



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

# Heybridge U3A

## News Sheet No. 2011/5

### May 2011

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

#### From the Chairman

We are now well underway in our third year as a U3A and an overwhelming majority of people have renewed their membership. We are pleased that a number of new members have joined us over the last few months and hope you will all look out for them and make them welcome.

Cliff Foster introduced us to the subject of Wills and Estate Planning at our April Meeting. In an original way, his presentation was in the form of a prize quiz (he provided champagne as the prizes!). As we marked our generally low scoring answer papers, he explained why he had asked each question. The talk contained a great deal of detail and the questions asked by the members at the end tended to be very specific. Probably most members (including me) did not realise how complicated you could make your last act of financial control over your successors; if you really tried!

We are very fortunate to have John Whittingdale MP as our speaker at our May Meeting. John lives in Maldon, and constitutionally, represents most of us in the House of Commons. As an MP John is a highly respected and active parliamentarian. We expect this meeting to be very popular.

I often wonder whether anyone reads my ramblings in these News Sheets and I was delighted when Peter Maggs (our speaker in February) phoned me to ask if he could use my few words about him in the March edition for his publicity leaflet. He told me that he had read our News Sheet on the internet! You may not be aware that the latest edition of the News Sheet is always available from the link (Latest News etc.) on the opening (Home) page of our website. You can also read any News Sheet from Edition No. 1 by logging on to:

<http://www.heybridgeu3a.org.uk> on your computer (why not bookmark it?).

I am aware that some members think that the two hours available for our meetings could be used more effectively by changing the current format. What do you think?

I look forward to seeing you on May 13<sup>th</sup> (yes it is a Friday), usual time, usual place and I hope that the sun keeps shining on all of us.

Peter Thorpe

([thorpe101@btinternet.com](mailto:thorpe101@btinternet.com))

#### From the Editor

This advance copy of this News Sheet is being circulated to all members who have provided their email addresses to the Membership Secretary. If you have an email address and have not received an emailed copy of this News Sheet please let me or the Membership Secretary know, preferably by email (Email address below). Printed copies of the News Sheet will continue to be available at each Heybridge U3A Monthly Meeting for those who do not have access to email. We also wish to reduce the number and cost of copies that have to be printed. Therefore in future no copies will be posted.

The Diary on the last page has been updated to the end of June 2011. 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.

As we now have some 20 groups, I must have your copy by the last Friday of the month. Late copy adds to the time I have to spend assembling this News Sheet. Please continue to send details to me, preferably by email, at [ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk) with 'Heybridge U3A' in the title. Alternatively talk to me at the Monthly Meeting.

This News Sheet due to the amount of interesting articles has had its font size reduced to 9.5pt. If you have any difficulty reading this copy please let me know. Those who read it digitally can always enlarge it in the Adobe Reader.

An interesting letter has been received on the subject of wasted seedlings. Due to this letter a Seedling Exchange has been arranged for the May Monthly Meeting (See the Gardening Report for details).

Ian Newman.

#### Heybridge U3A Monthly Meetings

The next Monthly Meeting is on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May starting at the normal time of 14.00, in the Plantation Hall, Heybridge. This month we have John Whittingdale, MP for Maldon, who has agreed to speak to the Heybridge U3A. This, it is hoped, will be a well attended meeting and all members will be requested to bring their membership cards along with them. In June we will be hearing about the Tower of London as seen through an eye of a child. Heather Leonard will present this subject to us. The July Meeting

will be a Strawberry Tea with a similar format to last year. See also 'From the Group Co-ordinator'.

