

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No. 2010/8

August 2010

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

From the Chairman

Last months Strawberry Tea was a great success and we are grateful to all those people who worked very hard on a hot afternoon to make it happen. Around seventy five members enjoyed a different type of monthly meeting. The hall was arranged with a large table, set-up in front of the main window, decorated with a strawberry tablecloth, vases of flowers and of course strawberry cream teas.



There were tables and chairs in the middle of the hall and around the walls. The COGs had set-up their fantastic displays exhibiting their groups. We were lucky to have been able to hire the small meeting room next door, which gave us more space for group displays. The Computer Group took advantage of some of this space and projected a continuous presentation on the formation and activities of our U3A. It is not possible for me to congratulate each group individually, but I was delighted with the effort and originality of the COGs and by the way that they presented their groups to the membership. I hope that they were able to persuade new members to join their groups by showing them what they do. I also hope that new members of our U3A, who may be shy of joining a group, realise that all are welcome and that we all have something to learn and to contribute by regularly meeting together.

I am aware that we regularly have new members joining our U3A and I hope that we make you feel welcome. If you think that nobody notices you, try

talking to someone – we are very friendly. Try joining a group and share the company of people who enjoy the same interests as you - remember that we were all new members once!

We look forward to a talk about Barges by Roger Beckett at our August meeting. Roger is a local man and barges have played, and continue to play, an important role in the daily life of our district. I am certain that Friday the 13th will turn out to be another enjoyable afternoon together.

Peter Thorpe

From the Editor

This month we have two letters. They can be found on page 7. What are your views on any name change? Your replies to both letters are eagerly awaited.

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 September. 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 or would be of interest to The Heybridge U3A or the U3A movement as a whole, then please contact me.

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 to ten days later.

Ian Newman.

Heybridge U3A Meetings

The next meeting is Friday 13th August, starting at the normal time of 14.00, in the Plantation Hall, Heybridge. This month we have Roger Becket who will giving 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 sitcom. At our October meeting Peter Turrall will talk about the History of Marconi.

From the COGCo (Group Co-ordinator)

I am starting this article with my comments and thoughts about the Strawberry Tea day we had on 9th July. I am probably saying the same things as Peter and anyone else involved, but it does bear repeating. This was a fantastic day for all the right reasons, good food, excellent company and, I can't put in any other way, fabulous displays by the Groups. So much time and effort was put in with so many brilliant ideas that I was amazed. All I had to do was to say to the COGs, would you like to participate and there was my answer. I have already thanked you once, but that also bears repeating – thanks to all of you. I did a rough count and came up with 72 people all enjoying themselves. Although it is not up to me in my Co-ordinator role, but I personally would also like to thank everyone involved with the purchase, preparation and dispensing of food and drink, and to the many helpers with the washing up.

As you are probably aware, I am very proud to be the Group Co-ordinator. I am showing no favouritism when I say how wonderful the Threads and Fabrics display was – this included quilts, tapestries, embroidery, bags and much more. The paintings were also excellent, such diverse subjects from birds to landscapes. I do envy each and every exhibitor of these two groups. Then there were the clever ones who used computers and cameras for their "running" displays.

Coastal and Marine, Theatre, Petanque, Bird Watching, Scrabble, Gardening, Local History, Reading and Books and, last but not least, our new Family History Group all put on displays showing what their groups could do (I have listed these clockwise round the hall).

Several of the groups (Coffee Mornings, Luncheon Club, Weekenders and Walking) did not put on displays as we felt there was already enough strawberries and scones without putting out coffee, tea, biscuits, cakes and displays of meals for lunch.

Nobody offered to play any jazz music from the Weekenders and it was too hot to wear walking boots. All the COGs were available to chat and encourage, especially Elizabeth who had missed so many meetings due to injury after a fall and then illness; welcome back. There was supposed to be a Bridge display (cards not structures) but the signing in table was full of News Sheets and magazines. However, if there had been cards available, several people might have been tempted to sit down and play a hand.

I will finish this as I started, by thanking again all the Groups.

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 |
| 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 & 892626 |

| Group Name | Co-ordinator (COG) | Telephone Number |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 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 is currently considering places to go, interesting things to see, as an occasional alternative to our weekly meetings in the Claydon Room. We may, weather permitting, choose venues for outdoor sketching with the odd visit to a local gallery or exhibition. All suggestions welcome.

Watch this space to see what happens next or, better still, come and join us any Friday from 14.00 to 16.00, except second Fridays of the month, of course.

Gill Carpenter.

Bird Watching

As a group we visited Northey Island which we approached by a causeway at low tide. We knew it was not the best time of the year for seeing the birds but what a super walk which we enjoyed. We are all looking forward to our next visit, which we are arranging with the warden for September when the waders should have arrived. I will give more details next month.

Sorry, there is no meeting for August but hope to see you in September.

