

# Heybridge U3A

## News Sheet No 9

### October 2021

#### Your Committee

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

Archive

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

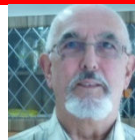
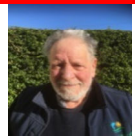
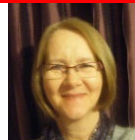
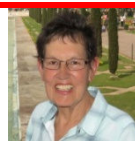

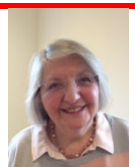



Registered charity number 1160360

Main Meeting Plantation Hall

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2 p.m.

Guest Speaker Roger Dorking

Tales from the Smithy

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## **NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE**

### **Chairman's report for October 2021 News letter.**

**T**his year is disappearing fast, September gone and October is upon us ,the nights are drawing in very fast now and people are beginning to talk about Christmas, so it won't be long until spring, hooray!

Now ,we had quite a reasonable attendance at our September meeting and enjoyed a very interesting and informative talk by Tony Tuckwell, the subject being the Essex Coastal walks, you missed a treat if you weren't there.

We were advised by Hilary, our Groups coordinator secretary that groups are beginning to start up again, do not leave it to your group leaders to tell you whether your group/s are starting up, you contact them, let them know that you wish to get started, get involved!

We are still waiting for responses to our appeals for prospective committee members and group leaders, March is now only 4 months away, excluding this month, so come on at least appear interested in your u3a.

Keep well, stay safe.

Norman Cumming, Chairman

### **Returning to activities safely**

**M**embers should assess their own health before attending any meetings: even if you think you only have a heavy cold as this can turn out to be the coronavirus and may then infect others. Abide by the rules of any venues being used, such as giving your details to the organiser/venue, if required provide evidence of double vaccination or a negative test result, wearing masks in crowded situations and social distancing.

### **Plantation Hall Rules**

- The staff at Plantation Hall will continue to deep-clean the hall between hirings.
- A list of those attending will be kept to enable Track and Trace: in addition the Hall has a QR code but not everyone will be able to use it.
- A one-way system will be in place to avoid crowding in pinch points and social distancing requested.
- The wearing of masks in more crowded areas is advised.
- Use hand sanitiser and dispose of wipes and tissues safely
- The Hall will be ventilated with windows and doors open regardless of the weather.
- Toilets will be accessible, but for just one person at a time, with an 'engaged' slide on the outside door.
- Although the restriction on numbers has been lifted it may still be considered sensible to limit the number in the Hall.

### **Interest Group Activities**

**T**he Third Age Trust's information on procedures for resuming indoor meetings will be sent to CoGs and can be found on the website: [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk). Anyone can login to the website and find this information under 'Running your u3a: Covid-19 and beyond', England.

Group co-ordinators need to tell the committee what their groups' arrangements are for getting back to meetings. There is no pressure to resume meetings in people's houses, if this makes the host uncomfortable, and meeting outside in the fine weather is a possibility that a few groups already have in place. There may be rooms at the halls that could be used.

A simple checklist to ensure everyone's safety is a sensible precaution and help will be given to complete this. Linda Etherton, Secretary

### **Interest Group Co-Ordinator Report**

**W**e had another good turnout at our monthly meeting in Plantation Hall this month and our first actual live speaker - another big step in our journey back to some kind of normality. The Weekenders Group met up. The Patchwork Group has now also resumed. The Family History Group getting ready to resume, the Weekday Lunch Group has arranged its first meal out for 18 months and the 10 Pin Bowling Group are meeting in October too. For those of you who have yet to join or rejoin a group please contact the COG or me if you want any more information about when a group might be resuming. We are still being cautious and careful but we also need to get back to some kind of a life now. Take care everyone and hope to see a few more of you at the next Main Meeting.

Hilary Furniaux [groupsco-ordinator@heybridgeu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupsco-ordinator@heybridgeu3a.org.uk)

### **From the Editor**

**T**he design of the Heybridge U3A News Sheet, and the reports that it contains, is a full-page layout of 11 pages in a large font. Information about the Committee Members and their reports can be found in the first few pages. The next News sheet will be in November so send items by last Saturday in October. I am very grateful to all the people who send material for inclusion. Have you anything to say? Please send it to me and I will include it.

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

### **From the Membership Secretary**

**T**his will be a 'year' of nine months starting 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. If you are able, please print the Membership form, complete it and post it to me at the address given. You can enclose a cheque or do a Bank Transfer – just contact me for the account details and include your name as reference.

If you are unable to print the form, contact me to be sent a paper copy or you can complete it electronically and attach it to an email addressed to the Membership Secretary (see front cover). However you may still need to post a cheque if you do not do online banking.

