



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No. 2/2016

March 2016

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

Registered charity number 1160360

Your Committee

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AGM on 11th March 2016

See page 2 for information about Committee vacancies

NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

From the Chairman

Exactly seven years ago, I was in the library in Maldon, looking at displays of forthcoming activities. I noticed one that was a 'Heybridge inaugural meeting of the U3A'. I did not know what the initials stood for, nor what the organisation did, but I decided that it was worth attending, just in case it turned out to be interesting!

The rest, you might say, is history! In those seven years we have changed from being a group of people with only hazy ideas of what we wanted, to a group of people who clearly know what they want to do and enjoy themselves doing it. To start with, we were not particularly well organised. We did not know which interest groups would start, nor how to get them going. It was a bit of learning by trial and error, now we are a very slick, efficient organisation.

All the many and varied activities, from making tea at the monthly meeting to a coach load of people going to a London theatre, are meticulously organised. I cannot give enough thanks to all the people who over and over again have given up their time and used their skills to make Heybridge U3A so happily successful.

You may know that I am quite neurotic about our finances. I have a horror of ending up like Kids Company. Angela Pleasance has achieved all that we could ask for. She has spent many, many hours working for us. We are truly indebted to her and cannot thank her sufficiently.'

Joyce Woodham
Chairman Heybridge U3A'

Important Notice: Committee Nominations 2016

There will be an AGM on the 11th March 2016 at 2.00 pm in the Plantation Hall. Nominations have been received for the following positions on the Committee:

Chairman – Angela Pleasance proposed by Jill McGregor seconded by Linda Etherton

Treasurer - Jill McGregor, proposed by Angela Pleasance, seconded by Barbara Barbrook

Events Secretary - Liz Cawdell, proposed by Pat Smith, seconded by Jenny Parker

Interest Group Co-ordinator - Barbara Barbrook, proposed by Carol Greenhalgh, seconded by Pat Newman

No nominations were received for the following positions: **Vice-Chairman** and **Social/Events 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 are being sent out by email and post, but if anyone does not receive a copy, please let the secretary know. Printed copies will be available at the AGM.

Secretary - Linda Etherton

From the Editor

The design of the Heybridge U3A News Sheet, and the reports that it contains, continues as a full-page layout. I would ask contributors to limit their photos to pictures of U3A generated activities and not copy pictures from Websites as, when published, this maybe contrary to Copyright laws. Information about the Committee Members and their reports can be found in the first few pages. The back page 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 by email with 'Heybridge U3A' in the title.

Contact me, Geoff Hadley, 01621 852494 or by Email editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Membership Secretary

2016/17 Subscription Renewal

As stated in the previous News Sheet, the current membership year expires on 31st March, so subs for 2016/17 are now due. Thanks to all those who have already paid. If you have not yet paid and wish to remain a member of Heybridge U3A, please bring your completed enrolment form and payment to the monthly meeting or post it to me at the address on the form. If you do not intend to renew, please let me know so that I do not chase you for payment. Many thanks for your co-operation,
membershipsecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

Future Heybridge U3A Monthly Meetings

On 12th February we had a talk from Linda Scoles who was an American that came to Suffolk in 1971 with her husband, an American Air Force Officer and their three children. The talk featured aspects of her life but in particular her “**Journey to Citizenship**”



Linda Scoles...Ken Russell

11th March is the AGM. No speaker. There will be displays by groups.

For 8th April 2016 we will have a talk from Lucy Lewis. She was the first female Bomb Disposal Officer in the British Army, and later a Major in the Royal Military Police. She has served in the UK, Germany and Northern Ireland, and travelled the world as a mountain expedition leader and as an inspector of military prisons.

For 13th May 2016 I have booked Liz Huxley a wildlife photographer and bird watcher.

