



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No. 3/2014

April 2014

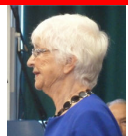
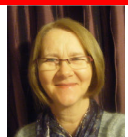
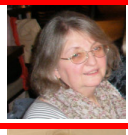

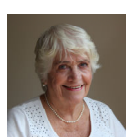
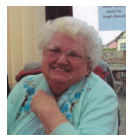


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Your Committee

Chairman	Joyce Woodham Woodham359@btinternet.com 01621 841066	
Vice Chairman	Vacancy	
Secretary	Linda Etherton ethertonbikes@aol.com 01621 843702	
Treasurer	Angela Pleasance angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk 01621 850310	
Membership Secretary	Jenny Parker jennyparker14@hotmail.com 01621 843581	
Events Secretary	Pat Smith patcleary98@sky.com 01621 856569	
Group Co-ordinator	Gill Thorne gillthorne2@hotmail.co.uk 01621 852294	
Speaker Secretary	John Harrison johnwharrison@sky.com 01621 854851	
News Sheet Editor	Ian Newman ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk 01621 891184	

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Committee Nominations 2014

There was an AGM on the 14th March 2014.

Committee members are elected to stand for 3 years before requiring to be re-elected. A number of posts were open for election including The Secretary, Membership Secretary, Speaker Secretary and a Vice Chairman.

The names of Nominees and positions on the Heybridge U3A Committee are as follows:-

Secretary:

No Nomination Received.

Membership Secretary: Jenny Parker:

Proposed by Angela Pleasance and seconded by Margaret Hadley.

Speaker Programme Secretary: John Harrison

Proposed by Jackie Jones and Seconded by Kenneth Russell.

Vice Chairman:

No Nomination Received.

Resolutions put to the 2014 AGM.

Resolution 1.

This meeting authorises the Committee, should they so decide, to reduce the membership fees of renewing members to a level recommended by the Treasurer and agreed by the Committee without further reference to an Annual General Meeting.

This Resolution was not passed by the Members of Heybridge U3A.

Resolution 2 (Change to the Constitution

The amendment proposed is to Clause 7. sub clause (iii) of the Constitution) is as follows

All Committee members, including Officers, shall serve for a period of 3 years. Retiring Officers and Committee members may stand for re-election provided that no-one may hold the office of Chairman or Vice-Chairman for more than 3 consecutive years without an intervening period of at least one year except that a retiring Vice-Chairman may stand immediately for the post of Chairman

(Amended text in bold)

This Resolution was passed by the Members of Heybridge U3A.

NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

From the Chairman

Heybridge U3A Birthday

Friday, 14th March was our 5th Birthday and AGM. To celebrate the birthday we had some especially nice cakes with our cup of tea, but before that, the AGM was a reflection on what had happened over the previous year. In my report, I particularly wanted to show where we are, in relation to other U3As.

Co-operation between Maldon Area U3As

I have had several meetings with the chairmen of the three U3As in Maldon and we are planning ways in which we can work more closely for the benefit of all members. Heybridge U3A has a high profile in Essex because of 'Study Day', which in the first year attracted 200 applicants, in the second year there were more than 300 applicants! Many thanks are due to Ian Newman for his incredibly efficient organisation, which has resulted in many compliments across the county.

Heybridge U3A Committee

Thanks are also given to the committee, who work so hard on your behalf. It is always sad when a member of the committee steps down, so we were very sorry to have to say farewell to Brenda Dewar, our Secretary. To acknowledge our thanks we gave her a token for her local Garden Centre. This seemed to be an inspired choice as she was about to buy a tree for her garden. I hope that she names it after us!

Election of Committee Members

It was also good that John Harrison was elected to the task of finding speakers for our monthly meeting. But at the meeting itself we had no nominations for Secretary, which was disappointing. Fortunately, after the meeting, Linda Etherton agreed to take on the role, so she will be co-opted onto the Committee until she can be elected,

The afternoon ended with a wonderfully amusing talk from Bill Pirie an ex-traffic cop.

Association of Essex U3As and Study Day

Please also see the reports on page 10

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

From the Editor

How has the change from eight to twelve pages affected you? Is the News Sheet easier to read? Does the new layout help in finding the information you want? You tell me.

There is space available for you to expand your reports. Group Reports have remained in the central pages of the News Sheet, with plenty of space for your photographs. The detailed report of Events currently being planned is now towards the end of the News Sheet.

