

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No 1

February 2021

Your Committee

<https://u3asites.org.uk/heybridge>

Archive

www.heybridgeu3a.org.uk/archive/news.html

Registered charity number 1160360

Zoom Main Meeting February 12th 2.00 pm

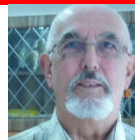
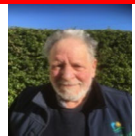
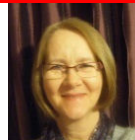
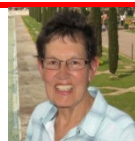

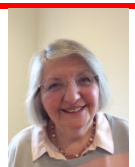



Subject "Get Well Soon?"

Check your email for the link to the Zoom meeting.

Advance Notice: Annual General Meeting 2021 See Page 2

History Group Update See page 8

Yoga Group Update See page 12

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NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Chairman's report for February 2021 News letter.

Well, that's 2020 been, done and gone.

My gardening finished with a bang in the first week of January- Landscapers arrived and for 3 days in atrocious weather grubbed out the hedgerow,(trees shrubs and old 2ft diameter conifer stumps)and installed a panelled fence in place of, so lots of repair work to the borders in the spring after the rains cease.

And now as we enter 2021, with more hope, and expectations of a return to some new form of normality to look forward to, after we have all been vaccinated, and the restrictions start to ease later in the year.

We also look forward to the resumption of our groups and activities after such a protracted period.

The committee is now thinking ahead to June when we hope our delayed AGM may be a conventional one. With this in mind I would ask each of you to consider what you can do to assist each other and the Heybridge U3A committee to get restarted at the earliest opportunity.

We need extra people to attend committee meetings with constructive ideas. It is also increasingly imperative to the future of Heybridge U3A that we have people to shadow committee members who are nearing the end of their tenures or have already exceeded them, to maintain a smooth continuation when they do stand down- if not what future for Heybridge U3A?

Lastly, at the AGM 2022, my tenure ends, I will be standing down, so more food for thought!

Meanwhile stay safe, sane and healthy, look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

Norman Cumming Chairman

Advance Notice: Annual General Meeting 2021

Under section 13 of the Constitution of Heybridge U3A the Annual General Meeting shall be held in the month of March in each year or as soon as practicable thereafter but not later than 15 months after the preceding Annual General Meeting.

The Committee have taken the decision to postpone the meeting due in March 2021 to June 2021, due to the uncertainty about whether current restrictions to meeting numbers during the Covid-19 Pandemic will be lifted enough to allow for a quorum of members to attend in person.

The current committee members due to step down can continue in their posts, but any vacancy arising may be filled from the membership. Any such appointee would then be eligible for re-election at the next AGM.

Membership Renewals

We will not be asking current members to renew their membership before June 2021.

Your opinions are welcome on this decision: please email the Secretary at secretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk or telephone (see committee listing)

From the Editor

The design of the Heybridge U3A News Sheet, and the reports that it contains, is a full-page layout of 16 pages in a large font. Information about the Committee Members and their reports can be found in the first few pages. The next News sheet will be in March so send items by last Saturday in February 2021. I am very grateful to all the people who send material for inclusion. Have you anything to say? Please send it to me and I will include it.

Geoff Hadley editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Membership Secretary

The Committee has decided to delay the AGM and membership renewal till June 2021 so there is no need to complete another form or make any payment till then. Anyone who has still not renewed their membership for 2020/21 can do so for £10 and will be a paid up member until June. If you wish to renew your membership, download the enrolment form from the website or email me to be sent one. Let me know if you have no printing facilities as I could post one to you. You need to complete the form and post it back to me (address is on the form) with a cheque for £10. Dual Members pay £13. Or you could do a Bank Transfer:

Payee name: Heybridge U3A

Sort Code: 30-91-85

Account number: 00395708

You must give your name as reference or we will not know it is you who has paid.

For this year at least I will still need you to complete a form, and this must be posted to me.

Another new development is a **Heybridge U3A Facebook page** which we hope will be another way for us all to keep in touch. It is a private group, available only for paid up members so no posts or photos will be visible to anyone else. If you already use Facebook, put Heybridge U3A into the search box and then apply to join the group. If you have any difficulty in finding the group via a search please get in touch with me.

