



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

# Heybridge U3A

## News Sheet No. 11/2015

### December 2015

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

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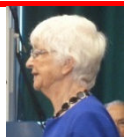

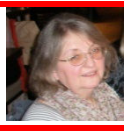





AGM on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016

See page 3 for information about Committee vacancies and submitting a Motion to the AGM.

The December meeting will be a party format with Songs & Tunes from our own Ukulele Group.



### Your Committee

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<b>Vice Chairman</b>	Vacancy	
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# **NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE**

## **From the Chairman**

**W**e had lots of fun at the Fish & Chip Social Evening. It wasn't just that the fish was excellent, so were the raffle prizes! There were many different games to play and an excellent table quiz running though the evening all leading to the pleasure of spending time just having fun. Many thanks to Pat and her team that organised the evening. A great success!

Our next party is the monthly meeting on December 11<sup>th</sup> for which a team of people have organised lovely food, attractive table decorations, a new quiz and music. Heybridge U3A is really going to town!

A final decision has been made to hold a Study Day in the Plume School on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2016. Details of the courses available will be published in the Spring. Popular courses, such as Art, fill up very quickly, so do look out for information.

Wishing you a very happy Christmas

Joyce Woodham,

Chairman

## **From the Editor**

**T**he design of the Heybridge U3A News Sheet, and the reports that it contains, continues as a full-page layout. I would ask contributors to limit their updates to 400 words or 300 words and one photo please as space is becoming an issue. Information about the Committee Members and their reports can be found in the first few pages with a contents column, to aid in finding the parts which you wish to read first, on page 1. The back page (p16) shows the Diary for the months of December and January. There will not be a News sheet in January, but reports for the February News sheet will be needed by 29<sup>th</sup> January.

I would like to thank all CoGs for their hard work in writing their informative and colourful reports this year.

Please keep the Editor up to date with any interesting stories, relevant pictures or anything that relates to the Heybridge U3A, the Association of Essex U3As or the U3A movement as a whole. Please send details to me by email with 'Heybridge U3A' in the title and copy Tina at [tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk) with any diary updates.

Contact me, Geoff Hadley, 01621 852494 or by Email [editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk](mailto:editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk)

## **From the Membership Secretary**

**W**e were pleased to welcome three new members in November. If you are not a member, and would like to find out more about Heybridge U3A, you are welcome to attend a monthly meeting (held in the Plantation Hall at 14.00 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month) as a guest. There is no need to book – just turn up and sign in.

For any queries relating to membership, please email [membershipsecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk](mailto:membershipsecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk)

## **Future Heybridge U3A Monthly Meetings**

The Meeting in December will be a party event.

Help is requested to setup the PC for the Speaker to display Presentations at future Monthly Meetings.

John W Harrison: phone 01621 854851 or Email [speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk](mailto:speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk)

## From the Events Secretary

### Planned Events

- January 5<sup>th</sup> 2016 'Guys & Dolls' at the Savoy Theatre. All tickets sold,
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016 'Jersey Boys' at the Piccadilly Theatre London. **Please collect your coach ticket from Liz Cawdell at the December or January meeting.**  
**NEW.** Discover Newmarket on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016
- Visit Hever Castle on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016.
- **NEW.** Visit Kensington Palace on 11<sup>th</sup> May.
- **NEW.** Visit Bressingham Steam Museum on 15<sup>th</sup> June with Blackwater U3A

Please see page .12 for further details

### From the Coordinator of Cogs:-

A suggestion has been made for some new groups, so if you are interested please add your name to a sheet in the meeting room at the December meeting. We would need someone to volunteer to be the COG if there is enough interest to form a group.

#### 1. Churches, Chapels and Cathedrals -

This would involve making arrangements for visits to be made, perhaps with a guide. There is already a group in the Blackwater U3A so we could obtain some help in the sort of visits that could be made as I have a contact there.

#### 2. A Curry group.

This would involve visiting a different curry house perhaps once a month evening or lunch as required.

#### 3. International Food

This would involve arranging a rota of people who are willing to cook a meal using a menu for a specified country for perhaps a small group of 6 or 8, to be decided.

