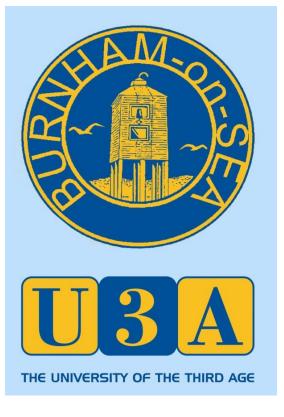
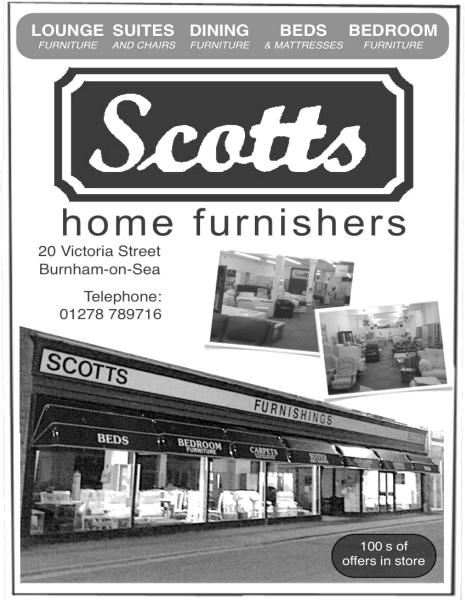
BURNHAM U3A MAGAZINE



Autumn 2024 www.burnhamu3a.com

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Burnham-on-Sea U3A

(Charity No 1068271)

Honorary President **Ken Hindle** Telephone 787831 or email: president<a>burnhamu3a.com

Web-site: www.burnhamu3a.com

Committee

Chairman – Gail Norton chairman<a>burnhamu3a.com328922Treasurer - Joan Holderness treasurer<a>burnhamu3a.com07535736734Secretary - Geoff Banham secretary<a>burnhamu3a.com07766670737Website, Magazine Editor - Harriet Browne
editor<a>burnhamu3a.com795258Groups Coordinators vacant refer to chair - groups<a>burnhamu3a.comMembership Secvacant - membsec<a>burnhamu3a.comMagazine Distributor - vacant
Coffee Morning & Refreshments Brenda Dibley782150

coffees <a>burnhamu3a.com							
Community Centre Rep – Paul Hambleton							
paul <a>burnhamu3a.com							
Facebook Admin - Gail Norton gail <a>burnhamu3a.com	328922						

Member Key Roles

Coffee Morning -Brenda Dibley coffees<a>burnhamu3a.com 782150 Minutes Secretary - vacant Cashier - vacant Day Trips Organiser – Gerry Richards/Marilyn Nicholls daytrips<a> burnhamu3a.com 783372 Archivist - Veronica Richardson 773705 NSAU3As Representatives Geoff Banham 07766670737 Welcome & New Members Liaison - Rachel Rowse & team 792618 Equipment Officer - vacant Speaker Organiser - Gail Norton gail<a>burnhamu3a.com 328922 Quizzes - Judith Betts

All email addresses must have <a> replaced with @ to be valid. This is to prevent spamming of these addresses.

Coffee Morning Serving Rota



26th September 3rd October 10th October 17th October 24th October 31st October 7th November 14th November 21st November 28th November 5th December 12th December French 4 German Lunch club 2 Painting for pleasure Poetry Philosophy 1 Philosophy 2 Philosophy 3 Spanish Supper club Supper club 2 Table tennis 1

Coffee is served from 9:45 to 11:15 Swaps may be made by mutual agreement between groups but please let Brenda Dibley know on 782150 before the day.

The Thursday Quiz is provided thanks to Judith Betts

Message from the Editor

Hi all,

This is the Autumn magazine, doesn't time go fast these days! We have all the usual information, about the changes to the groups and new things that have been offered.



We have an interesting article about two of our older members. Doreen and Michael Velleman. When they were young, they fostered children who needed a stable home. The account had been printed in a newspaper some 30 years ago, and Doreen passed this on to me.

I am sure there are many others of our members who have done remarkable things in the past. I do like to get a story like that for the Magazine. In fact, I would be very grateful for such articles, or stories about what you do nowadays.

There have been events run by the Third Age Trust nationally where any U3A member can go. If you do, please let all our members know what and why.

If I can't get contributions, either I write it all myself, or the magazine will fold B.

And the Vellemans are still in the news, see the back cover about their Diamond Wedding Anniversary, and the letter from the King!

