



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No. 2011/3

March 2011

Contacts:	Peter Thorpe	Chairman	01621 850828
	Brenda Dewar	Secretary	01245 400492

From the Chairman

We are coming to the end of our second year as a U3A. It feels to me a bit like parenthood. In a baby's first few weeks we concentrate on the responsibility of "keeping-it-alive". Then, as the child grows into a toddler, we want to see that it becomes stronger and integrates with family and friends. Heybridge U3A is alive and two years on it is certainly stronger. This is entirely due to the enthusiasm of the committee, the COGs and the members. Like a young child our U3A is developing a personality of its own. All U3As operate under the same type of constitution, but each one is free to develop their own groups to suit the needs of their members. I hope that as our U3A grows older, we mature and embrace ever more subjects to study in our groups. I also hope that in our third year some of the newer members take an active interest in keeping our U3A fresh and lively by becoming COGs and starting new groups.

It is common for U3As to agree to participate in a "Shared Learning Project". We, as yet, have not been involved in such a project, but I have been approached (along with several other local Essex U3As) to consider the opportunity to work together in some shared learning at Stow Maries Aerodrome. Our Local History Group visited this First World War site last year and found it to be a fascinating and unique place. I would like Heybridge U3A to take part in this project (if it can get off the ground – so to speak!). I will not be able to attend the initial meeting but I have asked to be kept informed on developments. Jennifer Anning, the U3A National Coordinator for Shared Projects, has been approached and is enthusiastic about the possibilities. If you are interested please contact me. I am certain that I will want to play my small part in this big and important local project.

I am pleased that we have a nomination for Membership Secretary but disappointed that we do not have a nomination for Vice Chairman. The closing date for nominations will have passed by the time you read this, but a member of the Committee is prepared to undertake this office. The post has

nothing to do with the moralities of our members or of the "grip" that is required to do the job, just someone to stand in for the Chairman when he/she is unavailable!

As Peter Maggs began his talk about the first Chaplain of Wandsworth Prison (February meeting) I wondered what he could possibly tell us that we would find interesting. A few minutes into the talk and we were enthralled. Peter had discovered the Rev. Henry John Hatch (the said first Chaplain) during some research into his family history. Although he was a respected man of the cloth, the unfortunate Rev. Henry John suffered an extraordinary life including several trials at the Old Bailey involving himself and a young girl named Eugina Plummer. Peter illustrated his talk with an excellent Powerpoint presentation projected onto a large screen. You had to be there to appreciate what an unusual tale it was.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM. After the business part of the meeting, instead of a speaker, we will enjoy an afternoon tea together in the Plantation Hall, usual day and usual time.

Peter Thorpe

[\(thorpe101@btinternet.com\)](mailto:thorpe101@btinternet.com)

AGM

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

- Chairman's Address.
- Secretary's Report.
- Treasurer's/Annual Report.
- Programme Secretary Report.
- Election of Vice Chairman (No one has been nominated).
- Election of Membership Secretary (one nomination only; Jenny Parker).

Details of the Financial Report will only be available on entry to the AGM in March.

At the AGM only the Vice Chairman and the Membership Secretary positions will need to be elected by the members.

From the Editor

Did anyone see any difference to the February News Sheet? There was a mistake in the bottom line of the Diary. This has been corrected in this issue. I had invented a second 28 day month. The difference, a new printed format? We had a printer print the January News Sheet as well as the February News Sheet. This is really a clue to what was different. It was not the News Sheet itself but where it was brought together, collated, sent out for checking and from where the emails that contained the three attachments were electronically posted. I was away staying with my daughter. The time difference is plus 13 hours, day is night and night is day, summer is winter and winter is summer. I leave it to you to identify the country.

Since my return to Maldon, Christchurch, the second city, has been subjected to a devastating earthquake. The city that I was walking round only some few weeks ago has been severely damaged with serious loss of life and it is almost certain that some of the U3A people, (more next month when space allows) I met or had contact with, have been affected in some way. My thoughts, and no doubt yours, go out to them at this time. My daughter lives some 15 miles outside the centre of Christchurch and felt the shocks from the earthquake. Thankfully, my family and friends out there have not been physically affected.

