



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No. 2013/3

April 2013

Contacts: Joyce Woodham: Chairman 01621 841066

Brenda Dewar: Secretary 01245 400492

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

From the Chairman

To be elected Chairman of an active and lively U3A is a challenge in itself, but to follow such a successful Chairman as Peter Thorpe is very daunting. Thank you for your confidence in me.

It was great that so many of you came to the AGM last month, another indication of Peter's popularity. The Committee had decided that, although Peter was leaving us, we were not going to let him forget us, so we gave him a glass tumbler inscribed, 'Peter Thorpe Chairman of Heybridge U3A 2010 - 2013'. Barbara Barbrook who has also left the committee was given a rose bush called 'Loving Wishes' and Anne Thorpe, who has loyally supported her husband during his Chairmanship, organising tea and biscuits at our monthly meetings was thanked with an orchid.

Our speaker last month, Roger St. Pierre, arrived extremely early for the meeting but was happy to while away some time by going to get a cup of coffee (or a glass of beer?). His talk was very autobiographical, and he seemed to have travelled round every country in the world, with an amusing anecdote about each.

I have to admit that I am not a great fan of web-sites. I am constantly feeling guilty that I am not browsing through all the web-sites that have been recommended to me. Two weeks ago I learnt to appreciate our Heybridge U3A web-site. The speaker for this month was booked six months ago, but two weeks ago, she had a nightmare that she had 'double-booked' herself for our meeting. When she got up she checked on our web-site and found that her nightmare was true. She rang me immediately and was very, very apologetic. Fortunately she has a friend that she thought might come in her place and he will! His name is Henry Brickwood and he will be talking about 'The Gardening Year'. So I have to accept that web-sites do have their uses, besides finding the latest apps.

Joyce Woodham: Email woodham359@btinternet.com or phone 01621 841066.

The Annual General Meeting 2013

The Heybridge U3A AGM took place on Friday 8th March 2013.

The following members of the Heybridge U3A were elected:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| • Chairman | Joyce Woodham |
| • Secretary | Brenda Dewar |
| • Treasurer | Angela Pleasance |
| • Social Secretary | Patricia Smith |

- Interest Group Co-ordinator
Gill Thorne
- News Sheet Editor
Ian Newman

No nominations were received for the posts of Vice Chairman or Programme Secretary. In accordance with the Heybridge U3A Constitution no election was required this year for the post of Membership Secretary. Jenny Parker remains as Membership Secretary.

From the Editor

As you can see there are still two positions on the committee where no one has come forward to fill them. I am assuming that you are not sure what is involved or that you are a little reticent, but your involvement in helping to run our U3A is needed. Therefore speak to one of the committee members to help you decide.

The 2013 Study Day is now in the process of being planned. For further information go to page 7.

In future the U3A Magazine: 'Third Age Matters' will be delivered to your door. Please see article on page 7.

The Diary on the last page has been updated to the end of May 2013. Please keep me up to date with any interesting stories, relevant pictures or anything that relates to The Heybridge U3A, inter-action with other U3As or the U3A movement as a whole.

Subscriptions for the year 2013 – 2014 are due to be paid by the end of March 2013. (See Membership Report below).

Attached to the email version of this News Sheet is a digital (.pdf) copy of the Gardeners Group 2013 Program. If printed on one piece of paper it folds into a 4 page booklet.

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

Membership Secretary

We were pleased to welcome 11 new members in March, taking the total number of paid-up members to 150. Seven members have decided not to re-join and a further 25 still need to pay their 2013 subscription if they wish to continue their membership.

New members are always welcome. If you are not a member and would like to find out more about the Heybridge U3A, you are welcome to attend a monthly meeting (held in the Plantation Hall at 14:00 on the 2nd Friday of the month) as a guest. There is no need to book, just turn up and sign in.

Jenny Parker

For any queries regarding membership, please

Email jennyparker14@hotmail.com or phone me on 01621 843581. Or, If I am not available, please contact Angela by

Email angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk or phone on 01621 850310.

