

Heybridge u3a

April 2023 News Sheet

Your Committee

<https://u3asites.org.uk/heybridge>

Archive

www.heybridgeu3a.org.uk/archive/news.html

Registered Charity number 1160360

Next Main Meeting – Plantation Hall

Friday 14th April at 2.00 pm

Speaker Lindsay Whitehouse

- “My Life in Prison”

Next Committee Meeting – Plantation Hall




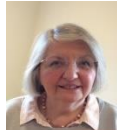

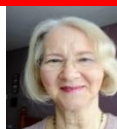
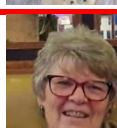
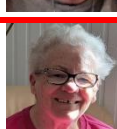
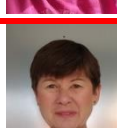

In the Claydon Room

Friday 5th May at 10.00 am

Main Meeting Refreshments Rota

April – Patchwork

May – Committee

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From the Editors

Hello and welcome to the April News Sheet.

The clocks have changed, and the days are getting longer. Hopefully we can look forward to a pleasant spring, although we have had plenty of rain over the past few weeks. Still, the gardens – and reservoirs – needed it. Let's hope it knows when to stop!

Following our recent AGM we are pleased to say we have four new committee members, Hilary Furniaux, Angela Pleasance, Liz Harvey and Lesley Woonton. A brief introduction to them is shown below.

Finally you'll see that the speaker topic for the next meeting is "My Life in Prison". Fear not! Lindsay Whitehouse formerly worked for the Probation Service and is a former prison governor. Just thought we needed to clarify that point.....

Lorraine & Brian editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

A Royal Invitation!

The Committee of Heybridge u3a cordially invite you to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III at the main meeting on Friday 12th May 2023 at 2.00 pm. Please bring along any Royal memorabilia you may have to display and maybe you would be prepared to share anecdotes; perhaps if you have met a member of the Royal family. A Royal Quiz will take place to test your knowledge. We look forward to seeing you there whether or not you are a Royalist!

News Sheet Deadline

Please remember all CoG reports, and anything else for inclusion in the news sheet, must be submitted to the Editors by the last weekend of the month. Unfortunately anything submitted after the deadline will not be included as it takes time to put the news sheet together.

News from the Committee

From the Chairman

On behalf of Heybridge u3a I would like to welcome our new committee members and thank our outgoing members who have worked hard in the past few years to ensure that we continue to grow and strengthen in Heybridge.

We are lucky to have so many volunteers who give up their time to keep the u3a going by attending committee meetings and/or taking on the responsibility of organising and running one of the interest groups that bring us together to enjoy ourselves. I know that many members are happy to help out without taking on a position on the committee or running a group themselves but we value your help and as we are approaching the coronation of our King Charles III, I wonder if a few members could spare the time to bake a cake for our meeting on Friday 12th May this year. We plan to include a quiz with a royal theme and a slice of cake with our tea would be welcome. Please let me know if you are happy to help, every little counts.

Jackie Jones chairman@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Vice Chair

Well here I am again after a break of just a year when I gave up the position of Interest Group Co-Ordinator. I retired fully three years ago and keep myself very busy keeping up with family and friends and of course the u3a. My favourite thing to do is papercrafting and I make cards, boxes and gift tags all year round. Since I joined Heybridge u3a in 2018 it has held a place in my heart. Many of our members live alone and it is and has been a lifeline to a lot of them. I have made some special friends since joining and now enjoy Bowling, Board Games, Needlecraft and Theatre Trips too. It has enriched our lives in so many ways and enabled us to do things on a regular basis that we wouldn't be able to do otherwise. If I can help improve your experience with our u3a or you just want to have a chat please either contact me or talk to me at the monthly meeting, I don't bite, honest! I attend nearly all the meetings and will always do my best to help you.

Hilary Furniaux – vicechairman@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Treasurer

Hi, I'm Angela Pleasance. I have been a member of Heybridge u3a since not long after it started and have been involved in the Committee, in one way or another, for most of that time. I did three years as understudy to the then membership secretary, three years as treasurer, a year as chairman, sometime taking Minutes for the committee and then back on the committee as publicity officer. (It's exceptionally difficult to get rid of me while I'm having fun.) The u3a has introduced me to lots of people whom I now count as dear friends, so when it looked as if it might fold for lack of a Treasurer I put my hand up for the job. However, our u3a will only survive and flourish if new people become involved in its running, so I would urge anyone isn't scared of figures to step forward and volunteer to shadow me for a while to find out whether they would like to take over in due course. It's fun!

