

# Heybridge U3A

## News Sheet No. 2011/12

### December 2011

Contacts: Peter Thorpe Chairman 01621 850828  
Brenda Dewar Secretary 01245 400492

#### From the Chairman

The front page photograph taken by Pat Yates is a superb shot taken from a sailing barge (Hydrogen) during this year's Barge Race. This photograph has been selected as "April 2012" in next year's Maldon Calendar published and sold by Barnacle Goose. Well done Pat.



It is hard to believe that we are not yet four years old or that our membership has grown from around 40 to over 160. We must be doing some things right! We are very fortunate to have a small committee of very hardworking and dedicated members. I hope that all members of our U3A appreciate what is being done on their behalf by each member of our committee. I have recently been made aware that it is now difficult to get members to help prepare refreshments at our monthly meetings. The U3A is a self help organisation. If you enjoy free tea, coffee and biscuits please be prepared to offer your help.

Some of our committee members attended the Association of Essex U3As meeting in November and two of them agreed to join the steering group to organise an Association of Essex U3As "Study Day" that is to be held next year. Please give them your support in this new all Essex venture (See also page 7). It also became apparent at the same meeting that every U3A operates according to the needs and abilities of their members, with some more structured than others. I think that we in Heybridge U3A abide by the original U3A principle of learning through sharing skills and knowledge with each other. There is an excellent article by

Brian Stephenson in the current edition of "U3A News" (p43) on the subject of the principles of the U3A.

We were very lucky to have Paddy Lacey as our speaker at the November meeting. Paddy, who is still recovering from a serious illness, gave us an interesting talk on the development and demise of the Maldon railways. It was not all trains, trucks and tracks. He also introduced us to the people and politics. Maldon would have been a very different place if alternative decisions had been made a century and a half ago!

As these are my last jottings before the festive season, I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas. I look forward to seeing you on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Email [thorpe101@btinternet.com](mailto:thorpe101@btinternet.com) or phone 01621 850828.

Peter Thorpe.

#### From the Editor

The volume of group activity is slightly lower this month due mainly to the run-up to Christmas and the New Year. Most of those who have provided copy have wished some form of Seasonal Greeting and these I have omitted from their text. Therefore, this month, I have been able to maintain the text size at 10pt. One of the COGs greetings covers the same points or similar points as put forward by others COGs and can be found in the following paragraph.

"We, the COGs of Heybridge U3A, would like to wish everyone in Heybridge U3A a very merry Christmas and a happy & healthy New Year. We would also to say a special thank you to Peter, our Chairman who has led the way; to Ian, our News Sheet Editor, who works hard so that we all know what is going on; to Gill, our Group Co-ordinator, who keeps us CoGs in line; and to all the other Committee Members for all their hard work. Without these people we would not have such a wonderful Heybridge U3A. Thank you and a Merry Christmas."

Please read the Section titled "Essex Association Study Day" (as raised by the Chairman) on page 7 and respond asap though one of the CoGs or to directly to myself.

The Diary on the last page has been updated to the end of January 2012. It is important that you, as COG's, members of Groups or just members of Heybridge U3A, keep me up to date. If anyone has an interesting story, relevant pictures and anything that relates to The Heybridge U3A or the U3A

movement as a whole, then please contact me with the information so that it can be included in the News Sheet. This is especially true when activities or a visit is planned or confirmed and relates in some way to their group.

The next issue (January 2012) will be issued, like last year, immediately before Christmas. To enable me to do this I am requesting all contributors have their copy with me by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December. This will allow me to assemble the News Sheet for delivery by email before the 25<sup>th</sup> December. Printed copies will be available, as usual, at the January Monthly Meeting. Please continue to send details to me, preferably by email, at [ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk) with 'Heybridge U3A' in the title. Alternatively talk to me at the Monthly Meeting.

Back numbers of the Heybridge U3A News Sheets can be read on our WEB SITE

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

It is considered that communication via this News Sheet, the only method that reaches all members, will ensure that all Heybridge U3A Members, especially those who have recently joined us, can also have the opportunity to participate in any of our activities. The News Sheet can also be used to sound out the views of other members on any relevant subject.