Happy Autumn

Harriet Browne

Chair's Message

Hello Everyone,

In the Summer magazine I wrote about looking forward to the sunshine, but we still have not seen much of it. Perhaps we can look forward to an "Indian Summer"! We have a busy time ahead of us, starting with a Tea Party in memory of Janet Hill on Friday 13th September. This is a joint venture



by the U3A and the Friends of the Community Centre. Janet did a great deal for both organisations, including selling books and jigsaws in her front garden. This was especially useful during Covid, when she raised a significant amount of money for the Community Centre to help ensure it would remain as a vital part of the Burnham on Sea community. The Tea Party will include completing a jigsaw, which will then be framed in memory of Janet. Please let me know if you are planning to attend the Tea Party, so we can organise the catering. Donations will be welcomed.

During September we will also be holding an afternoon tea for our Group Leaders. This is to thank them for their work for the U3A, as well as ensuring they are up to date with current information.

On Friday 27th September we will be having a Social Evening, which will also be a Speaker Event with Emma Britton, talking about her work as a Radio Somerset and Radio Bristol presenter and as a Celebrant. Tickets are available at Coffee Mornings, or contact me.

On Saturday 12th October we will have our annual Open Day, to show local people what is available at Burnham on Sea U3A. Groups will be asked to attend to publicise their activities.

A further Speaker Event is planned for Friday 8th November, when I will be talking about the island of Mauritius. Tickets will be available nearer the event.

There are many Day Trips planned over the next few months to Exmoor and Minehead, Hereford, Poole and Cardiff for Christmas shopping! These trips are always very popular, so many thanks to our organisers for their continued hard work.

Finally, we have a date for our Christmas Carol Service - Wednesday 18th December. The service will be led by our President, Ken Hindle, and refreshments will be available in the church after the service. Ken has recently celebrated his 90th birthday, but continues to work tirelessly as President of both our U3A and the Community Centre. Best wishes,

Gail Norton

Fostering

Half a lifetime ago, Michael and Doreen Velleman were living in Slough. They had two children of their own at that time, but, having moved to a house with a spare room, they decided to become foster parents. Their first charge was a 4 year old West Indian boy, who had asthma and had to go to hospital quite often. He had other problems too, and the Vellemans felt he was probably the most difficult child to deal with. He stayed with them for two years, and eventually went back to his father when he had somewhere to live. By then his asthma had cleared and he was quite well. And he came back to tell them how he was, and that he had a dog!

Next came two little West Indian girls, age 3 and 18 months. And then other children, all needing a stable home. Eventually, they had a girl who was going to be with them a long time until she had grown up, which called for a different attitude.

Though they were not a wealthy couple, they were happy to share what they had with the children in their care. More than material wealth, they have reserves of patience, kindness, good sense and affection that insecure and rejected children need.

When they applied, the Vellemans didn't know they would be paid, but they were. Rates depend on the age of the child, and there are other allowances for special things like school uniforms and holidays.

The Vellemans don't recommend fostering to anyone. "I think you need children of your own, so the child gets used to family life ", said Doreen. The most important thing is to make sure the child knows he is going to leave one day. It is fatal to let him think he is staying forever. Although we got attached to all our foster children we always remind ourselves that one day they will leave us."

Putting it all together, what did they get out of fostering? Doreen said, "Fostering is a marvellous experience, and I think it has taught us and our family a lot. Our neighbours were always interested in what we were doing, and asked us who would be next to come to stay. It is very rewarding, Even if you have a problem with a child, it's great when you overcome it So many people say to us that they couldn't do it. But we are only an ordinary family, nothing very special. So many other families with a room to spare could do it if they tried".

From a newspaper article of the time, provided by Doreen Velleman

GROUP NEWS

YOGA TUESDAY MORNINGS

Yoga classes began about 4 years ago with U3A and I believe that I am one of the original participants. I am a 72 year old male, not the archetypal example of a young, bendy female.

Originally, I was grunting, puffing and panting to achieve any of the socalled easy poses. Laraine would chastise me by saying, "age is just a number, you are not old." Since then, I can now perform without the dramatics, as things became easier and my flexibility increased. For some time, I was the only male in the class which was slightly disconcerting when practising with ten ladies but recently we have another man who has joined the group.

In one of our lessons, Laraine was pointing out the benefits of yoga, good flexibility, supple muscles and a healthy body and mind. I did have to point out the one disadvantage for me. I am the only person in my household capable of getting down on the floor to clean it!

