



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No. 6/2014

July 2014

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

Essex Association of U3A's Study Day

**Release of Details and
Application Forms has
taken place.**









**More than 100
applications received in
the first Week. Get your
Application in!!!**

For more information see page 10)

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Your Committee

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NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

From the Chairman

Last week I had my annual meeting with my GP. During the conversation I mentioned the U3A. To my surprise he said that he recommended the U3A to his patients. Obviously the good effects of being involved with the U3A have come to the notice of the medical profession!

Later in the week, I had to complete a questionnaire from the U3A, The Third Age Trust. There were about twenty questions asking what I thought about the various aspects of the U3A and its organisation. At the last meeting with the other Chairmen in the Maldon U3As (June 7th), we had talked about this questionnaire as an item on our Agenda. Obviously I do not know how all our members think, but these are some of my thoughts.

Over the last five years I have become more and more impressed in the way so many people in the U3A give up their time for the benefit of others. It may be as simple a task as making tea, or more complex organising an outing or even planning Study Day. Each and every one of us do these things simply because we want to. What do we get out of it? For many of us who live alone, it means that we know that if we go to any one of the many groups available to us, we shall meet someone to talk to and we shall learn something new.

The monthly meetings always have a speaker willing to share their experiences and knowledge with us. This month we learnt the perils of being a 'gold-digger' i.e. Wallis Simpson. I almost felt sorry for her by the end of the talk. After all, she had only done what many of us did when we were younger, that is, have a mild flirtation. Unfortunately she flirted with someone who fell madly in love with her and she got herself into a situation she could not escape.

So, what do we get? We learn a whole new lot of skills, we gain knowledge and we make new friends. Not bad for just £20 a year!

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

From the Editor

There is one comment that, as yet, I have not yet resolved. This is how to automatically scroll up from the bottom of the first column to the top of the second column. If anyone knows the

answer without having to reformat the whole document, please let me know.

The Study Day Information is now out and after one week the Art Sessions were full or nearly full. (See also report on Page 10.).

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 sufficient detail for you as the Members of the Heybridge U3A to understand what the Committee Members do and how your money is spent? In addition, copies of the Committee Meeting Minutes are being established and the most recent ones can be seen at the Monthly Meetings in a ring clip folder near the check in table.

There is now another newly established Group Report, Croquet. See the report on page 5.

CoGs: Please read the Treasurer's Report on Page 3 and let the Committee know your requirements.

The back page shows the Diary page, which has been updated to the end of August 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 one new member in June, taking our total paid-up membership to 158.

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

Heybridge U3A now has a new laptop to run presentations by our speakers. It can also be used by any group in need of such equipment; requests can be made through the CoG. Our thanks go to Ian Newman who undertook the purchase of the laptop, with help and advice from the Technical Computing group. Ian has also agreed to research and buy suitable software.

Could I please remind CoGs that any claim for financial support for their group should be made by the beginning of August. Application forms are available from any committee member.

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

From the Events Secretary

We happened on a very good day to visit Ely. The weather was perfect for exploring the city, walking by the river Ouse and eating in riverside cafes! Oliver Cromwell's house was another popular attraction. But the highlight of the day for me was our visit to the Cathedral, and within the Cathedral our discovery of the place where the remains of Earl Bryhtnoth have lain for almost 1000 years.



Regarding the Earl, I was very pleased to hear for the first time an account which many members already know, but for those like myself, in ignorance of the details, here is a brief résumé.

Queen Etheldreda founded a religious house on the cathedral site in 673 and almost 300 years later, after the Battle of Maldon in 991, the headless body of Earl Bryhtnoth was taken there to be buried. The Vikings later burned the building to the ground, but when the new Cathedral was begun in the 11th century, the bones of our famous Saxon were interred within. They now lie in Bishop West's Chantry.

Planned Events

- Sunday 20th July. A picnic at Layer Marney Towers.

- Saturday 30th September. Royal Naval Dockyards at Chatham. A visit to the 'Ultimate 1940s Nostalgia Event'.
- Saturday 25th October. An autumn social evening at Plantation Hall.
- Sunday 23rd November 2014. Thursford. A trip to the Thursford Christmas Spectacular.
- **NEW** Friday 20th March 2015. A tour of the UK Supreme Court in Westminster.
- Monday April 27th 2015. A coach trip to Kew Gardens.

