

## Heybridge u3a

### August 2023 News Sheet

#### Your Committee

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

Archive

[www.heybridgeu3a.org.uk/archive/news.html](http://www.heybridgeu3a.org.uk/archive/news.html)

Registered Charity number 1160360

Next Main Meeting – Plantation Hall

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August at 2.00 pm

*Speaker – Lee Jiggins*

- *“First Responder”*

Next Committee Meeting – Plantation Hall

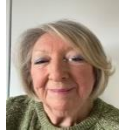


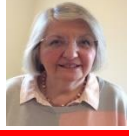



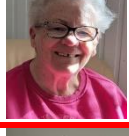
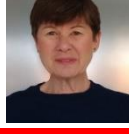

In the Claydon Room

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September at 10.00 am

Main Meeting Refreshments Rota

August – Photography

September – Reading

<b>Chair</b>	Jackie Jones	
	<a href="mailto:chairman@heybridgeu3a.org.uk">chairman@heybridgeu3a.org.uk</a>	
	01621 817117	
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Hilary Furniaux	
	<a href="mailto:vicechairman@heybridgeu3a.org.uk">vicechairman@heybridgeu3a.org.uk</a>	
	07411 450634	
<b>Secretary</b>	Marilyn Corbett	
	<a href="mailto:secretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk">secretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk</a>	
	01621 817518	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Angela Pleasance	
	<a href="mailto:treasurer@heybridgeu3a.org.uk">treasurer@heybridgeu3a.org.uk</a>	
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Elizabeth Harvey	
	<a href="mailto:membershipsecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk">membershipsecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk</a>	
<b>Publicity Officer</b>	Linda Etherton	
	<a href="mailto:publicity@heybridgeu3a.org.uk">publicity@heybridgeu3a.org.uk</a>	
	01621 843702	
<b>Groups Co-ordinator</b>	Moira Penhallow	
	<a href="mailto:groupsco-ordinator@heybridgeu3a.org.uk">groupsco-ordinator@heybridgeu3a.org.uk</a>	
	07984 357804	
<b>Speaker Secretary</b>	Lesley Woonton	
	<a href="mailto:speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk">speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk</a>	
	01621 858135	
<b>News Sheet Editor (Joint)</b>	Lorraine Jeapes	
	<a href="mailto:editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk">editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk</a>	
	01621 890128	
<b>News Sheet Editor (Joint)</b>	Brian Jeapes	
	<a href="mailto:editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk">editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk</a>	

## From the Editors

Hello and welcome to the August News Sheet.

How times change! Looking back at the News Sheet from August 2022, we wrote “*You will not need reminding that summer is well and truly under way! We’ve experienced the hottest day of the year on record, and as Jackie mentions below, our gardens are suffering*”. No danger of that this year, at least not in this country and not yet anyway, although we must not forget the heatwaves that Mediterranean countries have been suffering. We also have a friend who lives in Texas; the other day we asked her the temperature, and she said “well, it’s 12.30 (pm) and 95F!”

Closer to home, our tomatoes are still green, and whereas we are normally inundated with courgettes by now, at the moment we are lucky to get two a week! Presumably that is due to the colder temperatures. As Jackie says below, let’s hope for a sunny August.

Lorraine & Brian [editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk](mailto:editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk)

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## News Sheet Deadline

Please remember all CoG reports, and anything else for inclusion in the news sheet, must be submitted to the Editors by the last weekend of the month. Unfortunately anything submitted after the deadline will not be included as it takes time to put the news sheet together.

## News from the Committee

### From the Chairman

I hope that you are all enjoying the summer and fingers crossed that we have some warm sunny weather in August but let’s make sure we stay safe from scammers.

I know that you have all heard many times but fraud through online and telephone scams remains the biggest threat to us all, particularly the over 65’s. So it is worth making a note of the following numbers: If you suspect someone is trying to trick you into handing over money or personal details online or by phone STOP. HANG UP then ring 159 to speak to your bank. 159 works in the same way as 101 for police or 111 for NHS. The quicker you do it the more chance there is to stop the scammers from stealing from you.