John W Harrison: phone 01621 854851 or Email speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Events Secretary

Planned Events

- Visit Hever Castle on Thursday 21st April 2016.
- Visit Kensington Palace on Wednesday 11th May 2016
- Join Blackwater U3A on a visit to Bressingham on Wednesday 15th June.
- Visit Canterbury on Tuesday 28th June

Please see page .11 for further details

Interest Group Coordinator

The sheet for a proposed German group will be available at the next meeting, two people have entered, one a beginner, the other more experienced. The Churches and Cathedrals visits. - Two people have been accepted for the Blackwater U3A as they had a few vacancies in their group. The other suggested groups have not materialised, but if anybody has an idea for a new group and knows someone who could be the leader of the group, please let me know and we will suggest it to the members.

Barbara Barbrook Tel: 01621 855605 or email c.barbrook@sky.com

GROUP REPORTS

Art (Painting) Group

Spring being just around the corner, we should hopefully soon see our sketchbooks and easels adorned with floral subjects. In fact, our gardens and countryside already have a lot to offer the inspired artist, with early daffodils and hedgerow blossoms blooming alongside the seasonal Snowdrops and .Catkins. In my own garden the pink Camellia buds look ready to pop any minute now.

Unfortunately, I'm having to miss a couple of painting sessions, so I'm just hoping these big blousy blooms will be fit to paint when I return - and that they won't have succumbed to the icy blast of a late frost!

Gill Carpenter

For information about the group contact, Michael Kempen: Email Michaelrkempen@gmail.com or Phone 01621 892974.

Bird Watching Group

With many of the group away in the sun or suffering injuries just 5 of us braved the chill and went to Chigborough Lakes this month. As usual for Chigborough we saw lots of water birds from Gadwalls to Grebes (both Little and Great Crested). There are plenty of LBJs (Little Brown Jobs) about and we even saw a thrush, which are getting rarer and rarer. If you have one in your garden you are very lucky.

All the birds are getting excited now and putting on their best breeding plumage. All are hunting for the best places to nest and the best partner to raise a family.



Cormorants nesting Jill McGregor

Down at the far end of the reserve the Herons and Cormorants are arriving in considerable numbers now and struggling to look elegant as they try to perch on tree branches. Some have even started to build their none-too-tidy nests

Our next outing is a visit to Abberton on 25th March at 10.00

If you would like to join our group, please get in touch by phone 01621869871 or email symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk
Maureen

Cards and Paper Crafts

We met on Wed 3rd February at 2.30pm and made things to display on our table at the AGM 11th March. We will make some more at the 3rd of March Card group meeting.

Lesley.

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

Computer Group

This month's meeting, as usual, took place in the Claydon Room, at Plantation Hall. The main objective of the afternoon was to demonstrate to the people attending how to use the program 'Skype'. When used in conjunction with other persons, whether nearby, or many miles distant, it is possible to see, and speak with each other. I was able to demonstrate with Ian, who today was not in Maldon, but somewhere in North Wales. (This is why I am writing this piece this month). I was using my Ipad and spoke to Ian, both by means of his laptop and Ipad. After installing Skype on their own computers nearly all, also made contact with Ian in North Wales.

We finished off the afternoon by practising communication with each other in the room. From the comments that I received afterwards the group found it very interesting. We will therefore continue delving into this subject at the start of our next meeting in March.

If this article interests you, please come along, you will be made most welcome. You will even get a cup of tea and biscuits.

Report produced by Colin Mason.

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. If you are an expert or novice just come along. You can always contact Ian by phone or email before, if you so wish.

Both Colin and Ian will be available at the AGM to try and answer any questions that you may have either about the group or subjects that can be covered.

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

Creative Writing Group

Last month we had set ourselves the task of making a small box from card, to be used as the inspiration for our writing. I was amazed at the variety of both boxes and stories. Yvonne had taken to box-making with enthusiasm and showed us some of the many that she had created, including a 'Russian doll' of boxes within boxes - I counted 25 - with the tiniest a miracle of dexterity about a centimetre square. Other people had made beautifully decorated boxes, and one had an ingenious jack-in-the box surprise inside. I have no doubt that when any member of the group gets tired of writing they could turn their hands to paper-craft. The stories were equally varied and enjoyable, as I have come to expect from the group.

