



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No. 2012/12

December 2012

Contacts: Peter Thorpe Chairman 01621 850828

Brenda Dewar Secretary 01245 400492

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

From the Chairman

Christmas is coming and these are my last notes for 2012! I am also reminding you that we will not be publishing a News Sheet in January. I look forward to not having to think of "suitable" things to write for a couple of months – great! There is however an important notice in this News Sheet, regarding nominations for next year's committee. Our U3A offers members a unique range of interest groups and meetings but it will be unable to continue unless a few more of our members are prepared to stand for the committee and help organise our activities. If you enjoy the benefits of U3A membership, consider joining a very special "interest group" – our committee.

The first Association of Essex U3A's Study Day took place after our November News Sheet was published and I wanted to make sure that this very successful event was recorded in this edition. I know that the Association had wanted to organise a big event such as this for several years and in 2012 it finally happened at the Plume School in Maldon. An enormous amount of work over the previous nine months had to be done before any delegates could attend. It seems disproportionate that the day passed so quickly. Heybridge U3A played a big part in the event, as not only were there more delegates from our U3A than any other, but the Study day committee was chaired by Joyce Woodham with Ian Newman looking after the logistical organisation. My wife Anne also courageously agreed to be a group leader, sharing her knowledge with other U3A members who wanted to learn about the intricate art of patchwork. As often happens after such an event, a new patchwork group is now being formed in our own U3A. Our members were also acting in other vital roles such as car parking and guides.



Peter Stilts, the Mayor of Maldon
Author: Peter Thorpe

Peter Stilts, the Mayor of Maldon arrived during the opening session and in his short address expressed his admiration for the ideals of the U3A both as a movement and for the many benefits offered to members. He welcomed the delegates to Maldon and hoped that they enjoy the experience of their day of study together. From the many smiley faces I saw in the Plume School, I can report that the day was a great success.

We were treated to an excellent talk by Roger Slade on his Journeys to Antarctica at the main meeting in November. Roger has made many trips to this cold, beautiful and dangerous part of the world. The extremely low temperatures make normal human activities difficult and because of the delicate environment great care has to be taken to prevent infecting the indigenous animals with human diseases. Roger is an accomplished photographer and we were enthralled by his superb shots of the icescapes and of the prolific wild life.

Email thorpe101@btinternet.com or phone 01621 850828.

Peter Thorpe.

Important Notice: Committee Nominations 2013

We will have to elect a new Chairman and several committee members at the AGM on the 8th March 2013. Details of the posts requiring nominations are given below:

Chairman

Our constitution stipulates that the Chairman can only hold office for 3 consecutive years. A retiring Chairman is not eligible for re-election during the next 12 months. Peter Thorpe is retiring as Chairman and is not seeking nomination for any position on the committee in 2013.

Joyce Woodham, currently Vice-Chairman and Programme Secretary, is eligible and willing to be nominated for election. This position is also open to other nominations.

Committee members

Committee members are elected to stand for 3 years before requiring to be re-elected. With the exception of Jenny Parker, Membership Secretary, all Committee members have served three years and nominations are therefore required for the following posts:

- Secretary *
- Vice-Chairman
- Treasurer
- Programme Secretary
- Social Secretary
- Interest Group Co-ordinator *
- News Sheet Editor *

* The following existing committee members are willing to be nominated for re-election to continue in their current offices:

- Secretary - Brenda Dewar.
- Interest Group Co-ordinator – Gill Thorne
- News Sheet Editor – Ian Newman.

Nomination forms will be attached to the December News Sheet. One form needs to be completed by each person wishing to stand for a position on the Heybridge U3A Committee. The Nomination Form needs to be signed by the Nominee, Proposer and Secunder and given to or posted to the Secretary at "Drifters", Church Road, West Hanningfield, Essex, CM2 8UJ, to arrive by Friday 22nd February 2013. If there is more than one person nominated for any one position, a vote will take place at the AGM on Friday 8th March 2013.

The names of Nominees and positions will be published in the March issue of the News Sheet, which will be available prior to the AGM.

