

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No. 2010/4

APRIL 2010

Contacts:	Peter Thorpe	Chairman	01621 850828
	Brenda Dewar	Secretary	01245 400492

From the Chairman

It seems strange and slightly daunting to be writing my notes for this News Sheet as Chairman. This



U3A will always be indebted to Ruth for her hard work as the Steering Committee Chairman. Ruth undertook the responsibility of ensuring that the Heybridge U3A was

properly formed and governed as it steadily grew in membership and as we moved towards our first goal; full membership of the Third Age Trust. We were granted membership on the 26th May 2009 and given the Registration number 777-786-09. Janet Whitehouse presented us with our certificate at our November meeting. Ruth endured serious health problems during her year as Chairman and she stayed at the "tiller" throughout her ordeal; a truly remarkable achievement. As Chairman, she ensured that we achieved our second goal - our first AGM. Work started in early December to get all of the required elements in place by the March meeting 2010. On the day it worked like clockwork and, perhaps from the floor, the event seemed like a distraction before the speaker and the excellent celebration party. If that is how it appeared, the Steering Committee had done its job well and we are all grateful to each and every member of the Steering Committee for their commitment to detail.

We were delighted with the attendance at the AGM. It augurs well for our future and we hope that subsequent AGMs will be equally as popular. Following the business of the AGM, the speaker, Ian Valentine, introduced us to "Miss Prance" from Wickham Bishops and her exploits as an ambulance driver in the First World War. Not only did she offer her own car to be converted to an ambulance but drove it for long hours every day, through the most appalling weather. She slept in a tent and was unstoppable. Ian gave an excellent Power Point

presentation, which was illustrated with original photographs.

It was a pleasure to welcome Alan Buck and Dorreen Linton, the Chairmen of Maldon U3A and Blackwater U3A, to our first AGM. They were both instrumental in starting our U3A in January 2009 and we thank them for their support during our first year. The afternoon was completed with a celebration cheese and wine party. We are all very grateful to Madeleine and Martyn Garwood for their hard work in preparing the food and drinks. Catering for a large group for the first time is not an easy task and we congratulate them on providing such an excellent spread.

Stop Press News – We have received a cheque for £300 from Heybridge Parish Council towards a computer projector. We are very grateful for this funding and I hope that we will now be able raise the balance from general and group funds and purchase a projector very soon.

Peter Thorpe

From the Editor

Following the successful AGM, I have received a 'Letter to the Editor' that speaks for itself. I have reproduced in its own section near the end of this News Sheet. Action needs to be taken by a number of members who still need to renew their subscriptions for the year 2010 – 2011. Please read the Membership Secretary Section on page 2. Printed copies of the re-enrolment form are available on entry to the Monthly Meeting.

The Diary on the last page has again been updated through to the end of May. It is important that you as COG's, members of Groups or just members of Heybridge U3A, keep me up to date. If anyone has an interesting story, relevant pictures or activity that relates in some way to The Heybridge U3A or the U3A movement as a whole, then please contact me. We can discuss how and what can be included in this News Sheet.

Most will know the publication procedure. Copy should be with me by the last Friday of month.

Please continue to send details to me, preferably by email at ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk with 'U3A' in the title. Typed copy can also be provided. Alternatively, phone me on 01621 891184 or see me at the monthly meeting to decide other methods of providing copy. Publication will take place some seven days later.

Ian Newman,

Heybridge U3A Meetings

The date of next meeting is Friday 9th April, starting at the normal time of 14.00 in the Plantation Hall, Heybridge. This month, William Tyler Churchill is our speaker with the subject "A Study in Leadership". In May we have Stuart Baldwin as our speaker with the subject "Honey Bees".

From the COGCo (Group Co-ordinator)

First I must thank Peter, the ex Group Co-ordinator, and new Chairman. The groups set up are running very smoothly and flourishing. What an interesting and talented membership we have.

