

Heybridge U3A News Sheet No. 2011/8 August 2011

Contacts: Peter Thorpe Chairman 01621 850828

Brenda Dewar Secretary 01245 400492

From the Chairman

I would like to thank all of the members who worked so hard to make last months' Strawberry Tea such a success. Events like this do not just happen on the day, they are the result of a great deal of planning, preparation and presentation. We enjoyed sharing bowls of plump strawberries and whipped cream individually plated with scones and jam. We chatted together around tables and we appreciated looking at the colourful and imaginative displays created by our enthusiastic COGs. It is a great feeling to belong to a group of people who are so willing to work together and enjoy themselves at the same time.



Strawberry Tea (Author John Howchin)

I know that some of our newest members have joined in our unique group learning activities. I was delighted to see those who came to groups that I attend and appreciated their contribution to the meetings. I think that we can always learn something if we are interested in the topic.

There is no-one who knows everything, and likewise, there is no-one who knows nothing about something that interests them. Membership of the U3A enables us to enjoy learning from each other without the curse of grading and qualification. Each and every one of us has the opportunity to join or start a group. We are able to explore and discover the "how and why" of any subject we choose – magic!

Some of us are now involved in the Stow Maries Aerodrome Shared Learning Project. Bill Oliver has made his detailed research into the history of individual servicemen named on local war memorials available to the curator of the aerodrome museum. The curator is very grateful for the opportunity to see the work, which includes details of many of the men who were based at Stow Maries in WW1. He said that the information is of great interest to the museum and will be added to their archives. We have also been involved with photography, both to help with the initial design of the "Textile Artwork" and as a record of the site as it was in July 2011. If you or your group are interested in helping with this Shared Learning Project, please let me know.



Stow Maries WW1 Buildings (Author: Peter Thorpe)

I look forward to seeing you on August 12th at the usual time and usual place.

Email thorpe101@btinternet.com or phone 01621 850828.

Peter Thorpe

From the Editor

This advance copy of the August News Sheet, by the time that you read this column, will have been 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 or the Membership Secretary know, preferably by email (Email address below). A limited number of printed copies of the News Sheet will continue to be available at each Heybridge U3A Monthly Meeting for those who do not have access to email.

The Diary on the last page has been updated to the end of September 2011. 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 and anything that relates to The Heybridge U3A or the U3A movement as a whole, then please contact me with the information so that it can be included in the News Sheet. This is especially true when activities or a visit is planned or confirmed and relates in some way to their group. It is considered that communication via this News Sheet, the only method that reaches all members, will ensure that all Heybridge U3A Members, especially those who have recently joined us, can also have the opportunity to participate.

I have, again this month, sent out a reminder a couple days in advance of the deadline. It seems to be working for most people. I must have the bulk of your copy by the last Friday of the month to enable me to assemble the News Sheet for delivery by email approximately five days before the Monthly Meeting. Please continue to send details to me, preferably by email, at innewman@tiscali.co.uk with 'Heybridge U3A' in the title. Alternatively talk to me at the Monthly Meeting.

Back numbers of the Heybridge U3A News Sheet can be read on our WEB SITE http://www.heybridgeu3a.org.uk

Email <u>ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk</u> or phone 01621 891184 lan Newman.

Heybridge U3A Monthly Meetings

The next Monthly Meeting is on Friday 12th August starting at the normal time of 14.00, in the Plantation Hall, Heybridge. At the forthcoming August meeting Keith Lovell will give the talk with a subject entitled 'History through old Essex Advertisements'. In September, Ceri Loewen will give a talk about Hyland House. A list of other potential subjects for the following Monthly Meetings are as follows:

- October 2011: Helen Rollason Heal Cancer Charity
- November 2011: Paddy LacyDecember 2011: Talk & Songs
- January 2012: The Secret Lives of Garden Birds
- February 2012: M.J. Scollan. Stories from a former Police Officer.

