



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

# Heybridge U3A

## News Sheet No.2/2017

### March 2017

<https://u3asites.org.uk/heybridge>

Registered charity number 1160360

#### Your Committee

	Page Number
Your Committee	1
From the Chairman	2
From the Editor	3
Membership Secretary	3
Interest Group Coordinator	4
Monthly Meetings	4
Group Reports	4
Detail of Events	12
Third Age Trust	13
On the Notice Board	13
From Other U3As	14
COG Names and contact details	15
Diary	16

Monthly meeting Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017








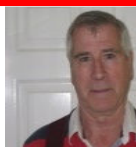
No meeting April 14<sup>th</sup> Good Friday

#### Refreshment Group Rota

March	Patchwork
May	Photography
June	Reading & Books
July	Scrabble

Please provide 3 people to serve refreshments

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# NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

## From the Chairman

As I write this we are approaching our AGM and the end of my year as your Chairman. I have enjoyed this year; there have been a few problems but they have been far outweighed by the fun and the laughter. I have appreciated all the kindnesses shown to me, from a smile in the supermarket, or some pleasant chat at a meeting, to offers of substantial help - thank you all.

I believe that Heybridge U3A has had another successful year. We have had some great speakers and the outings have been very popular. Membership is being maintained at a comfortable level and we end the year with almost excessively healthy finances. The national Conference, that I attended last year, was interesting and informative.

The success of our U3A is down to all the people who make it what it is; I cannot leave without thanking them. Your committee have been exceptional, a small band of people who have cheerfully rolled up their sleeves and got stuck into the things that need to be done. We have an outstanding secretary in Linda, who organises us with a calm efficiency that I can only envy and be grateful for. Jenny does so much more than just keeping all our membership details up to date and accurate. She and Linda pick up all the odd jobs that do not quite fall into anyone else's remit ensuring the smooth running of the organisation. Jill has all our finances under control and I know from experience what an undertaking it has been to deal with both the general finances and our social outings. Those social outings have been organised by Liz who has taken us to so many interesting places. Jan has organised and looked after a succession of speakers on all sorts of subjects with something to interest everyone, and Geoff has managed to get everything recorded in our News Sheet. Barbara has been 'mother hen' to our CoGs, without whom we would have no interest groups and no U3A. Colin has taken on the job of helping the committee with all the technical things that we need to deal with, and Norman looked after our old website for several years. We have had several people welcoming visitors and members at meetings and others making tea and coffee. My thanks go to all the committee, CoGs and other helpers.

It is very unlikely that I will be able to be with you at the AGM but I hope that you will enjoy seeing what other groups are doing, and my thoughts will be with you. I wish the new Committee every success and my thanks go to the people who have volunteered to take on the various roles this coming year.

I wish you all another enjoyable year.

Angela Pleasance

## Annual General Meeting and Committee Nominations 2017

There will be an AGM on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 2.00 pm in the Plantation Hall. Nominations have been received for the following positions on the Committee:

**Membership Secretary** - Philippa Moody, proposed by Lesley Evans, seconded by Jill McGregor

**Social/Events Treasurer** - Brenda Dewar, proposed by Jenny Parker, seconded by Linda Etherton

An additional nomination is required as the incumbent was seconded to the role in July 2016:

**Speaker Secretary** - Jan Brown, proposed by Robin Carpenter, seconded by Heather Lealan

No nominations have been received for the following positions: **Chairman, Vice-Chairman**

If no further nominations are received before the AGM, we will ask the membership for permission to accept nominations from the floor.

Papers for the AGM are to be sent out by email and post, but if anyone does not receive copies 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 may be 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 2017.

Please note that E-mail details of Group Co-ordinators will no longer be included with individual group reports. However, you can still find them in the list on page 15 of the News Sheet.

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' as the subject.

Contact Geoff Hadley, 01621 852494 or by Email [editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk](mailto:editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk)

### From the Membership Secretary

#### • 2017-18 Subscriptions

Thanks to all members who have already paid their 2017/18 subs. Please remember to collect your membership card at the monthly meeting.

