

Burnham-on-Crouch



Spring Morning

Where am I going? I don't quite know.
Down to the stream where the king-cups grow-
Up on the hill where the pine-trees blow-
Anywhere, anywhere. I don't know.

Where am I going? The clouds sail by,
Little ones, baby ones, over the sky.
Where am I going? The shadows pass,
Little ones, baby ones, over the grass.

If you were a cloud, and sailed up there,
You'd sail on water as blue as air,
And you'd see me here in the fields and say:
"Doesn't the sky look green today?"

Where am I going? The high rooks call:
"It's awful fun to be born at all."
Where am I going? The ring-doves coo:
"We do have beautiful things to do."

If you were a bird, and lived on high,
You'd lean on the wind when the wind came by,
You'd say to the wind when it took you away:
"That's where I wanted to go today!"

Where am I going? I don't quite know.
What does it matter where people go?
Down to the wood where the blue-bells grow-
Anywhere, anywhere. I don't know.

by A A Milne, published 1924



Our monthly meetings are held on the first Friday of every month in the Village Hall, Arcadia Road, Burnham-on-Crouch CM0 8EF. List of dates: p.3.

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From the Chair

Hello Members,

Well, here we are, spring at last – I have never known such a wet winter. I hope that you have managed to stay above the water with all the rain we have had, I am sure that I saw an Ark floating down Burnham High Street last week!

As a committee we are now starting the preparation for our AGM which will be in May. For our new members – this is where the serving committee all stand down, and next year's committee must be elected by the members present. Our constitution states that committee members can serve up to three years in the same role, after which they must stand down from that position, although there is a clause which allows someone to continue in their role for one more year, but only if no one comes forward to take on that role.

Unfortunately, this year we have two committee members that will have completed the maximum of four years: Jo Gray, our secretary, and Phil Flack, our Membership Secretary. Both are important roles within our u3a, and in the case of Jo's role as we are a registered charity we would be unable to continue if this role became vacant.

I am therefore asking for members to come forward to join our friendly committee, principally to fill those two roles. The u3a depends entirely on its members to keep going, and it's really important that every member who is able considers how they can help out. If you feel that you could support our u3a please contact me, my details are given below:

Mobile: 07714481205

Email: carl.hughes11@btinternet.com

I cannot stress the importance of this enough; if we are unable to fill certainly the Secretary's role then we may end up in a similar position to Heybridge u3a which has recently had to close.

Regards

Carl

Monthly Meeting Dates

(2.15 for 2.30 pm)

Burnham Village Hall CMO 8EF

Dates (Fridays)	Speaker	Subject
6 th March 2026	Social – Afternoon Tea (tickets in advance, £4 each)	
10th 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>



Social Meeting, Friday 6th March 2026



Our meeting on Friday 6th March will be a Social, with Afternoon Tea and a chance to catch up with fellow-members.

We will start as usual at 2.30pm.

So that we can get the numbers right for catering, we ask you please to buy your tickets **in advance**. If you still haven't got your tickets, this is your last chance to get one by contacting Diane Raddon (treasurer@bocu3a.org, tel. 01621 861899).

Old St. Barnabas Church, Mayland

A four-year excavation

A talk by Zoë Bridges and Sue Spiers, 9th January

Carl –the Chair– welcomed the many members, wishing everyone a Happy New Year and thanking us all for coming out on a very cold and damp Friday afternoon. He introduced Sue and Zoë, the Leaders of the Burnham u3a Archaeology Group, and went on to say what a thriving and skilled group it had become, even being recognised by the national u3a. Many of the group members were in attendance, resplendent in their sweat shirts (and the brave ones in T-shirts), very proud to be part of the 'digging, scraping and recording' team.

Sue and Zoë are so enthusiastic and knowledgeable – they went on to tell us all about the history of the church and the artefacts that have been discovered over the four-year excavation. In the 1970s an archaeological survey on the old church was carried out but the remains were considered of no historical value and not worth scheduling as a site of note. Wrong! After much research and investigation the old church was thought to be of interest and the late Terry Cook and Sue sought permission from the church authorities and the site guardian to begin a 'dig'. A licence had to be obtained from the Home Office, because any human remains discovered have to be treated with utmost respect, kept on the site and reburied within a set time frame. I am a 'digger' and can assure readers that this is exactly what happens.

