

Heybridge u3a

September 2023 News Sheet

Your Committee

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

Archive

www.heybridgeu3a.org.uk/archive/news.html

Registered Charity number 1160360

Next Main Meeting – Plantation Hall

Friday 8th September at 2.00 pm

Speaker – Helen Beard

- “Pets as Therapy”

Next Committee Meeting – Plantation Hall

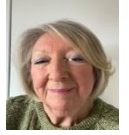


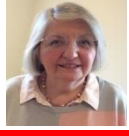



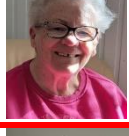
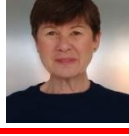

In the Claydon Room

Friday 6th October at 10.00 am

Main Meeting Refreshments Rota

September – Reading & Books

October – Scrabble

Chair	Jackie Jones	
	chairman@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	01621 817117	
Vice Chair	Hilary Furniaux	
	vicechairman@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	07411 450634	
Secretary	Marilyn Corbett	
	secretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	01621 817518	
Treasurer	Angela Pleasance	
	treasurer@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	01621 850310	
Membership Secretary	Elizabeth Harvey	
	membershipsecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
Publicity Officer	Linda Etherton	
	publicity@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	01621 843702	
Groups Co-ordinator	Moira Penhallow	
	groupsco-ordinator@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	07984 357804	
Speaker Secretary	Lesley Woonton	
	speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	01621 858135	
News Sheet Editor (Joint)	Lorraine Jeapes	
	editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	01621 890128	
News Sheet Editor (Joint)	Brian Jeapes	
	editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	

From the Editors

Hello and welcome to the September News Sheet.

Some things in life are mind-boggling and seemingly impossible to comprehend. A recent article on the BBC News website told of an underground storage facility called Onkalo being built in Finland to house nuclear waste. Disposal will start in the next few years, and once the facility is full – in 100-120 years – the site will be sealed and left undisturbed for 100,000 years! So that means it will be “opened” in the year 102,143 (hope that is right...)! Presumably the site will be maintained, which gives a new meaning to the phrase “job for life”. Or maybe it will just be locked up and left, in which case they need to remember where they put the key. To put things in perspective, the Romans left Britain roughly 1,600 years ago, and the pyramids were built around 4,500 years ago. Who knows what the world will be like when the door to Onkalo is eventually opened. Mind-boggling, don't you agree?

Lorraine & Brian editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

**** Special Note ****

Due to the on-going construction work at Plantation Hall, car parking is limited. If you are coming to the Main Meeting, please car share where possible. Also please note that the entrance to the hall is currently via the fire doors opposite the childrens' play area.

News Sheet Deadline

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

News from the Committee

From the Chairman

Despite the fact that some of us have not yet enjoyed a summer holiday, we are heading towards autumn and that means that our winter programme for the monthly meetings is well underway. This year we are planning a December meeting that will be slightly different in that it will be a combined effort to look back at Christmas decades ago in the 50's 60's and 70's. As a volunteer based group Heybridge u3a members are asked to search out any photos and possibly gifts you received at Christmas in years gone by. There will be a quiz and hopefully lots of laughter at the fashions we wore in our youth. White boots and platform shoes can be freely worn and hula hoops are welcome. More information will be available next month.

Jackie Jones chairman@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Speaker Secretary

In August our speaker was Lee Jiggins, who is a First Responder. I have to say that I thought he was brilliant, and I hope many people took comfort from being shown how a Defibrillator worked – I hadn't got a clue before Lee explained all!

We have speakers booked through to January 2024 so please come along and listen to what they have to say.



First Aid talk



First Responder Lee
with Linda

Lesley Woonton speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Interest Groups Co-ordinator

I am sitting here writing my report and it is quite sunny at the moment, although I am thinking that's another month gone and we will soon be in September.

I hope you have had a holiday, and wonderful if you have, because soon we will be talking about Christmas. Can you believe it, we are already discussing this at our committee meeting as we have to prepare in advance.

I've been trying to get around all of the groups and last month I managed to get to croquet as it was on my "to do" list. I even ended up playing; and thanks to Graham for having the patience to show me how to play, and to Chris for playing with me. Great fun. I am sorry I didn't get to Bird Watching, but I promise I will soon.

We need some ideas to attract new members; it seems numbers have fallen since Covid and maybe due to other reasons. Two new groups, Board Games and the Theatre & Cinema Group have done well but any other idea would be welcome. If you would like to come along to a committee meeting to see how things operate and discuss what is happening in your u3a you will be made welcome. In March we will be looking for volunteers to join the committee so why not come along to see what goes on?