**Full and Dual Members who paid the full subscription of £18 (£13 Dual) last year will benefit from a discounted fee this year of £5.**

Members who renewed for only £10 after 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020, and any new members, are asked for £13.50 (£18 x 75%). Dual Members who renewed after October should pay £8.50 this year.

If anyone is unsure about what they need to pay please contact me on the telephone number on the front page.

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

### **Monthly Meeting Speaker Programme**

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September Tony Tuckwell entertained us with a talk entitled “The Only Coastal Way is Essex”. Tony is not a native Essex person and when he arrived in the County had only heard of a couple of the towns and was totally unaware of the large coastline. In fact with almost 350 miles and 19 islands, it has a longer coastline than Cornwall and more Islands than any other English County.

Describing the estuaries as a smugglers’ paradise, Tony indicated the importance of various church towers as navigational aids, mentioning Canewdon, St Osyth and Fobbing. The coastline has the best seawalls in Eastern England, which makes walking sections of it easier since it’s flat and solid. After his retirement as Headmaster of KEGS, Tony decided that he’d walk the entire possible coast as a series of days out mainly using public transport.

A particular favourite was the Dengie Peninsula, due to its remoteness and peacefulness, with the section between Bradwell and Burnham having no houses for a 15 mile stretch. Another hugely enjoyable walk was the one around Canvey Island. His encounter with the Army at the Shoeburyness Artillery Testing Grounds revealed the true spirit that had enabled Tony to take on and beat such a daunting challenge!

This month, on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October, we have Roger Dorking telling us ‘Tales from the Smithy’....sounds interesting! You will have to come along to the Plantation hall, to find out what it’s all about.

Friday 12/11/21 Sally Lawrence will be telling us about ‘My life as a Continuity Announcer’

Friday 10/12/21 we will enjoy a bit of early Christmas cheer and be entertained by a magician, John Pomfrett.

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

## GROUP REPORTS

### Art

**A**fter much consideration I've decided to delay our Art group start. Sorry to disappoint but I'll wait for hopefully normal times to return.

Tina Martin martin.christine@sky.com

### Bird Watching

**T**he bird watching group met on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> at Tollesbury Wick. There were not many notable birds about as the summer migrants are heading south and the winter flocks have not yet put in an appearance. Never mind, it's always great to join up, walk gently and see what there is to be seen.

It has been an interesting summer, though. Essex had its first pair of breeding Spoonbills at Abberton reservoir. The 2 babies fledged safely and were seen on Old Hall Marshes for a while. They have probably all headed south now and with luck will be back next spring.



Spoonbill Family Jill

We have now changed the way the group works with each of us taking turns to choosing where to meet. Thank you to all those who have offered and we now have visits planned right through to May next year.

If you would like to join us on one of our outings contact Jill on [jill.mcgregor@btinternet.com](mailto:jill.mcgregor@btinternet.com)

### Croquet Report

**W**e have been lucky this month as each of our sessions the weather has been great. Margaret and Chris very kindly stepped in for me at the last moment for the first session and Geoff as always helped setting the lawns up, thank you. Eleven turned up, George and Richard apparently both did brilliant 'jump shots' (not easy) well done. The second session was attended by twelve and again the weather was sunny and warm, the star on this occasion was Richard who did a 'hoop in one', well done, again. Richard is our star player this season, keep it up. Hopefully we will be able to play in October; however this is entirely dependent on the weather and the Groundsman.

We play on the second and fourth Wednesday afternoons of each summer month, and play for gentle exercise, good company and fun. Anne Newson.

### Family History

Well, after 18 months we had our first monthly meeting this week.

This was organised at very short notice and understandably for some, it wasn't possible. So, there were only two of us.

I had been made aware that, for various reasons, a few members would not be returning, or returning at a later date, and some now have commitments they didn't have 18 months ago, so need time to do a bit of 'juggling'.

This has brought up the question of maybe a different venue, or perhaps a longer break.

Originally, the meetings were in members own homes, that could be another alternative.

The next meeting is scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> October.

Some encouraging reports made me feel you enjoyed my monthly articles, as I enjoyed writing them. If I'm honest the topics are beginning to get a bit thin on the ground!

Take care Jean Rogers

### French Conversation



For those of you who would like to improve your French, the Conversation Group is now up and running again. For the remainder of 2021, we will be meeting in the Claydon Room at the Plantation Hall from 10 – 12 on the second Wednesday of each month. We hope to be able to continue into 2022.

If you have a basic knowledge of French and would like to attend a session as a guest, please get in touch: [jennyparker14@hotmail.com](mailto:jennyparker14@hotmail.com).

