



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No. 5/2013

June 2013

Contacts: Joyce Woodham: Chairman 01621 841066

Brenda Dewar: Secretary 01245 400492

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

From the Chairman

Our speaker for May was John Frankland, who talked about 'Plotlands'. These were pieces of land which were originally given to soldiers returning from the first World War. John talked mainly about the plotlands in Woodham Ferrers. He had a wealth of photographs taken over the years, and, for each picture, he had a story to tell about the people in each photograph. It was immensely interesting to see how the houses developed from old railway carriages and barns, to the houses we now see in South Woodham Ferrers.

Unfortunately, I missed the first part of John Frankland's talk as I had to Chair the Essex U3A Association AGM in Chelmsford. This was a very successful meeting, not only do we now have a new Treasurer, but also a vice-Chairman to follow me when my term of office finishes in two years' time. Our Speaker for the meeting was Adrian Breacker, the representative for the East Region. Nationally, the U3A is divided up into the regions which were formed when it was thought that Regional Governance would be set up. The National Board is made up of a Chairman, vice-Chairman and a representative from each region, all of whom are elected at the national AGM held in the Autumn.

If you would like to attend the National AGM, please let me know.

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

From the Editor

The Diary on the last page has been updated to the end of July 2013. Please keep me up to date with any interesting stories, relevant pictures or anything that relates to The Heybridge U3A, inter-action with other U3As or the U3A movement as a whole.

An email copy, to those who have provided an email address, of this News Sheet and future News Sheets should have reached all 2013/2014 members. If you have not received a digital copy please let me know. An email to me will be best as it will allow me to check that no unwanted characters or spaces have been inserted.

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

Membership Secretary

We were pleased to welcome 3 new members in May. A further 3 members have now paid their 2013/14 subs, so our total membership is currently 168.

New members are always welcome. 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 at 14:00 on the 2nd Friday of the month) 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.

U3A Magazine - Third Age Matters

All members who paid their 2013/14 subs before 22nd March should, by now, have received the Spring issue of the above magazine at their home address. Addresses of those who paid their subs after 22nd March have now been added to the direct mail list, so all paid-up members as at 22nd May should receive the Summer issue which is due out in June. If you do not wish to receive further copies of the magazine, please let me know and I will remove your name from the list.

From the COGCo (Group Co-ordinator)

I have recently been advised that Ann Lees is giving up the position of CoG of the Reading and Books Group and I would like to sincerely thank her for all the hard work she has put into this Group, including now having a waiting list as it is so successful. One of this Group has agreed to be the new CoG, Carole Overy, and I welcome her and wish her every success.

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

Heybridge U3A Monthly Meetings

Our next Monthly Meeting speaker, on June 14th, should have been Dr Chris Thornton who is ill. Martin Lloyd has stepped in at short notice with a talk entitled Passports, Assassins, Traitors and Spies (Passport stories from history). Venue; Plantation Hall, Heybridge, starting at the normal time of 14.00.

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

- July 2013: The Plume School Performing Arts.
- August 2013: Beryl Claydon, a well known member of Heybridge U3A, talking about her book on Heybridge.
- September Roger Slade, Shackleton in Antarctica.

- October Roger Booty, 'Mechanical Musical Instruments'.
- November Tim Shepherd, Talk on the RNLI.
- December Tony Bertolla, Spontaneous Christmas verse.

Group Names, 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
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	tba	
Solo Whist	Dave Mason	01621 858635
Spanish	Dave Wilson	01621 840945
Technical Computing	Colin Mason	01621 854906
Ten Pin Bowling	Glenn Cousins	01621 816721
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

Social Secretary

There are three events below for members to consider; a cruise on the Chelmer and Blackwater Canal, a coach trip to Cambridge and a Ceilidh. Full details can be found on the U3A Notice Board or contact me.

On 11th September, we have booked a cruise on the Chelmer and Blackwater Canal, combined with a guided visit to Ulting Church meeting at Paper Mill Lock car park at 10.45. We board Princess Victoria for the start of cruise

which will take us through Rushes Lock and on to view Ulting Church in its picturesque and tranquil setting beside the canal; returning us to Paper Mill Lock by 13.30.

AT 14.00 Geoff Austen will meet and give a short talk on the 13th century Ulting Church

Please add your name to the form in the committee room on June 14th. Price without lunch £9.50; with lunch included £16.00.

Blackwater U3A are planning a coach trip to Cambridge on Wednesday 19th June and would welcome members of Heybridge U3A to join them on the trip. There are 8 vacant seats.

