

December 2014

Peter Davidson welcomed guests. He mentioned that we will have an Open Meeting on 9th January 2015 where groups will have the opportunity to display what they do. He also told the members of the sad loss of Barbara Chappel who was the first Secretary of Burnham U3A and will be much missed by us all.

The members tucked into a delicious finger buffet, provided by Sue Lis, while working out the answers to table quizzes. **Terry Saunders** with his keyboard entertained everyone with all the Xmas favourites. He then led us all a Festive Sing-a-long, much to the delight of all present.

61 Members attended the party.



November 2014

Peter Davidson opened the meeting by introducing **Ken Bentley** of the Dengie Dart Transport Service. Ken explained how the service works and informed members that the service can take them to South Woodham Ferrers, Maldon and anywhere in between on production of a bus pass. It can also connect with a minibus from Maldon to Broomfield Hospital.

Peter thanked **Ken** and introduced **Sharon Markham** and **Nicole** from the Mid-Essex Alzheimers Association who gave us an upbeat view of the disease. Sharon said that everyone's journey through Alzheimers is unique. One needs to see a GP to rule out any other causes of memory loss, who will then refer one to a specialist if necessary. There various types of Dementia of which Alzheimers and Vascular are the most common. Anyone can sign up to be a Dementia Friend. There are support groups in the Mid-Essex area including a singing group, dementia cafes and Crystal at Broomfield Hospital.

Joe Abbott thanked **Nicole** and **Sharon** for a useful insight, which gave us all hope.

Peter Davidson made the following announcements: -

Adrian Summerfield has produced the new magazine, but please let him have some copy.

Christmas Party will be 5th December 2.30 in the Village Hall with Catering by Sue Lis & Entertainment by Terry Saunders. Tickets are £8 and deadline for sale is 21st November. There are 15 tickets left.

The Essex Association of U3As will be holding its quarterly meeting on 28th November in Chelmsford. If anyone is interested in finding out what other U3As are doing please contact a Committee Member.

We will have our Open House at the 9th January 2015 meeting as the hall will be closed on 2nd January. This will give groups an opportunity to show what their group is all about.

Remembrance Sunday is on 9th November and PD will be laying a wreath on behalf of the U3A. The Service in the Baptist Church begins at 10 am and the service at the war memorial begins at 10.50 am.

Joan Risley is unable to organise next year's trip to the Queens Theatre, Hornchurch, which is already booked. If anyone else who usually goes would like to organise it, please ring Joan.

Beth Greaves is holding a Social History meeting entitled "I Do Like to be Beside the Seaside" on 21st November.

Yvonne Charge Explorers Lunch Club December meeting at Swallowtails. £10 deposit to be paid to Derek on our visit to the Chequers. The price is £20. Ann Barrett is holding a Singing Workshop at the Quay Yacht Club, Bradwell £20 (10am-4pm). Lunch £10 - 29th November. Contact Ann Barrett on 01621 7776556.

Geoff Charge – Stow Maries Aerodrome organised an airborne poppy drop over their Memorial on 9th November. They will launch a programme for anyone with a relative who died in the First World War.

David Gipson reminded members about the website. The newsletter is now available on the website. The theatre visit to see "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels" will not now be taking place. Some universities are interested in talking to older people for research. Mellissa who has a PhD at Warwick University is asking people to answer a few questions on her website.

First Aid. Some Committee Members will go on a Course next year. Please let us have your thoughts on giving the Membership Secretary details of a person to contact if you get taken ill while at meetings.

65 Members and 7 Visitors attended the meeting.



October 2014

Joe Abbott introduced **Nick R. Thomas**, a Comedy Script Writer. It would appear that the life of a script writer isn't one long laugh, in fact it is quite hard work. Although it is also full of inspired moments and Nick kept the audience laughing the whole time. It was a wonderful talk and was given rapturous and well deserved applause.



David Gipson thanked Nick for an amusing talk, saying he thinks writing comedy is one of the most difficult things you can do. He has laughed more today than at any of the new comedies on TV.

Danny Hollis made the following announcements: -

Frances has produced an **Introductory Welcome Handbook** for new and prospective members, which will be updated by Adrian. Adrian Summerfield will produce the New magazine but will need articles from members by email only please. Remember, the magazine is nothing without your input.

Royal Institute Lectures. 9 members went to see 3 very informative lectures. It was well worth going. The next RI Lectures will be on 23rd March 2015.

Our **Christmas Party** will be on 5th December at 2.30 in the Village Hall at 2.30 pm. Tickets are £8.

First Aid. If anyone has a First Aid qualification, could they please inform a Committee Member.

