



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No. 7/2015

August 2015

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

Registered charity number 1160360

Your Committee

**We still have vacancies for
Vice Chair & Coordinator of COGs.
Speak to a Committee member if
you are interested.**



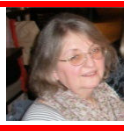




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New Groups!!!

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NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

From the Chairman

Tempus fugit –time flies. I am very conscious of this because, in just over six months, we shall be planning the next AGM, when my term of office finishes. I was very lucky to have been on the Heybridge U3A committee for several years under the brilliant guidance of Peter Thorpe. We owe him so much in the way he organised our U3A, that it made it easy for me to follow him. I have met Chairmen who had not had any experience of their own committee before having to take on the role. It is not an easy task, nor is it fair on members to have a Chairman, however good they are, to try and pick up the pieces of what has become a very successful and lively U3A. So, please, please, do not leave it to the last minute to come forward. If you join us now, on the committee, you will get to know all the many things that we are involved in. It will also give you time to reflect on how you would like to take our U3A forward.

Remember, that without a Chairman and supportive Committee, Heybridge U3A will cease to exist.

On the theme of looking forward, we circulated a questionnaire on l pads and tablets with a possibility of setting up a workshop specifically on this topic. There were only 10 responses, but it was clear that people's needs were so great and diverse that we did not feel we could fulfil them. We have therefore decided to work with other U3A groups to take this forward..

Joyce Woodham

Chairman Heybridge U3A

From the Editor

The design of the Heybridge U3A News Sheet and the reports that it contains continues as a full-page layout. I would ask contributors to limit their updates to 400 words or 300 words and one photo please as space is becoming an issue. Information about the Committee Members and their reports can be found in the first few pages with a contents column, to aid in finding the parts which you wish to read first, on page 1. The back page (p16) shows the Diary for the months of August and September.

Please keep the Editor up to date with any interesting stories, relevant pictures or anything that relates to the Heybridge U3A, the Association of Essex U3As or the U3A movement as a whole. Please send details to me by email with 'Heybridge U3A' in the title and copy Tina at tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk with any diary updates.

Contact me, Geoff Hadley, on any issue raised in the News Sheet by phone 01621 852494 or by

Email editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Membership Secretary

We were pleased to welcome two new members in July, taking our total membership to 156. New members are always welcome. If you are not a member, and would like to find out more about Heybridge U3A, you are welcome to attend a monthly meeting (held in the Plantation Hall at 14.00 on the 2nd Friday of each month) as a guest. There is no need to book – just turn up and sign in.

For any queries relating to membership, please email membershipsecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

Future Heybridge U3A Monthly Meetings

For our 14th August monthly meeting we will be having a talk from Chris Chippendale, the Managing Director of *LPA Made Simple*. (Described as Your Local Experts in Lasting Power of Attorney). He will be accompanied by Keith Holland his new Administration Manager so we may get a second element to the talk.

For 13th November we will be having a representative from *Collective Legal Solutions* giving a talk described as ***Tax, Care and Toy Boys***.

This is intended to be a factual but light hearted introduction to some of the very recent changes by The Government to the financial implication for property owners who find that they are no longer able to live by themselves.

The date is fixed but the speaker will be named later.

John W Harrison: phone 01621 854851 or Email speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Events Secretary

Planned Events

- Sunday 20th September 2015, a trip to the Royal Dockyards at Chatham, on their 'Back to the 40s' weekend – with Lodge Coaches.
- Wednesday 21st October, a day trip to Bletchley Park.
- Wednesday 18th November -.a social evening with fish & chips
- **NEW** – January 'Guys & Dolls' at the Savoy Theatre.
- Tuesday 2nd February 2016. See 'Jersey Boys' at the Piccadilly Theatre London.
- **Ideas for 2016**- trips in the pipeline to visit Hever Castle, Kensington Palace and Canterbury Cathedral.

Please see page .12.for further details

GROUP REPORTS

Art (Painting) Group

Those members brave enough to tackle the recently introduced medium of acrylic paints are still experimenting with this colourful art form.

Some, however, are finding that the bold blocks of colour produced by these thicker paints are a lot less subtle than our usual delicate and much-loved watercolours.