When the building was demolished a cross was erected to show where the old church had been and for many years –until 2022 – this was the only sign that a church was once there. The medieval building rubble left was 'robbed out' and re-used for road mending (and may also have been recycled into nearby properties). Rumour had it that the old church had burnt down but no evidence of that has been found.

Once all the licence and permissions had been granted the location was cleared, strimmed and head-high brambles cut down. The site was field-walked, then on hands and knees we – and I can say we because I was there on my hands and knees – investigated the ground using pegs to try and identify what lurked below. On a personal view point I cannot stress how professionally this work is carried out. I must admit to being surprised at the work practices involved and how very 'mathsy' it all is. It is so far removed from just digging a hole! Every different layer from topsoil to clay is given a number, remains are flagged with a blue flag, and areas are searched meticulously using trowels, brushes and sieves. All the diggers riddle their soil and this is then put on a heap applicable to the trench. These piles are then searched by our metal detectorists (as we know from the BBC series, the user is the detectorist; the tool is the detector). Sue held up her much-used small trowel, the main tool that we use to scrape each layer away. Every part of the excavation is recorded diligently; many of the team have been trained and advised by a professional archaeologist.

This is an accurate record of what lies beneath, the reason being that in "500 years' time" those researching the story of the Mayland church will know exactly what lies hidden below

the turf. At the end of the dig, trenches are backfilled from their allotted spoil heaps, thus preserving the hidden history.

All the grave markers have been recorded and researched—the earliest found dating back to 1656. Some have been hard to read, however it was discovered that filling the engravings with flour brought the stones to life and made them easier to decipher. (I don't think it matters if it is plain or self-raising!) One such grave slab was that of Reuben Robinson an apothecary who hailed from Maldon; oddly, he died sometime in the 1670s but was not buried at St. Barnabas until a year later. Now there's a mystery!

Sue and Zoë showed us various slides of the different trenches that have been dug (and scraped) over the 4 years. The oldest find so far has been a shard of shelly ware (***"Shelly ware is a type of pottery found in Great Britain from the seventh through the twelfth centuries"*** – Wikipedia) which dates back to the 12th century. This was discovered in a trench three feet down so we know that the church dates from at least then. There have been many other great finds over the years: a shark's tooth; a fossil sea urchin millions of years old indicating that the area was under the sea eons ago; medieval book clasps; shoe buckles; belt fittings; a tiny lead bell; a spur rowel; a Henry 2nd halfpenny (a coin cut in half – the original 'half-penny'); a groat with a quarter pattern marking how it could be cut onto four (to make farthings, or quarter-pennies) – fascinating stuff! This year I found a jetton, a token that dated from the 1580s to the early 1600s. I was so excited, I danced; not exactly doing the gold dance (The Detectorists) but I did leap about a bit. Even finding a handmade nail (and there are a lot) is put into context when you think the last person to handle it lived hundreds of years ago! All the finds are labelled and recorded and given to Zoë our Finds Officer and scrupulously labelled as to the trench and layer it was found in.

One of the major finds has been that of tiles. These have been of interest both locally and beyond. Zoë contacted the mediaeval tile expert Paul Drury, who in the 1970s excavated the ancient tile kiln at Danbury. His knowledge and guidance has been very supportive and he has made visits to the site and advised us that many of our tiles came from the kiln dating from 1275 to 1325. Some are beautifully decorated; some have designs etched into the clay whilst others are patterned with different colours and designs. A book is being published by Paul and many of 'our tiles' will be in it.

The old church of St. Barnabas "keeps on giving", there are many mysteries about the church. There is only one known illustration (1696) of the building and that shows a shingled (wood tiles) bell tower. To date, despite extensive work, no real evidence has appeared of the footings for the tower. There are many remains of the old stone church where they used septaria (sedimentary stone formed from seafloors, sometimes referred to as 'Roman Cement'), some wooden remnants that may (or may not) indicate an earlier building, brick footings from the later church, porches and doorways, drains, gulleys, walls and buttresses. (*A buttress is an architectural structure built against or projecting from a wall which serves to support or reinforce the wall* – Wikipedia.) Sue showed us the photo of the row of these assorted constructions, all built to try and stop the church sliding down the hill. They range from stone to brick to early concrete. The parishioners fought valiantly to keep their little church upright and to prevent the inevitable. One can only imagine the PCC debating year

on year, century after century about protecting their slowly, sliding church. Then in the end they must have given up and the new St. Barnabas was built and the old church knocked down.

