



Heybridge u3a

October 2022 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 14th October at 2.00 pm

Speaker Ray Clark – BBC Essex presenter

- *Stay Tuned....I Might Say Something Brilliant!*

Next Committee Meeting – Plantation Hall in




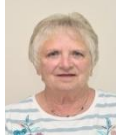

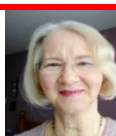
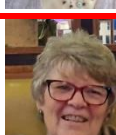

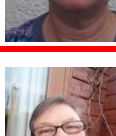
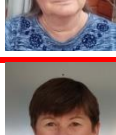
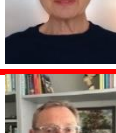
The Claydon Room

Friday 4th November at 10.00 am

Main Meeting Refreshments Rota

October – Croquet Group

November – Eat The World

Chair	Jackie Jones	
	chairman@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	01621 817117	
Vice Chair	Peter Radford	
	vicechairman@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	01621 843543	
Secretary	Marilyn Corbett	
	secretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	01621 817518	
Treasurer	Elizabeth Eastwood	
	treasurer@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	01621 850618	
Membership Secretary	Philippa Moody	
	membershipsecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	01245 381379	
Publicity Officer	Linda Etherton	
	publicity@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	01621 843702	
Groups Co-ordinator	Moiria Penhallow	
	groupsco-ordinator@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	07984 357804	
Speaker Secretary	Jan Brown	
	speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	01621 856989	
Events Secretary	Lizzie Cawdell	
	eventssecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	07902 294741	
News Sheet Editor (Joint)	Lorraine Jeapes	
	editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	01621 890128	
News Sheet Editor (Joint)	Brian Jeapes	

Hello and welcome to the October News Sheet.

A lot has happened since our last News Sheet. We have sadly lost our monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, and now have a new king, King Charles III, which is something that will take time to adjust to. We also have a new Prime Minister and Cabinet, although politics is probably a subject best avoided!

It is strange to think that children not yet born will read about our longest reigning monarch, Queen Elizabeth II in their history books (if they still have books), in the same way we learnt about the likes of Henry VIII, the first Queen Elizabeth and Queen Victoria. We will also, of course, be the last generation to witness a queen on the throne for many years as, all being well, Charles will be followed by Prince William, then Prince George and then by whatever children George may have. Although we are getting ahead of ourselves, as George is only nine years old!

Whatever your views of the monarchy, there is no doubt we have lived through historic, albeit sad, times.

Lorraine & Brian editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

News from the Committee

From the Chairman

At the request of Shirley Macro, we went along to promote awareness of the u3a in the Maldon and Heybridge area at the Promenade Park on regatta day Saturday 24th September. Although we escaped the rain, we did feel the full force of the wind that threatened to lift the gazebo. However, we chatted to lots of people, many of whom were unaware of the wide scale of interests available through the organisation and some of the people we met were members of u3a from other areas of the country. This was probably the last local event of the summer season and the last chance to grab an ice cream cornet in the sunshine.

Jackie Jones chairman@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Membership Secretary

Thirty four members including three new members, Bridget, Geraldine and Janet, who enrolled on the day, attended the September main meeting. We also had another member, Iain join together with Susan who joined via the French Group, so the overall membership for Heybridge u3a has risen to 122.

I should like to remind CoGs of the importance of checking memberships and remind them about the Associate Member scheme.

Philippa Moody membershipsecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Speaker Secretary

In September Jane Pearson spoke about 'Getting an Education in Essex 1700 –1900', highlighting the contrast between the wealthy and the poor. It was considered by some to be dangerous to educate the lower classes, but the 19th century saw great reforms that led to the education system we have today.

On Friday 14th October we have Ray Clark, a BBC Essex radio presenter telling us how he got into the world of radio. His talk is titled 'Stay Tuned...I Might Say Something Brilliant'

On Friday 11th November, Remembrance Day, also known as Armistice Day, Neil Richardson will be telling us about the Work and History of the War Graves Commission.

