

Heybridge u3a

June/July 2023 News Sheet

Your Committee

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

Archive

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

Registered Charity number 1160360

Next Main Meeting – Plantation Hall

Friday 9th June at 2.00 pm

Speaker - Chris Farndell

- “Essex Murders”

Friday 14th July at 2.00 pm

- *Displays by Interest Group Coordinators*

Next Committee Meeting – Plantation Hall

In the Claydon Room






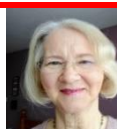
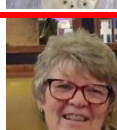
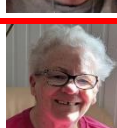


Friday 2nd June at 10.00 am

Friday 7th July at 10.00 am

Main Meeting Refreshments Rota

June – Patchwork

July – Interest Groups Coordinator

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From the Editors

Hello and welcome to the joint June/July News Sheet.

We are now in the meteorological (not to be confused with Equinoxes and Solstices!) definition of summer, although the weather of late has been nearer to winter! However things seem to have improved recently, let's hope it lasts.

Our King's Coronation tea last month went very well, as mentioned by Moira in her report. Here are a few photos of the occasion, taken by Linda.



Three Monarchs

View in the hall

Crown & Mug



Coronation Souvenirs

Displays of memorabilia

At our July main meeting on 14th July there will be various displays from our interest groups. Please come along and bring a friend to see what Heybridge u3a has to offer. Tea and refreshments will be available.

As the holiday season is approaching, this is a combined June/July news sheet. See you in August!

Lorraine & Brian editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

News Sheet Deadline

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

News from the Committee

From the Chairman

Summer seems to be here at last and holidays are being planned. In the meantime your u3a is in need of a little help with the organising of the tea and biscuits for the monthly meetings. No written reports, financial accounts or meetings involved, just someone, or maybe two people, willing to take on the responsibility of bringing the tea bags, coffee, milk and biscuits to hand over to the designated group each month. The only experience needed is a friendly face and a willing attitude to help out.

Jackie Jones chairman@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Speaker Secretary

I have been busy getting new speakers booked, and we are now booked up until December this year, 2023. I will soon start booking for 2024.

I am looking forward to hearing our next speaker, Chris Farndell regarding Essex Murders, which should be interesting!

Lesley Woonton speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Interest Groups Co-ordinator

I would like to say a big thank you to all of you that attended our last main meeting for the King's Coronation.

What a lovely turnout we had, I have to say I really never expected so many of our members and CoGs! It was wonderful!

A special thank you to our volunteers who made our lovely cakes; Brian Rogers, Pauline Boyd, Diane Cox, our own Chairman Jackie Jones, and Miriam for the melt in the mouth shortbread.

Thanks everyone that took part telling us about their experiences regarding the Royal family, through their own grandparents or family members, and our lovely display of memorabilia.

The committee did well making sure everything was ready for you all, so I would like to thank them for their help too, as I could not do this on my own,

Next big one is the Display in July.

Moir Penhallow groupsco-ordinator@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

News from around the Groups

Art

Like other u3a groups our Friday afternoon Art Group is still slowly rebuilding after the devastation of Covid.

At my last count there were seven members – not a lot compared to our pre-Covid glory days when we boasted a full house of 16 and a waiting list! To accommodate all who wished to paint, our dear late friend Barbara launched a second Art group which met on Mondays.

Happy days – but now we struggle to pay our room rent.

We are just about managing but we could really do with a few more would-be artists to join our jolly crew.

Please think about it. Better still, why not wander along to the Claydon Room in the Plantation Hall between 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm on the first or third Friday of the month. We would love to meet you and show you what we do.

Meanwhile, all those members who haven't paid their subs recently, please bring your cheque books along to the next meeting. Thank you!

Gill Carpenter

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Board Games

This month eight players descended on Angela's to (supposedly) exercise our brain cells, four chose to play dominoes, and judging by the shrieks of laughter it was very enjoyable.

The remaining four (including myself) opt for Rummikub. I've never heard of this game let alone played it, but it's basically along the same lines/rules as the card game, rummy.

