



Heybridge U3A

News Sheet Number 7

September 2009

Contacts: Ruth Tyler Chairman 01621 869865
Peter Thorpe Vice Chairman 01621 850828

From the Chairman

It is with sadness I open my notes this month by telling you of the sudden death of Liz Bazzard's husband on Thursday last 27th August. To Liz, our Membership Secretary, we all send heartfelt sympathy and hope it will not be too long before she will be back amongst us. There is so much genuine friendship and affection in our various groups etc, and I do hope these will help her.

Lois Wilmot has had her hip repaired at Broomfield Hospital, and is now recuperating with her son and his family, and we look forward to seeing her sunny smile again before too long.

Last month's talk by Brian Curtois was quite superb. He is knowledgeable and accomplished speaker. His account of his career, starting in the early days as a budding reporter on a provincial newspaper up to his time with the BBC as a political correspondent, made fascinating listening.

I guess from the total silence from the membership, that you are all thoroughly enjoying the programme Joyce puts together, as no-one has come up with any thoughts or ideas. I thought the old maxim "You can't please all of the people all of the time" was true – but maybe it isn't!!!

From the Editor

The grass is no longer green but has now turned brown so no mowing. My deep drains and manholes have now been backfilled so my excuses for not getting on with editing the September News Sheet have been substantially reduced.

Most will know the publication procedure but just a reminder. Copy should be with me by the last Friday of the month preceding the monthly meeting. It is August and the holiday season. Therefore time goes by quickly. This is, no doubt, a good reason why a request for input for the September News Sheet had to be requested from a number of contributors this month. However, please continue to send details to me by email at

ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk with U3A in the title. Typed copy can also be provided. Alternatively phone Ian Newman at 01621 891184 or see me, the Editor, at the monthly meeting to decide other methods of providing copy.

Diary of meetings, events, visits etc., as usual, can be found on the last page.

Heybridge U3A Meetings

The date of next meeting is Friday 11th September starting at the normal time of 14.00 in the Plantation Hall, Heybridge.

The speaker at the September meeting comes from and will talk about the Carers Centre at Brick House Farm.

The October monthly meeting talk will be "Terracotta Warriors" by Dr. Eraut. Julia Dowling will give a talk on "SWANS: (Sometimes We All Need Support)" in November.

U3A News

Copies of the June 'U3A News' magazine are still available at the monthly meeting. If you have not collected your copy, please pick it up from the desk at the back of the hall.

From the Group Co-ordinator

I thank the 18 Heybridge U3A Members who submitted between them 25 suggestions for a new name for a "co-ordinator" for the Heybridge U3A. The committee considered all the entries carefully and the prize of a hand turned "Magic Mushroom" was presented to Maureen Baldwin for her inspired entry "**COG**". The word is an acronym of "co-ordinator of group", but this simple and short word also implies somebody who is a vital component in making our U3A work. Every cog meshes with the other cogs, they transmit the energy and the organisation moves forward. Well done Maureen.

The new title seems to have stimulated 3 members to offer themselves as COGs this month.

We thank Barbara Barbrook for getting sufficient interest in Petanque to start the group. If you want to play boules in the park - contact Barbara and join in the fun.

Anne Lees has agreed to get the Books and Reading Group going, I am certain that this will be a popular group.

Brenda Dewar (our new Secretary) has agreed to start the Marine and Coastal group. This is one of those general titles which means different things to different people. There are quite a few names on the list, please support Brenda and get this group started.

Group Names, Co-ordinator, Contact Telephone

Group Name	Co-ordinator	Telephone Number
Ballroom Dancing	Joint with Maldon Jo Robson *	* 01621 828236
Bird Watching	Maureen Lenoir	01621 869871
Book	Ann Lees	01245 225153
Coffee Morning	Margaret Brown	01621 854885
Computer	Tina Abeysekera	01621 858635
Esperanto	Peter Groves	01245 227018
Gardening	Pat Yates	01621 892866
Local History	Carol Greenhalgh	01621 840339
Luncheon	Beth Jeffries	01621 853403
Maritime & Coastal	Brenda Dewar	01245 400492
Painting	Michael Kempen	01621 892974
Pantenque	Barbara Barbrook	01621 855605
Reading & Books	Ann Lees	01245 225153
Scrabble	Ruth Tyler	01621 869865
Theatre	Viv Frostick	01621 858639
Threads & Fabrics	Anne Thorpe & Pat Newman	01621 850828 & 01621 891184
Walking	Elizabeth Eastwood	01621 850618
Weekenders	Jan Stroud	01621 859766

New Group Co-ordinators

Can anyone interested in starting a group and are willing to be the co-ordinator (COG) please contact

Peter Thorpe on 01621 850828 or speak to him at the monthly meeting.