***May I remind those who have not yet paid that they should renew their subs by the end of March if they wish to remain a member.***

A re-enrolment form is attached with this News Sheet and copies will be available at the monthly meeting. Alternatively, you can download one from our new website

<https://www.u3asites.org.uk/heybridge>

Subject to ratification at the AGM, the standard fee for 2017/18 will be £18. The dual membership fee (which applies to fully paid up members of other U3As)\* will be £13.

**In the unlikely event that the AGM does not approve this reduction, the fee will remain at £20 (£15 for dual members) and a further £2 will be payable**

*\* Members of the 4 Maldon U3As (Blackwater, Heybridge, Limebrook and Maldon) who wish only to access each other's interest groups can do so without paying a membership charge provided spaces are available.*

#### • Gift Aid

If you are a tax payer, the U3A can claim Gift Aid on your subscription provided you "have paid, or will pay, an amount of income and/or capital gains tax for each year that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the Charities to which they donate will reclaim on gifts made during that year. If the tax paid is less than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all donations, it is the individual's responsibility to pay any difference."

HMRC 2016

The Gift Aid Declaration on the enrolment form was updated in 2016 to reflect the new HMRC wording and we would like to thank everyone who signed this last year. If you pay sufficient tax but have not yet signed the revised declaration (or cannot remember doing so), please consider signing this year. The amount we can reclaim on gift aided subscriptions is 25%, i.e. £4.50 on a subscription of £18, which may help us to reduce subscriptions in future years.

If you have any queries, please contact me.

Jenny Parker E-mail [membershipsecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk](mailto:membershipsecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk)

## Interest Groups Coordinator

**A**lmost all the coordinators attended a meeting at Heybridge Basin to receive a copy of the newly revised "Guidance for CoGs" with refreshments of coffee and cake and they spent two enjoyable hours discussing the revised document.

We obtained some useful comments from the coordinators, and discussed ways of getting to know new members who could be interested in joining their groups. It can be difficult for people joining the U3A alone for them to get to know the established members of the U3A, some who have been members since it first started. It was suggested that we could have meetings of new members periodically if we can find a suitable location.

Bus Pass Group.

We will have another meeting at 3.30 at the end of the AGM as individuals had promised to plan a route with timetables ready for when the warmer weather allows us to commence taking some trips using our bus passes.

Lunch Club.

Thank you to those members who signed up for this new group. Unfortunately, and unexpectedly, I have rather a lot on my personal plate at the moment and have reluctantly decided not to start this group at present. I am hopeful that at some point in the future we will be able to go ahead – I do love my food!!!

Liz Cawdell

Email [groupscordinator@heybridgeu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupscordinator@heybridgeu3a.org.uk)

## Monthly Meeting Speaker Programme for February July

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| 10/03/17 | AGM, Finding out about the different groups in our U3A  |
| 14/04/17 | Meeting Cancelled (Good Friday)                         |
| 12/05/17 | How Forensics came to Scotland Yard, Bob Milne          |
| 9/06/17  | My Stroke - from wheelchair to windsurfer! Peter Parker |
| 14/07/17 | Summer Party  |

Jan Brown E-Mail [speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk](mailto:speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk)

**We now have a new website –** <https://u3asites.org.uk/heybridge> - why not take a look?



Learn, Laugh and Live with Heybridge U3A. Many of you will have visited our previous website which was designed by Peter Thorpe when he was Chairman. It has been an excellent site which has served us well. In recent years, Norman Grove has acted as webmaster, uploading information to keep the site current. The committee would like to thank them both for their contribution.

We wanted to develop the site further but, as we don't have Peter's skills or knowledge of the computer language in which it was written, were unable to do so. We then discovered a U3A initiative where by, supported by a grant from the Third Age Trust, a programme has been developed by a local U3A which enables individual U3As to create their own website.

Creating and updating the site is incredibly easy – you simply use an on-line form to enter and up-load information which is stored in a database, ready to make complete web pages when anyone asks to see them. Although the websites so created have a similar layout and appearance, the content is specific to each individual U3A. Take a look and let us know what you think.

## GROUP REPORTS

### Art Group

Our Friday afternoon "studio" has been buzzing with creativity for most of February. We are all currently looking to frame up a new or a much loved piece each to show at the March AGM.