Philippa Moody membershipsecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

Interest Group Co-Ordinator Report

Firstly I would like to wish all of you a very Happy New Year. We started on a high note with the vaccine being rolled out but it's still very scary out there. I think by now some of our members will have had at least the first dose of vaccine so we are moving in the right direction. We are all so desperate now to see our family and friends and resume our normal lives it can't come soon enough. Our Christmas was a non-event with too much food in the house and presents still not delivered. Please continue to keep in touch with members of your group(s). As time goes on some people have not seen members of their family for nearly a year now, others may spend days not physically seeing another person. I am lucky to have a husband at home with me but even we are going stir crazy not seeing other people! Please keep yourselves safe and hopefully we can all get together later in the year

Hilary Furniaux groupsco-ordinator@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

Monthly Meeting Speaker Programme

In January Chris Rose, one of our members, gave a fascinating talk titled 'A Garden Seat Called 'Arthur''. It turned out to be about a lockdown/upcycling project, begun last March.

Chris explained in the past he had taken on mechanical challenges like making a nippy little sports car out of an old car and engine. I expect his wife wasn't too surprised when he decided to challenge himself this time.

It all started when he was walking round the Three Mills area of Docklands. He happened to look up into a set of flats and spied the back half of a mini made into a swish sofa. He still doesn't know how they would have got it into the flat. It got Chris thinking he would like to have a go at such a project. Perhaps make a seat for the garden.

He sourced a mini at a local scrap dealers, arranged to get it cut in half and transported to his home. He only wanted the back half.

Once it had arrived the fun began. He transformed it into a wonderful seat, on castors for the garden. Chris made sure it had Wi-Fi and lots of lights and switches to keep the grandchildren amused.

I believe the seat got a lot of use last summer. The reason it is called 'Arthur' is when Chris told his dad about the project his dad replied 'What 'arfer car?' So after that it was christened Arthur. Chris's talk had lots of photos and videos to help explain what he had to do which made it very interesting.

February's Zoom talk on 12.02.21 is titled 'Get well soon?' and presented by Margaret Mills. Before the NHS (and sometimes after!) so-called "remedies" for various ills were passed down the generations. Although some were fairly harmless, the ingredients of other "cures" can be surprising, and definitely NOT prescribed by a GP, so don't try this at home!

The talk deals with some of the folklore cures and remedies that have been used over many centuries for different complaints, and the reasons why people turned to these remedies. Why some areas of the country have a higher incidence of local folklore remedies than others.

March's Zoom talk on 12.03.21 is given by Annamarie Dall'Anese a Blue Badge guide 'Jewels of London's Museums and Art Galleries'

I have provided a quiz for your amusement on page 13 with the answers on page 14.

Jan Brown speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

Zooming with the u3a

A year ago we would never have thought that we would be unable to get together for our convivial meetings, whether it be the main meeting at Plantation hall or group meetings of various sorts. As it seems still a long way off before we can do resume most of our activities, it makes sense to do whatever we can to keep in touch and use the means that are available, such as Zoom, WhatsApp messaging, email and anything else you can come up with. It may not be ideal, but surely better than nothing.

Looking forward to the February meeting, we would love more to join us. If anyone would like to have a trial run on Zoom, or feel they need more practice, please email me on secretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk to let me know and I will set up a session or give one-to-one help over the phone to iron out any technical difficulties - it's easy when you know how. A few people join without video if they don't have a camera on their laptop, some have a camera plugged in or use headphones.

Any group can have a Zoom meeting set up for them if you contact me, and it can be run via the Heybridge U3A Zoom account so you don't need to worry about doing it yourself. The Photography group are dab hands at this and as well as sharing photos and expertise there always seems to be a bit of light-hearted banter.

