



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No. 7/2014

August 2014

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

The Friary

END of an ERA

for Adult Education in

Maldon




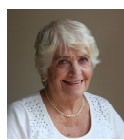


For more information see pages 5 & 6

DO NOT MISS IT
'Future Learn'
A Presentation by
Paul Madge
on the 8th August.

News Sheet Contents

	Page Number
Your Committee	1
From the Chairman	2
From the Editor	2
Membership Secretary	2
From the Treasurer	2
From the Events Secretary	2/3
From the Group Co-ordinator (COGCo)	3
Monthly Meetings	3
Group Reports	3
Friary – End of an era	6
Detail of Events	9
Association of Essex U3As	10
On the Notice Board	10
From Other U3As	11
COG Names and contact number	11
Diary	12

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NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

From the Chairman

I have just finished reading 'The U3A story'. It details the history of the U3A in the UK showing how it was energised by a radio programme in 1981, when Eric Midwinter, Director of the Centre for Policy on Ageing was interviewed. This resulted in an avalanche of 400 letters from people wanting to improve their skills or knowledge. Since then, U3As have started up all over the country, almost like spontaneous combustion. Obviously a nation-wide organisation has to set up constitutions and an agreed system of working. I am very conscious that we have to be beyond reproach when dealing with other people's money. That is why I am so grateful to Angela for putting us in a very structured financial position. Her knowledge from working with the Finance Ombudsman has been incalculable.

Now in our sixth year, I am beginning to wonder if we have not got rather too comfortable in the groups to which we belong. Are we learning new skills? Are we trying to do things which may not be quite in our comfort zone, but which are inspiring us to learn more? Our speaker in August, Paul Madge, will be talking about 'Future Learn' a new way of learning, using the computer. This way of learning is becoming very popular.

Similarly, at the time of writing, we have over 200 people from all over Essex applying to come to the Study Day in October aiming to acquire new skills and knowledge.

The U3A is not simply a social group, although meeting new people is an important aspect, but can each of us say, with pride, I know more now than I did a year ago? If not, we are failing you.

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

From the Editor

The reports from the Committee Members can still be found in the first few pages with a contents column to aid in finding the parts which you wish to read first. Do these columns provide sufficient detail for you as the Members of the Heybridge U3A to understand what the Committee Members do and how your money is spent? In addition, copies of the Committee Meeting Minutes are being established and the most recent ones can be seen at the Monthly Meetings in a ring clip folder near the check in table.

The back page shows the Diary page, which has been updated to the end of September 2014.

If you have any comments to make about the News Sheet, please let me know and, if you wish, the comments can be included in the next News Sheet as a letter to the Editor.

Please keep me up to date with any interesting stories, relevant pictures or anything that relates to The Heybridge U3A or the U3A movement as a whole. Continue to send details to me, preferably by email with 'Heybridge U3A' in the title. Alternatively talk to me at the Monthly Meeting.

Ian Newman: Email ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01621 891184.

From the Membership Secretary

We were pleased to welcome one new member in July, taking our total paid-up membership to 159.

If you are not a member and would like to find out more about the Heybridge U3A, you are welcome to attend a monthly meeting (held in the Plantation Hall on the 2nd Friday of each month at 14.00) as a guest. There is no need to book, just turn up and sign in.

Jenny Parker.

For any queries regarding membership, please

Email jennyparker14@hotmail.com or phone me on 01621 843581. Or, If I am not available, please contact Angela by Email angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk or phone on 01621 850310.

From The Treasurer

Two reminders to COGs:

Firstly, could I have any remaining applications for funding as soon as possible please.

Secondly, could I have your half-yearly financial returns please.

Many thanks.

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

From the Events Secretary

Sunday 20th July found over twenty U3A members and friends ensconced under a huge

tree giving us shelter from the sun and later in the day some gentle rain.



Layer Marney Picnic: Author Ian Newman

Pat cleverly combined our picnic with an event at Layer Marney Towers entitled 'Hope and Glory'. We were entertained during the afternoon by various choirs and musicians in the church and the Long Gallery and we were able to enjoy any event as and when we wished. As the afternoon drew to a close those of us who remained enjoyed the proms atmosphere in the Long Gallery with a combination of all the singers and musicians ably assisted by the audience. The rain had started in earnest while we were inside so it did not spoil our day one iota.

A big thank you to Pat for a great day out.