Please see the Notice Board or Website for details of the following:

House of Lords Chamber Event – 28 November. Inter-generational debate. “In a digital society, is politics for politicians or is everyone a decision maker?”

U3A Christmas Concert - Brandenburg Singers & Organ at Queen’s Chapel of the Savoy on 10 Dec..

Cinderella Ballet at Odeon Covent Garden on 19 November.

U3A Photography Competition – closing date 31 March 2015

Queen’s Theatre, Hornchurch – Sister Act 25/26 February 2015. Please see Anne if

interested.

Tea Rota - Bev welcomes members to add their names to the tea rota, which will be on the counter.

David Gipson is trying needs 5 more members to get a cheap rate to see Dirty Rotten Scoundrels on 12th or 19th November. Paula Whittick, a Documentary Film Maker is urgently looking for people to help with research.

Beth Greaves is doing a London Walk on 31st October including “The Street of Shame”, the house of a famous writer with lunch at the Cheshire Cheese. Meet at Burnham Station at 9 am.

76 Members and 7 Visitors attended the meeting.



September 2014

Joe Abbott introduced **Rob Dresner**, a Harper, who spoke about the history of the Celtic Harp and its wide spread use since early history particularly in medieval times. Rob had brought 3 harps along and played them all in turn to show the differences between metal strings and nylon ones, the plaintive Celtic tunes sounded wonderful and took us back many centuries.

Danny Hollis thanked Rob for an amusing and enlightening talk, saying it had given him renewed inspiration to go home and play his own harp a bit more.

Peter Davidson made the following announcements: -

Adrian Summerfield has produced a temporary News Sheet including all relevant information. The RI Lectures are on 30 September. Please see Secretary for tickets if you have booked.

U3As can take groups to English Heritage Properties, but must apply for an Educational Permit first for free entry.

Burnham Holiday Association has trips going to Llandudno, Blackpool and Hayling Island in 2015. Please see Notice Board and/or Website.

Our Christmas Party this year will be on 5th December at 2.30 in the Village Hall.

House of Lords Chamber Event – 28 November. Inter-generational debate. “In a digital society, is politics for politicians or is everyone a decision maker?” Please see the Secretary if interested.

U3A Members can get discounts on Educational Software

David Gipson said that Adrian has done a very good job on the News Sheet, but obviously not as detailed as the Website which you should be looking at. There are photos of the Summer Party on the website, also nothing is deleted so all old pictures and articles can be reviewed. Could more Group Leaders please send me news on what their groups are doing? Organisations such as theatres do special deals for U3As which are a lot cheaper for West End Theatres if there are 10 or more of us.

Terry Cook said he has been a journalist all his life and would like to be part of a team producing a Magazine, but as he does not have a computer, is anyone interested in joining him? The Social History Group are holding a talk about the only remaining Tudor house with a double moat, Edwins Hall at Woodham Ferrers at 2.30 on 17th October at Burnham Museum.

54 Members and 1 Visitor attended the meeting.



August 2014

Peter Davidson welcomed the members to the party on this beautiful hot summer day. There was a welcoming glass of summer punch or fruit juice for all.

Then **Terry Saunders** entertained the members by taking them back in song to the era of the Great War and most enjoyable it was. This was followed by a delicious finger buffet provided by Sue Lis.

Peter Davidson presented a Rose Bush to Sue and John Moore in recognition of their work on the Committee as Membership Secretaries for the past 4 years. A good time was had by all.

43 members attended the party



July 2014

Peter Davidson opened the meeting and **Joe Abbott** introduced the speaker, Elaine Beckett, who talked about the Berlin Wall, why and how it appeared and its sudden destruction with the advent of Perestroika 25 years ago. She also talked about the Berlin Air Lift and the isolation of Eastern Europe when the wall went up. It was altogether a grim reminder of the excesses practiced under communist regime. At the Berlin Airlift 2.5 million tons of aid was lifted into the Allied sector in 10 months. In 1990 the wartime allies officially gave up their rights. Elaine answered questions from the audience.

Peter Davidson thanked Elaine for telling us about the human aspect of the Berlin Wall, about which most of us know little. It gives us a new slant on European politics today.

The Chairman said that members have until 31st July to pay £10 membership fees, after which it will be £13.

Our Summer Party is at 2pm on 1st August at St Mary's Church Green. Tickets are on sale today from Jill and Ken or can be purchased from any member of the Committee and collected on the day. Tickets must be purchased before 15th July in order to give numbers to the caterer. We will be setting up at 10am and have 5 gazebos and 2 marquees to erect, so any help will be appreciated.

