



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No. 1/2015

February 2015

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






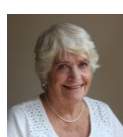
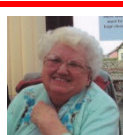
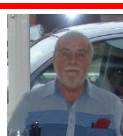

Your Committee

AGM 13th March 14:00
Plantation Hall

- **Urgently Required: Committee Nominations (see p.2)**

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News Sheet Editor		

NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

For the Chairman

By now all will be aware that the AGM is in March and there are some vacancies to be filled on the committee. Ian Newman has resigned as News Sheet Editor and the committee thanks him for all his hard work in producing the News Sheet to such a high standard and his invaluable contribution to the development of this U3A. Geoff Hadley has kindly agreed to continue putting the News Sheet together with support from Ian.

As part of the AGM we would like to celebrate what has been achieved so far in our U3A with displays from the groups to give an idea of what your group does. Do please discuss this and let Jenny Parker know what you can bring along.

We would also like your views about your U3A - e.g. what you like, what you think could be improved and how would like to see it develop in the future.

A new committee role of 'Social Treasurer' has been agreed to work with the Treasurer and Events Secretary. Angela Pleasance and Pat Smith will be pleased to discuss this with you if you think you might be able to help.

Important Notice: Committee Nominations 2015

There will be an AGM on the 13th March 2015. Committee members are elected to stand for 3 years before being re-elected. Nominations will be required for the following positions:

- Vice-Chairman
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- News Sheet Editor
- Asst/ Social Treasurer

Nomination forms are included in the email with the News Sheet and will be available at the February main meeting. One form should 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 12 Rowan Drive, Heybridge, Maldon CM9 4BW to arrive by Friday 27th February 2015. If there is more than one person nominated for any one position, a vote will take place at the AGM on Friday 13th March 2015.

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

The layout of the Heybridge U3A News Sheet and the reports that it contains, remains the same as that produced last year. Information about the Committee Members and their reports can still be found in the first few pages with a contents column to aid in finding the parts which you wish to read first on page 1. The back page (p12) shows the Diary for the months of February and March.

The three person team producing the Monthly News Sheet has changed as Ian has stepped down as the Editor. He has asked if I will take over as the Editor and we are waiting for this to be approved at the AGM. Tina Abeysekera continues to draft the page 12 Diary and Ian will assist me in producing this News Sheet

Please keep the Editor up to date with any interesting stories, relevant pictures or anything that relates to The Heybridge U3A, the Association of Essex U3As or the U3A movement as a whole. Please send details to me, preferably by email with 'Heybridge U3A' in the title. Alternatively talk to me at the Monthly Meeting. We all wish to maintain the standard that you, as members of the Heybridge U3A, want.

We are in the process of testing an email address for the Editor. If you would like to send to this address as a trial, it is

Editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

Contact me, Geoff Hadley, on any issue raised in the News Sheet by phone 01621 852494 or by Email

geoffh45@blueyonder.co.uk

From the Retiring Editor

I am very sad to let you all know that I have resigned from the Heybridge U3A Committee and from my role as Editor. Geoff Hadley, who had already volunteered to assist, has agreed, subject to being voted onto the Committee in March, to be the new Editor. Geoff has produced most of this News Sheet and my thanks go to him for taking on the job of Editor at such short notice. I have already agreed to help / advise him in any way, for as long as assistance is needed.

The decision to resign was difficult and it was in a quiet moment in the warm shade of New Zealand's

late Spring that I came to acknowledge that stress, associated with a number of activities, was having a detrimental effect on my health. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have had input, since, without their help, the News Sheet would not be as it is today, one of the best in Essex. The list of contributors to the past news sheets is too long to name everyone, with many of the current contributors going back six years to the first month that the Heybridge U3A was formed and the first News Sheet published. The many contributors know who they are: My grateful thanks to them all and hope that they give the new Editor their continuing support.

Ian Newman

From the Membership Secretary

We were pleased to welcome 2 new members in January, taking our total membership to 171. If you 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.

