



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No. 2013/1

February 2013

Contacts: Peter Thorpe Chairman 01621 850828

Brenda Dewar Secretary 01245 400492

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

From the Chairman

February is here and it is almost the end of our fourth year as the Heybridge U3A. I would like to remind you that you have to renew your membership before March 31st, to continue enjoying the benefits of belonging to our unique organisation. This is also the time for you to consider being nominated for the Committee. To parody the words of John F Kennedy – ask not what your U3A can do for you – ask what you can do for your U3A. As I have said before, we are not a corporation, local authority, or quango. We choose what we do and we organise how we do it! Please do not expect your fellow members to organise everything for you – let's share the work the U3A way and offer yourself for nomination.



Pat Smith:

Author – Peter Thorpe

I am surprised that we have members who, having written books, manage to get them published and on sale in local shops. Pat Smith has just written a most thoughtful and moving book called "The 1953 Essex Flood disaster". It is exactly sixty years since the flood and Pat has met many of the survivors who told her about their personal and often harrowing experiences of that tragic January night. Pat's book is not written like an official report, it is "the people's story". We were very fortunate that Pat agreed to talk to us at our January meeting about her new book and explain how she had undertaken the research. She had prepared an excellent Powerpoint presentation using some of the

many photos given to her for use in the book. Before she joined our U3A, Pat had never created a Powerpoint presentation. I am pleased that as a member of our Computer Group, Pat used the combined help available to enable her to produce an exceptional presentation. I am certain that Pat will put this piece of work to good use as she visits other organisations over the next few months, sharing her vast knowledge of that terrible flood. Many of our members who were present at the meeting also shared their personal recollections of that night during the question session that followed Pat's talk.

I look forward to seeing you all again on February 8th. usual place, usual time.

Peter Thorpe: Email thorpe101@btinternet.com or phone 01621 850828.

Important Notice: Committee Nominations 2013

We will have to elect a new Chairman and several committee members at the AGM on the 8th March 2013. Details of the posts requiring nominations are given below:

Chairman

Our constitution stipulates that the Chairman can only hold office for 3 consecutive years. A retiring Chairman is not eligible for re-election during the next 12 months. Peter Thorpe is retiring as Chairman and is not seeking nomination for any position on the committee in 2013.

Joyce Woodham, currently Vice-Chairman and Programme Secretary, is eligible and willing to be nominated for election. This position is also open to other nominations.

Committee members

Committee members are elected to stand for 3 years before requiring to be re-elected. With the exception of Jenny Parker, Membership Secretary, all Committee members have served three years and nominations are therefore required for the following posts:

- Secretary *
- Vice-Chairman
- Treasurer
- Programme Secretary
- Social Secretary
- Interest Group Co-ordinator *
- News Sheet Editor *

* The following existing committee members are willing to be nominated for re-election to continue in their current offices:

- Secretary - Brenda Dewar.
- Interest Group Co-ordinator – Gill Thorne
- News Sheet Editor – Ian Newman.

Nomination forms will be attached to the February News Sheet. One form needs to be completed by each person wishing to stand for a position on the Heybridge U3A Committee. The Nomination Form needs to be signed by the Nominee, Proposer and Secunder and given to or posted to the Secretary at “Drifters”, Church Road, West Hanningfield, Essex, CM2 8UJ, to arrive by Friday 22nd February 2013. If there is more than one person nominated for any one position, a vote will take place at the AGM on Friday 8th March 2013.

The names of Nominees and positions will be published in the March issue of the News Sheet, which will be available prior to the AGM.

From the Editor

I started editing this News Sheet some 10 km up, so if you smell a little bit of ether you will know where it came from.

Did you find that the omission of the January 2013 issue of the Heybridge U3A News Sheet a problem either in the preparation for it (the contributors) or in not having a January issue (the readers)? It was certainly, as far as editing was concerned, much easier for me as I only had one edition to edit while I was not in the UK. Your feedback on this temporary change would be useful (Verbally, by an email or as a letter to the Editor to be printed in the next News Sheet).

It was possible that not all had a digital copy of the December issue. If this was the case, please accept my apologies. A technical problem which I can explain, if anyone is interested.

The text size this month has been returned to its previous font size of 9.5pt. I hope all can read the printed version.

It has been reported that as the 2012 Study Day was so successful another one is to be held in October 2013. So watch this space.

Please read the section on Committee nominations above. These same details can also be found on the Heybridge U3A WEB site (See top of page 1 for address).

