



Hummingbird

I can imagine, in some otherworld
Primeval-dumb, far back
In that most awful stillness, that only gasped and hummed,
Hummingbirds raced down the avenues.

Before anything had a soul,
While life was a heave of Matter, half inanimate,
This little bit chipped off in brilliance
And went whizzing through the slow, vast, succulent stems.

I believe there were no flowers, then,
In the world where the hummingbird flashed ahead of creation.
I believe he pierced the slow vegetable veins with his long beak.

Probably he was big
As mosses, and little lizards, they say were once big.
Probably he was a jabbing terrifying monster.
We look at him through the wrong end of the long telescope of Time,
Luckily for us.

By D H Lawrence

Published in the 1923 collection Birds, Beasts and Flowers

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: page 3

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From the Chair

Hello Members,

Well, having poked fun at our normally one week Summer, I think I will have to eat my words, especially as I am writing this as we are just about to go into to our third heat wave!

I hope for those of you that joined the trip to Sutton Hoo had an enjoyable day out, I know from some of the feedback that it seemed to go well, and I would like to thank Probus for joining with us on the trip! Building on the Sutton Hoo trip and learning from the feedback we hope to get the organisation a bit easier next time.

On a different note, the Committee are busy organising a late summer picnic for our September monthly meetings The picnic will be provided by Peaberrys and we also have a local Vineyard coming in to do an English wine tasting, and although you can't physically buy the wine from them that day (licencing rules) I'm sure that you would be able to place an order to be collected later, however please feel free to bring your own wine etc for the afternoon (teas and coffee will also be available, but no Jammy Dodgers!) it will be a ticket only event and the price of the tickets are £10.00 each

Our next talk should prove to be something different as we have Lindsey Barrel (Aka Ms Cherry Bombe) coming in to talk about Burlesque, so hopefully see you there.

Carl

SUMMER PICNIC

Tickets for the Summer Picnic will be available for purchase at our August meeting on 7th August, or contact Marilyn O'Doherty (07793 056313) or Diane Raddon (01621 861899) if you are unable to make that meeting.

Monthly Meeting Dates

(2.15 for 2.30 pm)

Burnham Village Hall CMO 8EF

Dates (Fridays)	Speaker	Subject
7 th August 2026	Lindsey Barrel	<i>Burlesque</i>
4 th September 2026		<i>Social Afternoon</i>
2 nd October 2026	Jill Hipsey	<i>Battle of Maldon Embroidery</i>



ART, ARCHITECTURE and DESIGN GROUP

When we met in July it seemed ages since our previous meeting back in May when the temperatures were a lot cooler than this prolonged heatwave. Normally we moan that the museum lower gallery is too cold, but that wasn't the case at the July meeting!

However, the missing month was more than adequately filled with The Burnham Art Trail. Roger Barcroft, one of our Group members and one of the major players in the Art Trail, told us at the May meeting it would be good, but he vastly understated just how good! It was a bumper year with some fantastic art on show and for sale. And as you would expect, many of us added to our collections!



Back to basics. Our subjects at the July meeting were firstly Gertrude Jekyll. Following on from our Edwin Lutyens talk it seemed clear that she deserved a session devoted to herself. The title 'Beyond the Boots' was already taken so ours was called 'Gertrude Jekyll, Artist, Craftswoman and then there was Gardening'. We explored her life and the changes she had to make when her eyesight failed.

In the "I Collect..." presentation that followed we looked at Dartington Glass and Frank Thrower who was their main designer for many years. He was a dashing, good looking, E Type Jaguar driving, successful artist and manager and this impinged on his personal life with affairs and divorce. But in no way can you take away his contribution to changing the face of glass design in the UK by taking on board Scandinavian influences.



Our August meeting will look at Clarice Cliff. She was another designer who with her vision completely altered the look of British factory ceramics and how, as a woman with a working-class background, she rose through the ranks at the Wilkinson and Newport Potteries to dominate what had previously been a male domain; with her secret scandalous affair along the way.

For 'I collect...' we shall stick with glass and this time look at Whitefriars Glass and the art of James Powell and Sons. This company started around 1830 but closed its stained-glass department in 1973; then completely shut down its manufacturing operations and furnaces in December 1980 due to high fuel costs, recessions, and uncompetitive market pressures.

I'm sure that many of the u3a members, other than those that attend our meetings, have collections or knowledge of Art, Architecture and Design. So, if any of you would like to moonlight to our group and give your own presentations then you will be very welcome. But also, if you just want to come along to see what we are about, you will be very welcome and, as an incentive, just to let you know, we often have chocolate biscuits in the break!

