



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No. 2010/3

March 2010

Contacts:	Ruth Tyler	Chairman	01621 869865
	Peter Thorpe	Vice Chairman	01621 850828

From the Chairman

What an eventful month. Living out in the country, travelling has been a nightmare. Sometimes I wished I could change my car for DUKW!!!

At the February meeting, we had a record turnout, as our speaker Ray Spiller, with his Festive Records of the Hit Parade, proved very popular. His collection went right back to 1919. It was quite amazing how quickly he could find a disc given the year. Requests were mainly for tunes from the 60's and 70's and it was good to see smiling faces recollecting the past. His extracts from songs were interspersed with snippets about the artists and amusing anecdotes about his many appearances at gatherings such as ours.

I hope we have the same large crowd on 12th March, when we have a speaker on the subject of "Searching for Miss Prance". Miss Prance was a resident of Tolleshunt D'Arcy who was greatly interested in the Scout movement. She was quite a local character who had many interests and was involved in many local good causes. Prior to this we hope to have a really speedy and successful AGM and, afterwards, we hope you will join us in celebrating our first birthday with a little Cheese and Wine; and the usual cuppa! We have an extra hour and close at 17.00.

See you there, Ruth.

From the Editor

With the March Monthly Meeting being the AGM, I would specifically ask you to read the Section titled AGM. We have had nominations for the various posts. Details can be found in the AGM section of the News Sheet. Also, please read the Membership Secretary section about the subscriptions for the year 2010 – 2011. Printed copies of the re-enrolment form are available on entry to the Monthly Meeting.

The Diary on the last page has again been updated through to the end of April.

Most will know the publication procedure. Copy should be with me by the last Friday of month. Please continue to send details to me by email at

ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk with 'U3A' in the title. Typed copy can also be provided. Alternatively, phone me on 01621 891184 or see me at the monthly meeting to decide other methods of providing copy. Publication will take place some seven days later.

Ian Newman,

Heybridge U3A Meetings

The date of next meeting is Friday 12th March, starting at the normal time of 14.00 in the Plantation Hall, Heybridge. Following the AGM, Ian Valentine is our speaker with the subject "Searching for Miss Prance". In April we have William Tyler Churchill as our speaker with the subject "A Study in Leadership".

From the COGCo (Group Co-ordinator)

The AGM is almost upon us and there will be changes to the committee. I hope that the new committee will continue to enjoy the same level of support from the membership that the Steering Committee has enjoyed during the past year.

From a group point of view we have established many diverse interest groups for you to attend. I hope that we will continue to form new groups especially in the "arts" for those members who are interested in different subjects such as - music, poetry, creative writing etc. where the interests could involve performance (playing an instrument) or creativity (writing) or appreciation (listening to recordings, readings or examining pictures or sculpture etc.).

There is a good chance that we will be able to start a **Pilates Group**. If you are interested please contact Peter Thorpe at the March meeting. It takes determined effort to get a group underway so please give your full support to any member who agrees to become a COG!

I thank those members who have agreed to become COGs and those who have joined groups, for your support in this our first year as a U3A. I hope that the Heybridge U3A will go on from strength to strength.

Peter Thorpe

Group Names, Co-ordinator, Contact Telephone

Group Name	Co-ordinator	Telephone Number
Ballroom Dancing	Joint with Maldon Jo Robson *	* 01621 828236
Bird Watching	Maureen Lenoir	01621 869871
Bridge	Lisbeth Bazzard	01621 843208
Coffee Morning	Margaret Brown	01621 854885
Computer	Tina Abeysekera	01621 858635
Esperanto	Peter Groves	01245 227018
Family History	Joint with Blackwater Roger Smith *	*01621 843054
Gardening	Pat Yates	01621 892866
Local History	Carol Greenhalgh	01621 840339
Luncheon	Beth Jeffries	01621 853403
Maritime & Coastal	Brenda Dewar	01245 400492
Painting	Michael Kempen	01621 892974
Petanque	Barbara Barbrook	01621 855605
Photography	Peter Thorpe	01621 850828
Reading & Books	Ann Lees	01245 225153
Scrabble	Ruth Tyler	01621 869865
Theatre	Gill Bridle & Janet Morley	01621 892587 & 01621 892626
Threads & Fabrics	Anne Thorpe & Pat Newman	01621 850828 & 01621 891184
Walking	Elizabeth Eastwood	01621 850618
Weekenders	Jan Stroud	01621 859766

Membership Secretary

If you receive this News Sheet by email you will find an attachment to that email that provides a re-enrolment form that you can print. The completed form and a cheque will need to be given to the

Membership Secretary by the end of March 2010 to maintain your membership. This renewal of membership applies to all existing members. If you pick up your News Sheet at the monthly meeting then this form can be collected as you enter the hall.