Jackie Jones [chairman@heybridgeu3a.org.uk](mailto:chairman@heybridgeu3a.org.uk)

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### From the Speaker Secretary

Our next speaker is Mr Lee Jiggins. Lee is a First Responder and will talk about his work. I have had feedback from people who have needed his services, and he is certainly very good at what he does. It must be amazing to think that you have saved a person’s life. It is a voluntary service, and

there are not many people suitably qualified or able to take this on. I think we are very lucky to have them.

Please come along and listen to Lee's story.

*Lesley Woonton* [speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk](mailto:speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk)

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## **From the Interest Groups Co-ordinator**

At the last Main Meeting we held Interest Groups displays. Thanks go to all CoGs who worked very hard with their presentations; I hope the members that attended found the displays interesting and maybe you would like to join one of the groups in future.

I am doing the rounds to see all the Interest Groups that I can (without a car, as I don't drive). I have been to Ten Pin, Cards and Papercraft, Needlecraft, Family History and Art Group. I had already been to Weekenders and Coffee Morning.

I have enjoyed all the ones I have been to so far, and they make me very welcome with a cuppa and a biscuit. A couple of them are quite small especially the cards but I don't think it could be much bigger than four due to the size of the room.

I still have a few to go yet, but I will get there by the end of the year, promise!

Anything you need in the meantime, please ask me.

*Moirá Penhallow* [groupsco-ordinator@heybridgeu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupsco-ordinator@heybridgeu3a.org.uk)

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## **News from around the Groups**

### **Art**

I think we all agreed that it was a treat to visit our fellow Heybridge u3a's exhibition tables at our last monthly meeting.

It is always nice to see what other members have been getting up to. And my goodness, there was some lovely work on show!

I hope we gave a fairly good account of ourselves despite being low on numbers.

I hope, too, that all those who expressed an interest in what we get up to in the Claydon Room on first and third Friday afternoons each month will at least pop along sometime soon and join in the fun – even if you have no intention of staying.

Just remember, you don't have to be a Rubens or a Hockney. You just need a paintbox, some brushes and paper, plus a wish to splash some paint about and have fun in the company of others of like mind.

See you soon!

*Gill Carpenter*

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## **Bird Watching**

A very small and select group went to Tollesbury Wick in June. Nearly all our regular members were away on holiday. It was hot and humid and unfortunately the path to the hide was still totally overgrown.

At this time of year we are beginning to see the end of the breeding season and many birds are beginning to go into eclipse. However there were a few gulls (black headed and greater black back) also about were a little Egret and a Cormorant fishing.



Egret at attention

If you think you might be interested in bird watching then do contact me - [jill.mcgregor@btinternet.com](mailto:jill.mcgregor@btinternet.com) and I will let you know about our upcoming meetings.

*Jill McGregor*

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## **Board Games**

Ten members enthusiastically joined the meeting in July, hosted by Chris at her delightful bungalow.

We split into three groups and picked a game. I joined three others playing a similar game to Scrabble, but with a difference. To my surprise I won the first game, but not so good in the second round.

A very enjoyable two hours.

*Jean Rogers*

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## **Cards & Paper Craft**

This week we had a very nice group meeting making cards etc. After a cuppa and a chat we came across something called Teabag Folding, so next time we are going to give it a try and see how we get on, none of the group have done it before.

*Lesley Woonton*

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## **Croquet**

June and July has proved to be a relatively quiet period, games have been played on all 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month. However the numbers have been down due to injuries and illness, but all who have attended managed to play on our new lawns which have proved a bit of a challenge, having had rather bumpy lawns to now completely flat lawns, but I think everyone is beginning to get used to them! If anyone is interested in joining us (even just to try us out) we play at the Hatfield Peverel Bowling Club on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday afternoons of each Summer month, we play for gentle exercise, good company and fun. Please contact me if you are interested.

*Anne Newson*

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## **Discussion Coffee Morning**

We met at Chris's lovely bungalow in Tiptree for our meeting on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July. It was a pleasant morning of general chatter, such as updates on the number of new houses being built around Tiptree and in other local areas. Chris provided us all with tea, coffee and extremely tempting sweet and savoury snacks, which were delicious.

The next meeting will be on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August at my house in Heybridge; Anne and I swopped dates so she will now host in September.