The reports from the Committee Members can still be found in the first few pages with a contents column to aid in finding the parts which you wish to read first.

On page 1, the names of the new Committee, their position and photograph can be found. We have retained the back page for the Diary page, which has been updated to the end of May 2014.

If you have any comments to make about the changes, please let me know and, if you wish, the comments can be included in the next News Sheet as a letter to the Editor.

Please read the Membership Secretary's Report as it covers the renewal of membership for the year 2014 – 2015 and how and when those membership fees should be paid..

Please keep me up to date with any interesting stories, relevant pictures or anything that relates to The Heybridge U3A or the U3A movement as a whole. Continue to send details to me, preferably by email with 'Heybridge U3A' in the title. Alternatively talk to me at the Monthly Meeting.

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

Membership Secretary

We were pleased to welcome six new members in March. At the same time, were sorry to lose 12 existing members who, for various reasons, decided not to re-join. 120 members have now paid their 2014/15 subscriptions, and I would like to thank them all for their prompt payment. 46 members have not yet renewed. If you are one of them and do not wish to re-join, please let me know so that I do not chase you for payment. If, however, you wish to continue your membership, please let me have your subs as soon as possible. Until these are paid, you may no

longer be covered by the Third Party Liability Insurance provided for all paid-up members by the national U3A.

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 on the 2nd Friday of each month at 14.00) 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.

From The Treasurer

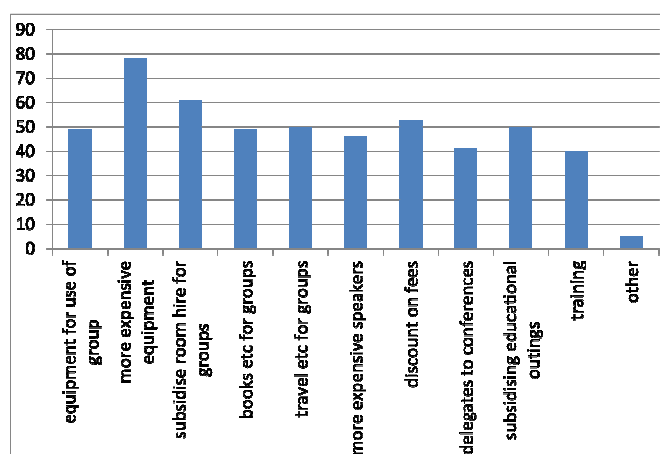
At the AGM on 14th March 2014, I explained that our finances are in a healthy state; we closed the year with a balance of about £4,500. Previous years have seen a year-on-year growth in the closing balance at the end of the year. This is a trend that we need to reverse, for two reasons:

- Most of our income comes from the subscriptions that you pay. This is money that you have given to provide services, not build up funds. We are not a commercial organisation seeking to make a profit. We are a charity and we need to spend your money wisely, for your benefit.
- Our income has grown to an extent that we must register with the Charities Commission. The Commission has rules that govern how much reserves we can keep, and we are in danger of having too much money!

Your committee is therefore looking at ways in which we can spend the money fairly, for the benefit of all members. This might include the purchase of equipment, support to groups or other services.

In preparation for registration with the Charities Commission we have merged the main and group "company" accounts and created a new account for our Social activities. These are events that have no educational element, such as the fish and chip supper which we enjoyed in January. Our bank accounts have also been treated in the same way. This does not mean that money held for a group is 'lost'. Within the main account are amounts which are ring-fenced for particular groups and each group leader will have a statement of their sub-account from me. The total of the ring-fenced amounts at the end of the year was £79.07.

A short questionnaire was provided for members to give feedback on the way they would like the committee to spend your money. The results of this have now been analysed and the chart shows the results, which the committee is discussing. Please feel free to come up with ideas at any time.



Angela Pleasance:

Email angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 01621 850310.

From the COGCo (Group Co-ordinator)

One of our members, John Gorrie, is proposing to form a croquet group within Heybridge U3A, playing golf croquet (the simpler form), as guests of Maldon Croquet Club. The lawns are at Forrester Park Golf Club, Great Totham. All equipment will be provided by the club. No dress code applies, although sensible footwear is advised i.e. no open sandals or high heels!. Meetings would be from late April to early October, to suit the club and the group. Instruction and coaching will be arranged initially. (The club has four qualified coaches.) The only requirements are to be able to stay on your feet for a time holding a mallet, and reasonable eyesight. Not too demanding!