Group Names, Co-ordinator, Contact Telephone

Group Name	Co-ordinator (COG)	Telephone Number
Art (Painting)	Michael Kempen	01621 892974
Bird Watching	Maureen Lenoir	01621 869871
Coffee Morning	Margaret Brown	01621 854885
Computer	Ian Newman	01621 891183
Creative Writing	Angela Pleasance	01621 850310
Family History	Lesley Pomphrett	01621 817733
French Conversation	Jenny Parker	01621 843581
Gardening	Pat Yates	01621 892866
Italian	Janice Slight	01621 853393
Local History	Carol Greenhalgh	01621 840339
Luncheon	John Harrison	01621 854851
Patchwork	Anne Thorpe	01621 850828
Petanque	Barbara Barbrook	01621 855605
Photography	Peter Thorpe	01621 850828
Reading & Books	Ann Lees	01245 225153
Scrabble	Ruth Tyler	01621 856212
Solo Whist	Dave Mason	01621 858635
Spanish -	David Wilson	01621 840945
Technical Computing	Colin Mason	01621 854906
Ten Pin Bowling	Glenn Cousins	01621 816721
Threads & Fabrics	Anne Thorpe & Pat Newman	01621 850828 & 01621 891184
Walking	Elizabeth Eastwood	01621 850618
Weekenders	Marilyn Corbett	01621 817518
Wine Group	Jackie Jones	01621 817117

From the COGCo (Group Co-ordinator)

As many of you are aware, the Reading and Books Group has grown so successful that it is now full. However, one of our new members is interested and has kindly offered to invite several members, who may be keen readers, to her

home (in Maldon), to discuss books and find if there is enough interest possibly to form a new Group or just to chat together. If you are interested, please see me at the next Meeting and I will introduce you to the lady in question.

Gill Thorne: Email gillthorne2@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01621 852294.

Heybridge U3A Monthly Meetings

The next Monthly Meeting is on Friday 12th April starting at the normal time of 14.00, in the Plantation Hall, Heybridge. This month we look forward to seeing you at our meeting when Henry Brickwood will be talking about 'The Gardening Year'. Henry Brickwood is standing in for Linda Holdaway.

A list of other potential subjects for the following Monthly Meetings are as follows:

- May 2013: John Frankland's talk on "Plotlands", including the land given to returning servicemen after both World Wars.
- June 2013: Dr Chris Thornton with interesting facts relating to our Local History of the Maldon area.
- July 2013: The Plume School Performing Arts.
- August 2013: Beryl Claydon, a well known member of Heybridge U3A, talking about her book on Heybridge.

REPORTS

Art (Painting) Group

Our resident reporter, Gill, has been away this month so I will do my best to stand in.

We have had two interesting weeks learning wet on wet techniques with a visiting tutor. Some of us found this quite difficult and it was not to everyone's taste, but we all enjoyed the challenge. Hopefully we will enjoy practising the technique over the next few weeks in our self help group.

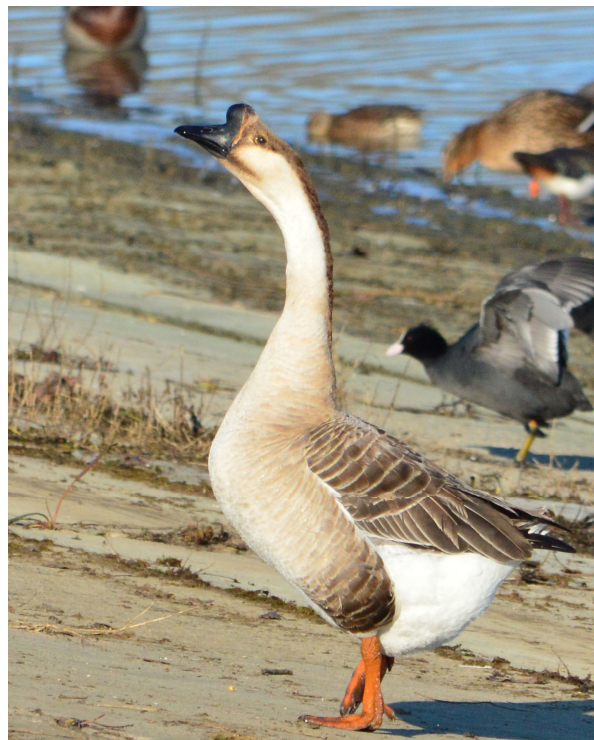
Michael Kempen

For information about the group please contact me, Michael Kempen: Email m.kempen@sky.com or phone 01621 892974.