2015/16 Subscription Renewal

As you are aware, our membership year runs from 1st April to 31st March. This means that you will need to re-enrol by the end of March if you wish to continue your membership.

As stated in the December News Sheet, we are offering all renewing members a one-off discount on their 2015/16 subscriptions. A table showing the amount of discount, together with an enrolment form and instructions, are attached with this News Sheet. Please refer to the attachment

Fee Discount 2015/16

Enclosed with the Newsletter

Many thanks to you all for your co-operation.

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

From the Treasurer

By the time you read this we will be into the new financial year and I shall be busy arranging for the accounts to be examined and preparing my report and budget for the AGM. With this news sheet you will also receive a full explanation of why we are offering a discount on the subscription for existing members this coming year. If, after reading this, anyone has any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

I am also finalising our submission for registration with the Charities Commission, which has become mandatory now our income exceeds £5,000.

May I please remind all CoGs who handle money to let me have their financial returns as soon as possible? If you need another form please contact me by email: angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk.

Finally a plea. Ideally I would like someone to take over from me entirely but, at absolute minimum, we need someone to take on the social side of the finances. As this role involves handling money it does mean being on the committee, but this can offer a new network of friends and need not be at all scary. Training can be given, so please think about it.

Angela Pleasance

From the Events Secretary

Planned Events

- Friday 20th March 2015. A tour of the UK Supreme Court in Westminster. Now fully booked, but see below.
- Wednesday 25th March. 'Sunny Afternoon'. Please pay the minibus fare -£16.00, by February 13th
- Monday April 27th 2015. A coach trip to Kew Gardens. Two seats left on the coach.
- NEW; Thursday 21st May a trip on MV Princess Pocahontas.
- NEW; Thursday June 11th, a trip on a Thames Barge.
- NEW; Friday 17th June, a trip to Audley End House and Garden.

Please see page 9 for details.

Heybridge U3A Monthly Meeting held on 9th January 2015

For our first New Year talk, on the 9th January, William Marriage, Chairman, and Dudley Courtman, of The Chelmer Canal Trust gave us a fascinating illustrated talk on some of the many aspects of The Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation.

Future Heybridge U3A Monthly Meetings

For 13th February Fran Sandham will be giving us a talk on his 3000 mile solo walk across Africa, from the Atlantic coast to Zanzibar. Details can be found on his website www.traversa.co.uk.

On 13th March 2015, at the Annual General Meeting, formal business, including some election of Officers, will take up the first part of the Meeting, so, as announced at the January meeting, we will not be having a speaker. Some of the Groups will be displaying information about what their Group does with some photographic and information as to what they have done.

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

From the COGCo (Group Co-ordinator)

I thought this would be a good opportunity to thank anyone I have not managed to speak to personally, for your best wishes, cards and presents received whilst I was out of action.

Gill Thorne 01621 852294

gillthorne2@hotmail.co.uk

GROUP REPORTS

Art (Painting) Group

I don't think many of us minded sacrificing a Friday painting session on December 19th to visit our favourite Christmas lunch venue - the Chequers at Goldhanger.

As always, the old pub did us proud with its vast and varied menu.

Among this year's U3A diners was a guest - Mike, our acrylics expert from Braintree, who had recently spent a jolly couple of afternoons showing us the correct way to apply these colourfully messy paints!

So, now it's back to the drawing board and the paint box for us all, hopefully armed with renewed enthusiasm, new ideas and maybe some new bits of kit..

Gill Carpenter



The Chequers

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

Ballroom & Latin Dancing Group

Our dance group got off to an excellent start – being able to dance both the basic Rumba and Cha Cha in time with the lovely Latin rhythms. It is good exercise even if you do not want to become a candidate for Strictly! In order to keep space on the dance floor comfortable we will have to consider soon calling a halt in taking on further members – so hurry if you are interested.

