



Heybridge U3A

News Sheet Number 9

November 2009

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

From the Chairman

Our October Meeting was memorable on two counts. The talk by Dr. Dennis Eraut (a member of Maldon U3A) on the Terracotta Warriors was one not to be missed. Dr Eraut gave us an amazing slide show of the terracotta army, and backed it up with his fascinating talk of China, its history and his many visits.

After our usual tea break Janet Whitehouse, the East of England Regional Trustee of The Third Age Trust presented us with our Certificate from the Trust, as we have now been accepted as a fully fledged Branch of U3A. (See the U3A Certificate below).



This is something I think we should all be proud of; as we have made remarkable progress in the short

time we have been together. She talked to us about the Trust, and the vast amount of Courses (some residential) and learning aids in the form of videos, leaflets etc. that are available to us as a Branch to help us with our Groups. There may be something of interest for Group COG'S, so do ask anyone from the Committee if you would like to see what is available.

We now look forward to the run up to Christmas, and then our New Year Celebration at the January Meeting. The first Annual General Meeting will then be fast approaching, when the present Steering Committee will hand over to a newly elected committee. I will say at this point that I shall be standing down as Chairman, regrettably, but as events have turned out, I have not been able to commit 100% to the task in hand, and next year I plan to move to a smaller bungalow, which will take all my efforts. I hope the majority of those serving presently will stay on, as I could not have wished for a happier or more committed bunch of friends (yes; that is what they have become). Now is the time for all members to think if they could offer their services next year. Having got our Branch so well established, the bulk of the organisation has been completed, so it will only be the day to day running, which I'm sure some of you would enjoy.

On a lighter note, our very successful Weekenders Group went to a Saturday night Quiz, and came home victorious (each clutching a bottle of wine!). Well done. All I have personally managed to do is join the Luncheon Club at The Ducane Arms, where fourteen members enjoyed a splendid meal, and attend the Computer Group, which is now well established in the Plantation Hall. At computer courses at colleges etc. the set agenda seldom deals with all the silly niggling things that go wrong at home, but with help from other computer group members who have their own laptops at the meetings, they are able to solve most of their individual problems. This is just what we all need.

From the Editor

The weather now is autumnal with plenty of leaves falling from our many trees which will need to be swept up. It is the time in the year when some of our groups stop meeting for the winter. The November issue of the News Sheet is the last one in which you will read about these groups until early in the new year. Keep an eye on these columns for details of their 2010 programmes including the first meetings in the new year when agendas will be set.

I have completed most of my DIY jobs outside for this year and transferred my efforts to the inside of the house. We, that is Pat and myself, have managed to hold two U3A meetings last month in our home without a fully working kitchen. The old central heating boiler has been removed and a new one placed in the garage. Once this News Sheet has been put to bed, it will be back to full steam ahead, to progress the improvement.

I would like to draw all the members attention to the Meeting on the 8th January when we will be able to socialize for another hour after our normal finishing time (14.00 through to 17.00). A glass of wine and light refreshments will be available. We hope that as many members will be able to be present and enjoy that afternoon.

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., can, as usual, be found on the last page.

Heybridge U3A Meetings

The date of next meeting is Friday 13th November starting at the normal time of 14.00 in the Plantation Hall, Heybridge.

The speaker at the November monthly meeting will be a talk on "SWANS: (Sometimes We All Need Support)" given by Julia Dowling.

The speaker on the 11th December meeting will be Maureen Scollan with a talk entitled "Paragon or Prude in the Police Force".

At the January meeting we have Arthur Brooks with music from the days of the Music Hall, which will dovetail into the New Year Festivities. More and fuller detail in next months News Sheet.

U3A News

Your personal copy of the October 2009 'U3A News' magazine is now available. The magazine can be found at the back of the hall at the next monthly meeting.