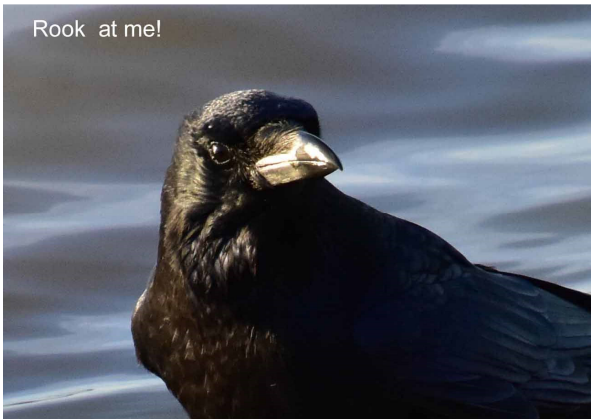
Linda Etherton

GROUP REPORTS

Bird Watching Group

Virus or no virus we don't usually meet up in January as it is too cold and wet to be really enjoyable. That could be said of this year too. It is cold and very wet; however, no one has told this to our local birds.

As you may be aware, getting to see the thousands of birds currently on the estuary at Heybridge Basin is now a problem, unless you live there. The local Parish Council has closed Daisy Meadow car park as it has become so popular that social distancing is difficult. Maldon Promenade Park is still open and if you time a visit there a couple of hours before high tide you will be able to see large flocks of waders.



Jill



Jill

The EWT reserves at Chigborough Lakes, Abberton and Fingringhoe are still open but all hides and visitor's centres are closed. If you know of other good places we can get to at the moment do tell us.

We have lots of places we can get to around Heybridge so I hope you are all able to get out and watch a few birds.

If you would like to join our group then please contact Maureen at symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk
Jill

Discussion Coffee Morning Group

Hello everybody. There is only one piece of news from me and I am sure it is the same news as others. I have had my vaccine injection, no problem at all just a bit of a stiff arm the next day. My friends who have not yet reached 70 are waiting anxiously, I am sure it will not be long as the "roll out" seems to be progressing well, in this area anyway.

A very quiet Christmas and New Year, I am now just looking forward to lighter mornings and evenings, I am trying not to think about the possibility of the remaining winter period being icy or snowy!

Our Discussion Coffee Morning group have all kept in touch with one another; hopefully it won't be long before we can all continue with our groups.

Keep well and safe

Best wishes, Margaret Brown

Family History

Although the birth/death/marriage certificates and the 10 year census are a wealth of information and our main source of research, they can sometimes create other stumbling blocks.

The 'cause of death' being one. The cause registered on the death certificate of my 2x great grandfather in 1866 was 'softening of the brain'. Not exactly a medical term, and could be applied to several ailments, although I suspect it was a forerunner of today's dementia.

Except when I end up in the bedroom or kitchen and can't remember what I went in there for, then the term seems perfectly feasible!

The second is 'occupation'. To the untrained eye some appear to be in a foreign language. Fortunately, someone has very kindly compiled an A to Z website of redundant occupations, which I have tapped into. Plus, other legitimate jobs that have simply had a name change.

The Lamplighter would have no place now, nor would the Knocker-Upper. The Knocker Upper tapped on the bedroom windows of those who had paid sixpence (old money) a week for an alarm call. Unfortunately, there were complaints from neighbours and other household members who weren't so keen on being woken at 6am. So, ways of carrying out the job quietly had to be found.

The most famous one in London was Mary Smith (a large indomitable lady) who used a pea-shooter, aimed at the appropriate window! She obviously had a good eye and powerful lungs.

Below are just a few others I thought interesting/amusing.

Some definitely need re-instating, others I'm appalled they ever existed. (I want the Ale Conners job)!

Ale Conner Official who checked the measures and quality of the ale in the Public houses. This has to be the only job where it was acceptable to arrive home drunk!

Nuisances Inspector Inspect and report by-law offences, loud annoying noises (and animals), bad smells, and anti-social behavior.

Bang Beggar Official who controlled how long strangers could stay!

Blindsman Dealt with incorrectly addressed mail, for the Post Office.

Boardman Truant officer.

Chairman One of two people who carried a sedan chair.

Claker Magician/astrologer

Times Ironer Servant who ironed the newspapers.

Town Husband Collected dues from fathers of the parish to pay for the upkeep of their illegitimate children.