Next, let me introduce myself. I attended my first U3A meeting just under a year ago, suffering from a lack of self-confidence. I was made very welcome and joined there and then, possibly one of the best decisions I have ever made. I met many people and made new friends. I started by joining the Coffee Morning Group which quite naturally led to the Luncheon Club and then to Weekenders. For brain stimulation, I joined the Scrabble Group and have just attended my first meeting at the Computer Group (the previous meeting having been cancelled due to the fire in Heybridge). I have bought myself a new computer, not having used one since I retired from work some 3 years ago. I am into a steep learning curve. I also hope to visit some or all of the gardens being visited by the Gardening Group this summer.

As all the Groups are doing well I, hopefully, do not envisage many problems but if you require any help please let me know. I have met quite a few of you from the above Groups but would hope to meet more soon. If any of you have ideas for new Groups please do not be backward in coming forward.

Gill Thorne gillthorne2@hotmail.co.uk

01621 852294

Group Names, Co-ordinator, Contact Telephone

Group Name	Co-ordinator (COG)	Telephone Number
Ballroom Dancing	Joint with Maldon Jo Robson *	* 01621 828236
Bird Watching	Maureen Lenoir	01621 869871

Group Name	Co-ordinator (COG)	Telephone Number
Bridge	Lisbeth Bazzard	01621 843208
Coffee Morning	Margaret Brown	01621 854885
Computer	Tina Abeysekera	01621 858635
Esperanto	Peter Groves	01245 227018
Family History	Joint with Blackwater Roger Smith *	*01621 843054
Gardening	Pat Yates	01621 892866
Local History	Carol Greenhalgh	01621 840339
Luncheon	Beth Jeffries	01621 853403
Maritime & Coastal	Brenda Dewar	01245 400492
Painting	Michael Kempen	01621 892974
Petanque	Barbara Barbrook	01621 855605
Photography	Peter Thorpe	01621 850828
Reading & Books	Ann Lees	01245 225153
Scrabble	Ruth Tyler	01621 869865
Theatre	Gill Bridle & Janet Morley	01621 892587 & 01621 892626
Threads & Fabrics	Anne Thorpe & Pat Newman	01621 850828 & 01621 891184
Walking	Elizabeth Eastwood	01621 850618
Weekenders	Jan Stroud	01376 564289

Membership Secretary

If you receive this News Sheet by email you will find an attachment to that email that provides a re-enrolment form that you can print. The completed form and a cheque should have been given to the Membership Secretary by the end of March 2010 to maintain your membership. This renewal of membership applies to all existing members. If you pick up your News Sheet at the monthly meeting then this form can be collected from the table where you enter the hall. We now have 98 paid up members for the year 2010 – 2011. There are quite

a few 2009 – 2010 members who have not yet rejoined.

If you are not a member and wish 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.

From the Social Secretary

AGM Social Afternoon:

Following directly on from the AGM, and the serious business of electing a new committee etc., we had light hearted social where a cheese and wine buffet was prepared. It was a lovely afternoon with good refreshments and a chance to get to know one another better.

Quiz Evening:

A quiz was planned for April. However, with only two definite teams and very little interest this event has had to be cancelled.

Martyn and Madeleine Garwood.

REPORTS

Art (Painting) Group

The Art Group is now so successful that we are talking about a bigger room. However, we are the victims of our own success and, since successfully staging an exhibition at the Annual General Meeting, we have had several new members and a few more enquiries. It is a lovely group and very friendly.

For two weeks this month, we have had a tutor who talked us through various techniques and showed us his method of capturing the beauty of the landscape, especially trees. We had two delightful afternoons and learned a lot.



Art in Action

Bird Watching

There was no March meeting but am planning two outings to Abberton Reservoir in April and early

May. They will both be led by experts. They are as follows:

- Dawn Chorus meeting. A very early start at 04.30 on Saturday 24th April, followed by a cooked breakfast at a cost of £10.
- The next is a Nightingale Walk between 19.30 & 21.00 on Wednesday 5th May followed by a hot chocolate at a cost of £5.

If anyone is interested in going on one or both these outings, please let me know as places need to be booked. Phone me on 01621 869761 or email symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk.

Maureen.