Of course, there is no reason why both cannot be used - the watercolours for the daintier landscapes or flower studies, the acrylics for works requiring a bolder approach such as abstracts or, perhaps, animal portraits.

One cannot have too many strings to one's bow.

What's the betting that in another year's time our work boxes will be weighed down with an even bigger choice of tubes, palettes and paint boxes as the need for experimentation takes over

Gill Carpenter

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

Ballroom & Latin Dancing Group

No response from Heybridge U3A dancers and only a small number from other local U3A's leaves us in an unviable position so far as proceeding with the group further.

Gloria and I thank those of you who helped to get the group started albeit short lived.

Alf Bell. Email dossod@fsmail.net or phone 01621 840158

Bird Watching Group

It was a lovely morning as we met at Heybridge Basin. We were not expecting to see many birds but were pleasantly surprised, lots more than we expected. The tide was out so lots going on along the shore line Redshank, Oystercatcher, Little Egrets and Dunlin, as well as Canada and Greylag geese. Further along the sea wall were Black-headed and lesser Black-back Gulls for us to watch. Jill was able to get this lovely picture of a Black- tailed Godwit, quite rare for us to see one.



Black- tailed Godwit Jill McGregor

We left the sea wall and walked round the large lake, lots to see here today, Terns, Tufted ducks, a Female Pochard plus a Moorhen with her chicks. We finished up at the Lock Café for refreshments and made plans for some of our meetings from September onwards. (No meeting August).

We will be meeting Sept.26th and going to Fingringhoe Wick. If you would like to join us please get in touch with Maureen on 01621 869871 or email symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk

New Bridge Club

If you would like to join this new group, please contact

Elizabeth Eastwood E-mail e.m.e@talktalk.net

Cards and Paper Crafts

The next meeting is 2nd September at 14:00

Please contact Lesley for details. Phone 01621 858135 e-mail Lindawoonton@sky.com

Computer Group

The number of Computer Group members attending the July Meeting was seven including Colin and myself. This is still less than an ideal number, so, if you have problems, or, as a user or potential user (thinking of buying one) of tablets, iplayers and the like, or have some special knowledge about some aspect of computing across part or the full range of computer communication equipment, then please come along to a Computer Group Meeting and share your knowledge with us. Alternately contact me by phone or email (See below).

The presentation for the month of July, was entitled 'Word Processing' and was an introduction to the various forms of writing programs/applications available on the PC's, Laptops, Tablets, ipads etc'. The subject matter commenced with the question, "What is Word Processing?" We covered the concept of the operating system, the program source for the different forms of computers, some being common to the various Operating Systems. The saved output format was discussed, including where to find it. The 'open' format is the one which is used for transfer between the various suppliers of Word Processing programs. We also touched on the subject of input devices including keyboard, mouse, touchpad and touchscreen and which devices were used with the different pieces of computer equipment.

The main subject for the August Meeting will be an introduction to the 'Formatting of Documents' using the WORD program. Reference will be made to the similarities to other communication equipment will also be covered. We will also cover 'Labels' and if time permits, the important subject of filing and saving of documents.. Members of the Computer Group have requested that we cover subjects such as 'Simple ways of sorting out Photographs'. We try and cover subjects that you wish to be more familiar with and knowledgeable about, building up from your current level of knowledge.

The subscription, to pay for the room hire, has stayed at £7 for the third quarter of 2015 and may reduce to £5 if no December Meeting takes place. Those who had previously been members of the Computer Group will be asked to pay £3 while all new members to the Computer Group will not be charged for the first time that they attend a Computer Group Meeting.

The Computer Group Meetings are for those wishing to be more proficient at using the computer, in any of its forms, PC, Laptop, Tablet, Ipad or iPhone starting at any stage. The subjects covered are tailored to those that attend the monthly meetings. The 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. You can always contact me by phone or email before, if you so wish.

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

Creative Writing Group

The weather stayed dry for the afternoon of our raclette party. A relaxing afternoon was enjoyed by those present, but our thoughts were with our absent friends. My grateful thanks go to everyone who contributed to the feast and made the social occasion such a success.

We have a choice of projects for our next meeting on 26th August: either "A Social Occasion" or "I am leaving".

