

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No 6

July 2021

Your Committee

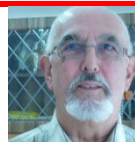

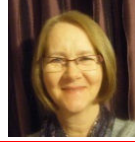
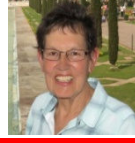

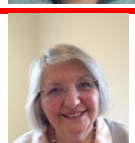

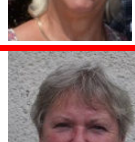
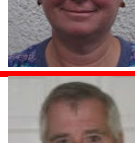
<https://u3asites.org.uk/heybridge>

Archive

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

Registered charity number 1160360

Depending on new regulations, we hope to have an Open House at Plantation Hall on Friday 13th August at 2.00pm to enable members to meet and chat.

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NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Chairman's report for July 2021 News letter.

Nothing further this month from me, other than it is now time for you all to reflect on what we could all lose here, also reflect on what **you personally will lose.**

Norman Cumming, Chairman

From the Editor

The design of the Heybridge U3A News Sheet, and the reports that it contains, is a full-page layout of 12 pages in a large font. Information about the Committee Members and their reports can be found in the first few pages. The next News sheet will be in August so send items by last Saturday in July. I am very grateful to all the people who send material for inclusion. Have you anything to say? Please send it to me and I will include it.

Geoff Hadley editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Membership Secretary

This will be a 'year' of nine months starting 1st July 2021 until 31st March 2022. If you are able, please print the Membership form, complete it and post it to me at the address given. You can enclose a cheque or do a Bank Transfer – just contact me for the account details and include your name as reference.

If you are unable to print the form, contact me to be sent a paper copy or you can complete it electronically and attach it to an email addressed to the Membership Secretary (see front cover). However you may still need to post a cheque if you do not do online banking.

Full and Dual Members who paid the full subscription of £18 (£13 Dual) last year will benefit from a discounted fee this year of £5.

Members who renewed for only £10 after 1st October 2020, and any new members, are asked for £13.50 (£18 x 75%). Dual Members who renewed after October should pay £8.50 this year.

If anyone is unsure about what they need to pay please contact me on the telephone number on the front page.

Renewal forms and payments should reach me by 1st July.

Philippa Moody membershipsecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

Interest Group Co-Ordinator Report

Well June has been an interesting month! The weather has been great or really bad and the big release has been delayed by 4 weeks. I hope it hasn't affected any plans you might have made. It hasn't really made any difference to us as we are still being careful. Hopefully a couple more groups will be able to meet next month in the garden. Let's hope the weather is kind to us! For those groups who are still unable to meet up because of the restrictions please be patient as I am sure it won't be long before you can.

Hilary Furniaux groupsco-ordinator@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

Monthly Meeting Speaker Programme

Our July speaker is David Williams 'Pounds, Shilling and Poverty' A profile of the great wealth and abject poverty that dominated the lives of thousands who lived in the 19th century, one in which London was one of the greatest and most influential cities in the world.

For our August meeting (13th Aug) we are hoping to have an 'Open House' at Plantation Hall. So our members can pop in and meet their old friends and have a chat over a cup of tea or coffee. From 2.00 to 3.30. This will depend on the current restrictions.

On Friday 10th September Tony Tuckwell will be giving his talk in person or by Zoom 'The Only Coastal Way is Essex'. This is an account of a walk along the whole length of the Essex Coast in 2010-11, including circumambulations of Canvey and Mersea Islands. Essex has the longest coastline in England 320 miles of which can be walked. It has an amazing variety of flora and fauna and for many a mile is totally deserted.

Jan Brown speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

Zooming with the u3a

A year ago we would never have thought that we would be unable to get together for our convivial meetings, whether it be the main meeting at Plantation hall or group meetings of various sorts. As it seems still a long way off before we can resume most of our activities, it makes sense to do whatever we can to keep in touch and use the means that are available, such as Zoom, WhatsApp messaging, email and anything else you can come up with. It may not be ideal, but surely better than nothing.

Looking forward to the July meeting, we would love more to join us. If anyone would like to have a trial run on Zoom, or feel they need more practice, please email me on secretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk to let me know and I will set up a session or give one-to-one help over the phone to iron out any technical difficulties - it's easy when you know how.

A few people join without video if they don't have a camera on their laptop, some have a camera plugged in or use headphones. Any group can have a Zoom meeting set up for them if you contact me, and it can be run via the Heybridge U3A Zoom account so you don't need to worry about doing it yourself. The Photography group are dab hands at this and as well as sharing photos and expertise there always seems to be a bit of light-hearted banter. Linda Etherton

Annual General Meeting and Committee Elections 2021

Here are the results of elections to the committee at the AGM held on the 11th June 2021 at 2.00 pm via the Zoom platform.