If you need more details about our group email me at symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01621 869871.

Maureen

Bridge Group

Please ring me on 01621 843208 or email lisbethbazzard@talktalk.net for details of the next duplicate bridge session.

Liz

Computer Group

A lively meeting of the Computer group was held on the 15th July with a good attendance. Everyone paid their quarterly subscriptions after which we got down to business.

First, Ian thanked everyone for their input to the Power Point presentation shown at the Strawberry Tea. As most members had not seen the presentation in its entirety we all sat back and watched it. All agreed that Ian had made a wonderful job of incorporating the text and photographs, which obviously had taken considerable time and expertise. Those with laptops were able to take a copy of the presentation and copies are also available on disk, if required.



Computer Group Presentation at the Strawberry Tea

Author – John and Thelma Howchin

After discussion one or two suggestions were made regarding improvements for next year i.e. we could ask all groups to provide photos during the year so that we can have a pictorial record from which to choose. It was also felt that a commentary could improve the presentation and it was suggested that a member from each group could supply the words. It was also agreed that the Strawberry Tea presentation could be updated and shown again, possibly at the next AGM.

One thing I must mention is to say many thanks to the gentlemen who made the tea. This was a first all gentlemen effort and all the ladies were most grateful !!!!!

After our tea break Ian checked that everyone understood the filing system and how to save files.

Next month's topic is the internet, with a question and answer session for the last half hour. Please Email your queries to Ian before the next meeting which is on the 19th August at 13.00.

Look forward to seeing you.

Audrey.

Coastal and Marine Group

It was great that so many of our Group came along and enjoyed tea and cakes at Heybridge Basin on a beautiful sunny afternoon. Everyone was in good form and it was also great that we all had so many brilliant ideas for our future programme.

On Friday 20th August we have arranged to try out the Mersea ferry. No, not the Liverpool one, but one closer to home! As I do not think that I will be able to join the Group, it was decided that members of the Group would get together and make their own arrangements to share transport to East Mersea. The ferry leaves East Mersea at 11.15 and sets sail for Brightlingsea, where it is hoped that a pleasant walkabout would be followed by lunch. The ferry returns at 13.30 and 16.00. I hope that it is a great day out for all.

On Friday 17th September, Glenn has arranged for us to have a conducted tour of the Museum at West Mersea, hopefully followed, by a fishy lunch! So reserve this date in your diary. More details later. Our October meeting will be at the Blue Boar and we are fortunate to have John Robson as our Speaker. He has tales of the Pacific for us! More details to follow.

Everyone welcome to join us,

Brenda Dewar. (01245 400492)

Discussion Coffee Morning

There were six of us were at Gill Thorne's house on 16th July. Gill had kindly made some delicious cheese straws for us all to enjoy with our coffee/tea. Most of us were going straight to the Luncheon Group meeting afterwards but we were tempted and happily polished them off!

The next coffee/tea Discussion Group meeting (yes we do talk as well as eat and drink), will be at 11.00 on Friday 20th August at Maureen Baldwin's. Details will be available at the next monthly meeting or contact me Margaret Brown on 01621 854885.

Family History Group

On Thursday 22nd July we met for the 2nd meeting of our new group. Roger Smith from Blackwater's Family History Group came and gave us a talk about "Getting Started". This involves searching your own and family members' memories for dates, names and any information you can gather and how to record it. He showed us charts you can use to start family trees and we had a look at FreeBMD on the computer to see the sort of information we can get from a free web site. He was very helpful. Lots of questions were asked and answered.

Next month we will see how much information everyone has managed to collect and hopefully we

will have charts so everyone can start to fill in their family trees. We will talk more about how to find birth, marriage and death certificates on the computer and our more experienced members will be able to show us their Family Trees.

The next meeting will again be at my house on Thursday 26th August. TIME 10.30 to 12.30. Maps will be available at the next Monthly Meeting.

Lesley Pomphrett

lesleypommy@hotmail.com

Gardening Group

We had a good turnout of fifteen people at our last visit, which was at Byndes Cottage in Pebmarsh. We were all impressed by the amount of hard work put in by the owners as they gradually bought up surrounding fields and added them to their garden, now seven acres.



Byndes Cottage Garden

Our next trip will be to Beth Chatto's on Monday 16th August. We will meet at 14.00 (not 14.30 as usual as the garden closes at 17.00), at the ticket office. This is not a private visit, so the normal entrance fee of £5.00 will apply, and I won't need a list of who's coming. Some people are going early to have lunch at the excellent tea room, but it will be nice if we meet up at 14.00. If anyone would like a lift, please let me know.

