



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No. 1/2016

February 2016

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









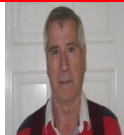
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Your Committee

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AGM on 11th March 2016

See page 2 for information about Committee vacancies

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NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

From the Chairman

Traditionally, at Heybridge U3A, we do not have a News Sheet in January, so this is my first opportunity to wish you a 'Happy New Year'.

I have been teased for being 'demob-happy' and I acknowledge that I shall be glad to step down from being Chairman in March, but that is dependent on someone being willing to take on the task. Since the start of Heybridge U3A over six years ago we have been a thriving, if comparably small U3A very well organised and efficiently run by your very capable committee. Whoever is willing to be nominated for any of the vacancies will be extremely well supported by the remaining members on the committee.

The Speaker for our January meeting fulfilled all that one could wish for; amusing, interesting with masses of fascinating information about brass bands. If you know of a speaker of such high quality, please let us know.

Joyce Woodham
Chairman Heybridge U3A'

Important Notice: Committee Nominations 2016

There will be an AGM on the 11th March 2016 at 2.00 pm at the Plantation Hall, Heybridge. Committee members are elected to stand for 3 years before being re-elected so nominations will be required for the following positions:

- Chairman
- Vice-Chairman
- Treasurer
- Interest Group Co-ordinator
- Events Secretary
- Social/Events Treasurer

Nomination forms are included in the email with this 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 Secunder and given to or posted to the Secretary at 12 Rowan Drive, Heybridge, Maldon CM9 4BW to arrive by Friday 26th February 2016. If there is more than one person nominated for any one position, a vote will take place at the AGM on the 11th March 2016.

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.

The minutes of the AGM held in March 2015 will be sent out by email together with the Agenda for the forthcoming AGM and printed copies will be available on the 11th March 2016.

From the Editor

The design of the Heybridge U3A News Sheet, and the reports that it contains, continues as a full-page layout. I would ask contributors to limit their photos to pictures of U3A generated activities and not copy pictures from Websites as, when published, this maybe contrary to Copyright laws. Information about the Committee Members and their reports can be found in the first few pages. The back page shows the Diary for the months of February and March.

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 by email with 'Heybridge U3A' in the title.

Contact me, Geoff Hadley, 01621 852494 or by Email editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Membership Secretary

We were pleased to welcome 1 new member in January, taking our total membership to 164. 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* as a guest (* held in the Plantation Hall at 14:00 on the 2nd Friday of each month). There is no need to book, just turn up and sign in

2016/17 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. A re-enrolment form is attached with this News Sheet and copies will also be available at the monthly meeting. Instructions on how to pay are contained on the form.

The standard fee for 2016/17 is £20. There is also a dual membership fee of £15 which applies to fully paid up members of other U3As who wish to have full access to Heybridge U3A activities. Members of the four Maldon U3As (Blackwater, Heybridge, Limebrook and Maldon) who wish only to access each other's interest groups can do so without paying a membership charge provided spaces are available.

Gift Aid

If you have previously signed a Gift Aid declaration, please note that HMRC have revised their guidance and now require donors to confirm that they

"Have paid, or will pay, an amount of income and/or capital gains tax for each year that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the Charities to which they donate will reclaim on gifts made during that year. If the tax paid is less than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all donations, it is the individual's responsibility to pay any difference."

This means that, if you pay income tax at the basic rate, you will need to pay an amount of tax equal to at least a quarter of your total gift aid donations for any given year. If the amount of tax you pay annually is less than this, HMRC may require you to pay the difference

The Enrolment Form has been updated to reflect the new wording and we would ask you to please read the revised declaration and sign to confirm that you pay sufficient tax to cover all your Gift Aid donations.

If you have any queries regarding membership or Gift Aid, please contact me: jennyparker14@hotmail.com / 01621 843581.

Future Heybridge U3A Monthly Meetings

For 12th February we will have a talk from Linda Scoles. Linda is an American, came to Suffolk in 1971 with her husband, an American Air Force Officer and their three children. Linda was widowed in 2001, chose to remain in Suffolk, and in 2009 applied for British Citizenship and successfully achieved this. The talk will feature aspects of her life but in particular her "**Journey to Citizenship**" (Now I'm as British as y'all). This should be enlightening as well as humorous.

