



**Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year**



**To all
Heybridge u3a members!**

Heybridge u3a

December 2023 News Sheet

Your Committee

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

Archive

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

Registered Charity number 1160360

Next Main Meeting – Plantation Hall

Friday 8th December at 2.00 pm

Christmas Party – The theme is “Christmas Past!”

Next Committee Meeting – Plantation Hall






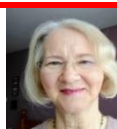
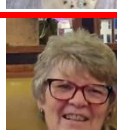
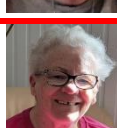


In the Claydon Room

Friday 5th January 2024 at 10.00 am

Main Meeting Refreshments Rota

January – Walking

February – Weekenders

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From the Editors

Hello and welcome to the December News Sheet.

Well, Christmas is just around the corner and 2024 is not far away. Another year gone, in some ways a year to forget with the fighting that always seemed to be on our TV news channels, but in other ways a good year – we have a new grandchild and others have celebrated weddings and notable birthdays! Most people probably had a highlight or two during 2023. So, like most years really – things to remember and things we would rather forget!

This is a combined news sheet; the next one will be in February. So until then we wish you a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year. Remember the Heybridge u3a Christmas Party is on the 8th December, come along if you can.

Lorraine & Brian editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

Annual General Meeting

The AGM for 2024 will be held on Friday 8th March. There may be some members of the committee wishing to step down so if you think you might like to take on a role please talk to someone on the current committee or come along to a committee meeting and see what you could do to help. Remember without a committee Heybridge u3a will not be able to continue. 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 17th February 2023.

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 2024, to be included in the AGM Agenda that will be published with the February News Sheet.

**** Special Note ****

Due to the on-going construction work at Plantation Hall, car parking is slightly reduced. If you are coming to the Main Meeting, please car share where possible. Also please note that the entrance to the hall is still via the fire doors opposite the children's play area.

News Sheet Deadline

Please remember all CoG reports, and anything else for inclusion in the news sheet, must be submitted to the Editors by the last weekend of the month. Unfortunately anything submitted after the deadline will not be included as it takes time to put the news sheet together.

News from the Committee

From the Chairman

On behalf of the committee I would like to wish all our members a very happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you all again in the new year. A special thanks to all the members who have stepped forward to offer help with the Christmas party, which this year has a “Christmas Past” theme incorporating music from the 50’s, 60’s and 70’s with a few memories of our childhood. It will be a fun afternoon and I hope you can all make it.

Jackie Jones chairman@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Speaker Secretary

We had quite a lot of u3a members present at our November meeting which was nice to see. The speaker was Mike Fogg who was telling us about our own Moot Hall in Maldon, a very interesting place which goes back many years, originally a house, then a gaol, now occasionally used for weddings.

The stair case is something else! You go round and round all the way to the top, and when you get to the top of the building you get a wonderful panoramic view across to Southend – amazing!

Our speaker in January is Eve Regelous who will tell us about the history of the Harrods store in London, followed in February by Sally Lawrence whose topic is “Break a Leg”.

December is our Xmas party so I hope all members will come along and enjoy a friendly fun afternoon.

Hope to see you there, just remember the u3a committee and a few helpers put this afternoon together for all of us to enjoy and a lot of work goes in to sorting it all out.

Lesley Woonton speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Interest Groups’ Co-ordinator

I am hoping to see you all on the 8th December for our Christmas Past party, and join in the festive spirit with us all.

Apologies that there are three groups I have not been able to see yet. It has been a bit hectic recently, but I will make a date with you. Please contact me if you need anything.

Some good news! We will be to be setting up a new group in March as part of the Walking group. This is going to be called the Strolling Group, and of course from the name this is for anyone who would like to join who just likes to take a stroll instead of a paced walk.

More details will follow later next month.

Moira Penhallow groupsco-ordinator@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

News from around the Groups

Board Games

Eight of us met at Angela's house in early November. We split into 4's. I played upwords with Angela and two others. I know the first game was a disaster.....I came 4th (last). I improved with second game and came 3rd.

Next door in the dining room the other half were playing a game I've not played yet, but it's very similar to Dominos.

An enjoyable afternoon, in good company.

Jean Rogers

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Cards & Paper Craft

We have been working many hours making cards etc for Xmas and many birthdays as well. Lots of glitter and of course lots of tea and biscuits - and a lot of chat! Very enjoyable!

Lesley Woonton

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Croquet

We finished the Croquet Season this year with an 'End of Season lunch' at The Ship in Tiptree, everyone managed to come along and enjoy themselves, a big thank you to Chris who very kindly invited us all back to her home afterwards for coffee, which was much appreciated. We have now hung up our mallets until next year. We start the season next year in April (subject to weather). We play for gentle exercise, good company and fun at Hatfield Peverel Bowling Club, on the second and fourth Wednesday afternoon of each summer month.

