

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No 7

August 2021

Your Committee

<https://u3asites.org.uk/heybridge>

Archive

www.heybridgeu3a.org.uk/archive/news.html


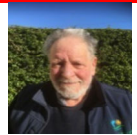

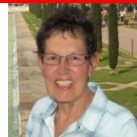

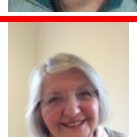
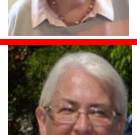
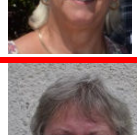
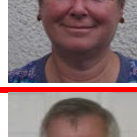
Registered charity number 1160360

There will be an Open House at Plantation Hall on Friday 13th August at 2.00pm to enable members to meet and chat.

See section

Plantation Hall Main Meeting

In News sheet

Chairman	Norman Cumming	
	chairman@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	01621 817200	
Vice Chair	Peter Radford	
	01621 843543	
Secretary	Linda Etherton	
	secretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	01621 843702	
Treasurer	Jill McGregor	
	treasurer@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	01621 842595	
Membership Secretary	Philippa Moody	
	membershipsecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	01245 381379	
Publicity Officer	Angela Pleasance	
	01621 850310	
Groups Co-ordinator	Hilary Furniaux	
	groupscordinator@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	07411 450634	
Speaker Secretary	Jan Brown	
	speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	01621 856989	
News Sheet Editor	Geoff Hadley	
	editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	01621 852494	

NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Chairman's report for August 2021 News letter.

Well, July came in with a splash, and then roasted us midway, but we were able to get on and play catch-up with the garden, we didn't catch up but hey ho we will by the winter, I hope.

Time to start picking the soft fruit, late this year, but oh such fat and juicy raspberries and blackcurrants, one of the best years for my soft fruits, not looking so good for the pears or apples though.

August, now with most of the legal restrictions removed and we enter the new normal, it is up to all of us to use our common sense, keep ourselves and others safe by heeding the cautious messages from HMG, distance when possible, wash hands, sanitise, wear masks in crowded places, all sensible precautions given that this pandemic is not yet over.

Do what makes you comfortable, without putting yourself or others at risk.

I was hoping this month, to say that the response to my letter last month was overwhelming, but alas you must have all been away on holiday, next month I hope to announce an overwhelming response!!! So what about it, come on, you really do care, don't you?

Do not forget August main meeting is an open meeting at the hall, so pop in for a chat and you may even get a cup of tea.

Norman Cumming, Chairman

Returning to activities safely

Members should assess their own health before attending any meetings: do not attend if you have any Covid-19 symptoms or have been in contact with anyone who has.

Abide by the rules of any venues being used, such as giving your details to the organiser/venue, if required provide evidence of double vaccination or a negative test result, wearing masks in crowded situations and social distancing.

Plantation Hall Main Meeting

- The staff at Plantation Hall will continue to deep-clean the hall between hirings.
- A list of those attending will be kept to enable Track and Trace: in addition the Hall has a QR code but not everyone will be able to use it.
- A one-way system will be in place to avoid crowding in pinch points and social distancing requested.
- The wearing of masks in more crowded areas is advised.
- Use hand sanitiser and dispose of wipes and tissues safely
- The Hall will be ventilated with windows and doors open regardless of the weather.
- Toilets will be accessible, but for just one person at a time, with an 'engaged' slide on the outside door.
- Although the restriction on numbers has been lifted it may still be considered sensible to limit the number in the Hall.

Interest Group Activities

The Third Age Trust's information on procedures for resuming indoor meetings will be sent to CoGs and can be found on the website: www.u3a.org.uk. Anyone can login to the website and find this information under 'Running your u3a: Covid-19 and beyond', England.

Group co-ordinators need to tell the committee what their groups' arrangements are for getting back to meetings. There is no pressure to resume meetings in people's houses, if this makes the host uncomfortable, and meeting outside in the fine weather is a possibility that a few groups already have in place. There may be rooms at the halls that could be used.

A simple checklist to ensure everyone's safety is a sensible precaution and help will be given to complete this.

