



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No. 2/2014

March 2014

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

Your New Look

12 Page


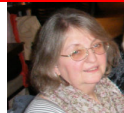







Heybridge U3A

News Sheet

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Your Committee

Chairman	Joyce Woodham	
	Woodham359@btinternet.com	
	01621 841066	
Vice Chairman	Election Pending	
Secretary	Election Pending	
Treasurer	Angela Pleasance	
	angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk	
	01621 850310	
Membership Secretary	Election Pending	
Events Secretary	Pat Smith	
	patcleary98@sky.com	
	01621 856569	
Group Co-ordinator	Gill Thorne	
	gillthorne2@hotmail.co.uk	
	01621 852294	
Speaker Secretary	Election Pending	
News Sheet Editor	Ian Newman	
	ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk	
	01621 891184	

Important Notice:

Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Committee Nominations 2014

There will be an AGM on the 14th March 2014.

Committee members are elected to stand for 3 years before requiring to be re-elected. A number of posts are open for election including The Secretary, Membership Secretary, Speaker Secretary and a Vice Chairman. Nomination forms were attached to the February News Sheet and were available at the February Monthly Meeting.

The names of Nominees and positions on the Heybridge U3A Committee are as follows:-

Secretary:

No Nomination Received.

Membership Secretary: Jenny Parker:

Proposed by Angela Pleasance and seconded by Margaret Hadley.

Speaker Programme Secretary: John Harrison

Proposed by Jackie Jones and Seconded by Kenneth Russell.

Vice Chairman:4

No Nomination Received.

Resolutions to be put to the 2014 AGM.

Resolution 1.

This meeting authorises the Committee, should they so decide, to reduce the membership fees of renewing members to a level recommended by the Treasurer and agreed by the Committee without further reference to an Annual General Meeting.

Resolution 2 (Change to the Constitution)

The amendment proposed is to Clause 7. sub clause (iii) of the Constitution is as follows

All Committee members, including Officers, shall serve for a period of 3 years. Retiring Officers and Committee members may stand for re-election provided that no-one may hold the office of Chairman or Vice-Chairman for more than 3 consecutive years without an intervening period of at least one year except that a retiring Vice-Chairman may stand immediately for the post of Chairman

(Amended text in bold)

Resolution 2. above, can only be implemented if it is past by two thirds of members present and voting (Clause 16.i. of the Heybridge U3A Constitution).

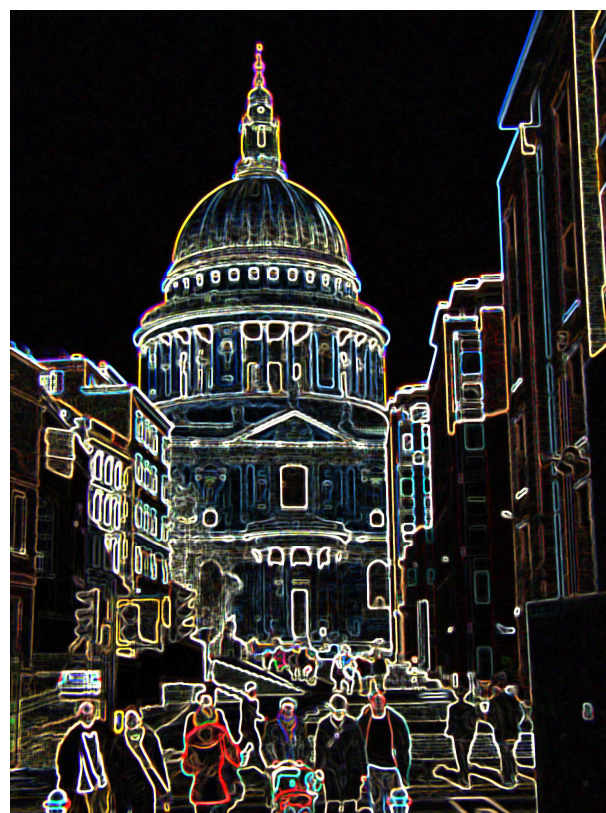
Making the Best Use of

Heybridge U3A Funds

The committee have discussed ways that we can best use the funds that are building up in our bank account. Before we can make any decision on this, we need to identify your needs and wishes. Some of the possibilities are subsidising groups who have until now organised themselves financially, collecting small sums to cover room hire, refreshments etc. Any COG or group member through their COG, who feel that some publication, piece of equipment, a specialist visit or anything else that would assist in the Aims of the this U3A should first identify the need of their group. We could buy equipment, but some of the larger items might have to be funded over several years as the funds available are not unlimited. There are other possibilities.