11th March is the AGM.

For 8th April 2016 we will have a talk from Lucy Lewis. She was the first female Bomb Disposal Officer in the British Army, and later a Major in the Royal Military Police. She has served in the UK, Germany and Northern Ireland, and travelled the world as a mountain expedition leader and as an inspector of military prisons.

For 13th May 2016 I have booked Liz Huxley a wildlife photographer and bird watcher, the subject of her talk is not yet finalised

John W Harrison: phone 01621 854851 or Email speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Events Secretary

Planned Events

- Discover Newmarket on Monday 14th March 2016
- Visit Hever Castle on Thursday 21st April 2016.
- Visit Kensington Palace on Wednesday 11th May 2016
- Join Blackwater U3A on a visit to Bressingham on Wednesday 15th June.
- Visit Canterbury on Tuesday 28th June

Please see page .11 for further details

Interest Group Coordinator

By now all CoGs should have received the new document giving Guidance for group leaders delivered by hand or by post. We hope that this will help you to make decisions when necessary to run your groups successfully. By the end of January we asked you all to send me the names of people taking part in your group activities at least once so that we can make some data available regarding the numbers taking part in the groups. I have also asked all CoGs to let me know if you need space on a table or half a table to make a presentation about your group at the AGM in March as there will be no speaker. There will then be time for people to walk around the hall to see what is happening in the different group activities. There will be sheets available to sign if you are interested in the new groups suggested by members for a Curry Lunch or Evening, International Food Host or Hostess, Visits to Churches, Cathedrals and Chapels, a Memories Group to include New Members and a German language group.

Barbara Barbrook Tel: 01621 855605 or email c.barbrook@sky.com

GROUP REPORTS

Art (Painting) Group

It's nice to be back in our friendly group after the Christmas and New Year break.

In the absence of local snow scenes most of us brought pretty pictures to crib from - including books about art techniques which may or may not have been Christmas presents - and the occasional redundant 2015 calendar.



Ready to start the New Year"

Either way, we were soon all hard at work and, I'm sure, we are all looking forward to displaying some of our best efforts at the AGM in March.

Finally, it seems ages ago now, but the William B restaurant in Hatfield Peverel did our group proud with a splendid three-course pre-Christmas lunch!

Gill Carpenter

For information about the group contact, Michael Kempen: Email Michaelrkempen@gmail.com or Phone 01621 892974.

Bird Watching Group

The next meetings will be on 26th February and 25th March at 2pm.

If you would like to join our group, please get in touch by phone 01621869871 or email symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk Maureen

Cards and Paper Crafts

We met on Wed 3rd February at 2.30pm and made things to display on our table at the AGM 11th March. We will make some more at the 3rd of March Card group meeting.

Lesley.

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

Computer Group

We were pleased to see David at the January meeting of the Computer Group following his first visit back in November 2015. A total of 8 people including Colin and myself came to the January meeting of the Computer Group. This was very encouraging, considering that we were close to closing during the later months of 2015. As previously agreed there was no meeting in December as the normal meeting day was too near Christmas. With the collection to pay for the hire of the room for the first quarter of 2016, as agreed at the end of last year, set at £9 per quarter we will now be able to pay for the room for the first Quarter of 2016.

Although there was a request for some research over the Christmas period, the group as a whole found that they had many other commitments so that the research work became an afterthought. The main topic discussed this month, based on the work at home, was associated with the many ways that the search engines can be used and how important that the appropriate key words are used. The group was asked to continue the research, during the next four weeks. Again, any results are to be emailed to Ian before the next meeting. The results will be discussed at the February meeting. In addition to the use of the laptop time was taken up with problems associated with the Apple iPad and the need to print directly from the iPad.

One subject that we hope to cover by the group next month will be the use of Video telecommunications and conferencing. It is hoped that multi platforms will be in use.

Do you have any problems using a laptop, a tablet, an iPlayer or a smart phone? Do you have some special knowledge about some aspect of computing across part or the full range of computer communication, then, a welcome awaits you so that you can share your knowledge with us. Please, therefore, come along to a Computer Group Meeting. Alternately contact me by phone or email (See below) to arrange something special for the group. 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. If you are an expert or novice just come along. You can always contact me by phone or email before, if you so wish.

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

Creative Writing Group

We welcomed one new member to the group in January and we hope that he will join us regularly.