Editor- Geoff Hadley, proposed by Jill McGregor, seconded by Hilary Furniaux was elected

Secretary - Linda Etherton, proposed by Hilary Furniaux, seconded by Linda Etherton was elected

Interest Groups Co-ordinator - Hilary Furniaux, proposed by Norman Cumming, seconded by Jan Brown was elected

Publicity Officer - Angela Pleasance, proposed by Linda Etherton, seconded by Norman Cumming was elected

Events Secretary - This post remains vacant. If anyone would like to consider taking up this role they could be co-opted onto the committee.

A **Minutes Secretary** is still needed: this is not a committee role but is of great help to the committee Secretary - Linda Etherton

Publicity

Maldon & Heybridge Life continue to give Heybridge U3A room for an article each month. In June the magazine came with a Guide in which the u3a was well represented. I had originally been asked for 500 words but was later told to cut this down as three of the Maldon u3as all wanted to participate. The format was changed to have a general bit about the local u3as and then individual articles by Heybridge, Maldon and Limebrook.

AP

GROUP REPORTS

Bird Watching

We had to cancel the bird watching on Friday morning as forecast was for rain and as we had a meal planned at the Jolly Sailor for lunch we didn't fancy sitting around in wet clothes. The only birds we saw that morning were in our gardens.

Meal was enjoyed by everyone, service and company was great; we had two tables of five so lots of chatter going on between us all.

We always have a break for July and August and so far no interest shown by anyone to become the new Cog so not sure what will be happening to the group in September.

It's been such a friendly group and we hope you have enjoyed our monthly trips as much as Jill and I.

Thanks for all your support

Maureen and Jill

(symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk or jill.mcgregor@btinternet.com)

Croquet Report

This month we welcomed three new members to our group, Peter and Richard & Liz. The first session we nearly had a full contingent, however for our second session, we only had 9 turn up. I think I can say that on the whole our playing is improving; some of us have bad days and some very good days. No one has managed to get a hoop in one this season yet but, there is plenty of time. Unfortunately due to COVID we are unable to have a cup of tea afterwards as the Club house closes just before we finish, so we are unable to discuss our playing etc. We play for gentle exercise, good company and fun, at Forresters Golf Club on the second and fourth Wednesday afternoon of each summer month.



Linda Etherton

Discussion Coffee Morning Group

On a bright note we are another step further forward to getting back to a life with less restrictions and the possibility of a staycation even, if we can find any vacancies!

Best wishes to all. Margaret Brown

Family History

Identity Theft.

After reading stacks about this problem, this is my understanding of the sequence of events. First, the perpetrator needs a death certificate with roughly the same birth date (give or take a few years) and gender as him/her. Scanning the death registers, a young teenager is ideal, young enough to be without too much baggage or computerised info (big brother).

Next, find and apply for the birth certificate (easy online now).

A background can now be slowly constructed. If convenient, a marriage (using the newly acquired birth certificate) would be an advantage. A registered address - a mobile phone, and a doctor, all help build up a new identity.

Any questions can be averted with "I've been out of the country for a several years".

The icing on the cake would be a National insurance no: and passport.

All with the knowledge that the person involved will never appear to contest it.

I have made it sound simple, but I know basically this is how it works.

My question is: why, when registering a death (in this world of super technology) is it not instantly linked to that person's birth. Any further reference, of any kind, would inform the authorities, this person no longer exists! To me this is so simple, or am I missing something?

Back in the mid 1980's I agreed to help the husband of my niece trace his father. With his brother he grew up in a children's home after his mother developed mental health problems. His father had left home many years previously. Aged 16 he left the children's home without even his birth certificate, which was needed to identify his father. Arriving at St Catherine house, (no internet help at that time) I located the correct birth entry, queued up and paid the fee. At the exit I was stopped by security and asked to accompany them to the office. A refusal was not an option. Four officials questioned my reasons for an application of a birth certificate of a 30 year old man who appeared to have no connection whatever to me. My explanation was accepted and I went home – so even then (35+ years ago) there was an awareness of this problem.

Take care
Jean Rogers

French Conversation

On 14th July, the French celebrate la fête Nationale, which originated in 1789 when French people stormed the Bastille, marking the start of the French Revolution. The Bastille was a prison which symbolised the absolute and arbitrary power of monarchy. Its storming by the people demonstrated that the King's power was not absolute. It marked the end of the monarchy and, ultimately, the birth of the sovereign nation and the French Republic in 1792. The date was declared a national holiday and La Marseillaise, written in 1792, was declared the national anthem in 1795.

