



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

# Heybridge U3A

## News Sheet No.8/2017

### September 2017

Your Committee

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

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

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### Refreshment Group Rota

September Weekenders










October Ukulele

November Art

December Bird Watching

Please provide 3 people to serve refreshments

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# NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

## From the Chair

Those present at the August meeting enjoyed a fascinating talk by Ian Currie on the subject of weather forecasting. He reminded us that, in years gone by, people were accustomed to looking at cloud formations in the sky to find out what the weather was going to do. Nowadays, we rely on sophisticated computer programmes to predict the weather but, as we know, they're not always accurate. He showed us photos of different cloud formations and explained what they mean. Cirrus clouds are thin, wispy and usually white. They predict fair weather and by watching their movement across the sky, you can tell from which direction the weather is approaching.

Thank you to everyone who took the trouble to return the membership questionnaire. Overall, there was a lot of positive feedback – words that came up often were enjoyment, friendliness, opportunities to try new activities, variety of groups and good all round organisation. On the flip side a few felt that meetings weren't friendly enough and it wasn't easy to get to know people.

There were a couple of comments that some members are unwilling to take on responsibility, and some seem to think the group co-ordinators are paid. In case you're wondering, they're not! No-one in the U3A is allowed to receive any payment, other than legitimate expenses. U3As are run for the members, by the members, who give their services voluntarily.

Another issue raised is what to do if an activity you want to pursue is not currently offered. One option is to speak to Barbara, our Groups Co-ordinator, about starting a new group. Another is to see if the activity is offered by one of the three local U3As – Blackwater, Limebrook and Maldon – with whom we have a reciprocal arrangement. This allows members to attend interest groups offered by any of the other three provided there are spaces. A list of all groups currently offered is being circulated with this News Sheet.

Finally, if you like what we do, why not recommend us to your friends and neighbours?

Non-members can attend one monthly meeting and one interest group as a guest, so why not bring them along?

Jenny Parker

## From the Editor

The design of the Heybridge U3A News Sheet, and the reports that it contains, continues as a full-page layout. I would ask contributors to limit their photos to pictures of U3A generated activities and not copy pictures from Websites as, when published, this may be contrary to Copyright laws. Information about the Committee Members and their reports can be found in the first few pages. The back page shows the Diary for the months of September and October 2017.

Please note that E-mail details of Group Co-ordinators will no longer be included with individual group reports. However, you can still find them in the list on page 11 of the News Sheet.

Please keep the Editor up to date with any interesting stories, relevant pictures or anything that relates to the Heybridge U3A, the Association of Essex U3As or the U3A movement as a whole. Please send details to me by email with 'Heybridge U3A' as the subject.

Contact Geoff Hadley, 01621 852494 or by Email [editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk](mailto:editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk)

### **From the Membership Secretary**

A very big thank you to the 42 members who completed the questionnaire we gave out in July. Many of you made comments about what you like/dislike about your U3A, and gave suggestions about what we can do differently.

Most of the comments were very positive and reflect that most of you enjoy your membership and gain a great deal from the organisation. There were also some ideas that the Committee will continue to consider to ensure that every member gets the most out of U3A.

If you would like to add your views please ask me for a questionnaire either at the monthly meeting or via email, or if you just have a comment or suggestion at any time please just get in touch.

63 Members and 6 visitors attended the August Monthly Meeting. We now have 151 paid up members.

Thank you for your co-operation. If you have any queries, please contact me.

Philippa Moody E-mail [membershipsecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk](mailto:membershipsecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk)

### **Interest Groups Coordinator**

If you're in a group that did not meet in August, please check the Diary on P,12 for details of the date and time of your September meeting.

Any new members reading this please note that if you cannot find a group that interests you on Page 11 but you have an idea that you would like to form a new group, please ask me for a sheet to complete with a title for a new group to gather names who are also interested in your idea. If you would like to join one of the established groups, please phone or email the coordinator for further information.