Bridge Group

There will be a Bridge Group session, either duplicate or teams, at my house, 2, Silver Street on Wednesday 5th May at 14:00. Please let me know if you can come either by phone 01621 843208 or by email lisbethbazzard@talktalk.net. There will be a £1.00 charge to help recover the cost of the cards and boards. A record will be kept (for insurance purposes) of the place and attendance of all bridge games that are arranged through the U3A.

Liz Bazzard.

Computer Group

Has spring finally arrived? There certainly was an air of optimism as the computer group met on the 18th March where all enjoyed a lively and productive afternoon. We continued our revision on subjects such as saving documents, creating e-mail folders plus sub folders, dealing with attachments etc. One useful reminder was useful to include the date with title of new file or folder. Despite all this concentrated effort, we did find time for tea and biscuits. Finally, as a little light relief we had a look on Google Streetview pictures.

Our next meeting is on 15th April in the Claydon Room at 13.00. Please remember to bring some loose change as our next payment for the room is due!

The subject under discussion will be how to save to external devices i.e. USB stick and use of the internet. Look forward to seeing you all.

Audrey.

Coastal and Marine Group

At our last meeting, a record number of us thoroughly enjoyed Glenn's interesting talk about Dunwich. He also proved extremely knowledgeable when we inundated him with our questions on such a fascinating subject. We learnt not only about Dunwich, but also about the intricacies of diving in the murky waters off the Suffolk coast. As a follow

up Glenn has offered us our own personal tour of Dunwich (just the above ground bit!) for our June meeting. More details to follow. Please let me know if you are interested in joining us.

Our next meeting, on 16th April, is again at the Blue Boar when Will Davenport will give us the low down on Cargo Boats. Just what does go on as they traverse the world's oceans? Come along and find out. We have a trip to the RNLI, Harwich for our May meeting and Dunwich in June, a lot to look forward to. I hope that you can join us.

Brenda Dewar. 01245 400492.

Discussion Coffee Morning

We had a fairly small, but none the less enjoyable, gathering on 19th March.

As this is the start of the Heybridge U3A year, I feel this may be an appropriate time to remind everyone about our monthly coffee/tea get together. This time last year when we began, quite a few people expressed an interest by adding their names to the list but a few of those have not been able to give it a try. Our days are busy and of course, other things sometimes have to take priority. If anyone would like to come along to test the water you would be very welcome. We are all very friendly, we talk about a variety of subjects and still manage to fit in a few biscuits with the coffee. I hope we can look forward to seeing a few new faces.

The next meeting will be on Friday 16th April at Gill Thorne's house, details at the next U3A meeting or call me (Margaret Brown) at home if you would like more details phone me on 01621 854885.

Margaret

Gardening Group



Ulting Wick Tulips

During our planning meeting at Lesley's house we came up with plenty of ideas for this year's visits and I hope to have a programme printed in the near future. Our first visit is on Monday 26th April at 14.30 to Ulting Wick, Langford to see the impressive

display of tulips. The cost is £5.00 including tea. If anyone wants a lift please let me know. At the next general meeting I will have some Yellow Books available which give details of and directions to all the gardens we will visit. PLEASE let me know by the previous Thursday if you intend to come on any visit, as the owner needs to know how many teas to provide.

Pat Yates 01621 892866 or pat.yates@tesco.net

Local History Group (LHG)

The report on the visit to the Plume Library on the 16th March will be included in the May issue of the News Sheet.

The next meeting is an afternoon visit on Tuesday 20th April to the WW1 Aerodrome at Stow Maries. Please contact Carol Greenhalgh on 01621 840339 if you wish to come.

Other dates for your diary:

- 18th May: - Blue Boar: General/future plans; sharing stories/research.
- 15th June: - To be advised.
- 20th July: - Visit to the Combined Services Museum.
- 17th August: - Blue Boar: Talk by Mac MacPherson on Essex Regiment.

Luncheon Group

Details of forthcoming Luncheon Group Meetings will be available at the April Monthly Meeting.

Beth 01621 853403.