Linda Etherton, Secretary

Interest Group Co-Ordinator Report

It's been lovely to see things beginning to open up again this month. We are still being careful but have enjoyed a few lunches outside. Hopefully as confidence builds we can open a few more groups now. The Needlecraft Group had its first meeting and the Papercraft group had hoped to meet but due to one member being on holiday (yes, I did say holiday!!) and Lesley having a hip replacement it was not to be. If your group can possibly meet up in a garden please consider it. Maybe it's not practical or possible to do this but you could consider meeting up with a few members for lunch or coffee and cake and a catch up with what you have been doing. We need to make the most of the warmer months while we can.

Hilary Furniaux groupsco-ordinator@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Editor

The design of the Heybridge U3A News Sheet, and the reports that it contains, is a full-page layout of 13 pages in a large font. Information about the Committee Members and their reports can be found in the first few pages. The next News sheet will be in September so send items by last Saturday in August. I am very grateful to all the people who send material for inclusion. Have you anything to say? Please send it to me and I will include it.

Geoff Hadley editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Membership Secretary

This will be a 'year' of nine months starting 1st July 2021 until 31st March 2022. If you are able, please print the Membership form, complete it and post it to me at the address given. You can enclose a cheque or do a Bank Transfer – just contact me for the account details and include your name as reference.

If you are unable to print the form, contact me to be sent a paper copy or you can complete it electronically and attach it to an email addressed to the Membership Secretary (see front cover). However you may still need to post a cheque if you do not do online banking.

Full and Dual Members who paid the full subscription of £18 (£13 Dual) last year will benefit from a discounted fee this year of £5.

Members who renewed for only £10 after 1st October 2020, and any new members, are asked for £13.50 (£18 x 75%). Dual Members who renewed after October should pay £8.50 this year.

If anyone is unsure about what they need to pay please contact me on the telephone number on the front page.

Philippa Moody membershipsecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

Monthly Meeting Speaker Programme

Last month our zoom talk was presented by David Williams. It was called 'Pounds, Shillings, and Poverty'. It's a wide and complex subject but David was able to set the scene and focus on those who did care about life in the slums of London. Here is a copy of his notes on the talk.

The Victorian Age is often considered one of the defining centuries in Britain's history. It was a time when British influence, authority and recognition as the most powerful country on Earth was undisputed – but it was also a time of misery for millions who were living in squalid conditions and had no chance to share the benefits of wealth and prosperity. London was a leading international finance centre, trading across the globe and ruling an Empire with a quarter of the world's known population.

The attitude of the Victorians towards poverty and homelessness was unyielding. If the working class were struggling they only had themselves to blame. There was no sympathy for women who turned to prostitution to get money to feed their children or men who spent their time in the ale houses. The elite and aristocracy, the money classes and the landowners were not prepared to acknowledge just how desperate the situation was in the early decades of the 19th century and categorised the working class as the 'deserving poor' and the 'undeserving poor'.

The writings of Charles Dickens and Henry Mayhew, the campaigning efforts of Catherine and William Booth who founded The Salvation Army, the fight for better employment conditions by Annie Besant, the financial support for schemes to help the poor provided by Angela Burdett-Coutts, the wealthiest woman in Britain after the Queen – these were just some of the people among a growing band of philanthropists who began to stir the conscious of the nation in the later years of the century.

In many ways it was an age of invention and innovation for Britain but there were thousands of children and young people who never saw the glimmer of a brighter future. The Industrial Revolution began in Britain and that was seen as a great achievement but for those living in the crowded, disease-ridden slums it did nothing to improve their lives.

For our meeting on Friday 13th August we hope to have an 'Open House' at Plantation Hall for members to pop in and catch up with others over a coffee or tea. Anytime between 2.00 and 3.30

On Friday 10th September Tony Tuckwell will be giving his talk in person or by Zoom 'The Only Coastal Way is Essex'. This is an account of a walk along the whole length of the Essex Coast in 2010-11, including circumambulations of Canvey and Mersea Islands. Essex has the longest coastline in England 320 miles of which can be walked. It has an amazing variety of flora and fauna and for many a mile is totally deserted.