Barbara Barbrook Email [groupscordinator@heybridgeu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupscordinator@heybridgeu3a.org.uk)

### **Monthly Meeting Speaker Programme for September to December**

If you enjoyed last month's talk 'How weather forecasts are made' given by Ian Currie. You may be interested in his website. [www.frostedearth.com](http://www.frostedearth.com)

08/09/17	'A kick up the 60's'	Alan Haines
13/10/17	'English Cheeses' (with samples)	Jane Robinson
10/11/17	'Work of a Magistrate'	Dawn Roche
08/12/17	Xmas Party	David Price and Maralyn Singing duo

Jan Brown E-Mail [speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk](mailto:speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk)

### **Heybridge U3A Website**

This is our new website <https://u3asites.org.uk/heybridge>

Please take a look – and let us know what you think.

By popular request, we are keeping our original website as an archive for all the News Sheets that have been produced since the start of our U3A in 2010. If you are interested in seeing how our U3A has progressed over the years, visit [www.heybridgeu3a.org.uk/news.html](http://www.heybridgeu3a.org.uk/news.html)

Jenny Parker

# GROUP REPORTS

## Art Group

First of all, a big thank you to Pat who stood in for me as Art reporter while Robin and I were dashing about between London hospitals and numerous other medical appointments - and missing all the fun back in Heybridge!

Thanks, also, to Tina for so willingly taking over the art COG role from Michael. As his unofficial deputy I was asked if I'd like to do it but, sadly, I honestly couldn't have coped. Mercifully, things have settled down a bit now on the health front. And, I must say, how nice it is to find myself back in the swing of things, paintbrush at the ready but brain totally empty of ideas, having missed so many meetings.

Gill Carpenter.

For information about the group contact, Tina Martin 01621 858646

## Bird Watching Group

This month we sat in the sun at Heybridge Basin and let the birds watch us. Why -you may well ask. We were planning our year ahead and trying to work out where was the best place to be and when. No good looking for the masses of Brent Geese in June as they come to Essex in winter. Ten of us all put in our ideas and Maureen tried to please us all. I will put the proposed programme in next month's Newsletter as other members may like to join us on outings they like the look of. There will be some of our favourites on the programme such as listening to Nightingales one evening in the spring. A trip to Minsmere in the autumn is always great and a visit to Blue House Farm to try to see their wonderful Barn Owls.



Who was watching us? Jill

Next month we are staying close to home with a trip to Chigborough Lakes – always interesting things to see from the LBJs (little brown jobs) to the bomber command of the bird world – swans, grey herons and great crested grebes.

If you would like more information contact Maureen Lenoir 01621 869871

Jill

## Cards and Paper Crafts

Just to let you know that as a small group of card making ladies, strange to relate, but we are all left handed. I know they say all left handed people are craft minded of some sort, but we are all interested in designing different types of cards.

From Linda (Lesley) Woonton

Changing meeting day to 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of Month      Next meeting 7<sup>th</sup> September. 14.00

Please contact Lesley for details. 01621 858135

### **Creative Writing Group**

We had a small but very happy group in August, hearing about places and things that had been dear to us. Barbara had kindly brought along a book of writing from the prize winners of the Essex Age UK Prose and Poetry Writing Competition, with the intention of reading some of the pieces, but we talked so much that there was not enough time.

The next meeting will be at Barbara's house on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September. I had been saving some of the quotations from my day calendar as inspiration for 'homework' so there will be a variety of subjects next month. Some of the quotations are:

- Success is getting what you want. Happiness is wanting what you get. (*Ingrid Bergman*)
- Success is the sweetest revenge. (*Vanessa Williams*)
- A girl can wait for the right man to come along, but in the meantime that still doesn't mean she can't have a wonderful time with all the wrong ones. (*Cher*)
- Never eat more than you can lift. (*Miss Piggy*)

Angela Pleasance    01621 850310

### **Croquet Group**

August has been a month of varied weather which in turn has created varied conditions on the croquet lawns. The second Thursday we played did not look very promising as it was still pouring with rain at 9am (we start at 10am). However, much to my surprise eleven of us turned up, the rain stopped and we started play at 10am, the lawns drained quickly and although the balls were slower to start with it soon speeded up. No one managed a 'hoop in one' although several came frustratingly close. As usual at the end of play we adjourned to the club house for coffee.

