

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No. 1/2014

February 2014

Contacts: Joyce Woodham: Chairman 01621 841066

Brenda Dewar: Secretary 01245 400492

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

From the Chairman

Another great success for Pat Smith! The 'Fish Supper' not only had better fish than I have had in many a long day, but also Pat had organised a variety of board games. Some members were getting their heads around the intricacies of Mah Jong, others were deep into Bridge while I mastered the art of dominoes. Additionally, Pat had organised a 'free raffle'. It was a most enjoyable evening.

Pat has more interesting and exciting outings for us in the next few months. We are looking for a way to make this information easily accessible to all members.

I have had an initial meeting with the Chairmen of the three U3As in Maldon, to find ways in which we can work together, particularly in helping small interest groups get together to make them viable and group outings not to be run at a loss.

Next month is our AGM and we need to be thinking about the elections. I wish to stand down as Speaker Organiser. I have done it for five years and I really want a break from this small activity. I have arranged for Speakers until August of this year, but will not plan any further ahead. It is an interesting task and not difficult. I have several lists of speakers and it is just a matter of choosing one, making contact and booking!

Joyce Woodham: phone 01621 841066 or Email woodham359@btinternet.com.

Important Notice: Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Committee Nominations 2014

There will be an AGM on the 14th March 2014.

Committee members are elected to stand for 3 years before requiring to be re-elected. A number of posts are open for election including The Secretary, Membership Secretary, Speaker Secretary and a Vice Chairman. Nomination forms will be attached to this News Sheet and will also be available at the February Monthly Meeting. 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 Seconder and given to or posted to the Secretary at "Drifters", Church Road, West Hanningfield, Essex, CM2 8UJ, to arrive by Friday 21st February 2014. If there is more than one person nominated for any one position, a vote will take place at the AGM on Friday 14th March 2014.

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.

Resolutions to be put to the 2014 AGM.

Resolution 1.

This meeting authorises the Committee, should they so decide, to reduce the membership fees of renewing members to a level recommended by the Treasurer and agreed by the Committee without further reference to an Annual General Meeting.

Resolution 2 (Change to the Constitution)

The amendment proposed is to Clause 7. sub clause (iii) of the Constitution is as follows

All Committee members, including Officers, shall serve for a period of 3 years. Retiring Officers and Committee members may stand for re-election provided that no-one may hold the office of Chairman or Vice-Chairman for more than 3 consecutive years without an intervening period of at least one year except that a retiring Vice-Chairman may stand immediately for the post of Chairman

(Amended text in bold)

Resolution 2. above, can only be implemented if two thirds of members present vote for the resolution.

From the Editor

Thank you all contributors for your help in producing a two month edition of the News Sheet prior to Christmas.

Please read the Membership Secretary's Report as it covers the renewal of membership for the year 2014 – 2015 and how and when those membership fees should be paid.

Reports about the Association of Essex U3As including the Study Day has been included in the section on page 7 of this News Sheet

Please read the section on the AGM.

The Diary on the last page has been updated to the end of March 2014. 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. Please continue to send details to me, preferably by email with 'Heybridge U3A' in the title. Alternatively talk to me at the Monthly Meeting.

The Events Secretary has put in place a number of special visits. Please read her report, read the notice board, put your names down on the sheet and most important of all, provide a cheque for the appropriate amount.

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

Membership Secretary

We were pleased to welcome two new members in January. As you are aware, our membership year runs from the 1st April to 31st March. This means that you need to re-enrol by

the end of March 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 enrolling at the monthly meeting, please help us to minimize queuing by putting 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 me at the address on the 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 2014/15 membership card to the COG of any group that you attend.

If you have already signed a Gift Aid Declaration, please remember to tick the box on the re-enrolment form to confirm that you are still a UK taxpayer. If you are a UK taxpayer but have not yet signed the Gift Aid declaration, please consider completing the Gift Aid Declaration (on the lower half of the re-enrolment form) if you are willing for Heybridge U3A to claim Gift Aid on your subscription.

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.

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.

From The Treasurer

As it is a long time since the December News Sheet could I again remind the CoGs that our financial year ended on 31st January and I would appreciate the half-yearly financial reports from those who have not yet supplied them. My grateful thanks to those CoGs who have already given their reports to me.