Angela Pleasance – treasurer@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Speaker Secretary

I have lived in Heybridge for 52 years. I am CoG for the Cards and Paper Crafts group with Heybridge u3a which I enjoy very much, although I like anything craft related. I also like gardening but it is a bit difficult nowadays.

I will try my best to make a success of the job of speaker secretary!

Lesley Woonton speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Interest Groups Co-ordinator

I am so pleased that u3a Heybridge has been saved because four brave members put their hands up to join the committee, and now we are safe for the next few years.

So thank you to Elizabeth Harvey Membership Secretary, Angela Pleasance Treasurer, Hilary Furniaux Vice Chairman and Lesley Woonton Speaker.

We have a big thank you to our last committee members, Elizabeth, Jan, Peter, Philippa, and also Lizzie Cawdell.

I have to say that unfortunately there were a few CoGs missing and as it was such an important meeting, I was hoping that most of you would have been there. I do know the ones that couldn't make it due to various circumstances. But at least we are still going.

I am also pleased to say that three of the new interest groups have taken off. Board Games CoG is Hilary Furniaux, Afternoon Tea and Discussion CoGs are Moira and Lesley Woonton. Also the Theatre Group which went on to see Frankie's Guys on 24th March. To the Theatre group I have also added Cinema now in case we fancy this as well.

The next main meeting is the 14th April and Patchwork, it is your turn for tea duty, if you can arrange three people please, I would be very grateful. Thank you.

Moira Penhallow groupscordinator@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

News from around the Groups

Board Games

This month we met at Angela's house and we were made very welcome. After a brief discussion as to whether to play 2 different games with a set of 2 and a set of 3 or one game with all 5 of us we decided to play one game. This reduced our options but we settled on Cluedo. It turned into a very lengthy game as most participants either had never played the game or needed to refresh

their memory on how to play. The game was won by me just in time to go home. We were treated to very yummy refreshments by Angela and thank you to her for her hospitality.

Hilary Furniaux

Cards & Paper Craft

The cards group had a ladies day out to the Alexandra Palace craft exhibition in London. We had a good time and spent too much! A good day out.

Lesley Woonton

Discussion Coffee Morning

For various reasons we were short on numbers this month so I welcomed a small gathering to my house on St Patrick's day, 17th March.

We had a good morning, relaxed with chatter and plenty of food and drinks. It was interesting to hear about Chris's recent holiday which included a trip on a zip wire across the abyss while in Costa Rica. What a brave lady, or should I say person!

We also spoke about the parking at "Daisy Meadow" where we usually park if visiting Heybridge Basin; Wilkins Tea Room is one of the occasional places where the Weekenders go for coffee on Saturdays. It is very popular with families and also as a meeting point for cyclists; they park their bikes outside. The new (I assume Parish Council) rule requires payment for car parking and includes car registration details, it had previously been free.

Our next meeting will be at 11.00 am on Friday 21st April at Lesley's house in Tiptree.

Margaret Brown

Eat the World

Seven of us met at the Astore Grill, Witham, for what turned out to be excellent food and company. Can highly recommend the Astore for food quality and value for money.

Elizabeth Harvey

Family History

Well, this month's meeting was very lively, with quite a few conundrums to be answered.

After wrestling with Arthur Brown, we are now chasing the death of William Thomas Jones born 1907 (just need a Smith to complete the trio of the UK's most common surnames).

Dorothy's family story is; at a young age her uncle William (born 1907) fell off a chicken shed. I wouldn't have thought chicken sheds were that high, but enough that he sustained spinal injuries (supposedly).

There appears to be no other info on himhe disappearsnot in the 1911 censusno death, nothing.

One sister remembered visiting him in a hospital/institution where he was being attended by nuns and was in a sort of trolley/wheelchair.

On the other hand, Linda is trying to find the birth registration of her mother-in-law. Her age is known, her death is registered, but no birthas yet.

The problem could be the spelling of her surname, Cane, Caine, Kane, etc ??

It all keeps the grey matter working.

