



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

# Heybridge U3A

## News Sheet No. 2012/5

### May 2012

Contacts: Peter Thorpe Chairman 01621 850828

Brenda Dewar Secretary 01245 400492

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

#### From the Chairman

I was delighted to see so many people at the last meeting. Being present meant that each of us has renewed our membership enabling us to continue to enjoy the amazing benefits of belonging to our U3A. At this juncture, it is worth reflecting that our subscriptions pay for: hall hire; our individual National U3A membership fees; our speaker's fees; our News Sheet and website; refreshments; general expenses and equipment. As members, we organise and run everything in the Heybridge U3A ourselves - there is no mystery group called "they" who do anything for us! We are a unique and friendly U3A and I hope that every member will try to do something to help and make our U3A prosper for many years to come.

We have to book the speakers at our monthly meetings many months in advance and we aim to provide a varied programme of talks on interesting local and national topics, balanced with some light hearted and entertaining afternoons.

After spending a few minutes introducing the CoGs and their groups to the newer members, I introduced Ray Spiller, who had come to take us on a musical trip down "Memory Lane". Ray is a professional entertainer with a vast collection of music on CDs. Using his hi-tech sound system, Ray took us through the history of 1960's pop music. He skilfully engaged with his audience and



Ray Spiller - Author – Peter Thorpe

I look forward to being with you all again at our meeting on Friday May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Email [thorpe101@btinternet.com](mailto:thorpe101@btinternet.com) or phone 01621 850828.

Peter Thorpe.

interspersed the factual information on the numerous tracks played with light hearted jokes. From the many smiley faces around the hall, Ray's return visit to us had proved to be a "hit"!

#### From the Editor

The Diary on the last page has been updated to the end of June 2012. 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 anything that relates to The Heybridge U3A or the U3A movement as a whole, then please contact me with the information so that it can be included in the News Sheet. This reminds me of a recent visit by coach to Camden Market

where four of our members were also on the coach.

They returned to coach after a lunch with a difference.

(See Four Ladies on page 7)



Eye Patches – Author Ian Newman

Please may I have your copy by the last Friday of the month to enable me to assemble the News Sheet for delivery by email approximately five days before the Monthly Meeting.

Printed copies will be available, as usual, at each Monthly Meeting. Please continue to send details to me, preferably by email (see below) with 'Heybridge U3A' in the title. Alternatively talk to me at the Monthly Meeting.

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

Ian Newman.

#### Heybridge U3A Monthly Meetings

The next Monthly Meeting is on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May starting at the normal time of 14.00, in the Plantation Hall, Heybridge. This month we have a talk on the subject of the Air Ambulance in Essex.

A list of other potential subjects for the following Monthly Meetings are as follows:

- June 2012: Hylands Park.
- July 2012: Plume School Drama Department.
- August 2012: Stow Maries WW1 Airfield.
- September 2012: Chris Thornton, Local History.
- October 2012: Mike Logan, Auctioneer.

## Group Names, Co-ordinator, Contact Telephone

Group Name	Co-ordinator (COG)	Telephone Number
Art (Painting)	Michael Kempen	01621 892974
Bird Watching	Maureen Lenoir	01621 869871
Coastal & Marine	Brenda Dewar	01245 400492
Coffee Morning	Margaret Brown	01621 854885
Computer	Tina Abeysekera	01621 858635
Creative Writing	Angela Pleasance	01621 850310
Family History	Lesley Pomphrett	01621 817733
French Conversation	Jenny Parker	01621 843581
Gardening	Pat Yates	01621 892866
Italian	Janice Slight	01621 853393
Local History	Carol Greenhalgh	01621 840339
Luncheon	Dave Mason	01621 858635
Petanque	Barbara Barbrook	01621 855605
Photography	Peter Thorpe	01621 850828
Reading & Books	Ann Lees	01245 225153
Scrabble	Ruth Tyler	01621 856212
Technical Computing	Colin Mason	01621 854906
Ten Pin Bowling	Janette Lett	01621 879697
Theatre		
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

## Membership Secretary

148 members have now paid their 2012-13 subscriptions, with one more intending to do so. However, 20 members have not yet renewed their membership. If you are one of those and wish to continue with us, please let me have your payment at, or before, the next monthly meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> May. If your subscription remains unpaid after that date I will assume that you wish to cease your membership unless you tell me otherwise.

