



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No. 4/2014

May 2014

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



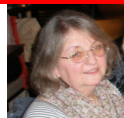





What Easter Eggs did you get?



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NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

From the Chairman

This month's speaker recalled life as it was in her grandmother's time. This brought many memories back to me, as I too, spent much of my childhood living with my Victorian grandmother. I clearly remember how long it took to get the washing done. First we had to light the fire under the copper in the wash-house. Then we had to prod the washing with a 'dolly'. After rinsing the clothes they were put through a very large mangle. This was fine for sheets, but shirts were much more difficult, because, if you did not lay the buttons absolutely flat the mangle either broke them or sent them spinning across the room! Whoever invented the washing machine should be recognised as a women's liberator!

None of us regret the old back-breaking methods of house-work, but I wonder if we should get back to using some of the other skills that we had. I was surprised that the recent programme on sewing has been deemed such a success. I have also noticed that 'knitting' is one of the topics in this year's Study Day. If any of you have skills associated with threads or fabrics, please see report on this group on page 8.

AGM of Heybridge Parish Council

On the 17th April, I spoke about our U3A to the Annual Parish Meeting of Heybridgel. I had a very heavy cold and did not feel at all well, but the Chairman very kindly let me talk about us at the very beginning of the meeting. I was very grateful for that, but left the meeting immediately after my talk and went straight home to a large bowl of ice-cream to ease my throat, then straight to bed!"

Joyce Woodham: phone 01621 841066 or Email woodham359@btinternet.com.

From the Editor

With the change from eight to twelve pages I can only assume that you are happy with the new layout. I think the News Sheet is now easier to read especially if using the .pdf reader. Does the new layout help in finding the information you want? Does the News Sheet cover the topics you want to hear about? You tell me.

There is space available for you to expand your reports. Group Reports have remained in the central pages of the News Sheet, with plenty of space for your photographs. The detailed report of Events currently being planned is now towards the end of the News Sheet.

The reports from the Committee Members can still be found in the first few pages with a contents column to aid in finding the parts which you wish to read first. Do these columns provide the sufficient detail for you as the Members of the Heybridge U3A to understand what the Committee Members do?

The back page shows the Diary page, which has been updated to the end of June 2014.

If you have any comments to make about the News Sheet, please let me know and, if you wish, the comments can be included in the next News Sheet as a letter to the Editor.

Please keep me up to date with any interesting stories, relevant pictures or anything that relates to The Heybridge U3A or the U3A movement as a whole. Continue to send details to me, preferably by email with 'Heybridge U3A' in the title. Alternatively talk to me at the Monthly Meeting.

Ian Newman: Email ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01621 891184.

Membership Secretary

We were pleased to welcome two new members in April, taking our total paid up membership to 145. If you have not yet paid your 2014/15 subscription and wish to remain a member of our U3A, please let me have your payment as soon as possible. If I have not heard from you by mid-May, I will assume you do not wish to re-enrol and will remove your details from the membership list.

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 2nd Friday of each month at 14.00) as a guest. There is no need to book, just turn up and sign in.

Jenny Parker.

For any queries regarding membership, please

Email jennyparker14@hotmail.com or phone me on 01621 843581. Or, If I am not available, please contact Angela by Email angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk or phone on 01621 850310.

From The Treasurer

A big *thank you* to all our members who completed 44the questionnaire. The most wanted item by far was a laptop, to run the projector and for the use of any group. We are going ahead with this purchase.

We have also agreed to support our groups and have devised an application form for the CoG to apply for funding. I have a supply of these, available at the meeting or by email (angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk). Not all groups might want funding, but any support given has to be done fairly and funds are not unlimited. We would therefore be grateful if CoGs could make their initial applications by the end of August so that we have an idea of how much will be required. The committee is still considering the best way to achieve the other expenditure that you requested.

Angela Pleasance:

Email angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 01621 850310.