There are still a few places left on the **Essex U3A Study Day** at Plume School on 28th October. Most of the art subjects are full, but if you are interested please see Anne.

Due to overwhelming demand the **Royal Institute Lectures** are now twice a year, the next being on 30th September. Could anyone interested please see Anne.

Inspiration Day at the Royal Opera House Production Workshop, Thurrock, making sets and costumes for the Royal Opera House, Cost is £18 inc refreshments.

Shakespeare's Globe Exhibition and Tour on various dates from October 2014 to February 2015.

Terry Cook said unfortunately, the Social History Group talk about World War I in Burnham has had to be postponed. Terry reminded members of his trip to Stansted Mountfitchett Castle and Thaxted on 24th July. The coach fare will be £11 (cheques made payable to Fords Coaches) today if possible. Castle entrance fee is £8.50. There are a few seats left. The coach picks up at The Queen's Head, Southminster at 8.45, Eves Corner at 8.55, The Railway Hotel, Burnham and finally at the Clocktower. The next Social History meeting will be on 19th September.

56 members and 1 visitor attended the meeting.



June 2014

After the Annual General Meeting Joe Abbott introduced the speaker, Lucy Allen with her talk entitled "From Titanic to Skyfall – The Highs and Lows of a Stuntwoman's Life". Lucy showed excerpts of films where she has performed daring stunts and how she progressed from circus performer to professional stunt woman. She also displayed items of equipment, which she used in order to perform these stunts safely and explained that on occasion it could be a bit dodgy and that thinking on ones feet was an essential quality in the stunt profession. It was a most breathtaking story wonderfully told.

Peter Davidson thanked Lucy Allen for her exciting talk on a profession about which most of us know little.

The Chairman welcomed 4 visitors

Beth Greaves is organising a London trip to an unusual private house, the home of Mr and Mrs Jarvis on Friday 27th June. She needs to know numbers as there is a £12 entrance fee.

David Greaves – Latchingdon Arts and Drama Society are putting on a production of Habeas Corpus at the Tractor Shed on 18-21 June.

Burnham Music Group is holding their Summer Concert on Saturday 14th June at 7.45pm at St Mary's Church.

Terry Cook reminded members of his trip to Stansted Mountfitchett Castle and Thaxted on 24th July. The coach fare will be £11 (cheques made payable to Fords Coaches) today if possible. Castle entrance fee is £8.50. There are a few seats left.

80 members and 4 visitors attended the meeting.

The next meeting will be at Burnham Village Hall on Friday 4th July 2014 at 2.30 pm. The Speaker will be The Social History Group talking about Burnham in the First World War.



May 2014

The Chairman opened proceedings and Joe Abbott introduced the speaker, John Spencer to talk about Dr Barnardo, the man and his work with the poor and homeless children of Victorian London.

Barnardo was a devout Christian and philanthropist founding several children's homes and refuges. The charity he started is still going strong today.

Ken Taylor thanked John, saying that when he was evacuated during the war he met Barnardos Boys at school who were encouraged to go on and be full members of our society without any hang ups.

The Chairman welcomed visitors; John Mullins, Pat Read, Pat Dove-Dixon, Carol Davies, Jean Cottee and Harry Hartwell and read the notices: -

Joan Risley has had to cancel the trip to see "Carousel."

Our AGM is next month, and a letter will be sent to all members enclosing nomination forms for the Committee.

Frances Gretton and **Therese Davidson** have been editing the magazine for 6 years and would now like to give it up, so if anyone is interested in taking it over please speak to any Committee Member.

Molly Mapes has been organising the tea rota for a number of years and now needs someone else to take over, so again if any is interested, please speak to a Committee Member.

Terry Cook is organising a trip to Stansted Mountfitchett Castle and Thaxted on 24th July. The coach fare will be £11 (cheques made payable to Fords Coaches) today if possible. Castle entrance fee is £8.50.

Sue Moore said that the Burnham Holiday Association has 2 vacancies for a trip to Bournemouth from 14-20 September. There are also 4 vacancies for the 4 night "Turkey and Tinsel" holiday on 1st December. Pick up points are Southminster, Burnham, Althorne and Maldon

Danny Hollis said the Essex Association of U3As is holding a quiz at Christ Church URC, Chelmsford on 24th June. He said we had an enjoyable afternoon last year even though we did not have a full team and asked for volunteers to make a full team this year. Please let Anne know if you are interested.

We are still looking for an **Events Manager** for small groups going to local theatres and events.

Terry Cassells thanked Frances Gretton and Therese Davidson for the terrific job they have done in editing the monthly magazine.