From the Group Co-ordinator

We have two members who have agreed to act as the COGs of the Theatre Group. I am certain that we all thank Gill Bridle and Janet Morley for taking on the organisation of this group and offer them our full support in this worthwhile endeavour. Many of you have expressed an interest in theatre visits, both to the local and London venues. If you want this group to succeed, please help Gill and Janet with ideas for future visits and with your support for what they arrange on your behalf.

Some of our members have expressed interest in the Family History Group run by Blackwater U3A. I have contacted Roger Smith (the co-ordinator) and he has invited any of our members who are interested in joining this group to "just turn up" and they will be made very welcome. They meet at the West Maldon Community Centre on the 3rd. Thursday of each month. The formal meeting starts at 14.00, but at 13.30 there is a "memories group" meeting where members are encouraged to write down their family memories before they are lost. There is a charge of £2 to cover the room hire etc.

We might be able to get the Bridge Group going again, if you are interested in playing bridge, let it be known.

Many members have previously expressed an interest in topics not yet covered by existing groups such as: Music; Photography; Languages etc. We have names on lists and all we need are members who are prepared to become COG's – please talk it over with me, Peter Thorpe, on 01621 850828 or at the monthly meeting and we can get more groups started.

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 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
Bridge	Lisbeth Bazzard	01621 843208
Coffee Morning	Margaret Brown	01621 854885
Computer	Tina Abeysekera	01621 858635
Esperanto	Peter Groves	01245 227018
Family History	Joint with Blackwater Roger Smith *	*01621 843054
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
Pantanque	Barbara Barbrook	01621 855605
Reading & Books	Ann Lees	01245 225153
Scrabble	Ruth Tyler	01621 869865
Theatre	Gill Bridle & Janet Morley	01621 892587 & 01621 892626
Threads & Fabrics	Anne Thorpe & Pat Newman	01621 850828 & 01621 891184
Walking	Elizabeth Eastwood	01621 850618
Weekenders	Jan Stroud	01621 859766

GROUP REPORTS

Art (Painting) Group

The membership of the art group seems to be gradually increasing in numbers, which is a really good and positive sign. We all continue to enjoy ourselves on a Friday afternoon and complete some really nice pieces of work as well as chatting and laughing a great deal.

We have recently acquired the tuition of a local artist to undertake a "Master Class" with the group in January of next year and we are all very keen to take part and learn, or refresh our skills.

Bird Watching

This was our first bird watching outing since July so we decided to make a day of it and go to Minsmere Reserve in Suffolk. What a great day we had.

The weather was perfect so at 11.00 we set off with our guides Ivan and Bob who were a great help to us as they knew where to go and what to look out for. We saw some of our favourites and heard, but never saw, many more. We were all disappointed not to see the Cetti's warbler, which was very vocal all around us but kept itself well hidden in the reeds. Looking out over the reed beds from the hides we were able to spot Snipe, Shovelers and the Mute Swans plus many more. Being shown what to look out for so we could identify the different species made our day so much more interesting and enjoyable. After three hours we said goodbye to our experts and made our way back to the visitors centre for a much needed lunch and a chat.

Our next get together will be at Goldhanger on 27th November ready to start at 10.00. We hope to see you there. If you need any information or a lift please get in touch. Contact me, Maureen, on 01621 869871 or email symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk.

Bridge Group

Liz Bazzard would like to run a Bridge Group where friendly bridge can be arranged for a table of four in the home of U3A member. Arranging duplicate bridge for the more serious minded can be expensive to set up and needs a lot of organisation. U3A Members have been invited to play at Goldhanger Bridge Club as visitors. Goldhanger plays throughout the winter on Monday evenings starting at 19:30. Please let me know if you are interested in being part of the U3A Bridge Group.

Coffee Morning

The next meeting will be on 20th November. Please phone Margaret Brown on 01621 854885 for details.

