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Refreshment Group Rota

December Reading & Books

January 2019 Scrabble

February Technical Computing

March AGM Ten Pin Bowling

Please provide 3 people to serve

refreshments



Heybridge U3A News Sheet No.11/2018 December 2018

Your Committee

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NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

From the Chair



Season's Greetings from the Committee

As I sit looking out of my garden window, watching the golden leaves fluttering in the breeze, it is hard to believe that Christmas is only a few weeks away.

I hope you have continued to enjoy your U3A activities in 2018 and would like to thank the Committee, the CoGs and everyone else who

has volunteered their services during the past year; without them our U3A would be unable to function. U3As are run for the members, by the members – offers of help are always welcome! As you know, there is no News Sheet in January, so Geoff, our Editor, can enjoy his Christmas celebrations in peace! The diary at the back of this issue contains details of all January events.

Looking further into 2019, our Annual General Meeting (AGM) is at 2 pm on Friday 8th March, when we will be celebrating 10 years of Heybridge U3A. Further details will be circulated in February.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year Jenny Parker chairman@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Editor

The design of the Heybridge U3A News Sheet, and the reports that it contains, is a full-page layout of 12 pages in a large font. I would ask contributors to limit their photos to pictures of U3A generated activities and not copy pictures from Websites as, when published, this may be contrary to Copyright laws. Information about the Committee Members and their reports can be found in the first few pages. The back page shows the Diary for the months of December and January. There is no January News sheet so please send reports for the February news sheet by 25th January.

Geoff Hadley editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

Secretary

The U3A 2019 Diaries are in and will be available to collect from Linda Etherton at the December meeting. There are a few still available @ £2.50: please contact Linda if you would like one

Linda Etherton secretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Membership Secretary

Membership continues to grow steadily so I hope everyone is on the lookout for new faces at meetings and outings, and makes our new friends welcome.

I have recently claimed Gift Aid on relevant membership fees and this has added a good sum to our coffers. However if you have previously agreed to allow us to claim Gift Aid on your membership fee but your tax status has now changed, please let me know.

Philippa Moody membershipsecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

Interest Groups Coordinator

decided that it would be better to make arrangements for January and February rather than visit groups in December. It's a shorter month due to the Christmas holidays and of course some groups either don't meet or perhaps are going out for lunch.

I have provisionally made arrangements to visit the Photography Group in February (they are not meeting in January). I am hoping to confirm visits with a couple of other groups soon.

Hilary Furniaux groupsco-ordinator@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

Monthly Meeting Speaker Programme for December to March 2019

Fri Dec14th Heybridge Xmas Party U3A Ukulele Group

Fri Jan 11th"For Better or For Worse"

Toni Neopard and Kate Bord

Fri Feb 8th Day in the Life of a Thames Tug Richard Thomas

Fri Mar 8th A.G.M. and Exhibition of Groups within our U3a

I always welcome your comments, if you enjoyed a speaker, or not. Feel free to speak to me at our monthly meeting or send an email to the address below. It helps me to plan future meetings. Please let me know of any talks you may have heard and think others would find interesting

Jan Brown speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

GROUP REPORTS

Art Group

We have had pretty much a full house in the Claydon Room for the past few Friday sessions despite illness and incapacitation among a few members. Rumour had it that one of our painters was more-or-less on her last legs - until she turned up as smiling and enthusiastic as ever, to everyone's great relief. Others, like me, couldn't wait to escape to Art from the chaos at home due to "having the builders in. "And while the creative juices are flowing as productively as always, and the range of subjects as diverse and interesting as ever, at this time of year the popular theme of where and when to have the Art Group pre-Christmas lunch tends to dominate much of the conversation. This year the Chequers at Goldhanger won hands down for the third, or possibly the fourth time. That, however, is some weeks away yet, so on with the painting!

For information about this group contact Tina Martin

Bird Watching Group

ur November visit was to RSPB Old Hall Marshes at Tolleshunt D'Arcy.