If you are not a member and would like to find out more about the Heybridge U3A, you are welcome to attend a monthly meeting (held in the Plantation Hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month at 14.00) as a guest. There is no need to book, just turn up and sign in.

For any queries regarding membership, please

Email [jennyparker14@hotmail.com](mailto:jennyparker14@hotmail.com) or phone me on 01621 843581.

Or, If I am not available, please

Email [angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk) or phone Angela on 01621 850310.

Jenny Parker.

## From the COGCo (Group Co-ordinator)

The weeks between writing articles for the News Sheets seem to go very quickly and it is now time to write again. I really did enjoy the last Monthly Meeting but hope that Engelbert Humperdinck does not win the Eurovision Song Contest as I am sure that Ray's promise would not please WI members! This will probably not mean anything to those of you who did not attend, but he promised to perform at every Essex WI meeting stark naked if he won! Please note that he did not offer to do this at U3A meetings. I would also approve of his choice of YMCA for a U3A song to start every meeting we have – OK it was only a joke.

Email [gillthorne2@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gillthorne2@hotmail.co.uk) or phone 01621 852294.

Gill Thorne.

## REPORTS

### Art (Painting) Group

The Friday painters are finding themselves a little less cramped in their Claydon Room 'studio' as the holiday season draws on and more and more members go AWOL for a week or two.

Although we are down on numbers there is still no shortage of ideas for subject matter. Country and coastal views are, as always, the favourite themes with holiday snaps and family portraits not far behind.

June will see two return visits by Maldon artist Jenny whose previous visits to Heybridge, and the painting tutorials she gives at home, have proved enormously popular with some of the group.

Members also await the arrival of sunnier Fridays when they can perhaps, at last, treat themselves to the occasional group 'field trip' to sketch or paint outdoors, a suggestion first made about a year ago!

Gill Carpenter

Email [m.kempen@sky.com](mailto:m.kempen@sky.com) or phone 01621 892974.

Michael Kempen

### Bird Watching Group

The weather had been wet all week but on Friday morning the sun came out for us so we could enjoy our walk at Chigborough Lakes.

As we started out the birds were singing all around us. I think they were also enjoying the sunshine.

The Robin was the first bird to give us a song. He is only a small bird but he has such a loud voice just like the Wren, which we heard later. We watched about six Great Tits going in and around a nesting box, and wondered which pair would make it their home. There were quite a lot of

Chiffchaffs singing around us. They have a distinctive song which we could all recognize. There are a large group of Herons, Little Egrets and Cormorants all nesting in a cluster of bushes and trees around the lake. The nests look just like a jumble of sticks and I wonder how they hold the eggs, without them falling through, as sometimes the nests are high up in the branches.

The wild flowers were out and we found out we were calling them by different names. I think it must have something to do with the areas in which we grew up. A pair of Orange tip Butterflies were on the flowers. Only the male has the orange tips and the female is white. We were lucky to see them as they are quite rare.

The best part of the day, for us all, was watching a Great Crested Grebe. He seemed to know he was the main attraction and gave us a display which showed us his diving skills and the wonderful colours of his breeding plumage. A



pair are nesting on a little Island on the lake. We have been told that the male carries the young on his back. We might be lucky to see that some time.

Great Crested Grebe - Author Jill McGregor

Next month, on the 25<sup>th</sup> May, we are going to Two Tree Island, meeting the warden at 15.00. We are hoping to see the Avocet chicks.

For further information, email [symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk) or phone 01621 869871. Maureen.

### Computer Group

Eight members of the group attended the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> April. This month's meeting continued with the subject of 'saving our work'. Ian brought along examples of floppy discs through to DVD's, memory sticks and an external hard drive. Some of us had forgotten about this earlier media, which were in use for a relatively very short period. We are now using hard drives for file storage with the future storage being in the 'Clouds'. I feel that we all have remembered experiences and problems from the past and have gained from our discussions. It was a very enjoyable afternoon. The next meeting will be in the Claydon Room on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 14.00. The subject will be the Computer Group's input to their section of Heybridge's web site. Your ideas on how it might look are needed.

We are a very interesting group. Come and find out.

Report Ken Russell

For further information: Email [tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk) or phone 01621 858635.