Group Names, Co-ordinator, Contact Telephone

Group Name	Co-ordinator (COG)	Telephone Number		
Art (Painting)	Michael Kempen	01621 892974		
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		
Family History	Lesley Pomphrett	01621 817733		
French Conversation	Vicky Anfilogoff	01621 840532		
Gardening	Pat Yates	01621 892866		
Local History	Carol Greenhalgh	01621 840339		
Luncheon	Beth Jeffries	01621 853403		
Maritime & Coastal	Brenda Dewar	01245 400492		
Petanque	Barbara Barbrook	01621 855605		
Photography	Peter Thorpe	01621 850828		
Reading & Books	Ann Lees	01245 225153		
Scrabble	Ruth Tyler	01621 869865		
Ten Pin Bowling	Janette Lett	01621 879697		
Theatre	Gill Bridle & Janet Morley	01621 892587 & 892626		
Threads & Fabrics	Anne Thorpe & Pat Newman	01621 850828 & 01621 891184		
Walking	Elizabeth Eastwood	01621 850618		
Weekenders	Marilyn Corbett	01621 817518		
Wine Group	Jackie Jones	01621 817117		

From the COGCo (Group Co-ordinator)

Firstly, I would like to thank all the COGs and their helpers who worked so hard to make the July Meeting/Strawberry Tea such an enjoyable event.

I have had some interest shown by four members who may be interested in a Creative Writing Group. I will put out the list again at the August Monthly Meeting so if this is what you would like, please add your name. I am not sure what format this group would take but if we get enough names we can arrange a planning meeting to discuss ideas. I quite like writing articles but only from experience (see a couple of articles from last year). I have exhausted my repertoire, which is filed away for the future. Creativity and imagination are not my forte. I sometimes have problems being creative with this article! However, I would be willing (if not able) to help set up this group and help a new COG.

The definition of Creative Writing, as found in the Wikipedia the free encyclopedia, is:

"Creative writing is considered to be any writing, fiction, poetry, or non-fiction that goes outside the bounds of normal professional, journalistic, academic, and technical forms of literature. Works, which fall into this category, include novels, epics, short stories, and poems. Writing for the screen and stage, screenwriting and playwriting respectively, typically have their own programs of study, but fit under the creative writing category as well."

Email <u>gillthorne2@hotmail.co.uk</u> or phone 01621 852294.

Gill Thorne

Membership Secretary

We were pleased to welcome four new members and one visitor to the July meeting. Two existing members and a further new member also paid, taking our total membership to 154.

I still have a few membership cards awaiting collection. If you have not yet received your card, please collect it at the Monthly Meeting or ask someone to collect it for you. Alternatively, if you send me an SAE, I will post it to you. May I remind all members to please let me know of any change in contact details (address, telephone number or e-mail), so that I can update your membership record.

New members are welcome and, if you are not a member and wish to join, please contact me.

Email <u>jennyparker14@hotmail.com</u> or phone 01621 843581.

Alternatively, you can contact Angela Pleasance:

Email <u>angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk</u> or phone 01621 850310

Jenny Parker.

REPORTS

Art (Painting) Group

The Friday Painters were out in force in July despite holidays and incapacity among the members.

A big "welcome back" to Lois! We all missed you, and it was lovely to see your smiling face again at the July 29^{th} session.

Meanwhile, every season brings interesting new ideas and challenges for our paintings and drawings. Right now members' summer holidays are providing endless inspiration in the form of holiday snaps taken at home or abroad. These also evoke shared memories of places visited and sometimes, a guessing game. For example:

"That looks like north Norfolk to me."

"Well, actually it's Sweden!"

So there is a lot of chatter around the easels at this time of year.

Gill Carpenter

For further information, email m.kempen@sky.com or phone 01621 892974.

Michael Kempen.

Bird Watching

The Bird Watching group are not meeting during the months of July and August. We will be starting again in September.

Email symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01621 869871.

Maureen.

Bridge Group

Eleven people enjoyed a bridge evening last month. It was a shame that we were one short for three tables. The evening was won by Ellen Hedley and her partner. Well done Ellen!.

Email <u>lisbethbazzard@talktalk.net</u> or phone 01621 843208.

