



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No. 10/2014

November 2014

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

WE HAVE A NEW GROUP

Cards and Paper Crafts.

For More details









See Page 4

Still needed
Volunteers to help
Speak to one of the Committee

News Sheet Contents

	Page Number
Your Committee	1
From the Chairman	2
From the Editor	2
Membership Secretary	2
Monthly Meetings	3
From the Events Secretary	3
From the Group Co-ordinator (COGCo)	3
Group Reports	4
Detail of Events	9
Association of Essex U3As	10
On the Notice Board	10
From Other U3As	11
COG Names and contact number	11
Diary	12

Your Committee

Chairman	Joyce Woodham Woodham359@btinternet.com 01621 841066	
Vice Chairman	Vacancy	
Secretary	Linda Etherton ethertonbikes@aol.com 01621 843702	
Treasurer	Angela Pleasance angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk 01621 850310	
Membership Secretary	Jenny Parker jennyparker14@hotmail.com 01621 843581	
Events Secretary	Pat Smith patcleary98@sky.com 01621 856569	
Group Co-ordinator	Gill Thorne Contact any member of the Committee	
Speaker Secretary	John Harrison johnwharrison@sky.com 01621 854851	
News Sheet Editor	Ian Newman ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk 01621 891184	

NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

From the Chairman

At the moment, I feel that Meetings are like buses. None come along for ages, and then three come at once!

The first meeting was with the Chairs of the other Maldon U3As. We meet every few months with the intention of working closer together for the benefit of all our members. We are particularly anxious to ensure that minority interests do not fail due to lack of support. Our new plan is to put all events on a calendar; this will prevent us getting into a situation where visits overlap. In Heybridge we had to cancel a trip this year due to the low take-up. I later discovered that another U3A in Maldon had organised the same outing slightly earlier.

We also agreed that I would contact the Plume School to investigate the possibility of hiring their facilities in the evening, including their specialist rooms. I have done that and a brochure is being prepared.

The next meeting was a Regional Meeting in Cambridge. Those present were the Chairs of each of the counties in this region, together with a number of RVs (Regional Volunteers). The RVs are trained to help any U3A needing support. If any of you are interested in becoming a RV, please let me know and I will pass your name on.

Finally, Study Day (at the time of writing this) is only 48 hours away. We have had our last planning meeting and we hope that the day will be as successful as in the two previous years. The possibility of one next year is entirely dependent on people coming forward willing to organise it. If you would like to be part of the planning team, please let me know.

Joyce Woodham: phone 01621 841066 or Email woodham359@btinternet.com.

Advance Notice:

Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Committee Nominations 2015.

There will be an AGM on the 13th March 2015.

From the Editor

The layout of the Heybridge U3A News Sheet and the reports that it contains, remains the same as that produced earlier in the year. Information about the Committee Members and their reports can still 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 (p12) shows the Diary page, which has been updated to the end of November 2014. Please all note that there is no January News Sheet and therefore the Diary will cover the period December 2014 through to end of February 2015.

Please keep me up to date with any interesting stories, relevant pictures or anything that relates to The Heybridge U3A or the U3A movement as a whole. Continue to send details to me, preferably by email with 'Heybridge U3A' in the title. Alternatively talk to me at the Monthly Meeting.

I now have a three person team (including myself) producing the Monthly News Sheet. They are Tina Abeysekera who continues to draft the page 12 Diary and Geoff Hadley who has continued to assist me in producing this News Sheet. This has been done by splitting the work into time slots with only one of us holding the master document.

We all wish to maintain the standard that you, as members of the Heybridge U3A, want.

Contact me, Ian Newman, on any issue raised in the News Sheet by phone 01621 891184 or by Email ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk or speak to me at the Monthly Meeting. You can also contact Geoff Hadley by email: geoffh45@blueyonder.co.uk

From the Membership Secretary

We were pleased to welcome seven new members in October, taking our total membership to 167. If you are not a member and would like to find out more about the Heybridge U3A, you are welcome to attend a monthly meeting (held in the Plantation Hall on the 2nd Friday of each month at 14.00 as a guest. There is no need to book, just turn up and sign in.

Jenny Parker.

