



Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No. 2010/5

May 2010

Contacts:	Peter Thorpe	Chairman	01621 850828
	Brenda Dewar	Secretary	01245 400492

From the Chairman

Time passes quickly and Ian is chasing me again for my contribution to the News Sheet. The April meeting was well attended and we were very fortunate to have such an excellent speaker. William Tyler whose career, I understand, included both the Law and Education gave us an inspiring and often amusing talk entitled "Churchill – A study in Leadership". Much has been written on Churchill, arguably the greatest Prime Minister of the past century and William had made a detailed study of the great man. He had managed to understand why this unique man was exactly what our nation needed at the outbreak of the Second World War. It is hard to imagine that a man who had rebelled against the Establishment for most of his life was able to take decisive control of the country when it was on the very brink of invasion, even though he was already past "pensionable" age. Churchill was considered the only man of the hour and enjoyed popular support. It was ironic that when the war was over he lost the next election and the country decided to try socialism for the peacetime rebuilding. William's talk was thought provoking regarding the consequences of our defeat and it was also full of anecdotes with amusing quotes from Churchill's personal letters. William delivered his talk with total enthusiasm. We were privileged to hear him at one of our meetings.

There are some members who have not renewed their membership and subscriptions are overdue. If you have forgotten to renew, please return your form and payment to Liz as quickly as possible to prevent your name from being deleted from the membership list. I know that our groups have arranged some very well attended visits during the past month. I think that we have a very friendly U3A and, on behalf of the committee, I thank all the COG's for their enthusiasm.

Peter Thorpe

From the Editor

This News Sheet is again being circulated to all members who have renewed their subscriptions and

their emails addresses have been provided to the Membership Secretary.

I would like to promote articles in the Monthly News Sheets, articles that are not associated with any of the Groups. I would like to invite any member to provide a short article, on any subject, that would be of interest to other members. They could range from interesting aspects, such as trips away from home, through to aspects associated with your previous or current job. If you wish to discuss this further, please see me at the Monthly Meeting.

The Diary on the last page has been updated through to the end of June. It is important that you as COG's, members of Groups or just members of Heybridge U3A, keep me up to date. If anyone has an interesting story, relevant pictures or activity that relates in some way to The Heybridge U3A or the U3A movement as a whole, then please contact me. We can discuss how and what can be included in this News Sheet.

Most will know the publication procedure. Copy should be with me by the last Friday of month. Please continue to send details to me, preferably by email at ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk with 'U3A' in the title. Typed copy can also be provided. Alternatively, phone me on 01621 891184 or see me at the monthly meeting to decide other methods of providing copy. Publication will take place some seven days later.

Ian Newman.

Heybridge U3A Meetings

The date of next meeting is Friday 14th May, starting at the normal time of 14.00 in the Plantation Hall, Heybridge. This month Stuart Baldwin is our speaker with the subject "Honey Bees". The monthly meeting to be held on the 11th June is to be an "Antiques Road Show" when Mark Stacey will be talking about antiques. You are invited to bring, up to two of your "antique" items. Mark will make a selection for discussion and valuation from the items brought by members to the meeting. We hope to hold a strawberry tea in July.

From the COGCo (Group Co-ordinator)

You will see (hopefully) my pictures on the Group Notice Board where you will notice that pictures seem to be the current theme. I had great fun playing with these on my new computer and apart from making a colourful addition to the board they also helped me learn new skills. This board also has a list of all the Groups and the COG's.

I have now downloaded the programme for the Gardening Group. Another colourful picture and a wonderful way to present this year's visits. I recall that such a programme was produced last year and was very inspiring. Let us hope that the summer comes soon and stays a long time.

It was also good to see photos in the News Sheet. This is not the first time we have seen photos from



the Painting Group and the Gardening Group and now the Photography Group is joining in. I think this is a lovely idea. It was also good to see a photo of our Chairman.

At the beginning of April I was invited to visit the Threads and Fabrics Group and made very welcome. A very interesting group of people with colour again being the main focus from bedspreads, quilts, tapestry and smocking with lots of various discussions. It seems to me that after the long cold winter everyone wants colour in their lives.

