

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No 11

December 2021

Your Committee

<https://u3asites.org.uk/heybridge>

Archive

www.heybridgeu3a.org.uk/archive/news.html

Registered Charity number 1160360

Main Meeting Plantation Hall

Friday 10th December 2 p.m.

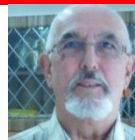
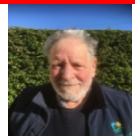
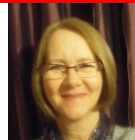
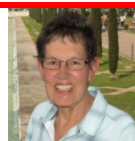

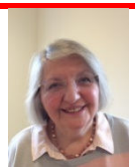



Guest Speaker Magician John Pomfrett

No News sheet in January 2022

Next Committee Meeting

Jan 7th 2022 at 10.00 at Plantation Hall in the Claydon Room

AGM Friday 11th March 14.00

Chairman	Norman Cumming	
	chairman@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	01621 817200	
Vice Chair	Peter Radford	
	01621 843543	
Secretary	Linda Etherton	
	secretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	01621 843702	
Treasurer	Jill McGregor	
	treasurer@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	01621 842595	
Membership Secretary	Philippa Moody	
	membershipsecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	01245 381379	
Publicity Officer	Angela Pleasance	
	01621 850310	
Groups Co-ordinator	Hilary Furniaux	
	groupsc0-ordinator@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	07411 450634	
Speaker Secretary	Jan Brown	
	speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	01621 856989	
News Sheet Editor	Geoff Hadley	
	editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	01621 852494	

NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Chairman's report for December 2021 Newsletter.

I am so sorry to have missed the November meeting, and would like to thank Peter for standing in, and, from what I am told he did a Sterling job. I would also thank members of the Petanque group for stepping up and helping with refreshments.

As, I believe Peter advised, I had received an invitation to the theatre with an overnight stay and full board, from a brilliant vascular surgeon, his Interventional radiology colleagues and gorgeous nurses, I could just not refuse, you know what I mean, it was too good an opportunity to miss. I do hope you all will understand. Regrettably it wasn't a good performance and we all left before the final act was completed.

And now, for something completely different that will impact on all of you next year:-

Christmas is now almost upon us, and after the festivities are over your committee have to start preparations for the upcoming AGM in March. The most difficult part in all this is that, with so far a total lack of support as yet, in finding any volunteers to replace committee members finishing their tenures, and at an exciting time when we are rebuilding our membership after the pandemic, numbers at the main meeting, increasing month on month, Membership also growing again, the light at the end of the tunnel seems to be burning brighter, we then have also to work towards possibly winding up Heybridge u3a. YOUR u3a. This is an extremely sad and trying time for the committee, that after 13 years no one yet, within our membership, wants the Hu3a enough to fight for it. Joining the committee for me was one of the best moves I have ever made, a friendlier bunch you couldn't wish for and the support is tremendous, I did have serious doubts about carrying on, what with health issues and the prolonged lockdown, but I was supported and encouraged to remain, and to be honest I am so glad I did, I would have missed the camaraderie. For goodness sake, cannot any of you see what a great thing you have here, please do not let it go, stand up and do something, if you do nothing, you may sadly find yourselves with nothing to do!

The outgoing committee members will assist a new committee to settle in, some will possibly take a step back, but stay as committee members and advisors, YOU WOULD HAVE A WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE TO TAP INTO.

Remember you don't need a history with the u3a, many start-ups are by people with no pre u3a history, and 3 of your present committee joined the committee just after joining, no history! But you will have massive back up from the previous committee.

Meanwhile have a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Stay safe and healthy

Norman Cumming, Chairman

In Memoriam

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

Advance Notice: Annual General Meeting 2022

The AGM will be held on Friday 11th March 2022. More information will be sent out via the February News Sheet by email, and posted to those without email.

At the time of writing the following will be required: **Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Interest Group Co-ordinator, and Publicity Officer.**

We have not had an Events Secretary for a while: if someone is interested in getting things started please speak to a member of the committee.

In addition, a minute taker would be very helpful; however this is a non-committee role.

Job descriptions are available and anyone can attend a committee meeting to get an idea of what is involved.

