



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

# Heybridge U3A

## News Sheet No. 2013/2

### March 2013

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

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

#### From the Chairman

This is the last "Peter's Prattle" for our News Sheet front page and I am finding it difficult to put my feelings into suitable words. It has been an honour to have been your Chairman for the past three years and I have probably discovered a great deal more about myself as a result taking on the responsibility. I firmly believe that change is important to keep an organisation such as our U3A, fresh and vibrant. I consider the best way to do that is by regularly encouraging members with new ideas to join the committee. Our membership continues to grow and I take that as a sign that we must be providing activities our members want to attend. However there must be many new groups, visits or social events our members would also like to enjoy – it's just that we have not thought of them yet!

My job as your Chairman has been made easier by the support of a small, dedicated and efficient committee. You all know who they are, so I will not name them here. Each member holds a specific office and once a month reports to the committee. Any decision is always put to the vote. I can honestly say I found committee meetings were always very friendly. I thank each and every member for making them as enjoyable as any of our other interest group meetings.

The speaker at the February meeting was Brian Carline a retired head teacher with an acute sense of humour. His talk was based on his experiences as a teacher and his style was relaxed and observational. Remembering some of my school days, I wished that I had been taught by someone like Brian. On reflection, I probably was - I was just too rebellious to realise! Through an unfortunate oversight, there is no photo of Brian (I forgot my camera) so we will have to remember him by the many amusing tales he shared with us!



Drip

Author: Peter Thorpe

I am including as my last front page photo, an image of a brief encounter with a "drip", taken a few days ago for a

Photography Group assignment. The beautiful simplicity of the form can only be "seen" for a tiny fraction of a second, yet it happens to every drop of rain. With that thought, it's good-bye "From the Chairman".

I look forward to seeing you all again at the AGM on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Usual place, usual time.

Peter Thorpe: Email [thorpe101@btinternet.com](mailto:thorpe101@btinternet.com) or phone 01621 850828.

#### The Annual General Meeting 2013

The AGM will take place on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 14.00 as detailed in the Agenda(See below).

<p align="center"><b>HEYBRIDGE U3A</b>  <b>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.</b>          To be held on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2013 at 2.00 p.m.          At Plantation Hall, Maldon.</p>	
<b>AGENDA</b>	
1. Welcome address and apologies for Absence	
2. Minutes of the last meeting, and Adoption of Minutes.	
3. Matters arising.	
4. Chairman's Report.	
5. Treasurer's Report, presentation and adoption of the Accounts.	
6. Co-ordinator of Group's Report.	
7. Programme Secretary's Report.	
8. Election of Officers:	
Chairman	
Vice Chairman	
Treasurer	
Secretary	
Programme Secretary	
Social Secretary	
Interest Group Co-ordinator	
News Sheet Editor	
9. Any Other Business.	

#### Committee Nominations 2013

We will elect a new Chairman and several committee members at the AGM on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2013. Nomination Forms have been received by the Secretary and they are as follows

- |                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| • Chairman                    | Joyce Woodham    |
| • Vice Chairman               | No nomination    |
| • Secretary                   | Brenda Dewar     |
| • Treasurer                   | Angela Pleasance |
| • Programme Secretary         | No nomination    |
| • Social Secretary            | Patricia Smith   |
| • Interest Group Co-ordinator | Gill Thorne      |
| • News Sheet Editor           | Ian Newman       |

## From the Editor

As you can see there are still two positions on the committee where no one has come forward to fill them. I assume you are not sure what is involved or that you are a little reticent, but your involvement in helping to run our U3A is needed. Therefore speak to one of the committee members quietly before or after the AGM.

The 2013 Study Day is now in the process of being planned. For further information go to page 7.

The Diary on the last page has been updated to the end of April 2013. Please keep me up to date with any interesting stories, relevant pictures or anything that relates to The Heybridge U3A, inter-action with other U3As or the U3A movement as a whole.

Subscriptions for the year 2013 – 2014 are due to be paid by the end of March 2013. (See Membership Report below).

Ian Newman: Email [ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk) or phone 01621 891184

## Membership Secretary

Thank you to the many members who have already paid their 2013 subscriptions. Please remember to collect your 2013-14 membership card at the monthly meeting, or designate someone to collect it for you.

