



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No.5/2019

June 2019

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Refreshment Group Rota

June Yoga

July Art

August Bird Watching

Please provide 3 people to serve refreshments

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NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

From the Chair

I would like to thank Angela for taking on the job of getting us into the local press, splendid examples have already appeared in Maldon and Burnham standard (April 25th) and the Maldon and Heybridge life page 16.

A big thank you also goes to both Lesley Woonton and Moira Pen for stepping up at the last minute to make teas and coffee and aiding Joyce Woodham at Essex Association AGM when Joyce had been let down by others. Thank you, ladies.

Our speaker for May was very interesting with both a power point presentation, and horticultural lesson on various species of willow used in weaving, this was followed up with a practical demonstration on making a garden obelisk that was then raffled off to a member of the audience.

Please note we have placed in the lobby a **suggestion box** at general meetings-please use it- we want and need your feedback i.e. your likes/dislikes, what you feel could be done better/ differently and also ways that you are prepared to help us help you.

Having almost finished all my planting out I am sitting basking in the brilliant sunshine and praying for rain (nights 22.00 to 0400hrs only) and hoping I have not condemned several hundred plants to an early death by de-hydration.

Enjoy the good weather while it lasts and I look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting 14/06/19.

Norman Cumming chairman@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Editor

The design of the Heybridge U3A News Sheet, and the reports that it contains, is a full-page layout of 16 pages in a large font. I would ask contributors to limit their photos to pictures of U3A generated activities and not copy pictures from Websites as, when published, this may be contrary to Copyright laws. Information about the Committee Members and their reports can be found in the first few pages. The back page shows the Diary for the months of June and July. Please send reports for the July news sheet by the 28th June.

Geoff Hadley editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Membership Secretary

We have welcomed two brand new members so far this year and most existing members have renewed. However a few have not and if you know anyone who does not want to continue as a member please let me know so I can take them off the list.

Unfortunately someone who has not renewed should not attend main or group meetings as they will not have the third party insurance cover provided by the U3A.

Philippa Moody membershipsecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

Interest Groups Coordinator

We had no uptake at all for the proposed Model Railway Group. However several people signed up for “Eat the World” Group for which Liz Cawdell has volunteered to be COG. She will contact all those who signed up for this group soon. I won’t be at the Main Meeting this month as I will be on holiday so if you are interested in joining this group please contact Liz (Events Co-Ordinator) or see her at the meeting.

Hilary Furniaux groupsco-ordinator@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

Monthly Meeting Speaker Programme for June to July 2019

Fri June 14th Essex Search & Rescue t.b.a

Fri July 12th Del Shannon & Roy Orbison Story Micheal Grillo

I always welcome your comments, if you enjoyed a speaker, or not. Feel free to speak to me at our monthly meeting or send an email to the address below. It helps me to plan future meetings. Please let me know of any talks you may have heard and think others would find interesting

Jan Brown speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

Important Information Regarding Park and Ride services

Essex County Council wants to start charging all senior bus pass holders £1.50 per journey to reduce the £447,000 per year it spends on the service.

These proposals would apply not only to Park and Ride but to the Broomfield Hospital shuttle service too.

At the moment, of course, we bus pass holders can use all these services free after 9am. If these proposals go through, only disabled bus pass holders would continue to enjoy free travel after 9am.

The proposed changes are due to come into effect on April 1st next year. Meanwhile the county council has put the matter out to public consultation online and is inviting our opinions on them.

The consultation ends on July 31st.

For full details, and a chance to have your say, visit

www.essex.gov.uk/park-and-ride-fares-consultation

GROUP REPORTS

Art Group

Talk about alarms and excursions!

I missed a recent U3A Art session due to a trip to the Chelsea Flower Show.

Four days earlier I was at the Mary Quant exhibition at the V&A.

Now, you'd think those two colourful and inspiring events should fire one's imagination for months ahead.

I'll keep you posted. At the moment I just feel gobsmacked and more than a little inadequate after two encounters with other people's brilliant designs using shape and colour.

Hopefully our Friday afternoon artists will inspire me.

When it comes to flowers, we certainly have some superb painters in the group.