Necessary Woman Emptied and cleaned chamber pots

Pardoner Licensed seller of indulgences?

Purefinder Women and young girls who collected dog droppings used in the tanning industry for curing the hides.

Seeker of the Dead Employed to diagnose plague victims by counting the 'Boboes' (pus filled nodes) for the compilation of 'Bills of Mortality'.

Mule Scavenger Small children worked 12 hours a day crawling underneath the massive 24/7 spinning/weaving mules, cleaning out the accumulation of debris.

Misegatherer Local Tax collector (could be where the word 'miser' originated).

Aeroonaut Balloonist/Trapeze artist.

Arkwright Skilled craftsman making "Arks" (wooden chests or coffers).

Bagniokeeper Keeper of the bathhouse or brothel.

Take care.

Jean Rogers

French conversation

As Covid restrictions continue to prevent the French group from meeting, I'm continuing to send a monthly bulletin with suggested activities to practice French at home. Since this gives me very little to report on, here is a description of the Mardi Gras festival in Nice, which this year takes place on 16th February:



Nice Carnival is one of the biggest carnivals in the world and one of the oldest continuously run festivals, dating back to 1294. The roots of this Mardi Gras festival lay in the traditional Catholic celebration of Lent. Taking place day and night over 15 days, it features 16 decorated floats and more than a thousand musicians and dancers from around the world. The procession makes its way along the Promenade des Anglais to the central square of Nice, where it ends with the ceremonial burial of the Carnival King.

Mardi Gras is one of many 'Jours Fériés' (public holidays) in France. If, at some stage, you decide to visit France, you should be aware that heritage sights, museums, etc, may be closed on Bank Holidays. Here are the key Bank Holidays in 2021:

Friday 1 st January – New Year's Day	Wednesday 14 July - Fête Nationale
Monday 5 th April – Easter Monday	Sunday 16 th August – Assumption
Saturday 1 st May -- Labour Day	Monday 1 st November – All Saints Day
Saturday 8 th May - Victory of the allies 1945	Thursday 11 th November – Armistice 1918
Thursday 13 th May – Day of Ascension	Saturday 25 th December – Christmas Day
Monday 24 th May – Whit Monday	

Jenny Parker

History Group

Limebrook and Blackwater u3as have invited any of Heybridge u3a members interested in history to take part in their Zoom talks. There would be a cost for each history talk given by Limebrook u3a (£3.50 per talk or £7.00 per couple) as they have engaged outside speakers. At present Blackwater are using their members to give talks so no charge. That could change if they were to use outside speakers.

Anyone interested has to email Mike Stringer (from Limebrook u3a) who would give their u3a bank details. Once you've done the transfer you email him again and he gives log in details. His email is mike.stringer19@btinternet.com For Zoom information for Blackwater u3a talks please contact speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

There are 2 history talks planned by Limebrook and 3 by Blackwater

This is the programme of talks

Feb 9th 2.00pm The Docks; their history, design and operations (Blackwater)

Feb 18th 10.30am Public Health during WW1 and WW2 by Carol Hayes (Limebrook)

March 9th 2.00pm William the Conqueror (Blackwater)

March 18th 10.30 Mathew Hopkins Witchfinder General by Mark Mitchels (Limebrook)

April 13th 2.00 p.m. History of Meccano and Hornby (Blackwater)

Jan Brown



In December we indulged ourselves with Christmas music in the playlist circulated to members. Nothing was difficult to listen to or understand!

In January we went back to our alphabetical list of music and the list sent to participants was inspired by the letter V. There are many composers whose names begin with V – famous ones like Verdi and Vivaldi and lesser known ones such as Vallotti, Venables, Vienne and Volkonsky. There was one set of performers featured – the choral group known as Voces 8. It was only after I had circulated the list that I realised I had forgotten to include musical instruments which begin with V so on this occasion the violin and viola – possibly the most popular instruments for which music is written - were not featured!

