

The Buntingford Banner **u3a**

Learn, Laugh & Live!

www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford/home

Chairman's Remarks

Although restrictions have not yet been fully lifted things are already feeling much better than they did a few months ago. With the better weather it has been possible to meet friends and family in larger groups outdoors and to meet in smaller groups indoors when the weather has been less kind. It may not be fully back to normal but it is much closer to that than it has for a long time. I had almost forgotten what it was like to socialise with others but am really enjoying relearning that experience. I have even managed a few hugs!

We had hoped that by the time of writing this newsletter that all restrictions would have been lifted and it would be all systems go again. Unfortunately it wasn't to be. However, a number of groups have been able to restart and others are putting plans in place for a restart in August or September. See later in the newsletter for further details.

The Picnic in the Park was a great success with around 60 people attending. The weather was good everybody seemed to enjoy the opportunity to meet up with their friends for a chat. Several people have suggested we do it again so we will speak to the council to see if we can hold one in August. We will let you know when we have a date.

The Trust have announced the "Click and Save" scheme which gives members the opportunity to get discounts (cashback) when shopping at many major retailers. The scheme is summarised later in this newsletter and we will be sending out a separate email in the near future giving further details, including how to register for the scheme.

That's all from me for this month. Keep your fingers crossed for a glorious summer.

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

**I tried donating blood
today...NEVER
AGAIN!!!
Too many stupid
questions. Who's
blood is it? Where did
you get it from? Why
is it in a bucket?**

Picnic in the Park; Layston Gardens 2nd June 2021



A good number of members and potential members joined us in the sunshine to mark the national u3a Day and enjoyed meeting friends and colleagues we hadn't seen for some time.



The weather was glorious but we found a nice bit of shade under the trees to stop us overheating.

Everyone seemed to have a great time.

We'll give a plug too to the beautiful fragrant wisteria that is blooming profusely there!

Thanks to Tony Phillips for the photos.

Not the sharpest tool in the box.....

A noted psychiatrist was a guest speaker at an academic function where a prominent politician happened to appear. He took the opportunity to schmooze the good doctor a bit and asked him a question with which he was most at ease.

'Would you mind telling me, Doctor,' he asked, 'how you detect a mental deficiency in somebody who appears completely normal?'

'Nothing is easier,' he replied. 'You ask a simple question which anyone should answer with no trouble. If the person hesitates, that puts you on the track.'

'What sort of question?' he asked.

Well, you might ask, 'Captain Cook made three trips around the world and died during one of them. Which one?'

He thought a moment, and then said with a nervous laugh, 'You wouldn't happen to have another example would you? I must confess I don't know much about history.'

Click and Save

The Third Age Trust have recently announced the Click and Save scheme which offers a rebate to members when shopping with selected retailers, including big brands such as Sainsbury's, John Lewis, M&S and Costa Coffee.

It will only be available to members of u3as which register for the scheme and Buntingford u3a have already done this on your behalf. We really don't mind if you register or not but felt we should offer it for anyone interested. There is some admin for the u3a offering the scheme to members and there is also an impact on Gift Aid. We know some u3as have chosen not to offer the scheme because of, for example, its focus on nationwide stores rather than their own high streets.

The scheme operates by giving you cashback when purchasing gift cards and e-gift cards via the scheme website. You then use the purchased gift cards or e-gift cards when shopping in store or online. The cashback levels vary depending on the retailer. Examples include Sainsburys (3%), John Lewis (2%), M&S (5%), Costa (8%), Boots (5%) and Currys PC World (6%), although oddly it seems possible to earn 7% at some retailers such as John Lewis, M&S and Boots by buying an "All4One" card rather than a retailer specific gift card. Any cashback you earn can be used to buy future gift cards or top up ones you have previously bought.

Buntingford u3a will no longer be able to claim Gift Aid for any member registering with the scheme but you will need to agree to 10% of your savings being awarded to Buntingford u3a instead. Buntingford u3a has no control over the running of the scheme, including the percentage of savings being withheld and donated to us – all of this is managed and controlled centrally. Any issues with the scheme will have to be handled directly with the company running the scheme or with the Trust – we will not be able to get involved.

We will be sending out a separate email giving further details of the scheme and how to register if you wish to take advantage of the discounts. This email will not be sent as a hardcopy to those members who do not have an email address as you can only buy the gift cards via the scheme website and it is therefore unlikely that those without email addresses will be able to participate. If any member receiving this newsletter as a printed copy would like further information on the scheme, please contact one of the committee who will arrange for the details to be sent to you.

Grandchildren!

