



Heybridge U3A

News Sheet Number 2

April 2009

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From the Chairman

It was good to see a full hall for our first Monthly Meeting with a speaker, and I would particularly like to thank Roger Smith of Maldon U3A for entertaining us with his fascinating talk on Victorian Workhouses. I would also thank Peter Thorpe for arranging it and being my "voice" on that afternoon. I still have a dodgy throat, but am on the mend!!

We are a very young group and it was a bit of a wobbly start, but we shall learn from that. It is quite impossible to operate without the microphone system, and that will be attended to for the April meeting. We shall also be looking into the format for the meeting, and how best to use our two hours to full advantage. If you have any thoughts or ideas do ring me.

Please do remember that the April meeting is on Thursday 9th at 4.30pm, owing to the hall being closed on Good Friday. We have Patrick Forsyth, an author and travel writer coming to talk to us and I would so like your presence.

So, in a nutshell – thanks for your support, it makes all the hard work worth while, and you have a very energetic Committee, dedicated to making this a very special U3A.

From the Editor

This is the second news sheet produced for the Heybridge U3A with input from the members. We would like future issues to contain information that you want to read about. We would like the next issue to continue to contain reports, news, progress that has or is to occur within the various Groups. Your views on what the news sheet could contain and what format could be adopted will always be welcomed.

To assist in rolling out the various groups this news sheet continues to contain information about

the groups already active, who to contact and when they meet.

To minimize the cost of circulating and printing and especially to speed up the process of publishing, the news sheet will be emailed to those who have an email address on or soon after the first Friday in each month. Hard copy will continue to be available at the monthly meeting.

A number of groups have written very interesting articles for this news sheet. These can be found in the following pages. Could these and other co-ordinators, or one of their group, continue to produce, or produce for the first time, articles that can be included in the next or future issues. If an article or report would be more interesting with a picture, drawing or diagram then we would be happy to try and include these as well. However, if more articles are received or are longer than space permits then they will be published, in part or whole, at the discretion of the Editor.

On the last page is and will be a diary of meetings, events, visits etc. which will be as up to date as the information provided to me

A digital copy of the news sheet will be emailed on or soon after the first Friday in each month. Copy will be required by last Friday of the preceding month. Please send detail by email to ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk with U3A in the title. Alternatively phone Ian Newman at 01621 891184 or see the Editor at the monthly meeting to decide other methods of providing copy.

Letters to the Editor

There is space within the news sheet for members to write their own contribution. Please send contributions to the Editor by the last Friday of each month.

Meetings

The date of next meeting is Thursday 9th April starting at 16.30. **Please NOTE (date and time)**

at The Plantation Hall, Heybridge. The May Meeting will be on the 8th May at 14.00.

The speaker at the next meeting (April) will be Patrick Forsyth with a subject 'A journey into print for readers, travellers (armchair or actual), potential or actual'. The speaker at the May meeting will be Glen Cousins. He will give a talk and presentation on "All Amphibians". He will bring with him live examples as part of his presentation.

From the Group Co-ordinator

Eight groups are now underway with regular meeting times and venues. This is a splendid achievement. Another three are in the process of deciding where and when to meet. Members have expressed their interest in many more subjects and if anyone is willing to volunteer to co-ordinate one of these interest groups we can establish more groups. As Interest Group Co-ordinator, I have names of members' interests and I am available to help and support both new and current group co-ordinators at any time.

Group Names, Co-ordinator, Contact Telephone

Group Name	Co-ordinator	Telephone Number
Theatre	Viv Frostick	01621 858639
Walking	Elizabeth Eastwood	01621 850618
Local History	Carol Greenhalgh	01621 840339
Gardening	Pat Yates	01621 892866
Outings etc.	Joyce Woodham	01621 841066
Ballroom Dancing	Joint with Maldon Jo Robson *	* 01621 828236
Bird Watching	Maureen Lenoir	01621 869871
Paper Craft	Angie Davi	01621 740922
Ten Pin Bowling	Diane Farrant	01621 854704
Painting	Michael Kempen	01621 892974
Scrabble	Ruth Tyler	01621 869865
Woodturning	Peter Thorpe Joint with Blackwater U3A (Charlie Middleton)	01621 850828

Co-ordinators Needed

Co-ordinators are still needed for the following topics:

- Luncheon Club
- Computers
- Reading And Books
- Family History
- Craft
- Photography
- Music
- Golf
- Languages
- Art
- Swimming
- Marine and Coastal
- Vintage Car Club
- Country Dancing
- Bridge
- Pilates

Could those interested in the above and are willing to be the co-ordinator please contact Peter Thorpe on 01621 850828 or speak to him at the monthly meeting.