Anyone who would like to know more about this music or the Music Appreciation Group is welcome to contact me Philippa Moody

Needlecraft Group Report

Everyone has been quite busy this month not surprisingly since we haven't gone anywhere! A jumper is being knitted and a seaside cross stitch sampler has been started, a doll's fancy shawl is being crocheted, an Idrija lace doily has been made and an astonishing 94 square inch quilt has almost been finished! Happy January everyone Hilary Furniaux

Painting 2

We still have no news about our next meeting, but with people being vaccinated it may not be too long. So I hope that some of you are being inspired to "Carry on Painting" so that we will have lots to see and we may feel that we have not wasted the Summer and Autumn.

I have a story to tell that may interest some of you.

The famous painter John Constable (1776-1837) painted some simple sketches in oils in preparation for his well-known painting of Salisbury Cathedral. In the village of Hambleden, near Henley on Thames, the Lord of the manor acquired one of these paintings.

The fourth generation W. Henry Smith, the founder of the many book shops W.H. Smith, died in 2012 and his widow decided to ask Christies for quotes for various items. This painting was quoted as £500 to £800. It was sold for £3,500. The new owner then discovered that it was an original and in New York Sotheby's quoted 4,000 times the original estimate, and it was sold again this time for three and a half million dollars.

I was interested in this story reported in the press as my father was born in 1901 in that village and an earlier W. Henry Smith sponsored my father to go to a boarding school in the Cotswolds and then to College at Exeter so that he became a teacher.

Well I am telling this story as the moral is that the picture was sold originally by Constable for £6 and it became worth 3 million or more. So if you feel that your paintings are very ordinary, they may one day be worth millions of dollars.



A view of Hambleton Barbara Barbrook

Papercraft Group

Our very small group have been making gift tags, Birthday cards, a Valentines card and done some colouring and decoupage. One member of the group is moving house so has been packing boxes of her craft stash which is no easy task as card is very heavy!

Lesley Woonton

Patchwork Group

I hope we will soon be able to meet and enjoy our sewing together again.

Anne

Petanque Group

Hello everyone. I hope you are all keeping well and not getting too fed up.

I should imagine some of you would have had your vaccine injection by now, so exciting.

They seem to be working their way through quite quickly, and not too long before we all have ours.

Let's hope we can get through this awful time and see an end to the virus once and for all.

I don't think we will be playing Petanque again for a while yet, but I am here if you need me anytime. At the moment, just stay safe. Moira

Photography Group

December 2020 Meeting

Once again we held another successful Zoom meeting on 3rd December our eighth so far with 10 members and 1 guest participating.

We started the meeting by watching a slide show of the photos taken by our members during the month. The subject for the month's assignment being "Photographs where the subject starts with the letters V & W". There were some excellent interpretation of the subject by our members. We then watched a video by Richard Birchett on cleaning your Lens and Cameras. We then held a general discussion for the rest of the meeting.

It was then decided that the assignment for the next meeting would be to continue this theme with "Photos where the subject starts with the letters "T or U".

January 2021 Meeting

We held another successful Zoom meeting on 7th January our ninth so far with 10 members participating.

We started the meeting by watching a slide show of the photos taken by our members during the month. The subject for the month's assignment being "Photographs where the subject starts with the letters T & U". This was followed by Peter Thorpe showing us some photos that he had taken of Nematodes through a Microscope and explained how he had connected his camera to the microscope and controlled it from his computer.

We will continue to hold Zoom meetings on the first Thursday of each month until we are able to meet again as a group.

For those who were unable to join the meeting all of the photos submitted have been uploaded to our page on Flickr (Heybridge U3A) where you will be able to view them. If you would like a link to them please contact me.

If anyone is interested in joining our group and participating in our assignments please contact me.

Norman Grove

Scrabble Group

This is the answer to December's puzzle:

Z E S T I L Y = S T Y L I Z E

Scrabble players love to maximise their score. Here is your rack of tiles:

C₃ E₁ I₁ L₁ P₃ R₁ U₁

Can you fit all these letters into the grid below to make an 8-letter word?

2W B₃ 2W

The value of each letter is shown: 2W indicates a double word score and 50 points are added to the score if you use all 7 letters in one play. The answer is not a Democracy, but if you are this age you probably will have had your Covid-19 vaccination by now!

