



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No. 2/2015

March 2015

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




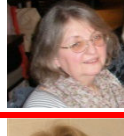
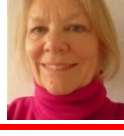
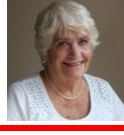



AGM 13th March 14:00
Plantation Hall

**We still need people to come
 forward for Committee vacancies
 (see p.2)**

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Your Committee

Chairman	Joyce Woodham	
	Woodham359@btinternet.com	
	01621 841066	
Vice Chairman	Vacancy	
Secretary	Linda Etherton	
	ethertonbikes@aol.com	
	01621 843702	
Treasurer	Angela Pleasance	
	angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk	
	01621 850310	
Membership Secretary	Jenny Parker	
	jennyparker14@hotmail.com	
	01621 843581	
Events Secretary	Pat Smith	
	patcleary98@sky.com	
	01621 856569	
Group Co-ordinator	Gill Thorne	
	gillthorne2@hotmail.co.uk	
	01621 852294	
Speaker Secretary	John Harrison	
	johnwharrison@sky.com	
	01621 854851	
News Sheet Editor	Vacancy	

NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

From the Chairman

An AGM is a time to look back over the past year and also look to the future. At Heybridge we have had some new groups form, more outings and a Third successful Study Day. We are publicising ourselves in the community and hope that this will attract new members.

I hope that in the coming year we will be able to start more cultural subjects to widen our range of interests. None of this could have been achieved without the hard work of the committee and group leaders. In particular, I would like to thank Ian Newman who has been a stalwart from the inception of Heybridge U3A. We owe him so much for all the work on the News sheet, which he started, for his work on two Study Days and his sage advice on buying equipment. We shall miss his expert advice.

I am writing this from the South Atlantic where it is warm and sunny, just like a summer's day in the U.K. Shortly we start going round Cape Horn, then the long journey up the west coast of South America. I shall have lots to tell you when I return, but for now my thoughts are with you and I thank you all for your support in my task of being Chairman of Heybridge U3A.

Joyce Woodham

Annual General Meeting and Committee Nominations 2015

There will be an AGM on the 13th March 2015. Nominations have been received for the following positions:

Secretary - Linda Etherton, proposed by Carol Greenhalgh, seconded by Lesley Pomphrett

News Sheet Editor - Geoff Hadley. Proposed by Dave Mason. Seconded by Tina Abeysekera

Asst/Social Treasurer - Lynne Morrison. Proposed by Anne Newson. Seconded by Geoff Hadley.

No nominations were received for the positions of Vice-Chairman or Treasurer. If none are received before the AGM, we will ask the membership for permission to accept nominations from the floor.

Papers for the AGM were sent out by email and post, but if anyone did not receive copies please let the secretary know. Printed copies will be available at the AGM.

From the Editor

The layout of the Heybridge U3A News Sheet and the reports that it contains, remains the same as that produced last year. Information about the Committee Members and their reports can be found in the first few pages with a contents column to aid in finding the parts which you wish to read first on page 1. The back page (p12) shows the Diary for the months of March and April..

Please keep the Editor up to date with any interesting stories, relevant pictures or anything that relates to The Heybridge U3A, the Association of Essex U3As or the U3A movement as a whole. Please send details to me, preferably by email with 'Heybridge U3A' in the title. Alternatively talk to me at the Monthly Meeting. We wish to maintain the standard that you, as members of the Heybridge U3A, want.

Contact me, Geoff Hadley, on any issue raised in the News Sheet by phone 01621 852494 or by Email

editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk and cc to geoffh45@blueyonder.co.uk until further notice

From the Membership Secretary

2015/16 Subscription Renewal

Thanks to those who have already paid their 2015/16 membership subscriptions.

Our membership year runs from 1st April to 31st March so, if you have not yet re-enrolled, you will need to do so by the end of this month if you wish to continue your membership.

For 2015/16 only, we are offering all renewing members a one-off discount, details of which were circulated with the February News Sheet. If you are unsure how much you need to pay, please contact me. This is an optional discount – you may pay the standard fee of £20 if you wish.

