



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

# Heybridge U3A

## News Sheet No. 9/2015

### October 2015

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

Registered charity number 1160360

#### Your Committee









	Page Number
Your Committee	1
From the Chairman	2
From the Editor	2
Membership Secretary	2
Monthly Meetings	3
From the Events Secretary	3
Group Reports	3
Detail of Events	12
Association of Essex U3As	13
On the Notice Board	13
From Other U3As	14
COG Names and contact details	15
Diary	16

#### New Groups

**Beginners' Family History Page 6**

**Bridge Club Not Forming**

**Music Club Not Forming**

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# NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

## From the Chairman

**S**itting in the front row at the monthly meetings, I like to gauge the audience's reaction to the speaker. It helps me to get an assessment of how well the speaker is engaging the attention of our members.

Last month, it was not the speaker that attracted all the attention, but an elderly black Labrador. She revelled in all the caresses and the scratching behind her ears. (I've never understood why cats and dogs both enjoy being tickled behind their ears. Maybe it is a part of their body that they cannot easily reach, or is particularly sensitive.) Whatever the reason, Wren loved every minute of it. While she was taking all our attention, her owner, Helen Beard was trying to tell us about 'Pets as Therapy'.

Helen told us about the various venues where she takes Wren, the response is always the same, a reduction in blood pressure, a lessening of tension and, particularly for children, a growth of confidence. Helen also told us that some people find it easier to tell a dog about their most intimate worries, in preference to telling anyone else.

Indeed a heart-warming session. For the cat and dog lovers amongst us, it reminded us of our own pets and how much they are a part of our lives.

As a Committee, we are concerned that we show our appreciation for the work done by COGS. This year, we are saying 'Thank you' to them at a tea party in the Museum of Power at 4 pm on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October.

Joyce Woodham

Chairman Heybridge U3A

## From the Editor

**T**he 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 updates to 400 words or 300 words and one photo please as space is becoming an issue. Information about the Committee Members and their reports can be found in the first few pages with a contents column, to aid in finding the parts which you wish to read first, on page 1. The back page (p16) shows the Diary for the months of October and November.

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' in the title and copy Tina at [tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk) with any diary updates.

Contact me, Geoff Hadley, on any issue raised in the News Sheet by phone 01621 852494 or by

Email [editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk](mailto:editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk)

## From the Membership Secretary

**W**e were pleased to welcome one new member in September. If you are not a member, and would like to find out more about Heybridge U3A, you are welcome to attend a monthly meeting (held in the Plantation Hall at 14.00 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month) as a guest. There is no need to book – just turn up and sign in.

For any queries relating to membership, please email [membershipsecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk](mailto:membershipsecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk)

## Future Heybridge U3A Monthly Meetings

I have confirmed the speakers for October and November.

On 9<sup>th</sup> October William Tyler is returning to give his presentation on Winston Churchill's earlier years. The title is **Churchill: A Study in Failure? 1874 -1939.**

For 13<sup>th</sup> November we will be having Chris Dingley from *Collective Legal Solutions* giving a talk described as **Tax, Care and Toy Boys.**

This is intended to be a factual but light hearted introduction to some of the very recent changes by The Government to the financial implication for property owners who find that they are no longer able to live by themselves.

John W Harrison: phone 01621 854851 or Email [speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk](mailto:speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk)

### From the Events Secretary

- Planned Events
- 
- Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October, a day trip to Bletchley Park.
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November -.a social evening with fish & chips. Please note change of date.
- January 'Guys & Dolls' at the Savoy Theatre. All tickets sold
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016. 'Jersey Boys' at the Piccadilly Theatre London. All tickets sold.
- NEW Visit Hever Castle on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016.

Please see page 12 for further details

## GROUP REPORTS

### Art (Painting) Group

While our summer snaps and sketches are still inspiring us to paint the things we've seen and loved, our thoughts are turning already to Christmas and the venue for our annual seasonal get-together.

This year's choice is the William B in Hatfield Peverel, the time 12 noon, and the date Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. Menus will be decided nearer the time.

If you are a U3A painter and you have missed a meeting or two, this may come as news to you.

Fear not. Michael has booked plenty of places, so speak to him at our next meeting and he'll add your name to the list

Gill Carpenter

For information about the group contact, Michael Kempen: Email [m.kempen159@btinternet.com](mailto:m.kempen159@btinternet.com) or Phone 01621 892974.

## Bird Watching Group

It was a warm and sunny morning as we arrived at Fingringhoe Wick for our monthly get together.

We were told that Spoon Bills and Kingfishers had been seen from the hide but they didn't show for us.

We did see some of our more usual friends such as the Tufted Duck, Mallard, Little Egret, Little Grebe and Godwits. Today also seen were the Knot and Grey plover.

