

The Buntingford Banner

Learn, Laugh & Live!



www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford/home

Chairman's Remarks

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2021. I hope you managed to have a good Christmas and New Year although I am sure it was quieter than usual. It still didn't stop me eating and drinking too much!

In December we offered several Zoom chat sessions but take-up was very low so we have abandoned that idea. When I say "very low", I mean that absolutely nobody asked for a place - obviously a chat which includes someone from the committee is not very attractive (understandably!). Oh well, we tried :-)

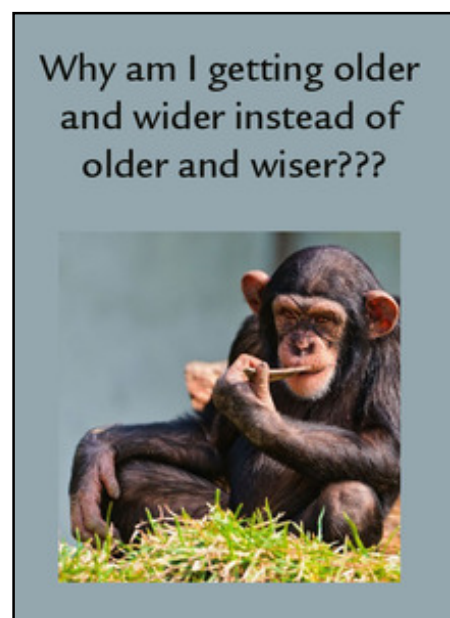
Not to be put off we are trying a couple of other initiatives. The first was to launch a Buntingford u3a Facebook group about a week ago (see later in the newsletter) as a bit of fun and entertainment. The second was to phone any members for whom we didn't have an email address to check how they were faring in lockdown.

If anyone has any other ideas of other things we can do at this time, please let me know.

The above, followed by the first monthly meeting where Andrew Baker presented on Donald Trump, means we have had a busy start to the year. I'm not sure we can keep this up for the rest of the year!

A number of members of Buntingford u3a have had their first vaccine and several have had their second. With the planned roll-out and the effort being made to do this as quickly as possible, there is light at the end of the tunnel. We don't yet know when we will be able to restart group activities but we can start to see how we will get there. In the meantime we will all just have to be patient and, most importantly, continue to follow the rules until we are released!

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



Membership renewals due

We have had lots of renewals already but there are still a lot of people who haven't renewed yet. It is only £10 for 15 months of membership from January 2021 until March 2022 - a bargain! The roll-out of the vaccine should offer the prospect of interest groups restarting and in the meantime we continue to offer the monthly meetings on Zoom, the newsletter, and a few groups continue to meet via Zoom.

The membership form was distributed with the December newsletter but if you have lost it another copy can be obtained from Val Reedman at valbuntu3a@gmail.com. We would prefer payment via bank transfer if at all possible (details on the form) as we have limited ability to pay in cheques without incurring significant additional bank charges. The completed forms should be returned to Val Reedman at 16 Mill Close, Buntingford or can be scanned and sent to the above email address (we need a copy of the signed form because of GDPR and Gift Aid). You obviously can't include a stamped addressed envelope for the return of your membership card if you email your form so you may need to collect it from Val after lockdown is lifted. We will look into this later. 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

**I see people around my
age mountain climbing, I
feel good getting my leg
through my underwear
with out losing my
balance**

Next Members Zoom Meeting: 2pm February 14th

"On the Shoulders of Giants"

February's speaker is Jeff Chalker, a Blue Badge holder who gives tours in London. This talk will be on the scientists buried in Westminster Abbey. On a world stage, the scientists are much more significant than the monarchs, composers, poets etc. buried alongside them but they are often ignored. This talk tries to give the scientists the prominence they deserve. It is not technical, more a celebration of some amazingly creative, talented and influential people.



January Member's Meeting Andrew Baker, "Donald J Trump - A retrospect on the 45th President of the USA"

The talk looked at November's election in the USA and the longer term significance of the Trump Presidency. America's 45th President is like no other: showman, entertainer, tweeter and unfailingly economical with the truth. He gave us a vivid portrait of the man: his past, his style, his ruthlessness and his ego.

Buntingford u3a Facebook Group

We now have a Facebook group called "Buntingford u3a" to encourage communications between members. Although it will be used to share information on events, such as monthly meetings, that is not its primary purpose. Its main use is intended to be for members to chat with fellow members and to share information, both serious and fun. This could be about what is happening in Buntingford, what members have been up to, or simply jokes and puzzles.

Anybody can view posts to the group but you need to join the Facebook group in order to post material there. I would encourage you to join the group and take part in the discussions (or start your own!). Simply follow the link below to the group and click on the "Join" button then you will be added to the group once we have checked that you are a Buntingford u3a member (only members are allowed to join).

Here is the link to the Buntingford u3a Facebook group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/143301880900601>

An Artic explorer....

