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Registered Charity number 1160360

Next Main Meeting – Plantation Hall

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 2.00 pm

Speaker Dr. Jane Pearson

- *Getting an Education in Essex*  
1700-1900

Next Committee Meeting – Plantation Hall in




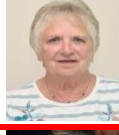




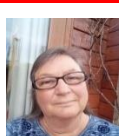


The Claydon Room

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 10.00 am

Main Meeting Refreshments Rota

September – Discussion Coffee Morning  
Group

October – Croquet Group

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## From the Editors

Hello and welcome to the September News Sheet.

Well, we had some rain! Not much, but some. At least we did where we live; others in Maldon said they had not seen any! At least we have escaped the dreaded hosepipe ban so far. Still things are starting to cool off, although hopefully we can still look forward to some pleasant days ahead.

Make the most of any decent weather, get out and about if you can. Soon we will be looking back to the summer days with envy, so make the most of them!

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

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## News from the Committee

### From the Chairman

Although we celebrated 40 years of u3a when we enjoyed a cream tea at the July meeting, the actual month of the celebration is September, so hopefully we will have lots of members, especially group organisers, come along to talk about what made them join the u3a and memories of when their groups started up and how they have evolved. I started a wine appreciation group many years ago which mainly consisted of visiting vineyards and learning about the art of wine making and now I organise the book collection and return for the Reading/Book group. If anyone has a yearning for a new hobby or interest that they would like to learn more about, please let us know as you may not be the only one who is interested in the subject.

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

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### From the Membership Secretary

We have had two new members join recently, so membership has now risen to 116. Attendance at the August main meeting was quite low, but that may have been due to the very hot weather. Please come along if you can; we often have some very interesting speakers.

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

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### From the Speaker Secretary

Our August speaker Amanda Sutherland arrived carrying several interesting bags and boxes. She then slowly and carefully displayed a very colourful and enticing array of decorated hats, fascinators, neckties and jewellery.

Amanda told us her creative journey began when she was a child at school; she sold her first pieces of jewellery, made from a selection of inner soles, to her teachers.

She then completed a four- year course at the London School of Fashion. One of her first jobs was head buyer at the London Opera House. After mastering the workings of various ballets and operas she moved on to working on Jesus Christ Superstar and numerous fringe and theatre productions.

Her next big break came working for 'Angels the Costumiers'. She worked on numerous films, theatre productions and television dramas including Bond films and Eastenders.

Amanda started her own business in 2002 designing and making bridal accessories and fascinators. She now has her own fashion accessory business making unique pieces of jewellery using recycled drinks cans. She also makes hats, turbans and scarves from tights, men's ties and even underwear.

Afterwards her "shop" was open for members to browse the latest collections of Amanda's own label with the opportunity to buy hats, scarves, necklaces, broches and other eco accessories.

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September Dr.Jane Pearson's talk is 'Getting an Education in Essex 1700-1900 (Perhaps our school days weren't as bad after all!)

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October Ray Clark a BBC Essex and Radio Caroline presenter is giving a talk entitled 'Stay tuned....I might say something brilliant at any moment' *Please note this is a different talk than first advertised.*

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November Neil Richardson will be telling us about the work and history of the War Graves Commission.

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December we will be Celebrating Christmas with UK3A Ukulele Band

Hope to see you at our meetings.

Some of Amanda's creative accessories to buy.



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

## From the Events Secretary

My apologies to those of you who were looking forward to a visit to Lauriston Organic Farm and the seal-watching trip from Harwich. Unfortunately, due to very low numbers, neither trip was able to go ahead. Due to rising costs and the aftermath of Covid closures, the days of the 'grand day out' to places like Kensington Palace, The Poppy Factory, The Magic Circle headquarters – even the Shire Horse Centre in Suffolk – appear to be over. I really hope that at some point in the future we can recommence our day trips but, in the meantime, if anybody has any ideas for more local visits/venues, please let me know. Lodge's coaches are still operating and have some lovely day trips in their brochure. A large customer base and having their own coaches means that they can still offer some exciting trips. If anybody would like to 'buddy up' for any of these trips and go as a small u3a group, please let me know. Their website is [www.lodgecoaches.co.uk](http://www.lodgecoaches.co.uk). I am taking a group of 20 people from another social group to which I belong to the Christmas pantomime at the Mercury Theatre in Colchester. This year's offering is 'Beauty and the Beast'. If anybody would be interested in making up a group for an afternoon of hilarity and mirth, please let me know.