Our U3A members are a lively bunch of people and can often think 'outside the box'. The Creative Writing group took this expression literally; we started the year by learning how to make simple boxes from card and have set ourselves the subject of 'The Box' for our next assignment. I was delighted to receive an email from one group member to say that she had made 40 boxes of various sizes! However, she was still awaiting inspiration for the writing.

Our next meeting is on 24th February at 2:30 at my house.

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

Croquet Group

We will start playing again hopefully next year in April, if anyone would like to come along and join us you will be most welcome, the emphasis is on gentle exercise and fun in good company.

Anne Newson: phone 01621 858807 or email annenewson@uwclub.net

Discussion Coffee Morning Group

The January meeting was held at my house and I think everyone was satisfactorily fed and watered. We managed to talk for nearly two and a half hours so a lot of ground was covered! The next get together will be at Linda Etherton's house on Friday 19th February at 11.00

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

Family History Group

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, the January meeting had to be cancelled.
Our next meeting will be Thursday February 25th.

Please note, we will be meeting in the Claydon room at the Plantation Hall.

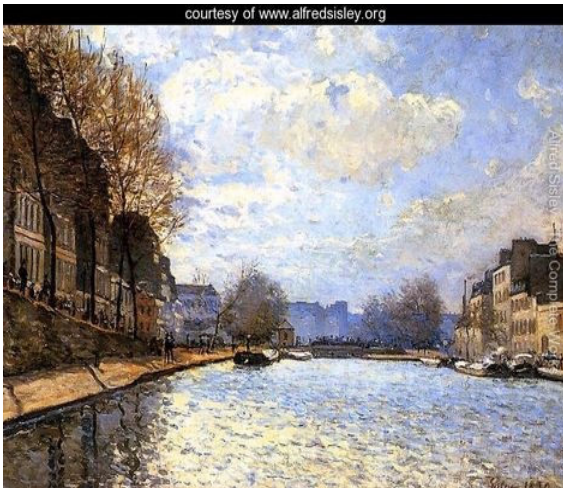
Beginners 10.00 – 11.00 Main group 11.00 – 13.00

Details: Lesley Pomphrett 01621 817733 lesleypommy@hotmail.com

Liz Cawdell 01621 331944 ecawdell@btinternet.com

French Conversation Group

Generally, when we all described the presents we had received for Christmas, it was found that a few of us could barely remember what we had been given and most of us enjoyed the celebration 'en famille' more than the gifts. We enjoyed an interesting, but challenging, article found in 'Le Figaro' concerning the cleaning of the Canal Saint Martin, which is a short canal (4.5km) that connects the Seine with the Canal de l'Ourcq. Despite being short it has 9 locks, a couple of swing bridges, and a tourist boat that runs in the



summer from the Paris Arsenal marina (Port de Plaisance) to the marina at La Villette. 4 tonnes of assorted rubbish and detritus was taken out of the canal during the last cleaning together with the 90,000 cubic metres of water – a big project that is likely to take 3 months to complete. As Paris is short of green spaces, the authorities have arranged for pedestrian access only along the banks of this canal on Sundays throughout the summer, which will even make picnics possible. Our group meets on the second Wednesday morning of each month at a group member's house. For further information please contact jennyparker14@hotmail.com

Report by Linda Wells

French Improvers – Joint Blackwater / Heybridge Group



Our first meeting of 2016 was devoted to learning how to describe people in French – their age, nationality, family status, occupation and appearance.

Here are a few of the people we talked about – how many do you recognise?

Clue: they are all old enough to be members of the U3A!

For further information on either French Group, please contact jennyparker14@hotmail.com or phone 01621 843581

Gardens Group

We are going to start off 2016 with a joint visit with the Walking group to Easton Lodge near Great Dunmow on their first 'Snowdrop Sunday' opening, 21st Feb.

The Lodge is off the B184 Dunmow to Saffron Walden road and is well sign-posted by brown Heritage signs,

The gardens open at 11:30, entrance fee £4, and there is ample parking- Meet in the car park at opening time.

If you are interested in this visit please contact Pat Yates, and if you need or can offer transport then let us know.

