



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No. 5/2014

June 2014

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

22nd June 2014

Essex Association of U3A's Study Day

Release of Details and Application Forms.



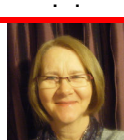
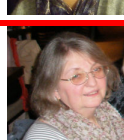

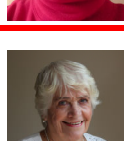
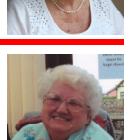
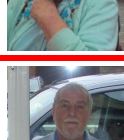
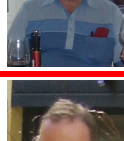
**Watch your Email In Box
on the 22nd of June**

(For more information see page 10)

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Your Committee

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NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

From the Chairman

For only the second time in the five years that I have been booking Speakers for our monthly meeting have we been let down. It was hard on John Harrison, who, as you know, has only just taken on this task to be unable to contact the booked Speaker. Fortunately, she has now returned from South Africa, but too late for us!

I was late in arriving at the May monthly meeting, because I had to Chair the AGM for the Essex Association. When I did arrive at Plantation Hall, it was buzzing! Angela Pleasance and Jenny Parker had organised a Quiz. It was obviously a great success, so this Plan 'B' will be used again. See also my reports on the Association of U3A's and the 2014 Study Day (Page 10).

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

From the Editor

The consensus of views, that have reached me, is that the News Sheet is now easier to read especially if using the .pdf reader. I have had one comment and that there is the need to scroll up from the bottom of the first column to the top of the second column. It also appears that the new layout helps in finding the information you want. Tell me about the topic that you want to hear about.

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 and how your money is spent? (See from the Treasurer opposite)

There is now another group, Croquet. See the report on page 4.

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

From the Membership Secretary

We were pleased to welcome two new members and one returning member in May, taking our total paid-up membership to 157. Names of those who have not paid their 2014/15 subscriptions have now been removed from the membership list.

I have submitted an updated database to the Third Age Direct Mail Scheme and, unless you have asked for your name to be removed from the list, you should receive your next copy of the Third Age Matters magazine through the post around the middle of June. Please let me know if you do not receive your copy.

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

One of the ways in which we wish to use money is to support the groups. We are making an allowance of about £25 for each group, should they wish to claim it. Initially we are asking for claims to be made by the beginning of August. At that time we will know how many groups want financial support, and be able to consider claims for higher amounts. COGs can obtain claim forms from Gill Thorne or any other committee member.

Angela Pleasance:

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

From the Events Secretary

Please note that in future members will be asked to pay for outings in full, six weeks before the trip date. If the trip later proves not to be viable, the money will be refunded in full.

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 Greenwich: Our visit to Royal Greenwich was a great success. Some explored the Maritime Museum and the Queen's House which was built by Indigo Jones for Queen Ann of Denmark, wife of Charles II to Henrietta, wife of Charles I while other energetic souls climbed the hill to the Royal Observatory.

After lunch we walked to the Cutty Sark. What a splendid ship! I personally enjoyed seeing the living quarters of the 30 crew. They worked four hour 'watches' and returned to the single bunk from which their shipmate was leaving! It was good too to learn of the tea trade from China to London before the Suez Canal was built. Next was a short trip on a Thames Clipper to the O2 where we took the Cable Car across the river, marvelling at the perfect weather and wonderful views. A great end to the day!



Heybridge U3A Members on the Royal Greenwich Trip in front of the Cutty Sark

- 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 13th June will be William Tyler, as previously published. His connections with The U3A date back to the time when the idea was first being floated. He was a founder member of The Forum of The Rights to Education for The Elderly (FREE) which predated The U3A in England.

William, a Freeman of The City of London and awarded the MBE for services to adult education, has spoken to U3As in various English Counties, in Valetta (Malta) and in Ljubljana, Slovenia. He spent his whole professional life in adult education.

The title of his talk is "*A Tangled Romance: Edward and Mrs Simpson*". The Great Love Affair of the 20th Century? *Hardly*. An Unimportant minor royal story? *Hardly*.

The King's desire to marry "*The Woman He Loved*" led to a constitutional crisis which gripped the Nation. In retrospect, however, with their Nazi links, we can only give thanks that they never reigned as King and Queen.