There will be a short question sheet at the AGM to gather your views. Anyone not able to attend the AGM can obtain a copy of this sheet from the Treasurer.

How is this Done?



Glowing Edges (St. Paul's)

Author – John Howchin

NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

From the Chairman

Despite all our pleas, we have yet to find someone who is willing to take on the position of Secretary on the Heybridge U3A Committee. This is an essential position if we are to continue as a U3A. It is not an onerous task, but a very necessary one (and we will give you lots of help!)

Please also see my report on the meeting of the Association of Essex U3As. (page 10.)

Joyce Woodham: phone 01621 841066 or Email woodham359@btinternet.com.

From the Editor

You will have noticed that the Heybridge News Sheet has increased from eight to 12 pages. The text size has been returned to a larger font, and the margins between the edge of the paper and the space between the two columns have also been increased. It is hoped that this will make the news sheet more pleasant to read. This has used two of the additional pages.

The Group Reports have remained in the central pages, with plenty of space for your photographs. The detailed report of Events currently being planned is now towards the end of the News Sheet.

The reports from the Committee Members can still be found in the first few pages with a contents column to aid in finding the parts which you wish to read first.

On the first page, the names of the Committee, their position and photograph can be found. As the next Monthly Meeting will also be the AGM, not all positions have been completed. The April edition will complete this part of the 12 page News Sheet. We have retained the back page for the Diary page, which has been updated to the end of April 2014.

If you have any comments to make about the changes, please let me know and, if you wish, the comments can be included in the next News Sheet as a letter to the Editor.

Please read the Membership Secretary's Report as it covers the renewal of membership for the year 2014 – 2015 and how and when those membership fees should be paid.

Please read the section on the AGM.

Please keep me up to date with any interesting stories, relevant pictures or anything that relates to The Heybridge U3A or the U3A movement as a whole. Continue to send details to me, preferably by email with 'Heybridge U3A' in the title. Alternatively talk to me at the Monthly Meeting.

Ian Newman: Email ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01621 891184.

Membership Secretary

Thank you to the many who have already paid their 2014/15 subs and to the few who have told me they will not be renewing. If you have not yet re-enrolled, you need to do so by the end of March. You can do this either at the monthly meeting or by post. If enrolling at the monthly meeting, please help us to minimize queuing by putting your completed form and payment in a sealed envelope marked with your name. This should be handed in when you sign in. Alternatively, please post your completed form and payment to me at the address on the enrolment form.

Membership cards will be available for collection at the following monthly meeting. If you would prefer your card to be posted to you, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope. Please show your new 2014/15 membership card to the COG of any group that you attend.

If you have already signed a Gift Aid Declaration, please remember to tick the box on the re-enrolment form to confirm that you are still a UK taxpayer. If you are a UK taxpayer but have not yet signed the Gift Aid declaration, please consider completing the Gift Aid Declaration (on the lower half of the re-enrolment form) if you are willing for Heybridge U3A to claim Gift Aid on your subscription.

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.

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 or phone me on 01621 843581. Or, If I am not available, please contact Angela by Email angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk or phone on 01621 850310.

From The Treasurer

I will be giving a full Treasurer's Report to the AGM on Friday 14th March. A summary of this presentation will be in the next News Sheet.

Angela Pleasance:

Email angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 01621 850310.

From the COGCo (Group Co-ordinator)

We are approaching the end of another year with the AGM due shortly. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the CoGs for their hard work during the past year.

Gill Thorne: Email gillthorne2@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01621 852294.

Events Secretary

The following section contains a brief resume of events that have been booked for this year. Further details can be found on page 9.