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

Local History Group (LHG)

The Combined Services Museum opened specially for us on Tuesday, the 20th July, so our numbers on the day were a bit disappointing. However, the group enjoyed viewing the excellent displays after being welcomed with an introduction to the background of the museum by Marilyn, the curator. There just wasn't time to take it all in so many of us are planning a return trip. Even those with no particular interest in warfare would have found plenty of interest here. Afterwards, we were able to take a quick look at the exterior of the old

Maldon East Station building, and compare it to a photograph from when it was operational. It is still a splendid structure even though it has taken on many differing uses since its heyday.

We are back to the Blue Boar for our August meeting. Mac McPherson is coming to talk about the Essex Regiment and tell us something of its long and colourful history. Please let Carol know if you plan to be there on the afternoon of Tuesday the 17th August. There will be a list at the general meeting on the 13th August or please phone or e-mail.

Carol Greenhalgh. Email george.smeed@virgin.net

Luncheon Group

Twenty-four people travelled to The Peldon Rose near Mersea for a very enjoyable lunch on 16th July.

The provisional booking for the Indian buffet lunch has had to be cancelled as quite a few people were going on a weekenders event.

The next date is 27th August. I am looking at Bluebeckers near Hanningfield reservoir or The Bull at Totham, which is being renovated and due to open in early August, with a new chef from Scotland and billed as a gastro pub using local ingredients.

More information at the meeting on the 13th August.

Beth 01621 853403.

Petanque Group

We are enjoying the summer weather on the Prom but sometimes it so hot that we have to go and get an ice-cream to keep us going until the shade comes on to the terrain. It costs nothing to join our group, but parking may be necessary, although you can park in Park Drive opposite the Bowls Club if there is room. We had some people interested during the Strawberry Tea. If you are still wondering what it is all about come along and watch. However, we are playing elsewhere on the 9th August.

Barbara Barbrook

Photography Group

At the last meeting, after making our preparations for our Strawberry Tea display, we started to look at the big topic of taking "people pictures". We will continue with this theme at our next meeting and we will also start looking into improving our pictures by simple photo editing, using the standard programmes supplied with most computers.

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 learn using laughter and you are welcome.



Author - Lesley Pomphrett

Peter Thorpe

Reading and Books Group

This month's group met to discuss Rose Tremain's 'The way I found Her'. Several members of the group had read books by her in the past. She was therefore recommended as a good read. However, this particular book, although well written, was light on plot which most of us failed to follow. It was said that it was deemed a psychological thriller. However, none of us saw it this way and we were confused as to the point of the story.

It was a story about a thirteen year old boy, living during the school holidays in Paris with his mother, who was a translator for Valentina, a best selling author and exotic émigré. Valentina casts a spell over the boy but this enchanted world in which he lives is gradually lost as her past encroaches on their lives and Lewis is driven on a terrifying quest to save her.

Almost to a woman we felt that we spent much of the book confused, and unable to suspend belief, which seemed to be what was expected from this narrative. Ultimately, we became somewhat disinterested in the fate of them all.

Maybe we missed the point of the story for none of us 'got' it. Rose Tremain writes about very diverse subjects and some of her stories are very enjoyable. We all agreed that this one was less so.

With our increasing membership, we are hoping for many more lively discussions, which all our books seem to engender enjoyed or otherwise. We are supported well by the local library and we hope that the ideas they have will give us a chance to try different books and maybe take part in activities other than just reading, but of course book related.

The next Book Group takes place at the home of Carole Overy on 17th August at 14.30. For further information about this meeting or future meetings please ring Ann Lees on 01245 225153.

Scrabble

Here are the details of the Meetings until the end of the year, and if anyone is interested in joining, particularly in the winter months, please ring me.

- Wednesday 25th August at the home of Jan Olley (01621 815223).
- Wednesday 29th September at the home of Pam Archer (01621 815379).
- Wednesday 27th October at the home of Beryl Claydon (01621 852082).
- Wednesday 24th November at the home of Elizabeth Eastwood (01621 850618).

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

Ruth Tyler 01621 869865

Theatre

Our first visit to London to see 'Dreamboats and Petticoats' takes place on Thursday, 12th August. A report on this theatre trip will be included in the September edition of the News Sheet. If anybody is interested in seeing either of the following some time in October, can you please either email or telephone me.

'Jersey Boys' at the Prince Edward Theatre - Tuesday Matinee performance; ticket price £25.00.

OR

'Sister Act' at the London Palladium - Wednesday Matinee performance; ticket price £22.50.

Janet Morley email dennis-morley@tiscali.co.uk or telephone 01621 892626.

Threads and Fabrics



We would like to thank the committee and their helpers for such a splendid Strawberry Tea. Secondly, Anne and I would like to thank our group for giving us such lovely things to display on our

table. From the comments made to me, quite a few people were surprised by what we get up to. For those members who expressed interest in joining us, Welcome and we hope to see you at one of our meetings soon.