We now have a change of COG for Weekenders. Jan Stroud has moved from the area and is not renewing her membership. She has done a lot for this Group since it was set up and we have to thank her for this. Our new COG is Marilyn Corbett whom some of you will know from the Luncheon Club or Scrabble. She has also done Tea Duty several times. This is a very friendly Group and all the members will help her. I am sure she will be an asset.

I hope to visit some of the other groups and meet more members. I have received an invitation to the Reading and Books Group which I hope to take up soon.

There is one point I would like to make and that is to all members. Like most of you I print or collect my copy of the News Sheet, get out my diary and fill in all the dates. I am sure you all appreciate the hard work put in by Ian in publishing this News Sheet and the COG's who provide the information. In fact, all you need to know about the Groups' activities and future plans are set out for you. I really do not have much to do at the monthly meetings other than

introduce the COGs so that you have a face to put to the name. All of them are happy to talk to you individually about what they do so please introduce yourself if you have an interest.

Gill Thorne 01621 852294

gillthorne2@hotmail.co.uk

Group Names, Co-ordinator, Contact Telephone

Group Name	Co-ordinator (COG)	Telephone Number
Ballroom Dancing	Joint with Maldon Jo Robson *	* 01621 828236
Bird Watching	Maureen Lenoir	01621 869871
Bridge	Lisbeth Bazzard	01621 843208
Coffee Morning	Margaret Brown	01621 854885
Computer	Tina Abeysekera	01621 858635
Esperanto	Peter Groves	01245 227018
Family History	Joint with Blackwater Roger Smith *	*01621 843054
Gardening	Pat Yates	01621 892866
Local History	Carol Greenhalgh	01621 840339
Luncheon	Beth Jeffries	01621 853403
Maritime & Coastal	Brenda Dewar	01245 400492
Painting	Michael Kempen	01621 892974
Petanque	Barbara Barbrook	01621 855605
Photography	Peter Thorpe	01621 850828
Reading & Books	Ann Lees	01245 225153
Scrabble	Ruth Tyler	01621 869865
Theatre	Gill Bridle & Janet Morley	01621 892587 & 01621 892626
Threads & Fabrics	Anne Thorpe & Pat Newman	01621 850828 & 01621 891184
Walking	Elizabeth Eastwood	01621 850618
Weekenders	Marilyn Corbett	01621 817518

Membership Secretary

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

Thank you to all members who have already renewed their subscriptions. For those who wish to continue coming to the monthly meetings or to any of the groups and have not yet paid please let me have their subscriptions as soon as possible.

Barbara Barbrook

Committee Members

The Heybridge U3A Committee Members are as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| • Chairman | Peter Thorpe |
| • Secretary | Brenda Dewar |
| • Treasurer | Barbara Barbrook |
| • Membership Secretary | Lisbeth Bazzard |
| • Speaker Secretary | Joyce Woodham |
| • Social Secretary | Martyn Garwood |
| • Interest Group Co-ordinator | Gill Thorne |
| • News Sheet Editor | Ian Newman |

Should you wish to discuss anything about the U3A please make yourself known.

REPORTS

Art (Painting) Group

There is no special news to report this month. Meetings continue every Friday afternoon except on second Friday of the month when the Heybridge U3A monthly meeting takes place.

Bird Watching

Our April group outing was to hear the dawn chorus at Abberton Reservoir. We met at 04.30 on a cold and frosty morning for a guided walk. We heard so many birds singing in the trees and bushes that I am not going to try and name them except of course the Nightingale. We, myself and others in the group, were so surprised as we thought they only sang in the evening. As we walked, we also saw the large amount of work going on to enlarge the Reservoir and how the road and Centre will have to be moved. It will take some time but our guide was confident it will be a great place for both us and our feathered friends. As we arrived back at the centre we were greeted by the smell of bacon sizzling on the BBQ. We tucked into a super breakfast and all agreed it was a great way to start off the day.