I did find remembering the rules, and deciding on my movewithout spending all afternoon thinking about it quite challenging, but good fun and I'm really looking forward to the next meeting.

The rumour is the brain is merely a muscle and works better when exercised!!

Thank you Angela for your hospitality.

Jean Rogers

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Cards & Paper Craft

We have been very creative recently as we need to produce lots of cards in preparation for the July display.

We have also been celebrating two birthdays in our group, which is always a good excuse for tea and cake.

Lesley Woonton

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Croquet

The weather (or incorrect weather forecast) affected this month's croquet; just Graham and George turned up and played at the first croquet session, I think those who were free had looked at the forecast of rain and decided not to play. However, it was a dry sunny afternoon and the rain held off until play had finished. The second session proved better, six turned up to play and all seemed to enjoy a good three games on the new lawns. I went along and watched for part of the time and must admit although we now only have two lawns to play on they are a vast improvement on the lawns at Forresters. Many thanks to Chris and Graham who yet again covered for me this month.

Anne Newson

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Discussion Coffee Morning

We met this month on Friday 19th May at Jean's house in Heybridge. We were treated to tasty sausage rolls, coffee, cake and biscuits which we enjoyed with our tea/coffee.

It was a pleasant morning with plenty of interesting conversation which unsurprisingly included the topic of summer holidays past and present. Lesley told us that this year they will be going to one of the Greek Islands. Jean and I will be eating lots of pasta and ice cream in Lake Garda, Italy. The next meeting will be on Friday 16th June at Linda's house in Heybridge.

Margaret Brown

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Family History

Last month I related the story of William Thomas Jones who died after falling off a chicken shed. Well this month we think between us, it may be solved.

A death certificate has been sent for, name, birth, and location are all spot on, but the age might be suspect.

He was born 1907 and the death certificate is 1909, making him 2 years old. Could he have climbed on a chicken shed aged 2?

His sister supposedly visited him in hospitalshe wasn't born until 1909.

We will just have to wait and see.

Jean Rogers

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Needlecraft

Holiday plans meant that we were reduced to just three members at the meeting in May. One of the group was busy sewing tiny hexagon patches for a colourful patchwork throw whilst another member was busy knitting a patchwork cardigan. The third member made a woollen bobble and attached it to a baby boy's knitted helmet.

Tea and biscuits were enjoyed with friendly chatter.

Next meeting will be Tuesday 20th June 2023, when Hilary will be back to tell us all about her holiday.

Jackie Jones (for Hilary Furniaux)

Patchwork

During the May meeting members worked on a variety of interesting projects using techniques such as applique, hand quilting and embroidery. Our monthly meetings provide a great source of inspiration for future projects. The next meeting will be held on Monday 12th June.

Jackie Voyez

Petanque

Petanque has welcomed back Norman and Ken, it has been a while since they have both been able to play so it's lovely to see them.

We have not played much this month as we have had three bank holidays, but it still has been a full house when we have played, even when the wind has blown across the river and it has been freezing cold.

I am sure summer is round the corner somewhere so everyone keeps saying, but not sure where. We are looking forward to our first Summer Party since Covid. Let's hope the sun shines for us on the 5th June, as we are also celebrating one of our special member's 90th Birthday. And he plays better than me!

Moir Penhallow

Photography Group

For the first time since Covid six members met up at Hythe Quay on 5th May. We visited one of the boatyards and then wandered around the area taking photos. Each member will submit three photos for our next slideshow. Members who were unable to join us have been requested to also submit three photos taken locally since the last meeting.

Our next meeting will be held on 8th June 2023 at 2.00 pm by Zoom when we will view a selection of photos taken.

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

Norman Grove

Reading & Books

"Sea Glass", set in New Hampshire in 1929 by Anita Shreve, draws together a random group of individuals that are each unaware of the impending troubles ahead of the Wall Street crash and

the growing discontent of the hard pressed mill workers preparing for strike action. The two main characters are Honore and Sexton Beecher, newly wedded and facing an uncertain future.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 21st June, when we will have an informal chat about this book before receiving the next one.