From the COGCo (Group Co-ordinator)

I am pleased to advise that there are 12 people interested in the Croquet Group from the last main meeting, who will be attending a "taster" session from 13:30 to 16:30 on Wednesday 14th May. The number is ideal, as the Croquet Club have 12 club mallets. Many members have their own. The Club will be playing on the Wednesday morning until 13:00, so the lawns will already be set out. When John Gorrie has everyone together, they can discuss and decide upon suitable arrangements for the rest of the season, when the lawns can be booked in advance. We should be able to avoid clashing with the other U3A Groups, as the members themselves will know their existing commitments. He is keeping the Maldon Club secretary fully informed.

To be fair to anyone who wasn't at the last Friday meeting, he will be ready to accept others at the May meeting but would want to avoid anyone having to hang about rather than playing, as 16 is the maximum who can play at one time without overcrowding. There may be a few drop out if they can't find commonly acceptable playing dates.

Gill Thorne: Email gillthorne2@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01621 852294.

Events Secretary

The following section contains a brief resume of events that have been booked for this year. Further details can be found on page 9.

- Royal Opera House workshop, Thurrock: The Bob and Tamar Manoukian production workshops are set amid beautifully restored old farm buildings and landscaped gardens, and in contrast provide an excellent view of the distant QE2 Bridge! Our group of

eighteen visited on 25th April and were fascinated to watch painters, carpenters and metalworkers creating amazing sets and scenery for the ballets and operas performed at the Royal Opera House. We now have at least some insight into the skills necessary to create world class sets and scenery, using materials which need to be inexpensive, light enough to be easily transported, yet strong, durable and realistic. A very worthwhile visit, which included two interesting and knowledgeable guides



Royal Opera House Workshop:

Author Jenny Parker

- Royal Greenwich: If you are joining us for the Royal Greenwich trip please collect your ticket from Pat at the full meeting, or phone to arrange collection. Timings will be shown on your ticket.
- Ely: A visit on Tuesday June 17th to the beautiful city of Ely.
- Royal Naval Dockyards at Chatham: A visit to the 'Ultimate 1940s Nostalgia Event' at Chatham on Saturday September 20th.
- Autumn Social Evening. Plantation Hall is booked for Friday 17th October 18:30 to 20:30. Cost approx £10.00 each.
- Thursford: A trip to the Thursford Christmas Spectacular 2014 has now been booked for 23rd November 2014.
- Great ideas for 2015 and a change of plan for the picnic – see page 9.

Heybridge U3A Monthly Meeting

The speaker at our next Monthly Meeting, on the 9th May will be Kathleen Morgan who will be giving a talk about Nelson Mandela and his work. The venue, as usual, will be Plantation Hall, Heybridge, starting at 14:00.

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

- 13th June: William Tyler on "A tangled romance: Edward and Mrs. Simpson"
- 11th July: Linda Stratmann: A talk on Essex Murders

GROUP REPORTS

Art (Painting) Group

Thinner numbers than usual for the last painters' group meeting in April, but it was good to see our COG, Michael, back in the fold and looking well following his recent operation.

Judging by several examples of 'work in progress' appearing around the room, some dedicated members of the group had been toiling hard at home during the Easter period.

John had, as usual, provided some excellent pieces for the annual Langford and Ulting Art Show - something we should all, perhaps, aspire to.

Suggestions are now being sought for future guest painters to come and help us develop our techniques further.

Report by Gill Carpenter

For information about the group contact, Michael Kempen: Email m.kempen159@btinternet.com or phone 01621 892974.

Bird Watching Group



Oystercatchers' Boating Accident

Author: Jill McGregor

We were a small, selective group this time as so many people seemed to have gone to the Royal Opera House rather than walk round a chilly bird reserve.

We were met at Tollesbury Wick by Jonathan the site warden and shown the rare breed sheep that live on the marsh. There were no lambs this year as there were not enough EWT volunteers to help with lambing. We walked down to the hide to see what was still around on the scrape, that big shallow lake in the centre of the reserve. The answer was 'not a lot'. All the geese have now gone north to breed as have many of the waders. What is left are our faithful residents; several types

of duck (pochard, shell, tufted etc.) and 11 beautiful avocets looking for nesting sites.

Back up on the sea wall we were given a flying display by two Marsh Harriers high above us and showing off to each other. It is hard to believe that such big birds can be so agile and graceful. Not to be out done a Kestrel hovered overhead and a couple of Common Terns flew past. The mud flats are alive with waders, few as striking to look at as the Oyster Catchers.