Membership Secretary

Membership Cards have now been produced for the year 2009 – 2010 and they will be available from the signing in table at the next Monthly Meeting. Please collect them as will need them as you may be asked to show them at Group Meetings.

To join, please contact Lisbeth Bazzard on 01621 843208 or by email lisbethbazzard@talktalk.net You can also write to her at 2, Silver Street, Maldon, Essex. CM9 4QE or speak to her at the monthly meeting.

A welcome to all new members. In less than four months our membership has now reached a splendid 84. With the interest shown we hope to exceed 100 in the next couple of months.

From the Treasurer

There is nothing new to report.

Secretary

It is with regret to report that the Secretary of the Steering Committee has resigned for personal reasons. She says that she will continue to support and be an active member of the Heybridge U3A.

The Steering Committee is therefore in urgent need of someone who is willing and able to join the Heybridge U3A Steering Committee as its Secretary. Could anyone who thinks that they can assist in this matter, contact Ruth Tyler by telephone or speak to her at the next U3A Members Meeting which is on Thursday 9th April.

GROUP REPORTS

Bird Watching

The first Bird Watching get together was on the 27th March. It was a very cold and wet Friday afternoon at Tollesbury Wick. Only four brave souls set out armed with binoculars and books. Pooling our knowledge we identified 21 species including Little Egret, Teal, Wigeon, Oster Catcher, Curlew, Godwit, Red Shank and the Avocet which we were all pleased to see.

It is hoped that all enjoyed the afternoon. Our April get together will be on Friday 24th at Chigborough Lakes car park 10.00 start, look forward to seeing you there.

Gardening Group

An inaugural meeting was held on 9th March, at the house of the Gardening Co-ordinator. An apology was given to those people who did not pick up the details at the last monthly meeting, and so missed this one. We were pleased to welcome Jan Robertson, co-ordinator of the Maldon Gardeners' Group, who gave some much-needed guidance. We decided to follow the Maldon format of garden visits in the summer months and a plant swap in October.

A visit to Dragons, Boyton Cross, Roxwell, Chelmsford CM1 4LS, on Monday 20th April at 2.30 p.m has been arranged. The cost is £4.50 including tea and cakes. This will be a special opening just for our group, so we hope it will be well attended. Everyone in the Heybridge U3A is welcome. If you haven't already signed up and would like to come just phone Pat on 01621 892866 by Tuesday 14th April,. Dragons is a beautiful private garden, of two-thirds of an acre, and well worth a visit, apart from the home-made cakes! More details on how to find Dragons can be given when you phone A lift can be arranged if you need one.

Six visits have now been booked, all private viewings just for us. Details will be available at the next monthly meeting. (Sorry not as a booklet with a pretty picture on the cover like the Maldon group, as my computer skills are somewhat

lacking!) Please could you contribute 50p per copy towards phone calls, paper and printer ink.

Ballroom Dancing

Due to the small numbers currently in our Group and with spare capacity at the Maldon U3A Ballroom Dancing Group, those who wished to partake, joined Maldon on Thursday 19th and 27th March at 14.40 for 14.45 start. This group does not meet during the summer and recommences on Thursday 10th September. U3A Members will be reminded about the start of the new dancing sessions later in the year.

Local History

The Local History Group have had their first meeting. Eleven people attended out of the twenty names on the list. The meeting was to explore ideas regarding how the group should be run. Beryl McDonald from the Maldon U3A attended and gave a talk on how their local and general history group started. She also informed them as to some of the things they had covered. Mary Burd, from the current Maldon U3A Local and General History Group, has given our U3A group a list of speakers to contact some of whom cover local topics.

As well as a lively discussion, the members completed a questionnaire to ascertain a consensus of the group's ideas, knowledge, skills, contacts etc. The outcome seemed to be that the group would like to concentrate on very local topics to start with. Once the group is well established they plan to have speakers and perhaps get involved in some sort of project at a later date.

They were hoping to have the local shipwright and historian David Patient at a meeting on 21st April but he will now come along to a meeting in the summer. Ellen Hedley, one of the members, who for many years owned a Maldon antique shop, has kindly stepped into the breach. She will be bringing along, and talking about, a selection of her postcards of Maldon.

