



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No. 2012/9

September 2012

Contacts: Peter Thorpe Chairman 01621 850828

Brenda Dewar Secretary 01245 400492

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

From the Chairman

As your Chairman, I am expected to provide something regularly for our monthly News Sheet but, over a Bank Holiday and with so many other things to be done, I am reflecting on why I am giving writing this piece such a high priority! Those of us who agree to serve our U3A by being members of the committee, those of us who agree to be a CoG and those of us who agree to do other vital, but unnoticed, duties do so because they want our U3A to flourish and be successful. We must not, however, take for granted the work that any individual member does for our U3A. We should also never forget that the U3A, as a concept, can only function through our willingness to share our knowledge, resources and companionship with each other. In such an "equal-opportunity" organisation as ours, all members should be prepared to step-up, when necessary, and share the responsibility fairly.



Stow Maries – Roger with a group from Heybridge U3A

Author – Peter Thorpe

Our speaker at the July meeting was Roger Smith. Roger was the speaker at our first meeting and was also the first Chairman of the Blackwater U3A. As one of those forward thinking U3A members, he was also involved in getting our U3A started three and a half years ago (somehow, it seems longer than that!). Roger is one of those people for whom volunteering is a way of life. He is the curator of the Stow Maries Aerodrome and works out of the fine museum which he, and a few others dressed in overalls and builders boots, rescued from decay. Roger's deep involvement in the World War 1 aerodrome was aroused when he discovered that the owner had bought it with the vision of restoring it to

its original state whilst, at the same time, making the surrounding area a nature reserve. One of the first projects completed was the new War Memorial dedicated to those members of the 37 Squadron RFC (later the RAF) who were stationed at Stow Maries during WW1. The memorial was constructed on the site of the original parade ground. Roger explained that he has a particular association with the aerodrome because, during WW1, his Great Grandfather was stationed with 37 Squadron at Stow Maries.

With so much ahead to do, and maybe with a little help from the U3A, we wish this important project every success.

I look forward to being with you all again at our next meeting on Friday 14th September, when Chris Thornton will talk to us about some more aspects of our diverse Local History.

Email thorpe101@btinternet.com or phone 01621 850828.

Peter Thorpe.

From the Editor

It is early to be thinking of Christmas but I need to plan the dates for publication of the News Sheet for the rest of the year. We have in the past 12 monthly News Sheets. This year, I am proposing to drop one over the festive season. The question is; do I drop the December or the January News Sheet? The Friday deadline for the January 2013 News Sheet would be 28th December, which would be in the middle of the family gatherings with travel or visitors involved. I am, therefore, going to drop the January 2013 issue. This will mean that the December issue will need to contain planning information about December 2012, January 2013 and February 2013. This will also require the Diary to cover these three months. If you have any comments on this change please let me know.

Again this month, a number of the groups have either not met or will not be meeting. Some, like the Gardening Group, will not have visits until the spring. However, most will be back in late summer or in the early autumn. This has resulted in a number of short reports and, therefore, a number of white spaces in the News Sheet

The Study Day has seen a number of the topics oversubscribed. There are still a few places but not many. Note that the closing date is the 15th September. See page 7 of the News Sheet.

The Diary on the last page has been updated to the end of October 2012. Please keep me up to date with any interesting stories, relevant pictures or anything that relates

to The Heybridge U3A or the U3A movement as a whole. Please continue to send details to me, preferably by email with 'Heybridge U3A' in the title. Alternatively talk to me at the Monthly Meeting. Printed copies will be available, as usual, at each Monthly Meeting.

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

Ian Newman.

Group Names, Co-ordinator, Contact Telephone

Group Name	Co-ordinator (COG)	Telephone Number
Art (Painting)	Michael Kempen	01621 892974
Bird Watching	Maureen Lenoir	01621 869871
Coastal & Marine		
Coffee Morning	Margaret Brown	01621 854885
Computer	Tina Abeysekera	01621 858635
Creative Writing	Angela Pleasance	01621 850310
Family History	Lesley Pomphrett	01621 817733
French Conversation	Jenny Parker	01621 843581
Gardening	Pat Yates	01621 892866
Italian	Janice Slight	01621 853393
Local History	Carol Greenhalgh	01621 840339
Luncheon		
Petanque	Barbara Barbrook	01621 855605
Photography	Peter Thorpe	01621 850828
Reading & Books	Ann Lees	01245 225153
Scrabble	Ruth Tyler	01621 856212
Technical Computing	Colin Mason	01621 854906
Ten Pin Bowling	Janette Lett	01621 879697
Threads & Fabrics	Anne Thorpe & Pat Newman	01621 850828 & 01621 891184
Walking	Elizabeth Eastwood	01621 850618
Weekenders	Marilyn Corbett	01621 817518
Wine Group	Jackie Jones	01621 817117

Membership Secretary

We were pleased to welcome one new member in August, taking our current membership to 160.