From the Editor

There will be no January 2013 issue of the Heybridge U3A News Sheet. Therefore you will find additional text and dates have been inserted in this issue of the News Sheet. This issue contains planning information, not only about the rest of December 2012, but also about January and February 2013. The team that have produced this Diary hope that they have successfully produced a three month Diary. Having squeezed the Diary onto one page there was still the need to either reduce the text or to reduce the font size to 9pt. The latter option was chosen. Those reading the News Sheet on their PCs or laptops can enlarge the text. If you find this smaller text size is difficult to read please let me know.

A report on the Study Day has been included in the section on page 7 of this News Sheet. If you wish to share some of your thoughts on the Study Day, please let me have them.

Please read the section on Committee nominations above. These same details can be found on the Heybridge U3A WEB site (See top of page 1 for address).

The Diary on the last page has been updated to the end of February 2013. 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. Please continue to send details to me, preferably by email with 'Heybridge U3A' in the title. Alternatively talk to me at the Monthly Meeting. Printed copies will be available, as usual, at each Monthly Meeting.

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

Ian Newman.

Membership Secretary

There were no new members in November, leaving our current membership at 168.

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.

For any queries regarding membership, please

Email jennyparker14@hotmail.com or phone me on 01621 843581.

Or, If I am not available, please

Email angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk or phone Angela on 01621 850310.

Jenny Parker

Group Names, Co-ordinator, Contact Telephone

Group Name	Co-ordinator (COG)	Telephone Number
Art (Painting)	Michael Kempen	01621 892974
Bird Watching	Maureen Lenoir	01621 869871
Coffee Morning	Margaret Brown	01621 854885
Computer	Ian Newman	01621 891183
Creative Writing	Angela Pleasance	01621 850310
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
Petanque	Barbara Barbrook	01621 855605
Photography	Peter Thorpe	01621 850828
Reading & Books	Ann Lees	01245 225153
Scrabble	Ruth Tyler	01621 856212
Solo Whist	Dave Mason	01621 858635
Technical Computing	Colin Mason	01621 854906
Ten Pin Bowling	Glenn Cousins	01621 816721
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

Heybridge U3A Monthly Meetings.

The next Monthly Meeting is on Friday 14th December starting at the normal time of 14.00, in the Plantation Hall, Heybridge. This month we look forward to seeing you at our meeting when Lynda Scholes will entertain us with a talk entitled – "God rest ye merry". We may be able to provide something more festive than biscuits with your tea – if you are very good!

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

- January 2013: Pat Rennoldson Smith presenting the story of the 1953 Essex Flood Disaster, as told by the people.
- February 2013: Brian Carline with amusing accounts of life in our schools.
- March 2013: AGM followed by Roger St Pierre with it isn't all champagne. The trials and tribulations of a travel writer.
- April 2013: Lynda Holdaway on the National Garden Scheme

- May 2013: John Frankland's talk on "Plotlands", including the land given to returning servicemen after both World Wars.

From the COGCo (Group Co-ordinator)

I am very pleased to tell you that Glenn Cousins (see chart for telephone number) has agreed to be the COG of the Ten Pin Bowling Group with immediate effect. Glenn attends most sessions, but occasionally he cannot attend, so Lynne Morrison (01621 891288) has agreed to deputise. My thanks to both of them. This is a usually well supported and fun Group so I am sure we will not cause them any problems!

Another piece of good news: Anne Thorpe, one of the COGs for the Threads and Fabrics Group, the person who is almost always there organising the tea and coffee, the one who persuades you to help with refreshments, and last, but not least, the wife of our chairman, has suggested a new Group – Patchwork. I brought this up at the last meeting and asked anyone interested to speak to Anne. I was delighted at the end of the meeting to hear that 9 people had expressed an interest in this Group. As this will require a larger space than members' homes, Anne is looking to book the Meeting Room so people can spread out their work. This will take a little time to arrange so it is envisaged that this group will start in the New Year, and all interested parties will be kept informed. I wish you all every success.

There will not be a News Sheet after this issue until February so if you have any queries over the next two months, please contact me and I will try and help.

Finally, I wish you all a Happy Christmas and healthy and prosperous New Year.

Email gillthorne2@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01621 852294.

Gill Thorne.

REPORTS

Art (Painting) Group

While admiring each other's efforts at the end of a recent session, several of us were struck by the improvement in all our work, regardless of style or subject. This must say something about the length of time most of us have been painting together on Friday afternoons, several years in many cases. Working "ensemble" leads to the sharing of ideas and methods of working and, above all, shared appreciation for each other's compositions.

