

Heybridge u3a

May 2023 News Sheet

Your Committee

<https://u3asites.org.uk/heybridge>

Archive

www.heybridgeu3a.org.uk/archive/news.html

Registered Charity number 1160360

Next Main Meeting – Plantation Hall

Friday 12th May at 2.00 pm

A Celebration of the Royal Coronation

Next Committee Meeting – Plantation Hall






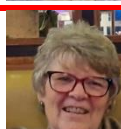
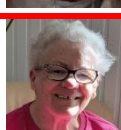
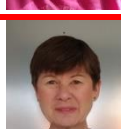

In the Claydon Room

Friday 2nd June at 10.00 am

Main Meeting Refreshments Rota

May – Committee

June – Patchwork

Chair	Jackie Jones chairman@heybridgeu3a.org.uk 01621 817117	
Vice Chair	Hilary Furniaux vicechairman@heybridgeu3a.org.uk 07411 450634	
Secretary	Marilyn Corbett secretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk 01621 817518	
Treasurer	Angela Pleasance treasurer@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
Membership Secretary	Elizabeth Harvey membershipsecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
Publicity Officer	Linda Etherton publicity@heybridgeu3a.org.uk 01621 843702	
Groups Co-ordinator	Moira Penhallow groupsco-ordinator@heybridgeu3a.org.uk 07984 357804	
Speaker Secretary	Lesley Woonton speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk 01621 858135	
News Sheet Editor (Joint)	Lorraine Jeapes editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk 01621 890128	
News Sheet Editor (Joint)	Brian Jeapes editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	

From the Editors

Hello and welcome to the May News Sheet.

Our gardens are starting to burst into life, and are turning green. No doubt those of us with grass to cut have given their lawnmowers their first airing! The weather has been a bit hit and miss recently, but it's generally getting warmer and we can venture outdoors without our big coats – always a good sign!

It will not have escaped you that we have recently witnessed the King's coronation. As we have mentioned in the past we are living in historic times. Whatever your views, this was an event that will go into the history books and remain there for future generations to read about. Heybridge u3a are marking the coronation with tea, cake and a quiz at the next main meeting, as mentioned below. We look forward to seeing you there.

Lorraine & Brian editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

News Sheet Deadline

Please remember all CoG reports, and anything else for inclusion in the news sheet, must be submitted to the Editors by the last weekend of the month. Unfortunately anything submitted after the deadline will not be included as it takes time to put the news sheet together.

News from the Committee

From the Chairman

As we enter a new era of the history of the British Monarchy, with the coronation of King Charles III, I look forward to joining you all on Friday 12th May 2023 for a social afternoon testing our royal knowledge with a quiz and sharing memories whilst enjoying tea and cake.

Jackie Jones chairman@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Speaker Secretary

Just to say about our speaker for April, I thought Siobhan Pierce was very interesting. She was very funny with her Emu puppet. You had to keep your eye on it just in case it jumped out at you.

She took on this role as a Clown called Dolly Daydreams to entertain her children on their birthdays; she was very popular and ended up doing it for her whole village.

This is my first time as Speaker secretary, and I hope you enjoyed the afternoon as much as me.

Lesley Woonton speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Interest Groups Co-ordinator

I am pleased to say that everything seems to be in order for the King's coronation. I have lots of cakes being made by volunteers, and I have the quiz ready as well, supplied by Jan Brown. All I am hoping for now is that the members come along and join in!

I really would like the CoGs to encourage the members in their groups to come along on the 12th May, for the King's coronation.

We are having Tea and Cake plus the quiz, but would also ask the members to bring along any memorabilia of the Royal Family they have, or any memories of the Queen's coronation they can share.

I hope to see as many CoGs as possible on the 12th May.

Moir Penhallow groupsco-ordinator@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

News from around the Groups

Bird Watching

Bird Watching doesn't actually seem like the correct name for our outing this month.

We met at the church in Great Totham and walked down into the woodlands to see the amazing and beautiful bluebells, and wood anemones. We did, however, spot a blackcap singing in the trees and there were plenty of blue tits and great tits about, too. After our walk we were invited back to Pat Yates house for coffee and biscuits and a good natter! Thank you, Pat.

Next month, May 26th, we hope to visit Fingringhoe Wick nature reserve and in June we plan to go to Tollesbury Wick. If you are interested in the visits please contact jill.mcgregor@btinternet.com and I will send you all the details.

Jill McGregor

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Board Games

The Board Games meeting was held at Angela Pleasance's house, and we had three new people joining us for the session; Chris Norris, Hazel Green and Ann Jefferson. It was a lovely afternoon. Four played one game and two played another.

Moira supplied the biscuits this time, and we will be taking it turns to bring the goodies for future sessions.

Moira Penhallow (for Hilary Furniaux)

Cards & Paper Craft

We have been doing as much as we can to get ready for our display meeting in July. We have a couple of birthdays in our group so we managed a little celebration as well.

