



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No. 2012/2

February 2012

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

From the Chairman

This is the time of the year when we, as a U3A, evaluate the past months and plan for the future. To most of our members Heybridge U3A is where we regularly meet our friends and make new friends. U3A membership enriches our lives by stimulating our interests, and to some extent, helps us to manage our time. The U3A idea was founded on these principles and can only survive by being run as a "self-help" organisation.

We, as subscribing members, should be very grateful to those (also subscribing members) who make our U3A run so smoothly that it's complexity is hardly noticed. There are only seven members (including myself) on the committee, with each member having a specific responsibility. Each officer reports to the committee at the regular monthly meeting. The attendance record is amazing at close to 100% for the whole year. That is true dedication. At the last committee meeting, all of the Officers (who were voted to hold their office for a period of 3 years at a previous AGM) agreed to remain in office for a further year. We are also extremely fortunate to have our interest groups headed by the hard working and dedicated CoGs, most of whom



have done the job since the early days (just over 3 years ago) when we decided to form this U3A.

Author: Jill McGregor

With our current membership standing in excess of 170 it is impossible to please everyone all of the time and we do try hard to make our meetings interesting and friendly. There is a suggestion box available at every meeting and we urge you to make helpful contributions regarding how we run our U3A. We are very lucky to have the Plantation Hall as our base and we have committed ourselves to renting it as our main venue for the whole of 2012. We are also very lucky to have the services of Bernard the Caretaker, who arranges (and clears away) all the tables and chairs that we use at our meetings. The refreshments somehow appear at the "hatch" and there always seems to be enough for everyone, so we should also be grateful to those (non

committee) members who organise and assist in this important task.

We had a splendid attendance at our meeting in January. I am certain that the excellent talk on the "Secret lives of garden birds" given by Mike Logan-Wood was enjoyed by everyone there. Mike illustrated his talk with superb close-up photo slides of common and familiar birds and, I for one, now see them in a totally different light after being told of their antics and lifestyle choices.

I look forward to being with you all again at our next meeting on Friday 10th February.

Email thorpe101@btinternet.com or phone 01621 850828.

Peter Thorpe.

From the Editor

Membership renewal is in March. A renewal form is attached to this News Sheet if you get it by email, with the printed News Sheet or from the registration desk. Please see the Membership Secretary Section of this News Sheet.

I have had a number of suggestions about the Study Day but would appreciate more. Please read the Section titled "Essex Association Study Day" 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 March 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 or 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 relate in some way to their group.

Please may I 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 (see below) 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>

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

Ian Newman.

Heybridge U3A Monthly Meetings

The next Monthly Meeting is on Friday 10th February starting at the normal time of 14.00, in the Plantation Hall, Heybridge. This month we have M.J. Scollan with more 'Stories from a former Police Officer'. Note that at the March Monthly Meeting the AGM will take place.

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: Oldies music - Ray Spiller.
- May 2012: Air Ambulance.
- June 2012: Hyland Park.
- July 2012: Plume School Drama Department.

Membership Secretary

As you are aware, our membership year runs from 1st April to 31st March. This means that existing members need to renew their membership before the end of March. Those of you who receive this News Sheet by e-mail will find attached a re-enrolment form for you to print out and fill in.

Payment can be made either at the monthly meeting or by posting your completed form and payment to me at the address on the re-enrolment form. For those paying at the monthly meeting, in order to minimise queuing, please put your completed form and payment in a sealed envelope marked with your name and hand it in when you sign in. Membership cards will be available for collection at the next monthly meeting. If you would prefer your card to be posted, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

Please also note that existing members who have previously signed the Gift Aid Declaration are now asked to tick a box on the re-enrolment form to confirm that they are still UK taxpayers. If you have not yet signed the Gift Aid declaration, are UK taxpayers and are willing for Heybridge U3A to claim Gift Aid on your subscription, please complete the Gift Aid Declaration on the lower half of the re-enrolment form.

Finally, if you do not wish to renew your membership, please let me know so that I do not bother you for payment. Many thanks to you all for your co-operation.

We have recently welcomed seven new members taking our total membership to 172. If you are not a member and 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.

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.