For any true 'twitchers' out there - on Tuesday I saw a bird you usually have to go to Scotland or Norway to see. Slumming it at Tollesbury was this amazing Ida Duck.



Ida Male on the Blackwater

Author: Jill McGregor

Report by Jill McGreor

The visit next month (May) will go ahead as usual but the venue has not yet been fixed. Contact Maureen for details.

Maureen: Email symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01621 869871.

Computer Group

The Computer Group met in April as usual on the third Thursday of the month.

Posture at the key board was introduced by Linda giving us tips about eye strain, seating, repetitive strain injury, etc.

As agreed at the last Computer Group meeting it was agreed that we look and see what spread sheets are and what they can do for us. First, what is a spread sheet? Consider an extremely large piece of paper divided into rows and columns. Between any pair of horizontal lines and

vertical lines is an area known as a cell. Into each cell you can place information and instructions. In addition, you can have as many layers of data and instructions as you need.

What they can do?

All the various things that we learnt in WORD and more, including, mathematical calculations and logic instructions.

An example was introduced at the meeting and the group were guided through the process of producing this example by Linda.

Continuing with our introduction of spread sheets, we will look at the basic input to a spread sheet. This introduction will continue at the most basic level.

If you would like the help of a more experienced computer user to enable you to get more from your own computer please come along to our next meeting. The Computer Group Meetings are held in the Claydon Room in Plantation Hall on the third Thursday of each month at 14:00 when you will be made welcome. Just come along.

Ian Newman: Email ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01621 891184.

Creative Writing Group

It was lovely to have a full house for the meeting in April. The subject, 'The Lady', had proved popular. We heard eight very varied stories that people had written and one fascinating tale was recounted. The latter made me think that perhaps we should have another group for story-telling; a difficult art that I would like to learn.

Our next subject might be challenging – 'Custard', or 'Crème Anglais' for the posh among us. It reminds me of the compositions we had to write during detention at school; 'the inside of a ball-bearing,' is one which comes to mind. (I was in detention fairly frequently.) If anyone is inspired by custard and would like to join us please contact me. We meet on the 4th Wednesday in the month at my house in Heybridge Basin at 14:30. New members welcome.

Angela Pleasance: Phone 01621 850310 or email angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk.

Discussion Coffee Morning Group

We met at Lesley's home on 18th April, where we enjoyed very nice refreshments and good company. It was a pleasant start to the Easter weekend.

Our next coffee morning will be held at Marilyn Corbett's house on Friday 16th May at 11:00.

Margaret Brown: phone 01621 854885 or Email mbandmeg@btinternet.com.

Family History Group

There was no meeting in April. The next meeting will be on Thursday 22nd May between 10:30 to 12:30, at my house, as usual.

Lesley Pomphrett: phone 01621 817733 or Email lesleypommy@hotmail.com.

French Conversation Group

Our April meeting started by us warming up by reading in turn and then doing some grammatical exercises, before explaining to the rest of the group what we had been doing since the previous meeting. Members had been to museums, films and plays. Also, one had been on a river trip to Greenwich. Then someone said they had seen 'Cats' some time ago, which they had not enjoyed despite the music. The staging had not worked for her. Years ago I saw it 'in the round' in London and didn't recognise her description of the Musical until I realised that she had seen it stuffed behind a Proscenium Arch. The discussion became really lively when we started talking about new kitchens..... Lastly we read an article about when the 'tu' and the 'vous' forms of 'you' are used and given a test to do at home. We were also given an article on gardening to amuse us over the Easter holidays.

Our meetings are held on the second Wednesday in each month starting at 10:00.

Report by Pat Newman.

For further information please contact:

Jenny Parker: email jennyparker14@hotmail.com or phone 01621 843581.

Gardening Group

I was pleased to see that so many people had made the long journey to Shoebury for our first garden visit. The weather was perfect and the garden full of blossom and tulips. The cakes were pretty good too.



South Shoebury Hall Garden: Full of blossom and tulips: Author Pat Yates.

On the weekend of 17th and 18th May our next visit is to Wivenhoe Open Gardens, with about two dozen gardens to see. I will be there all day on either Saturday or Sunday. If anyone wants some company going round, or a lift, please phone or e-mail to make arrangements.