Tina Abeysekera

### Coastal and Marine Group

Our visit to the London Docklands Museum was really interesting. We all found that travelling by train was easy and relaxing, although I must admit Stratford "International" Station was quite a surprise, much larger than I remember and obviously ready for the influx of visitors to the Olympics. The DLR took us to West India Quay and we all gathered in the Museum coffee shop area, enjoying the copious armchairs and sustenance ready to uncover London's history as a port. The Museum is extremely well laid out, with intricate models and interesting artefacts illustrating the complex history of the area. We all wandered at our own pace. Whilst we were there, a TV crew were filming for a programme to be shown on the BBC in June, all



part of the Jubilee. I must remember to watch it! When we came out of the Museum, into a 21<sup>st</sup> century scene of high rise office blocks, it was hard to relate it to the photographs of the old docks and the terraced houses of not that long ago. A different world! Thank you to all those who came along and made the day so enjoyable.

Our May visit is on the Barge (Spare ticket available. Cost £50). If you are interested, please telephone me. We have planned to visit Chatham on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June. Please contact John Harrison (01621 854851) who has kindly offered to be the Organizer for this trip.

Email [brendadewar@btinternet.com](mailto:brendadewar@btinternet.com) or phone 01245 400492

Brenda Dewar.

### Creative Writing Group

We had a small but lively gathering this month with some varied stories arising from the 'homework'. As a result of our discussions, the project for next month is to be a biography, or part of one. This could be for a real or fictional character; the idea is to create a believable person.

Please note a change of venue for next month only. Charlie will be our host on **May 23<sup>rd</sup>** at 14.30. Please also note that the date shown on the April News Sheet is wrong; my apologies for not picking up on this before publication. If you are part of the creative writing group you should already have heard from me with the details. My thanks to Charlie for allowing himself to be volunteered. I will catch up with everyone in June when we resume normal service.

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

Angela Pleasance



### Discussion Coffee Morning Group

This month part of our discussion was rubbish! Of course, I refer to recycling and waste disposal!

Linda provided the much appreciated refreshments. We look forward to the next meeting at 11.00 on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May at Jean Murray's house. Details will be provided at the next meeting or please contact me.

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

### Family History Group

For our April meeting some of our Group linked with Blackwater Family History Group for a Guided Tour of Essex Records Office in Chelmsford. It was very interesting and we were shown all the different types of records that they held. We were also allowed into the restoration department, which is fascinating. Just for information, the Blackwater Family History Group meet at the West Maldon Community Centre on the third Thursday of the month i.e. 17<sup>th</sup> May at 14.00. Geoff, their Co-Ordinator invited our members to visit if they wished.

Our next Heybridge meeting will be on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May 10.30 to 12.30, at my house, as usual. Kay, from Blackwater Group, will be joining us again to talk about Rootsweb and to re-visit the Family Search web site. Don't forget, if you have any problems Kay will be delighted to help you, so come armed with names and dates etc.

Please phone if you need information or directions.

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

Lesley Pomphrett.

### French Conversation Group

Our group met two days after Easter to discuss an article, which translates as; "Easter in France: Religion, holiday feasts and chocolate". The writer of the article started by explaining that Easter's date moves with the phases of the moon and how it had started in pagan times as a Spring Festival celebrating rebirth, in the form of eggs. He then went on to explain that Passover and Easter inherited the earlier idea. He then went on to write about the idea of the lamb being used as a substitute for Human Sacrifice (personally, the earliest instance of this that I can think of is Abraham, Isaac and the ram, but the others may disagree).



But the most enthusiastic part of the article is entitled 'Le chocolat'. He writes about Easter egg hunts and how, in France, chocolate comes in the form of eggs, chickens, rabbits (or were they hares?) and bells. The chocolate bells were to explain an old folk tale about the church bells going to Rome when they were silent at the end of Lent. In all, an article to provoke a good discussion.

'Le chocolat' – Author Pat Newman

We meet regularly at 10.00 on the second Wednesday of the month.

Pat Newman and Jenny Parker.

For further information please:

Email [jennyparker14@hotmail.com](mailto:jennyparker14@hotmail.com) or phone me on 01621 843581.

Jenny Parker.