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

Croquet Group

We would like to start by thanking Maldon Croquet Club for supporting us and allowing Heybridge U3A team to continue to play at Forresters. We all really do appreciate you giving up your time - a big thank you to Gill and Vaughn.

Once again we had a very happy bunch of 9 players who giggled and laughed our way through 3 super games. The weather was perfect and the coffee afterwards was well received. Yvonne was on form and we have now named one of the hoops in her honour as 3 times she placed her ball through the hoop after just 2 putts. George was also showing great skill with a magical shot (which he said he didn't mean to do) but nevertheless it was pure genius. Graham as always plays a very tactical game which we all try to copy - but it is still a work in progress. Everyone has improved markedly and can strike the ball with confidence and we are looking forward to our next session.

Christine Norris

Please address any queries about the group to Linda, but as far as we are aware at present, the sessions will be able to continue with help from the Croquet Club.

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

Discussion Coffee Morning Group

Our July coffee morning was at Marilyn's house, for various reasons it was a small gathering, a couple of our members enjoyed a lovely day visit to Audley End. We still managed to get through a lot of talking and enjoyed plenty of tasty refreshments.

The next meeting will be at Linda Etherton's house at 11.00 on Friday 21st August

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

Family History Group

At our July meeting we brought some of our family wedding photos and discussed the styles of wedding dresses. The idea came from Dorothy and I finding an old wedding photo in an antique shop which we all decided dated from the 1920's?

Liz told us that "Find My Past" are producing the 1939 Register later this year. Also, following on from the TV programme, there is a Slave Owners Register, which could be interesting to look into! We discussed the structure of the Group and it has been decided that we will be introducing a beginners group at 10.00 until 11.00 for starter sessions. The existing group will commence 11.00 until 13.00 and we will see how this works out. A sign-up list will be at the next Branch Meeting for beginners and we will see how the numbers go. This Introduction for Beginners Group will be run by Liz Cawdell.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 24th September at my house as usual. There is no meeting in August because of holidays

Lesley Pomphrett: Phone 01621 817733 lesleypommy@hotmail.com

Beginners Family History Group

Have you ever fancied tracing your family tree, but don't know where to start? Then this group is for you. We will be starting right from the beginning and looking at how to access information online, what records are available, how to 'build' your tree and much more! There will be hand-outs and worksheets to help you with your research at home and lots of help along the way.

This group will meet on the 4th Thursday of the month (no meeting in August) from 10.00. – 11.00. at Lesley Pomphrett's house. The current Family History group will meet after the beginner's class from 11.00. – 13.00

Our first meeting will be Thursday September 24th

For more details please contact Liz Cawdell, 01621 843264 or email ecawdell@btinternet.com

