

November 2015

The Vice Chairman, Danny Hollis, opened the meeting in the absence of the Chairman. Joe Abbott then introduced the speaker Steve Roberts a retired policeman. Steve who was in the police force for 30 years gave us all a very interesting and entertaining talk of his days in the murder, flying and kidnap squads. These stories were both serious and very humorous, and I think everyone enjoyed the afternoon.



Danny gave thanks to the speaker, and mentioned that Ormiston Academy are producing a drama of the World War 1 featuring local families on the 3, 4 and 5th Dec.

Beth Greaves also thanked Steve which led nicely to her announcement of her next London walk which will take place on November 25th and is to Scotland Yard museum.

Dengie sports centre are holding an open day on 24th Nov at 10-30am for anyone who is interested in seeing the newly refurbished centre.

Christmas Party tickets were on sale.

Ann Pennington-Legh has decided to hand over the poetry and play reading after nearly 15 years, she asked for volunteers to lead these groups.

Jeff Charge is also looking for volunteers for Stowe Marie Aerodrome to man the member's public museum and gallery.

The history group are having a Tudor style 'Strictly Come Dancing' afternoon at the museum on 1st Friday in Dec at 2:30 pm, judges will be in attendance.

The meeting was well attended with 92 members and 9 visitors, which ended with everyone having a nice cup of tea and friendly chat.

June 2015

The outgoing Chairman, Peter Davidson presented his report and thanked the Committee and other members who have pulled together to make our U3A more successful.

The Treasurer, Jill Summerfield presented her Report and Accounts for the year 2014/2015. Our current balance remains healthy and the accounts will be audited by Harvey Smith.

Peter then nominated **Barry Davis** to be his successor, this was seconded by Danny Hollis and the proposal was carried. Barry Davis then chaired the rest meeting and proposed that the following members to remain in post:-

Danny Hollis (Vice-Chair), **Jill Summerfield** (Treasurer). As **Anne Hollis** is standing down after 4 years as Secretary and there were no nominations the post remains open. BD proposed and it was agreed by a show of hands that the following Committee Members were re-elected:- **Adrian Summerfield** (IT), **Joe Abbott** (Speakers), **Jill Taylor** (Committee), **Ken Taylor** (Committee) and **Dina Bott** (Committee). **Alan Fowler** nominated himself for the Committee and in his absence has been accepted.

After the Annual General Meeting **Joe Abbott** introduced the speaker, **Dr Louis John Ashdown-Hill** to talk about his part in the finding and reburial of Richard III in Leicester. Part of John's search was to find out about the real Richard III and at the beginning of his search John was turned down by TV's "Time Team". He then enlisted the help of Leicester University. Richard III was the last Plantagenet King in the House of York. His brother Edward IV died in 1483 and was married to Elizabeth Woodville whose sons were "The Princes in the Tower". John then told us how the body was found and how Richard's bones were identified using DNA and historical records. John then answered member's questions.

Danny Hollis thanked **Dr Louis John Ashdown-Hill** for a fascinating insight into a popular national news story.

Terry Cook is organising a Ghost Walk in Maldon on Thursday 6th August at 7.30 pm. Please let him know if you are interested.

71 members and 3 visitors attended the meeting.

May 2015

The Chairman, Peter Davidson introduced **Avril Kent**, from the Helen **Rollason Cancer Charity** to make an appeal for volunteers for the Burnham shop.

Joe Abbott introduced **Nick R. Thomas** to talk about the Writer and TV Personality, **Patrick Campbell**. Nick told us about the life and times of Patrick Campbell, the son of one of Ireland's foremost political figures and an Irish Lord. Patrick's early life in the 1920's was as chaotic as one could imagine as he pursued his chosen profession as a humorist and writer despite suffering from a severe stammer he achieved fame in the series "Call my Bluff". Nick

also treated the audience to three rounds of Call my Bluff and some readings from some of Patrick's works.

Peter Davidson thanked Nick for a very illuminating picture of a much loved character.

Peter then read the following notices:-

The Essex Association Quiz will take place from 1.30 – 4pm on 7th July 2015 at the United Reform Church Hall, London Road, Chelmsford. We need a team of 8 people and the cost is £2.50 each.

Rochford District Council is organising a River Crouch Celebration including various walks up and down the River Crouch. There is also a free art and design workshop on Monday 11th May from 1-3 pm at Burnham Council Chamber to help create a large scale silk flag for the town.