Nowadays, 14th July is celebrated annually with fireworks, military displays and concerts under the Eiffel Tower. From 10 a.m., spectators have the opportunity to see Emmanuel Macron, the current president of France, as he drives down the Champs Elysées.

In 2021, the **grand concert** of 14th July on the Champ-de-Mars returns to Paris. Great classical works are played by l'Orchestre National de France et le Choeur (choir) de Radio France, with the participation of several soloists. The event, starting at 21h00 on the Champ-de-Mars, will be transmitted direct on France 2.



With the military display and the fireworks at the Tour Eiffel, the 14th July festivities are always rich and colourful, and provide a beautiful end to the National Day.

Jenny Parker

History talks on Zoom

This is a copy of an email from Mike Stringer who organises a history group for one of our Maldon u3as. He is very happy for Heybridge U3a members to join these talks. His contact details are mike.stringer19@btinternet.com

I've still got a couple of gaps to fill and I'm still working out costs, but I'm looking at around £3.50 to £4 a head for the paid speakers. We will also have some free talks arranged through the National u3a Pilot I'm involved with, and I plan on doing a couple of talks myself, though I'm equally happy if anyone else would like to volunteer to talk to us.

I won't be starting the booking process until August, partly because we will be away in July, but also to see what happens as and when restrictions are finally lifted.

Here is the programme so far:

Thu 14 Oct Zoom talk Carol Harris on the Foundling Hospital

Thu 4 Nov free Zoom talk Jim Miller on Codes and Cyphers (talk swap)

Thu 18 Nov WMCC David Williams Mind The Gap (London's Tube)

Thu 2 Dec free Zoom talk to be arranged

Thu 16 Dec WMCC Mike on Leprosy and St Giles Leper Hospital plus Christmas event

Thu 6 Jan free Zoom talk Stuart McGowan on The Luddites (talk swap)

Thu 20 Jan WMCC Stephen Nunn Roger of Beeleigh

Thu 3 Feb free Zoom talk to be arranged

Thu 17 Feb WMCC Norman Jacobs Pie Mash n Prefabs

Thu 3 Mar free Zoom talk Mike on Samuel Pepys

Thu 17 Mar WMCC talk to be arranged.

All these will start at 10.30am, including the ones at WMCC.

I am still hoping we can arrange a trip out during September, but that depends on a variety of issues that I won't bore you with now!

Please keep these dates in your diaries and more details will follow in due course. If you have any queries, suggestions, etc, or would like to give a talk to the group yourself, please let me know.

mike.stringer19@btinternet.com

Needlecraft Group Report

One member has finished her cross stitch sampler and started knitting a jumper. She is also hoping to find some material she likes to make cushion covers for her new sofa. Between the other members we have sewn on some buttons, sorted out some wool, a pattern and a crochet hook to make a baby cardigan and crocheted a baby doll blanket. We are hoping to meet in my garden in July weather permitting Hilary Furniaux

Painting 2

I have cancelled the August Booking for the Claydon room as there was very little support for that date.

I hope that by September we shall be able to meet again with at least nine people. If we are still only allowed 7 people we have enough money in our balance to cover that.

I have heard that the 2nd Friday in August there will be a pop in session in the main hall with refreshments for you to stay and chat with friends so I am hoping there will be some information about that in another section of this Newsletter.

The weather has been good recently for our outside painting activities unless you get diverted into actual gardening, planting, pruning and cutting grass. I hope that painting will be on your list of jobs.

So all being well, we may make contact in August and we will all hopefully meet again on the 13th September

Barbara Barbrook

Papercraft Group

One member has made a couple of Birthday cards this month. Another member has cut out some Birthday Greetings for cards, made an Engagement card and a few Birthday cards. We are hoping to meet in the garden next month weather permitting.

Lesley Woonton

Patchwork Group

We were lucky with the weather for our outside meeting in June and eight members attended. There were several beautiful quilts, notebooks with patchwork covers, bags and even Christmas decorations shown around the group so some of us had been busy during lockdown. We discussed the future of the group and we all wanted it to continue. For the time being I will continue as CoG as there were no offers to take this position but two members kindly offered to takeover jobs to help run the group, for this I am very grateful. We shall meet again; weather permitting, on July 12th at 2pm at the WMCC, until then happy sewing everyone!

Anne.

Petanque Group

We are still having lots of fun playing Petanque every Monday at 10am just now. I have to say, the weather has not stopped us. One week we are literally so hot, it does get too much. Then this week, it decided to pour with rain. But we are a hardy bunch no matter what, we just carry on regardless.