- Royal Opera House, Thurrock: There are two places left for our visit on Friday April 25th to the Royal Opera House workshop at Thurrock. Cost £7.00.
- Royal Greenwich: On Friday May 30th a guided tour, including the Queen's House, Cutty Sark together with a Cable Car ride.
- Ely: A visit on Tuesday June 17th to the beautiful city of Ely.
- Royal Naval Dockyards at Chatham: A visit to the 'Ultimate 1940s Nostalgia Event' at Chatham on Saturday September 20th.

In addition a trip to the Thursford Christmas Spectacular 2014 has been suggested, but not yet booked.

Heybridge U3A Monthly Meeting

The speaker at our next Monthly Meeting, on the 14th March will be Bill Pirie, a retired Essex Policeman, with a Title 'Stories from a retired policeman'. The venue, as usual, will be Plantation Hall, Heybridge, starting at 14:00.

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

- 11th April: Leila Sullivan will give a talk on "Her Irish Victorian Grandparents".
- 9th May: Kathleen Morgan, will talk about Nelson Mandela and his work.
- 13th June: William Tyler on "A tangled romance: Edward and Mrs. Simpson"
- 11th July: Linda Stratmann: A talk on Essex Murders



Or would you like to Dive
into another Group.
Then Read on.

GROUP REPORTS

Art (Painting) Group

February was a very busy month, with another inspiring session led by visiting artist Janet Reid and more painters packing into the Claydon Room than ever before.

Sadly, it appears we must close the door to further new members, at least until a few of the current ones decide to move on, which does happen from time to time.

Meanwhile, Janet's influence still casts a spell, with several members continuing to produce splendid animal and bird portraits following her guidance regarding colour and brush strokes.

Report by Gill Carpenter

For information about the group contact, Michael Kempen: Email m.kempen159@btinternet.com or phone 01621 892974.

Bird Watching Group

The bird watching had to be cancelled this month. It should have been on Friday morning but weather was not good and only three of us could make it this month so we made a unanimous decision to cancel.

The visit next month has not yet been fixed. Contact Maureen later in the month for details.

Maureen: Email symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01621 869871.

Computer Group

The Computer Group met in February as usual on the third Thursday of the month. We continued looking at Word, building on last month's study of opening up a Word document, saving it and commencing the production of a Table. We learnt the method of choosing the number of columns and rows, how to delete them or insert additional rows or columns.

Following a tea break we started helping each other on a one to one basis to solve our individual problems or those of our neighbour.

The March meeting will look further into Tables, what features are available and the uses that they can be used.

If you would like the help of a more experienced computer user to enable you to get more from your own computer please come along to our next meeting. The Computer Group Meetings are held in the Claydon Room in Plantation Hall on the third

Thursday of each month when you will be made welcome. Just come along.

Ian Newman: Email ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01621 891184.

Creative Writing Group

Once we had finished talking about sewing we had a lively, if emotional, meeting reading several stories on the subject of marriage. One was a true story that we felt privileged to hear, another a brilliant combination of actual incidents. I was again impressed with the imagination showed by many of our group. That imagination might be stretched when we write our next assignment - "My trip to the moon". I will be in touch with group members about the date / venue of our next meeting.

Angela Pleasance: Phone 01621 850310 or email angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk.

Discussion Coffee Morning Group

The February coffee morning was held at Jean Murray's house where we were made very welcome and chatted over tea, coffee and biscuits. Our next meeting will be at Anne Newson's house on Friday 21st March at 11:00.

Margaret Brown: phone 01621 854885 or Email mbandmeg@btinternet.com.

Family History Group

At our February meeting we welcomed two new members. We talked about starting your family tree and how some of the group keep records on computer and others use paper to record information. We also talked about WW1 again and Dorothy talked about the pack she is producing for the younger members of her family concerning her relative's WW1 involvement.

With the latest members joining I am sorry to say that for the time being the group is full.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 27th March 10.30 to 12.30 at my house as usual.

Lesley Pomphrett: phone 01621 817733 or Email lesleypommy@hotmail.com.