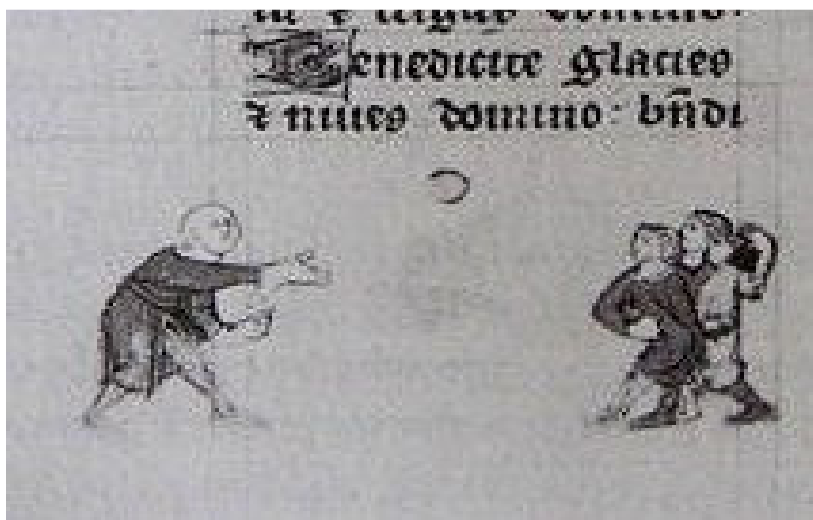
French Conversation Group

In July tennis, in particular Wimbledon, was on the minds of most of our members. Jenny had found an article from the Huffington Post (in French) for us to read. It explained the history of the game, with an explanation of how the scoring system came into being. The article went back to the 12th century when, in the monastery cloisters in North West France, a game was played where the monks used the open palms of their hands to knock a ball back towards their opponents. According to the article, they had a service line each on which to stand (120 steps apart) and a central line or rope over which they had to hit the ball. When a player scored, he was allowed to go 15 steps towards the rope (15, 30, 45 or 60 steps away from the service line). This, without the movement of position, is similar to the modern game. Later the game developed into 'real tennis' which was a much faster game, with racquets. Forty-five, in French quarante – cinq, took too long to say and was replaced by 40. The article also explained how the expression 'deuce' came into being. When the players attained 40-40 the arbiter/umpire called 'a deux' which in translation from early French became transmuted into deuce. But where did 'love' come from? A zero point looked on the scoreboard like the shape of an egg (l'oeuf in French). This in an English accent came out as 'love'.

This inspired me to further research. I found a website for 'real tennis first start' (in English) which gave me the information that the balls were first made from worn out monks robes and that a modern version still exists under the name courte-paume. Wikipedia also delivered a photo of a page from a 'Book of Hours', of

monks enjoying themselves. The name tennis is thought to be derived from the word 'tenez' which in those times meant 'take heed'.

If I have inspired your interest in the history of tennis many more sites can also be found.



Monks playing court-paume in the 12th century. From A Book of Hours Wikipedia.

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

Pat Newman For further information please contact:

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

French Improvers: Joint Blackwater / Heybridge Group

Due to holidays and childcare commitments, we were again a small group who met in July when we practised the language needed to find our way around a French town. As usual, we came across some 'false friends' – words which sound like an English word but which in fact mean something different. For example, in French, la librairie is a bookshop – the library is la bibliothèque. And if you're driving in France this summer, don't get caught out by a road sign which says **P CARS**. 'Cars' in French refers to coaches, so don't park there or you could risk a fine! Our next meeting is at 14.00 on Monday 24th August, venue t.b.a.

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

Gardening Group

We had another nice afternoon for our visit to the four Rayleigh Open Gardens, which showed us what can be done with a small or very unpromising space. We loved the summerhouses and hard landscaping as well as the beautifully cared-for planting, and marvelled at how much of interest could be packed in.



Please make a big effort to keep the afternoon of Monday 17th August free for our private visit to Paternoster House

Everyone is welcome, especially if you have never come on a garden visit before. I think our group has the wrong name, as we don't do any gardening together; it's just people who love a stroll in beautiful surroundings followed by delicious cake!

Please phone me if you need a lift. Pat Yates: Email pat.yates@tesco.net or phone 01621 892866.

Italian Conversation

This Italian Conversation Group meets twice a month, usually on the first and third Monday of the month, at 10.00 at my house. Despite holidays, our combined Conversation Group met twice this month, and, for the first time, the lady from the 'Advanced Group' was able to come. With the exception of the odd word here and there, the other members were able to follow and understand what she was saying, so combining the groups has proved successful. As well as the usual topic for the time of year, holidays, we discussed how to spell in Italian, particularly when speaking on the phone. This is done using set words, mainly the names of Italian town. So to spell Maldon, I would need to say: Milano, Ancona, Livorno, Domodossola, Otranto, and Napoli.

The next meetings will be:

Monday 3rd August Monday 17th August Monday 7th September Monday 21st September

Janice Slight E-Mail janice.slight@tiscali.co.uk

Local History Group

More than twenty of us made it to Coalhouse Fort for our guided visit. For some this meant a very circuitous route, very deserving of an explorer badge, after a house fire had led to a road block in East Tilbury. We received a very warm welcome at the Fort, tempered somewhat by the noise of the builders who are currently working to erect railings. The Fort was completed in 1874 ready for second threat of a French invasion and it remained occupied, used in both world wars, until 1962. The added bonus of this visit was the wonderful view from the roof along the Thames.



We are having a guided history walk in Wivenhoe on 18th August. Please contact Carol if you wish to join us.

Other dates for the diary:

15th September – Stow Maries Aerodrome 20th October - talk – Robin Carpenter

17th November – planning meeting

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

New Musical Variety Group

Heather Lealen would like to hear from you if you yearn to perform in a Variety Show

01621 857678 E-Mail heather@facetsoflove.co.uk

Patchwork Group

The next meeting of the Patchwork Group will be in the Claydon Room on Monday 12th October at 14:00.