For most of us, painting alone at home is no substitute for the fun and creativity of working as a group. All the gossiping and tea drinking helps too.

However, we are still trying to find ways to fit the would-be painters on our waiting list into the Claydon Room without having to rearrange the furniture in the style of an old-fashioned schoolroom. The current seating arrangement, around four sides of an oblong, allows us all to see and hear each other's comments at all times, while retaining enough space to perambulate the "studio" inspecting each other's work. Any suggestions gratefully received!

Report by Gill Carpenter

For information about the group please contact Michael Kempen:

Email m.kempen@sky.com or phone 01621 892974.

Bird Watching Group

It was a lovely dry morning as we met up with John, a volunteer at Abbots Hall Farm. We had only gone a few yards when we heard a Song Thrush singing in the trees. Ahead, the track seemed full of Chaffinches. We watched them, there could have been more than fifty, darting from ground to bushes for ages.

The fields and bushes were also full of Fieldfare, (Fieldfare belong to the Thrush family) as we carried on down the track to the first hide. I have never seen so many in one place before.

From the wetland hide you can see the Salcott Channel and the breaches made in the sea wall. This was done to encourage species of waders and wildlife. While we were in the hide we saw Little Egret, Curlew, Grey Plover, Lapwing, Brent Geese and Cormorant. As we made our way to the Lake Hide, John explained what a lot of work is involved keeping the salt water away from the lake. There is an island on the lake on which a Snipe never seemed to move, at least while we were watching. We also saw Shelduck and Wigeon.

As we started to make our way back, flocks of birds took flight and flying low, was a Marsh Harrier. What a wonderful way to end our day.



The Bird Watching Group in the gardens of Abbots Hall.

Author: Jenny

Next month we are meeting at Heybridge Basin on 28th December at 10.00. I hope you can join us.

For further information, email symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01621 869871.

Maureen.

Computer Group

The November meeting of the Computer Group was again poorly attended. It was decided by those attending that after the November meeting we would not meet again until February 2013. Should the numbers remain low in February 2013, then consideration will need to be given to not meeting in the Claydon Room in future.

Though the meeting was small in number a useful exercise was undertaken in the receiving and sending of email attachments.

Should anyone who has only a PC and no laptop wish to attend, a laptop is available for use by any U3A member.

We normally meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month in The Claydon Room at Plantation Hall. Any one who would like to expand their knowledge of computers and their uses will be warmly welcomed.

Ian Newman

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

Creative Writing Group

A small group heard pieces inspired by our word game, some new parapsydokians, a poem and a story left over from last month. We ran out of time before we could discuss any writing techniques.

There will be no meeting in December but we will meet again in January, on the 4th Wednesday, 14:30 at my house. We will have an open month for January without any set subject, when our members can bring anything they have written. Alternatively, or additionally, they can bring a short passage from a published author that illustrates a particular aspect of the craft of writing.

New group members would be welcome; please contact me.

Angela Pleasance

Email angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01621 850310.

Angela Pleasance

Discussion Coffee Morning Group

We met on 16th November at Gill's house and in between tea, coffee and biscuits we managed to find a little time to talk! This included a few snippets on the Antarctic region with a couple of holiday photos kindly supplied by Margaret Clark. Some of us had been to see the latest James Bond film the day before. It is called 'Skyfall' and its definitely recommended to those who enjoy such things.

For the benefit of forward planning our next 3 coffee mornings, all at 11.00am and all on Fridays, are as follows.

- 21st December at Margaret Clark's house
- 18th January at Margaret Brown's house
- 15th February at Jean Murray's house.

Details as always will be available at the monthly meeting, otherwise please telephone me for information.

Email mbandmeg@btinternet.com or phone 01621 854885.

Margaret Brown.

Family History Group

At our November meeting, Chris Denham gave a very comprehensive presentation to show us how using "wild cards" can help when you are trying to find one of your ancestors. When searching ancestors the names can have been entered incorrectly or over the years the spellings can alter. By using quotation marks, asterisks and question marks with part of the name it is possible to find a connection. It was an interesting talk and he gave us hand-outs so we can try for ourselves. We also had another discussion about the brick wall Dorothy has encountered. Again more ideas were suggested for her to try.