We were treated to an amazing display by a mixed flock of birds over the Estuary. There were hundreds of golden plovers, knot and dunlin, all flying in an ever changing cloud, above the water. There were plenty of Canada geese about and the beginnings of the mass invasion of Brent geese with some Greylags dropping in to graze.







Greylag coming in Jill

Walking round to Salcott Creek we found some Goldeneye and, in the distance a bird we had trouble identifying. Thanks to Graham's digital photography we managed to work out that there was a Spoonbill still on the marsh!

Old Hall Marshes are truly fascinating in late autumn and winter. We saw nearly 30 species in 2 hours without counting the gulls, starlings etc.

For more information, please contact Maureen Lenoir

Cards and Paper Crafts

All four of us made it this month although only 3 of us actually crafted. Between us we were making a 40th Birthday card, a box and Christmas cards. None of us finished our projects but at least we made a good start! And we enjoyed helping each other decide on colours and layout. We will meet in January.

Linda Lesley Woonton

Creative Writing Group

Are you sitting comfortably, boys and girls? Then I'll begin. This month we wrote stories for children; not as easy as you'd think!

Angela P kicked off with a (true) horror story about a roofer who disappeared under mysterious circumstances in the middle of a job, leaving behind a trail of anguish and despair. She's forgiven for neglecting her homework! Philippa lightened the mood with a tale of a friendly resident poltergeist that helped a lonely would-be football star improve his skills by assembling a team of fellow spooks for practice sessions. Audrey told us about a young chap whose radish seeds were slow to germinate and grow. On hearing a voice urging patience, he learns about and develops a relationship with the unseen guardians of the garden. Barbara told us about the self-publishing experience of a friend and of some of the costs involved. She also shared a short story inspired by the 3 witches from Macbeth (the Scottish play for all you "thesps" out there). These 3 were friendly and helpful to their local community. Stuart's story was about Spot the cat who, on his wanderings, visited gardens from other well-known stories, among them Mr McGregor's (Peter Rabbit) and Tom's Midnight Garden. Carol shared a work-in-progress about the adventures of a young shark and its encounters with other sea creatures. Her challenge is working in rhyme, and we heard echoes of Dr Seuss and even Hilaire Belloc. Suzanne read a tale of a little boy who had lost his confidence and sense of worth. On encountering a magical being with the same problem, he regained that which he'd lost, much to the relief of his parents and teacher. Angela B rounded off the afternoon with another magical tale - a bit of a theme had developed - about the nocturnal goings-on at Hyde Hall. What most of us U3Aers have long suspected is that the woven dinosaur near the entrance to the gardens and all the other seemingly inanimate creatures there actually come to life at night, roaming, nibbling and generally cavorting until the dawn breaks. This is a story with legs!

At the next meeting in January, we will be developing these ideas further.

For information about the group, please contact Angela Pleasance.

Croquet Group

e played our last games of croquet in October. We will now hang up our mallets until next year.

Information will be in the March News sheet.

Anne Newson:

Discussion Coffee Morning Group

We met at Lesley Pomphrett's house on Friday 16th November. We were able to welcome back Gill Thorne, who was accompanied by her carer Janet. Gill has been a member of our coffee morning group since we first began. Leslie provided us with tasty refreshments and we all enjoyed the discussions and the morning flew by.

Our next meeting will be at 11.00am on Friday 21st December at my house.

Our meeting in January will be Friday 18th 2019. at 11.00am

Margaret Brown

Family History Group

Once again we all enjoyed an informative meeting, this time in our new 'home' after changing to the smaller committee room in Planation Hall,

Linda's latest history research focused on a photograph in a 2 year old Hatfield Peverel community magazine. The photograph dated 1927 showed a Salvation Army band where the band leader pictured was a family ancestor of hers.

The discussion that followed was how/where Linda could find more historical information about the Salvation Army.

Dorothy answered a question on how the families of WW1 soldiers lived after being informed their husbands were 'missing in action'.

