

# Heybridge U3A

## News Sheet No 8

### September 2021

#### Your Committee

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

Archive

[www.heybridgeu3a.org.uk/archive/news.html](http://www.heybridgeu3a.org.uk/archive/news.html)

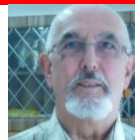
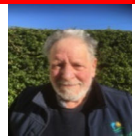
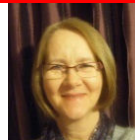
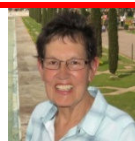

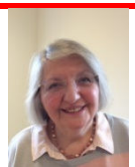



Registered charity number 1160360

Main Meeting Plantation Hall

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2 p.m.

Guest Speaker Tony Tuckwell

The Only Coastal Way is Essex

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# NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

## Chairman's report for September 2021 News letter.

Well, August was a bit of a wash out but, I was pleased to see a reasonable turn out for our drop in meeting, our first meeting in nearly 18 months,

Thank you all that attended.

A special thanks to Jan our speaker secretary for arranging and carrying out the catering etc.

I still have not been overwhelmed with members wishing to help keep our U3a going, but I will go on in the knowledge and hope that you cannot all be willing to let this go.

We are now in a position to start going forward and rebuilding our u3a, but first we will need some off you to come forward to act as group leaders, or a number of groups will not restart, this will make it much harder to rebuild

Norman Cumming, Chairman

### Returning to activities safely

Members should assess their own health before attending any meetings: do not attend if you have any Covid-19 symptoms or have been in contact with anyone who has.

Abide by the rules of any venues being used, such as giving your details to the organiser/venue, if required provide evidence of double vaccination or a negative test result, wearing masks in crowded situations and social distancing.

### Plantation Hall Rules

- The staff at Plantation Hall will continue to deep-clean the hall between hirings.
- A list of those attending will be kept to enable Track and Trace: in addition the Hall has a QR code but not everyone will be able to use it.
- A one-way system will be in place to avoid crowding in pinch points and social distancing requested.
- The wearing of masks in more crowded areas is advised.
- Use hand sanitiser and dispose of wipes and tissues safely
- The Hall will be ventilated with windows and doors open regardless of the weather.
- Toilets will be accessible, but for just one person at a time, with an 'engaged' slide on the outside door.
- Although the restriction on numbers has been lifted it may still be considered sensible to limit the number in the Hall.

### Interest Group Activities

The Third Age Trust's information on procedures for resuming indoor meetings will be sent to CoGs and can be found on the website: [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk). Anyone can login to the website and find this information under 'Running your u3a: Covid-19 and beyond', England.

Group co-ordinators need to tell the committee what their groups' arrangements are for getting back to meetings. There is no pressure to resume meetings in people's houses, if this makes the host uncomfortable, and meeting outside in the fine weather is a possibility that a few groups already have in place. There may be rooms at the halls that could be used.

A simple checklist to ensure everyone's safety is a sensible precaution and help will be given to complete this. Linda Etherton, Secretary

### Interest Group Co-Ordinator Report

What a lovely afternoon we had at the Plantation Hall for the first time since last March! Lots of smiling faces and catching up with those members we hadn't seen for so long. We welcomed potential new members too which was a great start. More groups are looking at re-starting soon so watch out for an email from your COG.

Hilary Furniaux [groupsco-ordinator@heybridgeu3a.org.uk](mailto: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 12 pages in a large font. Information about the Committee Members and their reports can be found in the first few pages. The next News sheet will be in October so send items by last Saturday in September. 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](mailto:editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk)

### From the Membership Secretary

This will be a 'year' of nine months starting 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 until 31<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:membershipsecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk)

### Monthly Meeting Speaker Programme

At our get together in August it was good to see so many members and some new members too. For our September meeting on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> at 2p.m. we have Tony Tuckwell giving us a talk, in person 'The Only Coastal Way is Essex'. This is an account of a walk along the whole length of the Essex Coast in 2010-11, including circumambulations of Canvey and Mersea Islands. Essex has the longest coastline in England 320 miles of which can be walked. It has an amazing variety of flora and fauna and for many a mile is totally deserted.

In October Roger Dorking will be enlightening us with 'Tales from the Smithy'...sounds interesting!

Hope to see at our next meeting in September

Jan Brown [speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk](mailto:speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk)

## Publicity

In recent months we have revised the leaflet for new members (or potential new members), updated the general publicity leaflet with the new u3a style, and have posters advertising all the cluster u3as which are displayed on local notice boards. We are also getting business cards printed so that we have something to hand out to anyone who might be interested in joining our u3a. If you think you could use some please ask me or any member of the committee. In the meantime – please keep spreading the word.