We know that the church dates back to at least the 12th century until it was abandoned in the mid-1860s but is there more to discover about this little church? One more year at the site should be the last, then the site will be finally recorded, back-filled and then tucked away, sleeping and hopefully not sliding down the hill.

I have learnt so much from being part of the group, I enjoy being a 'BAG' (no jokes about old ones please) as they say 'every day is a school day' and many of the members are so knowledgeable, not only about ancient buildings and people, and local history, but birds and the environment too. So, thank you to the group and to Sue and Zoë who despite being very busy still find time to make cakes for our tea breaks.

If you are inspired to learn more about the archaeological group or indeed any of the interest groups then please contact Burnham u3a.

Judi Embling



Botswana Wildlife

A talk by Diane Raddon, 6th February

One of our own –Diane– gave a highly interesting talk at the February meeting on her wildlife travels in Botswana. Diane is our u3a treasurer and a stalwart of the photographic group (which was evident in the stunning photographs). The intrepid traveller has visited Botswana four times and has a collection of nearly 8,000 pictures.

Botswana is a land-locked country situated above South Africa, to the North is the Kalahari Desert which makes up a vast amount of the country's territory. It is a huge country, roughly the size of France and –according to Wikipedia– 'one of the most sparsely populated countries in the world'. There are four main safari areas in Botswana including the Suvute and Chobe regions, all with an abundance of magnificent wildlife. For many years hunting in Botswana was forbidden but this ban has been lifted in recent years particularly to help control the elephant population, hunting however, is strictly controlled. Diane went on to describe the modest living conditions on her adventures. Not the luxury of a five-star, barrier-fenced hotel but an unguarded guy-roped canvas tent. The lavatory a hole in the ground, the shower a bucket (restricted water too) and the kitchen was an open fire. But the cook –despite limited facilities– could prepare anything from a cake to bread to a roast (and not an Air Fryer in sight). Botswana safari vehicles are typically 4x4 Land Cruisers with canvas roofs but open-sided to ensure excellent visibility for seeing and photographing.

Diane explained that they would stop for refreshments throughout the day and the guides would lay out drinks and snacks on the bonnet of the safari vehicle. Of course with many of these 'off the beaten track adventures' there is always the delicate issue of what to do if one needs a 'pee' before tea and this Diane needed. Upon the screen appeared a photo of an isolated bush (on the plains, shrubbery is the only privacy available). Looking through the thicket of branches it was just possible to see a brown shape lurking – which unfortunately neither Diane, nor anyone else, had noticed. Diane does not remember how she got back up the ladder into the safety of the truck! Driving round to the other side of the foliage –with metal mugs and plates clanking and tumbling – Diane managed to capture the image of a handsome large male lion resting in the shadow of the shrubbery shade.

I had a less life threatening but not dissimilar experience whilst riding in Portugal, finding a bush I suddenly realised that I was crouching next to the 'shedded' skin of quite a long snake. (I do not like snakes!)

Lions were a feature of Diane's talk from the gorgeous and, it has to be said, very cute photos of three lion cubs to the majestic male lions with their thick manes and certain aloofness. The lions have learned over the years that the vehicles and occupants are not a threat and are therefore unfazed by close proximity to cameras and tourists. Despite the seeming acceptance of incomers into their world you do not get out of the vehicle to pat the nice big cat! We then heard about the mating habits of the lions which suffice it to say goes on (and off) for a rather long time (3 days) as, notwithstanding their very macho image, male lions are apparently not that fertile!

Another big cat, Diane's favourite, is the leopard but they are very elusive and after four trips she had not been able to catch one on camera. However, on one trip Diane was lucky enough to photograph an even more obscure animal, the smaller but very attractive African Wild Cat. There were some stunning pictures of the cats, just a little bigger than our domestic felines, but Diane had never seen them before or indeed since.

Botswana has a very healthy population of elephants, too many in fact. The herds are predominately female as bull elephants are loners; at water holes Diane has seen hundreds coming down to drink. The babies, with their uncontrollable trunks swinging from side to side are protected by not only their mothers but by other females in the herd. With a 22-month gestation period baby elephants are long awaited and must be very precious.