As we walked along in the sunshine we came to the old Jetty which had some Oystercatchers also enjoying the sun and Jenny was able to take this lovely picture.



As we made our way back to the Visitors centre for some refreshments we all agreed we had a great time, not many birds but a smashing walk.

Our next get together is 23<sup>rd</sup> October we hope to go to Minsmere, if you would like to join our group please get in touch by phone 01621869871 or email [symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk) Maureen

Oystercatchers Jenny Parker

## Cards and Paper Crafts

The next meeting is 7<sup>th</sup> October and then 4<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm

Please contact Lesley for details. Phone 01621 858135 e-mail [Lindawoonton@sky.com](mailto:Lindawoonton@sky.com)

## Computer Group

At the start of the September Computer Group Meeting, a detailed discussion by members of the Computer Group resulted in a decision that the Computer Group Quarterly subscription, to cover the cost of the hire of the room etc, would be set at £9 per quarter until further notice. This will, we hope, allow the funds to be brought back to a position that we can pay for the next quarter at the beginning of that quarter. A number of options were discussed about the future of the Computer Group but were rejected as not being appropriate or not conforming with the needs of both the group members and Heybridge U3A members as a whole.

The subject planned for the September Meeting was the introduction to the 'Formatting of Documents' using the WORD program. Reference was also made, where appropriate, to the similarities to other communication equipment. The first part of the topic, namely the full understanding of what happens to files and folders, appeared to be a subject that needs further study. This subject will therefore be one of the topics to be covered at the November Meeting. We try and cover subjects that you wish to be more familiar with and knowledgeable about, building up from your current level of knowledge. This is usually by request or by questions that come up in the monthly meetings.

If you have a laptop, a tablet, an Ipad or a smart phone and the like or thinking of buying one or have some special knowledge about some aspect of computing across part or the full range of computer communication equipment, then please come along to a Computer Group Meeting and share your knowledge with us. Alternately contact me by phone or email (See below).

The Computer Group Meetings are for those wishing to be more proficient at using the computer, in any of its forms, PC, Laptop, Tablet, Ipad or smart phone starting at any stage. The subjects covered are tailored to those that attend the monthly meetings. The meetings are held in the Claydon Room in Plantation Hall on the third Thursday of each month at 2pm, when you will be made welcome. Just come along. You can always contact me by phone or email before, if you so wish.

Ian Newman: Email [ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk) or phone 01621 891184.

### **Creative Writing Group**

**W**e met on one of the few dry days of last month but could not evade the rain; our title was "A Rainy Day". This subject had inspired most of us and we heard lots of pieces.

Our next subject is "A Regret", but we want it turned around so that it has a positive ending. (Nothing along the lines of 'I positively regret that' please!) Our next meeting is on 28<sup>th</sup> October.

Angela Pleasance [angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk) or tel: 01621 850310

### **Croquet Group**

**S**o far this season, we have been very fortunate with the weather, which has not stopped us from playing. Unfortunately, due to John Corrie's death earlier in the year, we lost our CoG who was enthusiastic and patient with some of our attempts at Croquet (some better than others from the start!) Since his death we have been very fortunate that the Maldon Croquet Club (on whose lawns we play) have organized a rota of some of their members to take it in turns to come along and open up and generally help us to carry on, without their generous help the group would not have been able to continue.

We often find it frustrating, but also surprising when we hit the ball and it goes where we had aimed, some being better than others! However, we thoroughly enjoy ourselves, and hope to continue playing to the end of October, subject to weather.

I have agreed to take over as CoG and if you would like to come along next season you are very welcome to join us.

Anne Newson: phone 01621 858807 or email [annenewson@uwclub.net](mailto:annenewson@uwclub.net)

### **Discussion Coffee Morning Group**

**T**here was a last minute change of venue for our coffee morning on 18<sup>th</sup> September. Margaret Clarke kindly gave us refuge and also provided tasty snacks, our thanks to her. We discussed a wide range of subjects including experiences at various holiday destinations, opinions on the new leader of the Labour party and local areas /businesses which have now altered/changed hands over the years.

Our next meeting will be at 11am on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October at Anne Newson's house

Margaret Brown: phone 01621 854885 or Email [mbandmeg@btinternet.com](mailto:mbandmeg@btinternet.com)

### **Family History Group**

**W**e had a very interesting meeting this month. Liz told us she has broken one of her brick walls. All Liz had was a birth certificate but could find no more information, then an aunt who lives in America spoke to Liz and it turned out she has all the information Liz needed. Next, Dorothy has managed to make contact with a 2<sup>nd</sup> Cousin, and she is trying to get more information about two elderly 1<sup>st</sup> cousins. Liz told us about a site called 1939 Register which will be available on 'Find My Past' later this year. This is really exciting! Dorothy showed us an article about a website called 'Free Reg', which is good for Parish Records. It was a meeting full of exciting information.