Bird Watching Group

Our plans this month had to change as Chigborough Lakes were wet, muddy and impassable in places, so we went to Abberton Reservoir instead. It was so cold that we only did a short walk to the hide. We didn't stay long as it was so cold we couldn't wait to get back for a warm drink at the visitor centre. There was not a lot to see but we were told that there was more to see at the Layer Causeway including a Chinese Swan goose. Feeling much warmer we set off, it was still cold and the force of the wind made getting out of the cars difficult but it was worth it. This large group of Canada and Greylag Geese came towards us looking for a tasty snack and the Chinese Swan Goose was with them. Jill was able to get this lovely picture (see

below). It is a stranger to our shores and we think it had escaped from a private collection. We didn't see many birds about this month but enjoyed the fresh air and exercise.



Swan goose (origin China) a rare visitor to Abberton

Jill McGregor

There will be no Bird Watching in April but we have two planned for May. The Dawn chorus on the 4th (let's hope it's warmed up by then.) and Blue House on the 24th. If you would like to join us, get in touch with me.

Maureen: Email symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01621 869871.

Computer Group

Thirteen of us met on Thursday 21st of March for another very lively afternoon, learning more about our computers. With the grateful help of the more experienced members, the less experienced gained more confidence in using their own computers. So if you would like the help of more experienced computer users to enable you to get more from your own computer please come along to our next meeting which will be held in the Claydon Room in Plantation Hall on Thursday 18th April at 14.00 where you will be made welcome.

Report by Tina Abeysekera

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

Creative Writing Group

We welcomed a new member to our group this month. It is always nice to see new faces so do not be shy about joining us. There is no charge for this group.

Some of us wanted more time to complete (or forget!) our project for last month but we did hear one very interesting reminiscence and a couple of poems left over from the previous month. Although we were a bit short of creative

writing we had plenty of laughs. The project for next month is, "The man hidden in the conservatory". Alternatively the man could be hidden in a summer house, shed or another room. It is up to you to find him.

We meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month, at 14:30 at my house.

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

Discussion Coffee Morning Group

Eight of us met on 15th March. We all enjoyed tasty home made cheese scones provided by Linda.

Next month's coffee morning will be at 11.00 on 19th April, meeting at Gill's house.

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

Family History Group

We had another very enjoyable meeting this month. Linda showed the information she had found by using the Electoral Rolls. Chris talked more about the Ancestry web site and we decided that we need to spend a whole meeting looking in more depth at this site as there is so much information on it - if you know where to look. Hopefully that will be for our June meeting. Roger talked about the information he has gathered by using a London street plan site which was new to us. This is something else we could look at in more depth in the future.

Dorothy is still facing her brick wall and talked about her problem understanding the writing in the Parish Registers on the SEAX site. Norman went into SEAX, as he is a member, and after looking at the Parish Register that Dorothy was referring to, more ideas were put forward for her to try.

Our next meeting will be Thursday 25th April 10.30am to 12.30 pm my house as usual.

There will not be a meeting in May.

The June meeting will be Thursday 27th.

Lesley Pomphrett: Email lesleypommy@hotmail.com or phone 01621 817733.

French Conversation Group

In March we met on the day of the spring equinox which was appropriate as we discussed "le printemps", in English,



Spring. The French writer waxed poetically on the warmth of the sun, the beautiful colours and scents of the flowers, the singing of the birds and that the people walking in the streets looked so much more cheerful. I am finding this totally ironic because as I am writing the garden outside my window is covered in snow, with any spring flowers completely

hidden. The flower that the French seem to prefer is the 'muguet', which we call 'the lily of the valley'.

(Lily of the Valley picture on page 3 downloaded from Wikipedia)

Report by Pat Newman

We normally meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month but, for April only, will be meeting at 10.00 on the 3rd Wednesday, April 17th.

Jenny Parker: email jennyparker14@hotmail.com or phone 01621 843581.