Anne Thorpe E-mail Anne.thorpe@btinternet.com or phone 01621 850828.

Petanque Group

We are well into the summer season now even though some have been on holiday we have had 8 - 12 stalwart members coming each Monday for their 2 hour ration of gentle exercise in the fresh air with congenial company. Dictionary says stalwart means courageous, resolute and determined, which is exactly what we are, but we are always ready to accept new members which we have done recently. We had one very hot Monday which sent us rushing to the kiosk for ice creams afterwards, but the rest of the month it has been pleasantly warm and perfect for our weekly sessions.



By the time you read this, we will have had our annual adventure comprising of a game of Petanque followed by a very French Raclette meal in the garden of a member in Heybridge Basin with time to talk, which is difficult when you are actually concentrating on playing. This was on 3rd August and we will continue on the Prom each Monday except for the Bank Holiday Market day on 31st August. Then it will be Mondays until the middle of October. You have a little while yet if you are wondering what it is all about. So if you are courageous, resolute and determined, we could be the group for you.

Our Summer Party Barbara Barbrook c.barbrook@sky.com

Photography Group

The meeting was held in the Jubilee Lounge at our new venue at the West Maldon Community Centre which has proved to be a move for the better. It has its own spacious car park, comfortable and relaxing seating and a friendly atmosphere.

We welcomed 2 new members to our group on the day making our attendance 9 with apologies from another 4 members.

The assignment subject for the July meeting which had been agreed at the June meeting was "Summer".

Members managed to provide some interesting photos ranging from flowers, birds, landscapes and an Ice Cream seller among other subjects. Each member commented on their photos and we discussed the attributes of the photos and where and how they had been taken. We also discussed the importance of making backups of the photos and the best way to protect them.

During the meeting we decided that for the next meeting the subject matter for our photos would be "A Face Animal Vegetable or Mineral"

Everyone is welcome; whatever type of camera you use, whether you are a phone snapper, an SLR user or if you use any other camera.

By regularly meeting together and sharing our photos, we learn how to get better results from our own equipment. Our aim is to make all of our meetings entertaining, friendly and informative.

Why not join us? We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 14:00.

Anyone interested in joining or coming to see what we do can contact Norman Grove on 01621 842805 or by email norman.grove@gmail.com.

Reading and Books Group

A smaller group met during this month with several of us away on holiday. As I was away myself I was not privy to this month's discussion.

However, come what may, we always enjoy our meetings and the discussions about the book and topics that arise from them. We are hoping to have a new list of books come the autumn.

At present we have three places available for anybody who wishes to join our group.

The next meeting will be at Plantation Hall Heybridge at 14.15 on Wednesday August 19th.

Any enquiries about the group can be made via Ann Lees 01245 225153.

Scrabble Group

It was fortunate that Gill Thorne was on form at Scrabble in July, as keeping the score was tricky at times. This can happen when a word is put in that links in with a couple of existing words and there's perhaps a triple word score and double letter score to factor in. Good job we can manage mental arithmetic as well as enjoying our words: it all keeps the little grey cells functioning. Why not come and have a game with us on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 14.00 in the Claydon room at Plantation Hall. £2.00 per session covers the room hire with a cuppa and biscuit.

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

Solo Whist

We decided that we would not meet in July and August, so the next meeting will be at 14.00 on the 9th September at Geoff & Margaret's.

I would like to wish everyone in the U3A a very enjoyable summer whatever you are doing and perhaps see some new faces in September.

.Anybody new wishing to play please contact me Dave Mason (CoG) on 01261 858635 E-mail tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk

Technical Computing Group

A very interesting and varied discussion was held. We covered different methods of connecting cameras, and memory cards into a computer's memory slots etc. Again we talked about routers, and different connections.

I would like to thank Ann & Peter for their hospitality.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 13th of August. New members are welcome, please contact me for details. As usual, anyone interested in joining our group, please contact me in the first instance.

Colin Mason (Cog) colin@mason20.wanadoo.co.uk 01621-854906

Ten Pin Bowling

Ten players were present for our July meeting at Madison Heights and we were delighted to have Gill with us again as a player. Roger was the highest scorer again with 163 increasing his personal best score. It must be down to the bargain bowling ball he picked up from a car boot sale last year!