The intention is to visit some of the many local attractions in the city, such as The Fitzwilliam museum, The Cambridge Botanical Gardens, Scott Polar Research Institute, The Sedgewich Geological museum, University museum of Archaeology & Anthropology, etc.

The cost of the coach trip is £13 per person.

If you would like to accompany them on the coach trip, then contact Alan Chapman (Blackwater U3A) by e-mail alanchapman44@yahoo.co.uk. Or phone 01621 816860.

Blackwater U3A have organised a Ceilidh on the 18th October 2013 and kindly wish to extend the invitation to Heybridge U3A to join them at the event.

The venue is West Maldon Community Centre dancing to the band 'Metric Foot' between 19.00 – 23.00. A ploughman's supper will be served, but liquid refreshments will be on a 'bring your own bottle' basis. Tickets are priced at £8.00 each and will be on sale from 1st July.

Please add your name and phone/email address to the form in the committee room on June 14th, or contact me.

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

REPORTS

Art (Painting) Group

A FEW of our chums have been missing from our friendly Friday sessions lately due to family matters and health issues. Unfortunately for those on the waiting list to join, this does not mean we can welcome you in just yet. Long-term absentees have a habit of bouncing back, as I did myself recently.

Meanwhile, all are agreed the standard of work generally just goes up and up as members encourage each others' ideas and inspiration.

Some have sought extra tuition outside the group while all, I think we can safely assume, have grown far more confident about putting pencil, pen and paint to paper. Nowadays some even reach straight for the paint palette - a very bold move for those who once spent hours meticulously and painstakingly sketching out their subject in pencil before opening the paint box.

Long may this progress continue!

Report by Gill Carpenter

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

Bird Watching Group

We had two outings this month, the first was an 04.30 start to listen to the dawn chorus at Abberton. It was a chilly morning as we set off, very quiet at first but soon we were surrounded by noise, the Robin and Wren are both small birds, but gosh, they are great singers. The Nightingales did sing for us but not as many as three years ago. The hedgerows were alive with song as we walked along and it was hard to distinguish one song from the other. Luckily we had Liz with us who pointed out Great Tits, Chaffinch, Whimbrel and Blackbird. We made our way towards the water with Skylarks singing overhead also Swifts darting around after their breakfast. We spotted a corn bunting and both Pied and Yellow Wagtails.

Lots of activity on the water with Teal, Greenshank, Gadwall and Tufted Ducks.

As we made our way into the visitors centre three hours later we were all looking forward to the cooked breakfast waiting for us; a great treat. What a wonderful way to start the day.

Blue house farm was our next outing. We had hoped to see the baby Barn Owls but this year they were a month later in laying their eggs (hope to fit in an evening visit later) so Jill, Pat, Brenda, myself and Tim, the warden, set off not expecting to see much activity as only idiots would be out. It was so cold with driving rain, it could only get better!!! Most of the birds were keeping in the dry but we did see Sky Larks, Swallows, Pied and Yellow Wagtails, Reed Bunting and Reed Warbler as we made our way to the first hide. Ducks don't mind the rain so they were having a great time splashing round; we saw Redshank, Shoveler, Little Grebe and Widgeon. We were getting cold now as we had been watching a group of Lapwing chicks for ages. As we approached the next hide we again watched chicks, Mallards this time. Tim picked them up and put them back under cover in their nest as they were right outside the door of the hide, hope you like the Chick picture taken by Jill.



Mallard Chicks Author Jill McGregor

Again lots of activity on the water, Bar-Tailed Godwit, Gadwall, Coot and a single Oystercatcher. The Canada Geese were on the fields making a lot of noise as usual.

We were so cold we thanked Tim through chattering teeth for a great if very wet morning.

Next get together is 28th June. If you would like to join our friendly group please contact me.

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

Computer Group

We met again on the third Thursday in May with a short introduction on how to make a secure second copy of their important files. These would include their photographs, music WORD files etc. A copy of the visual aid material is available for those who would like it. As usual we continued with 'one to one' for the rest of the session.

Next month, we will revise what we had learnt in May and apply it to how 'folders' can be set up. This will be followed by any general questions and the 'one to one' session. So if you would like the help of more experienced computer users to enable you to get more from your own computer please come along to our next meeting which will be held in the Claydon Room in Plantation Hall on Thursday 20th June at 14.00 where you will be made welcome.