The venue, as usual, will be Plantation Hall, Heybridge, starting at 14:00.

The speaker at our Monthly meeting on 11th July will be Linda Stratmann with a talk from one (or more) of her books on "*Essex Murders*". More details in the July News Sheet.

From the COGCo (Group Co-ordinator)

I have nothing to say this month, therefore there is no report.

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

GROUP REPORTS

Art (Painting) Group

Due to half-term holidays and the tennis on TV our numbers were thin last week. We had the luxury of being able to spread our paints, pencils and pens out over the tables. It seemed very strange to have so few people. Next week we'll be back to normal, unless some other sporting event occurs.

Report by Pat Newman

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

Bird Watching Group

Bird watching this month was looking at birds from the water which Jill had arranged for us.

A morning on the Lady Grace a 21 foot open boat that Stacey a very keen bird watcher herself operates from West Mersea. The tide was not high enough when we arrived so our day started with a bacon roll and a warm drink.

Once on the water we looked out for Sammy the Seal who spends most of his time around Mersea, but today, he wasn't around. A Porpoise had also been seen in the last few days but he also stayed out of sight to us. As we made our way towards Otter Tollesbury creeks, we were surrounded by swifts chasing after the midges. Canada and Grey Lag Geese were on the banks as we motored along. Stacey pointed out Lapwing, Red Shank, Shelduck and not so often seen Whimbrel. We also watched a lone Kestrel hunting along the grass bank for prey. After we had run aground a couple of times Stacey decided it was time to make our way back to Mersea. We spotted a couple of Avocets feeding on the shore line. We had hoped to see more of them today, even some with young ones but were not in luck.

We made our way back with a little spray coming into the boat but thankfully the day had stayed dry. We all agreed it had been a great morning and just to be out on the water was fun.

I am not sure yet what we are doing next month as this is going to be a hard trip to follow.

For details of Bird Watching visits please contact Maureen.

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

Computer Group

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

The group continued to look at what spread sheets are and what they can do for us. First, we reviewed what we did last month and continued with placing information and instructions into cells.

In addition to the commands in WORD we can include, mathematical calculations and logic instructions.

An example was introduced at the meeting when data was inserted into the various cells then an adjacent graph automatically changed to reflect the new data.

This introduction will continue at our next meeting, after being introduced to something new. What? You will have to wait and see.

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

To my surprise, the subject of "Custard" produced some excellent writing, - Stories, included a continuation of one from last month, and a report. I had writer's block but the rest of the group showed admirable imagination.

There was some discussion on how we should spend the money allowed by the U3A and we are investigating the cost of a subscription to Writers' Forum or a similar magazine.

We have set ourselves the task of writing a crime story for next month. We meet again on Wednesday 25th June when we shall arrange a date for a summer raclette party.

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

Croquet Group

The newly-formed Croquet Group met for the first time at Forrester Park, Great Totham, as guests of the Maldon Croquet Club, who provided the lawns, the equipment, and some coaching to get us started. After coffee and a chat in the clubroom, the 11 members present (including Rita and myself) were equipped with suitable mallets from the Club's selection and moved out to the lawns, which were already set out for play to begin. The sun had come out to greet us. Partners and

opponents were selected at random, each game with an experienced helper from the Maldon Club.

With memories of garden croquet, the mallets and balls proved heavier and the hoops narrower than most were anticipating, and a few fluffed shots were to be expected in the early stages. However by the end of the afternoon the mallets had been tamed into doing roughly what was wanted, so that length and accuracy were much improved. The rest will come with practice. All in all, a successful and enjoyable beginning.

It had been agreed at the start that fortnightly meetings were favoured and the consensus was that Thursday mornings were comparatively free. Following our first regular meeting on the 22nd May, when 10 members took part, we'll be playing on the first and third Thursdays of each month, from 10:00 until about mid-day (weather permitting) until the season closes in early to mid October. There's space for only a handful more at present without overcrowding, but a third lawn being prepared by the Maldon Club should allow all comers to be accommodated in the near future.

John Gorrie: email gorries@jprag.myzen.co.uk or phone 01621 854006.