A few years ago the exercise of editing and the emailing out of a News Sheet away from home would not have been practical. I must thank all those who undertook those little jobs, such as the collecting the news sheets, the posting of the News Sheets to those non email, non attending members etc. that I would have normally undertaken.

The problems and tribulations with dial-up and broad-band were brought home to me the hard way whilst away from home. With dial-up you can only deal with one issue at a time and sending out three attachments on nearly 100 emails was a long winded task. To compound the problem my daughter's internet provider, as is normal, allowed me to receive emails but not to send them. The sending of emails had to be carried out on a WEB browser page and I had to copy myself in on the sent version so I could keep my email filing in some semblance of order.

Have you looked at the Heybridge U3A web pages?

Those who receive this News Sheet electronically can view these pages now by clicking on the following link but make sure you are 'on-line' first:

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

We hope to expand these Web pages as the months progress throughout this year. We would welcome your comments on this new facility or on ways you would like it developed, content, layout etc. The Computer Group have not finalised their ideas. This News Sheet is yours, as is the content of the Heybridge U3A WEB site. Please let me know, or one of those who attend the Computer Group, your ideas.

This advance copy of this News Sheet is being circulated to all members who have provided their email addresses to the Membership Secretary. If you have an email address and have not received an emailed copy of this News Sheet please let me know, preferably by email (Email address below).

The Diary on the last page has been updated through to the end of April 2011. It is important that you, as COG's, members of Groups or just members of Heybridge U3A, keep me up to date. If anyone has an interesting story, relevant pictures or activity that relates in some way to The Heybridge U3A or the U3A movement as a whole, then please contact me.

Copy should normally be with me by the last Friday of the month. Please continue to send details to me, preferably by email, at ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk with 'Heybridge U3A' in the title. Alternatively talk to me at the Monthly Meeting.

Ian Newman.

Heybridge U3A Meetings

The next Meeting is on Friday 11th March starting at the normal time of 14.00, in the Plantation Hall, Heybridge. This month we have the AGM of the Heybridge U3A. There will not be a speaker on that day but, as last year, a small tea will be served to allow the mingling of members old and new.

In April we have Cliff Foster, on Legal Solutions and in May John Whittingdale, MP for Maldon, has agreed to speak to the Heybridge U3A. June will bring us to the Tower of London as seen through an eye of a child presented by Heather Leonard.

From the COGCo (Group Co-ordinator)

The majority of you will receive this News Sheet by e-mail prior to the AGM and the rest of you will have your copies to hand. As I have prepared a report on all the groups for the AGM this will be the shortest article I have written. If any of you did not manage to attend and would like a copy, please let me know.

The majority of you will receive this News Sheet by e-mail prior to the AGM and the rest of you will have your copies to hand. As I have prepared a report on

Group Names, Co-ordinator, Contact Telephone

Group Name	Co-ordinator (COG)	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
Family History	Lesley Pomphrett	01621 817733
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 & 892626
Threads & Fabrics	Anne Thorpe & Pat Newman	01621 850828 & 01621 891184
Walking	Elizabeth Eastwood	01621 850618
Weekenders	Marilyn Corbett	01621 817518
Wine Group	Jackie Jones	01621 817117

all the groups for the AGM this will be the shortest article I have written. If any of you did not manage to attend and would like a copy, please let me know.

However, I am in the process of sorting out a Ten Pin Bowling Group (this is at the planning stage) as there about 10 people interested.

A Wine Appreciation Group has just started up with a planning meeting held on 3rd March at the home of the new COG, Jackie Jones. Sheets for the next two meetings will be available at the AGM.

Several members are interested in a French Conversation Group so I am talking to various people to see if this can be set up.

Gill Thorne 01621 852294

gillthorne2@hotmail.co.uk

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. Following the March monthly meeting a new Membership Secretary will have been elected.

REPORTS

Art (Painting) Group

The painting group continues to grow to the point where we have occasionally had to fit extra tables and chairs into the Claydon Room to accommodate all who wish to participate.