This always furrows a few members' brows but in the end we all, invariably, find something worth displaying. It is nice, too, for we painters to be able to admire each other's' work freshly presented for public viewing, as well as all the other interesting presentations made by our fellow Heybridge U3A groups.

Cheers! Gill Carpenter.

For information about the group contact, Michael Kempen: 01621 892974

### Bird Watching Group

Tollesbury is a great place to watch birds on a bright February morning. There were hundreds of Widgeon spread out over the Wick as we walked along the wall towards the hide. With the tide in there were few birds in the creek but plenty to see on the marsh. Even the sea wall had a lovely little Reed Bunting posing for us. The birds are in the middle of getting their breeding plumage now and are beginning to look amazingly colourful and smart. Shovellers and Shellduck are immaculate and the Oyster Catchers have beaks and legs in spectacular red. It is amazing what hormones can do.



Reed Bunting



Marsh Harrier

To top off a great morning, just before we left, the Marsh Harrier put in an appearance. It was hunting along the wall and making the most of the wind to soar and glide in the sun.

Jill

If you would like to know more about our group contact Maureen Lenoir 01621869871

### Cards and Paper Crafts

Just to let you know that as a small group of card making ladies, strange to relate but we are all left handed. I know they say all left handed people are craft minded of some sort, we are all interested in designing different types of cards. We did go to a craft morning at Birds in the Barn (Marks Tey). We were able to make 3 cards each using the distressed look while stamping.

We were then desperate for some lunch. A good morning.

From Linda (Lesley) Woonton

The meetings are. Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at 2.30 p.m.

Please contact Lesley for details. 01621 858135



### **Creative Writing Group**

We had a cosy afternoon on a cold February day listening to the stories written by the Writing Group with a title of a Great Dream/Hopes and Dreams. One person wrote about the words relating to hopes of days of the week embedded in our literature and another continued with her story of a family returning to their home after house sitting in France. One house was in fact a Chateau. The other story was of Jim after his housekeeper had shared a tiring visit from his long lost brother. The last was a final episode of Len who dreamed of running away to sea and joining the crew of the Queen Mary.

Next month we will be in the Basin with the titles of "While the world sleeps" or "It arrived on a Tuesday". The groups co-ordinator will be emailing you with the address for the March group meeting.

Barbara Barbrook

### **Croquet Group**

The croquet group has now stopped playing for the season. We plan to start playing again in April, this subject to weather and the lawns being available. Hopefully we will continue playing at the Forresters Golf Club; we are most appreciative of the Maldon Croquet Club who allow us to play on their lawns. The aim of the group is gentle exercise, fresh air, good company and fun. If you would like to join us please contact me.

Anne Newson: phone 01621 858807

### **Discussion Coffee Morning Group**

We met on 17<sup>th</sup> February at Jean's house where we had a pleasant couple of hours discussing various topics of interest. Jean provided us with tasty refreshments which kept our wheels nicely oiled.

In March we will be meeting at 11am on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> at my house. Margaret Brown: 01621 854885

### **Family History Group**

We were a little thin on the ground at this month's meeting – so many bugs and "lurgies" doing the rounds. This didn't stop the enthusiasm



though and we spent a frustrating hour or two searching for Dorothy's relative – with the surname 'Jones'!! He should have been showing in the 1911 census, age 4, with his parents and siblings but he, and a sister, were missing. Were they in hospital? Was there a flu epidemic at this time? Were they 'fostered out' to grand-parents whilst the mother was tending to the youngest baby?

Liz has volunteered to assist with the cataloguing and archiving of the Plume School records. This a shared learning project with the other Maldon U3A's.

We also discussed The Ellis Island Foundation project – a website dedicated to all the 'tired, poor and huddled masses' who passed through the immigration centre dreaming of a new life in America.

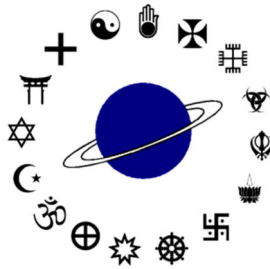
We will be arranging another study session at the Essex Records Office in March – date tba. This group is almost full but if there is enough interest, I am happy to start another beginner's group.