**If you wish to continue your membership and have not yet re-enrolled, you need to do so by 31<sup>st</sup> March.**

An enrolment form is attached to this News Sheet and copies will be available at the Monthly Meeting. Instructions on how to re-enrol are given on the form. If you do not wish to renew your membership, please let me know so that I do not bother you for payment. Many thanks to you all for your co-operation.

We were pleased to welcome one new member in February, taking our current membership to 172. If you are not a member and would like to find out more about the Heybridge U3A, you are welcome to attend a Monthly Meeting (held in the Plantation Hall on the 2nd Friday of each month at 14.00) as a guest. There is no need to book, just turn up and sign in.

Jenny Parker

For any queries regarding membership, please

Email [jennyparker14@hotmail.com](mailto:jennyparker14@hotmail.com) or phone me on 01621 843581. Or, If I am not available, please contact Angela by Email [angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk) or phone on 01621 850310.

## From the COGCo (Group Co-ordinator)

In just a few days I will have been the Group Co-ordinator for three years. I really cannot believe how quickly the time has passed, how many interest groups with which I have been involved and how many friends I have made. It is said that the U3A changes your life and this has been proved. I would like to say a big thank you to everyone involved with the Groups, not only the COGs but everyone taking part to make this U3A so successful. I have agreed

to stand again for another three years and (if elected) hope they will be just as interesting and friendly.

Gill Thorne: Email [gillthorne2@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gillthorne2@hotmail.co.uk) or phone 01621 852294.

## Group Names, Co-ordinator, Contact Telephone

Group Name	Co-ordinator (COG)	Telephone Number
Art (Painting)	Michael Kempen	01621 892974
Bird Watching	Maureen Lenoir	01621 869871
Coffee Morning	Margaret Brown	01621 854885
Computer	Ian Newman	01621 891183
Creative Writing	Angela Pleasance	01621 850310
Family History	Lesley Pomphrett	01621 817733
French Conversation	Jenny Parker	01621 843581
Gardening	Pat Yates	01621 892866
Italian	Janice Slight	01621 853393
Local History	Carol Greenhalgh	01621 840339
Luncheon	John Harrison	01621 854851
Patchwork	Anne Thorpe	01621 850828
Petanque	Barbara Barbrook	01621 855605
Photography	Peter Thorpe	01621 850828
Reading & Books	Ann Lees	01245 225153
Scrabble	Ruth Tyler	01621 856212
Solo Whist	Dave Mason	01621 858635
Technical Computing	Colin Mason	01621 854906
Ten Pin Bowling	Glenn Cousins	01621 816721
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

## Heybridge U3A Monthly Meetings

The next Monthly Meeting is on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March starting at the normal time of 14.00, in the Plantation Hall, Heybridge. This month, in addition to the AGM, we look forward to seeing you at our meeting when Roger St

Pierre will give a talk on "It isn't all champagne". The trials and tribulations of a travel writer.

A list of other potential subjects for the following Monthly Meetings are as follows:

- April 2013: Linda Holdaway's talk on the National Gardens Scheme.
- May 2013: John Frankland's talk on "Plotlands", including the land given to returning servicemen after both World Wars.
- June 2013: Dr Chris Thornton with interesting facts relating to our Local History of the Maldon area.
- July 2013: The Plume School Performing Arts.
- August 2013: Summer Tea.

## REPORTS

### Art (Painting) Group

Attendance has remained high at painting group meetings throughout the winter, regardless of what the weather has thrown at us. And as Christmas presents of new brushes, paints and other useful items of equipment have been much in evidence so far this year, it is clear the recipients are keen to put them to good use.

March is shaping up to be a special month, with two visits by our professional artist friend Jenny from Maldon. As well as demonstrating her personal painting skills for all to see, Jenny makes a point of helping each U3A painter by encouraging them to try new techniques. Her visits are eagerly anticipated.

Report by Gill Carpenter

For information about the group please contact Michael Kempen: Email [m.kempen@sky.com](mailto:m.kempen@sky.com) or phone 01621 892974.

