

*Merry Christmas
and
a Happy
New Year!*

*From the
Committee*



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

Archive

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

Registered Charity number 1160360

Next Main Meeting – Plantation Hall

Friday 9th December at 2.00 pm

Festive entertainment supplied by

Ukulele Band UK3A

Next Committee Meeting – Plantation Hall in




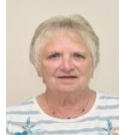

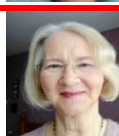
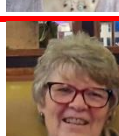

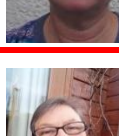
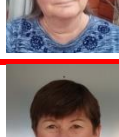
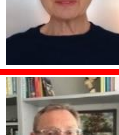
The Claydon Room

Friday 6th January at 10.00 am

Main Meeting Refreshments Rota

December – Heybridge u3a Committee

January – Family History

Chair	Jackie Jones	
	chairman@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	01621 817117	
Vice Chair	Peter Radford	
	vicechairman@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	01621 843543	
Secretary	Marilyn Corbett	
	secretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	01621 817518	
Treasurer	Elizabeth Eastwood	
	treasurer@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	01621 850618	
Membership Secretary	Philippa Moody	
	membershipsecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	01245 381379	
Publicity Officer	Linda Etherton	
	publicity@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	01621 843702	
Groups Co-ordinator	Moiria Penhallow	
	groupsco-ordinator@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	07984 357804	
Speaker Secretary	Jan Brown	
	speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	01621 856989	
Events Secretary	Lizzie Cawdell	
	eventssecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	07902 294741	
News Sheet Editor (Joint)	Lorraine Jeapes	
	editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	
	01621 890128	
News Sheet Editor (Joint)	Brian Jeapes	
	editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk	

From the Editors

Hello and welcome to the December News Sheet.

Well, we have reached the final Heybridge u3a News Sheet of the year. For many 2022 was an improvement over the past few years, with life mostly returning to normal. We had an exceptionally hot and dry summer, although with the amount of rain we have had recently, that seems a distant memory! It seems it is always too hot, too dry or too wet. But then that is British weather for you.

Christmas is a few weeks away, a time for many to celebrate, or for others to say “Bah humbug” and hide away until the whole thing is over! Whichever category you fall into, we wish you a Healthy and Happy 2023. It will be another landmark year, with the coronation of a new king. Let’s hope it is not raining on that day....

There will not be a News Sheet in January, so we will see you again in February, by which time we will probably all be complaining about the snow and ice!

Lorraine & Brian editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be held at Plantation Hall on 10th March 2023. A number of committee members will be stepping down. We will be looking for a new treasurer, speaker secretary and membership secretary. If you are interested in taking up any of these roles please contact any member of the committee. Remember, without a committee Heybridge u3a cannot continue, so please step forward if you are able.

News from the Committee

From the Chairman

As we come to the end of the year I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy new year.

Jackie Jones chairman@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Membership Secretary

Forty-one members plus two visitors attended the November main meeting. Membership remains at 122 although we have had some membership enquiries.

Philippa Moody membershipsecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Speaker Secretary

Last month we had an interesting talk, given by Neil Richardson about the history and work of the Commonwealth War Grave Commission. Their role is to commemorate the Commonwealth casualties of both World Wars. The Commemorations team ensure that CWGC commemorates all Commonwealth war casualties. Not everyone who lost their lives during the two world wars is formally designated a war casualty. The intention was to ensure that everyone who had died during the official dates of the conflict and because of their war service would be formally commemorated. Our speaker personally looks after some war graves in a local church.

This month, 9th December, we are celebrating Christmas with a local ukulele band called UK3A, some festive nibbles and a quiz.

On 13th January Bryan Thurlow, a local historian with a background in professional theatre will entertain us with talk 'Through the Green Baize Door' a life in service. A portrayal of George Barrington, a retired butler of the Victorian and Edwardian era.

On 10th February Andy Marshall will be visiting us. He is a Community Safety Officer for Essex County Fire and Rescue Service.

Jan Brown speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Interest Groups Co-ordinator

Well another month gone already and here we are nearly at the end of another year. I just don't know where it has gone; flown past without realising.

I have noticed quite a few people have put their names down for the new Groups I put out at the last two meetings. Most of them are for the Local Theatre group which I had a feeling would be popular.

I do hope that most of you will be coming to the Christmas party on the 9th December, as we are all putting in an effort baking mince pies and cakes. I know some of you have your Christmas parties on the same day. We have the Ukulele band for singing and a quiz at the table while eating.

We would like you to wear something Christmassy to get us in the mood, just a bit of fun and don't forget the committee are waiting on you. Wow!

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Moira Penhallow groupsco-ordinator@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

News from around the Groups

Bird Watching

Friday 25th November – What a beautiful sunny day. The group met at Goldhanger and Pat O'Sullivan led us on a walk along the Estuary to see what autumn had brought in.

