

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No. 2012/1

January 2012

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

From the Chairman

I open by wishing you all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year. I am certain that you will want to join me in hoping that 2012 will bring health and happiness to all of our members. I also hope that your Christmas was enjoyable and fulfilling. (It seems strange for me to be writing these notes about 2012 before I have written my Christmas cards or put-up the Christmas decorations, but such is the nature of editorial deadlines!)

It was very noticeable and encouraging that many of our groups chose to celebrate the coming of Christmas with little parties and meals together. One of the big advantages of belonging to the U3A is that we make new friends as we study together in groups. I am certain that most of us have become good friends with people that we would never have met had it not been for Heybridge U3A. Long may it continue.



Simon Gilbert

Author Peter Thorpe

We did not have a "speaker" at our December meeting, but we did invite an "entertainer" to come along to get us into the festive spirit. Simon Gilbert, who had spent

most of his life involved in the musical theatre, sang a selection of his old favourite songs and told us some of his theatrical anecdotes. Those members who knew the words were encouraged to join Simon in the singing.

Joyce and Ian are working hard to help organise the 2012 Association of Essex U3As Study Day. They have some brilliant ideas to propose to their committee so please give them your support with ideas for suitable subjects to study. We want this Study Day to take place and we want it to be remembered as a huge success.

As we look forward to 2012, I feel very positive about the future of our U3A. If you feel enriched by your membership, why not give something in return by offering your help to make our U3A even better?

I look forward to being with you all again at our next meeting on Friday January 13th.

Email thorpe101@btinternet.com or phone 01621 850828.

Peter Thorpe.

From the Editor

Please read the Section titled "Essex Association Study Day" (as raised by the Chairman) on page 7 and respond a.s.a.p. through one of the CoGs or directly to myself.

The Diary on the last page has been updated to the end of February 2012. 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 and anything that relates to The Heybridge U3A or the U3A movement as a whole, then please contact me with the information so that it can be included in the News Sheet. This is especially true when activities or visits are planned or confirmed and relates in some way to their group.

The next issue (February 2012) will be back to the normal publishing dates as follows. I must have your copy by the last Friday of the month to enable me to assemble the News Sheet for delivery by email approximately five days before the Monthly Meeting.

Printed copies will be available, as usual, at each Monthly Meeting. Please continue to send details to me,

preferably by email, at ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk with 'Heybridge U3A' in the title. Alternatively talk to me at the Monthly Meeting.

Back numbers of the Heybridge U3A News Sheets can be read on our WEB SITE

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

Communication via this News Sheet, the only method that reaches all members, will ensure that all Heybridge U3A Members, especially those who have recently joined us, can also have the opportunity to participate in any of our activities. The News Sheet can also be used to sound out the views of other members on any relevant subject.

Email ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01621 891184

Ian Newman.

Heybridge U3A Monthly Meetings

The next Monthly Meeting is on Friday 13th January 2012 starting at the normal time of 14.00, in the Plantation Hall, Heybridge. This month we have Mike Logan-Wood talking about 'The Secret Lives of Garden Birds'. In February we have M.J. Scollan with more 'Stories from a former Police Officer'.

A list of other potential subjects for the following Monthly Meetings are as follows:

- March 2012: AGM and Helen Leonard with "Life in the Tower of London".
- April 2012: Ray Spiller.
- May 2012: Air Ambulance.
- June 2012: Highland Park.
- July 2012: Plume School Drama Department.

From the COGCo (Group Co-ordinator)

A Happy New Year to you all.

I am pleased to advise that the first planning meeting of the Italian Conversation Group will be held on Monday 16th January from 10.00 to 12.00. I will host this first meeting and look forward to seeing you then.

In my role as Group Co-ordinator I never know what suggestion will be brought to me next. Following the recent BBC2 programme "The Big Bread Experiment", about the formation of a Community Bakery, one of our members has suggested a "Bread Group". He is a keen bread baker and would love to have the opportunity to meet other bakers and develop his skills. He could see the group meeting to discuss bread making in general, have a periodical project, visit artisan bakers, have guest speakers, etc. Whilst he does not claim to be anything but an amateur baker, he would be quite willing to act as

COG if required. If anyone is interested perhaps you could contact Chris Denham on 01621 817165.

Email gillthorne2@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01621 852294.

