



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

# Heybridge U3A

## News Sheet No. 3/2015

### April 2015

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

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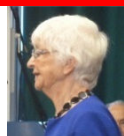

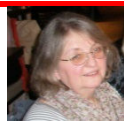



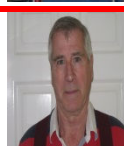
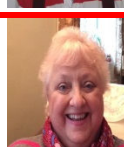
#### Your Committee

**2015/16 Subs were due  
by 31<sup>st</sup> March.**

**Have you paid yours?**

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## NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

### From the Chairman

It seems a long time since I attended a Heybridge U3A meeting. That is because I have been on a cruise round South America. I have seen so many countries and met so many people that the whole trip is becoming a bit of a blur. Cruising is a very addictive life style. I have become so lazy as I have not prepared a meal, made my bed or done any washing for 89 days.

I had hoped to keep in touch with the Heybridge U3A committee and family and friends by email, but the satellite connection was atrocious and when I did make contact, the cost was extraordinarily high. As you know, I did manage to send a report for the AGM. Reading the Minutes of that meeting shows how well the committee coped without me! Perhaps another cruise should be planned.

While I was away, a survey was carried out. We asked you a number of questions about your thoughts and feelings regarding what we do. Thank you for responding to that survey. The results show a very positive feed-back. The main criticism is about the arrangement of the tables in the Hall, so the committee will be discussing that.

Once again, I want to thank all the people who help to make Heybridge U3A so successful and enjoyable.

Joyce Woodham

Chairman

### From the Editor

The layout of the Heybridge U3A News Sheet and the reports that it contains, remains the same as that produced last month. Information about the Committee Members and their reports can 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 back page (p12) shows the Diary for the months of April and May.

Please keep the Editor up to date with any interesting stories, relevant pictures or anything that relates to the Heybridge U3A, the Association of Essex U3As or the U3A movement as a whole. Please send details to me, preferably by email with 'Heybridge U3A' in the title. Alternatively talk to me at the Monthly Meeting.

Contact me, Geoff Hadley, on any issue raised in the News Sheet by phone 01621 852494 or by

Email [editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk](mailto:editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk)

### From the Membership Secretary

Thank you to everyone who has paid their 2015-16 subscriptions. Please remember to collect your 2015/16 membership card at the next monthly meeting. We were pleased to welcome two new members in March, together with two returning members.

If you have not yet paid, you need to do so now if you wish to continue your membership. You can download a re-enrolment form from our website – [www.heybridgeu3a.org.uk](http://www.heybridgeu3a.org.uk). This year, we are offering a one-off optional discount for renewing members. The table below shows the amount you need to pay if you wish to take advantage of the discount. You can pay at the April monthly meeting, or by post (address on form).

If you don't wish to renew your membership, please let me know. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Membership No	2015/16 discounted fee
001 - 130	£ 5.00
131 - 185	£ 7.50
186 - 228	£ 10.00
229 - 251	£ 12.50
252 - 283	£ 15.00
284 -	£ 17.50

### Member Feedback Questionnaire

Thanks to those who filled in a copy of our feedback questionnaire at the AGM. If you were not at the AGM or did not have time to complete a questionnaire, it's not too late! A copy is attached with this News Sheet, so please take the time to let us know your views. Completed questionnaires can be handed in at the monthly meeting, or sent by e-mail or post to the Membership Secretary.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month at 14:00) as a guest. There is no need to book, just turn up and sign in.

For any queries regarding membership, please Email [jennyparker14@hotmail.com](mailto:jennyparker14@hotmail.com) or phone me on 01621 843581. Or, If I am not available, please contact Angela by phone on 01621 850310 or by Email [angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk).

### From the Treasurer

**T**hank you to everyone who came along to the AGM and supported the committee's resolutions on our finances. We now have a clear financial plan for the year ahead which should bring our excessive reserves to manageable levels by the end of the year.

We are welcoming Lynne Morrison to the committee as our Social Treasurer. This is a new post which has been created to share the work of organising our finances. Lynne will take on responsibility for the financial side of our outings, which are organised by Pat Smith and enjoyed by everyone who goes on them. We hope that Lynne will enjoy her time on the committee.

Angela Pleasance

### From the Events Secretary

#### Planned Events

- Monday April 27<sup>th</sup> 2015. A coach trip to Kew Gardens.
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May a trip on MV Princess Pocahontas.
- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July, a trip to Audley End House and Gardens.
- **NEW**. Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July. An Elizabethan Musical Extravaganza at Layer Marney Tower.
- Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2015, a trip to the Royal Dockyards at Chatham, on their 'Back to the 40s' weekend – with Boon's Calibre Travel.