Nomination Forms will be sent out with the February News Sheet and can also be posted on request. Completed forms will need to be returned to the Secretary by the 18th February 2022.

If any member wishes to propose a motion or resolution, this must be received by the Secretary in writing or via email by the end of January 2022, to be included in the AGM Agenda that will be published with the February News Sheet.

Covid-19 restrictions

At the time of writing a new variant of the Coronavirus is giving cause for concern and the latest Government requirement is to wear a mask in shops and on public transport. This may be extended to other situations when more is known and we should be prepared to wear masks at u3a meetings, especially the Main Meeting, and take a Lateral Flow test before attending.

The Plantation Hall will ensure everything has been sanitised and windows will be open for fresh air, so please bring a mask and wrap up warm.

Interest Group Co-Ordinator Report

It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas!! Actually it's just beginning to feel really cold but it is nearly December now so not surprising. Some Groups who were able to meet in gardens during the summer are continuing to meet in homes now. Please remain cautious when going to people's houses, if you are feeling unwell please do not go. It may turn out to be just a cold but it's better to keep others safe.

I look forward to seeing you at the Monthly Meeting and chatting over a mince pie or sausage roll. Lastly may I wish you all a healthy, peaceful and joyous Christmas if you celebrate? And all the very best for 2022, may it be a better year for everyone.

Hilary Furniaux groupsco-ordinator@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Editor

The design of the Heybridge U3A News Sheet, and the reports that it contains, is a full-page layout of 13 pages in a large font. Information about the Committee Members and their reports can be found in the first few pages. There will not be a news sheet in January so send items for inclusion into the February 2022 News sheet by the last Saturday in January 2022.

I am very grateful to all the people who send material for inclusion. Have you anything to say? Please send it to me and I will include it.

Geoff Hadley editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Membership Secretary

This will be a 'year' of nine months starting 1st July 2021 until 31st March 2022. If you are able, please print the Membership form, complete it and post it to me at the address given. You can enclose a cheque or do a Bank Transfer – just contact me for the account details and include your name as reference.

If you are unable to print the form, contact me to be sent a paper copy or you can complete it electronically and attach it to an email addressed to the Membership Secretary (see front cover). However you may still need to post a cheque if you do not do online banking.

Full and Dual Members who paid the full subscription of £18 (£13 Dual) last year will benefit from a discounted fee this year of £5.

Members who renewed for only £10 after 1st October 2020, and any new members, are asked for £13.50 (£18 x 75%). Dual Members who renewed after October should pay £8.50 this year.

If anyone is unsure about what they need to pay please contact me on the telephone number on the front page.

Philippa Moody membershipsecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

Monthly Meeting Speaker Programme

In November we enjoyed the talk 'My life as a continuity announcer' given by Sally Lawrence.

When Sally was at school she enjoyed reading so thought she would like to be an actor. She joined E15 Acting School, in Loughton, Essex. Sally found they did a lot of method acting, which involved some nudity. It was a bit of a wild place for Sally, coming from a C of E boarding School.

When her course finished she started to look for jobs. In those days you bought the weekly newspaper 'The Stage' and applied to the adverts at the back. One of the first auditions she went to was for a juggler but she found her skills were not up to the ones expected - juggling with fire.

Next she got a part in a radio 4 play only to find she had only two lines to say, on the last page of the script. Sally worked for AA Road Watch and then presented a programme on Radio Essex called 'Love Songs' that went out from 10pm to 2 am. She then joined the Essex 'Flying Eye', reporting on traffic conditions around the county.

It was time to look for a new challenge so back to 'The Stage' newspaper. Sally got a job working for a new TV channel, Channel 4. Sally found it to be an exciting place to work. She would do 10pm to 10 am slot. Her driver Stan would pick her in the evening in his stretch limo and return her home mid-morning. Sally would leave the house wearing her pyjamas and dressing gown, taking something smart to change into. This got the neighbours talking until she explained her job.

Sally had an Aunt who thought she had never had 'a proper job' because she worked for TV channels that had adverts so she applied to work for the BBC. She found the BBC to be very antiquated with their systems and practices, compared to Channel 4. As part of her job she had to practise reading obituaries for the Royal family. This never included Diana, Princess of Wales but this was one Sally was involved with. She remembers it being to be a very sombre day. Sally then went into BBC training. She now has her own voice coach business and theatre company.

