



Heybridge U3A

News Sheet Number 3

May 2009

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From the Chairman

It gladdened my heart to see the turnout for our last meeting, on an odd day at an odd time, due to the Easter holiday. Thank you, and for those who were unable to attend, you really missed a very interesting meeting. Patrick Forsyth, our speaker is a much-travelled man, and the author of many books. He talked to us about his latest, "A Land Like None You Know" telling of the history and culture of Burma, with readings from the book, and many amusing anecdotes.

You will see elsewhere that Maldon U3A has invited us to join them at a concert they are organising. This is the whole spirit of U3A, interacting with our friends from other branches, but unfortunately I cannot be in two places at the same time. I hope other members will support it by going to their concert. The Association of Essex U3A is holding its AGM at Witham on 14th May, to which our Branch is invited, and I shall be going with two other committee members, to meet other U3A committee members from across the county, and perhaps come back with some new idea for our Branch.

We are progressing quietly in establishing Heybridge U3A. The membership rises slowly, which is good, as it allows us to give a real welcome to new members, either by email, post, telephone or at the monthly meetings. If you see someone looking a little alone at the meetings, do go and have a chat, it can be daunting walking into a hall full of strangers, but we do not want it to be that way for many minutes.

At our last Committee Meeting we were pleased to welcome as a new member Joyce Woodham, who has taken on the task of Speaker Co-ordinator for the monthly meetings. We really have a splendid cohesive group of enthusiasts running our U3A, and Joyce's input will be invaluable. She has also offered to help Peter with the Secretarial work until we can

permanently fill that position, and you will read more of that elsewhere.

From the Editor

Other than the various co-ordinators I have not received any comments from the members for inclusion in the news sheet. This is the third sheet produced for the Heybridge U3A, and members may not have realised that the news sheet is one way of putting ideas or views across to other members. I would appreciate comments and ideas to include in the June issue. We would like future issues to contain information, news, reports that you have produced and that you want to read.

We now have a notice board that will be erected at the front of the hall each month.

To assist in rolling out the various groups this news sheet continues to contain information about the groups already active, who to contact and when they meet.

To minimize the cost of circulating and printing and especially to speed up the process of publishing, the news sheet will be emailed to those who have an email address on or soon after the first Friday in each month. Hard copy will continue to be available at the monthly meeting. Copy will be required by last Friday of the preceding month. Please send detail by email to ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk with U3A in the title. Alternatively phone Ian Newman at 01621 891184 or see the Editor at the monthly meeting to decide other methods of providing copy.

If an article or report would be more interesting with a picture, drawing or diagram, paper or digital (preferred method) then we would be happy to try and include these as well. However, if more articles are received or are longer than space permits then they will be published, in part or whole, at the discretion of the Editor.

On the last page is and will continue to be a diary of meetings, events, visits etc. which will be as up to date as the information provided to me.

.Letters to the Editor

There is space within the news sheet for members to write their own contribution in the form of letter to the Editor. Please send contributions to the Editor by the last Friday of each month.

Heybridge U3A Meetings

The date of next meeting is Friday 8th May starting at the normal time of 14.00. in the Plantation Hall, Heybridge. Future meetings will then continue to be on the second Friday of each month at 14.00.

The speaker at the May meeting will be Glen Cousins. He will give a talk and presentation on "All Amphibians". He will bring with him live examples as part of his presentation.

The speaker for June is Chris Edwards. He is a volunteer lecturer for the National Trust and will talk about the work of the National Trust.

Advance Information for the July meeting. David Stephenson has agreeing to talk about the new initiatives in vocational courses which will be taught in the proposed building on Primrose Field.

Notice Board

A Notice Board has been purchased for use by all members. You will find it at the front of the Hall during the monthly meeting and onto which notices can be attached. If you or your group want to highlight or advertise some event, activity or other information, then this is a place where other members will find that information. Do not forget that the news sheet reaches all the Heybridge U3A members.

