

The Buntingford Banner u3a

Learn, Laugh & Live!

www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford/home

Chairman's Remarks

Covid restrictions were lifted on Monday this week and we held our first face-to-face committee meeting since February 2020. We held it outside in the glorious sunshine so I don't think that could be considered risky!

The June "Picnic in the Park" seemed to be very popular so we are proposing to hold another one on Thursday 19th August. We are also planning to return to the Community Centre for the September Monthly Meeting, although obviously that will depend on restrictions remaining unchanged. Hopefully the government will not classify our Monthly Meeting as a nightclub so I don't think there will be a requirement for double vaccinations but you never know! There are further details for both on the next page of this newsletter!

More groups have restarted or have plans to restart. If you are not sure what is happening with any groups you are interested in, please contact the group leader for an update. Group leaders can be contacted via the website page for that group (click on the bird in the top right hand corner of the group's page). Note that it will be up to each group leader to decide what rules will or will not apply in their group e.g. masks or some level of social distancing. Although these are no longer mandatory, some leaders may feel more comfortable with having some additional safety measures in place while others will prefer the freedom of no restrictions. All group leaders and members must make their own decision on how to proceed and others must not put pressure on them to do something they are not comfortable with e.g. to wear a mask or to attend a class where there are no restrictions or social distancing in place, but members must conform to any rules established by the group leader if they wish to attend that class.

That's all from me for this month. Let's hope this nice weather continues, particularly for the August Picnic in the Park!

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

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



August Picnic in the Park

The Picnic in the Park held in June seemed to be very much enjoyed by members so we are planning to hold another one on Thursday 19th August from 2pm. Although we considered changing the location to the playing fields next to the Community Centre we have decided to stick to Layston Court Gardens. It is felt that it is a nicer environment, offers good shade if it is very sunny (hopefully), has less dog poo, and is closer to the shops for anyone wanting to purchase drinks or provisions. These were considered to outweigh the benefits of easier parking and availability of toilets at the Community Centre. There is parking and toilets behind Sainsburys so within walking distance of Layston Court Gardens.

The format will be the same as before i.e. members will be responsible for bringing their own food, drinks, chair or blanket etc..

We would encourage you to invite anyone who may not currently be a u3a member but might consider joining but if you do, please point out that they need to bring their own food and drinks etc.. Also, you are very welcome to bring a pet but please keep it on a lead and under control. Although I like dogs it is not fair on others to let them roam freely at a picnic where they might attempt to steal food from members.

Monthly Meetings Returning to the Community Centre

Now that restrictions have been lifted we plan to return to the Community Centre for the September Monthly Meeting although obviously that will depend on government rules at that time. However there are still a number of areas to resolve:

- ❖ We would like to be able to offer a hybrid meeting so that members who are comfortable meeting in the Community Centre can do so while others who would rather continue to take part via Zoom also have that option. However, we need to test the practicalities of doing this, to make sure that members on Zoom can see and hear the presenter and presentation effectively and members in the hall can hear any questions being raised via Zoom.

Although this is all theoretically possible, there are still a number of technology challenges to making it work. The committee plan to do a test of this during August including checking that the WiFi and broadband will cope. If it is not practical we may not be able to offer members the option of attending the meeting via Zoom.

- ❖ We also need to decide what chair layout to use in the hall e.g. normal chair spacing, 1 metre separation, 2 metre separation, or something else (mixed?). Although the rules allow normal spacing some members may prefer a slightly "safer" layout. This will also depend on infection rates and the general mood amongst our members at that time.

We will obviously confirm details before the September meeting.

2022 u3a Diaries

The 2022 u3a 40th anniversary diaries are available now at a cost of £3 each. We do not intend to order any spares so the only way to guarantee a diary is by ordering one. Email Kate Farquhar at Buntingfordu3asec@gmail.com to place an order (or you can order directly with the Trust if you prefer). Placing an order means a commitment to pay.

Once the diaries are received from the Trust I'll email you confirming they've arrived. Pick up and payment will be via Val Reedman at 16 Mill Close.

Zoom Meeting: 2pm July 12th

Saffron Summerfield 'When Birds Sing'



Saffron gave us an entertaining talk with interesting information on song birds and their habits. These are birds that learn their songs and perform them using a specialized voice box called a syrinx which allows them to produce two unrelated pitches at once. We know they sing to protect their territories and find mates but did you know a wren's voice is ten times louder than a cockerel and the marsh warbler has no song of its own but picks up other birdsongs and has been recorded singing for half an hour without repeating itself!

Richard Barrington, a 19th century amateur ornithologist, discovered birds learned songs in their shells from their parents/foster parents. It's been found that some birds use this to fight back against intruders – the Fairy Wren in Australia teaches a tune to their babies in their shells and when they hatch they don't get fed if they don't sing that tune back to their parents. A species of Australian cuckoo lays its eggs in the wren's nests but, hatching earlier, they don't learn the tune and are ejected!