Alf Bell. Email dossod@fsmail.net or phone 01621 840158



Alf the Teacher

Bird Watching Group

We are going to Heybridge Basin this month meeting in the car park on 27th February for a 10.00 start. Everyone welcome

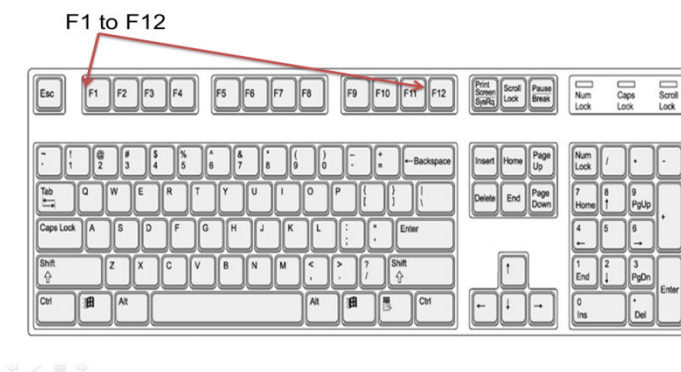
Maureen: Email symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01621 869871.

Computer Group

We were, again, few in number this month. I had just returned from visiting my daughter and grandchildren, down under, in New Zealand, so I only had a few days in which to get over my jet lag. Others were missing for a variety of reasons and hopefully, will be back with us at the next Computer Group Meeting in February.

The subject taken for the first half of the January Meeting was entitled "The Keyboard". This used to be the only means of inputting data into a computer, but this is another subject for another day. We started by looking at the top row of keys starting with the 'Esc' key in the top left hand corner, then moving on to the keys F1, F2, F3 etc. both with and without the 'FN' key being depressed. As we found out, some have no obvious operation when not used as part of a program. In addition some actions by the computer were not always the same on another computer. With most people, who have their own laptop or tablet, one gets used to your own configuration.

Function Keys



The Computer Keyboard

We only skimmed the surface of what the keyboard can do, so, and unless something comes up that are more important or topical at the time of the February Meeting, we will continue with this same topic, "The Keyboard".

The Computer Group Meetings are for those wishing to be more proficient at using the computer, starting at any stage. The subjects covered are tailored to those that attend the monthly meetings. The meetings are held in the Claydon Room in Plantation Hall on the third Thursday of each month at 14:00 when you will be made welcome. Just come along.

Coming along for the first time does not commit you to come again nor does it cost you anything.

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

Cards and Paper Crafts

The group meets at 14.00 on the first Wednesday in the month; the next meeting will be in March

New group members are welcome.

Please contact Lesley for details. Phone 01621 858135 e-mail Lindawooton@sky.com

Creative Writing Group

We spent some time this month discussing how we can contribute to the exhibition of work at the AGM and we look forward to sharing some of our creative efforts with you.

The theme for January was 'A Funny Thing Happened on the way to ...' and, as usual, we heard a variety of stories. We are looking forward to the warmer weather and have set our task for next month to be some writing on the theme of 'Spring'. I hope we are not being too forward-thinking!

Angela Pleasance

angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk or tel: 01621 850310

Croquet Group

Unfortunately the playing season has ended. Now, to find something to occupy us through the winter months before the 2015 season begins towards the end of April.

Through the News Sheet and the Monthly Meetings I'll advise, in good time, when play can resume.

John Gorrie. Email gorries@jprag.myzen.co.uk or phone 01621 854006

Discussion Coffee Morning Group

We have had two very enjoyable meetings during December and January. On 19th December we were at Marilyn Corbett's house and on 16th January we met at my house, I think it's safe to say everyone appreciated the refreshments at both. As usual, a wide range of topics were discussed, including the proposed development of 1000+ new houses etc. currently called "Heybridge Garden Village". A few of us had visited the exhibition produced by the developers the day before our January meeting.

Our next coffee morning will be at Linda Etherton's house on Friday 20th February at the usual time of 11:00.

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

Family History Group

Another good meeting to start 2015 and Dorothy told us about a new website she has found called Lost Cousins.

