

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No 1

February 2022

Your Committee

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

Archive

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

Registered Charity number 1160360

Main Meeting Plantation Hall

Friday 11th February 2 p.m.

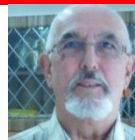
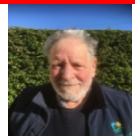
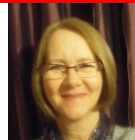
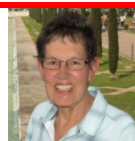

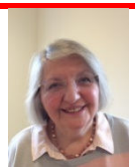



Guest Speaker Ian Mercer

Geology of Essex

Next Committee Meeting

March 4th 2022 at 10.00 at Plantation Hall in the Claydon Room

AGM Friday 11th March 14.00

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NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Chairman's report for February 2022 Newsletter.

Well folks it is crunch time, my final month as your chairman, before, hopefully, handing over to a new chairperson.

My message to you again is,

WHEN IT'S GONE, IT'S GONE,

Your u3a that is, The AGM will be held on the 11th March 2022, as yet we still have insufficient interest to form a new committee. In the event of a committee not being formed, we will have no other option other than to close Heybridge u3a, transfer all funds to national office, and say a sad farewell to you all.

Please do not allow this to happen.

In the meantime, stay safe; think hard about the future of this unique organization, it is in your hands.

Stay safe and healthy

Norman Cumming, Chairman

In Memoriam

The committee realise that keeping in touch with everyone has not always been easy over the last couple of years. Sadly, a few members have passed away during this time and it has been difficult to know how best to pass the message round. Usually we would contact the CoG of any groups the member had attended, but relatives might like to consider having an announcement in the News Sheet. Please contact a member of the committee if you would like us to do this.

Notice regarding the Annual General Meeting of Heybridge U3A

The Annual Meeting of Heybridge U3A will take place on Friday 11th March 2022 at 2.00pm at the Plantation Hall, Heybridge.

Committee vacancies

The following positions will need to be filled because the current incumbent is stepping down or there is an existing vacancy: **Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Editor, Events Secretary, Interest Group Co-ordinator, and Publicity Officer**. A minute-taker for committee meetings will also be sought. If you think you might be interested but would like to know more, please speak to a member of the committee. Job descriptions can be made available to give an idea of what is involved.

The nomination form is being sent out by email and will be available at the February Main Meeting: completed forms should be returned to the secretary by Friday 18th February 2022. Electronic versions will be accepted but please ask the secretary if you would like a paper version sent to you. The names of the nominees will be published in the March edition of the News Sheet.

The minutes of the 2021 AGM will be sent out by email, or posted to those without email, together with the Agenda for this year's AGM at the same time as the March News Sheet.

If any member wishes to propose a motion or resolution to be considered at the AGM this should be sent to the secretary by Friday 18th February 2022.

secretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

Covid-19 restrictions

The main meeting on Friday 11th February is going ahead, and refreshments will be served. The speaker is Ian Mercer who will tell us all about the Geology of Essex.

Covid-19 precautions: the current recommendation from the Government asks us to:

- Consider wearing a face covering in crowded, enclosed spaces
- Let fresh air in, if meeting indoors.

So in the interest of keeping everyone safe, please consider taking a lateral flow test before the meeting, wear a mask in crowded areas and be prepared for the hall to be well ventilated, so advise wearing warm clothing

secretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

Interest Group Co-Ordinator Report

We had 2 enquiries in January, one looking to join the French Conversation Group and one for Bowling. Maureen came along to the Bowling Group this week and won all 3 games! She seemed very happy with the welcome she received and is hoping to come along to our Main Meeting next week. She is currently a member of the Limebrook U3A and I am quite confident that she will continue to bowl with us too.

Hilary Furniaux groupsco-ordinator@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Editor

The design of the Heybridge U3A News Sheet, and the reports that it contains, is a full-page layout of 12 pages in a large font. Information about the Committee Members and their reports can be found in the first few pages. Send items for inclusion into the March 2022 News sheet by the last Saturday in February 2022.

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

It is time to renew your membership.

The Committee are recommending a subscription of **£10** for the year which runs from 1st April 2022 until 31st March 2023. As this is a special reduced fee for this year only, there will not be a further reduced price for Dual Members or for those joining after September.