Our finances are in a very healthy state and the committee has spent a lot of time debating how best we can use our funds to benefit all the members. The success of our U3A depends, in no small way, on the success of our groups and we are very grateful to the people who willingly give their time to run a group. We are aware that this often involves phone calls, printing, petrol and other expenses. Many CoGs have been doing this for several years. However, we have had no success in persuading people to claim expenses. It was therefore decided to give each CoG and each committee member £20 this year to help to defray their expenses. I hope that you will agree that this is money well spent. Other ways of using our funds sensibly are being discussed in committee so if you have a U3A 'wish list' please let any committee member know.

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

Heybridge U3A Monthly Meeting

The speaker at our next Monthly Meeting, on the 14th February will be Barbara Hurran, with a talk on the organisation and work of Age UK. The venue, as usual, will be Plantation Hall, Heybridge, starting at 14:00.

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

- 14th March: Stories from a retired policeman given by Bill Prier a retired Essex Policeman.
- 11th April: Leila Sullivan will give a talk on "Her Irish Victorian Grandparents".
- 9th May: Kathleen Morgan, will talk about Nelson Mandela and his work.
- 13th June: William Tyler on "A tangled romance: Edward and Mrs. Simpson"
- 11th July: Linda Stratmann: A talk on Essex Murders

Group Name, Co-ordinator, & Contact Phone Number

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 891184
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	Carole Overly	01621 893450
Scrabble	Linda Etherton	01621 843702
Solo Whist	Dave Mason	01621 858635
Spanish	Dave Wilson	01621 840945
Technical Computing	Colin Mason	01621 854906
Ten Pin Bowling	Lynne Morrison	01621 891288
Threads & Fabrics	Pat Newman	01621 891184
Walking	Elizabeth Eastwood	01621 850618
Weekenders	Marilyn Corbett	01621 817518
Wine Group	Jackie Jones	01621 817117

From the COGCo (Group Co-ordinator)

I am sorry to advise that the ballroom dancing group cannot be started at present as Alf has another commitment, but maybe in the future. I will keep your names on file.

Unfortunately we are losing Glenn as the CoG of Ten Pin Bowling due to moving house. We will miss him both in this Group, and in the Petanque Group. We will also miss him in our U3A. He attended most of the main meetings and was always willing to help in any way.

I am very pleased to report that we have a new CoG for this group. This is Lynne Morrison who has agreed to take over, having been the deputy when Glenn was away and I am sure she will be a great success. Thank you Lynne.

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

Events Secretary

Fish and Chip Supper

I think everyone who came would agree that the fish & chips evening was successful. The table quiz was challenging and good fun; raffle prizes were many, and the fish and chips were welcome and enjoyed. But it was the games that 'made' the evening! Some members played games they'd never tried before with new friends, laughing at peculiar Pictionary drawings or when the Jenga tower collapsed; while others concentrated on Bridge, Dominoes or Rummikub. It was good to see people moving around to watch or try new games. Twenty-six members attended. I hope we can arrange another such evening before too long.

Royal Opera House, Thurrock

There are two places left for our visit on April 25th 2014 to the Royal Opera House workshop at Thurrock. The tour costs £7.00 and lasts for 45 minutes. Please let me know at the February meeting or as soon as possible whether you wish to join me for a meal at *The Fleet* pub at 13:00 before the tour begins at 15:00. I need to book tables soon. Order and pay for your lunch when you arrive at the pub. I will bring tickets and maps to the March meeting.

Royal Greenwich.

May 30th 2014; a guided tour, starting from Plantation Hall at 08.00. Cost approximately £38.00. Please see new poster in the committee room and sign in for what promises to be a very interesting London trip.

Ely

A visit on the 7th June 2014 to the beautiful city of Ely is proposed. Lots to see and do there; enter the cathedral, known as the 'ship of The Fens', enjoy a stroll by the river, perhaps a visit to the weekly market and/or inspect the house where Oliver Cromwell lived (admission £4.10).

Apart from the above, the cost will be for coach only-approximately £15.pp. Please add your name to the list.

Royal Naval Dockyards at Chatham

I have booked a coach to take a group of 35 to the 'Ultimate 1940s Nostalgia Event' at Chatham on Saturday 30th September. Do check online! There is so much to see, hear and do there. Please sign on the new list or contact me as soon as possible to show your interest. The booking to Chatham must be confirmed with deposit (£1.00 pp) paid to the company by mid March.

