

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No. 2010/7

July 2010

Contacts:	Peter Thorpe	Chairman	01621 850828
	Brenda Dewar	Secretary	01245 400492

From the Chairman

The sun is shining, live tennis is on two channels of BBC TV and I am subliminally thinking of strawberries! This is strange as I do not watch tennis (I am more of an old re-runs of Top Gear on "Dave" type of viewer). For all those of you who are, for whatever reason, also thinking about strawberries, our next meeting on the 9th July is for you. We are not having a speaker as we have decided to spend the money saved on strawberries and cream tea, and scones instead! We hope that everyone will use time just to talk together as we enjoy a summer afternoon tea party. We will be able to see what some of the groups get up to at their meetings as they present themselves to us by using table displays and, we hope, projected images. If you are not a member of a group it will be an opportunity to discover the wide variety of interests that our members share together. If you would like to start a new group Gill will be pleased to offer advice and guidance. Come along and enjoy being in the company of your U3A friends.

Looking back to last month's meeting, we were treated to a splendid and unusual afternoon. Members brought their antique treasures and laid them out on tables for discussion and valuation by Mark Stacey. Mark is an auctioneer from a family of auctioneers. He specialises in ceramics and is an advisor on TV shows which, include "Cash in the attic" and "Flog it! Mark opened the afternoon by discussing several of his own ceramics. He explained that the most important aspect of valuing an antique was not how old it was but how desirable it was to someone else. Desirability depended not only on fashion, but on who produced the item and how rare it was. Members brought a wide variety of objects, including: pieces of jewellery; ceramic items; toys; fabrics; silverware and other collectables. Many items were family pieces of greater value to the owner, for the memories they represented, than the possible auction price. It was interesting to listen to Mark describe the various items and to hear the owners' comments on what their piece meant to them. One silverware item

(small enough to hold in the palm of one hand) could not be identified as to what it was or how much it might be worth. I hope that one day the mystery will be solved and we shall be told all about that interesting object.

Peter Thorpe

From the Editor



As I am trying to get a photograph of all Committee Members I have included one of myself this month. It is a picture of me hiding behind a camera.

This News Sheet is again being circulated to all members who have provided their email addresses to the Membership Secretary. If you have an email address and have not received an emailed copy of this News Sheet please let me know.

I would again like to promote articles in the Monthly News Sheets. These articles need not be associated with any of the Groups. They could range from interesting aspects, such as trips away from home, through to aspects associated with your previous or current job. If you wish to discuss this further, please see me at the Monthly Meeting.

The Diary on the last page has been updated through to the end of July. It is important that you as COG's, members of Groups or just members of Heybridge U3A, keep me up to date. If anyone has an interesting story, relevant pictures or activity that relates in some way to The Heybridge U3A or the U3A movement as a whole, then please contact me. We can discuss how and what can be included in this News Sheet.

Most will know the publication procedure. Copy should be with me by the last Friday of the month. Please continue to send details to me, preferably by

email at ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk with 'U3A' in the title. Typed copy can also be provided. Alternatively, phone me on 01621 891184 or see me at the monthly meeting to decide other methods of providing copy. Publication will take place some seven days later.

Ian Newman.

Heybridge U3A Meetings

The next meeting is Friday 9th July, starting at the normal time of 14.00, in the Plantation Hall, Heybridge. This month we will be having a Strawberry Tea when Groups can promote their activities. On the 13th August, Roger Becket will give a talk about Barges. At our September meeting, Peter Webb will be giving a talk entitled "The Good Life", his humorous life based on the sit-com.

From the COGCo (Group Co-ordinator)

This is only a short write up as we are all involved in arrangements for the Strawberry Tea on 9th July. I am personally involved with the Computer Group and you will see that everyone is working hard to make the presentation on the new projector a great success. This is another learning curve for me and I am surprised how much I have learned (and then forgotten) in just under 4 months. Hopefully, most of you will have received this News Sheet by e-mail and I look forward to seeing you all at the Plantation Hall. Quite a few of the groups will be setting up displays so make sure you talk to the COGs who are putting in a lot of work to make this a successful day. Most important of all is the Strawberry Tea which is a quintessentially British event. By the time this News Sheet is sent out Wimbledon will be over and I will be able to do some gardening and other things instead of sitting in front of the television for 2 weeks.

The inaugural meeting has taken place of the Heybridge U3A Family History Group with Lesley Pomphrett as COG. See Group news below for more details. We wish them every success.