A membership renewal form is attached to the email which sends out this newsletter so please print a copy, complete one for each member and return it to me, either by post to the address on the form or by email (membershipsecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk). If you cannot print a copy please let me know (01245 381379) to post one to you, or you can pick one up at the main meeting.

The subscription can be paid by cheque (payable to Heybridge U3A) or by bank transfer (contact me for the bank details). Subscriptions must be paid by 1st April.

Philippa Moody membershipsecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

Monthly Meeting Speaker Programme

In January Sheila Dearn gave us a very interesting talk about Hedgehog Haven Rescue. Hedgehog Haven was established in 2007 by friends who have shared an interest in British wildlife for many years. They learnt of the plight of hedgehogs and their struggle to survive and decided to set up a small rescue centre in order to give them the best possible chance in life.

They are based in **Frinton and Witham in Essex** and provide a rescue and rehabilitation service, funding veterinary treatment, surgery and medication where needed. They receive hedgehogs who are victims to vehicles, poisoning by slug pellets or discarded litter. They also take in underweight autumn juveniles who would be unlikely to survive hibernation without intervention. Following overwintering at the Haven, these hedgehogs are then released back into the wild the following spring. Ideally, Hedgehogs should weigh over 600g as they approach hibernation in October / November.

They also offer people a point of contact for help, information, advice and assistance. They aim to inform as many people as possible to the needs of hedgehogs and how they can help.

It's claimed that hedgehogs could become extinct in the UK by 2025 if their current rate of decline continues.

They are an endangered species and included in the bio diversity action plan. There are several reasons for their decline, but together we can help this mammal survive the 21st century.

Hedgehog Haven Essex receives NO funding and relies solely on donations. They rescue around 500 hedgehogs a year and their annual bill totals £11,000 - this includes food, medication and vet bills. They urgently need donations to allow them to continue caring for hedgehogs, who face a bleak future of extinction.



A hole made in a garden fence



Homemade hedgehog feeding station

In February 11/02/22 Ian Mercer will tell us all about the geology of Essex. There should be a few specimens and books to buy if the meeting is face to face.

On 11/03/22 will be our AGM

Hope to see you in February

Jan Brown

speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

GROUP REPORTS

Art

After much consideration I've decided to delay our Art group start.

Tina Martin

Bird Watching

January is a special month for the Bird Watching Group. Each year (barring 2021 lockdown) the group walks from Daisey Meadow at Heybridge Basin to the beach huts near the View Café at O'sea. There are always lots of birds to see along the estuary and even standing in the hut we could see curlew, redshank, godwit and right down to the little dunlin along the water's edge.



Curlew Jill

Pat Yates kindly entertains us in her beach hut. We have hot sausage rolls, snacks and ginger wine. It has become a tradition – sorry Pat, we will be back, if you will keep having us.

I am sorry to say that this year the group was beginning to show our age!! Not all of us could walk from the Basin and back, but most did. We just did a bit of car shuttling for the less agile.

Next month we hope to go to Abberton reservoir visitors centre. There should be many winter visitors on the water and if the weather is bad we can sit in the café and see across both water and some grassland. We hope to be out round the hides, though as there are many visitors about at the end of February.

If you would like to join us on Friday 25th Feb then contact Val Monk or me

(jill.mcgregor@btinternet.com) and we will make sure you get all the details of the visit.

Jill

Coffee Discussion Group

We have had 2 coffee mornings over the Christmas / New Year period. We were at Leslie Pomphrett's house on Friday 17th December and at Chris Norris's on Friday 21st January. A pleasant morning was had at both gatherings, discussing various subjects, topical, humorous and sometimes opinions on local matters such as the growth of new houses in the area. We enjoyed hot snacks with our tea/coffee, much appreciated on a cold winter morning.

The next coffee morning will be on Friday 18th February at my house.

Margaret Brown

Croquet Report

The croquet season is now finished and the mallets are now hanging up for the Winter. Hopefully, we will be able to start playing again in April 2022, depending on the weather and the lawns being available. We are most appreciative of the Maldon Croquet Club for allowing us to play on their lawns, at the Forresters Golf Club.

The aim of the group is gentle exercise, fresh air, good company and fun. If you would like to join us please contact me, my details are on the back page.

