



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet Number 4

June 2009

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From the Chairman

What a different and exciting May Meeting we had. In spite of the marvellous weather we had quite a good attendance and what a treat we had. Glenn and Maureen Cousins from Tiptree, who run their own company, "Snakes Alive", came to talk to us about reptiles and amphibians, with lots of interesting facts going right back to the dinosaurs. They brought many examples with them, which they carefully exhibited,



and gave all members the opportunity to handle creatures which previously they may have been afraid of. I have to say I have an aversion to snakes, but seen up close they really are

amazing, although I declined the offer to hold one!! Glenn and Maureen have now joined our U3A and we are delighted to welcome them.

From the Editor

I have had a great response for text to be included into this News Sheet. I have also added photographs supplied by others and myself. I hope it adds interest to the news to which it relates. As I have said previously any member can provide input.

Do not forget that we have a notice board. It will be erected at the front of the hall each month.

To minimize the cost of circulating and printing and especially to speed up the process of publishing, the News Sheet will be emailed to those who have an email address on or soon after the first Friday in each month. Hard copy will continue to be available at the monthly meeting. Copy will be required by last Friday of the preceding month. Please send detail by email to ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk with U3A in

the title. Alternatively phone Ian Newman at 01621 891184 or see the Editor at the monthly meeting to decide other methods of providing copy.

On the last page, you will find the diary of meetings, events, visits etc., which will be as up to date as the information provided to me.

Essex U3A Meeting held on the 14th May 2009

Members of the Steering Group were invited to attend the half yearly meeting of the Essex U3A. Ruth, Peter and Ian attended not knowing exactly what to expect. In the morning Janet Whitehouse gave a very enthusiastic presentation on the Co-ordinating role that she carries out in the South East area of England and the help that she can give to each U3A Group thereby giving a stronger connection between the various members in the Region. She explained that there are Annual Lectures, Annual Conferences, Courses, Summer Schools that can be attended by all individual members of the U3A. Literature is produced and is made available to all the individual U3A Groups to assist in the promotion of self-help learning. It was very interesting that she is unpaid and not a paid member of the U3A Head Office staff.

We all provided our own packed lunch with tea and coffee provided. After lunch, Zazia Pratt, from U3A Head Office, described her role as a Development Officer. Her area includes Essex. Zazia was very interested in how the various new groups were progressing including two others in Essex. It was interesting to note that the number of members is increasing through out the UK. She stressed the need for each of the new, and older established U3A's to continue the principles of promoting the self-help learning ethos of U3A in each local U3A. Suggestions were given on how to get self-help groups within an individual U3A started.

During the afternoon, a presentation was made by the Maldon U3A and the Blackwater U3A, on their project. This project was completed at the end of

last year after nearly two years work. Their topic was the River Blackwater and Estuary. Some of the extensive documentation produced was available on the day and will eventually be deposited in the Essex Record Office. The input was organised by a small core of members with input from groups such as the Bird Watchers, Walkers, Photographers, Local History Groups etc. They suggested that other U3A's also plan and undertake similar projects.

Heybridge U3A Meetings

The date of next meeting is Friday 12th June starting at the normal time of 14.00. in the Plantation Hall, Heybridge.

The speaker at the June will be Chris Edwards. He is a volunteer lecturer for the National Trust and will talk about the work of the National Trust.

Advance Information for the July meeting. David Stephenson has agreed to talk about the new initiatives in vocational courses which will be taught in the proposed building on Primrose Field.

In August, Ian Valentine will talk about Miss Prance, a famous local lady.

Notice Board

You will again find the new Notice Board at the front of the Hall during the monthly meeting and onto which notices can be attached. If you or your group want to highlight or advertise some event, activity or other information, then this is a place where other members will find that information. Do not forget that the News Sheet reaches all the Heybridge U3A members.

From the Group Co-ordinator

We now have another group up and running thanks to Beth Jeffries. The Luncheon Club has had its first meeting and I am certain that it was the first of many other equally enjoyable "meetings".

We have activity in several other groups and we are grateful to: Ian Newman for his work in moving the computing group forward; Pat Newman and Anne Thorpe for their work in forming a craft group based on threads and fabrics; Margaret Clarke in her efforts to start a golf group and Margaret Brown who wants to start a group for those who enjoy morning coffee.

I also know there is interest in forming a group for those who would like to meet-up at weekends when time seems to pass more slowly and I am certain that such a "good companions" group will appeal to many of our members.

The U3A movement is founded on the principle of small gatherings of like minded people enjoying each others company. If you are able to gather together some members who share your interests – start a group.