Linda Etherton

Walking Group

We are all hoping that the vaccinations and lock-downs will have the desired effect and that walking can resume as soon as possible. Given that these times are so uncertain we can only keep fingers crossed for a spring return to some activities. I shall of course contact everyone as usual once I can be certain that a walk can take place, with whatever caveats are required.

Peter and I wish everyone a Happy and Healthy 2021 and hope to see you in the not too distant future.

Good luck to us all and stay safe Linda Wells.

Yoga Group----Prepare for Return.

It's a year since we rolled up our Yoga mats in Plantation Hall. I would like to think we have continued our Yoga work-out at home, but that would be in the perfect world and this is definitely NOT! I hope all members have remained Covid free and are now considering vaccinations. Our health is now of paramount importance.

Bette (Cumming) and I think the time is right to regain our fitness/health and wellbeing. We need to prepare for our return to group activities. We can achieve this in the safety of our homes with the aid of our technology, working as a group as often as we are able to down tools and join the group.

Details will follow, but I will contact all Yoga members during February to ascertain your ideas and contributions to this new format of fitness activity, all ideas are welcome.

Gloria Bomford YOGA COG

Excessive lockdown gardening

"Do you suffer from Plumbago? Is your back a little sore?
Or perhaps it's Pyracanthus, which you caught in Singapore.
You've a nasty little Hosta, which I think I'll have to lance
and I notice your Spiraea has been leading you a dance
Are you getting quite forgetful, is Nemesia the cause?
Does your Antirrhinum pain you when you're walking out of doors?
You have Skimmia Rubella; I can see that by your nose
And Cornus Capitoza has played havoc with your toes.
You are a little Fatsia, I'd like to see you leaner; I recommend a holiday - do you fancy Santolina?
Still, I think you are doing nicely but watch that Quercus in your knees;
Take your Berberis twice nightly. Cheerio! Next patient please."
"I'm dying for a Peony," the patient sadly cried. "Of course, I should have realised, the Lavatera's just outside!"
Anon

In the 'Old Days'.

Houses had floors of dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt.
Hence the term, 'dirt poor'. The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance-way. Hence, 'a thresh hold'.

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 hundred years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and the guests got the top, or the 'upper crust'.

Take care. Stay safe. Alf

A Sporting Chance!

True or False

1. Frank Lampard won over 100 international caps
2. Usain Bolt finished third in the final race of his career.
3. Rafa Nadal won three singles grand slam finals in 2017.
4. In 2017 the Tour de France started in Germany.
5. The 1960 Olympic Games were held in Rome.
6. Geoff Hurst scored a hat trick in the 1970 World Cup Final.
7. The St. Leger is run at Newmarket.
8. Lester Piggott won his first race in 1948 aged 12 years.
9. The sumo wrestling ring is called the 'dohyo'.
10. Henry Cooper held the World Heavyweight title for 9 months in 1966.
11. The greyhound in trap 5 wears an orange jacket.
12. Crystal Palace F.C. play at Selhurst Park.
13. The Grand National 2018 was won by 'Tiger Roll'
14. Racing driver, Stirling Moss won the World Championship in 1955.
15. In snooker the green ball is worth 3 points.
16. The Solheim Cup is for women golfers.
17. 'Magic' Johnson played basketball for the L.A. Lakers.
18. The South African rugby union team are called the 'Rhinos'
19. There are 8 players in a netball team.
20. Princess Anne won a gold medal at the 1976 Olympics.

Free Online Creative Classes for Older People

Kaleidoscope is offering free online creative classes for older people starting this January. You can find all the details on [Greysnet.com](https://www.greysnet.com) or via the link below.

[Free Online Creative Classes For Older People – Greysnet](https://www.greysnet.com)

Do you use Facebook? Why not join the Heybridge U3A group.

We now have our own group on Facebook. Our Facebook group is a closed one; Philippa is the administrator who acts as the gate-keeper. Please see her report for more details. The Facebook group will supplement the news-sheet, not replace it.

National Newsletter

All members can sign up to receive the National Newsletter by email. Just go to the website <https://www.u3a.org.uk/email> and put in your email details and 'East of England' as the Region. You can also look on the website for lots of activities taking place all over the country that might inspire you.