Please see page 9 for details.

### Heybridge U3A Annual General Meeting

**13<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

**T**he meeting was attended by 75 members and one guest and many groups had brought along interesting items for display. The business part of the meeting was ably conducted by Jenny Parker in Joyce's absence. Angela Pleasance presented the Treasurer's report with subsequent discussions about the accounts. The report, presentation and adoption of accounts was voted on and passed by the

members. The meeting also approved the appointment of Chris Edwards as independent examiner for 2015/16. The following resolutions were put to the meeting:

- This meeting confirms the optional fee discount for 2015/16 only
- This meeting approves the budget for 2015/16

Both resolutions were passed by the members.

Reports were received from Gill Thorne, Co-ordinator of the Groups and Pat Smith, organiser of Events.

In the election of officers to the committee, Linda Etherton was elected as Secretary, Geoff Hadley elected as Editor and Lynne Morrison elected as Social Treasurer. The Vice-Chairman and Treasurer's positions did not receive any nominations. Angela Pleasance agreed to remain as Treasurer for another year. The Vice-Chairman's position remains vacant and the committee would very much like to hear from any member who would consider taking up this role.

#### **Picture Puzzle Answers**

Top row from left: Lego, Mouse Trap, Bayko, Etch a Sketch, Mr Potato Head

Middle row: Spirograph, My Little Pony, View Master, Jacks, Troll

Bottom row: Slinky, Space Hopper, Bratz, Weebles, Transformers.

#### **Future Heybridge U3A Monthly Meetings**

**F**or our April meeting, on the 10<sup>th</sup> April, we will be having a talk entitled "Gilbert and Sullivan – the origins of today's musical theatre". by Bernard Lockett

This will be accompanied by a DVD, which should enhance the experience

John W Harrison: phone 01621 854851 or Email [johnwharrison@sky.com](mailto:johnwharrison@sky.com).

#### **From the COGCo (Group Co-ordinator)**

Gill is standing down from this position and Members of the Committee thank Gill for her hard work as the COGs co-ordinator.

## GROUP REPORTS

### Art (Painting) Group

I think most painters agreed that our display at the recent Heybridge U3A annual meeting was pretty impressive.

In fact, so many painters submitted works for our little corner of the hall, that every inch of the table was covered with a wide variety of well-executed subjects, finished and unfinished.

Hopefully our fellow U3A members enjoyed our contribution as much as we enjoyed their displays.

Onwards and upwards, as they say. Maybe, in the not too distant future, more of us will feel inspired to show our work at local art exhibitions open to the public at large. Perhaps we could even stage a whole exhibition of our own. After all, Maldon and Heybridge offer plenty of venues for doing just that.

Our friend Lois, who has been missing from the ranks for several months now following a bad fall, is now enjoying her garden again and sends her best love - and biscuits - to the group.

Thank-you, Lois. We all look forward to the day when you are pain-free and can once again grace our painting sessions with your sunny smile and colourful inspirations.

Gill Carpenter

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

### Ballroom & Latin Dancing Group

Our third meet went very well, in the main due to members having tuned in to the Izabela Dance website, to gain access to her beginners videos, which enables them to practice between each of our meetings. The progress shown today enabled us to now move on to the waltz, thus building our repertoire to encompass both Ballroom and Latin American dances.

Very well done!!

Alf Bell and Gloria Bomford

Alf Bell. Email [dossod@fsmail.net](mailto:dossod@fsmail.net) or phone 01621 840158

### Bird Watching Group

We had a great morning at Old Hall Marshes near Tollesbury. It can be very cold there as it is very open but we were lucky, the sun shone as we made our way along the sea wall, and today there were a lot of waders around.

The first thing we noticed were the Geese, they were as noisy as ever also we could hear the Skylarks, they have a wonderful singing voice

There were lots of Shellduck, Widgeon, Shoveler, lapwing and also Tufted Duck and Great Crested Grebe. We watched the Oyster Catchers along the shore line looking for a tasty treat. I hope you like the picture that Jill took of the Little Egret that stayed with us as we walked along. Old Hall is a wonderful place to spend a few hours, as long as there is not a north or easterly wind, as it can be very cold this time of the year.