### Bird Watching Group

We met at Old Hall Marshes to see what birds were as daft as us to be out on such a cold and windy morning. We did the short walk (about 3 miles). It was just right for us today, but without a bird hide there was no escape from the icy wind.

Before we left the car park a Green Woodpecker had been spotted followed by a Marsh Harrier; always great when we see any birds of prey.

As we walked on we had Skylarks singing overhead and Chaffinches singing from the hedgerows. Some of the group saw a Reed Bunting but the rest of us were busy watching the Ducks which included Teal, Tufted and Widgeon. There were also Black-tailed Godwits in with the hundreds of Greylag and Brent Geese on the marshes. They were making a terrible noise. We were not sure what startled them but when they flew off 'en masse' it was a great sight to see (See photograph at the top of the next page). As we made our way back along the sea wall to our cars we watched the waders on the water's edge which

included Redshank, Curlew and Turnstone. We enjoyed our visit today but hope to come back when the days are warmer.



**Not Just Brent Geese;**

**Author Jill McGregor**



**Just Brent Geese;**

**Author Jill McGregor**

Our March visit will be to Chigborough Lakes on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. If you would like to join us please contact me.

Maureen: Email [symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk) or phone 01621 869871.

### Computer Group

The first meeting of the computer group for 2013 was held in the Claydon Room on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February. The meeting was well attended with new members and old coming together. The afternoon session was aimed at the new members to the computer group giving them, where ever possible, one to one help with the learning process associated with their computers. This seemed to be very successful with the whole 2 hours whizzing by. So, if you would like to learn more about using your computer, learn among friends. Please do join us again at our next meeting which will be on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 14.00 in the Claydon Room, Plantation Hall.

Report by Tina Abeysekera

Ian Newman: Email [ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk) or phone 01621 891184.



## Creative Writing Group

The January meeting was small but happy. We set ourselves a project for the next month to write a poem of 7 four-letter stanzas in a defined form, which will be something new for several of us.

We meet at my house at 14:30 on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. The March meeting will be on the 27<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome but please contact me if you have not been previously.

Angela Pleasance: Phone 01621 850310 or email [angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk).

## Discussion Coffee Morning Group

Our February meeting was at Anne's house, good company and tasty refreshments. The next meeting will be on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March at Linda Etherton's house. We return to the usual time of 11.00.

Margaret Brown: Email [mbandmeg@btinternet.com](mailto:mbandmeg@btinternet.com) or phone 01621 854885.

## Family History Group

The meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> February was after the deadline for sending copy to the Editor. Therefore, I will report on our activities for both the February and March meetings in the April issue of the News Sheet.

We will meet again on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March between 10.30 and 12.30 at my house as usual.

Lesley Pomphrett: Email [lesleypommy@hotmail.com](mailto:lesleypommy@hotmail.com) or phone 01621 817733.

## French Conversation Group

It was no surprise to us as we were meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February to find that the topic for discussion was love and flowers. First Jenny gave us a list of common floral phrases in English alongside their mixed up French equivalents and we, as a group, had to sort them out. The easiest for me was the one where 'the grass is always greener on the other side, for the French 'it's greener elsewhere'. We are troubled by 'a thorns in our sides', they 'by them in their feet', we finally 'push up daisies', 'they eat dandelion roots'. Then things became odder, 'we put down roots', 'they throw out the anchor'. So far, so good, here 'things are as fresh as a daisy' but in France 'fresh as a fish'. Oh well, in a warmer climate perhaps fish smell all the sooner. Then we watched a BBC film on the busy times for a French florist. St. Valentine's Day was the most topical. Roses seemed to be equally popular on both sides of the channel. Attached to the TV lesson was a game of petanque where one has to click on the correct word to move the boule with little time to think. I am sure that our laughter impeded our accuracy (or at least that's my excuse).

Thank you Jenny for making our group such fun.

Pat Newman

Our next meeting is at 10.00 on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March. Please ring me if you would like to know more.

Jenny Parker: email [jennyparker14@hotmail.com](mailto:jennyparker14@hotmail.com) or phone 01621 843581.

## Gardening Group



Snowdrops at Marks Hall.

