

The Buntingford Banner

Learn, Laugh & Live!



www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford/home

Chairman's Remarks

It is cold, wet and miserable outside at present so it's a good time to stay indoors and write a few lines for the newsletter!

After the last newsletter Gill Alderton volunteered to join the committee and take on the roll of Groups Coordinator. This is an important role and we are delighted to have Gill on the committee - I know she will do a great job.

Two more groups have run activities since the last newsletter, in addition to the groups which have battled on via Zoom. Sunday Lunch for Solos met at the Sword in Hand at Westmill before we went into the second lockdown and Wine Appreciation arranged a meeting using Zoom in late November. Write-ups of both events are included later.

Something else we want to try is chat sessions using Zoom. These will be very informal and are open to everybody but priority will be given to members who are on their own. Again, further details are available later in the newsletter.

The second lockdown has been and gone but things are still very restricted. At least the planned roll-out of a vaccine which is due to start very soon gives us some ray of hope. It is not clear at this stage how long it will be before the vaccine is available to all u3a members and how much closer to "normal" this will take us. I know this won't be an instant fix or mean that Covid can be forgotten about but hopefully we can begin to restart more of the group activities in the coming months. So don't forget to renew your membership (membership form is attached). We need a thriving membership to get things going again as soon as we are able.

Kate and I have not yet decided what to do over Christmas but whatever you decide for yourselves, I hope you enjoy it. I have been trying to lose a few pounds in the past few weeks but I know I will put them all back on, plus a few more, in the coming weeks. After all, eating and drinking too much is compulsory over the festive period. At least, that's my story and I'm sticking to it! Take care & stay safe, Jim Farquhar (buntingfordu3achair@gmail.com)

Like a Zoom Chat?

We are offering Zoom chat meetings for up to 9 people. These are open to everyone but if we have too many takers priority will be given to those on their own. These will be very informal. You can even make it "coffee and a chat", but only if you provide your own coffee! We will trial this every Tuesday at 11:00 until Christmas with the first one being on Tuesday 8th December (the later ones will be on the 15th and 22nd December). Each chat will be hosted by a committee member but if you would prefer to chat amongst a group of friends without the committee member that can also be arranged! Contact Jim at Buntingfordu3achair@gmail.com if you are interested in joining one of the chats, specifying which Tuesday you would prefer, or if you have a group of friends who would like a slot.

The Golden Years

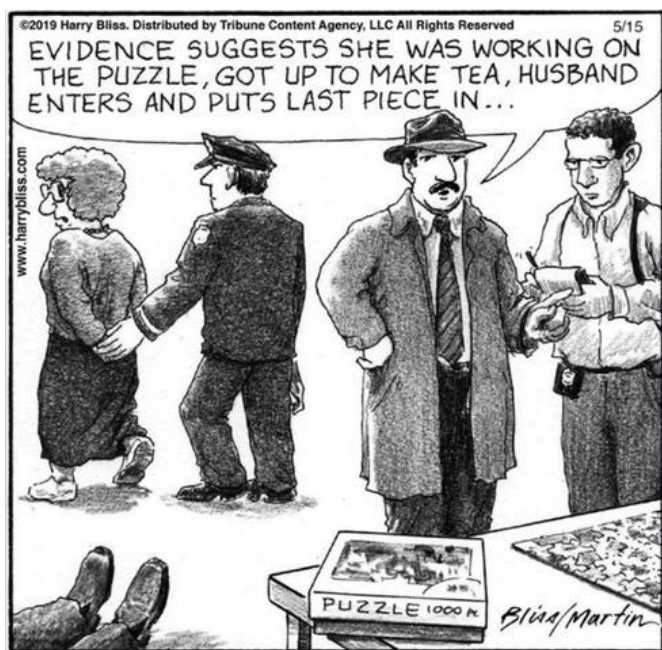
Several days ago, as I left a meeting, I desperately looked for my car keys. They were not in my pockets. A quick search in the meeting room revealed nothing. Suddenly I realised I must have left them in the car. Frantically, I headed for the car park. My husband has scolded me many times for leaving the keys in the ignition. My theory is the ignition is the best place not to lose them. His theory is that the car will be stolen. As I scanned the car park, I came to a terrifying conclusion! His theory was right. The car park was empty. I immediately called the police. I gave them my location, confessed that I had left my keys in the car, and that it had been stolen. Then I made the most difficult call of all. "Hello My Love", I stammered; I always call him "My Love" in times like these. "I left my keys in the car, and it has been stolen." There was a period of silence. I thought the call had disconnected, but then I heard his voice. He barked, "I dropped you off!" Now it was my time to be silent. Embarrassed, I said, "Well, come and get me." He retorted, "I will, as soon as I convince this policeman I have not stolen your darned car."