### History talks on Zoom

This is a copy of an email from Mike Stringer who organises a history group for one of our Maldon u3as. He is very happy for Heybridge U3a members to join these talks. His contact details are

[mike.stringer19@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.stringer19@btinternet.com)

I've still got a couple of gaps to fill and I'm still working out costs, but I'm looking at around £3.50 to £4 a head for the paid speakers. We will also have some free talks arranged through the National u3a Pilot I'm involved with, and I plan on doing a couple of talks myself, though I'm equally happy if anyone else would like to volunteer to talk to us. I won't be starting the booking process until August, partly because we will be away in July, but also to see what happens as and when restrictions are finally lifted.

Here is the programme so far:

Thu 14 Oct Zoom talk Carol Harris on the Foundling Hospital

Thu 4 Nov free Zoom talk Jim Miller on Codes and Cyphers (talk swap)

Thu 18 Nov WMCC David Williams Mind the Gap (London's Tube) Thu 2 Dec free Zoom talk to be arranged

Thu 16 Dec WMCC Mike on Leprosy and St Giles Leper Hospital plus Christmas event

Thu 6 Jan free Zoom talk Stuart McGowan on The Luddites (talk swap)

Thu 20 Jan WMCC Stephen Nunn Roger of Beeleigh

Thu 3 Feb free Zoom talk to be arranged

Thu 17 Feb WMCC Norman Jacobs Pie Mash n Prefabs

Thu 3 Mar free Zoom talk Mike on Samuel Pepys

Thu 17 Mar WMCC talk to be arranged.

All these will start at 10.30am, including the ones at WMCC.

I am still hoping we can arrange a trip out during September, but that depends on a variety of issues that I won't bore you with now!

Please keep these dates in your diaries and more details will follow in due course. If you have any queries, suggestions, etc, or would like to give a talk to the group yourself, please let me know.

mike.stringer19@btinternet.com

### **Needlecraft Group Report**

**W**e welcomed 2 new members to our group this month including a new member to the U3A. The weather was kind to us again so we managed to sit in Angela's garden. Our little group kept busy doing hand patchwork for a table runner and crocheting a dolly dress, hand sewing an Advent Calendar, cross stitching a Floral Calendar sampler, knitting a dolly cape & hood.

Hilary Furniaux

### **Painting 2**

**W**e shall be meeting again for the first time after the Pandemic in the Claydon room from 2-4 on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

We hope there will be enough regular members to continue, but anyone wishing to commence watercolour painting or any other medium e.g. Acrylic but not oils, is welcome to join us, and help will be given if needed. We will open the window for good ventilation.

Barbara Barbrook

### **Papercraft Group**

**W**e have decided to move our meetings to 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday each month. Three of us got together to make a Birthday card for a Niece, a box card for a Husband, a stepper card for a Daughter's 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday and several Christmas cards were started including an Iris Fold Cracker card! We will be meeting next on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October.

Lesley Woonton

### **Patchwork Group**

**U**nfortunately, the group did not meet in September. We are hopeful that the weather will be kind to us, and we are able to meet outside at WMCC for our October meeting. I'm sure we all have lots of ideas for projects to keep us busy in the months ahead. Looking forward to our next meeting. In the meantime, happy sewing and stay safe!

Jackie



### **Petanque Group**

Once again we are having good turnouts for our Petanque groups on Monday morning. We have required 2 new people, Ann and Tony Jefferson, who have joined us. They are very good players as they have played for quite a while living abroad for a few years. Hopefully we have made them very welcome.

It's lovely having new recruits, so if anyone else would like to come along then please do.

We are at Maldon Prom on Monday morning, at 10am.

Many thanks Moira Penhallow

### **Photography Group**

We held another very successful Zoom meeting on 2nd September our seventeenth so far with 10 members participating.

We started the meeting by watching a slide show of the photos taken by our members during the month. The subject for the month's assignment being "Photographs where the subject starts with the letters "C and D". A total of 30 photos were submitted including some from members who were unable to attend.



Devizes Canal Alec Lees



Dragonfly Jill McGregor

It was decided that we should try meeting indoors now that the current restrictions have been lifted. It was decided that we would not resume our meetings at the WMCC this year but have booked the room for our February 2022 meeting.

We will continue to hold Zoom meetings on the first Thursday of each month until we are able to meet again as a group.

For those who were unable to join the meeting all of the photos submitted have been uploaded to our page on Flickr (Heybridge U3A) where you will be able to view them. If you would like a link to them please contact me.

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



## Reading & Books

The first meeting of 2021 was on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September when four of us compared fiction detectives and swapped a few good books amongst ourselves. This month the book choice was "Wuthering Heights" by Emily Bronte. Next month the meeting will be on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 2.00pm and will be held at Jackie's house in Tiptree. New members welcome and suggestions for reading always wanted as our list with the library consists of only 5 titles.

Jackie Jones

## U3A Scrabble Report October 2021

Did you have a go at this one? You have these letters on your rack: my apologies as it went out with the incorrect values for the letters, now corrected.