The widow's pension didn't come into place until 1925, but Dorothy remembered the papers her grandmother had kept when her grandfather was reported missing, which included the official notification of the army pension she would receive.

There was a suggestion that a visit, in the summer, to the National Archives at Kew might be interesting.

There will be no meeting in December, see you 24th January 2019



Have a good Christmas and a peaceful New Year to all.

Jean Rogers

French Group

French Conversation



Since the group is now too big to meet in people's homes, we decided to book the Claydon Room for a three month trial, starting last September. As some group members found the acoustics somewhat difficult, Nicky, the caretaker, kindly re-arranged the tables which made it easier for them to hear what was being said. As a result, I have now booked the Claydon Room for a further three months, from January to March 2019 inclusive.

We had a lively meeting in November, with everyone contributing their news or other Items of interest – en français bien sûr! Rosemary has kindly offered to host our Christmas meeting on December12th, so we look forward to a festive morning! Our first meeting of 2019 will be on Wednesday 9th January. Jenny Parker

Local History Group

Our planning meeting was very well attended this year. Once again, members had come up trumps with ideas to work from for our next year's programme and we spent a good time discussing and commenting on the various things suggested. Our next meeting will be a talk in February and we hope to have some firm bookings by then. We have yet to find a new COG [we are still looking...] but offers of support have been made for some of our activities.

The second part of our meeting was taken up with items of interest brought by some of the group. Pat and Terry and Sue all had mystery items. Pat's turned out to be a pot for making animal based glue, Terry's was a shunting pole and Sue's a fire extinguishing bomb [the pole looked to be more lethal than the bomb!]. Linda was able to point us in the direction of Stephen Nunn's article about the Friary and an update of what is proposed to happen with the site. I too had a Stephen Nunn article, this one about our barge, the GEORGE SMEED, some of its history culminating with our participation in the Blackwater Barge Match this year. [This included a lovely photograph taken by one of our members, Pat Yates].

Carol Greenhalgh

Music Appreciation Group

War and Peace

n the light of recent commemorations of the end of World War I, we heard pieces of music on the theme of War and Peace,

Although we started and finished our gathering with work by foreign composers, the majority of the music we heard was written by 20th Century British composers, many with personal experience of warfare. Some are well known – Vaughan Williams (*Dona Nobis Pacem*), Holst (*Mars* from *The Planets*) and Britten (*Ballad of Heroes* from the *War Requiem*). Others are much less famous, including Ivor Gurney (*War Elegy*), Michael Berkeley (*Or Shall We Die?*), Gerald Finzi (*Requiem da Camera*), Arthur Bliss (*Morning Heroes*) and Andrej Panufnik (*A Procession for Peace*) who was born Polish but became British after he defected in 1954.

We also included several living composers including John Williams (*Hymn to the Fallen*), John Rutter (*Lord Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace*), Karl Jenkins (*The Peacemakers* and *The Armed Man*), Paul Simon (*Armistice Day*) and Mark Knopfler (*Remembrance Day*).

We finished our afternoon of music with the Big Daddy of war inspired music – the Finale of Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture which apart from full orchestra, organ and extended brass section gave us cannon, fireworks and bells!

Philippa Moody

Needlecraft

our of us got together at my house this month as 2 members were away on holiday. Two were knitting and 2 were crocheting. We put the world to rights over tea and biscuits and enjoyed each other's company. There will be no Needlecraft Group next month but we will resume as normal on 21st January 2019.

Hilary Furniaux

Painting 2

We had an interesting meeting on the second Monday of November with members choosing whether to paint landscapes or flowers in Watercolour or Acrylic paints. One member has asked to see some portraits in Acrylic by another member as she is interested to see what is available. The Sky Arts Programme last summer was very informative for Portrait painters.

As there is no Newsletter in January our dates for the New Year are 14th January and the 11th February and payment for the next quarter will be required in January or ASAP after that date.