The October meeting will be a visit to the Essex Records Office.

If Group Members would like to go please contact Liz Cawdell.

November meeting will be Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> at my house as usual.

Lesley Pomphrett: Phone 01621 817733 [lesleypommy@hotmail.com](mailto:lesleypommy@hotmail.com)

### Beginners Family History Group

The first meeting of the Beginner's Family History group was very successful! Some members were totally new to family history research and others were 'picking it up' again after a few years' break.

After introducing our 'families' to each other we went on, with the help of a very useful BBC 'Who do you think you are' leaflet, to pinpoint the initial research we need to undertake. Using 'Ancestry' we explored the Birth, Marriage and Death records available and discovered that the local library and the county records office offers free access to the Ancestry website.

Our next meeting on October 22<sup>nd</sup> will be a tour of the Essex Records Office to find out what resources are available to the family historian.

For more details contact: Liz Cawdell 01621 331944 (please note change of telephone number)

Or [email ecawdell@btinternet.com](mailto:ecawdell@btinternet.com)

### French Conversation Group



As our meeting in September took place on the day when the Queen became Britain's longest serving monarch, it was apt that we should look at how the French viewed this achievement. Georges produced an article from a French newspaper which listed 10 things to know about Elizabeth II. From reading this, we learnt that as a child, if she wanted to tell her sister Margaret a secret, she would do so in French. We also learnt (as if we didn't already know) that the Windsors cost taxpayers a lot of money – their annual budget of £35.7 million makes them the best paid royal family in Europe. The Queen does not possess a passport and is the only person in the UK who can drive without a driving licence and tax disc. She has an ATM cash dispenser inside Buckingham Palace and, in accordance with a law passed by Edward II in 1324, she owns all the swans in the UK, as well as all the sturgeons, whales, porpoises and dolphins fished in British waters. She is politically neutral (*elle règne mais elle ne gouverne pas*), but she has the power to influence, as shown in 1986 when she publicly disagreed with Mrs Thatcher's stance on apartheid. She only reads crime novels, particularly those of Dick Francis which involve horses, and she has a husband who is *le roi de la gaffe*. Vive la Reine!

Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 10.00 – 12.00. The next one is on 14<sup>th</sup> October chez Pat N.

Jenny Parker: email [jennyparker14@hotmail.com](mailto:jennyparker14@hotmail.com) or phone 01621 843581

### French Improvers – Joint Blackwater / Heybridge Group

For various reasons (including an exploding vacuum cleaner), only 4 of us were at the September meeting. We spent the afternoon chatting about various things, including concerts at the Cliffs Pavilion, short breaks in Northern France and what the weather is likely to be in the Dordogne in January. Inevitably, some English was used but, overall, the amount of French used was impressive.

Meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month from 14.00 – 16.00. The next one is on 26<sup>th</sup> October chez George.

For further information on either French Group, please contact Jenny Parker: [jennyparker14@hotmail.com](mailto:jennyparker14@hotmail.com)



### Gardening Group

We had a beautiful afternoon for our visit to Underhill Road in Benfleet, and I was so pleased that eleven of us attended. It was a lovely back garden, on a site which sloped down towards the house. I learnt afterwards, from one of our members, that the recent heavy rain washed much of it down on to the patio, needing 15 friends to help put the plants and soil back again! It certainly didn't look as if a recent disaster had happened.



There will be no more visits this year, but keep on the look-out for ideas for next year's planning meeting. I think we will change the name to Garden Group, because we don't actually do any gardening together.

Pat.

Email [pat.yates@tesco.net](mailto:pat.yates@tesco.net) or phone 01621 892866.

A Wonderful Garden Pat Yates

### Italian Conversation

This Italian Conversation Group meets twice a month, usually on the first and third Monday of the month, at 10 am at my house. We are a small but friendly group of varied abilities who meet to practise speaking Italian. We discuss many and varied subjects, including holidays, family triumphs and tragedies and items in the news.

The next meetings will be: 5<sup>th</sup> October 19<sup>th</sup> October 2<sup>nd</sup> November 16<sup>th</sup> November

Janice Slight E-Mail [janice.slight@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:janice.slight@tiscali.co.uk)

### Local History Group

NINETEEN Local History Group members braved heavy showers for our September visit to the Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome, our third since Heybridge U3A was launched six years ago.

This unique attraction, the sole survivor of three originally built to stop enemy Zeppelin raids on London, just gets better and more interesting each time we visit, thanks to the army of volunteers working on site and generous grant funding made in recognition of its importance in First World War and aviation history.

While waiting for the rain to stop, we enjoyed hot drinks, cakes and a short film about the aerodrome's history and another depicting the wildlife which inhabits the adjoining conservation area.

Then we set off with our guide to visit the many surviving buildings, which served purposes ranging from accommodation for men, women and vehicles to the original morgue!