Pat Yates: Email pat.yates@tesco.net or phone 01621 892866.

Italian Conversation

Unfortunately, due to my husband's on-going treatment, I have still not been able to resume the Italian meetings. I shall advise the members when the next meetings will take place

Janice Slight: Email janice.slight@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01621 853393

Local History Group (LHG)

The sun shone on Langdon Hills when we visited the Plotlands' Museum. The last remaining, and now preserved, cottage is a reminder of a time between the two world wars when those with a bit of money were able to access a rural life, even one with none of today's comforts.



Preserved Cottage

Author : John Harrison

As we looked around, there were lots of comments such as 'we had one like this', 'my grandma used one of these', 'we used to play this' etc. The site remained a settlement of such cottages until compulsory purchase and the building of the new town of Basildon in the fifties.

We are looking forward to our May trip to the Secret Nuclear Bunker at Kelvedon Hatch. There are a few spare places so, if anyone would like to join us, please contact Carol.

Carol Greenhalgh: phone 01621 840339 or Email george.smeed@virgin.net .

Luncheon Group

This month, the event at The Royal Opera House Workshop in Thurrock turned out to be

a bigger attraction for several of our Group than a Fishy Friday lunch at 'The Rare Cow' in Writtle.

Nevertheless a select six of us had a really lovely meal at The Rare Cow, a bit surprising as the two chefs had only started there the previous day; quick learners. A very special dessert they made was described as a 'White Chocolate and Raspberry Crème Brulee', but unlike anything we had seen before. Instead of the caramelised sugar on top they used a layer of chilled tempered dark chocolate. *DELICIOUS!*

Our next lunch is on 23rd May at 'The Compasses, at Pattiswick.

The list will be in the Committee Room during the 9th May Monthly Meeting.

New members to Heybridge U3A, as well as existing members, are very welcome to join us

Any queries please speak to me at Friday's meeting, phone or e-mail.

John W Harrison: email johnwharrison@sky.com or phone 01621 854851.

Patchwork Group

The next meeting of the Patchwork Group will be in the Claydon Room on Monday the 12th May at 14.00.

Anne Thorpe; Email Anne.thorpe@btinternet.com or phone 01621 850828.

Petanque Group

Last month, and again this month, the weekly sessions of Petanque have been interrupted by several Bank Holidays so we shall have missed three weeks out of the two months. However, I am sure everyone has enjoyed the Bank Holidays to spend time with families and will return refreshed and keen to start again. We are also finding that some members have spent time away on holiday and a few new people have joined the group. Please keep July 14th free as we shall be having our Monday session in Heybridge Basin at the kind invitation of Jenny and Graham who have said that we can repeat the Raclette/Petanque session on their drive, and eating in the garden afterwards. Weather permitting it is a very sociable and interesting afternoon in the French style with the Raclette cheese melting machine and, as last year, we hope to have some wonderful desserts. You are welcome to come any week to the Terrain in The Promenade Park to watch and you may join in if we have a request to bring extra boules. Let's hope that the good weather continues for the next few months.

Barbara Barbrook. Email c.barbrook@sky.com or phone 01621 855605.

Photography Group

Last month's photography assignment was "Spring". We had many interpretations of the subject, most of which involved new life in its many forms. There were great shots of lambs, bursting buds and spring flowers. One member managed to capture water seeping from the ground and we were assured that this trickle would eventually reach the Blackwater Estuary. Springs are also essential components in many devices used in our everyday lives and they also were the subject of several photos. It was impressive that two members who had joined us since the previous meeting, had each managed to bring appropriate and thoughtful photographs to share with the group.



Daffodil in Spring: Author: Peter Thorpe

We are settling-in to our new meeting venue and hopefully we will be trying an alternative seating arrangement (with tables - to support cups of tea) at the May meeting. Our chosen assignment for the May meeting is "Blue".

If you want to discover your "photographer's eye", please come along and join us, we have plenty of room. Whether you are completely new or experienced, you will be welcome. Our only aim is to enjoy our photography, by sharing and improving our skills together.

Peter Thorpe: Email thorpe101@btinternet.com or phone 01621 850828.