When organising a group visit, remember that the non-profit making Viking Community Transport scheme have 16 seater minibuses available for hire, driven by fully qualified volunteers. The cost to Heybridge U3A members is £1.00 per mile for the total journey (minimum charge £15.00 for the hire). Contact me for details. Barbara Barbrook Tel. 01621 855605 or Email - [c.barbrook@sky.com](mailto:c.barbrook@sky.com)

### Advance Notice of the 2016 AGM

At our AGM on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016, we will be seeking to fill a number of Committee vacancies. If you think you might be able to help, but would like to know more about what is involved, please speak to a committee member or perhaps come to a committee meeting to see what it's like. Is there someone you think would make a good committee member? Have a chat with them and see whether they can be encouraged to stand for one of the posts. At the time of writing the following will be required:

- Chairman (current holder's term of office completed)
- Vice Chairman (vacancy)
- Treasurer (current holder's term of office completed)
- Co-ordinator of Interest Groups (current holder co-opted)
- Events Secretary (current holder standing down)

Nominations forms will be available from the Secretary and at the signing-in desk.

If any member wishes to propose a motion to be considered at the AGM, this must be received by the Secretary before the end of January 2016 in order to be included in the Agenda that will be published with the February News Sheet.

## GROUP REPORTS

### Art (Painting) Group

If we were really honest, I think what we painters need about now is a couple of snowy days to inspire us. Looking at the photos sent in by viewers in other parts of the country to BBC Weather, I feel a little deprived!



There's nothing like a good snowscape, preferably Prom Park or our own back gardens, - to get the creative juices flowing.

Instead of which, we just get a load of freezing cold wind and drizzle.

However, winter is yet young so it could happen sometime soon.

I apologise to all those who wish for our usual mild and muggy winter.

Happy Christmas! Gill Carpenter.

A Poppy Jean Butcher

For information about the group contact, Michael Kempen: Email [m.kempen159@btinternet.com](mailto:m.kempen159@btinternet.com) or Phone 01621 892974.

### Bird Watching Group

We had a great time at Old Hall Marshes. It was chilly but dry. I had asked Derek, a local bird watcher to join us as he knew the area.

We walked to where there were lots of waders and ducks for us to see. The waders were the Redshank, Lapwing, Oystercatcher, Curlew and large groups of Golden Plover. Derek told us how to know how we could tell if they were Golden or Grey plover but only when flying. It seems that the Grey have hairy armpits, I think we will remember that, we have just got to get them to fly!!

Some of our favourite Ducks were also there, Shelduck, Pintail, Teal and Tufted.

As we walked along, flocks of Geese flew over us and some settled on the marshes, a mixture of Canada, Greylag and Brent. Noisy lot! In the reeds we heard Meadow pipits and Reed bunting.

The RSBP have put up nesting boxes for the Marsh Harrier and this year have had four breeding pairs, we were able to watch two flying along the hedges hunting for lunch. It's always a pleasure to watch these large birds of Prey.

Next month we are meeting on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec. at Heybridge Basin car park. If you would like to join our group, please get in touch by phone 01621869871 or email [symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk) Maureen

### Cards and Paper Crafts

The next meetings will be 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 2pm and 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016 at 2pm.

Please contact Lesley for details. Phone 01621 858135 e-mail [Lindawoonton@sky.com](mailto:Lindawoonton@sky.com)

### **Computer Group**

**W**e had a new member join the group at the last Computer Group Meeting. We hope that he enjoyed the meeting and will join us again in January.. The numbers were slightly up from earlier in the year and enough money was collected to enable the monies owing for the fourth quarter 2015 room hire to be paid. There will be no meeting in December as the normal meeting day is too near Christmas. The fee for the first quarter of 2016, as agreed earlier in the year, will be £9 per quarter. After a meeting, where connection to, and the using of, the internet, the group was left a task of searching the internet over the Christmas and New Year period to see what computer courses or other aids can be found. The results are to be emailed to Ian before the next meeting. The results will be discussed at the January meeting.

If you have any problems using a laptop, a tablet, an iPlayer or a smart phone and the like or have some special knowledge about some aspect of computing across part or the full range of computer communication, then please come along to a Computer Group Meeting and share your knowledge with us. Alternately contact me by phone or email (See below). The meetings are held in the Claydon Room in Plantation Hall on the third Thursday of each month at 14:00, when you will be made welcome. If you are an expert or novice just come along. You can always contact me by phone or email before, if you so wish.

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

### **Creative Writing Group**

**I**t was nearly a full house this month. We heard lots of pieces about Christmas and kept in the mood with some mince pies and Christmas cookies. In view of the approaching festival, we will not be meeting in December, but will re-convene in January. We have not set ourselves a topic but I hope that the freedom will not stifle the desire to write. If necessary, "Freedom" can be used as the subject.

In January we will be trying something different. We will be making a small gift box (very easy) which will then become the subject for the next piece of writing.

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

### **Croquet Group**

**W**e will start playing again hopefully next year in April, if anyone would like to come along and join us you will be most welcome, the emphasis is on gentle exercise and fun in good company.

