

Heybridge u3a

February 2024 News Sheet

Your Committee

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

Archive

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

Registered Charity number 1160360

Next Main Meeting – Plantation Hall

Friday 9th February at 2.00 pm

Sally Lawrence – “Break a Leg!”

Next Committee Meeting – Plantation Hall



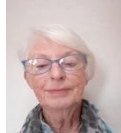







In the Claydon Room

Friday 1st March 2024 at 10.00 am

Main Meeting Refreshments Rota

February - Weekenders

March - AGM

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From the Editors

Hello and welcome to the February News Sheet, our first of 2024.

There have been a number of changes in our groups recently. Firstly Moira has stepped down as Interest Groups' Coordinator although she is remaining as CoG for Petanque and the Theatre Group. Alex Lees is taking over as CoG from Norman Grove for the Photography Group and Jackie Voyez will replace Anne Thorpe as CoG for the Patchwork Group. We thank Moira, Norman and Anne for their hard work, and wish Alex and Jackie every success in their new roles.

Our AGM is coming up in March, as you will see below we are looking for two new committee members. If you are interested or know of anyone who may be, please get in touch. We need to fill these positions to keep going!

Lorraine & Brian editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

Annual General Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Heybridge U3A will take place on Friday 8th March 2024 at 2.00 pm at the Plantation Hall, Heybridge.

Committee Vacancies

The positions of Interest Groups Co-ordinator and Speaker Secretary will need to be filled because the previous incumbents have stepped down. 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 will be available at the February Main Meeting and is being sent out by email: completed forms should be returned to the secretary by the end of February 2024. Electronic versions will be accepted but please ask the secretary if you would like a paper version. The names of nominees will be published in the March edition of the News Sheet.

The minutes of the 2023 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.

The Committee propose that the Membership fee from 1st April 2024 will be £25.00. The increase is necessary due to increasing costs alongside a reduction in income in order to make the u3a viable.

If any member wishes to propose a motion or resolution to be considered at the AGM this should be send to the secretary by Friday 22nd February 2024 at email: secretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

News Sheet Deadline

Please remember all CoG reports, and anything else for inclusion in the news sheet, must be submitted to the Editors by the last weekend of the month. Unfortunately anything submitted after the deadline will not be included as it takes time to put the news sheet together.

News from the Committee

From the Chairman

This month I am asking all our members to consider volunteering to help Heybridge u3a as Speaker Secretary or Co-ordinator of Groups. Just a few hours out of each month is all you need to give and every member is capable of helping to keep our u3a going for another year. We all enjoy the benefit of being a member and if you would like to know more about either of these positions please contact any member of the committee before our AGM on 8th March 2024.

Jackie Jones chairman@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Speaker Secretary

A Happy New Year 2024! Unfortunately there was no speaker last month as Eve Regelous had to go into hospital for an operation. We wish her well. Looking back to December, we had a good Christmas party thanks to members participating in the organising, and on the day. Jackie Jones and Peter Radford gave a hilarious performance of There's a Hole in My Bucket, and we learnt about The Lion and Albert from Ian Standingford!



Looking forward, the speaker for 9th February will be Sally Lawrence whose talk is entitled "Break A Leg". March is our AGM and therefore no speaker. In April we will be entertained by Danielle Barnett where we will learn more about the life of Freddie Mercury of Queen.

Lesley Woonton speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Publicity Secretary

The Heybridge u3a website is in urgent need of new photographs to illustrate the activities of the Interest Groups, after the originals were wiped off due to a problem with the website provider. Our Webmaster, Norman Grove, is working on a replacement website and I am hoping that each group can supply a fresh picture to publicise their group. Photographs can be emailed to me: publicity@heybridgeu3a.org.uk or indeed sent by Whatsapp if the CoG or other member gives me their mobile phone number. Alternatively, someone could come to visit your group to help take a photo. Do bear in mind that the members need to be asked if they are happy for their photograph to appear in the public domain.

Linda Etherton publicity@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

News from around the Groups

Art

We were back in the Claydon room for our first meeting since our pre-Christmas lunch that now seems so long ago. We usually meet on the first and third Friday of the month but the first Friday of January seemed just too close to the festive season.

With some of our members still otherwise engaged, we were a select lot, each working on a personal project. Michael took his inspiration from the Sue Spiers water colour of Heybridge Basin that hangs in the Claydon room. Sue, a renowned local artist, has visited us in the past to share some of her techniques. The picture was presented by the sadly missed Beryl Claydon who was a notable local personality and valued member of our U3A.

Tina was working on a beautiful night owl – doing some 'mindful colouring' - and Anne produced a lovely robin [a possible Christmas card for 2024?]. These sparked off quite a discussion about Winter Watch and the nature that we see and experience in our own surroundings – quite a lot it seems!