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

Italian Conversation

Buon Anno Nuovo a tutti, Happy New Year to all. Obviously the Christmas and New Year festivities initially dominated the discussion, but that lead to discussing other traditions that were part of individual family celebrations. Everyone seems to be very busy at this time of year, so there were many different subjects discussed, including the expected birth of three grandchildren for one lady alone.

This Italian Conversation Group meets twice a month, at 10 00 at my house, usually on the first and third Monday of the month.

Monday 1st February

Monday 7th March (to be confirmed)

Monday 15th February

Monday 21st March

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

Local History Group

The New Year saw us in our very comfortable new home for a talk by Kevin Bruce. Kevin's researches at the Essex Records Office have uncovered some wonderful documents relating to the Freshwater family of Heybridge Hall. The house is, sadly, no longer but Kevin's expertise in decoding and translating the documents has enabled much information to be established, about the house and its related lands as well as the family.

For our meeting in February, our speaker is David Newman who is going to tell us about 'Salt making in the estuary'. Contact Carol if you would like to join us, space permitting

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

Patchwork Group

The next meetings of the Patchwork Group will be in the Claydon Room on Monday 8th February. and Monday 14th March at 2pm

Anne Thorpe E-mail Anne.thorpe@btinternet.com or phone 01621 850828.

Petanque Group

We have now had the shortest day and we can look forward to the Spring.

By then the skis and snow boots will be put in the cupboard and the Petanque Boules can be brought out and dusted, maybe with new coloured spots or stripes to distinguish them from the others.

We will start this year on April 4th which is after Easter to avoid the first Bank Holidays so mark the date on your calendars. There are 19 members in the group now so, disregarding holidays, we should have enough for some good games

Barbara Barbrook c.barbrook@sky.com

Photography Group

There were twelve members at our December Meeting in the Jubilee Lounge of the West Maldon Centre. The photographic assignment for this meeting was "Composition". Peter supplied a handout showing the rules for Composition which we discussed before viewing members interpretation of this. We then had mince pies and sausage rolls with our cup of tea whilst having a general discussion.

There were 14 members and 2 guests at our January Meeting in the Jubilee Lounge of the West Maldon Centre. The photographic assignment for this meeting was "Bizarre". There was a selection of interesting photos.

It was agreed not to have an assignment for the February meeting as there will be a talk and demonstration by Phil Watkins of the Maldon Camera Club titled "Composition and what judges look for."

Why not join us? We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 2.00 p.m.

By regularly meeting together and sharing our photos, we learn how to get better results from our own equipment. Our aim is to make all of our meetings entertaining, friendly and informative.

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

We had two books over the Christmas period, which were as different as chalk and cheese. It was not surprising, therefore, that only two people managed to read both. The first, 'The Year of the Flood' by Margaret Atwood, relates the experiences of a small group of survivors as they struggle to stay alive in a post-apocalyptic world. While three people enjoyed the read, the rest of the group were unimpressed and preferred the second book, 'To the Moon and Back' by Jill Mansell. This tells the story of a young woman who, following the death of her husband in an accident, feels her life is over. Hailed as "a tremendous look at friendship, hope, romance and second chance", the book relates how she gradually manages to sort out her life and move on.

There are currently two spaces available in the group, so if anyone wishes to join, they would be welcome to come along to our next meeting at 14.15 on Wednesday 17th February in the Plantation Hall.

Thanks

Jenny

Please contact Ann Lees 01245225153 if there are any queries about the group.

Scrabble Group

It was good to get back together after the Christmas break and the group were keen to exercise their grey matter. We always seem to have a good laugh, plus a few wails of what a dreadful selection of tiles people have drawn and who has all the 'S's'? (Was it me?) My home-made cookies went down well with our cuppa and kept us going. There is room for more people so if you want to join us please let me know. We meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month at the Plantation Hall.

Linda Etherton Telephone: 01621 843702 Email: ethertonbikes@aol.com

Solo Whist

In December, 5 of us met at Geoff & Margaret's for our monthly session. One of us (namely me this time) had some very good hands including 2 abundancies and 1 Misere; all the other players had some good calls and some very good counter play ensued all through the session.

Lovely cakes Tea and coffee thanks to Margaret were eaten and drunk with gusto during the interval and we agreed it was a very good and useful session.

The next meeting took place on 13th January at Tina & Mine's place where 6 of us met for a very lively session.