There will not be a meeting in December. Our January meeting will be on Thursday 24th January. The February meeting will be Thursday 28th. My house as usual (10.30 to 12.30).

I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Email lesleypommy@hotmail.com or phone 01621 817733.

Lesley Pomphrett.

French Conversation Group

Following on from last month's exercises using the story of a now elderly farm labourer's daughter's memories of her childhood, we talked about when we were young. I think that it made us realise how trustful were our mothers, or was it blissful ignorance. We all grew up in a world where traffic was minimal due to either the price of cars and/or petrol rationing. Where it was considered unpatriotic to publish scare stories in the very small newspapers and strangers in your neighbourhood were noticed. A highpoint in our lives was the Coronation, parties around a television with a screen about the size of a modern i-pad. In my case, my parents took me to a party where a large lump of blue plastic (a magnifying lens) was hanging over the front of the enormous cabinet, where numerous people in the room stared at figures with elongated legs and heads moving through a strangely shaped church. We were told it was the Abbey. Perhaps the day was remembered for the entry of sweets into our lives, more than the historic event. Although coming from different backgrounds and having a spread of ages our memories were surprisingly similar. None of our homes had things that we now take for granted like fridges and washing machines. Winters were cold, bedrooms were bitter in winter for only the very rich were rumoured to have "central heating". It was decided that the world that we grew up in, whether we were city or rural children, gave us freedoms that today's children couldn't even imagine and none of us died from food poisoning despite the lack of refrigeration, I wonder why?

Report: Pat Newman

For further information please contact Jenny Parker by

Email jennyparker14@hotmail.com or phone on 01621 843581.

Gardening Group

No Report – Winter (Editor)

Email pat.yates@tesco.net or phone 01621 892866.

Italian Conversation

At the Beginner's Italian Group we began, as usual, by each member saying what they had been up to since the last meeting. One of the group had recently been on holiday to Italy where the weather was much nicer than here, which made the rest of us rather envious. Most of the meeting was spent translating and analysing various sentences that had been printed out. These used a variety of tenses, present, future and past, as well as different conjunctions to form more complex sentences from what would otherwise have been a series of simpler ones. Also some pronouns were introduced to avoid repetition of the noun. All in all it made for a taxing two hours, but the exercise was felt to be very useful, and was one that would be worth repeating.

The next Beginner's meetings are 3rd December and 7th January. Due to Peter soon due to start daily radiotherapy for 5 weeks, the December and January meetings might be subject to change. This also applies to the Advanced Italian Group.

In the Advanced Italian Group we translated a passage where three people spoke about various activities, some referring to things done in the past, some to things they were currently doing and some to things they were going to do in the future. We then answered questions, in Italian, on who was doing what and when. We then worked on another passage which spoke about an actress, her family and how she got into acting, and then answered a series of questions on the passage. Both of these exercises were taken from a past Italian GCSE paper. It was interesting to test our level of Italian. In fact we rather surprised ourselves by managing without too much difficulty, which was certainly a morale-booster.

The next meetings of the Advanced Italian Group are on the 17th December and 21st January

Auguro a tutti un Buon Natale e un Felice Anno Nuovo.

Email janice.slight@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01621 853393

Janice Slight.

Local History Group (LHG)

There will not be a meeting in December. We next meet on 15th January when David Andrews will be telling us about the Underground Maldon project. We also hope to have a speaker at our meeting on 19th February.

More information will later be circulated by email to those on the Local History list or contact Carol. Please let her know if you plan to come.

Email george.smeed@virgin.net or phone 01621 840339.

Carol Greenhalgh

Luncheon Group

Sixteen of us met on Friday 23rd November 2012 at 'Miller and Carter' in Chelmer Village for our November lunch. We had an enjoyable lunch with several comments that we should go there again.

On Friday 21st December we are going to 'Le Bouchon' in Heybridge for our Christmas Lunch as previously advised. The only member who will miss out is Beryl Claydon who is now at St Georges in Witham following the successful operation on her foot on 26th November.

On Friday 25th January 2013 we are booked to go to the recently refurbished, with change of ownership, 'The William B', in Hatfield Peverel. There are a number of names on the list already which will be available at the Monthly Meeting on Friday 14th December together with the current menu which may well have changed by January, but will be similar.