Reading and Books Group

Kate Adie has the reputation of being one of the most courageous correspondents of her day. We were pleased therefore to have a nonfiction book this month written by Kate Adie, "Into Danger, Risking Your Life for Your Work". However, many of the members did not enjoy this book because they felt it failed to tell us much about the writer herself and why throughout her career she has regularly reported from the world's most dangerous war zones, often placing her own life at serious risk. Instead, Kate Adie wrote about a variety of people who chose a career in danger, like stunt people, landmine exploders, and even a 96 year-old "snake man". One example was Gie Couwenbergh, from Belgium who had spent his career as a naval diver. He was just finishing a Nato exercise in 1987 when the call came that a ferry had capsized just off the port of Zeebrugge. He was airlifted on to the side of the Herald of Free Enterprise and lowered down a 20ft rope, through a broken window into darkness. He jumped another 10ft and landed among desperate survivors where he had one rope to haul them out, one by one. In every interview, printed at the end of each chapter Adie asked her subjects one last question about their career: "In the name of what?" The answers given range from adventure to duty, to enjoyment, but trying to make sense of why people rise to an enormous challenge, was a challenge in itself.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 21st May in Plantation Hall at 14:00.

Further information from Carole Overy.

Email: caroleovery@sky.com or phone 01621 893450.

Scrabble Group

The April meeting was kindly hosted by Gill Thorne in my absence. Do you know your qi from your wadi, or your adze from your pyx? If not, then scrabble will extend your vocabulary in good company and a relaxed atmosphere. The next meeting is on the 27th May at 14:00 in the Committee Room at the Plantation Hall. If you would like to join us do contact me, details below.

Linda Etherton: Email ethertonbikes@aol.com or phone 01621 843702

Solo Whist

Due to the first Wednesday in May being after the publication of the digital copy of the News Sheet, there is no Solo Whist report.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday the 7th of May at 14:00 at Bill & Florence's home. So come along and enjoy a game of solo.

Dave Mason: phone 01621 858635 or Email tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk

Technical Computing Group

The April meeting of the Technical Computer Group took place on Thursday the 10th of April at Ian's house. The majority of the meeting was taken up with a group discussion of the specification of a new computer for general Heybridge U3A groups use. We discussed which make, and type of processor should be included together with the amount of Ram memory, which programs may be required for individual groups use etc. The meeting was quite lively and went on for most of the two hours, with all members giving lots of opinions. The results will be used in future as a working specification to assist the committee in making a decision.

I would like to thank Pat and Ian for the hospitality.

The next meeting will be on Thursday the 8th of May at Norman's house. Any interested U3A member is quite welcome. Please contact me first.

Colin Mason:

Email colin@mason20.wanadoo.co.uk or phone 01621 854906.

Ten Pin Bowling

Our April meeting was our pre- Easter annual lunch where we bowled for two hours from 10.00 and then retired to Izumi for lunch.

The bowling went well with Geoff having the Ohighest score of 146 with 8, out of the 10 of us playing, achieving over 100 in one or more of the 4 games we played.

Although Madison Heights was busy because of school holidays it didn't spoil our enjoyment and we had the usual good value lunch afterwards.

Our next meeting is at the usual time on Tuesday 13th May at 13.45 for a start of 14:00.

New players are always welcome. No previous experience is required, just come and have fun!

Lynne Morrison. phone 01621 891288, Email lynne-morrison@supanet.com (m. 07771 880757)

Threads and Fabrics Group

At our March meeting I had mentioned Easter Eggs and several members had taken up my idea of non-fattening ones. We had little delicate ones and a spectacular handbag made from a recycled woollen jersey. Still our member's imagination surprises and delights me. We talked of sources for patterns, diagrams of new stitches and the latest fabrics and threads. New things are

coming on to the market all the time which allow us to produce things which were not possible just a few years ago. The future looks more exciting with each new invention.



Handbag from Recycled Jersey.

Author Pat Newman

The meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month starting at 14:00.

Pat Newman. Email ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01621 891184.

Walking Group

Our April walk around Terling was enjoyed by 20 people and one dog. The weather was kind, the sun shone and the village and countryside were extremely attractive. We were told about the history of the windmill by a friendly local man tending his garden and saw huge carpets of bluebells in Sandy Wood as we walked by.