Group Names, Co-ordinator, Contact Telephone

Group Name	Co-ordinator	Telephone Number
Ballroom Dancing	Joint with Maldon Jo Robson *	* 01621 828236
Bird Watching	Maureen Lenoir	01621 869871
Gardening	Pat Yates	01621 892866
Local History	Carol Greenhalgh	01621 840339
Luncheon	Beth Jeffries	01621 853403
Painting	Michael Kempen	01621 892974
Scrabble	Ruth Tyler	01621 869865
Theatre	Viv Frostick	01621 858639
Walking	Elizabeth Eastwood	01621 850618
Woodturning	Peter Thorpe Joint with Blackwater U3A (Charlie Middleton)	01621 850828

Co-ordinators Needed

Co-ordinators are still needed for:

- Art
- Bridge
- Country Dancing
- Languages
- Marine and Coastal
- Music
- Photography
- Pilates
- Reading & Books
- Swimming
- Ten Pin Bowling
- Whist & Cards

Could those interested in the above and are willing to be the co-ordinator please contact Peter Thorpe on 01621 850828 or speak to him at the monthly meeting.

Membership Secretary

Membership Cards have now been produced for the year 2009 – 2010 and they will again be available

from the signing in table at the next Monthly Meeting. Those members who have not yet collected them please collect them as you will need to show them at Group Meetings.

If you are not a member and wish to join, please contact Lisbeth Bazzard on 01621 843208 or by email lisbethbazzard@talktalk.net. You can also write to her at 2, Silver Street, Maldon, Essex. CM9 4QE or speak to her at the monthly meeting.

From the Treasurer

There is nothing to report this month.

Secretary

The Steering Committee has still to fill the role of its Secretary. It needs someone who is willing and able to join the Heybridge U3A Steering Committee as its Secretary. Could anyone who thinks that they can assist in this matter, contact Ruth Tyler by telephone or speak to her at the monthly meeting.

GROUP REPORTS

Bird Watching

The bird watching group met on a glorious sunny morning at Old Hall Nature Reserve. We were met by two RSBP volunteers who gave us maps and chatted to us about the reserve and what we should look out for.

Its only our third meeting and already we have a list of birds we have seen before which include the Shelduck, Greylag, Avocet, Little Egret, Oystercatcher and the Heron plus many more. This month we have added new birds to our list. We have all heard the Cuckoo but today we actually saw one. It was the first Cuckoo I have ever seen so I got quite excited.

Our books came out when we sighted a bird from the Finch family. It was identified as a Hawfinch, another to add to our list.

The best aerial display of the day was a pair of Marsh Harriers trying to get their lunch by swooping among a flock of Black Tailed Godwits. The Godwits put on quite a show, by splitting into smaller groups and flying and diving in all directions making it so much harder for the Harriers to get near to them. We watched them for quite a while and don't think Godwit was on the Harries lunch menu today.

Next meeting 10.00 am on 26th June at Hanningfield Reservoir. If you want more information about the group please email me symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk.

Coffee Morning

The first coffee morning went well. There were 5 in total. We discussed the possibility of collecting £1 from each person attending future mornings, with any surplus forwarded to a charity of our choice at the end of the year. It was agreed that the next coffee morning will be on Friday 24th July at 11.00. It will be held at Margaret Clarks house in Heybridge and Margaret Brown will continue to coordinate as before. If anyone wishes to attend please telephone (01621 854885) or give their name to Margaret at the next monthly meeting.

Computers

Following the initial interest in the formation of a Computer Group, Ian Newman has said that he will host a start up meeting at his house. This meeting is to establish what experience is available, what is wanted and who wants to be part of this group. In addition, the Computer Group will need to discuss ideas on how its wants and needs can be achieved. Could those who would like to attend this meeting, please email Ian at ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk, telephone 891184 or see him at the June meeting so that numbers can be established and suitable refreshments can be organised.

The date of this meeting will be on Friday 26th June at 14.30.

Esperanto

Do you look back over decades of learning a foreign language; and still you can't really speak, read or write it? If a foreigner speaks to you in the street, can you understand and help him/her. With ESPERANTO the answer to these questions would be Yes.

It was invented over a hundred years ago by a Polish Occulist named Ludwig Zamenhof.

Once he had perfected it by trial and error, he published it and gave it free of charge to the world. He entitled his efforts "An International Language. By Dr. Esperanto"

Esperanto simply means 'One who hopes (or one who is hoping). Join our fun group and learn Esperanto, join a world wide community with a common bond. Write internationally, send e-mails, listen to world broadcasts, read a vast array of books, original or translated. Go to congresses, travel abroad world wide, and make friends with other like minded people all over the world.