The highest lady scorer was Jenny with an impressive 133.

More players needed, especially as lots of people are on holiday at this time of year!

Good fun, no experience necessary, ring me for further details.

Next meeting at Madison Heights - 13.45 for 14.00 start. Tuesday 11th August.

Lynne Morrison 01621 891288 lejmorrisson@gmail.com

Threads and Fabrics Group

July brought a very pleasant meeting with a good discussion of the effect of how different room aspects and architectural styles can change the impression of colours. Light has a very powerful influence on how we see things. For instance, I was sewing with wool which I know to be a mid-navy, but which in many lights looks black. Greens also can be changed by the quality of light quite dramatically.

Wool in all sorts of colours, used for knitting, crochet and petit-point, was the predominant material in the room at our last meeting. Some of us were making things for ourselves and our families, but others were making items which were destined for others.



The photo this month is of part of a small child's colourful jersey destined for Nepal.

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month starting at 14:00

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

Ukulele Group

This new group, appropriately dubbed 'Uke3A,' has now attracted the optimum crowd of ten which I hoped for when I first mooted the idea of a Ukulele group back in May.

After our first two monthly sessions we now have several songs and tunes on the go, with most members busily practising at home between meetings in Barbara's lounge, and enthusiastically suggesting new numbers we could try.

As for the attack of heatstroke which nearly put me out of action at the beginning of our July meeting, I am happy to report that gallons of bottled water and a much-needed rest soon did the trick!

I look forward to greeting our tenth strummer, Briony, at our August meeting.

Robin Carpenter E-Mail robinrcarpenter@yahoo.co.uk

Walking Group

Eighteen of us enjoyed a walk by the River Blackwater in Wickham Bishops. We skirted the golf course following the path under the trestle bridge, which is a 'Scheduled Ancient Monument', past Wickham Place, then detoured to visit St Peter's Church. There we were invited in by Andrew, the stained glass artist, whose beautiful work is seen in the window in the picture. He told us some of the history of the building, a most interesting, if unexpected, addition to the walk



There will not be a walk in August, too many other commitments by many of the group. Details of the September walk will follow later.

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

St Peters' Church Window Carol Greenhalgh

Weekenders Group

The next coffee morning will be at Wilkin's Jam Factory on 15th August and for September we will be revisiting Peartree Pantry as we haven't been there for quite some time. If you are able to come to either, could you come with some ideas of what we could do as a group and possibly a venue for our Christmas lunch. Sorry to mention the C word so early but places do get booked. Look forward to seeing you next month

Marilyn Corbett: Phone 01621817518 or email mars42@btinternet.com

Wine Appreciation Group

After 3 years of visiting local vineyards and Wine Merchants, as well as meetings at which we learnt about wine growing around the world, it is time to put our knowledge into practice and have a break from meetings for a while. Watch out for future meetings and events to be detailed in the News sheet early 2016.

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

Further Information and details of events

The following events are planned for this and next year. Please note that members are 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.

September. Sunday 20th September 2015 - a trip to the Royal Dockyards at Chatham, on their 'Back to the 40s' weekend with Lodge Coaches. Total cost £28.50. Times and local pick-up points will be announced in August.

October 21st October 2015. The trip to Bletchley Park is booked with members from Blackwater and Maldon U3As joining us for the day. A Fords 53 seater coach has been booked and travel will cost £14.00 per person. Entrance to Bletchley Park is £13.00 for concessions in a group. Please make your payment of £27.00 by 14th August. Pick-up point on the day will be at the Tesco bus-stop at 8.30. Tickets will be available at the September full meeting.

November A social evening is planned for Wednesday 18th November from 18.30 until 21.30 in Plantation Hall. Come along to play your favourite board game, or to try your skills at another; enjoy a fish and chip supper; take part in a small quiz or simply chat to old and new friends. Unfortunately, Thursday and Friday evenings are fully booked at Plantation Hall! More details later.

NEW January 2016 I can get £65.00 tickets in the stalls for just £35.00 for a performance of *Guys & Dolls* at the Savoy Theatre on Tuesday 5th January 2016 for the 14.30 performance, **IF** we buy 10 tickets and pay by 25th August. So please sign up today and tell any members you know who may be interested.