One of the hangars installed since our last visit was of particular interest as it housed a large collection of very early flying machines.

It was explained to us that, amazingly, widespread aerial warfare commenced just a few short years after the Wright brothers made the world's first powered flight.

Gill Carpenter

Next meetings are: - 20<sup>th</sup> October - Robin Carpenter: This is now a guided walk of Silver End, near Braintree. Meet there for 2pm. Contact Carol if you wish to come.

17<sup>th</sup> November – planning meeting

Carol Greenhalgh: phone 01621 840339 or Email [george.smeed@virgin.net](mailto:george.smeed@virgin.net) .

### Patchwork Group

The next meeting of the Patchwork Group will be in the Claydon Room on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm.

Anne Thorpe E-mail [Anne.thorpe@btinternet.com](mailto:Anne.thorpe@btinternet.com) or phone 01621 850828.

### Petanque Group

The rain seemed to come on Mondays during the month of September, so we are hoping for some dry ones to finish the season. October gives us three weeks before we finish on 19<sup>th</sup> when we will meet at Henri's steak bar at Madison heights at 12.00 before playing at the usual time of 2pm. Thank you to all members of the group for your loyal support during the summer, and there will be an extra 10 pin bowling for those who would like to as we did last year. Barbara Barbrook [c.barbrook@sky.com](mailto:c.barbrook@sky.com)

### Photography Group

Nine of us met for our September Meeting in the Jubilee Lounge of the West Maldon Centre.

In Memory of Carole Overy, we projected a sequence of some of the many images she created for our group. Included in the presentation was her unforgettable photograph "Red Shoes".



The assignment for the September meeting was "street scenes". Once again we were treated to an impressive variety of interesting images. Some were views of far off places and others were taken much closer to home. We saw Venice, where streets become canals with boats in place of cars, and Victorian England with trams running down the streets. There were scenes of several English country towns with street markets, shops displaying wares on the pavements, colourful buildings, traffic and people going about their daily business.

Red Shoes      Carole Overy

We also had a discussion, prompted by a magazine article on some of the criteria used by the Royal Photographic Society to assess the photographic competence of members seeking recognition through the award of an RPS distinction. We concentrated on three of the many aspects that had to be considered by the assessors during the examination of the work submitted, which were - composition, sharpness and exposure. We viewed an assortment of images and considered the elements requiring attention (including abandoning them and starting again!).

We decided that the assignment for the October meeting would be "Bridge(s)".

Why not join us? We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 2.00 p.m. everyone is welcome; whatever type of camera you use, whether you are a phone snapper, an SLR user or if you use any other camera. By regularly meeting together and sharing our photos, we learn how to get better results from our own equipment. Our aim is to make all of our meetings entertaining, friendly and informative.

Anyone interested in joining or coming to see what we do can contact Norman Grove on 01621 842805 or by email [norman.grove@gmail.com](mailto:norman.grove@gmail.com)



## **Reading and Books Group**

**T**his month's book fell well short of what we normally enjoy so little discussion took place and we swiftly moved onto the list of books for the coming year.

Each member of the group had at the last meeting taken a list of books and investigated the Titles and Authors. They reported back to the group this month and by the end of the afternoon and much discussion, we had a comprehensive list of books to be read that were agreed by us all – or almost all - as suitable for the coming year.

This list will be submitted to our local library where the librarian does her best to obtain books, each month, from this list for us to read.

We have now decided on our Christmas lunch venue and will look forward to a delicious meal this year at Le Bouchon. We still have one place available in the group so if anyone is interested in joining us please contact Ann Lees 01245225153

The next meeting will take place at Plantation Hall on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October at 2.15pm -refreshments are provided. Any enquiries about the group can be made via Ann Lees 01245 225153.

## **Scrabble Group**

**T**he September meeting saw us a bit thin on the ground, but that didn't stop Jenny achieving a blistering score of over 400! Luckily for my self-esteem the second game was more even, but it's always enjoyable. As the season progresses you might appreciate being indoors for a convivial couple of hours: why not come and have a game with us on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 2pm in the Claydon room at Plantation Hall. £2.00 per session covers the room hire with a hot drink and biscuit.

Linda Etherton Telephone: 01621 843702 Email: [ethertonbikes@aol.com](mailto:ethertonbikes@aol.com)

## **Solo Whist**

**A**fter our summer break 4 of us met at Geoff's and Margaret's for our September session of Solo Whist. A good afternoon ensued with lots of calls and very good counter play. However, as sometimes happens, 2 players had hardly any calls while the other two had lots of calls, but anyway we all enjoyed the session. In the interval we all enjoyed the excellent homemade Victoria sponge and tea provided by our hosts. The next session will be on the first Wednesday of October (i.e. the 7<sup>th</sup>) at 2pm at mine & Tina's house. We would welcome any new players if there are any please contact me.