Although we do get annoyed with ourselves when the ball does not go exactly (and in some cases even near) where we want it to go, we play for light exercise, fun and good company. If anyone would like to join us please contact me. We play for gentle exercise, fresh air and fun, on the first and third Thursday mornings of each summer month.

Anne Newson:    phone 01621 858807

### **Discussion Coffee Morning Group**

We met at Marilyn's house on 18<sup>th</sup> August and enjoyed a leisurely two hours discussing a variety of topics including funerals, ancestry and the possibility of scandals in our past.

Marilyn provided our refreshments and also very kindly sent us home with some of her home grown runner beans and plums. The next meeting will be at 11am on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September at my house.

Margaret B

### **Family History Group**

The Family History group does not meet in August – genealogists are usually far too busy sitting in the sun or tending our gardens. However, the nights are slowly drawing in and our thoughts turn once again to family mysteries we have been unable to solve and brickwalls we have been unable to knock down.

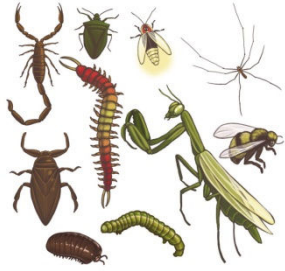
Unfortunately, this group is currently full but I am happy to start another beginner's group if there is enough interest.

We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Plantation Hall, Heybridge. 10.00 – 12.00

Group -Coordinator: Liz Cawdell    07902294741

## French Group

### French Conversation



Having started our meeting as usual by exchanging news of where we had been and what we had done during the previous month, we somehow got on to the subject of creepy crawlies in the garden. This produced the opportunity to learn some new words, including araignée (spider), triton (newt), tipule (daddy long legs), fourmi (ant), serpent (snake) and puce (flea). I'm sure they'll be very useful on our next visit to France!

For those of you who like French cheese, Barbara recommended the following website which describes all the different cheeses produced in France: [www.fromages-aop.com](http://www.fromages-aop.com). To see the English version, click on the Union Jack at the top right of the screen.



***Notre prochaine rencontre sera mercredi le 13 septembre à 10h chez Rosemary***

### French Improvers

Due to the Bank Holiday, there was no meeting in August.

***La prochaine rencontre sera lundi le 25 septembre à 14h00 chez moi.***

Jenny Parker

For further information about either French Group, please phone Jenny Parker 01621 843581

## Gardens Group

**T**he garden at Rosedale in Bures was a wonderful example of what you can do with an ordinary, (if admittedly fairly long) back garden to pack it full of interest. I think I'll give the chickens a miss though.

Tea and cakes, and the weather, were just perfect.



The garden at Rosedale      Pat Yates

Our last visit for this year is on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 2pm to Rayne Hatch Farm, Stisted near Braintree.

Details really are in the Yellow book this time, and if you would like a lift please let me know.

Pat Yates. 01621 892866



## Local History Group

Our visit to Mangapps proved a great success. Several of us had been there before, in its early days when our children were little and there was still the same look about it, quite informal and with the same short length of usable track. Yes, it was a slight disappointment that this was a diesel and not a steam day but our train ride had improved somewhat from the goods wagon that had been used to give quite uncomfortable rides to visitors to the comparative comfort of restored carriages with proper seats. The collection of exhibits has grown considerably and everything is effectively displayed in the carriages of various types that are housed in the museum sheds. Our host, John Jolly, may have aged, but he is still a master at telling the stories of the museum's development and that of all of the exhibits. The museum does sterling work in the restoration of its own stock and also that of other museums. It also loans out stock to other railway concerns. This is a place that is quite definitely keeping alive the history of the railway.