Gill Thorne 01621 852294

gillthorne2@hotmail.co.uk

Group Names, Co-ordinator, Contact Telephone

Group Name	Co-ordinator (COG)	Telephone Number
Ballroom Dancing	Joint with Maldon Jo Robson *	* 01621 828236
Bird Watching	Maureen Lenoir	01621 869871
Bridge	Lisbeth Bazzard	01621 843208

Group Name	Co-ordinator (COG)	Telephone Number
Coffee Morning	Margaret Brown	01621 854885
Computer	Tina Abeysekera	01621 858635
Esperanto	Peter Groves	01245 227018
Family History	Lesley Pomphrett	01621 817733
Gardening	Pat Yates	01621 892866
Local History	Carol Greenhalgh	01621 840339
Luncheon	Beth Jeffries	01621 853403
Maritime & Coastal	Brenda Dewar	01245 400492
Painting	Michael Kempen	01621 892974
Petanque	Barbara Barbrook	01621 855605
Photography	Peter Thorpe	01621 850828
Reading & Books	Ann Lees	01245 225153
Scrabble	Ruth Tyler	01621 869865
Theatre	Gill Bridle & Janet Morley	01621 892587 & 01621 892626
Threads & Fabrics	Anne Thorpe & Pat Newman	01621 850828 & 01621 891184
Walking	Elizabeth Eastwood	01621 850618
Weekenders	Marilyn Corbett	01621 817518

Membership Secretary

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

REPORTS

Art (Painting) Group

The Painting Group continues to thrive despite rival attractions, such as sport on TV and members' holidays. The beauty of painting in summer is the availability of garden flowers. Michael Kempen

provided a stunning and colourful selection for the June 25th meeting, which proved an inspiration to many.

We're now working on a single subject each for the groups' display at the July Strawberry Tea meeting. It will be interesting to see what the various members come up with!

Gill Carpenter.

Bird Watching

There was no Bird watching last month, June, as I am away. I hope to get something organised for July. For up to date information please see me at the Strawberry tea or ring me on 01621 869871 or email symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk

Thanks Maureen.

Bridge Group

The next duplicate bridge session will again be at 2, Silver Street on Wednesday 7th July (builders allowing!). Please let me know if you can participate.

Please ring me on 01621 843208 or email lisbethbazzard@talktalk.net

Liz

Computer Group

At the June meeting Ian and Peter were delighted to demonstrate the new projector, which has now been purchased. It was agreed by all present that the Computer Group would contribute to its cost from the Computer Group Funds. Quarterly subscriptions (required for the prepayment of the room) are being reduced to £5 per quarter and may be reduced further if numbers are maintained.

Discussion then took place on the presentation that is to be shown at the July Strawberry Tea. All three sub groups' elements of the presentation were shown and these will be copied into one file. Tina produced further text and the pictures were provided by members of the Computer Group. It was stated that excellent progress has been made by all in mastering the Power Point program. In addition, the excellent presentation produced by Margaret telling the story of her journey through the Panama Canal will also be included in the presentation.

The next Computer Group meeting will be on the 15th July at 13.00. We will be discussing the presentation and any queries that have arisen. See you there.

Audrey.

Coastal and Marine Group

The weather for our Dunwich trip was not exactly flaming June, but at least it did not rain, so it was perfect. It was quite overcast and atmospheric as

we walked along the shingle beach to see where Glenn and his crew had spent their time diving for the many interesting remains of old Dunwich village. Glenn explained how the cliffs were disappearing into the sea, taking down buildings and roads. It was even more stunning to walk along the top of the cliffs and look over at the grey sea. None of us wishing to get too near the edge! Dunwich is full of history, a fine example being the old church tower rescued from the edge of the cliff, before it joined the rest of the building that had crumbled down to the sea. Glenn gave us an interesting commentary as we explored Dunwich, especially in the Museum where we could see the artefacts his expedition had recovered from the sea bed.

Glenn has also kindly arranged for us to visit the Museum at West Mersea. We have booked the visit for Friday 17th September as some of us are on holiday in July. More details to follow. As we need to consolidate our programme for the remainder of the year, our next meeting, Friday 16th July, will be held in the Tea Shop at the Heybridge Basin at 14.00. Perhaps the "sea air" will inspire us. We can also enjoy tea and cakes and then a gentle stroll to admire the boats (or mud). Looking forward to hearing all your ideas.

Brenda Dewar. (01245 400492)

Discussion Coffee Morning

We met on the 18th June at Sally Bonds' house and, as usual, we talked and talked but paused long enough to enjoy the tea/coffee etc. kindly provided. We were grateful to Sally as she had hurt her back and was struggling. Thankfully, she is now on the mend.