Little Egret Photo Jill M<sup>c</sup>Gregor

Next month we are going to Blue House Farm near Farnbridge. Meeting in the car park at 10.00 on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, I hope that Tim, the warden, will be able to join us also we might be able to see the baby Owls on the webcam

If you would like to join our friendly group please get in touch with Maureen email [symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk) or phone 01261 869871.

### Computer Group

I have to report that the numbers were down again in March. It was agreed by those attending that the contribution to the Computer Group would, as an interim measure, be increased to £7 per quarter.

We started a new topic entitled "The Computer Screen: What it does and what it can tell you. We started in the corner where the World Windows roundel can be found. There were numerous short cuts that were found including the positioning of icons where they can always be seen at all times. This enabled new programs to be started without having to close down windows that are live on the main sections of the screen.

The subject of Tablets in their many forms was discussed and, with the exception of one member of the group, it was agreed that an approach would be made to the Heybridge U3A Committee to enquire if they would be willing to fund the purchase of a 'tablet computer.. The one purchased by the U3A would be used to answer questions on the subject at the monthly meetings of the Computer Group.



The Computer Group Meetings are for those wishing to be more proficient at using the computer, in any of its forms, PC, Laptop, and Tablet, starting at any stage. The subjects covered are tailored to those that attend the monthly meetings. The meetings are held in the Claydon Room in Plantation Hall on the third Thursday of each month at 14:00, when you will be made welcome. Just come along.

Ian Newman: Email [ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk) or phone 01621 891184.

### **Cards and Paper Crafts**

Our last meeting we were very busy, six people attended. We made an assortment of Easter cards, each person copied my design but chose different colours to make it their own. Next meeting we are going to make a folding penguin card, it does look fun!! We will be at Angela's house unless anything changes.

Please contact Lesley for details. Phone 01621 858135 e-mail [Lindawoonton@sky.com](mailto:Lindawoonton@sky.com)

### **Creative Writing Group**

I would like to thank the Creative Writing Group for all the preparation for our display at the AGM. I hope you enjoyed our efforts.

Our meeting in March was a small one and unfortunately I was not able to be there. My thanks go to Angela Brewer who kindly hosted the meeting. The subject for next month is to write something with a touch of nostalgia, a story set in the 1950s or 1960s.

Angela Pleasance

[angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk) or tel: 01621 850310

### **Croquet Group**

The Croquet Group should run again this year, hopefully from mid to late April until towards the end of October. The format which proved so successful last season, twice monthly on Thursday mornings at Forrester Park, will again slot in with the Maldon Club's own requirements, subject to priority for any league and friendly matches yet to be arranged. There were no problems last season, apart from my absence on league duty on one occasion, when Rita took over, at fairly short notice, with help in setting up and clearing away from the other members. The emphasis is on fun in good company! My recent, hopefully short-term, health upsets shouldn't delay the start as others, perhaps led by Rita, are now capable of running the initial sessions if necessary, while experienced members of the Maldon Club have expressed willingness to help with coaching beginners. Don't worry if you've never played before – you'll be in good hands as Maldon were runners up to Hunstanton in the East Anglian league last season! We also have use of the Forrester Park clubhouse for refreshments.

Should numbers allow (the Club currently has only 12 mallets for visitors, although plenty of room) we may open membership to other local U3A Branches, encouraging sharing of interests and experience in the spirit of the U3A, but for now priority will be given to Heybridge members. As a small visitor fee is payable only to play, there's no financial barrier to cross-membership. I intend to have a list available at the April meeting to give further details and register interest.

John Gorrie. Email [gorries@jprag.myzen.co.uk](mailto:gorries@jprag.myzen.co.uk) or phone 01621 854006

### **Discussion Coffee Morning Group**

We met on 27<sup>th</sup> March at Margaret Clarke's house, where a very tasty selection of sweet and savoury snacks were produced to accompany our tea/coffee. We talked about various topical matters of interest including speculation about the recent plane crash, reported to be a deliberate act by the pilot of the plane. Most of us were able to feel, from our own experiences of flying, how frightening that would have been for the passengers, possibly being aware of what was happening but unable to do anything. The mood was lightened by tales of visits to our gardens by neighbouring cats; I don't think I need to expand that story!

The next meeting will be at 11.00 on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April at Yvonne West's house.

Margaret Brown: phone 01621 854885 or Email [mbandmeg@btinternet.com](mailto:mbandmeg@btinternet.com).