A full house this month ensured a lively session with more discussion than usual on the subject for next month. We eventually decided on 'An Unexpected Stop'. We will meet on Wednesday 23rd March at 2:30.

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

Croquet Group

I have been in touch with the Maldon Croquet Club and we hope to start playing again in May, when the lawns will hopefully be drier. Rita Gorrie has kindly agreed to come along as the Maldon Croquet Club representative to help and encourage our play. I will be sending out emails to all those who are interested in playing nearer the time.

If anyone would like to come along, you would be most welcome; the aim is gentle exercise, good company and fun. If you are interested please contact me, we play on the first and third Thursday mornings of each summer month at Forresters Golf Club.

Anne Newson: phone 01621 858807 or email annewson@uwclub.net

Discussion Coffee Morning Group

We met on 19th February at Linda's house and enjoyed tea, coffee and tasty snacks. It's just so nice to sit down with like-minded friends for a relaxed discussion about whatever is happening in the world, in Essex or in our lives.

The next meeting will be at Lesley Pomphrett's house on Friday 18th March at 11.00am.

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

Family History Group

Our first meeting at our new venue was hailed a success! The beginners group now seem to have been well and truly bitten by the research bug with members updating the group on their recent research. We debated the pros and cons of Ancestry versus Find My Past. Essex County libraries have subscriptions to both sites on their public computers so we have arranged a study morning at Hatfield Peverel library to look into the '1939 Register' which is available on FMP.

With free Wi-Fi in the Claydon Room, the advanced group were able to use their laptops to research some 'brickwalls'. Gloria found her ancestor in the UK Naval Records and now has a long list of ships to research. Dorothy was able to find the War Diaries for her ancestor detailing the movements of his Regiment on the day he died. Thanks to Bill's annual subscription to Find My Past, we all tried to trace our families in the 1939 Register – some were there, some were missing and others were in completely unexpected places! We were tickled to note that a housewife's occupation was always listed as 'unpaid domestic duties'!!!

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 24th March.

Beginners 10.00 – 11.00 Main group 11.00 – 13.00

Due to the larger meeting room, we now have space for new members.

Details: Lesley Pomphrett 01621 817733 lesleypommy@hotmail.com

Liz Cawdell 01621 331944 ecawdell@btinternet.com

French Conversation Group

Have you ever wondered about the origins of St. Valentine's Day? According to an article we read in February, there are seven saints called Valentine. One was a Roman priest who lived in the 3rd century at a time when Rome was ruled by a pagan emperor engaged in bloody military campaigns. In order to conserve his soldiers' strength, the emperor forbade them from marrying. However, Valentine continued to bless their marriages and was duly imprisoned. While in captivity, he met his gaoler's daughter, who was blind. Legend has it that he restored her sight and, in return, she cared for him. Just before he was executed, he sent her a message signed 'Your Valentine' – an action which, it is said, inspired the custom of sending Valentines cards.



Our group meets on the second Wednesday morning of each month at a group member's house. For further information please contact jennyparker14@hotmail.com

French Improvers – Joint Blackwater / Heybridge Group



Following on from last month, when we practised describing people, this month we learnt how to describe where we live - the type of dwelling, the different rooms and the furniture in each. We then looked at an Estate Agent's description of a bungalow for sale and found very little difference between French and British estate agents when it came to using extravagant language to make a property sound grander than it is. There will be no meeting in March as the 1st Monday is Easter Monday.

For further information on either French Group, contact jennyparker14@hotmail.com

Gardens Group

We had a warm but blustery day for our Snowdrop walk at Easton Lodge, but, fortified by bacon butties, we enjoyed the beautiful sight. It was good to get outside again and see that Spring is on its way at last.



