



Some one came knocking
At my wee, small door;
Someone came knocking;
I'm sure-sure-sure;
I listened, I opened,
I looked to left and right,
But nought there was a stirring
In the still dark night;
Only the busy beetle
Tap-tapping in the wall,
Only from the forest
The screech-owl's call,
Only the cricket whistling
While the dewdrops fall,
So I know not who came knocking,
At all, at all, at all.

Someone, by Walter de la Mare, published 1912

Our monthly meetings are held on the first Friday of every month in the Village Hall, Arcadia Road, Burnham-on-Crouch CMO 8EF. List of dates: p.3.

Email: info.u3a.boc2@gmail.com

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Facebook  *Burnham-on-Crouch u3a*

From the Chair

Hello Members,

With British Summer Time's arrival, lighter evenings and longer days bring several of our groups out of winter hibernation to reconnect with friends.

On a different note, I hope that those of you that attended the recent social event had a good afternoon, the cream tea seemed to go down well, with scones, cakes and sausage rolls baked by our very own committee!

I must apologise for the quiz (British TV Themes) I am sure I will get the hang of being quiz master next time! The funny thing for me was watching members all do the dance to the theme tune of Tales of the unexpected!!

During April we will be sending out the papers for the forth coming AGM and asking for nominations to join the committee so if you think you would like to join and make a difference to your u3a why not come forward?

Look forward to seeing you at the AGM which as usual will be combined with a monthly speaker.

Carl



Would you like to play Bridge or Mah Jong?

In recent months, some of our new members have said they would be interested in joining a Bridge or Mah Jong group.

Our existing groups are both currently full but – as with any group – we would love to help to establish a second group if there are enough potential players and one or two people are ready to help organise meetings. Members of the existing groups would, I'm sure, be happy to help to get new groups started.

If you are interested, please let me know (contact details in the Committee list at the back of the newsletter) which group(s) you'd be interested in, and I will do my best to help get things going.

Many thanks!

Pete Wardle
Groups Co-ordinator

Monthly Meeting Dates

(2.15 for 2.30 pm)

Burnham Village Hall CMO 8EF

Dates (Fridays)	Speaker	Subject
10 th April 2026	Joanna Symons	<i>What next for the Royal Family?</i>
1 st May 2026	Gary Jones	<i>Emergency Nursing Memoirs – Teenage Years to Retirement</i>
5 th June 2026	Mark Bathurst	<i>The Paddles Steamer Medway Queen</i>



Burnham u3a Committee Needs You!

Like every u3a, Burnham u3a has a committee (who are also the Trustees, as we are a registered charity), made up of volunteer members. Each year at our AGM we choose new Committee members, and this year a few key people will be stepping down, so now is the time – **please** – to think about whether you'd like to give it a try. It's interesting and not too serious – and if you'd like to come along to one of the monthly committee meetings to see what it's like, you'd be very welcome – just let our Secretary, Jo Gray know so that we make sure you get a cup of tea or coffee!



Burnham Museum

Some members may already know that the heating system in the Burnham Museum has had to be replaced. At the same time, the electrical system at the Museum needs to be updated. The work, we understand, is going ahead but the Museum are asking for donations to help fund the costs. If you are able to help with a donation, however small, the Museum say they would much appreciate it. The bank details are as follows – please add the word 'Donation'.

Sort Code	52 10 30
Account Name	Burnham History Society
Account Number	02715562 (Nat West)
Reference	Please use your name as reference, together with the word 'Donation'

If you prefer to pay by cheque, please make it payable to **Burnham History Society** and either pop it in the postbox at the Museum, or post it to **Burnham Museum, Coronation Road, Burnham-on-Crouch CMO 8HW**.

u3a Photography Group

At our meeting on 9th March, we enjoyed a selection of members' images on the theme of "Food". Sharing our photos at the group meeting gives us the chance to talk about how they were taken, swap ideas, and pick up hints and tips through friendly critique from fellow members.



Our March meeting also featured a presentation by Ken Cole, a member of Photofold Camera Club in Billericay.

Ken covered two fascinating subjects. First was his love of film photography, using antique and vintage cameras. He brought along a wonderful selection of old cameras for members to handle and inspect closely, several members brought in their own vintage cameras for Ken to look at and offer advice on.

His second talk explored infra-red photography, an intriguing technique where a modified camera blocks visible light and allows only infra-red light through. The result is a set of striking images with an almost other-worldly feel.



For our February outing we stayed close to home, visiting three local churches: St Peter's-on-the-Wall at Bradwell, St Lawrence Church at St Lawrence, and St Mary's Church at Mundon. St Mary's is a redundant Anglican church dating back to the 14th century and is also Grade I listed, well worth a visit!

Coming up next is our outing on Friday 27th March to Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome. We will start with a guided tour (followed by bacon butties!), then enjoy time afterwards to wander at our own pace and take plenty of photos.

For our April meeting our image topic will be "Churches", giving us the perfect opportunity to share photos from our recent outing. We will also have a presentation on the theory behind using studio lighting.

We are a very friendly group, and new members will receive a warm welcome. You do not need a big camera to join, our members use a wide range of equipment, from SLR cameras to smartphones.

We would love you to join us at our next meeting, from 10:00 to 12:00 on **Monday 13th April** at the **URC, 53 Station Road, Burnham CMO 8HF** – we look forward to seeing you.

Jacqueline Mills



Company of Crafters

The second meeting was a great success and certainly lived up to our title, as it was very companionable, with a variety of crafts. We will continue to meet in the small room of Carnival Hall on the third Thursday of the month, although we have had to change our time which will now be 1pm to 3pm. Julie Cleverley has kindly agreed to lead the group, with Jan Moreland as co-lead. The cost is £2 per person. Please bring your own mug or other refreshments.