### Gardening Group

Many thanks to all the hardy perennials of the Gardening Group who braved the weather to visit Peacocks. It was a lovely garden but, unfortunately, the worst weather of any visit we have had. The owners were very welcoming and provided tea in a garden room complete with a wonderful log-burning stove where we steamed gently. Our next visit is to The Old Rectory at Boreham on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May at



14.30. I do hope you can come and I would also like to welcome anyone who has never been on a garden visit before.

Author Pat  
Yates

Email [pat.yates@tesco.net](mailto:pat.yates@tesco.net) or phone 01621 892866.

Pat Yates.

### Italian Conversation

The Italian Conversation Group for Beginners met at Pat's house on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> of April. We listened to some Italian tapes, that Pat had on loan from the library, and managed to work through several of the lessons repeating what was said when we were told to. We then worked on a crossword puzzle that had 50 verbs in Italian in it. Some verbs we knew, some were easy to guess from the English, others we had not come across before.

The next meeting will be Monday 7th May (despite it being a Bank Holiday) At Gill's.

The Advanced Italian Conversation Group met on Monday 23rd April at Sue's house. Everyone came prepared with a piece written in Italian about the various activities that they had been involved in over the previous month. These were read out to the group. We also read out an interesting article in Italian about the origins of the future tense of verbs in Italian (e.g. *finirò* from *finire* ho), and in French (e.g. *je finirai* from *finir* ai). Amongst the many other subjects discussed in the meetings, Italian ice cream always seems to be a favourite topic.

The next meeting will be Monday 21st May, again at Sue's.

Email [janice.slight@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:janice.slight@tiscali.co.uk) or phone 01621 853393

Janice Slight.

## Local History Group (LHG)

Twenty-three of us made our way to the WW1 Aerodrome at Stow Maries where were given an update of the progress that has been made there since our visit two years ago. We were ably guided by Roger Smith from Maldon U3A who is one of the volunteers there. We were extremely lucky with the weather, being in the hanger during a very heavy shower. We were also treated to an impromptu display by a barn owl or two, much to the delight of the bird-watchers among us. Our visit ended with tea and questions in the NAAFI [although some did then take a peek in the pristine racing car workshop!]. A good day, and I know many are planning a return visit during their 'Fly-in' days over the next bank holiday.

As they are opening specially for us, we are hoping for as good a turn out for our visit to the Essex Police Museum in Chelmsford on 15<sup>th</sup> May. Our numbers, however, must not exceed 25 so it is important that we have names as soon as possible. As Carol is away, please let **Gill Carpenter** know if you plan to come. Her number is 01621 859060. Gill will also have directions and parking information. Car sharing is recommended.

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

Carol Greenhalgh

## Luncheon Group

Due to a change of venue, the Chequers being closed, twelve of us met at The White Horse Hotel in Maldon. There was quite an extensive menu, including vegetarian choices, starters, mains and puddings. Most of us enjoyed our meal and I think it was reasonable value for money. We all enjoyed a good chat and caught up with each others news.

I put the idea to the group that we meet at 4 or 5 regular venues, still on the 4th Friday of each month. Most of us thought it was a good idea. Therefore, I am asking luncheon club members to vote by email or tell me their five venues from the last three years. The votes will be counted and the most popular four, or perhaps five, will be the venues we will use in future.

Our next lunch will be at The Bell in Purleigh CM3 6QJ at the earlier time of 12.30. Looking forward to seeing some new faces as well as our regulars.

Email [tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk) or phone 01621 858635.

Dave Mason.

## Petanque Group

As I write this article there are two Bank Holidays looming. The one on the 7<sup>th</sup> May will soon be over and then there is another on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June. We will not be there on that date. However on other Mondays you will find us on the Petanque Terrain on the Maldon Promenade. If you ring me before I can always bring spare boules if you do not have any, and the rules are very easy to learn. So come along if you fancy a try. You get two hours of exercise in

the fresh air, which is free so it is good value. We are very informal so don't be shy. With summer coming it should be a good season.

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

Barbara Barbrook.