Lesley Woonton

Croquet

The Croquet season has now started at Maldon Croquet Club's new ground at Hatfield Peverel Bowling Club. I was not able to attend but Chris Norris very kindly covered for me and reported:

'Eight players turned up this week, which was our first session and everyone appeared to enjoy the new venue, even though the weather was very chilly.

We had a new member to welcome, Liz Harvey, who soon got the hang of the game and was playing tactically, like a veteran at the end. The afternoon must go to Hilary who was playing like a champion in every game.

We all enjoyed the afternoon and are looking forward to the next fixture on Wednesday, 17th May.'

Anne Newson

Discussion Coffee Morning

We met on Friday 21st April at Lesley's house in Tiptree. Unfortunately Anne and Jean were unable to be with us, Jean had a hospital appointment and Anne is continuing to recover from her fall in the garden. She is making good progress and we hope to see her at the May get together. As usual Lesley made us very welcome with delicious food; we were spoilt with sandwiches, cake and lovely strawberries. A hard act for the rest of us to follow.

On passing through Lesley's hall we looked at the photograph of Merlin on the wall, a medal winning handsome red setter, no longer with us. He was owned and dearly loved by Lesley's son and daughter in law and by the whole family.

Our next coffee morning will be at Jeans house in Heybridge on Friday 19th May.

Margaret Brown

Eat the World

The last lunch was at the Turtle Bay in Chelmsford. It was certainly a different experience but welcomed by all. One luncher tried the Curried Goat dish and it was a winner for flavour.

The next venue has yet to be decided on.

Elizabeth Harvey

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French

We were a smaller group this month for various reasons. Four of us met and centred our formal chat around Spring and Easter reading three texts which opened the opportunity to expand our chat and refresh our vocabulary. Our incidental chat centred around pets, largely cats and dogs, and various activities both past and future.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday May 10th.

Linda Wells (for Jenny Parker)

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Needlecraft

This month we ventured into Maldon for our monthly gathering. We were warmly welcomed by Pam who was our host and treated us to tea and biscuits. There were six of us this month busily cross stitching, knitting and crocheting. Most of us are working on ongoing projects but one member has started a knitted patchwork cardigan for herself. We also spent the time discussing various topics including our u3a's Facebook page which is hugely under used. Anyone in our u3a can request to join and it would be great to see photos from the different groups. I will try to post photos of our projects in the future. Only three of our members will be able to get together next month as of course we start getting into the time of year people start going on holiday. It was decided to meet at Jackie's house in Tiptree at the usual time of 2.00 pm.

Hilary Furniaux

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Patchwork

Due to the Coronation bank holiday, the next meeting of the Patchwork group will be held on Monday 15th May.

Jackie Voyez

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Petanque

We have still been playing very well on a Monday morning even though the weather has been up and down. Mostly there have been 12 of us each week.

We normally play 3 teams of 4, but if everyone plays then it works out 3 teams of 6, which I can be expecting when all holidays are finished. We do have some very good players, and they get

some really great scores, apart from myself of course (which is hit and miss) that's why we play for fun.

I have to say it is really good fun, and everyone enjoys playing, so if anyone would like to come along please do so. See you Monday morning 10.00 am at Maldon Prom.

Moira Penhallow

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Photography Group

Our April meeting was held on Thursday 6th April via Zoom.

Unfortunately only five members were able to attend. We had 18 photos covering a wide range of activities to view and discuss all taken during March, the subject being "What You Do in a Day".

The next meeting will be held on 4th May 2023 meeting at 2.00 pm at Hythe Quay.

If anyone is interested in joining our meetings to see what the group is about please contact me and I will forward a link to our next meeting. All members of the u3a are welcome.

Norman Grove

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Reading & Books

We meet on the third Wednesday afternoon of each month at members' homes, starting at 2.00 pm and share thoughts or ideas about books we have read and enjoyed. Each month copies of a new book are supplied by Essex Libraries following a list that is compiled and constantly updated by members. This month we are reading "The Light Between Oceans" by ML Stedman. Anyone interested in joining our group can contact me via telephone or email.

Jackie Jones

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Scrabble

With Scrabble there is always an element of chance as the seven tiles are drawn from a little bag, so you never know what you are going to end up with on your rack. Sometimes it's a good idea just to swap a dreadful set of letters completely, even if it means missing a turn. Either that or grit your teeth, bemoan the fates and carry on in the hopes it may get better. March's game was frustrating for one and triumphant for another, but then the tables can turn. For example someone will make a word using all seven letters and get a 50-point bonus. So long as we have fun, tea is poured and there's an opportunity to put the world to rights, all in the spirit of the u3a!

Perhaps you would like to join us for a game? We meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 2.00 pm and the May meeting is on the 23rd at Angela's. My contact details can be found in the list of CoGs.

Linda Etherton

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Tea in the Afternoon

We have had two meetings with this new group. We were at Hilary's last time which was very nice. We had hot cross buns lovely! We hope to visit tea rooms in Maldon, at a date and time to be arranged.