Thursford Christmas Spectacular 2014

A trip to the Thursford event has been suggested. This would need to be booked very soon and would cost between £30 and £38 each plus the coach fare. Please sign the new list if you think you may like to go.

If you are interest in any of the above please add you name to the appropriate list in the committee room or contact me.

Pat Smith; Email patcl7eary98@sky.com or phone 01621 856569

REPORTS

Art (Painting) Group

January's miserable weather ensured that the painting group was thoroughly well attended throughout the month. In fact, with a handful of new members and very few absentees, we found ourselves working pretty much cheek by jowl.

The main highlight of the month was the first of two visits by Maldon artist Janet Reid. For her first visit Janet came equipped with stacks of interesting pictures for us to copy, mainly cut outs she'd accumulated of pets, wild animals and birds.

Attempting to emulate Janet's techniques for depicting fur and feathers was fun - never the easiest part of drawing or painting the animal kingdom, but working from pictures was a whole lot easier than from the real thing!

Report by Gill Carpenter

For information about the group contact, Michael Kempen: Email m.kempen159@btinternet.com or phone 01621 892974.

Bird Watching Group

We had our first get together for 2014 at Abberton Reservoir, the forecast had been terrible but the sun shone as we started out from the Visitors Centre. Before we had arrived at the first hide we were so lucky to see a Marsh Harrier circling over the lake behind the Centre. What a great way to start our morning!

By the time we arrived at the first hide we were quite muddy as some of the paths to the new hides have not yet been finished. A lot was going on. We watched Widgeon, Pochard, Tuffed Duck, Mute Swan and a Golden Eye from the first hide. We decided to go over more mud to the next hide as we thought there was even more going on there. Here we watched Mallards, Cormorants, Lapwing, Great Crested Grebe, a Kestrel and quite a lot of noisy Canada Geese.

We had decided to finish our morning with a visit to the lovely tea rooms at Birch. On the way we stopped at the Reservoir to see if there were any interesting birds around. The Grey Lag Geese came waddling over thinking we had brought them a tasty snack, some Shovelers, the first today, and in the reeds some Grey Herons, standing so still as if on sentry duty.

Next month we hope to visit Cudmore Grove on Mersea on 28th February.

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

Computer Group

The Computer Group did not meet last December but the January meeting was back as usual on the third Thursday of the month.

The January meeting started to look at the first activities that are needed to be able to use the Windows WORD program.

We commenced with the need to save and know where the document being produced will be saved. This was a revision of sessions held in 2013. We looked at the commands under the 'home' tab specifically in the font and paragraph sections. We practised by producing the top few lines, including the larger font size of the centred title lines and the right and left justification associated with the text found in paragraphs

Following a tea break we started helping each other on a one to one basis.

The February meeting will be looking at the first steps associated with tables. The group was given a subject to investigate which will be used as input for the tables.

If you would like the help of a more experienced computer user to enable you to get more from your own computer please come along to our next meeting. The Computer Group Meetings are held in the Claydon Room in Plantation Hall on the third Thursday of each month when you will be made welcome. Just come along.

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

Creative Writing Group

Despite the seeming simplicity of our most recent challenge we all found the task of writing a story in 50 words difficult. However, the exercise taught us about paring down to the essentials of a story, with not an extraneous adjective anywhere. We had a good selection of pieces and I hope that some of them will appear on our website in the future. We also listened to some light-hearted tales of mistakes, some drawn from experience.

Our next challenge is "marriage", which could be appropriate as Valentine's Day will have come and gone by the time we meet on 26th February.

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

Discussion Coffee Morning Group

Since our last Newsletter we have enjoyed two coffee meetings. On the 20th December we were at Margaret Clark's house where we were treated to a lovely Christmas spread, very much appreciated by all eight of us. Our first meeting of 2014 was at Gill Thorne's house on the 17th January. Once again, very interesting conversation took place together with a plentiful supply of food and drink.

Our next coffee morning will be at 11.00 on Friday 21st February at Jean Murray's house.

As the Coffee Morning, COG I would just like to formally thank all of our ladies who provide the essential refreshments each month to keep us all happy, chatty people. Please contact me if you have any queries or need more information.