Amazon Smile programme

Amazon donates a small percentage (0.5%) of the purchase price of eligible products to the charity of your choice if Amazon is accessed through the Amazon Smile website (www.smile.amazon.co.uk) rather than the normal Amazon one. If you use Amazon please consider changing to Amazon Smile and selecting us as your chosen charity. Every little bit helps! Thank you.

2021 u3a Diaries – one left!

This can be purchased from Val Reedman (16 Mill Close, 01763 272135) for £3.



**AS YOU GET OLDER YOU'VE
GOT TO STAY POSITIVE.
FOR EXAMPLE, THE OTHER DAY
I FELL DOWN THE STAIRS...
INSTEAD OF GETTING UPSET
I JUST THOUGHT,
"WOW, THAT'S THE FASTEST
I'VE MOVED IN YEARS"**

Next Members Zoom Meeting: 2pm December 14th

December's speaker is Valerie Calderbank who will be taking us on "A Tour of the Universe" illustrated by stunning images and video clips. This whistle stop tour moves from the Solar System out to the Milky Way and beyond.

Valerie is a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society and an experienced international presenter and cruise ship lecturer. The talk will be light hearted, entertaining and not too technical but will include awe inspiring facts and images.



November Zoom Meeting Speaker: Fools Gold

Carol and Steve entertained us with some of their favourite songs and the stories behind them including:

- "The Elfin Knight", a traditional folk ballad in which a country woman is set impossible tasks to do by a man from the town that she's madly in love with but he hates her! A variant of the song forms the basis for "Scarborough Fair"
- A medley of World War I songs

Attendees were encouraged to have a good sing song but with muted microphones of course so we didn't distract from the 'speakers'!

Membership form attached and renewal is due

Whilst meetings and groups have been limited we continue to run as many activities as possible and we're looking forward to more groups being able to start again as vaccines become available next year.

We therefore hope you feel able to renew your membership as soon as possible at £10, the same as last year, especially given the bonus of the membership year running from January 2021 until March 2022. This gives a full member 15 months membership rather than the normal 12 months (25% extra free!).

The membership form is attached and once completed should be returned to

◆ Val Reedman, 16 Mill Close, Buntingford, SG9 9SZ

Villagers out near Sandon can, if they prefer, return to Kate Farquhar, Harrowdene, Green End for delivery to Val.

Please make sure you include a stamped addressed envelope unless you plan to collect your membership card from one of the above addresses once available.

Money can be paid directly in to the bank (details on the form) or be included with the form.

I hope that you will help us out by not delaying your renewal and help keep Buntingford u3a on a sound financial footing!

Jim Farquhar

Other Talks Online

The Mirthy website provides regular talks on a Thursday lasting for about an hour and is completely free. You only need to register and then you will receive a link to the talk with a reminder on the day. Talks are varied and once registered you will receive a email about the next talk and only need to reply if you wish to join the talk. Go to: <https://mirthy.co.uk/talks/> for details.

Watch out for Zoom links in the coming months from Ware u3a and BALFF (Buntingford Adult Learning For Fun) who have both offered our members access to their talks. Ware u3a normally run their talks on Wednesdays and BALFF will have a free lecture before Christmas. Links will be sent out when available.