Gill Thorne

Group Names, Co-ordinator, Contact Telephone

Group Name	Co-ordinator (COG)	Telephone Number
Art (Painting)	Michael Kempen	01621 892974
Ballroom Dancing	Joint with Maldon Jo Robson *	* 01621 828236
Bird Watching	Maureen Lenoir	01621 869871
Bridge	Lisbeth Bazzard	01621 843208
Coastal & Marine	Brenda Dewar	01245 400492
Coffee Morning	Margaret Brown	01621 854885
Computer	Tina Abeysekera	01621 858635
Creative Writing	Angela Pleasance	01621 850310
Family History	Lesley Pomphrett	01621 817733
French Conversation	Jenny Parker	01621 843581
Gardening	Pat Yates	01621 892866
Local History	Carol Greenhalgh	01621 840339
Luncheon	Dave Mason	01621 858635
Petanque	Barbara Barbrook	01621 855605
Photography	Peter Thorpe	01621 850828
Reading & Books	Ann Lees	01245 225153
Scrabble	Ruth Tyler	01621 856212
Technical Computing	Colin Mason	01621 854906
Ten Pin Bowling	Janette Lett	01621 879697
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
Wine Group	Jackie Jones	01621 817117

Membership Secretary

We were pleased to welcome two new members in November, taking our total membership to 166. If you are a non-member who would like to find out more about the Heybridge U3A, you are welcome to attend a monthly meeting (held in the Plantation Hall on the 2nd Friday of each month at 14.00) as a guest. There is no need to book, just turn up and sign in.

May I remind all existing members to please let me know of any change in your contact details (address, phone number or email) so that I can update your membership records. If you have not yet received your 2011/12 membership card please collect it at the next monthly meeting or ask someone to collect it for you. Alternatively, if you send me a SAE, I will post it to you.

For any queries regarding membership, please

Email jennyparker14@hotmail.com or phone me on 01621 843581.

Or, If I am not available, please

Email angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk or phone Angela on 01621 850310.

Jenny Parker.

REPORTS

Art (Painting) Group

A small number from the U3A Painting Group enjoyed a four-course, pre-Christmas lunch at Bunsey Downs Golf Club in Woodham Walter on December 9th.

Despite our depleted numbers due to illness and unavoidable engagements, the Club staff did us proud with a wide choice of dishes, of which roast turkey and all the trimmings proved the most popular.

The Claydon Room has been booked right through to December 23rd to allow those keen painters making time amid the Christmas rush to chill out and be creative for two hours. Then it is business as usual again from Friday, January 6th.

Gill Carpenter.

For further information, email m.kempen@sky.com or phone 01621 892974.

Michael Kempen

Bird Watching Group

There were no meetings in December.

Our next meeting will be on 27th January but I am not sure what we will be doing. However, we are getting together on 23rd December for a chat about plans for 2011.

For further information, email symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01621 869871.

Maureen.

Computer Group

There were 12 of us at the computer group where we spent some time discussing topics and themes for the Essex Association of U3A's Study Day which is in the process of being arranged for later next year. We then went on to resolve some of the mysteries surrounding the use of email, which will be our main topic for our next meeting. We spent the rest of our session enjoying some Christmas nibbles and some friendly chat. If you would like to learn more about email please join us at our next meeting which will be on Thursday 19th January in the Claydon Room at 14.00.

Email tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk or phone 01621 858635.

Tina Abeysekera

Coastal and Marine Group

No meeting took place in December.

Our first meeting in 2012 will be on Friday 20th January starting at 14.00, at the 'Blue Boar'. At this meeting we hope to put together a programme for the Spring and Summer. We need as much information as possible so that we can book events and then print a programme. If you are interested in "coming on board" we look forward to seeing you then.

Email brendadewar@btinternet.com or phone 01245 400492.

Brenda Dewar.

Creative Writing Group

The Creative Writing Group did not meet in December but we look forward to seeing you in the new year. The first meeting will be on Wednesday 25th January at 14.30 when we anticipate listening to articles or stories on the theme, "A winter's day walk". Meetings are held in my house. Please contact me for details if you would like to join us.

Email angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01621 850310.

Angela Pleasance

Discussion Coffee Morning Group

Our last coffee morning of the year was held today (16th December), where we had a few nibbles to celebrate Christmas but, unfortunately, as we were all driving we stayed with the tea/coffee!

Our first get together in 2012 will be at 11.00 on Friday 20th January at Anne Newson's house. Details will be available at the next Monthly Meeting.

Email mbandmeg@btinternet.com or phone 01621 854885.

Margaret Brown.

Family History Group

The next group meeting will be on Thursday 26th January between 10.30 and 12.30 at my house as usual.

Kay, from Blackwater Family History Group, will be coming to show us more about the Family History website. She hopes that you will have lots of questions and queries ready to ask her. If you have a problem I am sure she will be able to help. Look forward to seeing you all.