There will be a programme of garden visits soon, after the planning meeting on 7th March. Elizabeth is having to hand over the Walking group to another co-ordinator due to health reasons, so if anyone could take over please let her know. It would be such a shame if the group could not continue.

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

Snowdrops at Great Easton Lodge Pat

Italian Conversation

This Italian Conversation Group meets twice a month, usually on the first and third Monday of the month, at 10 am at my house. We are a small but friendly group of varied abilities who meet to practise speaking Italian. We discuss many and varied subjects, including holidays, family triumphs and tragedies and items in the news.

The next meetings will be:

Monday 7th March Monday 21st March

Monday 4th April Monday 18th April

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

Local History Group

David Newman's talk on 'Salt making in the estuary' unravelled some of the mysteries and stories surrounding the white crystals that have been produced from the waters of the River Blackwater over the centuries, and for which Maldon is world-known. Visits to the salt-works are not allowed so this was definitely the next best thing. We had a full-house for our excellent afternoon.

In March, we are going to learn something of 'the history of pubs and their signs' when Brian Billins is our guest speaker at WMCC. Please contact Carol if you are interested in joining us, numbers permitting.

We start to get out and about again in April, for a visit to the monastery at Tolleshunt Knights.

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

Patchwork Group

The next meeting of the Patchwork Group will be in the Claydon Room on Monday 14th March at 2pm
Anne Thorpe E-mail Anne.thorpe@btinternet.com or phone 01621 850828.

Petanque Group

I hope that some regular Petanque players will hover near our Petanque display at the AGM so that there are one or two of you there if people ask questions about the game. I am bringing some photos on a board and a set of equipment together with some cards with rules of the game in case there are interested people.

The time is creeping on and April 4th is not too far away. It will be lovely to see as many of you as possible on that date at the Promenade Park Terrain and I look forward to seeing you there. Petanque will now be in the Diary on the last page of the March Newsletter ready for the first week in April so that will remind you when to come. I will see you there

Barbara Barbrook c.barbrook@sky.com

Photography Group

There were 11 members and 2 guests at our February Meeting in the Jubilee Lounge of the West Maldon Centre.

Phil Watkins of the Maldon Camera Club kindly gave us an illustrated talk on Composition with tips on what Judges look for in a photograph. This was very interesting and well received by those present.

The assignment for the next meeting in March is a 'Close up photo' of any subject.

Why not join us? We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 2.00 p.m.

By regularly meeting together and sharing our photos, we learn how to get better results from our own equipment. Our aim is to make all of our meetings entertaining, friendly and informative.

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

Our latest book 'When God was a Rabbit' by Sarah Winman, provoked a lively discussion. It was the story of a girl growing up, featuring the most memorable events of her life, and those of her family, from her beginnings in East London to a rambling house in Cornwall. Some of us enjoyed it and some thought it oddly-written and unbelievable.

This group currently has a few places available for new members, so please do let us know if you would like to join.

Pat Yates for Ann Lees, who is away.

Please contact Ann Lees 01245225153 if there are any queries about the group.

Scrabble Group

At our latest gathering we suddenly realised that it had been a bit quiet for a while - we were all concentrating, trying to make the best of our random sets of letters. Jenny certainly did well as twice she put down a word that used up all seven letters in one go, giving her a bonus of 50 points plus whatever the word scored. In contrast on occasion some of us only manage teeny-tiny scores!

The group meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 2.00 pm in the meeting room at Plantation Hall, Heybridge with a charge of about £2 to cover the room rental and refreshments. We play for 2 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

For our February meeting 6 of us met at Jackie's and we played two sets of three players (it worked very well). The three ladies were in one set and the three gentlemen in the other.

In this session the winning hands were unusually evenly split between all six of us,

In the interval Jackie served some lovely cake, tea and coffee.