BALFF will also be running a course of 10 chargeable lectures restricted to BALFF members and starting on 20th January. Contact Tony Phillips for further information (a.phillips500@btinternet.com).

Weatherspoons....

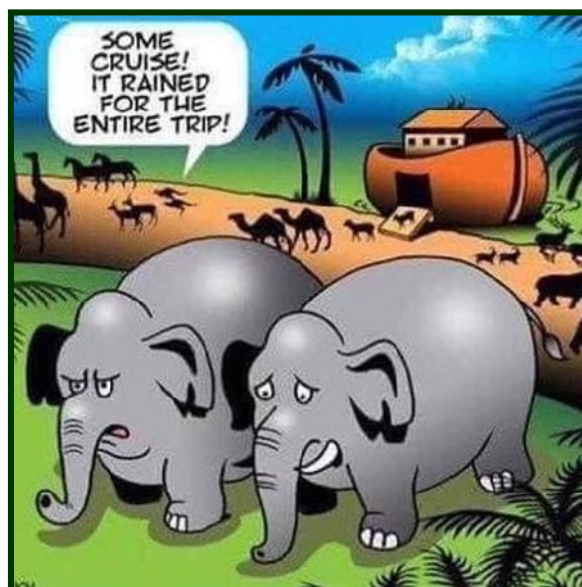
A Group of guys, all turning 40, discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally it was agreed that they would meet at Wetherspoons in Uxbridge because the waitresses had big breasts and wore mini-skirts.

Ten years later, at age 50, the friends once again discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally it was agreed that they would meet at Wetherspoons in Uxbridge because the waitresses were attractive. The food and service was good and the beer selection was excellent.

Ten years later, at age 60, the friends again discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally it was agreed that they would meet at Wetherspoons in Uxbridge because there was plenty of parking, they could dine in peace and quiet with no loud music, and it was good value for money.

Ten years later, at age 70, the friends discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally it was agreed that they would meet at Wetherspoons in Uxbridge because the restaurant was wheelchair accessible and had a toilet for the disabled.

Ten years later, at age 80, the friends discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally it was agreed that they would meet at Wetherspoons in Uxbridge because they had never been there before.



UK Power Networks FREE Support Service

Need help if there is a power cut or problems with gas or your water supply? You can get support by registering for the Priority Services Register either by calling your suppliers or by going to <https://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/power-cut/priority-services-register>. The service is free if you of pensionable age, have a disability or serious/chronic illness, you or someone you care for is living with dementia or if you need extra support for a short time period (e.g. If you are recovering from medical treatment). Examples of potential help:

- Advance notice of planned power cuts.
- Priority support in an emergency. This could involve the local network operator providing alternative heating and cooking facilities in the event of a supply interruption or water company delivering bottled water to you.
- Meter reading services at appropriate intervals. If nobody living at your property is able to read the meter and there isn't anyone else you can nominate to read the meter on your behalf, your supplier may be able to read it for you.
- Accessible information. Account and bill information in an accessible format, for example in larger print or braille.

If you do sign up you will get a booklet with more information.

Hilary Curtis

Sunday lunch for solos

On Sunday 1 November, the Sunday Lunch for Solos group held its first get-together since March. Four of us had lunch at The Sword Inn Hand, Westmill and it was very enjoyable to meet again. As I find eating with a group of friends one of life's pleasures, it was very sad to realise that for some of us, it was the first time since March that we had shared a meal with others.

Unfortunately, I have had to cancel the table I had booked for December as the new rules prohibit meeting indoors with people who are not part of your household or bubble. I think we are all looking forward to the Spring, when hopefully this rule can be relaxed.

