



Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No. 2010/2

February 2010

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

From the Chairman

It was such a pity that we had to cancel our January Meeting, but it really was not safe to venture out unnecessarily. However, we think we can compensate in some measure as we plan to have a Birthday Party at the March Meeting. This is a very important meeting in more ways than one. It will run from 14.00 through to 17.00. The meeting will incorporate the AGM, our Speaker and then a Cheese and Wine Party to celebrate our first anniversary.

The less time taken with the AGM, the more time there will be for jollifications. So, on a serious more serious note may I explain a little. The present Steering Committee, a group of people who at the time of the first meeting did not know each other, were elected to steer our new Heybridge U3A through its first year. I would personally like to thank them all for it has been a daunting, but very worthwhile, task. The bulk of the hard work is done and it should be less arduous from here-on-in. Some of the present Committee will be standing down or changing positions so, if you want our Branch to continue **we must have some nomination.** Please presume that all positions will need to be filled.

The AGM agenda items that will be under discussion will be as follows:

- Chairman's Address
- Secretary's Report
- Treasurer's/Annual Report
- Adoption of Constitution
- Election of Chairman
- Election of Committee

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 the February monthly meeting as well as on the day of the AGM. Details of the Financial Report will only be available on entry to 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. The new Committee positions are as follows:

- 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 to be 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.

Please don't leave it to someone else. You must know someone who can keep accounts, or organise groups, or do any of the other jobs that are so necessary. Please put on your thinking caps, ask around, and seek someone to nominate. Do give me a ring if I can help or advise in any way – 01621 869865.

As you know, I am standing down and would so like to hand over to a full committee of volunteers who can carry us through 2010 and beyond. The longer the AGM takes the less time for party fun!!

Ruth

From the Editor

Following the cancelling of January's Meeting, I hope everyone received either an emailed copy or a hard copy of the January News Sheet in the Post. If you did not

please speak to me at the next monthly meeting and we can sort out why.

February has, again become a month of urgent 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. On a personal note, I am putting my name forward to continue as Editor. 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 March. Both in the December and January issues I asked you if the content and layout of the News Sheet is what you want. I have had no feedback, either positive or negative. Therefore, I presume that it is just what you need and want from a News Sheet.

The offer to distribute electronically the various Group Programmes or Agendas for the coming year still stands. Please discuss this when you see me at the monthly meeting.

Most will know the publication procedure. Copy should be with me by the last Friday of month. 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 on 01621 891184 or see me at the monthly meeting to decide other methods of providing copy. Publication will take place some seven days later.

Heybridge U3A Meetings

The date of next meeting is Friday 12th February, starting at the normal time of 14.00 in the Plantation Hall Heybridge. We have 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".

From the COGCo (Group Co-ordinator)

Our first year as a U3A is closing and we have come a long way. There will be changes to the committee at the AGM. The present committee was appointed as a steering committee and now it is your opportunity to nominate and elect the committee that you want.

Several members of the steering committee do not wish to stand next year and I have agreed to be nominated as Chairman. If I am elected I will not be able to act as the Interest Group Co-ordinator (CIG?). Interest groups are an essential element of the way that all U3As function. Please consider nomination for the Interest Group Co-ordinator on the new committee especially if you are already a COG. I will support and advise the new CIG as she/he gets established in the office. Our members

already have 19 groups formed for them to join and attend. The role of CIG will be to help new groups start-up and to promote and support the existing groups as they develop.

I would like to thank all the COGs for their support and enthusiasm during our first year and for all the members who have joined groups and found new interests (or may be re-kindled old ones!). I am certain that our membership of the U3A has introduced us to many new friends and for that fact alone I am truly grateful.

If you are willing to be nominated as the Interest Group Co-ordinator (or any other committee position), please contact me or discuss it with a member of the Steering Committee and remember to complete a nomination form!

Peter Thorpe

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

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 Social Secretary

In January, we were unable to have the social activity after the monthly meeting. Although we cannot have the Music Hall the Steering Committee have decided that following the AGM, and talk on 12th March, we would hold a Heybridge U3A Birthday Tea Party. More information will be available at the February meeting and in next months News Sheet.

AGM

All the members of the Steering Committee will be standing down at the AGM in March. Some of the existing members are putting themselves up for election and have submitted nomination forms.

It is imperative that we have nominations from the Heybridge U3A Members for all the positions.