There is a series of lectures being organised at Braintree Museum. Please see the Notice Board for details.

Danny Hollis is restarting the Philosophy Group. Could anyone who is interested please see Danny.

Beth Greaves is organising a London Walk on 13th. Would anyone interested please contact Beth.

There are free "Have a Go" sessions at Dengie Sports Centre for Badminton and Short Tennis. Would anyone interested please contact Adrian Summerfield or Yvonne Charge.

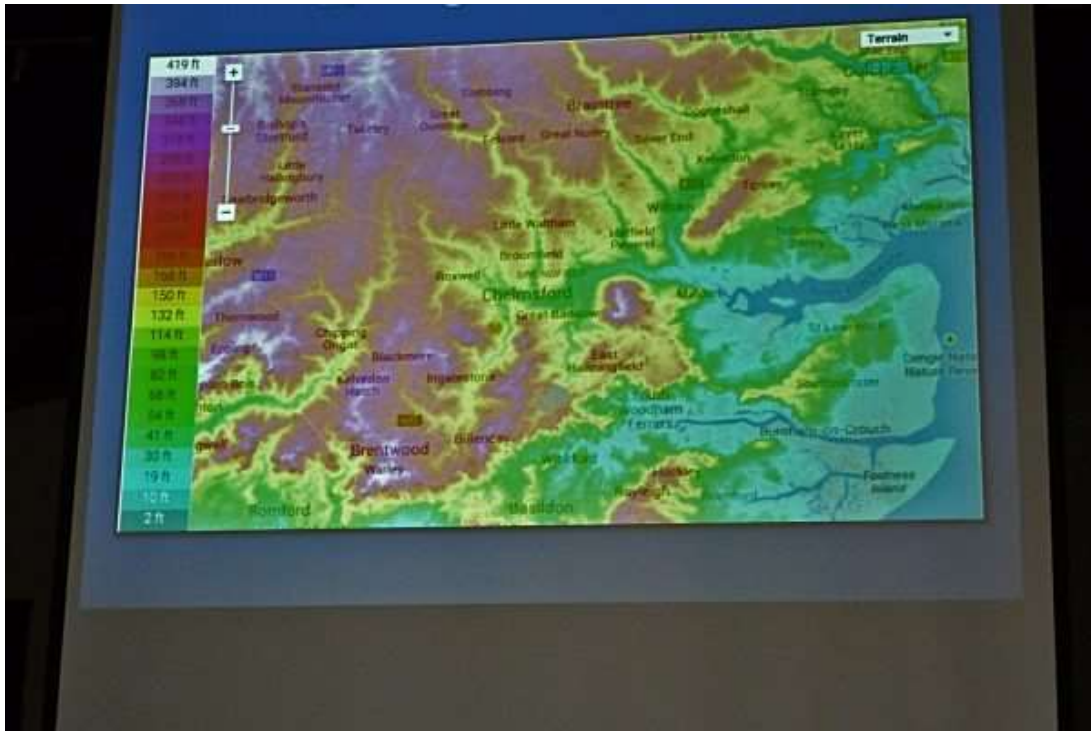
Peter informed the members that we desperately need a new secretary as Anne Hollis has been secretary for 4 ½ years and will be standing down at the AGM next month.

60 Members attended.

April 2015

Joe Abbott introduced **Ian Mercer** and **Ros Smith** to talk about the Geology of Essex Through Time, beginning by informing us that at present we are in a milder period of an Ice Age and that mammoths were wandering around while great sharks were swimming our waters thousands of years ago. Ros also explained how the land was formed by alluvial deposits, glacial movement and river systems. She added that we could find evidence of this by looking in our own gardens.





Ken Taylor thanked Ian and Ros for a fascinating talk, saying that he will view his garden with renewed respect now.

Peter Davidson welcomed members and visitors. Peter informed the audience that envelopes containing a Renewal Notice, Nomination form and Member's Handbook, can be collected from the Membership Secretary today. If anyone lives near a member who is not here today please take an envelope for them. The AGM will take place on 5th June and we are still looking for nominations for the Committee so if anyone is interested please complete the

nomination form. There are notices on the Notice Board regarding various forthcoming U3A activities.