For any queries regarding membership, please Email jennyparker14@hotmail.com or phone me on 01621 843581. Or, If I am not available, please contact Angela by phone on 01621 850310 or by Email angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk.

From the Events Secretary

Planned Events

- Wednesday 25th February 2015. A tour of the Tractor Plant at Basildon.
- Friday 20th March 2015. A tour of the UK Supreme Court in Westminster. Now fully booked, but see below.

- Monday April 27th 2015. A coach trip to Kew Gardens.

Please see page 9 for details.

Heybridge U3A Monthly Meeting held on 12th September 2014

Secretary's note

Joyce warmly welcomed new members to the Heybridge U3A Monthly Meeting. Joyce had a meeting with other U3A Chairmen in the Maldon area. These meetings have formed stronger links.

A joint venture French Group, by the Maldon U3As, has been formed. Another new group is being formed with the title 'Cards and Paper Crafts'.

It was suggested by the Chairman, that a male orientated group could be formed, thereby attracting more male members.

Gill Thorne is unwell so COGs can contact any member of the committee for help or advice.

A request was made to the members that a few more Greeters and Greeters are still needed to make sure that we always have someone to undertake this role with those who have already volunteered.

October 2014 Speaker

The speaker at our last Monthly Meeting was William Tyler who returned to give us another of his fascinating and colourful historical talks. This time the subject is Winston Churchill.

His talk commenced at the start of WWII when the leadership of the Government was in disarray. As the Tory Party was in power on the formation of the National Government, the Prime Minister had to be chosen from that party. Halifax was the other contender for the post with support from Tory MPs. Churchill, on the other hand, was not liked by the MP's but was publically very popular (Some 75% of the population). After being elected as Prime Minister by Parliament, his first action was to signal the Navy 'Winston is Back'.

William Tyler went on to illustrate his talk with tit-bits of information of which only a few are recorded in this report. His driver for the period of the war was the only person to see the real man behind the facade that Churchill portrayed. His other side reflected in the bottom of all his memos. "KBO". A young typist asked of her seniors what did KBO mean. The answer, which I am not putting here in full but will leave with you is: "Keep B ___ ing on. Another feature that Churchill adopted and used was the 'V' for Victory.

Churchill had many tough decisions to make during this period, one being when Italy had capitulated and surrendered to the Germans that he had to order that the Italian Fleet be sunk.

One of the unfortunate aspects in his premiership for that period was that Churchill was not liked by the Royal Family, especially the King and Queen. Churchill likewise was not a fan of the King or Queen.

Future Heybridge U3A Monthly Meetings

On 14th November Dr. Vivien Newman, author of several books about women who served in the First World War, will give us a talk, titled "Women who Refused to Go Home and Sit Still".

In December, at the Monthly Meeting, Peter King, who describes himself as 'An Entertainer', will come to give a talk entitled "A Life on the Road with Peter King" about his life as an actor on stage, film and TV.

In the New Year, William Marriage, Chairman, and Dudley Courtman of The Chelmer Canal Trust will be coming to give us a talk on some of the many aspects of The Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation. I am awaiting details of their talk but it has been confirmed that he will be coming to give a talk on Friday 9th January 2015.

John W Harrison: phone 01621 854851 or Email johnwharrison@sky.com.

FISH & CHIP SOCIAL – 25th October

Various board games and packs of cards were produced at the tables and everybody decided what their preference was. In addition, we were privileged to have the services of our very own in-house dance expert, Alf assisted by Gloria, who instructed the brave few in basic Rumba and Cha Cha Cha steps. He had insisted beforehand that if you can count to four then you can dance and we certainly tested this theory!

By the way, never talk about Strictly Come Dancing in his presence. To say he has a low opinion of the programme is an understatement! Joking apart, it made the evening for those who danced (or tried to!) and our sincere thanks go to Alf and Gloria.

The fish & chips were excellent and this was complimented by our own drink. Good fun was had by all and we sincerely thank Pat for producing and organising a very enjoyable evening.



Learning to dance (Trying not to watch their feet)
Author Barbara Barbrook

From the COGCo (Group Co-ordinator)

Gill is currently in hospital and is recovering steadily. Should any CoG or Member wish to discuss any topic that is normally covered by Gill, please do not hesitate to speak to one of the Committee (See page 1 column 2 for contact details).