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

Creative Writing Group

A lively group heard stories and musings about the seasons, and seasoning. We also had a discussion about the various crafts that we enjoy, which led to us setting the project for next month as, "I once made a ..." This sounds like the start of a story from the TV panel show "Would I Lie to You". So what did we make? A quilt in a day? A tiara for a princess? An embarrassing faux pas? Watch this space.

We meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month; please contact me for further details.

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

Discussion Coffee Morning Group

Seven of us visited Margaret Clark's house on 17th May, where we were treated to lovely refreshments.

Although we just missed the beautiful Wisteria this year, I suspect in any case it would have been a bit too chilly to dine al fresco!

Our next coffee morning will be on Friday 21st June at 11.00, meeting at Jean Murray's house. Details, as usual, will be available at the next Monthly Meeting or contact me for information. New group members most welcome.

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

Family History Group

There was no meeting in May. The next meeting will be on Thursday 27th June 10.30 to 12.30 at my house as usual. Look forward to seeing you all.

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

French Conversation Group

Our May meeting was mainly about food. We watched a film about chefs cooking favourite Lyonais dishes after reading the script of the programme, with much discussion (je déteste) of the far from exotic ingredients (tripe, salted

pig's trotters and oxtail). We then looked at recipes which had on most lines the phrase "il faut" (which means "what one needs to do"), the most heard words on the film. On the nice side, one chef made a praline tart for which the pastry case magically appeared. A good antidote to the Yuk factor. Coincidentally, one of our members produced a box of brightly coloured and delicious Parisien macaroons to have with the coffee. For our next meeting we have some homework, to translate our favourite simple recipe into French. So I will have to find the word for liquidise. It was an enjoyable laughter filled meeting.

The next meeting is on the 19th June.

Report by Pat Newman.

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

Gardening Group

Parsonage House garden was well worth the journey. It was such a beautiful house, built in 1426 with lots of extra additions. Everything was immaculate, and even the sheds had arched windows to match the house. The formal gardens were packed with plants and there were lots of tulips still in flower. There was something of interest round every corner. I particularly liked the meadow full of cowslips, and the porticoed pool-house with a window at the back framing a view of the field beyond.

Our next visit is to Burnham-on-Crouch on Sunday 23rd June, to 4 Fernlea Road at 14.00 and the Mulberry Houseboat (see Yellow Book). Cost is £5.00 for both.

If you want to join me for the Art Trail in the morning and lunch in Burnham, please let me know.

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

Italian Conversation

In order to avoid the Bank Holiday Monday, the Beginner's Italian Group met on Tuesday 7th May. After discussing what we had been up to since the last meeting we went on to learn how to say numbers in Italian, from one to millions. We also learnt the single Italian words used for 'about ten', 'about twenty', 'about thirty', etc, and 'about a hundred' and for 'about a thousand'. Numbers are written out as one word, so when writing cheque for 25,359 Euros the Italians would write the Italian equivalent of : twentyfivethousandthreehundredandfitynine Euro. When they still had the lira the situation was even worse, as the lira was worth so little. Then even longer numbers very often had to be written out as a single word, as it was quite common for them to have to write out cheques for over 1,000,000 lire, since that was only worth about £500.

The next meeting will be on Monday 3rd June.

The Advanced Italian Group met on Monday 20th May and the entire meeting was dedicated to conversing in Italian. Various topics were discussed, including subjects we have studied in the past or are studying now, jobs that we or family members have done, and the interesting history of the home of one of the members. It was good practice to speak in Italian so much, especially as we had to 'think on our feet'.

The next meeting is on Monday 17th June.

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

Local History Group (LHG)

We enjoyed a fine spring afternoon for our visit to the Little Baddow history centre and our walk around the church-yard and the non-conformist church [built a year before the current Saint Paul's Cathedral]. The church-yard is beautifully managed to encourage an abundance of wild flowers and one of our members is part of the team who look after it. Whilst there we saw a kestrel hovering overhead and at the same time heard the call of a cuckoo.

The current exhibition in the history centre includes local and national newspaper items featuring Little Baddow and its inhabitants since the 1700s. So interesting and very well displayed. Many of the cuttings were sourced via Australia!

Dates for the diary:

- 18th June (14.00) at Hylands House
- 16th July (18.00) for the Maldon Ale Trail Walk
- 20th August (13.30) at the Galleywood Heritage Centre

Carol will be emailing details to members of the group but please contact her if you are interested if space available.