We had two groups of three where abundancies and Misère were called and won. We broke half way for tea & coffee served with cake by Tina. I also announced that neither Tina nor myself will be renewing our membership of the U3A in March. So our meeting at Jackie Jones's on 10th February will be my last. What will happen in the future we will have to see.

Thank you very much for all the support for the Solo Whist over the past couple of years

Dave Mason C O G

Technical Computing Group

Group Report for December's meeting

We had another successful meeting, when on this occasion we were joined by our 'Mother Cog' Barbara Barbrook, I think she found our small group very informative and interesting, before she arrived we as planned, upgraded the memory to one of our member laptop computers,. Barbara was then able to watch, as Alex Lees, once logged onto my router was able to demonstrate and answer some of her questions, the other members of our group then carried out other tasks on their own computers.

The meeting closed at about 4.15.

Group Report for January's meeting

The first meeting of the New Year got off to the usual type of discussions, talking about having difficulty restoring a computer to an earlier date to clear 'start up' problems, so enabling Windows to run cleanly. We then went on to discuss various photo editing software available from High Street retailers. One last discussion was about 'central heating' controller for use when away from home, using the internet..

Our next meeting is on the 11th of February 16

Any new member welcome, please call me first.

Colin Mason (Cog) colin@mason20.wanadoo.co.uk 01621-854906

Ten Pin Bowling

It seems a long time since our meeting in December when we had a full turn-out.

The following week on Monday 14th December we had our annual Christmas lunch at The Blue Strawberry in Hatfield Peverel. Fourteen of us sat around a large square table in the Conservatory and enjoyed an excellent meal with plenty of laughter amid good company.

The New Year has arrived with two meetings this month, on the 12th and 25th January. Simon and I were away for the first and Margaret and Geoff kindly did the honours amongst 7 players with Geoff being the high scorer with 126.

On the 25th we had 8 players, this time Simon was the highest scorer with 134 but Christine, Helen and Jackie all achieved over 100.

Please think about joining us – we have great fun and it's a very gentle exercise to burn off those extra calories!

Our February meetings are on Tuesday 9th and Monday 22nd at 1.45pm for a 2pm start at Madison Heights.

It is helpful to me for players to arrive 15 minutes before we start so that I can allocate bowlers for the lanes we are using. Lynne Morrison 01621 891288 lejmorrisson@gmail.com

Threads and Fabrics Group

At our December meeting we were looking forward to Christmas, finishing off various presents, in my case warm scarves. Our conversation wandered on to the subject of exotic fabrics, one of our



members having been to the V&A to see their current exhibition on the Fabric of India. I looked at the museum's website and wished South Kensington was just a bus ride away.

Sadly I missed our January meeting, but have been told our usual lively, friendly discussion occurred and that in fact time passed so quickly they had run over time

Our photo this month is of a large pincushion, which possibly should be entitled, "the Goose which escaped Christmas"

Pat Newman

A large goose pincushion Pat Newman

Ukulele Group

Well, we certainly enjoyed our little musical contribution to the Christmas party in December and, judging by the lusty carol singing from you all on the choruses, we guessed you did too!

There's nothing like a live performance to sharpen up a musician's skill, and it has to be said that for a bunch of rookie uke players who six months earlier hardly knew one end of a ukulele from the other, all our students did remarkably well. As a result, we now have to work even harder to fulfil two more engagements in the summer!



So, all you non-ukulele players, if you'd like to give it a go, we can accommodate a couple more students at our monthly group meetings Call me on 01621 859060. Robin Carpenter E-Mail robinrcarpenter@yahoo.co.uk

Ukulele group at Christmas Linda Etherton

Walking Group

We are going to start off 2016 with a joint visit with the Garden group to Easton Lodge near Great Dunmow on their first 'Snowdrop Sunday' opening, 21st Feb.
The Lodge is off the B184 Dunmow to Saffron Walden road and is well sign-posted by brown Heritage signs,
The gardens open at 11:30, entrance fee £4, and there is ample parking- Meet in the car park at opening time.
If you are interested in this visit please contact Pat Yates or myself, and if you need or can offer transport then let us know.