Jean Rogers

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French

At our March meeting we concentrated on the French words for family members, grandchildren, in- laws etc. We also discussed whether being the eldest, middle or youngest child in a family brought about any special characteristics. Did you know that the French for a great granddaughter is 'arrière petite fille' and that the youngest in a family is sometimes known as the 'benjamin'? Having digested the new vocabulary we had a wonderful time telling each other about our families and our plans for seeing them this year.

Philippa Moody (for Jenny Parker)

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Needlecraft

Five of us got together on a mild March afternoon at Linda's house this month. We were treated to homemade cheese or fruit scones which were delicious! Our little group enjoyed either knitting, hand sewing or cross stitching whilst putting the world to rights. Between us we were making a quilt, cross stitching an eagle flying and knitting a baby's cardigan, a baby's jacket and matching bonnet. The time passed too quickly for us all but thank-you to Linda for her hospitality – and her scones! Our meeting in April is to be confirmed.

Hilary Furniaux

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Patchwork

During the March meeting members were shown the quilt top which Anne had assembled using the individual blocks created by members of the group. We are all looking forward to seeing the final article!

The group usually meet on the second Monday of the month. However, due to the next two meetings falling on a Bank holiday the meetings have been scheduled for Monday 17th April and Monday 15th May.

Jackie Voyez

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Petanque

Well we are still playing in this lovely cold weather, and there are 12 to 18 of us. We have a lady that has come to us from Blackwater U3A as well which is very nice, because we play at 10.00 am in the morning and it suits her better.

We are three months into the year already, and eight of us were on holiday this week (it made my five weeks in Australia seem a lifetime ago; I came back in the middle of January). Let's hope we can now start having some nice weather.

If anyone else would like to join us for a good game of fun and laughter, then please do. We are at the Maldon Prom on Monday mornings at 10.00 am.



Moir Penhallow

Photography Group

Our meeting was held on Thursday 2nd March via Zoom. Nine members attended and we had a wide range of 28 photos to view and discuss all taken during February, the subject being "Signs of Spring".

The next meeting will be held on 6th April 2023 via zoom at 2.00 pm with the subject being "What you do in a day".

If anyone is interested in joining our meetings to see what the group is about. Please contact me and I will forward a link to our next meeting. All members of the u3a are welcome.

Norman Grove

Reading & Books

This month we are reading something different to the two easy holiday reads of February and March. "Nine Perfect Strangers" is the latest book by Liane Moriarty, author of the number one bestseller "Big Little Lies".

Miles from anywhere, without cars or phones the health and wellness resort Tranquillum House promises total transformation. The nine stressed city dwellers, all strangers to one another, are keen to absorb the meditative ambiance whilst enjoying their hot stone massages and have no idea what is about to hit them.

Anyone interested in reading this book can contact me.

Jackie Jones

Scrabble

The Scrabble meeting is held very near the end of the month so it's tricky to get a report in to the Editors in time and as a result I'll be reporting a month late from now on.

We met for some good Scrabble playing at the end of February and it was nice to have Carol back in fine fettle. Buddy the greyhound dozed through the excitement. Thanks to Angela for continuing to host the meeting.

Perhaps you would like to join us for a game? We meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 2.00 pm and the April meeting is on the 25th at Angela's. My contact details can be found in the list of CoGs.

Linda Etherton

Tea in the Afternoon

This was our first Tea in the Afternoon, and discussion, which we held at the Bakehouse in the Bowling Alley.

There were only four of us this time, and it was most enjoyable. Chatting away and putting the world to rights. Talking about holidays, and up and coming events for all of us.

Our next meeting should be the 7th April but unfortunately this falls on Good Friday so we will have to postpone until 21st April. The venue will be confirmed later.

I do hope more can join us though.

Moira Penhallow/Lesley Woonton

Ten Pin Bowling

Our last session was on 23rd March and in my absence Chris was looking after procedures, so many thanks to her. Further dates for your diary taking into account a break due to Easter are the 20th April and the 4th May.

Catch up soon.

Peter Harvey

Theatre & Cinema Group

Fourteen of us went to see Frankie's Guys at Chelmsford Civic on Friday 24th March. I have to say for our first time out of this new group, it went very well.

We had four drivers who all arranged to pick up the others and met at the theatre in plenty of time for us to have a drink in the bar.

It was a great evening and the guys were brilliant who had everyone singing and all had to stand up at the end. I would highly recommend anyone to see this show.

The Frankie's Guys even came out to let you have your photo taken with them, but unfortunately, as you can see there is only one part of us showing.



