

Heybridge u3a

April 2024 News Sheet

Your Committee

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Archive

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

Registered Charity number 1160360

Next Main Meeting – Plantation Hall

Friday 12th April at 2.00 pm

Danielle Barnett – The story of the rock band

Queen

Next Committee Meeting – Plantation Hall





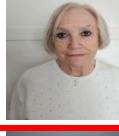
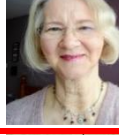
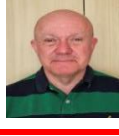

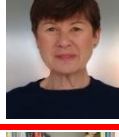

In the Claydon Room

Friday 3rd May 2024 at 10.00 am

Main Meeting Refreshments Rota

April - Art

May – Board Games

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From the Editors

Hello and welcome to the April News Sheet.

The clocks have changed, the evenings are lighter and the weather is getting warmer (just). We have a new Groups Co-ordinator, Peter Harvey, who was elected at last month's AGM. We welcome Peter who no doubt will be meeting some of our CoGs during the coming months.

As you will see from the front sheet we have a vacancy for a Speaker Secretary. This is an interesting role, it involves identifying suitable speakers, contacting them and liaising with regard to their requirements for the day. You will be given full support from the committee, not left on your own! Please contact any committee member if you are interested.

Lorraine & Brian editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

Refreshments Rota

The refreshments will be provided by the group shown on the front page, and thereafter the rota will be in alphabetical order, following the list of groups on the last page of the News Sheet.

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

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible on Friday 12th April, as we have Danielle Barnett, as our speaker. She may not be known to you but has a long work history in show business, particularly music, as she is a singer/songwriter with three top ten hits to date. Formerly the lead singer of the group "Urban Cookie Collective" she has had four major record deals, one with Simon Cowell and is a voice coach for many up and coming stars, like Molly Rainsford, who is currently in the cast of TV's Eastenders. Her subject for the afternoon is the group "Queen", how they got together and became a legend.

Jackie Jones chairman@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

Treasurer's Report

Those of you who attended the AGM will already know that our subscription rate is set at £25 for 2024/2025. After discussion it was also agreed that we should ask those members who want our newsletter, but do not have email, to bear most of the cost of printing and postage. Newsletters that are emailed will continue to be free.

Angela Pleasance treasurer@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

News from around the Groups

Art

Our twice-monthly Art Group has enjoyed a good start to 2024, all in all.

All seven regular members have attended most of our meetings in the Claydon Room. And regular attendance brings with it the chance to share new ideas and techniques.

But we can always do with new members bringing a fresh eye and fresh ideas to the group.

I've often heard new members declare: "Oh I know nothing about art really. I just thought I'd come along to see what everybody else was doing."

Well why not?

The chances are that, within an hour, that new member will be busily experimenting with paints or pastels in much the same way as we all did at one time – whether in our schooldays, our third age, or any age in between.

So why not come along and give it a go? As they say, you are never too old to learn something new!

Gill Carpenter

Croquet

The new croquet season is almost upon us! Please see the attachment which gives instructions how to play the game, some useful information and the dates we will be playing. We meet at Hatfield Peverel Bowling Club, Wickham Bishops Road, Hatfield Peverel. If you would like to join us please contact Anne Newson, details in the list of groups on the last page.

Anne Newson

Coffee Morning

This month coffee morning was held at Margaret Brown's house who laid on very nice refreshments. The main topic of conversation was about pets as Margaret's cat Katy joined us.

Coffee morning next month is at Lesley's house.

Jean Murray

Patchwork

The group spent an enjoyable afternoon working on a variety of projects. It appears that members have been very busy during the grey days of winter, making beautiful quilts, cushions, wall hangings etc.

New members and visitors to the group are always welcome. We meet at 2pm on the second Monday of the month at WMCC.



Jackie Voyez

Pétanque

I would like to thank Chris Norris and Michael Broad for their help in taking the Pétanque group for me while I was on holiday.

It has been a good turnout on both weeks, and apparently the weather was lovely last Monday 11th March as the team had to take their coats off!

We had a special birthday on the 26th March, as one of our players Ken Russell was 90. We're sure he has been celebrating with his family, and we look forward to add our congratulations when he next joins us.

If anyone would like to join us for Pétanque, then please come along to the Prom at Maldon for 10.00 am Monday morning.

Moira Penhallow

Photography Group

Our last meeting was on 7th March. Our next meeting is via Zoom, on-line system, on 4th April 2024, at 2.00 pm.

We choose a suitable subject each month, concentrate on our best submissions, and show/discuss each image item. We seem to become more expert each month (or so we are told).

We had 28 photos on view last month (March), covering "Interiors", which were considered for domestic dwellings, churches, restaurants, motor cars, shops, and others.