Dave Mason C O G 01621 858635 or e mail [tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk)

## **Technical Computing Group**

**W**e had another successful meeting which was at my house this month and the subjects discussed were varied, and very interesting. I am often amazed by the knowledge our few members have. This time we had a lengthy discussion on the for and against on Solar panels, and the manner repayments to users are generated. Whilst some is government funded, the remainder of the repayment comes from the individual energy supplier, but it was felt that the panels are a benefit to the environment, as they are a 'green method'.

We again discussed the Windows 10 download being made available, but a warning is that although it may be free to download, eventually Microsoft will begin to make charges for update etc., so our advice is to Be Aware', and watch of future developments from Microsoft

Colin Mason (Cog) [colin@mason20.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:colin@mason20.wanadoo.co.uk) 01621-854906

## Ten Pin Bowling

Our meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> September was a session of mixed fortunes for the 9 players with highs and lows in scores.

As there were only 9 of us we had 3 players over 3 lanes which gave us time to play 4 games.

Roger had a slow start but achieved 158 in his third game making him the highest scorer.

Yours truly only achieved the miserable score of 57 in my second game, probably best forgotten, then suddenly managed 123 in game 4 which made me highest lady scorer beating Christine by just one point! . It just shows miracles can happen!!

It really doesn't matter what the score is, good company and a bit of exercise is what we are all about. Please consider joining us, it really is good fun at £4.75 for up to 2 hours playing with tea/coffee and biscuits to follow.

PLEASE NOTE: We will be playing twice a month during the winter months except December when we will only meet on the earlier date.

Dates as follows: Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October, Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November, Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December.

It is helpful to me for players to arrive 15 minutes before we start so that I can allocate bowlers for the lanes we are using. Lynne Morrison 01621 891288 [lejmorrisson@gmail.com](mailto:lejmorrisson@gmail.com)

## Threads and Fabrics Group

Our September, meeting held on a pleasantly sunny afternoon, was a useful problem solving session. The pleasure of this group is that if someone says "Why does...." or "How do I...." there is usually someone in the room who has experienced the same problem and found out how to solve it. We all like the fun of trying different things and sometimes the items we make don't turn out quite as we were expecting which is not always our fault. A bit like flat-pack furniture, the instructions are not always very clear.



I think that most of us must remember wearing smocked clothes as children. Even you gentlemen were likely to have had smocked romper suits (remember the photo of Prince George), although you possibly now, would prefer to deny it –check your old family photos! The clothes would have had English smocking, which many of us were taught at school. But our photo this month is of Canadian smocking, a more complicated version where the stitches are mainly hidden. This panel reminded us of gently rippling sea on a summer's day

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month starting at 2pm

Pat Newman. Email [ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk) or phone 01621 891184.

### **Ukulele Group**

**A**re you ready for this? We ukulele players have been asked to provide a short musical interlude for the Heybridge U3A Christmas Party on the afternoon of Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. Of course we are all happy to oblige, aren't we?

As our ranks are somewhat depleted at the moment due to various players moving house, caring for unwell family members or committed to other tasks on first Wednesdays, Robin and Gill thought it would boost morale all round if we joined forces with Heather and Malcolm's U3A Music Group, which is still in its infancy.

Heather and Malcolm have decades of experience of theatre work between them and are both talented singers. So it should be fairly easy to mix and match our repertoires to provide a half hour or so of seasonal jollity. Apart from that, we should have spaces for a couple more ukulele students in the New Year.

Robin Carpenter E-Mail [robinrcarpenter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:robinrcarpenter@yahoo.co.uk)

### **Walking Group**

**A** small group of us enjoyed the September walk in the countryside around Great Leighs in lovely autumn sunshine.

The October walk will be the Over Hall Walk, exploring the countryside around Earls Colne, distance quoted as 3 miles. Meet at the public car park behind the Co-op supermarket in the High Street (not yet sure if there's a charge to park here) 2pm Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> October

Elizabeth: Email [e.m.e@talktalk.net](mailto:e.m.e@talktalk.net) or phone 01621 850618. Mobile 07581029816

### **Weekenders Group**

**O**ur planned events are well underway as a group of us enjoyed an Indian meal at Zara's. The next will be at Izumi and the Christmas lunch has been booked and deposits paid. The tickets for 'The Producers' at Witham Public Hall have also been booked and paid for so another something to look forward to as Winter approaches.

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October Coffee at Toms Nursery, 10am

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November Coffee at Wilkin's Jam Factory, 10am

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December Coffee at Perrywoods, 10am

Marilyn Corbett: Phone 01621817518 or email [mars42@btinternet.com](mailto:mars42@btinternet.com)

### **Wine Appreciation Group**

**B**eaujolais Nouveau is a red wine made from Gamay grapes in the Beaujolais region of France, fermented for just a few weeks before being released for sale. Until 1951, Beaujolais could only be officially sold after 15<sup>th</sup> December but, when the rules were relaxed, the date for release was formally set at 15<sup>th</sup> November and henceforth the new wine has become Beaujolais Nouveau.

