



Dear native brook! wild streamlet of the West!
How many various-fated years have passed,
What happy and what mournful hours, since last
I skimmed the smooth thin stone along thy breast,
Numbering its light leaps! Yet so deep impressed
Sink the sweet scenes of childhood, that mine eyes
I never shut amid the sunny ray,
But straight with all their tints thy waters rise,
Thy crossing plank, thy marge with willows grey,
And bedded sand that, veined with various dyes,
Gleamed through thy bright transparency! On my way,
Visions of childhood! oft have ye beguiled
Lone manhood's cares, yet waking fondest sighs:
Ah! that once more I were a careless child!

To The River Otter
Samuel Taylor Coleridge, written 1793

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.4.

Email: info.u3a.boc2@gmail.com
Telephone: 07388 153930 Website: www.bocu3a.org

Facebook  Burnham-on-Crouch u3a

From the Chair

Hello Members

Well, here we are in May, and if you are reading this, I have been re-elected as chair for another year, if not then someone else is writing it!

On the 7th of July we have organised a trip (in partnership with our friends in Probus) to the world-famous Sutton Hoo immortalised in the film *The Dig* starring Ralph Fiennes. Sutton Hoo is the site of two Anglo-Saxon cemeteries dating back to the 6th and 7th centuries near Woodbridge in Suffolk. Archaeologists have been excavating the area since 1938, when an undisturbed ship burial containing a wealth of Anglo-Saxon artifacts was discovered, the trip will also make a visit to the village of Woodbridge.

The tickets will be on a first come first served basis, so book early as it should be a great day out, the tickets are £17.00pp for national trust members, and £34.10pp for non-NT members.

Remember summer is just around the corner, fingers crossed it's going to be a good one!

Carl

Our previously postponed Coach Trip to Sutton Hoo and Woodbridge has now been re-arranged for 7th July 2026 The trip is for u3a and Probus members – friends of members are also welcome. The trip will start off with a visit to Sutton Hoo. This is the awe-inspiring Anglo-Saxon royal burial site, home to one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of all time, on which the film “The Dig” was based. There is an exhibition showcasing the amazing finds, an open-air site with amazing views around the dig-site, a cafe and a shop. After about 2 hours there we will move on to Woodbridge, a historic Suffolk market town on the river Deben. There is a Museum, a working tide Mill and many fine pubs and restaurants to visit. The coach will pick up from the Burnham Clock Tower at 0900 and at 0910 at the bus stop opposite the Clockwork Hotel on the corner of Foundry Lane. The trip cost is £17 per person (based on approx. 50 persons), if you are already a National Trust Member. If you don't have a National Trust membership card (must be produced on site) there will be an additional charge of £17.10 per person, group rate entry to Sutton Hoo, but this must be paid at the time of booking to get the group rate. [Booking Form now online](#). Please do not delay your booking. We have to confirm and pay the coach one month in advance. Failure to get enough bookings by the confirmation date was why we had to cancel last time.

Would you like to play Table Tennis?

There are a couple of places available in our Monday afternoon Table Tennis group, which meets at 2.30pm at the Dengie Hundred Sports Centre in Burnham.

If you'd like to join, do please get in touch with the group leader Eric Tremlett at <https://bocu3a.org/go/tabletennis1> who will be glad to give you the details.

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

Newsletters

The latest copy of our newsletter can now be found on our website at <https://bocu3a.org/newsletter/>

Back issues are also being prepared for uploading and can be accessed from the same link when available.

Monthly Meeting Dates

(2.15 for 2.30 pm)

Burnham Village Hall CMO 8EF

Dates (Fridays)	Speaker	Subject
1 st May 2026	Gary Jones	<i>Emergency Nursing Memoirs – Teenage Years to Retirement</i>
5 th June 2026	Mark Bathurst	<i>The Paddle Steamer Medway Queen</i>
3 rd July 2026	Andrew Babicz	<i>Great Gardens of Great Britain Part 2</i>

Sutton Hoo and Woodbridge Coach Trip

Tom Keeper is currently re-arranging our previously postponed Coach Trip to Sutton Hoo and Woodbridge for 7th July 2026, which I'm hoping you will all want to take part in. Friends of members are also welcome.