Out for a Ride Jan Brown



Waiting to Go Jan Brown

It seems far too early but autumn is almost upon us and so in September we shall be back at our West Maldon Community Centre base for a talk on 'Zeppelins over Essex'

Please contact Carol for more information. Carol Greenhalgh 07585593028

## Patchwork Group

Our next meeting will be on September 11<sup>th</sup>. New members are welcome; please contact Anne Thorpe 01621 850828

## Petanque Group

August was a good month, good attendances, good games, and great company. We have several new and enthusiastic members who have joined our happy band this season, August 14<sup>th</sup> was our Summer Lunch and Petanque Games day held in Heybridge at Jenny and Graham Parker's house. We all had a great day, the weather was hot, the buffet Lunch was splendid (well done) the games were good too,



Ready for a game Lynne



Jack is Holding! Lynne

The last Monday in August was the 28<sup>th</sup> and of course being Bank Holiday there was no play. Our next game will be September 4<sup>th</sup>.

Dian Bayley 01621 840660

### Photography Group

We did not meet in August and I hope we have been recharging our batteries, honing our creativity and taking plenty of photos. I will illustrate this piece with one of my photos of a small tortoiseshell butterfly taken for our last “wings & wheels” assignment. Although they are very abundant and do not have wheels, I find them extremely colourful and a delight to photograph.



Small Tortoiseshell Peter Thorpe

The assignment subject for our September meeting is an “Event”. There are many interpretations of this subject. With two months to find three photos, I feel confident that we shall have another eclectic collection of great images to view after the summer break.

Due to publication date of this News Sheet you may have missed our meeting on 7<sup>th</sup>. September, but we will meet again on **5<sup>th</sup> October**. If you are interested in photographs or how to use your camera or cameraphone you are welcome to come along and join us. We normally meet in the West Maldon Community Centre on the first Thursday of each month at 2.00pm.

Peter Thorpe 01621 850828

### Reading and Books Group

The Reading and Books Group will be meeting at 2.15 pm on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September at Elizabeth's home in Heybridge Basin to discuss "The Shell Seekers" by Rosamunde Pilcher. If you are interested in joining the group, please email or telephone

Margaret Hurst 01621 850494

### Scrabble Group

The Scrabble group did not meet in August: Elizabeth has volunteered to host the next meeting on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September. Please contact me if you need directions.

New members are always welcome; do get in touch if you would like to join us.

My contact details are on the list of CoGs.

Linda Etherton.

### Technical Computing Group

For information there was not a Technical Computer Group Meeting in August due to various holiday commitments by our members, the next one will be on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

Colin Mason (Cog) 01621 854906 or 07974 343581



### Ten Pin Bowling

**W**E did not meet in August, executive decision made by me, as we tend to be overrun by school children at Madison Heights. Our next meeting will therefore be on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September at the usual time of 1.45 for a 2pm start. Please join us we need more members!

Lynne Morrison 01621 891288

### Ukulele Group UKE3A

**T**hank you, Barbara, for standing in for me and submitting a brief piece for the August newsletter, with a nice photo of us playing for the Heybridge Regatta, taken a few days before my dreaded eye operation. I can now see to read the sheet music once more, and it was great to welcome the gang back to our meetings, which re-started on Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. Even more good news: in my absence two new recruits have shown an interest in joining the group. We look forward to welcoming them to our October meeting.

For more information about Uke3A please call me on 01621 859060. Robin Carpenter.

### Walking Group

Next walk 14<sup>th</sup> September around Burnham Seawall and Country Park.

Please contact the coordinator for more information. Linda Wells. 01621 85741

### Weekenders Group

**O**n Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August thirteen Weekenders met at the Osea View café, a venue which is becoming a favourite meeting place. The view from the upper room, with the tide just coming in, was beautiful and to have sole use of the room meant we could spread out and chatter without disturbing other patrons. Gloria, another new member joined us for coffee.

Dates and details of our next meetings.

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September 10am.** Coffee morning at the Pear Tree Pantry in Ulting.