You can either bring your completed membership form and payment to the AGM (in a sealed envelope with your name on the outside, please) or you can post it to me at the address on the form. If you do not intend to re-enrol, please let me know so that I do not chase you for payment.

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. 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 phone on 01621 850310 or by Email angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk.

From the Treasurer

A financial report will be provided at the AGM.
Angela Pleasance

From the Events Secretary

Planned Events

- Friday 20th March 2015. A tour of the UK Supreme Court in Westminster. Now fully booked, but see below.
- Wednesday 25th March. 'Sunny Afternoon'.
- Monday April 27th 2015. A coach trip to Kew Gardens. Two seats left on the coach.
- NEW; Thursday 21st May a trip on MV Princess Pocahontas.
- NEW; Thursday June 11th, a trip on a Thames Barge.
- NEW; Friday 17th July, a trip to Audley End House and Garden.

Please see page 9 for details.

Heybridge U3A Monthly Meeting held on 13th February 2015

On 13th February Fran Sandham gave us an interesting talk on his 3000 mile solo walk across Africa, from the Atlantic coast to Zanzibar. Details can be found on his website www.traversa.co.uk.

Future Heybridge U3A Monthly Meetings

On 13th March 2015, at the Annual General Meeting, formal business, including some election of Officers, will take up the first part of the meeting, so, as announced at the January meeting, we will not be having a speaker. Some of the Groups will be displaying information about what their Group does with some photographs and information.

John W Harrison: phone 01621 854851 or Email johnwharrison@sky.com.

From the COGCo (Group Co-ordinator)/

Nothing to report

Gill Thorne 01621 852294
gillthorne2@hotmail.co.uk

GROUP REPORTS

Art (Painting) Group

As most of the Friday painters will be aware, we were all asked recently to submit pieces of our artwork for exhibition at the Heybridge U3A annual general meeting in March.

This may have spooked one or two members who, perhaps, hadn't joined the group when we were last asked to exhibit our work a few years ago.

Some may fear that nothing but a brand-new, perfectly executed masterpiece will suffice.

However, I recall that on that occasion a couple of dozen widely differing subjects were propped fairly haphazardly around our allotted corner of the hall.

They weren't all expertly or expensively framed either, but together they made for a splendid show.

Most people naturally want what they consider their best and most complete work to be seen.

But it is worth remembering that a half-completed painting or a sketchbook showing work in progress can make for an equally interesting exhibit.

Good luck everyone!

Gill Carpenter

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

Ballroom & Latin Dancing Group

Our group had our second meet which went very well, with members now showing a deeper interest as they come to grips with putting steps to the tempo of the music. This can be challenging as I well know from experience, when I first went to dance classes I was probably the worst in the class for getting my timing correct. Gloria and I find our group pleasing to work with and showing good progress. However keep practising!

We have now booked Plantation Hall for the rest of the year, i.e. 4th Fridays of each month except for a break in July and August

Alf Bell. Email dossod@fsmail.net or phone 01621 840158

Bird Watching Group

What a great morning for our first get together of 2015 it was cold but the sun was shining as we met up at Heybridge Basin. It was getting towards low water when we arrived, so more wading birds than we have seen for a long time were feeding along the shore line. There were Canada and Brent Geese, still as noisy as ever, Oystercatchers, Avocets and large groups of Teal. We watched a Kestrel hovering overhead as if stuck to the spot. The Kestrel is the bird of prey we see most around this area. The large groups of Dunlin sitting on the mud would suddenly take off, fly around a couple of times then settle back on the water's edge again. The best part of the morning for us all was, as we were making our way back along the path, hundreds, not exaggerating, of Golden Plover took to the skies, looking like a large black cloud. How they miss flying into each other is a mystery to me! We watched them weaving and diving for ages before finally ending their display with a flypast so low over our heads, that we stood mesmerised. What a magical way for our morning to end.

Our next outing is on March 27th. If you would like to join our friendly group please ring or email Maureen On 01621 869871 or symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk.

Computer Group

I am sad to say that the numbers were down again in February. With an increase in room costs and lower numbers, we will be short of funds to pay our quarterly room costs. We will need to discuss this subject in more detail at our next Computer Group Meeting.