In December (10/12/21) we welcome John Pomfrett, a magician. We will be celebrating Christmas with a few nibbles too.

In January (14/01/22) Sheila Dearn will tell us all about Hedgehog Haven Rescue

In February 11/02/22 Ian Mercer will tell us all about the geology of Essex. There should be a few specimens and books to buy

On 11/03/22 will be our AGM

Hope to see you in December Jan Brown speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

Publicity

Our u3a Cluster

Did you know that we are part of a cluster of u3as within the Maldon and Dengie area, which has benefits for you, our members? We liaise closely with Maldon, Blackwater, Limebrook, South Woodham Ferrers, Crouch Valley, Dengie & District and Burnham-on-Crouch u3as, and have agreed reciprocal arrangements with these. This means that members of one u3a can attend any interest groups of any of the other cluster u3as if there is room. There are about 80 groups to choose from – Egyptology, Flower arranging and Gin appreciation just a random sample from the middle of the alphabet – so there is no excuse for being bored. There is a link to the full list from our website.



Egyptology, Flower arranging and Gin appreciation

We also liaise on publicity and will be jointly organising the next national u3a day in the week of 21st September 2022.

Barbara Cordina, the Trustee for the East of England, came to a recent meeting of representatives from the cluster and it was interesting to get her take on some of our local problems

Angela



Happy Christmas to all our Members

GROUP REPORTS

Art

After much consideration I've decided to delay our Art group start. Sorry to disappoint but I'll wait for hopefully normal times to return.

Tina Martin martin.christine@sky.com

Bird Watching

This month Pat O'Sullivan took us out along the estuary at Goldhanger. It was a perfect sunny morning with plenty of birds to spot. We walked through the park and up onto the sea wall where we saw hundreds of Brent geese coming in to land in a field as they were pushed off the mud by the rising tide. Although a little late this year the Brents have now arrived in force. Also spotted from the wall was a small group of Pintail ducks back for the winter. We walked back through the fields behind the church and found several small birds in the hedges. I only managed to snap one, a Dunnock, as he hopped past. As with most of our birding outings we ended up having a coffee and a natter. Thank you, Pat for organising our outing.



Brent Geese at Goldhanger Jill



Dunnock Jill

If you would like to join the group please contact jill.mcgregor@btinternet.com and I will give you the details of our meetings. Jill

Coffee Discussion Group

On Friday 19th November we met at Jean Murray's house. Chris Norris was welcomed as she joined us for the first time and we all enjoyed a pleasant morning of light discussion. Jean had kindly prepared some mini sausage rolls for us but her sons' dog took a shine to them while they were standing on the kitchen worktop. Sky is a beautiful Springer spaniel just the right size to spring up and reach the worktop! However Jean had some put aside so we were lucky.

The next meeting will be at 11am on Friday 17th December at Lesley Pomphrett's house.

Margaret Brown

Croquet Report

The croquet season is now finished and the mallets are now hanging up for the Winter. Hopefully, we will be able to start playing again in April 2022, depending on the weather and the lawns being available. We are most appreciative of the Maldon Croquet Club for allowing us to play on their lawns, at the Forresters Golf Club.

The aim of the group is gentle exercise, fresh air, good company and fun. If you would like to join us please contact me, my details are on the back page.

Anne Newson.

Eat the World

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

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

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

Lizzie

Family History

The family history group met on Friday 24th November at a members' house and it was with pleasure that we welcomed a new member Ann who has just started doing her family tree. Although there were only four of us at the meeting we hope that we pointed her in the right direction to look things up on various sites. Both Marjorie and Diane have come to a complete block with one of their ancestors so it is back to the drawing board for both of us.

Diane Cox

French Conversation



We met on 10/11 and the final meeting for 2021 is on 8/12, when the group will need to decide whether or not we book dates for 2022

:

jennyparker14@hotmail.com.

Needlecraft Group Report

We had a little jaunt to Tiptree this month and met at Jackie's house. It was a very productive afternoon with our group knitting another mouse toy, pom pom making for a Christmas Wreath, cross stitch, hand sewing and crochet. Next month we will be meeting at my house.