Gardening Group

I hope you like the new programme, and approve of the gardens we chose at the planning meeting. The first visit is on Monday 15th April at 14.00 (new time this year) to 'The Place for Plants' at East Bergholt. This is a beautiful spring garden, 20 acres in extent, of rhododendrons and camellias with a lovely display of bulbs in the grassy meadows. It might be wet underfoot, as you need to walk through the grass in places. I will be there at 14.00, but this is not a group visit, so feel free to turn up (or not) at any time. The garden centre plants are top class (but with prices to match), and there is also a café.

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

Italian Conversation

The Beginner's Italian Group met on 4th March. The meeting began with a discussion about the general election that had just taken place in Italy and its possible repercussions. As one member had not managed to make it to a few of the meetings we went over some of the work she had missed, which was a good bit of revision for everyone.

In order to avoid the Bank Holiday Monday, the next meeting will be on Tuesday 2nd April, and will be at 14.00.

The Advanced Italian Group met on 18th March. The meeting began with a discussion (in Italian) on the new pope. The general consensus was that he could be a good choice, but it is just a shame he isn't younger. We managed to spend a good deal of the meeting chatting in Italian about various subjects, holidays being a favourite topic. Conversation is always an excellent way at getting the brain and tongue to practice working together in a foreign language. We then read from the Italia Dal Vivo book and after reading a section we discussed it in Italian.

The next Meeting is on Monday 15th April.

Janice Slight: Email janice.slight@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01621 853393

Local History Group (LHG)

Jane Pearson gave us an excellent talk on 'Getting an Education in Essex from the 1700s to the turn of the last century'. She talked about the whole range of education through those times - from that given to the very privileged to what the workhouses provided for the poor. The 24 of us in the room were able to compare our own schooling, and

that of our children and grandchildren, with those times and judge how the curriculum and expectations have changed.

We next meet at the Warner Textile Archive in Braintree and Carol will be sending out directions to those signed up for this guided visit.

Our May meeting will be at the Little Baddow History Centre. Details to be sent out later.

Please note the visits have different start times: In April at 14.15 and May at 14.00.

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

Luncheon Group

Eleven of the Group met at The Blue Bridge Restaurant in Writtle on Wednesday 27th March. A good selection of choice was available for Starter, Main, and Dessert, several of us taking all three courses. A meal thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

The Dog & Gun, at Little Waltham is booked for Friday 26th April 2013, at 13.00. Their lunch menu is rather unusual, interesting and very enjoyable. I have now booked Russell's Restaurant in Great Baddow/Chelmsford for Friday 24th May at 13.00. I have also booked Le Bouchon for Friday 28th June, again at 13.00.

Lists for all of these will be in the Committee Room on Friday 12th April, with the names of all the regulars, and copies of typical menus for each. Please confirm your intentions and any newcomers please add your names, phone and email address.

Any queries please speak to me on Friday, phone or e-mail.

John W Harrison: email johnwharrison@sky.com or phone 01621 854851.

Patchwork Group

The next meeting of the Patchwork Group will be in the Claydon Room on Monday the 8th April at 14.00.

Anne Thorpe; Email Anne.thorpe@btinternet.com or phone 01621 850828.

Petanque Group

After all the cold and snowy weather, we were able to start off our summer season of Petanque on 18th March. It was dry and not windy on the Promenade and eight of us had two very interesting games getting us back into throwing our boules again. It was slightly chilly so we played for about an hour then went home instead of our usual drink at the kiosk but it was very good to start again. After one more week it will be Easter Monday, so the Monday after that we shall be there at the Terrain again. There are boules for sale at £15 for 8 in a case at the Leisure shop opposite the Emporium. So, come along and you can learn the rules of play in an afternoon. You can watch or have a go.

Barbara Barbroock. Email c.barbrook@sky.com or phone 01621 855605.

Photography Group

We held an extra group meeting at the end of February to look at how to set-up studio flash, to see the effect of directional flash lighting on a photograph and to have-a-go using our own cameras. The Claydon room was cleared of tables and chairs and two members brought along their own studio flash units, complete with brollies and reflectors. Both units (like their owners) were of a certain age, having been purchased long before "digital" meant anything other than counting on fingers. Amazingly we managed to trigger the flashes with our modern cameras (after a few adjustments). This extra practical meeting proved to be popular, if a trifle chaotic and most importantly, we all learnt something - it was great fun!