French Conversation Group

Outside the day was as usual, for this year, dreary, but inside there was a lot of laughter. We had started by talking about what had happened to us since our last meeting. One of the members of the group had been on holiday in

Australia which brought back memories for others who had visited the same sights.

We then read an article about the French President and his domestic problems. Because the invitation for his US state visit included the name of his recently discarded partner, the White House was forced to change its seating plan for dinner when he turned up alone.

Finally, we looked at a series of short pieces on Love. The first of which was a lady of 90 shopping at the chemist for necessities for her honeymoon with her new husband of 95. For the curious, yes she was buying V.....!

Our meetings are held on the second Wednesday in each month starting at 10:00.

Report by Pat Newman.

For further information please contact:

Jenny Parker: email jennyparker14@hotmail.com or phone 01621 843581.

Gardening Group

The Snowdrop Walk this year took place at Hedingham Castle on Sunday 9th February. The report of that visit can be found as part of the Walking Group Report.

The Gardening Group Planning Meeting will be at my house on Monday 17th March at 14:00. Please come and give us your views on where you would like to go this year. If you have an idea and can't come that day, e-mail it to me before the meeting so it can be discussed.

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

Italian Conversation

Unfortunately due to my husband's on-going treatment I have still not been able to resume the Italian meetings. I shall advise the members when the next meetings will take place. I did, however, send the members a crossword so they could practise their knowledge of verbs in Italian. I also sent them a link to a vocabulary tester programme that is free to download. I can provide some files they can use to test various aspects of their Italian, including nouns, adjectives and various tenses of verbs.

Janice Slight: Email janice.slight@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01621 853393

Local History Group (LHG)

We enjoyed an afternoon with Brenda and Elphin Watkins and a talk about 'When the Time Team came to St. Osyth's'. I had no idea how short a time is available to film for these programmes – just three days, with three film crews and a lot of local support. In such a short

time, a great deal was found out about the history, the architecture and the archaeology of St. Osyth's and we were treated to an overview of the work involved and the findings, which were not entirely as originally anticipated. Elphin and Brenda will be back with us later in the year talking about work at Maldon's All Saints' Church.

Clive 'Mac' McPherson will be at our March meeting to talk about 'Osea Island and the Kronstad Raid'. As usual for our talks, this will be in the Committee Room of the Plantation Hall at 15:00. Please get in touch with Carol if you wish to join us as numbers are limited.

We start getting out and about in April, visiting the Plotland Cottage and Museum at Laindon Hills. In May, we are going to the 'Secret' Nuclear Bunker at Kelvedon Hatch.

More information about these at the Monthly Meeting or contact Carol.

Carol Greenhalgh: phone 01621 840339 or Email george.smeed@virgin.net.

Luncheon Group

There were fifteen of us who met at 'Bartellas' in Margaretting on Friday 28th February.

Mr Bartella has been running several establishments in the Chelmsford locality including 'Pontlands Park' in Great Baddow, 'The Ivy Lodge Hotel' and 'Bartellas Restaurant & Function Suite' in Margaretting for more than 40 years that I know. The restaurant has about 100 covers on two levels, the lower being a conservatory layout, with tables laid out in a spacious and pleasantly light configuration. The Function Suite upstairs can accommodate more than 200, an impressive establishment.

With a wide selection of dishes available, and three courses for the price of two, the lunch was excellent value and appreciated by all. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their meal, overall a lovely experience.

I have booked The Blue Strawberry in Hatfield Peverel for the 28th or 21st (tbc) March 2014 at 12.30 which is well known and liked by many of us. Parking is limited there so maximum car sharing is advisory to minimise walking from the public car park by the parade of shops.

Take note of the pricing for our April lunch on the 25th when we will be revisiting 'The Red Cow' in Writtle for their £5.99 Fresh Fish and Chips & Glass of Wine meal.

The list will be in the Committee Room during the 14th March Monthly Meeting.

New members to Heybridge U3A, as well as existing members, are very welcome to join us

Any queries please speak to me at Friday's meeting, phone or e-mail.

John W Harrison: email 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 10th March at 14.00.

Anne Thorpe; Email Anne.thorpe@btinternet.com or phone 01621 850828.