Next month (April) will cover "March into April". Every month's subject can be stretched to various limits, and hopefully, expand our horizons.

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

As another subject this month, we submitted a new photographic "banner page" to our "display" via our u3a local Web Site. Watch this space.

If anyone is interested in joining our meetings, please contact Alex.

All members of the u3a are welcome.

Alex Lees

Reading & Books

This month we are reading "the Line of Beauty" by Alan Hollinghurst, winner of the 2004 Man Booker Prize. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 17th April at the home of Pat Yates, from 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm. New members always welcome.

Jackie Jones

Scrabble

Sometimes life gets in the way of Scrabble, as with other u3a activities, and the March meeting was somewhat depleted. I was looking after my little granddaughter who had chicken pox, thinking it's a good job I've had it myself, had the shingles vaccination (worth it if you haven't done so yourself) and got over the last cough and cold. Reduced numbers do not seem to affect the scores however, and some very creditable totals were achieved! Angela will host the next meeting on the 23rd April, which is also St George's day.

If you would like to join us please contact Linda Etherton, details in the list of groups.

Linda Etherton

Strollers

Our first stroll was centred in Maldon. We met in St Peters Avenue, which sadly was somewhat crowded with parked cars. However, all managed to park and meet and we set off downhill towards the small park behind the Council Offices. From there we walked towards the town, stopping for a visit to the walled Friary garden. We took one of the links onto the High Street and headed to the Blue Boar then followed the road on to Beeleigh Road. The slightly uphill path at the end of the housing took us to a small park donated by a one-time resident of the dual-named road, of Lodge Road on one side and Dykes Chase on the other. From there we continued along Highfield Drive to Spital Road then through estate roads back to the cars. A total meander of a little under 2 miles.

Linda Wells

Ten Pin Bowling

With new company we took over 3 lanes on the 14th March. All had mixed fortunes with the highest score for the men going to yours truly with 162 and the highest score for the ladies going to Chris with 146. Special mention for John who scored a creditable 121 in the last game.

On the 28th March (our last Thursday meeting) the highest scores for the day was shared between myself and Rob with a score of 159. The highlight of the morning was Jackie's score in her second game of 140.

To confirm to all that our next meets will be Tuesdays i.e. 16th and 30th April.

Peter Harvey

Walking

Our first walk for this year took place on a lovely sunny spring morning. Three of us met at the Park & Ride car park to catch the bus to Chelmsford where we met the other two to start our walk. We walked alongside the River Cam through part of Central Park, crossing the river after the Essex Cricket Ground. We meandered along a paved path to join the Marconi Walk, our only part on non-paved paths. Happily that too was puddle and mud free. This route took us out onto Waterhouse Lane where we turned right back towards the river. It was not long before we were back onto the park path, heading towards Admirals Park. We sauntered around Tower Gardens before heading back towards Central Park and London Road where we parted to return to our cars. The walk was a bit less than 3.5 miles all without mud!

Linda Wells

Weekenders

The Weekenders like to visit different cafes for a convivial chat and if, as at Oliver's Nursery in March, there is a retail opportunity available so much the better. Not only did we make the most of the tea, coffee and snacks available we also enjoyed looking round the spring bedding and other plants as well as in my case their good selection of cards. We discussed the merits of some different venues and agreed to go to the cafe at the Tiptree Jam Factory in April. Then in May we are going to try Claire's cafe at Tom's Cabin as it's been recommended, now being run by different people.

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

For your info....

Maldon u3a Maritime Group have arranged a coach trip to Sutton Hoo/Woodbridge on Monday August 5th – cost is £30.00 per person, this covers coach hire, driver's gratuity, coach parking, guided tours of the burial ground at Sutton Hoo and of the Viking longship reconstruction at Woodbridge.

They will depart from the West Maldon Community Centre at 8.00 am (please park your cars at the far end of the car park) to arrive Sutton Hoo at 10.00 am, if you are a NT member then please bring your NT Membership card with you, if not a member, then you will need to pay. The plan is then to leave Sutton Hoo at about 1.00 pm for Woodbridge where there are several restaurants/cafes for lunch.

There is a guided tour and explanation of the Sutton Hoo Burial ground, this tour starts at 11.00 am and the longship reconstruction tour will start at 2.00 pm.

Depart Woodbridge at 4.30/5.00 pm.

If you are interested please contact Malcolm Case on 01245 329435 or 07889 871502, email malcolmcase24@gmail.com Payment is by cheque only which must be made payable to Maldon & District u3a.

On 12th May there is a Walk for Life, in aid of Farleigh Hospice. This family-friendly event is suitable for keen walkers of all ages and abilities, and dogs are welcome too. Everyone taking part will receive a t-shirt at the start and a medal at the finish lie.