Author: Pat Yates

We had an impressive turnout of 30 people, which included the walking group, for the snowdrop walk at Marks Hall. It was a bit muddy in places, for which I felt bad as I had told people it wouldn't be, but the weather was fine and the snowdrops just beautiful. We arrived at exactly the right time this year. The tea and cakes afterwards were very good too. Don't forget the planning meeting on 13th March. If you need any details please contact me.

Pat Yates: Email [pat.yates@tesco.net](mailto:pat.yates@tesco.net) or phone 01621 892866.

## Italian Conversation

The Beginner's Italian Group met on 4<sup>th</sup> February. After a bit of relaxed general chat we went on to revise a bit of basic grammar, looking at the various words there are in Italian for the word '*the*', and how to know which to use and when. Whereas in French there are 4 words: *le, la l', les*, in Italian there are 7 different ways of saying '*the*'. We then went on to look at the 'articulated prepositions', where a preposition joins to the definite article, as in the French *du, de la, de l' des*. In Italian there are 5 different prepositions that join to the various ways of saying '*the*'. It seems horribly complicated at first, but there is a logic to it, so it soon becomes easier to remember how to form them, and it is worth the trouble to learn them as they are used in everyday situations. After that we wound down with the usual coffee, biscuit and a chat.

The next Beginner's Meeting is on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March.

The Advanced Italian Group met on 18<sup>th</sup> February. Half of the meeting was spent working from the book *Italia Dal Vivo*, reading through the passages and exercises. The other half of the meeting was spent practising our Italian by chatting. Working from a book is good revision and an ideal way of loosening up the mind and tongue, whereas chatting is always good as it forces you to think on your feet and form your own sentences, so both methods complement each other well.

The next Meeting is on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March.

Janice Slight: Email [janice.slight@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:janice.slight@tiscali.co.uk) or phone 01621 853393

## Local History Group (LHG)

Sholto Morton gave us an entertaining and interesting afternoon with his stories about the City of London and the origins of the street names there. We certainly learnt a lot (but will we remember it?).

Information about our next meeting (19th March, at 15.00) will be sent out soon and names will then be taken.

Carol Greenhalgh: Email [george.smeed@virgin.net](mailto:george.smeed@virgin.net) or phone 01621 840339.

## Luncheon Group

There is only one outing to report this month when thirteen of us met at 'The Ship' in Tiptree on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Real pub meals with a wide choice were provided. The blackboards for dessert had about a dozen choices; *lovely jubbly!*

Looking ahead to March, 'The Blue Bridge' in Writtle is booked for Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>. 'The Blue Bridge' is in the same ownership as 'The William B' in Hatfield Peverel. Sixteen names are already on the list. Typical menus will be on the table with the lists at the monthly meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

I have now booked 'The Dog & Gun', at Little Waltham for Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2013 with 14 names at present.

Any queries please speak to me on Friday, phone or e-mail.

John W Harrison: email [johnwharrison@sky.com](mailto:johnwharrison@sky.com) or phone 01621 854851.

## Patchwork Group

The next meeting of the Patchwork Group will be in the Claydon Room on Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> March at 14.00.

Anne Thorpe; Email [Anne.thorpe@btinternet.com](mailto:Anne.thorpe@btinternet.com) or phone 01621 850828.

## Petanque Group

Now that you have had one month of notice I hope that you have all polished your boules and are ready for March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting at 12.00, noon, at the Ship and Anchor (bottom of the High Street). We then go onto the Promenade at 14 00, (with any who missed the meal) ready to start playing. Let's hope that the weather is kind to us and that the sun will be shining.

Barbara Barbrook. Email [c.barbrook@sky.com](mailto:c.barbrook@sky.com) or phone 01621 855605.

## Photography Group

Our assignment for last month was to take a photo using a single source of light. The idea was to make the photographer aware of the effect of light on the subject of the photograph. It was interesting to see how we interpreted a "single source of light". In a classic U3A way, it started an impromptu debate on whether sun light through mist was from a single source or from billions of minute water droplets. The difference between the two interpretations was whether the finished photo had strong shadows and a well defined subject or a soft, low contrast dream like look. Photography has been described as

painting with light and understanding how to use the available light is the key to getting a pleasing shot.