### **Family History Group**

At our meeting Linda showed us a list of books she has discovered were written by her Great Grandfather. We hope she will be able to find out a little more about them. Diane is still trying to find why her mother's birth certificate was not issued in the usual format. I talked about my Memories of my two Great Grandmothers one living in Norfolk and one in London. We also talked about how life has changed during our own lifetimes.

Our next meeting will be Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 10.30 - 12.30 my house as usual.

There will not be a meeting in May because of holidays.

Lesley Pomphrett: phone 01621 817733 or Email [lesleypommy@hotmail.com](mailto:lesleypommy@hotmail.com).

### **French Conversation Group**

In March, the Conversation group read an article about <la fessée> - the French word for smacking – which is currently causing considerable controversy in France. We learnt that smacking your child is banned in 44 countries around the world, but not in France, which has been sanctioned by the Council of Europe as its laws don't allow a sufficiently clear and

precise ban on corporal punishment. This led to a lively debate about the best way to discipline a naughty child and allowed us to practise the language needed to agree, disagree and give an opinion. We also commented on the controversy caused by the child who, on World Book Day, went to school dressed as Christian Grey (from the infamous book <Fifty Shades of Grey>). We were shocked to learn that In France, the film version can be viewed by children as young as twelve years.

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

For further information please contact:

Jenny Parker: email [jennyparker14@hotmail.com](mailto:jennyparker14@hotmail.com) or phone 01621 843581.

### **French Improvers: Joint Blackwater / Heybridge Group**

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the March meeting of the Improvers Group due to family commitments. However, I am told that those present managed to spend the time productively, doing grammar exercises and practising their conversation skills over a very English cup of tea!

For further information please contact:

Jenny Parker: email [jennyparker14@hotmail.com](mailto:jennyparker14@hotmail.com) or phone 01621 843581.

### **Gardening Group**

Our first visit for this year is on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April to Feeringbury Manor, at 14.00 We have been there before, but it is well worth a second visit. The garden is on the road from Feering to Coggeshall. Turn right at Feering then left, and it is about a mile from Feering. It is a 10-acre garden with two ponds, bordered by the River Blackwater. There should be tulips and blossom in April, and the sculptures by Ben Coode-Adams are quirky and fun. The admission cost is £5, but no teas; however there is a very nice tea-shop in Coggeshall. Pat Yates: Email [pat.yates@tesco.net](mailto:pat.yates@tesco.net) or phone 01621 892866.

### **Italian Conversation**

This time we had some intense one-to-one work in the advanced group and so managed to cover quite a lot of ground and conversed quite a lot in Italian too, which is always useful.

We had a new lady join our Beginner's Group, which was good. Although she had not done any Italian for many years, it was good to see that, despite this, she was able to introduce herself in Italian, and managed to keep up perfectly well with the passages we read out and had no trouble answering subsequent questions in Italian.

The next meetings will be:

Advanced Group: TBA, as the next two dates would be Bank Holidays,

Beginners' Group: 20<sup>th</sup> April

Janice Slight E-Mail [janice.slight@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:janice.slight@tiscali.co.uk)

### **Local History Group (LHG)**

Our speaker, David Williams treated us to a very good talk about the fleeting eel trade carried on in Heybridge Basin from 1928 to 1968 by the Kuijten family. Along the way we discovered something of the life cycle of the various types of the slippery creatures which are now much in decline in these parts.

We are walking around historic Ongar in April so are looking forward to some fine weather. Contact Carol if you are interested in joining us for this.

Well done those who attempted to identify our mystery objects at the AGM. Unfortunately no one could identify A: the metal objects and the glass object. These were larding needles, used to insert strips of fat into joints of meat or poultry, and a 1920/30 glass 'Lillycrap' Hone, used for sharpening cut-throat razors. Terry, Peter John, Frances and Diane all correctly identified B: the wooden object, as a dead-eye, part of the rigging of a ship [this one is from a barge]. No one was able to correctly name the timber which is lignum vitae, the traditional timber for dead-eyes due to its hardness.

Carol Greenhalgh: phone 01621 840339 or Email [george.smeed@virgin.net](mailto:george.smeed@virgin.net).

### **Luncheon Group**

There has been no contact from anyone to advise me which day of which week of the month they would like to have a lunch and where?

One other Committee member has been approached by members saying they want it to be a local pub, minimum travel distance, and even the same place every time. Please talk to me and tell where this place is.

I will put a list out on 10<sup>th</sup> April, for The Ship at Tiptree, for Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April. Sign up, talk to me, telling me when and where

E-mail [johnwharrison@sky.com](mailto:johnwharrison@sky.com)

Tel 01621 854851.