And with this year's April showers bringing on so many of May's sweet flowers, I really have no excuse for not trying a little harder.

Gill Carpenter.

For information about this group contact Tina Martin

Bird Watching Group

On Friday 24th the Bird Watching Group visited Blue House Farm in North Fambridge. First stop was to view the web cam which is monitoring the Barn Owl nest box in the farm barn. At that point 3 chicks had hatched and mum was being very diligent in looking after her brood. If you would like to watch the owl nest go to the link <https://www.essexwt.org.uk/protecting-wildlife/wildlife-webcams/barn-owl-webcam> – or just Google EWT barn owl web site.



Blackcap

Having satisfied ourselves that all was well with the owl, we stopped to listen to the wonderful song of the Blackcap who sat by the car park and sang his joy for a lovely day. Well, he was actually singing to attract a mate, of course. Still a great song. We then all headed out to the first hide in the hope of seeing Avocets. Unfortunately Blue House Farm has been under attack from a pond weed called Crassula. It is a NZ weed and when it gets into a fresh water lake or pond it spreads and kills all other plants. The best way to control it in this area is to pump sea water onto the area. The result of this is to kill all the fresh water weed/reeds etc and this is what has been done in this case. Result – no nesting birds on the scrape. Hopefully next year will be better.



Corn Bunting

On our way up to the second hide we stopped to watch what we initially thought was a meadow pipit on the fence. When I looked at my photos I was able to see that it was actually a much rarer bird called a corn bunting. Nice to know there are still some in and around Essex. Plenty of birds at second hide such as Herons, Little Egrets, geese, Pochard and many others. The weather was beautiful and the song of the skylarks accompanied all the morning.

If you would like to join us then contact Maureen Lenoir at symockturtle@yahoo.com. We are out and about on the 4th Friday of each month”.

Cards and Paper Crafts

We didn't manage to meet in May due to the Bank Holiday and unfortunately we were due to meet on 3rd June which is also a Bank Holiday! At the time of going to print we don't yet have another date set so it may well be July before our next meeting.

Linda Lesley Woonton

Creative Writing Group

It was a small gathering this month but we heard five pieces on the subject of phobias, including Chapter 5 of an on-going saga by one of our members.

One of our members brought in a magazine with a story written by a reader and this inspired us to try something different next month. We are going to put a length restriction on our story of 800 words. The subject is, appropriately, 'Fitting In'. The meeting will be on Wednesday 26th June at my house at 2:30.

Angela.

Croquet Group

We have been lucky again with the weather this month and been able to play on both Thursdays. Graham very kindly demonstrated how we have been making an illegal move when we go to play a ball which is very close to another ball or hoop, hopefully we will remember! The boys outshone the girls this month, Dave hit a 'hoop in one' and Roger and George played 'jump shots' Hopefully we will all improve throughout the season. We play for gentle exercise, good company and fun on the first and third Thursdays of each summer month.

Anne Newson.

Discussion Coffee Morning Group

Unfortunately I was unable to attend our coffee morning which was on 17th May at Linda's house, however Linda kindly sent this report.

We discovered that we had all suffered an array of childhood illnesses, including measles, chicken pox, mumps and German measles, prior to the introduction of immunisations. We remembered vaccine on sugar lumps for polio. Treatment for mumps had been the application of a poultice on cotton wool and gauze. Linda remembered her mother heating a tin of kaolin in hot water on the stove to make the poultice. Isolation wards for children with infectious conditions had meant separation from their parents.

As usual the wide range of topics was fortified by refreshments and ended by looking through Linda's photos of her daughter's wedding

The next meeting will be at my house at 11am on Friday 21st June.

Margaret Brown

Family History Group

Another enjoyable meeting again this month attended by eight members.

Linda Wyman showed us a beautiful embroidery she has completed commemorating the birth of one of her family. Linda Wilks found an old leaflet advertising the benefits of insurance – which reminded me of the 1 penny a week death policy my mother took out when I was born. Infant mortality was high during WW2, although mine had a clause inserted stating the insurance void if 'death was due to a casualty of war'! A lot of good that would have been!