From the Group Co-ordinator

We have eight groups who are active and meeting regularly. The co-ordinators are to be congratulated for their dedication and determination in getting the members together, finding a place to meet and getting the group started. Those members who are attending these group meetings are enjoying the company of like-minded people and are forming new friendships as they meet together outside of the main monthly U3A meetings. Unfortunately some willing co-ordinators have not managed to find the vital common thread to start a group from

the lists of names of members expressing interest in a particular subject. It seems that the general subject titles are too broad and they mean different thing to different people. In such cases we are trying to form smaller groups each with a more focused interest. We are still a very new U3A and this is to be expected.

It is possible that we will be able to get one or more Luncheon Clubs going, thanks to the work that Beth and Russell are doing in evaluating what members require. They deserve your committed support if we want to enjoy the pleasure of lunching together. In last months News Sheet the "Craft" group seemed to prefer an element of "sewing" and if any member is interested in the "threads" type of craft and would like to contact me, I know someone who might volunteer to act as co-ordinator to get it started.

I, (Peter Thorpe) have been in discussion with Roger Smith of Blackwater U3A regarding his offer to our members to join their Family History group, which meets at the West Maldon Community Centre on the 3rd. Thursday of the month at 2.00 pm. They do not meet during the summer months, and they will be starting again in October. Five of our members have expressed interest in joining this group and I hope that we can make it another successful joint venture.

Group Names, Co-ordinator, Contact Telephone

Group Name	Co-ordinator	Telephone Number
Theatre	Viv Frostick	01621 858639
Walking	Elizabeth Eastwood	01621 850618
Local History	Carol Greenhalgh	01621 840339
Gardening	Pat Yates	01621 892866
Ballroom Dancing	Joint with Maldon Jo Robson *	* 01621 828236
Bird Watching	Maureen Lenoir	01621 869871
Painting	Michael Kempen	01621 892974
Scrabble	Ruth Tyler	01621 869865
Woodturning	Peter Thorpe Joint with Blackwater U3A (Charlie Middleton)	01621 850828

Co-ordinators Needed

Co-ordinators are still needed for the following topics:

- Art
- Bridge
- Computers
- Country Dancing
- Craft
- Golf
- Languages
- Marine and Coastal
- Music
- Photography
- Pilates
- Reading & Books
- Swimming
- Ten Pin Bowling
- Whist & Cards

Could those interested in the above and are willing to be the co-ordinator please contact Peter Thorpe on 01621 850828 or speak to him at the monthly meeting.

Membership Secretary

Membership Cards have now been produced for the year 2009 – 2010 and they will again be available from the signing in table at the next Monthly Meeting. Those members who have not yet collected them please collect them as you will need to show them at Group Meetings.

If you are not a member and wish to join, please contact Lisbeth Bazzard on 01621 843208 or by email lisbethbazzard@talktalk.net You can also write to her at 2, Silver Street, Maldon, Essex. CM9 4QE or speak to her at the monthly meeting.

From the Treasurer

There is nothing new to report this month.

Secretary

The Steering Committee has still to fill the role of its Secretary. It is a pleasure to report that Joyce Woodham has agreed to be seconded onto the Steering Committee and is assisting the Committee in this respect. However, there is still the need of someone who is willing and able to join the Heybridge U3A Steering Committee as its Secretary. Could anyone who thinks that they can assist in this matter, contact Ruth Tyler by telephone or speak to her at the next U3A Members Meeting, which is on Friday 8th May.

GROUP REPORTS

Bird Watching

We had a wonderful time at Chigborough Lakes on Friday morning 24th April. The sun shone, there were lots of birds to see and hear. The wrens song is so loud for such a little bird but lovely to listen to, we heard the chiff chaff all round us but we found it wasn't easy to spot.

I think my favourite was the very noisy Spotted Woodpecker and the Herons. We watched them for ages flying around and landing near the lake.

It wasn't just the birds we found so interesting at Chigborough. We saw a Badgers Set and a variety of butterflies, some wild flowers, but we were too early for the orchids. Thanks to you all for making our time together so interesting.