Pat's photo of a smack lit from the side by a low sun is an excellent example of using light to emphasise both the sails and the surface of the sea. This is a shot you could hang on the lounge wall.



Smack CK21

Author: Pat Yates

Our next assignment is to take a photograph which is enhanced by the use of flash.

If you are interested in digital photography, come and join us. You will be made welcome whether you are completely new, experienced or just want to find your "photographer's eye". Our aim is to enjoy and to improve our photography, together.

Peter Thorpe: Email [thorpe101@btinternet.com](mailto:thorpe101@btinternet.com) or phone 01621 850828.

## Reading and Books Group

This month we discussed Bill Bryson's 'At Home' which was a book we kept for two months to read over the Christmas period and beyond. It was full of historic facts about houses and the people that lived in them from the time of his own home in Norfolk in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. He moved from room to room in his own house discussing the historical facts surrounding the use of that room. We were able to dip in and out of the book which, as is usual for Bill Bryson, is well written and researched.

However it was very thick and not always, we felt, pertinent to the story of his house. If however you want historical bits of information about the domestic life in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, this is the book for you.

The book for February was 'Where or When' by Anita Shreeve, a prolific storyteller from the USA.

It was not particularly liked by the group in spite of her overall popularity. The story of infidelity, betrayal, financial hardship and its effects being rather bland and predictable.

It told the tale of a Rhode Island estate agent who finds himself in financial trouble. Although faithfully married for many years he makes contact with a teenage girlfriend and they begin an affair. Powerfully drawn together once again these two characters are forced to come to terms with the nature of erotic love, betrayal and moral quandaries in an age of shifting values.



The moral of the story was that deception and betrayal can lead to damage that, for all those involved, can be catastrophic. A sad and at times pathetic story, with a dramatic twist leading to the death of two of the story's characters and a life of guilt and sadness for those left behind.

We are all looking forward to our trips (3 in all for some of us) to this year's Essex Book Festival events.

Here we will meet and listen to Rachel Joyce who will be talking about her new book 'The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry' at Brentwood Library, Martin Newell a poet, raconteur, and aging former rock god, who will be in Heybridge and Aline Templeton who following in the footsteps of Dorothy L. Sayers will be talking about her book 'Five Red Herrings And a Flock of Hens' at Witham Library.

Our next meeting will be at Plantation Hall on March 20<sup>th</sup> 14.30.

Ann Lees: Email: [annlees@yahoo.com](mailto:annlees@yahoo.com) or phone 01245 225153

### **Scrabble Group**

The Scrabble Group February meeting had not taken place at the time of writing. I will report on both the February and the March meeting in next month's News Sheet.

We have room for many more players, so if any members would like to come and give it a try they would be more than welcome. Our next meeting, in March, will be on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>, starting play promptly at 14.00.

Ruth Tyler: Email [r.tyler936@btinternet.com](mailto:r.tyler936@btinternet.com) or phone 01621 856212.

### **Solo Whist**

There was no meeting in February due to other commitments. The next Solo Whist group meeting will be on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March at Bill Oliver's home (01621 842157) at 14.00.

Dave Mason: Email [tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk) or phone 01621 858635.

### **Technical Computing Group**

A very interesting first meeting of 2013 took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> February. We began with a discussion on various new pieces of equipment that have recently come on to the market place. This was followed on to an explanation by Alex, on the pitfalls of attempting to buy a new desktop computer, (which he eventually did). Various comments were made on the group's individual experiences about buying computer parts. It was decided that, as a group, we would build our own computer. This would involve considerable research, discussing the various problems before proceeding to build a computer at future meetings, with the eventual aim of selling the finished machine.

Colin Mason: Email [colin@mason20.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:colin@mason20.wanadoo.co.uk) or phone 01621 854906.

### **Ten Pin Bowling**

Eight members (including two new to the group) met for our February meeting. Top score for one game was 117, with a

top score for the three games being 328. Average score for the day for one game was 87 and the two new members, who had not bowled for some time, exceeded this figure. A fun afternoon was had by all, so why not come along next time and have a go. There is no need to book in advance, just turn up. We meet next on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March at Madison Heights at 13.45 ready to start bowling at 14.00.