Diane's presentation was both engaging and informative with humorous anecdotes illustrated with amazing photos. We saw fighting giraffes bashing each other with their necks and a young giraffe with knobbly legs akimbo trying to drink; photogenic zebras and quirky little 'mongoose' (mongeese?) whose behaviour is similar to that of meerkats. Herds of horned mammals; the large water buffalo, roman nosed gnus, the tall kudu and groups of impala (often referred to as lion food), target bottomed water buck and not forgetting the tusked wart hog which does live up to its comical Lion King Pumbaa character, eating on its knees with its bottom in the air. Diane had captured them all on camera.

The bird life of Botswana is equally as striking from the tiny colourful bee eaters to the large flamboyant feathered ostrich whose eyeball is bigger than its brain! Fast flying kites, several types of eagles, the snake-eating secretary bird, bright red carmine bee eaters, the brightly coloured woodland kingfisher and the monotone pied kingfisher. We saw a Goliath heron 'golloping' down a huge fish and a flock of guinea fowl who although not very bright make very good alarm raisers. The most beautiful bird was the lilac breasted roller such a delightful looking bird with colourful plumage. Diane had been able to photograph an early rising roller all fluffed out in the cold morning, it did look like it had just got up. However the next photo showed one with a snake in its beak, how could such a beauty with its lilac breast and turquoise head do such a thing? (I do not like snakes...)

Thank you Diane.

The photographic group meets monthly on the 2nd Monday of the month. 10am – 12 noon

Judi Embling



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!



Company of Crafters

Meeting two of the Company of Crafters will be from 1:30 to 3:30 on 19th March at Carnival Hall. Hopefully, the door at the car park side will be open. Please bring your own tea or coffee on this occasion, and some 'portable craft' if you wish. As there were only eight of us at the first meeting, the main discussion item this time will be about the suitability of the venue.

Jan Moreland

Art, Architecture & Design Group

A Change is as Good as a Rest!

That phrase, in the title, comes from a poem widely published in newspapers and journals around 1857, the first two verses of which are reproduced below. The poem, which the unkind might call doggerel, goes on in similar vein for another nine verses – I'm sure you get the gist. The name of the author isn't known. However, these first verses read:

*'Ye votaries of sofas and beds
Ye sloths who exertion detest,
This maxim I wish to drive into your heads
A change is as good as a rest.*

*Ye children of Fashion and Wealth,
With countless indulgences blest,
Remember that indolence preyeth on health
A change is as good as a rest.'*

With all the Epstein news at the moment I guess that a lot of people in high places may want to reword that doggerel to: 'A change is to escape from arrest!' (Excuse the topical pun!)

Anyway, moving swiftly on, in our case it was a 'CHANGE' of venue to the Middle Hall at the United Reformed Church away from our usual Museum home. The reason for the change being that the heating there had failed, necessitating us to unfortunately postpone the January meeting to February. We felt we had a duty of care to our members not to give them hyperthermia after the (Christmas) wrapping-up necessary for our December meeting. However, the heating is now repaired and for the 'REST' of the year we shall be back at the Museum.

At our February meeting we had a good turnout with 23 of us hearing about: 'When Amy met Frances; the lives of Amy Krauss and Frances Hodgkins, their circle of LGBTQ+ artists and those others who supported and sponsored Frances Hodgkins.

These women and their circle have been the subject of a great deal of research over almost 25 years by Mike Allen, who gave the presentation. That depth of research may explain why this was a longer presentation than usual with a refreshment break after an hour and then continuing after the break for another 30 minutes or so. Even so most members stayed the course and seemed interested in the content asking many interesting questions afterwards. This broke our normal format for the meetings where we usually have an hour on the main subject followed by 30 minutes of: 'I Collect....'.



Frances Hodgkins leaving her cottage, Corfe Castle 1945



Potting Barn and Redlane Cottages, Corfe Castle. Home of Amy Krauss and where Frances Hodgkins often stayed. (Photo Mike Allen 2002)

On Friday 20th March we shall return to the Museum and our normal format. The first hour we will be 'putting the boot in' when we look at the history design and youth sub-culture prop that is the Dr Martens Boot, in a presentation titled: **'Dr Martens: German Roots, English Boots. The story that led to Rebellious self-expression.'** The story starts in Germany at the end of World War 2 and a skiing accident that led to the invention and design of a new type of sole, the growth of the concept and the licensing of a product to be designed and made in England in the area famous for boot making, Northamptonshire; and where even the Northampton Town football team is called 'The Cobblers'. Let's hope that the talk transcend that name and not also be – well again you get the gist!