Jackie Jones

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Ten Pin Bowling

We had seven of the group playing on the 4th May. I must say I was on fire for the first couple of games joining the '175 Club' both games but things changed in the third game with Graham coming back to life with a score of 164. How the pins and the bowling lane must quake when Graham bowls! The ladies enjoyed mixed fortunes as usual but Linda came out on top with a score of 128 on the last frame.

Alas we only had six of the group playing on the 25th May. Wish John better with his bad back and we won't be seeing Linda for a little while as she flies off to Australia. After a tight competition with Graham in the first game I managed the highest score of the day with 166 but for me everything went badly downhill for the remaining three games. All managed to obtain some creditable scores even if the machinery caused some confusion between Hilary and Jackie when a strike by one was credited to the other!

For your diaries/calendars the next game is on the 8th June 10.00 am. See you all then.

Peter Harvey

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Theatre & Cinema Group

Well we had another great evening at Chelmsford Theatre on Friday 19th May.

We saw four very good lads called G4, they were two originals from winning X Factor in 2004 and the other two joined them over the years, as they have been going 20 years now.

Eleven of us went this time, and it all worked out perfectly with our drivers again, and I am very grateful to them for doing this for those of us that do not drive, and for those who do not like driving in the dark.

We can get together again at our main meeting over a cup of tea.

Moir Penhallow

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Walking

Just four of us did the walk on Thursday 11th May. We started from the National Trust car park on Danbury Common and walked to Danbury Park along quiet lanes and roadside paths entering through the Well Lane gateway. We meandered through an almost empty park, around the lakes and the Danbury Palace Gardens, finally leaving the park and walking back towards the car park along a narrow, rather muddy path then across the open part of the common. Although the sun shone for most of the way, we were caught in irritating light rain, made more difficult by the narrow

very muddy path we were following at the time. However, after just over three miles we arrived back at our cars in sunshine before heading home. A gentle if damp stroll. At the time of writing there will be no walk in June. Unusually, I shall not be able to lead the July walk either, but I can offer a suggestion and can walk with a volunteer later in June if desired. So given that we don't walk in August, our next walk will be on Thursday 14th September, unless we have a volunteer.

Linda Wells

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Weekenders

The weekenders went to the Lock Cafe at Heybridge Basin in May where half decided to sit inside and the rest of us braved the outside to benefit from the (very) fresh air! We did pop in to see the inside crew and exchanged a few good stories as well as looking at the next venues and other possibilities such as local villages' open gardens. Wickham Bishops Open Gardens is on the 11th June, tickets from the Health Food shop in advance are £7.50 or £10 on the day from St Bart's Church or the Village Hall. Tollesbury Open Gardens is on 17th – 18th June, £5 covers both days with tickets from The Lighthouse or the square on the day. More details from the Open Gardens website: <https://opengardens.co.uk>

On Saturday 17th June we will be going to White Elms Nursery in Bicknacre and in July to one of our favourites, the Tiptree Jam tearoom at Osea Leisure.

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

Linda Etherton

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For your info....

The Stow Maries Fund Raising Group are having an evening of 60s – 00s live music with "Never Grew Up" at the Smythe Hall, Stow Maries, 7.00 pm on 1st July. Please see the attachment for further details.

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Hutton u3a would like to invite members of other local u3a groups to their Members' Activities Day being held on Wednesday 12th July 2023 at New Hall School, Boreham, Chelmsford, CM3 3HS. It is an all-day programme from 9.15 pm to 5.15 pm with choices of morning and afternoon activity sessions, plus two speakers, a two course lunch and all refreshments throughout the day. The price is £43. Full details of the activities and speakers can be accessed through the following link to the programme and booking form at https://huttonu3a.org.uk/public/events/AD_2023_members_other_u3as.php.

Payment can be made by electronic transfer or cheque.

Any queries please contact Eileen Damsell, Events sub-committee Hutton u3a, on 01277 212802 or 07748 515194, email eileenu3a@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ClusterGroupActivitySchedule.pdf (maldonu3a.co.uk)

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