Glenn Cousins. Email [maureencousins@btinternet.com](mailto:maureencousins@btinternet.com) or phone 01621 816721

### **Threads and Fabrics Group**

It was good to be back with the group after missing a meeting and to see what everybody had been doing over the New Year break. A lot more than me! The best thing was that our more adventurous members have started thinking outside the box and putting skills learnt in other mediums to work with textiles. One, who is also a member of the painting group, was using a photo to recreate a painting in silk threads on plain canvas. We are looking forward to see it develop. Another is involved in a project to show historical events in the form of a tapestry. It was fascinating to see how she is experimenting with different ways of showing masonry. There was a partly made scarf being made with a braid like yarn and a quilt with a flower design, the room was as usual a riot of colour. The project featured in our photo this month is a cushion cover where the normal paper folding art of origami has been translated into material with beautiful effect. We are certainly staying with our original idea of helping each other to try new things. If our February meeting was a guide to the future, 2013 should be an exciting year.



Origami:

Author Pat Newman

Please contact Anne Thorpe or Pat Newman.

Anne by Email [anne.thorpe@btinternet.com](mailto:anne.thorpe@btinternet.com) or phone 01621 850828.

Or Pat by Email [ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk) or phone 01621 891184.

### **Walking Group**

Our next walk will be on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March around Mundon, visiting the old church (now restored) and the petrified oaks. We will meet at the pub car park at 14.00. where arrangements have been made to park. The walk is about 3 miles with 2 easy stiles to negotiate and hopefully

the ground will have dried out somewhat by then, but boots or 'wellies' will be needed.

Please let me know if you can join us.

Elizabeth: Email [e.m.e@talktalk.net](mailto:e.m.e@talktalk.net) or phone 01621 850618.

### **Weekenders Group**

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> February seven Weekenders went to see 'Sweet Charity' at the Mercury Theatre and it was an excellent performance, enjoyed by all of us. Sorry about the lack of information on car park charges. I will remember next time and save you a bit of cash. There are a few events coming up and I have notified all of you, I hope, by email about what is on offer. Those of you who have responded I will need the money for 'Oklahoma' and/or 'Opera in the Orchard' at the next U3A meeting. The cost for the show is £13.50 and for the opera £20.00. Any of you who were undecided but would like to join us I will require your money as well. Just a reminder that the April coffee morning at Hyde Hall will be **10.30**. On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March there is a Quiz Night at West Maldon Community Centre.

Dates for your diary:

- Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March; Coffee Morning at Oliver's Nursery at 10.00
- Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March; Quiz Night at West Maldon Community Centre.
- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April; Coffee Morning at Hyde Hall at 10.30 (Note time).
- Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April; 'Oklahoma' at Witham Public Hall.

Marilyn Corbett: Email [mars42@btinternet.com](mailto:mars42@btinternet.com) or phone 01621 817518.

### **Wine Appreciation Group**

There was no meeting in February. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March, when we will be comparing Sauvignon Blanc wines from Europe and New Zealand. The meeting will be at Tiptree, starting at 14.00.

Jackie Jones: Email [jachjones@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jachjones@tiscali.co.uk) or phone 01621 817117.

### **Association of Essex U3A's Study Day**

Currently, the Study Day Committee is trying to broaden the subjects on offer on the Essex Association of U3A's Study Day, which is now fixed for the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2013. A number of the same Leaders will be back, but the Committee would like to see new faces and subjects. The request for subjects and Leaders is progressing well. Session Leaders can, this year, confine their subject to one or two elements of their speciality. Please contact me if you need to discuss anything to do with the above or contact the secretary of the Study Group, Doug Harryman, at [doug.harryman@talktalk.net](mailto:doug.harryman@talktalk.net).

Ian Newman: Email [ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk) or phone 01621 891184

### **On the Notice Board**

The Chairman's letter from Head Office detailed forthcoming events – 'looking forward to 2013'. The inaugural Founders' Lecture will be on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April.

Our National Conference "Learn, Laugh and Live" and AGM is 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> September at the East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham. More details on these to follow.