Please see page 9 for details.

Heybridge U3A Monthly Meeting

The speaker at our next Monthly Meeting on Friday 11th July 2014 will be Linda Stratmann. She is the author of the Frances Doughty Mysteries, a series of whodunits based in Victorian Bayswater.

She is to give us an illustrated talk on the subject of *Essex Murders*.

On Google, she has more than 200 entries with details of her many books which now include a second one on *Essex Murders*.

For our August Monthly Meeting, on Friday the 8th August, Paul Madge, Chairman of the Maldon Limebrook U3A, to talk to us for 10~15 minutes about a new way of learning called *FUTURE LEARN*. Come along in August to learn more and to discuss the subject with Paul.

John W Harrison: email johnwharrison@sky.com or phone 01621 854851.

From the COGCo (Group Co-ordinator)

A great many of you have been on holiday recently or are planning to go away soon so several of the groups are having a break for two months, possibly to work in the garden or sunbathe!! Therefore there is very little news at present. However, all the groups are enjoying the company of members with similar interests.

Just one thing to advise; the French group is now full. Is there anyone who would be interested in joining a basic French group.

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

GROUP REPORTS

Art (Painting) Group

It was pleasing to see many of our regular painters back in the Claydon Room in late June following several absences due to ill health and family problems.

Several members seem to have found a new self confidence in their own artistic abilities, having enjoyed a few years of support and inspiration from friends in the group and visiting professionals.

Ideas for our Friday masterpieces come from an ever widening range of sources, everything from holiday snaps, greetings cards, tutor books and members' own creative thoughts. Long may we all continue to develop and enhance our individual styles!

Meanwhile, we all send our group co-ordinator Michael good luck and best wishes as he begins a run of Friday hospital appointments which will, sadly, keep him away from the group for a month or more.

Report by Gill Carpenter

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

Bird Watching Group

What a great morning. We had the bright sun and lots of birds around us as we walked along by the river and the Canal at Heybridge. The tide was low so the Oystercatchers, Curlews, Godwits and Lapwing were feeding at the water's edge. A snipe flew over but some of us were too slow to see it.

Along by the canal we spotted Coots, Common Terns a pair of Swans with eight cygnets, but I think we all enjoyed watching a young Moorhen who was walking on the Lilly pads then having a little swim. He looked as if he was walking on the water, not a parent around, so we hope he wasn't lost!



Baby Moorhen Walks on Water: Jill McGregor

Enjoy the above photograph.

The lakes had such a lot going on that day; a group of Canada Geese with two Greylags with them. Shovellers, Tufted Ducks, Great Crested Grebe, Little Grebe and a large family of Shelducks all swimming along enjoying the warm weather.

We finished our morning with refreshments and a chat about the next meeting, it will be Old Hall or Abbotts Hall farm on the 25th July. No meeting in August.

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 June as usual on the third Thursday of the month. The numbers were down as is expected at this time of year.

The new Heybridge U3A Computer was plugged in with the new adapter on the projector cable to convert the digital to an analogue signal. It worked. The new computer has been bought specifically for the presentational requirements of the Monthly Meeting and for use at any Group Meeting or special event. Microsoft Office is to be bought and installed but any other specialist programs will need to be approved by the Heybridge U3A Committee, especially if funded by Heybridge U3A.

Following this introduction we continued to look at what spread sheets are and what they can do for us. A set of questions had been produced to help remind ourselves about the various elements that make up a spread sheet. These questions were put onto the screen one question at a time. This introduction will continue some time in the future. Nothing was arranged for the next meeting. What will it be? 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

A good idea is often worth copying; the Creative Writing group decided to follow the Petanque group's lead and have a raclette party in July. The start of our meeting this month was taken up with arranging this celebration but when we had settled the details we

heard some excellent writing on the subject of Crime. There were stories including a continuation of our serial; a report and a letter. Who would have thought that such a respectable group were so into Crime!

We have not set ourselves a subject for next month as we anticipate spending more time eating than reading on July 23rd.