This was seen as a way of marketing 'vin ordinaire' at a good profit and was great for cash flow, followed by the inspired idea of a race to Paris carrying the first bottles of the new vintage which became a national event by the 1970's. In 1985 the date was changed to the third Thursday in November and the new wine is now shipped to retailers beforehand to ensure the wine is available for sale on the date of release. This year the sale date will be 19<sup>th</sup> November. Due to its youth, the wine is low in tannins, very fruity and should be slightly chilled before drinking soon after purchase

Watch this space for more news Jackie Email [jachjones@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jachjones@tiscali.co.uk) or phone 01621 817117

## Further Information and details of events

Please note that to enable our meetings to run as smoothly as possible, all sign-in forms for future events (including Hever Castle, Kensington and Canterbury) will, as from the November meeting, be found in the committee room. A table in the main hall will be set aside solely for payment of events and collection of tickets. Thank you!

The following events are planned for this and next year. Please note that members are asked to pay for outings in full, six weeks before the trip date. If the trip later proves not to be viable, the money will be refunded in full.

October 21st October 2015. Please collect your tickets at the October 9<sup>th</sup> meeting for the visit to Bletchley Park...

November Can you solve these riddles - 24 = H from T? -And- 1588 = D of the S A? The answer is the connection between the number and the initials. e.g. - 16 = O in a P- .Answer, 16 = ounces in a pound.

Plenty more of such to tax your memory at our social evening where you will also enjoy -

- A good plate of fish and chips
- A free raffle with excellent prizes
- Testing your skill at Scrabble, Dominoes, Jenga; Whist or any other board game.
- Learning a new game. How about Mah-jong? Angela will be there to help.
- Last but not least a good evening with like-minded companions in the local hall you know well

Meet at Plantation Hall on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November from 6.30pm until 9.30pm. The cost including the meal is just £5.00. Bring your own drinks and glasses.

Please sign up and pay by 9<sup>th</sup> October and please, to help in planning, let us know, via the form, which board games you like to play and whether you will bring a game to share.

January 2016 The cost per person for the minibus to the Savoy on 5<sup>th</sup> January to see *Guys & Dolls* is £14.00, payable by October 9<sup>th</sup>. More details later.

February 2016. Transport to and from the theatre on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February to see *Jersey Boys* will be by Ford coaches. The cost - £14.00 will be due by 9<sup>th</sup> October. More details later.

### April 2016

A visit to Hever Castle in Kent, the 13<sup>th</sup> Century childhood home of Ann Boleyn is now booked for **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016**. As well as the usual and very interesting panelled rooms with fine furniture and antiques, there is a rare collection of Tudor portraits. But my favourite exhibition is a group of life-sized costumed figures which almost bring the Tudor times to life. Entrance fee is £11.65. More details later. Travel will be with Ford's Coach and will cost approximately £15.00. Please let me know by January 15<sup>th</sup> whether you wish your name to remain on the list.

### May 2016

In May a visit to Kensington Palace is planned but not yet booked. This Palace was the home of the young Princess, later Queen Victoria and later still, the home of Princess Diana. The trip may include a look at the famous statue of Peter Pan, by the Serpentine, as well as the Diana Memorial playground. We shall also be close to the Royal Albert Hall, The Albert Memorial and even Exhibition Road. Please sign up to show your interest and remove your name if you later find you are unable to join the trip.

June 2016

In June we may visit the historical cathedral city of Canterbury. At the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD the city of Canterbury was the capital of the kingdom of Kent, ruled by the powerful Anglo-Saxon King Ethelbert. During his reign Christianity was re-introduced by Augustine a monk sent from Rome by Pope Gregory the Great. Canterbury was thus established as the centre of Christianity in England. The Cathedral is a must see! Please sign up to show your interest and remove your name if you later find you are unable to join the trip.

Please sign up for events which interest you and remove your name if you later find you are unable to join the trip. Please contact me with any queries.

All cheques should be made payable to Heybridge U3A

PAT SMITH; 01621 856569 E.MAIL [patcleary98@sky.com](mailto:patcleary98@sky.com)

### **CHATHAM DOCKYARDS Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

**N**ine of us went to Chatham Dockyards on a sunny day in September and what a good day it was! We found the dockyard transformed by the 1940s theme into what seemed to be a war time film set! People of all ages wore the glamorous and suave clothes of the era, or the distinctive forces uniforms. Memory - jogging Silver Cross perambulators were pushed by high heeled ladies; children peddled by on war time bikes and war time music filled the air.