Walkers can choose between two scenic canal side routes, which both finish at Teledyne E2V in Chelmsford:

- 12km from Paper Mill Lock

- 24km from Heybridge Basin

More information is available at www.farleighhospice.org/events/walk-2024

Funds raised go to Farleigh Hospice to help those in our local community who need our care.

Smythe Hall, Stow Maries are holding an Elvis evening to help raise money for the upkeep of their village church (sadly missing a proper roof at the moment after thieves stole the lead) and community hall.

The title is "Elvis - Memories of a King" by award-winning tribute act, Dean Fenton of Cold Norton.

This will be at 7.30 pm on Friday 12th April in the Smythe Hall, Stow Maries, CM3 6SL.

Tickets are priced at £15 per person and must be obtained by phoning 01621 828415, or by email to peterj.taylor47@btinternet.com.

'Elvis fodder' (e.g. burgers and hot dogs) will be served at the interval - BYO drinks.

Please see attached flyer for more details.

In March Maldon & District u3a Astronomy Group visited the observatory at Bayfordbury, part of the University of Hertfordshire, and report as follows:

There was plenty to keep us occupied with three illustrated talks being given (we only managed to get to two), a visit to their planetarium and the telescopes. Unfortunately, by the time we got to the telescopes the sky had clouded over and we could only look at the equipment, not the stars, but that's British weather for you! The talks that we heard were on "Hidden Giants in the Heart of the Milky Way" – about recently discovered red giants that periodically fade for several years before returning to normal brightness, and "The Web in the Cosmos" – about the structure of the universe. Both talks were fascinating. There was also an activities room with activities and demonstrations lead by astrophysics students and members of the Hertford Astronomy Group.

Further talks and visits being planned by the group include a visit to the Planetarium at Greenwich.

The Astronomy Group, part of Maldon & District u3a, meets on the evening of the fourth Monday of the month at Chigborough Lakes hut. Two Heybridge u3a members attend and the group has room for more. If you are interested, please contact Angela Pleasence, details on front page.

Ray Clark of Radio Caroline and previously of BBC Essex is giving a talk about the history of Radio Caroline at 2.00 pm on 6th May at Mangapps Railway Museum, Burnham-on-Crouch. The price is £15 and includes admission to the museum, a ride on a train pulled by the loco 'Radio Caroline', and Ray Clark's talk. If you are interested in attending please contact

brian_jeapes@hotmail.com

Maldon & District u3a have launched a new activity group named Engineering and Inventions.

They will show one each from three series of 30 minute lectures produced by "The Great Courses". They are:

- a) "*Understanding the world's greatest structures: Science and Innovation from Antiquity to Modernity*".
- b) "*Understanding the Inventions that Changed the World*".
- c) "*Epic Engineering Failures and the Lessons They Teach*".

There are between 24 and 36 lectures in each series, so it would keep them going for a year before possibly moving on to other series. The lecturer for the first and third topics is particularly good. He uses a number of home-made models to explain and demonstrate the engineering principles.

The "*Inventions*" series (by a different professor) looks much wider to inventions in many different aspects of life in a chronological sequence. The "*Epic Engineering Failures*" series, while mostly civil engineering structures, also includes other notable failures, including the Boeing 737MAX.

The meetings will be on the first and third Tuesday afternoons each month from 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm at the member's house in Danbury.

The first meeting will be on Tuesday 16th April at 2.00 pm.

Anyone interested should contact email: anthonygroves1@yahoo.co.uk

The following online workshops are open to all u3a members, and all are welcome to attend:

Friday 15th March - u3a Model Constitutions - an overview

- Monday 25th March - Recruiting and Valuing Volunteers
- Wednesday 27th March - Keeping it Legal
- Thursday 11th April - Running your u3a - information for trustees
- Monday 15th April - Growth Matters
- Tuesday 16th April - Equality, Diversity and Inclusion coffee morning
- Wednesday 17th April - Running discussion groups and getting feedback

Details about workshops can be found in [the members' area of the u3a website](#).

The Blackwater u3a Scottish Country Dancing group meet at Langford Village Hall 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, second-hand books (in good condition) or plants to our Market Place, which is held at our Main Meeting. It is an opportunity to donate items for “sale” for other members to buy in exchange for a donation to Heybridge u3a funds. Please note that we cannot accept electrical goods.

The u3a festival is being held 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.

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 94.7 FM in Maldon and 104.7 FM in Burnham, and on the internet. They play music from the 60s through to the present day, and have regular local news updates. If you would like a mention on air, the email address to use is hello@carolinecommunityradio.co.uk

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.