If you are not a member and wish to join, please contact Lisbeth Bazzard on 01621 843208 or by email lisbethbazzard@talktalk.net You can also write to her at 2, Silver Street, Maldon, Essex. CM9 4QE or speak to her at the monthly meeting.

From the Social Secretary

First Birthday Celebrations: This will take the form of a cheese and wine (soft drinks for the drivers among us) function following on from the monthly meeting on the 12th March. We hope that as many members as possible will be present as this will be a good time to chat socially and hear about the activities of other groups.

Other Heybridge U3A Social Events: A quiz will take place at the Ship and Anchor in Maldon, High Street at 20.00 on Friday 9th April at a cost of £2 per person. We would like to see teams of 6 people and hope that each section of our U3A will be represented. Friends are also welcome as this is not a closed event. It would be nice to see as many as possible so get swatting and get your names to Martyn and Madeleine please. To be courteous to the question master, we need to know numbers for definite by Friday 17th March at the latest. Our telephone number is 01621 892499 or you can email at m_garwood@sky.com.

Martyn and Madeleine Garwood.

AGM

The AGM agenda items that will be under discussion will be as follows:

- Chairman's Address
- Secretary's Report
- Treasurer's/Annual Report
- Adoption of Constitution
- Election of Chairman
- Election of Committee

The proposed Constitution for the Heybridge U3A, that is to be voted on at the AGM, will again be available to be read by Heybridge U3A Members at the March monthly meeting. Details of the Financial Report will only be available on entry to the AGM.

At the AGM a full committee of the Heybridge U3A, in accordance with the proposed Constitution, will need to be elected by the members. The new Committee positions and nominations are as follows:

- Chairman Peter Thorpe
- Vice Chairman No Nomination

- Secretary Brenda Dewar
- Treasurer Barbara Barbrook
- Membership Secretary Lisbeth Bazzard
- Speaker Secretary Joyce Woodham
- Social Secretary Martyn Garwood
- Interest Group Co-ordinator Gill Thorne
- News Sheet Editor Ian Newman

Details on who Nominated and Seconded each Post can be obtained from the Secretary.

REPORTS

Art (Painting) Group

The Art Group is still thriving and growing in numbers. We have three new members since last month who seem to be enjoying the painting and the company on a Friday afternoon. It is hoped that we shall put on a small exhibition at the AGM with each member of the group exhibiting two "works of art".

Bird Watching

We met as planned at Chigborough Lakes. It was a lovely morning without a sign of the rain that had been forecast. We were not able to walk along the paths we wanted due to there being so much flood water and mud around. We were unable to think of the birds as we needed to look where we were going most of the time. We decided to just enjoy the walk.

I am not able to make the March Bird Watching meeting but am planning two outings to Abberton Reservoir in April and early May. They will both be led by experts. They are as follows:

- Dawn Chorus meeting. A very early start at 04.30 on Saturday 24th April, followed by a cooked breakfast at a cost of £10.
- The next is a Nightingale Walk between 19.30 & 21.00 on Wednesday 5th May followed by a hot chocolate at a cost of £5.

If anyone is interested in going on one or both these outings, please let me know as places need to be booked. Phone me on 01621 869761 or email symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk.

Maureen.

Bridge Group

The Bridge Session last Monday, 1st March, had a successful turnout of 8 people who split into 2 teams and played 14 boards. The result was very close with team 'B' winning by 3 points. Well done all! I hope to arrange another afternoon session in the 1st or 2nd week in May. Please let me know dates that you can not attend and I will choose the most popular. I have purchased 16 boards and cards at a

price of £34.50, which can be used by any of us. A contribution of £1 per person per session is being made to cover costs. Contact Liz by phone on 01621 843208 or email lisbethbazzard@talktalk.net.