Our next meet will be on Friday 16th July at Gill Thorne's house. The time has altered to 10.45 for this month only. This will enable those who wish to attend the U3A Luncheon group. Details will be available at the next meeting.

Margaret Brown, on 01621 854885.

Family History Group

On Thursday 24th June, a group of members who are interested in family history met at my house. We had an enjoyable meeting. Jean Butcher showed us how she keeps her family tree and Norman Groves showed us his tree on the computer. He also provided information on free internet sites which are available. Invaluable information.

It was decided that a Heybridge Family History Group is wanted and has now been formed.

There are at least 7 people who were not able to come this month, but I look forward to seeing them all at the next meeting, which will be on

Thursday 22nd July 10.30 to 12.30 at my house in Tiptree.

Roger Smith from the Blackwater Family History Group has agreed to come and talk to us on "Getting Started" which is what most of us need to know.

Lesley Pomphrett

lesleypommy@hotmail.com

Gardening Group



The visit to Little Foxes, Thorpe Bay proved to be another lovely day, another lovely garden and more delicious cake! The only disappointment was that only eight people came. Hopefully we will have a larger group for the next visit, to Byndes Cottage, Pebmarsh, near Halstead, CO9 2LZ. This is a garden of 7 acres adjoining a thatched cottage, featured in Daily Mail magazine. The cost is £4.00 including entrance, tour, tea and cakes. The date is Monday 19th July at 14.30. This owner asks for groups of 10+, as did Little Foxes, so please come.

Pat Yates. 01621 892866 or pat.yates@tesco.net

Local History Group (LHG)

The June meeting took the form of a visit to the Tiptree Jam Factory Museum and, of course, included lovely refreshments in the cafe. I was travelling in the Baltic States so missed this one but understand it was a very good visit. There is always something new to see in the museum.

For our next meeting, on Tuesday 20th July, we have another outing. This time we are off to the Combined Services Museum in Station Road. We will meet at the museum at **14.30**. [Please note the time]. The museum has a wonderful reputation with excellent displays and a lot to see. I'll need definite numbers for this as soon as possible as we have to let them know how many to expect. They are opening specially for us. There will be a £6.50 per person fee for this visit, to include refreshments, which I will collect on the day. Please call me, if possible before the next general meeting, if you wish to come or need more information. [You can also e-mail me at george.smeed@virgin.net].

Whilst we are in the area, some might like to take a look at the old Maldon East railway station. I don't know if this is a listed building but it certainly should be.

Carol Greenhalgh

Luncheon Group

After a very confused morning on my part, nine of us ended up at The Blue Bridge, Writtle, for a very enjoyable meal on Tuesday 22nd June.

The next venue is The Peldon Rose on Friday 16th July. I realize most people have signed up but will bring the list to the July meeting. The date for August will be Friday 27th venue to be decided.

See you all at the Monthly Meeting. Leave me some strawberries.

Beth 01621 853403.

Petanque Group

I hope you, the U3A members, will enjoy our display of photos, taken in lovely summer weather, at the next meeting, when we have the Strawberry Tea. I am also delighted to have found where you can purchase a magnet which will pick up the metal boules. It is only the size of a pen and good for anyone wanting to play but having problems picking them up. I shall have it on display with our other items on July 9th. We are enjoying this lovely warm weather, almost like the South of France where petanque is played in towns and villages. We hope it keeps hot like this for a month or two.

It should be noted that the group will not be playing at the Maldon Prom on 9th August as we are playing on someone's drive in Heybridge Basin. Afterwards, the regular players are having a "raclet" meal. After that date, we shall be back to normal.

Barbara Barbrook

Photography Group

We were able to use the new projector for the first time at our last meeting. Considering that the Claydon Room has a "greenhouse" in the ceiling, the projected images were clear and large on the screen. It was good to see members' photographs taken on our visit to Heybridge Basin on the screen. By putting the images (on memory sticks, cards and cds) into a laptop computer, we could all see the photographs at the same time. The projected image is a great improvement when compared with handing around prints. It enables us to discuss the pictures as we look at them together as a group.



Author – David Mason.

We will discuss the Photography Group presentation, for the Strawberry Tea afternoon, at our next meeting. I look forward to our members showing a wide variety of their photographs in our display. I also hope that seeing our pictures will bring a little enjoyment to other members of the U3A.

If you are interested in photography, and want to join us, we normally meet in the Claydon Room of the Plantation Hall, on the first Thursday of each month at 13.00 (lunch time!). We have a fun time and you are welcome.