We continued with the topic entitled "The Keyboard". A quick resume of last month lead us to find a number of hidden gems, some were of value while others were not applicable to those present. The exercise left with all at the end of the meeting was to find out any other useful key combinations. One member of the group, post the meeting, established the reason for the Alt GR key to the right of the space key. This key stands for Grammar for accent mark. Hold down Alt Gr plus 'a' you get 'á', Alt Gr plus 'e' gives an 'é', etc. ('í', 'ó'). Alt Gr plus 'c' gives you a '©' while Alt Gr plus 't' gives '™'. The subject of keys came up during the meeting as they relate to the screen, especially those relating to programs such as WORD. We may be able to look into some of this next month.

The Computer Group Meetings are for those wishing to be more proficient at using the computer, in any of its forms, PC, Laptop, and Tablet, starting at any stage. The subjects covered are tailored to those that attend the monthly meetings. The meetings are held in the Claydon Room in Plantation Hall on the third Thursday of each month at 14:00, when you will be made welcome. Just come along.

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

Cards and Paper Crafts

The group meets at 14.00 on the first Wednesday in the month; the next meeting will be in March

New group members are welcome.

Please contact Lesley for details. Phone 01621 858135 e-mail Lindawoonton@sky.com

Creative Writing Group/

We heard several pieces of writing on the theme of 'Spring' and discussed our exhibition for the AGM. We agreed, after several attempts at randomly opening the dictionary, to set ourselves the task of writing something that includes at least six of the following words – water, collaborate, castanets, barberry, black, angle, Anthony, roach and poly-. A secondary challenge is to put all of them into one sentence!

Angela Pleasance

angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk or tel: 01621 850310

Croquet Group

Unfortunately the playing season has ended. Now, to find something to occupy us through the winter months before the 2015 season begins towards the end of April.

Through the News Sheet and the Monthly Meetings I'll advise, in good time, when play can resume.

John Gorrie. Email gorries@jprag.myzen.co.uk or phone 01621 854006

Discussion Coffee Morning Group

There was a change of venue for our meeting on 20th February. Unfortunately Linda was unwell so Anne Newson very kindly agreed to host. I was particularly grateful to Anne as she was also suffering, having had treatment at the dentist the day before!

We all had a good morning discussing various issues and enjoyed the tea, coffee and nibbles provided.

Our March coffee morning will be a week later than usual as some of our group will be visiting The Supreme Court in London on 20 March. We will therefore meet at 11.00 on Friday 27th March at Margaret Clarke's house.

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

Family History Group

At our meeting Gill, from Essex Records Office, joined us to help with some brick-walls that we have come up against. I sent her the problems so she had time to investigate. Wendy and Diane had good results but, unfortunately, Dorothy and Linda were told that there was no way their problems could be solved. Lots of information and suggestions were passed around and it was a very enjoyable meeting.

Our next meeting will be Thursday 26th March 10.30 to 12.30 at my house as usual.

For Heybridge members who would like to try Family History, I have been contacted by Chris Stringer (Mrs) who is the Family History COG at Limebrook U3A. Her meetings are on the 4th Wednesday of the month 14.30 to 16.30 at the White Elm Tea Room, White Elm Nursery, Bicknacre She has places available and Heybridge members would be welcome to join them.

Her phone no. Is 01245 221214. Mobile no. 07828 546383

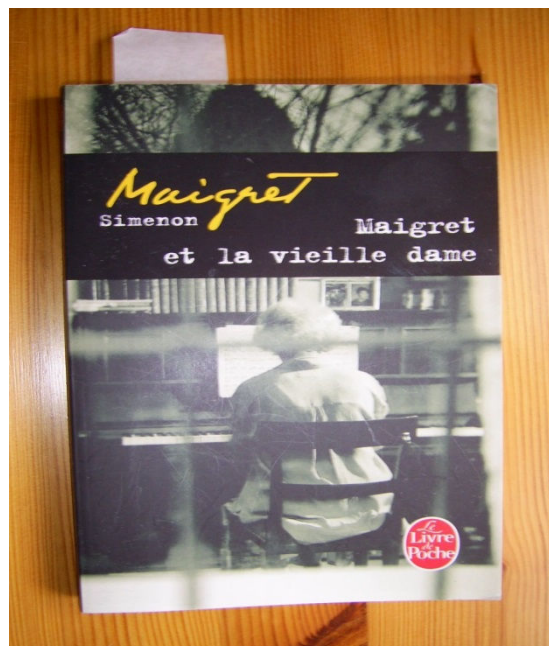
Lesley Pomphrett: phone 01621 817733 or Email lesleypommy@hotmail.com.