Our next meeting will be at my house as usual on Thursday 26th February at 14:00. Please make a note of the time for this meeting as I have arranged for a lady to join us to help with any queries or brick walls we have.

Please note that I am sorry but I cannot take any more Branch Members into this Group.

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

French Conversation Group

The highlight of our December meeting was a delicious lunch to which everyone contributed. Amongst the things brought by members were, homemade soup, sausage feuilletée, bread and salads and French cheeses bought in Paris. Then we consumed the desserts which included tarte au citron and tarte tatin all with suitable drinks. Our hostess provided the crockery and cutlery and washed the dishes. A very enjoyable time was had by all.



French Group Christmas Lunch

Our January meeting was as usual lively. The discussion of our activities over the holidays showed how different our experiences of the season were. Decorations and Christmas trees and the reactions of the youngest members of our families to them featured, also food. We then went on to read an article about a homeless man in Preston (Lancs) who had tried to help a stranded student return home safely and although she refused his help, went on to raise money for him. Finally we received a grammar exercise to finish at home.

Report by Pat Newman

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

For further information please contact:

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

French Improvers: Joint Blackwater / Heybridge Group

Our first meeting of the New Year was spent revising what we had learnt at our November meeting. To practise asking for things in shops, we played a game a bit like Happy Families, in which each member of the group had picture cards of things they had to sell, together with a list of things they needed to buy. They then took it in turns to ask other members of the group if they had the item they required. The first to locate all the items on their list was the winner. Next, we tried pronouncing some tongue twisters, e.g. six chats chassent six chiens (six cats chased six dogs). The approximate pronunciation is 'see shah shass see sheeyan' – try saying it quickly!

The next meeting is on 26 February chez George.

For further information please contact:

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

Gardening Group

There will be a joint outing to the Snowdrops at Marks Hall with the Walking group on Friday 6th February. Details have been forwarded to the group members.

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

Italian Conversation

After an unavoidable extended absence of over a year, I have finally been able to begin the Italian meetings again. The Advanced Group met on Monday 5th January, and the Beginners' Group met on Monday 19th January. The first meetings, after the long absence, were useful for planning what we wish to achieve and study in future meetings. They were also very useful for a bit of well needed revision. To begin with, we were all a bit rusty after not having had the chance to speak Italian for such a long while, but before long everyone was able to surprise themselves with just how much they did remember.

Janice Slight E-Mail janice.slight@tiscali.co.uk

Local History Group (LHG)

Our first meeting for 2015 will be on Tuesday afternoon, the 17th February at 15:00 . Lynne Raymond will be again coming to talk to us in the Plantation Hall meeting room. This time Lynne will be talking about her research findings about the family of Edward Bright [the 'Fat man of Maldon']. This should be an enjoyable and interesting afternoon. There may be some unreserved spaces, so please contact Carol if you are interested in joining us for the talk.

With the U3A Annual General Meeting coming up in March, this is a request for items of interest from participants in the Local History Group, so that we can make a display to show what we do for our meetings and visits. Any offer, a photograph, or a few lines about a visit that has been enjoyed or anything relevant would be most welcome. Please contact Carol if you are able to help.

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

Luncheon Group

Eleven made it to our Pre Christmas lunch at The Hurdlemakers Arms in Woodham Mortimer. This included Barbara Bush, who has resigned from Heybridge U3A, but joined us on this occasion. As usual Nette and her staff made us very welcome and provided an excellent meal complete with crackers and poppers.

The future looks very bleak for this Group . About 150 e-mail addresses are sent this News Sheet every month, those without e-mail are posted copies, and copies are available at the Friday Monthly Meeting, which means that 200 or more members can read it. Please look back at the December 2014 issue and think about why nobody contacted me about days/weeks in the month when they might be interested in joining together for a lunch outing.