Peter Thorpe

Reading and Books Group

This month we were able to read "Let's talk about Kevin", by Lionel Shriver an American woman author. This is a very sad story of a young man who kills his sister and father.

The tale is told through letters, written retrospectively by the mother to the dead father, exploring the upbringing of this very difficult male child. It explores the issues of whether a child is born evil, or whether nature or nurture, or a combination of both is responsible for the evil this child eventually displayed. It relates to the jealousy and hate that can exist between siblings and how, combined with a rejecting mother, this apparently can lead to the destroying of other human beings within the family.

Some of us were unable to complete the book, so horrific was this story. However, the braver ones amongst us completed it and were able to give informed opinions which contained interesting ideas about the influence of genes, rejecting mothers and disinterested or marginalised fathers on the upbringing of such an evil child.

Overall, it was considered a difficult read which raised many issues in discussion, not least of which was whether the author was man or woman, such was the ambiguity of her name.

We have had a difficult time with the last three books and great credit goes to all our members who have hung in there and attempted to read unfamiliar and trying literature. Some have rolled over at times (which is OK) as life is too short for distress or boredom to be created by a book we do not like

We all choose the books together and all agree on the mix at the outset of the year so it would be a miracle if all the books were liked by all of us all of the time.

However, we do agree that our group has encouraged us to read books we would not have otherwise chosen and has, in the main, led us to read books that have enhanced our reading and our lives.

As yet, we are in the early stages of our group, which is slowly increasing in numbers. We look forward to many more interesting books and group discussions.

The next book group will be held at the home of Anne Thorpe on Wednesday July 21st at 14.30. Any body wishing to join us please call Ann Lees on 01245 225153. You will be very welcome.

Scrabble

I'm writing this short piece on 30th June, which coincides with our June monthly scrabble meeting this afternoon. I have to confess that I did not join in today, as this week is dedicated to Wimbledon and particularly today's quarter finals.

I now turn to Scrabble. We already have two more meetings arranged. They are:

- Wednesday 28th July at Beryl Claydon's. Phone 01621 852082
- Wednesday 25th August at Jan Olley's. Phone 01621 815223

Please let the hostess know the day before the meeting, if possible.

Ruth Tyler 01621 869865

Theatre

Our first visit took place to the Cliffs Pavilion on a very hot day with the resultant heavy traffic to Southend. However, we all made it (just) in time for *Blood Brothers* a powerful, poignant (and, unfortunately, topical) musical about twins separated at birth who meet in later life with tragic consequences. My thanks to all who supported this first venture and for the positive comments afterwards.

Gill Bridle 01621 892587.

Our next Theatre visit is to a more upbeat show. I now have the tickets for the show 'Dreamboats and Petticoats', which is taking place on Thursday 12th

August. Gill and I will both be on holiday when the July meeting takes place but Jane Smithson will kindly distribute these tickets at that meeting. The coach (on hire from Stan's Coaches) will pick up at Gt. Totham at 09.00 and then around 9.10 at Plantation Hall, Heybridge. (I have cleared it with the secretary of Plantation Hall that it will be O.K. to leave cars there all day.) This will give everybody a chance to do their own thing before the show starts at 15.00, including having a bite to eat. The show finishes at 17.20 and the coach will then pick up at the Playhouse Theatre for return home. I look forward to seeing you all on August 12th.

Janet Morley 01621 892626

Threads and Fabrics

We had a very interesting afternoon on June 14th when Molly Middleton told us of her memories while working on the Maldon Embroidery. This is an amazing piece of work telling the story of Maldon from 991 – 1991. It took three years and 87 dedicated and skilful needlewomen to complete. Molly had photos, newspaper cuttings and letters to show us with many personal stories to keep us amused.

Our next meeting is on August 3rd at 14.00 at Anne's. New members are very welcome. There will be plenty of chat, tea, biscuits and hopefully some stitching. We will be displaying some of our work at the Strawberry Tea so do come and see us.

Anne and Pat

Walking

Unfortunately the June walk had to be postponed so we will try the same arrangements for July. We will meet outside the Chequers in Goldhanger at 14:00 on Thursday 8th July. There is plenty of parking space on the road by the church. After the walk, along the sea wall, we will go back to my house in the Basin to plan a schedule for the next few months. This is for anyone who would like to contribute ideas.