The trip will start off with a visit to Sutton Hoo. This is the awe-inspiring Anglo-Saxon royal burial site, home to one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of all time, on which the film "The Dig" was based. There is an exhibition showcasing the amazing finds, an open-air site with amazing views around the dig-site, a cafe and a shop. After about 2 hours there we will move on to Woodbridge, a historic Suffolk market town on the river Deben. There is a Museum, a working tide Mill and many fine pubs and restaurants to visit.

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Booking forms are online now. Please do not delay your booking. We have to confirm and pay the coach one month in advance. Failure to get enough bookings by the confirmation date was why we had to cancel last time.

<https://bocu3a.org/go/jul7>

ART, ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN GROUP

For our April meeting we returned to the Burnham Museum, Lower Gallery where we were given a warm welcome. Not so much that the museum staff greeted us; more the fact that the lower gallery, once again, has a good source of heating. It was also a pleasure to return to the room's wonderful, large electrically operated, drop-down screen. And whilst we thank the Photography group for lending us their screen for our sojourn to the URC for our recent meetings, it was a pleasure today, rather than wrestling with the ironware that is the screen, to just press a button!

Twenty-five members came to hear Margaret Heel, a member of our group, talk about Marc Chagall. She told us how Chagall (1887–1985) revolutionized stained glass, transforming it into a vibrant, emotional medium using intense colours, particularly blue, red, and yellow, by infusing oxides onto the glass, a relatively new technique. We also witnessed in photographs his poetic, symbolic imagery. We learnt that his major works included the Twelve Tribes windows in the synagogue in Jerusalem, the UN headquarters, Reims Cathedral, and, closer to home, all twelve windows at All Saints' Church in Tudeley, Kent. The



glass shouts Chagall's magnificent use of colour about which Picasso once said: "When Matisse dies, Chagall will be the only painter left who understands what colour really is." Margaret and her husband visited the church last year and were so enthralled by the glass that she was moved to prepare an illustrated presentation for our group. The success of her presentation, and the interest it raised, could be measured by the huge number of questions and comments at the end of the presentation where almost everybody had a question or comment to make.

For us all, Margaret's presentation was what the u3a is about; learning together and encouraging members to step outside of their comfort zone to share knowledge and experiences – so a huge thank-you to Margaret.

After the refreshment break it was time for the 'I Collect...' spot. This month it was: 'I collect... Glyn Colledge'. Delia and I have

collected his work for around 40 years. Glyn Colledge (1922 – 2000) followed in the footsteps of his father Albert Colledge at Denby Pottery, where he rose from a trainee before the Second World War to become the Head of the Design Studio and a Director of Denby. We looked at his life and work and particularly his ranges in our collection of over 80 pieces, which include Glyn Ware, Glynbourne as well as Ferndale and many more.

We learned how Denby got around purchase tax regulations by calling the pottery it produced 'Studio Pottery' each piece hand signed and named as domestic items rather than luxury goods. Glyn left Deby for retirement in 1983 and died in 2000. Denby struggled on without his design input and as we write is in administration, looking for a new buyer.



Next month our meeting is on May 15th again at the Museum, hopefully now our permanent home. At the meeting we shall be living up to the 'Architecture' reference in our group title by looking at the life and work of Sir Edwin Lutyens ("call me Ned") often referred to as Britain's Greatest Architect. His collaboration with Gertrude Jekyll is well known and we shall explore this aspect of his work too.

After the break we shall be completing the group's title by encompassing Art and Design, when in the 'I Collect...' spot the subject will be Stainless Steel Jewellery and its height of popularity in the 60s and 70s. Stainless steel is having a revival in Jewellery Design as the material is more affordable at the moment than gold and silver where prices have sky-rocketed.

If you want to learn more then please come along to our group and maybe bring a friend and perhaps dig out that stainless steel and abalone jewellery that you wore in the 70s! We'd love to see it.

Delia and Mike Allen. Group Leaders.