For more details please contact Liz Cawdell 07902 294741

## French Group

### French Conversation

After our December meeting at Rosemary's house, when she regaled us with nibbles and hand-made Christmas crackers complete with riddles in French, it was business as usual in January, when our theme was religion.



During a recent visit to France, the Dalai Lama said “*Le monde irait peut-être mieux sans religion*” (The world would be a better place without religion). This provided the basis of our discussion and we all agreed with his view that values such as altruism, respect, compassion and forgiveness should be values common to all humanity. We then looked at some French opinion polls and were surprised to read that, according to the results, more than half of French people claimed to have no religion, compared with only 13% of the world population who regard themselves as atheist.

*Notre prochaine rencontre sera mercredi le 8 mars à 10h00 chez moi.*

### French Improvers (joint group with Blackwater U3A)

Our theme for February was the weather and the seasons. As in English, there are a variety of expressions to describe the weather, some more polite than others. If I tell you ‘il pleut’ means it’s raining, and ‘une vache’ is a cow, you can probably work out what ‘il pleut come une vache qui pisse’ means.



*Notre prochain rencontre sera lundi le 27 mars à 14h00. Venue t.b.a*

For further information about either French Group, please phone 01621 843581

## Gardens Group

15 of us met at Marks Hall on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February. Walking at a relaxing pace we explored the carpets of snowdrops mostly in the Copse. There were plenty of paths to walk, although unfortunately the Walled Garden was unavailable until later in the spring. There were numerous varieties of snowdrops to charm us; some double, some with an attractive green edge to the inner petals and some were pure white. As well as the snowdrop wood there were us to a memorial to the US air-force division stationed close by and other paths through silver birch, hazel and willow trees often burgeoning new leaf buds. The stroll ended, as these occasions a hot drink and an irresistible cake



petals and  
paths to take  
during WWII  
with  
demand, with

There will be a planning meeting on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm at my house, so please think about where you would like to go.

Pat Yates. 01621 892866

### **Italian Conversation Group**

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 interesting items in the news, as well as occasionally revising points of grammar.

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

Janice Slight 01621 853393

### **Local History Group**

For our February meeting Brian Billins gave us a very entertaining and interesting talk about 'Essex Smugglers' – of which there were plenty [and this was not about those of today]. Some of the smugglers' success in avoiding the notice of the authorities seems to have been down to Essex being the county with the longest coastline, if you include all its rivers and creeks. A very wide range of goods were worth smuggling – tea being one of the most valuable.

We meet in March for a talk by Jane Pearson on 'the rise and fall of Colchester's good-time girls' and we would seem to have a full-house for this. April will see us getting out and about again when we will be walking in Goldhanger with David Newman.

Carol Greenhalgh 01621 840339

### **Patchwork Group**

Our next meetings will be on 10<sup>th</sup> April and 8<sup>th</sup> May from 2.00 - 4.00 pm in the Linton Room at the West Maldon Community Centre.

New members are welcome; please contact Anne Thorpe 01621 850828

### **Petanque Group**

For all you hardy Petanque players, several of us have braved the winter elements on the Prom, to play boules. So, if you fancy a game this time of the year if the weather is ok, cos we can get bright sunny days! Please turn up to start playing at 1.0'clock on Mondays, as the light fades quickly. I know we don't officially re start Petanque until April 3<sup>rd</sup> but it still can be fun this time of the year too.

Best Wishes Dian 01621 840660 or Moira 01621 854387

### **Photography Group**

Our first meeting in 2017 was held at the West Maldon Community Centre on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. Somehow, by not meeting together since the beginning of December, it seemed more like a reunion. Our assignment subject for viewing was "Colours of Winter". I am always surprised at the range of interpretations our members can find. We saw: colourful birds; plants; Christmas decorations; people; beach huts; trees; ice and sunsets. Many of the images were taken using the subtle and colourful low level winter lighting available for us at this time of year.

We also discussed "exposure", how it is measured and how to adjust our cameras to the most appropriate setting for the picture we wanted to capture.





Beach huts Carol Greenhalgh

Our assignment subject for the March meeting is “Weather”. We experience weather every day of our lives, but how do you capture it in picture form? I am confident that our members will come up with a wide variety of novel and creative images - they always do!

We plan to have some of our recent assignment photographs running as a laptop sequence at the AGM. Please take a few minutes to view our work and, we hope, enjoy the show.