After the break one of our members, Sheila Warner will be taking centre stage for the 'I Collect....' spot. Sheila will be telling us about her collection of not snuff boxes, but snuff bottles. These items, diminutive in scale, made sometimes of precious materials, and often highly decorated, have become an important art form and are now collected. This should be an interesting presentation with examples from her collection on display.

If you want to come along to our group then we still have space and you will be made very welcome. If you want more information about our past and future programme then please contact us by email at deliaallen2@aol.com If you are a u3a Member attending one of the other groups but have a particular interest in any aspect of Art, Architecture or Design or an interesting collection within these topics then maybe you could come along to a meeting and give your own presentation to the group?

One final point, we try to post regularly about our group, and group subject-related matters, to the u3a Burnham Facebook page. If you haven't visited yet then please do so and maybe give us a 'like'.

Delia and Mike Allen

DR.MARTENS...
GERMAN ROOTS, ENGLISH BOOTS.
The story that led to Rebellious self-expression



BURNHAM ON CROUCH u3a
ILLUSTRATED TALK
FRIDAY MARCH 20th 10.30am
AT THE BURNHAM MUSEUM LOWER 'COLE' GALLERY

I COLLECT...SNUFF BOTTLES



AN ILLUSTRATED TALK
u3a BURNHAM ON CROUCH,
ART, ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN GROUP
by SHEILA WARNER

FRIDAY MARCH 20th 10.30am
BURNHAM MUSEUM LOWER 'COLE' GALLERY

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 CM0 8HW**.



Bird & Wildlife Group

Hanningfield Reservoir, Wednesday 10th February

Nine of us were at the Essex Wildlife Trust visitor centre on an overcast but not cold morning. Luckily the rain which was forecast mainly held off, the sun even made an appearance which made the sightings much brighter and easier to identify. Despite the vast amount of rain we have had (it seems like forever), the reservoir was still very low, this may account for the lack of different species we saw although several were recorded.

Next meeting will be Wed 11th March at Heybridge Basin. 10am in Daisy Meadow car park.

Lynda Ewers

Black-backed Gull	Great Crested Grebe	Robin
Blackbird	Great Spotted	Shelduck
Black-headed Gull	Woodpecker (heard)	Sparrowhawk
Blue Tit	Great Tit	Starling
Buzzard	Greylag Goose	Teal
Canada Goose	Lapwing	Tufted Duck
Carriion Crow	Magpie	Wigeon
Goosander	Mallard *	Woodpigeon

** including one leucistic bird – this term refers to a lack of pigment (melanin), resulting in white or very pale colouring and can occur in birds, animals and humans*

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 doctors 8.55 am

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

Pitch and Putt

16th January

Six of us met on this occasion and the weather was cool but sunny and there was very little wind. The grass was wet but had been well maintained, and the course looked really good in the winter sun. Sue Ritter joined us for only her second time, and there were 3 other ladies and 2 male players. Lynn, Sue and Yve teed off in the first group, and Sue got a par 3 on the difficult 6th, chipping in from off the green. Lowest score of the day went to Lynn and Yve who both finished on 36. Phil won the second group of three with a 40. Karen got a very respectable 42 in the challenging conditions, and Ian got a 48. Sue got a 54 which was slightly more than her first attempt back in September but unfortunately incurred 3 eights, which didn't help. Lynn has now got 13 wins, Ian has got 11, and Yve has got 7. We all went for lunch after at the Fox and Hounds.



13th February

Seven of us met on a rather damp and cool day. Dave Newman joined us for the first time, and apparently, although he has played proper golf on and off in previous years, he had not played at all for the last two. The course was very, very wet due to an enormous amount of rain over the last 3 weeks. The grass was short and well kept, but due to the millions of worms that are enjoying this weather, the greens were absolutely covered in worm casts. Unbelievably, Lynn came in with the lowest score of the day with a 33. Incredible really because our lowest score ever is only 31 which Lynn managed to achieve on both occasions. Yve got 40, Dave got 43 but started with an unfortunate 8 on the first hole. Ian, Tony and Karen all got 46, and Janet had a bit of a shocker with a 70 but seems to be enjoying it and getting to know our regulars a bit better. Most of us went for lunch after at the Fox and Hounds.

The next meeting will be on Friday 13th March at 10.30.