On the 5th May we again headed for Abberton for a guided walk to hear the Nightingales sing. As the hedgerows grew quiet the only songs were from the Nightingales. At one point in time we seemed to be surrounded by their songs. What a wonderful experience. We are so lucky to be living in this area as they only visit a small section of the UK. We finished our walk again back at the centre this time to enjoy Hot Chocolate and biscuits.

Our next outing is on the 28th May. I am not sure yet but I did think we could go back to West Hanningfield Reservoir. Alternatively, please get in touch with your ideas at symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk or 01621 869871.

Thanks Maureen.

Bridge Group

Last Wednesday, (5th May) duplicate bridge had twelve players, which was a very good turn-out. Well done Graham and Beryl you beat Raymond and me by 1 point. We beat Victoria and Maureen, also by 1 point, so the results were very close. I rather ran out of time in preparation, as I unfortunately had to have my dog Huckle put down that morning. Thank you all for your help. In addition, I apologise for the massive amount of building dust. It was very pleasant for me having a builder less day. The next session here will be Wednesday 9th July. Please let me know if you can partake.

Liz 01621 843208, lisbethbazzard@talktalk.net

Computer Group

Twelve members of the Computer Group met on the 15th April. Ian welcomed everyone and reported that our bid for financial help towards the purchase of a computer projector had resulted in a cheque for £300 from Heybridge Parish Council. Details and prices of various projectors were circulated. It was agreed we should purchase the best quality possible, as the projector will be used by several groups. This means we need to raise at least another £200. As the U3A is a registered charity it may be possible to apply elsewhere for further funding and this will be followed up. A presentation to the next U3A committee will be made.

We then got down to work. Those with laptops were provided with blank discs on which to practise. All were reminded on how to choose a file and save to disc and how to use a USB stick. Everyone benefited from this experience. A query was raised about the older floppy discs being unreliable and it was suggested we use the USB sticks and CD/DVD's. A pleasant and informative afternoon with a quick stop for tea was enjoyed by all. Next

month Ian will introduce Power Point presentation programme.

Look forward to seeing everyone on Thursday 20th May at 13.00 in the Claydon room for yet another fun afternoon.

Audrey.

Coastal and Marine Group

We all thoroughly enjoyed the stories of a life on the ocean waves from Will at our April meeting. We had a round the world trip through his interesting commentary and photographs. It looked a life of pleasure but I am sure it was hard work as well. Will also had a selection of charts, illustrating some of the points he had made, showing us the navigational problems of just the Blackwater!

Our next navigation will be to Harwich on Friday 21st May and Rod Shaw has asked us to muster at the Lifeboat Station at 11.00 where he will meet us. We shall be car sharing, and there is parking close by, so we can look forward to an interesting day.

Our trip to Dunwich is planned for Friday 18th June, where we shall meet Glenn at the (only) car park, at 11.00. We shall organise car sharing again. Look forward to seeing you all. Any queries please phone me on 01245 400492.

Brenda Dewar.

Discussion Coffee Morning

We had another enjoyable meeting at Gill Thorns house on 16th April. The next one will be on 21st May at Margaret Clarks home. Details will be available on the sheet at the next meeting or feel free to contact me on 01621 854885.

Margaret Brown

Gardening Group

Twenty six of us had a delightful visit to Ulting Wick. The garden with all those tulips looked amazing, and Philippa gave us lots of interesting information. The weather was good and so were the cakes. Our next visit is to Olivers, near Colchester, on Monday 17th May at 14.00. The cost is £4.00 which includes a talk, tour, tea and biscuits (unfortunately no homemade cakes!). A description of the garden and travel directions can be found in the Yellow Book, or from my programme. PLEASE let me know if you are coming by the previous Thursday.

Pat Yates 01621 892866 or pat.yates@tesco.net

Local History Group (LHG)

The next meeting of the Local History Group will be on Tuesday 18th May at 14.00. This will be in the Oak Room of the Blue Boar. This is a general meeting and chance for all interested to pool ideas

for future arrangements for the group. It will also be another opportunity for those who have items or stories of interest to share with the group. Please contact Carol Greenhalgh on 01621 840339 [or email to george.smeed@virgin.net] if you plan to come.