The Diary on the last page has been updated to the end of March 2013. Please keep me up to date with any interesting stories, relevant pictures or anything that relates to The Heybridge U3A or the U3A movement as a whole.

Subscriptions for the year 2013 – 2014. (See Membership Report).

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

Membership Secretary

As you are aware, our membership year runs from 1st April to 31st March. This means that you need to re-enrol by the beginning of April if you wish to continue your membership. A re-enrolment form is attached with this News Sheet and forms will also be available at the monthly meeting.

You can either re-enrol at the monthly meeting or by post. If re-enrolling at the monthly meeting, please put your completed form and payment in a sealed envelope marked with your name. This should be handed in when you sign in. Alternatively, please post your completed form and payment to the address on the re-enrolment form.

Membership cards will be available for collection at the following monthly meeting. If you would prefer your card to be posted to you, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope. Please show your new 2013 – 2014 membership card to the CoG of any group that you attend.

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 one new member and two returning members, taking our current membership to 171. 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.

Jenny Parker

For any queries regarding membership, please

Email jennyparker14@hotmail.com or phone me on 01621 843581. Or, If I am not available, please contact Angela by Email angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk or phone on 01621 850310.

Heybridge U3A Monthly Meetings

The next Monthly Meeting is on Friday 8th February starting at the normal time of 14.00, in the Plantation Hall, Heybridge. This month we look forward to seeing you at our meeting when Brian Carline will be entertaining us with amusing accounts of life in our schools.

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

- March 2013: AGM followed by Roger St Pierre with “It isn’t all champagne”. The trials and tribulations of a travel writer.
- April 2013: Lynda Holdaway on the National Garden Scheme.
- May 2013: John Frankland’s talk on “Plotlands”, including the land given to returning servicemen after both World Wars.

From the COGCo (Group Co-ordinator)

It did seem a little strange not having to write for a News Sheet in January so by now I hope you have settled into 2013 and that this will be a good year for all the groups.

I mentioned at both the December and January meetings that a new member David Wilson is willing to do a short course in Spanish, hopefully starting in February. Several people have shown interest so I have hopes that this will take place. If you did not put your name down at the

meetings, please note that David's e-mail address is d.wilson09@btinternet.com

Gill Thorne: Email gillthorne2@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01621 852294.

Group Names, Co-ordinator, Contact Telephone

Group Name	Co-ordinator (COG)	Telephone Number
Art (Painting)	Michael Kempen	01621 892974
Bird Watching	Maureen Lenoir	01621 869871
Coffee Morning	Margaret Brown	01621 854885
Computer	Ian Newman	01621 891183
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	John Harrison	01621 854851
Patchwork	Anne Thorpe	01621 850828
Petanque	Barbara Barbrook	01621 855605
Photography	Peter Thorpe	01621 850828
Reading & Books	Ann Lees	01245 225153
Scrabble	Ruth Tyler	01621 856212
Solo Whist	Dave Mason	01621 858635
Technical Computing	Colin Mason	01621 854906
Ten Pin Bowling	Glenn Cousins	01621 816721
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

REPORTS

Art (Painting) Group

Hopefully the bitter winter weather isn't keeping too many of our keen painters, or any of our fellow U3A group members, behind closed doors. We've had a good turnout so far this year. Long may it continue, despite the

inconvenience of lead disappearing from the roof of the Plantation Hall, followed by the noise of roofers clambering about over our heads as they put all to rights.

The one big advantage of frost and snow is that it produces wonderful landscapes. For those who frequently work from photographs, winter 2013 has so far provided some stunning inspiration for visitors to beauty spots such as Beeleigh Falls or Promenade Park.

One wouldn't wish this cold winter to last forever, but for the well-wrapped, camera toting artist it is a gift!

Report by Gill Carpenter



Art Group (Christmas Lunch)

Author Tina Martin

For information about the group please contact Michael Kempen: Email m.kempen@sky.com or phone 01621 892974.

Bird Watching Group

We had our last get together of 2012 midway between Christmas and the New Year. We met at Heybridge Basin to enjoy the fresh air after being indoors over Christmas. Armed with binoculars we set off along the muddy path towards Maldon. There were quite a lot of waders on the water's edge for us to watch (sorry, but I have lost the full list of birds seen). After slipping and sliding on the muddy path and feeling the cold we decided to make our way back to the warmth of the café for a chat and hot drink. We have had some great times in 2012 so let's make 2013 even better.