So have an enjoyable Christmas and New Year 2019.

Barbara Barbrook

Patchwork Group

The next meeting of the Patchwork Group is on 10th December 2:00 pm at the West Maldon Community Centre.

For more information contact Anne Thorpe.

Petanque Group

Infortunately for the past three weeks I have not been able to play Petanque with my fellow players, due to some health problems. So my grateful thanks to Moira, Chris and Roger, who have stepped up and run the proceedings for me, also I understand there has been help raking the terrain too., many thanks...Well done one and all for turning up when the weather has been pretty chilly, I understand from Moira that the attendances have been good, and 2/3 games were played each week. Also our new Members have become regulars too, which is great news. Christmas fast approaches, so if anyone is free, the last Petanque session before Christmas will be Monday 24th December. There will be no Petanque on New Year's Eve... so first January session of Petanque 2019 will be on Monday January 7th weather permitting of course

If I don't see you before, I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Dian

Photography Group

We met at our usual venue to view and discuss the three photos that our members had taken for the "Autumn" assignment. There was a wide range of photos from colourful landscapes to fruits and berries depicting various modes of Autumn.

After the break we watched a video for a winter project which included a Country Walk and adding snowflakes to a photo in Photoshop followed by a short clip on YouTube on how to photograph fireworks.

It was decided that the subject for the December meeting would be "A Portrait" and it was suggested that this could include a portrait of a pet.

If you are interested in photography or want to understand more about your camera or cameraphone, you are welcome to come along and join us. We meet in the West Maldon Community Centre on the first Thursday of each month at 2.00pm.

Norman Grove

Reading and Books Group

We discussed "Moon Tiger" by Penelope Lively but most of us hadn't enjoyed it much!

Our next meeting will be on Wed 16th January at 2pm in Elizabeth's home in Heybridge Basin when we will be discussing "Private Peaceful" by Michael Morpurgo.

If you are interested in joining the group, please email or telephone Margaret Hurst

Scrabble Group

The Scrabble group did not play in November, due to members' other commitments. There will not be a meeting in December as this coincides with the Christmas festivities, but we will aim to get together on Tuesday 22nd January at Linda's house. Please contact Linda Etherton (details on the CoGs list) if you would like to join us. The February meeting is on the 26th.

Linda Etherton

Technical Computing Group

We had another successful meeting at Alex's house. The discussion started by talking about the latest Windows 10 update, number 1809. Microsoft stopped the release of what was called the 'October Update' due to persons having extensive problems, mainly loosing programs, especially if your hard drive had any compressed files on it. The information from Microsoft is that the re-issue of the October update will now be approximately November the 13th, they also advise not to look for it, but wait until it is offered. As with all updates, make sure you backup any important files, i.e./ photos or documents before updating. One important point worth mentioning is NOT to switch off your computer whilst it is doing an update, as this may well stop the computer from starting up again. Incidentally if anyone did not know what the update number relates to, it's the day and month of issue. i.e. 1809 is the 18th of September, so one assumes the November rerelease will be number 1311, I'll keep watching.

After a break for tea and biscuits we talked about different methods of transferring camcorder tapes to a DVD discs using a computer, which is what I am in the process of doing myself. I have Hi8 video tapes going back nearly 25 years when my children were quite young, so being able to see the old footage is very important to us. Norman found a site on his tablet computer, and I am going to order software from it, I will give an update with December's news sheet.

We have decided not to hold a meeting in January 2019.

Colin Mason

Ten Pin Bowling

leven of us arrived at Madison Heights for our monthly session. Only nine of us played with two injuries on the side-lines keeping score and cheering us on!

Graham predictably was the highest scorer, powering his way to 145 in his first game Clive however, having only been part of the group for a short time, made his personal best score of 123. The ladies didn't fare as well, struggling to get to 100. Never mind, we had fun and laughter that's the main thing!