Lyn Kendal-Archer

Wine Appreciation

Dave Austin arranged a meeting of the Wine Appreciation group using Zoom on Thursday 26th November. The format clearly had to be different from normal - it might have been an interesting idea for everyone to have 8 different bottles of wine open in front of them to sample but the logistics (and the potential aftermath!) ruled this out. Instead, each member (or couple) chose their own wine and had to describe it to the others, including how much it cost and where you could buy it. After each description, to liven things up, the members told their favourite joke! Throughout the evening Dave also ran a quiz in the format of Family Fortunes. At the end of the evening there was a tie for the lead so Dave came up with a few bonus questions and the final winners were Paul and Ann Brunt and Brian and Sue Tebbutt. Over 30 people attended and a great time was had by all, and best of all, nobody had to drive home! Well done Dave.

Jim Farquhar

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HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE YMCA				
(Please check one)				
☐ Television	☐ Online			
☐ Radio	☐ Drove By			
☐ Ad in paper	☐ Family/Friend			
☐ Postcard	☐ Other <i>X village</i>			
☐ Return Member	☐ Insurance			
☐ Email	☐ Billboard <i>Peopio</i>			
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY				
EFT INFORMATION				
Payment Method (please circle)				

Light hearted thoughts on the pandemic....

You never realise how antisocial you are until there's a pandemic and your life doesn't really change.

What's the best way to avoid touching your face? A glass of wine in each hand.

If you wear jeans 5 days in a row, they become baggy and it looks like you've lost weight.

If these last months have taught us anything, it's that stupidity travels faster than any virus on the planet.

If you believe all this will end and we will get back to normal just because we reopen everything, raise your hand. Now slap yourself with it.

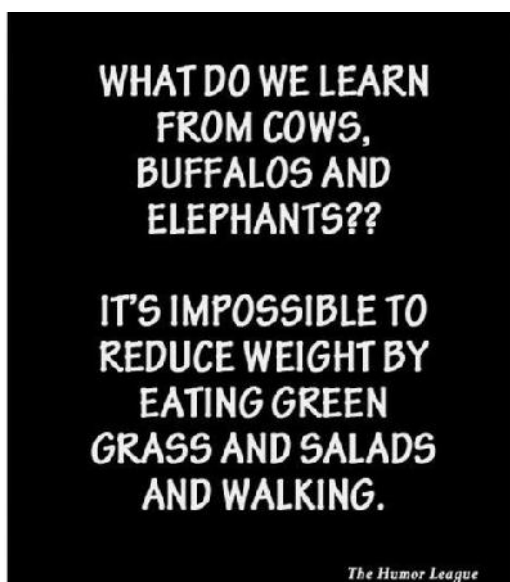
Remember when you were little and all your underwear had the days of the week on them. Those would be helpful right now.

People are scared of getting fined for congregating in crowds. As if catching a deadly disease and dying a horrible death wasn't enough of a deterrent.

So let me get this straight, there is no cure for a virus that can be killed by sanitiser and hand soap?

Due to Covid-19, we are asking protesters to work from home and destroy their own property.

Remember all those times when you wished the weekend would last forever? Well, wish granted. Happy now?



TV and film

1. Jim Bowen was known for presenting which TV show?
2. What was the name of Paul Eddington's character in Yes Minister and Yes Prime Minister?
3. Who played Simon Templar in the original series of The Saint, from 1962 to 1969?
4. Who drove The General Lee, a Dodge, in an American TV series of the Seventies and Eighties?
5. Bruce Willis and Sybill Shepherd starred in which American comedy drama in the Eighties?
6. Frasier was a spin-off from which other American comedy series, running from 1993 to 2004?
7. Who played Bert in Mary Poppins, in 1964?
8. For what movie did Steven Spielberg win his first Oscar for Best Director?

Geography

1. Magyars come from which European country?
2. Angel Falls, the highest waterfall in the world, is in which country?
3. Venice Airport is named after which explorer?
4. What is America's Pelican State?
5. Jodrell Bank Observatory is in which English county?
6. The Silverstone motor racing circuit is in which English county?
7. Which English city has a Goose Fair?
8. In which English county is Cheddar Gorge?