Next Members Zoom Meeting: 2pm August 9th

Lucy Lewis "Always have a plan B"

Lucy will tell us about her years in the Army and as the first female bomb disposal officer in the country in 1989. She'll also talk to us about her current post as Marshal at the University of Cambridge, which sees her lead the institution's constabulary.

Thoroughly recommended by many so it should be good!



ADVANCED NOTICE!

Composting and Waste Reduction talk in September (on Zoom)

Garden Organic's talk, provisionally booked for 2pm 27th September, is part of their new campaign to reduce waste and will focus on food waste reduction and composting in particular. It will also cover recycling and other sustainable waste schemes in the region.

They are also looking for volunteers who have an interest in reducing, reusing, recycling and composting to help with their campaign, but you don't have to be considering volunteering in order to qualify for the talk!

GROUP NEWS

'They Matter' Group - Green Baize!

Whilst watching the World Snooker Championships in April, June and Eric Fairbrother heard on the commentary that there was probably going to be a change of cloth on one of the tables as the players didn't think it was running properly. June, who is a member of our 'They Matter' group, wondered what they did with the old cloth. She did no more than email the company outlining what the group did to ask the question, not really expecting a reply.

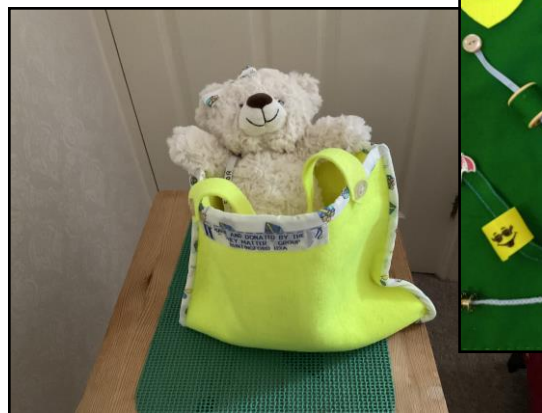
However, a reply came back from a gentleman named Stuart with the answer. He said that they were sold to clubs and pubs for them to put on their tables, as their players would then have a championship quality cloth to play on, albeit used. He also said that the company also made the yellow felt cloth for championship tennis balls. June then gave him more details about the group and that we had made more than 220 mats, donating them to 18 different Care Homes as well as to some individuals, and if he had any off cuts we could certainly use them for pockets etc..

A further email from Stuart said he'd arranged for a roll of each material to be delivered to the Fairbrother's as this was a cause dear to his heart.



Two days later June answered the door to a delivery man asking if she was expecting a delivery. "Yes" was the reply. He then apologised and said he couldn't lift it and so he dragged these two rolls of material into the garage! Each was 6ft wide by an unknown number of metres of material. The yellow roll weighed 63kgs and the green weighed 45kg! The yellow material is thicker and Eric couldn't even get his arms round it. (June and Eric said it was a good job they didn't live in a 2nd floor flat!).

June emailed Stuart to thank him for his generosity. A parcel has been sent to him in which there were a mat and toy bag using the green and yellow material, together with a thank you card from the 'They Matter' group, on which was the names of all the group members, together with photographs of some of the mats we had made.



June couldn't get to her fridge freezer in the garage for a while!!!!

There is a bit more to this story which I'll keep for next month.

Hilary Curtis

GROUP NEWS cont....

Pottery group

This launched on 1st July and everyone really enjoyed it. Below is a selection of pictures taken at the event.



Gill Alderton

Contact Gill (01763 272276:
gillalderton@yahoo.com) if you're
interested in joining the group's waiting
list (its now full)

GROUP NEWS cont....

Cycling Group

After a failed attempt in June due to adverse weather, the Cycling Group finally restarted on 8th July with a 14 mile cycle ride from Ashwell via the Mordens and Bassingbourn. The route was deliberately chosen to avoid any steep hills! 5 members took part and we stopped at the memorial to the 355th Fighter Group at the disused Steeple Morden airfield to pay our respects. We ended the ride by going to the pub for a well earned drink!

Jim Farquhar



Craft Group

The craft group is looking for a new leader as Marion Ellard has 'retired' from the role. This was a well supported group and it will be a pity if it folds. Leadership can be shared if that works. Please contact Gill Alderton (01763 272276: gillalderton@yahoo.com) if you are interested.

CHURCH NOTICES!

These sentences are from church bulletins or announced at services:

- The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on Water'. The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'
- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
- A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
- At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practise.
- Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00pm - prayer and medication to follow.
- The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use the large double door at the side entrance.
- The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Celebs

1. Which model became famous after marrying Rolling Stone Bill Wyman and former footballer Pat van den Hauwe?
2. The body of which famous American actress was found in her bed in 1962?
3. Which famous actor became the mayor of the Californian town of Carmel in 1986?
4. Which Radio 2 journalist's BBC1 chat show was axed in 1999 over claims about fake guests?
5. In which country was actor Yul Brynner born?
6. Who played Gandhi in the 1982 film of that name?
7. Who is The Queen's oldest grandson?