Report by Marilyn Corbett

Planned Events

Visit to the Royal Dockyards Chatham

Unfortunately and with regret the trip to Chatham booked for 20th September has been cancelled.

There was some interest when seventeen members signed to go, but this was not enough to cover costs. Perhaps we may ease the resulting disappointment by rebooking next year.

In the meantime Pat would like to thank members for their support of planned events.

If you have paid for the trip, please collect your full refund from Pat at the meeting on 8th August.

Other Planned Events.

- Saturday 25th October. An autumn social evening at Plantation Hall.

- Sunday 23rd November 2014. Thursford. A trip to the Thursford Christmas Spectacular.
- Friday 20th March 2015. A tour of the UK Supreme Court in Westminster.
- Monday April 27th 2015. A coach trip to Kew Gardens.

Please see page 9 for details.

Heybridge U3A Monthly Meeting

The speaker at our next Monthly Meeting on Friday 8th August 2014 will be Paul Madge, Chairman of the Limebrook U3A.

He is to give us a PowerPoint presentation on "FUTURE LEARN". An e-mail has been to all COGs with details of *Future Learn* so if you can't wait until next Friday, please ask one of the COGs for details.

For our 12th September meeting, Les Nicoll of Essex County Fire and Rescue Service in Dovercourt will give us a talk about "*Fire Safety in the Home*". He has served over 40 years in The Essex Fire and Rescue Service and is presently Community Connector Lead.

For our 10th October meeting, William Tyler will be returning to give us another of his fascinating and colourful historic talks. This time the subject is ***Britain's Greatest Man***. (my words).

For our 14th November meeting, Dr. Vivien Newman (a former colleague of Jenny Parker), author of several books about *First World War Women*, will be giving us a talk about "Women who Refused to *Go Home and Sit Still*".

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

From the COGCo (Group Co-ordinator)

I have nothing to report this month other than a reminder that there will be a talk about Future Learn at the August meeting.

Hope you are having a good summer.

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

GROUP REPORTS

Art (Painting) Group

The small but select crowd of painters who met on the last Friday in July were invited to help themselves from a range of art books and prints kindly donated by Lois who has been decluttering her house.

Although she couldn't attend herself, she sent the items for others to enjoy rather than throw them in a skip. Thank you Lois!

Our COG, Michael, popped in to see us between hospital appointments in Colchester, and took home several of Lois's colourful prints of historic buildings and gardens to use as homework, until he is able to rejoin the group in a month or so.

Several members are away on holiday or elsewhere at the moment, so we can expect plenty of inspirational photographs and postcards when they all return.

Report by Gill Carpenter

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

Bird Watching Group

This month we were at Abbots Hall Farm which is the headquarters of the Essex Wildlife Trust and is still a working farm.

It was a lovely morning as we walked towards the first hide, not much birdlife around but by going to the wetland hide we hoped to see some of our favourites. A small bird of prey was spotted. We decided that it was not a Kestrel, then wondered if it was a Hobby, so we checked the pictures we had of birds of prey but could not be sure.

We watched Dunlin, Redstart, Little Egret and Godwit before making our way to the Salcott hide. There was not a lot going on until a large bird of prey was spotted by Erica but it flew out of our sight. So we quickly left the hide hoping to see it again. We were in luck. It was flying low over the stubble field and we watched it for ages. It was a Marsh Harrier, one of our largest and most beautiful birds of prey. It can have a wing span of 22". What a great way to finish the morning.

The next get together will be the 26th September. If you would like to join us, please call me.

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

Computer Group

The Group met, as usual, in July. The new Heybridge U3A Computer was used again by us.

This month we concentrated our thoughts on files, folders and what we should do with them rather than delve deeper into Spread Sheets. Included in the discussion was the need for backups and how this can be done.

Again, nothing was arranged for the next meeting. What will it be? You will have to wait and see.

If you would like the help of a more experienced computer user to enable you to get more from your own computer please come along to our next meeting. The Computer Group Meetings are held in the Claydon Room in Plantation Hall on the third Thursday of each month at 14:00 when you will be made welcome. Just come along.

Ian Newman: Email ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01621 891184.

Creative Writing Group

We abandoned our usual meeting format for a raclette party this month. The glorious weather enabled us to sit under the gazebo and tuck into an assortment of cold meats and new potatoes topped by melted cheese and served with salad, home-grown courgettes, tomatoes and bread. There was trifle and fresh fruit salad to follow. I would like to say a very big 'thank you' to all who made the party such a success.