One of the names on Liz's 100 year old tablecloth I mentioned last month produced an interesting story. Alberta Maud Raymond born Pancras 1884 – married in 1906 to Karl Possnicker (from Karlsbad Bohemia)?

They lived in Sheppey Kent, with their hairdressing business and 3 children (I have their names and birth dates), but sometime in 1939 they were both under questioning by the Alien Internees department, and although both were released, they felt the need to change the family's name to Raymond.

Sadly, I have no lead as to why her name was embroidered on the tablecloth.

The June meeting could be interesting, we will be joined by a visitor needing some help for a project/survey at Heybridge cemetery Goldhanger Road.

See you June 27th

Jean Rogers

French Conversation

At our May meeting, after our usual discussion, we started to read a dramatic article about a major fire in Paris. Below is a shortened paraphrased version of the first few paragraphs.

On Monday evening, the cathedral of Notre Dame, which was undergoing renovations, caught fire. A stupefied crowd on the quay opposite watched the roof being consumed by flames, despite the heroic efforts of the firemen. Many of the crowd, Parisians' and tourists alike were in tears. One of them, a visitor from Grenoble, told the interviewer how very sad it was that a building that had survived many wars should be destroyed by an accidental fire – how a part of French heritage was disappearing in front of them.

Despite the sad finish to our session we enjoyed the morning, what we do in French is never boring.

Pat Newman.

Local History Group

On May 21st a large group of us met at Hazeleigh Woods - a pocket of ancient woodland mentioned as far back as The Domesday Book, and was once part of the lands of Hazeleigh Hall. We were greeted by Maureen and John Bissell and their beautiful border collie, Cookie. As we stood in the dappled sunshine a smell of wood smoke from the charcoal burner filled the air.

The couple bought the 60 acres of woodland in 1993. Back then it was dark and very overgrown. It had been unmanaged for years and attracted very little wildlife.

As we explored the woods Maureen stopped to tell us enthusiastically about the trees and wildlife. Along the pathways we saw a great variety of wild flowers and grasses - bugle, yellow archangel and millet grass to name a few. Most of the trees are hornbeam or oak with some hawthorn, hazel, hollies and a large yew - possibly the offspring from a local church yard. Over the years they have been opening up the woods letting in sunlight and creating a rich haven for wildlife. While we were there we heard a nightingale in full song. We were all amazed how much damage grey squirrels do by stripping the bark off trees. Maureen works closely with wildlife trusts and is hoping one day to have dormice reintroduced to their woods. They are very proud to have 10 different types of bat.

Hornbeam has excellent burning properties so it is coppiced and used for making charcoal. On the walk back we stopped to look at the metal charcoal burner. Stacks of dry hornbeam were waiting to be made into charcoal. The whole process takes about 4 days. The finished charcoal is then sold on site or locally.

While we were sitting in the yard having a cup of tea Maureen showed us some moths she had caught in a light trapper the evening before. The moths were very varied in colour and shape. Some had unusual names like the Scorched Carpet and the Pebbled Prominent. So far they have recorded 550 different types of moths living in their woods! The data collected helps national records. We then released the moths back into the wild.

Looking after their woods is a way of life which the Bissells love. Through their constant hard work and passion for wildlife they have created a little piece of heaven.

June Rawlings

We shall be going to Harwich on 18th June. In the morning we shall visit the Redoubt Fort and in the afternoon the Light-ship, which includes a Pirate Radio exhibition.

There will be no meeting in July and then in August we shall join one of the public open-Sunday afternoons at Foulness Island.

Please contact Carol for more information

Music Appreciation Group

The letter B was our starting point this month and we found an embarrassment of riches! We will need to return in future, perhaps more than once. We settled down to our afternoon with The Beach Boys playing their many hits but we then heard a clarinet concerto by a living British composer called James Francis Brown. We thought this sounded rather old fashioned for such a modern work.

Our first featured artist whose name begins with B was Nicola Benedetti playing *The Gadfly* by Shostakovich. Following this we dipped into the Baroque period with part of the *Christmas Concerto* by Corelli and the first of our Bach pieces *Passepied*. This generated some heated discussion as Baroque is the favourite period of music of one member but the most disliked of another!