Five of our fairly regulars have joined Alf's 4th Friday Dancing Group and available days/weeks are very limited. I perceive that this might be the same for many others, but nobody has told me. I will again put a list out on Friday 13th February for everyone to look, indicate their interest, and which days of which weeks in the month they might be available. If there is no realistic outcome from this there will not be any Group lunches in the foreseeable future.

Any queries please speak to me at Friday's meeting on 13th February 2015, phone or e-mail at any time. e-mail 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 9th February at 14.00.

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

Petanque Group

To members of the Petanque group and prospective members. Have you dusted your BOULES ready for the summer season of fresh air and exercise and congenial company? We will begin to play on March 16th which gives us three weeks before the first of the Spring Bank Holidays. I will book for a group of 12 to eat Lunch at Henri's Steakhouse, so please let me know if you wish to join us at 12 noon for a chat and a meal before the afternoon games at the Boules Terrain on the Promenade. This is for new members who wish to try out their skills as a guest to see if they wish to join the group.

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

Photography Group

Our December meeting took place at the Combined Military Services Museum on 4th December.

The first part of the meeting was taken up with viewing members photographs taken during November which included photographs of three members who were unable to be present. We were all impressed by the following photograph taken by Peter Thorpe which he enhanced using a program called 'Photomatrix Essentials'.



A4 Cygnet

Author Peter Thorpe

We then discussed various methods of taking photographs indoors using low light, flash and a light box. This prompted us to choose for our next assignment a photograph of food taken indoors.

We then discussed subjects / topics for our future meetings and it was felt that we should include some tutorials to assist us advance our knowledge. We covered such topics as camera settings, composition, using photo enhancing programs such as Photoshop, comparison of cameras and different lenses etc. as well as sharing member's experiences.

We meet on the 1st Thursday of each month at the Combined Military Services Museum at 14:00. Anyone interested in joining or coming to see what we do can contact Norman Grove on 01621 842805 or by email norman.grove@gmail.com.

Reading and Books Group

In December the library had provided us with a variety of books by Kate Atkinson. The purpose of having a selection of books was to gain a better insight into Kate's novels and any common threads throughout her work. We all enjoyed the books which were well written with gripping story lines. However our book for January was Mr. Golightly's Holiday which was more complex and less well received.

We enjoyed our Christmas lunch at the Forresters in December. The food was delicious and the service impeccable. We exchanged books as Secret Santa gifts and look forward to a year of good reading in 2015.

Our next meeting is on 18th February where we shall meet at the usual time in Plantation Hall. Further information from Carole Overy caroleovery@sky.com or 01621 893450

Scrabble Group

It was great to have all the current members of the Scrabble group at the first meeting of the year. Brains were taxed, words did not always come to us (blame the tiles that came up) but it was good fun. Using the high scoring letters can be tricky, but once down sometimes can be capitalised on - Beryl added a T to my ZOO, to make ZOOT. We had to look it up and found that a zoot suit has baggy trousers, narrow at the bottom and a long, wide lapelled, broad-shouldered jacket (1940s). We learn all the time! If you want to join us do contact me.

Linda Etherton Telephone: 01621 843702

Email: ethertonbikes@aol.com

Solo Whist

Well another festive season has come and gone and I hope you all enjoyed it, now back to the solo whist. In December, 5 of us met at my place, some good calls were made, some brave calls and occasionally some not so good calls. This time I sat out for a time and was surprised how fascinating it is

to watch how other people play the game (very interesting). Tina provided excellent refreshments in the break which we all enjoyed.

In January, 4 of us met at Margaret's and we had an enjoyable session. It was very different again, as one member had 90% of the calls, albeit mostly solo's, but nearly all winning ones. There were several abundances called, again mostly winners, and only 1 misère called which was also successful. Margaret's excellent refreshments were greatly appreciated by all.

Wishing you all a belated Happy New Year

Any newcomers would be very welcome.

Dave Mason C O G

Dave Mason: phone 01621 858635 or

Email tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk

Technical Computing Group

The January meeting took place at Alex's house where various topics were discussed, including backup software that the various members use, with varying degrees of success. Also discussed were the U3A web site, and the various aspects of its operation, and how difficult it can be at times.