We chose Hanningfield Reserve for January visit as with the water and snow around we wanted somewhere with good paths to get to the hides without getting too muddy. We started at the visitors centre, and just outside the windows is the feeding station. The Great and Blue Tits were the only birds feeding so we made our way to the Lyster and Rawl hides. They both look out over the reservoir. We spotted Tufted, Pochard, Teal and Shoveler which all belong to the Duck family. From the Point hide we also looked out to the Island, saw a large group of Black-headed gulls all fluffed up to keep warm. Also seen were Moorhen, Coot, Swans, Cormorant and Grey Lag Geese. By now we were feeling the cold so again finished our time with a chat and a warming drink.

The next meeting will be on the 22nd February. The venue has yet to be agreed.

Maureen: Email symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01621 869871.

Computer Group

There were no meetings of the Computer Group in December 2012 and January 2013. We start again on Thursday 21st February 2013. We will use this meeting to identify what is wanted over the coming year and if some individual 'one to one' sessions would be useful.

We normally meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month in The Claydon Room at Plantation Hall. Any one who would like to expand their knowledge on the use of computers will be warmly welcomed.

Should anyone who has only a PC and no laptop wish to attend, a laptop is available for use by any U3A member.

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

Creative Writing Group

The meeting was postponed by a week to give the weather a chance to improve, so there is no news in this news sheet. Expect a fuller report next month.

Angela Pleasance: Phone 01621 850310 or email angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk.

Discussion Coffee Morning Group

The first meeting of 2013 was held on 18th January at my house. There was plenty to catch up on and as we were expecting snow at any minute, we were only too glad to enjoy our tea/coffee and talk about our future holidays etc.

Our next coffee morning will be on Friday 15th February at Anne Newsons house. For this month only, it will be at the earlier time of **10.30**. Details will, as usual, be available at the next monthly meeting or please phone me for information.

Margaret Brown: Email mbandmeg@btinternet.com or phone 01621 854885.

Family History Group

This month Gill Thorne joined us as she wanted to know more about the Ancestry web site. Gill has a very interesting family history and her niece has been recording their family tree. I hope in our small way we were of help to Gill and hopefully she will be able to join us again and let us know how she is getting on. We also had a new member come and I think we have spurred her on the road to recording her family history. Jackie told us about the 'Find My Past' web site, which has opened quite a few doors for her. We also talked about the 'Roots' web site and perhaps we will have a closer look at these at our next meeting.

We will meet again on Thursday 28th February between 10.30 and 12.30 at my house as usual.

Lesley Pomphrett: Email lesleypommy@hotmail.com or phone 01621 817733.

French Conversation Group

In December we met at Angela's house where we discussed our Christmas plans and talked about how Christmas has changed since we were young. We remembered a time which was far less commercialised when, in the absence of TV, families made their own entertainment by singing and making music. With our coffee, we enjoyed shortbread and pain au chocolat, as well as some delicious cigarette shaped biscuits (*cigarettes feuilletées fourées chocolat noisette*) brought from Paris by Carol.. We finished by singing 'Mon Beau Sapin', a French carol which we know in English as 'O Christmas Tree'.

January found us *chez* Barbara where we talked about how we had spent Christmas and looked at a 2013 horoscope to revise the future tense. We also read a French newspaper article describing the preparations being made by a well known restaurant to serve 100 people simultaneously for the traditional New Year's Eve Réveillon. A quote from the sous-chef, "*en cuisine, il y aura du 'boulot'*" (there'll be a lot of work in the kitchen) seemed rather an understatement. Reading about all the food to be prepared, including white truffles at 4,000 euros a kilo, made us feel hungry, so it was just as well we had decided to go for a New Year lunch at Le Bouchon. Courtesy of the French manager, we each ordered our meal in French.

Our next meeting is at 10.00 on Wednesday 13th February at my house. If one of your New Year's resolutions was to brush up your rusty French, why not join us? Please ring me if you would like to know more.

Jenny Parker: email jennyparker14@hotmail.com or phone 01621 843581.

Gardening Group

The first visit of the year is a snowdrop walk at Marks Hall on February 15th at 13.30, together with the walking group. There will be a Gardening Group Planning Meeting at Sue's house at 14.00 on March 13th. If you can't come but have any suggestions for visits, please let me know before the meeting.