Our next meeting is on 2<sup>nd</sup>. March, if you are interested in photographs, how to use your camera or cameraphone you are welcome to come along and join us. We normally meet in the West Maldon Community Centre on the first Thursday of each month at 2.00pm.

Peter Thorpe 01621 850828

### **Reading and Books Group**

**T**his month's book was “12 Years A Slave” by Solomon Northup which is regarded as the best written of all the slave narratives and a story that was recently made into an award winning film.

This story is a harrowing memoir about one of the darkest periods in American history. It recounts how Solomon Northup, born a free man in New York was lured to Washington DC in 1841 with the promise of fast money. He was then drugged beaten and sold into slavery leaving behind a wife two children and his home. He spent the next twelve years of his life in captivity on a Louisiana cotton plantation.

After his rescue Solomon, who had been educated and was able to read and write, published this vivid and detailed account of slave life, enhanced by the fact that it was written by a man who had been both a free man and slave.

The group found the content of this book somewhat hard to take and without exception we skipped over quite a lot of this story with its graphic descriptions of the most appalling violence, and man's inhumanity to his fellow man.

However we did try to understand that these were different times, with different understandings about the human race. However all in all there were those in the story who were able to operate with compassion to both man and beast. So if some can do it what has made the others so brutal? We put forward several ideas but could not really find a satisfactory reason for such brutality, other than brutality breeds brutality in some people who need and enjoy the power it gives them

The next meeting takes place at Plantation Hall at 2.15pm on March 15<sup>th</sup>

Anyone wishing to join the group should contact Ann Lees on 0124522515

### **Scrabble Group**

**I**t was a bit too quiet at the February meeting - people not well, in hospital or having to do something else. There is room for more members and spare Scrabble sets are available so why not come along for a convivial couple of hours and benefit from getting the little grey cells working.

If you would like to join us we meet at 2.00 pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Plantation Hall in Heybridge in the Claydon Room. Contact Linda Etherton for more information (see list of CoGs for details)

### **Technical Computing Group**

**O**ur last meeting was held at my house, where, amongst other items, I was able to explain how to 'Clone' a hard drive without using a computer. The device can be either a laptop or desktop drive, but must be a SATA variety. After a break for tea we went on to discuss newer types of camera lenses available for a digital camera. Whilst not directly computer parts, you still need a computer, and the necessary software to manipulate a photograph.

Our next meeting is on Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> of March and new members are always welcome but please contact me if you are interested in coming to a meeting. They are 'Free' as we meet in members' homes.

Colin Mason. Telephone Nos. 01621 854906 or Mobile 07974 343587

### **Ten Pin Bowling**

**O**ur meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> February found us in the middle of the half term holidays and we have never seen Madison Heights so full! However our lanes were reserved for us and eight of us played in two of them.

No amazing scores to report but, as usual, a good time was had by all.

Next meeting will be on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March-1.45pm for 2pm start.

Lynne Morrison 01621 891288

### **Ukulele Group UKE3A**

**B**usy busy busy! The ukulele strummers are currently putting together a new repertoire for our next run of three gigs. When we started Uke3A we never imagined we would be asked to do so many public performances. With over 90 amateur ukulele groups in Essex alone, who would have thought our little outfit would get a look in! Well, life is full of surprises, and I am sure we are all very grateful for these opportunities. Thankfully, we have been excused a performance at the AGM but we will be displaying something on the theme of Ukuleles which we hope others will find interesting.

Robin Carpenter. Call me on 01621 859060 if you are interested.

### Walking Group

15 of us met at Marks Hall on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February. Walking at a relaxing pace we explored the carpets of snowdrops mostly in the copse. There were plenty of paths to walk, although unfortunately the Walled Garden was unavailable until later in the spring. There were numerous varieties of snowdrops to charm us; some double, some with an attractive green edge to the inner petals and some were pure white. As well as the snowdrop wood there were us to a memorial to the US air-force division stationed close by and other paths through silver birch, hazel and willow trees often burgeoning new leaf buds. The stroll ended, as these occasions a hot drink and an irresistible cake. For the walkers, the next on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March starting at 2pm – route to be decided.



petals and  
paths to take  
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with  
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walk will be

Linda Wells. 01621 857414

### Weekenders Group

On 11<sup>th</sup> February we gathered for our coffee morning at the 'View' Café on Osea Road. Though the day was cold, drizzly and rather foggy we enjoyed the wonderful view from the upstairs room, which we had to ourselves. It was too chilly for a walk but just to look reminded us how lucky we are to live in such a lovely place. We welcomed Mike, a new member before discussing our plans for future meetings which once again are to include coffee mornings; breakfast and lunches together; theatre trips; garden visits and occasional journeys to nearby places of interest – possibly Dedham and Cambridge.

