

Burnham on Crouch u3a Meeting Reports 2013

December 2013 – Christmas Party

The Chairman opened proceedings by welcoming 70 members to our new venue, especially those who were unable to access our previous one. Peter reminded the Group Leaders to arrange stalls displaying their groups for the open meeting in January.

The party then commenced with seasonal mulled wine, a finger buffet of assorted goodies, soft drinks, and tea. All provided by the Committee with the vital help of Trish Whitney and her willing helpers.

Background music was provided, and humorous poetry was recited by Beth Greaves and Danny Hollis.

The raffle then took place followed by an auction for a beautifully decorated Christmas Cake made by Therese Davidson and Frances Gretton.







The next meeting will be at The Village Hall on Friday 3rd January 2014 at 2.30 pm. This will be a free meeting open to non-members who are interested or would like to know more about the U3A.

November 2013

The Chairman opened the Meeting.

Danny Hollis introduced **Mark Stacey** an Auctioneer from Raleigh who comes from a family of auctioneers. He talked about how he started work with his father at 15 and moved on to work in London furthering his career at what was later to become Bonhams, returning to the family firm after university. His speciality is porcelain which he spoke about at length and about the thrill of finding long hidden treasures in odd places. Mark is often to seen

helping in the background on TV programmes like “Flog It”. After the talk Mark appraised items brought by the audience.



Picture by Alan Dorrill

Peter Davidson thanked **Mark Stacey**, saying he was amazed at how many antique and collector programmes there are on television.

The Chairman welcomed visitors and mentioned that AGE UK are holding a Magical Mystery Tour.

Beth Greaves thanked those who went to the Museum of London and The Guildhall with her. She will be doing another London trip in January, visiting the Church in the City that was saved from the Luftwaffe, but bombed by the IRA later.

Anne Pennington-Legh. The Cheese and Wine Party will not now take place on 15th November, but something will be arranged for February.

Joan Risley is now collecting deposits for the trip to the Queen’s Theatre for “Copocabana” on Wednesday 26th February.

Terry Cook said the Social History Group is getting bigger. On Friday 15th November at 2.30pm Beth will be talking about old letters dating back to the 1700s.

David Gipson mentioned that if anyone is interested in special U3A trips to the Bletchley Park in February. Please let the Committee know if you are interested.

The Chairman said Alan Dorrill will be stopping making cards, so is selling his remaining stock at 50p each.

Peter informed members that he will be presenting a wreath from the U3A at the Burnham on Crouch Remembrance Day Service at the War Memorial at 10.45 next Sunday 10th November and invited members to join him.

The Christmas Party will be the first meeting at the Village Hall. Tickets are on sale at the back of the hall. Please let the Committee know by 28th November if you require tickets, so the catering can be organised.

Peter thanked Jackie for all her help over the years we have used the Ramblers for our meetings and presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

81 members and 7 visitors attended.

October 2013

The Chairman opened the Meeting.

Danny Hollis introduced **Jackie Tevlin** to speak about the life and career of Joyce Grenfell. Joyce was the niece of Nancy Astor and therefore part of the Bloomsbury set. She was an avid listener which resulted in her vast collection of hilarious monologues. Some of which Jackie recited to a delighted audience who asked several questions at the end. Joyce worked with ENSA during the war and was awarded an OBE, she was married to her husband Reggie for fifty years.

Anne Pennington-Legh thanked Jackie Tevlin for refreshing our memories of the wonderful Joyce Grenfell.

Yvonne Charge. Ann Barrett is holding a Silver Singers Group from 10am to 12 noon on Monday 7th October at the URC Church Hall, North Street, Southminster.

Joan Risley. Next year's Queen's Theatre Trip will be Copocabana on Wednesday 26th February. Would anyone interested please write their name on the list.

Terry Cook thanked everyone who went on his trip to Parham and Woodbridge. The next Social History Group meeting will be at 2.30 on 18th October at the Museum. It will be a "Who Do You Think You Are?"

Ruby Fisher has a single chalet available for Gunton Hall on 9-13th December including a trip to Thursford at a cost of £230.

Beth Greaves is organising a trip to The Museum of London and The Guildhall on Tuesday 22nd October. Anyone interested should meet on Burnham Station platform ready for the 9 am train.

Anne Pennington-Legh. The Events Committee is holding a Cheese and Wine Party at Thelma's house at 8 pm on 15th November for £5 each. Anyone interested should see Yvonne and Thelma.