Email [ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk) or phone 01621 891184

Ian Newman.

### Heybridge U3A Monthly Meetings

The next Monthly Meeting is on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December starting at the normal time of 14.00, in the Plantation Hall, Heybridge. This month we have Keith Baldwin who will again be providing a Christmas Package full of anecdotes and humour. The New Year brings us a talk on The Secret Lives of Garden Birds.

A list of other potential subjects for the following Monthly Meetings are as follows:

- February 2012: M.J. Scollan. Stories from a former Police Officer.
- March 2012: AGM

### From the COGCo (Group Co-ordinator)

I do not have very much news this month other than to advise you that we have managed to resuscitate the French Conversation Group. Jenny Parker has agreed to be named as the COG. Pat Newman has agreed to do the write up for the group for the News Sheet so the work will be shared. They have agreed to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month from 10.00 to 12.00. Regrettably, I feel unable to be a member of this group, as I would like to learn Italian. I will still attend a couple of times so I do not lose what little French I have.

I am working to set up the Italian conversation group and, hopefully, this will get going very shortly in the New Year. May I take this opportunity of thanking all the COGs for their

hard work this year and wish them and all members of whatever group they belong to, and to those who do not attend any groups (you are welcome to join), a Happy Christmas and healthy and successful 2012.

Email [gillthorne2@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gillthorne2@hotmail.co.uk) or phone 01621 852294.

Gill Thorne

### Group Names, Co-ordinator, Contact Telephone

Group Name	Co-ordinator (COG)	Telephone Number
Art (Painting)	Michael Kempen	01621 892974
Ballroom Dancing	Joint with Maldon Jo Robson *	* 01621 828236
Bird Watching	Maureen Lenoir	01621 869871
Bridge	Lisbeth Bazzard	01621 843208
Coastal & Marine	Brenda Dewar	01245 400492
Coffee Morning	Margaret Brown	01621 854885
Computer	Tina Abeysekera	01621 858635
Creative Writing	Angela Pleasance	01621 850310
Family History	Lesley Pomphrett	01621 817733
French Conversation	Jenny Parker	01621 843581
Gardening	Pat Yates	01621 892866
Local History	Carol Greenhalgh	01621 840339
Luncheon	Dave Mason	01621 858635
Petanque	Barbara Barbrook	01621 855605
Photography	Peter Thorpe	01621 850828
Reading & Books	Ann Lees	01245 225153
Scrabble	Ruth Tyler	01621 856212
Technical Computing	Colin Mason	01621 854906
Ten Pin Bowling	Janette Lett	01621 879697
Theatre	Gill Bridle & Janet Morley	01621 892587 & 892626
Threads & Fabrics	Anne Thorpe & Pat Newman	01621 850828 & 01621 891184
Walking	Elizabeth Eastwood	01621 850618
Weekenders	Marilyn Corbett	01621 817518
Wine Group	Jackie Jones	01621 817117

### Membership Secretary

We were pleased to welcome one new member in November, taking our total membership to 164. If you are a

non-member who 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month at 14.00) as a guest. There is no need to book, just turn up and sign in.

May I remind all existing members to please let me know of any change in your contact details (address, phone number or email) so that I can update your membership records. If you have not yet received your 2011/12 membership card please collect it at the next monthly meeting or ask someone to collect it for you. Alternatively, if you send me a SAE, I will post it to you.

For any queries regarding membership, please

Email [jennyparker14@hotmail.com](mailto:jennyparker14@hotmail.com) or phone me on 01621 843581.

Or, If I am not available, please

Email [angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk) or phone Angela on 01621 850310.

Jenny Parker.

## REPORTS

### Art (Painting) Group

Two recent visits by professional artist Sue Spiers got us all looking more closely at local views and how buildings and natural features, such as water and grassland, relate to each other. Careful drawing before putting brush to paper is the key to this, says Sue. Several members of the group are still striving to perfect these newly acquired techniques.

Meanwhile, our little "studio" in the Claydon Room is still a touch overcrowded. Most seem to prefer it that way rather than split up this friendly little group or move elsewhere.