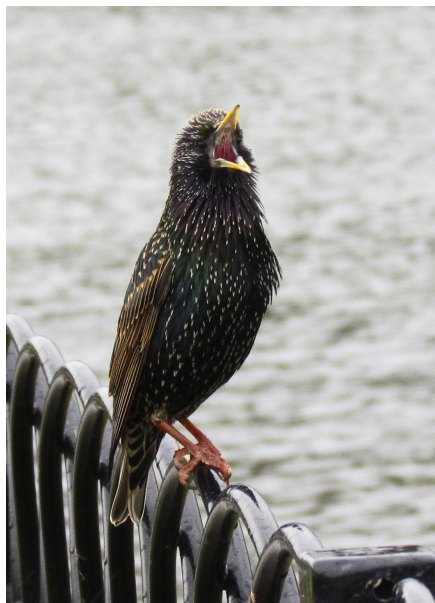
The highlight of February was not one return visit, but two from water colourist Jenny French. Jenny, a Maldon-based artist, got us to make sketches from two of her works, cottages and barges, then demonstrated how to choose and mix colours to create the desired outdoor effects.

Don't forget to visit the painting group's mini-exhibition at the March Annual General Meeting.

Gill Carpenter

Bird Watching

It was a lovely morning as we set off from Heybridge Basin to walk towards Osea Island with our binoculars ready to see what birds gather along the river's edge. As the tide was out we found it hard to



make out what were the little brown blobs were in the distance. We did see Dunlin, Redshank, Geese, Ostercatchers and Gulls.

Starlings
can sing:

Author: Jill
McGregor

We also heard a Skylark singing above us as we made our way back to Heybridge. It was a lovely walk and we hope to go again but, next time, I will get the tide right. Sorry folks.

The next bird watching group is on the 25th March with a visit to Chigborough Lakes. We will meet in the car park at 10.00. I am away so if you need more information Jill has kindly offered to help. Her details are jill.mcgregor@btinternet.com or telephone 01621 842595. We have been to Chigborough Lakes before. It is great area for birds and wildlife. Thanks Jill.

Maureen

Bridge Group

For details about any bridge duplicate session please contact me, Liz, on 01621 843208 or email me at lisbethbazzard@talktalk.net

Computer Group

Another lively meeting of the group took place on the 17th February when Peter opened the computer surgery and welcomed two new members. Everyone agreed that our U3A, although having been in existence for only two years, has made excellent progress. The projector purchased last year has been used by several groups, including our own, and has been invaluable. Peter demonstrated how the accounts are produced on the computer and figures automatically adjusted throughout the financial year. It was fascinating to see the ease with

which the annual Balance Sheet was prepared ready for distribution at the March AGM.

The cost of running our U3A has been kept low because the committee has communicated by email and use computers as much as possible to cut down on expense. You can now access the Heybridge U3A website via Google to read the News Sheets past and present using .pdf Adobe Reader.

Peter answered various questions and explained that URL stands for unique resource location, i.e. tells your computer the website you require.

We also briefly discussed Excel (Spread Sheets). This subject will be covered more fully at a later date.

As usual, we ran out of time, so any other queries can be brought up when we next meet on the 17th March at 1300.

See you then.

Audrey.

Coastal and Marine Group

The first outing of the year was a visit the Greenwich Maritime Museum. The main museum is by the river with the Royal Observatory being reached by walking up the hill. It was quite a climb but well worth the effort.

I have arranged for us to visit the Nottage Museum in Wivenhoe on Friday 18th March at 14.00. We shall be given a tour of the museum, which I gather is quite small. We will be given a talk explaining about the museum and the work they do. I think that afterwards it would be nice to find a tea-room in the village to enjoy afternoon tea! Please contact me if you are interested in joining us. I will be in contact with all those who would like to go to arrange car sharing.

Brenda.

01245 400492.