Anne Newson

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Discussion Coffee Morning

We had our November coffee morning at Jean's house on Friday 17th and as well as our normal attendees we welcomed a visitor. Lesley brought along her friend Ruth who was on holiday from Ontario, Canada and It was quite interesting to hear a little bit about her and her life.

We got on to the subject of dogs and Crufts Dog Show which I used to visit every year when it was held in London but unfortunately it was eventually transferred to Birmingham.

I can't believe that the next Discussion Coffee Morning will be the last one this year, where did this year go! It will be held on Friday 15th December at Linda's house in Heybridge.

Best wishes, stay well.

Margaret Brown

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Family History

Eight members for the November meetingalmost back to pre-pandemic days.

Not many problems needing solving at the moment.

Not a problem, but a surprise was an ancestor of Ken's seems to have totally rejected one of his children.

The only indicator is, the boy was epileptic. Maybe they just couldn't copeor didn't understand the illness, but even on the census form he stated he had 4 children instead of 5.

The boy was farmed out to live with his aunt, and died there aged 8. Unfortunately no amount of research will reveal what happened.

Jean Rogers

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Needlecraft

Several Needlecrafters came along to the November meeting at Linda's and were delighted to meet Jemima Puddleduck, Jackie's latest knitted creation. She is now working on Peter Rabbit, while Leslie's knitting a baby's jacket in pretty shades of pink and Linda plodding on with knitting squares to make a jacket. A lively discussion covered past experiences of dressmaking, Leslie having made her dresses for ballroom dancing. Linda had managed to finish off an old project by re-using a belt buckle to complete a macrame belt.



The group meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 2.00 pm, so please contact Hilary Furniaux if you are interested.

Hilary Furniaux

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Petanque

It seems that our Petanque group never mind playing whatever the weather; they always like to play! Apart from if it is pouring of course... We have managed to have 18 of us playing for the past few weeks, which is a full house for us.

We are coming up to the end of the year again, and our Christmas lunch is booked at our usual place, the Queen's Head on 11th December, which we are looking forward to.

If anyone would like to come and join us, we are down at the Maldon Prom Monday mornings at 10.00 am.

Moir Penhallow

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Photography Group

Our November meeting was held on Thursday 2nd November via Zoom.

Eight members were in attendance, with apologies from two members who were unable to attend. We had 24 photos covering a wide range of subjects to view and discuss all taken during the previous month. The subject being "Autumn Colours ".

Each month we load the photos on to Flickr for all to view.

The next meeting will be held on 7th December 2023 at 2.00 pm by Zoom. The subject this time is "Celebrations "

If anyone is interested in joining our meetings to see what the group is about please contact me and I will forward a link to our next meeting. All members of the u3a are welcome.

Norman Grove

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Reading & Books

The next meeting will be at the Ship Inn, Tiptree on Wednesday 17th January 2024, when we will discuss the list for the year, adding new titles and authors whilst enjoying a tasty lunch. Anyone wishing to join us, please contact Jackie Jones.

Jackie Jones

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Scrabble

It was almost a full complement at the meeting in November and we played two boards but only managed one game each. Angela kindly provided festive treats to have with tea and there was plenty of time to chat.

The date for the December meeting is on Boxing Day so unless anyone is at a loose end we don't expect to be playing then, but will reconvene in January back at Angela's, on the 23rd at 2.00 pm. If you would like to join us please contact Linda Etherton, details in the list of groups.

Linda Etherton

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Ten Pin Bowling

Well that is November behind us!! We have enjoyed three meetings this month.

We only had 6 taking part on the 2nd. The highlight was a fabulous score of 152 from Linda on the last frame. The gents enjoyed a close competition with Rob tipping the scales with a score of 159. Both Jenny and Chris topped the 100 mark but credit goes to Linda.

On the 16th Hilary, John and Jackie all returned to the fold. Chris joined the gents where the competition was as usual close. I managed to score the highest with 158 in the second frame. The highest score amongst the ladies was 107 by Jenny but otherwise a close contest.

On the 30th we were only missing Peter W still recovering from his fractured wrist. The ladies enjoyed overall a close competition with Linda topping the scoring with 120 on the second frame. The gents and Chris had a good battle. We were all somewhat frustrated by a left hand tendency. Graham had a particularly frustrating day scoring a regular 9! I had the highest score of the day with 169. John enjoyed a purple spell scoring two strikes on the trot which boosted his score.

Next game booked for the 14th Dec which will be the final for 2023. Much to Hilary's disgust I propose a Ten Pin New Year lunch in January, a date to be confirmed.

Happy Christmas all.

Peter Harvey

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Theatre & Cinema Group

We enjoyed our monthly meeting round Christine Norris' house on Tuesday 21st November. Unfortunately, not everyone who belongs to the theatre group could attend.