Petanque Group

We shall be meeting on Maldon Promenade every Monday afternoon at 14.00 providing the weather is O.K.

Boules are now available in the Maldon Outdoor Clothing shop opposite the Emporium at £14.99 for 8 in a case. They have them in stock now but sold out during last summer. However if you would like to watch or gently try your skill at throwing come along and meet us one Monday. It is exciting and good fun.

Barbara Barbrook

Photography Group

Our second meeting was lively and well attended. We were discussing cameras and how we could make adjustments to improve (or not) on the standard pictures taken on the "auto" setting. At our next meeting on 1st April, we will be looking at the pictures that we have taken using some of the alternative settings on our own cameras. I am sure that it will be both interesting and informative.



If you are interested in photography and want to join us come along to the Claydon Room of the Plantation Hall. We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 13.00 (lunch time!). It is fun and you are welcome.

Peter Thorpe

Reading and Books Group

Instead of the usual monthly meeting to discuss the chosen book, our group decided to attend the Essex Book Festival held every year for one week in March.

Having first enjoyed a very acceptable meal in a local pub we made our way to the Central Hall in Chelmsford.

Dave Monk of BBC Essex led a discussion between Professor Germaine Greer, Colin Riordan, Vice Chancellor University of Essex and Sarfraz Manzoor, author. The discussion ranged around identity, migration and diversity, and how it affects us in the 21st Century and particularly how it enriches the culture in Essex. We thoroughly enjoyed the lively and stimulating discourse between these three who also responded to questions from the audience. The three invited speakers were well chosen, spanning a wide age range. They also came from very diverse backgrounds, offering a breadth of life experiences, all of which had been very different.

A most enjoyable evening was had by all and it made a very pleasant change from our usual meetings.

The next meeting of the Book Group will be held in the home of Elizabeth Eastwood on Wednesday 21st April. Please ring group co-ordinator Ann Lees, 01245 225153 if you wish to come along on that day. You would be very welcome.

Scrabble

Eight ladies had a very pleasant afternoon for the March monthly Scrabble session at Beryl Claydon's home. On a not very pleasant day it was good to enjoy excellent company and stretch our minds a little.

The following meetings have been arranged, and as before, please contact the Hostess if you are able to attend any or all of our gatherings.

- Wednesday 28th April at the home of Pam Archer; 01621 815379

- Wednesday 26th May at the home of Beryl Claydon; 01621 852082.
- Wednesday 30th June at the home of Marilyn Corbett; 01621 817578.
- Wednesday 28th July at the home of Beryl Claydon; 01621 852082.

New players are always welcome to join us, and you don't need to be a genius, as long as you can spell two letter words and upwards!!

Ruth Tyler 01621 869865

Theatre

After our first planning meeting there were many good ideas for visits. A thank you to Jane for her hospitality. Our first trip is to the matinee performance of *Blood Brothers* at the Cliffs Pavilion Southend on Saturday 5th June starting at 14.30. The cost per ticket, after group discount, is £20.80 for good stalls seats. There are still a few left but they're going fast so get your request (and cheque please!) in soon! Those of you who've already seen it will know what a powerful show it is with excellent songs, tears and laughter aplenty.

We need to know firm numbers by next Monthly Meeting (9th April) and shall also need cheques (payable to Heybridge U3A Groups) or cash by then at the latest, in order to pay the box office. Thank you to those who have already paid. We are not organising transport on this occasion but I'm sure there will be lifts available on request.

Janet put up other ideas for shows at the last meeting, including *Dreamboats and Petticoats* in the West End. Please could we have names of those interested as soon as possible? See notice board.

Further information from Gill Bridle 01621 892587 or Janet Morley 01621 892626.