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
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
Italian	Janice Slight	01621 853393
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

From the COGCo (Group Co-ordinator)

It is now the end of January and the sun sets much later each day. What sun you may ask as it is pouring with rain as I write this. Not liking winter very much I am really looking forward to spring, although I should not be wishing the time away. Pat has arranged the planning meeting for the Garden Group and hopefully the Bird Watching Group will soon be out and about, as well as the Walking Group which continues all winter, weather permitting. I also know that some hardy types continue with the Petanque Group;

again weather permitting. All the indoor Groups continue meeting, learning and socialising.

I would like to welcome Janice Slight to our Groups as the COG of Italian Conversation and wish her every success. This group is very young and we all hope it will be a great success.

I have, this morning, been to the Coffee Morning Group where we all enjoyed ourselves, with much laughter which is very good for you.

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

Gill Thorne.

REPORTS

Art (Painting) Group

The painting group was full to bursting at their January 27th meeting. With the New Year came new ideas for subject matter as well as new media in the form of Christmas gifts of paints and pencils. Several members, eager to learn new techniques from those in the know, have inquired about the possibility of another visiting professional. This will be happening in the near future.

Gill Carpenter.

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

Michael Kempen

Bird Watching Group

On the 23rd December we decided to walk round the seawall and lakes at Heybridge Basin finishing with a warm up at the Tea Rooms. Elizabeth led us as it's her local walk. We were surprised to see more Ducks and Waders than expected. There were Tufted, Shoveler, Golden Plover, Little Grebe, Shelduck and two we hadn't seen before. They were a Greenshank and a Garganey which looks similar to a Teal but has a white stripe on its head. As we enjoyed our warm drinks the talk turned to much larger birds (Turkeys) with only two days to go until Christmas!

What a lovely January morning it was as we started out to explore Abberton Reservoir Nature Reserve. We had Liz, a warden on the site, to join us. She told us about the changes being made to the site plus pathways for wheelchair users and a new visitor's centre. Sometimes we see the same birds every month but with Liz there she was able to point out birds we could have missed. We saw Meadow Pipit, Reed Bunting Blue and Great Tits and a Kestrel that was just sitting on top of a branch. It was wonderful to stand in the morning sun with colourful Goldfinches darting about on the seed heads and the Skylark above us in full song. It had been a great morning.

The next Bird Watching Meeting is on 24th February but the venue has yet to be decided.

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

Maureen.

Computer Group

The first meeting of the new year began with us welcoming new members to the Computing Group. We then proceeded to pay our quarterly fee of £4.00 each to cover the hire of the Claydon Room for the next three months. We then got down to unravelling the mysteries of sending and receiving emails. We were shown how to create files within our email system and how to work off line whilst doing so. This, as always, was a very interesting afternoon finding more about the email system which both I, and many others in the group, were not aware.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 16th February at 14.00 where will learn more about creating files and inter linking them.

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

Tina Abeysekera

Coastal and Marine Group

Thank you to all those who ignored the weather and came along to the Blue Boar with all their ideas for our summer programme. Whilst it was pouring with rain outside we spent an enjoyable afternoon planning our summer.

We travelled on the River Medway on a paddle steamer, looked in wonder at the mile long rope shed in Chatham, and had very mixed feelings about submarines! Museums at Docklands and Little Venice awed us with their tales of old docks and canals, and then a trip on the Regents Canal would be 'a must'. Finally, we set off on the tide to enjoy our day sailing on an historic barge!

Latest post meeting news: The barge trip date is 30th May, an all day trip for £50. If you would like to join us (Only 12 plus crew on board), the full amount of £50.00 will need to be paid as soon as possible. If you would like any further information, just give me a call.

We are having a meeting at the Blue Boar on Friday 17th February at 14.00 to (hopefully) finalise our summer 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

In January, we shared our ideas on 'A Winter's Day Walk' when we listened to some stories and some reminiscences. Although our project for next month arose from our discussion, it does not reflect our reaction to the readings; the theme is 'Disappointment'.

We meet again on the fourth Wednesday in the month, 22nd February, at my house, at 14:30. We would be happy to welcome new members.

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

Discussion Coffee Morning Group

We all had a great time at Anne's house discussing a variety of totally unconnected topics, some of them serious. However, others which included body enhancement, cruise holidays and Izal toilet "tissue", produced a lot of laughter. The next meeting will be at 11.00 on Friday 17th February at Gill Thorne's house. New friends always welcome and you can try with no obligation!

Email mbandmeg@btinternet.com or phone 01621 854885.