For the May outing I suggest a visit to Constable Country. We could walk from Dedham to Flatford (where there is an excellent tea shop) along the north of the Stour and back (taking in a trip into East Bergholt if time) along the south of the river.

There is a free car park off the B1029 into Dedham. We will meet there at 14:00 on Thursday 8th May.

Please let me know if you can come and if you can offer transport or need a lift.

Elizabeth: Email e.m.e@talktalk.net or phone 01621 850618. (Mobile 07581029816).

Weekenders Group

There is nothing to report this month. I have still been getting used to being at home after such a long holiday.

Dates for your diary

- Saturday 14th June at 'Poplar Nursery' Marks Tey at 10:00.
- Saturday 12th July Coffee at Forrester Golf Club, Great Totham at 10.00.

For further details please contact Marilyn.

Marilyn Corbett: Email mars42@btinternet.com or phone 01621 817518.

Wine Appreciation Group

A tour of West Street Vineyard, with a talk and tastings has been arranged for Wednesday 21st May, at the Cogeshall Wine Barn.. The cost is £15. per person and so far I have eight names on the list, which is the minimum number of a group for which the tour can be arranged. So there is plenty of room for more visitors if anyone is interested. Our guide is Jane and the tour is booked for 14:30. There will be time for tea or coffee and cake or scones afterwards in the restaurant. Please contact me if you are interested.

There will be no meeting in June, due to holiday commitments but there is a visit to Bardfield Vineyard arranged for Wednesday 16th July. This visit includes a guided tour and talk followed by tastings and a ploughmans lunch all for a total cost of £18.50 per person. This event has to be booked and paid for by the end of May, so I shall be collecting cheques, made payable to Bardfield Vineyard and choice of either Cheese or Pheasant Pate with the ploughmans lunch at the May meeting. If you wish to come along but cannot make the meeting, please contact me for further information.

Wine visit to Kent. See page 11.

Jackie Jones: Email jachjones@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01621 817117.

Detail of Events:

Further Information and Details

The following events are booked for this year.

Royal Greenwich.

If you are joining us for the Royal Greenwich trip please collect your ticket from Pat at the full meeting, or phone to arrange collection. Timings will be shown on your ticket.

Ely.

For our trip to Ely on Tuesday June 17th the coach will leave Plantation Hall at 09:00 and have until 16:00 to please ourselves as to what we see and do. The wonderful cathedral known as the 'ship of the fens' is a must for most visitors and some will enjoy a stroll by the river and perhaps a visit to the weekly market. There are plenty of excellent places to eat in the city and the house where Oliver Cromwell lived will be open that day, admission £4.10 - (2013). The cost for coach only, will be £15 00 pp and is now due. Please make cheques payable to Heybridge U3A.

Summer picnic at Layer Marney Tower.

A 'Hope and Glory' event is on offer at Layer Marney Tower on 20th July 2014 from 12:00 to 17:00. British music through the ages will be played, with performances around the house and grounds, finishing with a Prom Finale. I hope everyone agrees that this promises to be a better location for our picnic. The cost will be £12.00 per person. Please sign the form if you are interested and pay at the 9th May meeting.

Chatham

The trip to Chatham Dockyards takes place on Saturday 20th September, the weekend of the annual '1940s Nostalgia Event'. It will be like travelling back in time, with 1940s cars, aeroplanes, fashion, music, street scenes,- everything but the war! The more general Docklands exhibitions will also be open to us and there are a number of places to eat at the Dockyards. This time we leave Plantation Hall at 08:30 and we leave the Dockyards at 16:00. Cost £24.50pp. Last date for signing up and payment 8th August.

The Thursford Christmas Spectacular 2014.

I have provisionally booked 15 tickets for Sunday November 23rd 2014 with Boon's Coaches and have confirmed bookings for 10 members. Please sign up as soon as possible if you wish to join us for this extremely popular event. We have the best seats at £68.50 pp. A £10.00 deposit to secure your booking is required immediately.

Social Evening.

Due to popular request, a second social evening is planned and the Plantation Hall booked for Friday 17th October. Possibly fish & chips. Certainly lots of board games!