REPORTS

Art (Painting) Group

The Art Group continues to increase in numbers and is certainly thriving. We all enjoy our Friday afternoons and our drawing and painting skills are steadily improving week by week. As a group, we enjoy each others company as well as sharing constructive criticism which, in turn, helps our work improve.

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

It was a wet and cold morning when arrived at Abberton Reservoir. We made our way to the warm and cosy visitors centre and had a very enjoyable time watching the birds coming to the feeders just outside the windows. Did we think we were cheating?No. We sat with our binoculars in one hand, a coffee in the other, and saw so many garden birds. This was a treat for us as our last

meetings have been to the estuaries where we saw mostly waders.

It was lovely to see members of the Tit family right at the window so we could see their pretty colours. There were lots of Dunnock and Chaffinch, a lonely Robin and one Greater Spotted Woodpecker. As we walked back to our cars we all agreed we had spent a very enjoyable morning even though it was Bird Watching through glass!

Our next meeting will be on 26th February at Chigborough Lakes. We were there in April last year which was one of our first outings as a group. We meet in the car park at 10.00. I look forward to seeing you there.

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

Maureen

Bridge Group

Bridge session at 14:00 Monday 1st March at my house, 2, Silver Street. I will purchase Cards, Duplicate Boards and Stationery, which can be reimbursed by a small table charge over the year. Please let me know if you will be attending by phone 01621 843208 or email lisbethbazzard@talktalk.net.

Computer Group

A lively but informative meeting of the Computer Group was held on the 21st January in the Claydon Room, as usual. Ian welcomed everyone back after the Christmas break, our dues were paid and we got down to business.

It had been agreed that we would go back over the basics and Ian or others in the group would answer any problems that had arisen. This really was most helpful for as the old proverb says, "practice makes perfect". Six laptops were in use and the rest of the group observed and took notes.

Emails were discussed, their deletion, how to use the recycle bin and ways of forwarding attachments. A detailed discussion considered the difference between files and folders. New folders were generated and how to save files into these new folders. A procedure for saving files by changing the size of window was also demonstrated. Everyone was asked to practise setting up folders before next meeting.

After a refreshments, organised by Viv (many thanks), it was reported that an application by Heybridge U3A to Heybridge Parish Council for computer equipment funding has been submitted. It was requested that any ideas about other sources of funding should be investigated.

Our next meeting is on 18th February at 13.00 when we will continue our revision. See you there.

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. See news from other U3A's.

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 varied events. Come along and enjoy, and we are always open for new ideas.

Brenda Dewar

Discussion Coffee Morning

All enjoyed our coffee morning discussion on 15th January. It was very nice to welcome a few new faces who joined us for the first time. The meeting is always very informal. Drop by for a quick tea or coffee even if you cannot spare too much time to stop and chat. We certainly cover a variety of topics. The next meeting will be on Friday 19th February at my house (Margaret Brown). Details available at the next monthly meeting. Please telephone me if you prefer. (01621 854885)

Gardening Group

Just a reminder that the planning meeting is on March 15th at 14.00 at Lesley Pomphrett's house. She will have maps available at the February Monthly Meeting of how to find her house. If anyone would like a lift please let me know.

If you are interested in going to see snowdrops in the week beginning 15th February, I will have a quick get-together after the Monthly Meeting to make a final decision on which day and venue; either Marks Hall, Anglesey Abbey or Hedingham Castle. This will not be a

private visit, so we don't have to go together, but it might be more sociable if we do.

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

Local History Group (LHG)

The LHG ventured out on January, albeit not far. We gathered at the Maeldune Centre for a talk on the Maldon Embroidery. We learnt something of the background of how the embroidery came about and some of the technical details and techniques employed [we trust Peter reported back on this to Ann]. Coral from the centre led us, very enthusiastically, through the people, places and events depicted by the embroidery. I think it fair to say that this was a visit enjoyed by all - even the cynics who thought it might just be about sewing!

On the 16th February we will be meeting at the Essex Records Office (Wharf Road, Chelmsford, CM2 6YT) for a talk about using the facilities there. We will also have the opportunity to look at some of their Maldon and Heybridge collection. We can have a maximum of twenty people for this visit so if you would like to come please let Carol Greenhalgh know as soon as possible. We could try and car share for this visit if those interested could let Carol know. (01621 840339)

Luncheon Group

Happy New Year to all lunch goers.