Petanque Group

When you read this it will be one week before the weekly Petanque sessions on Maldon Promenade commence for the summer season. To locate the Petanque terrain, you enter the Promenade Gate from the bottom of Mill Road, you follow the tarmac path to the three kiosks, but before you get to them, the Petanque terrain is on the right. There are two park benches available which you may use to watch our games. Please introduce yourselves to us if you are interested.

We meet every Monday from 14:00 to 16:00. (unless it is raining). You may watch or join in. It is fun and good exercise, but not strenuous. So why not give the game a go. You are welcome.

Barbara Barbrook. Email c.barbrook@sky.com or phone 01621 855605.

Photography Group

We are settling into our new meeting venue and appreciating being able to view our photographs in their glorious colours. The simple ability to shut-out bright daylight is vital, if projected images are to be presented to an audience in a way which properly represents the author's intentions. Enlarged, mounted photographic prints look best in daylight and images on computer screens look best in subdued indoor lighting, but projected images "pop" on a large screen in a darkened room.

Our assignment for February was to enhance/improve an existing image, using computer editing techniques. Not everyone is happy (for many different reasons) about using a computer to modify an image and I was stunned at what our members had done with their pictures. There is an excellent "free" editing programme called Picasa and those members who had used this programme had discovered how to use it to great effect. The other popular programme (payment required) is Photoshop and some of our members use this more complex programme to edit their photos. We had to show the original image first followed by the modified version and explain what we had done to produce the finished

picture. Many of the original images had been morphed into artistic riots of colours with little resemblance to the original photo. This very stimulating meeting did not help to solve my conundrum - is photography art or science?, but it did prove that I am as far from a conclusion as I ever was.

The February weather was not very exciting, consequently, the members decided that the assignment for March was to be "Wet". I am certain that our members will find some interesting and original interpretations to that challenge.

If you want to discover your "photographer's eye", please come along and join us, we have plenty of room. Whether you are completely new or experienced, you will be welcome. Our only aim is to enjoy our photography, by sharing and improving our skills together.

Peter Thorpe: Email thorpe101@btinternet.com or phone 01621 850828.

Reading and Books Group

In February we discussed our latest book, 'One Moment, One Morning' by Sarah Raynor. It tells of a particular morning on the 7.44 train from Brighton to London. It is packed with passengers on their everyday commute to work when suddenly everything changes. A man has a heart attack and cannot be resuscitated. For three people on the train, life will never be the same again. Unfortunately many of us found the book extremely predictable, and the characters a series of stereotypes.

We have planned a visit to the Essex Book Festival event at Maldon on 18th March for a talk by the writer Michael Dobbs. We have been attending these events for the past four years in various locations in Essex, so look forward to an interesting evening.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 19th March in Plantation Hall at 14:00. Further information from Carole Overy.

Email: caroleovery@sky.com or phone 01621 893450.

Scrabble Group

Good company, mental stimulation, tea and biscuits - the afternoon goes so quickly when the Scrabble boards come out. Small words or long, common or obscure words, high score or low - it doesn't matter so long as you're having fun. There are spare boards so new people will be very welcome. We meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 14:00 in the Committee Room at the Plantation Hall.

Linda Etherton: Email ethertonbikes@aol.com or phone 01621 843702

Solo Whist

On Wednesday 5th February, three of us played the three handed game using only three suits not four. Again this seems a very different game with a lot more hands called and won. Tina provided us with a lovely Victoria sponge with tea or coffee as required. Our next meet is on Wednesday 5th March with, I think, possibly five taking part

Dave Mason: phone 01621 858635 or Email tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk

Technical Computing Group

The last meeting of the group was held at my house, where we discussed the different methods of backing up a hard drive. This is a subject that the group talks about at most meetings. Various methods are to be tried before the March meeting where the results will be analysed. A demonstration was held to show the most effective way of backing up Outlook files to either the desktop, or a memory key.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 13th of March, at the usual time of 14:00.

Colin Mason:

Email colin@mason20.wanadoo.co.uk or phone 01621 854906.

Ten Pin Bowling

Our Tuesday meeting was attended by thirteen members using 4 lanes; one of 4 and three of 3. We were pleased to welcome Glenn for a visit who updated us with news of his move. He also was the top scorer of 154 with a "turkey" – 3 strikes in a row!