Margaret Brown.

Family History Group

On 26th January Kay, from Blackwater Family History Group, came to give our group a more in-depth look into the 'Family Search' web site and also to help with any problems our members might have. Eleven members were present and I think everyone gained something. Roger, our newest member, discovered how to get more information about Limehouse in London, Sharon traced some more of her family in Scotland and Ray discovered he has family in New England, USA. We were unaware that there is so much information on this site. Kay has offered to return and do a similar meeting covering the Roots Web site (another free website).

For our next meeting, our member Chris, has offered (press-ganged by me) to show us the Legacy Website.

Our next meeting will be Thursday 23rd February between 10.30 and 12.30 at my house.

Please phone if you need information or directions.

Email lesleypommy@hotmail.com or phone 01621 817733.

Lesley Pomphrett.

French Conversation Group

We welcomed two new members to our January meeting at which we practised how to talk about past activities, including how we had spent Christmas. We started with a poem called Dejeuner du matin (breakfast) from the piece of work Paroles (words) and many new words there were, at least, to me. This demonstrated past tense. In addition, an appreciation of the unhealthy lifestyle of the subject of the poem who favoured a caffeine and nicotine start to his day, which upset his girlfriend. The two hours just flew and we finished by listening to Edith Piaf singing her famous song "Je ne regrette rien" (I have no regrets) in which she says that she no longer cares about the past. It is forgotten, swept away because today her life and her joys are beginning again with her new love:

Non, rien de rien
Non, je ne regrette rien
Car ma vie, car mes joies
Aujourd'hui, ça commence avec toi!

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

Pat Newman and Jenny Parker.

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.

I have just arranged with Lesley to have the Garden Group planning meeting at her house on Monday 27th February at 14.30. If you do not receive Garden Group emails, and would like to do so, please email me so that I can add your email address to my list.

If you can't come but have some suggestions for places to visit, please let me know. If you can come but do not know the address, please contact me.

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

Pat Yates.

Italian Conversation

On Monday 16th January, a small group of us met at Gill Thorne's house for the first meeting of our newly-formed Italian Conversation Group. This meeting was principally to get to know each other and work out what form the meetings would take, as well as discuss the aims and aspirations of each of us.

Although we are a group of varied abilities, we managed to encourage everyone to speak in Italian, no matter how limited their initial knowledge of the language, since fluency comes with practice.

We shall have a suggested topic for discussion for each meeting, although this is merely an aid to get the conversation started. As well as simple conversation, we shall try to make the meetings more fun by trying our hand at solving topic-related crossword puzzles, word searches or other activities, speaking Italian wherever possible.

We will meet once a month, on the third Monday at 10.00, so our next meeting is on the 20th February at Gill's house. As meeting once a month would make slow progress for anyone keen to advance their linguistic skills, additional meetings can be arranged, if desired.

Email janice.slight@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01621 853393

Janice Slight.

Local History Group (LHG)

We enjoyed a very full meeting in January when Paddy Lacey came to talk about Victorian Maldon which he illustrated with some of his wonderful collection of slides. We hope he may sometime come again to share more of his local knowledge with us.

Our next meeting on 21st February is a general one where we have the chance to share research or interesting photographs, news-cuttings or items with a local historical slant. I also hope to have a programme of future meetings. Please let me know if you intend to come so that I know how the room needs to be set out (including

chair numbers). Please also let me know if you are able to bring something to share.

Please note that our planned guest from the Maldon Society is now unable to come in February but we hope to welcome him later in the year.

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

Carol Greenhalgh

Luncheon Group

For the January meeting of the Luncheon Group, twelve of us met at The Ship & Anchor in Maldon High Street. The menus were readily available in the bar area, with a wide choice of meals including several vegetarian selections. Apart from one slip up (one of us had to wait far too long for their food) the service was generally very good and the food well presented, tasty and considered good value for the money.

We are not meeting in February, therefore, the next luncheon will be on 2nd March 13.00 at the Royal Oak Farnbridge Road, Hazeleigh. CM9 6FE. Looking forward to seeing familiar faces and, hopefully, some new ones.

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

Petanque Group

I am giving you a month's warning that the Monday Petanque games will be starting weekly on March 12th (except for the April and May Bank Holidays). For those new members wishing to join us we play from 14.00 to 16.00 on the Terrain at Maldon Prom with drinks at the kiosk afterwards if you wish. Please phone me if you have no Boules but would like to try and play a game. We can bring extra ones for you.