.....came face to face with a polar bear. Afraid of being eaten, he fell to his knees and started praying. When the polar bear knelt down beside him and started praying too, the man shouted, "It's a miracle!" The polar bear opened one eye and said "Don't talk while I'm saying grace."

King Lear Prizes

This is a national arts competition that accepts entries in poetry, real stories (short stories from people's lives), art and musical performance. Its for amateurs and beginners over the age of 65 and is a great creative project to get stuck into particularly during this lockdown. The latest round of the competition, which has just opened to entries, is running from January to March 2021. The winners will be picked by our panel of expert judges including Gyles Brandreth and Julian Lloyd Webber. There are over £2,000 of prizes on offer.

More information about the competition and the organisation which runs it can be found at <https://www.kinglearprizes.org.uk>.



An 86-year-old man loved to fish. One day he was sitting in his boat when he heard a voice say: "Pick me up." He looked around and couldn't see anyone. He thought he was dreaming when he heard the voice say again: "Pick me up." He looked in the water and there, floating on the top was a frog. The man said: "Are you talking to me?" The frog said: "Yes, I'm talking to you. Pick me up, then kiss me and I'll turn into the most beautiful woman you have ever seen. I'll make sure that all your friends are envious and jealous because you will have me as your bride." The man looked at the frog for a short time, reached over, picked it up carefully, and placed it in his front breast pocket. Then the frog said: "What, are you nuts? Didn't you hear what I said? I said kiss me and I will be your beautiful bride." He opened his pocket, looked at the frog and said: "No, at my age I'd rather have a talking frog."

Polar Bear Jokes seem appropriate for winter!!

Q: What's a balanced diet for a polar bear?	A: A seal in each paw!
Q: What did the polar bear say when it saw the igloo?	A: "Oooo! I LOVE these things! Crunchy on the outside - with a nice chewy centre!"
Q: What did the polar bear eat after the dentist fixed its tooth?	A: The dentist.
Q: What did the polar bears say when they saw tourists in sleeping bags?	A: "Sandwiches!"
Q: Why do polar bears have fur coats?	A: Because the seals laughed at them when they wore parkas!
Q: What's another reason polar bears have fur coats?	A: Because they would freeze in Hawaiian shirts!
Q: What do you get when you cross a polar bear with a seal?	A: A polar bear.
Q: What has four legs and a flipper?	A: A happy polar bear!
Q: How does a polar bear stop a VCR?	A: It just presses the "paws" button.
Q: How do you keep a polar bear from charging?	A: Insist that it pay cash!
Q: What did the polar bear put on the sign when seals were very scarce?	A: " <u>Tourists</u> Welcome!"
Q: What do you call a polar bear wearing earmuffs?	A: Call it anything you want - it can't hear you.
Q: What do you call a big mean polar bear?	A: Don't call it anything - just RUN!

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 February 2021

You thought other puns were bad?
Just wait until you sea mine.



Latest Quiz

(answers in next newsletter edition)

TV and film

1. Which company, formed in 1986, produced Cars, Toy Story and The Incredibles?
2. Frenchwoman Camille Javal found fame as an actress under which alliterative stage name?
3. What were the names of John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John in the film Grease?
4. Name the Stephen King book turned into a 1990 film starring James Caan and Kathy Bates.
5. In the TV programme Bagpuss, what sort of bird was Professor Yaffle?
6. What were the surnames of The Two Ronnies?
7. Name the popular singer and entertainer who was so often ridiculed on the Morecambe and Wise Show?

Quotations

1. According to Samuel Johnson, what is last refuge of a scoundrel?
2. Which famous American singer once said: "I don't know anything about music. In my line you don't have to. "
3. What, according to Churchill, was a "Riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma"?
4. "If music be the food of love, play on," is a line from which Shakespearean play?
5. Which poet "Wandered lonely as a cloud"?
6. Which American President said: "When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot in it and hang on."
7. Which famous American cartoonist said: "The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing."
8. Which comedy duo starred in Not only...but Also on TV in The Sixties?

Travel

1. Which east-west British Motorway is also Europe's E30 route?
2. What currency is used in Jamaica?
3. Which company owned The Titanic?
4. Which Briton invented the C5 three-wheeler car?
5. Which Inuit word can be translated as Man's Boat or Hunter's Boat?
6. In which State is Newark Airport that is just 16 miles from Manhattan in New York?
7. Which city's airport is named after Leonardo da Vinci?

Food and Drink

1. Which food is bean curd derived from Soya?
2. The spice Saffron is obtained from which plant?
3. Which foodstuff is a solution of acetic acid?
4. Which fruit contain a healthy dose of Potassium?
5. American broiling is similar to which British method of cooking?
6. What is usually considered James Bond's favourite tippie?
7. What is the most consumed manufactured drink in the world?