We saw quite a lot of Brent, in the fields, three great crested Grebes on the water and several Redshanks at the mouth of Goldhanger Creek.

Walking back towards the church, we heard Cetti's warbler in a couple of places, but not even a glimpse of them! We saw a female Stonechat, a Blue tit and several Jackdaws near the church.

Thank you to Pat for leading. Next month we have our Christmas lunch at the Jolly Sailor at the Basin.

If you are interested in joining the Birding group drop me an email. jill.mcgregor@btinternet.com



Brents pondering the existence of man

Jill McGregor

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Discussion Coffee Morning

Our latest coffee meeting was held at Jean's house on Friday 18th November. Jean served up some nice warm sausage rolls plus biscuits to enjoy with our drinks. I couldn't help but remember

the last time we were there for coffee, Jean's son had left his lovely spaniel Sky with us. Sky sneaked out to the kitchen and helped herself to some of the sausage rolls; luckily enough Jean had some untouched spares! This time nothing went missing from the kitchen, Jean's beautiful black cocker spaniel Robson is far too well behaved.

The next meeting will be at Linda's house at 11.00 am on Friday 16th December.

Margaret Brown

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Eat the World

The 'Eat the World' group chose India for their November meal and ate at the recently opened Chutney House in Maldon. This beautiful old building has been transformed into a wonderful Indian palace full of rich colours and furniture. Although service was a little slow on this occasion, the food was delicious and authentic. A choice of a vegetarian (Kachcha Mango bhajia, Mirchi Paneer accompanied with rice, papadums and salad) or non-vegetarian (Afghani Chicken Tikka, Lamb Biryani accompanied with papadums, raita and salad) set lunch was chosen by many but others chose Tandoori Chicken (chicken marinated in rich tandoori spices cooked on authentic tandoori oven), Pahadhi Shashlik or even 'Railway Curry'. Thanks go to Hilary who organized this month's meal.

We meet on the third Thursday of the month. Our next meal will be Thursday 19th January at 12.30 pm. Venue TBA. If you would like to join us please contact Lizzie (details at the back of the newsletter).

Gill Carpenter

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French

Heybridge u3a French Conversation Group is well established and is currently running at an intermediate level, which is too advanced for beginners.

However, I'm aware that there is a need for a Beginners Group and would be willing to offer a short 'Get By' course for those interested in learning the basics, e.g. greeting people, booking accommodation, finding your way and shopping. I would envisage a six week course initially, which could be extended if there is sufficient interest.

If you would like to discuss this with me, please ring me on 01621 843581 (landline) or 07484 288062 (mobile).

Jenny Parker

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Needlecraft

We met at my house for the first time in many months and enjoyed a couple of hours sewing and knitting. Linda completed her hat which she even modelled for us, Lesley was hemming, I was hand sewing a Christmas table centre piece and Angela was unpicking appliqué from an old quilt to recycle it. We discussed whether to meet next month and decided we would meet at Angela's and each bring a small plate of something to eat with us. I think I will miss lunch that day as am sure someone mentioned homemade mince pies!



I hope everyone has a peaceful, healthy Christmas and that 2023 is kind to you all.

Hilary Furniaux

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Petanque

We have been so lucky with the weather lately so that we have still been able to play, and had so many taking part. We have even played in the fog, as you can see from the photo, and had a full house of 18 even though it is getting colder. We are such a hardy lot!

As I have said before, we only play for fun and not competition and we do have fun.

I can't believe a year has nearly passed already and we are going to have our Christmas lunch on the 5th December once again at the Queen's Head down at the Quay. It just seems to have flown past without us realising.

If anyone would like to join us for petanque, we meet at the Prom in Maldon, 10.00 am Monday mornings.



Moir Penhallow

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Reading & Books

As previously agreed in October, there will be no meeting of the Books & Reading group in December 2022. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 11th January 2023 at Angela's house. In addition we will be meeting at The Ship, in Tiptree for lunch in February. I will confirm the date and time at the beginning of the new year. So far I have just four names, including myself but if anyone

else is thinking of joining the group and is available to join us on the day please let me know by text or email as you will be gladly welcomed into our little group.

Jackie Jones

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Scrabble

It seems that in English-speaking Scrabble if you draw seven tiles on the first move there is a one in eight chance they will make a seven letter word. Some might also say “no such luck”. At the November meeting of the Scrabble group luck seemed to have deserted the players for there were no particularly high scores in the first game. It’s amazing how time flies when playing an absorbing game. I had to leave early for grand-parenting duties and pleased to announce the safe arrival of a second grand-daughter, Mia Riley.

Perhaps you would like to join us for a game? We meet on the third Tuesday of the month. There will not be a meeting in December so the next one is at Angela’s in Heybridge Basin at 2.00 pm on Tuesday 17th January.

My contact details can be found in the list of CoGs.