**On Saturday September 30<sup>th</sup> at 10am** an extra meeting is planned. We hope, weather permitting, to meet at The Chequers car park in Goldhanger, walk through the Churchyard, and via the footpath to the sea wall, then back up Fish Street for lunch at the Chequers.

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 10am.** Coffee morning at The Braxted Bakery, another popular meeting place!

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November 10am.** Coffee morning, venue to be decided.

An advance date for your diary - **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December** a Christmas meal is booked at *The Bell* Woodham Walter at 12.00.

Please contact me if you have a query or if you will need a lift to any meeting.

Please contact me if you have a query

Pat Smith 01621 856569

## EVENTS AND OUTINGS

**Due to insufficient numbers, the repeat trip to the Hindu Temple has been cancelled.**



### **THE HISTORY OF MYSTERY**

**MONDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

**£38.00 (only 5 tickets left) - payment to Social Treasurer asap.**

Enjoy a unique experience at the headquarters of The Magic Circle.

Hear about the fascinating history of mystery, magic and the world famous Magic Circle. Be enthralled by tales of past Masters of Magic during a guided tour of the building which houses priceless treasures, memorabilia and magical posters. Enjoy some entertaining close-up magic presented by a skilled member of The Magic Circle and a unique live magic performance in their fully equipped theatre.



### **The People's Post**

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October      £40 (includes Blue Badge Guide)**

In the morning, discover the story of posting a letter from earliest times to the coming of the GPO. Morning refreshments included. Free time for lunch in Exmouth Market where there's a thriving lunchtime food market (not included). After lunch, visit the brand new Postal Museum and take a ride on the Mail Rail beneath the streets of London.

**FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017**

**BURY ST EDMUNDS CHRISTMAS MARKET**

**£20 per person**

Join us on a wonderful trip to Bury St Edmunds Christmas Fayre, voted the best in the country in 2016. With colourful stalls selling local produce and crafts as well as traders from around the UK and mainland Europe, traditional fairground rides and on-stage entertainment, there will be something for everyone. Visit the Cathedral and climb the tower or visit the Medieval Fayre in Moyse's Hall Museum



## Events, Trips and Tours in 2018:

February	Windsor Castle
March	Chartwell
April	Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Club
May	The Poppy Factory
June	QEII Olympic Park
July	Brighton Pavilion

## On the Notice Board

### U3A Diaries

The diaries for 2018 will be £2.50 (price increase of 50p on last year's) and the cover is 'china blue', according to information recently received. If anyone would like to order one please add your name to the list at the main meeting and pay at the same time. You can also email or telephone me with your order.

Linda Etherton, Secretary

### Essex Association Study Day

Helpers needed at the Essex Association Study Day

Tues 24 Oct at the Plume School, Maldon

Help is required for a variety of tasks – car park marshalling, signing people in, serving refreshments, etc. If you would like to offer to help, please contact