February 2016. All 30 tickets to see the musical *Jersey Boys* at the Piccadilly Theatre London on Tuesday 2nd February at 15.00 have been snapped up! Transport to and from the theatre will be by Ford coaches. The cost - £14.00 will be due by 9th October.

Ideas for 2016 These are a few ideas I have gathered when talking to members. Nothing booked as yet, but please look out for the lists and sign if interested.

April 2016 A visit to Hever Castle in Kent, the 13th Century childhood home of Ann Boleyn is being considered. As well as the usual and very interesting panelled rooms with fine furniture and antiques, there is a rare collection of Tudor portraits. But my favourite exhibition is a group of life-sized costumed figures which almost bring the Tudor times to life. Entrance fee is £11.65 in 2015 .More details later.

May 2016 In May a visit to Kensington Palace. This Palace was the home of the young Princess, later Queen Victoria and later still, the home of Princess Diana. The trip may include a look at the famous statue of Peter Pan, by the Serpentine, as well as the Dianna Memorial playground. We shall also be close to the Royal Albert Hall, The Albert Memorial and even Exhibition Road

June 2016 In June we may visit the historical cathedral city of Canterbury. At the end of the 6th century AD the city of Canterbury was the capital of the kingdom of Kent, ruled by the powerful Anglo-Saxon King Ethelbert. During his reign Christianity was re-introduced by Augustine, a monk sent from Rome by Pope Gregory the Great. Canterbury was thus established as the centre of Christianity in England. The Cathedral is a must see!

Please sign up for events which interest you and remove your name if you later find you are unable to join the trip. Please contact me with any queries.

THEATRE TRIPS What's on in London? If there is a show or a play you would like to see please let me know and if others are interested I may be able to get tickets at special rates.

All cheques should be made payable to Heybridge U3A

PAT SMITH; 01621 856569 E.MAIL patcleary98@sky.com

Trip to Audley End

Our long awaited trip to Audley End started with a free morning in Saffron Walden, where some of us took picnics in Bridge End Gardens or lunch in one of the many eateries or pubs. A trip to the local museum proved well worth the visit, with lots to see!

After lunch it was off to Audley End, a beautiful house with vast gardens to enjoy. The Elysian gardens were especially pretty and the kitchen garden very impressive. In the stables we met Robbie, Bob and Jimmy who were busy munching their own lunch, but still very sociable.

Despite the wonderful opulence of the house in general, it was the beautiful chapel painted in a tranquil egg shell blue with a stunning bright stained glass window of 'The Last Supper' that was the most captivating room in the house, whilst the nurseries had a warmth and charm that reminded you that it is after all not just a magnificent house but also a home!



Audley End

The weather was good, not too hot, which was just as well, with so much to look at we walked our socks off!

I think I speak for us all when I say a very worthwhile visit and a good time was had by all!

Heather Lealan

Layer Marney Tower

Layer Marney Tower proved once again to be a wonderful place for a picnic on a sunny Sunday afternoon in Essex! 19 of us enjoyed sitting under a huge Tulip tree in the very pleasant Tower garden, admiring the beautiful view; chatting to friends and sipping cool Pimm's. What more could one ask?



Flower of the Tulip Tree

Well perhaps to be very well entertained by the variety of music and singing which drifted towards us as we sat, and beckoned us to walk the few steps to join the excellent performances in the Long Gallery and the 14 century Church!

A super afternoon. How lucky we are to have such a place on our doorstep!

Pat Smith

Association of Essex U3As On the Notice Board:

U3A 2016 Diaries with a green cover and U3A logo in silver are now available to order and are only £2.00. Please put your name on the list at the main meeting and give the payment to Linda Etherton by 11th September. The diaries should be available by the November meeting.

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U3A Photography Competition - Britain's Wildlife – closing date 31st August

Some wonderful photographs have already been received, but the Third Age Trust is hoping for lots more especially now the weather is improving at least a little. Details are on the website.

Maldon U3A Aviation Group

Maldon & District U3A Aviation group has reformed and is meeting monthly every 3rd Tuesday at the First World War Aerodrome, Stow Maries at 14.00.