48 members and 6 visitors attended the meeting.



March 2014

The Chairman opened proceedings and Joe Abbott introduced the speaker, Gary Powell, a retired police officer talking about the darker side of London Squares. He has written a book as the last book on the subject was by Edwin Chancellor in 1907. Covent Garden was the first London Square. Gary told the audience about 10 squares and the infamous characters connected with them. He also told members about the Blue Plaque scheme which began in 1866 and is now organized by English Heritage. Grosvenor Square like a large proportion of the area is owned by the Duke of Westminster. The American Embassy is leased from him, but as the USA owns all its other embassies JFK asked the Duke if they could purchase the freehold. As the Duke would not sell the building to the USA, a new Embassy is now being built at Nine Elms. Mr Powell also arranged London Walks.

Danny Hollis thanked Gary for an interesting talk, saying that although he is a Londoner, Gary informed us of a lot of facts he did not know.

The Chairman welcomed 2 visitors and read the notices: -

If anyone is interested in a subscription to Third Age Matters magazine, please see Anne Hollis.

Eileen Timmins' Needlework and Patchwork group is going splendidly, and an extra group may be necessary.

Yvonne Connelly informed members that LADS are performing a production of Blithe Spirit from 26-29 March at the Tractor Shed. Tickets can be obtained from Latchingdon Post Office (phone 07943365805) and the website www.boxoffice@ladsdrama.co.uk.

David Greaves informed members that Burnham Art Club are organising a demonstration of oils by a member of the Wapping Group on Tuesday 11th March at 11 am. Price is £5 for non-members.

We are still looking for an **Events Manager** for small groups going to local theatres and events.

68 members and 2 visitors attended the meeting.

The next meeting will be at Burnham Village Hall on Friday 4th April 2014 at 2.30 pm. The Speaker will be a representative from the Air Ambulance.

February 2014

The Chairman opened proceedings and Danny Hollis introduced the speaker, Brian Hammett. Brian told the audience about Arthur Ransome's honeymoon cruise up the River Lieupe from Riga, Latvia to Jelgrava in the summer of 1924. Arthur Ransome was a Journalist, writer and correspondent in Russia during the revolution and it was there that he met Trotski's secretary who he later married, hence the cruise. Brian followed the same route as Arthur and noted the changes in Latvia over the intervening years. It was a very interesting talk.



Peter Davidson thanked **Brian Hammett** for an insight into someone who most of us have only thought of as a children's author.

The Chairman welcomed 15 visitors and read the notices: -

The Essex Association of U3As will be meeting on 28th February in Chelmsford. Anyone wishing to attend would be welcome.

The Royal Horticultural Society is offering concessionary visits to its sites for U3A members.

We are still looking for an Events Manager for small groups going to local theatres and events.

Please see Patricia Meades if you are interested in a Creative Writing Group she is organising.

Burnham Music Group will be holding a quiz at the URC Church Hall on 1st March at 7.30 at £5 per ticket. Please see Sue Jones for tickets.

Please contact Eileen Timmins if you are interested in a new a needlework and patchwork group.

Donald Neale is organising a Handicraft Exhibition at Burnham Museum starting in the middle of April. Please deliver your cross stitch, tapestry, embroidery etc to the Museum.



Burnham Museum
Corvation Road, Burnham or Crouch, CM9 8FH

Handicraft Exhibition

13 April 2014 for 6 weeks

The Museum is putting on an exhibition of Handicrafts, displaying the craft skills and abilities of local residents

There will be examples of Cross Stitch, Embroidery, Tapestry, Crochet and other craft work such as weaving, basket work, com-dollies and a section for painting and engraving.

We thank those who have already promised items for display, and will welcome anyone else who would like to put some samples of their skills on display.

If you have an item please contact one of the Museum members or

Margaret	Smith	01473 783184	margaret@burnham.co.uk
Pai	Mallin	01473 783520	
Donald	Neale	01473 773483	dneale@burnham.co.uk

Beth Greaves is organising a trip to London on Tuesday 25th February. The group will be visiting St. Ethelburga's Church and the Geoffrey Museum and will be meeting at Burnham Station at 9am.

Peter Finch, the group leader of the Modern Technology Group has decided to suspend the group until more people are recruited.

Ken Durno is hosting Coffee Mornings (11 a.m - 12 30 p.m.) at the Victoria Public House weekly starting on Tuesday 11th February

97 members and 17 visitors attended the meeting.

The next meeting will be at Burnham Village Hall on Friday 7th March 2014 at 2.30 pm. The Speaker to be announced.