I hope that the regulars are ready after three months of rest and will come on that date starting with a meal at the Ship and Anchor at 12.00 for a get together (weather permitting). Look forward to seeing you all and a Happy New Year to you all.

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

Barbara Barbrook.



Photography Group

We chose "Christmas" as our photographic assignment for the January meeting. Once again, our members rose to the challenge and we were treated to an excellent range of interesting images including: events; interior shots; families; food and fun.

Author Peter Thorpe

The assignment for viewing in February is "Winter". So far this year we have enjoyed a very mild winter (up to the time of writing these notes). It will be interesting to see how we are able to interpret this subject!

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

Email thorpe101@btinternet.com or phone 01621 850828.

Peter Thorpe.

Reading and Books Group

Our meetings are back to normal after the Christmas festivities. We have welcomed three new members into the group in the past four months. We enjoy the new contributions they are making to our discussions, which are always lively and sometimes controversial.

This month we discussed two books. 'The Long Song' by Andrea Levy and 'Aviary Gate' by Katie Hickman.

The latter book was dismissed by most as not of great interest. One or two within the group thoroughly enjoyed the Turkish history element of the story about the women of the harem which fired some of us to think again about this story. Certainly, anyone thinking of visiting Istanbul would do well to read it for the historical element provided as the background to the story.

The 'Long Song' is a story about the life of slaves and their masters living in the Caribbean during the 18th and 19th century. This story was acclaimed by almost all of us as an enjoyable and interesting read. Some reservations were expressed about the language and authenticity of the West Indian patois as written by this author. Definitely a book that would stand a second reading.

We discussed the forthcoming March Essex Book Festival, which we have attended over the last two years and thoroughly enjoyed. Tickets have now been acquired and we are looking forward to the visit of Barbara Erskine, an author we know, whose books we have read and who, in fact, hails from this county.

The next meeting takes place at Plantation Hall Heybridge on Wednesday February 15th at 14.30.

Please contact Ann Lees if you wish to join us.

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

Ann Lees.

Scrabble Group

We had a round dozen players for our first meeting of the New Year and had a really happy afternoon on three tables. Some played two games whilst others, not such deep thinkers!!, played three. However, we still had time for tea, biscuits and a good chat. We meet in Plantation Hall on Tuesday 28th February. All members are welcome. Please arrive by about 13.45 for a prompt start.

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

Ruth Tyler

Technical Computing Group

The third meeting of the Technical Computing Group took place at my house on Thursday the 12th January. The meeting was, again, well supported. Discussions and demonstrations took place of system 'BIOS', what it was for and how it can be useful to understand it's inner workings. It is sometimes necessary to make adjustments to this part of a computer, usually when the back up battery needs replacing. We were also able to see inside a number of computer motherboards and where this battery could be found.

We were also able to see inside a computer hard drive which made it easier understood how they work. The next meeting takes place on Thursday the 9th of February.

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

Colin Mason.

Ten Pin Bowling Group

Our new year started off with eleven players attending on the 10th January. We hired three lanes and divided into playing abilities. So many strikes, spares and quite a few surprises. Jenny, Barbara, Marjorie and Gill T won games but all in all everyone had very respectable scores. As happened last month, after all the games had finished, Glen decided to practice on a spare lane and managed to get a strike with his first ball (something that had eluded him throughout play). After we had stretched our arms with the weight of the bowling balls we had a nice cup of coffee/tea and a good chat.

We meet again on the 14th February at 13.45 for 14.00 at Madison Heights. If you want to join in the fun please come along on the day or telephone me beforehand.

I will not be at this meeting and have handed over to Gill Thorne so, if you wish to come along, please give her a ring so she has an idea on numbers.

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,
gillianbride@btinternet.com or phone 01621 892626.

Threads and Fabrics Group

Six of us made it to our January meeting in very wild weather. It seemed a very long time since our November 2011 meeting when we had last worked together and much discussion took place about our relevant Christmas presents. Our families know how to keep us happy with bits and pieces, threads, ribbons and beads to stimulate our imaginations. Anne, as we were still within the twelve days of Christmas, brought a game she had made for their family party. It consisted of 25 objects sewn into little cloth bags which we had to feel, with much laughter and wild guesses.