From the Publicity Sub-Committee - We need your help!

Thank you to Gill Carpenter and Tina Martin, who have agreed to be 'meeters and greeters' who will welcome new members to the monthly meetings. Thanks, too, to Linda Wells who has offered to deliver leaflets in the Heybridge area.

We would still like a couple more volunteers so, if you think you could help, please get in touch.

GROUP REPORTS

Art (Painting) Group

We may call ourselves painters, or water-colourists, but just lately a few variations in technique have appeared at our Friday afternoon sessions.

Among the paint boxes, tubes and palettes can now be seen fine drawing pens and pencils - and not just for lightly sketching outlines prior to painting. Skilful drawings executed wholly in ink or graphite can now be admired at the end of our two-hour sessions. It can only be a matter of time before charcoal, that most messy and dreaded medium, puts in an appearance. Bring it on, I say! Bold, indelible lines applied directly to the paper, without benefit of eraser, can only mean growing confidence among our members in their own artistic abilities.

Meanwhile, plans are afoot for yet another painting group Christmas lunch. It seems like only yesterday that we were planning last year's festive get-together. Where does the time go?

Gill Carpenter

For information about the group contact, Michael Kempen: Email m.kempen159@btinternet.com or phone 01621 892974.

Bird Watching Group

Bad weather meant that we were not able to have a meeting this month, nor as yet, a plan for November. If anyone would like to join our next bird watching meeting please get in touch with me. Contact details below.

Maureen: Email symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01621 869871.

Computer Group

We met, as usual, in October when we asked ourselves questions that related to a topic.

The topic that we had chosen was 'insert'. We looked at the differences between 'attach' and 'insert' in to our email programs and where to find these two commands. This is different for most email packages. We then moved onto "WORD" where we found many objects that can be inserted. These included pictures, art, clip art, smart art, word art, screen shots, shapes, dates, time (both current and fixed, historic or future), page number, hyperlinks, tables etc. We talked, in greater detail about tables, including how they were set up as well as the types of input, from both within the program and imported.

It was nearly two hours before we realised that we had not had a drink and a biscuit. It was a good thing that we were so engrossed in our discussions that we

failed to notice that Ian had not brought the tea bag with him.

At the November meeting it was confirmed that all would bring along a specific issue or subject to discuss in small groups. As part of that meeting the text for the December News Sheet would also be produced. As previously agreed there will be no December meeting. The January 2015 meeting will take place as usual subject to any prevailing weather conditions.

If you would like the help of a more experienced computer user to enable you to get more from your own computer please come along to our next meeting. The Computer Group Meetings are held in the Claydon Room in Plantation Hall on the third Thursday of each month at 14:00 when you will be made welcome. Just come along.

Ian Newman: Email ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01621 891184.

Cards and Paper Crafts

We are forming a new group for card-making and paper crafts. Lesley Wooton has agreed to be the group co-ordinator. The group will normally meet at 14:00 on the first Wednesday in the month; the first meeting will be in December. New group members are welcome.

Please contact Lesley for details.

Phone 01621855135.

Creative Writing Group

We had an interesting meeting with a variety of writing inspired by cards. Our next meeting will be at 14:30 on Wednesday 26th November when we will be hearing about "£100"; how we would spend it or how it came to us. The writing could be in the first or third person. There will be no meeting in December.

Angela Pleasance: Phone 01621 850310 or email angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk.

Croquet Group

Unfortunately the playing season has come to an end, as wet lawns are easily damaged. The final meeting took place on the 16th October with a smaller turnout than usual, but that was expected as several members had already said they'd be unavailable. Now to find something to occupy us through the winter months before the 2015 season begins towards the end of April.

Through the News Sheet and the Monthly Meetings I'll advise, in good time, when play can resume.

John Gorrie. Email gorries@jprag.myzen.co.uk or phone 01621 854006

Discussion Coffee Morning Group

Our meeting on 17 October was at Lesley Pomphrett's house. Seven of us enjoyed tasty refreshments and we managed to get through an interesting variety of subjects. The most bizarre topic this month was....the concept of not wearing knickers! I should point out, for the sake of decency, that no one owned up to this practice.