Anne Newson.

Eat the World



Our first outing since lockdown! We 'travelled' to BRAZIL for lunch. Brazilian food has been heavily influenced by the Portuguese colonization of the 16th century, by slaves brought from Africa, and by indigenous peoples, as well as other European, South American, and Asian countries.

Amongst the dishes we tried were MOQUECA which is a mild and creamy coconut curry lightly spiced with garlic, cumin, parsley, fish and seafood and XINXIM which is a traditional recipe from the North East of Brazil and contains chicken and prawns in a creamy parsley and peanut sauce. Another dish greatly enjoyed was LOMBINHO NA CHAPA, grilled pork loin marinated for 24 hours in Brazilian spices.

Our next destination is MEXICO.

This group meets on the third Thursday of the month.

Further details: Liz Cawdell ecawdell62@gmail.com 07902294741

Lizzie

Family History

I was reminded recently of a very enjoyable vacation spent many years ago to Nova Scotia, Canada, which included a visit to Halifax.

There can't be many who are unfamiliar with the tragic maiden voyage of the transatlantic liner Titanic, but for some the story ended with the film.

In the days following the sinking of the Titanic, 209 bodies were brought to Halifax the capitol city of Nova Scotia, 19 were buried in the catholic cemetery, 10 in the Jewish sector, 59 were shipped home by their families, and 121 (42 unknown) were buried in a designated corner of The Fairview Lawn cemetery Halifax.

Walking around the memorials, I was struck by the one thing they obviously all had in common, but suddenly seemed to scream out at me 15th April 1912 the date they died.

One grave inscribed J Dawson was covered in flowers. If you've seen James Cameron's film Titanic you will know Jack Dawson was the name of the handsome charismatic hero played by Leonardo DiCaPrio. James Cameron maintains he never consulted the passenger list before making the film, but he certainly started a following. The guide told us the day after the film was released a group of weeping young girls armed with flowers for J Dawson arrived, and it's continued ever since.

It's actually the grave of Joseph Dawson who worked as a coal trimmer, which involved shoveling the coal down the chute for the men below to stoke the ships furnaces.

The majority of the passengers on board were wealthy bankers and business men, possibly on their way to New York to complete business deals, and because the liner hit the iceberg just after midnight it's reasonable that the deceased would have had no identity on them.

With no body, you cannot have a death certificate. Without a death certificate no money, or assets of the deceased can be released for 7 years, (Lady Lucan can vouch for that), and not many women in 1912 were self-sufficient.

The 7 years' time lapse may have altered by now.

Over the following weeks the widows and their families travelled to Halifax in the hopes of identifying their loved ones.

According to the guide, at the time there were strong suspicions that some of the claims "Yes, that's my husband", weren't strictly true, but could not be disputed.

I find that quite a satisfying end. Instead of 'unknown' on his grave, he had a name (albeit not his own) and she went home safe in the knowledge that her family would not become destitute.

Take care
Jean Rogers

French Conversation



The final meeting for 2021 was on 8/12, when the group needed to decide whether or not we book dates for 2022.

We meet from 10-12 on Wednesday mornings in the Plantation Hall
jennyparker14@hotmail.com.

Needlecraft Group Report

Only half of the group could make it this month so there was only 4 of us. We met at Joyce's on a rather chilly afternoon with the heating on but windows and doors open. The members were all knitting this month – a scarf, a dolly cape and a dolly twin set. We interrupted the knitting for a cup of tea with a plate of goodies to choose from. Next month's meeting will be at my house.

Hilary Furniaux

Painting 2

Our next meeting will be the 14th February. It will be free for this Quarter but I will take your money if you bring it ready for the summer quarter. Please bring your own drinks.

Barbara Barbrook

Papercraft Group

Christmas was in full swing this month and we all spent time making Christmas cards. By next month we will all be Christmased out!! I am sure we will enjoy a mince pie and the obligatory chat whilst making the usual Birthday or Anniversary cards.

Lesley Woonton

Patchwork Group

The group met for the first meeting of the New Year at WMCC – seated at a safe distance from each other and wearing masks. We spent a very enjoyable afternoon working on a variety of projects and discussing works in progress and plans for the coming year. Anne brought along a beautiful sampler quilt she had made and Sue showed us the stunning Christmas quilt she is working on. Two very talented ladies who always offer guidance and inspiration.