Our next meeting is on Friday August 21st at 10.30am in the lower gallery (the Cole Gallery) at Burnham Museum. See you there?

Delia and Mike Allen – Group Leaders

'HOW BIZARRE'

A Potted History of the
Life and Work of
CLARICE CLIFF



AN ILLUSTRATED TALK
ART, ARCHITECTURE and DESIGN GROUP
BURNHAM ON CROUCH u3a
Burnham Museum Lower Gallery
Friday August 21st 10.30am

HAND PAINTED
Bizarre
by
Clarice Cliff
NEWPORT POTTERY
ENGLAND

'I Collect ...Whitefriars Glass'
The glass of James Powell & Sons



BURNHAM ON CROUCH u3a ART, ARCHITECTURE and DESIGN GROUP
An illustrated talk on Friday August 21st
BURNHAM ON CROUCH MUSEUM LOWER GALLERY

Your Garden in August

August is the warm, mellow heart of the gardening year. Many plants are at their peak, vegetables are ready to pick, and the garden has a relaxed, late-summer feel. For older gardeners, it's a month that rewards gentle pottering and quiet enjoyment rather than strenuous work.

Plants Shining This Month

Sedums begin to colour now, attracting butterflies and bees. Their sturdy stems and neat habit make them ideal for low-maintenance borders.

Japanese Anemones provide elegant, long-lasting flowers in pinks and whites. They're perfect for brightening shadier areas and will return reliably each year.

Crocsmia adds fiery splashes of red and orange. Once established, it needs very little care and spreads gradually.

Late-flowering Clematis varieties such as *Clematis viticella* are in full swing, offering delicate blooms that climb through shrubs or trellises.

In the vegetable patch, **runner beans**, **tomatoes**, **sweetcorn**, and **late raspberries** are all ready for harvesting. Picking regularly keeps plants productive and reduces waste.

Jobs for August

- **Water thoughtfully** — Hot spells can still catch us out. A deep soak once or twice a week is better than daily sprinkling.
- **Collect seeds** from hardy annuals like poppies and nigella. Store them in paper envelopes for sowing next spring.
- **Cut back spent perennials** to keep borders tidy and encourage fresh growth.
- **Prune summer-fruiting raspberries** by removing the canes that have already fruited.
- **Keep dead-heading** roses, dahlias, and cosmos to extend their display well into September.
- **Check ponds and bird baths** — Top up water levels and remove algae to support wildlife during warm weather.

Enjoy Late Summer's Calm

August invites slower moments: sitting under a tree, enjoying the scent of herbs, or watching butterflies drift across the garden. It's a time to appreciate what you've grown and to take pride in the colour and life you've encouraged. Whether your garden is large or modest, August offers a peaceful, rewarding pause before autumn's changes begin.

Bird and Wildlife Group

Creeksea July 2026.

Four members braved the hot weather and after some refreshment did a short circular walk from the Parlour Cafe to the river and back. I discovered a footpath I didn't know about (I have lived in the area for forty years!) As they say, it is never too late to discover things... We did not see many birds as was expected but several species of butterflies and dragon/damsel flies. At least they like the heat, unlike some of us humans.

There is no meeting in August as there is not much about, but the September meeting will be at 10am on the 9th at Heybridge Basin. There will be some flyers present at the August 7th general meeting in the Village Hall

Lynda Ewers

<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Birds</u>	<u>Other Insects</u>
Black Horehound	Little Egret	Hover Fly
Bramble	Blackbird	Ruddy Darter
Bristly Ox-Tongue	Blackcap	Wasp
Common Sorrel	Common Gull	
Creeping Buttercup	Herring Gull	
Daisy	Oystercatcher	<u>Mammals</u>
Field Bindweed	Wood Pigeon	Grey Squirrel
Greater Willowherb		
Hedge Bindweed		
Mouse Ear Hawkweed	<u>Butterflies</u>	
Nipplewort	Marbled White	
Ribwort Plantain	Red Admiral	
Salsify	Comma	
Sea Beet	Painted Lady	
Small-flowered Cranesbill	Common Blue	
Smooth Sow Thistle	Gatekeeper	
Spear Thistle	Large White	
Stinging Nettle	Skippers (various)	
White Clover	Small White	
White Dead Nettle	Speckled Wood	
Wild Carrot		
Woody Nightshade		
Yarrow		

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>)



Winter Readers Group

Our Winter Readers group, as its name suggests, meets during the cooler months, between about October and April. There should be room for one or two new members when the group re-starts later this year. If you are interested, please contact the group leader Bev Abbott (<https://bocu3a.org/go/winterreaders>).