Looking ahead to February 2013, 'The Ship' at Tiptree is the venue in mind and for March 2013, 'The Blue Bridge' in Writtle.

Email johnwharrison@sky.com or phone 01621 854851.

John Harrison.

Petanque Group

This group has now officially stopped for the winter, but there is no reason why you cannot play if you are motivated to do so or to start playing. Just phone Alf Bell on 01621 840158 email guer5inno@talktalk.net or Glenn Cousins on 01621 816721 e-mail maureencousins@btinternet.com who will be able to help you.

The February 2013 News Sheet will give you the March starting date for the group.

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

Barbara Barbrook.

Photography Group

I seemed to have caused some confusion regarding the group assignment for November whether it was "reflections" or "photos I like". We resolved the problem by looking at both, as some thought it was one, while others, the other! It is very gratifying to see our photographs on the screen. Our monthly assignments remain a popular way of learning and the interpretations are always very creative. We also discussed the problem of where to focus on a reflection, because the place is often not where you think it is!



Barge Reflections

Author: Peter Thorpe

Our assignment for December is to make a composite photo of several different photos. This will probably require some additional editing work off-camera - but not necessarily.

If you are interested in digital photography, come and join us. You will be made welcome whether you are completely new, experienced or just want to find your "photographer's eye". Our aim is to enjoy and to improve our photography, together.

Email thorpe101@btinternet.com or phone 01621 850828.

Peter Thorpe.

Reading and Books Group

We had a lively meeting in November discussing our list of books for 2013 and books we had recently read and enjoyed. Differing views amongst book group members makes for interesting discussions. However, we all enjoyed 'Private Peaceful', our current novel written by Michael Morpurgo. It is set in the First World War and follows the lives of the Peaceful brothers from their rural background in the West Country to the battleground of the First World War.

The style is simple and the pace gentle. England is quiet and peaceful until the landowner of the estate threatens to eject the Peaceful family from their tied cottage unless Charlie joins up. Tommo decides to accompany him.

Following an injury, Charlie Peaceful is sent home to England to recover, but he does not tell his wife or his mother about the terrors of war; the mud, the rats and the lice, or the injuries and death of his fellow soldiers.

Charlie returns to the fighting and when he is ordered to attack, he refuses to leave his brother, Tommo, who is injured. Charlie is arrested for cowardice and he gives Tommo a watch he had received from an injured captain, for saving his life. The story is heart rending as Tommo tracks the time until his brother is executed and each chapter begins with the passing of the minutes and hours through one night. The book, originally written for young people, is an unflinching introduction to the historical background of the First World War. The relationships between family, friends and authority are sensitively written.

We have planned our Christmas lunch for 5th December at Le Bouchon to which each of us will bring along a book we have enjoyed, as a Secret Santa gift. Our next meeting will be on 19th December at 14.30.

Ann Lees.

Email: annlees@yahoo.com or phone 01245 225153

Scrabble Group

Eight players enjoyed some good games at our November afternoon on the 27th. We said our goodbyes to Audrey, who has gone to Australia for two months, and we do not meet again this year. A December meeting would be too close to Christmas, so I wish you all a happy and peaceful Yuletide, and look forward to seeing you all at either or both of the following dates:

Tuesday 22nd January 2013, and Tuesday 26th February. (The fourth Tuesday in the month – beware there are five in January)

Email r.tyler936@btinternet.com or phone 01621 856212.

Ruth Tyler

Solo Whist

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the November meeting due to work commitments. However, five players met at Jackie Jones house in Tiptree and played several good hands of whist. Refreshments were served and enjoyed by all. Thanks to Jackie an enjoyable afternoon was had by all so I am reliably informed. The December meeting will also be in Tiptree at Pam Archers home. (01621 815379)

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

Dave Mason

Technical Computing Group

The most recent meeting of our group took place on the 8th November. We decided to move away from Hardware subjects for a while, and concentrate on Software. Members who are the most knowledgeable on a particular subject, could lead the others in discussions and demonstrations.

TurboCad (computer aided design), Excel (spread sheets) and Powerpoint (presentations) were all suggested as possible future subjects. We even strayed into the realms of the Family History group, to discuss different possible software for capturing family tree information. Norman Grove gave us some examples from 'Family Tree Maker' including tree structures and data capture. Norman also uses Excel to capture some family data.