Lizzie Cawdell [eventssecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk](mailto:eventssecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk)

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## From the Interest Groups Co-ordinator

I would like to apologise as I have not been to any groups lately, but will get round to you all as soon as I come back from my holiday in Ireland next week.

I have sent the groups a few ideas about new interests to see what their thoughts are, and if they would appeal to our members. One idea was an afternoon tea and scone (or whatever) chat group either in someone's house or at a tearoom. Between 6 or 8 people may be a good number.

Can I also request that when groups have their next meetings they take a photo or two for me, so I can add it to our Interest Group Board Display?

Once the holidays are over and we are back into a proper routine it would be good to have a meeting with Interest Group CoGs, just to chat over ideas and thoughts. I will book the Claydon Room for maybe end of September, please give me a date when you are available and do not have any of your group activities.

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

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## News from around the Groups

### Art

ALL you would-be Friday afternoon painters have a wider than usual choice of September dates to pick from if wondering whether to join our gang.

Normally we meet only twice a month – roughly on first and third Fridays at 2pm in the Claydon Room of the Plantation Hall.

But this month our meetings are on Fridays, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

So even if you don't think you can manage every meeting, why not at least try and make one of them?

All you need is a few watercolour or acrylic paints, or even some simple coloured pencils, maybe a drawing pen or pencil, some paper to work on and something to inspire you – perhaps a family photograph or cuttings from a magazine, or even some flowers from your garden.

Then bingo! You're away!

Don't worry if you mess up at your first try. Nobody is going to judge you, but you will receive plenty of encouragement. That's guaranteed!

*Gill Carpenter*

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### Bird Watching

We don't always meet up in August but this year we had an invitation we could not refuse. Erica very kindly invited us to her home on Mersea Island. It was a beautiful summer's day and we went for a walk along the beach and then back to Erica's for coffee and cakes. Thank you Erica, that plum cake was great.

Whilst sitting in the garden we planned our programme for autumn, winter and spring. Thanks for the help, birders. I will send this out to the group members shortly.

If anyone else would like to join us on our outings do contact me, my details are on the last page.

*Jill McGregor*

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### Croquet

As usual the weather has played a part in our croquet sessions this month, usually in past years it has been because it has rained! However this season it has been because of the heat. Those who have turned up to play have found the lawns so dry and hard (not unlike many of our lawns!) that the balls only need a gentle hit not the usual hard whack; we have lost count of the balls ending up on the next lawn. Our first session this month, six members turned up, we managed to play just two games as the heat got to us all and we were relieved to retire to the club house for a

cool drink! The second session just four of us turned up, we managed to play just two games again, on the second game it took us twenty minutes to get through the first hoop, however we carried on, then eventually we called it a day as we struggled to get through the hoops, we packed up and two of us retired to the club house for a cool drink whilst the other two went home. I think I can say although it was quite frustrating at times we had fun. We play on the second and fourth Wednesday afternoon of each summer month at The Forrester Park Golf Club, we play for gentle exercise, good company and fun. If you would like to join us please get in touch with me.

*Anne Newson*

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### **Discussion Coffee Morning Group**

This month we met on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August at Anne Newson's house in Maldon.

There was one extra at the coffee group this time, Paddington, a beautiful white Cocker Spaniel who belongs to Anne's daughter and was visiting for the day. He was perfectly behaved and enjoyed the fuss everyone made of him.

We chatted about lots of things including holidays both past and present.

Inevitably we got on to the subject of the maddening road closures and diversions around our areas usually leading to increased mileage for drivers, not welcome time wise and especially not with the high cost of fuel.

We are beginning to take the good weather for granted, wow, sun in summer time.

Unfortunately our gardens etc are suffering a bit, and can we remember to put water out for the birds please?

As usual we found time in between to eat and drink! Anne produced some delicious snacks including smoked salmon on crackers and/or sweet biscuits, enjoyed with our tea or coffee.

The next meeting will be at my house on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September at the usual time of 11 am.

Happy days to all.

*Margaret Brown*

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### **Eat The World**

We are a small group who enjoy eating out, especially foods from around the world. We are lucky in the Maldon area to have restaurants serving dishes from Brazil, Turkey, China, India and Italy – not forgetting good old UK fish 'n chips.

We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, usually at 12.30 pm and take it in turns to choose and organise the venue. This way, the workload (such as it is!!!) is spread between our group.