#### 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
Family History	Lesley Pomphrett	01621 817733
French Conversation	Vicky Anfilogoff	01621 840532
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
Ten Pin Bowling	Janette Lett	01621 879697
Theatre	Gill Bridle & Janet Morley	01621 892587 & 892626
Threads & Fabrics	Anne Thorpe & Pat Newman	01621 850828 & 01621 891184
Walking	Elizabeth Eastwood	01621 850618
Weekenders	Marilyn Corbett	01621 817518
Wine Group	Jackie Jones	01621 817117

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

I was a little disappointed that not as many members as usual stayed to the end of the last meeting. I hope all of you read your News Sheet each month and are aware of the group activities detailed there. However, sometimes there is more information from the COGs that has cropped up, or alterations, since the news sheet was printed.

The three new groups are developing well and I have suggested that all three new COGs send an article to Ian. Groups are the way to develop new skills and make new friends.

I am finding it a little difficult at present as I will be attending the French conversation group, which is being held approximately every fortnight, but have recently spent 8 days in Italy where I was told I was speaking (or rather attempting to speak) Italian with a Spanish accent.

This year's Strawberry Tea will take place at the July Main Meeting. Last year the Groups' presentations were very successful and we are hoping to keep the format again for this year. Could the COGs please put on their thinking caps for how they are going to present their Groups this year. I know this will be difficult as last year's displays were so good. You are so inventive I know we will have another good showing. Please let me know your requirements.

Gill Thorne 01621 852294

[gillthorne2@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gillthorne2@hotmail.co.uk)

#### Membership Secretary

Thank you to everyone who has paid their 2011/12 membership subscription. We now have 137 paid up members, with a further 7 planning to renew, giving a total of 144. If you have paid your subscription but not yet received your 2011/12 Membership Card, please collect it at the next Monthly Meeting. If you have not yet paid and wish to continue coming to the Monthly Meetings or to any of the groups, please let me have your payment as soon as possible.

New members are welcome and if you are not a member and wish to join, please contact me on 01621 843581 or by e-mail

[jennyparker14@hotmail.com](mailto:jennyparker14@hotmail.com) .

Alternatively, you can contact Angela Pleasance on 01621 850310 or by e-mail

[angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk)

Jenny Parker

#### REPORTS

##### Art (Painting) Group

The numbers of days that the Friday Painters were able to paint this month has been greatly reduced due to the number of Bank holidays. A more detailed report on how our group is progressing will be available in June.

Gill Carpenter.

## Bird Watching

For our April outing we went to Blue House Farm which is looked after by Essex Wildlife trust. Tim, who is a warden, took us around and pointed out areas of interest.

We went to the first hide and there was such a lot to see. We spent ages watching the shelducks showing off and fighting to get the attention of the females. Just outside the hide were two Avocet nests on little islands. It was change over time at one of the nests so we were able to see the eggs; we counted six. As well as our regulars like Godwit, Little Egret, Shoveller and Coot we also saw Pochard, Gadwall and Snipe. What a treat as they are not always around. We had a lovely walk through the field with the cows and their calves following us as we made for the sea wall and hide number three. Not as many ducks or waders



there but we did see a Yellow Wagtail which was a first sighting for us all - what a treat. It was such a little bird and we would have missed it if Tim hadn't told us where to look.

Snipe (Author Jill McGregor)

With Skylarks singing overhead we made our way back to the Farm for one of the best experiences of the day. They have Barn Owls nesting and a webcam has been installed so we could watch the female on the eggs. The male has to keep her supplied with food as she stays on the eggs. When the eggs hatch he then supplies food for all his family. They are due to hatch in about a week so he will be kept busy for a long time.

It was a wonderful day and we hope to return in the autumn.

The next meeting of the Bird Watching Group is to Rainham Marsh on the 27<sup>th</sup> May.

Maureen

## Bridge Group

For details about any bridge duplicate session please contact me, Liz, on 01621 843208 or email me at [lisbethbazzard@talktalk.net](mailto:lisbethbazzard@talktalk.net)

## Computer Group

Despite the lure of the sunshine outside the Computer Group met for another lively meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> April.