The last meal of 2009 was held at The Six Bells in Boreham. Everyone seemed to enjoy, even the one, or two, perhaps three (including me), who managed a delicious desert.

We have just returned from a very enjoyable lunch at the Queens Head in Maldon. Only 11 out of 16 turned up. It would be nice to get a call if you have your name on the list and you cannot attend, so I can confirm with the venue and we don't all sit around waiting for latecomers. However we all had a great time and a very enjoyable first meal of the New Year.

I have yet to arrange the next venue as most people are away at the end of February. I was provisionally booked at the Colchester College. I will have new sheets at the 12th February meeting. See you all there.

Beth 01621 853403

Petanque Group

Nothing to report from the Petanque Group other than we are still in a state of hibernation. We hope to start up again on Monday 15th March (the Monday after the March U3A Monthly Meeting) on the Prom at 14.00 (then

after the clocks have changed at 14.30), unless it is pouring with rain or it is snowing.

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

Photography Group

The snow prevented our planned first meeting in January. We shall try again when we meet on the first Thursday of February (4th) in the Claydon Room at the Plantation Hall at 13.00. We will discuss the results of the small survey that you completed and decide how we want the group to function. The aim will be to help each other take pictures that we are proud to show to our friends. We will explore our cameras and computers to discover how to use them to create better photos. I also hope that we shall have some fun and enjoyment as we improve our photographic skills together.

Peter Thorpe.

Reading and Books Group

The book Group met on January 20th at the home of Anne Thorpe. The book discussed this month was a slim volume, No.1 Ladies Detective Agency written by Alexander McAll-Smith. It proved to be a gentle, delightful story set in Botswana, Africa.

It was agreed that, whilst it presented a view of life in this country, much of the harsher side was glossed over making it a pleasant but un-challenging read. Elizabeth Eastwood, who has lived in parts of Africa over various periods of her life, was able to confirm that life, even in the more stable territory of Botswana, is far harder than depicted.

The group, who are all avid readers, decided that books they have read will go into a box for all in the group to share. Those no longer required, once read by the group, will go to local charity shops or returned to the owners if they wish to have them back. It is hoped this will widen even further the scope of books read by the group.

A list of books for the coming year was compiled by the group and will be requested from the library.

The Essex Book Festival takes place in March 2010. For one week various book related activities will take place in the Essex area. As a group, we have decided to take advantage of this event. One day in this week the Book Group will meet for a pleasant meal before being entertained by a discussion between Germaine Greer, the Vice Chancellor of Essex University, Colin Riordan,

Sarfraz Manzoor and the authors at the Central Baptist Church in Chelmsford.

Our next meeting takes place on February 17th at the home of Liz Bazzard. Please contact Ann Lees (01245225153) if you wish to join us.

Scrabble

The arrangements for the beginning of 2010 remain unchanged and they are repeated below for ease of reference:

- 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

At our January meeting, we did not realise how lucky we were to be in the lull before the snow came down, again, sadly cancelling many of the activities planned for later in the week. Over our tea we had a discussion about suitable costumes, put together from things already in our wardrobes, for the January monthly Music Hall meeting. Wasted for this year but there is always a next time. Down to business, the subject for the afternoon was crochet. Crochet is not just for pretty little mats, made from fine cotton, as members of the group proved with the samples they brought in. There was everything from delicate baby clothes, to fine lacy tops, to thick ponchos, which showed how many different things can be made by twisting a thread over a simple hook. Truly fabrics from threads.

If you are interested in exploring the world of threads and fabrics with us, in learning new skills and sharing those that you have learnt over time, however inexpertly, come and talk to Anne or Pat at the monthly meeting on the 8th of February at the Plantation Hall or phone Anne on 01621 850828 or Pat on 01621 891184. Our meetings normally take place on the first Tuesday of the month between 14.00 and 16.00 at different member's homes.

Walking

Unfortunately, the weather conditions for our last scheduled walk was such that it had to be postponed.

The next meeting date is Thursday 11th February. We will meet at the Cap & Feathers in Tillingham at 10:30, follow a 4 mile walk around the area and return to the pub for lunch.

All are welcome. Please let me know on 01621 850618 or email if you can join us.

Elizabeth

Weekender

Dates for the diary:

- Saturday 20th February at 12.45, Lunch at Izumi, Madison Heights, Park Drive, Maldon.
- Saturday 27th February at 20.00 start. Jazz at Wickham Bishops Village Hall.
- Saturday 13th March at 20.00 start. Quiz at West Maldon Community Centre, Sunbury Way, Maldon.