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

For any queries regarding membership, please

Email jennyparker14@hotmail.com or phone me on 01621 843581.

Or, If I am not available, please

Email angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk or phone Angela on 01621 850310.

Jenny Parker

Heybridge U3A Monthly Meetings

The next Monthly Meeting is on Friday 14th September starting at the normal time of 14.00, in the Plantation Hall, Heybridge. This month we have a Local History presentation by Chris Thornton.

A list of other potential subjects for the following Monthly Meetings are as follows:

- October 2012: Mike Logan, Auctioneer.
- November 2012: Journeys to Antarctica by Roger Slade
- December 2012: Lynda Scoles with 'God rest ye Merry?'

From the COGCo (Group Co-ordinator)

Regrettably, Dave Mason has decided not to continue as the COG of the Luncheon Group and I would like to thank him for his hard work since taking over in October 2011 when he initially offered for three months but continued for eleven months. I now understand that John Harrison is taking over as COG of the Luncheon Group.

Email gillthorne2@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01621 852294.

Gill Thorne.

REPORTS

Art (Painting) Group

With a smaller crowd than usual, due to people being away on holiday, the Friday painters are finding themselves with a little more elbow room. Landscapes and seascapes are, as usual, the most popular topics for watercolour painting. However, one inventive member chose to depict a clothes line full of washing blowing in the wind, based on a photograph.

Another welcome feature of our August meetings was a visit by a member's grandchildren, who happily joined us 'oldies' in creating a masterpiece or two in an afternoon.

Visitors to the group are always welcome but we can't guarantee to slot you in permanently until someone leaves. Surprisingly, that does happen from time to time.

Report by Gillian Mariner

For information about the group please contact Michael Kempen:

Email m.kempen@sky.com or phone 01621 892974.

Bird Watching Group

We will not be meeting as a Bird Watching Group again until 28th September. Further information will be included in the September copy of the News Sheet.

For further information, email symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01621 869871.

Maureen.

Computer Group

Ten members of the computer group met on a lovely summers afternoon. We discussed files, filing of information and saved work on our computers. After a little hitch we all downloaded a file from Ian and saved it in our own way. We then followed this up with a discussion on how we name and control our files. Ian also set us some work to do at home in which we are asked to send the file back to Ian as an attachment on an e mail with a short comment on how and why we keep our own records. In all, a very informative and enjoyable afternoon.

We meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month in The Claydon Room at Plantation Hall. Any one who would like to expand their knowledge of computers and their uses will be warmly welcomed.

Email tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk or phone 01621 858635.

Tina Abeysekera

Coastal and Marine Group

There is no report for the Coastal and Marine Group this month.

Email brendadewar@btinternet.com or phone 01245 400492

Brenda Dewar.

Creative Writing Group

There was no meeting in August. We meet again on September 26th when we will be thinking about plot. If anyone would like to join the group please contact me for details.

email angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01621 850310.

Angela Pleasance

Discussion Coffee Morning Group

We met this month at Ruth Tyler's house where we were spoilt with some delicious home-made scones. We welcomed Florence Oliver as a new member to our group.

Next month we meet at Anne Newson's house on Friday 21st September at the usual time of 11.00.

Email mbandmeg@btinternet.com or phone 01621 854885.

Margaret Brown.

Family History Group

Because of Holidays, the Family History Group did not meet in August and we will not be meeting in September either. Our next meeting will be Thursday October 25th at my house, as usual, 10.30 to 12.30. Please phone if you need information or directions

Email lesleypommy@hotmail.com or phone 01621 817733.

Lesley Pomphrett.

French Conversation Group

Jenny gave us an article on the 14th of July, France's national day, to read between meetings. Not too difficult as there was a translation on the back which, in fact, contained extra information. So far so good but, on another sheet, there was a bi-lingual crossword which, for some reason, was more confusing than one just in either English or French especially if the spellings were very similar. Much fun was had comparing and untangling our answers.