Membership Secretary

If you are not a member and wish to join, please contact Lisbeth Bazzard on 01621 843208 or by email lisbethbazzard@talktalk.net You can also write to her at 2, Silver Street, Maldon, Essex. CM9 4QE or speak to her at the monthly meeting.

From the Treasurer

There is nothing to report this month.

Secretary

There is nothing to report this month.

GROUP REPORTS

Art Group

The Art Group, which meets at Plantation Hall, Heybridge every Friday afternoon between 14.00 and 16.00 (except on the second Friday when the Heybridge U3A Monthly Meeting takes place) is continuing to thrive and is going from strength to strength.



We are an extremely friendly and fun loving group who enjoy painting and drawing in an informal atmosphere. The most popular medium is water colour, but acrylic and pastels are also used. Unfortunately, oil colour is not permitted at this venue.

Each week we have a 'Still Life' display for those who wish, otherwise members bring their own work and the emphasis is on "self help" wherever possible. The ability of the members ranges from quite accomplished artists to absolute beginners and we all appreciate constructive criticism and help along side praise.

Tea and biscuits are served mid-way through the afternoon and, needless to say, conversation is never lacking!

Bird Watching

The next meeting will not be until October. Please let Maureen have suggestions on where to go in October.

Book Group

A new Book Group has been established which will be co-ordinated (COG) by Ann Lees. The first meeting will take place on Wednesday 16th September at 14.30. If anybody wishes to join the group or wants details of where the first meeting is taking place could they please contact Ann Lees on 01245 225153.

Coffee Morning

We had a very pleasant morning break on 28th August at Gills home. Tea and coffee plus biscuits were much appreciated. We collected £5 towards our charity. The next coffee morning will be on Friday 18th September at 11.00 and will be at my house (Margaret Brown). My address will be on our Group Membership Sheet, which I will leave on one of the tables at the next monthly meeting. Anyone who might be interested in coming along on 18th but not attending the monthly meeting can telephone 01621 854885 and I will gladly provide the details. I will try and contact our group members nearer the time to get an idea on numbers.

Computer Group

On Wednesday 26th August we had the third and a most informative meeting of the Computer Group. First, we discussed the option of attending local courses to improve our basic computer skills and this will be left to the individual to decide. Maureen agreed to check with other nearby U3A Groups to see how they operate and will report back at the next meeting. Everyone present agreed that if we could find a permanent meeting place where we could operate computers it would be ideal. This is being further investigated. We will continue to meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month, but if we succeed in finding a permanent venue the day may have to be changed.

We then moved on to discuss WORD and Ian, ably assisted by Peter Thorpe, demonstrated on their laptops how to create tables, folders, files etc. and then answered many questions. Many thanks to Beryl Claydon for her hospitality and to Ian and Peter for showing us that computing can be fun.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 23rd September at 14.30 at Pat Yates. If you have a laptop please bring it with you. Our subject will be the INTERNET. Ian would like to know what

problems you have encountered, which sites you use, whether you buy on line, problems, solutions etc., If you wish to come along please ring Pat on 01621 892866.

Gardening Group

Our August visit was to Moverons farm near Brightlingsea, a very different garden from the previous one. This was a large country garden which amazingly had only been made from scratch



in the last six years. There were lovely views over the Colne estuary, a very interesting talk by the owner, lots of plants for sale, and tea (of course) in the barn. The last visit for this year is on Monday 14th September to Ulting Wick, Langford, at 2.30p.m. When I booked it the owner was not too keen on making cakes, so I think there will only be tea and biscuits, but it's a lovely garden and only a few miles away. Please call or e-mail me to let me know if you are coming, by the previous Thursday. (01621 892866 or pat.yates@tesco.net)

Local History Group (LHG)

Very interesting research had been carried out by some of our members and their contributions to our August meeting made for a fascinating afternoon of sharing stories & local history information. Some of the group have taken up the challenge of exploring a local history topic of personal interest and bringing their findings to future LHG general meetings. The meetings and venues are as follows:

- 15th September: Guest speaker Robin Carpenter, from Essex County Council, is coming to speak about Crittall and Silver End.
- 20th October: Guest speaker David Hughes, author of The Maldonians, is coming to share some of his stories from the Maldon of over one hundred years ago.

Both meetings at 14.00 at the Blue Boar.

Please contact Carol Greenhalgh, [01621 840339 or email george.smeed@virgin.net] if you would like to attend these meetings.

Luncheon Group

The next luncheon will be held at "The Secret Garden" in Maldon on Tuesday 15th September at 12.45, we will meet at the Restaurant. They have an offer of two main meals for £10 for any couple buying a drink. (soft, coffee or otherwise).

I am trying to arrange the following one for "The Shed" at Mersea on Thursday 1st October. Further details will be at the monthly meeting on 11th September or ring Beth on 01621 853403.

Looking forward to seeing you all there.