The group subscriptions to pay for the quarter's room hire were collected. We then proceeded to discuss ideas for the presentation at the Strawberry Tea. It was agreed that we should aim to show the advantages of belonging to a computer group and the progress made by members since joining the group. This would include research into strawberry growing in the Heybridge area using the internet. A draft would be presented, including pictures, at the next Computer Group meeting and this would be undertaken by Tina, Maureen and Audrey. Gill is

continuing to improve her separate presentation and adding more illustrations. Pat suggested interaction with members by entering their postcode into a computer and showing their properties on Google Earth.

A discussion on Computer security, both from the internet and from loss of data, took place following Ian saying that his was coming up for renewal. There is a report in the current 'Which' on this subject and it is showing one of the recommended options as being from the Norton family of programmes. His decision is likely to be Norton 360, which also backs up the whole computer and costs approximately £35 for one year. Other members successfully use other packages.

We next discussed the sending of emails using 'Windows Mail', or similar, and were reminded that these can be created offline so that when next using the internet the messages can be sent.

The meeting discussed the possibility of obtaining a laptop for use by our group and possibly other groups. Several members have not continued because they do not possess a laptop on which to practise. All agreed this would be useful but too costly to buy new so we will look around for a low cost second-hand machine. A member of our U3A might be updating their old laptop and may be prepared to donate it for use by all our groups.

Many thanks to Pat for making the tea & coffee and Reg for washing up so expertly.

We meet again on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 1400 when we will finalise all our ideas for the presentation.

Audrey.

## Coastal and Marine Group

On 12<sup>th</sup> April, eight members of the Coastal & Marine Group visited the Pioneer Sailing Trust in Brightlingsea. We were greeted by Mr Rupert Marks who runs the Trust. He told us how the Trust had been started. The original 'Pioneer' was built in 1864 at Rowhedge. It was one of a fleet of deep sea fishing smacks which dredged for deep sea oysters and scallops off the Dutch Coast. They were known as "Skillingers". They had a flooded compartment holding 12 tonnes of water known appropriately as a 'wet well' where live oysters and scallops could be stored, enabling Pioneer to travel further and remain at sea longer.

In 1998 all that remained of Pioneer was a rotting hulk in the Strood Channel at West Mersea. It was decided to raise the Pioneer from her muddy grave and restoration began using traditional methods. She was finally relaunched in 2003 at Brightlingsea and the Pioneer Sailing Trust was formed. The Pioneer, with a permanent crew of three, is now fully equipped to take groups of all ages up to 12 individuals.

With support from North Seafaring and the Heritage Lottery Fund a range of learning materials are available to help teachers present the industrial and social history of the area. Also, participants on a cruise are expected to become involved with all aspects of running a ship (with the crews' help).



We were shown around the workshop by Brian and saw how these old hulks are restored/rebuilt using traditional methods and where training of ship building apprentices takes place.



We were taken down to the winter mooring of Pioneer, by Felicity, where two crew members were re-rigging and preparing the ship ready for the summer sailings. This is a short summary of a very interesting meeting. We were made very welcome by Rupert, Brian and Felicity even though they do not normally show Groups around.

'Pioneer' (Author Ian Newman)

I was disappointed not to join you, but thank you Lesley for leading the party on the day of the visit and producing the report of the visit.

We need to firm up our programme for the remainder of the year. So, if you have any ideas or have agreed to investigate a project, please come along on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May with as many details as possible. We can meet at the Tea Shop at the Heybridge Basin at 14.00. Bring as much information you can find so that we can print a programme. At our last planning meeting there were some really good suggestions. We now need firm dates, times etc. so we can plan our summer. Looking forward to seeing you all. It is a good time to be near or on the water.

Brenda.

01245 400492.