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

Luncheon Group

Eighteen of us met at Russells Restaurant in Great Baddow on Friday 24th May, our nineteenth regular member had a priority golf appointment.

The weekly Table D'hôte Menu had a good selection range for Starters, Mains, and Desserts, many enjoying all three.(especially the E(a)ton Mess).

Barry, the Proprietor, James, and Barry's elder son Max, now in "harness" provide excellent service and enjoyable food.

It is perhaps a reflection of the times but there were only three other diners in what is the nicest (best) restaurant in Chelmsford.

I have booked 'Le Bouchon' in Heybridge for Friday 28th June at 12.30, note the earlier time. I presently have fifteen confirmed names, anyone uncertain, and/or any others please check the list in the Committee Room on 14th June or contact me.

By the time you read this you will have received an e-mail attachment of the menus for your selection. Please let me know your selections by Thursday 13th June 2013.

Beryl and I had lunch at The Griffin in Danbury and after sorting out the updates they are making to the menu, including two courses for £16.95 now including Friday, I will receive this by e-mail and all being well will book it for 26th July at 12.30

Any queries please speak to me on Friday, 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 10th June at 14.00.

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

Petanque Group

This month we have had two Bank Holidays so have only played twice. Although one was chilly and the other one windy we still had good support and two enjoyable afternoons were held on the Maldon Promenade. Several new people are joining the group so our total is now over twenty but with holidays and other events we usually have about ten or twelve playing which is a good number to organise into two or three teams. Now we shall be playing every Monday afternoon at 14.00 with no more Bank Holidays until the end of August. So come along and try it or watch. There is a lovely bench supplied by Maldon DC to accommodate spectators and the fresh air is rejuvenating, and the rules are very easy to learn.

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

Photography Group

Not all things turn out as planned and shortly after the start, I had to leave the May meeting because of a family emergency. I consequently apologise if this report seems a little truncated! The group had viewed the "sky" assignment photos posted on Flickr and were about to view the other assignment photos presented on memory sticks when I had to hastily pack-up my toys and go! I am very grateful to Ian who took over for the remainder of the meeting. It was an unrehearsed and very slick implementation of our non-existent "plan B". Thanks Ian.

The meeting continued with some detailed discussion on what sky meant to the meeting, what the sky should contain and its various colours. The range and styles of photographs produced always amaze me as I sit loading them onto the group's external hard drive and on that day, it was no different. (Ian)



Sky; Author – Peter Thorpe

As I (Peter) was not involved in the discussion of our members photos, I am not able to comment on what I am

certain was another set of creative images. To lighten this report, I am including one of my shots of a parked van - I thought it was amusingly appropriate.

The aim of our group is to enjoy, improve and share our photography together, so if you are also interested in digital photography, come and join us. You will be made welcome whether you are completely new, experienced or just want to discover your "photographer's eye".

The assignment for June is "Photos taken from an unusual angle". I look forward to seeing the results of this assignment.

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

Reading and Books Group

This month's book was 'The Sunday Philosophy Club', by Alexander McCall-Smith. We have read another of his books which was enjoyed by all. The same cannot be said of this tome. Two of the group enjoyed it for different reasons. One found it to be a relaxing read the other enjoyed the philosophical questions posed and the humour threaded throughout the narrative.

The other members of the group found it irritating, patronising, old fashioned and not very interesting generally.

Set in Edinburgh behind the regimented Georgian facades the moral compasses are spinning with greed, dishonesty, lust and murderous intent. Isabel, the lady detective in this story, is an accomplished philosopher /editor.

She knows or thinks she knows the difference between good and bad. This amateur sleuth is convinced the man she saw fall to his death was pushed.

With this Miss Marple like character, Alexander McCall-Smith introduces a new and waspish female sleuth to tackle murder, mayhem and the mysteries of life!!!!

However, this book group, it would seem, will not be finding out how she progresses!

After about four years, I am handing the leadership and Co-ordinator of the Book Group over to Carole Overy. So, any future queries should now be addressed to Carole.

The next meeting takes place at Plantation Hall Heybridge on Wednesday 19th June at 14.30.

Report by Ann Lees.

For further information contact Carole Overy.

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

Scrabble Group

A small group of players enjoyed the monthly Scrabble afternoon, and were joined by the Whist Group, who shared the room with us. Although this arrangement works well, there are a couple of players who like to indulge in both activities, and thought will be given to finding a solution.