Another B style of music is of course the Brass Band. We heard *The Floral Dance* by The Brighouse and Rastrick Band and later part of a performance by The Black Dyke Band. We also heard examples of several B instruments: the Bugle, Banjo, Bagpipes (French not Scottish) and the Bassoon. The last of these was showcased in a Bassoon Concerto by Rossini which was a pleasant surprise for us all.

There are so many composers whose name begins with B that we were not able to hear half of them. Works by Bernstein, Byrd, Barrington Pheloung, Bizet, Brahms, The Beatles, Borodin, Boccherini, Butterworth and Buxtehude all featured. We also managed to hear a recording of a Blues number by Bix Beiderbecke but I'm afraid that Beethoven did not get a look in!

One composer however featured several times: J S Bach. We heard the *Gloria* from his *B Minor Mass* and the third movement of *Brandenburg Concerto No 5*. Glorious!

Philippa Moody

Needlecraft

Six of us met at my house this month, four of us doing cross stitch and two knitting. One of our biggest topics to talk about was the speaker at last month's meeting! Those of us who were there really enjoyed it and are keen to attend a workshop to make an obelisk. Probably the craftiness coming out!

Our next meeting will be Monday 17th June.

Hilary Furniaux

Painting 2

We meet again on June 10th and I hope to see as many of you as possible, with holidays around the corner. As coordinator I have become interested in the era of the impressionists and have discovered their different styles in the late 1880s and early 1900s, mostly in France, but Van Gogh did live in England for several years. But we all have our different interests to share with the others in the group, and we are learning a lot. So see you on 10th with all your painting equipment.

Barbara Barbrook

Patchwork Group

The patchwork group will be meeting on 10th June at 2pm in Linton Room W.M.C.C.
No meetings in July or August.
For more information please contact Anne Thorpe.

Petanque Group

Very good attendances each week down on the Prom, it's good to see our fair weather players joining us winter players! The weather has been mixed, but summer is just round the corner! See everyone again in June!

Many Thanks....Dian

Photography Group

We met at our usual venue to view and discuss the three photos that our members had submitted for the "Buildings" assignment followed by a short demonstration on using PaintShop Pro software for manipulating photos.

We then discussed various camera models comparing them with those used by the group. We also had a short discussion on the use of Gimbal tripod heads with telephoto lenses.

If you are interested in photography or want to understand more about your camera or cameraphone, you are welcome to come along and join us. We meet in the West Maldon Community Centre on the first Thursday of each month at 2.00pm.

Norman Grove

Reading and Books Group

We had a good discussion about this book - only one person really liked it, the rest of us were rather lukewarm about it. It was a story set in 1969 about a commune in America, with similarities to the Manson Murders, which also took place in a commune during the nineteen-sixties in America.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 19th June at 2pm, again in Angela's home in Heybridge Basin. We shall be discussing "A Delicate Truth" by John Le Carre, which is a thriller about a counter-terror operation in Gibraltar

If you are interested in joining the group, please email or telephone Margaret Hurst

Scrabble Group

At the May meeting we had two games with very mixed results. As the tile selection is random you never know what you're going to get. Angela started the first game with a rack of vowels making it virtually impossible to play, so the solution was to swap them all and miss a turn. In the overall result this was a good move. We always grumble about the tiles we get but a cuppa, biscuit and a chat soon puts the world to rights. Buddie the greyhound occasionally checks to see if we're alright and whether we've left any crumbs.

The next meeting will again be at Angela's on the 25th June. Do contact me if you would like to join us.

Linda Etherton

Technical Computing Group

This month's meeting took place at Alex's house, where we were made most welcome, further we had the return of Peter Thorpe to our group, following an illness, it was great to see him looking so well.

We began by discussing the good and bad points of carrying out an upgrade of Windows 7 to Windows 10, as Microsoft cease to issue security update during January next year. A point to remember is that Windows 7 will still continue to work after that date. During the meeting we were shown a photograph of Chelmsford Cathedral, and using computer software it was possible to re-show the image as if done by watercolour painting, the effect was amazing.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday the 13th of June

Anyone with a basic understanding of computers is welcome to come to one of our meetings. Please contact me in the first instance.