Bird & Wildlife Group

We were so lucky with the weather again, sunny and warm. We were able to sit outside with our coffees. Not a lot of birds on the water but as you will see our list is quite extensive. Lots of bird songs and calls to identify, thanks to the Merlin bird app; a great tool if you are out and about. It will also show you a picture of the bird.

The Chiff Chaff song is a very common sound, usually it only has two notes, but we heard an extra one which is the male trying to attract a mate as it's now coming up to breeding time and he must be better than his rivals!

Another interesting spot was a light brown lump under a tree which turned out to be a red legged Partridge which we only recognised when it moved!

Birds	Flowers	Other
Blackbird	Alexanders	Small White Butterfly
Black-Headed Gull	Bird's Eye Speedwell	Brown Hare
Buzzard	Blackthorn	
Cetti's Warbler	Bulrush	
Chiff Chaff	Celandine	
Coot	Chickweed	
Cormorant	Cowslip	
Crow	Daisy	
Great Crested Grebe	Dandelion	
Great White Egret	Gorse	
Greylag Goose	Groundsel	
Heron	Hawthorn	
Little Grebe	Oilseed Rape	
Magpie	Pussy Willow	
Mallard	Red Dead Nettle	
Moorhen	Shepherd's Purse	
Mute Swan	Smooth Sow Thistle	
Pied Wagtail		
Pochard		
Red Kite		
Red Legged Partridge		
Reed Bunting		
Robin		
Rook		
Skylark		
Spoonbill		
Teal		
Wood Pigeon		
Wren		

Next meeting will be Wed 13th May at Fingringhoe Wick Essex Wildlife Trust Visitor Centre CO5 7DN at 10am



The Future of the Monarchy – A talk by Joanna Symons

The April u3a meeting opened with the welcome chat from our leader who reminded us all about the AGM next month and the importance of members attending also the Jammie Dodger biscuits were reserved!

Joanna was introduced to us all and began her thought-provoking talk about the monarchy by explaining that in the last two years she has had to keep rewriting the script and her talk to today was rewritten only last week! A retired head of a university department, Joanna has had a deep interest in the Royal Family since she was a child, kindled by the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II and the pomp and pageantry that went with the event. Of course, Joanna was keen to point out that much of what she had to say was a personal opinion and I am sure many of us have those when it comes to the monarchy!

I should think her audience has only ever known one monarch and still have to concentrate – when singing the Royal Anthem – on proclaiming king not queen. We are the generation that can remember the stamps, blue and green showing Charles and Anne, that we could buy and stick in our savings book. But as Joanna pointed out, many young people today have very little interest or knowledge of the Royal Family. Joanna said that

she could understand the rise of the Republican movement as many could not understand the role of a kingdom in today's Britain. Indeed, there have been many displays of anti-monarchy placards during some of the Kings recent 'walk-about's'. A protest rarely displayed to his mother. Joanna stated that Charles was very nervous about how he would be received when he became King as his mother was a very hard act to follow.

However, I don't think anyone whether Royalist or Republican could deny that the family has had a pretty rough time of late, the most difficult since the abdication of King Edward VIII that thrust his brother into a kingship that he never wanted. Charles was the longest serving prince in history finally becoming King Charles III on the 22nd September 2022 on the death of his mother Queen Elizabeth II. The line of succession will lead to William becoming King William the 5th and George will be King George the 7th.

It is evident that the ceremony of royalty has changed over the years. For instance, when Prince Charles was invested as the Prince of Wales there was a great deal of costly pomp and also concern that Welsh Nationalists could well disrupt the service. William had no such investiture and took the title on the death of his Grandmother. William has very different plan for his coronation following many of the traditions but with a much more modern approach, scaled down and with less complicated uniforms.

King Charles has his own agenda for the future monarchy: a slimmed down family with fewer working royals, less ceremony, less expenditure, recognising other faiths and focusing on his concerns relating to the importance of climate change, social inequality, the arts, community and the continuance of the Commonwealth. There are over 30 royal residences, and Charles wants to open many more of these to the public. *(I have been to both Buckingham Palace and Sandringham – both worth a visit I think, and with the frisson of walking in the steps of the Royal Family. At Sandringham the guide showed us the desk where Queen Camilla likes to listen to the Archers and do jigsaws. I thought 'we have something in common' as I like the Archers too).* In the future Joanna thinks that Buckingham Palace will no longer be the main abode of the monarch but used mainly for state occasions and visits. The King resides in Clarence House and his country estate of Highgrove and William and Kate have just moved into Forest Lodge Windsor which they are calling their forever home.