72 Members and 8 visitors attended.

March 2015

Joe Abbott introduced **Fran Sandham** who spoke about his walk from the Namibian Coast to Zanzibar, some 3,500 miles completely solo, no back-up team just him and a rucksack, which is described in his book "Traversa". As a boy Africa seemed exotic and exciting to Fran after reading Tarzan comics and the exploits of Livingstone and Stanley. He began the walk at the "Skeleton" coast, so named due to all the shipwrecks and bones there. For supplies Fran relied on local food and water from wells and stand pipes and the remarkable friendliness and generosity of the local populations. The whole trip took some twelve months.

Danny Hollis thanked Fran for his interesting talk and said a walk like that would scare the life out of him.

Peter Davidson welcomed members and visitors. The Royal Institute lectures will be this month and as the tickets go very quickly if you would like to go to the September lectures please give your name to the Secretary.

Peter reminded members that the AGM will take place on 5th June and the Chairman and Secretary have both exceeded their statutory 3 years in office, so we will be looking for replacements. Most Group Leaders should have had notification that if they need more space for their groups please let the Committee know as we are looking into various other venues in the town.

Peter informed members that the U3A Summer Party will take place on St Mary's Church Green on 7th August.

Jan is in the process of negotiating with Dengie Dart Buses to do short trips to places such as Beth Chatto's garden, Walton on the Naze, Hyde Hall, etc. Ken of Dart Buses said that if there are 25/30 people interested in such a trip he will organize it.

Terry Quinlan has started two new groups, the Film Group and Garden Visits. The first meeting of the Garden Visits Group will be at 2.30 on 30th March at his home. There will be visits to popular Essex gardens, including lunches and picnics. The Film Group is split into two with one on the 2nd Monday in the month and the other on the last Friday in the month at 7.20.

78 Members and 8 visitors attended.

February 2015

Joe Abbott introduced **Eve Regelous**, to talk about Harrods where she was an Events Organiser. Charles Henry Harrod lived from 1799-1885 and started his first grocery shop in Stepney in 1824. He then moved to a tiny corner shop in Knightsbridge which gradually grew

until the existing store was established on the current site in 1849. In 1860 Charles sold Harrods to his son Charles Digby Harrod who established an international customer base where one could buy anything from an Elephant to a castle. Customers have included many celebrities and royalty. One of the world's first escalators was installed in Harrods in 1898. The House of Fraser bought it in 1959. Harrods was then sold to Mohammed Al Fayed in 1985 for 615 million pounds in cash. Since 1984 the annual sale has always been opened by a celebrity. Harrods has 5,000 staff from 51 countries and 5,500 at Christmas. In 2010 Harrods was sold to the Qatari Royal Family for 1.5 billion pounds. One owner said retail is all about theatre and as long as we continue to entertain our customers we will live forever.

Danny Hollis thanked Eve for her fascinating talk about this iconic British institution.

Peter Davidson welcomed members and visitors, including guests from two Maldon U3As. Peter informed members that Joan Risley's funeral will be at the Baptist Church on Monday at 12.15. Would anyone who has ordered tickets to the Royal Institution lectures please collect their tickets from Anne Hollis. Anne is taking names for the next RI lectures in September as the tickets sell very quickly. On a short-term basis, the Scrabble Group will now take place at Dina Bott's house at 2 pm on Thursday 19th February. Would anyone interested please see Dina. Peter thanked Patricia Meads for leading the group for so long. The Twinning Association is holding a Race Night at the Royal Burnham Yacht Club on 28th February. Would anyone interested please see Russ Longson.

Terry Cook will be telling some amazing true tales of the 18th Century at the Social History meeting at 2 pm on 20th February at the Museum.

85 Members and 9 visitors attended.

January 2015

The aim of the open day was to encourage anyone who might be interested in the U3A to come in and learn about its role in society and how it functions. The various groups demonstrated their interests from play reading to philosophy and science to line dancing nearly everything was catered for.

Peter Davidson welcomed members and visitors. He asked for more volunteers to help at Burnham Museum.

Burnham Town Mayor Ron Pratt paid a visit and stayed till the end visiting all the groups.

A great deal of interest was shown by the visitors and members alike and some of the groups recruited from members who wished to broaden their interests and the U3A acquired some new members from the visitors.

Refreshments were served throughout the proceedings and all in all it was a very good day.

73 Members and 19 visitors attended.