French Conversation Group

Eight of us met on the morning of the second Wednesday of February for an interesting session. After a short session talking about our activities during the last month, we went on to convert an article on unwanted presents (in English) into French. It starts with a surprised grandfather telling a lady of about the same age that his grandson sells his unwanted Christmas presents on eBay. She is shocked, but says one must keep up with the times. They finish by saying that they now either take their grandchildren shopping or give them the money. The book that we are reading was also mentioned. I personally am finding the conversations difficult, where Maigret is interviewing his suspects." He said, she said" or "she said, they thought "etc. can be confusing in English, but much more so in a language not one's own. But I am enjoying the descriptive passages.

We then read (in French) an article on the superstitions around Friday the thirteenth. Also other superstitions involving the number thirteen and then

bad luck signs in general. It seems that in some societies it is bad luck for a man to put his left foot into his pyjamas first, so be careful gentlemen!



Original cover photo taken by Marc Wilson.

Pat Newman

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

For further information please contact:

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

French Improvers: Joint Blackwater / Heybridge Group

At our February meeting, we practised how to book a room at a hotel and what to say when things don't go quite right.



Il n'y a pas de papier hygiénique

We also practised our listening skills using an ancient cassette player which worked OK in forward mode, but would not rewind, so we had to make sure we understood the dialogue first time!

For further information please contact:

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

Gardening Group

We had a very enjoyable morning at Marks Hall along with the walking group. The weather was bright and not too cold, and the snowdrops put on a brave display, but were not quite fully open. Perfume from winter-flowering plants was wafting through the winter garden walk. When we got back to the barn there was a wood-stove and lots of good food to choose from for lunch, which we were certainly ready for.

The date for this year's planning meeting is Monday 16th March at 14.00 at my house. If you can't come that day please let me know if you have any ideas for visits.



Snow Drops at Marks Hall Pat Yates

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

Italian Conversation

Due to seasonal ailments and other commitments, the Italian meetings were a bit thin on the ground this month. One lady came to the Beginner's, so we were able to do some intense 'one to one' work. We managed to cover quite a lot of ground, and managed to speak in Italian quite a lot of the time, despite her initial protestations about not remembering anything. We also read passages in Italian and translated them.

The next meetings will be:

Advanced Group: 2nd March,

Beginners' Group: 16th March.

Janice Slight E-Mail janice.slight@tiscali.co.uk

Local History Group (LHG)

We all thoroughly enjoyed the talk given by Lynne Raymond which was more like the unfolding of a mystery tale; the intrigue surrounding the family of Edward Bright 'the Fat Man' of Maldon.

It seems that over generations the family had a few members called Edward Bright and the Blue Plaque dedicated to Edward the Fat Man is now thought to be wrongly placed since *he* did not live in that property but near to where Santander now stands. Lynne, however, thinks the property does deserve a Blue Plaque for the Edward Bright who did live there, as he was a notable man in his own right. One thing this Edward can be remembered for is beginning the production of Maldon salt.

We are looking forward to our March meeting when David Williams is going to tell us about 'Eels – a fleeting Heybridge trade'. It is essential to contact Carol to reserve a place if you would like to come.

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

Luncheon Group

Having asked for the past months for members to indicate their interest in lunching, in a particular week of the month and which day or days in any week with only one response, from Dave and Tina, I have concluded the Luncheon Group is no longer viable.

If anyone is really interested then I need to be told,

E-mail johnwharrison@sky.com

Tel 01621 854851.

Patchwork Group

The next meeting of the Patchwork Group will be in the Claydon Room on Monday the 9th March at 14.00.

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

Petanque Group

To members of the Petanque group and prospective members. Have you dusted your BOULES ready for the summer season of fresh air and exercise and congenial company? We will begin to play on March 16th which gives us three weeks before the first of the Spring Bank Holidays. This is for new members who wish to try out their skills as a guest to see if they wish to join the group.