The normal visitor fee is £3.00 for a three-hour session, including the use of club mallets and all equipment. If interested, contact John Gorrie on 01621 854006. A form will be available at the next monthly meeting and John will be available at the end of the main meeting. Play requires as few as four (or two at a pinch!), with 16 the maximum who can play at the same time.

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

Events Secretary

The following section contains a brief resume of events that have been booked for this year. Further details can be found on page 9.

- Royal Opera House, Thurrock: Friday April 25th. Please see information on page 9.
- Royal Greenwich: Please be sure to read the description on page 9, and note the important changes. Friday_May 30th 2014, a full day tour, including the Queen's House, Cutty Sark and a Cable Car ride. Please be sure to pay for the trip at the full meeting on Friday 11th April, or send cheque to me before Friday 18th April.
- Ely: A visit on Tuesday June 17th to the beautiful city of Ely.
- Royal Naval Dockyards at Chatham: A visit to the 'Ultimate 1940s Nostalgia Event' at Chatham on Saturday September 20th.
- Thursford: A trip to the Thursford Christmas Spectacular 2014 has now been booked for 23rd November 2014.

In addition a summer picnic and an autumn social evening have been suggested, but not yet booked.

Heybridge U3A Monthly Meeting

The speaker at our next Monthly Meeting, on the 11th April will be Leila Sullivan who will give a talk on "Her Irish Victorian Grandparents". The venue, as usual, will be Plantation Hall, Heybridge, starting at 14:00.

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

- 9th May: Kathleen Morgan, will talk about Nelson Mandela and his work.
- 13th June: William Tyler on "A tangled romance: Edward and Mrs. Simpson"
- 11th July: Linda Stratmann: A talk on Essex Murders

GROUP REPORTS

Art (Painting) Group

As industrious as ever, our group members seemingly grow bolder in their methods of creativity. Some are experimenting with monochrome painting, while others are ditching the pencil and eraser in favour of pen straight to paper. Our COG Michael paid a flying visit to the group on March 21st before heading off to Colchester General for his long-awaited operation. We all wish him a successful outcome, a comfortable recovery and a speedy return to the Friday painters' group.

Good luck Michael, we're missing you already!

Report by Gill Carpenter

For information about the group contact, Michael Kempen: Email m.kempen159@btinternet.com or phone 01621 892974.

Bird Watching Group

The bird watching group visited Cudmore Park on Mersea Island on 28th March and it was dry and quite warm. A lovely change.



Thrush Singing for Spring Author Jill: McGregor

Although the warden was unable to come round with us this time he did provide a list of things to look for. With all the birds gaining their breeding plumage, the lake and the fields were a wonderful sight. There were many Godwits, some of the males already showing off their bright orange heads and necks. The Teal and Widgeon sparkled in the sun.

It was great to see and hear the first of the summer visitors even if this means that some of winters best sights (huge flocks of golden plover, for instance) have now departed for the breeding season.

On our way back to the cars we spotted a song thrush (See opposite). This is a bird that was once common in all our gardens but has now declined so far as to be on the RSPB Red list of endangered species.

We all went to check for Adders on the adder bank but the sun was not quite strong enough to tempt these fascinating snakes from their hiding places much to the relief of one or two of the group.

Report by Jill McGregor

The visit next month (April) will go ahead as usual but the venue has not yet been fixed. Contact Maureen for details.

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

Computer Group

The Computer Group met in March as usual on the third Thursday of the month. We continued looking at Word, building on last month's work of opening up a Word document, saving it and commencing the production of a Table. We learnt that most of the commands were instigated by use of the right click and the appearance of the pull down menu appearing.

Following a tea break we started helping each other on a one to one basis to solve our individual problems or those of our neighbour.

It was decided that a new topic should be chosen. Therefore at the April meeting, we will look at the uses to which spread sheets can be put. This introduction will be at the most basic level.

If you would like the help of a more experienced computer user to enable you to get more from your own computer please come along to our next meeting. The Computer Group Meetings are held in the Claydon Room in Plantation Hall on the third Thursday of each month when you will be made welcome. Just come along.