For our next meeting, I hope to have finished the portrait I have been working on and turning my attention to producing a birthday card for my sister – probably a watercolour depicting the amaryllis I received from her for Christmas!

Perhaps you'd like to join us? You can contact Tina for more information.

Carol Greenhalgh (for Tina Martin)

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Board Games

Christmas seems ages ago now. It's holiday planning time.

We all met at Angela's house armed with Christmas goodies. Two groups played one game each group, and then (as you can see) retired to the laden table to celebrate.

A delightful afternoon with great company, and good food.



Jean Rogers & Hilary Furniaux

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Cards & Paper Craft

We have been very busy thinking of how we can try to make some different types of greeting cards. There were only three of us at our new year session, nevertheless, we inspired each other to try something new.

Of course there is always a cuppa and lots of chatting!

Lesley Woonton

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Family History

The turnout was very good for the start of a new year.

I had some old newspapers bequeathed to me from a dear cousin. Front page news 1936 Daily Mail - the King abdicates. Evening Standard 1940 Norway and Denmark invaded.

I love some of the adverts. Harrods men's calf shoes 42 shillings.....I'll let you work that out.

Also a Mrs Beeton's cookery book priced 1 shilling. Unfortunately no date when printed, but the inscription inside read....given to me in 1896.

Marge was amused by the instructions for making cucumber sandwiches.

We discussed how, when getting married you could avoid putting your dysfunctional father's name on the certificate. It seems apart from the biological father there are three other acceptable answers - adopted, step-father or unknown.

It is a legal document, so needs some consideration beforehand. Quite an enlightening discussion.

Jean Rogers

Patchwork

The group met in January with members working on a variety of projects. It appears that all have been very busy creating some beautiful work. It was good to see Linda's completed quilt – see picture below.



The group will meet again on Monday 12th February.

Visitors to the group are always welcome.

Jackie Voyez

Petanque

Well, we were supposed to have our 1st game on the 9th January, but unfortunately just as we arrived at the prom it started to snow.

We finally managed to play the following week, there were ten of us but goodness, it was very cold and the wind was blowing across the river! We are such a hardy lot that we carried on playing for an hour then we thought that's enough.

The week after was so much better, the sun was shining, a bit of a breeze and 12 of us playing.

Come and join us if you like to have some fun and laughter, but also enjoy playing something different. Maldon Prom 10.00 am every Monday morning.

Moir Penhallow

Photography Group

Our last meeting of 2023 was held on 7th December 2023 at 2.00 pm by Zoom. The subject was "Celebrations ", which covered a wide spectrum, not just Christmas.

Each month we load the photos on to Flickr for all to view.

There was no meeting in January, so the next meeting falls on Thursday 1st February, 2024.

This subject meeting covers members' favourite photographs, taken over all the months of 2023. 40 or so images will be on display for discussion this month.

If anyone is interested in joining our meetings, to see what the group is about please contact me, and I will forward a link to our next meeting. All members of the u3a are welcome.

Our COG Norman Grove, who officiated for the last 5 years or so, has now has passed the baton to Alex Lees, to take over.

Thanks for Norman's excellent job, over that period.

Alex Lees

Reading & Books

Our February meeting will be held two weeks earlier than normal on Wednesday 7th February at the home of Philippa, starting at 2.00 pm when we will pass comment on our recent reading of "The Good Doctor of Warsaw" by Elizabeth Gifford.

Jackie Jones

Scrabble

Elizabeth kindly hosted the Scrabble group's meeting in January as Angela had fallen foul of an unpleasant virus. Playing Scrabble certainly takes the mind off other issues such as the high winds and rainy weather but we still manage to fit in discussions at the refreshment break. We did commiserate about the luck of the draw: it's often bemoaned when a set of tiles comprising just vowels or consonants is drawn but amazingly we still manage to find a word or two to play even if it's only using one letter.

Hopefully we shall be back at Angela's in February.

If you would like to join us please contact Linda Etherton, details in the list of groups.

Linda Etherton

Ten Pin Bowling

A month down of 2024 already! We have enjoyed two games this month with an addition of a game on the 1st Feb rounded off with our seasonal lunch at the Victoria Arms.

We had 8 players on the 11th Jan, Hilary was otherwise engaged. The most consistent of the gents was Rob who maxed out in game 2 with 171 while the others struggled to keep up. The ladies did really well where they all broke the 100 mark with Chris topping out with a score of 135.

On the 25th we were missing Rob (gave the rest of us a chance). We all had pretty modest scores except for my final hurrah on game three where I signed off with a 4 Bagger lifting my score to 160. The ladies had modest scores but the 'cool' temperature in the alley might have had an effect!

We had a last minute game organised for the 1st Feb to coincide with our lunch. There was some very modest scoring which some would blame on the change of lane and surrounding noise. However, there seemed to be a trend of hitting the strikes on the last frame. I certainly benefited in the first frame with a score of 162. Peter W won the last game by hitting strikes at the end to pip Chris who looked like a game winner.