I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colours yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something and ask what colour it was. She would tell me, and she was always correct. At last, she headed for the door, saying, "Grandma, I think you should try figuring out some of this stuff for yourself!"



When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure." "Look in your underwear, Grandpa," he advised. "Mine says I'm 4 to 6."



A 6-year-old was asked where his grandma lived. "Oh," he said, "she lives at the airport, and when we want her, we just go get her. Then, when we're done having her visit, we take her back to the airport."

Did you know?

Some interesting/useful websites and apps for those with access to the internet through computers or smart phones:

'What Three Words'

Street addresses don't always point to precise locations and this is especially true if the location is out in the country "in the middle of nowhere". The makers of this tool divided the world into 3 metre squares and gave each square a unique combination of three words. You can use the tool to find the three words for a specific location (typically where you are) or enter a set of three words that someone has given you to find that exact location. It's the easiest way to find and share exact locations around the world. A typical use might be if your car broke down in the middle of the countryside. Use the app to find the three words for that location then give these to your partner, a garage or rescue service, or even the emergency services, so that they can find you. You could even use it while out shopping so that you and your partner or friend can meet up again! Examples - fence.gross.bats = Buckingham Palace, investor.savings.lance = The Eiffel Tower, brambles.year.betrayed = the rotunda in the centre of Layston Court Gardens! The tool has many uses – getting help when lost or directing others, for example, to the start of a walk or cycle. The emergency services are using it to locate accidents and direct their response.

Wateria Android app

If, like me, you forget to water your house plants then you might find this app helpful. Simply enter the type of plant, how frequently you want to water it, how soon you want the first reminder to appear, and Wateria will prod you to water when needed.

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New Forms of Transport!!



Zoom Meeting: 2pm June 14th Charles Garland, "Dad's Army"

Charles was the BBC producer who worked on all 80 episodes of the show alongside David Croft and Jimmy Perry. He told us first how he came to be working at the BBC after writing many letters asking for a job. He eventually became a television director working with various programmes ranging from producing opera with Sir Jonathan Miller to the Paul Daniels Magic Show and comedies such as "Hi-de-Hi!" The original title for the show was "The Fighting Tigers" but this was not considered suitable and the show was eventually renamed "Dad's Army".



Charles then described how each actor was chosen for his particular role and how the series was filmed each week over a period of five days. In recent years Charles had the task of re-editing each episode down to 29 minutes and 50 seconds so that they would fit into the TV schedule.

Next Members Zoom Meeting: 2pm July 12th Saffron Summerfield 'When Birds Sing'



An illustrated talk with Saffron's own recordings of bird songs, sonograms (graphs representing a sound, showing the distribution of energy at different frequencies) and new music. Illustrations show how a bird sings. The talk includes the latest scientific research on the state of our British songbirds: (i.e. can feeding birds in our gardens make a difference to how they sing? Just why does a small bird (Marsh Warbler) 'collect' up to 250 other bird songs and calls on its migratory path from Africa to Northern Europe? How can a tiny bird like our Wren sing 25 notes a second? What is happening inside a bird's brain when it sings?). Saffron also answers why the Dawn Chorus has such an emotional and calming effect on some Humans and how

birds have inspired composers, poets, writers and artists for thousands of years. Do you know, for example, what Mozart learned from his pet Starling? The talk includes tips on how to identify birdsong in your garden and parks.

Madness!!!



Groups News

The **Book Club**, **Current Affairs** and one of the **Spanish** groups continue to meet via Zoom at present, as they have done throughout the pandemic. **Table tennis** and **Monday keep fit** classes are now running in the hall, as is **Pilates** which is in the hall for spacing needs.

The new **Computer Group** held its first meeting in May on Zoom. Their next meeting will be on 5th July.

Sunday Lunch for Solos had their first lunch recently and plan another for 10th July. The group really needs 2 tables to accommodate everyone, however under current covid rules 2 tables cannot be booked at the same pub! Lyn Kendle-Archer, the group leader, has been booking a table at each of two pubs and so is really looking forward to that restriction ending.