For our next meeting we will delve deeper into Excel. At the basic level, Excel is simple to use for capturing spread sheet

data, but it is also a very powerful program, with many other features. These include database functions, formulas within spread sheets, graphs and charts, drawings and sketches, embedded pictures, sorting, filtering, macros and others.

There will be no meeting in December, so the next meeting will be 10th January 2013 at Colin Mason's residence.

Notes compiled by Alex Lees

For further information about the group please email Colin.

colin@mason20.wanadoo.co.uk or phone 01621 854906.

Ten Pin Bowling

Due to unknown reasons only two of us turned up to play at session on 13th November so we had a chat and a coffee and came home. I had been advised that some members would not be able to attend, but it felt a bit like Halloween, ghostly because there was no one else playing there.

LATE NEWS - The members of this Group have decided to celebrate Christmas this year by bowling at 10.00 am for two hours, followed by lunch at Izumi at 12.15 on the 11th December 2012. The members have been e-mailed and most of the group have agreed, but if by any chance you have missed this information; sorry. However, we would love to see you. Thanks to Lynne, the deputy COG, who has arranged this change of time. The venue is Madison Heights, as usual.

Report by Gill Thorne

Threads and Fabrics Group

We had another inspiring meeting in November with much discussion of new techniques learnt by our members in the previous month. One had even been to Italy on an experimental embroidery course, going out to sketch nature and then recreating her pictures in different materials. We look forward to seeing the results next year. Our picture this month is again part of a work in progress. I couldn't resist taking a picture of the Japanese girls dressed in their best. For me a reminder that it will soon be the party season. A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all the members of Heybridge U3A from Threads & Fabrics.



Three Japanese Girls

Author:- Pat Newman

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

Anne by Email anne.thorpe@btinternet.com or phone 01621 850828.

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

Walking Group

For the November walk we met in the centre of the pretty village of Terling. Then we followed a route across the ford, over the river Ter and out into the surrounding countryside. Conditions underfoot were muddy in places but all agreed that it was a most enjoyable outing with well-signposted pathways and some splendid views. Another place to be re-visited in spring or summer.

The December walk will be as already notified: We will meet at 'The Bell', Woodham Walter, car park at 10:00, Thursday 13th December for an approximately three mile walk, returning to the Bell for lunch at 12:00. Please let me know if you would like to be added to the list of those who have already signed up for lunch so that I can confirm numbers.

As I put in the last News Sheet report, there will be no walk in January and the February walk will be a joint venture with the gardening group to Marks Hall to see the snowdrops. Dates not yet available but tba later.

Email e.m.e@talktalk.net or phone 01621 850618. Elizabeth.

Weekenders Group

Nine Weekenders went to see 'Calendar Girls' at Witham Public Hall on Saturday 24th. It was a brilliant production and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. On the 9th December we shall have our Christmas Lunch at 'The Anchor' at Runsell Green and hopefully the meal will be as good as last year.

Email mars42@btinternet.com or phone 01621 817518.

Marilyn Corbett.

Wine Appreciation Group

Having stocked up for the Christmas festivities at Langford Village Hall at the end of November, Our December meeting will be an Open House on Friday 21st December when group members and friends are invited to join me for a glass of fizzy (alcoholic or non alcoholic) to start off the celebrations before the hard work of Christmas catering gets underway. All are welcome to drop in at my house between 15 00 and 18.00.

Our first meeting of 2013 will be on Wednesday 16th January when we will be learning how to recognise red wines by our sense of smell. Using a kit of aroma profile oils as a guide, we shall endeavour to evaluate our chosen wine then enjoy cheese & biscuits whilst discussing future ideas and outings. There will be no meeting in February 2013 but the group will meet, as usual, on Wednesday 20th March 2013. Details to follow.

Email jachjones@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01621 817117.

Jackie Jones.

The Essex Association of U3As Study Day

Study Day Facts.

The Study Day took place on the 31st October in Maldon and almost 200 members of Essex U3As participated in the 21 sessions lead by 15 leaders all drawn from Essex U3As.

The groups on offer were: Art, Botany, Computing, Creative Writing, Digital Photography, Essex Place Names, Drama, Family History, First Aid, French, Iris Folding, Line Dancing, Maths, Patchwork, Singing and The Stow Maries Aerodrome.