The next meeting will be held on the 21st April at 14.00 Sue Spero's home. For further information please contact either Carol Greenhalgh on 01621 840339 or Sue Spero on 01621 858957

Painting

This Group is being organised by Michael Kempen. (See Table of Groups and Contact Details).

The group has been formed as a self help group

with no formal teaching. No previous painting experience is necessary as there is considerable expertise in the group and those who need it should find plenty of help and encouragement. The group has already started meeting. The group will meet in the Claydon room, Plantation Hall, Heybridge on Fridays at 2.00- 4.00pm, except for the 2nd Friday of the month. The cost is £1.50 per week, which will include the hire of the hall and tea. We have the hall for 12 weeks which has to be paid for in advance (£18.00). With weather permitting, we will be able to paint outside at local beauty spots in the summer. Also, when funds allow, we hope to hire a professional tutor for the occasional week. Members wishing to join should notify the organiser beforehand as the room has limited space. We will not turn artists away but if numbers continue to increase we may have to look for a larger room.

Theatre

A meeting was held on Friday 3rd April to ascertain the views and expectations of those wishing to form a Theatre Group. It is hoped that a report from that meeting will be available at the Monthly Meeting on Thursday 9th April.

Paper Crafting Workshop

Angie managed to contact sixteen of the people with only one showing a mild interest in a Paper Crafting Workshop. Therefore, for the time being she will not be actively pursuing this group idea. However, she would like to hear from others who would be interested (Email Angie at canda3000@hotmail.com) and a group may still be formed at some future date.

It would appear that most people seemed to want a sewing related group. Therefore would one of those contacted by Angie like to become a sewing group co-ordinator? Would anyone who would like to volunteer please speak to Peter Thorpe.

Scrabble

Our group got off to a somewhat shaky start on 17th March, when Beryl Claydon hosted a trio of players. She has kindly agreed to host the next game, which will be on Wednesday 8th April at her home at 57, Crescent Road, Heybridge, at 2.30 pm. At that meeting I hope to discuss a permanent diary date for each month, so please try to come along. All U3A members are welcome, but please phone me, Ruth Tyler, (tel. 01621 869865) a couple of days before, so that Beryl can make the necessary arrangements.

Walking

The Walking Group had a first outing on Thursday 12th March. We met at the Daisy Meadow car park in Heybridge Basin, (about 10 people in all) and followed the sea wall towards Heybridge before crossed the bridge over the canal. We then followed the towpath back to the Basin; a round trip of about 3 miles. Despite the conditions being somewhat blustery, the full tide and pleasant company made for a very enjoyable outing. Birdsong and wild violets added to the pleasure!

Our next walk will be around Wickham Bishops, scheduled to meet at St Bartholomew's car park at 2:00 pm Thurs 16 April. All welcome.

Other U3A Requests

Snooker

Maldon U3A are looking for additional players to play on a Tuesday morning between 10.00 and 12.00. Cost £4 for two hours. More details can be obtained from Bryan Urry on 01621 842619.

V & A Trip

The previously announced V&A trip has had to be cancelled due to lack of interest.

Letters to the Editor



No letter have been received for this news sheet but members are invited to write and have their views put into print.

Members HELP

Your views and input are needed for all future editions of the news sheet. This can be in the form of reports about activities undertaken,

activities to come, letters to the Editor or anything else that you think may interest other members.

It is hoped that this second news sheet will continue to help the various co-ordinators in attracting further members to their group or in forming new groups.

Disclaimer

This News Sheet is produced by the Heybridge U3A. The views expressed in this news sheet are not necessarily those of the U3A. The U3A accept no liability for the accuracy of its contents.

Program of Meetings and Visits

Week Commencing	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5th April	5	6	7	8 Scrabble 14.30	9 Monthly Meeting 16.30	10	11
12th April	12	13	14	15	16 Walking 14.00	17 Painting 14.00	18
19th April	19	20 Gardeners Dragons, Boyton Cross, at 14.30	21 Local History 14.00 Woodturning 10.00	22	23	24 Painting 14.00 Bird Watching 10.00	25
26th April	26	27	28	29	30	1 Painting 14.00	2
3rd May	3	4	5	6	7	8 Monthly Meeting 14.00	9
10th May	10	11	12	13	14 Walking 14.00	15 Painting 14.00	16
17th May	17	18	19 Woodturning 10.00	20	21	22 Painting 14.00 Bird Watching 10.00	23
24th May	24	25	26	27	28	29 Painting 14.00	30

For details see articles and co-ordinators above.