Elizabeth

01621 850618 or email me at e.m.e@talktalk.net

Weekenders

A small group of Weekenders enjoyed an evening of jazz at Wickham Bishops Village Hall on the 29th May and I have no doubt there will be more as we had such a good time. The only date for the diary so far is our monthly meeting which will be at Perrywoods Nursery on Saturday 24th July at 10.00. Our last meeting was at Pear Tree Pantry. I am sure other ideas will materialise for future events. These will be posted at the next U3A meeting.

If you would like more details of these events or of Weekenders please call me, Marilyn Corbett on 01621 817518.

U3A News Magazine

Issue 91 (Summer 2010) of the quarterly U3A News Magazine has arrived and you are invited to collect your copy at the monthly meeting. Brenda does not want to carry them home again. Would you like to review the next U3A News? Then contact the Editor.

There are a number of interesting articles and letters in the summer edition of the U3A Magazine. Some that caught my eye just before putting our News Sheet to bed are listed below:-

- Ageing Research (p.9).
- COGs may like to read page 13.
- Anybody interested in maths (p. 29).
- Books (p. 40).
- U3A Name debate (p. 45).

On the Notice Board

The following items of news appeared on the Notice Board at the June Monthly Meeting.

- Notices relating to the Third Age Trust (U3A) AGM together with nomination forms, resolutions and other related information.

If you are planning to put something on the notice board that is not group related and it is available prior to the first Friday of the month, the Editor would be pleased to include it in this section of the News Sheet.

If you think that a notice should be repeated in full in the next News Sheet, please contact the Editor.

Other News Sheets from other U3A's

The editor of this News Sheet also receives the Maldon News-Letter each month. If you, especially COG's, would like me to pass it on, then please contact the Editor. The copy is only available from the Editor in .pdf format.

Odysseus Unbound

The following is an article written by Martin Waller. If you would like to discuss the article you can discuss it with him directly or through the pages of the News Sheet

“Odysseus Unbound”

by Robert Bittlestone, with James Diggle and John Underhill, published 2005

Much has been written about the location of the island of Ithaca, to which Odysseus (Ulysses in latin) returned as king after the Trojan war.

Nowadays, there is an Ionian island called Ithaca, close to and on the eastern side of the island of Cephalonia. Do its geographical details fit those described in Homer’s “Odysseus”? For instance, ancient Ithaca is described as lying close to the west of the adjacent islands! However, there is now a promontory on the west side of the larger Cephalonia, joined up by loose scree material, that this book suggests was brought down from the nearby mountain in a violent earthquake at about the relevant time in ancient history. Prior to that, the promontory comprised the separate island of Ithaca, the topological details of which still match exactly those in “The Odyssey”.

Incredibly and coincidentally, the very recent advent of satellite photography now appears to be able to confirm the pre-existence of the sea channel splitting the ancient island from Cephalonia.

But there is still doubt about how Homer could have described Ithaca so factually accurate some time later without apparently a written record being made in the interim.

Having sailed around the Ionian islands (on the western side of Greece), including modern Ithaca, for eight years during the 1990’s, I found this more recent delving into the ancient past quite fascinating.

Martin Waller (01245 380283;

mhwaller@btinternet.com)

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
5 th July	5 Petanque 14.00	6 Threads 14.00	7 Bridge Group	8 Walking 14.00	9 Monthly Meeting 14.00	10	11
12 th July	12 Petanque 14.00	13	14	15 Computer 13.00	16 Coffee Morning 10.45 Luncheon Group Painting 14.00 Coastal & Marine 14.00	17	18
19 th July	19 Petanque 14.00 Gardening 14.30	20 Local History 14.30	21 Book Group 14.30	22 Family History 10.30	23 Painting 14.00	24 Week –ender Coffee at Perrywood Nursery, Tiptree 10.00	25
26 th July	26 Petanque 14.00	27	28 Scrabble 14.00	29	30 Submit News Sheet text Painting 14.00	31	1
2 nd August	2 Petanque 14.00	3 Threads 14.00	4	5 Photography 13.00	6 Committee Meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00	7	8
9 th August	9 Petanque 14.00	10	11	12 Walking 14.00	13 Monthly Meeting 14.00	14	15
16 th August	16 Petanque 14.00 Gardening 14.30	17 Local History 14.00	18 Book Group 14.30	19 Computer 13.00	20 Coffee Morning 11.00 Luncheon Group Painting 14.00 Coastal and Marine 11.00	21	22
23 rd August	23 Petanque 14.00	24	25 Scrabble 14.00	26	27 Submit News Sheet text Painting 14.00	28	29
30 th August	30 Petanque 14.00	31	1	2 Photography 13.00	3 Committee Meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00	4	5

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