Friday coffee mornings up to and including February 2015 will be as follows:

- 21st November 2014 at Anne Newson's home.
- 19th December 2014 at Marilyn Corbett's home.
- 16th January 2015 at Margaret Brown's home.
- 20th February 2015 at Linda Etherton's home.

All meetings will be at 11:00.

Margaret Brown: phone 01621 854885 or Email mbandmeg@btinternet.com.

Family History Group

During our last 2/3 months meetings, we had been looking at the websites where we can find information about our family members in WW1. It had been an extremely interesting subject and it is amazing how much information is available. At our October meeting we looked at Electoral Rolls and talked about how they can help us and the information we can get from them. Fortunately Liz was able to show us, on the computer, what to do.

Please note our next meeting will be on Thursday 20th November (not 27th) 10.30 to 12.30 at my house as usual.

For your reference: There will not be a meeting in December. The January meeting will be Thursday 29th. The February meeting will be Thursday 26th both 10.30 to 12.30.

Lesley Pomphrett: phone 01621 817733 or Email lesleypommy@hotmail.com.

French Conversation Group

Last month we were given an extract from a novel, with the idea of buying one each, if we enjoyed it. Having decided that we wanted to progress with the project, we were introduced to another tense in French. Past Historic. This has another set of

endings for us to learn, or relearn in some cases. Most of the verbs, I am pleased to note have the same stem in each tense. We finished by being shown some Latin words with alternative meanings. The first was "Grosso modo"; did it mean broadly speaking or a large size model? It was the former. The members of the group who had done Latin at school (not me) had to stretch their brains, while the rest of us guessed.

As usual an enjoyable, brain-stretching session.

Our meetings are held on the second Wednesday in each month starting at 10:00.

Report by Pat Newman.

For further information please contact:

Jenny Parker: email jennyparker14@hotmail.com or phone 01621 843581.

French Improvers: Joint Blackwater / Heybridge Group

Ten of us (5 from each U3A) crowded round Angela's dining room table in October for the second meeting of our joint group. We started by looking at the ways in which French and English pronunciation differ, and agreed we would set aside some time in future sessions to practise moving our lips more energetically à la française. Next, we worked in pairs, to talk about what we like and what we don't like, first in relation to food and drink and then to leisure activities. Judging by the noise in the room, everyone had plenty to say.

Our next meeting is on 24th November. This will be the last meeting of 2014 as we decided not to meet in December as it would be too close to Christmas.

For further information please contact:

Jenny Parker: email jennyparker14@hotmail.com or phone 01621 843581.

Gardening Group

The last Garden Visit for 2014 has now been completed. We will not meet again until the 2015 planning meeting, which will be arranged in the New Year."

Pat Yates: Email pat.yates@tesco.net or phone 01621 892866.

Italian Conversation

I hope to resume Italian meetings soon. With that in mind I am getting in touch with everyone so we can have a coffee and a chat sometime to discuss what form we want any future meetings to take, i.e. mainly discussion, some grammar, reading passages and translating them, or a bit of everything.

janice.slight@tiscali.co.uk

Local History Group (LHG)

Elphin Watkins came to give us one of his excellent talks at our October meeting. This one was about the history and construction of the various bell towers in our area, including All Saints, Maldon. He worked with Cecil Hewett in surveying more than three hundred of these bell towers, from which some outstanding drawings were produced by Cecil. Cecil was also able to date all but a few with a good deal of accuracy – long before dendrochronology was available to confirm his judgements.

Our November meeting is for planning our future programme and to share items or stories of interest

Carol Greenhalgh: phone 01621 840339 or Email george.smeed@virgin.net.

Luncheon Group

Seven of us visited Bartellas, Furze Hill in Margaretting, to their recently built new restaurant facility on Friday 24th October. We had a discount offer for the opening of the new restaurant.

There was a wide choice of menus which we all enjoyed, excellent service, and the owner, Mr. Bartella, even waited on some of us.

For November, which could be the 28th, I have not booked anything but I propose to go to The Ship at Tiptree if I get enough names before or on the 14th, and there is room. Will all those interested please contact me as soon as possible?

For December, the previously advised date is the 19th, and I have sent an e-mail to all regulars proposing Russells in Great Baddow.