The Dengie Peninsula to the east between Burnham-on-Crouch and Bradwell-on-Sea is the longest coastal stretch in the UK without any intervening settlement.

This contrasts with the Tendring 'holiday' coastal belt from Jaywick to Walton-on-the-Naze and the coastal Thames with its industrial heritage and military establishments, both ancient and modern and the perils of walking through the Shoeburyness artillery range. Threading through the coastline's whole history have been invasions by the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings and threatened invasion by Germany both of which have left their mark on the coastline. Dotted here and there are magnificent coastal churches whose towers have been navigation aids for the legitimate merchant fleet or smugglers. We also look at the 18th and 19th black economy of smuggling as seen on Mersea Island and up the mysterious Thames creeks and the modern 20th and 21st century attempts to come to terms with rising sea levels and flood threats.

Looking forward to seeing you in person on Friday 13th August at Plantation Hall

Jan Brown speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

Publicity

I have enjoyed being a member of Heybridge U3A and I hope that you have too. Now we are cautiously starting to enjoy greater freedom we need to rebuild our u3a so that we can continue to benefit from the social life that it provides. The best publicity that we can get is word of mouth, so please encourage your friends to join, or rejoin, our community.

AP

GROUP REPORTS

Art

Hello fellow art members do hope you're all looking forward to meeting up again. Please could everyone contact me to discuss details required in order to arrange our return.

Please confirm your intent regarding coming back, to access numbers.

Tina Martin martin.christine@sky.com

Bird Watching

We always have a break for July and August and so far no interest shown by anyone to become the new CoG so not sure what will be happening to the group in September.

It's been such a friendly group and we hope you have enjoyed our monthly trips as much as Jill and I.

Thanks for all your support

Maureen and Jill (symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk or jill.mcgregor@btinternet.com)

July Croquet Report

July was a somewhat different month, we started out for the first session with fewer members than usual, a few were on holiday and some are still finding it difficult remembering the new times! However we had an enjoyable afternoon and several have found that they are improving and producing some very good shots. Our second session was totally different, it poured down with rain just as we had hoped to start, one or two decided after a while to call it a day and go home.

However eight of us waited, considered going to the Club House for a drink, then the rain stopped, so we quickly put two lawns out and managed to play a complete game, we had just started our second when the heavens opened again and it became clear it was set in for the afternoon, so we cleared up and went home to dry off! We play at the Forresters Golf Club on the second and fourth Wednesday of each summer month. We play for gentle exercise, good company and fun.

Anne Newson.

Family History

Approximately 10 years ago. I made an attempt at turning my hobby into a business. You may have watched the television programmer 'Heir hunters'.

The Government Treasury holds in excess of 10,000 names with basic information of people who have died intestate (no will), with no known kin. At one time the amounts ranged from £5000 to a possible £1,000,000. An estimated £15 billion. If there are no claims on the money after 30 years the estate reverts to the government. Of course the Treasury makes no attempt at finding the heirs!

The amount for each individual is undisclosed until a claim is made. So, scrolling the list I sort of stuck a pin in 3 names. A Southend man. A Portsmouth man, and a Berkshire lady.

The information given is only what they know - the name, date, area of death, and sometimes age. The Treasury has strict criteria that must be adhered to when making a claim.

A detailed tree connecting the claimant to the deceased, including certified birth/death/marriage proof. Apart from proving who the possible Heir is, you are in turn proving who isn't.

A contract signed by the claimant agreeing to a 20% payment of the inheritance for my services. This is paid by the Treasury directly to the Heir hunter.

All other costs are covered by the Heir Hunter.

I surprised myself by finding the appropriate heirs of the two men in just a week.

Checking all my research and locating the addresses from the Electoral Register, a letter was written to each one outlining my findings with just enough basic information. Too much and they could conduct their own research, making me redundant.

I heard nothing! Another letter followed assuring them of my honesty. Still nothing!

Consulting the Heir Hunters helpline forum, the general consensus was, it's better to physically knock on the doors before they believe you. All the professionals have an army of runners dotted around the UK for this purpose.

As one heir lived in Bournemouth, the other on the Isle of Wight, I abandoned these two.