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

Creative Writing Group

I was sorry to miss this month's meeting. I understand that the others had a pleasant afternoon with contributions of very different pieces ranging from a children's story involving moonbeams and the man in the moon, to a visit to

a nightclub and a dream sequence involving Patrick Moore plus an attempt to book a flight to the moon. I am often amazed by the imagination of the people in our group but it seems that this month I missed a particularly good batch of stories. The subject for next month is "The Lady". This came about after talk about the magazine but obviously there could be many interpretations.

The next meeting will be at my house on Wednesday 23rd April – St George's day – at 14:30. New members welcome.

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

Discussion Coffee Morning Group

Nine of us enjoyed a pleasant morning at Anne's house on Friday 21st March. We had delicious biscuits and tea/coffee. Our next meeting will be at Leslie Pomphrett's house at 11:00 on Friday 18th April (which also happens to be Good Friday).

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

Family History Group

At our meeting this month we talked about using computer photographic sites to enhance things like the census and parish records. We also looked at some photos of the Arctic Convoys in WWII.

I am sorry but there will not be a meeting in April.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 22nd May between 10:30 to 12:30, at my house, as usual.

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

French Conversation Group

During our March meeting we discussed seven good reasons for taking physical exercise. The first is for pleasure, without which we would quickly give up (this didn't seem to quite convince the writer of the article). The second is to feel good, as exercise helps our body to secrete "happy hormones", which make us feel calm and less stressed. This we decided would depend on the form of exercise chosen. The third was to become healthier by improving the efficiency of people's heart, lungs and joints. The fourth was considered by the writer to be mainly applicable to women. It is to lose weight, with a reducing diet and exercise, to attain an ideal shape and fight against cellulite (silent feminist hackles rose). The fifth is to challenge ourselves by setting goals to push harder towards perfection. The sixth is to manage one's emotions, moving our bodies allows us to let off steam. The last reason was social, joining a class or gym allows us to meet people

who share our interests. For those who feel depressed by reading the above, we then read about an elderly lady who reached the age of 122 years. Her recipe was to consume olive oil and to eat a kilo of chocolate per week. This recipe suited her so well that she didn't have to stop cycling until after her 100th birthday.

Our meetings are held on the second Wednesday in each month starting at 10:00.

Report by Pat Newman.

For further information please contact:

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

Gardening Group

The 2014 Garden Visits programme was agreed upon at the planning meeting, and is attached to the digital copy of the news sheet. I hope you like it. There will be a few printed copies available at the next General Meeting, together with the 2014 Essex Yellow Books. I saw an article on South Shoebury Hall in Country Living magazine last month, and it looks absolutely beautiful, so let's hope the weather is good for our first visit of the year. Let me know if you would like a lift.

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

Italian Conversation

Unfortunately, due to my husband's on-going treatment, I have still not been able to resume the Italian meetings. I shall advise the members when the next meetings will take place.

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

Local History Group (LHG)

Our March speaker, Clive MacPherson, told us about the naval base on Osea Island and its connections to the Kronstadt Raid which took place in 1919. Before our talk, most of us had no idea where Kronstadt was [it's south of Finland] or that we were fighting the Russians at that time. This was a tale of bravado, spying, intrigue, overtones of the Navy Lark, and much more, and resulted in the awarding of two VCs that were not made public until the 1950s. An entertaining and interesting afternoon.

We next meet on the 15th April at 14:00 at the Plotlands Museum in Laindon and on 20th May at 14:00 we shall be at the 'Secret' Nuclear Bunker at Kelvedon Hatch. Carol will send out directions etc. nearer the time.

More information about these at the Monthly Meeting or contact Carol.

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

Luncheon Group

We were reduced to eleven for our visit to The Blue Strawberry in Hatfield Peverel on the 21st March 2014. As ever the quality of the food and service was excellent, and very good value for money.

Our April lunch, on the 25th, will be a revisit to The Rare Cow in Writtle for their Fresh Fish and Chips & Glass of Wine, all for £5.99.

The list will be in the Committee Room during the 11th April Monthly Meeting.

New members to Heybridge U3A, as well as existing members, are very welcome to join us

Any queries please speak to me at Friday's meeting, 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 14th April at 14.00.

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

Petanque Group

Once again we were lucky with the weather last Monday afternoon and had a very pleasant session on the Promenade Park Petanque Terrain. We had twelve people who had come to play. We had two games with pairs chosen by playing cards as this ensures that we play with different partners, providing a wide variety of experience to all those playing.

We had a very enjoyable afternoon with lots of laughter and some groans when the luck was against us but often you can win one game and lose the second.

We had a drink at the kiosk to finish the afternoon session and look forward to the next week.

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

Photography Group

You never know when you will need a Plan B. We were assembled and expectant, watching the screen as my computer went through its start-up procedure, when it suddenly refused to complete the task. We had several members of the Technical Computer Group present and despite our combined efforts we failed to change its mind and recognise me as its master! Luckily after 20 minutes of discussion/waffle on tripods etc. we invented our emergency Plan B. Ian offered to replace my computer with his own, which he had already set-up to save our members assignment images on our portable hard drive. It

took another day and an hour or so of Colin's determination, to get my computer to splutter into life again. The programmes were still there, but my data had gone! There must be a moral there somewhere. I think it is when you are in real trouble, have your U3A friends close by.

The incident made me realise how dependent our group is on my computer functioning correctly, but with Ian's quick thinking, we were able to adapt and view our assignment photos as if nothing had happened. What a diverse collection of images we were able to view. "Wet" is an interesting concept and is mostly considered uncomfortable and undesirable. Rain in its' various guises was very popular, with umbrellas providing much needed colour in dull lighting conditions. We had reflections on wet pavements, children splashing in puddles and cars driving through puddles. There were several close-ups of rain drops on windows which demonstrated skilful use of depth of focus. Unfortunately we were not able to keep a record of this collection of fascinating images (due to the implementation of our new Plan B) but yet again our members had demonstrated their creativity and ingenuity in interpreting this deceptively challenging subject.



Wet Waves: Author Peter Thorpe

Before we went home, we chose our next assignment subject and I look forward to seeing what our imaginative photographers make of "Spring"!

If you want to discover your "photographer's eye", please come along and join us, we have plenty of room. Whether you are completely new or experienced, you will be welcome. Our only aim is to enjoy our photography, by sharing and improving our skills together.

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

Reading and Books Group

Another enjoyable evening at Maldon library where the Group listened to a talk by Michael Dobbs, as part of an event organised by the Essex Book Festival. The writer entertained us with details of his career in government and why he

started to write. Some members also attended events in other libraries in the County.

We all enjoyed our latest book "The Help", which told about the lives of black women who worked as maids in the US in the sixties. The book was narrated by three of these maids and by Skeeter, the daughter of one of their employers. Skeeter had just returned from college and she decided to write a book about the maids' lives enlisting their help to relate their stories. We found the book to be a very moving story of its time filled with poignancy, and humour.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 16th April in Plantation Hall at 14:00. Further information from Carole

Further information from Carole Overy.

Email: caroleovery@sky.com or phone 01621 893450.

Scrabble Group

A few of the group were unable to attend the last Scrabble session but we still managed to have two boards out: some interesting words came into play and cunning strategies maximised the scores for the more skilled among us (this does not include me, I'm still learning). The next meeting is on the 22nd April at 14:00 pm in the Committee Room at the Plantation Hall. If you would like to join us do contact me.

Linda Etherton: Email ethertonbikes@aol.com or phone 01621 843702

Solo Whist

On the first Wednesday in March, five of us took it in turns to play Solo Whist at Margaret Brown's home. This was a very good session. Geoff, our new, member said he enjoyed it and is looking forward to the next session.

It is a different game again with four players (as it should be) with lots of hands called. Some were winners, some losers; with one deal, three of the hands were able to call an 'abundance' (most unusual). However, the first call was to Bill which he won. Splendid refreshments were served by Margaret. Thank you.

On the 1st of April, five of us met at Jackie Jones place for interesting and lively hands of Solo Whist. Lots of hands called were won and lost although the highest call was a winning abundance. Jackie supplied us with excellent refreshments which we all enjoyed.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday the 7th of May at 14:00 at Bill & Florence's home. So come along and enjoy a game of solo.

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

Technical Computing Group

The last meeting of the Technical Computer group took place on March the 13th at Peter's house. We welcomed a new member, Sue, to the group. After the introductions of the members to Sue, we commenced by discussing a laptop problem one of the members experienced last week, namely the respective computer started, but failed to let the owner have access to his machine. Eventually the problem was rectified prior to the meeting, but the result made an interesting discussion.

I attempted to carry out a 'backup' using Microsoft Ghost' on an old laptop of mine, but failed miserably, as I did not bring the correct software to Peter's house. (It just goes to show we all make mistakes!!). The afternoon finished off with a general discussion on various computer problems.

As I mentioned we welcomed Sue to our group, and any U3A member is welcome to come along to a meeting, all we ask is that they have some knowledge of the operation of computers, both Desktop, and laptops, and some understanding of recent software applications, if you are interested, please feel free to contact me either by email, or telephone.

My thanks to Ann and Peter for their hospitality

The next meeting will be on Thursday 10th of April, at the usual time of 14:00.

Colin Mason:

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

Ten Pin Bowling

Our meeting on Tuesday 11th was well attended with 12 people playing in 3 lanes of 4. We were pleased to see Glenn and Maureen back again, they just can't keep away!

The highest scorer, who was as pleased as punch, and rightly so, was Gill with a score of 135 beating Roger by only one point. Gill's added achievement was a "turkey" (3 strikes in a row).

I probably made an error in putting the four men together in one lane as there appeared to be lots of testosterone and some inflated scoring, which they blamed on the breakdown of the machinery!! Generally, there was lots of laughter and a good time had by all.

Our next meeting will be slightly different on Tuesday 8th April, when we play from 10:00 for 2 hours (arrival at 09:45 please) then lunch at Izumi. I think all our regular players have let me know if they are attending for lunch. Anyone else wishing to join us, please let me know.

On Tuesday 13th May, the timing will be 13:45 for 14:00 start at Madison Heights.

Lynne Morrison. phone 01621 891288, Email lynne-morrison@supanet.com (m. 07771 880757)

Threads and Fabrics Group

Our March meeting was a busy one with only one person missing and where lots of projects were being finished before the Spring. The idea of warmer weather was giving us lots of new ideas of possible seasonal things to make. I look forward to seeing how things develop.



Knitted Mittens Author Pat Newman

The meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month starting at 14:00.

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

Walking Group

The March walk around Tillingham was enjoyed by 16 people, taking advantage of the spring sunshine. Many thanks to Roger for taking the map and getting everyone back to the pub!

The April walk will be from Terling, taking in the attractive village with parts of the Ter Valley and Essex Way. We will meet at 14:00 on Thursday 10th April. There is ample parking on the roadway to the Village Hall, almost opposite the old Rayleigh Arms pub. This was closed when we visited last and I don't know if it has reopened. Please let me know if you can join us.

Elizabeth: Email e.m.e@talktalk.net or phone 01621 850618. (Mobile 07581029816).

Weekenders Group

Having not long returned from a six week stay with a friend in South Africa. As my photos are not yet sorted I shall tell you about my holiday plus snaps in next month's issue. I heard that the performance of 'Grease' at Witham Public Hall was

a great success and I hope the new venues for the coffee mornings were as well.

Dates for your diary

- Saturday 12th April at 'Salty Dogs', Goldhanger at 10:00.
- Saturday 10th May at 'White Elm Nursery' formerly 'Horseshoe Nursery', Bicknacre at 10:00.
- Saturday 14th June at 'Poplar Nursery' Marks Tey at 10:00.

For further details please contact Marilyn.

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

Wine Appreciation Group

The meeting at my house will be on Wednesday 16th April, at 14:00, when we hope to find out about the wines of Chile. We shall be tasting a 2009 Santa Rita Medalla Carmenere from Leyda Valley. Plush and full bodied, this wine offers an array of blueberry, plum and oak softened cassis fruit, accented with intriguing coffee and dark chocolate aromas. There will be the option to try a 2012 Sauvignon Blanc from Vina Tarapaca, one of Chile's most traditional wineries, located in the heart of the Maipo Valley, Chile's most prestigious wine growing region. A pure Sauvignon Blanc with a lemon straw colour and green highlights, it has an aroma that is lively with grapefruit and lime characters and a palate that displays tropical fruit balanced by refreshing citrus. We shall try some food matching comparisons with these wines to observe the effect on the flavours.

On Wednesday 21st May, we are hoping to arrange for a tour of the West Street Vineyard, at Coggeshall, with a talk and tastings in the English Wine Barn. We do need to get a reasonable size group together and the cost will be £10. each. Please add your name to the list or contact me if you would like to attend.