We were able to see some of the resulting photos the following Thursday at our normal meeting. Our March assignment was to take a photo which had been *enhanced* by flash! Luckily, most members did not use the photos they had taken at the studio flash session. Probably it was because the volunteer models were the same two who had brought along the flash equipment!

Our April assignment is to take a "close-up" photograph of any subject.

If you are interested in digital photography, come and join us. You will be made welcome whether you are completely new, experienced or just want to find your "photographer's eye". Our aim is to enjoy and to improve our photography, together.



Members setting cameras: Author – Jenny Parker

Peter Thorpe: Email thorpe101@btinternet.com or phone 01621 850828.

Reading and Books Group

This month's book, *The Poisonwood Bible*, by Barbara Kingsolver led to long and lively discussions.

This was a story of epic proportions. Poetic, and often harrowing, it is told by the wife and four daughters of a fierce, abusive, evangelical, American Baptist who takes his family to the Belgian Congo in 1959.

This is a story of one family's tragic undoing and remarkable reconstruction over the course of three decades in post colonial Africa. The story engaged us on several levels, as the relationships within the family and with the

African villagers, amongst whom they lived was explored. We found of interest also the difficult political situation in the Congo at that time and the influence of Capitalist America and Communist Russia upon the country and its people.

Not an easy read, but we all felt it was worthwhile to persevere.

There was so much more to discuss about this book, so rich was the narrative, but sadly, time did not allow for this.

Our next group meeting will be on April 17th at 14.30 in Plantation Hall.

Ann Lees: Email: annlees@yahoo.com or phone 01245 225153

Scrabble Group

Our April afternoon meeting is on Tuesday 23rd, as shown on the Events Diary last month. As it is St Georges Day, we are having a celebration here at Wantz Haven, so Pam Archer will be looking after all the Scrabblers. All members are welcome to pop in for a game.

Ruth Tyler: Email r.tyler936@btinternet.com or phone 01621 856212.

Solo Whist

On March 6th, five of us met at Bill's house for the afternoon session, including a new member Peter who was most welcome. The usual 'toing and froing, ensued with some good calls and counter play. With grateful thanks to Florence for the fine refreshments that she provided.

It was decided by the group that from now on, we would meet with the Scrabble group on the 4th Tuesday of every month. So we will meet again on the 26th March at Plantation Hall (in the back room). The four of us had some good, bad and some very indifferent hands and calls during the afternoon which we all enjoyed. The next solo whist meeting will be on Tuesday 23rd April at 14.00 in Plantation Hall. However, I can not attend that session so one of you please take a pack of cards along, and I hope you will all enjoy a good afternoon.

Dave Mason: Email tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk or phone 01621 858635.

Spanish for Beginners

Our first two meetings have now been held and in these sessions we covered meeting and greeting and ordering drinks and tapas in a cafeteria. In the remaining three sessions we will cover shopping, finding your way around and other everyday events. Meetings are held in the Committee Room from 10.00 until 12.00 (Noon) on the last Thursday of each month. This short course will end with the June meeting.

Care will be taken to ensure that any future short course does not clash with any other group meeting scheduled.

David Wilson. Email - d.wilson09@btinternet.com or phone 01621 840945.

Technical Computing Group

The last meeting of the group took place at Ian's house, where we began by discussing our proposed project of

building a computer from scratch. Various basic component prices were identified and an approximate figure of £250 would be a reasonable target.

It was further agreed that the members would during the coming month investigate specifications of motherboards, and associated components. The results will be presented to group members at the next meeting, where it might be possible to identify specific parts. A start in obtaining prices for these parts would then be undertaken.

The next meeting will be on April the 11th at Alex's house.

I would like to thank Pat & Ian for their hospitality.

Colin Mason: Email colin@mason20.wanadoo.co.uk or phone 01621 854906.

Ten Pin Bowling

Seven members met for our March session. Top scorer for the day for one game was Roger Norris with a creditable 149 but this was scored in an extra game and therefore is not included in the main results. Even so, Roger was top scorer for three games with 365. Generally there were many scores of 100 plus per game which resulted in an average score of 102 per game, the first time that the average has exceeded 100 (we must all be getting better!). The April meeting is on Tuesday 9th at Madison Heights, meeting at 13.45 ready to start bowling at 14.00. Why not join us?