### **Discussion Coffee Morning**

I was away for the last meeting but I have it on good authority that the April coffee morning and Sally's hospitality was enjoyed by all. The next meeting will be at Linda Ethertons' on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00. Details will be available at the next Monthly Meeting or you can contact me on 01621 854885. If you are interested in joining us I should be grateful if you would put your name and phone number on the coffee morning sheet at the Monthly Meeting where you will also see the venue address. You can always phone me, if you prefer, in advance of the day. I will not always be contactable on the actual morning prior to the event. I hope to see you on 20<sup>th</sup> May.

Margaret Brown.

### **Family History Group**

Four members attended April's Meeting. Our member Norman had come prepared to show the Group how to put their information onto CD/DVD but, because it was a small group, we decided to postpone it until another meeting.

Carol and Ray have worked hard and their family trees are really taking shape. They talked about the information they have found and the problems they have come across. Norman told us about two useful websites:

- BG Forums: where you can ask questions about family history and if people feel they can help they will give you an answer.
- Genes Reunited: where you can sometimes link with someone who has already found information for which you are searching.

He also talked about the website 'Find My Past' and we discussed which website to use to try to find births in the USA.

Our next meeting will be Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May at my house 10.30 to 12.30. Kay from Blackwater Family History Group is coming to show us her Family History DVD, which was filmed by the BBC. There will be a list available at the Monthly Meeting. Please put your name on this list or phone me on 01621 817733 if you are coming. If there are not enough people I shall cancel this talk.

Lesley Pomphrett

[lesleypommy@hotmail.com](mailto:lesleypommy@hotmail.com)

### **French Conversation**

Finally, a small French conversation group is underway at our U3A. A planning meeting was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March which was very much a 'getting to know each other' meeting with much discussion about the format and aims of the group. By the end of the session we all felt sufficiently comfortable to be actually talking in French! It was decided that, for the group to flourish, numbers should be kept very manageable as all sitting round one table was a very comfortable and encouraging way of staging the meetings.

Since we were a small group, and all quite busy with many things, we agreed that it seemed sensible to not have a set date for the meetings but to arrange the next meeting at the conclusion of the current one. Also, at each meeting, a topic/aim/objective should be set for the next one. A further meeting was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> April, which was both enjoyable and fun and, this time, about 70% of the time was spent talking French; quite an improvement! We also decided that once a month was not enough to polish up our rusty skills and twice monthly would be much better. Again meeting dates to be decided on the basis of our collective diaries though seeking not to clash with any other groups in our U3A. The next meeting is to be 26<sup>th</sup> April (long gone by the time you read this!) and a further one on 16<sup>th</sup> May.

Vicky Anfilogoff. 01621 840532

### **Gardening Group**

It's only a couple of days to our first visit for this year, until Woodpeckers at Burnham on Crouch next Monday. I am really pleased that so many of you are coming, and hope that the good weather continues. I know we are desperate for rain, but not Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May, please.

As you know, I have had to put two visits in May due to all the Bank Holidays, so our second one is on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, only two weeks after the first. This is to Porters Farm in Kelvedon, also a fairly local one. The time, as usual, is 14.30, and the cost is £5.50 including garden tour and tea. Please do sign up at the Monthly Meeting (Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May), as there is a minimum requirement of 15 people. I am taking a chance on having enough. Please let me know if you require a lift.

Pat Yates, 01621 892866 or [pat.yates@tesco.net](mailto:pat.yates@tesco.net)

In the Letters to the Editor a suggestion has been made to have a plant swap. Following discussions, and to be able to implement it this year, arrangements have been made to have a table in the Meeting Room where those of us who have spare seedlings or small plants can be placed where other members of the Heybridge U3A can take them. A small donation to Heybridge U3A Funds can be left for those who have nothing to swap. (Editor)

### Local History Group (LHG)

We almost reached our target number for our afternoon at Braintree museum recently. This was a specially arranged visit for which we really needed 12 people. We ended up with 10 but had to pay for 12 anyway. We may have to follow the gardening group's lead for pre-booked visits. Enough said.