*Margaret Brown*

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## **Family History**

There were six members in July attempting to dig up a few ancestors.

You may remember last month we were trying to establish the death of Dorothy's uncle, William Thomas Jones who, (according to the family story) as a young child fell off a chicken shed, seriously injuring his spine.

The question being, how old would he have been to be able to climb on the chicken shed?

We ordered a certificate that seemed to fit age and place, but unfortunately it was incorrect.

Back to the drawing board.

*Jean Rogers*

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## **Needlecraft**

In the Needlecraft group we work on a variety of projects, ranging from embroidery, dressmaking and patchwork to crochet, knitting and pompom making to name but a few. So long as there's a needle involved somewhere, anything goes as you will have seen if you came to the Interest Groups' display at the July main meeting. The meetings have also encouraged some of us to finish off things we started ages ago, all in a convivial atmosphere where we can ask for advice, share tips and also find encouragement. Recently members have been knitting baby clothes, doing embroidery, sewing on patches and knitting a Christmas Gnome!

We meet once a month at a member's house. The next meeting is on Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup> August at 2.00 pm at Angela's. Do please contact Hilary our CoG if you would like to join us, details on the list.

*Linda Etherton (for Hilary Furniaux)*

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## **Patchwork**

The group spent an enjoyable afternoon sewing and chatting at our July meeting. Anne advised that our latest "group quilt" had been donated as a raffle prize to a local charity - 'The Liam Taylor Legacy'. The charity supplies bleed kits to as many venues in the community as possible. Some members may have seen the quilt displayed at a recent u3a Friday meeting. With the annual Festival of Quilts being held at the NEC in Birmingham next week, it may be time to look for inspiration for another quilt for charity.

The group will meet again on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August.

*Jackie Voyez*

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## **Petanque**

We have had a lovely time over the past few months playing on a Monday morning. Full house each time, and the weather has been quite good apart from a couple of days.

In June we had a special 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration for Ray Burns, a long time Petanque team member. The weather was fair to us and we were able to combine it with our summer party, the first time in two years.

We played on the front gravelled area of Jenny and Graham's garden. Angela Pleasance, who lives next door, kindly let us spill over onto her drive. We all had great fun for a couple of hours. Food was a bring your own contribution and worked out the perfect balance. Delicious.

After lunch Ray, the birthday boy, surprised us with a few tunes on his harmonica. All in all a very jolly time.

We are nearly through July, which has not been great let's hope August will bring us some sunshine.



*Moir Penhallow*

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## **Photography Group**

Our June meeting was held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June via Zoom. Nine members were in attendance. We had 24 photos covering a wide range of subjects to view and discuss, all taken during our visit to Hythe Quay and surrounding area the previous month.

Our July meeting was held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July via Zoom. Six members were in attendance, with apologies from three members who were unable to attend. We again had 24 photos covering a wide range of subjects to view and discuss, all taken during the previous month. The subject being " Time of Year ".

The next meeting will be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023 meeting at 2.00 pm by Zoom. The subject being " Summer ".

If anyone is interested in joining our meetings to see what the group is about please contact me and I will forward a link to our next meeting. All members of the u3a are welcome.

*Norman Grove*

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## **Reading & Books**

We are reading "the Ship of Brides" by Jojo Moyes this month. Based on the true event of the sea passage to Britain of over 600 young Australian brides of British servicemen following the end of the second world war. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August at 2.00 pm. Angela will be hosting the meeting at her home.

*Jackie Jones*

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## **Scrabble**

It was good to have two Scrabble boards in play at the July meeting, thanks to Angela, with the usual warm greeting from Buddy the greyhound. We were pleased to welcome John, who has just joined our u3a, and he acquitted himself very well against some of our experienced players.

It's worth remembering that even the seemingly simplest - and shortest - words should not be sneezed at in Scrabble as they will contribute to your score and you might just pick up a couple of good new letters to play. As letters are drawn randomly even the best players can find themselves struggling. The main thing, as with every u3a group, is to have fun and we have some good laughs at Scrabble as well as hopefully learning some new words.

If you would like to join us we meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month (except in December) at 2.00 pm. The next meeting is at Angela's on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August. Please look up contact details on the list of CoGs.