Anne and Pat

Walking

It was a hot, sunny July afternoon-perfect for a walk along the sea wall around Goldhanger Creek enjoyed by 8 people and 4 dogs.

The next walk will also be local, to Beeleigh. We will meet at Tesco car park (far end by the steps to the canal path) for a circular walk along canal and river taking in the weir and passing Beeleigh Abbey. Meet at 14:00 Thursday 12th August. All welcome. Please let me know if you can join us.

Elizabeth

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

Weekenders

Nine Weekenders enjoyed coffee and a chat in the sun at Perrywoods on Saturday 24th July. We discussed future events some of which will take place on weekends but also during weekdays as folk on their own can find any time lonely. These will be posted at the next U3A meeting for names to be added if desired. Anyone wishing to join our group or would like more details of the events please call me on 01621 817518

Dates for the Diary

- Friday 6th August: A visit to Beeleigh Abbey Gardens.
- Saturday 7th August: Lunch at Izumi in Maldon.
- Sunday 15th August: A garden visit to The Old Mill House, Witham.
- Saturday 21st August; Coffee at Spring Step Dairy, Mundon.

Look forward to seeing you at the August meeting.

Marilyn Corbett. 01621 817518

Letter to the Editor

Strawberry Tea

I really enjoyed the Strawberry Tea July. There was a lovely friendly atmosphere and it was wonderful to see all the amazing things the Groups are doing. I would like to say a very special 'Thank You' to all those who prepared the Strawberry Tea. It was superb and a lot of work was involved in giving everyone their own individual Strawberry Tea Plate. It was a very enjoyable afternoon spent with lots of new friends.

Lesley Pomphrett

The U3A Name Debate

Sir

To be U3A or not to be U3A, to paraphrase some geezer from about 400 years ago, seems to be the big debate at present. Why? Why do we need to change the name? Because one thing is for sure, if we do it will surely cost money.

Having read several articles on the debate it appears that some members of the U3A do not like the words. So let us look at them University an institution for higher education the campus or staff of a university (New English dictionary) which in many ways are what we are all about. O.K we don't sit in a classroom for hours at a time, or write great long thesis on a certain subject, but whatever we take part in at the U3A we are improving our knowledge, just like a university.

I have spoken to lots of people young and old who were all aware that the U3A is a self help organisation, which enables people of a like mind to come together and share their knowledge on many diverse subjects and topics.

There is of course the social side of things, meeting new friends, enjoying a coffee or lunch, but that is also what a university does.

If you wanted the other type of university i.e to gain a degree in a subject then you could opt for the Open University not the U3A and I would venture that the majority of adults know the difference (without comparing the meerkat).

Having said that I would maintain that the U3A is a university maybe the greatest one of all, the university of life.

So now the third age I see nothing wrong with this either 1st age to me is from birth to adulthood. The 2nd age to a lot of people including myself is having children, having a mortgage and the stresses which are associated with bringing up your own family.

The 3rd age which we are at now (to me) is the calm after the storm children grown up, mortgage paid off,

any children in your life are grand or even great grand children and they can be given back, at any time.

So I think that the name is absolutely spot on and should stay the same, because as we get older we should keep stimulating our brains as much as possible. The U3A helps us to do this. Remember what the great Gandhi said and I quote "Live today as if tomorrow is your last, but learn today as if you are going to live forever".

Dave Mason

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.

On the Notice Board

The Notice Board was not used at the July Monthly Meeting, as it was the Strawberry Tea.

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.

| Week Commencing | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|----------------------------|---|------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|
| 9 th August | 9 Petanque 14.00 away. | 10 | 11 | 12 Walking 14.00 Theatre | 13 Monthly Meeting 14.00 | 14 | 15 Weekender Garden visit |
| 16 th August | 16 Petanque 14.00 Gardening 14.00 | 17 Local History 14.00 | 18 Book Group 14.30 | 19 Computer 13.00 | 20 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00 Coastal and Marine See text for times | 21 Weekender Coffee at Spring Step Dairy Mordon 10.00 | 22 |
| 23 rd August | 23 Petanque 14.00 | 24 | 25 Scrabble 14.00 | 26 Family History 10.30 | 27 Submit News Sheet text Luncheon Group 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 |
| 6 th September | 6 Petanque 14.00 | 7 Threads 14.00 | 8 | 9 Walking 14.00 | 10 Monthly Meeting 14.00 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 th September | 13 Petanque 14.00 | 14 | 15 Book Group 14.30 | 16 Computer 13.00 | 17 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00 Coastal and Marine 11.00 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 th September | 20 Petanque 14.00 Gardening 14.30 | 21 Local History 14.00 | 22 | 23 | 24 Submit News Sheet text Luncheon Group Painting 14.00 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 th September | 27 Petanque 14.00 | 28 | 29 Scrabble 14.00 | 30 | 1 Committee Meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00 | 2 | 3 |

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