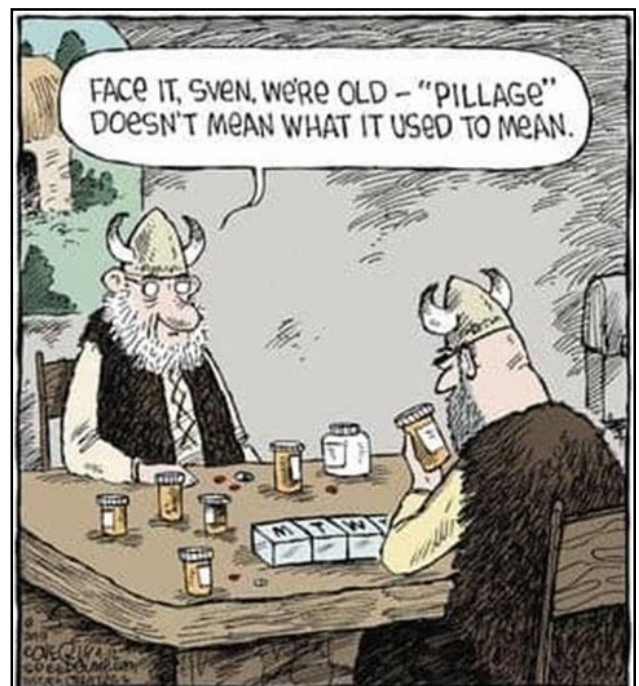
8. What type of pasta has a name meaning "Little Worms"?

Modern History

1. What name did Pol Pot give to Cambodia?
2. Which political party was formed in 1981 by four Labour MPs?
3. Which European country's parliament is called The Riksdag?
4. What was the English name of the Trade Union formed in Poland by Lech Walesa?
5. Which South African President shared the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993?
6. Who was the first Prime Minister of India?
7. In which decade did France last use the Guillotine?

History

1. What was the full name of CND?
2. Who was England's Nine-Day Queen?
3. What was the name given to the six agrarian workers from Dorset, who were transported in 1843 for Union-type activities?
4. Name the famous highwayman hanged in York in 1739.
5. Perkin Warbeck and Lambert Simnel were pretenders to the throne of which English king?
6. Name the Welsh freedom fighter famous for opposing Edward I.
7. Who was the first man to swim The English Channel, in 1875?
8. Terry Waite, who was kidnapped in Beirut in 1987, was acting as a special envoy for which British religious figure?



Answers to Quiz published in December 2020 newsletter

TV and film

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

Geography

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

Literary

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

History

1. Lord Denning investigated which 1960s scandal? Profumo
2. Glevum was the Roman name for which modern English city? Gloucester
3. In which year did Prince Charles marry Diana? 1981
4. Which king set his seal on Magna Carta, in 1215? John
5. Who was Henry VIII's sixth wife? Catherine Parr
6. Which king of England abdicated in 1936? Edward VIII

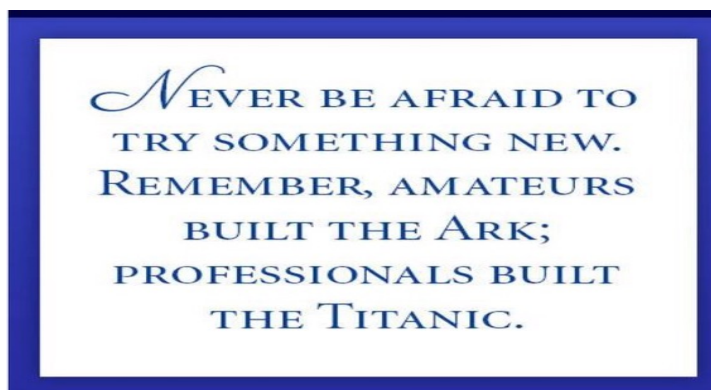
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| 7. On which island did Napoleon die? | St Helena |
| 8. Who became the first popularly elected president of Russia, in 1991? | Boris Yeltsin |
| 9. In which African city was General Gordon killed, in 1885? | Khartoum |

General Knowledge

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. Who founded the Boy Scouts? | Lord Baden Powell |
| 2. What is the name of the engine that holds the UK speed record for a steam train? | The Mallard |
| 3. What does the word spumante mean on a bottle of Italian wine? | Sparkling |
| 4. What was the surname of the Scottish outlaw known as Rob Roy? | MacGregor |
| 5. What is sometimes referred to as The Fourth Estate? | The Press |
| 6. How many old pennies were there in half a crown? | 30 |
| 7. What is the common name for Nitrous Oxide? | Laughing Gas |
| 8. What do pilots nickname their auto pilot? | George |
| 9. Which two dances are used In the phonetic alphabet? | Foxtrot and tango |

Music

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. Who composed The Enigma Variations? | Edward Elgar |
| 2. Which country singer was known as The Man In Black? | Johnny Cash |
| 3. What type of musical instrument is a Steinway? | Piano |
| 4. Which musical instrument has 46 strings and seven pedals? | Harp |
| 5. Who had a No 1 in the Sixties with Lily the Pink? | The Scaffold |
| 6. Who had a No 1 in the Fifties with Magic Moments? | Perry Como |
| 7. Patti Boyd was married to which two music legends? | George Harrison and Eric Clapton |



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