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Registered Charity number 1160360

Next Main Meeting – Plantation Hall

Friday 10th March at 2.00 pm

Annual General Meeting




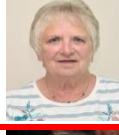




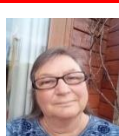


Next Committee Meeting

Friday 7th April at 10.00 am

Main Meeting Refreshments Rota

March – Needlecraft

April – Patchwork

Chair	Jackie Jones chairman@heybridgeu3a.org.uk 01621 817117	
Vice Chair	Peter Radford vicechairman@heybridgeu3a.org.uk 01621 843543	
Secretary	Marilyn Corbett secretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk 01621 817518	
Treasurer	Elizabeth Eastwood treasurer@heybridgeu3a.org.uk 01621 850618	
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Publicity Officer	Linda Etherton publicity@heybridgeu3a.org.uk 01621 843702	
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From the Editors

Hello and welcome to the March News Sheet.

This is an important month for Heybridge u3a as we have our Annual General Meeting on the 10th, at Plantation Hall. As you will see from the notice below, we have not yet received any nominations for the vacant committee positions. Please give this some thought and consider if you could apply for one of the roles. Without a committee we cannot continue, so remember No committee = No Heybridge u3a.

Also a reminder to our CoGs that reports should be submitted by the last weekend of the month. This is to give time for the news sheet to be put together prior to the monthly main meeting at Plantation Hall. We know sometimes this is not easy, but please try your best.

Lorraine & Brian editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

Notice regarding the Annual General Meeting of Heybridge u3a

Annual General Meeting and Committee Nominations 2023

Heybridge u3a is holding an Annual General Meeting on the 10th March 2023 at 2.00 pm at Plantation Hall, Heybridge.

The following positions on the Committee need to be filled, but as yet **NO nominations have been received**:

Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Speaker Secretary

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

If no-one steps forward to fill these posts, particularly the crucial role of Treasurer, there is a serious danger that Heybridge u3a would have to be closed.

Papers for the AGM will be sent out by email and post, but if anyone does not receive copies please tell the secretary or editor.

News from the Committee

From the Chairman

Having escaped from the cold weather I can report that the sun does shine in Spain in February but the wind is strong enough to blow away the beaches along the Costa del Sol! However I am back in time for the AGM when we will be looking forward to welcoming some new faces on the committee for the coming year.

Jackie Jones chairman@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Membership Secretary

It is time to renew your membership for the year 2023/24!

Attached to the email sending you this news sheet is a copy of the membership form for the year beginning 1st April 2023. Please print a copy, complete one for each person and post it back to the address on the form or bring it to a main meeting. In the light of increased costs, the committee is proposing a membership fee of £20 this year.

Note that the new form gives the opportunity to opt out of receiving by post 'Third Age Matters'.

Please pay by cheque payable to Heybridge u3a or contact me for details to do a bank transfer.

Philippa Moody membershipsecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Speaker Secretary

Last month Andy Marshall from Essex Fire and Rescue Service gave our members a very interesting talk about fire safety in the home. It was very informative and worthwhile. A lot of our members signed up for the free home safety checks.

Jan Brown speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Interest Groups Co-ordinator

I am pleased to say the new interest groups are now up and running.

We have had our first meeting so far for the Board Games, which was very enjoyable. The Afternoon Tea discussion is on the 3rd March and this is going to be at the Bakehouse near the Bowling Alley for 2.00 pm.

The Theatre group which I have mentioned before is meeting on the Friday 24th March at Chelmsford Civic Theatre and we are seeing Frankies Guys. I will be sorting out transport for those that do not drive. Also there is no CoG for this Group.

Unfortunately, we have had not much interest yet regarding the other new Interest Groups that I have put forward. I do hope that in future they might be taken up, so I will carry on and put the sheets out.

I have decided to add Cinema to the Theatre group, the reason being as some might prefer to go to this some months instead of the theatre.

Now for the serious bit Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would ask all of the Interest Group CoGs to please be at the AGM, on the 10th March, and please ask your members in the groups. This will be a very important meeting, as we will find out if Heybridge can carry on,

I know there are a couple of CoGs that are unable to come, but please send your members.