December 9<sup>th</sup>, when members would normally be attending the monthly U3A Monthly Meeting at Plantation Hall, will see most of the painters enjoying pre-Christmas lunch at Bunsey Downs golf club in Woodham Walter.

This means, of course, that we won't be there to enjoy the bigger group's seasonal entertainment. We apologise for this, but December is a very busy month.

Gill Carpenter.

For further information, email [m.kempen@sky.com](mailto:m.kempen@sky.com) or phone 01621 892974.

Michael Kempen

### Bird Watching Group

For our November outing we visited Stow Maries WW1 Aerodrome. What a fantastic time we had. Barry who is a RSBP volunteer met us and for the next three hours took us around and told us all about the birds, wildlife and what great plans there are for this site.

The first bird we saw was a Short Eared Owl circling the field in which we were located. What a lovely sight. Owl boxes have been erected on this part of the site and are being used. Hopefully, this means the Owls will stay around and breed in this area.

There are no hides built yet but feeding stations are in place with Greenfinch, Chaffinch and Great Tits as regular visitors. We watched them for ages but a hot drink was on offer so we headed for one of the old Air Corps building for a quick cuppa. The room was full of old sofas but we had no time to sit down as we wanted to look at the wonderful photos around the walls, taken by the owner. They showed the Birds and Animals that he has been lucky enough to see that live on or visit the site.

We were on the last part of the walk and as we reached the far end of the grass runway we were able to watch a small plane take off. Stow Maries is still a working Airfield. As we looked into the sky we saw a Buzzard and a Kestrel soaring on the wind before disappearing into the trees,

There are no meetings in December.

Email [symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk) or phone 01621 869871.

Maureen.

### Computer Group

Eleven members attended the computer group including one new member, who has just joined Heybridge U3A, on a bright November afternoon. The subject for this month was going to be 'cards' but we were so busy with discussing filtering and then on to data bases, that we got carried away and forgot the original subject! It was a very lively and enjoyable meeting, and the next one will be just as good as we will be having a few Christmas 'treats'.

As usual, we will meet on the third Thursday of the month at 14.00 in the Claydon room in Plantation Hall where any new members will be welcome. Last month we learnt about using Skype with that knowledge one of our regular lady members put the lesson into practice and actually saw and spoke to her Grandson in Australia. Congratulations, Maureen! What a great example to us all. We have all learnt so much and continue to do so as a group and individually so it is never too late to learn.

Please come along if you would like to learn more about using your computer.

Maureen

Email [tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk) or phone 01621 858635. Tina Abeysekera

### Coastal and Marine Group

No meeting took place in November and there will be no meetings in December.

We shall meet again on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2012 at 14.00, at the 'Blue Boar'. At this meeting, we hope to put together a programme for the Spring and Summer. We need as much information as possible so that we can book events and then print a programme. If you are interested in "coming on board" we look forward to seeing you then.

Email [brendadewar@btinternet.com](mailto:brendadewar@btinternet.com) or phone 01245 400492. Brenda Dewar.



### **Creative Writing Group**

We had a small but lively meeting in November. There were three contributions on the theme of Christmas, a story and two articles remembering past Christmases. We also had a scary ghost story.

We put some suggestions for the next homework in a box and the one which was picked was "A winter's day walk". Homework is entirely voluntary.

One of our members is doing a creative writing course and I am hoping that he will summarise some of his new knowledge for us at future meetings.

We are not going to meet in December (too near Christmas) so the next meeting will be January 25<sup>th</sup> at my house in Heybridge Basin, at 14:30.

If you would like to join the group please

Email [angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk) or phone 01621 850310. Angela Pleasance

### **Discussion Coffee Morning Group**

This month six of us were at Linda Etherton's house where we had our usual varied discussion plus a surprise treat of some very tasty home baked cheese scones. The next meeting will be held at my house on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 11.00.

Details will be available at the next Monthly Meeting.

Please contact me if you are interested in joining us.

Email [mbandmeg@btinternet.com](mailto:mbandmeg@btinternet.com) or phone 01621 854885.