Linda Etherton

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Ten Pin Bowling

We had a group of eight playing on the 10th November splitting the ladies and gents on separate lanes. The ladies enjoyed a fairly even set of scores with all scoring above 100 at some stage, the highest score of 133 from Chris in the last frame. We were surprised by Graham’s unusually lower scores for the first two frames but it seems he was totally distracted by the cricket (England v Pakistan) viewed on his phone. However, after an England victory he got his mojo back in the last frame with a score of 170. I was the one to beat this week with an unbeaten 149, 173 and 178.

We are booked to play on the 8th December which will be the last session of the year.

Peter Harvey

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Walking

Eleven of us set off from The White Horse in Great Baddow for a wander past St Mary's Church (there are three Commonwealth Graves in its graveyard), and then out of the village towards Galleyend. Our nearly circular route took us past the village cemetery and through a copse back onto Galleywood Road to the pub. Most of us stopped for a cup of something (unusually adorned with smartie type sweets in the saucers), before wending our way back home. Happily the weather treated us kindly.

There are no more walks until March (weather permitting).

Happy Christmas and a healthy 2023.

Linda Wells

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Weekenders

A damp November day saw the Weekenders gathering for coffee (other beverages are available) at the White Elms Garden Centre in Bicknacre where we were made very welcome.

Future activities were discussed including the next Witham Operatic Society production of 'All Shook Up' that will be performed in February by WOW which is the youth section. The last show some of us saw was written especially for WAOS, the excellent 'Flames of Injustice', a musical set in 19th Century Witham. We thoroughly recommend their productions. Marilyn is kindly arranging this so please let her know if you want to be included. In addition we hope to go and see some snowdrops in February and thanks go to Pat Yates who will be looking into possible venues.

The next meeting is in December at Perrywood's on Saturday 17th at 10.00 am. If you haven't already put your name down please let me know if you are coming or have a change of plan. Ideas for January include the Tiptree Jam Factory Tearooms or Olivers Nursery.

Meetings are usually on the third Saturday of the Month at 10.00 am. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Linda Etherton, details in the list of CoGs.

Linda Etherton

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Other News

Unfortunately u3a websites are experiencing technical difficulties at present, so you may notice a few issues with ours; u3asites.org.uk/heybridge. The Third Age Trust is currently dealing with this and hopes to have the problem resolved shortly.

Are you interested in websites and IT, and would you like to help Heybridge u3a? We need a volunteer Webmaster, or at least someone who can provide technical assistance with updating and administering our website. You would not be expected to join the committee, unless you wish to, or attend any regular meetings. It would just be a case of providing help when required or uploading various documents. Please contact any committee member if you are interested in helping out.

For your info....

Do you like Traditional Jazz? Wickham Bishops Jazz Club has been established for over 25 years, and is still widely recognised as being one of the top venues for Traditional Jazz in the country,

featuring top musicians from home and abroad. For bookings and more information please visit wickhambishopsjazzclub@gmail.com or phone Pete Hughes on 07548 775777.

Caroline Community Radio is the volunteer-run local radio station for the Maldon District. Why not give them a listen on 94.7 FM or online at carolinecommunityradio.co.uk? You will hear music from the last five decades together with local news. Evening programmes are presented by local people who have an interest in radio and communicating, and want to improve their skills. If you want to get involved please contact the station via their website.

If you enjoy football, and like to be close to the action, we have two local teams who both play in the Isthmian League Division One North and would welcome your support. "Our" local team is Heybridge Swifts FC who play at Scraley Road, Heybridge. Just down the road Maldon & Tiptree FC play at Park Drive, Maldon. Both would no doubt be pleased to see you. Admission is £10, or £5 for concessions (seniors).

Did you know that Essex County Fire & Rescue Service offer personalised Safe and Well visits? Safe & Well officers can fit smoke detectors and specialised sensory alarms if required. They risk assess each home ensuring that the right alarms are fitted in the most appropriate places. On each visit they will discuss fire safety and home security. Please call 0300 303 0088, email home.safety@essex-fire.gov.uk or visit their website at www.essex-fire.gov.uk/Book

If you already have a fire alarm fitted, remember it should be tested at least once a month.

A copy of the Heybridge u3a diary is attached. This gives details of which events are being held, where and when. If you are interesting in joining any group do not hesitate to contact the relevant CoG. Details are on the last page of this News Sheet. You will be made very welcome!

Remember that Heybridge u3a are part of a "Cluster Group". This is a group of eight local u3a organisations, Maldon, Limebrook, Blackwater, Burnham, Dengie, Crouch Valley and South Woodham Ferrers, plus ourselves. Members of these u3a groups can join in the activities of the others, subject to space availability. Details can be found at:

[ClusterGroupActivitySchedule.pdf \(maldonu3a.co.uk\)](#)

If you have any articles you would like included in the next Heybridge u3a News Sheet, please send them to editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk.

Covid 19 Reminder

- *Consider wearing a face covering indoors in crowded, enclosed spaces*
- *Let fresh air in, if meeting indoors*
- *Get tested if you have Covid 19 symptoms and stay home if positive*
- *Be prepared for any venues to be well ventilated, and wear warm clothing*