Liz Bazzard.

Computer Group

Our meeting on the 18th February had to be cancelled as the Hall was being used to accommodate Heybridge residents evacuated from their homes following the Causeway fire. This means, in theory, we have extra time to further improve our computer skills before the next meeting. This will be held on Thursday the 18th March at 1300 in the Claydon Room, when we will continue our revision. See you there.

Audrey

Coastal and Marine Group

We are all looking forward to Friday 19th March when Glen Cousins will be our first speaker. We have booked the meeting room at the Blue Boar for 14.00 so please come along and join us. We have now confirmed our visit for a conducted tour of the RNLi base in Harwich; Friday 21st May at 11.00. This will leave us time for lunch and a look around Harwich. If you are interested, please contact me. We also hope to plan a barge trip, so watch this space. The Coastal and Marine Group Meetings that are arranged will be mainly at the Blue Boar, on the third Friday at 14.00. The Speaker for the meeting on Friday 16th April has yet to be confirmed. Everyone is welcome. More news to follow.

Brenda Dewar.

Discussion Coffee Morning

We met last month on 19th February at my house where we had our usual get together for a chat and a tea/coffee. It was a shortened meeting so that some of us could also attend the Luncheon Group visit at Heybridge Basin. We whizzed to the basin and enjoyed both events.

The next coffee morning will be on Friday 19th March at Maureen Baldwins house. Details at the next monthly meeting or you can always phone me on 01621 854885.

Margaret Brown

Gardening Group

Again, just a reminder that the planning meeting is on March 15th at 14.00 at Lesley Pomphrett's house. Location maps will still be available at the March Monthly Meeting. If anyone would like a lift please let me know.

Unfortunately, the Snowdrop Visit was rained off. Maybe we will have better luck next year.

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

Local History Group (LHG)

We enjoyed a thoroughly fascinating visit to the Essex Records Office for our February meeting. Jane, our guide, showed us around and gave us advice on how to access the various records that are available. Our tour, of this purposely built facility, gave us glimpses into parts that are not normally open to the public. This included the conservation area where the conservator told us something of the secrets he is unravelling as he works on his current projects. During the visit Jane showed us some old local maps and, at the end, had a good selection of Heybridge and Maldon documents on display, which we all poured over very keenly. I am sure many of us will be back there for more.

We are going to the Plume Library on 16th March for what should be another enlightening afternoon. We may have to do this visit in relays so would need names as soon as possible to sort out the logistics. Please call Carol Greenhalgh (01621 840339) if you would like to come.

Other dates for your diary:

- 20th April: - Visit to Stow Maries WW1 Aerodrome.
- 18th May: - Blue Boar: General/future plans; sharing stories/research.
- 15th June: - To be advised.
- 20th July: - Visit to the Combined Services Museum.
- 17th August: - Blue Boar: Talk by Mac MacPherson on Essex Regiment.

Luncheon Group

After finding that The Old Ship at Heybridge Basin had closed down overnight, just before our Lunch on the Friday, we managed to book into The Jolly Sailor also at Heybridge Basin where we had an enjoyable lunch. On 9th March, we are booked into Chelmsford College at 12.15. We are meeting at Tesco, Maldon in the recycling car park at 11.30. Please let me know if you wish to join us or would like to take your name off the list. I am looking to book The Prince of Wales at Great Totham for the 26th March. A sheet will be available at the monthly meeting on the 12th March.

Beth 01621 853403.

Petanque Group

By the time you read this our next game will almost be here. We will be starting on March 15th unless

the weather is horrendous. We will meet on the Prom and will start with a 5 minute conference about times, dates etc. See you at the AGM, then on the following Monday at 14.00.

Barbara Barbrook

Photography Group

There was a good attendance at the first meeting of the Photography Group on the first Thursday of February. We got off to a lively start with discussions about our experiences and our cameras. There were as many different digital cameras as there were members present and some members brought prints to show the subjects that they like to photograph. The two hours passed too quickly. It was a very enjoyable meeting.

The next meeting is on 4th March 2010 at 13.00 in the Claydon Room at the Plantation Hall. We shall be looking at the settings on our cameras and how to use them for the best results.