Our next task, with the aid of prompt sheets, is to talk about our holidays which, for multiple reasons, should be interesting!

Report: Pat Newman

For further information please:

Email jennyparker14@hotmail.com or phone me on 01621 843581.

Jenny Parker.

Gardening Group

Tudor Roost was a beautiful, large back garden absolutely full of colour and interest. This year the owners had built a conservatory with tea groups in mind, which was much appreciated. We have had a great mix of garden styles this year, but I think I prefer smaller gardens such as this, which give me ideas for mine. (or wishful thinking!) Our last visit for this year is to St Helens, Stebbing, on FRIDAY (not Monday this time) 7th September at 14.30. Cost £6 including tea and cake.

Everyone is welcome, please come. If your name is not on the Garden Group email list, please let me know if you would like it to be included.



Tudor Roost

Author: John Howchin

Seventeen members came to St Helens in Stebbing for our last visit of this year, and what a lovely afternoon to finish on. A beautiful golden September sunshine and an intriguing garden hiding behind the yew hedge. There were numerous pathways winding between little streams and round a pond, dotted with surprises, which would fill children with joy, such as a little thatched hut, a tree swing and a boat to row on the pond. Our hosts were very welcoming and informative, the cakes were delicious, and best of all there were second helpings!



St Helens, Stebbing

Author Pat Yates

Well, that's all for this year folks, unless you would like a Christmas lunch at Perrywoods or somewhere else? If you have any ideas for the winter please let me know. We will probably have a snowdrop walk again in February.

I would just like to say very many thanks to those of you who came each month, often through rain, wind and mud.

Email pat.yates@tesco.net or phone 01621 892866.

Pat Yates.

Italian Conversation

Due to the Olympics only a few of us met for the Beginner's Conversation Meeting but, those of us who did meet, had a productive time. We started by each speaking about what we had been up to since the previous meeting. Even Alex, who had never done Italian before the previous month, had written a fair amount. He already has a good grasp of the basics of the language. We did some revision of verbs, to help him, and read through several dialogues from a book.

The next Beginner's Meeting will be the 3rd September.

Due to commitments of various members, and my husband's on-going illness, the Advanced Group did not meet this month. The next meeting will be the 17th September.

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

Janice Slight.

Local History Group (LHG)

There was no Local History meeting in August due to holidays etc.

All members who have signed up and paid for the guided tour of Layer Marney Tower are reminded that the visit takes place at 14.00 on Tuesday, September 18th. We will meet at the venue.

Email george.smeed@virgin.net or phone 01621 840339.

Carol Greenhalgh

Luncheon Group

For my last lunch as the Luncheon Club COG nine of us met at The Old Ship at Heybridge Basin. It certainly wasn't the best or the worst meal we have ever had and, at times, confusion reigned. However, we all had a good chat and a bit of a laugh during our lunch.

John Harrison is taking over as the COG. There will be no September lunch. The next one will be on the fourth Friday in October.(26th)

So watch this space for more information from John.

Thanks for all your kind support.

Dave Mason.

Petanque Group

Recently we have had the proper weather for playing petanque. We have enjoyed some good games with, at times, several families of bystanders watching us as they go along the road, which passes the petanque terrain. Occasionally they ask what we are doing, but mostly they just watch fascinated and continue on their way.

We have now booked, with Blackwater U3A, to play a match with them on Monday 24th September so we will be busy sorting out our teams and deciding who will play doubles or triples. Limebrook have now started a group, so I hear. We may also be able to have a match with them. We still have two months to play before the winter weather beats us so let's hope that we do well against Blackwater at the end of September.

Email c.barbrook@sky.com or phone 01621 855605.

Barbara Barbrook.

Photography Group

With the composition of a photograph such an important topic, we continued to examine aspects of the positioning of the subject in more detail. We watched a short video clip on the internet in which the presenter stepped into the "frame" and positioned himself in a variety of different places as the subject, in the same scene, to demonstrate the visual effect of the composition in the finished photographs. It proved to be a memorable and effective way of making his point.

The photo assignment for August was to take one shot of a "street scene with people". Members agreed that this assignment was harder than it seemed. We were treated to a selection of interesting and well thought-out pictures from a wide variety of locations. Everyone managed to get people in their shots with some photos having more people than others!