Margaret Brown.

### **Family History Group**

At our November meeting we decided to try and access the 1911 Census on Ancestry. It is more difficult to get into the 1911 Census than all the others. So armed with a few notes that some members had jotted down at previous meetings, with Angela and Marjorie on the computer, and the rest of us watching and "advising", we did finally hit the jackpot. Angela is going to write down the sequence for us.

There will not be a meeting in December as it is too near Christmas. The next meeting will be Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 10.30 to 12.30 at my house. Provided we are not snowed in, Kay from Blackwater Family History Group will come and show us how we can get as much information as possible from the Free Family Search website and she will help with any problems and questions the members might have.

Please phone if you need information or directions.

Email [lesleypommy@hotmail.com](mailto:lesleypommy@hotmail.com) or phone 01621 817733.

Lesley Pomphrett.

### **French Conversation Group**

Four of us met on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November under Gill Thorne's guidance to restart the French Conversation Group. We

decided that as we all had other responsibilities we would share the COGs duties between us. Jenny Parker has agreed to take the title of COG, suggest the direction the group will follow and be our contact with the rest of Heybridge U3A. The rest of us doing things as needed. We have decided to meet regularly at 10.00 on the second Wednesday of the month (with the exception of December 2011 when we will meet on the 7<sup>th</sup>). As before, we will meet in each other's houses.

Joyeux Noël á tous les membres de l'U3A. Pat Newman.

For further information please

Email [jennyparker14@hotmail.com](mailto:jennyparker14@hotmail.com) or phone me on 01621 843581.

### **Gardening Group**

No visits have taken place this month.

If you have any ideas for talks or meetings, before we get together again next March, please let me know.

Email [pat.yates@tesco.net](mailto:pat.yates@tesco.net) or phone 01621 892866. Pat Yates.

### **Local History Group (LHG)**

Eleven of us enjoyed the November visit to the Chelmsford Museum. Some of the group had been before but all found things to capture their interest. The museum has been refurbished and extended in recent times and is very well organised. It is in a lovely setting in Oaklands Park. It is certainly a place to return to take a more in depth look at what is there. We all mastered the refreshment machines but most probably would have preferred a person to dispense our coffee etc!

A reminder that our meetings are the third Tuesday of each month but that there will not be a meeting in December. We are planning to have speakers for January, February and March, in the meeting room of the Plantation Hall. Exact details have yet to be confirmed.

Email [george.smeed@virgin.net](mailto:george.smeed@virgin.net) or phone 01621 840339.

Carol Greenhalgh

### **Luncheon Group**

Sixteen of us met at 'The Bell' in Tolleshunt Major. The lunch had an extra member with the very welcome return of Beth Jeffries. We were all very pleased to see how well she looked considering her recent operation. Back to the lunch. There were menu's on the tables, although when we ate there previously there were no menus other than that which was on the specials board. We all ordered our meals with some us having a starter but those that didn't waited well over an hour and a quarter before they ate. There was only one vegetarian choice (poor I think). However, when we all got our meals they were very tasty and good value for money. Originally, when we booked the Friday meal we asked to sit in the conservatory, but on confirming numbers, I was told that the conservatory had been given to a rambling group. When we had finished our meals, we were

informed that there was only one chef and a very small kitchen, hence the long wait (overbooking I think).

The next lunch is the Christmas one, which is on the 16<sup>th</sup> December at 13.30. The venue is 'The Old Ship' at Heybridge Basin. I am looking forward to seeing everyone then.

Email [tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk) or phone 01621 858635. Dave Mason Luncheon Group COG.

### **Petanque Group**

Some of us are continuing to have a break until the Spring, but those who want to play will play if the weather is suitable. Therefore, we are only partially hibernating this winter. We shall be starting again playing weekly from the middle of March. So watch this space, and have a Happy Christmas.

Email [c.barbrook@sky.com](mailto:c.barbrook@sky.com) or phone 01621 855605.

Barbara Barbrook.