Our last two meetings have been most successful. In March, we enjoyed the gentle surroundings of the Plume Library and learnt something of its history. We were able to carefully handle some very precious and historic volumes donated to the town by Sir Thomas Plume. For our April meeting we visited the WW1 Aerodrome at Stow Maries where we were joined by the Maldon U3A Aviation Group; much to each group's surprise and the surprise of our guide, Ivor Dallinger! The consequent large group (about 60 people) soaked up the atmosphere and history of this impressive site [and sight]. We certainly plan to do this trip again, hopefully next year when a lot of progress should be evident.



WW1 Aerodrome Buildings at Stow Maries

Further dates for the diary:

- 15th June To be confirmed.
- 20th July. Visit to Combined Services Museum.
- 17th August Talk on Essex Regiment.
- 21st September Visit to Little Baddow History Centre.

Luncheon Group

The next Luncheon will be on 28th May at the Cuckoo, Radley Green starting at 12.30. Further details to be provided at the next monthly meeting.

Beth 01621 853403.

Petanque Group

We have now commenced the summer season, despite the wind and a little rain. It is now warmer and very pleasant to play petanque outdoors. We have our regular players but new ones are very welcome. There is a convenient seat for watching to

start with, but you will soon find that you want to join in the fun.

The first May Bank Holiday will now have past but we usually play on Mondays at 14.00 (except Monday the 31st May Bank Holiday).

Barbara Barbrook

Photography Group

It was good to see the members' photographs taken using camera settings other than the standard (or snapshot) setting. Some members tried every setting on the same subject and one member even printed them all on one piece of paper for comparison. It was great to see different approaches to the same topic. We discussed the effect of aperture settings on the subject in focus and examined how the technique had been used in magazine adverts and books to achieve a specific effect.



he Plantation Hall is unavailable for our next meeting, due to the election so we have decided to meet at the Heybridge Basin to take photos together as a group. One of our members, who is unable to be with us, has already taken a selection, one of which I have chosen to be printed with these notes.

If you are interested in photography and want to join us we normally meet in the Claydon Room, of the Plantation Hall, on the first Thursday of each month at 13.00 (lunch time!). We have a fun time and you are welcome.

Peter Thorpe

Reading and Books Group

This book this month appears to have been enjoyed by all. 'The Secret Life of Bees' was a pleasant read by American author Sue Monk Kidd. Set in the deep south of the USA, at a time when racial tensions were at their height, it was at times very moving. However, it proved also to be funny, sad, warm hearted and uplifting. Using the bees as a metaphor for the human story we all agreed we learnt something, not only about the human condition when life proved to be complex and cruel, but also about how bees live and strive to survive.

Our group is slowly expanding and the input from members, about the books and the subjects they raise, makes for a very pleasant afternoon of discussion.

The next meeting takes place at 14.30 on Wednesday May 19th at the home of Carole Overy. If you are interested in joining us please ring Ann Lees on 01245 225153.

Scrabble

The following meetings have been arranged, and as before, please contact the Hostess if you are able to attend any or all of our gatherings.

- Wednesday 26th May at the home of Beryl Claydon; 01621 852082.
- Wednesday 30th June at the home of Marilyn Corbett; 01621 817578.
- Wednesday 28th July at the home of Beryl Claydon; 01621 852082.

New players are always welcome to join us. You don't need to be a genius, as long as you can spell two letter words and upwards!!

Ruth Tyler 01621 869865

Theatre

Our visit to *Blood Brothers* at the Cliffs Pavilion Southend is going ahead and we are looking forward to 5 June! I have sent off the cheque to the box office and hope to have the tickets ready for distribution at our next meeting.