We all know how hard it is to volunteer, just like last year when Heybridge was saved at the last minute. I do hope we can keep going, but of course it's up to everyone else.

Moira Penhallow groupsco-ordinator@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

News from around the Groups

Bird Watching

Being February and wanting to have a shelter to run into if the weather was bad, we chose to go to Abberton Reservoir visitor's centre this month. There are certainly loads of birds on the water but mostly tufted ducks, coot, gulls. The bird feeders we can see from the tea rooms are full of chaffinches, great and blue tits, goldfinches and lots of other little birds.

Most of us visited the three hides and also watched birds of prey over the fields but none of us stayed out in that cold wind for too long.

Next month we are heading for Old Hall Marshes hoping to see what is beginning to come and go as spring gains a hold.

If you would like to join us we will be out on Friday 24th March. More details from Jill McGregor jill.mcgregor@btinternet.com

Jill McGregor

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Cards & Paper Craft

We met last Wednesday, I was busy making a special 50th card, the other ladies were using different dies either to cut out shapes or to emboss. Interesting what you create!

Then it's a cuppa.

A good afternoon.

Lesley Woonton

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Discussion Coffee Morning

We met on 17th February at Anne's house in Maldon.

We munched away on the delicious food supplied by Anne with a plentiful supply of tea and coffee. Once again the conversation was in full flow covering funny or interesting individual tales from the past, plus items of topical and local interest.

Chris was away on holiday so we will be looking forward to her stories at the next coffee morning.

We will meet next on Friday 17th March (yes it's St Patricks day) at my house in Heybridge.

Margaret Brown

Eat the World

Nine of the group met for lunch at the House of Delight, which is situated in Maldon High Street. The name of the restaurant certainly lived up to its name. The food was delicious and plentiful and reasonably priced. The sizzling platter looks especially mouth-watering.

The restaurant has been in the same family for 53 years so they must be doing something right.

The next lunch is currently being planned for the 16th March 2023 at the Astare Grill in Witham.

Liz Harvey & Jean Murray (for Liz Cawdell)

Family History

Back in July last year the family history group wrestled with the birth/death of Arthur Brown.

According to the story handed down to member Diane Cox, Arthur died at a very young age.

We eventually found he was born 1899, but wasn't listed in the 1901 census meaning he died before the census.

Fast forward to last month and Diane remembered her mother saying Arthur died as his brother was being born! The next child born to the family about that time was John Baden Powell Brown (not many of them around) in 1900. A quick check found a death of an Arthur Brown also 1900; the following death certificate proved he was 'our' Arthur.

Cause of death was bronchial pneumonia at 14 months old, and the informant was an Alice Singleton a name unconnected to the family. More research discovered Alice in the 1901 census, and her occupation was 'midwife' bingo!

Alice must have registered the birth of John, and the death of Arthur at the same time, not, I would have thought, a confinement she would want to repeat.

What a sad story.

Jean Rogers

French

As current members of the French Conversation Group are reasonably good French speakers, we would like to attract those who are not yet at that level to help them develop their skills. If you have a basic knowledge of French and would like to improve you will be made very welcome. My contact details are listed on the CoGs page.

Jenny Parker

Needlecraft

This month we met on a beautiful sunny afternoon at Elizabeth's house. We were made very welcome with the obligatory cuppa and a slice of homemade lemon meringue pie – yummy! Only four of us were able to make it but we enjoyed a chat as we learned how to make pom poms with not one but 2 different pom pom makers! One seemed to be more successful than the other but we worked collaboratively together to figure out what to do. A couple of us also did a bit of crocheting and knitting, hoping in time to complete a jumper and a blanket keepsake. Thank-you to Elizabeth for hosting this month.

Linda has offered to host Needlecraft in March.

Hilary Furniaux

Patchwork

During the February meeting members worked on a variety of projects and spent a very enjoyable afternoon chatting and sewing.

The next meeting will be on Monday 13th March.

Jackie Voyez

Petanque

Petanque has been going for quite a few years with the Heybridge u3a.