Our latest visit was to one of our favourite eateries – Café Brazil in Maldon High Street.



If you would like to join us, we have a few spaces in the group.

*Liz Cawdell*

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## **Needlecraft**

We had to change the date for our meeting this month from a Tuesday to a Thursday which meant that only four of us managed to meet at Angela's house. One member was cross stitching a small motif for a birthday card, one started to alter the neck of a top but ended up trying to untangle a ball of decorative threads, another member was knitting a hat for winter and I was trying to crochet another storage bag. However I spent more time unravelling the ball of wool to find the end as I was crocheting with two strands of wool!! We also managed to talk non-stop for over 2 hours. We have lost two members from our little group this year and we are always happy to welcome new members. If you would like to join we are a friendly lot so please get in touch with me or find me at the next monthly meeting for a chat. Our next meeting is back to normal on 20<sup>th</sup> September at Linda's house.

*Hilary Furniaux*

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## **Patchwork**

The group spent a very enjoyable afternoon working on a variety of projects. It's always fun to see what others are working on. It was suggested that the group collectively make another patchwork quilt, which could be donated to a local charity and used as a raffle prize. This will be further discussed at our next meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> September.

Anne very kindly brought along a collection of Patchwork & Quilting magazines to share amongst the group. Lots of inspiration for future projects!



*Jackie Voyez*

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## **Petanque**

The Petanque Group is still going strong and it is so nice that we seem to be playing with a full house lately. Weather has been quite warm at the prom the last couple of weeks, so we are drinking plenty and only playing a couple of games, which is enough in the heat.

We do have a lot of fun, and while we do all like to win, we just laugh about it if anyone gets a bit upset or takes things too seriously!

If anyone would like to join us, then please come along to the Maldon prom at 10 am Monday morning.

*Moira Penhallow*

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## Photography Group

The group did not hold a meeting in August. Our next meeting is by Zoom on 1<sup>st</sup> September. The assignment subject being "Summer".

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*

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## Reading & Books

In August we read "The secret Life of Bees" and for September we are delving into the unusually titled book "The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend" by Katarina Bivald. The main character is a young Swedish woman called Sara, who has built up a friendship with an elderly lady in a small town in Iowa through correspondence over a mutual love of books. Sarah agrees to visit Amy in the town of Broken Wheel but finds on her arrival that Amy has died, but that she is welcomed to this sad little town by the townsfolk and decided that a bookshop is needed. I have a spare copy if anyone would like to read it. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September at Elizabeth Eastwood's house at 2.00 pm. New members welcome to join our little group

*Jackie Jones*

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## Scrabble

The Scrabble group were welcomed to Angela's house both by our host and Buddy the greyhound, and it was good to have four to play. One of our number managed to play two seven letter words and thus beat the rest of us hollow, but although we concentrate on the game there's always time for a good chat in the refreshment break (thank you Angela). We learnt a couple of new words and looked up the meanings of some obscure words, all in the spirit of the u3a.

Just for fun, here is a set of 7 tiles you might draw, and imagining you are the first to play, what word would you put down? The word has to pass through the pink square and you want to maximise your score which will then be doubled. You may not be able to use all the tiles and I found two possible words, one scoring higher than the other.

E	V	O	P	A	C	A
1	4	1	3	1	3	1

		2L				*				2L		
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The Scrabble meetings take place at a member's house and are on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 2.00 pm. The next meeting is on the 27<sup>th</sup> September at Angela's. If you are interested in joining us please contact me: details are in the list of groups towards the end of the news sheet.

*Linda Etherton*

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### **Ten Pin Bowling**

Just to confirm that after the summer/school holiday break we are now booked in to play Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September and 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

Thanks to Graham for helping out during my absence.

Anyone interested in joining us please contact me, my details are on the last page.

*Peter Harvey*

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### **Walking**

As August is a complicated month for many there is never a scheduled walk. The next walk will be on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September around The Essex Wildlife Trust site at Hanningfield Reservoir. Emails will go out with the full details to all walkers registered with the group about 2 weeks beforehand.

My contact details are shown on the last page should you wish you join us.

*Linda Wells*

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### **Weekenders**

In August the Weekenders had an enjoyable meeting at the Lock Cafe in Heybridge Basin. It was the first time some had been to the Daisy Meadow car park since the introduction of Pay & Display: my tip would be to make sure you remember your car registration. We sorted out a few more venues for our meetings and several put their names down for the next performance by the Witham Amateur Operatic Society, called The Flames of Injustice that runs from 24<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> October. Their productions are very professional; why not give them a try? You can book up on [www.waos.org](http://www.waos.org).