Anne Newson: phone 01621 858807 or email [annenewson@uwclub.net](mailto:annenewson@uwclub.net)

### **Discussion Coffee Morning Group**

**W**e met at Yvonne's house on 20<sup>th</sup> November; a couple of people didn't make it due to colds and sore throats etc. We wish them well and sympathize as they missed some delicious homemade cheese biscuits, thanks Yvonne. A Mary Berry cookbook was produced and the biscuit recipe was duly noted. This prompted memories of previous cookery personalities who had appeared on TV over the years, as far back as Fanny and Johnny Craddock and also Graham Kerr known I believe as The Galloping Gourmet.

Our final group meeting of the year will be at 11.00am on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December at Jean Murray's house.

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

## Family History Group

Due to illness, holidays, Christmas lunches etc., we were a small group at the December meeting. Only one beginner, so Helen had a one-to-one session and we were able to take her family tree back a further generation. The advanced group discussed the recently released 1939 Register which was a census-type survey of the population taken in preparation for rationing books. The latest available census was taken in 1911, the 1921 census will not be released until 2021, the 1931 census was destroyed by fire and the 1941 census was not taken due to the war so the 1939 Register fills in a large gap in the family historian's story.

Due to the growing interest in tracing family history, we currently have a waiting list of members wishing to join this group. As a result, Lesley and I are looking at a larger venue for our meetings from January onwards, possibly the Plantation Hall.

Please note- there is no meeting in December. I will contact members regarding the venue for the January meeting.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Details: Lesley Pomphrett 01621 817733 [lesleypommy@hotmail.com](mailto:lesleypommy@hotmail.com)

Liz Cawdell 01621 331944 [ecawdell@btinternet.com](mailto:ecawdell@btinternet.com)

## French Conversation Group



As our November meeting spanned the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month, we read an article in which the French Secretary of State for Women's Rights described the forgotten role that women played to keep the economy afloat during the 1914-18 war. Over a million women worked in agriculture, 100,000 were nurses and millions more kept the factories going. Yet at the end of the war, they were offered one month's salary to give up their jobs to men returning from the front. This despite the fact that 3 million had become war widows and many others had no news of their loved one. Moreover, although their contribution was deemed invaluable to the war effort, it was not until 1945 that French women received the right to vote.

Continuing with the theme of women in war, we then read an article entitled 'La Miss de la Légion étrangère'. It described the exploits of Susan Travers, who was born in England in 1909 but moved to France as a child. During WW2 she worked variously as a nurse and ambulance driver, before joining de Gaulle's Free French forces as a chauffeur. Posted to Africa, her sang froid and courage earned her the respect of the officers with whom she worked, who called her 'La Miss'. Later, she became the personal driver of the Colonel in charge of a small French fort in the Libyan Desert and during the battle of Bir Hakeim she cared for the dying and the wounded, witnessing some terrible scenes. When lack of food and munitions forced the Colonel to withdraw, it was Susan who led the convoy of some 2,500 men through enemy fire to re-join the allied forces. Once the war was over, she became the first woman to be admitted to la Légion étrangère and, eleven years after the war ended, she was awarded the Croix de Guerre 1939-45 for her bravery during the battle of Bir Hakeim.

We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 10h00 – 12h00. Our next meeting is on 9<sup>th</sup> December at my house.

## French Improvers – Joint Blackwater / Heybridge Group



With Christmas approaching, we started by looking at an article entitled '1000 idées cadeaux pour Noël' to see if we could find any useful ideas. For sporty people 'un système de coaching électronique' was highly recommended and, for the ladies, a 'kit de fitness zumba'. 'La high-tech' was considered a sure hit, especially 'les tablettes'. 'Produits de beauté' and 'gadgets pour l'art culinaire' were also on the list. Long live français!

We finished on a musical note, listening to some well-known French songs by Charles Trenet, Edith Piaf, Jacques Brel and Richard Anthony, and showing our age when we all sang along with Françoise Hardy's 1960's hit 'Tous les garçons et les filles'.

Meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month from 14h00 – 16h00. Our next meeting is on 25<sup>th</sup> January chez Terry (there is no meeting in December). For further information on either French Group, please contact [jennyparker14@hotmail.com](mailto:jennyparker14@hotmail.com) or phone 01621 843581

## Gardening Group

There will be no more visits this year, but keep on the look-out for ideas for next year's planning meeting. I think we will change the name to Garden Group, because we don't actually do any gardening together.