"So how long will it take me to learn Esperanto?" Well, that's up to you. I learned it in under a year

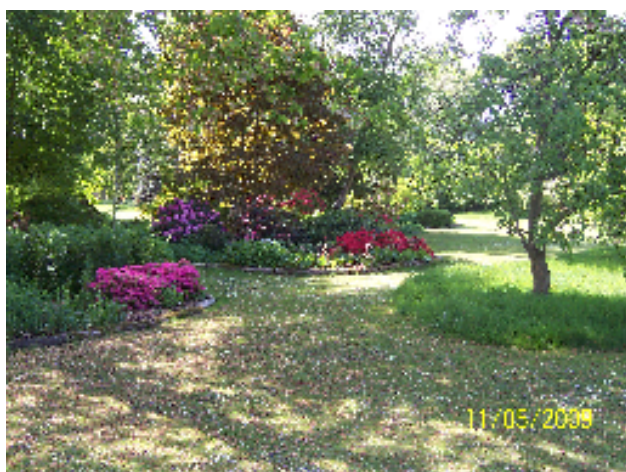
and started having fun. But it is a language, and the quicker you learn all the simple words, the faster you'll be applying them to the simple, regular rules and speaking fluently. Come along and hear this ingenious language spoken. Find out for yourself how easy it is !

Contact Peter Groves, Chelmsford 227018 or contact him peterkelton@talktalk.net

Let us start a Esperanto Group and make friends.

Gardening Group

We had another enjoyable visit recently, to Green Island Gardens. The bluebells and rhododendrons were at their best, the weather stayed fine once again, and the home-made cakes were delicious! The only problem was me getting lost and arriving late, but everyone carried on regardless.



If you have e-mail, please would you let me know if you are coming to Chippins and Newland Cottage on 15th June – pat.yates@tesco.net, or phone 01621 892866, preferably several days beforehand.

Local History

Sixteen members spent an enjoyable afternoon on a guided visit to Maldon's ancient Moot Hall. We were told about it's origins as the opulent Town House of



the D'Arcy family and of the many subsequent uses by local administrations who have owned and used the building since the middle ages. It is a rare example of an early brick building, built using specially imported bricks from Holland, it also has an unusual, brick spiral (rare left hand) staircase of exceptional craftsmanship. Moot Hall (moot means "meeting place") has had many uses in it's long life, including: a Goal, a Court House, a Council Chamber, a Police Station and Town Hall; that this remarkable building is preserved in such fine condition is a credit to the town of Maldon.

Finally, we were allowed to go onto the roof and view the magnificent panoramic views of the estuary and surrounding area, it was even possible to see the tall buildings of Southend-on-sea!

The date for the next visit is the 16th June at 14.00 at the Maldon Museum in the Promenade Park. A small charge will be payable. Could all who wish to go please give their name to Peter Thorpe.

The July meeting will be 21 July at 14.00 at the Blue Boar. We will have a speaker for this. Could all who wish to come give their name to me or Sue Spero for this. We have to pay for the room so a charge will be made.

We need to get hold of a white board or flip chart and board at least for our July meeting. Can anyone help us with this? Please advise Sue Spero or Carol Greenhalgh if you are able to help.

Luncheon Group

Eight of us had a very enjoyable lunch at Hoyzen on Thursday 21st May. This was the first luncheon date for the Luncheon Group. Unfortunately, the Tuesday group was cancelled due to lack of numbers, but we will try to organize another date in June. The next luncheon date that has been arranged is Friday 3rd July. The venue has yet to be confirmed. Please see the notice board at the June Meeting.

Scrabble

The Wednesday 1st July Scrabble afternoon will again be hosted by Beryl Claydon, at 57 Crescent Road, Heybridge. Tel: 01621 852082.

On Wednesday 5th August Elizabeth Eastwood has invited us to join her at 23 The Colliers, Heybridge Basin. Tel. 01621 850618

Please let the hostess know a couple of days before the meeting, if you are able to go. All members are welcome to a friendly afternoon, of non-competitive scrabble.

Theatre

Viv Frostic, the Theatre Co-ordinator, is currently looking into seat availability at local Theatres, which shows that are programmed would interest members of Heybridge U3A and how much we would need to pay for the tickets. At the time of publishing this News Sheet further details are not available. It is hoped that further information may be available at the monthly meeting next week.

Threads and Fabrics

We (Anne Thorpe and Pat Newman) hope to make this a group for people who like to make things, decorative or useful; using cotton, silks, wool or any other yarn, by hand. If you already enjoy, or want to try embroidery, knitting, crochet, macramé, patchwork or anything else you fancy; join our self-help, skill sharing group.