The next meeting will be held on 14th February 2022.

Jackie Voyez

Petanque Group

We have had a lovely Christmas at Petanque.

Starting with a really nice get together for 19 at the Queens Head for lunch. It was such a wonderful time for us all to have a good chat, lots of fun and laughter and thinking about what the past 8 months has been like, and how fortunate we have been to carry on playing.

We had our last game for 2021, and I decided for a bit of fun that we all had to show our Christmas socks which I bought them as secret Santa.



If anyone would like to know more about Petanque, please contact me for details or pop down to the Maldon prom on Monday morning at 10am.

Thank you Moira Penhallow

Photography Group

We held our first Zoom meeting of the year on 6th January our twenty-second so far with 12 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 " Best photo taken since 2nd December ". A total of 32 photos were submitted including some from members who were unable to attend.



Dog - Carol Greenhalgh



Long Tailed Tit Jill McGregor

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

We have booked the Jubilee Room at the WMCC for our March 2022 meeting in anticipation of all Covid restrictions being lifted.

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 Zoom meetings to see what the group is about please contact me and I will forward you a link to our next meeting. All members of the U3A are welcome.

Norman Grove

Reading & Books

Five of us started the new year with a lunch meeting at The Ship, Tiptree, in January. The book for this month was "The Distance Between Us" by Maggie O'Farrell, although the library had only managed to acquire three copies, so we will have to share. The February meeting will be at Pat Yates house on Wednesday 16th February at 2.00pm. Anyone who wishes to join us can reach me by phone or email and will be very welcome.

Jackie Jones

Ten Pin Bowling

I have results from our meetings at Madison Heights on the 2nd Dec, 16th Dec and 20th Jan. Thankyou Graham, who looked after the group on the 2nd Dec while I was away in Devon.

2nd Dec - Peter Wells enjoyed the highest score of the day with 135 but compliments to Jenny whose highest score of 131 pipped her husband who was experimenting with a new made to measure shiny ball. A mention for John in dispatches with a score of 133.

16th Dec - We had a small group for this meeting with Graham getting to grips with his new ball with a score of 173. I gave him a run for his money in the second game where we tied with a score of 150.

20th Jan – Good to get back to the lanes after the Xmas break. Graham continued to gather confidence in his new ball but lacked a little consistency. However, he managed the highest score of 171 with Peter Wells and I some 20 points behind. Highlight of the morning was the 'Turkey' scored by Jenny in her first game resulting in a creditable score of 134.

Further sessions now booked for Thursdays the 3rd and 24th February.

Peter Harvey

U3A Scrabble Report February 2022

The January meeting had to be cancelled for various reasons and as the December meeting would have been around the date of the Christmas holidays here's hoping the Scrabble group will resume in February. Angela has kindly agreed to host that meeting at her house at 2.00 pm on Tuesday 22nd February 2022.

Looking at my computer archive it is amazing to realise that I have been writing reports about the Scrabble Group since February 2014. The group was started by our first chairman, Ruth Tyler and many will also remember Beryl Claydon who was a keen player. Long may we continue puzzling over our Scrabble tiles!

If you would like to join us please contact me for more information (details on the front page).

Linda Etherton

Walking Group.

A reminder for all. There will be no organised walks during January or February, so March 10th (the second Thursday) will potentially be our next group walk. To all those I won't see, I wish you all good wishes for 2022.

Linda Wells.

Weekday Lunch

Last lunch was 7th December at the Beach House. Lovely meal but very long wait for food .
Fantastic views of the river Blackwater which helped pass the wait for food.

Next lunch will be in April as I'm away. I have not booked anywhere yet so you will be informed later.

Maureen

Weekenders

Just a few Weekenders have been keeping the flag flying, thanks to those who made it to Perrywoods in December and the cafe at BHN (also known as Buckhatch Nursery) on East Hanningfield Road in January. The latter impressed with its spaciousness and range of garden centre stock.

A final decision has yet to be made about the venue for the 19th February: at the moment White Elms, Bicknacre is favourite, as again it has quite a spacious indoor cafe area. This will be confirmed by email.

Linda Etherton (temporary admin for the group)