Threads and Fabrics

At our last meeting we concentrated on helping with the problems one can encounter with patchwork. This, along with an item on Woman's Hour, inspired me to look on the V&A museum's website, where they are featuring their new exhibition on Quilts. I can recommend it to all members who are interested in social history. The "Quilt" website has a series of photographs which can be enlarged by clicking on them, alongside a short description of their history. The three which took my eye were; Anne West's 1820 quilt which is more like a picture; the saddest one, the Rajah Quilt, sewn by the women deported and on her way to Australia and lastly a political one by Grayson Perry, The Right to Life Quilt which certainly makes a Statement. Scrolling through made me realise how much forward planning and design work goes into the making of what some call simple bedcovers. I wonder if, in future years, some

of our members beautiful quilts will end up on show at an exhibition as examples from the 21st century.

Our meetings are at 14.00 on the first Tuesday of each month. If you are interested in coming along please contact either Anne on 01621 850828 or Pat on 01621 891184, or see us at the monthly meeting. For actual dates, see the diary at the back of this Newsletter.

Walking

Due to unforeseen circumstances there will be no April Walk meeting but hopefully I will be two-handed again and will plan for the next walk in May.

Elizabeth.

Call on 01621 850618 or email at e.m.e@talktalk.net

Weekender

Dates for the diary:

- Saturday 17th April. Coffee Meeting at 10.00 at Springstep Dairy, Mundon.
- Saturday 8th May. Quiz at West Maldon Community Centre at 20.00.
- Saturday 22nd May. Coffee Meeting at 10.00, Lock Café, Heybridge Basin followed by walk (weather permitting).

The Weekenders Ladies Quiz Team were out again on 13th March (consisting of Audrey, Elizabeth, Linda, Marion, Pamela, Pat and myself). We were joint first after 7 out of 10 rounds having scored full marks for our joker round on chemical elements! We thought we were out of the running by not knowing which famous people had died so far this year but ended up in second place overall, just one point behind the winners. Very well done and a very enjoyable evening. The quiz team is made up from any member of Weekenders who are free for a fun night and enjoys a challenge.

Please let me know if you have any suggestions as to possible venues for Sunday Lunches.

For information on the group please phone Jan Stroud 01376 564289.

Letter to the Editor

26-3-'10.

Dear Editor,

It was such a pleasure to attend the A.G.M., seeing friendly faces once again. Special thanks to the Ant Group, who visited me in hospital & kept in touch with news of Anty Activities. (My! how you've grown - I'd never have squeezed the zimmer in!) Well done to the valiant steering committee, for being brave & dedicated, enough, to set Heybridge U.B.A. on the road to success.

Many thanks to you, Ian, the newsletter is brilliant, having evolved from that first, tentative, single sheet of just one year ago.

Yours sincerely,
Wilmot
(LOIS WILMOT)

Other Notices

Lunchtime (13.00) concert on Saturday 17th April at the Maldon United Reform Church in aid of Cancer Research and featuring "Crosswinds".

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
5 th April	5 Petanque 14.00	6 Threads and Fabrics 14.00	7	8 Walking No Walking this month	9 Monthly Meeting 14.00	10	11
12 th April	12 Petanque 14.00	13	14	15 Computer 13.00	16 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00 Coastal and Marine 14.00	17 Week – ender Coffee at Springstep Dairy Mundon	18
19 th April	19 Petanque 14.00	20 Local History 14.00	21 Book Group 14.30	22	23 Painting 14.00	24 Bird Watching 04.30	25
26 th April	26 Petanque 14.00 Gardening 14.39	27	28 Scrabble 14.00	29	30 Submit News Sheet text Painting 14.00	1	2
3 rd May	3 Petanque 14.00	4 Threads and Fabrics 14.00	5 Bridge 14.00	6 Photography 13.00	7 Painting 14.00	8 Week – ender Quiz at West Maldon CC 20.00	9
10 th May	10 Petanque 14.00	11	12	13 Walking	14 Monthly Meeting 14.00	15	16
17 th May	17 Petanque 14.00	18 Local History 14.00	19	20 Computer 13.00	21 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00 Coastal and Marine 14.00	22 Week – ender Coffee at Lock Café Heybridge Basin plus walk	23
24 th May	24 Petanque 14.00	25	26 Scrabble 14.00	27	28 Submit News Sheet text Painting 14.00	29	30

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