The quiz team is made up of any member of Weekenders who is free on the night and wants a fun evening as well as keeping the little grey cells in good working order. It is usually made up of sixish members but if there are few more then why not have two teams.

I am also looking into a session, or two, of ten pin bowling in Witham. Details to follow.

Our next monthly meeting will be on Saturday 13th February at Perrywoods Nursery, Tiptree at 10.00. Hope to see you there.

For information of the group please phone Jan Stroud on 01376 564289.

Jan Stroud

NEWS FROM OTHER U3A's

Maldon U3A Scottish Country Dancing Group

Maldon U3A would like to invite any members of the Heybridge U3A to a Scottish Country Dancing Group they run in Mundon Village Hall on alternate Thursdays from 10.00 to 12.00 hrs They have a professional teacher, and the session is light hearted and friendly – no experience needed. Please contact Shirley Grummett on 01621 853288 if you are interested.

Maldon Maritime Group Hartlepool Maritime Experience Trip

Maldon Maritime Group have a Hartlepool Maritime Experience Trip from June 22nd to June 26th 2010. The cost is £398.00 per person. This includes four nights Dinner Bed and Breakfast at the Durham Marriott Hotel Royal County including portorage of luggage. Entrance to Hartlepool's Maritime Experience (a full day) which includes a visit to the oldest floating wooden warship,

HMS Trincomalee, built in Bombay, India in 1817. It came to Hartlepool in 1987 where it has taken 10 years to restore it. The ship was Nelson's last frigate. The museum and quayside recapture the atmosphere of a seaport of the era. There are period shops etc., together with Guides. Entrance to Beamish Open Air Museum (a full day) will give plenty of time to find out all that is on offer in this fascinating museum. A cruise with "Prince Bishop River Cruises" and entrance to "Locomotion", a museum dedicated "Steam". A guided tour of Durham Cathedral and a Blue Badge guided tour of Durham by coach. The use of an Executive coach plus courier/driver throughout. Depart from / return to Maldon. Anyone interested please contact Malcolm Case on 01245329435.

Maldon U3A 2010 Gardening Trip

Maldon U3A are organising a four day trip to Rutland and area visiting Gardens and Grand Houses from the 13th to 16th July 2010. A 3 star Best Western Hotel has been booked in Rockingham. Price £285 for Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. There is a Single Rooms £39 supplement. The Itierary includes Burghley House, including house tour, Barnsdale Gardens, Grimsthorpe Castle, Coach Safari & house tour, Coton Manor Garden, Cottesbrook Hall including house tour and The Manor, Hemingford Grey including house tour. If you think you would be interested in joining us on this trip, can you please give Jan Robertson a ring on 01245 225657.

Blackwater U3A social group have organized a trip to Duxford Imperial War Museum and they have a few seats left. It will be on Tuesday 20th April. It will go to Duxford Imperial War Museum first and drop off there then will continue on to Cambridge. The ones who would like the Duxford stop the entrance fee is £11.55 for more than 10 people. The price of the coach is £12.00. Please contact Barbara Brand. Her email address is barrey99@googlemail.com

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, talks given, activities to come, letters to the Editor or anything else that you think may interest other members of Heybridge U3A.

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
8 th February	8	9	10	11 Walking 10.30	12 Monthly Meeting 14.00	13 Week - ender Meeting at Perrywood	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 Week - ender Lunch at Izumi 12.15	21
22 nd February	22	23	24 Scrabble 14.00	25	26 Submit News Sheet text Bird Watching 10.00 Painting 14.00	27 Week - ender Jazz at Wickham Bishops 20.00	28
1 st March	1 Bridge 14.00	2 Threads and Fabrics 14.00	3	4 Photography 13.00	5 Painting 14.00	6	7
8 th March	8	9	10	11 Walking 10.30	12 Monthly Meeting 14.00	13 Week - ender Quiz at W Maldon CC 20.00	14
15 th March	15 Gardening 14.00 First Petangue this week at 14.00	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 March	22	23	24	25	26 Submit News Sheet text Bird Watching 10.00 Painting 14.00	27	28
29 th March	29	30	31 Scrabble 14.00	1 Photography 13.00	2 Painting 14.00	3	4

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