Contact: Julie Cleverley via our website at bocu3a.org



Apologies for the smaller number of articles in this month's u3a newsletter. As always, the newsletter depends entirely on contributions from our members. The deadline for items for the May edition is **noon on Friday 24th April**. Any articles received after the deadline will be held for possible insertion in the following month's issue.

Please send your contributions to newsletter@bocu3a.org.

Maldon Cluster Group

(Maldon & District, Blackwater, Limebrook, Dengie & District,
Burnham-on-Crouch, Crouch Valley and South Woodham Ferrers u3as)

As a member of Burnham-on-Crouch u3a, you are free to attend Interest Groups, including theatre trips and outings, organised by a number of other u3as in the area, if there is space.

Follow this link for more information about Interest Groups across the Maldon Cluster Group:

<http://www.maldonu3a.co.uk/activitygroups/ClusterGroupActivitySchedule.pdf>



Third Age Trust – the u3a nationally

As a member of Burnham-on-Crouch u3a you also have access to:

Offers and discounts via 'u3a Friends Extra'

(<https://bocu3a.org/go/extra>)

The 'u3a Friends' (sign up to the newsletter)

(<https://bocu3a.org/go/friends>)

A u3a podcast

(<https://bocu3a.org/go/podcast>)

Online learning via Zoom

(<https://bocu3a.org/go/online>)

'Third Age Matters' magazine – you can read the latest issue via the link below

(<https://bocu3a.org/go/magazine>)

Interest Groups

Day	Interest Group	Group Leader		
Mon 10.00am (2 nd)	Photographic	Diane Raddon		
Mon 2.00pm (2 nd & 4 th)	Recorders	Linda Baxandall		
Mon 2.30pm (weekly)	Table Tennis 1	Eric Tremlett		
Mon 2.30pm (last)	Garden Views *	Margaret Heel		
Mon 2.30pm (3 rd)	Book Lovers *	Frances Harris		
Tue (am) (4 th)	Walking	Diane Caulkett		
Tue 2.00pm (weekly)	Badminton	Julie Thomas-Page		
Tue 5.00pm (weekly)	Line Dancing *	Anne Dowman		
Tue 2.00pm (2 nd)	Literary *	Sue Holmes		
Tue 7.00pm (weekly)	Bridge *	Liz Smith		
Wed 10.00am (weekly)	Archaeology	Sue Spiers		
Wed (am) (2 nd)	Bird & Wildlife	Lynda Ewers		
Wed 10.00 (1 st)	Genealogy & Family History	Caroline O'Neill		
Wed 10.30am (3 rd)	Garden Topics *	Pamela Burton		
Wed 2.00pm (fortnightly)	Scrabble	Sandra Stocker		
Wed 2.30pm (4 th) November - April	Winter Readers	Bev Abbott		
Wed 2.30pm (weekly)	Table Tennis 2 *	Roy Hutchins		
Wed 2.30pm (last)	Our Ancestry *	Peter Banham		
Wed 3.00pm (1 st & 3 rd)	Pétanque	Gwen Pocock		
Thur 10.00am (weekly)	French *	Pam Eastham		
Thur 1.30pm (3 rd)	Company of Crafters	Julie Cleverley		
Thur 2.00pm (fortnightly during school terms)	10-Pin Bowling *	Diane Caulkett		
Thur 3.00pm (2 nd)	The Literati	Phyllis Brame		
Fri 10.30am (3 rd)	Art, Architecture & Design	Delia & Mike Allen		
Fri 10.30am (2 nd)	Pitch and Putt	Ian Parrott		
Fri 12.00pm (4 th)	Luncheon Homebirds *	Diane Raddon		
Fri 12.30pm (3 rd)	Luncheon Explorers	Josie Scroggs		
Fri 2.00pm (weekly)	Mah Jong *	Terry Sims		
Fri 2.30pm (2 nd & 4 th)	Alternative Therapies, Practices & Beliefs	Julie Thomas-Page		
Sat 10.00am (weekly)	Archaeology	Sue Spiers		
As Arranged	MOTO (Members On Their Own) *	Liz Smith		

* The Line Dance group is very well-attended at present, so please contact the group leader to check on availability before turning up; you may be asked to go on a waiting list.

* - Groups marked with an asterisk are currently so popular that we need to set up extra groups in these areas: if you'd like to be part of new group (perhaps even help to organise it) please let the current group leader, or the Groups Co-ordinator, know. There is a lot of support to help new groups get started.

Committee

Position	Name		
Chair	Carl Hughes		
Vice-Chair	Dave Rae		
Secretary	Jo Gray		
Membership Secretary	Phil Flack		
Groups Co-ordinator	Pete Wardle		
Treasurer	Diane Raddon		
Webmaster	Graham Newman		
Social	Marilyn O'Doherty		
Speaker Co-ordinator	Maureen Rae		

Committee meetings are held at the Olde White Harte Hotel on the 3rd Thursday of the month, at 10.00am. Members are very welcome to attend; if you plan to do so, please let our Secretary, Jo Gray, know in advance.



Upcoming Committee Meetings

16th April; 21st May; 18th June 2026



The deadline for copy for the May newsletter is NOON on Friday 24th April. Please email your contributions to newsletter@bocu3a.org. Photos are very welcome, but please email them separately from the text you are sending.

Burnham-on-Crouch u3a, Registered Charity Number: 1091017

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