Hope to see you at our meeting.

Jan Brown speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Interest Groups Co-ordinator

This month the Interest Group will be holding a meeting on 11th October between myself and the CoGs. Jackie Jones, our Chairman, will be sitting in and taking questions.

I have asked for this meeting for a while as it has been some time since I have been able to go around and meet up with all the CoGs at their group meetings, and I would like to just interact with them all.

It really would be nice if we could see more of the CoGs at the monthly meetings, and also if some of their own group members could come along.

Regarding the meeting on the 11th October, I hope everyone is attending as it is important and if you are unable to be there then please ask someone in your group to attend on your behalf to take notes that can be passed on. It is not going to be all serious, there will be some fun as well, especially with me running it!

Finally, I need volunteers to welcome people at the main meetings. If you are happy to help out please let me know.

Moir Penhallow groupsco-ordinator@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

News from around the Groups

Art

Nothing much new to report, I'm afraid, as I've been unwell with the flu so missed the last Friday art session.

During my "lost week" I missed lots of interesting things - plus my flu jab, would you believe!

But I did have messages and pictures from the lovely bunch of people I went on holiday with last month to Uzbekistan.

If you're not sure where that is, think ancient Persia, think the Golden Road To Samarkand, think those bloodthirsty old warlords Tamburlaine, also known as Timor, and Genghis Khan.

Think the Great Silk Road out of China all the way to the Mediterranean.

Elements of all these things are still there in Uzbekistan's stunning ancient cities, its palaces, mosques, mausoleums, minarets, harems and religious colleges.

But there are also colourful, bustling bazaars, markets and craft workshops wherever you look.

Endless inspiration for anyone of an artistic disposition.

So, I did find something to write about after all!

Now, where are those paints?

Gill Carpenter

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Bird Watching

The group went a little further afield this month. We travelled up to Walton on the Naze, to Naze Nature Discovery Centre (Essex Wildlife Trust).

We were hoping to see some of the migrant birds heading south for the winter but were somewhat disappointed by what we found. The geese had not yet arrived. The waders we can see on the Estuary here were missing from the Naze. We did see lots of gulls of various types and ages and there were flocks of finches in the bushes.

We met another group of birders who had been lucky enough to see a red necked diver and a redstart. But that is bird watching!!

We enjoyed our walk and coffee and Pat Y put us all to shame by climbing 111 steps to the top of the Tower.

Next month we are heading out to Tollesbury Marshes. There should be lots of winter visitors back by then and we hope for a better tally.



111 steps up the tower



Baby Black Back

Jill McGregor

Croquet

September has seen a change in the weather, temperatures have dropped and with it more of our group have been able to play. Unfortunately, the end of September means we have only a possible couple of games left this year. Further bad news, Maldon Croquet Club can no longer have the croquet lawns at Forrester Park Golf Club as the new owners have decided they want the land for other purposes. The Club are busy trying to find a new venue and have assured me that once they find suitable lawns we will be welcome to play on them. Hopefully they will be successful and we wish them luck in their search. In the meantime hopefully we can play our last two games in October, subject to the weather!

Anne Newson

Family History

If any of your ancestors came from East London they may be unfortunate enough to have been buried in Woodgrange Park Cemetery. The postal area of Woodgrange Park Cemetery was Manor Park, but I believe it's now regarded as Newham.

Previously a rural area, and originally part of Stratford Abbey it was first recorded in 1198.

It was bought with the intention of a privately owned non-denominational burial site, and opened in Victorian England in 1889.

On the right as you enter the gates, is an area of raised tombs with huge granite memorials, which I assume were the wealthier patrons. There are photographs of black plumed horses pulling the ornate hearses through these gates.

Frederick Charrington (d.1936) is buried here. Not popular with his brewing family as he actively condemned the 'demon drink' leading many marches and demonstrations.

Eventually, as the years went on, the owners died, it changed hands many times. The graves fell into disrepair as their owners also died. The graves sank and became overgrown with ivy, nettles and grass. Even saplings sprouted up through the graves.

