

December 2017

Our December monthly meeting on Friday 1st December was a very well attended Social afternoon.

Bev and Brian Hunt organised the event and members took part in a lively Quiz with Russ Longson acting as Quizmaster. Barry Davis and Committee members served tea with cake and mince pies and

there was also a Raffle. Everyone enjoyed the Quiz and competition was fierce!

Barry rounded off the afternoon by wishing everyone a very happy Christmas.

Our first meeting of the year will be on Friday, January 5th at the Village Hall when Terry Saunders

will be offering a Musical Event to welcome the New Year.

November 2017

Our guest Speaker for November was Janet Brewer, Secretary of the Essex Egyptology Group, who gave a fascinating talk about gossip from the Pharaohs village. The village housed about 70 families of architects, craftsmen, administrators and all those responsible for the building and decorating of the tombs of the Pharaohs in the Valley of the Kings. As these were very literate people there was an astonishing amount of detail remaining which covered daily work routines, the lives of individual families and how law and order was maintained both communally and within the family. Familiar issues such as troublesome children, juvenile delinquency, drunkenness, absenteeism, infidelity and theft (including tomb robbing) were detailed by Janet with some beautiful illustrations. Punishments ranged from fines to mutilation, torture, burning and impalement! Janet really made the past come to life.

June 2017

Our monthly meeting on Friday 2nd June was well attended and Members were treated to a lively talk by Jason Simmons entitled “We Don’t Need No Education”.

Jason started at stage school and after numerous occupations found himself involved with children in the school system whose difficult behavior made them “challenging” to work with.

This is now his area of expertise and Jason’s accounts of the challenges involved were funny, sad, and alarming in more or less equal measures.

Next months speaker on Friday 7th July will be Chris Truran , retired Met Policeman, with a talk entitled “DABS & DNA Do Catch Crooks “!

May 2017

At the May monthly meeting our Webmaster David Gipson opened with a brief introduction to members on how to access our U3A website - what they find there and what they can contribute.

All members with an e-mail address will receive a username and password to keep the site for U3A members only.

Our guest speaker Mel Rees was a last minute replacement. Our booked speaker lost his voice but Mel proved to be a very entertaining substitute talking on the subject of “My Family and Other Setbacks”.

He took us on a light-hearted journey through his life to date which encompassed parental snobbery; courtship and marriage and children who won't leave home - which had the audience laughing uproariously at times.

February 2017

Our February meeting opened with a short talk by **Jane Walsh**, Burnham Surgery Practice Manager. She outlined the new staffing arrangements and patient care developments which should provide quicker access to services.

Sarah-Joy Maddeaux from The Essex Sound and Video Archive explained about the Lottery Funded project “You Are Hear” and its plans to install a “talking bench” in Burnham where the public can sit and listen to digitised social history recordings.

The main speaker, **Peter Layzell**, gave a fascinating talk on life in the Dengie during the Victorian and Edwardian era. Using extracts from local newspapers of the day he investigated a case of infanticide and vividly illustrated the stark realities of working people of the time.

Barry Davis, Chairman, concluded the meeting with a plea for members to consider joining the U3A Committee.