When I started about seven years ago (I think) I found it was different from other outdoor games. Barbara was in charge, and we used to finish in October and have a lunch. Then we used to start again in March with another lunch ready for Spring.

We also had a lovely summer get together in Graham and Jenny's garden, with playing first on their front, and using Angela Pleasance front as well before we had a lovely afternoon.

After Barbara gave up being the GoG for this Group, a lovely Lady called Dian Bailey became the Group Leader. Nothing really changed, we just carried on as before. But as time went on we did change to playing all through the winter at 2.00 pm, but it all depended on the weather.

Unfortunately, over time we have lost some lovely people, Barbara, Alf and Roger, who sadly passed away. As well, others have left for different reasons.

When Dian had to give up her time as leader, that is when I took over from her. We have had a lot over the last couple of years, with Covid, and this really had an effect on us all. Once we were

allowed started to come out and play as they say, we started to play at 10.00 am instead of 2.00 pm on a Monday. It seems to suit everyone better and we do have lots of fun, because this is what we are all about.

If anyone is interested then please come and join us on Monday Morning at 10.00 am down at Maldon Prom.

Moir Penhallow

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Photography Group

Our February meeting was held on Thursday 2nd February via Zoom.

Seven members attended and we had a wide range of 21 photos to view and discuss, all taken during January the subject being "Taken Inside ".

We also discussed how modifying photos and the method of sending them affected the size of the photo when shown as a slide show.

The next meeting will be held on 2nd March 2023 via zoom at 2.00 pm with the subject being "Signs of Spring ".

If anyone is interested in joining our meetings to see what the group is about please contact me and I will forward a link to our next meeting. All members of the u3a are welcome.

Norman Grove

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Reading & Books

Our January and February books both had a similar subject of babies removed from their families at a very young age. However the circumstances and attitudes that prevailed in the 19th century of "the Foundling" were completely different in the background of "the Stolen Baby" set in the Second World War years.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 15th March for lunch at 12.30 pm, The Ship Inn, Tiptree when our next book will be available. Anyone wishing to join us, please send email to Jackie

Jackie Jones

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Scrabble

Circumstances were against us in January so unfortunately the Scrabble group was cancelled but we reconvened at Angela's on February the 28th. The venue for the 28th March is expected to be again at Angela's but will be confirmed to the members by email.

Perhaps you would like to join us for a game? We meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 2.00 pm. My contact details can be found in the list of CoGs.

Linda Etherton

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Ten Pin Bowling

Reporting on our meeting of the 9th February. Due to holiday commitments, car servicing and committee meetings only four of the group were available to play. Peter W, Linda, Jenny and myself made the best of the time available playing multiple frames. Peter and I enjoyed a see saw battle culminating in Peter's best score of 146 and mine of 167. Linda and Jenny enjoyed their own quiet game but Linda managed a very creditable score of 157 in her last game.

On the 23rd February the majority of the group were in action. Peter W was determined to maintain his previous competitive form, Graham was a little below par of his usual blustering game, John was suffering with a bad back and Chris was suffering jet lag. Linda, Hilary, Jenny and Liz were fighting a good competitive battle with a few occasional trick shots! I enjoyed the best score of the day joining the 175 Club with a score of 179. Best lady score was Linda with 139, again in her last game.

Next games booked for the 9th and 23rd March if anyone wishes to join us.

Peter Harvey

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Walking

Our walks start on Thursday 9th March. We shall be walking around Danbury Common and Park starting at 2.00 pm, weather permitting. They are all scheduled for the second Thursday afternoon each month, except August, December, January & February.

The group members are asked each year to consider recommending, and/or even leading a local walk 2-4 miles.

It is an easy way to get to know other members, so contact me if you would like more information.

Linda Wells

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Weekenders

The February meeting saw the Weekenders at the Tiptree Jam Factory Tea Rooms, always a good venue with the added bonus of the shop's selection of goodies. Their Mustard sauce with Honey has been recommended.

Additional activities have included a visit to Hyde Hall on a dull day but a good walk round and hot drinks satisfied the participants and I also managed to complete the Photography Group assignment. Quite a few Weekenders went to see the Witham Amateur Operatic youth group, WOW, in an excellent production of 'All Shook Up'. Their next production of 'Young Frankenstein' has been recommended: this is at the end of April so please book soon if you want tickets. Thanks to Pat Yates and Marilyn Corbett for organising these.