The last two years have been very difficult for the Royal Family. Always under scrutiny for what they wear, do and behave it cannot be easy without the added trauma of cancer diagnosis, Harry and Megan stepping down and of course the ongoing and 'ghastly behaviour' of Andrew and Sarah which appears also includes their two daughters. This has indeed been a very rough ride for Charles. The last member of the royal family to be arrested was King Charles I for treason.

Andrew was taken into custody for 11 hours and may still be charged for – alleged-sharing confidential information. That photograph of Andrew leaving custody is very haunting and as Joanna said must have made the photographer a lot of money. I Googled the photo, and the photographer said *'it was not the best he had ever taken but it was one of the most important'*.

WALKING GROUP

March 2026

A Circuit from Forrester Park Golf Club

Today highlighted the importance of reconnoitring a walk before leading a group! Having not long been back from Australia, I hadn't had the time to do that. We had walked the walk before, but I decided to walk it in the reverse direction.

Fourteen of us met in the bright sunshine, but the air was chill and rumour had it that rain would come later – it didn't. With our food ordered we set off. I had hoped to avoid crossing the golf course by taking a parallel footpath, but somehow that plan was thwarted and across the golf course we went. It was Ladies Day, but not that busy, so we crossed safely. As my initial plan hadn't worked out, my thoughts were to lengthen the walk but with a fuddled brain couldn't make out a suitable route, so I handed Tony the map and he sorted out an alternative; it was a trouble-free walk after that – thank you Tony!

Our route took us past St Peter's Church where we paused to glance inside at the beautiful stained-glass windows. The church is a Grade II listed building dating back to the 13th century. Weaving our way towards Great Totham the footpath passed a field with four delightful ponies; three were Shetland ponies but the fourth was slightly bigger, mostly white but with black spotted markings – I likened it to an Appaloosa but may be totally wrong.

We then climbed gently which gave us distance views across to the River Blackwater. It was all downhill from there and we arrived back a little earlier than expected.

A long table had been provided for us, and we all enjoyed our chosen lunches.



Diane Caulkett

Coach outing to Southwold

TUESDAY 2nd JUNE

Organised by Burnham Art club

£25 payable in advance

(Payment includes driver's tip)

53 seater Fords air-conditioned coach

Leaves Burnham Clocktower 8.45 am

Picks up outside Burnham

Southminster and Danbury. Leaves Southwold 3.45pm.

Please book (and enquiries) to reserve your seat via email:

sjrspiers@gmail.com or

suejones47@icloud.com



All are welcome – do your own thing
information and maps will be handed out on
coach

10 PIN BOWLING

26.3.26

Returning after the school Easter break turned out to be a big one with 24 bowlers participating. Everyone turned up on time, was allocated their lanes and play commenced. Back from my trip down under I was amazed to bowl well and, in fact, got the highest score of the day, 155, and also bowled the highest series of 405. Our newcomer Jan V managed to bowl a turkey giving him the highest score of 126 in the third round. Eric and Chris, both excelled themselves with scores over 100. It was a fun afternoon but sadly all of this has been dimmed by the sad news that our lovely Tim passed away not long after. Tim will be remembered by me for his gentlemanly behaviour, his humour, his persistence, but above all Tim was our star bowler holding the record of bowling over 200; we will all miss him.