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

## Italian Conversation

This Italian Conversation Group meets twice a month, usually on the first and third Monday of the month, at 10 am at my house. We are a small but friendly group of varied abilities who meet to practise speaking Italian. We discuss many and varied subjects, including holidays, family triumphs and tragedies and items in the news.

The next meetings will be:

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December      Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January.      Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January

Janice Slight    E-Mail [janice.slight@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:janice.slight@tiscali.co.uk)

## Local History Group

Our planning meeting proved to be very productive with some firm ideas now in place for next year. The group was then entertained by Gill's reading from An Essex Christmas and Robin gave us a story from Essex Headlines. Linda told us about the Winter Heritage talk she had recently heard, about the Strutt family, and we finished with an extract from the David Hughes performance as an old Maldon fisherman, giving us a taste of 'proper' Essex dialect.

We next meet in January at our new venue, for a talk by Kevin Bruce on the Freshwater family and Heybridge Hall. Carol will be sending out a reminder and collecting names nearer the time. Numbers will be limited so it's essential to reserve a place.

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

### Patchwork Group

The next meetings of the Patchwork Group will be in the Claydon Room on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December. and Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January at 2pm

Anne Thorpe E-mail [Anne.thorpe@btinternet.com](mailto:Anne.thorpe@btinternet.com) or phone 01621 850828.

### Petanque Group



This photo shows the Petanque group enjoying a meal at Henri's Steakhouse on the last day of our summer season. We will be starting again on April 4<sup>th</sup> 2016..

Barbara Barbrook [c.barbrook@sky.com](mailto:c.barbrook@sky.com)

### Photography Group

There were ten members at our November Meeting in the Jubilee Lounge of the West Maldon Centre. The photographic assignment for this meeting was "Mirror".



This topic was quite a challenge with members trying to align mirrors to present symmetrical views without appearing in the photo themselves. There were samples of mirrors opposite each other, where the image appeared to curve through the different reflections, to one where the view went to infinity. Also mirrors at an angle that showed the object from different angles. One tongue in cheek photo was of the Daily Mirror.

We also commented on the quality of a photo taken on a smart phone compared with ones on a camera.

Mirror Author Jenny Parker

Alex and Peter then showed a series of photos taken from a book by a professional photographer of a subject taken at different times, some hours apart and others after a great time elapse. We then discussed the attributes of the photos. When Alex was setting up the demonstration he recognised some of the shots and included some photos that he had taken of the same scene..

"Composition" was agreed as the assignment for the December meeting.

Why not join us? We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 2.00 p.m.

By regularly meeting together and sharing our photos, we learn how to get better results from our own equipment. Our aim is to make all of our meetings entertaining, friendly and informative.

Anyone interested in joining or coming to see what we do can contact Norman Grove on 01621 842805 or by email [norman.grove@gmail.com](mailto:norman.grove@gmail.com).

## Reading and Books Group

This month's meeting found us warm and comfortable in the Plantation Hall meeting room whilst the wind blew and the rain poured down outside.

Our book this month was "The Illusionist" by Rosie Thomas. We had read and thoroughly enjoyed "The Kashmir Shawl" written by her, some months earlier and approached "The Illusionist" with great expectations. However this novel proved something of a disappointment.

The characterisations were relatively poor and we failed to really understand or engage with any of them. Although somewhat evocative of early Victorian times, it lacked the punch and authenticity of her other book

We did, however, feel that overall, this author writes competently. She is a prolific writer, who we thought may better this novel in some of her other writings. So we have not totally given up on Rosie Thomas.

A different format for next month will allow each member to pick a book of their choice from any they have on the shelves at home. So next month each member will talk about their chosen book.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 2.15pm at Plantation Hall Heybridge.

Please contact Ann Lees 01245225153 if there are any queries about the group.

## Scrabble Group

The Scrabble groups' November meeting was the last for this year so we start again on the 26th January 2016. I think we all managed to switch off from the outside world this month and it was almost a surprise to find it was dark and wet outside when we left after two engrossing games: Why not come and have a game with us on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 2.00pm in the Claydon room at Plantation Hall.

Linda Etherton Telephone: 01621 843702 Email: [ethertonbikes@aol.com](mailto:ethertonbikes@aol.com)

## Solo Whist

Our November meeting saw seven of us play at our place (which was great) the two new members soon got into the swing of things and had some good calls and good counter play. As there were seven of us, we played a four handed group and a three handed group which seemed to work very well with lots of calls in both groups.

In the interval we had some lovely homemade cake, tea and coffee thanks to Tina.