[malcolmcase@talktalk.net](mailto:malcolmcase@talktalk.net) tel: 01245 329435

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

Group Name	Co-ordinator (COG)	Telephone Number & Email
Art (Painting)	Tina Martin	01621 858646 <a href="mailto:martin.christine@sky.com">martin.christine@sky.com</a>
Bird Watching	Maureen Lenoir	01621 869871 <a href="mailto:symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk">symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Cards and Paper Crafts	Lesley Woonton	01621 858135
Coffee Morning	Margaret Brown	01621 854885 <a href="mailto:mbandmeg@btinternet.com">mbandmeg@btinternet.com</a>
Creative Writing	Angela Pleasance	01621 850310 <a href="mailto:angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk">angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Croquet	Anne Newson	01621 858807 <a href="mailto:annenewson@uwclub.net">annenewson@uwclub.net</a>
Family History	Liz Cawdell	07902 294741 <a href="mailto:ecawdell62@gmail.com">ecawdell62@gmail.com</a>
French	Jenny Parker	01621 843581 <a href="mailto:jennyparker14@hotmail.com">jennyparker14@hotmail.com</a>
Gardens	Pat Yates	01621 892866 <a href="mailto:pat.yates@tesco.net">pat.yates@tesco.net</a>
Local History	Carol Greenhalgh	01621 840339 <a href="mailto:carol.georgesmeed@gmail.com">carol.georgesmeed@gmail.com</a>
Patchwork	Anne Thorpe	01621 850828 <a href="mailto:Anne.thorpe@btinternet.com">Anne.thorpe@btinternet.com</a>
Petanque	Dian Bayley	01621 840660 <a href="mailto:dianbayley@aol.com">dianbayley@aol.com</a>
Photography	Peter Thorpe	01621 850828 <a href="mailto:thorpe101@btinternet.com">thorpe101@btinternet.com</a>
Reading & Books	Margaret Hurst	01621 850494 <a href="mailto:mhurst188@talktalk.net">mhurst188@talktalk.net</a>
Scrabble	Linda Etherton	01621 843702 <a href="mailto:ethertonbikes@aol.com">ethertonbikes@aol.com</a>
Technical Computing	Colin Mason	01621 854906 <a href="mailto:colin.mason@yahoo.com">colin.mason@yahoo.com</a>
Ten Pin Bowling	Lynne Morrison	01621 891288 <a href="mailto:lejmorrisson@gmail.com">lejmorrisson@gmail.com</a>
Ukulele	Robin Carpenter	01621 859060 <a href="mailto:robinrcarpenter@yahoo.co.uk">robinrcarpenter@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Walking	Linda Wells	01621 857414 <a href="mailto:wellsbarge@gmail.com">wellsbarge@gmail.com</a>
Weekenders	Pat Smith	01621 856569 <a href="mailto:patcleary98@sky.com">patcleary98@sky.com</a>

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

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
28 Aug	28 Bank Holiday	29	30	31	1 Sep Committee Meeting 10.00  Painting 14.00	2	3 Gardens Stisted 14.00
4 – Sept	4 Petanque 14.00  Cards & paper 14.00	5	6 Weekenders 9.00 a.m. Flatford Mill Ukulele 14.00	7 Croquet 10.00 Photography 14.00	8 Monthly Meeting 14.00	9 Weekenders 10.00 Pear Tree Pantry, Ulting	10
11 Sept	11 Petanque 14.00 Patchwork 14.00	12 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	13 French Conversation 10.00	14 Technical Computing 14.00 Walking 14.00	15 Coffee Morning 11.00  Painting 14.00	16	17
18 – Sept	18 Petanque 14.00	19 Local History 14.00	20 Reading & Books 14.15	21 Croquet 10.00	22 Bird watching 10.00  Painting 14.00	23	24
25 – Sept	25 French Improvers 14.00 Petanque 14.00 Magic Circle	26 Scrabble 14.00	27 Creative Writing 14.30	28 Family History 10.00	29 Painting 14.00 Copy to Editor	30 Weekenders Goldhanger 10.00	1 -Oct
2-Oct	2 Petanque 14.00 Cards & paper 14.00	3	4 Ukulele 14.00	5 Croquet 10.00 Photography 14.00	6 Committee Meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00	7	8
9 – Oct	9 Petanque 14.00 Patchwork 14.00	10 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	11 French Conversation 10.00	12 Technical Computing 14.00 Walking 14.00	13 Monthly Meeting 14.00	14 Weekenders Braxted 10.00	15
16-Oct	16 Petanque 14.00	17 Local History 14.00	18 Reading & Books 14.15	19 Croquet 10.00	20 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00 Peoples Post 09.00	21	22
23-Oct	23 Petanque 14.00 French Improvers 14.00	24 Scrabble 14.00	25 Creative Writing 14.30	26 Family History 10.00	27 Bird watching 10.00  Painting 14.00 Copy to Editor	28	29
30-Oct	30 Petanque 14.00	31	1 Nov Ukulele 14.00	2 Croquet 10.00 Photography 14.00	3 Painting 14.00	4	5