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

Croquet Group

The Croquet Group, currently with eleven members, continues to meet on the first and third Thursday mornings of each month at Forrester Park. In June, about two-thirds played on each occasion as guests of the Maldon Croquet Club, who provide the lawns and all equipment. Everyone is improving quickly in their ability to strike the ball further and more accurately, while also acquiring a basic knowledge of the rules and tactics of the game and, most importantly, having fun. It's only beginning to sink in how far you walk in the course of a morning! With a third lawn now available, more members can be accommodated easily. For anyone who wants to start now and catch up, a series of brief notes on playing techniques and rules is being fed in gradually and back copies can be provided. After play, some of the members are getting into the habit of retiring to the clubhouse for coffee and a chat, adding a pleasant end to the morning.

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

Discussion Coffee Morning Group

Our June coffee morning was at my house, refreshments were provided and hopefully enjoyed. Conversation was interesting, as usual, and included a short discussion on the lack of new volunteers for tea/coffee making at the monthly meeting. All of those who were present regularly help, there are other regulars too. Our next get together will be at 11:00 on Friday 18th July at Linda Etherton's house. Details at the next Monthly Meeting or please phone me for more information.

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

Family History Group

At our last meeting we talked about our relatives in AWW2 and it was very interesting. Wendy's father was in a German prisoner of War Camp, and she even had some photos of him in the camp. Wendy has found a lot of information but still has lots of questions she needs to answer. With lots of suggestions from Bill we

went onto the internet and found quite a few avenues for her to follow.

Roger's father was in Burma and Roger has very interesting information to tell.

My father was in the Arctic Conveys. I still have to investigate my father's story.

All this information is some-where on the internet, you just have to find it! I think it is called "finding needles in a haystack" !!

Our next meeting will be Thursday 24th July at my house 10:30 to 12:30 as usual.

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

French Conversation Group

The most interesting thing we looked at during our June meeting was an article from "Le Figaro" from the 7th of June 2014. This French newspaper had a long article on the D Day visit of our queen to France for the commemorative events remembering the soldiers who were killed while landing on the Normandy beaches in June 1944. The author wrote that she was "a star amongst the veterans", while explaining to the readers that she had been a young officer in the British Women's Auxiliary Service. They commented on how she was accompanied by some of her immediate family and that she was constantly smiling. Later at a formal dinner the French leader remarked to her that Britain and France are like twins and that he's fascinated by their similarities, despite their differences and that they are necessary to each other.



Queen Elizabeth II with Francois Hollande of France. The topic of the French Group Meeting discussion.

From a BBC photograph.

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 most enjoyable visit to Spencers, with perfect weather, lovely gardens to wander round and a very nice tea. The delphiniums were breathtaking, and there were bees and butterflies everywhere. Although it was a public open day very few other visitors were there, so we had the large gardens almost to ourselves, except for a duck nesting in a flower urn.



Delphiniums at Spencers: Author Jill McGregor

Our next outing is to 8 Dene Court and Dragons near Chelmsford (see Yellow book). We haven't been to Dene Court before, which is small but full of interesting plants, and our old friend Margot is nearby at Dragons, where her husband provides excellent cakes! Meet at Dene Court at 14:00. If you haven't been on a garden visit before, do come along.

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)

There was no meeting in June. However there are some dates for the dairy. They are as follows:

- 15th July: Guided visit to Ingatestone Hall
- 19th August: Colchester guided walk

- 16th September: Guided visit to Bourne Mill, Colchester .

More information will be available at the Monthly General Meeting or contact Carol.

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

Luncheon Group

As detailed in the June News Sheet report the intended venue for today (the day of writing) Friday 27th June 2014 was The Compasses at Pattiswick. Although the list of names for confirmation, or otherwise, was in the Committee Room at Plantation Hall for some two and a half hours during the monthly meeting on Friday 13th June, no one touched it. I sent a reminder e-mail to most of the group on 18th June to which only three replies were received advising non availability. No phone calls or other e-mails.

With this apparent lack of interest I decided to take the two most consistent participants, Beryl and Roy, on a mystery lunch outing. So today, Friday 27th June we went to The Swan Hotel in Lavenham taking advantage of their Midsummer Lunch special discount offer.

The Swan Hotel is one of many 15th century timbered buildings in medieval Lavenham which attracts many tourists.

We dined in the lovely timbered Gallery Restaurant, with a good choice of dishes for each course, all seasonal, local and delicious, and with excellent attentive service, thoroughly enjoyed by all of us.