We all agreed that this last session had been most enjoyable and thanks once again for all your support over the past two years.

Dave Mason

Technical Computing Group

We had another successful meeting; unfortunately one of our members was on holiday, which reduced our numbers to four. If anyone feels they would like to join, please contact me for details.

We started by again discussing Widows 10, and what we feel about Microsoft's way of installing a very large data file without the user being aware. They are doing this in an attempt to encourage you to download Windows 10; our only advice is to be careful. One of our members has purchased an 'Apple' desktop computer, which we all greatly admired, by the speed of running applications, much improved on a Microsoft machine. As a rule, no anti-virus is needed on one of these computers.

Our next meeting is on March the 10th of March I would like to thank Ann & Peter for their hospitality.

Colin Mason (Cog) colin@mason20.wanadoo.co.uk 01621-854906

Ten Pin Bowling

Just a short report for this month - the only meeting was on Tuesday 9th February with Christine officiating kindly as Simon and I were on holiday! There were just 7 players with Jenny the high scorer achieving 119.

Sadly the meeting on Monday 22nd had to be cancelled due to holidays and sickness.

Our March meeting will be on Tuesday 8th March and as the 4th Monday falls on Easter Monday it makes sense to cancel that meeting. I will hopefully arrange a joint meal with the Petanque players and Ten Pin bowlers for the end of the winter season and start of summer for Petanque. I will email players in due course.

From now on Ten-Pin bowling will be on the second Tuesday of each month only until October at Madison Heights 1.45pm for play to commence at 2pm.

Lynne Morrison 01621 891288 lejmorrison@gmail.com

Threads and Fabrics Group

Our February meeting was a very quiet one, but hopefully the germs etc will have gone away in time for our March meeting and, that the weather will be kind to us. I am looking forward to seeing our members then.

I have been asked by several people, when and where we meet. Our group meets at 2pm on the first Tuesday of the month, taking it in turns to host the meetings. This is no bother, for those, with small living rooms, as we have stayed a small group so that we can spread our work out if needed

Pat Newman 01621 891184 ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk

Ukulele Group

It has been rewarding to see - and hear - such enthusiasm from all our members for the first two sessions of 2016. We now have two gigs lined up for the summer and it is pleasing that each member is now confident enough to have a say about what goes into the repertoire. Rest assured, it is a pretty mixed bunch of material old and new!

Meanwhile, we are happy to welcome one new member to our March meeting, and look forward to maybe one or two more in the near future.

Call me on 01621 859060. Robin Carpenter E-Mail robinrcarpenter@yahoo.co.uk

Walking Group

There will be a walk around Tollesbury, about 3 miles distance, Thurs 10th March.
Meet at the Woodrolfe Road car park at 2:00 pm for a circular walk to the Saltings and back. Please let me know if you can join us.

As this walk seems to be mostly on level ground, I'll attempt it but after this will need someone else to take over - do let me know if any of you would be willing to take over.

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

Weekenders Group

The first Saturday Coffee Morning was a new venue for many of us and some future meetings will also be a bit different but our well used ones will not be forgotten.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 12th March at 10.00 The Mitre at Wickham Bishops
Saturday 9th April 10.00am at The Braxted Bakery, Homefield House, Witham Road, Little Braxted
Saturday 14th May 10.00am at The Barn, Cressing Temple
Marilyn Corbett: Phone 01621817518 or email mars42@btinternet.com

Wine Appreciation Group

There will be no more meetings until April so watch this space for more news
Jackie Email jachjones@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01621 817117

Further Information and details of events

Please note that to enable our meetings to run as smoothly as possible, all sign-in forms for future events (at present just Canterbury) will now be found in the committee room. A table in the main hall will be set aside solely for payment of events and collection of tickets. Thank you!

The following events are planned for this year. Please note that members are 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.