Ian Parrott

Ten-Pin Bowling

January

Our first bowling session on 8th January was well-supported and was the day of our annual 'prize giving'. A big WELL DONE, and a small trophy, went to Tim, our highest scoring bowler of 2025 – his 211 will remain a top score for some time to come. Mind you, Lynne tried her best, bowling 187 and Diane R, one of those I considered to be 'most improved', jointly with Chris, bowled a fabulous year high of 172. It wasn't so long ago that Diane R struggled with gutter balls; persistence does count.

In our second session of 2026, Diane R got the highest score of the day with 147. Other prizes were the first strike of the year that went to Phil who was quick off the mark bowling a strike in his first frame; the highest number of strikes for that session went to Lynne.

The group has grown steadily, with 25 attending on 22nd January. Fortunately, the bowling alley is flexible and can accommodate us with extra lanes, 9 needed that day. We welcomed Jan & Jean into the group who have agreed to give a brief account of their first experience with the group. (I hope they like music from the 60s as it was particularly loud on that occasion!)

Diane Caulkett



Jan and I finally joined the 10-Pin Bowling Group on 22nd January, and everyone made us very welcome. We already knew quite a few people from our participation in other groups.

It was important to be at Madison Heights on time, and we were concerned about the traffic lights on the Maldon Road when going out of town, but we managed to arrive early. The ever-helpful John on the front desk sorted us out with bowling shoes and advised on how to select a suitable ball, in terms of weight and grip. Play started promptly at 2pm.

We had never played in our youth when bowling was most popular and at the time was even shown on TV. We had only played twice in the last 6 years, when family had come to visit us in Burnham. We were therefore complete novices, and I had my share of gutter balls, as expected. Jan fared a little better.

I shared a lane with Lynne and Anne, and they offered me much encouragement. Jan was with Tim and Diane C. so no pressure on either of us! And we have got a lot to learn about the bowling terminology and the rules as well.

We played two rounds, stopped for tea/coffee and then played a third round. The afternoon passed very quickly. We thoroughly enjoyed it and the loud 60s music added to the atmosphere.

On reflection, 10-Pin Bowling is clearly good for us. It involves physical, mental and social activities and the opportunity to develop new skills. We are looking forward to attending the next session.

Jean van der Schans



February

With Diane away in Oz it was me in charge, and of a very large group – 22!! Talk about a rabbit in headlights. I like to pretend I'm a capable person, but I have inner panic attacks. The WhatsApp group chat should make things easier, but with last minute no shows, or some you hadn't expected, the numbers you had organised on paper and pre- teamed up go out the window. Anyway, eventually we are distributed on 8 lanes.

The first strike of the day was Barry, our guest bowler, who missed the step and hit the deck, luckily no injury incurred. Not the first person to have done this. I thought I might have got the highest score on the first game, with a 136, but no, there is always someone to spoil your day, Tim achieved a nice 145, with Anne, his other half, getting the 3rd highest score of the first round with 124. Diane Raddon was a clear winner in the second round with 150, which was to be the highest of the afternoon. I took the final bowl with 131, with Anne W just 5 pins behind on 126.

High series: Lynne 373, Tim 340, Anne W 339

After a three-week gap allowing for half term, we were back, albeit in a much reduced capacity. Some on holiday, Anne W recovering from her hip replacement, illness, better offers..... So, 13 bowlers.

Tim took the first round AGAIN with 123, then he did even better in the second with 131, but this time, I got my own back for the last session and surpassed him with 136. But, the best score of the afternoon, came from one of our fairly new members, Barbara, who bowled a 138. Nice to have a different person taking the glory (just don't make a habit of it please).

High series: Lynne 375, Tim 372, Diane R 318.

Next bowl date 12th March.

Lynne Leech

Note: Ten-Pin Bowling has become so popular that it is currently full up. Please contact the group leader before turning up – you may be asked to join a waiting list.

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://u3afriends-extra.org.uk/a_/)

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

(<https://www.u3a.org.uk/get-involved/u3a-friends>)

A u3a podcast

(<https://www.u3a.org.uk/news/u3a-radio-podcast>)

The u3a learning programme

(<https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes>)

Online learning via Zoom

(<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>)

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

(<https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/u3a-matters/screen-reader-editions/u3a-matters-february-2026-screenreader-edition>)

Interest Groups

* – 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 lots of support to help new groups get started.

