

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No 10

November 2021

Your Committee

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Archive

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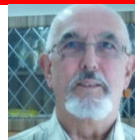
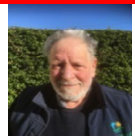
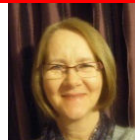
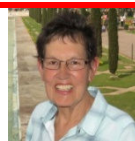

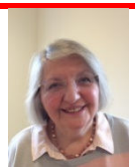



Registered charity number 1160360

Main Meeting Plantation Hall

Friday 12th November 2 p.m.

Guest Speaker Sally Lawrence

'My life as a Continuity Announcer'

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NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Chairman's report for November 2021 News letter.

Well here we are again, another month gone and only around six weeks until Christmas, frightening eh!

October's meeting I feel was quite a success with 40+ members and guests at our main meeting, many staying on afterwards and chatting, just like in pre-Covid days.

The speaker Roger Dorking with his "Tales from the smithy" evoked some good memories of childhood just after WW2.

Very good to see Barbara Barbrook back with us, in fine fettle and ready to restart the art class, what a trooper! Welcome back Barbara.

A big thanks to the tea room gang, a fine job done again, and special thanks for the cold water in my coffee.

I deeply regret that we are still to hear from any of the membership for volunteers to join the committee and take over the running of this U3A from March 2022.

THE CLOCK IS TICKING MY FRIENDS.

Meanwhile, do get out and about, start meeting friends old and new, but be sensible and stay safe. Wear a mask if you are uncomfortable meeting without, keep a distance between each other, and keep on sanitizing hands regularly. Use your own common sense as a guideline, and if you have any symptoms, even if you believe it is only a cold, stay away from others and do a lateral flow test to be certain

Stay safe and healthy

Norman Cumming, Chairman

In Memoriam

The committee realise that keeping in touch with friends has not always been easy over the last couple of years. We are therefore considering publishing the names of members who have sadly died, unless requested otherwise by their relatives.

Linda

Returning to activities safely

Members 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 numbers in the Hall.

Interest Group Activities

The 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. 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@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

Interest Group Co-Ordinator Report

Quite a few groups have now had their first meeting since February 2020. Let's hope we can still meet over the winter as long as we are sensible and careful. Please do not attend any group if you are feeling unwell or have a temperature. It may not be Covid but it's best to be safe. Please also remain vigilant with hand sanitiser as we are all in the vulnerable age range. Having said all that I hope you are enjoying your groups again. Stay safe and well.

Hilary Furniaux groupsco-ordinator@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Editor

The design of the Heybridge U3A News Sheet, and the reports that it contains, is a full-page layout of 12 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 December so send items by last Saturday in November. There will not be a news sheet in January so send items for inclusion into the February 2022 News sheet by the last Saturday in January 2022.

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

From the Membership Secretary

This will be a 'year' of nine months starting 1st July 2021 until 31st 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 1st 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

Monthly Meeting Speaker Programme

Much hilarity was had by all when Roger Dorking regaled us with anecdotes from his life during his talk titled "Tales from the Smithy".

Roger spent his early life in Witham, where his father was the village blacksmith. His father was born in 1900, left school at the age of 14 and then worked in the local forge until he was 73 years old. As well as being the local Farrier and Smithy, he was also an accomplished singer at concerts in London, and at one of these the music accompaniment was by Benjamin Britten. Roger gave us an insight into what it was like to grow up in a very rural environment in the post war years, which reminded many of us of our early years as well; very minimalistic but happy times.

Roger's father also became the Official Farrier to the Essex Shows and attended many 'Point to Points' and even helped out Harry Llewellyn in 1948 when his horse broke one of its shoes at the event.

Roger had some lovely photos on display and showed us a Huntley and Palmer biscuit tin produced in the 1950s and more modern Royal Dalton plates which had been decorated with the original photos of his father, taken at the Farriers in Witham just after the war.

On Friday 12th Nov our speaker will be Sally Lawrence 'My life as a Continuity Announcer'

In December, Friday 10th we are going to be entertained by magician John Pomfrett who has been a member of The Magic Circle for over forty years. He has performed all over England and on national television. No doubt we will have some nibbles too.

Hope to see you in November.

Jan Brown speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

Publicity



Those of you who were at the last meeting might have seen our new business cards. Please feel free to pick up a few to give to anyone who might be interested

Angela Publicity

GROUP REPORTS

Art

After 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

A small group of us met on Friday 29th October on the RSPB reserve of Old Hall Marshes, between Tollesbury and Salcott. The weather was not kind to us and it was raining as we met in the car park. The sun soon came out however, although the wind remained strong throughout. Up on the sea wall, we had good views of Tollesbury Fleet and saw a few little egrets on the mud, also two curlews, one in flight and a small number of redshanks. A cormorant flew over, a group of starlings were attempting a murmuration and a linnet was seen on the landward side. Sadly the Brent geese have not yet arrived to take up their winter residence on Old Hall Marshes, although they have been seen in other parts of the Blackwater Estuary. They seem to be a bit late this year. Two of the group who live in Salcott walked back to the village and were rewarded with the sight of large flocks of widgeon and redshanks in Salcott channel.

