



Heybridge U3A

News Sheet Number 8

October 2009

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

From the Chairman

As most of you will know I had a few days in hospital last month, and missed the meeting, but I certainly felt cocooned in the friendship of all my U3A friends. Hospital transport, visits, cards and gifts from so many of you, together with flowers at home, more visits and lots of phone calls have all been so appreciated. I walk into my sitting room, and am surrounded on all sides with cards, which I am loath to take down. Thank you all so much.

Although unable to contact Lois Wilmot, I hear that she is making slow progress after breaking her hip, and is still staying with her family. It will be good to have her back with us again sometime soon.

Our membership is holding steady now, and I expect this will be the trend for the rest of the year. We have one more new group to add to our growing list, so it seems all is well. I went down to the Promenade Park to watch the Petanque group in action on Monday. It was a lovely sunny afternoon, and six members were having such a happy time, and I enjoyed watching, and picking up the rules. I think this will be very popular again in the Spring, although maybe a few hardy folks will venture out during the winter.

From the Editor

I have been away visiting the family both in North Wales and in the West Country and am struggling to finish editing this News Sheet on time. Both sets of relations, during our stay, were complaining about the amount of rain they had had prior to our visit. Now, since our visit, they have not had any either.

I hope that the lack of rain and the predicted drop in the outside temperature do not dull your enjoyment that the Heybridge U3A brings and that this, and future News Sheets, enable you all to plan your various activities more efficiently.

Most will know the publication procedure but just a reminder. Copy should be with me by the last Friday of the month preceding the monthly meeting.

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

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

Heybridge U3A Meetings

The date of next meeting is Friday 9th October starting at the normal time of 14.00 in the Plantation Hall, Heybridge.

The speaker at the October monthly meeting will be Dr. Eraut who will give a talk "Terracotta Warriors".

On 13th November Julia Dowling will give a talk on "SWANS: (Sometimes We All Need Support)". The December meeting we have a talk entitled "Paragon or Prude in the Police Force".

U3A News

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

From the Group Co-ordinator

The Books and Reading Group has got off to a good start with their first meeting. Anne Lees as the COG organised a pile of books from the library and seven other members to participate. We wish them happy reading together for many years to come.

Tony Parkins has agreed to be the COG of a Country Dancing Group. He has the music and the knowledge of group dances from many countries. All he wants are members to come and dance. If you are interested contact Tony at the next meeting or telephone him on 01621 840163

Brenda Dewar (our new Secretary) has agreed to start the Marine and Coastal group. There are quite

a few names on the list, please support Brenda and get this group started.

We need a member or a group of members to act as the CoG for the Theatre group. This is an important activity for our U3A if you want to visit theatres with friends, as a group, someone must act as a catalyst and get it going again.

Many members have previously expressed an interest in topics not yet covered by existing groups such as: Music; Photography; Bridge etc. There is someone among those members who can act as a COG – please talk it over with me and we can get another group started.

I would like to share with you the second principle of the U3A – “The Self-Help Learning Principle”. All members are equal with the distinction of teacher and student shelved and the emphasis on sheer enjoyment.

Group Names, Co-ordinator, Contact Telephone

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

New Group Co-ordinators

Can anyone interested in starting a group and are willing to be the co-ordinator (COG) please contact Peter Thorpe on 01621 850828 or speak to him at the monthly meeting.

Membership Secretary

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

From the Treasurer

There is nothing to report this month.

Secretary

There is nothing to report this month.

GROUP REPORTS

Art (Painting) Group

The Art Group is now very well established and we get an attendance of approximately 10 members on a regular basis. We are a mixed ability group with the more advanced members helping the beginners. However, it is hoped that during early 2010 we will be able to get a tutor for the occasional session and this will assist us all to improve our techniques.

We recently had a “Still Life” display of fruit as our task for the Friday afternoon session and one of the results is displayed below.