Discussion Coffee Morning

We had a pleasant couple of hours on 18th February at Maureen Baldwin's house. One of the many subjects we touched on was the problem we often come across when trying to find a suitably qualified and helpful plumber, electrician etc. or simply someone who is able to do small odd jobs around the home or garden. Sally suggested it, and we all agreed, that it would be a good idea to combine our local knowledge and perhaps draw up a useful list of names. Simply a name and telephone number that we would be prepared to pass on of good, reliable recommended traders. Using a name from the list would of course be at an individuals own risk as it would be a private

matter, also bearing in mind each of us may hold varying views on what is classed as a good job done! For ease of use we will keep this idea within our coffee morning group as it may not appeal to everyone. However, it would be most helpful and it would be appreciated if anyone would like to pass on the name of a trader they have used and can recommend. We look forward to our next coffee morning with Sally Bond as the hostess on Friday 18th March at 11.00. Details of this will be available at our next monthly meeting or you can telephone me, Margaret Brown, for more information on 01621 854885.

Family History Group

On 24th February, thirteen members met after the Christmas and New Year break. We had a very pleasant meeting and welcomed three new members. We talked about our future programme and format for our meetings. I also broached the subject of talking about our own personal memories and recording them not just for ourselves but for our children, grand children, nieces and nephews who might be interested in what our youth was like when we are not around to answer their questions. This is something the Blackwater Family History Group do and it makes for an interesting discussion, because other peoples' memories jog your own. For the March meeting perhaps our Group members would like to think about their "earliest memories" and we will see how we get on. This is only meant to be a short session of our meeting, just to get the memories working.

I am going to ask some members of the Blackwater Group if they will come and do some short talks for us and one of our members, Norman Grove, has offered to show us how to back-up our family history on CD/DVD at one of our meetings. In addition, Jean Butcher will be able to show us how she keeps her family history records. As soon as I am able confirm some dates I will let Group Members know.

I look forward to seeing everyone on Thursday 24th March at my house (10.30 to 12.30). I am sorry I am not able to attend the next Monthly Meeting. If anyone would like to talk about the Family History Group please phone or e-mail me.

Lesley Pomphrett

lesleypommy@hotmail.com

Gardening Group

The Gardening Group planning meeting for this year will be on Monday 7th March, 14.30 at Lesley's house. Please contact me, or Lesley Pomphrett, for her address in Tiptree. Hope you have plenty of ideas for this summer.

The programme for this summer will be with the next newsletter. Last week I met the COGs of Blackwater and SWF Gardening Groups, who asked me to tell you about a coach holiday to Devon on 10th – 14th May with a few places still available. There will be many gardens to visit, including Carol Klein's Glebe Cottage. The cost is £329 sharing or £60 extra for single. If you would like to go, I have some booking forms.

Pat Yates, 01621 892866 or pat.yates@tesco.net

Local History Group (LHG)

Our recent meeting at the Carpenters Arms was a lively one with our guest speaker Keith Lovell. Keith kept us entertained with anecdotes about a number of the people and places commemorated by Essex Blue Plaques or similar. We seem to have a great number of very notable people in our history.

In March we will be meeting in the Meeting Room of the **Plantation Hall [note new venue]** when our guest speaker will be Tim Howson, conservation officer with MDC. He is going to talk about 'a thousand years of windows in the Maldon District'. This is the talk we missed in January due to local flooding. Date for your diary: Tuesday 15th March at 14.00.

If you are interested in coming please contact Carol 01621 840339 or george.smeed@virgin.net or sign up at the general meeting.

Carol

Luncheon Group

The next luncheon date at The Prince of Wales in Great Totham will have past by the time you read this News Sheet.

Beth (Tel. 01621 853403)

Petanque Group

Well, here we are now in March and it is time to get your boules out of hibernation and polish them ready for 14th March. We are going early, if you remember, to have our lunch out at the Ship & Anchor and then continue with a game of Petanque on the Prom. The length of time depending on the temperature.

Hopefully, I will see you at the Monthly Meeting on March 11th to check how many are coming. If there are any people thinking of joining us, I can give you directions at the meeting. I also have two sets of three boules, which were given to us by a member. I can loan you a set to try out your skill and see if you would like to play regularly.