AP

## 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

We always have a break for July and August and so far no interest shown by anyone to become the new CoG so not sure what will be happening to the group in September.

It's been such a friendly group and we hope you have enjoyed our monthly trips as much as Jill and I.

Thanks for all your support

Maureen and Jill

### July Croquet Report

We have played on both the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of August, the weather has been kind! I think I can say that most members of the group are improving, Audrey managed to get two hoops on the first session, even though she has hurt her shoulder, she decided to go home at the end and celebrate with a 'cup of Earl Grey Tea'! Well done. Due to having moved from Thursday mornings to Wednesday afternoons after so many years has proved a problem for some members and some of us are still having trouble remembering the change! We have still had a good attendance. If anyone is interested in joining us please contact me (my details are on the back page). We play on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoon of each summer month, at Forresters Golf Club, Great Totham. We play for gentle exercise, good company and fun.

Anne Newson.

## Family History

The F/H group have heard this story before. So forgive me.

While waiting for my daughter to unload her unwanted items at the recycling centre in Southend (mustn't call it the rubbish tip) I had a little stroll around. After all 'one man's trash is

.....  
I couldn't believe it when I saw a large bin full of old books. School books dated 1940/45 with the pupil's names inside - they were all very old. Why would these be here, I could only assume they were from house clearances. Then I saw a very tattered leather bound bible with gold leaf edged pages. Inside on the flyleaf it said 'presented to Mr A Byford under the terms of the will of the late Sir George Williams, and dated 1911. Over 100 years old.

It may not have been earmarked for destruction, but I wasn't taking any chances. I had a slight altercation with an official who maintained anything once left there became council property, so I was in effect stealing. Ignoring him I walked off with it!

My intention was (and still is) to return it to any descendant of A Byford; I started by researching Sir George Williams.

I discovered he was the founder of the YMCA. He died in 1905 and is buried in St Paul's Cathedral. Despite all the information about his life there were no clues about his will.

I applied for a copy of the will and received it 10 days later. He left a substantial amount of money in the safe keeping of his 4 sons to purchase (after his death) a bible for every living descendant of his maternal/paternal grandparents, and his wife's maternal/paternal grandparents.

When George first came to London from Somerset in 1841 he was employed in a large drapery store. Eventually, he courted and married the boss's daughter Helen, and subsequently inherited the business. All living employees of the store Hitchcock Williams & co were also to receive a bible.

Wow! What had I taken on? George had 8 siblings, who married and produced - he had 5 children himself although sadly his only daughter died aged 19. I didn't even attempt his grandparent's brothers and sisters. I changed course and concentrated on A Byford (Arthur, Alfred, Albert, Antony, Archibald), it would have been a bonus if his first name had been mentioned.

The once beautiful bible had obviously been well used with notes and comments (in pencil) all through it.

Bible reading at St Pauls 1938. Rev Evans, Rev Richard Ball, Rev J R Roberts, Rev Bartholomew, Rev Louthgate 27 March 1938, Mr Jones 30 June 1940. These are a few of the names mentioned as if in a reference to a service, or maybe a suggestion for a reading.

I went through every page and logged every comment.

There are several Vespers (evensong prayers) hand written in the back, but on the last page he's written June 28<sup>th</sup> 1940, Mum, Maria and Kate. I googled the date, it was the day the Germans invaded Jersey in WW2. I'm not convinced there's any connection.

Maybe it was the date he joined up - I sort of feel he died in WW2. I did put A Byford into the CWGC site (Commonwealth War Grave Commission) .....there were hundreds.

Unless you know whether it was army/navy/air force the year (or the first name) it's pointless.

Five years later I still have the bible, and I wish it could talk to me.

Take care    Jean Rogers

## FRENCH CONVERSATION

**Wish you were here? Maybe not with this weather!**



Summer is here and the French holiday season is in full swing. Those staying in the South of France are hoping for plenty of sunshine. However, according to the Midi Libre, a regional newspaper, the sun has so far not been very co-operative. Instead, it's a case of cloud, rain and thunderstorms. Can the French expect better weather in August? Unfortunately not! The beginning of the month has seen a procession of cold weather coming in from the Atlantic, heading for the UK and France. Let's hope for better weather in the UK.

Due to Covid, it is now more than a year since the French Group has been able to meet in person. In the interim, we have used the internet to communicate using a monthly bulletin of activities to improve our French. From September, we plan to resume our meetings at the Planation Hall from 10 - 12 on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. If you speak some French and would like to join us, please contact me.