Please phone if you need information or directions.

Email lesleypommy@hotmail.com or phone 01621 817733.

Lesley Pomphrett.

French Conversation Group

Four of us met, under Jenny's direction, to try and discover how much French we really comprehend. As expected, we found that our reading was far better than our talking. The theme was a French family's activities over the Christmas and New Year period. Fathers and Grandfathers should take note of how lucky they are as some French children receive three lots of presents at Christmas, New Year and on the 6th of January. As with us, Père Noël (Father Christmas) visits on the night of the 24th of December, but little else seemed familiar.

Il y a quatre ages dans la vie de l'homme

- celui où il croit au Père Noël
- celui où il ne croit plus au Père Noël
- celui où il est le Père Noël
- celui où il ressemble au Père Noël

We meet regularly at 10.00 on the second Wednesday of the month.

Pat Newman.

For further information please

Email jennyparker14@hotmail.com or phone me on 01621 843581.

Jenny Parker

Gardening Group

No visits have taken place this month.

If you have any ideas for talks or meetings, before we get together again next March, please let me know.

Email pat.yates@tesco.net or phone 01621 892866. Pat Yates.

Local History Group (LHG)

Some Local History dates for your new calendars:

- 17th January: Illustrated talk on Victorian Maldon by Paddy Lacey : Meeting open to all U3A members.

- 21st February: General meeting when we hope to have a guest from the Maldon Archeological group who worked on the Underground Maldon project. We will need to limit numbers for this meeting.
- 20th March: Illustrated talk about Great Totham and Beacon Hill by Clive Potter : Meeting open to all U3A members.
- 17th July: Guided walk with Stephen Nunn. This will commence at 18.00 probably starting from the Tesco car park to Beeleigh. (Note start time)

Email george.smeed@virgin.net or phone 01621 840339.

Carol Greenhalgh

Luncheon Group

Nine of us attended the Christmas lunch at the Old Ship. I was a bit worried about it as we had heard rumours that the venue had gone downhill. However, I need not have worried because the meal (we all agreed) was excellent, as was the service. Most of us had pre-ordered our meals from the Christmas menu which I thought was quite extensive and good value for money. Those who had not pre-ordered were treated and served the same as the rest of us, with the waitress calling out our names with the correctly ordered food. The next lunch will be on 27th January 2012. The venue will be available at the next Monthly Meeting.



Wishing all U3A members a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Looking forward to seeing faces, old and new, at the next lunch.

Email tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk or phone 01621 858635.

Dave Mason.

Petanque Group

Some of us are continuing to have a break until the Spring, but those who want to play will play if the weather is suitable. Therefore, we are only partially hibernating this winter. We shall be starting again

playing weekly from the middle of March. So watch this space.

Email c.barbrook@sky.com or phone 01621 855605.

Barbara Barbrook.

Photography Group

Our assignment for viewing at our December Meeting was 'Autumn'. This year we have had a strange autumn, the weather was so mild and sunny that the trees did not know what month it was and did not change colour in the normal way. Nevertheless the variety of images presented was wide, imaginative and produced to the usual high standard. We had close-ups of leaves and fruit, landscapes, arranged still-life and much more. A modern digital camera can cope with the tricky technical tasks, but it takes a photographer to see and compose a good picture.



Pumpkin Eater

Author – Angela Pleasance

The assignment for viewing in January is 'Christmas' with 'Winter' for February!

If you are interested in digital photography, come and join us. Our aim is to enjoy and to improve our photography, together.

Email thorpe101@btinternet.com or phone 01621 850828.

Peter Thorpe

Reading and Books Group

For our December meeting we decided to have a dinner together instead of the usual meeting.

We had a very nice evening at Prezzo using our money off vouchers. In these straightened times every little helps!



The Book Group

We will resume our normal meeting times, the third Wednesday in every month, in January. The next meeting takes place on January 18th at 14.30 at Plantation Hall, Heybridge.

Please contact Ann Lees if you wish to join us.

email: annlees@yahoo.com or phone 01245 225153.

Ann Lees.

Scrabble Group

We start the New Year with our Scrabble afternoon on Tuesday 24th January. Members will have a little more time with Christmas over, so maybe we will welcome a few more players. Please arrive soon after 13.30, which gives us time to get organised and ready for play to start about 14.00. We can then fit in a couple of games, and a tea break, with time for a chat.

Email r.tyler936@btinternet.com or phone 01621 856212.