Third Age Trust Online Forum

This is now to be found at <https://forum.u3abeacon.org.uk> there are 3 forums:

Learning, Our U3A Community, Beacon

Essex Fraud Alert

If you, or someone you know, is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud, please call Essex Police on 101.

Report fraud or attempted fraud by contacting Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

Barry Linton of Thorpe Bay u3a and an Association Committee Member is involved with the Essex Police working as a volunteer within the Fraud and Scam Protection Team, particularly those scams that may target older people. He is a fully recognised speaker on Cybercrime protection by Essex Police.

With Essex Police support he maintains a Fraud Alert web page on the Thorpe Bay u3a website. A link to this can be found on the Association of Essex u3as website. Visit the site and click on Fraud Alerts button and this will take you to information on this and a link to Thorpe Bay website.

You can put this link on your own website if you wish

<https://u3asites.org.uk/thorpebay/page/107669>

The National Office is considering encouraging all u3as across the country to link into it.

Janice Business Secretary

Quiz Answers

1.True (106 caps) 2.False (He didn't finish) 3.False (2 US Open & French Open) 4.True (Dusseldorf) 5.True 6.False (1966) 7.False(Doncaster) 8.True (at Haydock Park) 9.True 10.False (never) 11.True 12.True 13.True 14.False (never won) 15. True 16. True 17.True 18.False (Springboks)19. False (7) 20.False

Peter's Ramblings

Survival

Look back at our young years, life was simpler, more naive, but worse? No. I honestly feel for today's kids.

Psychiatrists we had heard of but couldn't spell and who Dad asserted should be put against a wall and shot; a counsellor, someone elected to the council, surely? No child behaviour experts, child dieticians, parenting experts or government edicts - yet we survived and still do.

An old phrase, spare the rod, spoil the child. I don't advocate beating a child. I wasn't, the threat of "I'll tan your backside so you can't sit down for a week" kept me in check, never risk it! TV documentaries show animals physically chastising their young but of course we're not animals—pardon? Nursery teachers being told "discipline, but that's for you to teach" or lessons on courtesy in schools, Oh Lord! A toddler not getting its own way throws a tantrum, heels drumming, bawling, so leave it till it learns they're getting nowhere, worked for us. Different now I'm told and naturally an expert will have a name for the "affliction".

School run? Must have been in a hurry. On foot, all weathers, with or without mates, 3/4 mile to school, home for lunch, again to school then home, oft a classroom smelling of damp clothes. Roamed local leas trying to catch frogs, newts or following spoor, imagination running amok. In season picking, and eating blackberries—unwashed and of course a bunch of celandines plus a school made card (art lessons) for Mother's Day. Scratch games of winter football on Jimmy's field, cricket for summer, as long as the cows weren't grazing on that field. All unsupervised, self-organised, all hearty. Would it be allowed today? I doubt it. Just make sure you got home for meal time!

Skinned knees and elbows aplenty, if you fell out of a tree it was "that'll learn ya" not "we'll sue the owner "for you being able to get to the tree" Case and I believe the fine alone was around £20000, the boy? A broken arm. But, even at that age we were taking a responsibility for ourselves, and surviving.

A week at Grandpa's near Huddersfield could be boring but, a lone walk down to the trolley bus stop, into town; the reference library was brilliant, or the Sunday I walked several miles to Castle Hill, a local landmark. Not yet 12 years old and still back for tea!

Scouts, following chalked trails around the town (illegal graffiti now I guess) or once the smell of an onion on walls and posts. Imagine groups of boys sniffing lamp-post like dogs! The pride of being flag bearer for Remembrance Sunday parade and Mayoral parade. Games along the riverbank, camp cooking on a PETROL fuelled burners, cycling along the A1, a night hike with 'incidents' en route. Nobody injured, no deaths and I'm sure, without modern day props (experts etc), gizmos and doctrines we emerged mentally stronger, more independent, more stoic.

Then as boys do, I discovered GIRLS!!

I've even survived, delightful as they are, that!!!

Peter Radford