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

Photography Group

Our first meeting of the year took place on Thursday 5th February at the Combined Services Military Museum.

We started by viewing members photographs from the assignment set at our December meeting the

subject being indoor photography. Alex showed us his 'Light Box' that he had used to take his photos.

We then looked at Camera settings, starting by discussing the different settings on the camera dial and what they related to and how they varied on different cameras.

We then discussed the 'A' or 'Av' Aperture Priority setting, how to change the f value and what the different values mean. The smaller the number the larger the aperture is and likewise the larger the number the smaller the aperture is. The aperture displayed will depend upon the lens. If no lens is attached the value '00' will appear. During the meeting we looked at these settings with the Lumix range of cameras in mind.

The assignment for the next meeting is a photo of 'A Winter Scene'.

We meet on the 1st Thursday of each month at the Combined Military Services Museum at 14:00.

Anyone interested in joining or coming to see what we do can contact Norman Grove on 01621 842805 or by email norman.grove@gmail.com.

Reading and Books Group

The opening sentence of our book for February began "On a mountain above the clouds once lived a man who had been the gardener of the Emperor of Japan." And so the story slowly unfolded. The narrator is the Supreme Court Judge Teoh Yun Ling, who has retired from public service in Kuala Lumpur. The book slipped into chronologically complex flashbacks, and then slowly, turned to the main dramatic event which was the fascinating relationship between Yun Ling and gardener Nakamura Aritomo. Yun Ling is the daughter of a prosperous Chinese Malaysian family, and the sole survivor of a prisoner-of-war camp. Her request to Aritomo is simple: build a garden for her sister who perished in the camp, and who loved the gardens of Kyoto. Instead, he offers to teach Yun Ling the art of Japanese gardening and she becomes his apprentice, then his lover, and finally, the canvas for his masterpiece: *Horimono*, a full-body Japanese tattoo. This book, although very different from anything we had read before, was enjoyed by all. Our next meeting is on 18th March where we shall meet at the usual time in Plantation Hall.

. Further information from Carole Overy caroleovery@sky.com or 01621 893450

Scrabble Group

The group meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 14,00 in the meeting room at Plantation Hall, Heybridge with a charge of about £2 to cover the room rental and refreshments. We play for two hours, with a break for a cuppa and a biscuit, and

usually manage two games. It certainly occupies the little grey cells and the time goes very quickly in a convivial atmosphere. If you would like to join us do contact me.

Linda Etherton Telephone: 01621 843702

Email: ethertonbikes@aol.com

Solo Whist

On 11th February four of us met at Geoff & Margaret's home for our monthly session of Solo Whist. The calls winning and losing hands were evenly distributed between the four of us (which made a nice change). Lots of solos called and abundances, but nothing higher, but maybe next time.

Refreshments at half time were provided by Margaret, which included a very nice Lemon cake that we all enjoyed.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 11th March at Jackie's home at the usual time of 14.00

Any newcomers would be very welcome.

Dave Mason: phone 01621 858635 or

Email tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk

Technical Computing Group

The February meeting took place at my house, where as usual a varied amount of things were discussed. One particular discussion centred on a problem Norman (the Heybridge U3A Web master) was experiencing with the email setup of one the committee members, not being able to send & receive emails, which has Windows 8 installed. Much advice was given and the problem seemed a bit clearer. One point to note is that I offered the use of a laptop I have with Windows 8 installed, but, once I turned it on, I realised that I had forgotten the password to be able open the programs. This illustrates the need to make a separate note somewhere of all passwords, such as in a note book or something similar.

The next meeting takes place on the 12th of March at 14.00 Hrs, anyone with the same interest is welcome; please contact me first for more information.

colin@mason20.wanadoo.co.uk or 854906

Regards Colin Mason (COG)

Ten Pin Bowling

Our meeting on 26th January was at a fairly quiet time at Madison Heights so we virtually had the place to ourselves. The nine of us spread between three lanes of three players which enabled us to have four games in our allocated timeframe. A historical

occasion with two turkeys (3 strikes in a row) scored firstly by Geoff closely followed by Gloria, who also scored her personal best score of 134. Geoff was the highest scorer of the day with 155

The last Monday session of the winter was on 10th February and we had eight players this time during the tail end of half-term so much busier. We took two lanes with four players to each and played three games. No turkeys this time but a personal best by Simon of 161 which made him the highest scorer of the day.