So, I turned to the lady who died in a care home in Sunningdale Berkshire. I shall call her Ada.

Ada was a spinster aged about 94, with one married brother (also deceased), no offspring.

The father was a military man all his life so travelled the world. He married a British subject from Singapore. All looking good!

Next in line would be her parent's siblings. Ada's father had 4 brothers (all military men) all deceased. This is where I started to have misgivings. The uncles each had 5/6 children (Ada's cousins) some also deceased. One uncle had lived in a small village and checking a census record I stumbled on his second family in the next village! There was no mistake; Ada's uncles all had a unique middle name (their mother's maiden name). This threw me – were they eligible to be included? His legitimate wife was still very much alive at that time.

I started to tot up the costs. Birth/death/marriage certificates for the uncles and wives = 24. Same again for approximately 22 children, plus 6 from the second family = 84. Plus birth/death of Ada and her parents (8)!

The certificates required at that time varied between £8 and £10 each.

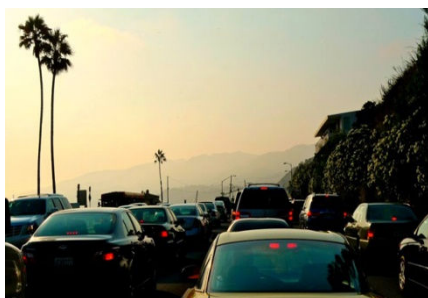
If Ada's estate had been the minimum of £5000 – my payment would have been £1000.

My outlay would have totaled in excess of £900.

It's rather like the lottery.....Ada may have left £50,000 or £500,000. Through the forum I also knew that even after the claim is verified it can take 6/9 months before the Treasury pay out. They are of course a government department!
Already losing out financially on the two men, I decided to leave Ada (and the Treasury) to rest in peace.
Take care Jean Rogers

FRENCH CONVERSATION Le Grand Depart 2021

Le Grand Depart is the French way of describing the annual rush to the coast, marking the start of the French holiday season. This year, it fell on the weekend of 16,17&18 July, and wasn't much fun for holiday-makers using French motorways.



Jenny Parker

On 16th July, [Bison Futé](#), the agency which monitors traffic flow in France, reported severe congestion in metropolitan areas and on major motorways but expected improved circulation thereafter. However, due to the [Tour de France](#), certain routes were closed on 17th & 18th as cyclists made their way to the Champs-Élysées in Paris where the Tour ended.

History talks on Zoom

This is a copy of an email from Mike Stringer who organises a history group for one of our Maldon u3as. He is very happy for Heybridge U3a members to join these talks. His contact details are mike.stringer19@btinternet.com

I've still got a couple of gaps to fill and I'm still working out costs, but I'm looking at around £3.50 to £4 a head for the paid speakers. We will also have some free talks arranged through the National u3a Pilot I'm involved with, and I plan on doing a couple of talks myself, though I'm equally happy if anyone else would like to volunteer to talk to us.

I won't be starting the booking process until August, partly because we will be away in July, but also to see what happens as and when restrictions are finally lifted.

Here is the programme so far:

Thu 14 Oct Zoom talk Carol Harris on the Foundling Hospital

Thu 4 Nov free Zoom talk Jim Miller on Codes and Cyphers (talk swap)

Thu 18 Nov WMCC David Williams Mind the Gap (London's Tube)

Thu 2 Dec free Zoom talk to be arranged

Thu 16 Dec WMCC Mike on Leprosy and St Giles Leper Hospital plus Christmas event

Thu 6 Jan free Zoom talk Stuart McGowan on The Luddites (talk swap)

Thu 20 Jan WMCC Stephen Nunn Roger of Beeleigh

Thu 3 Feb free Zoom talk to be arranged

Thu 17 Feb WMCC Norman Jacobs Pie Mash n Prefabs

Thu 3 Mar free Zoom talk Mike on Samuel Pepys

Thu 17 Mar WMCC talk to be arranged.

All these will start at 10.30am, including the ones at WMCC.

I am still hoping we can arrange a trip out during September, but that depends on a variety of issues that I won't bore you with now!