Colin Mason (Cog email colin.mason@yahoo.com)

Ten Pin Bowling

Eight of us played on Tuesday 14th May over two lanes. Peter was the highest scorer with 132, he is such a good player and, although relatively new to us, I asked if he would like to take over from me as COG of the Ten Pin Bowling group. He has accepted and I will be handing over to him in July, more details next month.

I have enjoyed my tenure as COG but after 6 years or so it will be nice to hand over to someone else.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday June 11th at the usual time of 1.45pm for 2pm start.

New members always welcome!

Lynne Morrison

Ukulele Group UKE3A

We had the privilege recently of providing entertainment for the Maldon WRVS luncheon club - our third invitation from this friendly and appreciative group.



Our Happy Members

The occasion was a first for Uke3A in that we got the chance to perform in the Friends Meeting House in Butt Lane, an attractive and historic building with brilliant acoustics.

As we tend not to use microphones for indoor events, making sure we are heard by our audience can be a bit of a worry. No such problem this time!

We had chosen a repertoire of mostly sing-along numbers old and new, and the luncheon club members sang along throughout without prompting and with great enthusiasm.

I think we all came away happy and gratified - and hoping for another opportunity to entertain these lovely people sometime soon.

Gill Carpenter.

Walking Group

Our May walk was scheduled to be to Tollesbury. The day was forecast for showers and as bad luck would have it the showers decided to come about an hour before we were due to depart so the walk was cancelled. However, weather permitting we will give it another go for our next walk on Thursday 13th June. For those interested the July walk will be on the 11th, venue to be determined - a reminder that there will be no walk in August.

If you would like to join us, please contact Linda, see the last page of the newsletter for details.

Linda Wells.

Weekday Lunch Group

This month we went to the Chequers pub at Goldhanger. This is an attractive old pub with a wide menu of dishes individually cooked. The dining area has been very pleasantly upgraded and is used if you wish to book.

We enjoyed our usual chats and put the world to rights.

Our next lunch will be at The Bell Woodham Walter.

Jean Perrott.

Weekenders Group

A large group of weekenders met on the morning of Saturday 11th May. Unfortunately I was not able to join them but I heard they livened The Tiptree Tearooms up considerably! Thanks again for stepping in Linda.

Then on 19th May we met at Whitehouse Cottages in Woodham Walter to visit their charming garden as part of the National Open Gardens Scheme. It was a pleasure to find such a quiet and pretty place so near to home. The cakes were wonderful as usual and a local Blacksmith working there provided extra interest. As you see below, the garden is open again in June when the roses should be in bloom!

Dates and details of our next meetings.

Saturday 15th June – a new date! We are booked into *The Cats*, in Woodham Walter for a light lunch; 12.00 for 12.30. Please let me know if you are coming.

Sunday 16th June - A proposed Garden visit to Whitehouse Cottages, Woodham Walter, (no 73 in the NGS Yellow book).

Saturday 22nd June – We meet at the Buckhatch Nursery and Garden Centre, East Hanningfield Road, CM3 8EW, at the usual time of 10.00.

Saturday 20th July – We meet at 10.00 at the Braxted Bakery, Homefield House, Witham road Gt Braxted. CM8 3ET

Please contact me if you need a lift or directions.



Pat Smith

Yoga Group

Future dates for our next session are JUNE 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th continuing with JULY 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th. Eight weeks in total.

Meanwhile enjoy the break but keep doing yoga at home; there are short UTube films on the internet as guidance but stick with your own level of ability.

Gloria Bomford

SUFFOLK PUNCH TRUST and SNAPE MALTINGS

Monday 1st July - **FULLY BOOKED / WAITLIST OPEN**

£28 per person

The Suffolk Punch horse is the oldest English breed of working horse. The Suffolk Punch Trust was founded to help protect the critically endangered Suffolk horse through its established breeding programme, raising public awareness and training a new generation of professionals to work with these iconic heavy horses.

After our tour, we will go on to **Snape Maltings**, an arts complex on the banks of the River Alde at Snape, Suffolk, England. It is best known for its concert hall, which is one of the main sites of the annual Aldeburgh Festival.