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

Italian Conversation

The Beginner's Italian Group met on Monday 14th January. The initial part of the meeting was taken up with discussions about the festivities and what we had each been doing. Then, still feeling we needed a little prompting to get back into thinking in Italian, we did some revision by translating sentences written in a variety of tenses. Some of the sentences were straightforward, others more complex and were more of a challenge, but all were certainly good revision.

The next Beginner's meeting will be Monday 4th February.

Due to the snow, the Advanced Italian Group's meeting was postponed and won't take place until after this news sheet has been published.

The next Advanced meeting will be Monday 18th February.

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

Local History Group (LHG)

The group enjoyed a very good January talk by David Andrews, on the Underground Maldon project. There was a very full house for this and it was fortunate that there were some on the list for coming who did not attend, as some came who were not on the list for attendance!

In view of the popularity of the group and the size of the room, Carol will be emailing Local History group members, who have attended over the past year, with details of meetings. A list of names for each month's event will be compiled in order of receipt of a positive reply. We have to assume that if a member has not let us know they are coming they do not wish to come. If there are spaces available we can then open the event to guests from the U3A. We have now started to compile a guest list.

Carol Greenhalgh: Email george.smeed@virgin.net or phone 01621 840339.

Luncheon Group

Fifteen of us met on Friday 23rd November 2012 at 'Miller & Carter' in Chelmer Village for our November lunch. We had a successful and enjoyable lunch, with compliments about the food and service. On Friday 21st December, eleven of us met at 'Le Bouchon' in Heybridge for a Christmas Menu. We again had the private room enabling a comfortable seating arrangement. The food and service were excellent and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Fifteen of us met on Friday 25th January 2013 at 'The William B', in Hatfield Peverel. Beryl Claydon was able to join us on her first trip out since returning from her post operative convalescence in Witham. All enjoyed our meal in spite of a couple of apprehensive moments when the lights went out. Fortunately it didn't appear to affect the kitchen.



David - The Ladies Man. Author Barbara Barbrook.

Looking ahead to February 2013. 'The Ship' at Tiptree is the venue with quite a different style of menu and ambience to our recent venues. Looking even further ahead 'The Blue Bridge' in Writtle is the venue for Wednesday 27th March 2013. Note: this is the following Wednesday as I

have a commitment in London on the 22nd of March. 'The Blue Bridge' is in the same ownership as the 'William B'.

Typical menus will be available at the monthly meeting. Any queries to me.

John W Harrison: email johnwharrison@sky.com or phone 01621 854851.

Patchwork Group

We had our first meeting on 14th January in the Claydon Room. Thirteen members attended, many bringing in work-in-progress and others looking for ideas. There were patchwork books and magazines to browse and some tools of the trade to see demonstrated. These included the rotary cutter and ruler, a must for most patchwork projects. The two hours passed very quickly, with most of us leaving with some good ideas to think about. We meet again on 11th February but for this month only, in the Meeting Room. As space will be tight in this room, I am afraid that we must leave our sewing machines at home!

Note: the meetings will be held from 14.00 to 16.00 at Plantation Hall on February 11, in the Meeting Room, on March 11th in the Claydon Room and thereafter in the Claydon Room on the second Monday of the month.

Anne Thorpe; Email Anne.thorpe@btinternet.com or phone 01621 850828.

Petanque Group

I am giving you the date to start our season of Petanque so that you put it in your diaries ready for March. I have chosen the 18th March starting with our usual lunch at the Ship & Anchor at 12.00 so that we can have a good chat about the winter break. We shall then be ready to start playing at 14.00. There will then just be two weeks to play before Easter Monday, playing again on the following Monday. I am hoping that the weather will be good on the 18th and not raining but it should be quite warm by then. Bring your boules of course. Look forward to seeing you all again soon.

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

Photography Group

We have enjoyed two meetings since the last News Sheet was published. At the December meeting our assignment was to create a composite photograph containing several different photos. One way to produce such a photo requires the author to use a computer, together with some form of editing software. The popular choice of software was Picasa (attractive because it is free and easy to use!). We have a very creative group and this topic proved no exception. The images produced were varied in so many ways but all were based on a single theme. It is very encouraging that we are prepared to explore the magic of digital photography beyond the camera.



Taj Mahal:

Author – Alex Lees

The assignment for our January meeting was a photograph taken since our December Meeting. Again our group members were out and about being creative by finding a wide variety of super images of all descriptions. Some were taken indoors whilst others were taken travelling in far off places, like Alex's stunningly beautiful shot of the Taj Mahal, taken in the soft early morning light, before people got in the way and spoiled the symmetry.