Glenn Cousins. Email maureencousins@btinternet.com or phone 01621 816721

Threads and Fabrics Group

Despite it being a sunny day, quite a few of our members must have felt, correctly, that the weather was too good to be true. The room was a sea of heather coloured wool. Our knitters were in the majority, making garments which reminded me of summer walks through heathland. Hopefully, by the time this news sheet is published, the cold weather will be over. Our hostess placed two posh rag dolls (made by different members) on a children's chair for me to photograph for this month's picture. The expressions on their faces were of total surprise.



Rag Dolls:

Author Pat Newman

Please contact Anne Thorpe or Pat Newman.

Anne by Email anne.thorpe@btinternet.com or phone 01621 850828.

Or Pat by Email ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01621 891184.

Walking Group

Our March walk took in the countryside around the village of Mundon. Despite the cold weather and mud underfoot we followed paths and skirted fields for part of the way. It was a welcome break to be outdoors in the fresh air for a couple of hours.

We visited the restored church and petrified oaks which, according to information in the church, are the remains of a large forest of oaks stretching to Maldon which were grown to provide timber for ships in the middle ages.

The next walk will be around Wickham Bishops, see BBC walks web site below:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/essex/discover_essex/walks/wickham_bishops/wickham_bishops.shtml

on Thursday 11th April. Meet at the church car park at 14:00.

Hopefully the weather will have improved by then!

Please let me know if you can join us.

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

Weekenders Group

Another month gone by and still no sign of Summer but at least we are better off than the folks up north. Easter will have come and gone by the time the News Sheet reaches you but I wish you a happy one anyway. What has been happening this last month? Not a lot but we had quite a successful coffee morning at Wilkins where a lot of trips etc were decided on. I will put sheets out for these at the next U3A Monthly Meeting. For those of you already booked for the Battle and Rye trip I will need your £18.00 at that meeting. As we were so enthusiastically planning our trips we forgot to arrange a venue for our May Coffee Morning so I thought The Lock Cafe at Heybridge Basin would be a good choice, who knows it may even be warm enough to sit outside.

Dates for your diary:

- Saturday 13th April; Coffee Morning at Hyde Hall at 10.30 (Note time).
- Saturday May 11th May; Coffee Morning at The Lock Cafe at 10.00.

Marilyn Corbett: Email mars42@btinternet.com or phone 01621 817518.

Wine Appreciation Group

Our March meeting was a blind comparison of two Sauvignon Blanc wines. Oyster Bay, the New Zealand wine was slightly crisper than the Blossom Hill, Californian reserve, due to the differences of climate and soil. As usual, preference was split between the members with

some preferring the softer Californian wine whilst others preferred the sharp fruit flavours of New Zealand.

Our next venture will be a visit to the 'Grape Passions' Spring Wine Tasting Event at Langford Village Hall on Saturday 27th April, meeting in the car park at 11.00. This is always a popular venue as we like to rummage among the 'Bin Ends' to pick up some bargains as well as tasting some different wines with expert knowledge passed on from the staff. All U3A members are welcome to come along to any of our meetings.

Looking forward to (hopefully) sunnier days, there will be no meeting in May, as we are planning to return to The Colchester Wine Company, early in June for one of their special Saturday morning Tasting Sessions, the subject of which is most likely to be Sparkling Wines from around the world. There will be a light buffet served. These sessions are very popular so as soon as I have the date and cost details I will inform everyone so that we can book our places.

Jackie Jones: Email jachjones@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01621 817117.

Association of Essex U3A's Study Day

Currently, the Study Day Committee is still trying to broaden the subjects on offer on the Essex Association of U3A's Study Day, which is now fixed for the 29th October 2013. A number of the same Leaders will be back, but the Study Day Committee would like to see new faces and subjects. The request for subjects and Leaders is in general progressing well but as last year we are short of Art Leaders. There are many Art topics from which an Art Leader from the Heybridge U3A can choose in addition to water colours. They include mediums such as pen and ink, acrylic, pastels, charcoal/pencil; styles such as landscapes, portraits, cartoons, abstract as well as the history of art. Last year we had over 70 applications for just 15 art places.