I still find the classes extremely inspiring thanks to Laraine's commitment and dedication. Since the pandemic, we have been a small group practising in the Community Centre but we are soon to expand our class, please read below.

Phil Hemming

WE ARE MOVING!

The Tuesday morning yoga group is moving to Mark Village Hall on 3rd September 2024. We have had a waiting list for many months and, as much as we love being in the Community Centre, we have outgrown the space. We can now accommodate everyone on the waiting list and any new members who would like to join us. If you don't drive and would like to come, there are lovely members who can offer you a lift. Parking is free at Mark. We are also happy for you to try the first session free of charge but you must be a member of U3A or an affiliate group, even though we are no longer based in the Burnham Community Centre. The postures are gentle and you move according to your ability and limitations. Everyone can benefit from an hour and half, (we start at 10.00), of gentle movement, breathing and guided relaxation. The only ability you need to have, is to be able to sit on, and get up from, the mat unaided. You will need a non-slip yoga mat, a blanket and to wear loose clothing. If you would like to try, you can reach me on my email: bridgeslaraine3@gmail.com or 01278 641853. Peace and love Laraine Bridges

DAY TRIP to Bridport and West Bay

In June we travelled to Bridport for a busy Market Day, and were greeted by friendly stall holders with a broad variety of products. Some of us were fascinated by plants that can catch flies.

There were also fine eating and drinking establishments. And a variety of specialist shops, one of which was like a Tardis, where we spent time trying on a selection of hats, and other accessories!

Then in the afternoon our coach driver took us to West Bay, for ice creams, a busy harbour walk, and special cliffs views in the Bay. It was a very enjoyable day trip, with good weather, a choice of places to eat and drink and great organisation from our remarkable Day Trips Team.





Bridport



Niki Bowden



Sidmouth



DAY TRIP to Sidmouth 7/8/24

Our annual day trip to Sidmouth Folk Festival Week. Once again we had two coaches of happy day trippers for the Festival. The weather looked threatening once or twice but remained dry but cloudy and humid. There is always a wonderful lively atmosphere in Sidmouth during Folk week. Four of our U3A members got into the spirit of the Festival by dressing as Pirates for the day, Brenda Dibley, Chris Russell, Kathy May and Maggie Kelly.

Their costumes were imaginative and impressive.

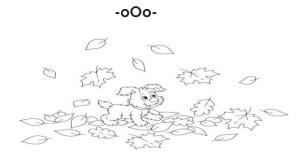
Several of us had coffee on the terrace of The Belmont on the sea front and were treated to the sight of three Birds of Prey on their perches on the putting green at the front of the hotel. Bonny, Derek and Ruby are regular visitors to the delight of hotel guests but obviously not to the seagulls who made a quick disappearing act. Bonny and Derek pictured, Ruby had gone with her owner for her breakfast.

Gerry Richards

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TABLE TENNIS 4 is looking for new members. We play on Tuesday mornings from 9.30am to 11.00am at The Baptist Church in College Street. It is a very friendly group who welcome players of all levels, although some previous experience would be an advantage.

If you would like to know more please contact Carol Marriott on 01278 795773 or just turn up on Tuesday morning.



THE WALKING GROUP

The Walking group have had some very pleasant walks this year. In July and August we had a couple of walks in North Somerset in Goblin Combe (led by Sandra Mathews) and in Burrington Combe (led by new member Ian Rix). The walks are typically 6 to 8 miles long, sometimes with inclines (euphemism for hills!). If you are interested in joining the group please contact group leaders Jean Fincken or Chris Preston (the contact details are at the end of the magazine) The photo shown shows some of the group in Burrington Combe with a view over the Blagdon Lake.



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The Carrington Effect

Earlier this year, there was a view of auroras, the Northern Lights, seen at places far to the south of where they are usually seen. Not only all over the British Isles but also into Europe. This was the result of a coronal mass ejection (CME) from the surface of the Sun.

A CME is a vast cloud of electrically charged particles from the Sun's upper atmosphere or corong that is heated to enormous temperatures, and launched with a huge burst of speed by the energy released in a solar flare.. They don't present a direct threat to life on Earth, but they can damage the technologies on which human society depends. On 1st September 1859 a British Astronomer, Richard Carrington, studying sunspots, witnessed a massive solar flare for the first time. This flare caused aurorae to be seen all round the world, as far south as the Caribbean. The aurora was so bright over the Rocky Mountains, that it woke miners who started making breakfast thinking it was morning. The gurorae were visible from the poles to low latitude greas, such as south Mexico, Cuba, Hawaii and even as close to the Equator as Colombia. It also caused sparking and fires in multiple telegraph stations, which was the extent of modern technology at the time. Less severe storms occurred in 1921 and in 1960, when widespread radio disruption was reported. In 1989 a CME knocked out power over large sections of Quebec.