The next Scrabble afternoon is on Tuesday 25th June and, as always all members are welcome. Play starts promptly at 14.00, with time for tea and a chat and at least two games.

Ruth Tyler: Email r.tyler936@btinternet.com or phone 01621 856212.

Solo Whist

Four of us met at Plantation Hall and had a very good (if somewhat strange) session of solo whist. We only seemed to be dealt either solo's or misère. Lots of great play with solo's won and lost, however no misère hands were successful.

Summers coming (ha ha) so therefore with holidays etc., we decided the next solo whist meeting will be on the first Wednesday of September, being the 4th. We have gone back to a Wednesday because there are 2 or 3 members that like to play both scrabble & solo whist. The September meeting will be at my place in Heybridge.

Solo whist is only a form of partner whist, so anyone who's played whist would have no difficulty in learning solo, so come along and give it a try.

Looking forward to September (if not before).

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

Spanish for Beginners

Our next meeting is on June 27th is the final one in the present short course. I will keep members informed as to future courses.

My thanks to those who have attended, hoping that you have enjoyed and found useful the topics we have covered.

David Wilson. Email - d.wilson09@btinternet.com or phone 01621 840945.

Technical Computing Group

The Technical Computing group met at Colin Mason's house on 9th May, and the special topic for this meeting was to understand better, the mysteries of the hardware internals of our Computers. Colin led the group in supplying a working computer, and with his help, allowed the group to dismantle it, piece by piece, noting the wiring and positions of internal components. For example, we first removed wiring to items such as disc drives, CD drives, power units, and finally the CPU (Central Processing Unit - the main hardware 'chip'), together with fans and memory chips. We finally removed the complete 'Motherboard' (printed circuits), leaving just the empty shell of the cabinet.



The PC taken apart Author Peter Thorpe

The hard part was to re-assemble the computer, remembering where everything belonged, and return it to a

working state. All this in a couple of hours. The nerve wracking part was then to switch-on, and test to see that everything functioned correctly. To everyone's relief this was achieved, and Colin's computer was returned to original condition, with all group members suitably relieved, and enlightened.

Notes compiled by Alex Lees

The next meeting will take place on the 13th of June at Peter's house.

Colin Mason: phone 01621 854906 Email colin@mason20.wanadoo.co.uk.

Ten Pin Bowling

We had a good turnout of 13 players today with a new player Ann, who, despite being a complete beginner to the game, managed to score 50 or above in all three of her games.

It was back to a quieter time at Madison Heights after last month when it was full of families and children enjoying the Easter holidays. Some upgrading of the lanes etc. also made it a more pleasant experience – only one call to put a faulty lane back in play which is something of a record!

We played three lanes with 4 players in two and 5 in the third. Time ran short for the team of 5 who only managed 2 games unlike the others who managed 3 each.

The highest scorer was Graham Parker who powered his way to 166 in his second game, although Jenny managed to overtake him in the final game with a respectable 103. No suggestion, of course, that there is any rivalry between husband and wife!!

Scores continue to improve with 6 players achieving over 100 in one or more of their games.

The next meeting is at Madison Heights starting at 14.00 on Tuesday 11th June. Newcomers always welcome.

Glenn Cousins. phone 01621 816721 or Email maureencousins@btinternet.com

Threads and Fabrics Group

At our May meeting much of our conversation was about 'The Sewing Bee' competition on the BBC television during the previous weeks, which had obviously been based on the successful format of 'The Great British Bake Off', but for us was a lot less exciting. We all thought that the most skilful person won, but although her dress in the final was beautiful, it was what we thought of as a traditional cocktail dress, not an evening one. It was thought that the younger competitors showed more design flair. We seemed to find the judges uninspiring after Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood of the "Bake Off". For us the programme will have to up its game if it is to put on another series. The one thing that everyone at the meeting envied was the wall of bolts of cloth and tubs of haberdashery available to the competitors, but no one wanted to be in their places. As usual different members were trying to discover how things that they had seen in the last few weeks were made. If anyone is interested in experimenting with textiles they are always welcome to join us. The photo this month is of a scarf being made of fine sparkly thread on giant knitting needles.



The next meeting is on the 4th of June.

Please contact Anne Thorpe or Pat Newman.

Anne by Email anne.thorpe@btinternet.com or phone 01621 850828.

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

Walking Group

Twenty five people took part in our May walk which took us around Wickham Bishops and into Shut Heath Wood. There the bluebells were in full splendour; the ground was carpeted with them, primroses and wood anemones were also to be seen.

