



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet Number 6

August 2009

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	Peter Thorpe	Vice Chairman	01621 850828

From the Chairman

We had another really interesting Monthly Meeting in July, when the Headmaster of The Plume School, David Stephenson found time in his busy schedule to come and talk to us about the proposed Vocational Centre for Maldon, which will give much more local educational facilities to young students and older people alike. I think we all picked up on the necessity for such a scheme, on whatever site is eventually agreed, and were carried along by David's enthusiasm.

We had our first Speaker at our April meeting and to date have had a very varied range of subjects. Please do let us know if there are any particular subjects you would like to hear about, or in fact, if you would like some other entertainment – quiz – silent auction etc. occasionally. We shall be planning the whole of next year's Speakers soon, so please let us have some input.

From the Editor

The grass is growing and I have green red yellow and black tomatoes to eat. Well not the green ones. The pull for me this last four weeks has been to dig a deep hole to construct a new drain. Always something to divert you from the most important tasks. The editing of the August News Sheet.

Most will know the publication procedure but just a reminder, copy should be with me by the last Friday of the month preceding the month meeting. Copy, this month was good. It might have been the reminder in the Monthly Diary!!! However, please continue to send details by email to ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk with U3A in the title. Alternatively phone Ian Newman at 01621 891184 or see the Editor at the monthly meeting to decide other methods of providing copy.

Diary of meetings, events, visits etc., as usual, can be found on the last page.

Heybridge U3A Meetings

The date of next meeting is Friday 14th August starting at the normal time of 14.00. in the Plantation Hall, Heybridge.

The speaker at the August meeting is Brian Curtois who will talk about the BBC. The talk in September will be about the Carers Centre at Brick House Farm.

U3A News

Copies of the June 'U3A News' magazine came just prior to the last monthly meeting. Copies were available at the July monthly meeting. If you have not had your please pick it up from the desk at the back of the hall.

Notice Board

The Notice Board will again be at the front of the Hall during the monthly meeting onto which notices can be attached. Peter, our Co-ordinator of the Co-ordinators table will be found at the rear of the Hall. This arrangement worked very well last month and will be repeated in August.

From the Group Co-ordinator

We now have an active Weekender Group up and running and we thank Jan Stroud for agreeing to act as the "Co-ordinator" (or what ever title we choose to give the leader of a group). I understand that successful meetings have already happened and that there are several more planned for the next few weeks.

Barbara Barbrook wants to start a Petanque Group. "Boules" to those of you who have watched the game played on the continent. There is a rink/pitch in the Promenade Park in Maldon and it is free to play. Blackwater U3A have a Petanque Group and I am certain that they would be pleased to help us get started if we asked them and then perhaps we could enjoy playing a match or two against them. So how about supporting Barbara and get another

interest group started. A list for names will be at the August meeting.

The committee will choose the winner of the alternative name for a co-ordinator competition and the prize will be awarded at the August meeting – good luck to all who have entered.

Group Names, Co-ordinator, Contact Telephone

Group Name	Co-ordinator	Telephone Number
Ballroom Dancing	Joint with Maldon Jo Robson *	* 01621 828236
Bird Watching	Maureen Lenoir	01621 869871
Coffee Morning	Margaret Brown	01621 854885
Computer	Tina Abeysekera	01621 858635
Gardening	Pat Yates	01621 892866
Local History	Carol Greenhalgh	01621 840339
Luncheon	Beth Jeffries	01621 853403
Painting	Michael Kempen	01621 892974
Scrabble	Ruth Tyler	01621 869865
Theatre	Viv Frostick	01621 858639
Threads & Fabrics	Anne Thorpe & Pat Newman	01621 850828 & 01621 891184
Walking	Elizabeth Eastwood	01621 850618
Weekenders	Jan Stroud	01621 859766

New Group Co-ordinators

Can anyone interested in starting a group and are willing to be the co-ordinator please contact Peter Thorpe on 01621 850828 or speak to him at the monthly meeting.

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.

From the Treasurer

There is nothing to report this month.

Secretary

There is nothing to report this month.

GROUP REPORTS

Bird Watching

We had a lovely morning. There were only four of us who met at Fingringhoe Wick. Lucky for us it was warm and sunny.

We started with the hide that overlooks the River Colne and spotted a Curlew straight away. We watched for ages as its long beak kept disappearing into the mud searching for food. Godwits and Oystercatchers were also along the shore line. A pair of Linnets were in front of the hide (Only seen by Roger) they didn't stay long enough for us all to see.... We all hoped to see the Kingfishers but no such luck this time.