We looked at all the shows at the three Theatres we go to, and listed times dates and prices. Then I sent an email with the list to everyone so that we can all decide which shows we would like to see.

On Friday 1st December, 14 of us are seeing a tribute to Queen at Witham.

Moir Penhallow

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Walking

Five of us walked from Danbury Common past Danbury Church and down to Danbury Park. The meandering paths of the park were well trodden and relatively mud free. The final part of the walk was changed because of the copious rain that had fallen in the previous days, which meant that

there was some less easy verge walking along the road until the footpath appeared. The weather stayed dry for us and we drove to the Queen Victoria pub to meet the other walkers for our annual meal together. There were 13 of us seated on a long table. The food and service was top notch and we all spent a sociable 90+ minutes catching up before heading home.

Our last walk for this year will be on Thursday 14th December (weather permitting as always) and will be mostly (or all) on paved paths around Maldon. Details will be sent about 10 days beforehand. The walking season starts again in March on the 2nd Thursday afternoon of each month with, hopefully, the new Strollers Group starting on the 3rd Thursday afternoon of each month. Anyone interested in this group should please contact me by email as the more folk strolling the merrier we shall be.

Linda Wells
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Weekenders

Some Weekenders found themselves taking a wrong turning on the way to Braxted Bakery for the November get-together. My excuse was that it looked different with all the Autumn leaves around. We were made to feel welcome and sitting at a big table was good as we were able to chat together and share the photos from my son's recent wedding. Looking ahead, on December 16th we will meet at Perrywoods and plan to go to White Elms, Bicknacre on January 20th at the usual time of 10.00 am.

Marilyn is taking names for the next Witham Amateur Operatic production by WOW of High School Musical in February, so if interested do contact her.

We usually meet once a month on the third Saturday. If you would like to know more, my contact details are on the list of groups.

Linda Etherton
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For your info....

This may be of interest if you would like to learn more about Artificial Intelligence.

Barry Claydon, AI Subject Adviser, has set up a national library relating to Artificial Intelligence. It contains articles written by u3a members and is suitable for AI beginners and enthusiasts. Links below:

<https://u3acommunities.org/interest-groups/computing/ai-for-everyone/>

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/subjects/artificial-intelligence>

The u3a poetry competition is now open for entries, and the theme this year is 'What If'. Members have until Friday 26th January to enter, which you can do on the u3a website, u3a.org.uk. Search on the website menu for Learn, scroll down and you will find the poetry competition.

Also on the Learn page you can listen to the u3a radio podcast, or simply search for “u3a radio podcast” on Google or YouTube.

Blackwater u3a run a Scottish Country Dancing group at Langford Village Hall which we are welcome to join. It is a thriving, friendly group suitable for both beginners and improvers. They meet on 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at Langford Village Hall. For more information email diana.rogers2@btinternet.com

Please remember to bring any unwanted gifts, secondhand books (in good condition) or plants to our Market Place, which is held at our Main Meeting. It is an opportunity for members to donate items others for “sale” in exchange for a donation to Heybridge u3a funds. Please note that we cannot accept electrical goods.

There are a number of learning opportunities available to u3a members. Please see the attached poster “Online Learning Events” for full details.

Remember in 2024, u3a are holding a festival at the University of York between 17th and 19th July. More information can be found on the u3a website. To register interest or make enquiries email festival@u3a.org.uk

If you are a Facebook user, then you may like to know that Heybridge u3a has its own Facebook page which we would like to develop. Just search for Heybridge u3a on Facebook, then apply for membership. You'll be able to submit posts and read about what is going on in the group.

Maldon Nub News is the local online newspaper; their website is maldon.nub.news Alternatively the Maldon & Burnham Standard is available in newsagents and at maldonandburnhamstandard.co.uk. Both have plenty of information about what is happening in the local area.

A reminder about our local football clubs, who are Heybridge Swifts FC who play at Scraley Road, Heybridge and Maldon & Tiptree FC who play at Park Drive, Maldon. Admission per game is £5 for concessions.

To book a space at one of our local recycling centres visit www.loveessex.org.uk . This is mandatory for everyone except those visiting by foot or Blue Badge holders.

Caroline Community Radio is our local community radio station broadcasting on 94.7FM in Maldon and 104.7FM in Burnham, and on the internet. They play music from the 60s through to the present day, and have regular local news updates.

Have a look at the attached diary, which shows all of the interest groups run by Heybridge u3a . together with the location and time. Contact the relevant CoG (on the last page of the News Sheet) if you are interesting in joining any group.

Members of Heybridge u3a can join in the activities of any other u3a in our local “cluster group”, which comprises Maldon, Limebrook, Blackwater, Burnham, Dengie, Crouch Valley and South Woodham Ferrers and ourselves. Further 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.