## Photography Group

We did not have a photo assignment (homework) scheduled for our April meeting. We spent the whole session discussing how our cameras captured images. We looked at the similarities of our modern digital cameras when compared with old simple box cameras. We realised that even if they did not look anything like each other they were very similar in the way they processed light to create a photograph. We considered how, making changes to the lens aperture, the shutter speed and the ISO sensitivity affected the finished photograph. We also quickly cottoned onto the fact that the computing power of a modern camera, when set to "auto", could sort out all of the settings instantly and, generally, was able to do a pretty good job without all the science!

We did set an assignment subject for May. This was to take two photographs of the same subject, with the same camera, to create two different looking images, by taking one photograph with the "auto" setting and another using one of the "manual" settings.

Still Life

Author – Pat Yates



If you are interested in digital photography, come and join us at Plantation Hall on the first Thursday at 14.00. Our aim is to enjoy and to improve our photography.

Email [thorpe101@btinternet.com](mailto:thorpe101@btinternet.com) or phone 01621 850828.

Peter Thorpe.

## Reading and Books Group

Our meeting this month, based on the book we were given, looked as though it might be a bit uninteresting but, surprisingly, it was not. We had a lively discussion about a book that was not, in fact, that popular. The book, written by Jane Gardam, was called 'God on the Rocks'.

During one glorious summer between the wars, the realities of life and the sexual ritual dance of the adult world creep into the life of the young Margaret Marsh. Her father, a strict religious bigot; her mother bitterly nostalgic for what might have been; friends Charles and Binkie, anchored in the past; Mrs Frayling and Lydia the maid, who is given the vulgar enjoyment of life, all contribute to Margaret's shattering moment of truth. When the storm breaks, it is not only God who is on the rocks, as the summer hurtles towards drama, tragedy and a touch of farce.

We felt the writer's ability to describe the physical elements in the book was brilliant, but her characters lacked substance and the whole story seemed somewhat disjointed and hard to follow, thus losing a coherent theme and plot. It was thought it would help for it to be read twice but, to be honest, most of us could not be bothered. As someone said, 'life is too short'.

Seven of us will be attending the get-together of local book group members on 9<sup>th</sup> May. The Maldon Librarian, who organises the books for all the groups, will be there to talk about the logistics of accommodating the needs of 18 local book group's. We hope to be able to swap books and ideas about how the groups are organised. As we will all be meeting at the Bell in Purleigh we will also be enjoying a good buffet supper.

The next Book Group meeting is on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 14.30. We have one more space available in the group so if you are interested please contact me.

Ann Lees.

Email: [annlees@yahoo.com](mailto:annlees@yahoo.com) or phone 01245 225153

### Scrabble Group

In spite of the dreadful weather, eleven members came to our April meeting, including one lady who had never played before. She went home happily having had lots of guidance and fun.

We play by the rules, but in a very light hearted way.

Not to be outdone by Gill, Elizabeth was first to come up with a very appropriate seven letter word - "Indoors" (for a score of 73) – where we were, whilst the rain hammered down outside. Not to be outdone, Gill, who had no other option, pluralised that word to "options".

Our next afternoon is Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, so do come along to the small room at Plantation Hall, and join us, as soon as you can after 13.30.

Email [r.tyler936@btinternet.com](mailto:r.tyler936@btinternet.com) or phone 01621 856212.

Ruth Tyler

### Technical Computing Group

The April meeting took place at Ian's house, where Norman and Peter made further demonstrations to members regarding updates to the program for adding content to the Heybridge U3A web site. Norman had produced a CD with additions to the main program. It is now possible to add listings for other groups' pages on the left hand side of the main page. Norman must have spent a considerable amount of time on this project, for which we all offer our thanks. We had another interesting comment from Alex regarding using a external USB drive E for backing up data. As this was towards the end of the meeting, it was decided that this would be a good subject to start the next time, which will be on May 10<sup>th</sup> at Peter Thorpe's House. We would like to express our thanks to Pat and Ian for their hospitality at our April meeting.

Email [colin@mason20.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:colin@mason20.wanadoo.co.uk) or phone 01621 854906. Colin Mason

### Ten Pin Bowling

Thirteen of us met up at Madison Heights this month. We hired three lanes. Some had three games where others had two and a few frames before our time ran out. There were some very respectable scores; the highest being 152. Because there are quite a few of us now there seems to be some rivalry going on to see who can win. It is a lot of fun. There were a few strikes and plenty of spares but, most of all, we enjoy ourselves.