I have reserved 29 seats for the show *Dreamboats & Petticoats* at the Playhouse Theatre on Thursday, 12th August 2010. It is a matinee performance starting at 15.00 and finishing at 17.25. The ticket price is £20.00 (these are £55.00 seats in the stalls). These seats can only be held for a month so we need to know definite numbers as soon as possible. I have also booked a coach, which will pick up at the Heybridge Hall at 09.00 and this will give time to have a bite to eat before the show starts. The coach price is £11.50 each (this will include a tip for the coach driver). The total cost will therefore be £31.50 per person. I already have 15 tickets reserved so there are 14 left. I should be grateful if the people who have reserved tickets, and anyone else who is interested, could please bring cheques, made payable to Heybridge U3A Groups, to the next meeting.

Gill Bridle 01621 892587.

Threads and Fabrics

At our April meeting we were pleased to see our "Super-COG" Gill. We hope that she enjoyed our company as much as we enjoyed hers. As usual we had taken along our work in hand but, in addition, our hostess brought out a vintage bedspread in

need of conservation and repair, which, after discussion, we decided was saveable. Watch this space for updates! Personally, I am proceeding slowly with my favoured project, once known as petit



point or tapestry, but these days called by the far more grandiose title of Painting with a Needle

Extract from 'Mill Pond' - Painting with a Needle

Anne and Pat

Walking

There was no walk to report on during April. The next walk planned is in and around Tollesbury on Thursday May 13th. We meet in the car park on Woodrolfe Lane at 14.00 for a walk 1½ to 2½ hours depending on choice.

All are welcome, please contact me on 01621 850618 or at e.m.e@talktalk.net if you would like to join us and/or need transport.

Elizabeth

Weekender

Firstly, I should introduce myself as the new COG for Weekenders. My name is Marilyn Corbett. Jan Stroud, who has successfully run this group for the last year, has moved from the area and will not be renewing her membership. I am sure all members of the group will wish her well. I have no doubt we shall see her again as she has many friends in the area. I have volunteered to take over and I hope we can look forward to another enjoyable year.

Dates for your diary:

- Saturday 8th May - Quiz at West Maldon Community Centre at 20.00.
- Saturday 22nd May - Meeting at 10.00, Lock Cafe, Heybridge Basin followed by a walk (weather permitting).
- Saturday 26th June - Meeting at 10.00, Pear Tree Pantry, Near Ernest Doe and Sons on the Hatfield Peveral to Maldon Road.

If you would like more details call me, Marilyn Corbett, 01621 817518

U3A News Magazine

Issue 90 (May 2010) of the quarterly U3A News Magazine has arrived and you are invited to collect your copy at the monthly meeting.

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
10 th May	10 Petanque 14.00	11	12	13 Walking 14.00	14 Monthly Meeting 14.00	15	16
17 th May	17 Petanque 14.00 Gardening 14.30	18 Local History 14.00	19 Book Group 14.30	20 Computer 13.00	21 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00 Coastal and Marine 11.00	22 Week – ender Coffee at Lock Café Heybridge Basin plus walk 10.00	23
24 th May	24 Petanque 14.00	25	26 Scrabble 14.00	27	28 Submit News Sheet text Luncheon 12.30 Painting 14.00 Bird Watching	29	30
30 th May	31 No Petanque	1 Threads and Fabrics 14.00	2	3 Photography 13.00	4 Painting 14.00	5 Theatre “Blood Brothers” Southend	6
6 th June	7 Petanque 14.00	8	9	10 Walking 14.00	11 Monthly Meeting 14.00	12	13
13 th June	14 Petanque 14.00	15 Local History 14.00	16 Book Group 14.30	17 Computer 13.00	18 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00 Coastal and Marine 11.00	19	20
20 th June	21 Petanque 14.00 Gardening 14.30	22	23	24	25 Submit News Sheet text Painting 14.00	26 Week – ender Coffee at Pear Tree Pantry, Hatfield Peveral 10.00	27
27 th June	28 Petanque 14.00	29	30 Scrabble 14.00	1 Photography 13.00	2 Painting 14.00	3	4

Program of Meetings and Visits For details see articles and co-ordinators above.