Peter Davidson. Essex U3A Study Day. There are still a few slots left open. Please see Anne for details

Head Office are taking orders for direct mail of Third Age Matters Magazine to individual homes at 84p for the November and January issues. Thereafter it will cost £2.10 for 5 issues a year. Anyone interested should give their names and 84p to Barry Davis.

The Chairman asked Group Leaders to remind their members that subscriptions are now overdue. People who have not paid their subscriptions will not be covered in our insurance. Peter informed members that our speaker next month will be Mark Stacey, Auctioneer who has invited members to bring small items for valuation.

New Venue for Meetings. The Committee have looked at the possibility of using the Village Hall, which has disabled access. We would have the options to meet on Wednesday afternoons at 3.30 pm or Fridays at 2.30pm. Any Group meetings held on the day of the General Meeting would have to be re-scheduled. More people would be able to walk. We could start with the party in December and individually invite the disabled members and arrange transport. Please let the Committee have your comments.

79 members and 5 visitors attended.

The next meeting will be at The Ramblers Football Club on Thursday 7th November 2013 at 2.00 pm when the speaker will be Mark Stacey, Auctioneer.

September 2013

The Chairman opened the Meeting.

Danny Hollis introduced **Peter Maggs** to talk about Henry's Trials, the story of Henry John Hatch, born 1818, the son of the Lord of Sutton Manor. After meeting his wife Essie in Australia, they returned to England where he took Holy Orders at Lichfield and became the first Chaplain of Wandsworth prison. After 8 years as such he became embroiled in a scandal which rocked the current society. A tale of legal ineptitude and blatant miscarriage of justice. An exciting talk that held the interest of all.

Peter Davidson thanked **Peter Maggs** for his most interesting talk and said it must have been great fun researching Henry Hatch.

Terry Cook is organizing a Social History Trip to the British Resistance Museum at Parham, Suffolk followed by a visit to Woodbridge on 21st September for £12 each for the coach. There are one or two seats left. Peter will be outside Burnham Museum tomorrow between 12.00 and one to collect any unpaid fares. The Fords coach will pick up at Southminster at 8.50; then Eve's Corner, then the Railway Hotel followed by the Clocktower at 9.00, returning to Burnham about 5.30

Friends of Burnham Cemetery Chapel are holding a quiz at 7.30 on Saturday 7th September at Burnham Sailing Club. Please bring your drinks and nibbles.

Voting on the Constitution will be delayed until the next AGM as it will be easier to contact all members then and we have 2 new co-opted Committee Members.

Christmas Party was discussed at Committee Meeting. We will ask the ladies who made Summer Party sandwiches if they would like to make the Christmas Party sandwiches. Peter asked members if they would like entertainment. Trish suggested home grown entertainment.

Trish Whitney also thanked Molly Mapes, Pat Taylor, Pat Spraggon Barbara Turner and Linda Cleverly for their help in sandwich making at the Summer Party. Trish reminded members about the Explorers Lunch Club and there is a Music Appreciation Group at 7.30 on Thursday 12th September at Derek Sutton's home.

Study Day. There are still a few slots left open. Please see Anne for details.

New Venue for Meetings. We have been very well catered for at The Ramblers, but we have about 20 members who are unable to climb stairs or are otherwise incapacitated and need disabled access. The Committee have looked at the possibility of using the Village Hall, which has this provision and will cost about the same as The Ramblers. There will be some changes to the meeting times, and this will be discussed later.

45 members and 1 visitor attended.

The next meeting will be at The Ramblers Football Club on Thursday 3rd October 2013 at 2.00 pm when the Speaker will be Jackie Tevlin talking about Joyce Grenfell.

August 2013 – Summer Garden Party

The weather for the party was wonderfully sunny and very warm, possibly the warmest day so far this year. The marquees served to act as sunshades and were much appreciated. People were welcomed with a glass of Bucks Fizz or fruit juice according to taste, sandwiches and cakes were on every table and tea and coffee were there in abundance. Background music played providing a relaxing atmosphere, the Raffle was held and everyone had a good time.

Peter Davidson thanked everyone for attending and particular thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens for allowing the use of the green. He also thanked the volunteers, committee and especially of course, to Trish Whitney and the catering team for the excellent spread.

57 members attended.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 5th September 2013 at 2.00 pm at The Ramblers Football Club when the Speaker will be Peter Maggs talking about "Henry's Trials", The Extraordinary Story of the First Chaplain of Wandsworth Prison.

June 2013

Peter Davidson, as re-elected Chair introduced the beginning of the General Meeting.