Our next meeting is on December 11th. We will be playing in the morning from 10am followed by a joint lunch with the Petanque group to celebrate Christmas! Please ring me if you would like to join us, you will be most welcome. Merry Christmas to everyone and a Happy New Year.

Lynne Morrison

Ukulele Group UKE3A

With just a few short weeks to go before we strummers accompany the carols at the Heybridge U3A Christmas party, the grim wintry weather has claimed a victim from among our ranks. Briony, possibly our hardest working member (she practices on her uke pretty much every day) slipped over while strolling in the soggy countryside and broke her wrist - which means she can neither drive nor play her ukulele for the foreseeable future. Oh Calamity!

We will, of course, try to make up for Bryony's absence, but you must excuse us if our overall sound is a little thinner than usual when we strike up for the carols. And please, everyone, sing along with us as loudly as you can. Thank you. Hopefully normal service will be resumed in the New Year when, if your resolutions for 2019 include learning to play the uke, we hope you will join us

Gill Carpenter.

Walking Group

appily we enjoyed un-November type weather. It was sunny, chilly but largely dry underfoot. It was one of our shorter walks, starting along field paths and passed farmland in Feering and then through alleyways along the backways of Kelvedon, starting and finishing on the banks of the Blackwater river. There were 19 of us who stopped for tea/coffee etc in the Railway Tavern at the end of our walk. Our luck was in, as the pub had quite a few "left-over" cakes from a gift they had received that day and the landlady very kindly gave them to us to accompany our drinks.

Our next meeting is for our lunch at The Lock Café and weather permitting we shall have a walk beforehand. Our next planned walk will be in March 2019, however, walkers may be able to join the Garden Group for their snowdrop walk if anyone wants to.

For information about upcoming walks contact Linda Wells.

Weekday Lunch Group

This month we met at Prezzo's in Maldon. Not everyone had visited there before and found it very pleasant. It was a nice change to have an Italian menu and everyone thoroughly enjoyed their choice.

We will be meeting again on Tuesday 4th of December at 12.15 at the Lion Restaurant, Boreham.

The next meeting is on the 8th of January.

Jean Perrott.

Weekenders Group

Leven members of Weekenders met for coffee at the Barge Tearooms on the Hythe and once again were reminded how lucky we are to have such excellent amenities near us. All their food is made on the premises. Our plan is to go back to the New Pavilion in January. We are disappointed to learn that the venue has changed hands, but we'll give them a chance to prove themselves unless we hear negative results before our date.

Dates and details of our next meetings.

Saturday 15th December- We are booked in at The Bell, Woodham Walter for a Christmas lunch at 12.00 (for 12.30). Just a reminder; the cost of the meal is £27.00, less £10.00 deposit paid. The balance must be paid in cash and we usually include a tip, so may I suggest we all bring £20.00. Drinks can be paid for in cash at the bar.

Saturday January 12th- We meet once again at The New Pavilion in Heybridge at 10.00 for coffee. (Please see note above)

Saturday 9th February 2019 – The Red Dog at Tiptree has been suggested and it does look interesting. It is good to try new venues, so let's go for it! But be warned they will do bacon or sausage sandwiches but not toasted teacakes.

Pat Smith

Yoga Group

Best Wishes for a Happy Christmas and a Fit and Healthy 2019 from Bette and Gloria. The 5th Session begins January 16th 2019 at 2pm in Plantation Hall, Heybridge.

Please contact me if interested in trying or joining our Yoga group.

Gloria Bomford COG

EVENTS PROGRAMME 2019

GUIDE DOG TRAINING CENTRE, REDBRIDGE

Wednesday 13th February 2019 £25

The Guide Dogs story started in 1931 with two amazing British pioneers, Muriel Crooke and Rosamund Bond. These remarkable women organised the training of the first four British guide dogs from a humble lock up garage in Wallasey, Merseyside.

Today Guide Dogs is the world's largest breeder and trainer of working dogs.

Our two-hour afternoon tour includes an introduction to the history of guide dogs and you will have the opportunity to meet some of our training dogs.