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

Family History Group

This was our first meeting since November. With Norman's help we covered War Diaries on the National Archives web site. These are day to day diaries kept by Regiments etc. during WW1 and are very interesting. Using SEAX, Norman then went into Parish Records and traced Dorothy's family name back to 1778. Dorothy still needs to do more research, but we were all very excited. Parish Records can be very difficult to read so Chris is going to see if Photoshop can help to make the writing easier to read.

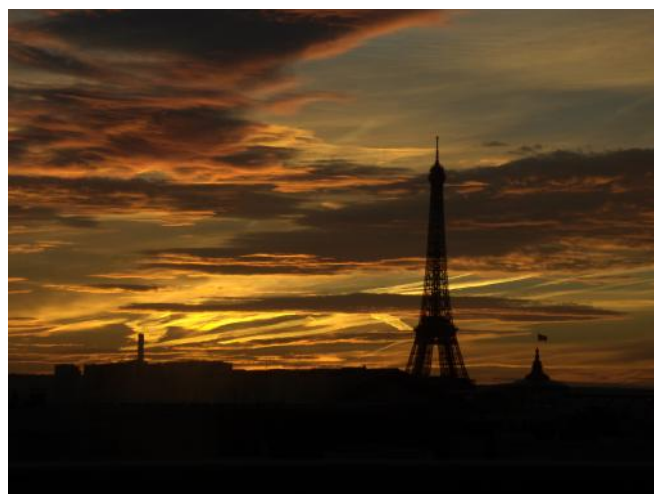
Our next meeting is on Thursday 27th February. 10.30 to 12.30 at my house as usual.

If you would like to join our group please see me at the Monthly Meeting.

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

French Conversation Group

With the New Year we had a new challenge. We were given an exercise about a young nervous couple who were giving a dinner party. The first part of the task was to read the first half of the conversation, which was in French. We then, taking the paragraphs in turn, paraphrased them into English. So far, so good. The next half of the conversation was in English, which then had to be put into French. Again, we took turns to try translating, with more or less success and some prompting on words not usually in our French vocabulary. We then went on to read an article on the arrondissements (boroughs) of Paris which spiral round in the shape of a snail, as in London, the posh ones being in the centre. Finally we were shown a historic photo and were asked questions about it. The two hours went very quickly, a very enjoyable and stimulating session.



Paris at Sunset Author Carol Greenhaigh

Our meetings are held on the second Wednesday in each month starting at 10:00

Report by Pat Newman.

For further information please contact Jenny.

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

Gardening Group

The Snowdrop Walk this year will be at Hedingham Castle on Sunday 9th February at 13.30. If you are not able to look up their website for directions, please let me know and I will tell you how to get there. Also ask me if you would like a lift.

There is a free day Friday at Hyde Hall on the 7th March. I will be away on that date, but do go if you don't belong to the RHS, saving £7.50 (I think it is now) entrance fee.

The Gardening Group Planning Meeting will be at my house on Monday 17th March at 14:00. Please come and give us your views on where you would like to go this year. If you have an idea and can't come that day, e-mail it to me before the meeting so it can be discussed.

Hope to see you at the walk or the meeting,

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

Italian Conversation

Unfortunately due to my husband's on-going treatment there were no meetings in January. I shall advise the members when the next meetings will take place, as this will depend on how Peter responds to the treatment.

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

Local History Group (LHG)

We enjoyed a cracking afternoon when Lynne Raymond came to tell us about her researches into her husband's family and the people who have been involved in the site of Ansell's butchers in Maldon. Her talk 'Crackbones – butchery and the Raymonds' is the absolutely intriguing story she has uncovered, going back eight centuries and with surprising coincidences. Not being a plot spoiler, if you weren't there, you need to look out for the talk yourself!

Dates for the diary:

- February: Talk by Elphin/Brenda Watkins: 'The Time Team at St Osyth's'
- March: Talk by Clive McPherson: 'Osea Island and the Kronstad Raid'

Our talks are in the Committee Room of the Plantation Hall, on the third Tuesday at 15.00. Numbers are limited so it is essential you let Carol know if you would like to come.

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

Luncheon Group

There were twelve of us who met at The Hurdlemakers Arms in Woodham Mortimer for our Christmas lunch. The tables were nicely laid out complete with crackers and poppers. The Hurdlemakers Arms is some 400 years old and presently run as a pub and restaurant by Gary (Head Chef), Nettie, and manager Emma.