Danny Hollis introduced **Geoff Charge** to talk about Stowe Maries Aerodrome. Stowe Maries Aerodrome was the home of the Home Defence Squadron in the First World War is. There are plans to develop the site into a living museum only World War I Aerodrome with buildings still intact in the world. Their planes stopped the Germans using the River Crouch to navigate their way to bomb London. Claude Ridley was the first pilot to fly from Stowe Maries and his daughter and grandson have visited the aerodrome. Roy Morrison was an Australian, killed when he crashed near the edge of the aerodrome. When his family came to take his body home, they decided to leave him buried with his fellow pilots. There were no deaths from enemy attack at Stowe Maries. The planes were single seater and were of fragile construction, so pilots died in accidents. Geoff Charge's first job when he joined the preservation team was to restore a Sopwith Pup by-plane. They have two flyings every year for visitors to watch. On 9th June there is a Parent and Child Model Aircraft Day. On 29th June there is a local Armed Forces Day and Maldon Museum have asked Geoff to deliver the Sopwith Pup. In August the Antiques Road Show will be recorded in the area and may be visiting the Aerodrome. In September the Military Wives Choir will be performing at the Aerodrome. They need an Accreditation Officer and a Health & Safety Officer.

Peter thanked **Geoff** saying there is so much history hidden away so close.

The Chairman then gave the Notices.

There is a special performance of "Life and Death in Pompeii and Herculaneum" at Odeon, Chelmsford on 18th June introduced by the Director of the British Museum.

Also on 18th June the Essex Association of U3As are holding a quiz at 1.10pm at the URC Church in Chelmsford.

The 50+ Show is at London Olympia from 11th to 13th July.

Our Summer Party will be held on St Mary's Church Green at 2 pm on 1st August. Tickets will be on sale at next month's meeting at £5 each.

Terry Cook - Social History Group 2.30 pm on 21st June at the Museum talking about our memories of the Coronation.

Beth Greaves – Social Events Group Wimbledon Tea at 2.30 pm on 13th June at Yvonne & Geoff's home.

64 members and 6 visitors attended.

May 2013

Peter Davidson introduced **Molly Mapes**, who requested volunteers for the Tea Rota.

Danny Hollis introduced **Chris Winter** who entertained the members with a talk about "Growing Old Disgracefully", a monologue of the pitfalls and pleasures of the aging process with the accompanying moments of manic humour and cringing embarrassment which reduced the audience to helpless laughter.

Brian Caulkett thanked Chris for his wonderful fund of stories and said it was well worth our booking him.

Peter Davidson welcomed 4 visitors, Bev & Joe Abbott and Jane & Ian Sisterson; and 1 new member, Russell Longson.

There will be an **Essex U3A Quiz Day** at 1.15 pm on 18th June at Christ Church URC, New London Road, Chelmsford. The cost is £2.50 per person. Please let us know if you would like to get a team together.

The **Essex Association AGM** is on 10th May in Chelmsford. Peter will probably be attending, but anyone else is welcome to join him.

In this month's magazine there is a nomination form for election of Committee Members. All Committee positions are available at the **Annual General Meeting on Thursday 6 June**. Please take nomination forms for members who could not attend today.

Latchingdon residents are hoping to form their own U3A Group at a meeting at The Jacks Bowling Centre on Wednesday 8th May, so if anyone wants to support them or join, please go along.

John Moore requests Group Leaders to give him a list of members taking part in activities as non-members are not covered by our insurance policy.

Ann Pennington-Legh. The Social Events Group are organising a "Wimbledon Tea" at 2.30 pm on 13th June at 10 Chestnut Close and Beth and Ann are taking names and payment of £6 today.

62 members including and 4 visitors attended.

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting at Ramblers on Thursday 6th June 2013 at 2.00 pm after which the Speaker will be Geoff Charge talking about Stowe Maries Aerodrome.

April 2013

Peter Davidson began proceedings with the Notices. He reminded members that the next AGM will be on Thursday 6th June and that three or four new committee members are needed.

The Cemetery Chapel Restoration Group are holding a fund-raising quiz on at 7.30 on Friday 12 April at £5 per ticket.

Terry Cook announced that the Social History group had a good meeting when 2 people dressed in Roman clothing explaining what it was like to live in Britain after the Romans had left. The next meeting on 19 April will be about the Edwardians and their inventions.

Ann Pennington-Legh There are one or two places left on the coach to visit Hatfield House on Thursday 18th April. The Social Events Group are also organising a Summer Tea Afternoon entitled "Wimbledon Tea" at 2.30 pm on 13th June at 10 Chestnut Close.