Day	Interest Group	Group Leader	Tel.	Email
Mon 10.00am (2 nd)	Photographic	Diane Raddon	01621 861899	diane.raddon@gmail.com
Mon 2.00pm (2 nd & 4 th)	Recorders	Linda Baxandall	01621 782298	lindabaxandall68@gmail.com
Mon 2.30pm (weekly)	Table Tennis 1	Eric Tremlett	07936 172582	e.tremlett@btinternet.com
Mon 2.30pm (last)	Garden Views *	Margaret Heel	01621 785846	-
Mon 2.30pm (3 rd)	Book Lovers *	Frances Harris	01621 783770	-
Tue (am) (4 th)	Walking	Diane Caulkett	01621 783786	-
Tue 2.00pm (weekly)	Badminton	Julie Thomas-Page		jtpinternet@gmail.com
Tue 5.00pm (weekly)	Line Dancing *	Anne Dowman	07753 121119	a.dowman@btinternet.com
Tue 2.00pm (2 nd)	Literary *	Sue Holmes	01621 782610	suejholmes@btinternet.com
Tue 7.00pm (weekly)	Bridge *	Liz Smith	07790 384005	-
Wed 10.00am (weekly)	Archaeology	Sue Spiers	01621 776570	sjrspiern@gmail.com
Wed (am) (2 nd)	Bird & Wildlife	Lynda Ewers	01621 741577 07467042654	ewerslynda49@gmail.com
Wed 10.00am (3 rd)	Family History *	Mary Hyde	01621 783143	-
Wed 10.00 (1 st)	Genealogy & Family History	Caroline O'Neill	07484 269215	caoneill15@gmail.com
Wed 10.30am (3 rd)	Garden Topics *	Pamela Burton	01621 779575	-
Wed 2.00pm (fortnightly)	Scrabble	Sandra Stocker	07535 651491	sandrad.richards@gmail.com
Wed 2.30pm (4 th) November - April	Winter Readers	Bev Abbott	01621 786005	bevabbott2000@yahoo.co.uk
Wed 2.30pm (weekly)	Table Tennis 2 *	Roy Hutchins	07710 534709	-
Wed 2.30pm (last)	Our Ancestry *	Peter Banham	01621 772668	peter@pwbanham.co.uk
Wed 3.00pm (1 st & 3 rd)	Pétanque	Gwen Pocock	01621 740703	gwendolinepocock@tiscali.co.uk
Thur 10.00am (weekly)	French *	Pam Eastham	01621 783453	-
Thur 1.30pm (3 rd)	Company of Crafters	Jan Moreland/ Julie Cleverley		jan.moreland@hotmail.co.uk
Thur 2.00pm (fortnightly during school terms)	10-Pin Bowling *	Diane Caulkett	01621 783786	-
Thur 3.00pm (2 nd)	The Literati	Phyllis Brame	01621 785669	-

Fri 10.30am (3 rd)	Art, Architecture & Design	Delia & Mike Allen	01621 784955	deliaallen2@aol.com
Fri 10.30am (2 nd)	Pitch and Putt	Ian Parrott	07890 600153	-
Fri 12.00pm (4 th)	Luncheon Homebirds *	Diane Raddon	01621 861899	diane.raddon@gmail.com
Fri 12.30pm (3 rd)	Luncheon Explorers	Josie Scroggs	01621 740457	-
Fri 2.00pm (weekly)	Mah Jong *	Terry Sims	01621 784102	-
Fri 2.30pm (2 nd & 4 th)	Alternative Therapies, Practices & Beliefs	Julie Thomas-Page	07771 611038	jtpinternet@gmail.com
Sat 10.00am (weekly)	Archaeology	Sue Spiers	01621 776570	sjrspiern@gmail.com
As Arranged	MOTO (Members On Their Own) *	Liz Smith	07790 384005	-

* 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.

Committee

Position	Name	Telephone	E-mail
Chair	Carl Hughes	07714 481205	
Vice-Chair	Dave Rae	07734 445452	
Secretary	Jo Gray	07801 555026	jo.gray1@outlook.com
Membership Secretary	Phil Flack	07788 907846	
Groups Co-ordinator	Pete Wardle	07788 566103	gc@bocu3a.org
Treasurer	Diane Raddon	01621 861899	treasurer@bocu3a.org
Webmaster	Graham Newman	07746 958690	graham@gb7.com
Social	Marilyn O'Doherty	07793 056313	
Speaker Co-ordinator	Maureen Rae	07969 617403	maureenrae88@outlook.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

19th March; 16th April; 21st May 2026



The deadline for copy for the April newsletter is NOON on Friday 27th March. Please email your contributions to pwardle@me.com. 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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