The meeting in March is on Saturday 18th at 10.00 am at the Osea View Cafe. Please let me know if you're coming if you haven't already put your name down.

Meetings are usually on the third Saturday of the month at 10.00 am. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Linda Etherton, details in the list of CoGs.

Linda Etherton

Other News

Just a reminder that Burnham-on-Crouch u3a are arranging a trip to Roman Colchester on Wednesday 10th May which will include a visit and tour of the Roman Circus and a guided tour of the castle. Pick up points are still to be finalised, however the attachment gives an indication of timings. Members are to take their own picnic or obtain refreshments near the castle. Places will be on a first come first served basis to fill the 53 seater coach, and in view of uneven surfaces at both sites the trip may not be convenient for members with mobility issues. Tickets are £35 per person; please see the attachment for full details.

East of England u3a region have sent details of the forthcoming "Off the Wall – Hadrian's Wall Project" on 10th May. This is quite an extensive undertaking; full details are shown on the attached sheet. Unfortunately information regarding the online Q&A session was received too late to include on our last news sheet, however if you are interested in attending the trip itself please visit www.u3a.org.uk/events/off-the-wall for more information.

For your info....

If you are looking for a venue to hold a meeting for your u3a activity or otherwise, the United Reform Church, Chapel Road, Great Totham (North) may be suitable. They have a small hall available, with all facilities. Contact 01621 819419 for more details. If you are aware of any other similar locations please let us know.

In line with many other authorities throughout the country, from Monday 13th March, Essex County Council will be introducing a booking system for vehicles at their recycling centres, including Maldon and Witham. Visit www.lovesessex.org to book a slot. Site users visiting by foot do not need to book, nor do Blue Badge holders who can visit any recycling centre in any vehicle, including vans at any ECC recycling centre.

Do you like Traditional Jazz? Wickham Bishops Jazz Club has been established for over 25 years, and is still widely recognised as being one of the top venues for Traditional Jazz in the country, featuring top musicians from home and abroad. For bookings and more information please visit wickhambishopsjazzclub@gmail.com or phone Pete Hughes on 07548 775777.

Caroline Community Radio is the volunteer-run local radio station for the Maldon District. Why not give them a listen on 94.7 FM or online at carolinecommunityradio.co.uk? You will hear music from the last five decades together with local news. Evening programmes are presented by local people who have an interest in radio and communicating, and want to improve their skills. If you want to get involved please contact the station via their website.

Did you know that Essex County Fire & Rescue Service offer personalised Safe and Well visits? Safe & Well officers can fit smoke detectors and specialised sensory alarms if required. They risk assess each home ensuring that the right alarms are fitted in the most appropriate places. On each visit they will discuss fire safety, home security and can also offer help with mobility and health and wellbeing issues if necessary. Please call 0300 303 0088, email home.safety@essex-fire.gov.uk or visit their website at www.essex-fire.gov.uk/Book

If you already have a fire alarm fitted, remember it should be tested at least once a month.

A copy of the Heybridge u3a diary is attached. This gives details of which events are being held, where and when. If you are interesting in joining any group do not hesitate to contact the relevant CoG. Details are on the last page of this News Sheet. You will be made very welcome!

Remember that Heybridge u3a are part of a "Cluster Group". This is a group of eight local u3a organisations, Maldon, Limebrook, Blackwater, Burnham, Dengie, Crouch Valley and South Woodham Ferrers, plus ourselves. Members of these u3a groups can join in the activities of the others, subject to space availability. Details can be found at:

ClusterGroupActivitySchedule.pdf (maldonu3a.co.uk)

If you have any articles you would like included in the next Heybridge u3a News Sheet please send them to editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk.

Covid 19 Reminder

- *Consider wearing a face covering indoors in crowded, enclosed spaces*
- *Let fresh air in, if meeting indoors*
- *Get tested if you have Covid 19 symptoms and stay home if positive*
- *Be prepared for any venues to be well ventilated, and wear warm clothing*