Any member interested in photography is welcome.

Peter Thorpe.

Reading and Books Group

'Empire of the Sun' by J.G.Ballard was the book chosen for February. All enjoyed reading this book which was told through the eyes of a child. It related a story about life in a Japanese internment camp during their occupation of Shanghai towards the end of World War II.

Our discussions are always lively and often humorous as over the last few months we have shared our knowledge of authors and their books. Our literary horizons have been widened and we are looking forward to many more good reads.

On March 17th, we are attending the Chelmsford Book Festival.

Anybody wishing to join the Book Group is very welcome. Please contact Ann Lees on 01245 225153.

Scrabble

The arrangements for the beginning of 2010 remain unchanged and they are repeated below for ease of reference:

- Wednesday 31st March at Beryl Claydon's; ring 01621 852082.
- Wednesday 28th April at Ruth Tyler's; ring 01621 869865.

Please ring the hostess for each meeting if you are able to join in.

More members are welcome for the winter months, but as our afternoons are in members' homes, it might be necessary to have two groups.

Ruth Tyler 01621 869865.

Theatre

We are holding a coffee meeting on Monday 8th March at Jane Smithson's house (25, Seagers, Great Totham) at 14.00 in order to discuss possible theatre visits. Brochures will be available for perusal and we'd love your input. All welcome.

Please contact Gill Bridle 01621 892587 or Janet Morley 01621 892626 for directions.

Threads and Fabrics

It was so much nicer to have a sunny afternoon for our meeting. It makes the matching of colours in our various projects a lot easier. As anyone who does craftwork or even just shops for decorating or decorative items knows artificial light, however good, can be very misleading. I am looking forward to our next meeting at 14.00 on the 6th of April. Anyone interested in joining us please phone Anne on 01621 850828 or Pat on 01621 891184, or speak to either of us at the monthly meeting for more details.

Walking

Unfortunately the weather was against us again - more ice and wind. Therefore we decided to postpone the February planned walk until March when we will attempt the Tillingham walk. We will meet on the 11th March at the Cap and Feathers at 14.00 for a circular walk around the area (about 4

miles) returning to the pub in time for their opening at 16.00.

All are welcome. Please phone me on 01621 850618 or email at e.m.e@talktalk.net if you can come.

Elizabeth

Weekender

Dates for the diary:

- Saturday 13th March with a 20.00 start. Quiz at West Maldon Community Centre, Sunbury Way, Maldon.
- Saturday 20th March. Coffee meeting at 10.00 at Olivers Nursery.
- Saturday 17th April. Coffee meeting, at 10.00 at Springstep Dairy, Mundon.

The quiz team is made up of any member of Weekenders who is free on the night and enjoys a challenge. I think we will have enough for two teams but please put your name on list if you are interested.

It has been suggested that Sunday lunch would be a good idea so I am looking into venues.

For information on the group please phone Jan Stroud on 01376 564289.

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
8 th March	8 Theatre 14.00	9 Luncheon Group 12.15 meet 11.30	10	11 Walking 14.00	12 Monthly Meeting 14.00	13 Week - ender Quiz at W Maldon CC 20.00	14
15 th March	15 Gardening 14.00 First Petangue this week at 14.00	16 Local History 14.00	17 Book Group	18 Computer 13.00	19 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00 Coastal and Marine 14.00	20 Week – ender Coffee at Olivers Nursery	21
22 nd March	22	23	24	25	26 Submit News Sheet text No Bird Watching Luncheon Group Painting 14.00	27	28
29 th March	29	30	31 Scrabble 14.00	1 Photography 13.00	2 Painting 14.00	3	4
5 th April	5 Bridge 14.00	6 Threads and Fabrics 14.00	7	8 Walking	9 Monthly Meeting 14.00 U3A Quiz 20.00	10	11
12 th April	12	13	14	15 Computer 13.00	16 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00 Coastal and Marine 14.00	17 Week – ender Coffee at Springstep Dairy Mundon	18
19 th April	19	20 Local History 14.00	21 Book Group 14.30	22	23 Painting 14.00	24 Bird Watching 04.30	25
26 th April	26	27	28 Scrabble 14.00	29	30 Submit News Sheet text Painting 14.00	1	2

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