Lisbeth

Computer Group

The computer group enjoyed a lively meeting along with discussion on our homework. Some members were more diligent than others in their preparation. However, it was all very interesting. We also welcomed a new member Colin Mason who has very kindly donated a laptop computer that will be available to be used by the Computer Group or indeed other groups if the need arises. The acquisition of a laptop was a topic that we had discussed at earlier meetings. We now have a laptop that anyone who is interested in joining our group can use especially if they only have a PC at home. There will be no need of being afraid of not having a computer to practise on at the meeting. Our next meeting will be on Thursday 18th August at 14.00 in the Claydon Room at the Plantation Hall where you will be made most welcome.

Email <u>tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk</u> or phone 01621 858635.

Tina Abeysekera

Coastal and Marine Group

There was no Coastal and Marine Group visit in July. In addition no visits have been planned for August. This, therefore, brings us to September. Joyce has very kindly offered us a short voyage on her yacht 'Calidris'; perhaps along to the Basin. This would be on Friday 16th

September from Fullbridge. Hopefully, details and list will be available at the next Monthly Meeting.

We are still looking for ideas for those trips you have always wanted to do.

Email <u>brendadewar@btinternet.com</u> or phone 01245 400492.

Brenda.

Discussion Coffee Morning

We had a pleasant couple of hours sitting in the garden where we enjoyed the wonderful sunshine at our July coffee morning. The next meeting will be at 11.00 on Friday 19th August at Maureen Baldwin's house. Details will be available at the next Monthly Meeting or please telephone me for more information.

Email <u>mbandmeg@btinternet.com</u> or phone 01621 854885.

Margaret Brown.

Family History Group

We had a very pleasant meeting with lots of discussion about different subjects but not a lot of family history as my computer had decided not to co-operate with us.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 25th August between 10.30 to 12.30, at my house, as usual.

Look forward to seeing everyone.

Email <u>lesleypommy@hotmail.com</u> or phone 01621 817733.

Lesley Pomphrett.

French Conversation

We had two meetings but due to illness/sailing/golf/family commitments there were just two of us at the second one. We both enjoyed this session but have nothing specific to report. For those of you in the group, the next meeting will be in September (no meetings in August) the exact date/time/venue etc having yet to be fixed. See this space in the September issue of the News Sheet for details.

Email anfilogoff@googlemail.com or phone 01621 840532.

Vicky Anfilogoff

Gardening Group

Our visit to Saling Hall was another enjoyable one even though we had to do a bit of shower-dodging. The Temple of Pisces was a rather up-market shelter, as the photograph opposite shows. The following photographs illustrate the tree vistas enjoyed at Saling Hall.



(Author Ian Newman)

Most of us went for tea to the Blue Egg, a couple of miles up the road, which is an eatery and shop we definitely want to visit again. Next month we return to our very first garden - Dragons - just outside Chelmsford. This is Monday 15th August at 14.30. The address is Boyton Cross, Chelmsford, CM1 4LS. some 12 miles from Maldon. The cost is £3.50 entry, tea 60p and cake £1.20.



(Author Pat Yates)

Email pat.yates@tesco.net or phone 01621 892866.

Pat Yates.

Local History Group (LHG)

This month the group enjoyed a walking tour of historical Maldon. We were ably guided by Christine Gorringe who is a Green Badge guide. During the tour we found out quite a lot about our surroundings. Even those of us not new to the area gained a further insight into some of the characters and buildings of our heritage. We finished up on the prom and some of the group then took refreshment outside the Queen's Head. Many came equipped with umbrella and waterproofs but the weather was very kind and we could not have asked for a better day.

Coming up:

- 16th August: A guided visit to Mundon church and the 'petrified forest'. Cost £2 each. It's possible we can afterwards take refreshment at Mundon Hall.
- 20th September: Talk 'For better for worse -Weddings in Essex before 1753' by Jane Pearson. Cost £3.50. This will be at the Plantation Hall.

The Sign-up sheets and payment please at next Monthly Meeting. Contact Carol for more information.

Email george.smeed@virgin.net or phone 01621 840339.