W	E	C	I	Y	R	B
4	1	3	1	4	1	3

You could have achieved a score of 30, as the person playing the first word in a game doubles their score

		C	Y	B	E	R				2 L		
--	--	---	---	---	---	---	--	--	--	--------	--	--

Here are three sets of words: two can be anagrammed and one cannot.

O	A	U	R	G	C
1	1	1	2	2	3

G	T	U	O	A	R
2	1	1	1	1	1

G	O	A	B	R	U
2	1	1	3	1	1

The Scrabble Group are aiming to meet in person in September, so a proper report may be in print next time. The projected meeting date for October is Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm. Details of the location will be confirmed nearer the time.

Linda Etherton

## Walking Group

This month's walk was found and led by Grace and Yvonne, starting from Foresters Golf Club. After a chilly August, 14 of us enjoyed lovely warm weather for this gentle walk through typically Essex countryside. It was lovely to see a huge stack of straw bales stacked carefully ready to be transferred into a dry barn somewhere close-by presumably. We finished our walk sitting outside enjoying a gentle drink in the sunshine.

Our next walk is scheduled for Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October starting at 2.00pm.

Linda Wells.

## Weekenders

**A**t the al fresco meeting in Maldon Promenade Park in August, a meeting was arranged for Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October, 10.00 am at Perrywoods. If you are intending to come or would like to find out more please contact me. (Details on the front page)

We still need someone to take on the 'keeping in touch' aspect of the CoG's mantle, and to make arrangements for the monthly meet-ups, but happily continue to have individuals willing to organise visits to local amateur operatic/dramatic performances, jazz club, a 'Snowdrop Walk' next spring as well as a few 'Open Garden' visits and meals out. Linda Etherton

### Rumblings from Peter for October

**O**ur Sept. speaker brought two main thoughts to mind. Firstly how beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

Afterwards he and I discussed the beauty that can be Maldon mud, providing you don't walk in it! Conversely he extolled the Stour, sorry, a walk along it left me underwhelmed. Had Constable been born in Cambridge not Ipswich, Flatford Mill and Willy Lott's cottage would never have been painted. Instead, the Gt. Ouse, from Bedford to Earith and especially around the Hemingfords would be his choice of subject, but it's a personal opinion it's also "my" river. Living close by, I crossed, swam, fished and punted it (we'll leave out the courting bit), St. Ives had been an inland port and had controlled the river, it had history, life, character and to me, beauty. My other river is the Warfe, generally a shallowing fast flowing moorland river yet provides a beach, paddling and stepping stones at Bolton Abbey. Go a little way upstream and you come to the truly awesome Strid, fall in there, you're dead. Logs have been thrown in and taken 14 days to traverse the 50 yards or so and reappear, I've often returned, oft alone.

Which brings me to my next thought, Tom was a man obviously comfortable to be walking alone. True, my walks have been skewed to hill and dale, moor and valley, glen and Ben, a river or beck plus a waterfall or three thrown in, so much the better, and mostly solo.

Call me anti-social if you want (go on you know you do) but it suits me.

I can stop where and when I want, take small detours at points of interest to me and importantly, in arduous terrain go my own pace, or chat with other walkers en route. I even have played Poo-sticks in a rocky moorland beck (scientific y' know!) Another beck, a waterfall, me, my God, my thoughts just after Mum's funeral,

Been on Ramblers walks. Oh dear, chivvied by the leader, herded by the tail man, once a 25 mile yomp. I was fresh from a walking holiday, most had done little more than a U3a length walk, they found it too much, I was trying to help them up hills whilst the leader "reccied", and what did we really see? Zilch. Or round a nature reserve, by the end I knew all about the upcoming wedding-costume, shoes, hat, colours, styles, cost, etc. Had they seen points of interest? Guess? Been walking with kin though and thoroughly enjoyed it, a common interest perhaps?

Selfish, maybe, do I care? No, Then there's the evenings. A local pub, a meal, a pint(s) and being a "tourist" alone locals will often "adopt" you. The wealth of interest that brings from all walks of life has left me with rich, priceless and varied memories. Sometimes it's lucky to be comfortably alone!

Tom's experience at Foulness brought this memory. At the foot of a trail to the Cheviot Hills with Tornado jets with Typhoon fighters as top cover screaming overhead anti-aircraft guns blasting and bombs exploding behind me, I am faced with a large official military sign.

DANGER  
Land Mines!!

Peter.

**Do you use Facebook? Why not join the Heybridge U3A group.**

**W**e now have our own group on Facebook. Our Facebook group is a closed one; Philippa is the administrator who acts as the gate-keeper. Please see her report for more details. The Facebook group will supplement the news-sheet, not replace it.