April 2016 A visit to Hever Castle in Kent, the 13th Century childhood home of Ann Boleyn is now booked for Thursday 21st April 2016. Entrance fee is £11.65. Travel will be with a Ford's coach leaving Tesco's at 08.30 and leaving Hever Castle at 17.00. The total cost will be £25.00. . Please pay by March 11th.

Accessibility – Hever Castle have six wheelchairs which may be borrowed on a first come first served basis and cannot be booked in advance. The gardens are 'wheelchair friendly'. Visitors can access the ground floor if three steps can be managed but unfortunately the upper floor is inaccessible to wheelchairs. Please let Pat or Liz know if you may need a wheelchair for this trip.

May 2016 A visit to Kensington Palace is booked for Wednesday 11th May. This Palace was the home of the young Princess, later Queen Victoria and later still, the home of Princess Diana. The trip may include a look at the famous statue of Peter Pan, by the Serpentine, as well as the Diana Memorial playground. We shall also be close to the Royal Albert Hall, The Albert Memorial and even Exhibition Road. Admission to the Palace and grounds costs £11.70 for concessions in a group. Travel will be with Fords' of Althorne, leaving Tesco's at 08.30 and leaving Kensington Palace at 17.00. The total cost will be £24.00. Please sign up to show your interest and remove your name by March 11th if you later find you are unable to join the trip. Last date for payment – April 15th.

Accessibility Kensington Palace has wheelchairs which may be borrowed on a first come first served basis and cannot be booked in advance. There is level access to all parts of the Palace and lifts to all floors. Please let Pat or Liz know if you may need a wheelchair for this trip.

June 2016. We are sharing a coach trip to Bressingham Steam Heritage centre on Wednesday 15th June and I'm pleased to say that this is one of their few 'steam days'. There is a maximum number of 25 members for this trip, so please sign up and pay ASAP, the last date for payment being April 15th! At Bressingham you may take a trip on one of the three railways – the collection of working locomotives will take you round the gardens and woodland. Then perhaps ride on the Victorian steam gallopers, visit the locomotive sheds and even wander through 'Walmington-on-Sea' to view the Dad's Army collection. Total cost of the trip will be £21.00 and we are to be collected by Fords coach at 08.30 from Tesco's.

Accessibility The site and gardens are wheelchair friendly with paths of grass and tarmac. All of the museum buildings are accessible with the exception of one gallery in the exhibition hall and the signal box. The Nursery and Waveney lines both have carriages capable of accommodating standard wheelchairs. Standard wheelchairs are available on a first come first served basis. Please let Liz or Pat know if you may need a wheelchair.

June 2016 A trip to the historical cathedral city of Canterbury is provisionally booked for Tuesday 28th June. At the end of the 6th century AD the city of Canterbury was the capital of the kingdom of Kent, ruled by the powerful Anglo-Saxon King Ethelbert. During his reign Christianity was re-introduced by Augustine, a monk sent from Rome by Pope Gregory the Great. Canterbury was thus established as the centre of Christianity in England. The Cathedral is a must see! Please sign up to show your interest and remove your name if you later find you are unable to join the trip.

Please contact me with any queries.

All cheques should be made payable to Heybridge U3A

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

Jersey Boys Outing

We boarded our spacious, comfortable coach at Tesco for a visit to London to see the show Jersey Boys at the Piccadilly Theatre.



Waiting to go in..... Pat

Arriving with time to spare to visit shops and have lunch before the performance, we occupied excellent seats to watch a most energetic performance of the story of The Four Seasons group told around their songs. Everyone enjoyed the music.

Many thanks to Pat for organising this trip.

Elizabeth

Noticeboard - from the Third Age Trust

1000th U3A

The National Executive Council of the U3A would love to receive suggestions about how the 1000th U3a (expected around March next year) could be celebrated. Email ideas to national.office@u3a.org.uk

24 Hour Legal Advice

This telephone advice service, provided by Arc Legal Assistance, is available to all U3A members. Advice will be given on all matters of law. Please call 0344 770 1040 and quote 'U3A Legal Helpline'. If asked for an insurance number you should say you do not have one. This service is paid for by the Third Age Trust.

