

The Buntingford Banner

Learn, Laugh & Live!



www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford/home

Chairman's Remarks

I hope that you have been enjoying a little bit more freedom now that the government has been easing restrictions. Being able to meet family is a huge bonus although getting a haircut seems to be high on the priority list for many people (I'm happy for Kate to have another hack at mine)! Unfortunately, with the virus still lurking out there and the demographic of the U3A membership we feel that we need to be very cautious before we restart any face to face meetings. With that in mind we again held the July monthly meeting using Zoom and will do the same for August. I was the only one to ask a question at the end of the meeting so I don't think we have cracked how to take questions, but we'll keep working on it!

I look forward to seeing you at the August meeting.

Take care & stay safe, *Jim Farquhar*

Dates for your diaries:

Members Zoom Meeting: August 10th Kath Reynolds "Gym slips & Chalkboards": Kath's talks and reminiscence sessions reflect a great many years of collecting stories, memories and musings from the people of Staffordshire and surrounding counties. An interactive schooldays reminiscence session recalling the highlights of the "best days of our lives" - uniforms, books and poems, times tables, inkwells...and playtime! We may even have a quick look at discipline...

Want a Chat?

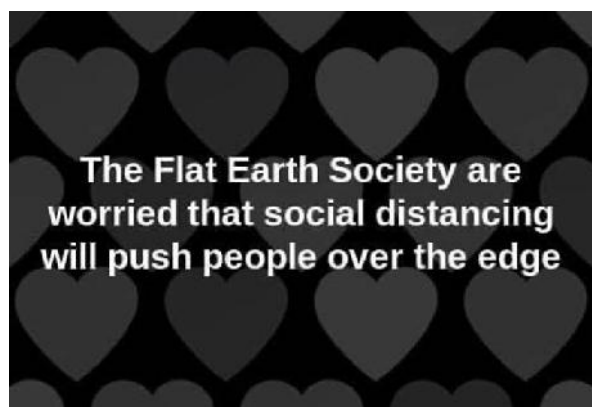
Like someone to chat to when we are all in self isolation?

Contact Val Reedman via BuntingfordU3A@gmail.com or 01763 272135

Articles, Jokes, Quizzes, News, Photos etc for members?

Thanks for the newsletter content sent and included this month. If you have more of interest to our please send them to the editor, Kate Farquhar, at BuntingfordU3Anews@gmail.com.

The closing date for the next issue is 1st August 2020.



With thanks to Ron Brighten for these and other visual jokes in this newsletter

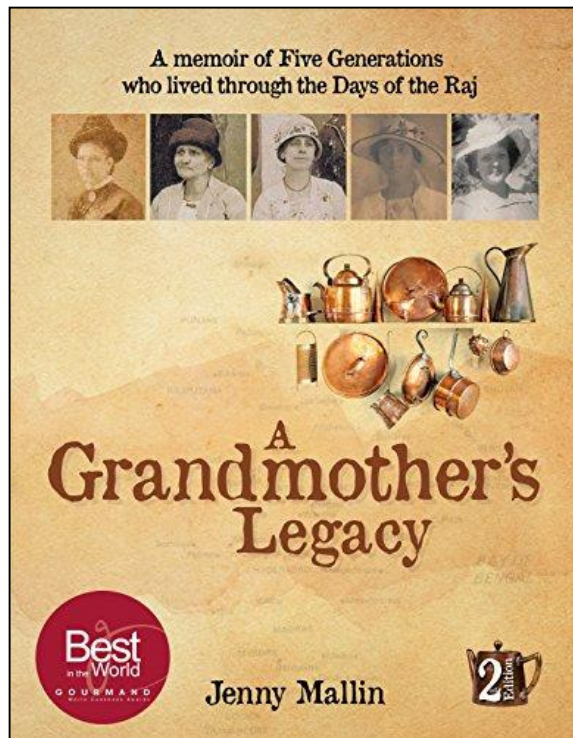


July Zoom Meeting Speaker: Jenny Mallin

Jenny's book "A Grandmother's Legacy" is a memoir of five generations of her family who lived in India through the days of the British Raj, family stories linked to the history through the old recipe book of her grandmother dating back to the 1840's.

Her story started with nineteen-year-old Benjamin Hardy who enrolled in the British Army in 1794, married Frances Sheard in Mirfield in 1797 and one year later sailed to India. His regiment stayed there in various posting over the next 25 years, ending in Bangalore when he decided to bring wife Frances over from England after which she had a son, Joseph. Three years later, Benjamin's regiment disbanded and he was discharged from the British Army due to chronic rheumatism. With his wife and son, Benjamin settled down to live the rest of his life in India but he only lived for another four years, dying in December 1823.

Frances and her son Joseph stayed in India and continued to live in Bangalore, Joseph a schoolmaster by profession in Mysore at a time when English education and the existence of English-medium schools were on the rise. In 1833, an English-medium school was opened for the first time in Mysore (editor note: the 1835 Charter Act on the New Education Policy would further determine that English be made the official language of the courts, diplomacy, and administration. From that moment on only those with Western-style education and knowledge of English were eligible for government employment or for a career in public life).



In 1844, at the age of twenty-eight, Joseph married fifteen-year-old Wilhelmina Sausman and a few years later Wilhelmina started penning her recipes in a huge ledger book which she passed on to her eldest daughter, Ophelia, Jenny's great-great-grandmother. Jenny said: "This unglamorous-looking book, with its ochre, faded pages bespattered with sundry sauces and flavourings, revealed handwritten copperplate recipes dating back to 1850. Turning the pages of the book, one can see the handwriting style change over time, showing evidence of over five generations as each of my grandmothers have passed this on to the next generation. These pages offer a glimpse into a fascinating time in history when India was under British rule. They also give an insight into the people's lives, where they lived and what kind of food they regularly ate."

Jennys' mother Cynthia immigrated to Britain in 1952 and she remembers watching her cook. She would make the kitchen fun. Cooking came naturally to her

mother, but occasionally she would open the pantry door and out would come this huge ledger book, whereupon she would leaf through the pages until she found the recipe she was looking for. Set high on the shelf, with no title on the cover to distinguish it from the other cookbooks, each page was so delicate and fragile that it would snap like a poppadom.

Jenny self-published this book when others were not interested. She has won many awards for this work and her ambition is to make the book in to a film.

Editor note: A search on the internet revealed that for a memsahib like Wilhelmina, running a household was thwarted with all sorts of difficulties. Aside from the unrelenting heat, the major problem would be in the hiring of servants, and in finding a cook willing to touch the different meats that wouldn't conflict with their religious beliefs. A Muslim servant would not touch pork, serve wine, remove dirty plates from the table or wash them. A Hindu would not handle beef, fish, poultry, eggs, or alcohol, and the very strict practitioners would also refrain from onions and garlic.

Creative Writing Group

Until recently I was running the Buntingford U3A Creative Writing Group, but closed it temporally as it lacked enough members to make it viable. Since then Coronavirus has raised its ugly head and led to many U3A groups being unable to meet due to the Lockdown regulations. This no doubt means that many members must be bored for much of the time without such activities and I believe I have a resolution to this problem, namely for them to try writing their autobiography. We have all lived through a period when our way of life has changed so dramatically, due to phenomenal technical and other advances in this World, which I am sure will be of great interest to our grand children and future great grandchildren to read about. If by chance some members feel they had a fairly routine life then I would suggest they dramatise it and turn it into a novel. One of our original members did just that and has created a very exciting novel, which I believe could become a best seller.

Some years ago I started suffering from major heart problems which caused me to give up golf and certain other pastimes due to dizziness and general lack of energy, so I took up creative writing and as a result I have since written my autobiography and five novels, one of which I have had published on Kindle/ Amazon, which I have greatly enjoyed doing. I have often said since that writing during that period saved my sanity and I am determined to prevent the onset of Dementia by not watching daytime television.

Some of you may well say we are beginning to come out of lockdown but having seen photographs of tens of thousands of people sitting 'cheek by jowl' on Southend, Brighton and many other beaches, during two recent bank holidays, I fear it is very likely that a second boom in Coronavirus cases is very likely to happen and we will be back to another extended Lockdown. If anybody needs further advice on how to write a good novel or autobiography please phone me on 01763 662114

Brian Turner

The 'They Matter' Group

A PLEA: As you will appreciate the 'They Matter' group have been unable to access their bits and pieces from the Community Centre in order to continue making mats. I hope to have a table top session next to my bungalow on 24th August to put out bits and pieces that the members of the group have made and accumulated during lockdown so that we can carry on this valuable work.

Therefore, to help us at this time I'm asking for any donations of suitable items you can spare, please, i.e. zips, buttons, beads, keys, key rings, jewellery (even if it's broken), wool, small toys, lace, ribbon, curtain rings and anything else you think we might be able to use.

If you do have anything to pass on you can bring it to me (3, Mill Close, Buntingford or 01763 661508). If by any chance I'm not in please leave it on the doorstep.

Melbourn Springs Care Home emailed with their thanks for the mats provided earlier this year and said "Thank you so much for our fiddle mats and bags, our residents love them, especially the slinkies. We have them dotted around our lounge and we see them pick them up and start touching them regularly and it bring beautiful smiles all round. The ones with the buttons and zips, brought up memories of when one of our residents did upholstery and fixing her children clothes".

Thank you very much for your help.

Hilary Curtis

Lockdown Reading?

- ◆ "Six Feet Under" by Doug Graves
- ◆ "The Proper Use of Sunscreens" by Justin Casey Burns
- ◆ "Safely Using Fireworks" by Stan Wellback
- ◆ "The Lawbreaker" by Kermit A. Krime
- ◆ "A Full Bladder" by Anita P. Badly

with thanks to Ron Brighten

Photo Competition – Lockdown!!

We haven't had many entries so far for the Photo Competition, theme "Lockdown".

Please do look out for entries and send to the editor at Buntingfordu3anews@gmail.com before the 'competition' closes at the end of July. Any questions for the editor by email or at 01763-287393.



I thought I'd show you what Jim was up to during lockdown, growing a beard! Never seen him with one before..... Luckily he shaved it off after 7 weeks (thank goodness!).

It's a good job this photo isn't an entry to the photography competition anyway.... The composition could have been improved!

If you are struggling for "Lockdown" ideas for photographs, maybe the following pictures will prompt some thoughts!



Bartlow Hills

We watched the historian Dan Jones in a TV programme 'Walking Roman Roads' and recently Ermine Street.

It went from Bishopsgate in London to York but he missed out Hertfordshire completely and called the whole road the modern A1. Nothing about our A10!!

In Cambridgeshire he took quite a diversion to Bartlow Hills on the Cambridgeshire/Essex border close to Linton. There are 3 main hills left out of the original 7, the 4th is on private land and 2 of the others can just be seen as humps now. They are the remains of a Roman tumuli burial cemetery and were originally the largest Roman Barrows in Europe and include the tallest burial mound in Britain. We cannot find why this rural gem is so little known. The hills were excavated in the 19th century when care was not taken. Many of the valuable grave goods were taken to Easton Lodge which was near Harlow and were destroyed by fire when this burnt down. Records show that the grave goods and artefacts showed the high status of the owner.

We went there on a sunny Sunday in early July and sat in the garden of a great pub called Three Hills for a drink, named after the 3 main easily accessible main mounds. They are reached through the churchyard of a lovely peaceful and interesting little church. It is then a short path through woods opening into a lovely grassy area with many old trees and there are the 3 mounds. There are 64 wooden steps with a handrail to the top of the main mound which is 50 feet high.

We thoroughly enjoyed our trip but when we go again we will go on a dry spring or autumn day when the leaves are off the trees and less scrub on the mounds. I do encourage people to go to this forgotten corner of our heritage and also to visit the quaint church with wonderful murals. It is only 24 miles away.



Marion Ling

Keep Fit

As you know gyms can re-open from 25th July however our Keep-Fit classes, held in Seth Ward hall, continue to be suspended until further notice as the hall is too small to safely hold a class under government guidelines. Jacqui Smith continues with her own classes using Layston School Field on Mondays & Fridays. If you're interested in joining these contact Jacqui on 07956 647806 or jacqui.t.smith@gmail.com. We'll be re-evaluating our own U3A classes at the end of August.

Latest Quiz

(answers in next newsletter edition)

Geography

1. Where does the University Boat Race end?
2. What is the longest mountain range in the world?
3. What, collectively, are Pacific, Central, Eastern, and Mountain?
4. What is the capital of Norway?
5. What is the capital of Austria?
6. Which Roald was the Norwegian explorer who was first to reach the South Pole?
7. What is the State Capital of Hawaii?

History

1. Whose name was given to the 1942 Report on Social Insurance and Allied Services that led to the foundation of the Welfare State?
2. Which one man was credited with the foundation of the NHS in 1948?
3. As in John F Kennedy, for what did the F stand?
4. In which year did Margaret Thatcher become PM?
5. From which port did The Titanic leave England in 1912?
6. In which year was The Queen's Coronation?
7. What was the family name of Mary Queen of Scots?
8. What was the name of the plane in which Charles Lindbergh made the first solo Atlantic flight?

Science and nature

1. What part of its body does a rattlesnake rattle?
2. What sort of domesticated animal is a bellwether?
3. Podiatry is the study of which part of the human body?
4. Who was the first modern European scientist to assert that the Earth revolves around the Sun?
5. For what does DVD stand?
6. Seismology is the study of what?
7. How many inches in a hand, the measurement used for the height of horses?
8. What is the human body is the scapula?
9. By what name is pertussis usually known?
10. What sort of creatures live in an apiary?

Entertainment

1. In which Gilbert and Sullivan performance would you meet Pooh-Bah?
2. Who is the prince named in one title of the Narnia series of books?
3. Name the author of the Mr Men series of books?
4. What was Winnie the Pooh's donkey friend called?

General knowledge

1. What colour was the Owl and the Pussycat's boat?
2. How many stations are there in the game of Monopoly?
3. What is the name given to a tradesman who works in stone?
4. What colour is the maple leaf on the flag of Canada?

TV and film

1. Who plays Rocky Balboa in the Rocky series of films?
2. Who played Captain Mainwaring in the original Dad's Army?
3. What was the name of the department store in Are you Being Served?
4. In Thunderbirds, name Lady Penelope's chauffeur?
5. What is the name of the never-seen son of Mrs Bucket in Keeping up Appearances?
6. In which county is the TV programme The Darling Buds Of May set?
7. Which Hollywood Actor was known as The Duke?
8. Who enjoyed the Good Life as Barbara Good?
9. Who enjoyed the Good Life as Tom Good?

With thanks to John Murphy & Rickmansworth U3A



When you lie on your resume
but still get the job



Answers to Quiz published in June 2020 newsletter

Geography

1. On which river does Lisbon stand? Tagus
2. Of which county is Matlock the administrative centre? Derbyshire
3. Which territory became the 50th state of the USA in 1959? Hawaii
4. What is the capital of Canada? Ottawa
5. The Isle of --- is just about equidistant from all the home countries? Man
6. Which country has the most lakes? Canada
7. Where is the Wailing Wall? Jerusalem
8. Where does the University Boat race start? Putney

History

1. Which country holds the record for using the same national flag for the longest time? Denmark
2. Which political party was led by Jo Grimond from 1956 until 1967? Liberal
3. Who served as MP for Oldham, Manchester NW, Dundee, Epping and Woodford in his long Parliamentary career? Churchill
4. Which monarch ordered the execution of Lady Jane Grey? Mary I
5. Which popular rising of 1381 was led by Wat Tyler and John Bull? Peasants' Revolt
6. Which President's father had been US Ambassador to Britain during WW2? Kennedy's
7. Which palace was built by the Thames by Cardinal Wolsey in 1515 and "given" to Henry VIII? Hampton Court

Science and nature

1. What type of creature is an oystercatcher? Bird
2. What is the more common name for the alpine mastiff dog? A St. Bernard
3. Which member of the horse family has black and white stripes? Zebra
4. In which country would you see the emu in its natural habitat? Australia
5. Which highly venomous snake has varieties called King, Spitting and Indian? Cobra
6. What word is given to the inter-connected underground tunnels used by rabbits? Warrens
7. What is a male hedgehog called? Boar
8. Garnet comes in many colours but which is the most common? Red

Literature

1. What is the name of the ship in Treasure Island? The Hispaniola
2. Who was supposed to have bought his pipe tobacco from Bradley's in Oxford Street? Sherlock Holmes
3. Aslan the Lion features in which series of books? The Chronicles of Narnia
4. Who wrote Catcher in the Rye? JD Salinger
5. Who wrote Catch-22? Joseph Heller

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| 6. Which Royal wrote The Old Man of Lochnagar? | Prince Charles |
| 7. Who wrote Brave New World? | Aldous Huxley |
| 8. Which author was called The Animated Meringue? | Barbara Cartland |

TV and film

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|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. American criminals Robert LeRoy Parker and Harry Alonzo Longabaugh found fame under which names, in fact and film? | Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid |
| 2. For what is Lenny an abbreviation in Lenny Henry? | Lenworth |
| 3. For what is Will an abbreviation in Will Smith? | Willard |
| 4. Who didn't like dogs in the film 101 Dalmatians? | Cruella de Vil |
| 5. What was the name of Bill Sykes's dog in Oliver!? | Bullseye |
| 6. Who was the doctor in Star Trek? | Bones McCoy |
| 7. Jack Nicholson played Jack Torrance in the film of which Stephen King book? The Shining | |

General knowledge

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| 1. What are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet? | Alpha/Omega |
| 2. What type of alcoholic drink is Armagnac? | Brandy |
| 3. For what do JMW Turner's initials stand? | Joseph Mallord William |
| 4. Which car manufacturer launched the Polo in 1975? | Volkswagen |
| 5. How many bottles are there in a magnum of Champagne? | Two |
| 6. How many crew members are there in one coxed pair for rowing contests? | Three |
| 7. In tug of war, what is the name given to the man at the back of the rope? | Anchor |
| 8. How many riders are there in a polo team? | Four |
| 9. For what does HP stand for in HP Sauce? | Houses of Parliament |
| 10. Where does America keep its gold reserves? | Fort Knox |

With thanks to John Murphy & Rickmansworth U3A

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