After some discussion it was agreed we would continue meeting in members' homes (despite the increase in numbers)

Therefore our December session will be on the 9<sup>th</sup> at Geoff and Margaret's at 2pm. The January session will be on the 13<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at Tina's' and my place. In February, we will meet at Jackie Jones on the 9<sup>th</sup> at the usual time of 2pm.

If any one else is interested in learning the art of solo whist then please contact me on 01621 858635 or e mail [tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk)

Dave Mason C O G

## Technical Computing Group

This was a very interesting meeting again. We commenced by discussing methods for copying and making amendments to a leaflet that one of the members has responsibility for redesigning that is used in a community bus project, (let's hope all the various suggestions help). We then went onto discussing methods of networking more than one computer together, to enable file and printer sharing, also how to install network cabling in a house and to hide the wiring as much as possible, also what hardware is required to extend the available ports on a Router

.Colin Mason (Cog) [colin@mason20.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:colin@mason20.wanadoo.co.uk) 01621-854906

## Ten Pin Bowling

I was away for the meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> November when Margaret kindly covered for me. There were just 5 players. Christine achieved a personal best of 125 and Jenny was the highest scorer with 132.

I also missed the meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> November as I was poorly but 8 players attended with Graham as the highest scorer with 135.

Our last meeting at Madison Heights is on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 1.45 for 2pm start.

14 of us are going to the Blue Strawberry for our Christmas Meal on 14<sup>th</sup> December

Do come and join us in 2016 as we need more players!

January dates: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> and Monday 25<sup>th</sup>.

It is helpful to me for players to arrive 15 minutes before we start so that I can allocate bowlers for the lanes we are using. Lynne Morrison 01621 891288 [lejmorrisson@gmail.com](mailto:lejmorrisson@gmail.com)

## Threads and Fabrics Group

Firstly I want to apologise for my missing article last month. It was sent, but seemed to have got lost in the cloud. Perhaps it will turn up at some future date, or perhaps not, we will see.

Our November meeting, as usual, was extremely pleasant. The conversation was naturally enough dominated by Christmas, both presents and decorations. I am looking forward to hopefully learning how to making something new for the tree in December. For me, November seemed to be dominated by apples, both real, and in the case of our picture this month, useful in a different way. I couldn't resist taking a photo of the beautiful pincushion brought to the November meeting by one of our members it was large enough to take a reasonable number of large pins and stable enough to not skitter away across a table.



Autumn Apple Pincushion

On behalf of the Threads and Fabrics group I would like to wish all members of Heybridge U3A a Merry Christmas and a Happy and busy New Year.

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month starting at 2pm

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

### **Ukulele Group**

**T**he uke players are all busy polishing up the Christmas songs to be played at the U3A Christmas party. Meanwhile, we can still accommodate one or two new ukulele learners when we restart the classes on Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>.

So why not make learning the ukulele your New Year Resolution?

It's fun, it's friendly and it's remarkably simple to learn.

Call me on 01621 859060. Robin Carpenter E-Mail [robinrcarpenter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:robinrcarpenter@yahoo.co.uk)

### **Walking Group**

**T**he November walk was cancelled due to weather and tides.

We will have a local walk from Heybridge Basin followed by lunch at the Lock Café (for those who have booked it) on Thurs 10 Dec. Meet at the car park at 11:00am; do join us for the walk even if you haven't booked lunch.

There will not be a walk in January; as usual we will start the New Year programme with a snowdrop walk in Feb. Details will follow closer to the time.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all

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

### **Weekenders Group**

**I**would like to wish all Weekenders and fellow members of Heybridge U3A a Very Happy Christmas and hopefully a more Peaceful New Year. Look forward to seeing some of you at our Christmas lunch.

#### **Dates for your Diary**

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2016 Coffee at the White Elm Nursery, Bicknacre at 10.00am

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February Coffee at The Barge, The Hythe, Maldon.

Marilyn Corbett: Phone 01621817518 or email [mars42@btinternet.com](mailto:mars42@btinternet.com)

### **Wine Appreciation Group**

**T**here will be no more meetings until April so watch this space for more news

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

### Further Information and details of events

Please note that to enable our meetings to run as smoothly as possible, all sign-in forms for future events (including Newmarket, Hever Castle, Kensington and Canterbury) will, now be found in the committee room. A table in the main hall will be set aside solely for payment of events and collection of tickets. Thank you!

The following events are planned for this and next year. Please note that members are asked to pay for outings in full, six weeks before the trip date. If the trip later proves not to be viable, the money will be refunded in full.

January 2016 The 15 members booked to see *Guys & Dolls* at the Savoy Theatre on 5<sup>th</sup> January will be collected by Paul's minibus from the bus-stop at Tesco's at 09.00. I have the theatre tickets – Heybridge U3A tickets will not be needed. The price includes a tip for the driver.