Norman also showed us some software i.e. System Mechanic a PC performance tool which is loaded on his laptop.

The meeting ended at 16:00

I would like to thank Ann & Alex for their hospitality.

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

Ten Pin Bowling

We have had three sessions since the last report plus a very enjoyable Christmas meal at Le Bouchon.

Our top scorers have been Graham with 135 at the December game, Jackie and Geoff both scored 112 in January (post -Christmas meant only 6 players and slightly below par!).

The Meeting on Monday 26th January comprised of 8 of us, still not completely back to our finest form, but Simon managed the best score of 131.

Please note that the last winter Monday session will be on 23rd February, as the majority of us move outdoors to play Petanque. We will have our annual pre-Easter session on Tuesday 10th March playing Ten Pin in the morning from 10:00 till 12:00 followed by lunch in Henri's grill.

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 10th February

Monday 23rd February

Tuesday 10th March (10:00 - 12:00 followed by lunch)

New members always welcome.

Lynne Morrison

Email: lejmorison@gmail.com

Mobile: 07771 880757

Threads and Fabrics Group

The meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month starting at 14:00. Please speak to Pat on this subject.

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

Walking Group

There will be a joint outing to the Snowdrops at Marks Hall with the Gardening group on Friday 6th February. Details have been forwarded to the group members.

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

Weekenders Group

Hope 2015 has had a good start for you all. Some Weekenders enjoyed a Christmas lunch at the Blue Strawberry on the 21st December, seems so long ago now. Our January coffee morning proved to be somewhat chaotic as our first choice, Oliver's Nursery café was closed and the second choice, Peartree Pantry was also closed for redecoration, but we finally settled into our old favourite, Perrywoods. Hopefully February will be without mishap.

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 14th February at Forrester Golf Club, Totham at 10:00

Saturday 14th March at the Lock Tea Room, Heybridge Basin at 10:00

Marilyn Corbett: Phone 01621817518 or email mars42@btinternet.com.

Wine Appreciation Group

The wine appreciation group will not be meeting again until Wednesday 18th March 2015, when we will be having a planning meeting to discuss ideas for future meetings, visits to vineyards, and wine merchants. Ideas for next year include repeat visits to Majestic at Colchester, for their free tasting evenings, and perhaps a return to Bardfield Vineyard in the summer, to view the results of the work being carried out earlier this year on the Anne of Cleves

barn. We may also look into the possibility of a day trip to France.

I look forward to welcoming new and returning members of the group in March 2015.

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

Further Information and Details of Events

The following events are planned for this and next year. Please note that in future members will be asked to pay for outings in full, six weeks before the trip date. If the trip later proves not to be viable, the money will be refunded in full.

MARCH. UK Supreme Court. All 25 places for this tour on Friday 20th March have been taken. A coach will collect us from Tesco Extra in Heybridge at 8.00 and we should arrive in Westminster at approximately 10:30. Our tour begins at 14:00 and lasts one hour. The coach will collect us at 16:00. There is a cafe in the building. Members taking the 'coach only' option have four and a half hours in which to explore London! The rest of us have three and a half hours before our tour begins.

There are still a few seats available but they are going fast, so book now and join us for a day in London. The cost for coach and tour will be £19.50 and for the coach alone £16.00. Payment is now due (13th February). Please note slightly lower cost than first estimate.

APRIL. Kew Gardens. There are two seats left on the coach to Kew. Ford's Coaches will collect us from Tesco Extra at 08.00 and collect us from Kew Gardens at 16.00. If you wish to include a tour of the site on the Kew Explorer land train, please add your name to the form. The train fare is £3.50 for the day. The National Archives are adjacent to Kew Gardens so anyone wishing instead to study there could join the group for the day. Admission to the Archives is free, so cost would be for coach only. All payments will be due by 13th March 2015 – Please note slightly lower coach cost than first estimate.

Coach only £16.00;

Coach with garden entrance £26.65;

Coach and garden entrance, with land train £30.15.