We enjoyed a very special afternoon when we experienced the schooldays of Victorian times. We were the schoolchildren and we had a real taste for times past during our lesson in the classroom, led by a 'real' Victorian school-ma'am. I think most of us, if not all, were taken back to our own time at school. After lining-up [boys and girls separately of course] and checking for clean, if any, shoes, we filed into the classroom to our desks [again, boys and girls segregated]. We were then inspected for clean hands before our prayer to start the day. This was followed by handwriting practice practise, reading, spelling and arithmetic, using our slates and slate sticks. There were questions on geography, history and the natural world. Of course, we could only speak when spoken to and had to remember to put our hands up and address ma'am politely or there was a very stern reprimand. We were mostly average, I think, but our star pupil [John] was invited to progress to be a teaching assistant; teacher's pet!

We are booked to go to the Southend Pier Museum on 17<sup>th</sup> May. This visit will probably bring back many memories to those who have walked the pier in the past and promises to provide us with a fascinating insight into those by-gone days when an outing to Southend and it's pier was the equivalent of a week in Spain today. This is another trip where we have to pay in advance so could you please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to join us. The cost will be £1 per head for 20 people - very cheap! We will again try to car-share so please also let me know if you need a lift or can give one. I should have directions at the next Monthly Meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> May.

Carol Greenhalgh

[george.smeed@virgin.net](mailto:george.smeed@virgin.net) or telephone 01621 840339.

### Luncheon Group

There is no report but see Diary for details.

Beth

### Petanque Group

We are sorry that two very keen members of our group, Tony and Wendy, have moved to Burnham so cannot play any more with us regularly. With two Bank holidays following so quickly, we shall miss two Mondays, but will meet again on 9<sup>th</sup> May. We hope that the weather holds as this spell of weather is ideal for being outside playing our game of French Boules on the Promenade. See you all again soon.

Barbara Barbrook

### Photography Group

We had a good attendance at the last meeting and the "water" assignment proved to be very popular with many excellent interpretations of the subject. The standard of photographs taken by our members is steadily improving as we continue to share and discuss our pictures with each other.

Jill McGreggor gave us a confident demonstration of Photoshop v9 and proved that if you are prepared to study this confusing programme you can master some of it's amazing features. Well done Jill.

The Photography Group this month is meeting on the Hythe Quay, Maldon on May 5<sup>th</sup> at 14.00 for a "photoshoot". This month we are unable to meet at the Plantation Hall as it is being used as a Polling Station. If you are interested in digital photography, come and join us. Our aim is to enjoy and to improve our photography, together.

Peter Thorpe

[thorpe101@btinternet.com](mailto:thorpe101@btinternet.com)



(Author Ken Russell)

### Reading and Books Group

On a very hot and lovely day we met as a group to discuss the most recent read 'The Divide' by Nicholas Evans. We found this to be a beautifully narrated story about a family's journey through loss, personal discovery and redemption. It took us from the streets of New York to the daunting grandeur of the West.



A beautiful and privileged daughter on the run from the FBI wanted for murder and acts of terrorism is found embedded in the ice of a remote mountain creek. How did she die and what was the trail of events that led to this much loved child going so tragically astray? With probing questions provided by Carole Overy we enjoyed exploring the facets of the relationships described so vividly in the book.

This was a narrative, that was greatly enjoyed, by a writer who has inspired us to seek out his other books to read for our enjoyment.

Our next meeting is on 18<sup>th</sup> May at 14.30. Please contact Ann Lees 01245225153 if you would like to join us.

### **Scrabble**

At our meeting on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April we welcomed Janette Lett who joined seven other players. I was unable to stay, but I believe they had an enjoyable afternoon.

We meet on the fourth Tuesday in each month and all are welcome. The next Scrabble Group Meeting will be on 24<sup>th</sup> May.