Many restaurants are already booked up for much of December, so if we are to go anywhere, I need names by 14th December at the latest, as advised in my e-mail, preferably much earlier.

Lists for both of these will be in the Committee Room on Friday 14th November.

John W Harrison: email johnwharrison@sky.com or phone 01621 854851.

Patchwork Group

The next meeting of the Patchwork Group will be in the Claydon Room on Monday the 10th November at 14.00.

Anne Thorpe; Email Anne.thorpe@btinternet.com or phone 01621 850828.

Petanque Group

We played our last game of the season last Monday, 20th October, and were pleased to see a member of the group who drove from Clacton in his new Motor-home. We hope to see him occasionally for a game. We started our meeting with a very good lunch at the new Restaurant at Madison Heights called Henri's Steak Bar and we all enjoyed a delicious meal with very good service and excellent food and hope to go there again in the Spring. We completed the season in very mild weather and there were 13 of us with two on holiday. We hope that everyone can start the season next March, which will be 16th, with a reminder in next February's Newsletter. Wishing you all an enjoyable winter with a good Christmas and see you next year.

Barbara Barbrook. Email c.barbrook@sky.com or phone 01621 855605.

Photography Group

We met as usual at the Combined Military Services Museum with eleven members attending.

At our previous meeting the project was "Artistic Manipulation (via Software)", using whatever Software (free or otherwise) members use or are familiar with. Members illustrated "before and after" versions of their photographs. Most of the meeting was taken up with discussing the results and how these were achieved.

It was decided not to have an assignment for the next meeting to allow more time to discuss the capabilities and ease of use of the various software packages available (free or otherwise). It is hoped to demonstrate some of the more common tasks and, if time allows, to demonstrate some of the more advanced techniques.

We meet again on Thursday 6th November at the Combined Military Services Museum at 14:00. Anyone interested in joining can contact Norman Grove on 01621 842805 or by email norman.grove@gmail.com.

Reading and Books Group

Our book for October was Shirley William's autobiography. Few politicians are loved or even liked, and even fewer of those are women, but Shirley Williams is an exception. The warmth of her voice and her rumpled and unbrushed appearance make her seem human. Perhaps this is why, unlike Margaret Thatcher, she was never a contender for the top position. Williams describes her mother, the writer Vera Brittain, as remote and busy, and encouragement came from her father, the university lecturer.

Shirley William's descriptions of some tempestuous political times appear to be honest and straight forward and therefore this book is not the usual self-serving version of events. There was no spicy one-sided malice, so what she wrote is a direct narrative, few secrets, no revelations, just straight forward political analysis. It does not make for an exciting biography, but most of the members at the meeting enjoyed the book.

The next book group meeting is to be held in Plantation Hall on Wednesday 19th November. More details are available from Carole Overy at caroleovery@sky.com or 01621 89345

Scrabble Group

One or two of the Scrabble group will have been at the Study Day in October so that meeting will have been hosted by Elizabeth Eastwood in my absence, many thanks. There is a meeting in November, as usual, but not December, as that one falls just before Christmas when the Plantation Hall is closed. The next meeting is on Tuesday 25th November at 14.00 in the Committee Room at the Plantation Hall. We resume in 2015 on the 27th January. If you would like to join us, do contact me.

Linda Etherton Telephone: 01621 843702 Email: ethertonbikes@aol.com

Solo Whist

For our October meeting five of us met at Margaret Brown's house on the 8th at 14:00.

We had some very good hands (dare I say even exciting) for 3 of the afternoon deals produced near perfect hands almost a suite each, however not quite so the 2 abundance declared and the 1 misere ouverte's called unfortunately failed.

Looking on the bright side there were lots of good calls and some very clever play. The afternoon was

rounded off by excellent refreshments provided by our host.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 12th November at the home of Geoff & Margaret.

Dave Mason C O G

Dave Mason: phone 01621 858635 or Email tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk

Technical Computing Group

The last meeting took place at Norman's house, and three other members were present.

We looked at the U3A website and discussed how the group would continue to keep the site updated. As Peter is taking a step back at present, Norman has agreed to upload the News Letters to the website and make any changes that are needed.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday the 13th of November.

Again, if any U3A member is interested in coming along to a future meeting, please contact me.