Our 25th July, lunch is planned to be at The Ship at Tiptree. The list, will be in the Committee Room during the 11th July Monthly Meeting. Please check this and indicate your participation, or otherwise contact me.

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 14th July at 14.00.

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

Petanque Group

We are now well into the summer season with our weekly sessions of Petanque played on the special Terrain that was built by Maldon U3A with

materials supplied by Maldon Council. This month we have had two very hot days and one so cold that we had to finish early. It was caused by a North wind off the water and we were dressed for summer and nearly froze. It was hot coffee after instead of ice-creams this week as I write.

I just need to remind group members that on 14th July we are meeting at Heybridge Basin for the usual game followed by Raclette (cheese), and we may even have dessert if we are lucky. Normal starting time is 14:00, and no rain that day please weather person.

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

Photography Group

The assignment subject for our June meeting was "May" including any photograph taken since the previous meeting, including, for those interested in exploring "depth-of-field", a new photograph demonstrating this interesting effect.

As usual, our enthusiastic members captured an amazing variety of images, far too many to be mentioned here, but they included: a flaming sunset; a superb panorama of London from the top of Greenwich Park (taken on a recent U3A trip); an excellent close-up of a strange looking spider; and a charming shot of a mother duck and her chicks.



Mud Race: Author – Carol Greenhalgh

I love Maldon, because despite high pressure for change, it hangs onto its traditions, one of the most bizarre of which must be the Mud Race. By skilfully using the "cropping tool" to hold the subject of her photo

perfectly, Carol captured a brief moment in this year's race. On so many levels the contrast between the two contestants is fantastic - a typical May day in Maldon!

The assignment for July is a photo taken "through something".

Let us embrace the inevitable, be creative and love life.

If you want to discover your "photographer's eye", please come along and join us, we have plenty of room. Whether you are completely new or experienced, you will be made 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

Our book for June, *The Language of Flowers* by Vanessa Diffenbaugh tells of Victoria Jones, who has spent her childhood in the American foster-care system. For nine years, she has led a distrustful and neglected existence in numerous foster homes until brought to the San Francisco vineyards belonging to Elizabeth, her new foster mother. Here she is introduced to a fresh beginning and the language of flowers.

Finally, at eighteen and released from the system, Victoria has nowhere to go and sleeps in a public park. A local florist discovers her talents, and Victoria demonstrates a gift for helping others through the flowers she chooses for them, but a mysterious vendor at the flower market changes her life.

For some the book was seen by members as a pleasant, easy read, whilst for others it was considered too lightweight, with errors in the content. We choose the selection of books for the year ourselves and it's a challenging task to find a book that appeals to all, but occasionally we are not successful.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 16th July where we shall meet 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

There's no doubt about it, Scrabble is a very absorbing game. At the June session we scarcely looked up for long enough to consume the tea and biscuits. Usually two games are played over the 2-hour period. Luckily Beryl had dictionaries with her so we were able to check whether certain words were allowable - for example **ko**, a traditional digging tool in New Zealand. Sometimes putting down just one or two letters can yield a big score when added into existing

words to create new ones in a block, but beware, as there must be a proper word in every direction.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 22nd July 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 Telephone: 01621 843702 Email: ethertonbikes@aol.com

Solo Whist

Our June session was held at Geoff and Margaret's where five of us had a very enjoyable afternoon.

I was lucky and had an unstoppable Misere Ouvre (very unusual) but no great satisfaction on winning. There were however lots of good calls as well as some brave ones, but lots of hands won and lost by all. We all enjoyed the excellent refreshments provided half way through the session, they revived us well.

It is now summer time (I hope) and we have decided not to meet again until the 3rd September at 14:00 at Tina and Dave's place.

Looking forward to some new faces, perhaps.

Thanks for the regular support.

Have a great summer

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

Technical Computing Group

The last meeting took place at my house, and only two other members were present. Owing to the reduced attendance, we looked at the new U3A laptop computer that Ian brought with him, and found it to be a very suitable machine for which it was bought. We investigated some of the features of Windows 8 and the way it can be setup to start to a 'Desktop', much like previous Windows editions. We also discussed the merits of different type of Microsoft Office programs, including the merits of Office 365, and Office 2013.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday the 10th of July.