Carol Greenhalgh

Luncheon Group

The luncheon club went for a meal and some fun Down in Feering at a place called 'The Sun'.

The seating arrangement was a bit out of order

With some of us being put in the corner.

On the tables the menus were already there

But the veggie choice, I thought, was a little bit bare.

The eleven of us had a good old 'natter'

And when the food came it was served on a very nice platter.

The food (when it came) was really quite good.

And we all left a tip like we knew that we should.

Thank you Beth for organising our treat.

Looking forward to seeing you all when we next meet

On 26th August at the 'Green Man'.

Please come along if you possibly can.

Dave Mason

For further information, please contact Beth:

Email elizabeth.jeffries@stok.biz or phone 01621 853403.

Beth Jeffries.

Petanque Group

The Promenade is very busy at the moment but we still found our Petanque terrain free for us on Monday and enjoyed our game with a new member Christine. Our members are a little depleted, owing to the holidays, but we have arranged to play a return match with Blackwater U3A on the last Monday of September (26th) so we should all be back by then and showing off our new purple polo shirts, which we are ordering for challenging other teams.

We still have three months of play before we stop at the end of October, when it gets rather cold, so anyone who wants to have a try come along as it is really very simple to learn the rules. It is also very sociable to have a coffee together afterwards, and some people also enjoy the bread pudding!

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

Barbara Barbrook.

Photography Group

Our July meeting was held on the day before the Strawberry Tea and we were busy handing in prints to John and Thelma for them to arrange on our display boards. Somehow they managed to make the selection, get them mounted and returned back to Plantation Hall in less than 24 hours! The presentation was colourful and varied with photographs from every member who submitted prints. We were all very pleased with the standard of our work on display. Thanks John and Thelma.

We also found time at the July meeting to view our two different "assignments" of photographs belonging to our member's: one taken specifically on Maldon Quay on a dull May afternoon; the other titled "Landscapes". It was great to see that some members had used photo editing techniques to overcome dull lighting to great effect – Ian used it in his shot of the barge (See photograph in the next column). There were so many photographs to look at (in

groups of three) that we nearly ran out of time. It was an enjoyable and busy afternoon!

Our assignment for the August meeting is "Wrecks and Ruins" – plenty of imaginative scope there!

If you are interested in digital photography, come and join us. Our aim is to enjoy and to improve our photography, together.

Email thorpe101@btinternet.com or phone 01621 850828.

Peter Thorpe



Out on the tide

(Author Ian Newman)

Reading and Books Group

This month's book group read was "The Whaleboat House", set on Long Island USA in 1947. It is a tale about the men of Long Island who fished the Atlantic waters for centuries. But, for one fisherman, the nets held a sinister catch; the body of a beautiful New York socialite.

Her death is declared an accident but the police are convinced the truth of the tragedy lies in the twisted histories of local families. The fisherman, however, has powerful reasons for wanting answers to the questions surrounding her death. In this strange place, where tradition meets power and the rich, the truth would seem to be a rare thing.

Mark Mills, writing his first novel, presents us with a story that is a complex and compelling excursion into the collision of two unfamiliar worlds. The group seemed almost evenly split in their like and dislike of this story. Some found it dull, others an intriguingly atmospheric and enjoyable read.

Following the discussion of this book Peter Thorpe kindly joined us to show us the Amazon Kindle book and how it works. Peter demonstrated how he is able to increase and decrease the font size, the ease with which he moves through the pages of the book and how he is able to upload books, via the internet. Also incorporated into the Kindle is a dictionary, which is easily accessed should the need arise!

Is this the way we will be reading books in the future? The jury is still out.

Our next group takes place at Plantation Hall Meeting room at 14.30 on Wednesday 17th August.

Please contact Ann Lees if you wish to join us.

email: annlees@yahoo.com or phone 01245 225153.