Players please note that our next session on Tuesday 10th March is from 10:00 until 12:00 followed by lunch at Henri's Grill, the new restaurant at Madison Heights. There will be no more Monday sessions until late autumn when we finish Petanque. We will continue to meet just once a month on the second Tuesday of the month at Madison Heights. Newcomers always welcome.

Next meeting: Tuesday 10th March – see details above

Tuesday 14th April- 13.45pm for 14:00 start..

Lynne Morrison

Email: lejmorrisson@gmail.com

Mobile: 07771 880757

Threads and Fabrics Group

Most of our members were at our February meeting with tales of things seen and projects completed over Christmas and the New Year. One of our members, who, like me, is keen on recycling materials, brought in two skirts. One was a patchwork of pieces of blue corduroy, with adjoining sections placed with the nap running in opposite directions giving subtle impressions of light and shade. The other, see photo, was a brightly coloured tiered skirt for the summer.



Photo Pat Newman

Having watched the first episode of the new Sewing Bee series, and looked at the fashion pages of the weekend supplements, I am aware that Summer 2015 has been planned by the manufacturers as a year for retro-fashion. It will be interesting to see if members of our U3A agree.

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month starting at 14:00. Please speak to Pat on this subject.

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

Walking Group

Our joint outing with the gardening group was to Marks Hall to see the emerging snowdrops.

The March walk will be around Tollesbury, a village that we haven't walked from in recent years.

Meet at the Woodrolfe Road car park at 14:00 Thurs 12th March for an approx. 3 5 mile walk.

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

Weekenders Group

Thank goodness January and February have gone and we can look forward to Spring. We have some delightful events to look forward to thanks to Pat and hopefully some garden visits with the Garden Group and some of our own as well. One could be a walk through the Olympic Park depending on the interest and also an afternoon tea at a Horse Sanctuary but I will email Weekenders about these possibilities

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 14th March at the Lock Tea Room, Heybridge Basin at 10.00

Saturday 11th April at Oliver's Nursery at 10.00

Marilyn Corbett: Phone 01621817518 or email mars42@btinternet.com.

Wine Appreciation Group

The wine appreciation group will not be meeting again until Wednesday 18th March 2015, when we will be having a planning meeting to discuss ideas for future meetings, visits to vineyards, and wine merchants. Ideas for next year include repeat visits to Majestic at Colchester, for their free tasting evenings, and perhaps a return to Bardfield Vineyard in the summer, to view the results of the work being carried out earlier this year on the Anne of Cleves barn. We may also look into the possibility of a day trip to France.

I look forward to welcoming new and returning members of the group in March 2015.

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

Further Information and Details of Events

The following events are planned for this year. Please note that in future members will be asked to pay for outings in full, six weeks before the trip date. If the trip later proves not to be viable, the money will be refunded in full.

MARCH. UK Supreme Court. All 25 places for this tour on Friday 20th March have been taken. A coach will collect us from Tesco Extra in Fullbridge at 8.00 and we should arrive in Westminster at approximately 10.30. Our tour begins at 14.00 and lasts one hour. The coach will collect us at 16.00. There is a cafe in the building. Members taking the 'coach only' option have four and a half hours in which to explore London! The rest of us have three and a half hours before our tour begins.

There are still a few seats available but they are going fast, so book now and join us for a day in London. The cost for coach alone is £16.00.

APRIL. Kew Gardens. There are two seats left on the coach to Kew. Ford's Coaches will collect us from Tesco Extra Fullbridge at 08.00 and collect us from Kew Gardens at 16.00. If you wish to include a tour of the site on the Kew Explorer land train, please add your name to the form. The train fare is £3.50 for the day. The National Archives are adjacent to Kew Gardens so anyone wishing instead to study there could join the group for the day. Admission to the Archives is free, so cost would be for coach only. All payments will be due by 13th March 2015 – Please note slightly lower coach cost than first estimate.