Happy Christmas to everyone. Hilary Furniaux

Painting 2

As only two people attended this group for October and November we have cancelled the December meeting. However we will book for January if there are at least eight people interested in continuing with this group or would like to join it. So please let me know if you intend to join so that the Claydon room will be available for us on 10th January 2 - 4pm. 2022.

Barbara Barbrook

Papercraft Group

Christmas was in full swing this month and we all spent time making Christmas cards. By next month we will all be Christmased out!! I am sure we will enjoy a mince pie and the obligatory chat whilst making the usual Birthday or Anniversary cards.

Merry Christmas to you all. Lesley Woonton

Patchwork Group

The group spent a very enjoyable afternoon back indoors at WMCC. Members worked on a variety of sewing projects including Christmas wall hangings, quilted make up bags, needle case, Christmas angel dolls and placemats. A couple of members kindly brought along fabric scraps to share amongst the group. It's always fun to acquire new fabric to add to the stash for future projects. The last meeting of 2021 will be held on Monday 13th December.

Jackie Voyez

Petanque Group

Petanque has been so fortunate since we have come back from this awful virus, and have been able to start playing again in April.

It has been a long road to recovery for a quite a lot of people and even our own U3A groups that have not been able to get back together.

I do hope that now 2021 is coming to the end that we have finally can see some more normality in our lives.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas 🎅 and do hope that 2022 will be a better New Year.

Moir Penhallow Petanque cog.

Photography Group

We held another very successful Zoom meeting on 4th November our nineteenth so far with 11 members participating.

We started the meeting by watching a slide show of the photos taken by our members during the month, the subject for the month's assignment being "Autumnal ". A total of 36 photos were submitted including some from members who were unable to attend. This was followed by a general discussion.



Gourds - Brian Harris



Conkers - Ken Russell

Members were reminded that we would resume our meetings at the WMCC in the New Year and that we have booked the room for our February 2022 meeting. We will continue to hold Zoom meetings on the first Thursday of each month until we are able to meet again as a group.

For those who were unable to join the meeting all of the photos submitted have been uploaded to our page on Flickr (Heybridge U3A) where you will be able to view them. If you would like a link to them please contact me.

If anyone is interested in joining our Zoom meetings to see what the group is about please contact me and I will forward you a link to our next meeting. All members of the U3A are welcome.

Norman Grove

Reading & Books

There will not be a meeting in December as the third Wednesday of the month may be too busy as we prepare for Christmas. In the meantime we will be Reading "A Tale of Two Cities" by Charles Dickens. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 19th January 2022 when we plan to meet for lunch at The Ship, Tiptree to enjoy lunch and review the novel

Jackie Jones

Ten Pin Bowling

We had a group of nine members playing on the 4th and 18th November. As frustrating as the game can be everyone is lifted by either a strike or a spare with the support of the group.

The highest score on the 4th went to "Pin Buster" Graham with 167 followed by Peter Wells with a score of 141. The rest of us all had our little triumphs.

For the 18th Graham had invested in a brand new shiny ball. While he managed a consistent score through the three games he was pipped with a score of 150 by myself. Another set of scores of note was John who improved through the games while Chris peaked early and faded.

The next game is on the 2nd Dec for which I am unavailable so Graham will look after proceedings.

We are proposing to have a Christmas lunch after our game on the 16th Dec. I have circulated a menu for which I will need a £10 deposit.

Peter Harvey

U3A Scrabble Report November 2021

I missed the October meeting , so when November came it took a little while to get back into using a real board and playing with real people! It was good to be able to do that, and be able to appreciate a few tactics being brought into play (I could say fiendishly, but all very good natured). One of the group managed to play all seven tiles in one go, giving them an extra 50 points plus whatever the actual word score was. We enjoy looking up meanings of occasional obscure words found on the lists of allowable ones and two hours flies by.

We usually meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month but not December, so the next one will be on Tuesday 25th January 2022 at 2.00 pm, at Angela's.