Brian enjoyed inspecting all the old cars, while the Spitfire flew past, and I watched the nostalgic performances of song and dance. I especially enjoyed seeing visitors joining in with the jiving and jitterbugging.



The Femmes Pat Smith

All around there was so much more to see and learn – ships, submarines, old caravans and even Spitfires could be explored and any kind of food (of 2015 genre and price) could be found.

The ropery at Chatham Docks has produced rope, mainly for ships, since 1611 and machinery built in 1811 is still in regular use in the spinning room. I believe we all included a tour of the ropery in our visit, but I'm not sure how many walked the quarter-of-a-mile to the end of the room!

PAT SMITH



## Association of Essex U3As On the Notice Board:

A copy of the 2014/15 Annual Report and Accounts of the Third Age Trust is available including a budget for 2015/2016.

Events Mailing List - you can now sign up to receive this by email.

New National Subject Advisors:

- Military history - Mike Fox - [mike.fox2@ntlworld.com](mailto:mike.fox2@ntlworld.com)
- Petanque - Andrew Lloyd - [petanque@btinternet.com](mailto:petanque@btinternet.com)
- Poetry - Ray Solly - [dr.rsolly\\_author@btinternet.com](mailto:dr.rsolly_author@btinternet.com)
- All now have pages to be found in the Members' Area of the website under Subject Advice.

Herts Network - Magna Carta, Liberty and Democracy - Venue 360, in Luton on 14<sup>th</sup> October

Further information and booking form for any U3A member interested in attending can be found at [u3asites.org.uk/hertsnetworkofu3as](http://u3asites.org.uk/hertsnetworkofu3as) Cost £12 including finger buffet.

"Face Value" - Exploring Portraiture, The National Gallery Collection, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015, £18.00 per person. Book online by visiting the events page in the Members' Area of the national website, [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

- Brooklands Museum "VC10 and Her Royal Connections" - talk and visit, 2016 dates available. Also Writing Workshops for U3A members at Brooklands, 15<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> Nov 2015, 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> Jan 2016, see notice on U3A board at meeting.
- "Stem Cells, Regeneration and Cancer" at the Francis Crick Institute, Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015. How are discoveries made, and how do scientists develop new cancer therapies? Free on first come, first served basis. Ticket requests to U3A National Office.
- U3A Christmas Concert with Brandenburg Singers and Organ at the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015, 14.00 or 17.30 £18.00 per person.
- Shared Learning Project at King's College, London, researching Victorian Lives. More details on the flier, requires a commitment to attend weekly on Tuesdays from 6<sup>th</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> December, conduct research in own time and contribute to final presentation 8<sup>th</sup> December.

## Legal Helpline

The 24 hour legal helpline we have been subscribing to *ceased operation on 30<sup>th</sup> September*. The new provider commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> October. The details are as follows:

Arc Legal Assistance in partnership with Irwin Mitchell Solicitors Telephone number 0344 770 1040

Quote - U3A Legal Helpline

## From Other U3As

**Blackwater U3A** are running a weekend trip to Kendal, from 30<sup>th</sup> Oct to 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov, £139.00 includes coach travel, 2 full day excursions, 3 nights dinner bed and breakfast at the County Hotel.. Contact Dawn Mundy at [dawnmundy21@btinternet.com](mailto:dawnmundy21@btinternet.com)

## Blackwater U3A history group

On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October I am organising a visit to Charles Darwin House travelling by coach leaving WMCC at 8.15 it will be an all day visit costing £13 for the coach and £9.50 entrance to the house.

Email dorreen at [dorreen@ianlinton.demon.co.uk](mailto:dorreen@ianlinton.demon.co.uk)

## Limewater U3A

This group is looking to start a Spanish group. Anyone interested in joining them call Kathy Leggett 01621 852377