### **Patchwork Group**

The next meeting of the Patchwork Group will be in the Claydon Room on Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> April at 14.00.

Anne Thorpe; Email [Anne.thorpe@btinternet.com](mailto:Anne.thorpe@btinternet.com) or phone 01621 850828.

## **Petanque Group**

**W**e have now had two Mondays on the Prom with one to go before the Easter Bank Holiday. We had a very good meal with the Ten Pin Bowling Group on the previous Tuesday and the first Monday was very cold but good if you had a very warm coat. The next Monday was quite warm even without a woolly hat and we were accompanied by a Magpie which squawked continuously thinking that we were invading his territory after the winter. But with 13 the first week and seven this week with the addition of two U3A members walking past, that we encouraged to have a go, we are now back into the routine of throwing and bowling the metal boules. The "have a go" person said that he would wait for hot weather but we explained that sometimes you even need a sunhat it is too hot. We have had an enjoyable two weeks so far with the rest of the season until the middle of October to come. We welcome new members to come and join in the fun.

Barbara Barbrook. Email [c.barbrook@sky.com](mailto:c.barbrook@sky.com) or phone 01621 855605.

## **Photography Group**

**T**he group selected the photographs to be included in the display to be projected at the 2015 AGM. Members had been asked to submit five of their favourite photographs to Norman prior to the March meeting. All of the photographs submitted were viewed and as most had been taken for previous assignments, the members enjoyed seeing the best of them again. It was an impressive collection and we decided that all of the photos were to be included for "public viewing" at the AGM. It was also decided to include some more examples of our members work from our archive collection to make a longer display.

The assignment subject for the March meeting had been agreed at the beginning of February, to be a "Winter Scene". Members expecting snow and ice had "mugged-up" on the camera settings necessary for winter photography. Some had managed to capture a few icy shots, but others had to make do with bright winter sunshine and leafless trees! Those lucky enough to travel to far off winter resorts were able to take some excellent snowy photos which fitted the assignment perfectly.

The meeting ended with a discussion on how to take a photograph with the foreground, the far distance and everything in-between in focus. This lively chatter ended with the decision that the assignment for the April meeting was to take a photo and try to get the whole of the image in focus by incorporating the principles we had been discussing. Photographers know this as the maximum "depth-of-

field" and if you are interested in finding out more, why not join us, you will certainly be made welcome.

We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at the Combined Military Services Museum at 14:00.

Anyone interested in joining or coming to see what we do can contact Norman Grove on 01621 842805 or by email [norman.grove@gmail.com](mailto:norman.grove@gmail.com).

## **Reading and Books Group**

**W**e made our annual visit to the Essex Book Festival at Maldon library this month. The speaker, S J Watson was relaxed and assured in his talk about how he writes his books and his involvement with a film based on his first book, "Before I go to Sleep". We also enjoyed an evening meal at Intimo prior to the talk.

Our book this month, Walking on Glass by Iain Banks, was one of the most difficult we have read and many members of the group were unable to finish it. There seemed to be three story lines running through the book which came together in its conclusion.

Our next meeting will be on 15<sup>th</sup> April at the usual time in Plantation Hall.

.Further information from Carole Overy [caroleovery@sky.com](mailto:caroleovery@sky.com) or 01621 893450

## **Scrabble Group**

**T**he Scrabble group scarcely noticed the downpours during the meeting, being so engrossed in the game. Some of us had difficult selections of letter tiles, such as all consonants or mainly vowels. If you get really stuck you can exchange letters and miss a turn, but somehow it usually works out even if you can only play one or two letters. Carol had brought along a new list of 2-letter words and hopes to copy for us to share next time. Language is constantly developing and extending our vocabulary is good for the brain. Come and have a game with us on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 2.00pm in the Plantation Hall.

Linda Etherton Telephone: 01621 843702 Email: [ethertonbikes@aol.com](mailto:ethertonbikes@aol.com)

## **Solo Whist**

**W**e met at Jackie Jones' place where the Solo was played with panache and grace. Jackie and I had both been away and that certainly showed in some of our play. We don't play for money so there is no cost which is just as well as lots of hands were lost. There were also lots of hands that were won and that of course adds to the fun.

Coffee and cakes were served at half time and we all agreed that was just fine.