Olympic Torch

Author – Ken Russell

I have chosen an excellent photo of the Olympic torch bearer carrying the flame up Market Hill to accompany these notes. Not only did it fulfil the assignment, it was a photo which was worthy of publication in a national newspaper as an historical record of this unique event, especially considering the very difficult conditions under which it was taken.

Our next assignment is to take an "abstract" photograph.

If you are interested in digital photography, come and join us. Our aim is to enjoy and to improve our photography, together.

Email thorpe101@btinternet.com or phone 01621 850828.

Peter Thorpe.

Reading and Books Group

This month's book was 'The Distant Hours' by Kate Norton. It is an exploration of family secrets and betrayal incorporating a dilapidated castle, aristocratic twins, a troubled sister and a series of dark secrets, casting a whispery spell over the whole tale. The truth of what happened in the past has been waiting a long time to be told.

A thick book which, it was generally agreed, need not have been that thick. Some of us enjoyed the mystery, fantasy and total escapism of a story that we all agreed was well written. For some of us it was just too fantastical and was only skimmed or not read further after the first two chapters. Stories such as this, with little depth and improbable plots seem not to be as popular as they once were!

We discussed the idea that, at Christmas, we will not take out a book from the library but have a Secret Santa sack. Each one of us will wrap a book that we have previously enjoyed, place in the sack, and draw another to read over the Christmas break and discuss at the January meeting. All the books will then be put into our library box for all of us to read if we want to.

This year we have passed on a bagful of books, (from our library box) on four occasions, to local charities to sell for their funds.

We are hoping to welcome two new members to the group in September/October. Once they join the group we will, for the time being, be closed to new members as we will have reached our maximum number. However, if others wish to start a new Book Group that should be possible. Our group will be happy to pass on any information that may be helpful.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 19th September at Plantation Hall Heybridge at 14.30.

Ann Lees.

Email: annlees@yahoo.com or phone 01245 225153

Scrabble Group

There were no outstanding words generated this month. We will continue to meet and enjoy our scrabble sessions as usual in September at Plantation Hall (Tuesday 25th, soon after 13.30). All are welcome.

Email r.tyler936@btinternet.com or phone 01621 856212.

Ruth Tyler

Technical Computing Group

The August meeting took place at my house where we discussed the various 'Hot Spot' claims by BT. We attempted to find the amount of networks available, just in one small part of Maldon, and found which were unprotected. Being unprotected for anyone using a computer is a serious condition as it makes it possible for anyone nearby to use your broadband connection.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 13th of September.

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

Colin Mason

Ten Pin Bowling

Eleven of the group met on the 14th August for the usual three games. We had lots of strikes from Graham who hits the ball with such gusto we sometimes think it will go through the wall at the end of the lane! Gill managed to stop time when she bowled a ball, which stopped three quarters of the way down the lane. (It could only have happened to Gill!) It was quite surreal and it looked as if it was in line for a strike. However, after the attendant kicked it, the score of eight was upheld.

We tried to perfect different techniques (without success) whilst enjoying the two hours.



Gill makes time stand still

Author Janette Lett

Gill is holding the fort in September as I will be away in the States visiting my son and family. If you would like to join in, please just go along to Madison Heights on the second Tuesday of each month. The next meet is on Tuesday, 11th September at 13.45 for a 14.00 start.

Email lettsnooks@talktalk.net or phone 01621 879697.

Janette Lett.

Threads and Fabrics Group

Sorry Editor, but this is an extremely short report this month as our minds were more on events in Stratford than those in Maldon. Hopefully, things will be back to normal in my October report, post Olympic fever.

If anyone is interested in joining us, please contact Anne Thorpe or Pat Newman.

Anne by Email anne.thorpe@btinternet.com or phone 01621 850828.

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

Walking Group

Our August walk followed a circular route from Steeple village along a rather overgrown footpath north to the Blackwater estuary. We followed the seawall anticlockwise around Steeple Creek and Mayland Creek then linked up with part of the St Peter's Way path back into the village. The views across the estuary towards Osea Island were splendid despite the seawall path being quite rough underfoot. The afternoon was finished by a welcome drink at one of the local pubs.

There will not be a September walk. Details of the October 11th walk will be sent out later this month.

Email e.m.e@talktalk.net or phone 01621 850618.

Elizabeth

Weekenders Group

There is not much to report this month but we do have some events coming up. A group of us will be going to see 'Kiss me Kate' in October, tickets have all been booked, and looking ahead 'Sweet Charity' in February. I will have a sheet available for the latter at the next Monthly Meeting.