For details please contact Malcolm Case Tel.01245 329435 or Brian Johnson 01621 828497.

GoldHanger Road Group

We have been asked, by a member of Maldon U3A, to bring to your attention the proposed development of the Heybridge Swifts Football Club. This is causing concern to some residents of Heybridge and, if you want to find further information, the group can be contacted at goldhangerroad@gmail.com.

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

Group Name	Co-ordinator (COG)	Telephone Number & Email
Art (Painting)	Michael Kempen	01621 892974 m.kempen159@btinternet.com
Bird Watching	Maureen Lenoir	01621 869871 symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk
Cards and Paper Crafts	Lesley Woonton	01621 858135 Lindawoonton@sky.com
Coffee Morning	Margaret Brown	01621 854885 mbandmeg@btinternet.com
Computer	Ian Newman	01621 891184 ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk
Creative Writing	Angela Pleasance	01621850310 angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk
Croquet	TBA	
Dancing (Latin & Ballroom)	Alf Bell	01621 840158 dossod@fsmail.net
Family History	Lesley Pomphrett	01621 817733 lesleypommy@hotmail.com
French	Jenny Parker	01621 843581 jennyparker14@hotmail.com
Gardening	Pat Yates	01621 892866 pat.yates@tesco.net
Italian	Janice Slight	01621 853393 janice.slight@tiscali.co.uk
Local History	Carol Greenhalgh	01621 840339 george.smeed@virgin.net
Patchwork	Anne Thorpe	01621 850828 Anne.thorpe@btinternet.com
Petanque	Barbara Barbrook	01621 855605 c.barbrook@sky.com
Photography	Norman Grove	01621 842805 norman.grove@gmail.com .
Reading & Books	TBA	
Scrabble	Linda Etherton	01621 843702 ethertonbikes@aol.com
Solo Whist	Dave Mason	01621858635 tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk
Technical Computing	Colin Mason	01621 854906 colin@mason20.wanadoo.co.uk
Ten Pin Bowling	Lynne Morrison	01621 891288 lejmmorrison@gmail.com
Threads & Fabrics	Pat Newman	01621 891184 ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk
Ukulele	Robin Carpenter	01621 859060 robinrcarpenter@yahoo.co.uk
Walking	Elizabeth Eastwood	01621 850618 e.m.e@talktalk.net
Weekenders	Marilyn Corbett	01621 817518 mars42@btinternet.com
Wine Group	Jackie Jones	01621 817117 jachjones@tiscali.co.uk

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

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
10th August	10 Petanque 14.00	11 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	12 French Conversation 10.00	13 Technical Computing 14.00	14 Monthly Meeting 14.00	15 Weekenders Wilkin's Jam Factory 10.00	16
17th August	17 Petanque 14.00 Italian conversation 10.00 Gardening Paternoster	18 Local History 14.00	19 Book Group 14.15	20 Computer 14.00 Croquet 10:00	21 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00	22	23
24th August	24 Petanque 14.00 French Improvers 14.00	25 Scrabble 14.00	26 Creative Writing Group 14.30	27	28 Copy to Editor Painting 14.00	29	30
31st August	31 Bank Holiday	1 st Sept Threads 14.00	2 Cards & Paper Crafts 14.00 Ukulele group 14.00	3 Photography 14.00 Croquet 10:00	4 Committee Mtg 10.00 Painting 14.00	5	6
7th September	7 Petanque 14.00 Italian conversation 10.00	8 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	9 French Conversation 10.00 Solo Whist 14.00	10 Technical Computing 14.00 Walking 14.00	11 Monthly Meeting 14.00	12	13
14th September	14 Petanque 14.00	15 Local History 14.00	16 Book Group 14.15	17 Computer 14.00 Croquet 10:00	18 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00	19 Weekenders Peartree Pantry	20
21st September	21 Petanque 14.00 Italian conversation 10.00	22 Scrabble 14.00	23 Creative Writing Group 14.30	24 Family History 11.00 Beginners Family History 10.00	25 Copy to Editor Bird Watching 14.00 Painting 14.00	26	27
28th September	28 Petanque 14.00 French Improvers 14.00	29	30	1 st October Photography 14.00 Croquet 10:00	2 Committee Mtg 10.00 Painting 14.00	3	4