Coach only £16.00;

Coach with garden entrance £27.00;

Coach and garden entrance, with land train £30.50.

MAY Places have been reserved for us on the MV Princess Pocahontas on her return voyage from Tilbury to Westminster on Thursday 21st May. View the changing face of the river Thames frontage while the crew with their extensive knowledge of the river and its historic waterside make the journey both educational and interesting.

We leave Tilbury at 10.15 and return there at approximately 17.30. The cost pp is £23.00

Please sign up to show interest at the February meeting. Full payment will be required by 13th March.

All cheques should be made payable to Heybridge U3A

PAT SMITH; 01621 856569 E.MAIL patcleary98@sky.com

Events: Visit to the Tractor Plant



All ready to go

When I told my daughter that I had visited a tractor factory she said it was probably one of the more random things I had done. However if you had seen the rapt expressions on the U3A members going round the New Holland Tractor Plant in Basildon you would have realised exactly how fascinated we all were. We experienced the sights, sounds and smells of the factory floor wearing high-vis jackets and protective goggles, saw huge engines from Italy being slowly and majestically conveyed around the different work stations, being sprayed by robots then hand finished by workers in space-type suits. Gradually the whole tractor is assembled, with wheels standing taller than me; the cabs from France go on, audit checks made. Each tractor is custom made, some we saw were for Eire, others for France, with occasional different liveries but most in a bright blue finish and they all go out with 'Made in Britain' on them. There was an opportunity to try out 'virtual' ploughing on a simulator in the customer centre with varying degrees of success. We all came home with a goody bag, and had a thoroughly enjoyable time. Our thanks to Pat for organising the visit and to Simon who drove the minibus.

Linda Etherton

ATTENTION ALL COGS

You will be pleased to hear that Heybridge U3A is registered with Viking Community Transport and you may consider the possibility of hiring one of their minibuses to transport your group when organizing a local visit. Minibuses seat 12 or 15 and the cost to hire is £1.00 per mile for the whole journey with a

minimum charge of £15.00. Please contact Pat Smith in first instance; email patcleary98@sky.com

For further information call Viking 01621 843164

Or email vikings@mdct.org.uk

Association of Essex U3As

On the Notice Board

Items from the latest mailing that might be of interest:-

U3A National Summer Schools: July 13th -16th at Harper Adams University Shropshire and August 17th – 20th at Royal Agriculture University, Cirencester.

Royal Opera House, Thurrock, Design and Production workshops £18pp April 22nd

U3A Spring Concert at Temple Church, London 15:00 £18 pp, April 18th

The RHS are offering a U3A group discount of £2 off entry fees for groups of 10 or more, to various shows and gardens.

The 2015 Annual General Meeting of the Third Age Trust is to be held in Nottingham on 27th August 2015. Proposed resolutions should be submitted by 30th April 2015..

A 'Who's Who' of people who support the U3A at national level is available.

Free legal advice for U3A members - FirstAssist can advise U3A members on any legal issues, not just U3A ones. Telephone FirstAssist on 01455 251 500 and quote The Third Age Trust, 70494.

Flyer for RAF Museum London First World War Display The tour lasts for an afternoon and several dates are available throughout the year.

FutureLearn More courses are available at the Website www.Futurelearn.com

UCL are conducting a research project looking at the ability for people with dementia to participate in cognitive behaviour therapy. They need to recruit a health control group of people over 65 to do this, with questionnaires and an interview to be conducted in London. If you are interested please speak to the secretary who has further details.

ITV Keep It In the Family - the casting team are looking for teams of 4 family members of 3 or more generations to take part in the next series. More information email tvfamily@itv.com and application form to be in by 27th April go to www.itv.com/beontv

Photographic Competition yoU3A -the closing date has been extended to the end of April 2015 and members are invited to send in photographs. There is more information on the home page at <http://www.u3a.org.uk>

More details for the above can be found on the Heybridge U3A Notice Board. These and others are

also detailed in The U3A magazine 'Third Age Matters'.