Jenny Parker

### History talks on Zoom

This is a copy of an email from Mike Stringer who organises a history group for one of our Maldon u3as. He is very happy for Heybridge U3a members to join these talks. His contact details are [mike.stringer19@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.stringer19@btinternet.com)

I've still got a couple of gaps to fill and I'm still working out costs, but I'm looking at around £3.50 to £4 a head for the paid speakers. We will also have some free talks arranged through the National u3a Pilot I'm involved with, and I plan on doing a couple of talks myself, though I'm equally happy if anyone else would like to volunteer to talk to us.

I won't be starting the booking process until August, partly because we will be away in July, but also to see what happens as and when restrictions are finally lifted.

Here is the programme so far:

Thu 14 Oct Zoom talk Carol Harris on the Foundling Hospital

Thu 4 Nov free Zoom talk Jim Miller on Codes and Cyphers (talk swap)

Thu 18 Nov WMCC David Williams Mind the Gap (London's Tube)

Thu 2 Dec free Zoom talk to be arranged

Thu 16 Dec WMCC Mike on Leprosy and St Giles Leper Hospital plus Christmas event

Thu 6 Jan free Zoom talk Stuart McGowan on The Luddites (talk swap)

Thu 20 Jan WMCC Stephen Nunn Roger of Beeleigh

Thu 3 Feb free Zoom talk to be arranged

Thu 17 Feb WMCC Norman Jacobs Pie Mash n Prefabs

Thu 3 Mar free Zoom talk Mike on Samuel Pepys

Thu 17 Mar WMCC talk to be arranged.

All these will start at 10.30am, including the ones at WMCC.

I am still hoping we can arrange a trip out during September, but that depends on a variety of issues that I won't bore you with now!

Please keep these dates in your diaries and more details will follow in due course. If you have any queries, suggestions, etc, or would like to give a talk to the group yourself, please let me know.

mike.stringer19@btinternet.com

### **Needlecraft Group Report**

**W**e met in my garden this month on a very warm and sunny afternoon. We crocheted, hand sewed a patchwork quilt and started sewing the edges of a quilt (which is almost finished) and knitted our way through 2 very enjoyable hours! We now have 2 new members of the group with hopefully another joining us next month who was unable to attend this month. We will be meeting in Angela's garden on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 2pm. Please contact me if you would like to come along.

Hilary Furniaux

### **Painting 2**

**O**wing to unforeseen circumstances we cannot start our group meeting in September. so we are planning to commence our monthly meetings on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October in the Claydon room from 2-4pm. Please let me know either way if you are intending to join us, or let me know nearer the time.

Barbara Barbrook

### **Papercraft Group**

**T**wo of us managed to meet up this month. Between us we made a Birthday card, coloured in some printed embellishments and generally put the world to rights - with the obligatory cuppa of course!

Lesley Woonton

### **Patchwork Group**

**W**e were fortunate with the weather for our August meeting. A group of five met outside at WMCC and spent a very enjoyable afternoon comparing notes on works in progress and gaining inspiration from our 'show and tell'. The future of the group was discussed, and it is hoped that the weather will be kind to us, and we will be able to meet outdoors again for our next meeting in early September and possibly October. In the meantime, stay safe and happy sewing!

Jackie

## Petanque Group

**W**ell, we are still going strong with our Petanque group on a Monday morning at Maldon Prom.

The games are a lot of fun, especially if the gravel we play on is quite lumpy sometimes even though we rake it, so it's hit and miss where the boules land but great fun.

It has been very windy the last couple of weeks, but that does not stop us hardy lot from playing even if it rains we still carry on.

It is such good fun, something everyone can enjoy and we really are a friendly bunch if anyone would like to come along and watch us to see how to play and join in.

Many thanks Moira Penhallow

## Photography Group

**W**e held another very successful Zoom meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> August our sixteenth so far with 11 members and 1 guest 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 "Photographs where the subject starts with the letters "E and F". A total of 39 photos were submitted including some from members who were unable to attend.



Food Norman Grove



Flight John Guiver

Peter then explained to us in detail how he had taken the photos of vitamin Crystals using linear polarised light to illuminate the subject on his microscope. This was supported with pictures of his equipment and how it was assembled.

This was followed by a discussion on whether we should meet indoors now that the current restrictions have been lifted. It was decided that we would not resume our meetings at the WMCC this year but would approach the WMCC to see if the room would be available 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

The Book Group is going to re-start on 8<sup>th</sup> September. I have ordered 8 copies of Wuthering Heights from the library so hopefully there will be at least 6 of us.

If anyone is interested in joining please contact Jackie Jones.

### U3A Scrabble Report August 2021

Did you manage to use these twelve letters **A, B, D,D,E,F,G,I,P,R,S,U** to extend each of the words below at the front and make valid eight -letter words?