Our next outing is 22nd May we meet at Old Hall Tollesbury at 10.00. If you need any information or a lift ring me, Maureen, on 01621 869871. Hope to see you there.

Computers

A considerable amount of interest has been shown on the subject of Computers but currently we do not know what experience is wanted or available. Could those who included their name on the subject of computers and are still interested, please email, telephone or see Peter Thorpe at the May meeting with the following information: Current experience, the contribution you could make to the group and what is wanted from the group.

Gardening Group

The next visit is on Monday 11th May at 2.30 pm to Green Island Gardens near Colchester. Please see programme below for details, and let Pat Yates know a week in advance if you would like to come. Twenty people are needed for this visit, or the price will be higher, so please come. Gardening group members are also welcome to the visit arranged by Maldon group on Tuesday May 19th to a three-quarter acre private garden at St Osyth. It includes a stream of approx 100 ft long, and sounds very interesting. If anyone is interested please phone Pat Yates.

Monday 11th May 2.30pm

GREEN ISLAND GARDENS, Park Road, Ardleigh, Colchester CO7 7SP

Cost: £5.50 including tea and cakes.

Garden surrounded by 19 acres of woodland, bluebells at their best.

Monday 15th June 2pm
NEWLAND COTTAGE and CHIPPINS, B1352, 3 miles East of Manningtree.
Cost: £3.50 for both gardens. Tea extra if desired.
Artist's garden and plantaholics' paradise packed with interest.

Monday July 27th 2.30pm.

Orchard Cottage, 219 Hockley Road, Rayleigh SS6 8BH.

Approximate Cost: £5.00 including tea and cakes.

Award winning garden of three – quarters of an acre. July – exuberant lilies, agapanthus, plus colour themed beds.

Monday August 10th at 2.30pm
MOVERONS, Brightlingsea CO7 0SB
Cost: £5.00 including tea and home-made cakes.
Beautiful and peaceful country garden with stunning estuary views.

Monday September 14th at 2.30pm
ULTING WICK, Ulting Lane, off B1019 at Langford.
COST: £3.00 including tea and biscuits.
4-acre garden, much interest. Walk to Ulting church by River Chelmer.

The Gardening Group would like to welcome all members of Heybridge U3A to all of the above visits.
To book, and for further details please phone Pat Yates 01621 892866.

Monday October 5th at 2.30pm
Plant Swap, 31 Seagers, Gt. Totham.
Free tea!
Please bring any plants you don't need.

Local History

The local history group met on 21 April at Sue Spero's house. Group member Ellen Hedley kindly brought along a selection of her collection of old postcards and memorabilia of Maldon. Ellen was able to talk enthusiastically about these and gave us an insight to some of Maldon's historic buildings and this was added to by various members of the group.

Our next meeting is on 19th May when a guided tour of the Moot Hall has been arranged, after which members of the group may want to go on to the Maeldune Centre to access their excellent collection of Maldon photographs.

Members of the U3A who are not members of the Heybridge local history group are welcome to join us. We need to know exact numbers for this visit. Please call Carol Greenhalgh on 01621 840229 or Sue Spero on 01621 858957. The council ask for a donation of £25 per group for the Moot Hall, so ideally we should aim for 25 people to take part in the visit.

Luncheon Group

A lot of interest has been shown for this group. A great deal of effort has been put into setting up this group but unfortunately not all the details have yet been fully compiled for inclusion in this news sheet. We would therefore ask all those interested in the Luncheon Club to please see notice board on 8th May. Details found on the Notice Board will be reproduced in the June news sheet.

Scrabble

The regular monthly meetings will continue to be held on the first Wednesday in the month at 14.30. Seven members of the group enjoyed the afternoon meeting in April. The following sessions have been arranged.