Many thanks as always.

Moira Penhallow groupsco-ordinator@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

News from around the Groups

Board Games

It seems so long ago that our group met at Angela's house at the beginning of August! If my memory serves me correctly everyone attended and we split into three groups. We played Mexican Trains, Rummikub and Upwords! Next month we are meeting at Hazel's in Tiptree but we are also looking into hiring a room in future as we are outgrowing even those homes able to accommodate up to 10 people. Please contact Jean or Hilary if you are interested in joining us.

Hilary Furniaux and Jean Rogers

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Cards & Paper Craft

We spent a puzzling two hours trying to work out how to do "tea bag folding", the name given to folding little squares of decorative paper in a specific pattern, so we could make a Christmas Tree for Christmas cards. It was quick tricky but we managed to make some in the end.

We then enjoyed a lovely cuppa.....

Lesley Woonton

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Croquet

August has been a quiet month with several members being involved with holidays, so attendance has been low, however this has not stopped us enjoying and getting used to the flat lawns. We are now becoming more tactical in playing, some more so than others, it looks so tempting to always aim for the hoop, not always the best move. The best two for tactics are Chris and Graham. On our second session we had a surprise visit from Moira (Groups Co-ordinator) who had come to see us in action, however she ended up playing and seemed to enjoy herself; we may have a new member to our group.

We play on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons of every summer month at Hatfield Peverel Bowling Club. We play for gentle exercise, good company and fun. If anyone is interested in joining us please contact me.



Anne Newson

Discussion Coffee Morning

We met on Friday 18th August at my house in Heybridge having changed dates with Anne who was unable to join us on that day. We had a pleasant morning, discussing as usual various topics including holidays in the past.

The next meeting will be on Friday 15th September at Anne's house in Maldon.

Margaret Brown

Needlecraft

A small group of us met at Pam's this month in Maldon as some members were otherwise engaged. We had a lovely afternoon chatting whilst we knitted, cross stitched and crocheted. Hopefully we will have a full group in September. Pam always welcomes us into her home and looks after us so well. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 19th September, venue to be decided. Please let me know if you would like to join us.

Hilary Furniaux

Patchwork

The group spent a very enjoyable afternoon sewing and chatting. It was good to see what members are working on and to see the finished project after many weeks in the making. We enjoyed seeing Jane's beautiful quilt inspired by the 'hearts' theme of our group's charity quilt.

The group will meet again on Monday 11th September.

Jackie Voyez

Petanque

Well, it seems we will be into September for our next Game of Petanque. I really cannot believe we will soon be into the ninth month of the year, and the six weeks holidays for the children (our grandchildren...) for some of us are nearly over and they will be going back to school.

We have had a wonderful summer, “jokingly” but we have still played as long as it has not rained too heavily. We have not done too bad so far this year, as we have had our first Garden Party for a few years, and celebrated our first 90th Birthday. We also have new grandparents, Lorraine and Brian Jeapes have a beautiful grandson. So congratulations to them.

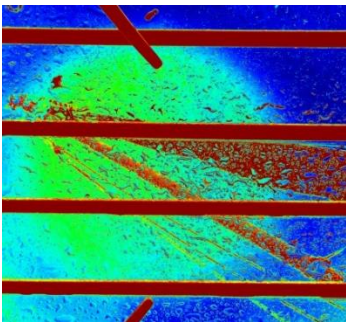
This is what I like about our group, we enjoy all the fun we have playing plus celebrating special occasions!

Moira Penhallow

Photography Group

Our August meeting was held on Thursday 3rd August via Zoom.

Six members were in attendance, with apologies from three members who were unable to attend. We again had 30 photos covering a wide range of subjects to view and discuss all taken during the previous month. The subject being "Summer".



Skylight by Carol Greenhallow Fun Fair by Ken Russell

The next meeting will be held on 7th September 2023 meeting at 2.00 pm by Zoom.

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

Norman Grove

Reading & Books

Our August title is “The Girl You Left Behind” by Jojo Moyes. This is the second book by this popular author who never fails to surprise us with something unique in all her stories. Many of her books are based on actual events in history but peppered with fictional characters whose lifelike personalities bring the pages alive for the reader.

Our meeting in September will be in Tiptree, on Wednesday 20th September at 2.00 pm. New members always welcome, contact Jackie for details.

Jackie Jones

Scrabble

The August meeting was kindly hosted by Elizabeth at short notice, due to external decoration in progress at Angela's. Once gathered the four who played managed to channel their inner wordsmiths and all played well, with accompanying drinks and lively conversation in the break. It wouldn't be u3a if we didn't have that, would it?