We walked along the paths with so many butterflies, dragonflies and damsel flies around us. It was great to have so much information between us that we were able to identify the butterflies as Peacock, Gate keeper, Painted Lady, Speckled Wood, Large White and Common White and Blue. Lots of yellow and black striped Caterpillars that Lois and Roger both agreed would turn into Cinnabar Moths. I know this is a bird watching group but we looked at everything around us so it was more like a nature ramble, thanks everyone. I, Maureen, will not be around for the August and September dates but hope to get a group together for our October meeting to visit one of the larger centres. I would like to have suggestions please. We can chat together to decide where we would like to go.

Thanks for your support. Maureen

Coffee Morning

Ten of us had an enjoyable coffee morning on 24 July. Margaret Clark provided the hospitality which included some very nice biscuits (no pressure on the next hostess of course). Our next meeting will be held on Friday 28th August at Gill Thornes (2 Broad St Green, Heybridge).

Thanks to everyone's generosity we collected £10 towards charity. There was a thought that perhaps we at Heybridge U3A could nominate a yearly charity for these collections and any others?

Its good to see quite a few names on our list now, so may I ask if you are free to come along on 28 August would you please be kind enough to telephone me nearer the time (Margaret Brown on 01621 854885) so that our hostess will know how many biscuits to buy (oops).

At the last U3A meeting one of the Bird Watchers team mentioned that our present arrangements

always clash with their own which doesn't allow them any option to attend our group. With this in mind from September, we will meet on the 3rd Friday in each month. Therefore the September coffee morning meeting will meet on 18 September.

Computer Group

Margaret Clark hosted the second meeting of the Computer Group on Wednesday 22nd July. Fourteen enthusiastic members attended and Ian reported on the progress made so far relating to the number of people who were committed to attending the SWANS morning. Peter Thorpe had hoped the group would be able to use the new computers that are being installed by SWANS but we need sufficient numbers and commitment to make this viable. After discussion it was agreed by all that we would try and organise a course, possibly with a tutor, early next year when hopefully more people will be supportive and thereby keep costs down. In the meantime we will discuss one subject each month in detail. At the July meeting, Ian patiently answered our many queries and problems regarding Emails. In August we will look at the many hints and short cuts that the word processing and specifically the program WORD can help us all in the future!!

The Computer Group wish to thank Ian for his time and expertise and to Margaret for the excellent tea and coffee.

The next meeting will be at Beryl Claydon's at 14.30 on the 26th August, If you wish to come along do please ring Beryl on 01621 852082.

Gardening Group

Our most recent visit was to Orchard Cottage at Rayleigh, a feast of colour that was really outstanding.



Our host was on hand to tell us about the plants and to answer our hundreds of questions, and his

wife to provide yet another delicious tea. (Maybe this should be called the Afternoon Tea Group!)

The next visit is on Monday 10th August to Moverons at Brightlingsea, a beautiful and peaceful country garden with stunning estuary views. Cost is £5.00 including tea and home-made cakes. Please call or e-mail Pat for further details, and to let her know if you are coming. Telephone 01621 892866 or email her at pat.yates@tesco.net

Local History Group

Local shipwright and historian David Patient came to our 21st July meeting. He brought with him a selection of shipwright tools and gave a very interesting talk explaining their use in boat and barge building. David knows a great deal about the history of the local boat and barge building yards and he gave us a flavour of the work they carried out and some of the notable vessels that were built. One of the most famous barge builders was John Howard whose yard built barges such as the Saltcote Belle and the Mirosa. The Mirosa still sails today. One of our members, Beryl Claydon, had a relative who was apprenticed with John Howard so that he was able to take his skills back to his barge owning family: the Parkers at Bradwell.

Our next meeting will be 18th August at the Blue Boar. We don't have a speaker for this but invite Local History Group members to bring with them any snippets - or wider information - of local history they may have. It may be a book, a news cutting, a picture or just a bit of a story they have heard or found out about. All contributions welcome. Those who attended our first meeting completed a questionnaire; the results of which suggested that, as well as speakers, there was interest in our doing some sort of research and this may set us on our way.

Please contact coordinators Sue Spero 01621 858957 or Carol Greenhalgh 01621 840339 if you have any queries.

Luncheon Group

The last two lunches at The Roslyn, Southend and the Queens Head, Tolleshunt D'Arcy were enjoyed by all members who attended. The lunches that are planned for the coming weeks are as follows:

- The Blue Strawberry on Thursday 6th August.
- The Intimo, Maldon on Tuesday 18th August (Two courses for £10).

- The Compasses at Pattiswick near Braintree on Friday 4th September (Two courses for £7.50).

Please see sheets at next meeting, 14th August, for details or ring Beth on 01621 853403.