The meeting in April is at Tina's' and mine at 14.00.  
Dave Mason C O G01621 858635 e mail  
[tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk)

### Technical Computing Group

This meeting was very interesting and was held at Peter's house. Various computer items were discussed, including the forthcoming release of Windows 10. I gave out some written information on how to download a 'Beta' version of Windows 10, which will demonstrate the benefits on Windows 10 over Windows 8. We then moved onto Peter's television, and discovered how to log the t/v wirelessly onto the internet.

Our next meeting will be on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April. New members are welcome. Please contact me for more information

[colin@mason20.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:colin@mason20.wanadoo.co.uk) or 854906

Regards Colin Mason (COG)

### Ten Pin Bowling

We had an entertaining gathering for our meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March when eleven of us met in the morning to play. We divided into three lanes to play three games and Simon was the high scorer with 152 also achieving a "turkey" (three strikes in succession). Jenny was the top lady scorer with 138. Following our game, we were joined by five more, of which some are also Petanque players, for our end of season lunch at Henri's grill. They accommodated us all on a large table and served us a delicious meal and a good time was had by all!



At Henri's Grill

Ten pin bowling now continues, until October, on Tuesdays only at the usual time of 13.45 for 14.00. Lynne Morrison Email: [lejmorrisson@gmail.com](mailto:lejmorrisson@gmail.com)

Mobile: 07771 880757

### Threads and Fabrics Group

March was a very busy month .the first half of which, I spent more time looking at pictures of our group members past projects than actually producing my own work. I have decided to try and

keep a more complete record of things made by members of the group over time. Changing the subject, it was interesting to see the final projects of the "Sewing Bee" on the television. I was amazed how willing the finalists were to push their luck with strange combinations of types and weights of fabrics to make garments that one would be very brave to wear, in pursuit of a prize. This month's picture is of a pair of Owls made by one of our members. They are both cute and cheerful.



Photo: - Owls. Taken by Colin Mason

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month starting at 14:00. Please speak to Pat on this subject.

Pat Newman. Email [ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk) or phone 01621 891184.

### Walking Group

Our March walk around Tollesbury turned out to be rather longer than the 3<sup>1/2</sup> miles stated in the published leaflet, resulting in some weary feet returning to the cars! However, it was a pleasant afternoon and the fresh air and estuary views were most enjoyable.

The bluebells are showing no signs of appearing yet, so we will leave a bluebell wood walk until next month.

The April walk will be around the Essex Wildlife Trust headquarters reserve at Abbots Hall Farm, off the Maldon Road at Great Wigborough. There is ample free parking. Meet at the car park at 14:00 on Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> April.

Please let me know if you would like to join us.

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

### Weekenders Group

Two trips have been organised for a few interested Weekenders and final dates will be sent to those folk very soon.. If anyone has suggestions as to future outings please let me know.



Dates for your Diary

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May at Osea View, Osea Caravan Park

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June at the Salty Dogs Cafe, Goldhanger

Marilyn Corbett: Phone 01621817518 or email [mars42@btinternet.com](mailto:mars42@btinternet.com).

### Wine Appreciation Group

At the planning meeting in March, we agreed to book seven places at the "Spotlight Argentina" event on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April, at Majestic Wines in Colchester, starting at 18.30.. This will be a short factual presentation of wines from Argentina, with tastings and suggestions for the BBQ season, followed by some time to browse the vast stocks of wines on display in the store. The staff there is very helpful and will provide tasting notes for any wines purchased. There is one spare place and the possibility of adding to the group if anyone else is interested in joining us, give me a call.

The May meeting will be at my house, at the usual time of 14.00, when there will be a short introduction to wine production in Australia, with a chance to taste a typical economy priced white wine from one of the regions.

So far the suggestions for later in the year include a trip to London to visit Vinopolis in July. This is a wine museum, near London Bridge, that offers tours consisting of a 15 minute talk "How to Taste" then free time to explore eight testing and educational zones. In August we are planning a visit to Giffords Hall, near Bury St Edmunds, and we are looking into the possibility of a day trip to France in 2016.

Jackie Jones: Email [jachjones@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jachjones@tiscali.co.uk) or phone 01621 817117.

### Supreme Court & Westminster Visit

Our visit to the Supreme Court of the UK was extremely interesting. As we sat in each of the three architecturally beautiful courts, a member of staff outlined the history of the building and explained the role of the Supreme Court in the interpretation and development of the law. In most cases there is no automatic right of appeal to the court. Cases are generally appealed from a lower court, where there is sufficient uncertainty about how the law should be applied and what procedure the lower courts should follow in the future. The Supreme Court does not hold trials where guilt and innocence are decided, so there is no dock or witness stand. Instead, points of law are discussed.