Ruth Tyler

### **Ten Pin Bowling**

This is the newest group and we met for the first time on the 12<sup>th</sup> April at Madison Heights Leisure Centre. It was, disappointingly, a small turn out – three to be precise. However, we had a good game and there were strikes, spares and laughs. We had all played before but not recently, which was obvious in the scores but they were all respectable and we were quite pleased with ourselves. Our next game is on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May, meeting at 13.45 for 14.00. If you would like to join us please contact me on 01621 879697 or [lettsnooks@talktalk.net](mailto:lettsnooks@talktalk.net).

Janette Lett

### **Theatre**

I am now in possession of the tickets for the Dinner Ladies' production at the Mercury Theatre on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June. I will distribute these at the next meeting, i.e. Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> May.

Janet Morley

### **Threads and Fabrics**

We had a good discussion at our April meeting as most of our members were present. We were talking about the problems of threading fine needles. There are, on the market, many needle threaders varying in price from a few pence to many pounds. We each had our own favourites but concluded that it is not worth being tempted into spending a fortune by slick salesmen at shows.

As usual, a wide variety of work was being carried out. One member was sewing brightly coloured oven gloves (destined for the Hospice shop), another embroidering a copy of a stained glass window which we are looking forward to seeing when finished. In addition, there were different patchwork bags and quilts.

One member, Sue, is the bravest of us all. Her patchwork is being assembled with little hexagons in toning colours. I was so impressed that I asked her for a photo of it for the newsletter (See photograph). I am looking forward to the



next meeting to see how everything is progressing.

If anyone is interested in joining our group, please contact Anne Thorpe on 01621 850828 or Pat Newman on 01621 891184.

(Author Sue Dupee)

### **Walking**

Our April outing, on another perfect spring day, was enjoyed by ten of us plus dogs. The walk

took us along the river from Paper Mill Lock, across fields to Little Baddow Hall and Church where a group of Essex bell ringers were practicing. Fascinating artwork on the walls, oak effigies dating from 1330 and a plaque dating clergy from 1294 can be found inside the old church.

We returned to Papermill Lock cafe for much appreciated refreshments.



The Walking Group + 2 dogs

The next walk will be on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May around Hanningfield reservoir, a distance around 3½ miles. Unfortunately, no dogs are allowed. Meet at the free car park at the Visitor Centre Hawkswood Road entrance at 14.00.

<http://www.theaa.com/walks/roaming-around-hanningfield-reservoir-420416>

All will be welcome to join us. The walk is graded 'easy' with no up-hills. Please let me know (email or phone) if you can be there and if you need a ride or can car-share.

Phone 01621 850618 or email [e.m.e@talktalk.net](mailto:e.m.e@talktalk.net)

Elizabeth

## Weekenders

On the 10<sup>th</sup> April seven Weekenders enjoyed an interesting walk around the Belvederes of Maldon, which took us around parts of the town many of us had never seen before. It was helped by the beautiful weather. When we had finished two other members joined us for lunch at the Queen's Head. Then, on the 20<sup>th</sup> April, nine of us went with Stan's Coaches to Canterbury for the day, some for shopping and others for the history. Our next Weekender Coffee Morning is on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May at Spring Step Goat Farm.

Dates for your diary:

- Saturday 11th June Coffee Morning at The Lock Cafe, Heybridge Basin.
- Saturday 16th July Coffee Morning at Perrywoods.

Please contact Marilyn Corbett on 01621 817518 for further information.



Weekender Group

## Wine Group

In April, we met at my house and compared two reds from the Cote du Rhone region of France. To complete the French theme we snacked on some French cheeses. The labels on the bottles were hidden so that we could compare the similarities and differences between two unknown wines from the same vintage. Personal preference was split 50/50 between the group but everyone had a pleasant afternoon.

The planned visit to New Hall Vineyard on 14th May has been postponed to September so there will be no meeting in May this year.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> June, the meeting will be a visit to the Colchester Wine Centre in Gosbecks Road. This will be an informal visit to the tasting bar where a member of staff will give us a brief tutorial on the wines that are available for tasting. Advice on any of the wines available for purchase in the shop will also be provided.