At the moment, as I said we are playing at 10am but I know this is not convenient for everyone. If anyone who would like to come along and play at a later time, then please let me know.

Many thanks Moira Penhallow

Photography Group

Once again we had a virtual meeting on Zoom. We are now getting used to this peculiar format and the meeting proved both lively and interesting. Our photographic assignment for last month was to send up to three photographs that represented subjects beginning with the letter I or J. This restriction makes the task more difficult than it seems.

It was fascinating to see the choice of photographs submitted for the “slide show” and to listen to the authors comments on their pictures. Zoom allows other members to join in the discussion regarding each image. As it is not a competition, a great deal can be learnt about how each shot was taken and why the finished photograph looked as it did on screen.

Two photos have been selected to illustrate the slide show; they are “John” by Carol Greenhalgh and “Jump” by Graham Churchill.



John by Carol Greenhalgh



Jump by Graham Churchill

The meeting finished with a discussion on various alternative photographic techniques including using a microscope to take pictures of the coloured crystals in iridescent paint.

We will continue to hold Zoom meetings on the first Thursday of each month until we are able to meet again as a group.

For those who were unable to join the meeting all of the photos submitted have been uploaded to our page on Flickr (Heybridge U3A) where you will be able to view them. If you would like a link to them please contact me..

If anyone is interested in joining our Zoom meetings to see what the group is about please contact me and I will forward you a link to our next meeting. All members of the U3A are welcome

Norman Grove

Scrabble Group

In last month's puzzle I asked you to try and use **W**, **A**, **S** or **H** to extend some words by hooking a single letter onto the beginning or end. Did you find?

H I₁ R₁ E₁ D₂ P₃ L₁ A₁ Y₄ **A** **W** H₄ O₁ S₁ E₁

and C₃ U₁ R₁ E₁ **S**

Now imagine this: you have spotted an opportunity to play a word that will cover two red Triple Word squares. The potential score is a whopping 144!

This is your set of tiles:

This is the line you want to play on:

C₃ L₁ O₁ D₂ G₂ E₁ D₂

3
w H₄ I₁ 3
w

Can you maximise your score?

Linda Etherton

Walking Group

This month Philippa lead the walk. It was a slightly longer walk than usual (a bit over 4 miles) but was very much enjoyed by all. The start was in the car park of Carrie's Kitchen, in Hatfield Peverel, where tea/coffee/cake was enjoyed in the very warm sunshine at the end of the walk. 12 walkers were led through wooded areas, alongside fields, and a bit of pavement walking alongside a road or two. Apart from a few steep steps, the walk was almost flat with no stiles to negotiate this time. Given that none of us is available for every walk it would be very helpful if some of our group would try leading a walk just once each year. I am always ready to help out if company, advice or even reassurance is needed. The next walk will be at 2pm on Thursday 8th July.

Linda Wells.

Rumblings from Peter

As I've aged (matured?), nostalgia has crept in, looking back at the halcyon days. Really? That first vehicle, a van so limited to a blanket 30mph, 3 gears, a "stirrable" gear lever, fixed seats, no heater or radio, with poor acceleration, suspension and road holding. Basic controls, no seat belts or air bags! I loved it. Much prefer the many advantages of my modern, speedy, comfortable, and more economic and eco-friendly transport though.

On my new shiny red tractor I was the bees' knees, 21 and head tractor driver, I could use it too. Any cab was barely existent, it usually kept off the rain and some wind, visibility poor, access dodgy. Seat fairly solid, cushions; a sack stuffed with hay, controls practical, simplistic, functional. Similarly the combine, plenty of dust, heat and noise, levers, cables and rods operating everything. Did have a computer though, the operator's brain! Oh the bliss of a quiet, dust free, suspended, climate controlled cab, air cushioned seat, and fingertip controls acres of glass and now, in its place a boon. Automatic steering by GPS!

We now have fridges, freezers, washing machines, TV with umpteen channels but I wonder about why, with full central heating you crave, and use an open fire? Those who moan about local banks closing yet brag about their online banking? We do cherry pick. I prefer out of town, one stop shopping so I don't grumble about High Street shops or lack of, though I use my local Post Office as much as possible, I want to retain it. The milkman, baker and butcher have disappeared from our doorstep, our choices so don't moan! Now it's online buying, so don't complain when they close their actual supermarket, just hope I'm not around then, still like to squeeze my melons!

These amenities, all a case of use, nurture and help if you want to keep, a bit like your U3a Peter.

Do you use Facebook? Why not join the Heybridge U3A group.

We now have our own group on Facebook. Our Facebook group is a closed one; Philippa is the administrator who acts as the gate-keeper. Please see her report for more details. The Facebook group will supplement the news-sheet, not replace it.