Ceiling of the Supreme Court

As part of our tour we heard about some recent and well known cases including the much talked of ruling by The Supreme Court, which cleared the way for an ex-wife to bring a claim against her husband, 23 years after they divorced. These decisions are relevant to all our lives and help shape our society.



Outside the Supreme Court

We decided against Westminster Abbey as we didn't have enough time to make the £17 entrance fee ( for seniors !) worthwhile on this occasion - gone are the days when you could just wander in with half an hour to spare, always finding something of interest. Instead we wandered up Whitehall to the Banqueting House and this was well worth the visit, especially at £5 for seniors! It is most remarkable for 2 things: a wonderful (and very flattering) painted ceiling by Rubens depicting James 1<sup>st</sup> in glory and it was there that his son Charles 1<sup>st</sup> stepped through a window onto a raised scaffold for his execution. The young man on the door ( a Blue Badge trainee- they have to take 11 exams!) explained that it had been painted in the artist's studio and brought over from Antwerp in sections, then pegged to the ceiling. Amazing! The Hall is used for celebrations of all kinds and I really fancy holding my next big birthday party there- ah well, we can all dream.

We took the long way back to Westminster via Trafalgar Square and St James's Park, meeting a charming American family on Horse Guards Parade.

We were able to explain its function but were stumped when they asked what the building was next to it. I thought it was the barracks, someone else said St James's Palace and we were both wrong- it's the Guards Museum! Never mind- I don't suppose they were sitting an exam. We also passed the Cabinet War Rooms but unfortunately had no time for these. .

Many thanks to Pat for organising the trip- we're saving Westminster Abbey and the War Rooms for next time!

Gill Bridle

### **Further Information and Details of Events**

The following events are planned for this and next year. Please note that members are asked to pay for outings in full, six weeks before the trip date. If the trip later proves not to be viable, the money will be refunded in full.

27<sup>th</sup> APRIL. Kew Gardens. The coach to Kew is now full. Ford's Coaches will collect us from Tesco Extra at 08.00 and collect us from Kew Gardens at 16.00. Please collect your ticket from Lesley or Pat at the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> April.

MAY. Fifteen places have been reserved for us on the MV Princess Pocahontas on her voyage from Tilbury to Westminster and back to Tilbury, on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May. We need to be at Tilbury by 09.45 and are hoping Viking Transport will take us to the dock and collect us from there after the cruise. More details of method and cost of transport as soon as they are confirmed.

JUNE Thames Barge on the River Blackwater. Unfortunately this event has been cancelled due to lack of support. Sorry to disappoint those who signed up.

July. A trip to the beautiful medieval house Audley End on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July. Admission to the House and Gardens is free for us as U3A members, courtesy of English Heritage. Fords Coach will collect us from Tesco Extra on the Fullbridge, Maldon at 09.00. We first stop at Saffron Walden to eat our sandwiches, find somewhere for lunch, or just wander about that lovely old town, before journeying on to Audley End. Our visit ends at 16.00. Plenty of room on the coach, so please do sign up! Coach fare to be advised.

July. An Elizabethan Musical Extravaganza is planned at Layer Marney Tower on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> July. Last year we thoroughly enjoyed our picnic there and hope to do likewise this year. No further details available yet.

September. Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2015, a trip to the Royal Dockyards at Chatham, on their 'Back to

the 40s' weekend – with Boon's Calibre Travel. Total cost £43.45. More details later.

Please sign up in the first place to show interest and remove your name if you later find you are unable to join the trip. Please contact me with any queries.

All cheques should be made payable to Heybridge U3A

PAT SMITH; 01621 856569 E.MAIL  
[patcleary98@sky.com](mailto:patcleary98@sky.com)

### **Association of Essex U3As**

#### **On the Notice Board**

Items from the latest mailing that might be of interest:-

U3A National Summer Schools: July 13<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> at Harper Adams University Shropshire and August 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> at Royal Agriculture University, Cirencester.

The RHS are offering a U3A group discount of £2 off entry fees for groups of 10 or more, to various shows and gardens.

The 2015 Annual General Meeting of the Third Age Trust is to be held in Nottingham on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2015. Proposed resolutions should be submitted by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015..

A 'Who's Who' of people who support the U3A at national level is available.

Free legal advice for U3A members - FirstAssist can advise U3A members on any legal issues, not just U3A ones. Telephone FirstAssist on 01455 251 500 and quote The Third Age Trust, 70494.