We will be going to the Braxted Bakery for our next meeting at 10.00 am on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September. Future venues are expected to be Peartree Pantry and White Elms Nursery, dates to be confirmed later.

*Linda Etherton*

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## Other News

### The Association of Essex U3As

At the recent AGM no-one came forward to fill the roles of chairman or treasurer. As a quorum was not reached at the meeting the retiring chair called another meeting, held on Zoom, and those present took the sad decision to dissolve the Association. The remaining funds will be sent to the Third Age Trust as a donation.

Many of our members will remember our u3a's involvement in organising the Study Days held at the Plume School and will have joined in the wide variety of activities. Our former Chair, Joyce Woodham, served on the committee of the Association as chairman and early on had been very involved in organising the Study Days.

Other workshops, quizzes and training sessions were held over the years with visits from the Chief Executive of the Third Age Trust and East of England Trustee. However gradually it seemed to lose impetus, interest waned and over the last two years this was exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

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Here are two dates for your diary, thanks go to Peter Radford our Vice-Chair for highlighting them.

Firstly Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September, which is Maldon Regatta day. The prom should be busy, so Maldon u3a are arranging a stall to promote our local cluster group. It would be good if some Heybridge u3a members could stop by to say hello and maybe even do some PR work to encourage people to join. So if you can spare a little time, if only an hour, it can only help the area's membership.

The second date is Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Maldon and Chelmsford councils are running and organising a Senior Safety and Silver Sunday Celebration (even though the 3<sup>rd</sup> is a Monday) at Maldon & Tiptree FC's football ground, Maldon Stadium, at Park Drive. Aimed at more our age groups a multitude of subjects are covered on our well-being, health, safety etc. Those who went last year found it well worthwhile. It's a free ticketed event, which includes a free cold lunch and free refreshments. To apply for tickets and obtain further information please visit [Senior Safety and Silver Sunday Celebration | Silver Sunday](https://silversunday.org.uk/event/senior-safety-and-silver-sunday-celebration/) (silversunday.org.uk/event/senior-safety-and-silver-sunday-celebration/)

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A reminder that there is an archaeology training day for members on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September. This is being organised by Burnham-on-Crouch u3a, at the Old St. Barnabas Church, Mayland Hill, Althorne. Places are limited, and must be pre-booked by emailing [sjrspiers@gmail.com](mailto:sjrspiers@gmail.com). A £10 donation on the day is suggested. Full details were attached to the August News Sheet. Also the East of England u3a have been in touch about the possibility of a special archaeology day on and

around Hadrian's Wall, in the spring of next year. If you would like to register your interest in attending please contact [ann.keating@u3a.org.uk](mailto:ann.keating@u3a.org.uk) or [barbara.cordina@u3a.org.uk](mailto:barbara.cordina@u3a.org.uk)

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On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October (World Mental Health Day) Mid and North East Essex Mind are organising a Firewalk at Writtle College between 6 pm and 9 pm. Now, this may not be something we would necessarily encourage u3a members to take part in, however you may have younger family members or friends who would like to have a go. It is for a worthy cause; Mind support people experiencing mental health problems. Details are on the attachment to this News Sheet.

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Don't forget there is a Car Boot Sale at Morris Farm, Woodham Road, Stow Maries on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 9.30. Proceeds are going to St Mary and St Margaret Church and The Smythe Hall, Stow Maries.

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A copy of the Heybridge u3a diary is attached. This gives details of which events are being held, where and when. If you are interesting in joining any group do not hesitate to contact the relevant CoG. Details are on the last page of this News Sheet. You will be made very welcome!

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Remember that Heybridge u3a are part of a "Cluster Group". This is a group of eight local u3a organisations, Maldon, Limebrook, Blackwater, Burnham, Dengie, Crouch Valley and South Woodham Ferrers, plus ourselves. Members of these u3a groups can join in the activities of the others, subject to space availability. Details can be found at:

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

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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).

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***Covid 19 Reminder***

- *Consider wearing a face covering indoors in crowded, enclosed spaces*
- *Let fresh air in, if meeting indoors*
- *Get tested if you have Covid 19 symptoms and stay home if positive*
- *Be prepared for any venues to be well ventilated, and wear warm clothing*