The churches were uninterested in becoming involved - not consecrated ground. It was private land so the council could do nothing.

So, it was sold to a company that in turn sold part of it to property developers. One section was in the worst condition for neglect, it was the paupers (common ground).

Now, you may think you cannot dig up a grave, but they did, thousands of them, (including men that had fought in the war, and blitz victims), supposedly reinterred elsewhere, although it's not quite known where. My paternal grandparents were in that section and are now presumably under the block of flats. My maternal grandparent's grave is still there, in a different section, and still intact.

Other parts of the cemetery are being reused with burials every week.

There was quite a backlash at all this, but the builders have issued a statement that if the graves are not kept neat and tidy or fall in disrepair for more than a year and a day, they have the right to reuse them. They also maintain they inform the owners beforehand.....I don't know how, most of the graves are over 100 years old.....how do they trace the owners?

The derelict red brick gothic chapel has now been demolished.

The next meeting will be 10.00 am Friday 7th October.

Take care.

Jean Rogers

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French

Members of the French Conversation Group were pleased to welcome Susan Godfrey, a new Heybridge u3a member. We are a small group of Francophiles who meet from 10-12.00 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month to practise and improve our spoken French.

If you have some knowledge of French grammar and would like to improve / practise your conversational skills, why not join us ? If you wish to discuss further, please ring me on 01621 843581 or alternatively email me on jennyparker14@hotmail.co.uk

Jenny Parker

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Needlecraft

We were very pleased to welcome a new member to our little group this month. We met at Linda's, and our new member Liz brought along a blanket she is crocheting and also a cane wreath she is making for Christmas using small rectangles of fabric. A few of us now want to try making one! We

had some hilarity unravelling the tail end of a ball of wool that had become so twisted it took four of us spread across the room to do it. Thankfully between us we did it but it took about 25 minutes. Other members were either knitting, crocheting or sewing.

Our next meeting will be on 18th October and we are hoping to meet at Pam's.

Hilary Furniaux

Patchwork

During the September meeting the theme of our patchwork group quilt was agreed and we were shown a sample square that Anne had been working on – beautiful work as always. She will be providing fabric packs at our next meeting. In the meantime members will be giving some thought to possible designs and preparing a sample for our next meeting.

It was interesting to see the group quilt made to celebrate 40 years of the U3A, shown in the current issue of the u3a Third Age Matters magazine.



Jackie Voyez

Petanque

Petanque has been very good for the last few weeks in September where we have had a full house. Now we have come into October which has brought autumn, and the weather has been lovely recently, we were very lucky and last week 12 were playing.

We always carry on as much as we can through the winter months as long as the weather is kind to us and stays dry.

I really do not know where the time has gone this year, but here we are into another month. As one of my group said today should we be thinking about booking our Christmas Lunch, because places are booking up? The thought of Christmas already!

If anyone would like to pop along and see us, a friendly bunch of people playing, we are down the Prom at Maldon, on Mondays at 10.00 am.

You are more than welcome.

Moira Penhallow

Photography Group

Our last meeting was held on September 1st (first Thursday of the month, as usual)

Our group used Zoom as the method of communication, and we will continue with this method for the present. Zoom does lend itself to easily presenting all the participants' images, without needing a physical projector. We did not find any time issues with the 'free' 40 minute Zoom method, and it is sometimes possible to extend this period. We will review the 'zoom' or 'physical' (or other) method for our group, in the future, as necessary.

Our last meeting showed an excellent display of 27 images, based on the 'Summer' topic. There are always discussions on how/ why/ where/ when, relating to particular images. Also, such debates spill over to how a member used some technique, or particular method (using cameras, or phones, or PCs, or whatever) to mildly improve a shot, or to move a photo file, from one device to another (eg. phones or PCs), or other technical improvements.

In this way, we can easily introduce some tips and tricks, usable by other members, and 'spread the word or knowledge', to/from each other. Exactly as per the U3A 'Learning and Sharing' ethic.