Ann Lees

Scrabble

As Ruth was without a computer connection during the last week of July prior to moving home, she has asked me to prepare a piece for this News Sheet. Nine people attended on 26^{th} July, having three tables of three each. Two games were played by all before stopping for tea and a chat and then seven carried on for another game. Some good words were used but as always we had too many vowels or too few and the same with the consonants (2 x A, 2 x I, 2 x O and an L does not help) but a very enjoyable time was had by all.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 23rd August at the usual time and place.

Gill Thorne

Please note that the telephone number for Ruth has changed as she moved on the 29th July. Her email remains as tetherdown@sky.com but it may not have been re-activated until after you read this News Sheet. Her new phone number will be 01621 856212 (Mobile 0778 463 4464 if old and new numbers are not available). We all wish her a smooth move. (Editor)

Ten Pin Bowling

Six of us met on the 12th July at Madison Heights for another afternoon of ten pin bowling. We had two lanes and some of us played three games and others four. Scores were on par with each other so I think we are all evenly matched. We are all still having trouble with the splits and on other occasions there seemed to be one pin "glued" to the floor when nine went down without any trouble. We then sat and chatted over a cup of coffee before leaving for home.

Our next game is booked for the 9th August and we welcome all new players. It is a fun two hours and if you would like to come and join in we meet every second Tuesday of the month at 13.45 at Madison Heights.

More information can be obtained from me, Janette.

Email lettsnooks@talktalk.net or phone 01621 879697.

Janette

Theatre

I have now secured 28 tickets for "Betty Blue Eyes" for Thursday, 17th November and these have all been reserved. I have booked a coach for this event and will, at a later date, inform everyone who has reserved tickets how much this will be.

Email <u>dennis-morley@tiscali.co.uk</u> or phone 01621 892626.

Janet Morley

Threads and Fabrics

A thank you to our entire group who I know managed to produce, often with difficulty, such a fresh display for the strawberry tea, so soon after the AGM. I know how much work was involved.



(Author Pat Newman)

From people's comments, they were intrigued to see how quilts are constructed and how much work goes into them. Often work in progress can be as interesting as the finished article. Now we can all return to our normal unrushed pace of work and enjoy our meetings together.

If anyone is interested in joining us, please contact Anne Thorpe by phone on 01621 850828 or Pat Newman by Email ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01621 891184.



(Author John Howchin)

Walking

Our July walk around Burnham involved about a dozen people and many small dogs. We met at the clock tower and followed the seawall path past the yacht club and along the river for a mile or so. The tall buildings of Southend, were visible in the distance. We then turned inland following the conservation route, seeing corn buntings in the field. They are one of the species being encouraged by the conservation status of this area.

A return into Burnham followed by tea and cake at a very pleasant cafe completed the afternoon.

The next walk will be on Thursday 11th August, the Blackwater View walk starting from Wickham Bishops Village Hall (shorter version of approximately 4¾ miles).

We will meet at the Village Hall car park at 14.00.

Please let me know if you can join us and if you need or can offer transport.

Email e.m.e@talktalk.net or phone 01621 850618.

Elizabeth

Weekenders

On the 8th July, ten Weekenders travelled to Woodbridge for the day. (Sorry we missed the Strawberry Tea at the U3A Meeting but, at the time the trip was arranged the tea had not been planned). We managed to dodge the showers and have a brief walk around the town and some of us a enjoyed a lunch before rejoining the coach to drive to the embarkation point for the trip down the River Deben. Personally, I found this somewhat boring and probably would have preferred more time in Woodbridge.

Weekenders enjoyed a lively meeting at Perrywood's Nursery on the 16th where we agreed to have another Sunday lunch which will be at the Ship Inn in Tiptree on 21st August. Our Quiz team are improving gaining a fourth place. Well done. The 23rd was a busy day with a lunch at Izumi's in Maldon and, in the evening, Jazz at Wickham Bishops. As a COG could I ask folk who put their names down for a particular event also note it in their diaries. It is very disheartening when folk just don't bother to turn up especially when it is for a meal which has been booked.

Dates for your Diary

- Saturday 13th August: Coffee at Birch Gallery and Tea Room at 10.00.
- Sunday 21st August: Lunch at the Ship Inn.
- Saturday 17th September: Coffee at Oliver's Nursery at 10.00.