The June walk will revisit Coggeshall to follow the route from town past the Grange Barn and along the Essex Way path before looping back to the tea shop by the clock tower, about 3 miles in all.

Meet at the free public car park (off Stoneham Street behind the clock tower) at 14:00 on Thursday 13th June. Please let me know if you can join us.

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

Weekenders Group

Apart from our coffee mornings and trips with Stan's Coaches we are going to the Remus Memorial Horse Sanctuary on 15th July for an afternoon tea and an introduction to some of the animals. It will cost £7.50 some of which will go to help the maintenance of the sanctuary. I have some names so far but anyone wishing to join us add your name to the sheet which will be on display at the next U3A Monthly Meeting. Four Weekenders enjoyed the day out at Rye and Battle on the 16th and a photo of our jolly day trippers is attached.

Dates for your diary:

- Saturday 15th June; Coffee at Wilkin's Jam Factory at 10.00.
- Saturday 13th July; Coffee at The Horseshoe Nursery, Bicknacre at 10.00.
- Saturday 10th August; Venue TBA.



Author: Bridget Reason

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

Wine Appreciation Group

The June meeting is a group visit to The Colchester Wine Company (formerly Lay & Wheeler) on Saturday 8th June for their organised Tasting Class entitled "All About Rose". This is one of many events organised by the company during the year to give new and existing customers a chance to get to know the many types of wine available and where they come from.

In July, we are planning a visit to The English Wine Barn, at Coggeshall. Many people will have noticed the vines growing on the left hand side of West Street, Coggeshall, on the way to the A120. Recently opened to the public they boast a relaxed setting in which to try a range of English wines from all over the country from Yorkshire to Cornwall, not forgetting the local East Anglian wines. There is a cafe where we can enjoy afternoon tea accompanied by a glass of English Sparkling Wine after a stroll along the avenues of vines laden with grapes.

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

Association of Essex U3A's Study Day

We are still looking for Leaders in the various art subjects.

Watch this space over the coming months.

Please contact me if you need to discuss anything to do with the above or contact the secretary of the Study Group, Doug Harryman, at doug.harryman@talktalk.net.

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

From other U3As

The Elizabethan Group are planning a visit to Buckingham Palace on Sept 12th to see 'The Art of Tudor and Stuart Fashion', a talk by an expert and tour of exhibition plus coffee.

Exhibition and talk £15.75, (concessions). Coach £12.00. Contact Beryl McDonell asap. Email: berylmcd@aol.com

On the Notice Board

Our National Conference "Learn, Laugh and Live" and AGM is 13th – 16th September at the East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham. More details on these to follow.

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
10th June	10 Petanque 14.00 Patchwork 14.00	11 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	12	13 Technical Computing 14.00 Walking 14.00	14 Monthly Meeting 14.00	15 Weekender Coffee Wilkin's Jam Factory 10.00	16
17th June	17 Advanced Italian 10.00 Petanque 14.00	18 Local History 14.00	19 Book Group 14.30 French Conversation 10.00	20 Computer 14.00	21 Painting 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00	22	23 Gardening 14.00
24th June	24 Petanque 14.00	25 Scrabble 14.00	26 Creative Writing Group 14.30	27 Family History 10.30 Spanish 10.00	28 News Sheet Copy to Editor Painting 14.00 Bird Watching Luncheon 12.30	29	30
1st July	1 Beginners Italian 10.00 Petanque H. Basin 14.00	2 Threads 14.00	3	4 Photography 14.00	5 Committee Meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00	6	7
8th July	8 Petanque 14.00 Patchwork 14.00	9 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	10 French Conversation 10.00	11 Technical Computing 14.00 Walking 14.00	12 Monthly Meeting 14.00	13	14
15th July	15 Petanque 14.00 Advanced Italian 10.00	16 Local History 18.00	17 Book Group 14.30 Wine Tasting	18 Computer 14.00 Gardening 14.00	19 Painting 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00	20 Weekender Coffee Horseshoe Nursery 10.00	21
22nd July	22 Petanque 14.00	23 Scrabble 14.00	24 Creative Writing Group 14.30	25 Family History 10.30	26 News Sheet Copy to Editor Painting 14.00 Luncheon 12.30 Bird Watching	27	28
29th July	29 Petanque 14.00	30	31	1 st August	2 Painting 14.00 Committee Meeting 10.00	3	4

Diary of Meetings and Visits

For details see articles and co-ordinators above.