The Importance of Being Earnest with David Suchet, exclusive screening at Odeon Covent Garden on 15th March, £15 pp

U3A Explores Science at the RI - 17th March, £20 pp, includes 'Weird Science' and 'How to put the Sun in a magnetic bottle'.

The Search for Life in the Universe - the new science of Astrobiology, 11th April at Birbeck College, part of Science Week.

Mozart Requiem performed by the Brandenburg Singers on 27th April at St Clement Danes, London, £18 pp.

National Summer Schools August 2016 - a few places left

U3A Online Chess League

Run by Steve Lawer (East Suffolk U3A) for U3A members. For more information email steven.lawer1@gmail.com or telephone 01394 276282

U3A Craft Newsletter

Lesley O'Malley is the new subject adviser. The Newsletter will be emailed to the Cogs of our craft-based groups. Lesley would like to hear about ideas, tips and techniques. Email stitchpicture@hotmail.com

Further information and booking online can be obtained from the U3A website www.u3a.org.

Essex Association of U3A's quiz day

We now have a date for the Association Quiz; it is Thursday 9th June From 1.40 until 4.00pm (Quiz starts at 2.00) – at Christchurch Hall Chelmsford Would anyone like to assemble a team?
Please inform Linda Etherton

Study Day Tuesday 25th October

Planning for this year's Study Day has already begun and we have 29 topic groups so far.

Art 1 – Water Colour 1
Art 2 – Water Colour 2
Art 3 – Acrylics
Art 4 – Pen and Ink
Astronomy
Canals or Wine
Computing 1 – PCs
Computing 2 – Tablets
Country Dancing
Crochet, Lace, Knitting
Digital Photography
Exploring Drama
Family History
First Aid
Geology
Hand Chimes
History of Trains
Latin
Maths
Model Trains
Parliament
Patchwork
Philosophy
Poetry
Singing for Pleasure
Tree Recognition
Ukulele
Writing: Non-Fiction
Writing: Fiction

The date will be Tuesday 25th October and it will be in the Plume School, Maldon. Info and Application forms will be sent to you all in June.

From Other U3As

Chelmsford U3A has planned some trips for 2016 and has sent details,

The trips are

Malta on 3rd March £599 for 7 nights with SAGA.....

West Country UK for Walking - 23rd May 4 nights £299+ £64 single supp.....

Krakow on 15th October £589 + £39ss with Tailored Travel.

If anyone is interested please contact David Gout on 01245 268923 davidgout@outlook.com

Maldon U3A

The Aviation group are running the following two outings during the spring

To Martlesham Control Tower Museum & R A F Bentwaters on 3rd April Cost £20

To Shuttleworth Collection Air show day 8th May cost £36

Further details from Brian Johnson 01621 828497 [E-mail brian-purleigh@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:brian-purleigh@hotmail.co.uk)

Maldon U3A Proposed Four Day Holiday “Exploring Kent”

5th/8th July 2016

Hotel: Holiday Inn, Rochester

Price: £355 p.p.

Insurance £10 Single Supplement £45

Day 1 am. Chatham Historic Dockyard

pm. Teapot Island, Yalding

Day 2 am. Hornby Visitor Centre, Margate

pm. Shepherd Neame Brewery, Faversham. Lunch and Tour.