Bird Watching

We have not had a group meeting since July, it was thought we could make our October meeting a day out at Minsmere. I would like to know if you are interested so that I can sort out more information. October 23rd is the date with a £5 entrance fee or £3 concessions (that is most of us!!). They have a tearoom serving hot and cold food or we could

take our own..... We can double up with cars as its quite a journey. Please let me know if you are interested, it should be a great day out. Hope you can make it. Contact me on 01621 869871 or email symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk.

Book Group

All seven of us enjoyed the first meeting of the book group as we sorted out how we would organise and choose books for us to read. This was undertaken with the help of the local library who will supply the books for us on a monthly basis. We now have our first book and look forward to discussing it at the next meeting.

The next Book Group Meeting takes place on Wednesday October 21st at the home of Ann Thorpe. The group will meet on the third Wednesday of every month at 14.30. Anybody wishing to join us is very welcome.

Please contact Ann Lees (COG) 01245225153 for further information.

Coffee Morning

At the last coffee morning we were able to collect £4 for our charity. Its a relaxed pleasant hour or so to just chat and discuss various topics of interest and also to swap information, its certainly been useful to me as a very new resident to the area and to Essex. Our next coffee morning will be at Maureen Baldwins house on 16 October at 11.00. Details will be available at the next meeting or please feel free to phone me for details. (Margaret Brown on 01621 854885)

Computer Group

On Wednesday 23rd September, at Pat Yates house, we held another interesting and informative meeting of the Computer Group. Many thanks Pat, for the excellent refreshments.

Ian thanked everyone for attending and taking part in the survey regarding the proposed move to Plantation Hall. As a result, it would appear that the Thursday afternoon slot is preferable to most people and it was agreed that in we would meet on the third Thursday in each month 13.00 to 15.00. This time and date has now been confirmed. The cost per person for the next three months will be £6 (what a bargain) payable in advance. All members of the group will be asked to bring their laptops if they have one. It was suggested that a projector would be ideal but could be rather expensive. However, it was considered that the purchase of a projector, which could be used by several groups, would need to be investigated and a case made for

its purchase. Many thanks to Beryl for all her efforts on our behalf in securing our new permanent venue.

We then moved on to discuss spreadsheets and leave Internet problems for another time when we are in our new venue and where an internet connection is available. Ian demonstrated the initial concepts and uses of spreadsheets.

Maureen has investigated how some other U3A groups operate and will be going to one of the Maldon meetings with Ian. She has also contacted the Brentwood U3A group and will report back at our next meeting.

Just to confirm our next meeting will start at 13.00 on Thursday 15th October at the Plantation Hall where we will also be able to make our own tea or coffee.

Coastal and Marine Group

We had a small, but enthusiastic group at our meeting at the Blue Boar. We have a growing list of ideas and are keen to get things underway. Our next meeting will be on Friday 9th October, prior to our meeting at Plantation Hall. We will meet at the Daisy Field Car Park in Heybridge, just by the canal, at 12.00 to catch up on ideas over a coffee/lunch.

Gardening Group

Our last visit for this year was to Ulting Wick at Langford, and was again very enjoyable.



The lady owner spent precious gardening time in showing us around, which was very kind of her as she had an Open Garden day coming up very soon afterwards. The garden was amazing, and we are hoping to go back next April to see the thousands of tulips, which are yet to be planted. I wrote to thank her afterwards and received a reply, which said we were the best group she had had all year!

Our last meeting will be a plant swap at Madeleine and Martyn's house, 31 Seagers, Great Totham, on

Monday 5th October at 14.30. Please bring any plants that you can bear to give away.

Local History Group (LHG)

Robin Carpenter gave us an extremely interesting talk at our September meeting. We had a fascinating insight into the utopian villages in Essex. These included the Crittalls garden village at Silver End and others at Braintree, Frinton and east Tilbury, all built before the first half of the twentieth century and large parts remaining.