The 188 feedback forms received indicated that the Day was a resounding success!

From the Study Day Chairman. (Chairman of the Association of Essex U3As)

Heybridge U3A was in the spotlight on 31st October when Essex U3A held its largest Study Day at the Plume School. It was the most ambitious event we have ever attempted. Our own members were fully represented in the number of delegates but, equally, the majority of helpers were Heybridge U3A Members. Many thanks to Ian Newman, without whose magic with the development of spread sheets, to direction labels and personalised labels made the whole project possible. Without all these support mechanisms, the day would have been a complete chaos. Also, a special thanks to Peter Thorpe for taking so many photographs of the event

Thanks are also due to the myriad numbers of people helping in a variety of ways. Due to all of them the day was pronounced to be a huge success as well as raising the profile of our U3A

Currently we are inviting other U3As to take on the organisation of next year's Study Day. If we do not get any offers, would you help us again?

For further information, please contact Ian Newman.

Joyce Woodham.

Email woodham359@btinternet.com or phone 01621 841066.

Views on The Study Day

About a dozen nervous women sat on chairs in a circle waiting for the drama workshop to begin. Within a very short space of time, Sue Braham, the workshop leader, had us reading scripts with gusto and throwing ourselves into various roles including stropky teenager, a known phenomenon to most of us and a vengeful terrorist, which none of us had previously experienced. We learnt about the importance of scene setting and lighting to add dramatic tension. We had a great morning. It was interesting to meet people from other U3A groups. Sue, a Drama teacher who lives at Wickford, has promised to explore the possibility of setting up a U3A drama group.

Carole Overy

On the Notice Board

Please speak to Brenda about the contents of the Notice Board.

Email brendadewar@btinternet.com or phone 01245 400492. Brenda Dewar.

Other Information

Sponsored Row in aid of the RNLI

Something to watch after the Christmas excesses. Maldon Little Ship Club Sponsored Row on 29th of December 2012 at 12.30 in aid of the RNLI. For information please ring John Rogers on 01621 853841 or email him at diana.rogers2@btinternet.com.

Diary of Meetings and Visits

For details see articles and co-ordinators above.

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
10th December	10	11 Ten Pin Bowling 10.00	12 French Conversation 10.00	13 Walking 10.00	14 Monthly Meeting 14.00	15 Weekender Coffee at Olivers Nursery 10.00	16
17th December	17 Advanced Italian 10.00	18	19 Book Group 14.30	20	21 Painting 14.00 TBC Coffee Morning 11.00 Luncheon Wine Tasting 15.00	22	23
24th December	24	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 BOXING DAY	27	28 Bird Watching Painting 14.00 TBC	29	30
31st December	31	1 NEW YEAR DAY	2 Solo Whist 14.00	3 Photography 14.00	4 Painting 14.00 Committee Meeting 10.00	5	6
7th January	7 Beginners Italian 10.00	8 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	9 French Conversation 10.00	10 Technical Computing 14.00	11 Monthly Meeting 14.00	12 Weekender Coffee The lock Cafe Heybridge Basin	13
14th January	14	15 Local History 14.00	16 Book Group 14.30 Wine Tasting 15.00	17	18 Painting 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00	19	20
21st January	21 Advanced Italian 10.00	22 Scrabble 14.00	23 Creative Writing Group 14.30	24 Family History 10.30	25 News Sheet Copy to Editor Painting 14.00 Bird Watching Luncheon	26	27
28th January	28	29	30	31	1 st February Committee Meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00	2 Weekender Sweet Charity	3
4th February	4 Beginners Italian 10.00	5 Threads 14.00	6 Solo Whist 14.00	7 Photography 14.00	8 Monthly Meeting 14.00	9 Weekender Coffee TBA	10
11^h February	11	12 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	13 French Conversation 10.00	14 Technical Computing 14.00 Walking Yet tbc	15 Painting 14.00 Coffee Morning 11.00	16	17
18th February	18 Advanced Italian 10.00	19 Local History 14.00	20 Book Group 14.30	21 Computer 14.00	22 News Sheet Copy to Editor Painting 14.00 Bird Watching Luncheon	23 Wine Tasting 11.00	24
25th February	25	26 Scrabble 14.00	27 Creative Writing Group 14.30	28 Family History 10.30	1 st March Committee Meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00	2	3