Please add your name and telephone number to the list if you are interested. Car sharing will be recommended as parking is limited. We will probably aim to meet up in Tiptree at 14.00 then travel as a group to Colchester.

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

## On the Notice Board

If you are planning to put something on the notice board that is not group related and it is available prior to the first Friday of the month, the Editor would be pleased to include it in this section of the News Sheet.

The following items of News, including U3A Head Office Information Notices, appeared on the Notice Board at the next or at a recent Monthly Meeting.

- Group Co-ordinator Report
- Gardening Group Dates (Leaflet – See Pat Yates)
- Jazz Appreciation Study Day next June in Leeds.
- South East U3A Forum Summer School; June 28<sup>th</sup>/July 1<sup>st</sup>. This is to be held at the University of Chichester. (see me for details).

Every month we receive information from Head Office keeping our Group informed of events happening throughout the UK. So if you are interested and would like further information please contact me.

Brenda on 01245 400492

## From Members

If you have something, articles, comments, requests, that you would like to be included here in the News Sheet. (Editor)

## Letter to the Editor

Heybridge U3A Editor

I was wondering if, like me, other members grow their own vegetables from seed. Then, once the seeds have been sown, throw away several seedlings or plants because there are too many. Perhaps we could get together and swap seedlings. Later on in the year to be swap vegetables if there is an abundance of one crop or another.

Also not wishing to be rude or nosey are there any members that have vegetables plots that they are no longer using? Due to various personal reasons again perhaps we could get together and grow some vegetables and then share the produce. Please contact me Dave Mason on 01621 858635 or email me at [tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk).

If you are interested in my ideas or alternatively contact Pat Yates at [pat.yates@tesco.com](mailto:pat.yates@tesco.com)

Dave Mason

(Ed. There is little time to act this year as seedling soon become larger plants or have to be discarded. However, see the Gardening Section about how seedlings and small plants can be exchanged at the May Monthly Meeting and if successful at the June Monthly Meeting).

## Diary of Meetings and Visits.

For details see articles and co-ordinators above'

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>9th May</b>	9 Petanque 14.00 Gardening 14.30	10 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	11	12 Walking 14.00	13 <b>Monthly Meeting</b> 14.00	14	15
<b>16th May</b>	16 Petanque 14.00 French Conversation 14.00	17 Local History 14.00	18 Book Group 14.30	19 Computer 14.00	20 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00 Coastal and Marine 14.00	21	22
<b>23rd May</b>	23 Petanque 14.00 Gardening 14.30	24 Scrabble 14.00	25	26 Family History 10.30	27 Bird Watching 10.00 Luncheon The Plough Peldon 13.00 Painting 14.00	28	29
<b>30th May</b>	30 No Petanque Bank Holiday	31	1 <sup>st</sup> June	2 Photography 14.00	3 <b>Committee Meeting</b> 10.00 Painting 14.00	4	5
<b>6th June</b>	6 Petanque 14.00	7 Threads 14.00	8 Wine Tasting 14.00 (Tiptree)	9 Walking 14.00	10 <b>Monthly Meeting</b> 14.00	11 Weekender Coffee at Lock Cafe, Heybridge Basin 10.00	12
<b>13th June</b>	13 Petanque 14.00 Gardening 14.30	14 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	15 Book Group 14.30	16 Computer 14.00	17 Coffee Morning 11.00 Coastal and Marine 14.00 Painting 14.00	18	19
<b>20th June</b>	20 Petanque 14.00	21 Local History 14.00	22 Theatre group	23 Family History 10.30	24 Bird Watching 10.00 Luncheon TBC Painting 14.00	25	26
<b>27<sup>th</sup> June</b>	27 Petanque 14.00	28 Scrabble 14.00	29	30	1 <sup>st</sup> July <b>Committee Meeting</b> 10.00 Painting 14.00	2	3