Dates and details of our next meetings.

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March**, 10.00am. Abberton Reservoir Visitor Centre, Church Road, Layer de la Hay. CO4 0EU. Take the Goldhanger Road, B1026, from Heybridge but look out for a sharp left turn after Goldhanger, signpost Colchester, (still the B1026). Stay on the same road to reach the reservoir.

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March** 12.15 Lunch at Izumi

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April**, 10.00 am. Colemans Fishery Café, Little Braxted Lane.

Please contact me if you need a lift.

Pat Smith 01621 856569

## EVENTS AND OUTINGS

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March**

### **HINDU TEMPLE, NEASDEN**

#### **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE**

A chance to explore the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir. We will visit the 'Understanding Hinduism' Exhibition, explore the Mandir, the Haveli, be able to observe the 'Arti Ceremony' and do a spot of shopping at the Indian supermarket.

Day includes a special Gujarati Buffet lunch served in the Shayona restaurant.

Cost: £30 per person (including lunch)

<http://londonmandir.baps.org>

<http://www.shayonarestaurants.com>

If you have paid for this trip and the new date is not convenient, please let me know and I will arrange a full refund for you.

I have two spare places at present for this trip. Please contact me asap if you would like to go.



## **PROPOSED OUTINGS FOR 2017**

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

### **WINGFIELD COLLEGE, EYE, SUFFOLK**

Wingfield College is now a private family home but its history goes back over 650 years. Founded by Sir John de Wingfield in 1362, it is now one of the most extraordinary houses in Suffolk. The grand Georgian facade of Wingfield College conceals a rare mediaeval survival: the remnants of a chantry college of priests complete with a cloister walk and a Great Hall.

It is associated with many important and colourful historical characters, including The Black Prince, Mary Tudor, Henry VIII and the de la Pole family (the Dukes of Suffolk and one of the most powerful families in mediaeval England).

Pub lunch if required.

Cost: t.b.a

<http://www.wingfieldcollege.com>



### **THE HISTORY OF MYSTERY at THE MAGIC CIRCLE HEADQUARTERS**

Following on from the wonderful Paul Clancy who entertained us at the October meeting, I am planning a visit, as requested by many members, to the 'History of Mystery' at the Magic Circle headquarters. We will have a guided tour of the HQ with a brief history of the magical arts, close-up magic performance and a short stage show.

Date and cost: tba

<http://themagiccircle.co.uk>



### **THE RAGGED SCHOOL MUSEUM and The V & A MUSEUM OF CHILDHOOD**

When Thomas Barnardo came to London from his home city of Dublin in 1866, intending to train as a doctor and then become a missionary in China, he was confronted by a city where disease was rife, poverty and overcrowding endemic and educational opportunities for the poor were non-existent. In 1867 he opened his first "ragged school" where children could gain a free basic education. <http://www.raggedschoolmuseum.org.uk>

The V & A Museum of Childhood charts the history of toys and games through the ages. There is so much to see here! Take a look at their website to learn more [www.vam.ac.uk/moc](http://www.vam.ac.uk/moc)

## On the Notice Board

### Third Age trust

#### U3A Summer Schools 2017

1. Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire, 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> July 2017
2. Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> August 2017
3. Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Costs: Full board £299.00, day delegate £110.00 per person

Book online at [u3auj.wufoo.eu/forms/summerschools-2017](http://u3auj.wufoo.eu/forms/summerschools-2017) or call the National Office

### Latest updates from the National Office

We are pleased to announce that the video recording of our Celebration of 1,000 U3As is now available to view on our [YouTube Channel](#). It is also available from the home page of the website.