February 2016. Transport to and from the theatre on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February to see *Jersey Boys* will be by Ford coaches, who will collect us from the bus stop at Tesco's at 09.00. A tip for the driver is included in the cost. . **Please collect your coach ticket from Liz Cawdell at the December or January meeting.**

March 2016 Join us on a trip to Newmarket on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016, and be part of 260 years of racing history! We plan to join their 'Short Head Tour', which includes visits to the Newmarket gallops and a top Newmarket trainer's yard; followed by tea / coffee at The National Stud and finally a tour of The National Stud. The morning ends at 12.30 when we can have lunch (details later), before we leave at 15.00. The complete cost of the tour will be approximately £30.00 pp. Late risers be aware – we must meet at 06.45 and leave promptly at 07.00 as the tour starts at 09.00. Please sign up to show interest and pay by 13<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

April 2016 A visit to Hever Castle in Kent, the 13<sup>th</sup> Century childhood home of Ann Boleyn is now booked for Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016. As well as the usual and very interesting panelled rooms with fine furniture and antiques, there is a rare collection of Tudor portraits. But my favourite exhibition is a group of life-sized costumed figures which almost bring the Tudor times to life. Entrance fee is £11.65. More details later. Travel will be with Ford's Coach and will cost approximately £15.00. Please let me or Liz Cawdell know by January 15<sup>th</sup> whether you wish your name to remain on the list and please pay by March 11<sup>th</sup>.

May 2016 In May a visit to Kensington Palace booked for Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May.2016. The price of admission to the palace is not yet available, but Ford Coaches will collect us from the usual place at 08.30. More details later. This Palace was the home of the young Princess, later Queen Victoria and later still, the home of Princess Diana. The trip may include a look at the famous statue of Peter Pan, by the Serpentine, as well as the Diana Memorial playground. We shall also be close to the Royal Albert Hall, The Albert Memorial and even Exhibition Road. Please let me or Liz Cawdell know by February 12<sup>th</sup> whether you wish your name to remain on the list and please pay by March 11<sup>th</sup>.

June 2016. Blackwater U3A have asked that we share a coach to Bressingham Steam Heritage centre on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2016. There take a trip on one of the three railways – the collection of working locomotives will take you round the gardens and woodland. Then perhaps ride on the Victorian steam gallopers, visit the locomotive sheds and even wander through 'Walmington-on-Sea' to view the Dad's Army collection. Please add your name to the list to show interest. More detail to follow.

June 2016 In June we plan to visit the historical cathedral city of Canterbury. At the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD the city of Canterbury was the capital of the kingdom of Kent, ruled by the powerful Anglo-Saxon King Ethelbert. During his reign Christianity was re-introduced by Augustine a monk sent from Rome by Pope Gregory the Great. Canterbury was thus established as the centre of Christianity in England. The Cathedral is a must see! Please sign up to show your interest and remove your name if you later find you are unable to join the trip.

Please contact me with any queries.

All cheques should be made payable to Heybridge U3A

PAT SMITH; 01621 856569 E.MAIL [patcleary98@sky.com](mailto:patcleary98@sky.com)

## Social evening – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Our social evening on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November was a great success. We got our brains in gear by joining together in small groups to puzzle out a quiz. Some questions were easy e.g. - 9 = L of a C. And some more obscure perhaps, -147= M B in S? No group got all correct, but 37 out of 39 is not bad (Answers at the bottom of paragraph).

We had plenty of games on the go, including Scrabble, Upwords, Shove Halfpenny, Dominoes, Cards, and a great game I had not heard of before – Triominos – triangular dominoes. Everyone joined in the fun and much laughter. Once again Jenga drew a small crowd towards the end of the evening – some impressively steady hands were in evidence!

And finally excellent fish & chips were brought to us, followed by tea or coffee and a very very good set of free prizes.

A great evening at £5.00 per head!

Join us next year! Join in the fun and make great new friends!

Answer to puzzles 1) Nine lives of a cat                      2)147 = maximum break in snooker.

PAT SMITH

## Association of Essex U3As On the Notice Board

### 1000th U3A

The National Executive Council of the U3A would love to receive suggestions about how the 1000th U3a (expected around March next year) could be celebrated. Email [national.office@u3a.org.uk](mailto:national.office@u3a.org.uk)

### 24 Hour Legal Advice

This telephone advice service, provided by Arc Legal Assistance, is available to all U3A members. Advice will be given on all matters of law. Please call 0344 770 1040 and quote 'U3A Legal Helpline'. If asked for an insurance number you should say you do not have one. This service is paid for by the Third Age Trust.