Roll on the next date out!

Thank you all for joining me.

Moir Penhallow

Walking

Well our first walk of the year around Danbury Park was sadly cancelled. Suddenly, winter decided to come back and a covering of snow washed away by rain confirmed a decision to call it off. Our next walk is scheduled for Thursday 13th April starting at Roman Fields, Colchester at 2.00 pm. Information is sent to walkers about two weeks in advance so as to be able to assess the interest and maybe organise shared transport. If you'd like to join our group, please contact me.

Linda Wells

Weekenders

The Osea View cafe along the River Blackwater always has been a favourite of the Weekenders group and the March gathering saw a good number arriving for a chat over refreshments.

The next production of the Witham Amateur Operatic Society is 'Young Frankenstein' which has been recommended: this is at the end of April so please book soon with Marilyn if you want tickets.

A visit to Ulting Wick open gardens has been suggested for us on Sunday 23rd April at 2.00 pm so let me or Pat Yates know if you will be coming. Entry is £7.50 with proceeds to charity including the local church that you can walk to from the gardens.

The meeting in April is on Saturday 15th at 10.00 am at the Braxted Bakery where we meet in the separate side room. Please let me know if you're coming if you haven't already put your name down. We are hoping to go to Heybridge Basin in May, meeting perhaps outside the Lock Cafe if fine.

Meetings are usually on the third Saturday of the month at 10.00 am. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Linda Etherton, details in the list of CoGs.

Linda Etherton
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For your info....

If you are looking for a venue to hold a meeting for your u3a activity or otherwise, the United Reformed Church, Chapel Road, Great Totham (North) may be suitable. They have a small hall available, with all facilities. Contact 01621 819419 for more details. If you are aware of any other similar locations please let us know.

In line with many other authorities throughout the country, Essex County Council have introduced a booking system for vehicles at their recycling centres, including Maldon and Witham. Visit www.loveessex.org to book a slot. Site users visiting by foot do not need to book, nor do Blue Badge holders who can visit any recycling centre in any vehicle, including vans at any ECC recycling centre.

Do you like Traditional Jazz? Wickham Bishops Jazz Club has been established for over 25 years, and is still widely recognised as being one of the top venues for Traditional Jazz in the country, featuring top musicians from home and abroad. For bookings and more information please visit wickhambishopsjazzclub@gmail.com or phone Pete Hughes on 07548 775777.

Caroline Community Radio is the volunteer-run local radio station for the Maldon District. Why not give them a listen on 94.7 FM or online at carolinecommunityradio.co.uk? You will hear music from the last five decades together with local news. Evening programmes are presented by local people who have an interest in radio and communicating, and want to improve their skills. If you want to get involved please contact the station via their website.

Did you know that Essex County Fire & Rescue Service offer personalised Safe and Well visits? Safe & Well officers can fit smoke detectors and specialised sensory alarms if required. They risk assess each home ensuring that the right alarms are fitted in the most appropriate places. On each visit they will discuss fire safety, home security and can also offer help with mobility and health and wellbeing issues if necessary. Please call 0300 303 0088, email home.safety@essex-fire.gov.uk or visit their website at www.essex-fire.gov.uk/Book

If you already have a fire alarm fitted, remember it should be tested at least once a month.

A copy of the Heybridge u3a diary is attached. This gives details of which events are being held, where and when. If you are interesting in joining any group do not hesitate to contact the relevant CoG. Details are on the last page of this News Sheet. You will be made very welcome!

Remember that Heybridge u3a are part of a "Cluster Group". This is a group of eight local u3a organisations, Maldon, Limebrook, Blackwater, Burnham, Dengie, Crouch Valley and South Woodham Ferrers, plus ourselves. Members of these u3a groups can join in the activities of the others, subject to space availability. Details can be found at:

[ClusterGroupActivitySchedule.pdf \(maldonu3a.co.uk\)](https://maldonu3a.co.uk/ClusterGroupActivitySchedule.pdf)

If you have any articles you would like included in the next Heybridge u3a News Sheet please send them to editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk.

Covid 19 Reminder

- *Consider wearing a face covering indoors in crowded, enclosed spaces*
- *Let fresh air in, if meeting indoors*
- *Get tested if you have Covid 19 symptoms and stay home if positive*
- *Be prepared for any venues to be well ventilated, and wear warm clothing*