Please contact me if you need to discuss anything to do with the above or contact the secretary of the Study Group, Doug Harryman, at doug.harryman@talktalk.net.

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

U3A Magazine: 'Third Age Matters'

As advised in the March News Sheet, future editions of the U3A Magazine, 'Third Age Matters', will only be available by direct mail. In accordance with the requirements of National Office, a list of names and addresses of all paid up members (as at the cut-off date of 22nd March) was submitted on the understanding that data will be securely kept in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act.

If your name was on the list, you should receive your first magazine in April (one per address). If you joined after this date, your name will be added to the list in time for the June mailing. Subsequent mailings will be in September, November and January 2014. If you do not wish to receive the magazine, please let me know and I will remove your name from subsequent mailing lists.

For more information please contact Jenny on.

Jenny Parker: Email jennyparker14@hotmail.com or phone 01621 843581.

Or Brenda Dewar: Email brendadewar@btinternet.com or phone 01245 400492.

On the Notice Board

The Chairman's letter from Head Office detailed forthcoming events – 'looking forward to 2013'. The inaugural Founders' Lecture will be on Tuesday 9th April.

Our National Conference "Learn, Laugh and Live" and AGM is 13th – 16th September at the East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham. More details on these to follow.

A request for help: any member willing to complete a survey on their viewing habits in the 50's and 60's please contact by email Margaret.obrien115@gmail.com.

Brandenburg Choral Festival

On Wednesday 17th April, a performance will take place of Vivaldi's Gloria in the Queens Chapel of the Savoy. See the advert in Third Age Matters.

Of additional interest to U3A members may be the pre-concert Walking Tours starting at 17.30.

Tickets are available from the U3A National Office on 020 8466 6139 or by post from the U3A, Old Municipal Buildings, 19 East Street, Bromley BR1 1QE

Details are in the brochure or on the website http://www.brandenburgchoralfestival.co.uk/fringe/festival_fringe_club.php?pg=1

Robert Porter

From Other U3A's

Maldon U3A Maritime Group

Portsmouth Trip. 5th - 9th September 2013; Cost £476pp: Price based on 30 to 49 people in twin/double rooms. Single supplement £40 included four night's Dinner, bed & breakfast accommodation at the Portsmouth Marriott Hotel. Many trips, visits and excursions included.

For full details please contact Malcolm Case on 01245 329435

Diary of Meetings and Visits

For details see articles and co-ordinators above.

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
8th April	8 Petanque 14.00 Patchwork 14.00	9 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	10	11 Technical Computing 14.00 Walking 14.00	12 Monthly Meeting 14.00	13 Weekender Coffee Hyde Hall 10.30	14
15th April	15 Advanced Italian 10.00 Petanque 14.00 Gardening 14.00	16 Local History 14.15	17 French Conversation 10.00 Book Group 14.30	18 Computer 14.00	19 Painting 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00	20	21
22nd April	22 Petanque 14.00	23 Scrabble 14.00 Solo Whist 14.00	24 Creative Writing Group 14.30	25 Family History 10.30 Spanish 10.00	26 News Sheet Copy to Editor Painting 14.00 Luncheon 13.00	27 Wine Tasting 11.00	28
29th April	29 Petanque 14.00	30	1 st May	2 Photography 14.00	3 Committee Meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00	4 Bird Watching	5
6th May	6 Beginners Italian 10.00	7 Threads 14.00	8 French Conversation 10.00	9 Technical Computing 14.00 Walking 14.00	10 Monthly Meeting 14.00	11 Weekender Coffee Lock Cafe 10.00	12 Gardening 14.00
13th May	13 Petanque 14.00 Patchwork 14.00	14 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	15 Book Group 14.30	16 Computer 14.00	17 Painting 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00	18	19
20th May	20 Advanced Italian 10.00 Petanque 14.00	21 Local History 14.00	22 Creative Writing Group 14.30	23	24 News Sheet Copy to Editor Painting 14.00 Bird Watching Luncheon 13.00	25	26
27th May	27 Bank Holiday	28 Scrabble 14.00 Solo Whist 14.00	29	30 Spanish 10.00	31 Painting 14.00	1 st June	2