We will also visit Queen Elizabeth 1st hunting lodge in the morning.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA at

The Royal Albert Hall

Sunday 17th March 2019, 2.30pm

£48.00 (including programme)

A nostalgic celebration of much-loved songs and duets from the classic musicals of the golden age of Hollywood! Featuring the ever-popular music of Rodgers & Hammerstein, Cole Porter, George Gershwin, Irving Berlin, Lerner & Loewe, Leonard Bernstein and much more!

Indulge in a trip down memory lane with classic songs from:

My Fair Lady, The Wizard Of Oz, The Sound Of Music, Guys & Dolls, The King & I, Hello Dolly!, On The Town, Calamity Jane, Top Hat, Gentlemen Prefer Blondes, High Society, West Side Story... and many more!

ANNE OF CLEVES HOUSE & LEWES ANTIQUE SHOPS

Thursday 4th April 2019 £25.00

Anne of Cleves House is an outstanding example of a late medieval building. More than five hundred years old, it also played a part in the story of one of England's most famous kings, Henry VIII. At Anne's house you can explore how the Tudors and Elizabethans lived, worked and relaxed at home.

Free time in the afternoon to visit Lewes' many antique shops or maybe a visit to Lewes castle.... (Not included)

For more details, contact the Events Secretary (details on the front page)

Advance Notice: Annual General Meeting 2018

The 2019 AGM will be held on the 9th March at 2.00 pm at Plantation Hall, Heybridge.

At the time of writing the following positions will need to be filled either because there is an existing vacancy, the current incumbent is stepping down or has completed three years in office: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Events Secretary

Nomination Forms will be sent out with the February News Sheet and will also be available from the Secretary as well as at the signing-in desk. Completed forms will need to be returned to the Secretary by the 15th February 2019.

Should any member wish to propose a motion or resolution, this must be received by the Secretary in writing or via email by the end of January 2019, to be included in the AGM Agenda that will be published with the February News Sheet.

E-mail addresses removed for archiving.

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

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
3 Dec	3 Petanque 13.00 Cards & paper 14.00	4 Weekday Lunch 12.30	5 Ukulele 14.00 Yoga 14.00	6 Photography 14.00	7 Committee Meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00	8	9
10=Dec	10 Petanque 13.00 Painting 2 14.00 Patchwork 14.00	11 Ten pin 10.00 Lunch 12.00	12 French Conversation 10.00	13 Technical Computing 14.00 Walking Lunch 12.30	14 U3A Christmas Party Meeting 14.00	15 Weekenders Bell Woodham Walter 12.00	16
17-Dec	17 Petanque 13.00 Needlecraft 14.00	18 Local History No meeting	19	20	21 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00	22	23
24-Dec	24 Petanque 13.00 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27	28 Painting 14.00	29	30
31-Dec	31 New Year's Eve	1-Jan 2019 New Year's Day	2 Ukulele 14.00	3 Photography No Meeting	4 Committee Meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00	5	6
7-Jan	7 Petanque 13.00 Cards & paper 14.00	8 Weekday Lunch 12.30 Ten pin 14.00	9 12 French Conversation 10.00	Technical Computing No meeting No Walking	11 Monthly Meeting 14.00	12 Weekenders New Pavilion 10.00	13
14-Jan	14 Petanque 13.00 Painting 2 14.00 Patchwork 14.00	15 Local History No meeting	16 Reading & Books 14.00 Yoga 14.00 Music 14.00	17	18 Coffee Morning 11.00 Painting 14.00	19	20
21–Jan	21 Petanque 13.00 Needlecraft 14.00	Scrabble 14.00	23 Creative Writing 14.30 Yoga 14.00	24 Family History 10.00	25 Painting 14.00 Bird watching 14.00 Copy to Editor	26	27
28–Jan	28 Petanque 13.00 French Improvers 14.00	29	30 Yoga 14.00	31	1 - Feb Committee Meeting 10.00 Painting 14.00	2	3