Again, if any U3A member is interested in coming along to a future meeting, please contact me.

Colin Mason:

Email colin@mason20.wanadoo.co.uk or phone 01621 854906.

Ten Pin Bowling

Our gathering on Tuesday 10th numbered only 8, probably due to the lovely sunny day outside.

We played 2 lanes of 4 in a virtually empty bowling alley but had the usual good time, each of us scoring over 100 in at least one of the 3 games we played. The

highest scores were achieved by Roger and Chris but I think we are all improving the more we play.

We would welcome some new players so please consider joining us. Beginners quite often become the better players! Ring or email if you want more

The next meeting is at Madison Heights on Tuesday 8th July 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

This month we were shown by Anne a mystery object. It is a beautifully made copy of a Japanese Marudai braiding stand, made for her by her husband Peter. She showed us how making braids and cords on it was far simpler and accurate than twisting them on a cushion. We were envious of her skill when we saw the colourful cords and braids in her bag. Each month brings a surprise in this group, which makes me look forward to our next friendly meeting.



Marudai Braiding Stand with samples of some of the braids: Author Peter Thorpe.

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

About twelve people took part in our walk from Dedham across the fields and along the river to Flatford on a hot June afternoon. The Constable Country landscape was at its beautiful best with families of geese and goslings on the river. We walked around Flatford to view the mill, the lock, Willy Lott's cottage and other famous scenes from Constable pictures before making use of the excellent tea room for refreshment. An added place of interest was the fairly recently-established RSPB wildlife garden - a perfect spot for such a venture.



Willy Lott's Cottage: Author Geoff

The July walk will be closer to home, around the Chigborough Nature Reserve. We meet at the car park by the entrance to the fishing lakes on Chigborough Road at 14:00 on Thursday 10th July. There is a small tea shop for after-walk refreshments, so please let me know if you will be coming so that I can inform them of numbers.

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

Weekenders Group

Apart from our monthly coffee mornings there is not much to report. For those of you who enjoy Indian cuisine, join us at Zara's on Friday 15th August. I will send out an email but sometimes these are not always read, so no excuses! I have a list of mobile numbers for some weekenders which can be useful on occasions, such as garden visits or walks, to keep in contact. I will make copies for those who are interested.

Dates for your diary

- Saturday 12th July Coffee at Forrester Golf Club, Great Totham at 10.00.
- Saturday 9th August Coffee Morning at Salty Dogs, Goldhanger at 10:15 (Note time change).

- Saturday 13th September at Osea View, Osea Caravan Park, Goldhanger Road at 10:00.

For further details please contact Marilyn.

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

Wine Appreciation Group

The next meeting will be the visit to Great Lodge for a tour of Bardfield Vineyard with ploughmans lunch and wine tasting on Wednesday 16th July, meeting there for the 11:00 start. If there is anyone wishing to join us, who has not previously paid, please contact me and I will add their names to the list.

In August, we are having a BBQ in my garden on Wednesday 20th August, at 14:00. Fingers crossed for sunny weather. However, I am working on Plan B in case of rain.

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

Detail of Events:

Further Information and Details of Events

The following events are planned for this and next year. 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.

Summer picnic at Layer Marney Tower. We are looking forward to the Hope and Glory event and picnic on 20th July 2014, (12:00 – 17:00). There will be performances around the house and grounds of British music through the ages, finishing with a Prom Finale. It is not too late to sign up and if travelling is a problem I will arrange transport (car sharing is advised). Please pay at the meeting on 11th July. The owners have kindly offered us use of the barn for our picnic should the weather be inclement and you may of course bring your own tables and chairs. The cost is £6.00 per person, if 20 or more sign up - £7.00 otherwise; (to date 15 members have signed up.). Tickets available at the July meeting.

Chatham The trip to Chatham Dockyards takes place on Saturday 20th September, the weekend of the annual '1940s Nostalgia Event', though the more general Docklands exhibitions will also be open to us. This time we leave from the bus-stop at Tesco Extra on the Fullbridge at 08:30, and 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 per person will be due by 17th August. Other details will be available later.

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.