See you all soon.

Barbara Barbrook

Photography Group

The February meeting was spent discussing methods of saving, filing and organising digital photos using a computer. We also looked at the various methods of copying files onto CDs and how we can use the technique at home as a low cost way of transferring our selected photos onto the group's portable hard drive for storage.

We will have a small display of our digital prints at the AGM. Members are requested to print a couple of their favourite photographs and bring them to the March meeting so that we can include as many of them as possible on the display boards.

The next meeting is on 3rd March at 13.00 (lunch time!) in the Claydon Room. If you are interested in digital photography come and join in. Our aim is to enjoy improving our photographic skills.

Peter Thorpe

(thorpe101@btinternet.com)



Author: Ann Lees

Reading and Books Group

This month the read was *The Echo* by Minette Walters. This was a murder mystery where an unknown man was found dead in a woman's garage. Who was this woman and how was the dead man linked to her? How did this event and those people link to the itinerants living under the bridge? The narrator of the story a journalist by profession made it his mission to find out.

'A ripping yarn this was not', and several of our members struggled to finish the book. A rather ordinary somewhat formatted novel was the unanimous agreement of the group. Would we read this authors other books - unlikely.

We have a busy month in March with our usual group meeting on 16th March at 14.30.

We will also be attending the Essex Book Festival event at Maldon library where we will hear Esther Freud speak about her life as a writer. Most of us

read one of her books when we first started our group 18 months ago.

Prior to the Festival event we will all enjoy a meal together at Prezzo in Maldon.

Ann Lees

Scrabble

Tuesday 29th March in the Committee Room at Plantation Hall where officially we have the room from 14.00 to 16.00. In addition we have 30 minutes each end, for setting up etc., so please come as soon as you can after 13.30, but not before. We are really enjoying our new home, and had eleven players this month. There is still a scarcity of gentlemen though!!! Come on boys.

Ruth 01621 869865

Theatre

War Horse

All tickets have now been sold for the trip on 8th December 2011. I will let you know about coach transport from the Plantation Hall to the New London Theatre Drury Lane nearer the time. A thank you to everyone for their prompt payment. I am sorry it had to be so early but at least we won't have to pay so near to Christmas!

Stop Press: We are now entitled to a reduced price on our tickets of £41.75 instead of £49.75. Would people please let me know whether they would prefer a refund of £8 per ticket now or for me to put the excess towards the coach fare later?

A reminder from Janet to all those who put their names down for "Dinner Ladies": I have reserved 14 seats for the Wednesday, 22nd June evening performance at the Mercury Theatre, Colchester. The price is £15.00 per ticket and I would appreciate everyone bringing their cheques to the next meeting in March, i.e. Friday, 11th March. These should be made payable to Heybridge U3A Groups and given to Gill Bridle. Many thanks.

Gill Bridle

Threads and Fabrics

We continue to enjoy our stitching and knitting together along with tea and chat. Hopefully, we will have some of our work on display at the AGM. Do come and see us. New members are very welcome.

We meet on the first Tuesday of every month, please contact Anne or Pat for further details.

Anne Thorpe 01621 850828.

Walking

It was raining and rather muddy underfoot along some of the paths, but a hardy group enjoyed the

February walk around the fields and woods outside the grounds of Marks Hall. A return is planned when the Hall is open and conditions are brighter.

The March walk will be, as requested, along the river/canal from Tesco to Beeleigh and back past Beeleigh Abbey. Let's hope for better weather and less mud than Marks Hall!

We will meet at the seawall access from the Maldon Tesco car park on Thursday 10th March at 14.00 returning to the Tesco cafe for refreshments and to plan future walks. Please bring ideas and maps/plans if you have them.

Do let me know if you can join us, phone 850618 or email e.m.e@talktalk.net

Elizabeth

Weekenders

At our last monthly meeting at Peartree Pantry no definite plans were made but lots of ideas for future events were tossed about. One was a walk around Maldon entitled the 'Belvederes of Maldon'. We have a leaflet and a map and it was suggested that this could be done one Sunday followed by lunch at the Queens Head on the quay. It is not a long walk.