We all went into Izumi's after and had lunch and a good chat. That was our Easter treat. It was good to see so many people there this month.

We meet again on the 8<sup>th</sup> May at the normal time of 13.45 for 14.00. Please contact me if you would like to join in the fun.

Email [lettsnooks@talktalk.net](mailto:lettsnooks@talktalk.net) or phone 01621 879697.

Janette Lett.

### Threads and Fabrics Group

In April we met up twice, once for our normal meeting and the second time at the Warner textile Archive in Braintree for an "Invitation to view". We were very lucky to obtain enough tickets, as their events are extremely popular. According to their website they have the second largest collection of flat textiles, after the V&A Museum, in a 19<sup>th</sup>C mill building. We were shown many of the samples that they have in storage, which range between the 18<sup>th</sup>C and the 20<sup>th</sup>C. It was amazing how some of the more delicate samples have survived. The Archive even has two tiny samples of the material used in the Queen's Coronation gowns, in a staff presentation pack. It was a very enjoyable visit and the cakes were good too.

Nb. For the readers of this newsletter who like surfing, the Warner Archive website has some beautiful pictures.

If anyone is interested in joining us on the first Tuesday of each month please contact Anne Thorpe or Pat Newman.

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

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

### Walking Group

Our April walk was around Hillhouse Wood near West



Bergholt to experience and enjoy the signs of spring. The afternoon weather was perfect, the rain held off yet again, and the wood and surrounding countryside were beautiful.



The bluebells were there, not yet in full flower but splendid nonetheless, along with carpets of wood anemones, wood sorrel and celandines. Another location to add to our list of places to revisit in a different season.

There will not be a May walk (unless someone can step in for me) so the next walk should be Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June around Chigborough nature reserve in Heybridge followed by a visit to the nearby cafe for refreshments and to plan the schedule of walks for the next 6 months. Meet at 14.00 in the nature reserve car park (on the left, about 1/4 mile past the fisheries). Do come along and bring ideas and maps if you have them.

Email [e.m.e@talktalk.net](mailto:e.m.e@talktalk.net) or phone 01621 850618. (mobile 07581 029816). Elizabeth

### **Weekenders Group**

There is not much to report this month except that our next two coffee mornings will be at new venues. On Saturday May 12<sup>th</sup> we will be meeting at The Loft in Tollesbury and the following month on the 9<sup>th</sup> June at the Woodlands Tea Rooms which is situated behind Tom's Farm Shop on the left, going towards Tiptree from Maldon. These both have been sampled by Pat Carr and have her approval. I believe Gill has tested the latter.

A reminder that we meet for the coffee morning at the normal time of 10.00.

Email [mars42@btinternet.com](mailto:mars42@btinternet.com) or phone 01621 817518.

Marilyn Corbett.

### **Wine Appreciation Group**

Due to holidays and other commitments I have decided to cancel the Wine Appreciation Group meeting in May this year. Details of a June visit will be available in the June issue of the News Sheet or earlier at the May Monthly Meeting.

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

Jackie Jones.

**The Essex Association of U3As Study Day** will be at The Plume School, Maldon on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012 between 09.30 and 15.30. The cost is £10 for the day with tea and coffee provided. There will be two 1hr 30min sessions.

Currently we have leaders for the following groups: Botany, Computers for Beginners, Creative Writing, Digital Photography (whole day group), Essex Place Names, Exploring Drama, Family History, First Aid, French for Beginners, Line Dancing, Maths, Paper Craft, Patchwork, Singing for Pleasure, Stow Maries Aerodrome (A Shared Learning Project), Watercolours for the Frightened (whole day group).

Final information and Booking Forms will be sent out on 23<sup>rd</sup> June and the deadline for applications on 15<sup>th</sup> September. Details of allocated groups will be sent out by the end of September.

An updated notice will be on the Notice Board at the next Monthly Meeting. The invitation will be sent out towards the end of June and to secure your places a quick response will be needed. For further information, please contact Ian Newman or Joyce Woodham.

### **On the Notice Board**

The following items of News can be seen on the Notice Board at the next Monthly Meeting or have been available at a recent Monthly Meetings.

Every month we receive information from Head Office keeping our Group informed of events happening throughout the UK. Details will be on the notice board.