Dates for your Diary:

- Coffee on Saturday 15th September at Woodlands Tea Rooms at 10.00;
- Coffee on Saturday 13th October at Perrywood's Nursery at 10.00.

Email mars42@btinternet.com or phone 01621 817518.

Marilyn Corbett.

Wine Appreciation Group

In August we were treated to a visit to the Colchester Wine Company. The store manager, James, spent some time explaining how to match wine with various types of food as well as talking about the differing tastes achieved when the same type of grape is grown in various climates and on differing soils. I shall be following one of his tips to always decant red wine before serving in order to allow the wine to breathe. This was followed by tastings of six different wines: Chablis, Voignier, Chenin Blanc, Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Noir and Rioja. Most of the group then wandered through the store choosing wine to take home for their next dinner party. Due to unforeseen circumstances our next

meeting will be on Wednesday 26th September in Tiptree. The subject of the meeting will be "Andalucian style Tapas". Forget Rioja, Spain has a diverse wine industry and down in the south of the country is Jerez, home of Sherry. Come along and try a "Malaga Virgin" with a few tapas. Meet at my house at 14.00. There will be no meeting of the Wine Group in October 2012.

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

Jackie Jones.

The Essex Association of U3As Study Day.

The Study Day will be at The Plume School, Maldon on Wednesday 31st October 2012 at a cost of £10 for the day.

Final information and Booking Forms have been issued by email (Hard copies are available at the September Monthly Meeting). The deadline for applications is on Saturday 15th September.

For further information, please contact Ian Newman.

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

or Joyce Woodham.

Email woodham359@btinternet.com or phone 01621 841066

On the Notice Board

To maximize available space, Notice Board items that have previously been reported in full are shown as a simple list.

- 2012 U3A AGM is to be held at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester on September 11th and 12th.
- The U3A has joined with the Royal Geographical Society to organise a competition relating to walking and learning about our landscape titled 'Discovering Britain'.

An invitation for U3A Groups to enjoy "The Elizabethan Experience" at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. Enjoy a visit tailored especially for U3A Groups. Your visit includes a guided tour of the Globe Theatre and to the nearby site of the Rose, Bankside's first playhouse. You can explore the Globe Exhibition and then relax with tea or coffee at the Swan, which offers stunning views across the River Thames to St Paul's Cathedral.

U3A admission price £18 per person, with minimum groups of 15, maximum 30 people. 2012 dates still available, with either morning or afternoon visits – Monday to Friday.

For more information contact Brenda on 01245 400492, or see the notice board.

For more information contact me, or see the notice board.

Email brendadewar@btinternet.com or phone 01245 400492. Brenda Dewar.

Diary of Meetings and Visits

For details see articles and co-ordinators above.

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
10th September	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 Weekender Coffee at Woodlands Tea Rooms 10.00	16
17th September	17 Petanque 14.00 Advanced Italian 10.00	18 Local History 14.00	19 Wine Tasting 14.00 Book Group 14.30	20 Computer 14.00	21 Painting 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00	22	23
24th September	24 Petanque 14.00	25 Scrabble 14.00	26 Wine Tasting 14.00 Creative Writing Group 14.30	27 No Family History	28 News Sheet Copy to Editor Painting 14.00 Bird Watching	29	30
1st October	1 Petanque 14.00 Beginners Italian 10.00	2 Threads 14.00	3 Proposed Solo Whist 14.00	4 Photography 14.00	5 Committee Meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00	6	7
8th October	8 Petanque 14.00	9 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	10 French Conversation 10.00	11 Technical Computing 14.00 Walking 14.00	12 Monthly Meeting 14.00	13 Weekender Coffee at Perrywood's Nursery 10.00	14
15th October	15 Petanque 14.00 Advanced Italian 10.00	16 Local History 14.00	17 Book Group 14.30	18 Computer 14.00	19 Painting 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00	20	21
22nd October	22 Petanque 14.00	23 Scrabble 14.00	24 Creative Writing Group 14.30	25 Family History 10.30	26 Painting 14.00 Bird Watching Luncheon 13.00	27	28
29th October	29 Petanque 14.00	30	31 Essex Association of U3A's Study Day	1 st November Photography 14.00	2 News Sheet Copy to Editor Painting 14.00	3	4