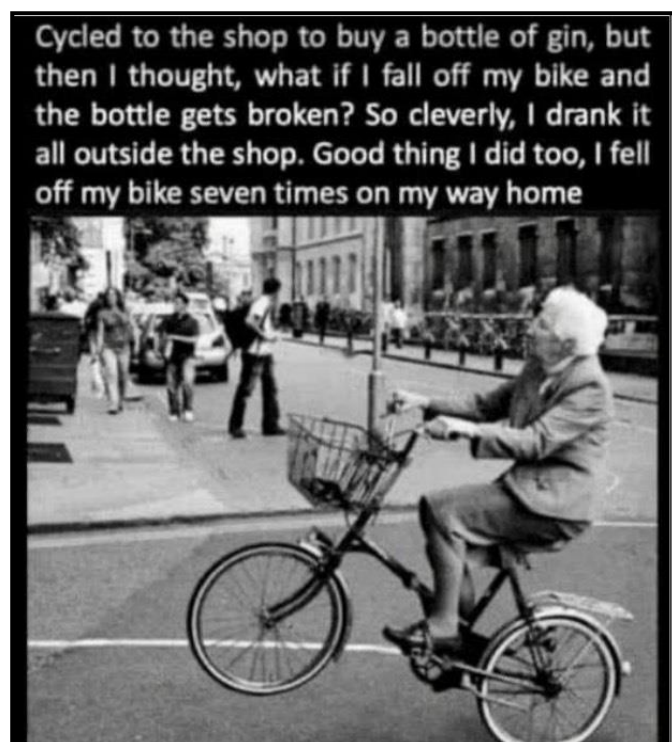
The **Cycling group** was meant to have their 1st post covid ride last Friday (18th June). Unfortunately, the weather hadn't heard this was the plan so the group will start again in July. If there are any more cyclists out there, please contact farquhar_jim@yahoo.co.uk.

The **3 mile Walking group** hope to have their first walk on 30th June.

There is a firm starting date of Friday 1st July for another new group, **Pottery**, and **Badminton** plans to start on 3rd September.

Other groups, such as the **Ukulele Group**, **Digital Photography** and **the Bridge Group**, are keen to restart in halls as soon as conditions allow. In the meantime members are practicing at home or meeting in small groups.

The above are the plans for groups we know about. Others may also have clear plans for meeting again. Please can group leaders let Gill Alderton, the Groups Coordinator (see details on last page), know of your plans so we can include them here.



Latest Quiz

(answers in next newsletter edition)

History

1. How was Julius Caesar assassinated?
2. Name the first president of the USA?
3. What famously happened in Kent in 1170?
4. What lasted from 1919 until 1933 in America?
5. Which French monarch was known as The Sun King?
6. Who was the last Czar of Russia?
7. Which part of Robert the Bruce's body was removed and taken on crusade?
8. Who shot John Lennon?
9. In which county is the seaside town of Westward Ho!?

Geography

1. Which two English counties are separated by The Wash?
2. The Ural Mountains divide which two continents?
3. Name the highest waterfall in the world.
4. Which sea lies between Italy and the former Yugoslavia?
5. France and Spain are divided by which mountain range?
6. What is the most popular colour on the flags of the world?
7. Which two US States are not connected to any of the others?

Science and nature

1. The patella is the anatomical name for which bone?
2. What is the name of a substance that speeds up a chemical reaction but remains unchanged itself?
3. What two "firsts" did Marie Curie achieve in terms of Nobel Prizes?
4. How many bones are there in the adult human body?
5. Where on the body is skin said to be at its thinnest?
6. What is measured on the Scoville Scale?
7. How many pairs of chromosomes are there in the human body?

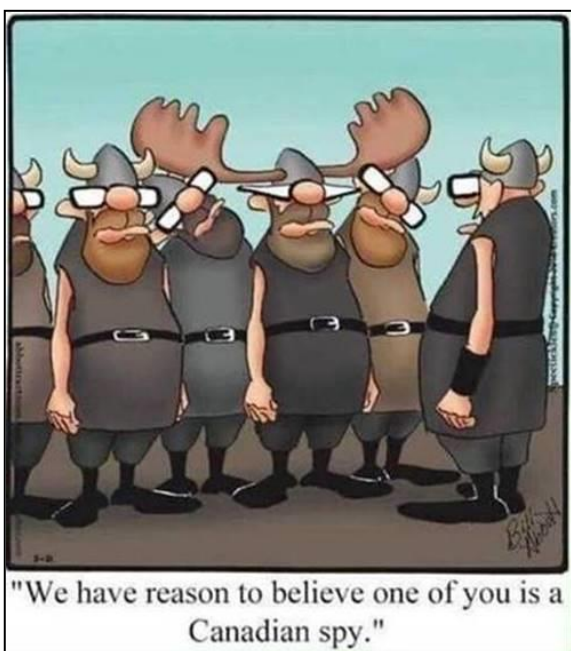
GK

1. Which silent-movie star said: "All I need to make a comedy is a park, a policeman and a pretty girl."
2. What type of food is Korma?
3. Who succeeded Margaret Thatcher as PM?
4. Which composer wrote the opera The Marriage of Figaro?
5. From which country do Komodo Dragons originate?
6. Which "Queen of Romance" wrote 623 books?