We had pre-ordered our main meal with a dessert following. All delicious and thoroughly enjoyable. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their meal, the wine flowed quite well, overall a lovely experience.

For January 24th thirteen of us gathered at The Blue Anchor in Feering where the choice was good, the food fresh and well prepared/presented and enjoyed by all.

I have booked Bartellas at Furze Hill, Ivy Barn Lane, Margaretting for Friday 28th February at 12:30. The deal we have is a 3 Course Meal for the Price of only 2 Courses from their "fantastic" Prix Fixe Menu. There are ten confirmations with another four to be confirmed. Please check the list in the Committee Room on 14th February or contact me.

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

Patchwork Group

The next meeting of the Patchwork Group will be in the Claydon Room on Monday the 10th February at 14.00.

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

Petanque Group

This is the last month of winter with no games of Petanque, so enjoy your rest. We will commence on 17th March if not raining, so we will have five weeks before the first Bank Holiday. We usually start with a meal at the Ship & Anchor

and as I still have the list of names with choice of food that was cancelled during the big storm I can use that. So please tell me if you would like the meal at 12:00 noon, or just come to the Promenade at 14:00. An idea of names would be useful. Thank you.

So get your boules out from the garage or maybe from under the stairs and check them for rust, and I will see you at the next meeting.

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

Photography Group

It has been a time of big changes in the photography Group. At our December meeting we voted to secure a venue which is more suited to the projected-on-screen viewing of digital photos by moving from our meeting room in Plantation Hall to the Combined Military Services Museum in Station Road, Maldon. The December meeting continued with M&S festive nibbles and our assignment photographs, viewed for the last time, under the greenhouse in the Claydon Room. The topic was "our favourite image taken in 2013" and a discussion on why the author had chosen it. There was nostalgia in the air!

It was with great relief that the totally different venue proved ideal and met the specific requirements we wanted (low light for projection). As with every big change one has to adapt to the new circumstances. We meet in the conference room on the second floor of the museum. The route to the room is through the exhibits and is similar to finding the checkout at Ikea. Fortunately there is a lift which simplifies navigation. The room is well equipped and we can alter the layout to suit ourselves. The staff are very friendly and welcoming and I am certain that we will soon feel at home in our new surroundings. On January 2nd and with the support of fifteen members, we got our first meeting off to a flying start. We tested the projection by viewing a slideshow of our photographs. The collection had over 100 images with contributions from every member. We were unable to discuss every picture in the sequence because of time constraints, but we will pick-up where we left off and look in detail at every shot in February. We chose as our assignment for the next meeting, to photo edit a picture and to demonstrate the before and after images. The indoor assignment was chosen to overcome getting cold and soaked, out and about looking for photographs in the anticipated January weather.



Favourite photograph. Author: Linda Wilks

The aim of our group is to enjoy, improve and share our photography together, so if you are also interested in digital photography, come and join us. You will be made welcome whether you are completely new, experienced or just want to discover your "photographer's eye".

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

Reading and Books Group

Members of the Group had a very enjoyable meal at the Chequers, Goldhanger in December and we also had a Secret Santa book swap.

In January we read 'The Shipping News' by Annie Proulx. From the outset, Quoyale, the main character is a sorry figure. He is physically unattractive with a "great damp loaf of a body," and his father despises him. When his wife is killed he is left to care for his two daughters and he returns to Newfoundland, the land of his ancestors. He gets a job reporting on shipping news with a local publication, and gradually he is transformed into a loving father and a valued neighbour.

There are masterful descriptions of the weather, the local way of life and the local personalities. The area is well-stocked with storytellers. The chapter introductions begin with a description of a knot which offers a symbolic way into the chapter, or suggest an event that will come later.

Following our discussion of the book, we put together our book choice for 2014 and planned our visit to Maldon Library in March for the Essex Book Festival. We also discussed our page for the Heybridge U3A website and two members kindly agreed to produce a photograph and a description of our Group.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 19th February in Plantation Hall at 14.00.

For further information contact Carole Overy.

Email: caroleovery@sky.com or phone 01621 893450.