We have enjoyed a lovely meal at the Victoria Arms to round off our day. We did miss Rob and trust that he has managed to sort his teeth out and that work is progressing well on his building works.

For your diaries our next games are booked for the 15th and 29th Feb. See you then.

Peter Harvey

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Theatre & Cinema Group

We have just had our first meeting this year. Seven of us attended Diane Cox's house, for coffee and cake (homemade) – very nice.

We discussed quite a few shows for the future, and three of our group have booked to see the Neil Diamond tribute in February at Witham's theatre.

Some of us are going to see the musical, Calendar Girls at Witham in April, and we are arranging to attend the Carpenters tribute show at the Colchester Mercury for May.

Moir Penhallow

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Walking

In December (seems a long while ago now) a small group met on the seawall outside Tesco for a walk along the lesser known paths of Maldon. We walked for approaching three miles towards the Prom and then along the footpath that runs more or less parallel with the High Street, then along London Road where a path was joined that took us parallel to Cromwell Hill and then back to Tesco. The weather was dry but cloudy, and the cuppa and chat in Tesco's café was a pleasant end to our walk.

As in previous years there was no walk in January or February, but will begin again on the 2nd Thursday in March.

The intention is to begin the Strollers Group on the 3rd Thursday afternoon in March. We have a few folk who are interested but there is plenty of room for any others who would like to join. The walks will be around two miles and will take about an hour or longer if needed. Please contact me if you would like to give it a try.

Linda Wells

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Weekenders

A cold and frosty morning in January did not deter the hardy Weekenders from meeting up at White Elm Nursery in Bicknacre. We looked at the next two performances due at the Witham Amateur Operatic Society, the next one being High School Musical followed by Calendar Girls. The performances are usually excellent.

We heard that a charge is being introduced for the car park at Osea Leisure that involves using an app, so with this information we decided instead to go to The Lock café at Heybridge Basin on Saturday 17th February at 10.00 am. The plan for March is to go to Oliver's.

We usually meet once a month on the third Saturday. If you would like to know more, my contact details are on the list of groups.

Linda Etherton

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For your info....

This may be of interest if you would like to learn more about Artificial Intelligence.

Barry Claydon, AI Subject Adviser, has set up a national library relating to Artificial Intelligence. It contains articles written by u3a members and is suitable for AI beginners and enthusiasts. Links below:

<https://u3acommunities.org/interest-groups/computing/ai-for-everyone/>

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/subjects/artificial-intelligence>

The Blackwater u3a Scottish Country Dancing group meet at Langford Village Hall on 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at Langford Village Hall. For more information email diana.rogers2@btinternet.com

Please remember to bring any unwanted gifts, second-hand books (in good condition) or plants to our Market Place, which is held at our Main Meeting. It is an opportunity to donate items for "sale"

for other members to buy in exchange for a donation to Heybridge u3a funds. Please note that we cannot accept electrical goods.

The u3a festival is being held at the University of York between 17th and 19th July. More information can be found on the u3a website. To register interest or make enquiries email festival@u3a.org.uk

If you are a Facebook user, then you may like to know that Heybridge u3a has its own Facebook page which we would like to develop. Just search for Heybridge u3a on Facebook, then apply for membership. You'll be able to submit posts and read about what is going on in the group.

Maldon Nub News is the local online newspaper; their website is maldon.nub.news Alternatively the Maldon & Burnham Standard is available in newsagents and at maldonandburnhamstandard.co.uk. Both have plenty of information about what is happening in the local area.

A reminder about our local football clubs, who are Heybridge Swifts FC who play at Scraley Road, Heybridge and Maldon & Tiptree FC who play at Park Drive, Maldon. Admission per game is £5 for concessions.

To book a space at one of our local recycling centres visit www.loveessex.org.uk . This is mandatory for everyone except those visiting by foot or Blue Badge holders.

Caroline Community Radio is our local community radio station broadcasting on 94.7 FM in Maldon and 104.7 FM in Burnham, and on the internet. They play music from the 60s through to the present day, and have regular local news updates.

Have a look at the attached diary, which shows all of the interest groups run by Heybridge u3a . together with the location and time. Contact the relevant CoG (on the last page of the News Sheet) if you are interesting in joining any group.

Members of Heybridge u3a can join in the activities of any other u3a in our local “cluster group”, which comprises Maldon, Limebrook, Blackwater, Burnham, Dengie, Crouch Valley and South Woodham Ferrers and ourselves. Further details can be found at:

[ClusterGroupActivitySchedule.pdf \(maldonu3a.co.uk\)](#)

If you have any articles you would like included in the next Heybridge u3a News Sheet please send them to editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk.