and for some that, I know, included a pleasant lunch.

Our next outing will be to the New Times in Tiptree for our Christmas lunch on the 5th December at 12.00 noon and our next monthly meeting will be at Oliver's on the 11th when we will firm up dates for the meeting in January and also a planned evening meal to Ruby's in Tolleshunt D'Arcy. May I take this opportunity to wish all Weekenders and members of Heybridge U3A a very Happy Christmas and another successful New Year.

Marilyn Corbett 01621 817518

On the Notice Board

If you are planning to put something on the notice board that is not group related and it is available prior to the first Friday of the month, the Editor would be pleased to include it in this section of the News Sheet.

The following items of News, including U3A Head Office Information Notices, appeared either on the Notice Board in December or was announced by Brenda at that meeting:

- Jazz Appreciation Study Day next June in Leeds. This notice can be found again on the Notice Board at the December Meeting.
- Visit a beautiful part of Brittany and attend a U3A Jazz Festival in Vannes. 25th/30th July 2011. The cost is approximately £650 per person. This price includes train fares, B&B and various excursions.
- Did you miss the Barber of Seville at the Odeon Covent Garden? We have a new date; 25th January 2011. First come, first served. There are still places available.

- South East U3A Forum Summer School; June 28th/July 1st. This is to be held at the University of Chichester. Staying on Campus there are 12 different courses available with a probable cost £250 - £285. Booking essential asap!
- If you are interested in Geology, the U3A National meeting is to be held in the Peak District 6th/7th April 2011. Estimated cost £40. Accommodation is available locally and to be arranged separately.
- National Summer Schools; 18th/21st July at the Harper Adams University College, Newport; and between 22nd/25th August at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester. Details available on U3A web site. www.u3a.org.uk.
- Finally, the U3A web is wide! How about a weekend in Singapore at the Asia Pacific Alliance of Universities of the Third Age. A long way for two days!!!

Every month we receive information from Head Office keeping our Group informed of events happening throughout the UK. So if you are interested and would like further information please contact me.

Brenda on 01245 400492.

U3A Magazine

The U3A Magazine has been available for a couple of months but can still be collected at next monthly meeting.

Members Article

None this month but with Christmas in the past tense and the New Year celebrations well over, there should be some interesting articles from members, the Editor hopes.

Notice from Maldon U3A

The Maldon U3A are holding a CEILIDH with Sue Last and the Caledonian Reelers, on Friday 7th January 2011 at the Maldon Football Club, Saville Suite. The doors open 19.00 for 19.30. Please bring a plate of savouries to share. A bar is available.

The Tickets are £7.00 each and are available from Janet Buck, 58, Augustine Way, Bicknacre, CM3 4ET. Telephone 01245 227709.

Cheque, if any tickets remain, should be made payable to 'Maldon & District U3A'

Available from a Member

For All Rose Fanciers

While the garden sleeps is a time for gardeners to plan and prepare. To provide you with ideas and inspiration, I have a number of Royal National Rose Society books and magazines for disposal. They are:

- The Rose Annual from 1962 to 1980, except that for 1966.
- The Rose (magazine), volumes 9 to 13 (autumn 1960 to summer 1965).
- The Gardens of the Rose.
- The Rose Directory.
- How to Grow Roses.
- Find That Rose (1986) by the Rose Growers Association.

These are available free for collection. Please ring John Gorrie on 854006.

If you have something to include here, please contact the Editor (ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk).

Diary of Meetings and Visits For details see articles
and co-ordinators above.

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
3 rd January 2011	3	4 Threads 14.00	5	6 Photography 13.00	7 Committee Meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00	8	9
10 th January	10 Petanque 14.00 weather permitting	11	12	13 Walking 1.30	14 Monthly Meeting 14.00	15	19
17 th January	17 Petanque 14.00 weather permitting	18 Local History 14.00	19 Book Group 14.30	20 Computer 13.00	21 Luncheon Group Coastal and Marine 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00	22	23
24 th January	24 Petanque 14.00 weather permitting	25 Scrabble 14.00	26	27	28 Painting 14.00 Bird Watching	29	30
31 st January	31	1 st February Threads 14.00	2	3 Photography 13.00	4 Committee Meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00	5	6
7 February	7 Petanque 14.00 weather permitting	8	9	10	11 Monthly Meeting 14.00	12	13
14 th February	14 Petanque 14.00 weather permitting	15	16 Local History 14.00 Book Group 14.30	17 Computer 13.00	18 Coastal and Marine 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00	19	20
21 st February	21 Petanque 14.00 weather permitting	22 Scrabble 14.00	23	24 Family History 10.30	25 Painting 14.00	26	27
28 th February	28	1 st March Threads 14.00	2	3 Photography 13.00	4 Committee Meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00	5	6