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

Weekenders Group

Happy New Year Weekenders. As we start another new year I would remind you that our February Coffee Morning is at a new venue for us, The Barge, at The Hythe in Maldon. Another new one for March as well, The Mitre in Wickham Bishops so not a great stretch for a few of you. If you have any ideas for different venues or events to attend or visits to make please share them with me.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 13th February at 10.00 The Barge, The Hythe, Maldon

Saturday 12th March at 10.00 The Mitre at Wickham Bishops

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

Wine Appreciation Group

There will be no more meetings until April so watch this space for more news
Jackie Email jachjones@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01621 817117

Further Information and details of events

Please note that to enable our meetings to run as smoothly as possible, all sign-in forms for future events (including Kensington Palace and Canterbury) will now be found in the committee room. A table in the main hall will be set aside solely for payment of events and collection of tickets. Thank you!

The following events are planned for this year. Please note that members are 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 2016 Join us on a trip to **Newmarket** on **Monday 14th March 2016**. We plan to join their 'Short Head Tour', which includes visits to the Newmarket gallops and a top Newmarket trainer's yard; followed by tea / coffee at The National Stud and finally a tour of The National Stud. The morning ends at 12.30 when we can have lunch (details later), before we leave at 15.00. The complete cost of the tour will be approximately £30.00 pp. Late risers be aware – we must meet at 06.45 and leave promptly at 07.00 as the tour starts at 09.00. Please sign up and pay by **13th February 2016**.

April 2016 A visit to **Hever Castle** in Kent, the 13th Century childhood home of Ann Boleyn is now booked for **Thursday 21st April 2016**. Entrance fee is £11.65. Travel will be with a Ford's coach and the total cost will be £25.00. Please let me or Liz Cawdell know by February 12th whether you wish your name to remain on the list and please pay by **March 11th**.

Accessibility – Hever Castle have six wheelchairs which may be borrowed on a first come first served basis and cannot be booked in advance. The gardens are 'wheelchair friendly'. Visitors can access the ground floor if three steps can be managed but unfortunately the upper floor is inaccessible to wheelchairs. Please let me or Liz know if you may need a wheelchair for this trip.

May 2016 A visit to **Kensington Palace** is booked for **Wednesday 11th May**. This Palace was the home of the young Princess, later Queen Victoria and later still, the home of Princess Diana. The trip may include a look at the famous statue of Peter Pan, by the Serpentine, as well as the Diana Memorial playground. We shall also be close to the Royal Albert Hall, The Albert Memorial and even Exhibition Road. Admission to the Palace and grounds costs £11.70 for concessions in a group. Travel cost to be determined later. Please sign up to show your interest and remove your name by March 11th if you later find you are unable to join the trip. Last date for payment – **April 15th**.

Accessibility Kensington Palace have wheelchairs which may be borrowed on a first come first served basis and cannot be booked in advance. There is level access to all parts of the Palace and lifts to all floors. Please let me or Liz know if you may need a wheelchair for this trip.

June 2016. We are sharing a coach trip to **Bressingham Steam Heritage centre on Wednesday 15th June** and I'm pleased to say that this is one of their few 'steam days'. There is a maximum number of 25 members for this trip, so please sign up and pay ASAP, the last date for payment being **March 12th**! At Bressingham you may take a trip on one of the three railways – the collection of working locomotives will take you round the gardens and woodland. Then perhaps ride on the Victorian steam gallopers, visit the locomotive sheds and even wander through 'Walmington-on-Sea' to view the Dad's Army collection. Total cost of the trip will be £21.00 and we are to be collected by Fords coach at 08.30 from Tesco's.

Accessibility The site and gardens are wheelchair friendly with paths of grass and tarmac. All of the museum buildings are accessible with the exception of one gallery in the exhibition hall and the signal box. The Nursery and Waveney lines both have carriages capable of accommodating standard wheelchairs. Standard wheelchairs are available on a first come first served basis. Please let Liz or I know if you may need a wheelchair.

June 2016 A trip to the historical cathedral city of **Canterbury** is provisionally booked for **Tuesday 28th June**. At the end of the 6th century AD the city of Canterbury was the capital of the kingdom of Kent, ruled by the powerful Anglo-Saxon King Ethelbert. During his reign Christianity was re-introduced by Augustine a monk sent from Rome by Pope Gregory the Great. Canterbury was thus established as the centre of Christianity in England. The Cathedral is a must see! Please sign up to show your interest and remove your name 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

Report on on the U3A trip to see Guys and Dolls at the Savoy theatre 5th January 2016

We gathered in Tesco's car park to board Paul's Minibus" to take us to London. The interior was interesting as it was festooned with glitter garlands and red coloured lights, which created some kind of atmosphere – not sure what! We arrived in the Strand to have a wander and some lunch prior to the show. The Savoy Theatre is fascinating as it's very small and entirely underground - it was also the first theatre in the World to be lit by electric light.