#### Special offers for U3A Members

U3A Members can now purchase a 3-month National Art Pass for just £10. Visit [artfund.org/u3a](http://artfund.org/u3a) for more information. You have until 20th March 2017 to take advantage of this offer.

Additionally, use the discount code U3A2017 for 10% off all services at [my-history.co.uk](http://my-history.co.uk).

### Essex Association of U3As - Study Day 2017

Plume School, Maldon, 24th October.

Information and booking forms will be emailed to the U3A Friday June 30th.

Subjects so far include:

3 Art groups – 2 Water Colour, Acrylics	Beading
Computers – 2 different groups	Country Dancing
Crochet, Lace	Exploring Drama
Family History	First Aid
Hand Chimes	History of Trains
Jazz Appreciation	Latin
Maths	Patchwork
Philosophy	Shared Learning Projects
Trees	Ukulele
Wine Tasting	Writing – Non Fiction & Fiction

**Singing** was very popular but the leader can't do the group again, and the organisers are asking if anyone could take it on.

They are waiting to hear whether the **Geology** group will be available again

Finally, is there anyone in our U3A who could offer something new? The Secretary will provide the email address of the organiser for you to contact.



## **Other U3A**

### **Maldon and District U3A**

**W**e would like to welcome new members to our Egyptology Group  
We meet in the Oak House Maldon High Street on the second Tuesday of each month from 2- 4 pm  
at a cost of £2. If any of your members would be interested in joining us they can contact me on  
01621840271 for more information about the group.

Kathy Goff

### **Volunteers Needed**

**S**orting and Cataloguing Archives  
In a joint project with Plume Academy and the local U3A groups it is hoped to set up a group of  
volunteers to take on the task of sorting and cataloguing the archives of the Plume Academy. As you  
can imagine these go back quite some time and are in need of some tidying. If you are a former student or  
employee of the Plume it may be of particular interest to you. Once basic sorting of everything into  
containers has taken place, the cataloguing of items can then begin. This is when your support would be  
welcome. If you feel you would like to get involved in this interesting local project and have some time to  
spare please contact me with your name and contact details.

Shirley Macro on 01621 854856 or email: [thehighperch@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thehighperch@yahoo.co.uk)

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

<b>Group Name</b>	<b>Co-ordinator (COG)</b>	<b>Telephone Number &amp; Email</b>
Art (Painting)	Michael Kempen	01621 892974 <a href="mailto:Michaelrkempen@gmail.com">Michaelrkempen@gmail.com</a>
Bird Watching	Maureen Lenoir	01621 869871 <a href="mailto:symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk">symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Cards and Paper Crafts	Lesley Woonton	01621 858135
Coffee Morning	Margaret Brown	01621 854885 <a href="mailto:mbandmeg@btinternet.com">mbandmeg@btinternet.com</a>
Creative Writing	Angela Pleasance	01621 850310 <a href="mailto:angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk">angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Croquet	Anne Newson	01621 858807 <a href="mailto:annenewson@uwclub.net">annenewson@uwclub.net</a>
Family History	Liz Cawdell	07902 294741 <a href="mailto:ecawdell62@gmail.com">ecawdell62@gmail.com</a>
French	Jenny Parker	01621 843581 <a href="mailto:jennyparker14@hotmail.com">jennyparker14@hotmail.com</a>
Gardens	Pat Yates	01621 892866 <a href="mailto:pat.yates@tesco.net">pat.yates@tesco.net</a>
Italian	Janice Slight	01621 853393 <a href="mailto:janice.slight@tiscali.co.uk">janice.slight@tiscali.co.uk</a>
Local History	Carol Greenhalgh	01621 840339 <a href="mailto:carol.georgesmeed@gmail.com">carol.georgesmeed@gmail.com</a>
Lunch Club	Liz Cawdell	07902 294741 <a href="mailto:ecawdell62@gmail.com">ecawdell62@gmail.com</a>
Patchwork	Anne Thorpe	01621 850828 <a href="mailto:Anne.thorpe@btinternet.com">Anne.thorpe@btinternet.com</a>
Petanque	Dian Bayley Moir Penhallow	01621 840660 <a href="mailto:dianbayley@aol.com">dianbayley@aol.com</a> 01621 854387 <a href="mailto:moirapen@hotmail.co.uk">moirapen@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Photography	Peter Thorpe	01621 850828 <a href="mailto:thorpe101@btinternet.com">thorpe101@btinternet.com</a>
Reading & Books	Ann Lees	01245 225153 <a href="mailto:annlees@yahoo.com">annlees@yahoo.com</a>
Scrabble	Linda Etherton	01621 843702 <a href="mailto:ethertonbikes@aol.com">ethertonbikes@aol.com</a>
Technical Computing	Colin Mason	01621 854906 <a href="mailto:colin@mason20.wanadoo.co.uk">colin@mason20.wanadoo.co.uk</a>
Ten Pin Bowling	Lynne Morrison	01621 891288 <a href="mailto:lejmorrisson@gmail.com">lejmorrisson@gmail.com</a>
Ukulele	Robin Carpenter	01621 859060 <a href="mailto:robinrcarpenter@yahoo.co.uk">robinrcarpenter@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Walking	Linda Wells	01621 857414 <a href="mailto:wellsbarge@gmail.com">wellsbarge@gmail.com</a>
Weekenders	Pat Smith	01621 856569 <a href="mailto:patcleary98@sky.com">patcleary98@sky.com</a>