Ruth Tyler

Technical Computing Group

Our second meeting was held on Thursday the 8th December at Peter Thorpe's house. A new member, Janice Slight, joined us at this meeting. A very interesting and informative meeting took place where Peter showed us how he uploads the Monthly News Sheet, which is edited by Ian, onto the Heybridge U3A's web site. Peter showed us how a text editing program called 'Coffee Cup' (download free from the internet) is used to achieve this activity. Peter also showed the group how to see the code from any web page. It is not possible to change any of the code that you can see. Anyone with internet access can view this code. The other facility that Peter uses to prepare the upload onto Heybridge U3A WEB Site is 'Freeola'. It just goes to show that the Internet is both an excellent and versatile facility. Our thanks to Peter for both his hospitality and his excellent presentation.

The next meeting is on Thursday the 12th of January 2012

Email colin@mason20.wanadoo.co.uk or phone 01621 854906.

Colin Mason.

Ten Pin Bowling Group

We met again on the 13th December but in the morning as this was our Christmas meeting. We had two lanes for seven people. We all played very well and one player was one pin short of a turkey. (three strikes in a row). Glen decided to practice after our game was finished whilst waiting for the rest of the crew. He got two strikes, a spare, another strike and then another spare. He asked why he couldn't do that when playing an actual game.

After the games we all made our way to Izumi and had a really good lunch.

We meet again on the 10th January so if you would like to join us please come along to Madison Heights at 13.45 for some fun.

More information can be obtained from me.

Email lettsnooks@talktalk.net or phone 01621 879697.

Janette Lett

Theatre Group

There is no Theatre News this month.

Gill

Email dennis-morley@tiscali.co.uk,

gillianbridle@btinternet.com or phone 01621 892626.

Threads and Fabrics Group

At the December meeting, being our last one of the year, we decided to start early and fill our baskets with food instead of fabrics. Thank you everyone for the splendid variety of dishes on the table. Nine of us, plus the editor, sat down to eat and drink and as usual talk the afternoon away. Needless to say no work was done. However, we broke up with plenty of inspiration for next year's projects.



This month's photo is of a winter inspired runner complete with snowmen made by one of our members.

We also admired a beautiful Christmas wreath made from oddments of new and

recycled fabrics. Possibly more of us will have the courage to try something as complex next year.

If anyone is interested in joining us on the first Tuesday of each month please contact Anne Thorpe or Pat Newman.

Anne by Email anne.thorpe@btinternet.com or phone 01621 850828.

Or Pat by Email ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01621 891184.

Walking Group

We were very fortunate with the weather conditions for our December walk, choosing the only pleasant, sunny break in what had been a somewhat stormy week. Twelve of us met at the Green Man and followed a route around part of Wickham Bishops, skirting Stowling Wood and Criers Wood then into Shut Heath Wood. We then returned to the pub for a much-appreciated lunch to finish.

There will not be a walk in January 2012, but Pat and I are hoping to organise a visit to Marks Hall grounds to see the winter snowdrops for the gardening and walking groups on Thursday 9th February. Details to follow in January.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all.

Email e.m.e@talktalk.net or phone 01621 850618. (mobile 07581 029816)

Elizabeth

Weekenders Group

After a few minor hiccups, sixteen Weekenders enjoyed a Christmas lunch at the Anchor at Runsell Green on Sunday 11th December. Our last coffee morning was on 17th December when those present were brimming with ideas for 2012. All I can do now is to wish the Weekenders a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Dates for your diary:

- Saturday January 14th Coffee at 'The Barn', Chigborough Road, Heybridge.
- Saturday February 11th Cafe 'Snug', Terajola, Hatfield Peveral (near Peartree Pantry).

Email mars42@btinternet.com or phone 01621 817518.

Marilyn Corbett.

Wine Appreciation Group

Happy New Year everyone. We are a small friendly group with the aim of learning about all aspects of the wine business. Last year we visited a vineyard and a wine tasting exhibition as well as meeting at my house for tasting and discussing wines from France and Italy. Our first meeting of 2012 will be on Wednesday 25th January, a week later than usual. This meeting will be

held at my house when there will be a chance to watch a DVD about how wine growing has evolved in South Africa since the end of apartheid and a chance to discuss future meetings and visits. As usual, we look forward to welcoming new and existing members of the group. Please contact me if you are interested. Details will be available at the January Monthly Meeting.

Email jachjones@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01621 817117.

Jackie Jones.

Possible New Group (Solo Whist)

I would like to start a group for anybody who would be interested in playing Solo Whist. This would be one afternoon per month. So far there are only three of us interested in playing solo whist but solo whist needs four people. Maybe there are those who would like to learn and I would be delighted to teach them.

If any one is interested in joining this new group please contact me.