### Competitions

The British Society of Gerontology is partnering with online photo community Photocrowd to present an international photography contest on the theme of 'Ageing: the Bigger Picture'. Open for entries until 10<sup>th</sup> January 2016. <https://www.photocrowd.com/challenges/374-ageing-bigger-picture>

'Inspired by' is an art competition run by the V&A which invites participants to create a work of art inspired by the collections of the V&A South Kensington or the V&A Museum of Childhood. Closing date 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016 can enter for free as an individual or group. <http://www.inspired.by>

### TV Opportunities

The Great British Bake-off - applications by 10<sup>th</sup> January. [www.thegreatbritishbakeoff.co.uk](http://www.thegreatbritishbakeoff.co.uk)

Eggheads - teams of 6, applications by 10<sup>th</sup> December email [eggheads@12yard.com](mailto:eggheads@12yard.com)

ITV documentary on Older Drivers.

If you are over 90 and still driving, they would love to hear from you email [ciara.mcgininity@rdftelevision.com](mailto:ciara.mcgininity@rdftelevision.com) or telephone 0207 013 4524

### U3A Online Chess League

Run by Steve Lawer (East Suffolk U3A) for U3A members. For more information email [steven.lawer1@gmail.com](mailto:steven.lawer1@gmail.com) or telephone 01394 276282

### U3A Craft Newsletter

Lesley O'Malley is the new subject adviser. The Newsletter will be emailed to the Cogs of our craft-based groups. Lesley would like to hear about ideas, tips and techniques. email [stitchapicture@hotmail.com](mailto:stitchapicture@hotmail.com)

### **From Other U3As**

CHELMSFORD U3A have planned some trips for 2016 and have sent details,

The trips are

MALTA on 3<sup>rd</sup> March £599 for 7 nights with SAGA.....

West Country UK for Walking - 23<sup>rd</sup> May 4 nights £299+ £64 single supp.....

KRAKOW on 15<sup>th</sup> October £589 + £39ss with Tailored Travel.

If anyone is interested please contact David Gout on 01245 268923

[davidgout@outlook.com](mailto:davidgout@outlook.com)

### **Maldon U3A Proposed Four Day Holiday “Exploring Kent”**

5/8th July 2016

Hotel: Holiday Inn, Rochester

Price: £355 p.p.

Insurance £10 Single Supplement £45

Day 1 Am. Chatham Historic Dockyard

Pm. Teapot Island, Yalding

Day 2 Am. Hornby Visitor Centre, Margate

Pm. Shepherd Neame Brewery, Faversham. Lunch and Tour.

Day 3 Am. Walmer Castle and Gardens

Pm. Dover Castle

Day 4 Am. Explore Rochester Town

Pm. Kent County Show

Full details and Booking Form available from

Jan Robertson on 01245 225657 or email: [Jan356771@gmail.com](mailto:Jan356771@gmail.com)

### **Age UK Essex Annual Prose & Poetry Competition 2016**

The charity began holding this popular annual competition in 1955 in order to capture the reminiscences of the older residents of Essex.

Titles which we hope will prompt your memory and get your fingers twitching are –

ON THE BUSES, BETRAYAL, FAMILY PETS

Entries must be received by 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

Each entry has to be accompanied by an application form which can be downloaded from

[www.ageukessex.org.uk](http://www.ageukessex.org.uk).