I think that everyone would agree that the show was great– the performances were outstanding and the best way to describe it is uplifting. I'd be surprised if anyone didn't feel more cheerful when they left than when they arrived. It was very professional and great fun.

Many thanks to Pat for organising another really enjoyable event

Simon

Noticeboard - from the Third Age Trust (February 2016)

1000th U3A

The National Executive Council of the U3A would love to receive suggestions about how the 1000th U3a (expected around March next year) could be celebrated. Email ideas to national.office@u3a.org.uk

24 Hour Legal Advice

This telephone advice service, provided by Arc Legal Assistance, is available to all U3A members. Advice will be given on all matters of law. Please call 0344 770 1040 and quote 'U3A Legal Helpline'. If asked for an insurance number you should say you do not have one. This service is paid for by the Third Age Trust.

Design and Create Cinderella Stamps - a shared learning project in association with the Royal Philatelic Society, Marylebone. Runs between 6th March and 17th May on Tuesdays. Apply by 18th February - linda.crook.slp@gmail.com

Birmingham Concerts - various dates for matinee concerts, please see www.u3a.org.uk

U3A Sing-Out at the Savoy Theatre 3rd March, £35 pp.

The Importance of Being Earnest with David Suchet, exclusive screening at Odeon Covent Garden on 15th March, £15 pp

U3A Explores Science at the RI - 17th March, £20 pp, includes 'Weird Science' and 'How to put the Sun in a magnetic bottle'.

The Search for Life in the Universe - the new science of Astrobiology, 11th April at Birbeck College, part of Science Week.

Mozart Requiem performed by the Brandenburg Singers on 27th April at St Clement Danes, London, £18 pp.

National Summer Schools August 2016 - a few places left

U3A Online Chess League

Run by Steve Lawer (East Suffolk U3A) for U3A members. For more information email steven.lawer1@gmail.com or telephone 01394 276282

U3A Craft Newsletter

Lesley O'Malley is the new subject adviser. The Newsletter will be emailed to the Cogs of our craft-based groups. Lesley would like to hear about ideas, tips and techniques. Email stitchapicture@hotmail.com

Further information and booking online can be obtained from the U3A website www.u3a.org.uk.

Essex Association of U3A's quiz day

We now have a date for the Association Quiz; it is Thursday 9th June From 1.40 until 4.00pm (Quiz starts at 2.00) – at Christchurch Hall Chelmsford Would anyone like to assemble a team?
Please inform Linda Etherton

Study Day Tuesday 25th October

Planning for this year's Study Day has already begun and we have 23 topic groups so far.
We urgently need a fourth Art group as Art is a very popular and was oversubscribed last time - At the moment we have Water Colour, Acrylics and Pen and Ink groups. Do you have anyone in your U3A who might be interested in volunteering to run one, possibly another Water Colour or a new medium?
There is a possibility of further groups for Philosophy, Music Appreciation, Relaxation and Family History but we would welcome offers for others! The date will be Tuesday 25th October and it will be in the Plume School, Maldon. Info and Application forms will be sent to you all in June.

From Other U3As

Chelmsford U3A have planned some trips for 2016 and have sent details,
The trips are

Malta on 3rd March £599 for 7 nights with SAGA.....

West Country UK for Walking - 23rd May 4 nights £299+ £64 single supp.....

Krakow on 15th October £589 + £39ss with Tailored Travel.

If anyone is interested please contact David Gout on 01245 268923 davidgout@outlook.com

Maldon U3A Proposed Four Day Holiday "Exploring Kent"

5th/8th July 2016

Hotel: Holiday Inn, Rochester

Price: £355 p.p.

Insurance £10 Single Supplement £45

Day 1 am. Chatham Historic Dockyard
 pm. Teapot Island, Yalding

Day 2 am. Hornby Visitor Centre, Margate
 pm. Shepherd Neame Brewery, Faversham. Lunch and Tour.