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

U3A Magazine 'Third Age Matters'

As most of you know, the U3A Magazine 'Third Age Matters' is now mailed directly to members from the national U3A, using a database of addresses supplied by individual U3As. The magazine will be published five times over the coming year, on 15th April, 10th June, 5th September, 14th November and 6th February 2015. Prior to each publication date we have a 'window' in which we can make alterations to our database (additions, deletions, change of address). Changes are not possible at any other time. If you move, or if you wish your details to be deleted from the database, please let me know and I will make

the change at the next available opportunity.
Jenny Parker

Detail of Events:

Further Information and Details

Royal Opera House.

A table is booked at the *Fleet Bar and Restaurant*, London Road Purfleet, RM19 1JR for 13:30. (Telephone 01708 890999). Our tour of the workshops at *High House Production Park* is booked for 15.00. There is plenty of parking at both places.

The easiest route is via the A13, leaving at the exit after the M25 junction. See map in the committee room or telephone me for directions.

Royal Greenwich.

Fords coach will collect us from the bus stop at Tesco Express at 08:30 (Plantation Hall does not have sufficient room in the car park). At approximately 10:30 we will be dropped off near to the Maritime Museum which has a cafe for refreshments, both on arrival and for lunch later. (Please bring a picnic if you prefer and if weather permitting and enjoy the wonderful views from the park). Greenwich is a compact destination. All the sites are within easy walking distance of each other so the morning will be spent as you choose; touring The Maritime Museum, the Royal Observatory and the Queen's House, the choice is yours.

At 14:00, we meet together for a five minute walk to visit the restored Cutty Sark; built in 1869 and the fastest sailing ship of her day. After thoroughly exploring the ship we board a Thames Clipper at the North Greenwich jetty to take us to the O2 for the final treat, a one-way flight on the Thames Cable Car to the Royal Docks. Our coach will collect us there at 17:00.

There will be time to buy refreshments before leaving for home. The total cost of £37.00pp includes everything except refreshments and is now due!. Please note this is due now and must be paid at the full meeting on Friday 11th April, or by cheque to me before Friday 18th April.

Please make cheques payable to Heybridge U3A.

Ely.

For our trip to Ely on Tuesday June 17th the coach will leave Plantation Hall at 09:00 and have until 16:00 to please ourselves as to what we see and do. The wonderful cathedral known as the 'ship of the fens' is a must for most visitors and some will enjoy a stroll by the river and perhaps a visit to the weekly market. There are plenty of excellent places to eat in the city and the house where Oliver Cromwell lived will be open that day, admission £4.10 - (2013). The cost for coach only,

will be £15 00 pp and is now due. Please make cheques payable to Heybridge U3A

Chatham

The trip to Chatham Dockyards takes place on Saturday 20th September, the weekend of the annual '1940s Nostalgia Event'. It will be like travelling back in time, with 1940s cars, aeroplanes, fashion, music, street scenes,- everything but the war! The more general Docklands exhibitions will also be open to us and there are a number of places to eat at the Dockyards. This time we leave Plantation Hall at 08:30. Return time to be confirmed. Cost £24.50pp.

The Thursford Christmas Spectacular 2014.

I have provisionally booked 15 tickets for Sunday November 23rd 2014 with Boon's Coaches and have confirmed bookings for 10 members. Please sign up as soon as possible if you wish to join us for this extremely popular event. We have the best seats at £68.50 pp.

New Events.

A picnic is planned for a Sunday in July in Heybridge Basin. More details later.

Due to popular request, a second social evening is planned and Plantation Hall booked for Friday 17th October. Possibly fish & chips. Certainly lots of board games!

Please sign up for the events and contact me with any queries.

Pat Smith; Email patcleary98@sky.com or phone 01621 856569

Association of Essex U3As

The next meeting of the Essex Association of Essex U3As is on 9th May. They have booked an expert in data protection to come and speak. This should be a very worthwhile talk.

It will also be the Associations AGM. The current committee members are prepared to continue – Joyce Woodham, Chair; Paul Mardon, Treasurer; Doug Harryman, Secretary; Beryl McDonnell, committee member. Sadly, Judy Wayne, our Vice chairman, has had to step down, so we need a replacement for this post. We are also inviting nominations for more committee members. A nomination form is available from me.

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

Association of Essex U3A's Study Day 2014

There has been no news to confirm that a new Planning Committee has yet been assembled. We will keep you informed if and when news on this subject is forthcoming.

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

On the Notice Board

U3A announcement in association with the Royal Horticultural Society. Discover glorious gardens and wonderful flower shows with the RHS and enjoy a group discount for all these events.