Computer Group

The Computer Group met on the 15th October in the Claydon room at the Plantation Hall and everyone was delighted with the new venue. Vivienne very kindly offered to bring along the tea and coffee etc. each time and members will help with refreshments at each meeting.

Ian thought we needed a treasurer next year to deal with collecting monies for hire of room, so one volunteer required, please.

Six laptops were in use this month using the internet connection that is available. Those without a machine, took copious notes for home practice. We discussed options on the internet including options for other search providers, saving sites, favourites, etc. Discussion took place on the availability and use of T.V. programmes and how they could be viewed.

Next month our subject will be photographs. We will continue the discussions on how we deal with money on the internet e.g. buying on line and how we can resolve any problems you have encountered in the past.

Peter Thorpe then reported on an exciting new project he has just started i.e. setting up a website for the Heybridge U3A. We were able to view the new site and it was quite impressive.

At our next meeting on the 19th November (13.00 to 15.00) Ian will also report on progress made with other U3A computer groups.

Coastal and Marine Group

Our second meeting was very productive with lots of ideas and suggestions. We had a pleasant and relaxed chat and decided that we should concentrate our activities "closer to home" over the winter period and arrange our outings during the summer. With that in mind, we do have some contacts for interesting speakers that we can discuss at our next meeting. Summer outings that could be arranged include a visit to Trinity House in Harwich, a trip along the Thames and a barge trip on the Blackwater. Join us for our next meeting at the Blue Boar on Friday 27th November at 14.00. Come along with your ideas so that we can put together an interesting programme for the coming months.

Gardening Group

Our last meeting for this year was the plant swap and, on behalf of everyone who came, I would like to thank Madeleine and Martyn for their hospitality, and delicious cakes. The next meeting will be in March (date not yet arranged) to discuss the new programme and any changes you might want to make, including a change of COG if anyone else wants to have a go. Please be thinking about what you would like to do next year, and bring your ideas along in March. Thank you to all who came on the visits, I hope you enjoyed them.

(As Editor, and someone who attended some of the visits, I would like to thank Pat, on behalf of all the Gardening Group for being the COG and

undertaking this job on with such enthusiasm and efficiency.

Thank you Pat).

Local History Group (LHG)

David Hughes came to speak at our October meeting. He is the author of the Maldonians and is the authority on the characters of Maldon in the late Victorian and early nineteen hundreds. He read us some extracts from his book and took questions from the group, which led to a very entertaining afternoon.

The November 17th meeting will now be a general meeting. This is an opportunity for members to share their snippets of our local history with any stories, pictures, or research they may have undertaken. The last time our members did this they showed what a resourceful bunch they were so we look forward to a similar interesting afternoon. Please contact Carol Greenhalgh if you have any queries about this.

We were hoping to have Michael Emmett attend our November meeting but urgent business is taking him to Hamburg instead. Michael will now be at our December 15th meeting. Michael is our link to Maldon's fishing past and we'll be able to get a preview of his next book 'Working and Traditional Sail'. Please contact Carol Greenhalgh on 01621 2840339 or email george.smeed@virgin.net if you wish to come.

Luncheon Group

We have all just returned (14 of us) from a very enjoyable lunch at The Du Cane Arms. The next Venue is Izumi, Maldon, on 10th November. We will meet at Izumi at 12.30. Our last lunch of the year will be at The Six Bells, Boreham on 27th November at 12.30. A sheet will be at the November meeting, please sign up or ring me on 01621 853403.

Thank you all for your company during the last few months. We have visited pubs, restaurants, and even a Shed where we supplied our own bread and wine (well John did, thank you), to go with the shellfish platter, very Moorish. Please let me have any of your favourite places, so we can visit them during 2010.