David Hughes is coming to speak at our 20th October meeting and Michael Emmett will be speaking at our November meeting. Please contact Carol Greenhalgh [01621 2840339 or email george.smeed@virgin.net] if you wish to come.

Luncheon Group

A very enjoyable lunch was attended by 13 people at The Secret Garden. By the time you read this News Sheet we will have been to The Shed at Mersea on 1st October. We cannot book so ten people are willing to queue up and wait for a table. Two of the men have volunteered to bring the wine and the bread rolls, so a treat for the ladies, I think.

The next two dates are Tuesday 13th October (avoiding the Local History) and Friday 30th October. No venues booked so far but I am working on that.

Petanque Group

The Group for Petanque on the 'Prom' is going well with our Instructor Dave Bird giving us the information on the rules. We have had 13 people showing an interest and 8 people turning up for a game on Monday afternoons. After the 19th October we can review the occasional continuation for November but it may be too cold. It seems to catch the wind above the auditorium and we kept going for one and a half hours last Monday. We had two new people this week so will report at the next meeting how things are going.

Scrabble

Only three players enjoyed the September scrabble afternoon, which I had every intention of going to, but then had to attend a funeral, so maybe next time!

The next two meetings are as detailed:

- Wednesday 28th October at 14.00 - Venue Beryl Claydon's home. Phone 852082
- Wednesday 25th November at 14.00 - Jan Ollie's home. Phone 815223. (Jan is a new

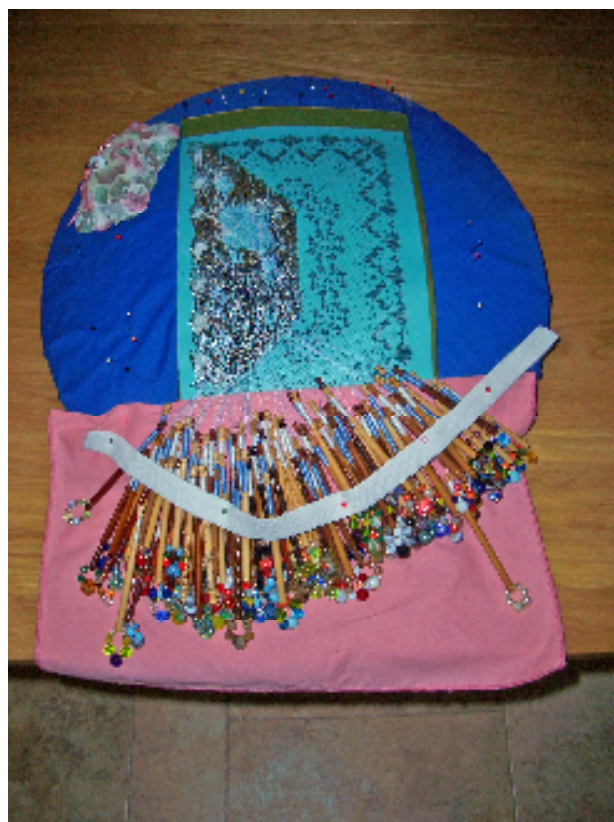
member and lives almost opposite Pam Archer in Tiptree)

Please telephone the Hostess before the meeting for directions.

Threads and Fabrics

Cynthia brought along her lace making cushion and bobbins to our September Meeting. She showed us how to set-up a piece of lacework and some exquisite pieces that she has made.

We are a small friendly group who like to share our different stitching and knitting abilities. There is plenty of chat and of course tea and biscuits. If you would like to join us, please contact either Pat on 01621 891184 or Anne on 01621 850828.



Our next meeting will be Tuesday 6th October at 14.00 when we will be learning how to make Christmas Tree Decorations. The November meeting will be on Tuesday 3rd at 14.00.

Walking

Our September outing took place on September 10th, a beautiful sunny afternoon for the scenic walk around Woodham Walter.