Email tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk or phone 01621 858635.

Dave Mason

Essex Association Study Day

Four from the committee went to the Association of Essex U3As where a Study Day next year was discussed. Two of us, namely Ian and Joyce, from the Heybridge U3A Committee were co-opted onto the Steering Committee to prepare for the Study Day which is likely to be in October 2012. However, at this stage no decisions have been taken on dates, venue, costs, the catering arrangements or if the Study Day will go ahead. These are still open to discussion and the support that we get.

As Heybridge U3A is well represented on the Study Day Steering Committee we want to make sure that all our members are aware that there will be a Study Day, to enable them to make suggestions as to what topics they would like to study. We would also like you to have an input into the subject before the day and attend some of the sessions.

We need you to come up with some specific subjects and/or ideas. Suggestions etc. can be given to us through your group CoGs or directly to Ian or Joyce. Some idea of those who might be interested in attending this Study Day would also be useful.

The Steering Committee has to assemble the suggestions so we would like your input by the 13th January Monthly Meeting. Proposing suggestions at an earlier date (by 2nd January) would be appreciated, as we have on the following day the first meeting of the Study Day Steering Committee.

On the Notice Board

The following items of News can be seen on the Notice Board at the next Monthly Meeting or have been available at a recent Monthly Meetings.

Every month we receive information from Head Office keeping Heybridge U3A Group informed of events happening throughout the UK. If you are interested and would like further information please contact me.

Interested in Theatre and Drama? Four workshops are to be held at the Piccadilly Theatre, London between March 12th and 27th. It will include directing, backstage, theatre history and writing from page to stage. £20 including lunch. Forms to be sent to me in January. I am sure that this will be very popular - (something that I would like to do) - so I think that members should phone or email so that they can get in quickly.

Advance details for the 2012 Summer Schools:

- Summer School 1: Harper Adams University College, Newport, nr Telford – 16th to 19th July.
- Summer School 2: Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester – 20th to 23rd August 2012.

The programmes for both these Summer Schools are extremely varied in content, and are residential. Full board in ensuite accommodation costs £315 per person. Please let me know if you would like a copy of the programme, On Tuesday 27th March, at the Royal Institution of Great Britain: U3A Explores Science at the RI. The talks are on – “forensic science”, “accelerated dreams” and “food production in a changing climate” – three very varied subjects. Tickets are £18 including refreshments, start at 14.00 and finishing about 17.00.

Other Notices include:

- The Marriage of Figaro by Mozart A new screening date for the film at Odeon, Covent Garden will be on Tuesday, 17th January 2012. 12.45 -16.45. Tickets £12.50; Maximum two per applicant. Address as above.
- We have also been sent leaflets about “Shared Learning Projects” – interested?

If you are interested in anything and would like further information please contact me:

Email brendadewar@btinternet.com or phone 01245 400492. - Brenda Dewar

If you attend one of these regional or national meetings, feedback to me, the Editor, would be appreciated.

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. If it is something that takes a whole page this can easily be sent out with the Monthly News Sheet.

Diary of Meetings and Visits.

For details see articles and co-ordinators above.

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
2nd January	2	3 Threads 14.00	4	5 Photography 14.00	6 Committee Meeting Painting 14.00	7	8
9th January	9	10 Ten Pin Bowling 13.45	11 French Conversation 10.00	12 Technical Computing 14.00	13 Monthly Meeting 14.00	14 Weekender Coffee at The Barn 10.00	15
16th January	16 Italian group 10.00	17 Local History 14.00	18 Book Group 14.30	19 Computer 14.00	20 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00 Coastal and Marine 14.00	21	22
23rd January	23	24 Scrabble 14.00	25 Creative Writing Group 14.30 Wine Tasting 14.00	26 Family History 10.30	27 News Sheet Copy to Editor Painting 14.00 Bird Watching Luncheon TBC	28	29
30th January	30	31	1 st February	2 Photography 14.00	3 Committee Meeting Painting 14.00	4	5
6th February	6	7 Threads 14.00	8 French Conversation 10.00	9 Technical Computing 14.00 Walking 14.00	10 Monthly Meeting 14.00	11 Weekender Coffee at The Snug 10.00	12
13th February	13	14 Ten Pin Bowling 13.45	15 Book Group 14.30	16 Computer 14.00	17 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00 Coastal and Marine 14.00	18	19
20th February	20	21 Local History 14.00 Scrabble 14.00	22 Creative Writing Group 14.30	23 Family History 10.30	24 News Sheet Copy to Editor Painting 14.00 Bird Watching Luncheon TBC	25	26