Discussion Coffee Morning Group

It was a lovely warm sunny morning at Marilyn's house on 16th May. We enjoyed home-made cakes, chatted and relaxed in the garden. Our next meeting will be at my house on Friday 20th June at 11:00. I can't promise sunshine but there will be a warm welcome.

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

Family History Group

My sincere apologies to the members of the Family History Group for having to cancel our May meeting at such short notice. I still cannot stand upright without a lot of discomfort and I still cannot walk very far.

Our next meeting will be Thursday 26th June 10:30 to 12:30 at my house as usual.

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

French Conversation Group

When we met in May there was some amusement at the differences between the French and the English nations when 'Proverbs' are used. Even 'l'esprit de corps' which we assume we know the meaning of, is slightly

different. We think of a regiment or a team working enthusiastically together, but the French meaning is softer meaning an understanding between or of the other members of the group. The greatest faux ami is when calling someone a female dog. For us it means that she is nasty, the French meaning is that she is pretty and sexy. Most of the other proverbs have no English equivalent. Personally, I find the similarities and differences between us and our nearest neighbours fascinating. The more we learn, the more we are aware of them. It was another enjoyable session.

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

We had a beautiful day for the visit to Wivenhoe Open Gardens. Ten of us had lunch together in a nice little cafe, then split up into smaller groups to follow the garden trail. The river frontage was quaint and beautiful, and with the tide up and sun shining couldn't have looked better. There were several little gardens close by the water, and one in particular artistically decorated with boaty debris trawled up by a fishing boat.

There was also an art studio filled with things we nearly bought.



The One we Nearly Bought: Author Pat Yates

Our next visit is on Thursday 26th June at 14:00 at Spencers, Great Yeldham. This is a big house, (not open) once the home of RAB Butler, with large and interesting gardens. Details of the garden and how to get there are in the yellow book or on

Spencers website. Cost is £5, and teas are available. Everyone is welcome to come.

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 group enjoyed discovering the secrets of the nuclear bunker at Kelvedon Hatch. Of course, we are not able to impart these to others but do recommend that if you, like many of us, have driven many times past the signs for the Secret Nuclear Bunker and wondered about those secrets, then wonder no more, go see for yourself.

The month of May will have also given us the opportunity to take a look at the Friary, home of Adult Education in Maldon with which quite a few of us have connections. The Friary and the surrounding site is of architectural and historical interest which may soon be lost to developers.

Details of plans for the summer months have already been sent to group members and sign-up sheets for available places will be available at the coming General Monthly Meeting. Cheques will also be collected then.

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

Luncheon Group

Our planned lunch on 23rd May was to be at 'The Compasses' at Pattiswick.

When I came to book, I learnt that they were closed for the day with a private wedding booked, including the ceremony as well as the reception with more than 100 guests.

I therefore adopted Plan 'B', and we went to 'The Hurdlemakers Arms' in Woodham Mortimer, a charming hostelry we have visited on several previous occasions. Garry and Nettie provided a first class meal as usual, thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Our 27th June lunch is planned to be at 'The Compasses' at Pattiswick. The list, along with some menu information, will be in the Committee Room during the 13th June 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 9th June at 14.00.

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

Petanque Group

As I write this we have yet another Bank Holiday, but it will be the last one until the end of August. We have been lucky with the weather recently so I hope it will last now for a few months. A little breeze from the water is usually enough to cool us when it is hot. We are not entering the league games as that involves using weekends and a lot of travelling. Our weekly friendly games seem to satisfy the people who come regularly and enjoy the exercise and fresh air. You may join us any Monday except July 14th, just come along and join in.

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

Photography Group

Modern cameras are superb instruments, both optically and electronically. At our May meeting, we returned to the subject of how to obtain the correct exposure for difficult photographs. We recognised that for the majority of shots, taken in good daylight and using the camera in the auto mode we can be confident of taking an acceptable photo. It is only when the subject is lit in a non typical way, such as bright snow or in a woodland setting that the camera gets it wrong and we discussed how to use some of the manual adjustments to achieve the correct exposure in tricky lighting conditions. If the photographer wants to achieve a better than average photo he/she needs to imagine the finished picture and understand which adjustments are required before pressing the button.