Scrabble Group

The Scrabble group are now back in the Committee Room at the Plantation Hall after a couple of meetings were kindly hosted by Beryl Claydon at the end of last year. As we meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month there was no meeting in December. 2014 got off to a good start with two teams fully engrossed in the games, scarcely bothering to drink their tea! The two hours went very quickly; time flies when you're having fun. Why not come along and join us for an enjoyable and stimulating afternoon on February 25th.

Linda Etherton: Email ethertonbikes@aol.com or phone 01621 843702

Solo Whist

There is not a report as we have not had a game since December. The first game of this year is on Wednesday 5th February, which, of course, will be too late for this news sheet. Normally, we meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 14:00.

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

Technical Computing Group

Our last meeting, as usual, was very interesting, and led to lively discussions on various aspects of computing. We discussed the increased popularity and use of tablet computers. Two different tablets were shown and discussed, namely an Asus and an Ipad 'Mini'.

Our next meeting will be on the 13th of February, at my house, at the usual time of 14:00.

I would like to thanks Pat and Ian for their hospitality.

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

Ten Pin Bowling

Sadly, we had to bid farewell to Glenn and Maureen Cousins this month as they are moving from the area. Barbara made a small presentation on our behalf at the pre-Christmas lunch meeting at Izumi in December. Glenn has been a most enthusiastic COG and a very good player and will be missed by us all.

The meeting on January 14th was attended by a group of 7 members and Glenn scored the highest score of 129 with an average over his 3 games of 112. I can see I have a long way to go before I can beat that!

We met again on Monday 27th attended by 8 of us in 2 lanes. Jenny was the highest scorer with 133 and an average of 110 over the 3 games. The lowest average was 45 by yours truly so it just goes to show that we are a group of mixed abilities!

New members are always welcome so please come along to Madison Heights for an enjoyable afternoon of fun and exercise. We have a special price for U3A members of £4.75 each for 2 hours of bowling plus a cup of tea and biscuits to follow – a bargain!

Dates for your diary:

- Tuesday 11th February - 13.45 to start bowling at 14.00.
- Monday 24th February – 13.45 to start bowling at 14.00.
- Tuesday 11th March – 13.45 to start bowling at 14.00.

Lynne Morrison. phone 01621 891288, Email lynne-morrison@supanet.com or mobile 07771 880757

Threads and Fabrics Group

Five of us met on the 7th of January with much talk of the events of the previous month. It had been more exciting for some of us than they would have wished. Surprisingly, everybody was doing something different. There was tapestry, knitting, a child's quilt, net flowers and some rather complicated looking patchwork in the form of a cathedral



window. If the ideas for future work being discussed come to fruition, it looks like being a very interesting 2014.

Quilting in progress. Author Pat Newman

The meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month starting at 14:00.

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

Walking Group

The walking and gardening groups are planning a joint snowdrop walk outing to Hedingham Castle on Sunday 9th February. We will meet at the castle car park at 13:30. Entry for concessions is £5 and there is a tearoom for refreshments. Hopefully the rain will have stopped and we will see a good display.

The March walk will be around Tillingham on Thursday 13th March. We will meet at the village car park (off North Street opposite the church) at 14:00. I will send out a confirmatory email closer to the time.

Elizabeth: Email e.m.e@talktalk.net or phone 01621 850618. (Mobile 07581029816).

Weekenders Group

As we didn't have a January edition and before it gets too late, Easter Eggs are already on sale, I would like to wish you all a Very Happy New Year. Christmas seems ages away now but 12 of our group enjoyed a Christmas Lunch at 'The Bell' at Woodham Walter. Unfortunately due to a family bereavement I was not able to join in the festivities but I believe everything was satisfactory and thanks to Jackie Jones who stood in for me on the day. Our first coffee morning had to be rearranged as the original venue was closed for refurbishment but we will try again later in the year.



The Weekenders Christmas Dinner: Author Miriam Clift

Dates for your diary

- Saturday February 15th at the 'Red Dog Cafe', Inworth at 10:00.
- Saturday March 15th at Maldon Golf Club at 10:00.
- Saturday April 12th at 'Salty Dogs', Goldhanger at 10:00.
- Saturday 10th May at 'White Elm Nursery' formerly 'Horseshoe Nursery', Bicknacre at 10:00.
- Saturday 14th June at 'Poplar Nursery' Marks Tey at 10:00.