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

<b>Week Commencing</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
<b>27 Feb</b>	<b>27</b> Ten Pin Bowling 14.00 <b>French Improvers</b> 14.00	<b>28</b> <b>Scrabble</b> 14.00	<b>1 Mar</b> <b>Ukulele</b> 14.00  Cards & paper 14.30	<b>2</b> <b>Photography</b> 14.00	<b>3</b> Committee Meeting 10.00  Painting 14.00	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6 Mar</b>	<b>6</b> <b>Italian Conversation</b> 10.00	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>French Conversation</b> 10.00	<b>9</b> Technical Computing 14.00 Walking 14.00	<b>10</b> <b>Annual General Meeting</b> 14.00	<b>11</b> <b>Weekenders Abberton</b> 10.00	<b>12</b>
<b>13 Mar</b>	<b>13</b> <b>Patchwork</b> 14.00	<b>14</b> Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	<b>15</b> <b>Book Group</b> 14.15	<b>16</b> <b>Weekenders</b> 12.15 <b>Lunch</b> at Izumi	<b>17</b> Coffee Morning 10.00 Painting 14.00	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20 Mar</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Italian Conversation</b> 10.00 <b>Gardens Planning</b> 14.00	<b>21</b> <b>Local History</b> 14.00	<b>22</b> <b>Creative Writing</b> 14.30	<b>23</b> <b>Family History</b> 10.00	<b>24</b> Bird watching 10.00 Painting 14.00	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27 Mar</b>	<b>27</b> Ten Pin Bowling 14.00 <b>French Improvers</b> 14.00	<b>28</b> <b>Scrabble</b> 14.00	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>Copy to editor</b>  Painting 14.00	<b>1 Apr</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3 April</b>	<b>3</b> <b>Petanque</b> 14.00 <b>Italian Conversation</b> 10.00	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>Ukulele</b> 14.00  Cards & paper 14.30	<b>6</b> <b>Photography</b> 14.00	<b>7</b> Committee Meeting 10.00  Painting 14.00	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10 April</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Patchwork</b> 14.00 <b>Petanque</b> 14.00	<b>11</b> Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	<b>12</b> <b>French Conversation</b> 10.00	<b>13</b> Technical Computing 14.00 Walking 14.00	<b>14</b> <b>Good Friday</b>	<b>15</b> <b>Weekenders</b> 10.00 <b>Colemans Fishery Café</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17 April</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Easter Monday</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Local History</b> 14.00	<b>19</b> <b>Book Group</b> 14.15	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Coffee Morning 10.00 Painting 14.00	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24 April</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Petanque</b> 14.00 <b>French Improvers</b> 14.00	<b>25</b> <b>Scrabble</b> 14.00	<b>26</b> <b>Creative Writing</b> 14.30	<b>27</b> <b>Family History</b> 10.00	<b>28</b> Bird watching 10.00 Painting 14.00 <b>Copy to editor</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>