The assignment for April was "blue". I was relieved that no one interpreted the subject as a "blue-movie". Flowers, flags and sky were well represented. Bluebells were popular, both in close-up detail and as woodland carpets. Collages

of different blue coloured flowers were especially effective. Well observed landscape photos with blue sky and blue water reflected in glass covered buildings were also chosen as subjects. Several members used everyday blue objects in close-up to great effect. One member produced an effective alternative interpretation, using a simple composition of wrapped sweets and careful attention to lighting and camera settings. In the image accompanying this report, the author has also skilfully controlled the point of focus to guide the eye to the subject.



The assignment for June is "May" and can include any photograph taken since the April meeting. It can also be combined with the members alternative assignment suggestion i.e. the controlled use of depth of field to give a differential focusing effect (see the accompanying blue photo!). We can expect a wide variety of images from our creative members at the June meeting!

If you want to discover your "photographer's eye", please come along and join us on Thursday June 5th, 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

This month the local library supplied us with a variety of books by Jodi Picoult. In addition to discussing each of the books, our main focus was on the writer, Jodi Picoult. She is a prolific writer and it was interesting to see common themes running through her novels. She picks up contemporary and newsworthy issues and turns them into a story to include medical ethics, personal morality and family trauma.

To her credit, she does seem to have the formula cracked and is probably one of the most popular

'general fiction' authors. Perhaps, her 'issue-based commercial fiction' formula is successful in allowing her to present these controversial debates to a wide audience.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 18th June in Plantation Hall. I will be there at 14:00 for a 14:15 start time.

Further information from Carole Overy.

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

Scrabble Group

It was lovely to have three boards out today, with people back from holiday, Beryl, much recovered from her illness, and two new people. In case you were wondering about the words mentioned in last month's report, qi is life force (Chinese), a wadi is a dry watercourse, an adze is a carpentry tool and a pyx is a box. Scrabblers are always on the look-out for words to use up the high scoring letters such as J, scoring 8, Z, scoring 10 and ways of maximising the score with the squares that have double and triple word scores. The next meeting is on Tuesday 24th June 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

On the 7th of May our hosts were Bill & Florence Oliver for the monthly session of whist. We had a very enjoyable and lively afternoon. However it was a session of highs and lows, the high being Bills successful abundance declared (That is winning all 13 tricks). The low was that one of our number, did not win a single hand in the whole session. Both very unusual (I believe).

Excellent refreshments were served by Florence which we all enjoyed.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 4th of June at 14:00 at the home of Geoff & Margaret. So maybe we can see some new faces. If you are at all interested please contact me.

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

Technical Computing Group

Another interesting meeting took place at Norman's house. The main subject of discussion was regarding the new computer that the Heybridge U3A is planning to purchase for all interested groups to use. One point that was

raised and talked about was who is to be responsible for, and maintains this computer, and what method would be used by the COGs of groups to be able to gain access to the computer when needed.

Other small matters were discussed other than the new computer.

The meeting ended about 16.10. The next meeting is at my house in the 12th of June.

I would like to thank Norman for his hospitality.

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 meeting on Tuesday 13th May was attended by 10 participants. We divided into three lanes so that there were two lanes of 3 players and one of 4.

Roger came armed with his own bowling ball complete with its own bag that he purchased from a car boot sale at a bargain price. After the first game he got into his stride and achieved 157 in the second, much to the irritation of his wife, Chris, who was very pleased with her score of 152! These were the best scores of the afternoon but as usual everyone enjoyed it.

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

Our next meeting is at Madison Heights on Tuesday 10th June at 13:45 pm for a start of 14:00.

The cost is £4.75 per person for 2 hours play and includes tea/coffee and biscuits!

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

Threads and Fabrics Group



Summer Tea Cosy: Author Pat Newman

In May, we had another enjoyable meeting, with much laughter and discussion of future plans.

One of our members had brought in her newly made Tea Cosy. A skilful and colourful example of appliqué with its flowers and butterfly. It made us think of warm days in the sun when it is possible to be able to work outside. Let us hope we have the weather for many tea parties in the garden this summer.