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

Wine Appreciation Group

We are starting off the New Year with a planning meeting on Wednesday 19th February, at my house, in Tiptree. I have a few ideas for visits to vineyards and wine merchants and look forward to hearing your views and suggestions for new venues. As usual we will start the meeting at 14:00 and there will be a short tasting session of Rioja wine with a few snacks. We are a small group and would love to welcome any new members and/or occasional visitors.

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

Association of Essex U3A's Study Day 2014

As expected both Joyce and myself thought that this year, the Study Day should see new people and new ideas so we have stood down from the Steering Committee.

Doug Harryman has announced that anyone willing to lead a Session this year to let him know keeping Joyce aware of any volunteers from the Heybridge U3A. The Plume School has agreed that their school can be used again but note that the date has not yet been decided. It would have to be in the Half

Term holiday week so possible days would be the Tuesday or Wednesday, 28th and 29th October

If anyone would like to have a go at something new or a repeat from last year please speak to Joyce or myself and we can then steer you in the right direction.

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

Association of Essex U3As

The next Association of Essex U3As meeting is on Friday 28th February in Chelmsford. We are going to be looking at the role of Trustees and Adrian Breacker will be joining us to update us on National and Regional matters. Two of our U3As have also agreed to share their histories with us. If you would like to go to this meeting please contact Joyce Woodham phone 01621 841066 or Email woodham359@btinternet.com or Ian Newman phone 01621 891184 or Email ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk.

On the Notice Board

A Great Day Out

U3A is pleased to announce an association with the Royal Horticultural Society. Discover glorious gardens and wonderful flower shows with the RHS and enjoy a group discount for all these events.

RHS gardens at Wisley and Hyde Hall are included along with the great flower shows such as RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show in July and the Chelsea Flower Show in May. BBC Gardeners' World Live in June is also included.

For many more details please contact Pat Yates on 01621 892866 or see the notice board.

U3A Spring Events 2014

U3A members are invited to great events this Spring. Something for everyone!

February onwards for U3A groups – Brooklands Museum Weybridge. Explore the jet age and beyond with a special presentation for U3A Groups – VC10 and her Royal Connections. Groups of minimum 20, and tickets cost £15. Various dates.

March 24th - U3A Explores Science at the Royal Institute, London. Tickets £20 including refreshments.

March 27: - National Gallery London, Best of British – Exploring 18th Century painting. Tickets; £18.

April 30: - Spring Concert at the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy. Jewels of the 20th century British Choral Music. An afternoon concert – tickets £18.

May 21: - U3A staying Sharp at the Royal Society – "Plug in, Switch on, Rewire!" Can technology rewire your brain for greater fulfilment? More information later.

Details of all the above are on the U3A web site – u3a.org.uk

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

From other U3As

Maldon U3A Drama Group is looking for new members. They meet each month at 7 Tideway, usually on the second Tuesday. They read through plays, make up scripts, and act them. They are keen to have more men as well as women members. To join this U3A drama group please phone Sandra Dudley on 01621 843291.

Diary of Meetings and Visits

For details see articles and co-ordinators above.

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
3rd February	3	4 Threads 14.00	5 Solo Whist 14.00	6 Photography 14.00	7 Committee Meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00	8	9 Walking/ Gardening 13.30
10th February	10 Patchwork 14.00	11 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	12 French Conversation 10.00	13 Technical Computing 14.00 Walking 14.00	14 Monthly Meeting 14.00	15 Weekender Coffee Red Dog Café 10:00	16
17th February	17	18 Local History 15.00	19 Book Group 14.00 Wine Tasting 14.00	20 Computer 14.00	21 Coffee Morning 11:00 Painting 14.00	22	23
24th February	24 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	25 Scrabble 14.00	26 Creative Writing Group 14.30	27 Family History 10.30	28 News Sheet Copy to Editor Bird Watching Painting 14.00 Luncheon	1 st March	2
3rd March	3	4 Threads 14.00	5 Solo Whist 14.00	6 Photography 14.00	7 Committee Meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00 Gardening	8	9
10th March	10 Patchwork 14.00	11 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	12 French Conversation 10.00	13 Technical Computing 14.00 Walking 14.00	14 Monthly Meeting 14.00	15 Weekender Coffee Maldon Golf Club 10:00	16
17th March	17 Gardening 14.00 Petanque 14.00	18 Local History 15.00	19 Book Group 14.30	20 Computer 14.00	21 Painting 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00	22	23
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