Petanque Group

The Petanque group has continued to enjoy meeting on the prom on Monday afternoons but, now the clocks have changed, we are meeting at 14.00. We have decided to continue until the end of November, enjoying the fresh air and exercise, weather permitting of course. Otherwise, see you

there at the Petanque terrain Mondays afternoons. After that we shall be starting again in March next year. Don't be shy, come along and try! Barbara Barbrook

Reading and Books Group

The book group met recently to review their first book. This led to interesting discussions about the book and related topics. The next book is now being read and we are looking forward to further discussions about this on Wednesday 18th November 14.30 at the home of Carole Overy. Please ring Carole for her address and directions on 01621 893450. New members will be very welcome.

Please contact Ann Lees (COG) 01245 225153 for further information.

Scrabble

Five members enjoyed an enjoyable afternoon on 28th October hosted by Beryl Claydon. We meet next on November 25th at the home of Jan Olley. Please telephone 01621 815223 for directions. The December meeting is on the 23rd December, also at Jan Olley's. On January 27th we will meet at Pam Archer's telephone 01621 815379. We meet at 14.00 hours.

Threads and Fabrics

By the time that this News Sheet is published, we will have had both our October and November meetings. In October, Sue showed us some beautiful table and tree decorations. Apart from one brave soul who made one of the more complex ones, we made the little basket in the photo. It is intended to contain a certain widely advertised luxury, gold foil covered chocolate, but we all had ideas on what we would like to find hanging on our trees.



In November, we worked on our own projects, as we will do in December. The date of the next meetings is the second Tuesday, the 8th of December. For venues please phone Anne on 01621 850828 or Pat on 01621 891184.

Walking

Our October walk took place on Thursday 8th October. We met at Danbury Community Centre and eight people and four dogs enjoyed a pleasant,

sunny afternoon walk around Danbury Common. As we did not get as far as Thrift Wood, it has been decided to continue this walk next time, meeting at the car park on Little Baddow Road opposite Runsell Lane on Thursday 12th November at 13:30. (Note the earlier start time - no getting lost in the wood in the dark!)

Weekender

Congratulations to our wonderful Weekender Quiz Team who won the Pub Quiz at Ship & Anchor. The team for the night was Pamela, Linda, Pat, Audrey, Gill and Elizabeth. It was neck and neck with another team until the very last part and our team won full marks and a bottle of wine each. Maybe next time we can have two teams new members welcome.

Also, two separate groups visited gardens and woods at Old Rififiams and Hyde Hall. They enjoyed their visit. For information about the group, please phone Jan Stroud on 01621 859766. New members and suggestions always welcome.

For your Diary:

- 14th November 20.00 - Song and Sketches, Drama Group, Great Totham.
- 21st November 11.00 - Coffee Meeting at Peartree Pantry, Spring Lane, Ulting.
- 19th December 11.00 - Coffee Meeting at Oliver's Nursery, Witham.

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

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, telephone 01621 740820 or speak to Peter Thorpe.

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
9th November	9 Petanque 14.00	10 Luncheon Group 12.30	11	12 Walking 14.00	13 Monthly Meeting 14.00	14 Week - ender 20.00	15
16th November	16 Petanque 14.00	17 Local History 14.00	18 Book Group 14.30	19 Computer 13.00	20 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00	21 Week - ender Coffee at Ulting 11.00	22
23rd November	23 Petanque 14.00	24	25 Scrabble 14.00	26	27 Luncheon Group 12.30 Painting 14.00 Coastal and Marine 14.00 Submit News Sheet text	28	29
30th November	30 Petanque 14.00	1	2	3	4 Painting 14.00	5	6
7th December	7	8 Threads and Fabrics 14.00	9	10 Walking 13.30	11 Monthly Meeting 14.00	12	13
14th December	14	15 Local History 14.00	16 Book Group 14.30	17 Computer 13.00	18 Painting 14.00	19 Week - ender Coffee at Olivers 11.00	20
21st December	21	22	23 Scrabble 14.00	24 Submit News Sheet text or earlier if possible	25	26	27
28th December	28	29	30	31	1	2	3

For details see articles and co-ordinators above.