The next meeting will be held on 6th October, via Zoom, at 2.00 pm, with a loose title subject, relating to "September". (ie. taken during that period).

If anyone is interested in joining our meetings, to see what the group is about, please contact

Alex Lees, and he will forward you a link to our next meeting. All members of the U3A are welcome.

Alex Lees (for Norman Grove)

Reading & Books

The September title is totally different to last month's light novel. Written by Naomi J Williams, it is a compilation of reports that attempt to tell the story of the ill-fated attempt by two French frigates to set sail from Brest to circumnavigate the globe in 1785. Based on historical fact, it details the exploits and heartbreaks of the ships' crews and the indigenous people they met. The title is Landfalls and is the first travel related book we have read since 2019.

Each month we receive a new title that can be anything from comedy to tragedy, family saga to murder mystery, always something new and different to the previous month. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 19th October and will be held at Jackie's house. New faces always welcome to come along for tea and biscuits.

Jackie Jones

Scrabble

September saw just a few of us playing, but we managed to do justice to two boards plus cups of tea and biscuits kindly supplied by Angela.

In last month's puzzle the highest scoring word would have been PEACE totalling 24, whereas APACE would have scored lower at 20. The pink square doubles the score.

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

		P	E	A	C	E				2L		
--	--	---	---	---	---	---	--	--	--	----	--	--

There are five possible seven-letter words that can be made with the tiles below. A blank tile is included, adding a bit of spice to this puzzle.

A	P		O	R	T	Y
1	3		1	1	1	4

The Scrabble meetings take place at a member's house and are on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 2.00 pm. The next meeting is on the 25th October at Angela's. If you are interested in joining us please contact me: details are in the list of groups towards the end of the news sheet.

Linda Etherton

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Ten Pin Bowling

Following on from our last session on the 22nd September where eight of us had mixed scores. Just to confirm our next ten pin sessions booked are Thursday 6th and 20th October. See you there for the usual 10.00 am start.

Peter Harvey

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Walking

As we drove to The Essex Wildlife Trust site on the edge of Hanningfield Reservoir, the rain started. Happily it had pretty much stopped by the time we arrived, and apart from dripping trees it stayed dry for our leisurely stroll around the site. It turned out to be a 'there and back' walk as the vegetation on the less walked path felt likely to be a bit too 'wet around the legs'. We stopped in a couple of the hides and Graham, our 'birder', answered our 'what are those' questions. The centre asks for a donation from non-members and provides tea/coffee and cake to round off our social stroll. Our next walk will be on Thursday 13th October starting at 2.00 pm.

Linda Wells

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Weekenders

A good number of Weekenders came to the September meeting held at Braxted Bakery, where we are lucky enough to use their big side room, and it was nice to welcome Geraldine and Janet who are new members to Heybridge u3a. As ever when u3a members get together a huge range of topics of conversation is covered, and at this sad time the poignancy of events surrounding the recent death of our Queen was among those topics.

Future meeting venues include Peartree Pantry on Saturday 15th October and White Elms Nursery on 19th November. We usually meet on the third Saturday of the month at 10.00 am. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Linda Etherton, details in the list of CoGs

Linda Etherton

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Other News

Wednesday 26th October is 999 Community Safety Day at Plantation Hall, Heybridge, where local emergency services and community groups will be present. In addition to free bike security marking it will also be the first clothes handout day which is being organised by Heybridge Parish Council, Maldon Council and Essex Police. This initiative is to help those who may struggle to keep warm this winter. Adult and children's clean clothing and bedding can be dropped off at Plantation Hall between 9.00 am and 3.00 pm. Please see the attachments for more details.

Just a reminder that on Monday 10th October (World Mental Health Day) Mid and North East Essex Mind are organising a Firewalk at Writtle College between 6.00 pm and 9.00 pm. It is for a worthy cause; Mind support people experiencing mental health problems. Details are on the attachment to this News Sheet.

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

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

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

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

Covid 19 Reminder

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