Ruby Fisher informed members that there are a few vacancies on the “Tinsel and Turkey” holiday at Gunton Hall.

Therese Davidson is going to book a visit to an exhibition on Life and Death in Pompeii and Herculaneum. Would anyone interested please put your names on the list on the Notice board.

Danny Hollis introduced **Dean Lawrence** who gave a talk about his career in the Metropolitan Police. From PC in South London, where he trained in scene of crime management, to Detective Inspector in the CID. His work included the Murder Squad and the Anti-Terrorist Squad at New Scotland Yard. He has dealt with many well-known cases including the 9/11 and London Bombings and the Ipswich murders. Dean concluded his talk by telling the members about his current occupation as a Burnham Chimney Sweep. It was a very interesting and at times amusing tale.

Peter Davidson thanked Dean for his informative talk and said it was good to hear the un-sensationalised accounts of events.

70 members and 5 visitors attended.

The next meeting will be at Ramblers on Thursday 2nd May 2013 at 2.00 pm when the Speaker will be Chris Winter talking about “Growing Old Disgracefully”.

March 2013

Peter Davidson opened the meeting and **Danny Hollis** introduced the speaker **John Greaves** whose subject was Palaeontology and the local area over the last 4 billion years. He explained the migration of the land masses from the Southern hemisphere to where we are today. Most of the world was under water at that time. He spoke about the different Eras and their effects and the development of different life forms and the various fossils to be found in Essex.

Geoff Charge thanked John and said he made the talk very interesting and amusing.

Peter Davidson welcomed new members **Sue Longson** and **Brenda Cashel** and visitors **Brian Oulds** and **Ross Longson**. He mentioned that the Summer Schools still have vacancies for various subjects in July and music subjects in August.

Ann Pennington-Legh announced that **The Social Group** are collecting £10 deposits today for the visit to Hatfield House on Thursday 18th April. There are still a few seats available on the coach. The cost will be £24 including coach and entrance.

Terry Cook announced that the Social History group is holding a meeting entitled "Friends, Romans and Britons" at 2.30 on 15th March. Two members of a Roman Re-enactment Society dressed in costume will tell us about life in England after the Romans had left.

69 members and 2 visitors attended.

The next meeting will be at Ramblers on Thursday 4th April 2013 at 2.00 pm when the Speaker will be Dean Lawrence who was a Detective Inspector at the C.I.D.

February 2013

Peter Davidson opened the proceedings with the notices. The Essex Association of U3As is holding another Study Day at Plume School, Maldon in October. Details are on the Website on u3aburnhamoncrouch.pbworks.com or can be obtained from the Secretary.

Ruby Fisher has 2 spare places in a twin room for the trip to Porthcawl from 28 April to 4 May.

Geoff Charge – Explorers Lunch Club has vacancies for 2 new members. Members take it in turns to organise pub lunches outside Burnham. Geoff would like to start a new Quiz Group to hopefully challenge BBC TV's The Eggheads.

Beth Greaves has organised a visit to The Foundling Museum, Doughty Street, Bloomsbury and Charles Dickens' house on Wednesday 13 February.

The Entertainments Group are organising a visit to Hatfield House at a cost of £24 including Coach and entrance fee. They are also organising a Strawberry and Pimms Garden Party in mid-June.

Danny Hollis introduced **Claire Leonard**, Head of Physiotherapy, Older People's Mental Health Services for Avon & Wiltshire with a talk entitled "What on earth did I come upstairs for?" She explained the different types of Dementia and advised on the best way of dealing with sufferers. Claire then answered questions.

David Greaves thanked Claire for her informative talk.

74 members and 6 visitors attended.

The next meeting will be at Ramblers on Thursday 7th March 2013 at 2.00 pm where the Speaker will be John Greaves talking about local Palaeontology.

January 2013

Peter Davidson opened the proceedings by welcoming visitors and inviting them find out about all the Group Activities including Mah Jong, Scrabble, Foodie Group, Digital Photography, Birdwatching, Art and Greetings Card Making which were on display and ask any questions about them and the U3A in general.

Peter then informed members that it is hoped that the new PA System will be in use for the February meeting.

Beth Greaves then told the meeting that she is organising a visit to Charles Dickens' house in London in early February.

Tea and cakes were served, and everybody had an enjoyable afternoon.



64 members and 5 visitors attended.

The next meeting will be at Ramblers on Thursday 7th February 2013 at 2.00 pm where the Speaker will be Claire Leonard, Head of Physiotherapy, Older People's Mental Health Services for Avon & Wiltshire with a talk entitled "What on earth did I come upstairs for?".