### **Photography Group**

Our assignment subject for viewing at the November meeting was a single picture viewed in three ways, as colour, monochrome and sepia. Members chose several methods to create their photographs, with most using a computer based editing programme to alter the look of the image. It was also demonstrated that by changing the camera settings it was possible to shoot the picture in the three different styles.

It was clear that the chosen subject dictated which style was most suitable, with sepia giving an "old fashioned" look and monochrome giving a "dramatic" look, but with colour showing how it actually was when taken!

The "assignment" for viewing in December is "Autumn" with "Christmas" for January!



If you are interested in digital photography, come and join us. Our aim is to enjoy and to improve our photography, together.

Peter Thorpe

Author – Chris Denham

Email [thorpe101@btinternet.com](mailto:thorpe101@btinternet.com) or phone 01621 850828.

### **Reading and Books Group**

A lively discussion was prompted by 'The Mermaid Chair' by Sue Monk Kidd, a novel set mainly on Egret Island amid the salt marshes and creeks of South Carolina. Jessie, about forty, being both wife and mother, was forced to return to the island when her mother cuts off her finger intentionally. Whilst on Egret Island Jessie embarks on a passionate affair with a monk soon to take his final vows. The central theme is her spiritual and emotional journey to find what she really wants, together with her discovery of secrets and guilt in her mothers' life concerning the death of her father, for which Jessie as a child felt responsible.

This was a good book for getting us talking.

In December, there will be a Christmas lunch instead of the usual discussion. We resume in January with 'The Long Song' by Andrea Levy.

Pat Yates.

Please contact Ann Lees if you wish to join us.

email: [annlees@yahoo.com](mailto:annlees@yahoo.com) or phone 01245 225153.

Ann Lees.

### **Scrabble Group**

Our October afternoon was another happy Scrabble session. Two full boards played two games each, interspersed with tea and biscuits, and much discussion based about words.

We have no December meeting, as it would have been on 22<sup>nd</sup> when, I am sure, we will all be occupied with the festive season. We start again on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January, when we shall be pleased to welcome any members who would like an afternoon of competition, and conversation.

Email [r.tyler936@btinternet.com](mailto:r.tyler936@btinternet.com) or phone 01621 856212.

Ruth Tyler

### **Technical Computing Group**

The inaugural meeting of the Technical Computing Group took place on Thursday the 10th of November where we had five members present. Unfortunately Norman was unable to attend due to illness. We all wish him well.

A general discussion took place about the format and aims of the group. Chris Denham gave a very informative insight into photo printing using the Photo Shop program and the various types of printing paper that are available. We also discussed the aspects or limitations of the various types of Windows operating systems in use; XP, Vista, and Windows 7. A discussion was started about Web design but as our next meeting is at Peter's house it was decided to wait until then so he can show us how he updates the Heybridge U3A Web pages specifically with respect to the inclusion of the Heybridge U3A's Monthly News Sheet.

The next meeting is on Thursday the 8th of December.

Email [colin@mason20.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:colin@mason20.wanadoo.co.uk) or phone 01621 854906. Colin Mason.

## Ten Pin Bowling Group

Five turned up for our session on the 8<sup>th</sup> November. We played three games. There were lots of strikes and spares and a great improvement in techniques. The players that attended this month were all of similar ability so we just booked one lane. We played, chatted and generally had fun.

Next month's meeting is on the 13<sup>th</sup> December. We are meeting at a new time of **10.00**, bowling for two hours and then, as Christmas is near, having lunch at Izumi next door to Madison Heights. Anyone wishing to join us is very welcome.

More information can be obtained from me.

Email [lettsnooks@talktalk.net](mailto:lettsnooks@talktalk.net) or phone 01621 879697.

Janette Lett

## Theatre Group

There is no Theatre News this month.

Gill

Email [dennis-morley@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dennis-morley@tiscali.co.uk) ,  
[gillianbridle@btinternet.com](mailto:gillianbridle@btinternet.com) or phone 01621 892626.

## Threads and Fabrics Group

At our November meeting, our talk was of pretty things. Some of our members had been on a course making fabric flowers and they brought in some of them for us to look at and discuss. It was amazing how much fabric each one took. We also looked at some eastern European fabric dolls, to see how they were constructed which is an unusual



use for lace doilies. But the cutest thing was made by one of us. It was Mrs Teasel (based on Mrs Tiggywinkle). It was an afternoon which, I think, will give us lots of inspiration to try different things for Christmas.