Some were fairly easy, but others were almost impossible. I think that we would all recommend the game to others and might possibly try it on our families in the future.

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

There was no January outing for the walking group. The February outing on Thursday 9th February will be a joint visit to Marks Hall by the walking and gardening groups.

Details of the March walk will be available in February.

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

Elizabeth

Weekenders Group

Six of us enjoyed a cosy chat over tea and cakes on Saturday 21st while also swapping some of our unwanted toiletries. The items left over I will take to my Tiptree Ladies' Group, who are holding a fundraising 'Unwanted Gifts' stall at their next meeting in February, most of which is donated to local charities. Our Coffee Morning was well attended albeit a little squashed in a new venue, 'The Barn' in Chigborough Road. Perhaps they should have been warned but I am sure they were glad of the business. So far three of us will be going to see 'Time of my Life' on 21st March and four to see 'Guys and Dolls' on 28th April. If any more would like to join us please email me as soon as possible as I shall be reserving tickets.

Dates for your Diary:

- Friday 10th February evening meal at the 'Raj Mahal', Station Road, Tiptree. Time TBA.
- Saturday 11th February monthly coffee morning at 'Cafe Snug', Hatfield Peveral at 10.00.
- Saturday 10th March monthly coffee morning at 'Oliver's Nursery' at 10.00.
- Wednesday 21st March 'Time of my Life' at Witham Public Hall (Note date change).
- Saturday 28th April 'Guys and Dolls' at Witham Public Hall.

Email mars42@btinternet.com or phone 01621 817518.

Marilyn Corbett.

Wine Appreciation Group

In January, we learnt about wine growing in South Africa and tasted an interesting wine from the Springfield Estate made by the old traditional method. No meeting has been arranged for February but we will be meeting again, in Tiptree, on 21st March 2012 to learn about German wines, including dessert wines, so there may even be cake! Later in the year, we plan to visit the Colchester Wine Company

providing that we can get a group of 10 or 12 people. The vintner's Manager will provide tastings with a short talk. Please contact me or put your name on the list at the next Monthly Meeting if you would like to join us. We are a friendly group.



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

Jackie Jones.

Essex Association Study Day

The Study Day is being well supported by the various U3As in Essex. Although no decisions have been taken, the date is likely to be at the end of October 2012. A meeting later this month may be able to firm up on dates, venue, costs, the catering arrangements etc. These decisions are still open to discussion and the support that we get.

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.

On the Notice Board

The Thames Estuary Walk.

The full programme for walks in the London and Eastern Region is now on the Herts Network website (Walk from Luton down into London along the River Lea and round Herts Walk) The full programme of walks into London for a final rally on 17th June is on the London Region website at <http://u3asites.org.uk/london-region> If you click on that link it takes you to the homepage and you just click on events. The section titled "Overview" tells you all about the walks and you then just click onto the walks you are interested in. Walks from the East start at Shoeburyness and try to follow the Thames as far as Rainham, where they then follow a route leading to the Olympic site at Stratford.

There are also some extra walks around Docklands in this programme. Walks from the West come from Windsor and follow the Thames downriver to Stratford and there is a walk along the River Wandle from the South. The walk from the North is along the River Lea from Luton.

Walks have started with one walk per month. The Thames Estuary walk starts on June 9th and finishes on 17th June. Interested U3A walking groups or individuals must register in order to take part and the registration form is on the website or by telephone. Certificates will be presented on June 17th. An invitation buffet lunch will also take place on this day. So early registration is advised. There is also a link to click on and a brief description of the walks around London on the National U3A website. You just have to log in to the member's area and then click on Events and then

to National Events and you will see the heading Olympic Walks. If any U3A would like more information they can contact me at jennifer.simpson1@yahoo.co.uk Jennifer Simpson

Other Heybridge U3A Notices

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.

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.

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

Email brendadewar@btinternet.com or phone 01245 400492.

Brenda Dewer

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.

Other Notices

If you are interested in helping children with their reading, Maldon Primary School may well be interested in you. You will need to be able to commit to a regular afternoon and to train for the role. A CRB check will be necessary.

In the first instance please contact Carol Greenhalgh or Joyce Woodham. Both are Heybridge U3A members and both are governors at the school.

Diary of Meetings and Visits.

For details see articles and co-ordinators above.

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