The Monday meeting was attended by eleven using 3 lanes. We were pleased to see Toni on a visit from her new home in Thorpe Bay. The top scorer on this occasion was Simon with a top score of 131. This was our last Monday game of the winter as Petanque begins again in March and most of us will be outside again on Monday afternoons enjoying what we hope will be a good summer!

We will however meet every second Tuesday for our regular game of Ten-Pin bowling at Madison Heights and always happy to see new members.

Our April meeting will however be slightly different as we have our annual Easter lunch at Izumi. This means we will bowl from 10:00 for a couple of hours followed by lunch rather than play on a full stomach!!

Dates for your diary:

- Tuesday 11th March – 13.45 to start bowling at 14.00.

- Tuesday 8th April – Madison Heights 10:00 start followed by lunch at Izumi: Those staying for lunch; Names to me please by the March Monthly Meeting (if possible).

Lynne Morrison. phone 01621 891288, Email lynne-morrison@supanet.com or mobile 07771 880757

Threads and Fabrics Group

Christmas was still a popular theme at the February meeting. Our host Sue's fabric Christmas trees were much admired - an inspiration to all for the 2014 festive season!

Although numbers were down for this meeting as so often happens in winter, it was an interesting get-together with several new projects being undertaken.

We also had an update from Anne on the progress of the Stow Maries World War I air museum embroidery, which is nearing completion.

Report by Gill Carpenter

This month's picture, below, shows one of Gill's embroideries, finally finished and framed after nearly two years of slow progress.



Church Window: Author - Anne Thorpe

The meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month starting at 14:00.

Pat Newman. Email ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01621 891184.

Walking Group

Just seven members of the groups (Walking and Gardening) took advantage of a break in the weather to visit Hedingham Castle to see the snowdrops, and we were rewarded with a spectacular display. Snowdrops in profusion

covered the banks of ground around the keep remains.



Well Wrapped up for the Snow Drop Visit.

After two circumambulations of the grounds, we watched the falconry display then retired into the keep for much-appreciated tea and cake.

The next walk will be on 13th March at Tillingham. We will meet at the car park off North Street opposite the church at 14:00. Please let me know if you can join us.

Elizabeth: Email e.m.e@talktalk.net or phone 01621 850618. (Mobile 07581029816).

Weekenders Group

Due to holidays there is no Weekenders Report this month. The dates for your Diary are repeated from last month.

Dates for your diary

- Saturday March 15th at Maldon Golf Club at 10:00.
- Saturday April 12th at 'Salty Dogs', Goldhanger at 10:00.
- Saturday 10th May at 'White Elm Nursery' formerly 'Horseshoe Nursery', Bicknacre at 10:00.
- Saturday 14th June at 'Poplar Nursery' Marks Tey at 10:00.

For further details please contact Marilyn.

Marilyn Corbett: Email mars42@btinternet.com or phone 01621 817518.

Wine Appreciation Group

At the recent planning meeting we managed to get our diary filled up to July 2014. This year we are again trying to mix visits to Wine Merchants, Vineyards and social get togethers at Tiptree.

We have booked 5 people to attend a free wine course at Magestic Wines in Colchester on Tuesday 25th March, starting at 17:00. It is possible that the company may be arranging

another course during the year as numbers are limited and they seem to get booked very quickly, so members unable to make this visit may get another chance later in the year.

On Wednesday 16th April, we will be meeting at my house in Tiptree to discover all about wines from Chile. Then on 21st May, we are hoping to make a return visit to the English Wine Company at West Street Vineyard, in Coggeshall. Last year we visited there in July and enjoyed afternoon tea with cake and a glass of sparkling wine. This year the visit will be arranged for a talk on the vineyard, together with organised and informed tasting and hopefully a tour of the vines, weather permitting. More details and prices in the next month's News Sheet.

There will be no meeting in June, as it is a popular holiday month but we have booked a tour and talk of Bardfield Vineyard on Wednesday 16th July. More details and prices in the next month's News Sheet.