Pete Wardle

Groups Co-ordinator

Interest Groups

Day	Interest Group	Group Leader	Tel.	More Details & Contact Online
Mon 10.00am (2 nd)	Photographic	Diane Raddon	01621 861899	More Details
Mon 2.00pm (2 nd & 4 th)	Recorders	Linda Baxandall	01621 782298	More Details
Mon 2.30pm (weekly)	Table Tennis 1	Eric Tremlett	07936 172582	More Details
Mon 2.30pm (last)	Garden Views *	Margaret Heel	01621 785846	More Details
Mon 2.30pm (3 rd)	Book Lovers *	Frances Harris	01621 783770	More Details
Tue (am) (4 th)	Walking	Diane Caulkett	01621 783786	More Details
Tue 2.00pm (weekly)	Badminton	Julie Thomas-Page		More Details
Tue 5.00pm (weekly)	Line Dancing *	Anne Dowman	07753 121119	More Details
Tue 2.00pm (2 nd)	Literary *	Sue Holmes	01621 782610	More Details
Tue 7.00pm (weekly)	Bridge *	Liz Smith	07790 384005	More Details
Wed 10.00am (weekly)	Archaeology	Sue Spiers	01621 776570	More Details
Wed (am) (2 nd)	Bird & Wildlife	Lynda Ewers	01621 741577 07467042654	More Details
Wed 10.00 (1 st)	Genealogy & Family History	Caroline O'Neill	07484 269215	More Details
Wed 10.30am (3 rd)	Garden Topics *	Pamela Burton	01621 779575	More Details
Wed 2.00pm fortnightly	Scrabble	Sandra Stocker	07535 651491	More Details
Wed 2.30pm (4 th)	Winter Readers	Bev Abbott	01621 786005	More Details
November - April				
Wed 2.30pm (weekly)	Table Tennis 2 *	Roy Hutchins	07710 534709	More Details
Wed 2.30pm (last)	Our Ancestry *	Peter Banham	01621 772668	More Details
Wed 3.00pm (1 st & 3 rd)	Pétanque	Gwen Pocock	01621 740703	More Details
Thur 10.00am (weekly)	French *	Pam Eastham	01621 783453	More Details
Thur 1.00pm (3 rd)	Company of Crafters	Julie Cleverley	07961 496296	More Details
Thur 2.00pm (fortnightly during school terms)	10-Pin Bowling	Diane Caulkett	01621 783786	More Details
Thur 3.00pm (2 nd)	The Literati	Phyllis Brame	01621 785669	More Details
Fri 10.30am (3 rd)	Art, Architecture & Design	Delia & Mike Allen	01621 784955	More Details
Fri 10.30am (2 nd)	Pitch and Putt	Ian Parrott	07890 600153	More Details
Fri 12.00pm (4 th)	Luncheon Homebirds *	Diane Raddon	01621 861899	More Details
Fri 12.30pm (3 rd)	Luncheon Explorers	Josie Scroggs	01621 740457	More Details
Fri 2.00pm (weekly)	Mah Jong *	Terry Sims	01621 784102	More Details
Fri 2.30pm (2 nd & 4 th)	Alternative Therapies, Practices & Beliefs	Julie Thomas-Page	07771 611038	More Details
Sat 10.00am (weekly)	Archaeology	Sue Spiers	01621 776570	More Details
As Arranged	MOTO (Members On Their Own) *	Liz Smith	07790 384005	More Details

* 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	Telephone	Name
Chair	07714 481205	Carl Hughes
Vice-Chair	07734 445452	Dave Rae
Secretary	07801 555026	Jo Gray
Membership Secretary	07989 713218	Jac Mills
Groups Co-ordinator	07788 566103	Pete Wardle
Treasurer	01621 861899	Diane Raddon
Webmaster	07746 958690	Graham Newman
Events Co-ordinator	07793 056313	Marilyn O'Doherty
Communications Co-ordinator	07788 907846	Phil Flack
Speaker Co-ordinator	07969 617403	Maureen Rae
New Members Ambassador	07340 522439	Margaret Lambert

Committee members may be contacted individually via our website.

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

For general enquiries, please use following 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

20th August; 17th September; 15th October



The deadline for copy for the September newsletter is NOON on Friday 28th August. 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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