Ideas for 2015

A coach trip to the beautiful Kew Gardens, late in April. Group rate admission £10.65, plus cost of coach.

A visit to the tractor plant in Basildon.

A day cruise on a Thames Barge from The Hythe.
Please sign up for the events and contact me with any queries.

Pat Smith; Email patcleary98@sky.com or phone 01621 856569

Stow Maries Embroidered Panels

The two Stow Maries Embroidered Panels represent in Panel 1, The Present Day and in Panel 2 The First World War.



Panel 1, The Present Day



Panel 2 The First World War.

Photographs Taken by Peter Thorpe prior to them being framed.

The two panels have been designed and created as a combined U3A Project involving U3As from: Maldon and District; Heybridge; South Woodham Ferrers; Baddow and Galleywood. The members of Heybridge U3A who were involved are: Carol Symonds; Anne and Peter Thorpe.

The framed panels will be unveiled at Stow Maries Aerodrome on Sunday 4th. May by the Daughter of Claude Ridley, the Commanding Officer during the First World War.

Association of Essex U3As

The next meeting of the Essex Association of Essex U3As is on 9th May. They have booked an expert in data protection to come and speak. This should be a very worthwhile talk.

It will also be the Associations AGM. The current committee members are prepared to continue – Joyce Woodham, Chair; Paul Mardon, Treasurer;

Doug Harryman, Secretary; Beryl McDonnell, committee member. Sadly, Judy Wayne, our Vice chairman, has had to step down, so we need a replacement for this post. We are also inviting nominations for more committee members. A nomination form is available from me.

Joyce Woodham phone 01621 841066 or Email woodham359@btinternet.com

Association of Essex U3A's Study Day 2014

There has been news that a new Planning Committee has been assembled. We will keep you informed if and when news on this subject is forthcoming.

Ian Newman: Email ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01621 891184

On the Notice Board

Items from the latest mailing that might be of interest to members.

- The programme and application form for the U3A AGM and Conference, 9-10th September 2014 at Cirencester (available from the Members' Area of the website).
- U3A Diary 2015 @ £2 each, order form for bulk ordering.
- U3A at the Royal Society - Technology, Well-being and the Brain, a talk from Dr Paul Howard Jones in The Wellcome Trust Lecture Theatre at the Royal Society, London. Tickets £15.
- U3A Vision and Mission Statement (updated January 2014 version).
- A copy of the St John Ambulance Pocket Guide to Essential First Aid is available and can be obtained free of charge.
- Science Week talk on Thursday 3rd July, "The evolutionary secrets of your garden plants" by Dr Martin Ingrouille at the Stratford Campus of School of Science, Birkbeck, University of London E15 1NN. Admission free by ticket only. Apply in writing to U3A National Office, 19 East Street, Bromley BR1 1QE with sae, including your telephone number and/or email address.
- The 2014 Photography competition, theme Architectural Britain - old and new. Closing date 31st August 2014

Contact Linda Etherton for further details. (See page 1 for contact details).

Co-operation between Maldon Area U3As

Details of the ways in which we can work more closely for the benefit of all members is being

developed and details provided when they are known.

Contact Joyce Woodham for further details. (See page 1 for contact details).

From Other U3A's

Wine Tasting in Kent – Tuesday 12th August.

The Wine Groups are arranging a coach trip and spaces may be available to any U3A member. The proposed itinerary is:

Depart West Maldon Community Centre at 08:30 to arrive Chapel Down Winery, Small Hythe at 10:30 for a guided tour and tastings. We leave at approximately 12:30 to travel to Biddenden Vineyards. On arrival a ploughman's lunch will be served followed by a guided tour and tastings. We leave at approximately 16:30 to arrive back in Maldon at 18:00.

Total cost including lunch £37.

To book a place please contact Paul Costa on 01621 853893 or email paul@costa.me.uk

From Blackwater U3A

A trip to Portsmouth and the Historic Dockyard on Monday 7th July 2014.

The Blackwater U3A BRATS group (Transport) would like to offer Blackwater and other local U3A group members the opportunity to join us for what should be a very interesting day out to Portsmouth

Travel by coach, departing from the West Maldon Community Centre, Maldon at 08:00 with a return departure from Portsmouth at 16:30.