RHS gardens at Wisley and Hyde Hall are included along with the great flower shows such as RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show in July and the Chelsea Flower Show in May. BBC Gardeners' World Live in June is also included.

For many more details please contact Pat Yates on 01621 892866 or see the notice board.

The Royal Geographical Society has published two new walk guides created by U3A members covering Settle in N. Yorks and Bodmin Moor, Cornwall.

The 2014 Photography competition, theme Architectural Britain - old and new. Closing date 31st August 2014

U3A Conference / AGM 9th - 10th September at Cirencester - if any member wishes to pre-register for a conference pack they can email conference@u3a.org.uk.

Contact Linda Etherton (See page 1 for details).

April 30: - Spring Concert at the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy. Jewels of the 20th century British Choral Music. An afternoon concert – tickets £18.

May 21: - U3A staying Sharp at the Royal Society – “Plug in, Switch on, Rewire!” Can technology rewire your brain for greater fulfilment? Details of all the above are on the U3A web site – u3a.org.uk

For more information Contact Linda Etherton (See page 1 for details).

From other U3As

From Blackwater U3A

A trip to Portsmouth and the Historic Dockyard on Monday 7th July 2014.

The Blackwater U3A BRATS group (Transport) would like to offer Blackwater and other local U3A group members the opportunity to join us for what should be a very interesting day out to Portsmouth. Travel by coach, departing from the West Maldon Community Centre, Maldon at 08:00 with a return departure from Portsmouth at 16:30.

For those not wishing to visit the Dockyard just book a coach seat and arrange your own visits to the other attractions in the area.

Fares: Coach only £17.00 per head or Coach and Dockyard £36.00 per head.

Please contact the trip co-ordinator before sending cheques, Bookings for the Dockyard visit will close

on 4th June. Cheques should be made payable to : BLACKWATER U3A

Trip co-ordinator:

Ron Martin, 56 Gloucester Ave., Maldon CM9 6LA

E-mail – rondimar@btinternet.com Tel : 01621 856347

Group Name, Co-ordinator, & Contact Phone Number

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 891184
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	Carole Overy	01621 893450
Scrabble	Linda Etherton	01621 843702
Solo Whist	Dave Mason	01621 858635
Spanish	Dave Wilson	01621 840945
Technical Computing	Colin Mason	01621 854906
Ten Pin Bowling	Lynne Morrison	01621 891288
Threads & Fabrics	Pat Newman	01621 891184
Walking	Elizabeth Eastwood	01621 850618
Weekenders	Marilyn Corbett	01621 817518
Wine Group	Jackie Jones	01621 817117

Diary of Meetings and Visits

For details see articles and co-ordinators above.

Week Starting	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7th April	7 Petanque 14.00	8 Ten Pin Bowling 10.00	9 French Conversation 10.00	10 Technical Computing 14.00 Walking 14.00	11 Monthly Meeting 14.00	12 Weekender Coffee at Salty Dogs Goldhanger 10.00	13
14th April	14 Patchwork 14.00 Petanque 14.00	15 Local History 14.00	16 Book Group 14.00 Wine Tasting 14.00	17 Computer 14.00	18 Coffee Morning 11.00 Bank Holiday	19	20
21st April	21 Bank Holiday	22 Scrabble 14.00	23 Creative Writing Group 14.30	24	25 News Sheet Copy to Editor Painting 14.00 Bird Watching Luncheon ROH Workshop	26	27
28th April	28 Petanque 14.00	29	30	1 st May Photography 14.00	2 Committee Meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00	3	4
5th May	5 Bank Holiday	6 Threads 14.00	7 Solo Whist 14.00	8 Technical Computing 14.00 Walking 14.00	9 Monthly Meeting 14.00	10 Weekender Coffee at White Elm Nursery 10.00	11
12th May	12 Patchwork 14.00 Petanque 14.00	13 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	14 French Conversation 10.00	15 Computer 14.00	16 Painting 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00	17	18
19th May	19 Petanque 14.00	20 Local History 14.00	21 Wine Tasting 14.00 Book Group 14.00	22 Family History 10.30	23 Painting 14.00 Bird Watching Luncheon	24	25
26th May	26 Bank Holiday	27 Scrabble 14.00	28 Creative Writing Group 14.30	29	30 News Sheet Copy to Editor Painting 14.00 Greenwich 08:30	31	1 st June