A request for help: any member willing to complete a survey on their viewing habits in the 50's and 60's please contact by email [Margaret.obrien115@gmail.com](mailto:Margaret.obrien115@gmail.com).

### **Brandenburg Choral Festival**

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April, a performance will take place of Vivaldi's Gloria in the Queens Chapel of the Savoy. See the advert in Third Age Matters.

Of additional interest to U3A members may be the pre-concert Walking Tours starting at 17.30.

Tickets are available from the U3A National Office on 020 8466 6139 or by post from the U3A, Old Municipal Buildings, 19 East Street, Bromley BR1 1QE

Further dates when various Choral work will be performed include **13<sup>th</sup> March and 27<sup>th</sup> March**

Details are in the brochure or on the website [http://www.brandenburgchoralfestival.co.uk/fringe/festival\\_fringe\\_club.php?pg=1](http://www.brandenburgchoralfestival.co.uk/fringe/festival_fringe_club.php?pg=1)

Robert Porter

### **From Other U3A's**

#### **Maldon U3A Maritime Group**

Portsmouth Trip. 5<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> September 2013; Cost £476pp: Price based on 30 to 49 people in twin/double rooms. Single supplement £40 included four night's Dinner, bed & breakfast accommodation at the Portsmouth Marriott Hotel. Many trips, visits and excursions included.

For full details please contact Malcolm Case on 01245329435

### **Other Information**

The National U3A Magazine, 'Third Age Matters' has until now, been available for members to collect at the Monthly Meetings. The Third Age Trust has decided that this method of distribution will cease after Issue 5 (New Year (2013). Issue. In future, they will send copies, direct to members through the post. The Heybridge U3A Committee has decided to pay the additional charges for this service with no increase in this year's annual membership subscription. If you do not wish to receive the magazine, please advise the Membership Secretary and your name will be deleted from the mailing list.

For more information please contact Brenda.

Brenda Dewar: Email [brendadewar@btinternet.com](mailto:brendadewar@btinternet.com) or phone 01245 400492.

## Diary of Meetings and Visits

For details see articles and co-ordinators above.

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>4<sup>th</sup> March</b>	4 Beginners Italian 10.00	5 Threads 14.00	6 Solo Whist 14.00	7 Photography 14.00	8 Monthly Meeting 14.00	9 Weekender Coffee Olivers Nursery 10.00	10
<b>11<sup>th</sup> March</b>	11 Patchwork 14.00	12 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	13 Gardening 14.00 French Conversation 10.00	14 Technical Computing 14.00 Walking 14.00	15 Painting 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00	16 Weekender Quiz Night	17
<b>18<sup>th</sup> March</b>	18 Advanced Italian 10.00 Petanque 14.00	19 Local History 15.00	20 Book Group 14.30 Wine Tasting 14.00	21 Computer 14.00	22 Painting 14.00 Bird Watching	23	24
<b>25<sup>th</sup> March</b>	25 Petanque 14.00	26 Scrabble 14.00	27 Creative Writing Group 14.30 Luncheon	28 Family History 10.30	29 News Sheet Copy to Editor Bank Holiday	30	31
<b>1st April</b>	1 Bank Holiday	2 Threads 14.00	3 Solo Whist 14.00	4 Photography 14.00	5 Committee Meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00	6	7
<b>8th April</b>	8 Petanque 14.00 Patchwork 14.00	9 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	10 French Conversation 10.00	11 Technical Computing 14.00 Walking 14.00	12 Monthly Meeting 14.00	13 Weekender Coffee Hyde Hall 10.30	14
<b>15th April</b>	15 Advanced Italian 10.00 Petanque 14.00	16 Local History 15.00	17 Book Group 14.30 Wine Tasting 14.00	18 Computer 14.00	19 Painting 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00	20	21
<b>22nd April</b>	22 Petanque 14.00	23 Scrabble 14.00	24 Creative Writing Group 14.30	25 Family History 10.30	26 News Sheet Copy to Editor Painting 14.00 Bird Watching Luncheon	27 Weekender Oklahoma	28
<b>29<sup>th</sup> April</b>	29 Petanque 14.00	30	1 <sup>st</sup> May	2 Photography 14.00	3 Committee Meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00	4	5