Please contact Marilyn Corbett for further information on:

Email mars42@btinternet.com or phone 01621 817518

Wine Appreciation Group

As mentioned in the July News Sheet there will be no meeting in August but, a group outing to New Hall Vineyard for the English Wine Festival and Open Day, is being organised for Sunday 4th September 2011. Entrance fee is £6 and car sharing can be arranged. All U3A members are welcome to come along. This is a popular event held each year at the Winery and, as well as the opportunity to tour the estate and press house, there will be craft stalls, an art show, music and refreshments. Do put your name down on the list and I will telephone you to make arrangements. Non drivers will be interested to know that there will be free wine tasting.

Email jachjones@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01621 817117.

Jackie Jones.

On the Notice Board

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.

The following items of News, including U3A Head Office Information Notices that can be seen on the Notice Board at the July Monthly Meeting or have been available at a recent Monthly Meeting.

- National Conference and AGM to be held 17th 19th
 September at the East Midland Conference Centre at
 Nottingham University. The programme includes five
 excellent speakers, air con facilities and conference
 which is a celebration of the U3A movement! The
 cost ranges from £360 residential or £120 non residential.
- Marriage of Figaro: Film at Odeon, Covent Garden Cinema on Tuesday 15th November 12.45 - 16.45. Tickets: £12.50 each.
- Shared Learning Projects: Horniman Museum, Forest Hill, SE London. Documentation work for those interested in Natural History and archives. Start date 22nd September at 11.00, and thereafter fortnightly; total of 8 sessions. Closing date: 30th July. Contact hazel.thompson57@ntlworld.com for more information.
- Museum of London. Project involves repacking of artifacts, cataloguing etc. Start 28th September then weekly until 7th December: 10 meetings. Contact valerie.saunders523@btinternet.com for more infomation.
- Framing the Future: Museum of London at Docklands. Start: 16th August, then weekly until 22nd November. Project will involve interviewing Study Centre Visitors, entering data and analysing it. Training given. Volunteers will work in pairs as part of a larger team and commit to one day a week. Contact linda.crook.uk@gmail.com closing date 30th July. Others have found the work interesting and stimulating.

Every month we receive information from Head Office keeping our Group informed of events happening throughout the UK. So, if you are interested and would like further information please contact me:

Email <u>brendadewar@btinternet.com</u> or phone 01245 400492

Brenda

Diary of Meetings and Visits.

For details see articles and co-ordinators above'

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
8th August	8 Petanque	9 Ten Pin	10	11 Walking	12 Monthly	13 Weekender	14
August	14.00	Bowling 14.00		14.00	Meeting 14.00	Coffee at Birch Gallery 10.00	
15th August	15 Petanque 14.00 Gardening 14.30	16 Local History 14.00	17 Book Group 14.30	18 Computer 14.00	19 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00 No Coastal and Marine	20	21 Weekender Lunch at the Ship Inn
22nd August	22 Petanque 14.00	23 Scrabble 14.00	24	25 Family History 10.30	26 Copy to Editor Luncheon TBC Painting 14.00 No Bird Watching	27	28
29 th August	29 Bank Holiday	30	31	1 st September Photography 14.00	2 French Conversation 11.00 Painting 14.00 No Committee Meeting	3	4 Wine Festival (New Hall Vinyard)
5th September	5 Petanque 14.00	6 Threads 14.00	7	8 Walking 14.00	9 Monthly Meeting 14.00	10	11
12th September	Petanque 14.00 Gardening 14.30	13 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	14	15 Computer 14.00	16 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00 No Coastal and Marine (But see text)	17 Weekender Coffee at Oliver's Nursery 10.00	18
19th September	19 Petanque 14.00	20 Local History 14.00	21 Book Group 14.30	22 Family History 10.30	23 Luncheon TBC Painting 14.00 Bird Watching	24	25
26th September	26 Petanque 14.00	27 Scrabble 14.00	28	29	30 Copy to Editor Luncheon TBC Painting 14.00	1 st October	2