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

<b>Group Name</b>	<b>Co-ordinator (COG)</b>	<b>Telephone Number &amp; Email</b>
Art (Painting)	Michael Kempen	01621 892974 <a href="mailto:m.kempen159@btinternet.com">m.kempen159@btinternet.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 <a href="mailto:Lindawoonton@sky.com">Lindawoonton@sky.com</a>
Coffee Morning	Margaret Brown	01621 854885 <a href="mailto:mbandmeg@btinternet.com">mbandmeg@btinternet.com</a>
Computer	Ian Newman	01621 891184 <a href="mailto:ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk">ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk</a>
Creative Writing	Angela Pleasance	01621850310 <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	Lesley Pomphrett	01621 817733 <a href="mailto:lesleypommy@hotmail.com">lesleypommy@hotmail.com</a>
	Liz Cawdell	01621 331944 <a href="mailto:ecawdell@btinternet.com">ecawdell@btinternet.com</a>
French	Jenny Parker	01621 843581 <a href="mailto:jennyparker14@hotmail.com">jennyparker14@hotmail.com</a>
Gardening	Pat Yates	01621 892866 <a href="mailto:pat.yates@tesco.net">pat.yates@tesco.net</a>
Italian	Janice Slight	01621 853393 <a href="mailto:janice.slight@tiscali.co.uk">janice.slight@tiscali.co.uk</a>
Local History	Carol Greenhalgh	01621 840339 <a href="mailto:george.smeed@virgin.net">george.smeed@virgin.net</a>
Patchwork	Anne Thorpe	01621 850828 <a href="mailto:Anne.thorpe@btinternet.com">Anne.thorpe@btinternet.com</a>
Petanque	Barbara Barbrook	01621 855605 <a href="mailto:c.barbrook@sky.com">c.barbrook@sky.com</a>
Photography	Norman Grove	01621 842805 <a href="mailto:norman.grove@gmail.com">norman.grove@gmail.com</a> .
Reading & Books	Ann Lees	01245 225153 <a href="mailto:annlees@yahoo.com">annlees@yahoo.com</a>
Scrabble	Linda Etherton	01621 843702 <a href="mailto:ethertonbikes@aol.com">ethertonbikes@aol.com</a>
Solo Whist	Dave Mason	01621858635 <a href="mailto:tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk">tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk</a>
Technical Computing	Colin Mason	01621 854906 <a href="mailto:colin@mason20.wanadoo.co.uk">colin@mason20.wanadoo.co.uk</a>
Ten Pin Bowling	Lynne Morrison	01621 891288 <a href="mailto:lejmorrisson@gmail.com">lejmorrisson@gmail.com</a>
Threads & Fabrics	Pat Newman	01621 891184 <a href="mailto:ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk">ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk</a>
Ukulele	Robin Carpenter	01621 859060 <a href="mailto:robinrcarpenter@yahoo.co.uk">robinrcarpenter@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Walking	Elizabeth Eastwood	01621 850618 <a href="mailto:e.m.e@talktalk.net">e.m.e@talktalk.net</a>
Weekenders	Marilyn Corbett	01621 817518 <a href="mailto:mars42@btinternet.com">mars42@btinternet.com</a>
Wine Group	Jackie Jones	01621 817117 <a href="mailto:jachjones@tiscali.co.uk">jachjones@tiscali.co.uk</a>

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

<b>Week Commencing</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
<b>28th September</b>	28 Petanque 14.00 French Improvers 14.00	29	30	1 <sup>st</sup> October Photography 14.00 Croquet 10:00	2 Committee Mtg 10.00 Painting 14.00	3	4
<b>5th October</b>	5 Petanque 14.00 Italian conversation 10.00	6 Threads 14.00	7 Card Paper 14.00 Ukulele 14.00 Solo Whist 14.00	8 Technical Computing 14.00 Walking 14.00	9 Monthly Meeting 14.00	10 Week-ends 10.00	11
<b>12th October</b>	12 Petanque 14.00 Patchwork 14.00	13 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	14 French Conversation 10.00	15 Computer 14.00 Croquet 10:00	16 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00	17	18
<b>19th October</b>	19 Petanque 14.00 Italian conversation 10.00	20 Local History 14.00	21 Book Group 14.15 Bletchley Park	22 Beg Family History 10.00 Family History 10.00	23 Bird Watching 10.00 Painting 14.00	24	25
<b>26th October</b>	26 French Improvers 14.00 Ten Pin 14.00	27 Scrabble 14.00	28 Creative Writing Group 14.30	29 CoGs Meeting 4pm	30 Copy to Editor Painting 14.00	31	1 <sup>st</sup> Nov
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> November</b>	2 Italian conversation 10.00	3 Threads 14.00	4 Cards& Paper Crafts 14.00 Ukulele Group 14.00	5 Photography 14.00	6 Committee Mtg 10.00 Painting 14.00	7	8
<b>9<sup>th</sup> November</b>	9 Patchwork 14.00	10 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	11 French Conversation 10.00 Solo Whist 14.00	12 Technical Computing 14.00 Walking 14.00	13 Monthly Meeting 14.00	14 Week ends 10.00	15
<b>16<sup>th</sup> November</b>	16 Italian conversation	17 Local History 14.00	18 Book Group 14.15	19 Computer 14.00	20 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00	21	22
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> November</b>	23 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00 French Improvers 14.00	24 Scrabble 14.00	25 Creative Writing Group 14.30	26 Beg Family History 10.00 Family History 11.00	27 Bird Watching 10.00 Painting 14.00	28	29
<b>30<sup>th</sup> November</b>	30	1 <sup>st</sup> Dec Threads 14.00	2 Cards& Paper Crafts 14.00 Ukulele Group 14.00	3 Photography 14.00	4 Copy to Editor Painting 14.00	5	6