Please keep these dates in your diaries and more details will follow in due course. If you have any queries, suggestions, etc, or would like to give a talk to the group yourself, please let me know.

mike.stringer19@btinternet.com

Needlecraft Group Report

Four of us met in Angela's garden and thankfully the rain held off until after 4pm despite the very long rumblings of thunder! We had a potential new member to the group sewing the edges of a silk batik scarf she had made. The regulars were either crocheting or setting up to start a new cross stitch project. It was just so lovely sitting in the garden catching up with everyone and talking about anything and everything. Our 2 hours went very quickly and we are all looking forward to meeting up again in August.

Hilary Furniaux

Painting 2

Sorry, in hospital with stroke, have booked room for September 13th hope to be with you.

All being well, we may make contact in August and we will all hopefully meet again on the 13th September

Barbara Barbrook

Papercraft Group

We were unable to meet up to craft this month but we are hoping that we can next month. However we never stop crafting so a few cards and gift boxes were made at home instead.

Lesley Woonton

Patchwork Group

We had an enjoyable meeting in July when five of us met outside the WMCC on a rather overcast Monday afternoon. We discussed the future of the group and meeting in the Linton room. We decided to continue meeting outside while the weather allowed and the Covid situation would determine our next move.

I am handing over writing this piece to a member of the group, Jackie Voyez, who has kindly offered to take it on so I can concentrate more on sewing projects.

Stay safe everyone and happy sewing! Anne.

Petanque Group

We are still having lots of fun playing Petanque at the Prom in Maldon. The weather is either too hot or raining, but we are a hardy bunch and still carry on.

The most that are playing just now is 18 of us, so we are playing 3 teams of 6, which is good.

I would like to start playing again with the people who cannot play at 10am, and prefer 2pm.

I am away next Tuesday to Friday, so I will be in touch after that.

Thank you, and if you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Many thanks Moira Penhallow

Photography Group

We held another very successful Zoom meeting on 1st July our fifteenth so far with 11 members and 1 guest participating.

We started the meeting by watching a slide show of the photos taken by our members during the month. The subject for the month's assignment being "Photographs where the subject starts with the letters "G and H". A total of 37 photos were submitted including some from members who were unable to attend.

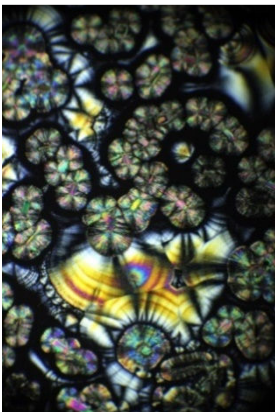


Goats Graham Churchill



Herring Gull and offspring Jill McGregor

Peter then showed us three photos that he had taken of vitamin Crystals using linear polarised light to illuminate the subject on his microscope.



Vitamin C crystals

This was followed by a discussion on how we should continue after the current restrictions are lifted. It was decided that we would not resume our meetings at the WMCC this year but would continue with Zoom meetings until the end of the year and that we would then consider whether to return to meeting in a room again. It was thought that in the meantime we might be able to meet in small groups at a local venue to take photographs and would decide upon a date and location at the next meeting.

For those who were unable to join the meeting all of the photos submitted have been uploaded to our page on Flickr (Heybridge U3A) where you will be able to view them. If you would like a link to them please contact me..

If anyone is interested in joining our Zoom meetings to see what the group is about please contact me and I will forward you a link to our next meeting. All members of the U3A are welcome

Norman Grove

Reading & Books

The Book Group is going to re-start on 8th September. If anyone is interested in joining please contact Jackie Jones.

U3A Scrabble Report August 2021

Did you manage to find a word to include the two red Triple Word squares?

This was your set of tiles:

This is the word you could have played:

C ₃	L ₁	O ₁	D ₂	G ₂	E ₁	D ₂
----------------	----------------	----------------	----------------	----------------	----------------	----------------

G	O	D	C	H	I	L	D
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

The word score is 16, and as the red squares triple the word score the final total I get is 144!

Try this one: use the twelve letters below to extend each of the words below at the front and make valid eight -letter words.