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

Heavy rain caused the postponement of our planned May walk.

In the hope of better weather conditions we will try the Dedham walk on Thursday 12th June. We will meet at the public car park (now no longer free!) at 14:00 for a circular walk to Flatford and back.

Please let me know if you can join us and if you need or can offer transport.

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

Weekenders Group

Nearly half way through the year already and I will not say how many days to you know what. We have a few events to look forward to one being a coach trip for a small group of us to Woodbridge and Helmingham Hall Gardens in August but before that in July, Opera in the Orchard in Wickham Bishops. We hope for good weather for both of these events. As we were a bit down on numbers for our last coffee morning it was decided to revisit some of our usual haunts but since then I have decided to give Salty Dogs another try in August, it must be third time lucky. A reminder that the June coffee morning will be at Poplar Nurseries at Marks Tey. September and October will find us back at Olivers and Perrywoods.

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.
- Saturday 9th August Coffee Morning at Salty Dogs, Goldhanger at 10:00.

For further details please contact Marilyn.

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

Wine Appreciation Group

There will be no meeting in June, this year but arrangements have now been finalised for the visit to Bardfield Vineyard at Great Lodge, Great Bardfield on Wednesday 16th July. We will be meeting there ready to start the tour at 11:00, when we will learn about the history of the Lodge and Vineyard. The tour will take approximately one and a half hours with wine tasting, after which we will have our ploughmans lunch and free time to look around. For those of you who have not visited before, the directions are as follows:- Join the A120 towards Stansted Airport at Galleys Corner, after approximately 4 miles exit A120 onto B1417 and turn left at the junction onto Dunmow Road (B1256) then right onto the road signposted Great Saling, The Bardfields, Finchingfield and follow the road past Blake End Craft Centre, Great Lodge is about 4 miles further on the right. There is a sign at the entrance and a long drive down to the house and vineyard.

Fingers crossed that the weather will enable us to have a bbq in my garden on Wednesday 20th August. More details in the July newsletter.

Wine visit to Kent on 12th August. See page 10.

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.

Ely.

For our trip to Ely on Tuesday June 17th, the coach will leave Plantation Hall at 09:00 and on arrival we 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, but please note that the admission charge of £6.50 is not included in the cost of this trip. There is also the option of enjoying 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 £4.40 - (2013). The cost for coach only, will be £15.00 pp and is now due. Please make cheques payable to Heybridge U3A, and collect your ticket at the full Monthly Meeting in June or from Pat as soon as possible.

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 entitled 'British music through the ages', with performances around the house and grounds, finishing with a Prom Finale. I hope everyone

agrees that this promises to be an excellent location for our picnic. The cost will be £6.00 per person if 20 or more members sign up. Please sign the form and pay at 13th June Monthly Meeting or direct to Pat by 27th June. The owners have kindly offered us use of the barn for our picnic should the weather be inclement!

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 booked 17 tickets for Sunday November 23rd 2014 with Boon's Coaches. The balance of £58.00 will be due by 17th August. Other details will be available later but in the meantime I will endeavour to get friends seated together on coach and event, so (except for couples), please let me know asap if there is someone you wish to sit next to.

Social Evening.

Due to popular request, a second social evening is planned and Plantation Hall booked for Saturday 25th October. Possibly fish & chips. Certainly lots of board games! Cost approximately £10.00. Last date for signing up and payment – 12th September.

Ideas for 2015

I have provisionally booked a visit to Kew Gardens for 27th April 2015. Cost approximately £28.00. Please sign up to show interest so that I can make a firm booking by September 2014. Payment will not be due until February 2015 if the trip goes ahead.

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

Association of Essex U3As

The Essex Association AGM was very successful, with a good turnout of members. There are now 51 U3A's in Essex who are

members of the Association, which is a record. Also, what was very pleasing is that for the first time in about ten years we now have a full committee. The Speaker, who works for Essex County Council, talked about his work in Data Protection. Basically, if you allow someone to have your email address they may only use it for the purposes for which you gave it to them. It means that if Heybridge U3A has your email address, it may only be used for U3A activities and not given to outsiders.