Diane Caulkett

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:

<https://bocu3a.org/go/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	More Details & Contact
Mon 10.00am (2 nd)	Photographic	Diane Raddon	https://bocu3a.org/go/photo
Mon 2.00pm (2 nd & 4 th)	Recorders	Linda Baxandall	https://bocu3a.org/go/recorders
Mon 2.30pm (weekly)	Table Tennis 1	Eric Tremlett	https://bocu3a.org/go/tabletennis1
Mon 2.30pm (last)	Garden Views *	Margaret Heel	https://bocu3a.org/go/gardenviews
Mon 2.30pm (3 rd)	Book Lovers *	Frances Harris	https://bocu3a.org/go/booklovers
Tue (am) (4 th)	Walking	Diane Caulkett	https://bocu3a.org/go/walking
Tue 2.00pm (weekly)	Badminton	Julie Thomas-Page	https://bocu3a.org/go/badminton
Tue 5.00pm (weekly)	Line Dancing *	Anne Dowman	https://bocu3a.org/go/linedancing
Tue 2.00pm (2 nd)	Literary *	Sue Holmes	https://bocu3a.org/go/literary
Tue 7.00pm (weekly)	Bridge *	Liz Smith	https://bocu3a.org/go/bridge
Wed 10.00am (weekly)	Archaeology	Sue Spiers	https://bocu3a.org/go/archaeology
Wed (am) (2 nd)	Bird & Wildlife	Lynda Ewers	https://bocu3a.org/go/bird
Wed 10.00 (1 st)	Genealogy & Family History	Caroline O'Neill	https://bocu3a.org/go/genealogy
Wed 10.30am (3 rd)	Garden Topics *	Pamela Burton	https://bocu3a.org/go/gardentopics
Wed 2.00pm (fortnightly)	Scrabble	Sandra Stocker	https://bocu3a.org/go/scrabble
Wed 2.30pm (4 th) November - April	Winter Readers	Bev Abbott	https://bocu3a.org/go/winterreaders
Wed 2.30pm (weekly)	Table Tennis 2 *	Roy Hutchins	https://bocu3a.org/go/tabletennis2
Wed 2.30pm (last)	Our Ancestry *	Peter Banham	https://bocu3a.org/go/ourancestry
Wed 3.00pm (1 st & 3 rd)	Pétanque	Gwen Pocock	https://bocu3a.org/go/petanque
Thur 10.00am (weekly)	French *	Pam Eastham	https://bocu3a.org/go/french
Thur 1.30pm (3 rd)	Company of Crafters	Julie Cleverley	https://bocu3a.org/go/crafters
Thur 2.00pm (fortnightly during school terms)	10-Pin Bowling *	Diane Caulkett	https://bocu3a.org/go/10pin
Thur 3.00pm (2 nd)	The Literati	Phyllis Brame	https://bocu3a.org/go/literati
Fri 10.30am (3 rd)	Art, Architecture & Design	Delia & Mike Allen	https://bocu3a.org/go/art
Fri 10.30am (2 nd)	Pitch and Putt	Ian Parrott	https://bocu3a.org/go/pitch
Fri 12.00pm (4 th)	Luncheon Homebirds *	Diane Raddon	https://bocu3a.org/go/luncheon
Fri 12.30pm (3 rd)	Luncheon Explorers	Josie Scroggs	https://bocu3a.org/go/explorers
Fri 2.00pm (weekly)	Mah Jong *	Terry Sims	https://bocu3a.org/go/mahjong
Fri 2.30pm (2 nd & 4 th)	Alternative Therapies, Practices & Beliefs	Julie Thomas-Page	https://bocu3a.org/go/alt
Sat 10.00am (weekly)	Archaeology	Sue Spiers	https://bocu3a.org/go/archaeology
As Arranged	MOTO (Members On Their Own) *	Liz Smith	https://bocu3a.org/go/lifeanew

* 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	Jac Mills
Groups Co-ordinator	Pete Wardle
Treasurer	Diane Raddon
Webmaster	Graham Newman
Events Co-ordinator	Marilyn O'Doherty
Communications Co-ordinator	Phil Flack
Speaker Co-ordinator	Maureen Rae
New Members Ambassador	Margaret Lambert

Committee members subject to ratification at AGM

Committee members may be contacted individually via our website.

<https://bocu3a.org/organisation/#committee>

For general enquiries, please use following email: Email: info.u3a.boc2@gmail.com

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

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



The deadline for copy for the June newsletter is NOON on Friday 22nd May. 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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