Literary

1. Who wrote The Railway Children?
2. Tarka was what sort of animal, according to Henry Williamson?
3. Who was the pilot and adventurer created by WE Johns?
4. Terry Deary wrote about what sort of Histories?
5. The Clock family were tiny creatures who lived under floorboards in which series of books by Mary Norton?

History

1. Lord Denning investigated which 1960s scandal?
2. Glevum was the Roman name for which modern English city?
3. In which year did Prince Charles marry Diana?
4. Which king set his seal on Magna Carta, in 1215?
5. Who was Henry VIII's sixth wife?
6. Which king of England abdicated in 1936?
7. On which island did Napoleon die?
8. Who became the first popularly elected president of Russia, in 1991?
9. In which African city was General Gordon killed, in 1885?

General Knowledge

1. Who founded the Boy Scouts?
2. What is the name of the engine that holds the UK speed record for a steam train?
3. What does the word spumante mean on a bottle of Italian wine?
4. What was the surname of the Scottish outlaw known as Rob Roy?
5. What is sometimes referred to as The Fourth Estate?
6. How many old pennies were there in half a crown?
7. What is the common name for Nitrous Oxide?
8. What do pilots nickname their auto pilot?
9. Which two dances are used In the phonetic alphabet?

Music

1. Who composed The Enigma Variations?
2. Which country singer was known as The Man In Black?
3. What type of musical instrument is a Steinway?
4. Which musical instrument has 46 strings and seven pedals?
5. Who had a No 1 in the Sixties with Lily the Pink?
6. Who had a No 1 in the Fifties with Magic Moments?
7. Patti Boyd was married to which two music legends?



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 1st January 2021!

Answers to Quiz published in October 2020 newsletter

History

1. What was the first name of Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein? Bernard
2. By what means does the legislature bring charges against an American President? Impeachment
3. Who was said to be The Hammer of the Scots? Edward I
4. On which date in August, 1945, did the Americans drop an atomic bomb on Hiroshima? August 6
5. In which year did the Gunpowder Plot take place? 1605
6. Which war leader met with Churchill and Roosevelt in Casablanca in 1943? Charles de Gaulle
7. Which famous Russian died in a 1968 plane crash? Yuri Gagarin
8. In which city was Dick Turpin hanged? York
9. In which country was Leon Trotsky murdered? Mexico

Literature

1. Which poet was a librarian at the University of Hull? Philip Larkin
2. Who wrote Smiley's People? John le Carre
3. What is the alternative name of the novel Frankenstein? The Modern Prometheus
4. Which children's author wrote Swallows and Amazons? Arthur Ransome
5. In the Dr Doolittle stories, what kind of animal was Dab-Dab? A duck
6. Which author wrote the Picture of Dorian Gray? Oscar Wilde

General Knowledge

1. According to a 2006 survey, who is the most famous Scot? The Loch Ness Monster
2. Tom Cruise and John Travolta are both involved with which religion? Scientology
3. What does the German word Wurst mean? Sausage
4. Keats and Shelley are both buried in which city? Rome
5. Which type of Sole is named after a city between Deal and Folkestone? Dover
6. Burma's U Thant was the third leader of which organisation, from 1961 to 1971? United Nations
7. An eft is a young...what? Newt
8. Saffron is obtained from which plant? Crocus
9. Loch Fyne restaurants are associated with which foodstuff? Seafood
10. What is the minimum age necessary to stand as an MP? 18

Geography

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

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

TV and film

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Which English comedian played Professor Peach in the (original) film The Italian Job? | Benny Hill |
| 2. Which TV family lived on the South Fork Ranch? | The Ewings (from Dallas) |
| 3. Who played Sgt Bilko on TV? | Phil Silvers |
| 4. Tatooine is a fictional planet in which film franchise? | Star Wars |
| 5. What was the surname of Dirty Harry? | Callahan |
| 6. In which British city was actor Cary Grant born? | Bristol |
| 7. Oscar Statuettes are plated with which material? | Gold |
| 8. Which English-born comedian, actor and sometime golfer died in 2003, aged 100? | Bob Hope |



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