Flyer for RAF Museum London First World War Display The tour lasts for an afternoon and several dates are available throughout the year.

FutureLearn More courses are available at the Website [www.Futurelearn.com](http://www.Futurelearn.com)

UCL are conducting a research project looking at the ability for people with dementia to participate in cognitive behaviour therapy. They need to recruit a health control group of people over 65 to do this, with questionnaires and an interview to be conducted in London. If you are interested please speak to the secretary who has further details.

More details for the above can be found on the Heybridge U3A Notice Board. These and others are also detailed in The U3A magazine 'Third Age Matters'.

## Blackwater U3A holiday

**B**LACKWATER U3A members are all set to share time and adventures in Derbyshire in September 2015. On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September we leave West Maldon Community Centre and travel to the Mickleover Court Hotel in Derby for five nights with half-board accommodation and access to the swimming pool and gym. The cost per person is £459 with an additional cost of £75 single supplement. Travel insurance with no upper age limit is available at £10 pp. The price includes coach travel, excursions, and admissions (except for NT properties) and complete luggage handling. Our itinerary includes visits to Chatsworth House, Bolsover Castle, the Crich Tramway Village, Matlock, The Heights of Abraham, Buxton and the bustle of Market Day in Bakewell as well as offering opportunities for walking, photography, sketching, expanding our historical knowledge and shopping. I am sure that we will be able to add more U3A interests to this list! If our numbers reach 42 the cost of £459 will be discounted. A deposit of £45 is required with a completed booking form and the balance is payable in July. Please contact Dawn Mundy on 01621 854065 email [dawnrosemary@fsmail.net](mailto:dawnrosemary@fsmail.net) I am happy to email or post you a copy of the full itinerary.

## Opera in the Orchard - Gala Opera 11<sup>th</sup> July 2015

A day of wonderful opera in an idyllic country setting with [Garden Opera](#)

Cost: Early bird tickets £20 available until end of April  
Bouncers, Wickham Bishops, Essex CM8 3JJ

Enquiries: Maldon Tourist Information Centre 01621 856503

## 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
Cards and Paper Crafts	Lesley Woonton	01621 858135
Coffee Morning	Margaret Brown	01621 854885
Computer	Ian Newman	01621 891184
Creative Writing	Angela Pleasance	01621 850310
Croquet	John Gorrie	01621 854006
Latin & Ballroom Dancing	Alf Bell	01621 840158
Family History	Lesley Pomphrett	01621 817733
French	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	Alex Lees & Norman Grove	01245 225153 01621 842805
Reading & Books	Carole Overy	01621 893450
Scrabble	Linda Etherton	01621 843702
Solo Whist	Dave Mason	01621 858635
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 Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>6th April</b>	6 Easter Monday	7 Threads 14.00	8 French Conversation 10.00 Solo Whist 14.00	9 Technical Computing 14.00 Walking 14.00	10 Monthly Meeting 14.00	11 Weekenders Olivers Nursery at 10.00	12
<b>13th April</b>	13 Patchwork 14.00 Petanque 14.00	14 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	15 Book Group 14.15	16 Computer 14.00	17 Painting 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00	18	19
<b>20th April</b>	20 Beginners Italian 10.00 Petanque 14.00	21 Local History 14.00	22 Creative Writing Group 14.30	23 Family History 10.30 French Improvers 14.00	24 News Sheet Copy to Editor Dancing 14.00 Painting 14.00	25	26
<b>27th April</b>	27 Petanque 14.00 Kew Gardens	28 Scrabble 14.00	29	30	1 <sup>st</sup> May Committee Meeting 10.00  Painting 14.00	2	3
<b>4th May</b>	4 Bank Holiday	5 Threads 14.00	6 Cards & Paper Crafts 14.00	7 Photography 14.00	8 Monthly Meeting 14.00	9 Weekenders Osea view 10.00	10
<b>11th May</b>	11 Gardening 14.00 Petanque 14.00	12 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	13 French Conversation 10.00 Solo Whist 14.00	14 Technical Computing 14.00 Walking 14.00	15 Painting 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00	16	17
<b>18th May</b>	18 Petanque 14.00	19 Local History 14.00	20 Book Group 14.15 Wine Tasting 14.00	21 Computer 14.00 Princess Pocahontas	22 Painting 14.00	23	24
<b>25th May</b>	25 Bank Holiday	26 Scrabble 14.00	27 Creative Writing Group 14.30	28 Family History 10.30	29 News Sheet Copy to Editor Painting 14.00 Dancing 14.00	30	31