We met by the Bell Inn and followed the public footpath around the golf course and through Woodham Walter Common. This entailed a quite long uphill stretch, well worth the effort for the beautiful, early autumn woodland landscape. Panoramic views across the Chelmer Valley

were around us as we looped across fields and back into Woodham Walter village. The only downside-the pub was closed as we arrived back at our starting point. This is happening too often!

The October walk is in the same area - Danbury Walk 1, Thrift Wood (from the ECC Danbury Walks leaflets.) Meet at the Danbury Social Centre car park, Little Baddow Road (opposite Runsell Lane) 14:00 Thursday October 8th.

Weekender Group

Some of the group attended really interesting events at the Heritage Weekend, with tours of Beeleigh Abbey and Braxted Park which included rather unexpectedly, canapes and champagne.

Those members who went to Maldon Regatta seemed to enjoy themselves. The weather was good, as was the company and plenty to do.

The group's monthly coffee meetings are growing each month. Our latest was at The Lock Café, Heybridge Basin where we once again enjoyed spectacular weather.

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

For your Diary:

- 10th October 20.00. - Quiz Night, Ship & Anchor, Maldon.
- 24th October 11.00. - Coffee Meeting, Wilkin & Sons; Jam Factory, Tiptree.
- 25th October 12.30. - Lunch, Omars Indian Restaurant, Hatfield Peverel.
- 21st November 11.00. - Coffee Meeting, Peartree Pantry, Ulting.

Letters to the Editor

None this month.

Members HELP

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

NEWS FROM OTHER U3A's

Blackwater U3A are holding a Barn Dance on Friday 30th October between 20.00 and 23.00 at the West Maldon Community Centre. Supper is included in ticket £10 price. Dancing to Metric Foot Band.

Contact Barbara Brand on 01621 853218

Message from Maldon U3A Gardening Group:-

There is a meeting at Mundon Village Hall on Wednesday, 4th November at 14.30, for a presentation of the Maldon Group visit to Worcester gardens earlier this year. Also a talk on 'Colour for all Seasons'. Everyone is welcome – no need to phone, just turn up.

We have been asked if anyone from Heybridge U3A would like to join Blackwater U3A in a joint trip to London to see Sister Act on the 24th February. If you are interested please contact Sheila Rowell by email rowsellsheila@hotmail.co.uk or speak to Peter Thorpe at the monthly meeting.

Disclaimer

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

Program of Meetings and Visits

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
5 th October	5 Petangue 14.30 Gardening Plant Swap Last Meeting this year. 14.30	6 Threads and Fabrics 14.00	7	8 Walking 14.00	9 Coastal & Marine 12.00 Monthly Meeting 14.00	10 Week - ender Quiz Night 20.00	11
12 th October	12	13 Luncheon Group	14	15 Computer 13.00	16 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00	17	18
19 th October	19 Maybe last Petangbeue this year 14.30	20 Local History 14.00	21 Book Group 14.30	22	23 Bird Watching 10.00 Painting 14.00	24 Week - ender Coffee at Wilkin & Son Tiptree 11.00	25 Week- ender Lunch 12.30
26 th October	26	27	28 Scrabble 14.00	29	30 Luncheon Group Painting 14.00 Submit News Sheet text	31	1
2 nd November	2	3 Threads and Fabrics 14.00	4	5	6 Painting 14.00	7	8
9 th November	9	10	11	12 Walking 14.00	13 Monthly Meeting 14.00	14	15
16 th November	16	17 Local History 14.00	18 Book Group 14.30	19 Computer 13.00	20 Painting 14.00	21 Week - ender Coffee at Ulting 11.00	22
23 rd November	23	24	25 Scrabble 14.00	26	27 Painting 14.00	28	29
30 th November	30	1 Threads and Fabrics 14.00	2	3	4 Painting 14.00	5	6

For details see articles and co-ordinators above.