A lot of our meetings are visits and anyone from Heybridge U3A is welcome to come along to any of these as we often need a larger group to get an organised tour, so if you want an interesting afternoon out learning about the way wine is produced and gaining knowledge in different types of wine, please contact me anytime.

Jackie Jones: Email jachjones@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01621 817117.

Detail of Events:

Further Information and Details

Royal Opera House.

We will make our own way on Friday April 25th to the venue and meet together either for lunch at the Fleet pub at 13:00 or at the venue at 14:45 to begin the guided tour at 15:00. We look forward to watching the artists design and make amazing stage scenery and props. The cost is £7.00. I will bring tickets and maps to the April Monthly Meeting. I will send to members who cannot attend this meeting.

Royal Greenwich.

We start with a coach journey on Friday May 30th from Plantation Hall at 08:30 to 'The Blackheath Gate' at Greenwich Park, arriving at 10.00 to meet our Guide. There will be time for morning refreshments, before a short walk through Greenwich Park to take a tour of the Queen's House and a quick peek at the Maritime Museum. There is a cafe in the Museum. After lunch we spend time exploring the Cutty Sark. Next a short coach transfer ready for the return flight on the Thames Cable Car from the O2 to the Royal Docks

and back without getting off. There will be time to buy refreshments before leaving for home at 17:00. The total cost is now £37.00pp which includes all but refreshments.

Ely.

For our trip to Ely on Tuesday June 17th the coach will leave Plantation Hall at 09:00 and have until 16:00 to please ourselves as to what we see and do. The wonderful cathedral known as the 'ship of the fens' is a must for most visitors and some will enjoy a stroll by the river and perhaps a visit to the weekly market. There are plenty of excellent places to eat in the city and the house where Oliver Cromwell lived will be open that day, admission £4.10 - (2013). The cost for coach only, will be £15.pp.

Chatham

The trip to Chatham Dockyards takes place on Saturday 20th September, the weekend of the annual '1940s Nostalgia Event'. It will be like travelling back in time, with 1940s cars, aeroplanes, fashion, music, street scenes, - everything but the war! The more general Docklands exhibitions will also be open to us and there are a number of places to eat at the Dockyards. This time we leave Plantation Hall at 08:30. Return time to be confirmed. Cost £24.50pp.

The Thursford Christmas Spectacular 2014.

This extremely popular event should be booked very soon if we are to go this year. A number of members have already shown an interest. Tickets for the show costs from £30.00 to £38.00 and the coach will be approx £15.00pp. The event takes place from 8th November till 23rd December.

Please sign up for the events and contact me with any queries.

Pat Smith; Email patcleary98@sky.com or phone 01621 856569

Association of Essex U3As

On the morning of 28th February I Chaired the Essex U3A Association Spring meeting. Approximately half of the association members were represented. Adrian Buckley, the Regional Representative spoke about the Association as a whole. He is concerned that membership of the U3A is growing across the country so quickly that it is becoming too big and impersonal.

I am hoping that a new web-site will resolve some of the communication difficulties. It is designed for the whole of the region and will have links for each county. In turn, each county will have links with every U3A within that county. Sounds complicated, but it will mean that you will be able to access information about activities in

local U3As, with the potential of joining in with their groups and activities.

The Chairmen of the four U3As in Maldon, Blackwater, Heybridge and Limebrook gave a most amusing history of the development of each of their U3As. They did this to show how it is possible for U3As to work together in a very positive and supportive way. For example, members of any of these U3As can join interest groups, if there is space available, in any of the other U3As, without having to pay a membership fee.

We felt that this was what should happen across the county, and hoped our example would encourage further sharing.'

The dates of future meeting yet to be confirmed.

Joyce Woodham phone 01621 841066 or Email woodham359@btinternet.com

Co-operation between Maldon Area U3As

A meeting was held on Friday 7th March to further the ability of co-operating Maldon U3As to enable the members of one U3A to attend group meetings of another U3A. Further details to be reported in next month's News Sheet.

Association of Essex U3A's Study Day 2014

There has been no news to confirm that a new Planning Committee has yet been assembled. We will keep you informed if and when news on this subject is forthcoming.