The original purpose of the Maltings was the malting of barley for the brewing of beer; local barley, once malted, was sent from here to London and exported to mainland Europe. Today a collection of shops, galleries, restaurants and the Concert Hall fill the old buildings.



HIGHGATE CEMETERY

Monday 7th October £30 per person **X 4 SEATS LEFT!!!**

Guided tour of the West Cemetery. Self-guided visit to the East Cemetery



With its sinuous paths winding up a steep wooded hill and ivy-clad monuments, here is a secluded funerary landscape at its most evocative. There are approximately 170,000 people buried in around 53,000 graves across the West and East cemeteries. Many famous people are buried here and the West Cemetery is designated Grade II on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens.

***Visitors to the West cemetery should be aware that the paths are steep, and the tour route includes two flights of stairs with no seating opportunities. The East cemetery is on a gentler slope with no steps and predominantly tarmac paths. The tour takes about 75 minutes and will take place come rain or shine!**



Cream Teas on the Lawn

- In aid of the Essex Air Ambulance
- Friday 14th June
- 2.00 pm to 5.30 pm
- Children Welcome - toys and activities
- Minimum contribution: £4
- Tiptree jam and Rodda's clotted cream
- Homemade scones served on proper china
- At 31, Acacia Drive Maldon, Essex, CM9 6AW
- Raffle, Tombola, Stalls, Books, Plants and more
- Details from Diana Rogers 01621 853841 / 07860162328 or diana.rogers2@btinternet.com

My address, and the address of the event is 31, Acacia Drive Maldon, Essex, CM9 6AW

Please contact me for further details.

Diana Rogers

Diary of Meetings and Visits For details see articles and co-ordinators above

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
27 May	27 Bank Holiday	28 Scrabble 14.00	29	30	31 Painting 14.00 Copy to Editor	1 Jun	2
3 June	3 Petanque 14.00 Cards & paper 14.00	4 Weekday Lunch 12.30	5 Ukulele 14.00 Yoga 14.00	6 Croquet 10.00 Photography 14.00	7 Committee Meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00	8	9
10 June	10 Petanque 14.00 Painting 2 14.00 Patchwork 14.00	11 Ten pin 14.00	12 French Conversation 10.00 Yoga 14.00	13 Technical Computing Walking 14.00	14 Monthly Meeting 14.00	15 Weekenders The Cat Woodham Walter 12.00	16 Weekenders Whitehouse Cottages Woodham Walter
17 June	17 Petanque 14.00 Needlecraft 14.00	18 Local History	19 Reading & Books 14.00 Music 14.00 Yoga 14.00	20 Croquet 10.00	21 Painting 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00	22 Weekenders Buckhatch Nursery and Garden Centre 10.00	23
24 June	24 Petanque 14.00	25 Scrabble 14.00	26 Yoga 14.00 Creative Writing 14.30	27 Family History 10.00	28 Bird watching 10.00 Painting 14.00 Copy to Editor	29	30
1 July	1 Petanque 14.00 Cards & paper 14.00 Suffolk punch trust outing	2 Weekday Lunch 12.30	3 Ukulele 14.00 Yoga 14.00	4 Croquet 10.00 Photography 14.00	5 Committee Meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00	6	7
8 July	8 Petanque 14.00 Painting 2 14.00 Patchwork No meeting	9 11 Ten pin 14.00	10 French Conversation 10.00 Yoga 14.00	11 Computing Walking 14.00	12 Monthly Meeting 14.00	13	14
15 July	15 Petanque 14.00 Needlecraft 14.00	16 Local History No Meeting	17 Reading & Books 14.00 Music 14.00 Yoga 14.00	18 Croquet 10.00	19 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00	20 Weekenders Braxted Bakery 10.00	21
22 July	22 Petanque 14.00	23 Scrabble 14.00	24 Creative Writing 14.30 Yoga 14.00	25 Family History 10.00	26 Bird watching 10.00 Painting 14.00 Copy to Editor	27	28
29 July	29 Petanque 14.00	30	31	1 Aug	2 Painting 14.00 Committee Meeting 10.00	3	4