In July 2012 a Carrington class super-storm was observed, but its trajectory narrowly missed the Earth!

In 1859, there were only telegraph stations to be disrupted. In 2024 we are totally dependent on electronics. We could have lost our power grids and lines, radio and television and the Internet too. Most of these have surely been given some protection with our current knowledge of the science. It did hit Europe, Australia and China and took out all their Radio transmissions. It must have also missed our satellites in low earth orbit, or we could have lost most communications around the world including GPS.

These events usually happen when the Sun is most active. The Sun has a cycle of 11 years from being fairly quiet to very busy, and back again. Right now, the Sun is at its maximum and will get quieter over the next 5 years, until it starts to build to the next maximum.

We were lucky this time.

Harriet Browne

OPEN DAY

Our U3A will be holding an Open Day on Saturday 12th October at the Burnham Community Centre on Berrow Rd. The event will run from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm. Many of our groups will be displaying their activities at the event. This is aimed at publicising our U3A, attracting new members and encouraging existing members to consider joining some of the other groups. The day will be publicised via the website <u>www.BOS.com</u>, via local media, our own website and with fliers. Please encourage friends and family to come along if they wish to know more about the U3A.

OTHER EVENTS

Group Leaders Meeting – 14th September, 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm at the Community Centre.

A Speaker Event is planned for Friday 8th November, when the talk will be about the island of Mauritius.

The Christmas Carol Service - Wednesday 18th December. 10.30

CHEESE AND WINE SOCIAL

Emma Britton from Radio Somerset will be giving a talk at our social evening on Friday 27th September starting at 7 pm at the Community Centre.

Friday Nov 1st James Bond Casino evening No money involved Dress theme ; James Bond Style

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OUR U3A COMMITTEE

We are a Registered Charity, managed by a Committee of Trustees : The Committee helps provide an environment for social interaction, learning and to go on day trips and holidays

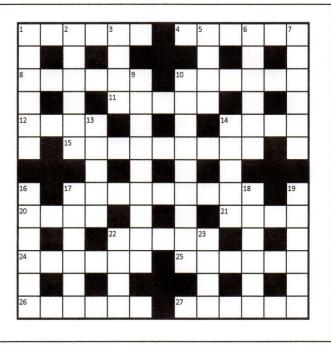
: The Committee, especially the Treasurer, take responsibility for keeping us solvent and fulfilling our financial obligations (eg to the Third Age Trust and our HQ the Community Centre)

We strive to run our U3A successfully, but the key point is that we are a team of volunteers who give up their time to create an enjoyable experience for as many members as possible

At the AGM several of our Committee members stood down from the roles they have been carrying out and we are in need of new Committee members. We thank those officers who have been carrying out those roles.

(Please see Page 5 for the numbers of vacancies)

Crossword 47



Across

- 1) Reptile
- 4) Aid, help
- 8) New soldiers
- 10) Outlaw or robber
- 11) Shave a sheep
- 12) Oceans
- 14) eg Rib, kneecap
- 15) He makes things from wood
- 17) Bag carried on your back
- 20) Riverside plant
- 21) It grows on your head
- 22) Type of snake
- 24) Humped animals
- 25) Old Italian soldiers
- 26) Loathe, hate
- 27) Rely on

Down

- 1) Crop destroying grasshopper
- 2) Signs such as Leo, Aries
- 3) Rodents
- 5) It twinkles in the night sky
- 6) Opposite of outdoor
- 7) Cockney for hat
- 9) They tend their flocks
- 10) Stair rail
- 13) Cold meal
- 14) Area at the seaside
- 16) Costed
- 17) One who lives in solitude
- 18) Oriental unarmed combat
- 19) Rubbed out
- 22) Swiss mountains
- 23) English flower