Colin Mason: phone 01621 854906 or Email colin@mason20.wanadoo.co.uk

Ten Pin Bowling

We had 11 players for our bowling session this month and were pleased to welcome two new members, Moira and Lesley.

We used 3 lanes and our best scorer was Christine with 118, a personal best! We are all improving and all of us have off days but still have fun with good company.

New members are always welcome to join us for a 2 hour play at Madison Heights followed by tea/coffee and biscuits for the bargain price of £4.75!

From next month we will be playing through the winter twice a month on the second Tuesday and the fourth Monday. Next sessions as follows:-

- Tuesday 11th November
- Monday 24th November

13:45 for 14.00 start of play.

Lynne Morrison. Phone : 01621 891288 or Email: lejmorrison@gmail.com

Threads and Fabrics Group

Our October meeting was a lively one. There was a discussion on how to use up fabric left over when making clothes, especially cords and

velvets, which have a pile. All the pieces have to be cut the same way up, or one panel of the garment will appear to be a different colour. One member was making a tiered skirt from all the strips of cloth left over, which purposely used the different pile directions to appear as different shades of blue. Embroidery is also popular at the moment. The picture this month is of work in progress. It shows that eggs are not just for Easter, but also for Autumn. If you look carefully, several different insects can be seen.



Autumn Egg .

Author: Pat Newman

The meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month starting at 14:00. Please speak to Pat on this subject.

Pat Newman. Email ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01621 891184.

Walking Group

Our October walk in Danbury started off in sunshine but the stormy weather soon caught up with us. As we walked through Lingwood Common the rain started, followed by flashes of lightning and crashing thunder overhead. At that point we decided to forget Blake's wood and head for the tea shop! Hopefully the next outing to Althorne will bring better walking conditions. This is an area not previously visited by the group but looks quite interesting.

Meet on Thursday 13th November at the Village Hall car park on Burnham Road (it's a small place, so it shouldn't be too hard to find) at 14:00 for a walk around the village and along the Crouch. Please let me know if you can join us.

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

Weekenders Group

I was unable to report last month on the previous goings on as Jackie Jones and I were holidaying in China, and what an experience. It was like stepping into a different world. I had no prior expectations, so went with a completely open mind, and came away with no complaints. We visited the Great Wall and I excelled myself by climbing as high as a couple of younger members of our group. Thank goodness the weather was kind, as to climb in rain, would have proved hazardous.



Hanging Temple:

Author Marilyn Corbett

A trip to see the Terracotta Warriors was the next big event and it was amazing as well as the story of how the initial excavation came about. Our next must see was to Datong to visit the Hanging Temple which is suspended 50 metres above the ground on the cliff face of the Jinxia Gorge. We had many other experiences during our stay but too numerous to mention here. As far as the Weekenders group is concerned dates have been arranged for coffee mornings up to March 2015 and ideas for outings.

Coffee Mornings dates are:

- Saturday 15th November at White Elms Nursery, Bicknacre at 10:00.
- Saturday 13th December at the Red Dog Cafe, Inworth at 10:00.
- Saturday 10th January 2015 at Oliver's Nursery at 10:00.
- Saturday 14th February at Forrester Golf Club, Totham at 10:00.
- Saturday 14th March at Heybridge Basin at 10:00.

Marilyn Corbett: Phone 01621817518 or email mars42@btinternet.com.

Wine Appreciation Group

At the last meeting of the group in October, we enjoyed a taste of Spain by lunching on Paella with a demonstration on how to make an authentic Sangria. This was the last meeting of 2014.



Sangria and Paella

Author Jackie Jones:

The wine appreciation group will not be meeting again until Wednesday 18th March 2015, when we will be having a planning meeting to discuss ideas for future meetings, visits to vineyards, and wine merchants. Ideas for next year include repeat visits to Majestic at Colchester, for their free tasting evenings, and perhaps a return to Bardfield Vineyard in the summer, to view the results of the work being carried out earlier this year on the Anne of Cleves barn. We may also look into the possibility of a day trip to France.

I wish everyone a happy festive season and best wishes for the New Year. I look forward to welcoming new and returning members of the group in March 2015.

Jackie Jones: Email jachjones@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01621 817117.