Petanque Group

There were six of us at the meeting of the Petanque Group on the Maldon Prom on 1st September to decide on the best day to meet. We chose Monday afternoons at 14.30 every week until the clocks change. A retired friend, David Bird who plays in a team for the Feering Bell came and gave us some very good instruction on the game to get us started and he is willing to come for several sessions until we learn the rules. We played for two hours and had a very pleasant afternoon in the fresh air. Next Monday he will be there again. If any more can come on Mondays you are certain to enjoy yourselves. The Blackwater group was also there but there was plenty of room for us all. The terrain is above the lake near the road leading from the three kiosks at the end of the lake. The dates for the next three sessions are 7th, 14th and 21st September.

Scrabble

The September scrabble afternoon will have taken place when you receive this News Sheet. It has been decided by the Scrabble Group will now meet on the last Wednesday of the month. Details for the next two meetings can be found below:

- Wednesday 30th September at 14.00. Venue: Pam Archer, 1, Elwyn Road, Tiptree. Tel: 815379.
- Wednesday 28th October at 14.00. Venue: Beryl Claydon, 57, Crescent Road, Heybridge. Tel: 852082.

Please ring me, Ruth Tyler, on 01621 869865 for further details.

Threads and Fabrics



At our first working meeting in August we explored the possibilities of Japanese Patchwork. Anne was a very patient teacher, carefully explaining each step, until we had made our first ornate squares.

She had brought with her some beautiful boxes and bags that she had made, often from scraps of leftover material from other projects. On the 1st of September, our subject was lace making. Our next meeting will be Tuesday 6th October at 14.00 when we will be learning how to make Christmas Tree Decorations.

If you are interested in joining our group, please contact either Anne on 01621 850828 or Pat on 01621 891184.

Walking

Thirteen members and three dogs met at the Paper Mill Lock for their walk along the river. Elizabeth, who was in Yorkshire on pressing family business, was unable to lead the group on the second (western) half of this planned walk. Gather any group of people together and as if by magic someone will become the leader. We were very grateful to Sue Dupree who had a map, and a good sense of direction. Instead of my suggestion of going along the river path for 45 minutes, turning round and following the path back to the tea and cake shop. Sue directed us back through farms and fields to approach the Tea Rooms from the other side. It was a delightful walk, the weather was kind and the company was great. Thank you Sue.

Please contact Sue with regard for the next venue.

Weekender Group

I think we all enjoyed our walk along the Maldon prom and the demonstration of boules. Use of the boules pitch is free and several of our members have shown an interest in playing. Details of how often will be discussed at our next coffee morning on the 29th August at The Blue Boar Hotel, and will be in the October newsletter.

Our team of five seemed to enjoy the Quiz Night at Langford. We didn't win but then again we didn't come last either but at least we had fun.

For information on the group please phone Jan Stroud on 01621 859766. New members and suggestions are always welcome.

Dates for your diary:

- 26th September 12.00 noon: Coffee Morning at Lock Café, Heybridge Basin.
- 24th October 11.00: Coffee Morning at Wilkin & Son (Jam Factory), Tiptree.

Letters to the Editor

None this month.

Members HELP

Your views and input are needed for all future editions of the News Sheet. This can be in the form of reports about activities undertaken, activities to come, letters to the Editor or anything else that you think may interest other members.

Disclaimer

This News Sheet is produced by the Heybridge U3A. The views expressed in this News Sheet are not necessarily those of the U3A. The U3A accept no liability for the accuracy of its contents.

Program of Meetings and Visits

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7 th September	7 Petangue 14.30	8	9	10 Walking 14.00	11 Monthly Meeting 14.00	12	13
14 th September	14 Petangue 14.30 Gardening Ulting Wick 14.30	15 Luncheon Group 12.45 Local History 14.00	16 Book Group 14.30	17	18 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00	19	20
21 st September	21 Petangue 14.30	22	23 Computer 14.30	24	25 No Bird Watching Painting 14.00 Submit News Sheet text	26 Weekender Coffee at Lock Café 12.00	27
28 th September	28 Petangue 14.30	29	30 Scrabble 14.00	1 Luncheon Group	2 Painting 14.00	3	4
5 th October	5 Petangue 14.30 Gardening Plant Swap 14.30	6 Threads and Fabrics 14.00	7	8 Walking 14.00	9 Monthly Meeting 14.00	10	11
12 th October	12	13	14	15	16 Coffee Morning 11.00	17	18
19 th October	19 Last Petangue 14.30	20 Local History 14.00	21 Book Group 14.30	22	23 Bird Watching 10.00 Painting 14.00	24 Weekender Coffee at Wilkin & Son Tiptree 11.00	25
26 th October	26	27	28 Scrabble 14.00 Computer 14.30	29	30 Painting 14.00	31	1

For details see articles and co-ordinators above.