Anna Moore

Next meeting -19th Nov at 9.30 in Goldhanger. If you would like to come please contact Jill

Coffee Discussion Group

We have had two meetings, the first at my house in September and on Friday 22nd October at Anne Newson's house in Maldon. It was very nice to feel that we were back in our routine again after the long enforced "COVID" break.

Our next get together will be at Jean Murray's house on Friday 19th November at 11am.

Margaret Brown

Croquet Report

October is the end of the croquet season. We managed to play on the second Wednesday of the month, unfortunately I was unable to attend due to a family commitment, however, Chris, Margaret and Geoff kindly stepped forward and ran the session. The last session (27th October) had to be cancelled as the Groundsman had decided the lawns were too wet to play on and so the Croquet Club had closed the lawns earlier this year, mid-October. We had arranged to have tea/coffee and cake after playing. We still went ahead with the tea/coffee and 9 of us meet up at The Mitre in Wickham Bishops. A little different to our usual lunch at Forresters after our last game of the season, which unfortunately we were unable to do this year. Our thanks to the Maldon Croquet Club, who very kindly let us play on their lawns. Hopefully next year will be better weather and we will be able to play until the end of October.

Anne Newson.

Eat the World

Grab your passports people – we're eating around the world again.....

On the 3rd Thursday of the month, starting on Thursday 20th January, venue t.b.a.

To sign up, please email me: ecawdell62@gmail.com or call 07902 294741.

Lizzie

Family History

The meeting this month was held at the home of one of our members.

Not as many as originally anticipated, just 3 of us, but there were several members who had unexpected problems, even I had to leave earlier than expected.

It did enable us to 'chew over the fat' and consider other alternatives. We agreed to carry on with our chosen venue and 'see how it goes'.

After the 18 months lockdown it's never going to be easy getting back to normal.

So, the next meeting at Diane's home will be Friday 26th November. Any budding Family Historians are welcome to join us, just message me.

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.

Needlecraft Group Report

We all met at a new member's house this month and thoroughly enjoyed chatting and doing various different needlecrafts. We were knitting a little mouse for a cat's toy, crocheting a dolly dress and shawl, a floral cross stitching, hand sewing a bag and pockets on a fabric Advent Calendar and mending a crocheted blanket. Such a busy bunch! Next month we are off to another member in Tiptree.

Hilary Furniaux

Painting 2

I was lucky to have the Secretary in my group as she gave me a lift to the first meeting since Lockdown. We had lots of pictures to show but there was just us. It is free until after December so if you are interested come along November 8th from 2-4pm and we will help if you are a beginner. Sky Arts is starting a new Portrait Artist of the Year and no sky watch on Freeview11. .

Barbara Barbrook

Papercraft Group

We had a lovely afternoon catching up with what's been going on as well as crafting! We made a Birthday card for a Niece and a Pop up card for a Husband and started some Iris Folded Christmas cards too. We are meeting a little earlier in November as 2 of us couldn't make the usual day..

Lesley Woonton

Patchwork Group

The patchwork group met outside at WMCC for the October meeting and enjoyed the wonderful autumn sunshine. Anne has arranged for the group to meet indoors at WMCC for the November and future meetings. The group discussed current and future projects and we all enjoyed our 'show and tell'. It's always good to see what others are working on. Happy sewing!

Jackie Voyez

Petanque Group

I am so pleased that so many of us are still wishing to play, even though this time of year it does seem to quieten down a bit.

We have been very fortunate that our English weather has still been very kind to us. Hopefully it will carry on for a while yet.

We have had some very good scores by our team player's, showing myself up quite a few times. I think I might have to practise more.

Many thanks to you all.

Moir Penhallow Petanque cog.

Photography Group

We held another very successful Zoom meeting on 7th October, our eighteenth so far with 12 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 "A and B". A total of 36 photos were submitted including some from members who were unable to attend. Peter then showed us a few of his latest photos using a microscope. This was followed by a video by Steve Hedges titled "Bird Photography - My Local Patch"



The Knife Angel - Carol Greenhalgh



Arches - Chris Smith

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

Four of the group met in October to discuss Wuthering Heights and receive this month's book "A Fine Balance" by Rohinton Mistry. Set in India during the 1970's in a period of emergency, the book follows the lives of four people from different backgrounds whose lives come together through fate. Short listed for the Booker prize it is a book I would recommend to anyone.

Jackie Jones

Ten Pin Bowling

The group of 8 met for the second meeting since lockdown on Thursday 21st October at Madison Heights. There were mixed fortunes with occasional moments of brilliance.

Graham had the highest score of the day at 187 but was disappointed that a mechanical error meant that he did not achieve 200. Chris had a great first game with many strikes but must have tired as the games progressed

Our meetings by majority choice are on a Thursday morning. Previously our meetings were on a Tuesday but Madison Heights now only operate on Thursday and Friday on a weekday which is a little restricting.