Creative Writing Group Raclette Party:

Author Yvonne Chetland.

We are looking forward to welcoming one new member to our group in August, after which the group will be full. However if anyone else is interested I will start a waiting list with a view to possibly putting people in touch to form a new group.

The next meeting is on 27th August when the subject will be a story beginning, "Jim remembered standing terrified at the top of the helter-skelter."

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

Croquet Group

This month we welcome two new members, although they're unable to join in yet, and Connie Miles' sister Shirley, on holiday for a few weeks from New Zealand. Playing ability and tactical knowledge continues to improve, without detracting from the fun element. It's difficult to believe that we've only played

six sessions up to the end of July, and some individuals, even fewer. Anyone joining should have no difficulty catching up, golf croquet being much simpler and more sociable than the version seen from time to time in television period drama. Although the season's now well advanced, it's never too late to start!



Yellow Ball in Play: Author Linda Etherton

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

Discussion Coffee Morning Group

The July coffee morning was hosted by Linda Etherton. As I was away on a short break and missed the meeting, Linda has kindly provided the following details.

The conversation flowed, encompassing topics such as the continuing thunderstorms, the big storm in 1987 when so many trees were flattened but no-one hurt and the Malaysian plane disaster with all on board killed. Local events included the large funeral in Tiptree with a hearse drawn by white horses wearing pink plumes. They heard about Lesley's recent Norwegian fjord cruise, which sounded enjoyable. I am sure Linda provided very enjoyable refreshments too.

Our next meeting will be at 11:00 on Friday 15th August at Margaret Clarke's house. Details will be available at the next Monthly Meeting as usual.

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

Family History Group

At our July meeting we again talked about our relatives during WW1 and tried to find service records. At our last meeting we talked about trying to get someone to talk to us about Births, Marriages and Deaths, with which we have had problems. Unfortunately we have not been able to contact the gentleman so we will keep on trying.

Our next meeting will be Thursday 28th August 10:30 to 12:30 as usual.

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

French Conversation Group

After discussing our activities during the previous months we went on to look at an article on how to greet another person in France. Should one shake hands, or kiss the other person's cheek and if the latter, how many times? With the text was a map of France, with the départements (counties) marked in different shades of grey. In the palest areas, the inhabitants think that one kiss is enough, but in the most extravagant, four are expected. The author muses on the thought that if one works in those areas, does one have to go to work ten minutes early, to get all the greetings out of the way before your day's work can begin.

Our meetings are held on the second Wednesday in each month starting at 10:00.

Report by Pat Newman.

For further information please contact:

Jenny Parker: email jennyparker14@hotmail.com or phone 01621 843581.

Gardening Group

Another beautiful afternoon for our visit to Dene Court, which showed us just how much can be done with a small space. All the dozens of varieties of clematis were in full flower, and the whole effect was very impressive. It makes you stop making excuses about not having enough room to make a beautiful garden. It can be done! Then we moved on to Dragons, which is a much larger back garden also near Chelmsford, and had a very welcome tea on a shady part of the lawn.

Next month on Wednesday 13th August we will be going to Ingatestone Hall where we can look round the house as well as the garden. Everyone is welcome to come, and do phone me if you need or can give a lift.



Garden of Dene Court: Author Pat Yates

Pat Yates: Email pat.yates@tesco.net or phone 01621 892866.

Italian Conversation

Unfortunately, due to my husband's on-going treatment, I have still not been able to resume the Italian meetings. I shall advise the members when the next meetings will take place

Janice Slight: Email janice.slight@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01621 853393

Local History Group (LHG)

The Friary - the end of an era for Adult Education in Maldon

Members of the Heybridge U3A Local History Group, and U3A members who read the Maldon Standard, will be aware that Adult Community Education is moving out of the Friary and into accommodation above Maldon Library. The future of the Friary is uncertain but members of the Local History Group recently had the opportunity to have a guided tour of the site, led by group members, and ex-Friary staff, Linda and Carol. During and following that visit we have gained some more information about the building's history but would very much welcome more. If any Heybridge U3A member has any snippet of information about the building, or the people who have lived or worked or attended classes there over the years, we would be very interested to hear from them. May be **you** remember something quirky about someone you have encountered there or know something of how the layout of the building used to be. Perhaps **you** have some information about the Friary's history before it became part of adult education. Perhaps you know of someone else who knows something! If you can help, please get in touch with either Carol Greenhalgh or Linda Etherton.

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

Linda Etherton Telephone: 01621 843702 Email: ethertonbikes@aol.com

Local History Report

More than twenty of us met at Ingatestone Hall for our guided tour. This is such a beautiful building and steeped in history but it is still very much a family home. The Catholic Petre family have been connected with the property since [and in spite of] Henry VIII's time and currently the Hon. Dominic Petre and his family occupy the private apartment in the South Wing. [Dominic was seen to be sorting his laundry whilst we were viewing the Queen Anne Room!]. The sunny day enabled several of us to enjoy a picnic and a stroll around the lovely gardens.

We next meet for a guided walk of Colchester on 19th August. All places are taken for this visit.

In September we shall be meeting for a guided tour of the National Trust owned Bourne Mill in Colchester.

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

Luncheon Group

Our 25th July lunch was at The Ship at Tiptree. Although I had 13 names at the 11th July monthly meeting, this lapsed to only 10 by 21st July. So we were 10 who braved the torrential rainstorms complete with thunder and lightning to get to Tiptree. We had more rainstorms to get home.

We had an enjoyable meal even though the two of us, having starters, were served our main courses either with or before our starters, a confusion soon put to rights.

For August, on the 22nd, after much badgering from Robert to convince me that they now take reservations, I have booked The Lion Inn at Boreham. The rider is that it is for more than 10, so the list and weekday lunch menu will be in the Committee Room on 8th August. For those attending the meeting please check the list and confirm. Others please e-mail or phone me to advise your intentions, as we need more than 10 to hold the reservation.

New members to Heybridge U3A, as well as existing members, are very welcome to join us.

Any queries please speak to me at Friday's Monthly Meeting, phone or e-mail.

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

Patchwork Group

The next meeting of the Patchwork Group will be in the Claydon Room on Monday the 12th August at 14.00.

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

Petanque Group

We were very lucky again for our Petanque/Raclette game/meal. There were fifteen of us to play and recline in the garden with our little raclette pans melting the cheese on potatoes and cold meat. We lingered until early evening as it was very pleasant outside and Barbara was very lucky to be presented with a birthday cake which we managed to eat in small slices after all the other lovely food. We had another warm weather game of Petanque this Monday as I write and we will continue weekly until the middle of October. In the timetable in July News Petanque is missing for August 11th but we will be playing, just missing the August Bank Holiday on August 25th. Come along any week to watch or play.



The Petanque Group: Author Angela Pleasance
Barbara Barbrook. Email c.barbrook@sky.com or
phone 01621 855605.

Photography Group

We all wish Peter a speedy return to good health and the Photo Group, however, many thanks to Norman for leading the group at the June Meeting.



A View Through from Inside: Author Ian Newman

Our assignment from last month was the View Through, which resulted in some quite varied interpretations, including a circular photo achieved through a bottomless paper cup. When taking a picture through an arch or out of a cave, the camera gets quite confused with the contrast of darkness and light, and we had much fiddling with cameras and leafing through manuals, without coming up with a good solution.



A View Through from outside: Author Dianne Horscraft
Our next meeting is on the 7th August at 14:00 at the Military museum, with the assignment being Rear View. That should stretch our imagination

Report: Pat Yates.

Peter Thorpe: Email thorpe101@btinternet.com or
phone 01621 850828.

Reading and Books Group

This month's book is written by an American author who sets her novel in the chaos of World War II.

In the thick of this chaos is an American reporter sending home her reports about terrified strangers in underground shelters, rubble, torn streets and the struggles of the Jews in Germany to escape almost certain death in the concentration camps.

Listening to her reports in America is a Postmistress and a Doctor's wife whose husband is working in war torn London. The reaction of these Americans to the war that seemed so far from their home for us, added a new dimension to tales of World War II.

The author was able to create an authentic atmosphere particularly of London in the war and we enjoyed this aspect of the story which for many of us, stirred up memories of that time and the period just after.

However, it was felt the vocabulary used by the American author did not always fit the period she was writing about with modern expressions creeping in inappropriately.

We also felt the characters lacked vitality or even credibility at times so there was difficulty for most of us in engaging fully with the story.

We were also rather puzzled by a strange ending which seemed weak and without any rational.

Like the 'curates egg' we came to the conclusion that this book was good in parts.

Report by Ann Lees.

Our next meeting will be on August 20th starting at 2.15pm Plantation Hall, Heybridge.

Anybody interested in joining the group should contact Carol Overy by Email: caroleovery@sky.com or phone 01621 893450.

Scrabble Group

The Scrabble group managed to get the little grey cells working at the July meeting, despite the heat, with air conditioning and fan going. The refreshments helped to keep us going through two games with queries about whether a word was 'allowable' batted around as we didn't have a dictionary this time.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 26th August at 14:00 in the Committee Room at the Plantation Hall. If you would like to join us do contact me.



Hands that play Scrabble: Author Linda Etherton
Linda Etherton Telephone: 01621 843702 Email: ethertonbikes@aol.com

Solo Whist

There was no meeting in July, therefore no report
Dave Mason: phone 01621 858635 or Email tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk

Technical Computing Group

The last meeting of our group took place at Alex's house on the 10th of June. The meeting was very interesting and varied. A lengthy discussion took place on the differences in various cameras on today's market, and the way they can be interfaced with computers. (We don't always talk only about computers!!). A discussion also took place regarding our U3A's new computer and the different Microsoft Office suits of programs.

I would like to pass on behalf of our group all good wishes to Peter Thorpe for a speedy recovery from his recent illness, and look forward to seeing him when he is well enough to attend our meetings. His input and his wit is sorely missed.

I would like to thank Alex for his hospitality.

Colin Mason

The next meeting will take place on Thursday the 14th of August.

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

Colin Mason:

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

Ten Pin Bowling

A select band of nine arrived which was perfect for 3 lanes of 3. Graham was the high scorer with 131 but Gill was hard on his heels with 125. The rest of us weren't having a particularly good day.

Thanks again Chris for keeping them all in order and I wish her and Roger a good holiday now that we are back!

The next meeting is on Tuesday 12th August at Madison Heights. 13:45 pm for 14:00 start of play.

New players always welcome - no experience necessary.

Lynne Morrison. phone 01621 891288, Email lynne-morrison@supanet.com (m. 07771 880757)

Threads and Fabrics Group



Elephants: Author Pat Newman

Our July meeting was another one where we each brought our work in progress. One of the things that we have discussed in the past is embellishment. The Oxford dictionary tells me that it is to beautify or adorn something, or enhance it with fictitious additions. The latter definition seems to be rather harsh and not in the spirit of our group. The photograph this week is of work in progress. It is of a piece of fabric, printed with elephants, which are being over-embroidered. Hopefully I will be able to take another photo when it is finished.

The Threads and Fabrics Group, which is held in one of the member's home each month, cannot accommodate more members. The use of a member's home for the meeting is central to the core of this group. However,

members of this group would be happy to assist anyone to start another group on the same or similar theme. We will be keeping a list of interested people.

The meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month starting at 14:00. Please speak to Pat on this subject.

Pat Newman. Email ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01621 891184.

Walking Group

Our July walk was around the fishing lakes and nature reserve at Chigborough. Despite the rain we all enjoyed the outing and refreshments at the nearby tea room.

The August walk will be along the canal from Papermill Lock. Meet at the car park by the lock at 14:00 on Thursday 14th August. Please let me know if you can join us and if you need or can offer transport.

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

Weekenders Group

On the 12th July, seven of us enjoyed an afternoon at the opera at Wickham Bishops. The operatic group excellently performed La Boheme and during the long interval we were able to partake of the picnic food we had brought. We were blessed with a fine day and managed to secure a good spot in the shade and with a good view of the proceedings.

Dates for your diary:

- Saturday 9th August Coffee Morning at Salty Dogs, Goldhanger at 10:15 (Note time change).
- Saturday 13th September at Osea View, Osea Caravan Park, Goldhanger Road at 10:00.

For further details please contact Marilyn.

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

Wine Appreciation Group

The July visit to Bardfield Vineyard and Great Lodge will probably go down in history as the most interesting and fun visit of the year. Rebecca Jordan welcomed us into her home and gave us the history of the house and vineyard then took us on a tour of the grounds including the Anne of Cleves Barn which is currently being transformed into a wedding venue.

Then a visit and talk about the culture of vines was followed by tasting of the 3 wines produced from their grapes. By coincidence, our visit coincided with the visit of John Stitchbury, founder of the well known Jackson Estate Winery in Marlborough, New Zealand. An old friend of the family, John joined in with our group to give us an insight into wine production methods in New Zealand and proved to be very entertaining. He then shared a bottle of his Sauvignon Blanc wine with us for comparison. A two course lunch was enjoyed

before we finally left clutching our purchases of the award winning Bacchus wine.

In August we plan to have a BBQ in my garden at Tiptree, providing that the sunny weather continues. However, there is a plan B ready in case of bad weather.

We are a small group and welcome anyone who would like to come along to our meetings and join us on our visits to Vineyards and Wine Merchants. Please put your name on the list or call me to confirm you are coming.

At the beginning of the year we decided that a visit to New Hall Vineyard for their Wine Festival in September would be a good idea. This takes place over the weekend of 6th and 7th September. I shall be away that weekend but hope that a few of you will find it interesting to go along on the Saturday as this is usually a popular event in Essex.

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

Detail of Events:

Further Information and Details of Events

The following events are planned for this and next year. Please note that in future members will be asked to pay for outings in full, six weeks before the trip date. If the trip later proves not to be viable, the money will be refunded in full.

The Thursford Christmas Spectacular 2014. I have booked 17 tickets for Sunday November 23rd 2014 with Boon's Coaches. The balance of £58.00 per person will be due by 17th August. Other details will be available later.

Social Evening. Due to popular request, a second social evening is planned and Plantation Hall booked for Saturday 25th October. Possibly fish & chips. Certainly lots of board games! Cost approximately £10.00. Last date for signing up and payment. 12th September.

UK Supreme Court. Guided tours of the UK Supreme Court are now on offer. Tour leaders; experienced members of staff, provide an introduction to the role of the court in the UK justice system, explain about the history and artwork of the building and give examples of cases heard. The three beautiful courtrooms; the Lawyers Suite and the magnificent Justices' Library will be open for us and a film will be shown with a welcome message from the President of the Supreme Court. I have booked a tour for Friday 20th March at 14:00. Maximum 25 people on the tour, but Westminster Abbey is opposite, as are many other local attractions. Members not joining us for the Supreme Court tour may wish to take advantage of a coach trip to London. Cost of the tour £3.50. Coach cost to be determined later.

Please sign up to show interest. Payment will be due in January 2015 if the trip goes ahead.

Kew Gardens. I have provisionally booked a visit to Kew Gardens for 27th April 2015. Cost approximately £28.00. The National Archives at Kew are adjacent to Kew Gardens so anyone wishing instead to study there, could join the group for the day. Admission to the Archives is free, so cost would be for coach only. Details to be confirmed later. Please sign up to show interest so that I can make a firm booking by September 2014. Payment will not be due until February 2015 if the trip goes ahead.

Also planned for 2015.

A visit to the tractor plant in Basildon.

A day cruise on a Thames Barge from The Hythe.

Please sign up for the events and contact me with any queries.

Pat Smith; Email patcleary98@sky.com or phone 01621 856569

Association of Essex U3As

Association of Essex U3As Study Day 2014

The Association of Essex U3As Study Day Information is now out and has been distributed. Once again it is to be held at the Plume School on Tuesday, 28th October 2014. The latest applications situation as currently advised is as follows:

Applications are continuing to arrive.

Full groups are:

Digital Photography (all day); Watercolour (all day); Pen and Wash (am); Acrylics (all day); Recognising Trees; Hand Chimes (am and pm); English Patchwork (all day); Geology; Ukulele (pm)

All other groups still have spaces – but some are filling fast.

People who have applied for a group that is full have been given another of their choices. Di is ringing anyone who has a problem with their application.

Di is planning to bank cheques by the end of the week.

A copy of the Application Form and the updated Program will be pinned to the notice board at the August Monthly Meeting.

Association News

There is nothing new to report this month.

Joyce Woodham (See page 1 for contact details).

On the Notice Board

Items from the latest mailing that might be of interest to members.

- Applications for the U3A AGM and Conference, 9th -10th September at Cirencester, are required by the

end of July. Application and payment by card or Paypal can be made online at the U3A website.

- The U3A Diaries have now arrived. They can be collected from Linda at the next Monthly Meeting.
- U3A at the Royal Society - Technology, Well-being and the Brain, a talk from Dr Paul Howard Jones in The Wellcome Trust Lecture Theatre at the Royal Society, London. Tickets £15.
- U3A Vision and Mission Statement (updated January 2014 version).
- A copy of the St John Ambulance Pocket Guide to Essential First Aid is available and can be obtained free of charge.
- The 2014 Photography competition, theme Architectural Britain - old and new. Closing date 31st August 2014.
- U3A Walking guides: the two new walks now available are Flint and Dartmoor, at £3.75 each inc p&p.
- The U3A Story by Francis Beckett - an updated version of this booklet is now available, price £1. We have a copy for inspection and if you would like to order a copy please put your name on the list, with payment. These will be ordered in September
- Events - a list of events sent out by National Office is available, including a flier for the Globe Theatre. Contact Pat Smith if you think any of these would make a good visit for our U3A.
- A flier showing the new merchandise produced by the U3A, plus a credit-card sized magnifier will soon be available
- Some popular U3A Events are being repeated: 'U3A Explores Science' at The Royal Institute on 30th September, admission £20 and 'Exploring Elgar' on 15th October at the Elgar Birthplace Museum; £17 including lunch. Inspiration Day for U3A Members, at the Royal Opera House, Thurrock. £18 and a U3A West End Sing Out on 22nd October at the Playhouse Theatre in London, £35.
- Cheltenham Literary Festival - U3A members are offered reduced prices and preferential advanced booking. Dates 3rd - 12th October. Preferential U3A booking starts 29th August and deadline is 31st August, from the Festival Office 0844 880 8094 quoting U3A 14.

Contact Linda Etherton for further details. (See page 1 for contact details).

Co-operation between Maldon Area U3As

Details of the ways in which we can work more closely for the benefit of all members continues to be developed and details provided when they are known.

Contact Joyce Woodham for further details. (See page 1 for contact details).

**Group Name, Co-ordinator,
& Contact Phone Number**

From Other U3As

The Maldon U3A Local & General History group have organised a trip to Flanders feeling it would be appropriate as part of the commemoration of the First World War.

The trip is to take place from Monday 27th April 2015 (3 days / 2 nights) and the cost will be approximately £314 depending on numbers. We still have a few places if any member is interested.

For further information on the itinerary please contact the coordinator - Mary Burd on 01621 843020 or email maryburd43@yahoo.co.uk

Wine Tasting in Kent – Tuesday 12th August.

The Wine Groups are arranging a coach trip and spaces may be available to any U3A member. The proposed itinerary is:

Depart West Maldon Community Centre at 08:30 to arrive Chapel Down Winery, Small Hythe at 10:30 for a guided tour and tastings. We leave at approximately 12:30 to travel to Biddenden Vineyards. On arrival a ploughman's lunch will be served followed by a guided tour and tastings. We leave at approximately 16:30 to arrive back in Maldon at 18:00.

Total cost including lunch £37.

To book a place please contact Paul Costa on 01621 853893 or email paul@costa.me.uk

Limebrook U3A

Arrangements about a trip to Ingatestone Hall where a private tour and cream tea are being arranged. The date of the trip is 21st August 2014 at 13:00. Price and travel arrangements not yet available.

Contact Marion Rice for further information.

rice2pudding@yahoo.co.uk

Other Information

None

Group Name	Co-ordinator (COG)	Telephone Number
Art (Painting)	Michael Kempen	01621 892974
Bird Watching	Maureen Lenoir	01621 869871
Coffee Morning	Margaret Brown	01621 854885
Computer	Ian Newman	01621 891184
Creative Writing	Angela Pleasance	01621 850310
Croquet	John Gorrie	01621 854006
Family History	Lesley Pomphrett	01621 817733
French Conversation	Jenny Parker	01621 843581
Gardening	Pat Yates	01621 892866
Italian	Janice Slight	01621 853393
Local History	Carol Greenhalgh	01621 840339
Luncheon	John Harrison	01621 854851
Patchwork	Anne Thorpe	01621 850828
Petanque	Barbara Barbrook	01621 855605
Photography	Peter Thorpe	01621 850828
Reading & Books	Carole Overly	01621 893450
Scrabble	Linda Etherton	01621 843702
Solo Whist	Dave Mason	01621 858635
Technical Computing	Colin Mason	01621 854906
Ten Pin Bowling	Lynne Morrison	01621 891288
Threads & Fabrics	Pat Newman	01621 891184
Walking	Elizabeth Eastwood	01621 850618
Weekenders	Marilyn Corbett	01621 817518
Wine Group	Jackie Jones	01621 817117

Diary of Meetings and Visits

For details see articles and co-ordinators above

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