MAY Places have been reserved for us on the MV Princess Pocahontas on her voyage from Tilbury to Westminster on Thursday 21st May. View the changing face of the river Thames frontage while the crew with their extensive knowledge of the river and its historic waterside make the journey both educational and interesting.

We leave Tilbury at 10:15 and return there at approximately 17:30. The cost pp is £23.00

Please sign up to show interest at the February meeting. Full payment will be required by 13th March.

JUNE There will be another boat trip, but this time on a lovely old Thames Barge on the River Blackwater. We have chartered the Thames Barge 'CENTAUR' for Friday 11th June and will meet on The Hythe at 07:00 to begin our sail at 07:30, returning to the Hythe at approximately 19:30.

12 people is the maximum for this charter and once on board it is customary for all 'crew' to share in any cooking, washing up and tea-making required. It is proposed that breakfast be cooked on board, and that we each bring our own food for the rest of the day.

The cost is £58.00 per person. Breakfast cost to be worked out and added later. A form for your signature will be available at the February meeting but please note that in this case full payment will be required by 13th March.

July A trip to the Beautiful medieval house Audley End at Saffron Waldon in Essex on Friday 17th July. Admission to the House and Gardens is free for us as U3A members, courtesy of English Heritage. Details of times and possible coach transport later.

Also planned for 2015

- Sunday 20th September 2015, a trip to the Royal Dockyards at Chatham, on their 'Back to the 40s' weekend – with Boon's Calibre Travel.

Please sign up in the first place to show interest and remove your name asap if you later find you are unable to join the trip. Please contact me with any queries.

All cheques should be made payable to Heybridge U3A

PAT SMITH; 01621 856569 E.MAIL patcleary98@sky.com

ATTENTION ALL COGS

You will be pleased to hear that Heybridge U3A is registered with Viking Community Transport and you may consider the possibility of hiring one of their minibuses to transport your group when organizing a local visit. Minibuses seat 12 or 15 and the cost to hire is £1.00 per mile for the whole journey with a minimum charge of £15.00. Please contact Pat Smith in first instance; email patcleary98@sky.com

For further information call Viking 01621 843164

Or email vikings@mdct.org.uk

Association of Essex U3As

On the Notice Board

Items from the latest mailing that might be of interest to members.

U3A National Summer Schools: July 13th -16th at Harper Adams University Shropshire and August 17th – 20th at Royal Agriculture University, Cirencester.

Bi annual U3A Explores Science meeting in Mayfair, London £20 pp March 25th

Royal Opera House, Thurrock, Design and Production workshops £18pp April 22nd

U3A Spring Concert at Temple Church, London 15:00 £18 pp, April 18th

The RHS are offering a U3A group discount of £2 off entry fees for groups of 10 or more, to various shows and gardens.

The 2015 Annual General Meeting of the Third Age Trust is to be held in Nottingham on 27th August 2015. Proposed resolutions should be submitted by 30th April 2015.

A 'Frequently Asked Questions' paper on the subject of Networks and small groupings of U3As has been received and also available on the Third Age Trust website.

A list of grants available to U3As will be on the noticeboard at the main meeting.

A 'Who's Who' of people who support the U3A at national level is available.

Free legal advice for U3A members - FirstAssist can advise U3A members on any legal issues, not just U3A ones. Telephone FirstAssist on 01455 251 500 and quote The Third Age Trust, 70494.

Languages Group Study Day

For leaders of U3A Language Groups, Thursday 26th February 2104 at the Memorial Centre, 8 East Common, Gerrards Cross, SL9 7AD

Flyer for RAF Museum London First World War Display The tour lasts for an afternoon and several dates are available throughout the year.

FutureLearn More courses are available at the Website www.Futurelearn.com

More details for the above can be found on the Heybridge U3A Notice Board. These and others are also detailed in The U3A magazine 'Third Age Matters'.