UK Supreme Court. Guided tours of the UK Supreme Court are now on offer. Tour leaders; experienced members of staff, provide an introduction to the role of the court in the UK justice system, explain about the history and artwork of the building and give examples of cases heard. The three beautiful courtrooms; the Lawyers Suite and the magnificent Justices' Library will be open for us and a film will be shown with a welcome message from the President of the Supreme Court. I have booked a tour for Friday 27th March at 14:00. Maximum 25 people on the tour, but Westminster Abbey is opposite, as are many other local attractions. Members not joining us for the Supreme Court tour may wish to take advantage of a coach trip to London. Cost of the tour £3.50. Coach cost to be determined later. Please sign up to show interest. Payment will be due in January 2015 if the trip goes ahead.

Kew Gardens. I have provisionally booked a visit to Kew Gardens for 27th April 2015. Cost approximately £28.00. The National Archives at Kew are adjacent to Kew Gardens so anyone wishing instead to study there, could join the group for the day. Admission to the Archives is free, so cost would be for coach only. Details to be confirmed later. 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.

Also planned for 2015.

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

Association of Essex U3A's Study Day 2014

The Association of Essex U3A's Study Day Information is now out and has been distributed to all members with email addresses. Printed copies will be available at the July Monthly Meeting.

Once again it is to be held at the Plume School on Tuesday, 28th October 2014.

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.

So get your applications in quickly. If your preference is art then if you have not sent in your application then it may already be too late.

Association News

There is nothing new to report this month.

Joyce Woodham 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.

- Applications for the U3A AGM and Conference, 9th -10th September at Cirencester, are required by the end of July. Application and payment by card or Paypal can be made online at the U3A website.
- 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.
- 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': Wednesday 15th October at The Elgar Birthplace Museum, Worcester. £17.00 per person including lunch and refreshments.
- The U3A Story by Francis Beckett - an updated version of this booklet is now available, price £1. We have a copy for inspection and if you would like to order a copy please put your name on the list, with payment. These will be ordered in September
- Events - a list of events sent out by National Office is available, including a flier for the Globe Theatre. Contact Pat Smith if you think any of these would make a good visit for our U3A.
- A flier showing the new merchandise produced by the U3A, plus a credit-card sized magnifier will soon be available
- Some popular U3A Events are being repeated: 'U3A Explores Science' at The Royal Institute on 30th September, admission £20 and 'Exploring Elgar' on 15th October at the Elgar Birthplace Museum; £17 including lunch. Inspiration Day for U3A Members, at the Royal Opera House,

Thurrock. £18 and a U3A West End Sing Out on 22nd October at the Playhouse Theatre in London, £35.

- Cheltenham Literary Festival - U3A members are offered reduced prices and preferential advanced booking. Dates 3rd - 12th October. Preferential U3A booking starts 29th August and deadline is 31st August, from the Festival Office 0844 880 8094 quoting U3A 14.

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 continues to be 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

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

Other Information

None

Diary of Meetings and Visits

For details see articles and co-ordinators above.

Week Starting	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
30 th June	30 Petanque 14.00	1 July Threads 14.00	2	3 Photography 14.00 Croquet 10:00	4 Committee Meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00	5	6
7 th 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
14 th July	14 Patchwork 14.00 Petanque 14.00	15 Local History 14.00 Gardening 14.00	16 Book Group 14.00 Wine Tasting 11.00	17 Computer 14.00 Croquet 10:00	18 Painting 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00	19	20 Summer Picnic at Layer Marney Tower 12:00
21 st 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
28 th July	28 Petanque 14.00	29	30	31	1 st August Committee Mtg 10.00 Painting 14.00	2	3
4 th August	4 Petanque 14.00	5 Threads 14.00	6	7 Photography 14.00 Croquet 10:00	8 Monthly Meeting 14.00	9 Weekender coffee at Salty Dog's Cafe 10.15	10
11 th August	11 Patchwork 14.00	12 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	13 French Conversation 10.00 Gardening 14.00	14 Technical Computing 14.00 Walking 14.00	15 Painting 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00	16	17
18 th August	18 Petanque 14.00	19 Local History 14.00	20 Book Group 14.00 Wine Appreciation	21 Computer 14.00 Croquet 10:00	22 Painting 14.00 Luncheon	23	24
25 th August	25 Bank Holiday	26 Scrabble 14.00	27 Creative Writing Group 14.30	28 Family History 10.30	29 News Copy to Editor Painting 14.00	30	31