Day 3 am. Walmer Castle and Gardens
 pm. Dover Castle

Day 4 am. Explore Rochester Town
 pm. Kent County Show

Full details and Booking Form available from

Jan Robertson on 01245 225657 or email: Jan356771@gmail.com

Group Name, Co-ordinator & Contact Phone Number & Email

Group Name	Co-ordinator (COG)	Telephone Number & Email
Art (Painting)	Michael Kempen	01621 892974 Michaelrkempen@gmail.com
Bird Watching	Maureen Lenoir	01621 869871 symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk
Cards and Paper Crafts	Lesley Woonton	01621 858135 Lindawoonton@sky.com
Coffee Morning	Margaret Brown	01621 854885 mbandmeg@btinternet.com
Computer	Ian Newman	01621 891184 ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk
Creative Writing	Angela Pleasance	01621850310 angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk
Croquet	Anne Newson:	01621 858807 annenewson@uwclub.net
Family History	Lesley Pomphrett	01621 817733 lesleypommy@hotmail.com
	Liz Cawdell	01621 331944 ecawdell@btinternet.com
French	Jenny Parker	01621 843581 jennyparker14@hotmail.com
Gardens	Pat Yates	01621 892866 pat.yates@tesco.net
Italian	Janice Slight	01621 853393 janice.slight@tiscali.co.uk
Local History	Carol Greenhalgh	01621 840339 george.smeed@virgin.net
Patchwork	Anne Thorpe	01621 850828 Anne.thorpe@btinternet.com
Petanque	Barbara Barbrook	01621 855605 c.barbrook@sky.com
Photography	Norman Grove	01621 842805 norman.grove@gmail.com .
Reading & Books	Ann Lees	01245 225153 annlees@yahoo.com
Scrabble	Linda Etherton	01621 843702 ethertonbikes@aol.com
Solo Whist	Dave Mason	01621858635 tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk
Technical Computing	Colin Mason	01621 854906 colin@mason20.wanadoo.co.uk
Ten Pin Bowling	Lynne Morrison	01621 891288 lejmmorrison@gmail.com
Threads & Fabrics	Pat Newman	01621 891184 ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk
Ukulele	Robin Carpenter	01621 859060 robinrcarpenter@yahoo.co.uk
Walking	Elizabeth Eastwood	01621 850618 e.m.e@talktalk.net
Weekenders	Marilyn Corbett	01621 817518 mars42@btinternet.com
Wine Group	Jackie Jones	01621 817117 jachjones@tiscali.co.uk

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

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 February	1 Italian conversation 10.00	2 Threads 14.00 0	3 Ukulele Group 14.00 Cards & Paper 14.30	4 Photography 14.00	5 Committee meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00	6	7
8 February	8 Patchwork 14.00	9 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	10 French Conversation 10.00 Solo Whist 14.00	11 Technical Computing 14.00	12 Monthly meeting 14.00	13 Weekender Maldon 10.00	14
15 February	15 Italian conversation 10.00	16 Local History 14.00	17 Book Group 14.15	18 Computer 14.00	19 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00	20	21 Gardens & Walking Groups 11.30
22 February	22 French Improvers Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	23 Scrabble 14.00	24 Creative Writing 14.30	25 Family Hist Beginners 10.00 Family Hist 11.00	26 Copy to Editor Painting 14.00 Bird Watching 14.00	27	28
29 February	29	1 March Threads 14.00	2 Ukulele Group 14.00 Cards & Paper 14.30	3 Photography 14.00	4 Committee meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00	5	6
7 March	7 Italian conversation 10.00	8 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	9 French Conversation 10.00 Solo Whist 14.00	10 Technical Computing 14.00	11 Annual General Meeting 14.00	12 Weekender Wickham Bishops 10.00	13
14 March	14 Patchwork 14.00	15 Local History 14.00	16 Book Group 14.15	17 Computer 14.00	18 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00	19	20
21 March	21 Italian conversation 10.00 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	22 Scrabble 14.00	23 Creative Writing 14.30	24 Family Hist Beginners 10.00 Family Hist 11.00	25 Copy to Editor Painting 14.00 Bird Watching 14.00	26	27
28 March	28 French Improvers	29	30	31	1 April Committee meeting 10.00	2	3