Further Information and Details of Events

The following events are planned for this and next year. Please note that in future members will be 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.

NOVEMBER 2014. _Thursford Christmas Spectacular 2014. Full details will be sent to travellers as soon as I have them.

FEBRUARY 2015. A guided tour of Basildon Tractor Plant has been arranged for 13.00 on Wednesday 25th February 2015. I am fascinated and overawed on seeing these huge tractors on our Essex roads. They look like giant 'Tonka Toys'! So I am looking forward to seeing them being put together bit by bit. The robot painting area should be well worth the trip and while there we may also 'interact' with moving parts of the vehicle!. The tour will last approximately three hours and will cost £6.00 each, including tea / coffee and biscuits on arrival. We have made a booking with Viking Transport to collect the group from Plantation Hall at 12:00 and return us at about 4.30. It may be best to take sandwiches for lunch, to eat on the bus. The cost of transport will be £5.00, Please sign up early to avoid disappointment as 15 is the maximum number for this trip. Payment in full (£11.00) due by 16th January 2015.

MARCH: UK Supreme Court. All 25 places for this tour on Friday 20th March have been taken. A coach will collect us from Tesco in Heybridge at 08:30 and we should arrive in Westminster at approximately 10:30. Our tour begins at 14.00 and lasts one hour. There is a cafe in the building. Members taking the 'coach only' option have four hours in which to explore London! The rest of us have two and a half hours before our tour begins, so – possible things to do and see during that time;

Changing of the Guards at Horse Guards Parade, Whitehall 11:00 (free).

Visit the Banqueting Hall, The Mall, (£4.95 booked on line) – certainly worth seeing!

Tour the Houses of Parliament, (90 minutes – cost £19.00).

Take an audio tour of Westminster Abbey (90 mins, £15.00).

The London Eye; (£26.50 on line),

Or take a trip on the Thames; Finally Tate Britain is just a short bus ride away.

None of the above is included in the price, but I will book places for anyone who wishes me to.

There are still a few seats available but they are going fast, so book now and join us for a day in London. The cost for coach and tour will be £21.50

and for the coach alone £18.00. Payment will be due by 6th February 2015.

APRIL: Kew Gardens. I have booked a visit to Kew Gardens for Monday 27th April 2015. Entrance to Kew Gardens costs £10.65 (Group and concession rate), and coach cost will be £18.00 pp, details later. You may also like to take a tour of the site on the Kew Explorer land train - hop on/off at any of the seven stops on the site; £3.50 for the day (booked in advance and not included in the above cost). The National Archives are adjacent to Kew Gardens so anyone wishing instead to study there could join the group for the day. Admission to the Archives is free, so cost would be for coach only. Payment will be due in March 2015.

Also planned for 2015.

A visit to the beautiful English Heritage property Audley End House, near Saffron Walden.

A day cruise on a Thames Barge from The Hythe.

A trip to London from Tilbury on the Pocahontas

Please sign up for the events and contact me with any queries.

All cheques should be made payable to Heybridge U3A.

Pat Smith; Phone 01621 856569 or Email patcleary98@sky.com

Association of Essex U3As

Association of Essex U3As Study Day 2014

The Association of Essex U3As Study Day is now history and I am told that, it was again, a very successful day.

Members of the Study Day Committee are analysing the exit questionnaires. As always there is someone who feel they have to complain, but there are many more who wish to compliment us on the efficiency and that they had enjoyed the day.

The Plume staff on duty on Tuesday were excellent which contributed to the successful day.

Association News

The Association of Essex U3As next General Meeting will to be held at St Cedd's Hall, Chelmsford on Friday 28th November 2014, where feedback on the Study Day will be provided to the meeting.

Joyce Woodham (See page 1 for contact details).

On the Notice Board

Including Items from the Third Age Trust

Items from the latest mailing that might be of interest to members.

- A new photography competition, Your U3A, asks for photographs of members engaged in activities that will communicate the essence of the U3A. These will be used for publicising the U3A.

- A seminar 'Publish your own books' to be held on 18th November in London, £35 inc lunch.

- Managing Growth', a seminar to be held on 20th November in Doncaster. £5 inc lunch. Attendance limited to 2 members from each U3A.