Day 3 am. Walmer Castle and Gardens

pm. Dover Castle

Day 4 am. Explore Rochester Town

pm. Kent County Show

Full details and Booking Form available from

Jan Robertson on 01245 225657 or email: Jan356771@gmail.com

Group Name, Co-ordinator & Contact Phone Number & Email

Group Name	Co-ordinator (COG)	Telephone Number & Email
Art (Painting)	Michael Kempen	01621 892974 Michaelrkempen@gmail.com
Bird Watching	Maureen Lenoir	01621 869871 symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk
Cards and Paper Crafts	Lesley Woonton	01621 858135 Lindawoonton@sky.com
Coffee Morning	Margaret Brown	01621 854885 mbandmeg@btinternet.com
Computer	Ian Newman	01621 891184 ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk
Creative Writing	Angela Pleasance	01621850310 angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk
Croquet	Anne Newson:	01621 858807 annenewson@uwclub.net
Family History	Lesley Pomphrett Liz Cawdell	01621 817733 lesleypommy@hotmail.com 01621 331944 ecawdell@btinternet.com
French	Jenny Parker	01621 843581 jennyparker14@hotmail.com
Gardens	Pat Yates	01621 892866 pat.yates@tesco.net
Italian	Janice Slight	01621 853393 janice.slight@tiscali.co.uk
Local History	Carol Greenhalgh	01621 840339 george.smeed@virgin.net
Patchwork	Anne Thorpe	01621 850828 Anne.thorpe@btinternet.com
Petanque	Barbara Barbrook	01621 855605 c.barbrook@sky.com
Photography	Norman Grove	01621 842805 norman.grove@gmail.com .
Reading & Books	Ann Lees	01245 225153 annlees@yahoo.com
Scrabble	Linda Etherton	01621 843702 ethertonbikes@aol.com
Solo Whist	Dave Mason	01621858635 tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk
Technical Computing	Colin Mason	01621 854906 colin@mason20.wanadoo.co.uk
Ten Pin Bowling	Lynne Morrison	01621 891288 lejmorrison@gmail.com
Threads & Fabrics	Pat Newman	01621 891184 ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk
Ukulele	Robin Carpenter	01621 859060 robinrcarpenter@yahoo.co.uk
Walking	Elizabeth Eastwood	01621 850618 e.m.e@talktalk.net
Weekenders	Marilyn Corbett	01621 817518 mars42@btinternet.com
Wine Group	Jackie Jones	01621 817117 jachjones@tiscali.co.uk

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

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
29 February	29	1 March Threads 14.00	2 Ukulele Group 14.00 Cards & Paper 14.30	3 Photography 14.00	4 Committee meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00	5	6
7 March	7 Italian conversation 10.00 Gardens Planning	8 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	9 French Conversation 10.00 Solo Whist 14.00	10 Technical Computing 14.00 Walking 14.00	11 Annual General Meeting 14.00	12 Weekender Wickham Bishops 10.00	13
14 March	14 Patchwork 14.00	15 Local History 14.00	16 Book Group 14.15	17 Computer 14.00	18 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00	19	20
21 March	21 Italian conversation 10.00	22 Scrabble 14.00	23 Creative Writing 14.30	24 Family Hist Beginners 10.00 Family Hist 11.00	25 Copy to Editor Good Friday Bird watching 10.00	26	27
28 March	28 Easter Monday	29	30	31	1 April Committee meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00	2	3
4 April	4 Italian conversation 10.00 Petanque 14.00	5 Threads 14.00	6 Ukulele Group 14.00 Cards & Paper 14.30	7 Photography 14.00	8 Monthly Meeting 14.00	9 Weekender Braxted 10.00	10
11 April	11 Patchwork 14.00 Petanque 14.00	12 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	13 French Conversation 10.00	14 Technical Computing 14.00 Walking 14.00	15 Painting 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00	16	17
18 April	18 Italian conversation 10.00 Petanque 14.00	19 Local History 14.00	20 Book Group 14.15	21 Computer 14.00	22 Painting 14.00 Bird watching 10.00	23	24
25 April	25 French Improvers 10.00 Petanque 14.00	26 Scrabble 14.00	27 Creative Writing 14.30	28 Family Hist Beginners 10.00 Family Hist 11.00	29 Copy to Editor Painting 14.00	30	1 May