		R	E	B	A	C	K	=	B	A	R	E	B	A	C	K
--	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

			R	I	V	A	L	=	D	E	P	R	I	V	A	L
--	--	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

			R	O	W	E	D	=	F	U	R	R	O	W	E	D
--	--	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

				R	A	C	E	=	D	I	S	G	R	A	C	E
--	--	--	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Have a go at this one: You have these letters on your rack:

W	E	C	I	Y	R	B
3	1	1	2	2	1	2

You are the first to play. Can you achieve a high score? Your word needs to include the pink square to start and your score is doubled, including a potential double letter score..

		2			*				2		
		L							L		

Hopefully the Scrabble Group will be able to meet in person in September. Please contact me for more details.

Linda Etherton

## Walking Group

There were 12 of us walking around Danbury. We started at a car park near to The Cricketers public house on the Common. We walked along unmade roads initially and later along footpaths, often having to move or tread on a lot of overgrown grasses and weeds etc.

The weather recently has been so encouraging for the undergrowth, and they have made the most of the favourable growing conditions. The walk took us uphill, in part, quite a strenuous climb, and on into Ling Wood. Here, although the recent rain had left the path quite muddy in places we were able to find a way around the worst patches of mud. We were walking in dry and usually sunny weather, which showed the large well-kept houses and gardens en route at their best. On the last leg of the walk we walked passed Danbury Church and across the final field back to our cars. From the high point behind the church we were treated to one of the furthest horizons in Essex. There is no walk in August so the next walk will be on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm.

Linda Wells.

## Weekenders

As the previous CoG for the group has left the u3a and thoughtfully passed everything on to me (!) I have been trying to get in touch with the members, with some success. By the time you read this a group of die-hards will have met on the last Sunday in August at the Promenade Park in Maldon, bringing a folding chair and grabbing a coffee from a kiosk.

At the meeting we discussed getting together at Perrywoods on the 16<sup>th</sup> October at 10.00 am.

Hopefully a way of running the group will be found with someone at least taking on the 'keeping in touch' aspect of the CoG's mantle, and continuing to have individuals organising visits to local restaurants, amateur dramatic performances, open gardens, jazz club as well as the regular monthly get-togethers.

Watch this space! For the time being you can contact me to find out more.

Linda Etherton

## Rumblings from Peter for September

Cricket free and a visit to my daughter arranged, a junior school teacher living in Manea, (where? many of you ask) Fenland Cambridgeshire, between Ely and March, a good 100 mile journey.

So being me I take a longer detour!

I had a good grounding in my basic trade on my father's farm until he decided to sell up and retire. Most days we crossed the A604, a busy road that traversed the country, finishing up at Harwich. Our stretch was dangerous, single carriageway but three lanes- one up, one down and the middle for overtaking in either direction! Plus add in undulations where a car disappeared from view. I learnt to drive on it. Subsequently it has become the A14 that stretch becoming notorious for traffic jams. Those of use knowing the area knew that 4 major duel carriageway roads plus feeders into one don't go. Many million £ enquiries later, a new section has been built, as it cuts a huge swathe through the old farm, I drove it.

Then got stuck behind a combine for far too many miles, as an ex driver I know, far too many.

30<sup>th</sup> August, my daughter's birthday, a Bank Holiday, as was the day she was born in Gt.Yarmouth maternity hospital (or sausage factory to locals). Very departmentalised, wait, pant, push and recover sections. Obviously that miracle of a new life emerging is with me forever though other memories too.

A combine breakdown meant not working (no maternity leave etc those days) wife in hospital and induced and I went to afternoon visiting, and as was usual then, at designated time visitors were kicked out. To get back to Lowestoft entailed driving along a very crowded sea front. A Ford Anglia, windows open and this metallic cracking noise arose— what the h- - I, what's breaking, then as I started to sweat it dawned, t'was the year of the "Clackers" remember them?

Back for evening visiting, wife still ticking over in isolation in a "panting" room, this time I'm allowed to stay. After a time "it's coming" announces my wife. Now she might have spent a couple of days "panting" but now she sprints! Nurse called but too small too wheel bed plus a pregnant lady, so I help push towards the delivery room, only to get yelled at by a sister — improperly dressed! Duly suited and booted I was allowed in. Now you ladies will recall the birthing position - the Xmas turkey comes to mind. All going well when in walks a maintenance man to see a member of staff. Dirty workman's boots, a regulation, um, white coat, obviously used as an oily rag and wiping hands, as for his cap?

Still, we survived, even the 6 weeks of sleepless nights; she's been and is worth it, just wonder where she gets her sense of the ridiculous from?

Peter.

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

**W**e 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 report for more details. The Facebook group will supplement the news-sheet, not replace it.