Veronica Richardson

answers p 22

BURNHAM ON SEA U3A – GROUPS DIRECTORY

Name	Leader	Contact no.	Meeting details	Venue
Book 1	Anne Morris	793355	Every 3 rd Fri, 2- 4 pm	Private address
Book 3	Diane Cruickshank	787856	Last Thurs of month 2- 4	СС
Brush Strokes	Sue Meads	792021	Fridays10:0 – 12.00	СС
Burnham U3A Singers	Marilyn Nicholls	780020	Every 2 nd Weds 2 - 4	CC
Classical Music 1	Roy West	324020	2 nd & 4 th Mon, 2 – 4 pm	Private address
Classical Music 2	Ken Henton	641278	1 st & 3 rd Mon, 2 – 4 pm	Private address
Classical Music 3 - G&S Operetta	Paul Hambleton	01278 788452	3 rd Friday	Private Address
Craft & Card Making	Jenny Collins	327100	1 st &3 rd Weds 2-4pm	CC Room 3
Creative Writing	Niki Bowden	787022	1 st Friday, 10 - 12	СС
Day Trips	Gerry Richards	01278 783372	At Coffee am R4	
Exercise to Music	David Napper	792371	Every Friday 10 – 11am	CC
French 1	Kathy Harrison	<mark>07899 922919</mark>	Weds 2:30 - 4:00	CC
French 2	Colette Winfield	238583	Thursday 10 – 11 am	CC
French 3	Geoff Banham	07766 670737	Tues 10 - 11 am	CC
French 4	Robert Bridges	641853	Fri 10 -11.30	CC
La Table Francaise	Robert Bridges	641853	Monday 11 – 12.30	Dunstan Hotel
Keep Fit	Rosemary Lane	786054	Thurs 10 am	CC
German for beginners	Gail Norton	07883 005115	Tues 2-3 pm	СС

	14.2. T	07515/00070	Ond	
Lunch'n Club 2	Maria Tucker	07515682079	2 nd	
			Monday, 12.30	Various
Needlework	Julie Challacombe	323573	Friday 2-4	CC
Painting for pleasure	Jane Lee	783511	Every Wed 10-12	CC
Patchwork	Julie Challacombe	07766520781.	Every Tues 2 - 4	CC
Poetry etc	Colette Winfield	238583	Every 2 nd Thurs 2-4	Private address
Philosophy 1	Katrina Gardiner		1 st & 3 rd Thurs am	Private Address
Philosophy 2	Margaret Stewart	256376 or 07980001343	Alt Fridays am	Private address
Philosophy 3	Roger Miller	784658	Alt Thurs pm	Private Address
Rummikub	Pat Reid	780806	Mon 2-4 pm	CC
Short Walks	Julie Esnouf	07916517774	Monday	Various
Spanish	Sue Royle	07837957588	Tues eve 7- 8pm	CC
Supper Club	Christine & Allen Owen	784500	Last Weds even	various
Supper Club 2	Wendy Westwood	01278 789684		
Table Tennis 1	J Robinson	787200	Every Wed 2 – 4 pm	Bay Club
Table Tennis 2/3	Ian Nield	751533	Friday 2- 4pm	Ba Club
Table Tennis 4	Carol Marriott	795773	Every Tue 9.30 – 10.30	Baptist Ch. Hall
Table Tennis Beginners	Peter Manning	07976408843	1 st & 3 rd Sat 10.30 – 11.30	As above
Ukulele	Terry Smith	01934 615987	Mon 2 - 4	CC
Walking	Jean Fincken & Christine Preston	07939 939204 07584016622	Wednesday	See prog'me
Yoga	Laraine Bridges	641853	Every Tues 10 - 11:30	Mark Vill. Hall

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- Nail cutting & filing
- Ingrowing nails
- Skin Conditions:
- Callus
- Corns
- Verrucas
- Athletes foot

All our treatments are finished with a relaxing foot balm massage



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Crossword Answers

Across: 1) Lizard, 4) Assist, 8) Cadets, 10) Bandit, 11) Shear, 12) Seas, 14) Bone, 15) Carpenter, 17) Haversack, 20) Reed, 21) Hair, 22) Adder, 24) Camels, 25) Romans, 26) Detest, 27) Depend. Down: 1) Locust, 2) Zodiac, 3) Rats, 5) Star, 6) Indoor, 7) Titfer, 9) Shepherds, 10) Bannister, 13) Salad, 14) Beach, 16) Priced, 17) Hermit, 18) Karate, 19) Erased, 22) Alps, 23) Rose.

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Congratulations to Doreen & Mick Velleman on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 27th July 2024



We are to plented to hear that you are coherating your Diamond Wedding more on 20th Ddy, 2024. This brings you use comparishing and hearthis good webs happy eccention. asille Channel Mr. and Mrs. Michael Velleman