For those not wishing to visit the Dockyard just book a coach seat and arrange your own visits to the other attractions in the area.

Fares: Coach only £17.00 per head or Coach and Dockyard £36.00 per head.

Please contact the trip co-ordinator before sending cheques, Bookings for the Dockyard visit will close on 4th June. Cheques should be made payable to : BLACKWATER U3A

Trip co-ordinator:

Ron Martin, 56 Gloucester Ave., Maldon CM9 6LA
E-mail – rondimar@btinternet.com Tel : 01621 856347

Other Information

A concert to be given in September by the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain at Cambridge Corn Exchange. It is an event the St.Neots U3A Uke Group and others are involved with,,,,,,,,,,,,, and the proceeds are going to local charities. Tickets come direct from the Corn Exchange www.cornex.co.uk Tel 01223 357851. The Orchestra website is www.ukuleleorchestra.com

Group Name, Co-ordinator, & Contact Phone Number

Group Name	Co-ordinator (COG)	Telephone Number
Art (Painting)	Michael Kempen	01621 892974
Bird Watching	Maureen Lenoir	01621 869871
Coffee Morning	Margaret Brown	01621 854885
Computer	Ian Newman	01621 891184
Creative Writing	Angela Pleasance	01621 850310
Family History	Lesley Pomphrett	01621 817733
French Conversation	Jenny Parker	01621 843581
Croquet	John Gorrie	01621 854006
Gardening	Pat Yates	01621 892866
Italian	Janice Slight	01621 853393
Local History	Carol Greenhalgh	01621 840339
Luncheon	John Harrison	01621 854851
Patchwork	Anne Thorpe	01621 850828
Petanque	Barbara Barbrook	01621 855605
Photography	Peter Thorpe	01621 850828
Reading & Books	Carole Overy	01621 893450
Scrabble	Linda Etherton	01621 843702
Solo Whist	Dave Mason	01621 858635
Technical Computing	Colin Mason	01621 854906
Ten Pin Bowling	Lynne Morrison	01621 891288
Threads & Fabrics	Pat Newman	01621 891184
Walking	Elizabeth Eastwood	01621 850618
Weekenders	Marilyn Corbett	01621 817518
Wine Group	Jackie Jones	01621 817117

Diary of Meetings and Visits

For details see articles and co-ordinators above.

Week Starting	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
5 th May	5 Bank Holiday	6 Threads 14.00	7 Solo Whist 14.00	8 Technical Computing 14.00 Walking 14.00	9 Monthly Meeting 14.00	10 Weekender Coffee at White Elm Nursery 10.00	11
12 th May	12 Patchwork 14.00 Petanque 14.00	13 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	14 French Conversation 10.00	15 Computer 14.00	16 Painting 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00	17 Gardening Wivenhoe Open Gardens	18 Gardening Wivenhoe Open Gardens
19 th May	19 Petanque 14.00	20 Local History 14.00	21 Wine Tasting 14.00 Book Group 14.00	22 Family History 10.30	23 Painting 14.00 Bird Watching Luncheon	24	25
26 th May	26 Bank Holiday	27 Scrabble 14.00	28 Creative Writing Group 14.310	29	30 News Sheet Copy to Editor Painting 14.00 Greenwich 08:30	31	1 st June
2 nd June	2 Petanque 14.00	3 Threads 14.00	4 Solo Whist 14.00	5 Photography 14.00 Walking 14.00	6 Committee Meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00	7	8
9 th June	9 Patchwork 14.00 Petanque 14.00	10 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	11 French Conversation 10.00	12 Technical Computing 14.00	13 Monthly Meeting 14.00	14 Weekender Coffee at Poplars Nursery 10.00	15
16 th June	16 Petanque 14.00	17 Local History 14.00 Ely	18 Book Group 14.00	19 Computer 14.00	20 Painting 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00	21	22
23 rd June	23 Petanque 14.00	24 Scrabble 14.00	25 Creative Writing Group 14.30	26 Family History 10.30	27 News Sheet Copy to Editor Bird Watching Painting 14.00 Luncheon	28	29