Our next meetings are Thursday 4th Nov and Thursday 18th Nov. If there is anyone who wishes to join us please contact me.

Peter Harvey

U3A Scrabble Report November 2021

Did you solve last months' anagrams? Two of these sets of tiles can be anagrammed and one cannot.

O	A	U	R	G	C
1	1	1	1	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

Solution: (Burago would solve the third one but as a proper noun is not a valid Scrabble word)

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

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

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

It was very good to have two Scrabble boards in play at our first post-Covid meeting held in September, and Angela's hospitality was much appreciated. Buddy the greyhound gave us a big welcome and kept an eye on proceedings as we played two close-matched games.

We usually meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month so the next one will be on Tuesday 23rd November at 2.00 pm, venue to be confirmed.

Please contact me for more information (details on the front page).

Linda Etherton

Walking Group

Sadly, there was no walk in October. Our walk this month will start near the Bowls Club on Park Drive at 2.00pm on Thursday November 11th. There is free parking along parts of Park Drive, otherwise in the car park behind the bowls club, which I believe is probably chargeable.

The walk will be across a field to the Northey Island causeway and then back along the sea wall, finishing for a cuppa maybe at the Queens Head pub or in the park - weather permitting. Sturdy shoes are advised in case of mud.

Please let me know if you'd like to come along so that I know who to wait for. And, as always, contact me if the weather looks likely to halt proceedings.

Linda Wells.

Weekday Lunch

This was our first meeting since Covid. Nine people went to Toms café and, as usual, the food was excellent. The setting felt safe without being crowded. Barbara was back after her stroke and Jean had recovered enough to attend.

The next meeting will be at the Queen Vic at 12.30

Maureen

Weekenders

A good number of Weekenders turned out in October to Perrywoods and we enjoyed a lively chat with our refreshments. It was nice to welcome two new members.

Individual members are going to arrange the venue for the monthly get-togethers, when we plan our activities, and Pat Smith has set the ball rolling by booking the upstairs room for us at The View, Osea Leisure Park on Saturday 20th November at 10.00 am. If you are intending to come or would like to find out more please contact me. (My details are on the front page)

Linda Etherton

Rumblings from Peter for November

Let's have a little rant. Ironic, gas prices too high, production of fertiliser stopped so we pay for them to restart to produce carbon dioxide (CO₂) for the production of food and drink. A world conference shortly in Glasgow on global warming, we have too much CO₂ in the atmosphere!

Yippie!! You organic types may cheer over the fertiliser part but realistically to feed the world you need to feed your crops, for millennia we've used fertiliser, poo from birds, livestock (FYM or plain muck, but naturally people object to the pong!), and us. Many of those black heaps that appear in fields late summer are "ours" from Tottenham. Fish meal-no, over fishing, bone meal etc, oh dear animals involved, natural fertilisers from abroad-oh dear, look at the carbon footprint! Basic slag-whoops, sorry, a waste product from the steel industry and coke burning.

I gather, in some eateries, the vegetarian menu is much depleted as items are dropped to be replaced by vegan options, so no fish, cheese, milk or eggs!

Don't bring soya beans in as a viable option either. Mainly produced in the Americas, often on deforested land, using massive amounts of artificial fertiliser and usually genetically modified seed, and along with navy (baked) beans we have to import. What carbon footprint??

The list is endless, if we decide that's what we want to eat, in or out of season; do we actually look to see its source? Or if we are told you should eat these foods for a better life yet through climate we have to import, our answer tends to be buy! On shopping at one local supermarket though you might have been delayed behind a trailer of locally grown sweet corn destined for that store, if you went elsewhere, shame on you!

The media has targeted the humble bovine as a major producer of methane, but grass left to grow will produce the same gases over a longer period and less explosively. We cannot eat grass but ruminants can, producing clothing, fertiliser and nutrition, not only for us but many invertebrates too, then up that food chain. Seen some very enterprising crows on Dartmoor!

48yrs ago the milkman called 6 days a week with an electric powered float. Central driving position so they could dismount either side onto the kerb, no waiting for traffic to clear before getting out, like today's postman who all seem to drive around in fossil fuel vans. Back then, Percy had just upgraded to a moped, but Ken used his bike for many more years, his round included Osea Island too. Many towns, including Maldon, used hand operated electric trollies! Progress or what?

My rant could go on and on and on, but closer to home, not only is time ticking for our planet, the countdown has started for your u3a. No new committee members by March, NO u3a.

Peter.

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

We 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.

Request for Support

Are you good with technology? Would you like to do something positive with your spare time? Then you may be just the people we are looking for to keep this charity afloat! The Maldon and Burnham Talking Newspaper is wanting to get back into circulation after 18 months absence, but Covid has depleted our volunteers and now we need people who can help with the recording process. You would need to be free on a Thursday afternoon or evening once a month for about 2 hours. We also need help with getting the recordings to the Post Office on a Friday morning.

If you want more information, or you think you could help, please contact Helen Taylor on 01621-740736