Scrabble

Due to holidays etc. the August meeting on Wednesday 5th was cancelled, but we have arranged to go to Pam Archer on Wednesday 2nd September at 14.00. Please let her know in advance on 01621 815379 if you would like to be there. Scrabble will come back into its own during the winter months, when we feel the need to sit round in a warm room, and enjoy company will be most convivial.

Theatre

Viv has been looking into the options for Theatre visits and has come up with two choices of shows for the coming weeks.

The first is Richard Digance on the 12th September at 19-30 at The Princes Theatre, Clacton-on-sea. The price is £13-50.

The second is Pam Ayers on the 25th November at 19-45 at The Civic Theatre, Chelmsford. The price is £16-50.

We will be going by cars. Several people have offered to take anybody who do not have transport. We will be meeting at a designated place and going as a group.

Viv cannot be at the next monthly meeting so if you could let your interest be known (See Notice Board for sheets) or contact Viv after the 20th August.

If anyone has any ideas of what they would like to see, please let Viv know.

Threads and Fabrics

We had a successful initial first meeting in July, when we decided to meet monthly at a different member's house each time. It was agreed that a 'learning project' would be a good idea and that we would start with patchwork with those who know what they are doing helping the complete novices. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 11th of August at 1400. If you would like to join us, please contact Anne (850828) or Pat (891184) for the address and the materials etc. you will need to bring.

Walking

The next outing will be Thurs 13 August (there was no July walk) to complete the other half of the 'two

rivers walk. We will meet again at the Paper Mill Lock car park Little Baddow at 2:00 pm to follow the canal in the opposite direction to Boreham and back across country. All welcome, please contact Elizabeth on 01621 850618 if transport required.

Weekender Group

I, Jan Stroud, will be Co-ordinator for the new Weekender Group, which is primarily for people who find themselves on their own at weekends.

The first meeting took place at Ruth's home on Sunday 19th July. We arranged a few outings for the August diary. Everyone can have a say in the running of the group and all suggestions are welcome even if it means that only two or three members want to go to a particular event. We each left with a list of members' names, phone numbers and interests so hopefully, even if we don't have an organized event, there won't be anyone who feels alone or isolated at weekends.

Once we have seen the gardens and nursery at Glen Chantry we will be discussing when, where and how often to hold our regular coffee/pub meetings. In addition to the usual walking, meals out, occasional trip to the pub and quizzes, we hope to be able to arrange weekends away, coach trips and weekend visits to the theatre or cinema. Jan Stroud will need numbers of those wanting to go to the BBQ so please phone for further details. A prom walk in Maldon is to take place on Saturday 15th August. On the 29th August a coffee morning at Blue Boar Hotel, Maldon is to take place. We will meet on corner outside the church at 11.00.

New members and suggestions always welcome.

For further information about the Weekender Group and details of events please phone Jan Stroud 01621 859766.

Woodturning Group

There is insufficient interest from our members at the present time to continue with this group, and so the Woodturning Group is now dissolved.

Tea and Coffee Rota

The following people will be preparing the Tea and Coffee for the monthly meetings:

August: Brenda Dewar and Audrey Coulson

Details for September and beyond has yet to be confirmed. Any additional helpers will always be appreciated.

Thank you to all the above from all the Heybridge U3A members.

Letters to the Editor

None this month.

Members HELP

Your views and input are needed for all future editions of the News Sheet. This can be in the form of reports about activities undertaken, activities to come, letters to the Editor or anything else that you think may interest other members.

Disclaimer

This News Sheet is produced by the Heybridge U3A. The views expressed in this News Sheet are not necessarily those of the U3A. The U3A accept no liability for the accuracy of its contents.

Program of Meetings and Visits

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
10th August	10 Gardening Merons 14.30	11 Threads and Fabrics 14.00	12	13 Walking 14.00	14 Monthly Meeting 14.00	15 Weekender Prom walk	16
17th August	17	18 Local History 14.00 Luncheon Group	19	20	21 Painting 14.00	22	23
24th August	24	25	26 Computer Group 14.30	27	28 No Bird Watching Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00 Submit News Sheet text	29 Weekender Coffee at Blue Boar Hotel 11.00	30
31st August	31	1	2 Scrabble 14.00	3	4 Painting 14.00 Luncheon Group	5	6
7th September	7	8	9	10 Walking 14.00	11 Monthly Meeting 14.00	12 Princes Theatre Clacton-on-sea Provisional	13
14th September	14 Gardening Ulting Wick 14.30	15 Local History 14.00	16	17	18 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00	19	20
21st September	21	22	23 Computer Group 14.30	24	25 No Bird Watching 10.00 Painting 14.00	26	27
28th September	28	29	30	1	2 Painting 14.00	3	4

For details see articles and co-ordinators above.