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

Association of Essex U3A's Study Day 2014

At the end of the Association of Essex U3A's AGM, questions were asked about this year's Study Day. Once again it is to be held at the Plume School on Tuesday, 28th October 2014. Details and application forms will be released on Sunday 22nd June 2014.

Ian Newman will bounce the details by email as soon as he receives them.

This year members can apply for a place by email but a cheque will still have to be posted. The cost has been reduced to £5 for the day.

If you do not have email please speak to someone you know who has email and ask them to make a paper copy so that you can apply for a place as soon as possible after the 22nd June. It is expected, as last year, some subjects will be over subscribed. Be prepared to act quickly.

This year's groups are: *Architecture*:- Art 1 (Water Colour); Art 2 (Narrow Boat Painting); Art 3 (Acrylics); Art 4 (Pen and Wash); *Astronomy* (Beginners am, Advanced pm); *Computing* (Beginners am, The next steps pm); *Digital Photography*; *Exploring Drama*; *Family History*; *First Aid*; *Geology*; *Hand Chimes*; *Line Dancing*; *Knitting*; *Maths*; *Parliament*; *Patchwork*; *Poetry*; *Trees*; *Water*; *Writing* (Non-Fiction am, Fiction pm).

So get your applications in quickly.

Joyce Woodham (See page 1 for contact details) or Ian Newman (See page 1 for contact details).

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 (all available on the U3A website in the Members Area, Document Downloads).

- U3A Diaries at £2.00 each: if you would like a U3A diary please put your name on the sheet at the next meeting and pay for it at the same time.
- 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.
- U3A Walking guides: the two new walks now available are Flint and Dartmoor, at £3.75 each inc p&p.
- 'Exploring Elgar': Weds 15th October at The Elgar Birthplace Museum, Worcester. £17.00 per person including lunch and refreshments.

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

The Maldon U3A Local & General History group have organised a trip to Flanders feeling it would be appropriate as part of the commemoration of the First World War.

The trip is to take place from Monday 27th April 2015 (3 days / 2 nights) and the cost will be approximately £314 depending on numbers. We still have a few places if any member is interested.

For further information on the itinerary please contact the coordinator - Mary Burd on 01621 843020 or email maryburd43@yahoo.co.uk

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

None

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
Croquet	John Gorrie	01621 854006
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	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
2nd June	2 Petanque 14.00	3 Threads 14.00	4 Solo Whist 14.00	5 Photography 14.00 Croquet 10:00	6 Committee Mtg 10.00 Painting 14.00	7	8
9th June	9 Patchwork 14.00 Petanque 14.00	10 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	11 French Conversation 10.00	12 Technical Computing 14.00 Walking 14.00	13 Monthly Meeting 14.00	14 Weekender Coffee at Poplars Nursery 10.00	15
16th June	16 Petanque 14.00	17 No Local History Ely	18 Book Group 14.00	19 Computer 14.00 Croquet 10:00	20 Painting 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00	21	22
23rd June	23 Petanque 14.00	24 Scrabble 14.00	25 Creative Writing Group 14.30	26 Family History 10.30 Gardening 14.00	27 News Copy to Editor Bird Watching Painting 14.00 Luncheon	28	29
30th June	30 Petanque 14.00	1 July Threads 14.00	2 Solo Whist 14.00	3 Photography 14.00 Croquet 10:00	4 Committee Mtg 10.00 Painting 14.00	5	6
7th July	7 Petanque 14.00	8 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	9 French Conversation 10.00	10 Technical Computing 14.00 Walking 14.00	11 Monthly Meeting 14.00	12 Weekender coffee at Forrester Golf Club 10.00	13
14th July	14 Patchwork 14.00	15 Local History 14.00 Gardening 14.00	16 Book Group 14.00	17 Computer 14.00 Croquet 10:00	18 Painting 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00	19	20
21st July	21 Petanque 14.00	22 Scrabble 14.00	23 Creative Writing Group 14.30	24 Family History 10.30	25 News Copy to Editor Bird Watching Painting 14.00 Luncheon	26	27
28th July	28 Petanque 14.00	29	30	31	1 st August Committee Mtg 10.00 Painting 14.00	2	3