- Wednesday 6th May at Beryl Claydon's, 57 Crescent Road, Heybridge Tel.852082
- Wednesday 3rd June – at Ruth Tyler's, Tetherdown, Beckingham St. Tolleshunt Major. Tel. 869865
- Wednesday 1st July at Beryl Claydon's, 57 Crescent Road, Heybridge Tel 852082

A telephone call to the hostess a couple of days before the meeting would be appreciated.

Theatre

Many thanks to the people who turned up for the first meeting the Theatre Group. Unfortunately after a lot of initial interest the attendance was a little disappointing. Viv Frostick, the Theatre Co-ordinator was not able to make the meeting and would like to thank Peter Thorpe for stepping in at the last minute.

The questionnaires that he handed out have been very helpful in enabling me to judge what sort of

shows you, the members would like. The majority seem to prefer that we attend the local performances which I think would be a good starting point.

From conversations that Viv has had with members she has found that you all seem to be pretty busy over the summer months so a good date to start would be September.

It is hoped by the next news letter that we will have been able to find a local show that would suit most people.

Walking

Our April walk took place in the rain (the only wet afternoon of the week!) on Thursday 16th April around Wickham Bishops.

We met in the church car park, followed Mope Lane past some very impressive properties, then took the path around the golf course and along the river passing the restored mill and the trestle railway bridge-truly interesting relics of the area's heritage. A short detour took us to a copse surrounding the restored 11th century St Peter's church - a hidden treasure. By this time the rain had ceased and we ambled back along the paths beside fruit orchards to our vehicles. Altogether a splendid afternoon's walk.

Our next outing is planned for Thursday 14th May, exploring Bradwell. The distance is 5 to 6 miles and takes in St Peter's-on-the wall and a circumnavigation of the area via the sea wall.

We will be meeting at the car park at the entrance to the footpath by East Hall farm at 2:00 pm. If anyone would like transport to Bradwell to take part, please call Elizabeth on 01621 850618.

Other U3A Requests

Concert given by Maldon U3A

The Maldon U3A have invited all Heybridge U3A members to a concert on Thursday 14th May.

Time: 19.30.

Venue: United Reform Church, Market Hill, Maldon

Concert. "Saxolgy"

Admission is by ticket £5.00. available from Janet Buck. Telephone 01245 227709

Tea and Coffee Rota

The following people will be preparing the Tea and Coffee for the monthly meetings:

May: Pam Archer and Maureen Baldwin

June: Jean Corree and Jenny Riley

July: Brenda Dewar and Audrey Coulson

Thank you to all the above from all the Heybridge U3A members.

Letters to the Editor



No letters have been received for this news sheet but members are invited to write and have their views put into print.

Members HELP

Your views and input are needed for all future editions of the news sheet. This can be in the form of reports about activities undertaken, activities to come, letters to the Editor or anything else that you think may interest other members.

It is hoped that this third news sheet will continue to help the various co-ordinators in attracting further members to their group or in forming new groups.

Disclaimer

This News Sheet is produced by the Heybridge U3A. The views expressed in this news sheet are not necessarily those of the U3A. The U3A accept no liability for the accuracy of its contents.

Program of Meetings and Visits

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
4th May	4	5	6 Scrabble 14.30	7	8 Monthly Meeting 14.00	9	10
11th May	11 Gardening Green Island Gardens 14.30	12	13	14 Walking 14.00	15 Painting 14.00	16	17
18th May	18	19 Woodturning 10.00 Local History 14.00	20	21	22 Painting 14.00 Bird Watching 10.00	23	24
25th May	25	26	27	28	29 Painting 14.00	30	31
1st June	1	2	3 Scrabble 14.30	4	5 Painting 14.00	6	7
8th June	8	9	10	11 Walking 14.00	12 Monthly Meeting 14.00	13	14
15th June	15 Gardening Newland Cottage 14.00	16 Woodturning 10.00 Local History 14.00	17	18	19 Painting 14.00	20	21
22nd June	22	23	24	25	26 Painting 14.00 Bird Watching 10.00	27	28
29th June	29	30	1	2	3 Painting 14.00	4	5

For details see articles and co-ordinators above.