**Group Name, Co-ordinator & Contact Phone Number & Email**

<b>Group Name</b>	<b>Co-ordinator (COG)</b>	<b>Telephone Number &amp; Email</b>
Art (Painting)	Michael Kempen	01621 892974 <a href="mailto:m.kempen159@btinternet.com">m.kempen159@btinternet.com</a>
Bird Watching	Maureen Lenoir	01621 869871 <a href="mailto:symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk">symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Cards and Paper Crafts	Lesley Woonton	01621 858135 <a href="mailto:Lindawoonton@sky.com">Lindawoonton@sky.com</a>
Coffee Morning	Margaret Brown	01621 854885 <a href="mailto:mbandmeg@btinternet.com">mbandmeg@btinternet.com</a>
Computer	Ian Newman	01621 891184 <a href="mailto:ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk">ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk</a>
Creative Writing	Angela Pleasance	01621850310 <a href="mailto:angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk">angela.pleasance@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Croquet	Anne Newson:	01621 858807 <a href="mailto:annenewson@uwclub.net">annenewson@uwclub.net</a>
Family History	Lesley Pomphrett Liz Cawdell	01621 817733 <a href="mailto:lesleypommy@hotmail.com">lesleypommy@hotmail.com</a> 01621 331944 <a href="mailto:ecawdell@btinternet.com">ecawdell@btinternet.com</a>
French	Jenny Parker	01621 843581 <a href="mailto:jennyparker14@hotmail.com">jennyparker14@hotmail.com</a>
Gardening	Pat Yates	01621 892866 <a href="mailto:pat.yates@tesco.net">pat.yates@tesco.net</a>
Italian	Janice Slight	01621 853393 <a href="mailto:janice.slight@tiscali.co.uk">janice.slight@tiscali.co.uk</a>
Local History	Carol Greenhalgh	01621 840339 <a href="mailto:george.smeed@virgin.net">george.smeed@virgin.net</a>
Patchwork	Anne Thorpe	01621 850828 <a href="mailto:Anne.thorpe@btinternet.com">Anne.thorpe@btinternet.com</a>
Petanque	Barbara Barbrook	01621 855605 <a href="mailto:c.barbrook@sky.com">c.barbrook@sky.com</a>
Photography	Norman Grove	01621 842805 <a href="mailto:norman.grove@gmail.com">norman.grove@gmail.com</a> .
Reading & Books	Ann Lees	01245 225153 <a href="mailto:annlees@yahoo.com">annlees@yahoo.com</a>
Scrabble	Linda Etherton	01621 843702 <a href="mailto:ethertonbikes@aol.com">ethertonbikes@aol.com</a>
Solo Whist	Dave Mason	01621858635 <a href="mailto:tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk">tina@tina832.orangehome.co.uk</a>
Technical Computing	Colin Mason	01621 854906 <a href="mailto:colin@mason20.wanadoo.co.uk">colin@mason20.wanadoo.co.uk</a>
Ten Pin Bowling	Lynne Morrison	01621 891288 <a href="mailto:lejmmorrison@gmail.com">lejmmorrison@gmail.com</a>
Threads & Fabrics	Pat Newman	01621 891184 <a href="mailto:ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk">ian.newman@tiscali.co.uk</a>
Ukulele	Robin Carpenter	01621 859060 <a href="mailto:robinrcarpenter@yahoo.co.uk">robinrcarpenter@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Walking	Elizabeth Eastwood	01621 850618 <a href="mailto:e.m.e@talktalk.net">e.m.e@talktalk.net</a>
Weekenders	Marilyn Corbett	01621 817518 <a href="mailto:mars42@btinternet.com">mars42@btinternet.com</a>
Wine Group	Jackie Jones	01621 817117 <a href="mailto:jachjones@tiscali.co.uk">jachjones@tiscali.co.uk</a>

**Diary of Meetings and Visits    For details see articles and co-ordinators above**

<b>Week Commencing</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
<b>30<sup>th</sup> November</b>	30	1 <sup>st</sup> Dec Threads 14.00	2 Cards& Paper Crafts 14.00 Ukulele Group 14.00	3 Photography 14.00	4 Committee Mtg 10.00 Painting 14.00	5	6
<b>7 December</b>	7 Italian conversation 10.00	8 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	9 French Conversation 10.00 Solo Whist 14.00	10 Walking 11.00 Technical Computing 14.00	11 <b>Monthly Meeting 14.00</b>	12 Weekenders Perrywoods 10.00	13
<b>14 December</b>	14 Patchwork 14.00	15	16 Book Group 14.15	17	18 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00	19	20
<b>21 December</b>	21 Italian conversation	22	23 Bird Watching 14.00	24	25 Christmas Day	26	27
<b>28 December</b>	28	29	30	31	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan New Year's Day	2	3
<b>4 January</b>	4 Committee meeting 10.00 Italian conversation 10.00	5 Threads 14.00	6 Ukulele Group 14.00	7 Photography 14.00	8 Monthly meeting 14.00	9 Weekenders Bicknacre 10.00	10
<b>11 January</b>	11 Patchwork 14.00	12 Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	13 French Conversation 10.00 Solo Whist 14.00	14 Technical Computing 14.00 Walking 14.00	15 Painting 14.00	16	17
<b>18 January</b>	18 Italian conversation 10.00	19 Local History 14.00	20 Book Group 14.15	21 Computer 14.00	22 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00	23	24
<b>25 January</b>	25 French Improvers Ten Pin Bowling 14.00	26 Scrabble 14.00	27 Creative Writing 14.30	28 Family Hist Beginners 10.00 Family Hist 11.00	29 Copy to Editor Painting 14.00	30	31