Next time we expect to be back at Angela's, on the 26th September at 2.00 pm. If you would like to join us please contact Linda Etherton, details in the list of groups

Linda Etherton

Ten Pin Bowling

After our summer lay-off, back to bowling next week. Lanes booked for Thursdays 7th and 21st September, and 5th October. In view of my upcoming op I certainly won't be available for the 7th September so I will endeavour to pass paperwork etc to a willing person? Hope you all enjoyed the summer break.

Peter Harvey

Theatre & Cinema Group

Since the Theatre Group started in March it has grown to quite a number now.

We have seen a couple of shows that have worked out quite well. We normally meet in the little room after the main meeting while we are having tea, and this has been working out fine, although seems that Plantation Hall is being reconfigured and the little room is not going to be available soon. We will have to sort something at the next meeting.

The procedure for booking shows for the Theatre group is quite simple; normally everyone seems to pick something we all like and a block booking is made. Everyone pays by cheque or bank transfer into my bank account then the theatre gets paid.

I would like to say that if any members would like to join us then please do so, however remember the group is for local theatre only.

The only reason we hold the group in the little room is because there are only a few of us and we do not like to talk over anyone else.

We do not have a CoG for this group, we sort everything out between us, which seems to work fine!

Moir Penhallow

Walking

The Walking Group have had quite a disrupted year. Thanks to Carol and Philippa for leading walks this year. Our next walk will be on Thursday 14th September at 2.00 pm starting from Forresters Golf Club - led by a visitor who hopefully will be joining our u3a. More information will

be emailed to all members soon. Weather permitting we should be walking during October and November as well.

Linda Wells

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Weekenders

Oliver's Nursery found us a cosy corner for the August get-together, kindly arranged by Marilyn. It was good to see Pat Smith back and always good to have time for a cuppa and a catch-up. Next month we will be at Perrywood's (with retail therapy and plants available too, what's not to like!) and hope to see a good number there, so please let me know if you haven't yet put your name down.

The next production of the Witham Amateur Operatic Society is 'Crazy For You', at the Public Hall in Witham in October. This show has plenty of Gershwin musical numbers in it and will no doubt get the feet tapping. If any Weekenders want to join us please contact Marilyn or me asap as booking early gets good seats. Look WAOS up on Google to book yourself.

My contact details are on the list of groups.

Linda Etherton

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For your info....

At the Main Meeting on 8th September we will be introducing our Market Place, which is an opportunity for members to donate items others may want such as unwanted gifts, secondhand books (in good condition) or plants. These will be "sold" in exchange for a donation to Heybridge u3a funds. Please note, however, that we cannot accept electrical goods. Have a look around and see if there is anything you would like to bring along!

On Sunday 17th September there is a Car Boot Sale being held at Woodham Road, Morris Farm, Stow Maries. Gates open for sellers at 8.30 am.

All proceeds are going to the upkeep of Stow Maries' Church of St Mary and St Margaret and its neighbouring, Smythe Hall. Please see attached poster for full details.

You are invited to a u3a Zoom presentation on Thursday 7th September 2023 from 10.00 am addressing the current climate crisis.

This is an opportunity for us to learn more about climate change which is affecting us all. It will be followed by a discussion when all are free to participate.

Please click on the link below to register for this event. The u3a Zoom link will be sent nearer the date to all those who have registered.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSemCUY-MMhHFOztV3vm0F22bZ-ElvIHP6ZII4sdxXc4XpOGvg/viewform?usp=pp_url

Maldon u3a Aviation Group are planning a group visit to Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome on Friday the 29th September. If you would like to join them, you are more than welcome. They plan to meet in the SMGWA car park at 10.30 am, have coffee/tea in the Airmen's Mess & join the 11.30 am guided tour - this usually takes 60mins or so - then have a look around the site before going back to the Mess for lunch. The entry fee is £7 per person (concession rate).

We have been advised of an event being hosted by Bata Heritage Centre, East Tilbury, which includes a guided walk, talk and interactive session looking at artefacts and historic photographs relating to the old Bata shoe factory.

It is being held at East Tilbury on Friday, 6th October 2023 10.00 am -12.00 pm. Joining instructions will be provided on booking via arch.events@essex.gov.uk or phone 03330134213.

This event has a maximum capacity of 20 so please book your place via the above email address. Please see the attached poster for more details.

Looking ahead to 2024, a u3a festival is being held at the University of York between 17th and 19th July. More information can be found on the u3a website. To register interest or make enquiries email festival@u3a.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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