Mrs Teasel – Author Anne Thorpe

Note the earlier time for our next meeting (13.00).

If anyone is interested in joining us, please contact Anne Thorpe or Pat Newman.

Anne by Email [anne.thorpe@btinternet.com](mailto:anne.thorpe@btinternet.com) or phone 01621 850828.

Or Pat by Email [ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk) or phone 01621 891184.

## Walking Group

Our November walk took us through Lingwood Common and Blake's Wood in Danbury on yet another mild and pleasant autumn afternoon. The terrain was a little more challenging than usual (that area of Danbury being rather more hilly than I had anticipated) but we all survived the outing, even enjoying most of it! The tree colours were splendid, as were the numerous mushrooms/toadstools in the undergrowth. Most spectacular were the several specimens of fly agaric; beautiful but deadly!

We finished the outing at the most convivial Tea Shop on the Green. Tea and cakes, making a perfect end to the afternoon.

The date for our December walk has changed to Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December as many people will be on the theatre trip on our scheduled date. This will be a morning circular walk around Wickham Bishops and Little Braxted. We will meet at the Green Man car park at 10:30 returning there for lunch. I have cleared the parking arrangement with the pub and booked us in for lunch there at 12:30. I do hope we will have a good turnout. If the weather lets us down and/or you do not wish to walk but would still like to join us for lunch, please let me know:

Email [e.m.e@talktalk.net](mailto:e.m.e@talktalk.net) or phone 01621 850618. (mobile 07581 029816)

Elizabeth

## Weekenders Group

My holiday over I am now back in time to give you my update. I would like to begin by thanking Margaret Brown for deputising for me during November while I was sunning myself in South Africa. I had a wonderful time but am now geared up to brave the cold after temperatures in excess of 35 degrees.

Weekenders going to the Christmas Lunch on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December have now all made their menu choices, the meal has been booked and deposit paid. I will collect the £ 10.00 from diners at the next U3A Monthly Meeting.

Dates for your diaries:

- Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December Jazz Night at Wickham Bishops.
- Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Lunch at The Anchor, Runsell Green, Danbury at 13.00.
- Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December Coffee Morning at Oliver's Nursery at 10.00.



- Saturday January 14<sup>th</sup> Coffee at The Barn, Chigborough Road, Heybridge.
- Saturday February 11<sup>th</sup> Cafe Snug, Terajola, Hatfield Peveral (near Peartree Pantry).

Email [mars42@btinternet.com](mailto:mars42@btinternet.com) or phone 01621 817518.

Marilyn Corbett.

### **Wine Appreciation Group**

Eight people arranged to travel to Langford Village Hall for the Christmas Wine Tasting Exhibition on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November. Our last outing of the year will be on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, when we are planning to visit the Colchester Wine Centre for some guidance on choosing wine for Christmas and the New Year.

Email [jachjones@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jachjones@tiscali.co.uk) or phone 01621 817117.

Jackie Jones.

### **Possible New Group (Solo Whist)**

I would like to start a group for anybody who would be interested in playing Solo Whist. This would be one afternoon per month. If any one is interested in joining this new group please contact me.

Email [tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk) or phone 01621 858635. Dave Mason

### **Essex Association Study Day**

Four from the committee went to the Association of Essex U3As where a Study Day next year was discussed. Two of us, namely Ian and Joyce, from the Heybridge U3A Committee were co-opted onto the Steering Committee to prepare for the Study Day. The Study Day is likely to be in October 2012. However at this stage no decisions have been taken on dates, venue, costs, the catering arrangements or if the study day will go ahead. These are still open to discussion and the support that we get.

As we are on the Study Day Steering Committee we want to make sure that all our members are aware that there will be a Study Day, enable them to make suggestions as to what topics might be made available, possibly have input into the subject before the day and attend some of the sessions.