Stan's Coaches have trips to Canterbury on Wednesday 20th April, Cambridge on 28th April and 8th July a trip to Woodbridge followed by a 2 hour cruise on the River Deben and seats are presently still available for all.

The next date for the quiz night at West Maldon Community Centre is Saturday 19th March and the next Jazz Night at Wickham Bishops is Saturday 26th March. Witham Operatic Society are presenting 'Anything Goes' from 9th to 14th May and we usually try to book for the last night. I shall produce sheets for all these events for the next U3A Monthly Meeting on 11th March and you can then state your interest. Shall look forward to seeing you then and at our Coffee Morning at Perrywoods the following day.

Dates for your diary:

- March 12th : Coffee Morning at Perrywoods
- April 9th : Coffee morning at Olivers.

See you on 11th March.

Please contact Marilyn Corbett on 01621 817518 for further information.

On the Notice Board

If you are planning to put something on the notice board that is not group related and it is available prior to the first Friday of the month, the Editor would be pleased to include it in this section of the News Sheet.

The following items of News, including U3A Head Office Information Notices, appeared on the Notice Board at a recent Monthly Meeting:

- A Science and Conservation study afternoon, at Royal Botanic Gardens Kew is being held on Thursday 5th May. (see me for details).
- Jazz Appreciation Study Day next June in Leeds.
- South East U3A Forum Summer School; June 28th/July 1st. This is to be held at the University of Chichester. (see me for details).
- Geology; the U3A National meeting is to be held in the Peak District 6th/7th April 2011. (see me for details).
- National Summer Schools; Details available on the U3A web site. www.u3a.org.uk.

The following new items of News, including U3A Head Office Information Notices that will appear on the Notice Board on the 11th March:

- Positive Thinking - Be Happy! Thurs 19th May at Royal Society, London. Panel of Experts discuss! 1400-16.30: Cost £14.50 Ticket only.
- Behind the scenes at Kew Gardens. Learn more about their work- talks by specialists on their subjects. Thurs 5th May at Kew. 13.25 - 16.30: cost £12.50 Ticket only.

Every month we receive information from Head Office keeping our Group informed of events happening throughout the UK. So if you are interested and would like further information please contact me.

Brenda on 01245 400492

From other U3As

The Blackwater U3A has invited our members to a meeting on Wednesday 30th March at 14.00 at the West Maldon Community Centre for a talk by **Irene Rose**, the Manager of Maldon Citizens Advice Bureau on the work of the CAB. Please contact Dawn Mundy (Secretary) on 01621 854065 if you would like to attend.

From Members

If you have something, articles, comments, requests, that you would like to be included here in the News Sheet, please contact the Editor, Ian Newman. (ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk).

Diary of Meetings and Visits.

For details see articles and co-ordinators above.

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7th March	7 Petanque 14.00 Gardening 14.30	8	9	10 Walking 13.30	11 Monthly Meeting 14.00	12 Weekender Coffee at Perry Woods 10.00	13
14th March	14 Petanque 14.00	15 Local History 14.00	16 Book Group 14.30	17 Computer 13.00	18 Coastal and Marine 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00	19	20
21st March	21 Petanque 14.00	22	23	24 Family History 10.30	25 Painting 14.00 Bird Watching 10.00	26	27
28th March	28 Petanque 14.00	29 Scrabble 14.00	30	31	1 st April Committee Meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00	2	3
4th April	4 Petanque 14.00	5 Threads 14.00	6	7 Photography 13.00	8 Monthly Meeting 14.00	9 Weekender Coffee at Olivers 10.00	10
11th April	11 Petanque 14.00	12	13	14 Walking 13.30	15 Painting 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00 Coastal and Marine 14.00	16	17
18th April	18 Petanque 14.00	19 Local History 14.00	20 Book Group 14.30	21 Computer 13.00	22 Bird Watching 10.00 Painting 14.00	23	24
25th April	25 No Petanque Bank Holiday	26 Scrabble 14.00	27	28 Family History 10.30	29 Painting 14.00	30	1 st May