GK

1. Which country features La Tomatina "tomato fight" every year?
2. What is Stinking Rose?
3. Which American Civil Rights leader was assassinated on April 4, 1968?
4. Which political scandal brought down Richard Nixon?
5. What does the red circle on the Japanese flag represent?
6. Where would you find the Tynwald Parliament?
7. In which harbour was Greenpeace's Rainbow Warrior destroyed in 1986?

Quotations

1. Who says, "They're great", about Frosties?
2. Who said: "Hell is other people."
3. Complete this..."Some people are on the pitch. They think it's all over..."
4. What were the first four words...Will the last person to leave Britain please turn out the lights"?
5. Who said: "History is more or less bunk?"
6. Who said: "History will be kind to me for I intend to write it?"
7. Which Shakespearean character says: "But soft! What light through yonder window breaks?"

Geography

1. On which continent would you find the Kalahari Desert?
2. What are the three pan-Slavic colours, that used to be on most of their flags?
3. Which American State is furthest south?
4. Which Ocean's name translates as "Peaceful".
5. What was the previous name of Sri Lanka?
6. What is the capital city of Ethiopia?
7. How many Oceans lap Canadian shores?

Couples

1. Which hotel heir was the first husband of Liz Taylor?
2. Who was the wife of Leofric, who rode naked through a Midlands town?
3. Whose wife was turned into a pillar of salt, according to The Bible?
4. Anne Hathaway was the wife of which English writer?
5. Name Barney Rubble's wife in The Flintstones?
6. Whose first wife was called Josephine?
7. Name Tony Blair's wife.

Romantic films

1. A manipulative woman and roguish man have a turbulent affair in the South in which Civil war film?
2. Where do Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan finally meet in Sleepless in Seattle?
3. What was actress's Jennifer Grey's nickname in Dirty Dancing?
4. In which film did James Bond marry?
5. Celia Johnson and Trevor Howard's Brief Encounter took place where?
6. Where did Maxim de Winter live in the film Rebecca?
7. Richard Gere and Julia Roberts fell for each other in which 1990 movie?

BACK IN THOSE DAYS

Back in the days of tanners and bobs, when Mothers had patience and Fathers had jobs. When football team families wore hand-me-down shoes, and TV gave only two channels to choose.

Back in the days of threepenny bits, when schools employed nurses to search for your nits. When snowballs were harmless; ice slides were permitted and all of your jumpers were warm and hand knitted.

Back in the days of hot ginger beers, when children remained so for more than six years. When children respected what older folks said, and pot was a thing you kept under your bed.

Back in the days of 'Listen with Mother', when neighbours were friendly and talked to each other. When cars were so rare you could play in the street, when doctors made house calls; police walked the beat.

Back in the days of Milligan's Goons, when butter was butter and songs all had tunes. It was dumplings for dinner and trifle for tea, and your annual break was a day by the sea.

Back in the days of Dixon's Dock Green, Crackerjack pens and Lyons ice cream. When children could freely wear National Health glasses, and teachers all stood at the FRONT of their classes.

Back in the days of rocking and reeling, when mobiles were things that you hung from the ceiling. When woodwork and pottery got taught in schools, and everyone dreamed of a win on the pools.

Back in the days when I was a lad, I can't help but smile for the fun that I had. Hopscotch and roller skates; snowballs to lob, back in the days of tanners and bobs.

Answers to Quiz published in June 2021 newsletter

History

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| 1. How was Julius Caesar assassinated? | Multiple stab wounds |
| 2. Name the first president of the USA | George Washinton |
| 3. What famously happened in Kent in 1170? | Tomas Becket murder |
| 4. What lasted from 1919 until 1933 in America? | Prohibition |
| 5. Which French monarch was known as The Sun King? | Louise XIV |
| 6. Who was the last Czar of Russia? | Nicholas II |
| 7. Which part of Robert the Bruce's body was removed and taken on crusade? | His heart |
| 8. Who shot John Lennon? | Mark Chapman |
| 9. In which county is the seaside town of Westward Ho!? | Devon |

Geography

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

Science and nature

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| 1. The patella is the anatomical name for which bone? | Kneecap |
| 2. What is the name of a substance that speeds up a chemical reaction but remains unchanged itself? | Catalyst |
| 3. What two "firsts" did Marie Curie achieve in terms of Nobel Prizes? | The first woman and the first person to receive two |
| 4. How many bones are there in the adult human body? | 206 |
| 5. Where on the body is skin said to be at its thinnest? | Eye lids |
| 6. What is measured on the Scoville Scale? | The heat of chillies |
| 7. How many pairs of chromosomes are there in the human body? | 23 |

General Knowledge

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

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| 6. Which "Queen of Romance" wrote 623 books? | Barbara Cartland |
| 7. What name is given to the male swan? | Cob |
| 8. Who painted Guernica? | Picasso |
| 9. Who is currently fourth in line to the throne? | Charlotte |

TV and film

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



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