Next month we will be looking at our photos taken using a single source of light – that should keep the creative juices pumping during the cold January weather!

If you are interested in digital photography, come and join us. You will be made welcome whether you are completely new, experienced or just want to find your "photographer's eye". Our aim is to enjoy and to improve our photography, together.

Peter Thorpe: Email thorpe101@btinternet.com or phone 01621 850828.

Reading and Books Group

This month, the book group members read the books they had chosen from the Secret Santas Sack. Each member had chosen a book they liked, put it in the sack, from which we picked a book at random.

Some of the books were liked greatly, but others in spite of being recommended, fell short for the reader. However, we had a good chin-wag about each book and they were then put in the box for others to read if they wish. We are all also ploughing our way through Bill Bryson's 'At Home'. It is a very interesting book with some of his trade mark humour which we can dip in to, collecting all kinds of interesting facts as we go.

The Essex Book Festival has come around yet again and this year's programme is very full and interesting, covering a wide range of subjects. Hence we found it very difficult to agree on which event we should visit. In the end the group was unable to agree on a single visit for all. So this year we are going in three separate groups to different events.

The next meeting is on February 20th at 14.30 at Plantation Hall.

Ann Lees: Email: annlees@yahoo.com or phone 01245 225153

Scrabble Group

At our first meeting of the New year we were pleased to welcome Toni, who joined us for the first time. We had eleven players, so had three lively tables in play. Two hours of competition, and the mandatory cup of tea, amid much chatter.

We have room for many more players, so if any members would like to come and give it a try they would be more than welcome. We meet next on Tuesday 26th February, starting play promptly at 14.00.

Ruth Tyler: Email r.tyler936@btinternet.com or phone 01621 856212.

Solo Whist

The solo whist group meets on the 1st Wednesday of the month, which for the news sheet is not good timing so the report is always a month behind.

However a good afternoon of solo whist was played at Pam Archer's in December and likewise at Margaret Brown's in January. Some brave calls were made also good counter play ensued. A nice selection of refreshments was to be enjoyed at both venues.

There is no February meeting due to various commitments of several regular members. The next meeting on 6th March will be held at the home of Bill Oliver. If there are any new members who would like to join us in the March game of Solo Whist, please contact Bill on 01621 842157.

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

Technical Computing Group

There were no meetings over the Christmas period so I have nothing to report. The next meeting will again be at my house on the 14th of February.

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

Ten Pin Bowling

Nine members met for our December session which took place in the morning and was followed by lunch at the Chinese Buffet. Top scorer of the day was Jenny Parker with 126. The average score for the day for the 9 players X 3 games was 88. January saw eight members back to our normal afternoon time. Top scorer of the day was Graham Parker who had a phenomenal day 180 (I think the highest ever Heybridge U3A score) followed by 133 and 142, giving a total of 455 for three games. No doubt this score was influential in pushing the group average for the day up to 96.

The next Ten Pin meeting is on Tuesday 12th February, 13.45 for a 14.00 start.

Glenn Cousins. Email maureencousins@btinternet.com or phone 01621 816721

Threads and Fabrics Group

We did not meet on 1st. January. With all the Christmas projects finished and put away, we should see lots of new ideas using our threads and fabrics in 2013. I wait in

anticipation for our next meeting which is on Tuesday 5th February.

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 start the 2013 walks with a visit to the Marks Hall gardens along with the gardening group to see the snowdrops on Friday 15th February. Entrance fee for our group is £3.50 per person.

The paths are mainly hard and the walk can be as long or short as you wish. See the Marks Hall website for garden plans and information. The cafe will be open for afternoon tea.

Meet in the Marks Hall car park at 13:30. There is no extra charge for parking..

Elizabeth: Email e.m.e@talktalk.net or phone 01621 850618.

Weekenders Group

Happy 2013 to all and thank goodness Christmas is over for another year. Our group started with a meal at 'The Anchor' at Runsell Green which I think most enjoyed. This was followed in the New Year with an Indian meal at Zara's. It was a change to have something other than turkey and I can't speak for everyone but I was quite 'turkeyed' out by then. I hope we can look forward to another successful year with more events to attend, meals to enjoy, our regular monthly coffee mornings and anything else that members can come up with.