We are proposing to have our initial meeting on Tuesday 7th July at 14.00. The venue will be at Pat Newman's house.

See Anne & Pat at the next monthly meeting or phone us on 01621 850828 or 01621 891184 to confirm attendance and venue details.

Walking

A somewhat depleted walking group followed the Bradwell-on-Sea walk to St Peter's-on-the-Wall and around the sea wall, back through the village to our starting point; a 6 mile round trip.

It was a perfect afternoon for the walk. The church and its history was fascinating, especially for those of us who hadn't visited before and the long walk around the sea wall bracing in the mild spring sunshine. The only disappointment came as we eagerly anticipated liquid refreshment on reaching the village, only to find ALL the pubs closed for the afternoon. Better planning needed for next time!

Our next outing is the Two Rivers Walk (details Maldon navigation walks) meeting at the Paper Mill Lock car park, Little Baddow o Thursday 11th June 2:00 pm. The first walk is about 3 miles with a second one, 3 miles further, if anyone feels that energetic. All welcome, please let me know, (Elizabeth on 01621 850618) if you need more information.

Weekenders Group

It is noticeable, when looking at our excellent diary of group events, that there is nothing at all at weekends. When Peter, Ian and myself went to the County U3A Meeting recently the new Chairman, a member of Maldon Branch, chatted to me in the

lunch break, and told me that they have a "Good Companions" Group, specifically for single members, who often find the weekends rather lonely, and would like a little companionship at a time when couples and families are busy doing there own thing. With this in mind I wonder if we have a nucleus of such a group, who would like to meet at weekends for a variety of interests; coffee mornings, "take a plate" lunches, maybe just meet for a nice walk along the Prom, or go to a local theatre, cinema, or exhibition, in fact anything that will bring members together in companionship. There's really not a lot of fun wandering round a garden centre on your own, but in company, it becomes quite different.

We will have a chat at our meeting on 12th June. I (Ruth) am not really in a position to be able to take on another task, but would be quite pleased to have members to a get together at my home to throw around a few ideas. Someone will have to agree to be the Co-ordinator following the first meeting, which should not be too onerous, as once the group is formed, the members at each meeting can discuss amongst themselves where and when they wish to meet again. The Co-ordinator will just need to keep Ian informed so that venues etc. are advertised in the News Sheet.

Tea and Coffee Rota

The following people will be preparing the Tea and Coffee for the monthly meetings:

June: Jean Corree and Jenny Riley

July: Brenda Dewar and Audrey Coulson

Thank you to all the above from all the Heybridge U3A members.

Other U3A Requests

Purleigh Gardeners' Society are visiting Moverons, Brightlingsea & Beth Chatto Gardens on Saturday, 11th July departing at 09.00 by coach. Price £18. Contact Jan Robertson (Maldon U3A) on 01245 225657 for details.

On Friday 19th June, Maldon U3A is holding a Fifties Evening at Maldon Town Hall. Doors open 19.00. Tickets £5.00. To have a ticket saved please ring Janet Buck on 01245 227709.

Also Maldon U3A are looking for Bridge Players for their Tuesday night Club. Please ring Mary Hughes on 01621 879699 for details.

Letters to the Editor

No letters have been received for this News Sheet.

Members HELP

Your views and input are needed for all future editions of the news sheet. This can be in the form of reports about activities undertaken, activities to come, letters to the Editor or anything else that you think may interest other members.

Disclaimer

This News Sheet is produced by the Heybridge U3A. The views expressed in this news sheet are not necessarily those of the U3A. The U3A accept no liability for the accuracy of its contents.

Program of Meetings and Visits

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
8 th June	8	9	10	11 Walking 14.00	12 Monthly Meeting 14.00	13	14
15 th June	15 Gardening Newland Cottage 14.00	16 Woodturning 10.00 Local History 14.00	17	18	19 Painting 14.00	20	21
22 nd June	22	23	24	25	26 Bird Watching 10.00 Painting 14.00 Computer 14.30	27	28
29 th June	29	30	1 Scrabble 14.30	2	3 Painting 14.00	4	5
6 th July	6	7 Threads and Fabrics 14.00	8	9 Walking 14.00	10 Monthly Meeting 14.00	11	12
13 th July	13	14	15	16	17 Painting 14.00	18	19
20 th July	20	21 Woodturning 10.00 Local History 14.00	22	23	24 Bird Watching 10.00 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00	25	26
27 th July	27 Gardening Orchard Cottage 14.30	28	29	30	31 Painting 14.00	1	2

For details see articles and co-ordinators above.