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

Linda Etherton

Walking Group

Thanks to Graham who stepped in to lead November's walk. Nine walkers parked close to the Maldon Bowls Club, on Park Drive, and walked to Northey Island Causeway and then back along the sea wall to the Prom. The weather was exceedingly kind for the time of year, although the path along the sea wall was muddier than expected, given the recent dry weather we had enjoyed. At the end of the walk, 6 enjoyed our customary tea/coffee at the Barge Tearoom. December 9th sees our Christmas lunch with a potential 'sea wall/canal' walk beforehand, weather permitting.

A reminder for all. There will be no organised walks during January or February, so March 10th (the second Thursday) will potentially be our next group walk. To all those I won't see, I wish you a pleasantly social Christmas and all good wishes for 2022.

Linda Wells.

Weekday Lunch

We had a very good lunch at the Queen Vic at Maldon. There were normally ten of us, so soon I will need to stop as we will be unable to book a table big enough.

Our next lunch date is at Beach House, Mill Beach Caravan Site, overlooking the River Blackwater on December 7th at 12.30. Maureen

Weekenders

It may have been a bit of a cool, grey November day but the Osea View Cafe was bright and cheery with a lively group of Weekenders.

The next meeting will be at Oliver's Nursery in their tea rooms, on Saturday 18th December at 10.00 am. If you are intending to come or would like to find out more please contact me. (My details are on the front page)

On January 15th we plan to go to the cafe at BHN (also known as Buckhatch Nursery) on East Hanningfield Road, CM3 8EW, at 10.00 am as usual.

Linda Etherton (temporary admin for the group)

Rumblings from Peter for November

Firstly, I stand full square with Norman on his comments about the committee and Heybridge u3a. You must decide.

Previously I have alluded to memories of people met, often outside a pub, and until a few years ago fag in hand. Still think the cider tasted better with tobacco! So, some of those people:

Probably the oldest, and not at a bar, was an elderly, quite frail, lady but with twinkling eyes in Scotland with her daughter to tour around the places she had holidayed as a girl, with her sister too. Her story was too long to tell here but it revolved around trawlers and war time Africa. But it was also her indomitable spirit. Her last visit to Scotland she reckoned and then, "So let's go and enjoy it."

A retired naval officer knew wartime Maldon well, he had been billeted at the Blue Boar whilst conducting sea trials with the first motor torpedo boat built at Sadd's (note *at* Sadd's, not *by* Sadd's). It was fascinating.

The bloke who played the drums at our local pub gigs at as a hobby; his family firm had made and applied paint. No, not your front room or your garage doors, one noticeable example of their work, returning the liner Queen Mary to its P&O livery after serving as a wartime troop ship!

Or the bloke who had crossed the Atlantic - with his mate – in a rowing boat.

A walk up and down Ben Nevis with an English couple who worked in Northern Ireland gave a different slant to "the troubles" to the media. He was a scientist charged with taking and testing water sample purity for drinking etc. He could do the job on his own but being an English Protestant it was too dangerous for him to venture into some areas.

How about a book planner? Didn't know they existed before spending an evening with one. You get an idea for a book (in this case the life of the Middlesbrough to Whitby railway,) a working title then the rounds of publishers to try to sell the idea. Then if accepted you hire a writer, a photographer, edit it then hire a printer, then take your cut. Well, if it works for you!

I have learnt of how a pipe major tunes up his bagpipes for a competition, the tradition and ritual of piping in the haggis, and chattered with a Scottish sheep shearer who had travelled the world plying his trade.

I have even visited an archaeological dig at Vindaladen, a fort near Hadrian's Wall. I was invited by two gentlemen who met up and spent two weeks of their holiday voluntarily on the dig. One was extremely knowledgeable about the Romans and the first impression was "what a boring old f***". Wrong, though he was naive about "real life", and couldn't hold his drink either!

Just a taste of who, to me, were a few of memorable folk I met and spent time listening to. Yes, I don't actually talk all the time, I listen too, but if you don't talk to them they won't talk to you!

Peter.

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

We now have our own group on Facebook. Our Facebook group is a closed one; Philippa is the administrator who acts as the gate-keeper. Please see her contact details on the front page for more information. The Facebook group will supplement the news-sheet, not replace it.

Request for Support

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

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