Maldon Art Trail

The eighth Maldon Art Trail will take place between 26th September 2015 and 3rd October 2015 and to ask that you share this information with any of your members/interest group co-ordinators that might want to be a part of the event this year. We would welcome applications to exhibit from any of your members or indeed any other ideas or offers of assistance. Please take a look at our website at www.maldonarttrail.co.uk for further information or drop me a line with any questions you may have.

Co-operation between Maldon Area U3As

At a recent meeting the possibility of a joint 'Taster Day' was discussed, along with a suggested celebration of the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta as part of a nation-wide event. If you would like to be involved with running this type of event please talk to one of the committee.

Linda Etherton

From Other U3As

Maldon U3A

You will all now be thinking about a holiday
How about joining our 4 day holiday in July

Places of Interest' in the Midlands

7/10th July 2015

Hotel: Copthorne Hotel, Merry Hill, Dudley

Price £299 or £319 depending on numbers on the coach

Single Supplement £45 Insurance £10

Day 1: NGS — Chalkhouse Green Farm, Kidmore End

Lunch in Wallingford Town

Day 2: R.A.F. Museum, Cosford

Shipton Hall with House and Garden tour

Day 3: Ironbridge, Blists Hill Victorian Town

The Iron Bridge and Tollhouse

Severn Valley Steam Train

Day 4: Time at Merry Hill Shopping Centre, Dudley and Canal walk

Millets Farm Centre, Frilford, nr. Abingdon

Home to Maldon

Contact Jan Robertson on 01245 225657 or email:
jan356771@gmail.com for full details and booking form.

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
Cards and Paper Crafts	Lesley Woonton	01621 858135
Coffee Morning	Margaret Brown	01621 854885
Computer	Ian Newman	01621 891184
Creative Writing	Angela Pleasance	01621 850310
Croquet	John Gorrie	01621 854006
Latin & Ballroom Dancing	Alf Bell	01621 840158
Family History	Lesley Pomphrett	01621 817733
French	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	Alex Lees & Norman Grove	01245 225153 01621 842805
Reading & Books	Carole Overy	01621 893450
Scrabble	Linda Etherton	01621 843702
Solo Whist	Dave Mason	01621 858635
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 Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
2nd March	2 Beginners Italian 10.00	3 Threads 14.00	4 Cards & Paper Crafts 14.00	5 Photography 14.00	6 Committee Meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00	7	8
9th March	9 Patchwork 14.00	10 Ten Pin Bowling 10:00	11 French Conversation 10.00 Solo Whist 14.00	12 Technical Computing 14.00 Walking 14.00	13 Monthly Meeting 14.00	14 Weekender Coffee The lock Cafe Heybridge Basin	15
16th March	16 Advanced Italian 10.00 Petanque 14.00 Gardening 14.00	17 Local History 15.00	18 Book Group 14.15 Wine Tasting 14.00	19 Computer 14.00	20 Supreme Court 8.30 Painting 14.00	21	22
23rd March	23 Petanque 14.00 French Improvers 14.00	24 Scrabble 14.00	25 Creative Writing Group 14.30	26 Family History 10.30 French Improvers 14.00	27 News Sheet Copy to Editor Painting 14.00 Dancing 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00 Bird Watching	28	29
30th March	30 Petanque 14.00	31	1 st April Committee Meeting 10:00 Cards & Paper Crafts 14.00	2 Photography 14.00	3 Good Friday	4	5
6th April	6 Easter Monday	7 Threads 14.00	8 French Conversation 10.00 Solo Whist 14.00	9 Technical Computing 14.00	10 Monthly Meeting 14.00	11 Weekenders Oliver's Nursery at 10.00	12
April 13th	13 Petanque 14.00 Patchwork 14.00	14 Ten Pin Bowling 14:00	15 Book Group 14.15	16 Computer 14.00	17 Painting 14.00	18	19
April 20th	20 Advanced Italian 10.00 Petanque 14.00	21 Local History 15.00	22 Creative Writing Group 14.30	23 Family History 10.30 French Improvers 14.00	24 News Sheet Copy to Editor Painting 14.00 Dancing 14.00 Bird Watching	25	26
April 27th	27 Petanque 14.00 Kew Gardens French Improvers 14.00	28 Scrabble 14.00	29	30	May 1 st	2	3