We need you to come up with some specific subjects and/or ideas. Suggestions etc can be given to us through your group CoGs or directly to Ian or Joyce. Some idea of those who might be interested in attending this Study Day would also be useful.

The Committee has to assemble the suggestions so they would like your input by the January Monthly Meeting on the 13th January. Proposing suggestions at an earlier date, that is before the New Year, would be appreciated.

### **On the Notice Board**

The following items of News can be seen on the Notice Board at the next Monthly Meeting or have been available at a recent Monthly Meetings.

Every month we receive information from Head Office keeping Heybridge U3A Group informed of events happening throughout the UK. If you are interested and would like further information please contact me.

Advance details for the 2012 Summer Schools:

- Summer School 1: Harper Adams University College, Newport, nr Telford – 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> July.
- Summer School 2: Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester – 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2012.

The programmes for both these Summer Schools are extremely varied in content, and are residential. Full board in ensuite accommodation costs £315 per person. If you would like a copy of the programme, please let me know.

On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March, at the Royal Institution of Great Britain: U3A Explores Science at the RI. The talks are on – “forensic science”, “accelerated dreams” and “food production in a changing climate” – three very varied subjects. Tickets are £18 including refreshments, and start at 2 p.m. finishing about 5 p.m.

Other Notices include:

- Interested in Chess? Why not join the newly formed Group U3A National Chess by email? You have your own chess board and play via sending and receiving moves by email. It operates via page on the U3A National website – [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk). For full information email Dick Chapman, of Watford U3A, at [dick.chapman@ntlworld.com](mailto:dick.chapman@ntlworld.com)
- The Marriage of Figaro by Mozart A new screening date for the film at Odeon, Covent Garden will be on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> January 2012. 12.45 -16.45. Tickets £12.50; Maximum two per applicant. Address as above.
- The Sixth Shared Learning Project at the British Library – The Restoration of Green London. The Project starts on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012 and lasts until April. Afternoon sessions at 2 to 3 week intervals. Applications close 31.10.2011. For more information email [Kay.denny@btopenworld.com](mailto:Kay.denny@btopenworld.com)
- We have also been sent leaflets about “Shared Learning Projects” – interested?

If you are interested in anything and would like further information please contact me:

Email [brendadewar@btinternet.com](mailto:brendadewar@btinternet.com) or phone 01245 400492. - Brenda Dewer

If you attend one of these regional or national meetings, feedback to me, the Editor, would be appreciated.

If you are planning to put something on the notice board that is not group related, and it is available prior to the first Friday of the month, the Editor would be pleased to include it in this section of the News Sheet. If it is something that takes a whole page this can easily be sent out with the Monthly News Sheet.

## Diary of Meetings and Visits.

For details see articles and co-ordinators above.

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
5th December	5	6 Threads 13.00	7 French Conversation 10.00	8 Technical Computer Group 14.00	9 Monthly Meeting 14.00	10 Weekender Jazz	11 Weekender Christmas Lunch 13.00
12th December	12	13 Ten Pin Bowling 10.00	14 Wine Tasting 14.00	15 Computer 14.00 Walking 10.30	16 News Sheet for January Copy to Editor Painting 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00 Luncheon 13.30	17 Weekender Coffee at Oliver's Nursery 10.00	18
19th December	19	20	21 Book Group Lunch 14.30	22	23	24	25
26th December	26	27	28	29	30	31	1 <sup>st</sup> January
2nd January	2	3 Threads 14.00	4	5 Photography 14.00	6 Committee Meeting Painting 14.00	7	8
9th January	9	10 Ten Pin Bowling 10.00	11 French Conversation 10.00	12 Technical Computer Group 14.00 Walking 14.00	13 Monthly Meeting 14.00	14 Weekender Coffee at The Barn 10.00	15
16th January	16	17 Local History 14.00	18 Book Group 14.30	19 Computer 14.00	20 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00 Coastal and Marine 14.00 Luncheon TBC	21	22
23rd January	23	24 Scrabble 14.00	25 Creative Writing Group 14.30	26 Family History 10.30	27 News Sheet Copy to Editor Bird Watching	28	29 <sup>th</sup>