*Linda Etherton*

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## **Ten Pin Bowling**

Thank you all for supporting the group. We are now taking a short break to enable the youngsters to have the fun while they are out of school in order to protect our ears!

Reporting on our games on the 8<sup>th</sup> June, all had some creditable scores with Graham peaking at 165 and Chris hitting 148. A notable good score was Hilary with 122.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> June we only had a group of four. Good scores were a little difficult to come by but Graham did manage to join the 175 club in the middle frame but his other games were a little below par.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> July we were back to eight bowlers. John had a good start with a score of 131 and scored over the 100 for his remaining games. Graham was a little below par and Peter W was having a consistent problem with his curving ball! I was on a little better form and managed a reasonable 160 on the last game. Chris topped the ladies with her best frame of 132.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> July we all at some time had flashes of brilliance but it was it was not at all consistent. Both Graham and I were suffering a little with our hips but no excuses. All of us had our special moments with Graham coming away with the highest score of 148 with the second highest going to Linda leading the way for the ladies.

I will attempt to get our next booking sorted soon subject to the youngsters going back to school. In the meantime have a lovely summer break (not that it has started particularly well) and to our newest member Rob wishing you a speedy recovery.

*Peter Harvey*

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## **Theatre & Cinema Group**

The Theatre & Cinema Group is growing quite big now, and we have not had any shows booked at the moment as it is holiday time so we have not been able to get together.

Five of us went to see Rhythm of Dance on 23<sup>rd</sup> July at Chelmsford Theatre, which was very good.

I have sent a few shows out to the group for September and October and waiting to see what comes up.



## **Weekenders**

Back in June the White Elms Nursery found us gathered together for our coffees, teas and toasted teacakes, then in July the Weekenders braved the forecasted high winds and sat snugly in the upstairs room at Osea View tea rooms looking out over the choppy Blackwater. As usual there was much lively conversation and some thought about where to go next month and plans for a potential musical theatre visit in October. (Apologies to Clive as he left before the photoshoot!) A few like to go to the Wickham Bishop's Club of Jazz for a lively evening of Trad Jazz.

Our next meeting will be at 10.00 am Oliver's Nursery on Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> August.

If you would like to know more please contact Linda Etherton, details on the list of CoGs.



*Linda Etherton*

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## **For your info....**

If you are a Facebook user, then you may like to know that Heybridge u3a has its own Facebook page which we would like to develop. Just search for Heybridge u3a on Facebook, then apply for membership. You'll be able to submit posts and read about what is going on in the group.

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If you are looking for local news, try Maldon Nub News who are an online newspaper; their website is [maldon.nub.news](http://maldon.nub.news) Alternatively the Maldon & Burnham Standard is available in newsagents and at [maldonandburnhamstandard.co.uk](http://maldonandburnhamstandard.co.uk). Both have plenty of information about what is happening in the local area.

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The football season is just around the corner. If you have a spare Saturday afternoon why not go to a local game? Our nearest club are Heybridge Swifts FC who play at Scraley Road, Heybridge. Just down the road Maldon & Tiptree FC play at Park Drive, Maldon. Admission per game (based on last season's prices) is £5 for concessions, which should cover most of us!

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To book a space at one of our local recycling centres visit [www.loveessex.org.uk](http://www.loveessex.org.uk) . This is mandatory for everyone except those visiting by foot or Blue Badge holders.

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Caroline Community Radio is our local community radio station broadcasting on 94.7FM and on the internet. They play music from the 60s through to the present day, and have regular local news updates.

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Have a look at the attached diary, which shows all of the interest groups run by Heybridge u3a . together with the location and time. Contact the relevant CoG (on the last page of the News Sheet) if you are interesting in joining any group.

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Members of Heybridge u3a can join in the activities of any other u3a in our local “cluster group”, which comprises Maldon, Limebrook, Blackwater, Burnham, Dengie, Crouch Valley and South Woodham Ferrers and ourselves. Further details can be found at:

[ClusterGroupActivitySchedule.pdf](http://ClusterGroupActivitySchedule.pdf) ([maldonu3a.co.uk](http://maldonu3a.co.uk))

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If you have any articles you would like included in the next Heybridge u3a News Sheet please send them to [editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk](mailto:editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk).