

The Buntingford Banner

Learn, Laugh & Live!



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Chairman's Remarks

This month was the AGM which was a very different affair doing it via Zoom rather than our normal meeting in the hall. I was delighted with the attendance with roughly 75 people taking part (we had 71 attendees when I did a count at the start but others joined us during the meeting) so thank you to all who made the effort. Voting was done using Zoom "polls" - unfortunately a few people commented that the voting option did not appear for them but since all votes were carried with a clear majority and no votes against, this would not have changed the results at all.

Next year's subscription rates were agreed - see later in the Newsletter for details.

The committee was re-elected with Ron Brighten being the only member standing down. Jean Cook was voted on to the committee but later decided that she wanted to withdraw from this position. She volunteered for the committee a few weeks ago during a period when she didn't have enough to do and had a lot of spare time. However, since then she has become more involved in other things and has decided that she does not want to take on anything else. I am sorry that Jean has not joined us on the committee but I respect her decision.

With Ron Brighten standing down we are now short of a Groups Coordinator. Before the AGM the committee had already agreed to split the previous Groups Coordinator role with one person looking after the finances (the Group Funds Coordinator) and another liaising with the Group Leaders (the Groups Coordinator). This significantly reduces the activities of the new Groups Coordinator role, particularly at present when most groups are inactive due to Covid! If you feel able to help us out by standing for this role, or would like to understand the role better before deciding, I would be delighted to hear from you (buntingfordu3achair@gmail.com or 01763 287393)

Finally, at the start of the AGM I announced that we would not be awarding the Norman Oliver plate this year due to the unusual circumstances and limited activity this year. This was what we had agreed in committee. When we came to AOB, Lyn Kendal-Archer asked to speak and proceeded to say that I had given incorrect information as I was actually the recipient of the plate this year! This was a complete surprise to me but I feel very honoured to have been recognised in this way. Thank you very much. It just shows that the committee members are not to be trusted and sometimes sneak off and do things behind my back!

Take care & stay safe, *Jim Farquhar* (buntingfordu3achair@gmail.com)

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 members please send them to the editor, Kate Farquhar, at BuntingfordU3Anews@gmail.com.

The closing date for the next issue is 15th November 2020 as we plan one more issue before Christmas.

Next Year's Subscription Rates

The committee was very aware, when considering the subscription rates for next year, of the restricted service we have been able to give you this year because of Covid. Unfortunately, a quick analysis of spending shows that the reduced activities have not resulted in any significant savings:

- Groups are self-funding so no group activity means that turnover has dropped, but no real savings
- The major costs of Trust affiliation fees and Third Age Matters magazines are unchanged
- We have continued to run monthly meeting so speaker fees are unchanged (apart from travel costs)
- We save on the hire of the hall but some of this is offset by Zoom licence fees.

Our expectation is that over the entire financial year we are currently in (April 2020 - March 2021) we will roughly break even, and this is only because most members had already renewed before Covid started to bite. Membership is slightly down due to renewals drying up and not seeing the normal trickle of new members during the year, but not significantly, otherwise we would have been facing a loss.

What about next year? We expect that we will still be facing restrictions as we go into the new membership year in January but what about after that? Nobody knows when restrictions will be lifted or how long it will be before we can return to something closer to normal. Let's hope it is soon!

I also want to mention a quirk of the Trust affiliation fees, which is that the amount each u3a pays is based on their membership during the previous year. This means that next year our affiliation fees will be based on our existing membership, resulting in a bill of around £1,600. This will be true whether we have 5, 50, 500, or 5,000 members next year (I don't think it will be the last of these!). This means that if our membership drops significantly next year, as a knock on effect from Covid, we would expect to make a loss, possibly a substantial loss when we include all the other costs associated with running the u3a.

So, in considering the fees for next year the committee is trying to balance the desire to somehow recompense the members for the limited service this year, and the risk of making a substantial loss next year if membership drops. Although we have some reserves they would not last very long.

The end result is that we have decided to keep the fees the same for next year, but the membership will run from January 2021 until March 2022, thereby giving a full member 15 months membership rather than the normal 12 months (25% extra free!). The fees will therefore be as follows:

- Full membership will be £10 and will provide membership for 15 months, from January 2021 to March 2022
- "Half-year" membership will remain at £7 and will be available to those joining from October 2021 onwards i.e. covering the period from October 2021 to March 2022
- Both of the above rates will be reduced by £3.50 for associate members i.e. those that are full members of another u3a. Associate members will need to provide the details, including membership number, of the u3a where they are a full member
- The visitor rate will remain at £2 per visit (note that visitors should only attend 1 or 2 events as a "taster" but if they wish to attend more they should join the u3a).

Extending the membership year to March 2022 also means that future membership years will be aligned to our financial year and also the financial year of the Trust.

I hope that you will help us out by not delaying your renewal when we send out the forms later this year, to help keep Buntingford u3a on a sound financial footing!

Next Members Zoom Meeting: 2pm November 9th

FOOL'S GOLD

will be presenting some of their favourite songs: but will not stop at the songs. All songs have a story - a history, mystery or tragedy; they like to tell you the story as well as simply perform the song. To help things along they will be using some of the images from their live show to help bring the tales to life - and these will continue throughout the songs too!

Carol and Steve Robson are musicians who have been presenting their mixed story/image/live music shows to audiences all over the UK. They began in the folk clubs of the North East of England, which probably explains why some of the songs are about coal mining!



Carol Plays: Flute, Tenor Guitar, Bass Guitar, Whistles and voice

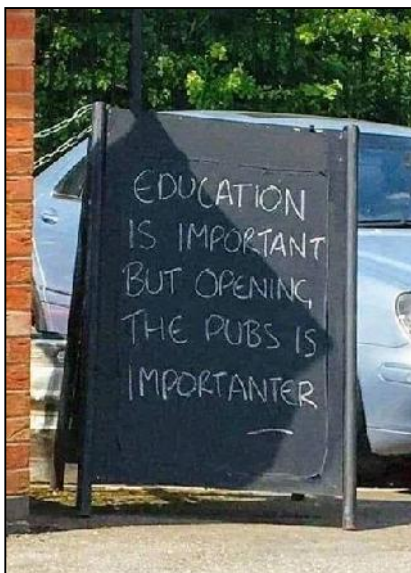
Steve Plays: Guitars, Ukulele, Bouzouki and voice

u3a Branding

The Third Age Trust have decided to rebrand the u3a to give it a more active, vibrant feel! The Trust website has been changed to be far more colourful and include more pictures of happy, smiling members enjoying their group activities. We should no longer refer to the u3a as being an organisation for retired people but instead we should say that it is an organisation for those "no longer working". A subtle but important change.

Probably the most obvious, and contentious, change is a new logo which you'll find at the top of the first page. Gone is the coloured logo we know and love with capital letters in square boxes. Uppercase is now a thing of the past and lowercase is the way forward! u3a must always be lowercase, even at the start of a sentence, and the plural is u3as (not as clear as U3As but there we go).

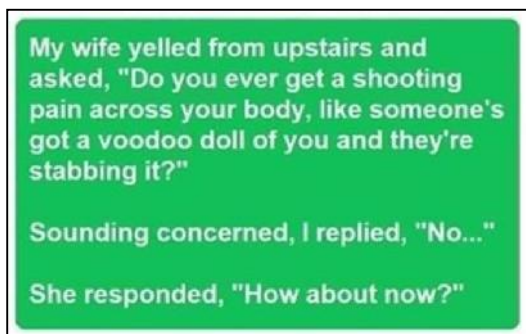
However, we have no intention of replacing our banners and tablecloth in the near future, despite them having the old logo on them. We want to get more use out of the existing ones before spending money on replacements. (That's what happens when you have a Scotsman as Chairman!!)



Skinny Dipping

An elderly man in Florida had owned a large farm for several years. He had a large pond in the back, it was properly shaped for swimming, so he fixed it up nicely with picnic tables, horseshoe courts, and some orange and lime trees.

One evening the old farmer decided to go down to the pond, as he hadn't been there for a while, and look it over. He grabbed a five-gallon bucket to bring back some fruit. As he neared the pond, he heard voices shouting and laughing with glee. As he came closer, he saw it was a bunch of young women skinny-dipping in his pond. He made the women aware of his presence and they all went to the deep end. One of the women shouted to him, "We are not coming out until you leave!" The old man frowned, "I didn't come down here to watch you ladies swim naked or make you get out of the pond naked". Holding the bucket up he said "I'm here to feed the alligator". Some old men can still think fast.



Thoughts?

- ✿ Carrots can be good for your eyes but wine can double your vision.
- ✿ A car's weakest point is the nut holding the wheel.
- ✿ Husbands are the best people to share secrets with. They'll never tell anyone, because they aren't listening.
- ✿ I always plant my herbs in alphabetical order. People ask me where I find the thyme. It's there next to the sage.
- ✿ The other day, my wife asked me to pass her lipstick but I accidentally passed her a glue stick. She still isn't talking to me.
- ✿ Told my wife I wanted to be cremated. She made an appointment for me for Tuesday.
- ✿ I might have a slight drinking problem. My husband asked me to toast some bread for him. I raised my glass and said "Here's to bread".

History

1. What was the first name of Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein?
2. By what means does the legislature bring charges against an American President?
3. Who was said to be The Hammer of the Scots?
4. On which date in August, 1945, did the Americans drop an atomic bomb on Hiroshima?
5. In which year did the Gunpowder Plot take place?
6. Which war leader met with Churchill and Roosevelt in Casablanca in 1943?
7. Which famous Russian died in a 1968 plane crash?
8. In which city was Dick Turpin hanged?
9. In which country was Leon Trotsky murdered?

Literature

1. Which poet was a librarian at the University of Hull?
2. Who wrote Smiley's People?
3. What is the alternative name of the novel Frankenstein?
4. Which children's author wrote Swallows and Amazons?
5. In the Dr Doolittle stories, what kind of animal was Dab-Dab?
6. Which author wrote the Picture of Dorian Gray?

General Knowledge

1. According to a 2006 survey, who is the most famous Scot?
2. Tom Cruise and John Travolta are both involved with which religion?
3. What does the German word Wurst mean?
4. Keats and Shelley are both buried in which city?
5. Which type of Sole is named after a city between Deal and Folkestone?
6. Burma's U Thant was the third leader of which organisation, from 1961 to 1971?
7. An eft is a young...what?
8. Saffron is obtained from which plant?
9. Loch Fyne restaurants are associated with which foodstuff?
10. What is the minimum age necessary to stand as an MP?

Geography

1. The Australian Capital Territory of Canberra is surrounded by which State?
2. The biggest island on both The Shetlands and The Orkneys is called...what?
3. What is the largest of the Balearic Islands?
4. Where, in London, is Traitors' Gate?
5. How many counties are there in Ulster?

6. In which English county is the Lake District?
7. In which county is Stonehenge?
8. Which is the only one of Great Lakes that is wholly in the United States?
9. London Bridge was dismantled in the Sixties and relocated to which American State?

TV and film

1. Which English comedian played Professor Peach in the film The Italian Job?
2. Which TV family lived on the South Fork Ranch?
3. Who played Sgt Bilko on TV?
4. Tatooine is a fictional planet in which film franchise?
5. What was the surname of Dirty Harry?
6. In which British city was actor Cary Grant born?
7. Oscar Statuettes are plated with which material?
8. Which English-born comedian, actor and sometime golfer died in 2003, aged 100?

First day back at school after
lockdown 🤔😞🧑🎒😂



Answers to Quiz published in September 2020 newsletter

General Knowledge - Shakespeare

1. What is the name of the Shakespearean theatre still active in his hometown of Stratford-upon-Avon, used as a base for the Royal Shakespeare Company? The Swan
2. Name the three categories into which Shakespeare's plays are divided. Tragedies, comedies and histories
3. Which Shakespeare play has been adapted for film the most number of times, as of 2013? Hamlet
4. Which character says the line 'A plague on both your houses' in Romeo and Juliet? Mercutio
5. From which play is this quote taken? "If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh? If you poison us, do we not die?" The Merchant of Venice

TV and film

1. Who played Purdey in The New Avengers? Joanna Lumley
2. In which War film did we meet The Cooler King, The Scrounger and The Forger? The Great Escape
3. Who are the male and female leads in the film When Harry Met Sally? Billy Crystal and Meg Ryan
4. The Malt Shovel (or The Malt) is the lesser known pub in which soap? Emmerdale
5. Who was the cinematic partner of Lou Costello? Bud Abbott
6. In which American TV series did we meet Miss Ellie? Dallas
7. Which film star was born David Daniel Kaminsky in 1911? Danny Kaye
8. Anneka Rice and Annabel Rice famously flew in a helicopter for which TV show? Treasure Hunt
9. What sort of creature was Slowcoach in The Flowerpot Men? A tortoise

Geography

1. Which river forms much of the border between Cornwall and Devon? Tamar
2. Name the cathedral in Red Square, Moscow. St Basils
3. Where is Louis Armstrong Airport? New Orleans
4. Which British town did the Romans call Aqua Sulis? Bath
5. In which English county is Hever Castle? Kent
6. Name the capital of Jersey. St Helier
7. Where is January 10 celebrated as Margaret Thatcher Day? The Falklands
8. In which American State would you find Amarillo? Texas

Music

1. Which Vaughan Williams piece often tops Classic FM's Hall of Fame list as Britons' favourite music? The Lark Ascending
2. Who wrote the score for the film Oliver!? Lionel Bart
3. Jazzman Kenny Ball was famous for playing which instrument? Trumpet
4. Which PM was born first...Disraeli or Gladstone? Disraeli
5. The ukulele originated in which US State? Hawaii

History

1. What became Edward VIII's title after he abdicated in 1936? The Duke of Windsor
2. In which city was Terry Waite kidnapped, in 1987? Beirut

General knowledge

1. For what do the initials GCSE stand? General Certificate of Secondary Education
2. The Prince of Wales' heraldic badge shows three white feathers from which bird? Ostrich
3. Of what were Bubble Jet and Dot Matrix examples? Printers
4. Which road sign is the only one that is octagonal in shape? Stop

Literature

1. Who wrote Pygmalion? George Bernard Shaw
2. Name the Bronte sisters' brother. Branwell
3. For how long did Rip Van Winkle sleep? 20 years
4. Catherine Earnshaw appears in which Emily Bronte novel? Wuthering Heights
5. Who wrote the Father Brown mysteries? GK Chesterton
6. Toad of Toad Hall is an adaptation from which book? Wind in the Willows
7. In which Roald Dahl book were people turned into mice? The Witches

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