Lesley Woonton

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Ten Pin Bowling

Thanks to Chris for taking over the reins on the 23rd March. Despite the absence of Graham, Jenny, Liz and myself a good turnout took to the lanes. The highest score for the ladies went to Chris with 135 with Linda close behind on 132. Rob seems to have dominated the gent's games with a highest score of 153.

Back playing after the interference of half term we returned on the 20th April. All ladies, Jackie, Hilary and Jenny were quite pleased to have exceeded a score of 100 which they all did in the last frame again with Chris topping out with 137. All had the satisfaction of getting a strike on the way.

The gents had phases of scoring well with Graham winning the first frame with a score of 143. We did have an issue with a pin that would fall from the frame before the second ball which required some mechanical attention. Scores improved for me during the second and third frames with the highest score of 188. John had a couple of notable scores over 100 with strikes included. Not to forget Peter who enjoyed some frustration but still picked up some strikes on the way.

Next games booked as follows for your diaries:- 4th May, 25th May and 8th June.

Peter Harvey

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Theatre & Cinema Group

The Theatre group had another get together at our last main meeting, and decided to go and see a group called G4 on May 19th.

Apparently, they won X Factor in 2004, and are a group of four men that sing classical music as well as pop that is relevant to our age group. Hopefully, something we will all enjoy and can look forward to.

All monies were gratefully received before the theatre sent the tickets, and they reserved a blocking for us. Which was brilliant.

Looking forward to meeting up with the group, for you all to sort next the show or cinema as there are some good films coming out.

Moir Penhallow

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Walking

Our walkers met at the Gosbeck Archaeological Car Park on the outskirts of Colchester. Carol led the group away from the site and we had an interesting gentle walk around lanes and alleyways and along the edge of fields before returning to the main site area and the cars. We were blessed with a fine and mild afternoon for our approximately 3 mile walk. Happily the rain that fell a couple of days beforehand had mostly drained away so there was only a little mud to have to negotiate. Our next walk is scheduled for Thursday May 11th at 2.00 pm. Anyone wishing to join the group, please contact me so that I can add you to the mailing list.

Linda Wells

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Weekenders

Braxted Bakery is another of the regular haunts of the Weekenders group and we were made very welcome. The side room was especially cosy – until the door opened and an icy blast swept in. Thanks to Marilyn for arranging this for us.

We are looking forward to going to the Lock Cafe at Heybridge Basin on the 20th May at the usual time of 10.00 am. Depending on the weather gods we may be able to sit outside.

April showers have blighted outdoor activities and the visit to Ulting Wick open gardens was cancelled, but who knows we may manage a 'Bluebell' walk in a local wood, so look out for an email or contact Pat Yates or Linda Etherton to know more.

Weekenders usually get together on the third Saturday of the month at 10.00 am, to arrange other gatherings and visits and generally have a good chat. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Linda Etherton, details in the list of CoGs.

Linda Etherton

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For your info....

If you are looking for a venue to hold a meeting for your u3a activity or otherwise, the United Reformed Church, Chapel Road, Great Totham (North) may be suitable. They have a small hall available, with all facilities. Contact 01621 819419 for more details. If you are aware of any other similar locations please let us know.

In line with many other authorities throughout the country, Essex County Council have introduced a booking system for vehicles at their recycling centres, including Maldon and Witham. Visit www.loveessex.org to book a slot. Site users visiting by foot do not need to book, nor do Blue Badge holders who can visit any recycling centre in any vehicle, including vans at any ECC recycling centre.

Caroline Community Radio is the volunteer-run local radio station for the Maldon District. Why not give them a listen on 94.7 FM or online at carolinecommunityradio.co.uk? You will hear music from the last five decades together with local news. Evening programmes are presented by local people who have an interest in radio and communicating, and want to improve their skills. If you want to get involved please contact the station via their website.

Did you know that Essex County Fire & Rescue Service offer personalised Safe and Well visits? Safe & Well officers can fit smoke detectors and specialised sensory alarms if required. They risk assess each home ensuring that the right alarms are fitted in the most appropriate places. On each visit they will discuss fire safety, home security and can also offer help with mobility and health and wellbeing issues if necessary. Please call 0300 303 0088, email home.safety@essex-fire.gov.uk or visit their website at www.essex-fire.gov.uk/Book

If you already have a fire alarm fitted, remember it should be tested at least once a month.

A copy of the Heybridge u3a diary is attached. This gives details of which events are being held, where and when. If you are interesting in joining any group do not hesitate to contact the relevant CoG. Details are on the last page of this News Sheet. You will be made very welcome!

Remember that Heybridge u3a are part of a "Cluster Group". This is a group of eight local u3a organisations, Maldon, Limebrook, Blackwater, Burnham, Dengie, Crouch Valley and South Woodham Ferrers, plus ourselves. Members of these u3a groups can join in the activities of the others, subject to space availability. Details can be found at:

ClusterGroupActivitySchedule.pdf (maldonu3a.co.uk)

If you have any articles you would like included in the next Heybridge u3a News Sheet please send them to editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk.