Dates for your diary

- Saturday 9th February Coffee Morning at Tiptree Jam Factory at 10.00.
- Saturday 9th March: Coffee Morning at Oliver's Nursery at 10.00.

Marilyn Corbett: Email mars42@btinternet.com or phone 01621 817518.

Wine Appreciation Group

At our January meeting we compared notes on the aroma of a masked red wine and discussed the differences between new young wines and older mature wines. We also put together a diary of suggestions for meetings and visits in 2013. There will be no meeting in February. The next meeting is arranged for Wednesday 20th March 2013 at 95 Barbrook Lane, Tiptree, starting at 14.00. There will be a horizontal tasting of Sauvignon Blanc.

Grapes for wine production are grown in two major zones located both north and south of the equator. The first zone is located between the 30th & 50th lines of latitude north of the equator, which encompasses France, Italy, Germany, Spain, Portugal and the United States. The second zone, located between the 30th & 40th lines of latitude south of the equator includes South America, South Africa, Argentina, Australia and New Zealand. We shall be comparing two

wines from different zones. As Sauvignon Blanc is now the most popular white wine drunk in the UK, with the NZ wines recognised as the benchmark for taste, we will put them to the test by comparing one from the Marlborough region and one from Europe. In April we are planning a visit to a local Wine Merchant to learn more about the business of choosing wines for sale to the British public and later in the summer we plan to visit local vineyards followed by a picnic (weather permitting).

Jackie Jones: Email jachjones@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01621 817117.

On the Notice Board

Our Chairman's letter from Head Office detailed forthcoming events – 'looking forward to 2013'. The inaugural Founders' Lecture will be on Tuesday 9th April.

Our National Conference "Learn, Laugh and Live" and AGM is 13th – 16th September at the East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham. More details on these to follow.

A request for help: any member willing to complete a survey on their viewing habits in the 50's and 60's please contact by email Margaret.obrien115@gmail.com.

For more information contact Brenda on 01245 400492, or see the notice board.

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

Study Day

With the success of the 2012 Study Day in Maldon, another day is being planned for this year. Currently Session Leaders are being sought to broaden the subjects that can be made available on the day. It has been decided that the venue will be the same as last year. The date for the Study Day is Tuesday, 29th October 2013. So, watch this space.

Other Information

The National U3A Magazine, 'Third Age Matters' has until now, been available for members to collect at the Monthly Meetings. The Third Age Trust has decided that this method of distribution will cease after Issue 5 (New Year (2013). Issue. In future, they will send copies, direct to members through the post. The Heybridge U3A Committee has decided to pay the additional charges for this service with no increase in this year's annual membership subscription. If you do not wish to receive the magazine, please advise the Membership Secretary and your name will be deleted from the mailing list.

Diary of Meetings and Visits

For details see articles and co-ordinators above.

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
4th February	4 Beginners Italian 10.00	5 Threads 14.00	6	7 Photography 14.00	8 Monthly Meeting 14.00	9 Weekender Coffee Tiptree Jam 10.00	10
11^h February	11 Patchwork 14.00	12 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	13 French Conversation 10.00	14 Technical Computing 14.00	15 Painting 14.00 Coffee Morning 10.30 Gardening/ Walking 13.30	16	17
18th February	18 Advanced Italian 10.00	19 Local History 15.00	20 Book Group 14.30	21 Computer 14.00	22 News Sheet Copy to Editor Painting 14.00 Bird Watching Luncheon	23	24
25th February	25	26 Scrabble 14.00	27 Creative Writing Group 14.30	28 Family History 10.30	1 st March Committee Meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00	2	3
4th March	4 Beginners Italian 10.00	5 Threads 14.00	6 Solo Whist 14.00	7 Photography 14.00	8 Monthly Meeting 14.00	9 Weekender Coffee Olivers Nursery 10.00	10
11th March	11 Patchwork 14.00	12 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	13 Gardening 14.00 French Conversation 10.00	14 Technical Computing 14.00	15 Painting 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00	16	17
18th March	18 Advanced Italian 10.00 Petanque 14.00	19 Local History 15.00	20 Book Group 14.30 Wine Tasting 14.00	21 Computer 14.00	22 Painting 14.00 Bird Watching	23	24
25th March	25 Petanque 14.00	26 Scrabble 14.00	27 Creative Writing Group 14.30 Luncheon	28 Family History 10.30	29 News Sheet Copy to Editor Painting 14.00	30	31