Maldon Art Trail

The eighth Maldon Art Trail will take place between 26th September 2015 and 3rd October 2015 and to ask that you share this information with any of your members/interest group co-ordinators that might want to be a part of the event this year. We would welcome applications to exhibit from any of

your members or indeed any other ideas or offers of assistance. Please take a look at our website at www.maldonartrail.co.uk for further information or drop me a line with any questions you may have.

Co-operation between Maldon Area U3As

The Chairs of the local area U3As will be meeting to discuss possible future events, including a local Study/Taster day as the Essex Association will not be running a Study Day this year. If you have any suggestions or ideas for similar events or would like to be involved in the organisation please let Linda Etherton know.

From Other U3As

Maldon U3A

You will all now be thinking about a holiday
How about joining our 4 day holiday in July

Places of Interest' in the Midlands

7/10th July 2015

Hotel: Copthorne Hotel, Merry Hill, Dudley

Price £299 or £319 depending on numbers on the coach

Single Supplement £45 Insurance £10

Day 1: NGS — Chalkhouse Green Farm, Kidmore End

Lunch in Wallingford Town

Day 2: R.A.F. Museum, Cosford

Shipton Hall with House and Garden tour

Day 3: Ironbridge, Blists Hill Victorian Town

The Iron Bridge and Tollhouse

Severn Valley Steam Train

Day 4: Time at Merry Hill Shopping Centre, Dudley and Canal walk

Millefs Farm Centre, Frilford, nr. Abingdon

Home to Maldon

Contact Jan Robertson on 01245 225657 or email: jan356771@gmail.com for full details and booking form.

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
Cards and Paper Crafts	Lesley Wooton	01621 858135
Coffee Morning	Margaret Brown	01621 854885
Computer	Ian Newman	01621 891184
Creative Writing	Angela Pleasance	01621 850310
Croquet	John Gorrie	01621 854006
Dancing	Alf Bell	01621 840158
Family History	Lesley Pomphrett	01621 817733
French	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	Alex Lees & Norman Grove	01245 225153 01621 842805
Reading & Books	Carole Overy	01621 893450
Scrabble	Linda Etherton	01621 843702
Solo Whist	Dave Mason	01621 858635
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

Diary of Meetings and Visits

For details see articles and co-ordinators above

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
2nd February	2	3 Threads 14.00	4 Cards and Paper Crafts 14.00	5 Photography 14.00	6 Committee Meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00	7	8
9th February	9 Patchwork 14.00	10 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	11 French Conversation 10.00 Solo Whist 14.00	12 Technical Computing 14.00	13 Monthly Meeting 14.00	14 Weekender Forrester Golf Club 10.00	15
16th February	16 Advanced Italian 10.00	17 Local History 15.00	18 Book Group 14.30	19 Computer 14.00 Walking 10.00	20 Painting 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00	21	22
23rd February	23 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	24 Scrabble 14.00	25 Basildon Tractor 13.00 Creative Writing Group 14.30	26 Family History 10.30 French Improvers 14.00	27 Painting 14.00 Dancing 14.00	28	1 st March
2nd March	2 Beginners Italian 10.00	3 Threads 14.00	4 Cards & Paper Crafts 14.00	5 Photography 14.00	6 Committee Meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00	7	8
9th March	9 Patchwork 14.00	10 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	11 French Conversation 10.00 Solo Whist 14.00	12 Technical Computing 14.00	13 Monthly Meeting 14.00	14 Weekender Coffee The lock Cafe Heybridge Basin	15
16th March	16 Advanced Italian 10.00 Petanque 14.00	17 Local History 15.00	18 Book Group 14.30 Wine Tasting 14.00	19 Computer 14.00	20 Supreme Court 8.30 Painting 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00	21	22
23rd March	23 Petanque 14.00	24 Scrabble 14.00	25 Creative Writing Group 14.30	26 Family History 10.30 French Improvers 14.00	27 News Sheet Copy to Editor Painting 14.00 Dancing 14.00	28	29
30th March	30 Petanque 14.00	31	1 st April				