If you are interested in anything and would like further information, please contact me:

Email [brendadewar@btinternet.com](mailto:brendadewar@btinternet.com) or phone 01245 400492.

Brenda Dewer

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. If it is something that takes a whole page this can easily be sent out with the Monthly News Sheet.

### **Limebrook U3A**

Limebrook U3A are organising a coach trip to Bressingham Gardens and Steam Day (nr. Diss, Norfolk) on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July, leaving West Maldon Community Centre at 09.30. Tickets are £21 including entrance to gardens & steam event. Contact; Brian or Beverly Hunt on 01621 781048.

### **Four Ladies**

One Sunday, four quite sane and supposedly sensible lady members, Lesley, Jackie, Miriam and Margaret, went on a coach trip. In the morning we visited Columbia Road Flower Market located in a narrow road lined with stalls selling an amazing range of shrubs, plants and flowers of every possible colour. Four happy ladies struggled back to meet the coach.

Then we were off to Camden Lock Market where there are lots of markets dotted around where we decided to go into the Stables Market. This market has quite an interesting history as it was the stable area and horse hospital where horse tunnels could be used to move the horses around. In the 1800's it covered a large area. Today it is a huge market full of strange, weird and wonderful things for sale.

An interesting restaurant called Shaka Zulu serving South African food can be found. To get inside we went down an escalator noting that there was no escalator up. We were not sure if we were disappearing never to be seen again! But inside it was amazing. All the furniture is decorated in African style, bright colours and patterns, and the walls were covered with huge charging elephants, beautifully carved animals and Zulu Warriors. With subtle lighting and low African music, the atmosphere was electric. It was more South African than South Africa itself.

We looked at the main menu, which included crocodile, ostrich and the usual South African dishes, but being sensible ladies, we decided to have the South African spit-roast Sunday lunch, which was delicious. Whilst we sat at the table two 'Zebras' were walking round and then we were offered free African style face painting by a very nice girl. That was when four normally sensible ladies finally flipped each choosing a different pattern; a happy moment of madness. We spent over two hours in an amazing atmosphere with beautiful decor, proud Zulu

warriors, African music, two very friendly Zebras and very helpful staff. When we left, we all felt we had been able to have a taste of South Africa in atmosphere as well as food.



.....by the way there is a lift or stairs at the exit!!

(Use Adobe to see picture)

### Diary of Meetings and Visits.

For details see articles and co-ordinators above.

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>7th May</b>	7 Beginners Italian 10.00	8 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	9 French Conversation 10.00	10 Technical Computing 14.00	11 Monthly Meeting 14.00	12 Weekender Coffee at the Loft 10.30	13
<b>14th May</b>	14 Petanque 14.00	15 Local History 14.00	16 Book Group 14.30	17 Computer 14.00	18 Painting 14.00 Coffee Morning 10.00	19	20
<b>21st May</b>	21 Petanque 14.00 Advanced Italian 10.00	22 Scrabble 14.00	23 Creative Writing Group 14.30	24 Family History 10.30	25 News Sheet Copy to Editor Painting 14.00 Luncheon TBC Bird Watching	26	27
<b>28th May</b>	28 Petanque 14.00 Gardening 14.30	29	30 Coastal and Marine	31	1 <sup>st</sup> June Committee Meeting Painting 14.00	2	3
<b>4th June</b>	4 Bank Holiday Beginners Italian TBC	5 Bank Holiday Threads 10.00	6	7 Photography 14.00	8 Monthly Meeting 14.00	9 Weekender Coffee at the Loft 10.30	10
<b>11th June</b>	11 Petanque 14.00	12 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	13 French Conversation 10.00 Coastal and Marine	14 Technical Computing 14.00 Walking 14.00	15 Painting 14.00 Coffee Morning 10.00	16	17
<b>18th June</b>	18 Petanque 14.00 Advanced Italian 10.00 Gardening 14.30	19 Local History 14.00	20 Wine Tasting 14.00 Book Group 14.30	21 Computer 14.00	22 Painting 14.00 Coastal and Marine Luncheon TBC Bird Watching	23	24
<b>25th June</b>	25 Petanque 14.00	26 Scrabble 14.00	27 Creative Writing Group 14.30	28 Family History 10.30	29 News Sheet Copy to Editor Painting 14.00	30	1 <sup>st</sup> July