7. What name is given to the male swan?
8. Who painted Guernica?
9. Who is currently fourth in line to the throne?

TV and film

1. According to a poll which was Bruce Forsyth's greatest catchphrase?
2. Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman appeared in which prison drama that was voted one of the three top movies of all time?
3. Who played Alfie Moon in EastEnders?
4. The wrestler known as The Rock goes by which name as an actor?
5. Who became famous in films called Hud, The Hustler and Cool Hand Luke?
6. Which Welsh actor became famous for portraying David Frost, Tony Blair and Brian Clough on film?
7. Which TV chef presents in his River Cottage kitchen?
8. Which body-building actor played Mr Freeze in the film Batman and Robin?



What's Your Name, Again?

Two elderly ladies had been friends for many decades. Over the years they had shared all kinds of activities and adventures. Lately, their activities had been limited to playing cards a few times a week.

One day when playing cards, one looked at the other and said, "Now don't get mad at me. I know we've been friends a long time, but I just can't think of your name. I've thought and thought, but I can't remember it. Please tell me what your name is."

Her friend glared at her. For at least three minutes she just stared and glared. Finally she said, "How soon do you need to know?"

Answers to Quiz published in May 2021 newsletter

TV

1. What is the postcode for the fictional EastEnders area of Walford and also of the Olympic Park site in Stratford? E20
2. Ulrika Jonsson and ex-footballer John Fashanu hosted which game show? Gladiators
3. The Wentworth Detention Centre featured in which Australian soap, based in a prison? Prisoner Cell Block H
4. Miss Ellie was the matriarch in which American series? Dallas
5. Wile E Coyote featured in which cartoon series? Road Runner
6. Which famous British rock group were the first band to appear on Top of the Pops in 1964? The Rolling Stones
7. Jeeves and Wooster was based on the writings of which Englishman? PG Woodhouse

The 1980s

1. David and Elizabeth Emanuel were famous for designing what in 1981? Princess Diana's wedding dress
2. In The A Team, BA Baracus was scared of what? Flying
3. A red triangle was a content warning sign for which TV channel for a year? Channel 4
4. New York City High School for the Performing Arts was the setting for which TV show? Fame
5. What was the name of the official report into the 1989 Hillsborough disaster? Taylor Report
6. Which tanker ran aground in Alaska, spilling 37 metric tonnes of crude oil? Exxon Valdez

The 1990s

1. Who was the first model used in the famous Wonder Bra ads? Eva Herzigova
2. Which British Prime Minister wanted us to go Back to Basics? John Major
3. Whose upright vacuum cleaner familiarised us with the phrase Dual Cyclone? Dyson
4. In which year was the Grand National declared void after two false starts? 1993
5. Prisoner 46664 was released in 1990? Who was he? Nelson Mandela
6. Bryan Adams, whose theme from Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves, was No 1 in the charts for 16 weeks, is from which country? Canada

General Knowledge

1. Where in Italy would you find the Doge's Palace Museum? Venice
2. Who killed the Shakespearean character Desdemona? Othello
3. Brot is the German word for which foodstuff? Bread
4. David Cornwell found fame under which literary pseudonym? John Le Carre
5. For what does the acronym CIA stand? Central Intelligence Agency
6. Who sang the theme to the US cowboy series Rawhide? Frankie Laine
7. Which sporting venue is PO Box 1966, and why? Wembley Stadium, England's World Cup win in 1966
8. As in feline and canine, what animal can be cervine? Deer

Geography

1. What is the capital of Sicily? Palermo
2. In which ocean would you find the Maldiv Islands? Indian
3. Name the two land-locked countries of South America. Paraguay and Bolivia
4. How many US states begin with the letter A? Four
5. What is the smallest country in the world? The Vatican
6. What African country has the largest population? Nigeria
7. What is the capital of Poland? Warsaw

History

1. Wild Bill Hickock was shot dead while playing poker, holding what became known as Dead Man's Hand? What two pairs did he have? Aces and eights
2. In which decade did the Chernobyl disaster occur? 1980s
3. Who was Lord Mayor of London four times between 1397 and 1419, inspiring a folk tale? Dick Whittington
4. Who was the second President of the United States? John Adams
5. Which British archaeologist discovered Tutankhamun's tomb? Howard Carter
6. Who led Britain's ill-fated Antarctic expedition of 1912? Robert Falcon Scott
7. Which 13th-Century Scottish knight did Mel Gibson portray in Braveheart? William Wallace
8. In which country did the Second World War Battles of El Alamein take place? Egypt



With thank to Colin Meehan and Jean Cook for many of the jokes and cartoons!

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