- The ballet Cinderella will be screened at the Odeon, Covent Garden on Wednesday 19th November, £14 pp.

- The U3A Christmas Concerts are on 10th December at the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, £18.00 per person, includes mulled wine and mince pies.

- A flyer advertising a second U3A study day at the National Gallery on 26th November 2014.

- A flyer giving details of a screening of Cinderella, a production by the Dutch National Ballet, on 19th November 2014 at the Odeon Covent Garden.

- Information on a new series of dates at the Brooklands Museum in 2015.

- House of Lords Chamber Event 28th November 2014

More details for the above can be found on the Heybridge U3A Notice Board. These and others are also details in The U3A magazine 'Third Age Matters'.

Co-operation between Maldon Area U3As

Details of the ways in which we can work more closely for the benefit of all members, continues. See the Chairman's Report on Page 2.

Contact Joyce Woodham for further details. (See page 1 for contact details).

From Other U3As

Limebrook U3A Bridge Group are looking to recruit new members. (See last month's News Sheet). For further information please contact the Group Co-ordinator, Brian Hunt 01621 781048, Email brianhunt77@hotmail.co.uk for further information.

The Maldon U3A Local & General History group have organised a trip to Flanders. (See last month's News Sheet). For further information please contact the coordinator - Mary Burd on 01621 843020 or email maryburd43@yahoo.co.uk

Group Name, Co-ordinator & Contact Phone Number

Group Name	Co-ordinator (COG)	Telephone Number
Art (Painting)	Michael Kempen	01621 892974
Bird Watching	Maureen Lenoir	01621 869871
Cards and Paper Crafts	Lesley Wooton	01621855135
Coffee Morning	Margaret Brown	01621 854885
Computer	Ian Newman	01621 891184
Cr1eative Writing	Angela Pleasance	01621 850310
Croquet	John Gorrie	01621 854006
Family History	Lesley Pomphrett	01621 817733
French Conversation	Jenny Parker	01621 843581
Gardening	Pat Yates	01621 892866
Italian	Janice Slight	01621 853393
Local History	Carol Greenhalgh	01621 840339
Luncheon	John Harrison	01621 854851
Patchwork	Anne Thorpe	01621 850828
Petanque	Barbara Barbrook	01621 855605
Photography	Alex Lees & Norman Grove	01245 225153 01621 842805
Reading & Books	Carole Overy	01621 893450
Scrabble	Linda Etherton	01621 843702
Solo Whist	Dave Mason	01621 858635
Technical Computing	Colin Mason	01621 854906
Ten Pin Bowling	Lynne Morrison	01621 891288
Threads & Fabrics	Pat Newman	01621 891184
Walking	Elizabeth Eastwood	01621 850618
Weekenders	Marilyn Corbett	01621 817518
Wine Group	Jackie Jones	01621 817117

Week Starting	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
10th November	10 Patchwork 14.00	11 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	12 Solo Whist 14.00 French Conversation 10.00	13 Technical Computing 14.00 Walking 14.00	14 Monthly Meeting 14.00	15 Weekender White Elms Nursery 10.00	16
17th November	17	18 Local History 14.00	19 Book Group 14.00	20 Family History 10.30 Computer 14.00	21 Painting 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00	22	23
24th November	24 French Improvers 14.00 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	25 Scrabble 14.00	26 Creative Writing 14.30	27	28 News Copy to Editor Painting 14.00 Essex Association 10:00 Bird Watching Luncheon ???	29	30
1st December	1	2 Threads 14.00	3 Cards and Paper Crafts 14:00	4 Photography 14.00	5 Committee Meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00	6	7
8th December	8 Patchwork 14.00	9 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	10 Solo Whist 14.00 French Conversation 10.00	11 Technical Computing 14.00 Walking 14.00	12 Monthly Meeting 14.00	13 Weekender Red Dog Cafe 10.00	14
15th December	15	16 Local History 14.00	17 Book Group 14.00	18	19 Painting 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00 Luncheon ???	20	21
22nd December	22 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	23	24	25 Bank Holiday	26 Bank Holiday	27	28
29th December	29	30	31	1 st January 2015 Bank Holiday	2 Painting 14.00	3	4

Diary of Meetings and Visits

For details see articles and co-ordinators above