Ian Newman: Email ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01621 891184

On the Notice Board

A Great Day Out

U3A is pleased to announce an association with the Royal Horticultural Society. Discover glorious gardens and wonderful flower shows with the RHS and enjoy a group discount for all these events.

RHS gardens at Wisley and Hyde Hall are included along with the great flower shows such as RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show in July and the Chelsea Flower Show in May. BBC Gardeners' World Live in June is also included.

For many more details please contact Pat Yates on 01621 892866 or see the notice board.

U3A Spring Events 2014

U3A members are invited to great events this Spring. Something for everyone!

February onwards for U3A groups – Brooklands Museum Weybridge. Explore the jet age and beyond with a special presentation for U3A Groups

– VC10 and her Royal Connections. Groups of minimum 20, and tickets cost £15. Various dates.

March 24th - U3A Explores Science at the Royal Institute, London. Tickets £20 including refreshments.

March 27: - National Gallery London, Best of British –Exploring 18th Century painting. Tickets; £18.

April 30: - Spring Concert at the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy. Jewels of the 20th century British Choral Music. An afternoon concert – tickets £18.

May 21: - U3A staying Sharp at the Royal Society – “Plug in, Switch on, Rewire!” Can technology rewire your brain for greater fulfilment? More information later.

Details of all the above are on the U3A web site – u3a.org.uk

For more information contact Brenda on 01245 400492, or see the notice board.

From other U3As

Maldon U3A Drama Group is looking for new members. They meet each month at 7 Tideway, usually on the second Tuesday. They read through plays, make up scripts, and act them. They are keen to have more men as well as women members. To join this U3A drama group please phone Sandra Dudley on 01621 843291.

Group Name, Co-ordinator, & Contact Phone Number

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 891184
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	Carole Overy	01621 893450
Scrabble	Linda Etherton	01621 843702
Solo Whist	Dave Mason	01621 858635
Spanish	Dave Wilson	01621 840945
Technical Computing	Colin Mason	01621 854906
Ten Pin Bowling	Lynne Morrison	01621 891288
Threads & Fabrics	Pat Newman	01621 891184
Walking	Elizabeth Eastwood	01621 850618
Weekenders	Marilyn Corbett	01621 817518
Wine Group	Jackie Jones	01621 817117

Diary of Meetings and Visits

For details see articles and co-ordinators above.

Week Starting	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
3rd March	3	4 Threads 14.00	5 Solo Whist 14.00	6 Photography 14.00	7 Committee Meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00 Gardening	8	9
10th March	10 Patchwork 14.00	11 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	12 French Conversation 10.00	13 Technical Computing 14.00 Walking 14.00	14 Monthly Meeting 14.00	15 Weekender Coffee Maldon Golf Club 10:00	16
17th March	17 Gardening 14.00 Petanque 14.00	18 Local History 15.00 Book Festival	19 Book Group 14.00	20 Computer 14.00	21 Painting 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00	22	23
24 th March	24 Petanque 14.00	25 Scrabble 14.00 Wine Tasting 17.00	26 Creative Writing Group (Date to be confirmed)	27 Family History 10.30	28 News Sheet Copy to Editor Painting 14.00 Bird Watching TBC Luncheon (tbc)	29	30
31 st March	31 Petanque 14.00	1 st April Threads 14.00	2 Solo Whist 14.00	3 Photography 14.00	4 Committee Meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00	5	6
7th April	7 Petanque 14.00	8 Ten Pin Bowling 10.00	9 French Conversation 10.00	10 Technical Computing 14.00 Walking 14.00	11 Monthly Meeting 14.00	12 Weekender Coffee Salty Dogs, Goldhanger 10:00	13
14th April	14 Patchwork 14.00 Petanque 14.00	15 Local History 15.00	16 Book Group 14.00 Wine Tasting 14.00	17 Computer 14.00	18 Bank Holiday	19	20
21st April	21 Bank Holiday	22 Scrabble 14.00	23 Creative Writing Group 14.30	24 Family History 10.30	25 News Sheet Copy to Editor Painting 14.00 Bird Watching Luncheon ROH Workshop	26	27