A, B, D,D,E,F,G,I,P,R,S,U

		R	E	B	A	C	K
--	--	---	---	---	---	---	---

			R	I	V	A	L
--	--	--	---	---	---	---	---

			R	O	W	E	D
--	--	--	---	---	---	---	---

				R	A	C	E
--	--	--	--	---	---	---	---

Linda Etherton

Walking Group

There were 12 of us walking around Danbury. We started at a car park near to The Cricketers public house on the Common. We walked along unmade roads initially and later along footpaths, often having to move or tread on a lot of overgrown grasses and weeds etc. The weather recently has been so encouraging for the undergrowth, and they have made the most of the favourable growing conditions. The walk took us uphill, in part, quite a strenuous climb, and on into Ling Wood. Here, although the recent rain had left the path quite muddy in places we were able to find a way around the worst patches of mud. We were walking in dry and usually sunny weather, which showed the large well-kept houses and gardens en route at their best. On the last leg of the walk we walked passed Danbury Church and across the final field back to our cars. From the high point behind the church we were treated to one of the furthest horizons in Essex. There is no walk in August so the next walk will be on Thursday 9th September at 2pm.

Linda Wells.

Rumblings from Peter 20-07-2021

Finally, at long last, driving to watch Essex play cricket at Chelmsford.

The seeds were sown by my maternal grandfather, a Yorkshire man who watched that side's "greats" play. I "adopted" that county: Fred Trueman was an early idol. Grand-pa taught me the rudimentaries of playing but also many nuances of the game which did and does expand the game immensely. Mum too, with knock-ups in the garden, though if the ball went to the flower beds she'd always pull any weeds before returning to the game!

School, started with gusto but little skill, finished with less gusto and slightly more skill; I made the 2nd XI, mainly through my slip fielding, anything catchable I caught, even once a sparrow in flight! In those days there weren't the clubs open to the average youngsters and summer for me meant harvest fields, work, sore hands and long hours.

Children brought the common apprenticeship of travelling round wet, cold, muddy football fields initially with 20 8yr olds chasing the ball, little skill but 110% enthusiasm, brilliant, but as coaching, skills and politics increased so enthusiasm waned .

Then along came Drapers.

Maldon CC were great, often 5 teams, catering for good to enthusiastic, wanna-bees to has-beens. Naturally the first team were the elite, the others acting as "feeders" whilst giving all a game, all ages mixed which meant the older players passed knowledge to youngsters, especially the etiquette of the game and a discipline, produced better citizens I believe. There were practice sessions for youngsters too.

Both my boys travelled the system, both occasionally played for the 1st team. The eldest, a good club all-rounder, his brother purely a batsman, if he had continued, had better coaching I'm sure he could have been a county player. He still plays but reckons it's further between stumps when he's taking a run! I spent many happy hours watching them play, the first 50, first centuries, and both of them hit 6's by clearing the pavilion on the prom!

On my full retirement I stated the ambition of watching Essex v. Yorkshire. For Christmas there arrived a year's membership (2019) of Essex CCC. I watched around 30 days cricket and also made several new acquaintances too, I revelled in it. The class of Alistair Cook, the guile of Simon Harmer's bowling and a whole lot more.

Got the same pressy for 2020— and we know what happened— zilch. For this season I bought a life membership, an incentive to stay alive and financially valid and as I'm not interested in the T20 Bash, until Sunday, again zilch.

Start was at 2pm (nothing as crude as face off's, kick or bully off's), 50 overs per side v. Cambridgeshire. I sat where I wanted, bought a coffee plus a bacon roll for lunch. The game began, Cookey imperious until they brought a spinner on, wickets then fell quickly.

Then it thundered, and then it rained —hard!

Watching the ground staff mopping up ain't quite the same.

2 hrs later with reduced overs and calculated targets, the game restarted.

Cambs. played well and could have won, without the break might have, but class will out, Essex won.

Did I enjoy it—you bet

Peter.

Do you use Facebook? Why not join the Heybridge U3A group.

We now have our own group on Facebook. Our Facebook group is a closed one; Philippa is the administrator who acts as the gate-keeper. Please see her report for more details. The Facebook group will supplement the news-sheet, not replace it.