

The Buntingford Banner **u3a**

Learn, Laugh & Live!

www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford/home

Chairman's Remarks

It is nice to be getting a bright spell of weather for a change so I hope you are enjoying it as much as I am.

We held the AGM last week as a hybrid meeting with around 45 people in the hall and 15 people joining us via Zoom. Managing the voting for Zoom attendees was slightly "clunky" but it all worked so that's the AGM done for another year. See later in the newsletter for further information.

Running meetings where people can attend in person or via Zoom seems to have been very successful so we plan to continue offering this for the foreseeable future. This not only allows attendance by anyone who wants to reduce the risk of Covid or other infections but also those who may be less mobile so unable to get to the hall. If you have any suggestions for how we might improve the experience for those at home or in the hall, then please let me know. I have some ideas already but the more the merrier.

We have already started planning our December monthly meeting and to help get you into the Christmas spirit we will be providing wine for those in the hall. We are also asking members to wear their Christmas jumpers so let's see how many we can get and make it a colourful affair. This meeting will be a hybrid meeting but we expect those on Zoom to join in with their Christmas jumpers!

That's all from me for this month. Let's hope this bright spell of weather continues for a bit longer so that we can get enjoy the outdoors before the clocks change at the end of October. I'm not looking forward to these dark nights!

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

**YOU KNOW WHEN
YOU BUY A BAG
OF SALAD & IT
GETS ALL BROWN
& SOGGY?**

**COOKIES DON'T
DO THAT**



AGM Monday 11th October 2021– Zoom & Seth Ward

The AGM was a hybrid meeting this year with attendees both in the hall and at home. Those in the hall were also able to enjoy cake and wine as well as the usual tea and coffee.

The Chairman's Report, Treasurer's Report and Group Coordinator's Reports were all agreed, as was the proposal to leave the subscription rate unchanged for the next membership period which is April 2022 through to March 2023. The change to the constitution to allow online and hybrid meetings, as well as electronic and proxy votes was also agreed. The Charity Commission have allowed charities to use these methods for the last 18 months but this change formalises this approach so that we are no longer dependent on the Charity Commission "turning a blind eye" to us operating contrary to our constitution.

Two members (Janet Murrells and Martin Gray) joined the committee and two existing members stood down (John and Janet Noades). A resolution was passed to allow those committee members who had reached the end of their normal terms (as specified in the constitution) to stay on for an additional year. This avoids the committee having too few people to effectively run the u3a. We need to get more new committee members next year as the current members cannot be expected to stay on for longer. It is also unhealthy for any committee to continue for too long without a regular influx of new members to bring fresh ideas.

Since the AGM we have held our first committee meeting and agreed the various roles. The only change from last year are Welfare Officer and Webmaster. The full list of committee members, their roles and contact details are shown at the end of the newsletter.

Racing a bear

Two campers are walking through the woods when a huge brown bear suddenly appears in the clearing about 50 feet in front of them. The bear sees the campers and begins to head toward them. The first guy drops his backpack, digs out a pair of sneakers, and frantically begins to put them on. The second guy says, 'What are you doing? Sneakers won't help you outrun that bear.' 'I don't need to outrun the bear,' the first guy says. 'I just need to outrun you.'

**My kids say they
want a cat for
Christmas.**

**Normally I do a
turkey but hey, if
it'll make 'em
happy...**

**When we're young,
we sneak out of
our house to go to
parties. When we're
old, we sneak out of
parties to go home.**

Composting and Waste - 27th September (on Zoom)

We had an excellent talk from Rob Whitehouse as part of East and North Herts District Council's Shared Waste Partnership. Rob gave a very information talk on waste management and recycling, including how much we generate, what happens to it, and what we can do to improve things, correcting many of the recycling myths and misunderstandings. If we could all do just that little bit more it would have a significant impact on our carbon footprint and go some way towards slowing (and hopefully halting) the growing problem of climate change.

A link to a recording of the talk was sent to members on 29th September and the link is reproduced below.

<https://youtu.be/Qxu0BCJ3nuw>

Let us know if you've changed your recycling habits having listened to the talk. We've certainly heard of several now recycling soft plastic at the Co-op in Buntingford! (more information at [Soft Plastic Recycling - Co-op \(coop.co.uk\)](http://coop.co.uk)).

8th November, 2.15pm – Ian Keable - "The Century of Deception: The Birth of the Hoax in the Eighteenth Century" (Zoom & hall)

The 1700s was a period when the people of England seemed to be especially gullible. They believed a woman could give birth to rabbits; a man could climb inside a two pint bottle and sing inside it; and where a blond-haired European could write a book claiming that he was born in Taiwan. These hoaxes weren't just written about extensively in newspapers and journals but also brilliantly and amusingly depicted by satirical artists such as William Hogarth and James Gillray. In this entertaining talk Ian demonstrates how 18th century hoaxes are memorable not only for their imaginative nature but also because of the differing motives of the tricksters.

13th December, 2.15pm – Tricia Thompson "We Wish you a Merry Christmas" (Zoom & hall)

A history of Christmas music – with a sing-a-long. Tricia is an experienced public speaker presenting lively, interesting and fun talks to groups of all sizes around the country.

Note that as this is our Christmas meeting we are encouraging all attendees to wear a Christmas jumper. We will also be providing wine in the hall to help you get into the Christmas spirit!

Mind & Music – songs to aid memory



Jean Cook is a member of "Braughing Sing", a community choir. The Musical Director, David Ranford, has run special classes for people suffering from dementia and is hoping to set up another one in Puckeridge. If you know of anyone suffering from dementia who might be interested in this group then contact David (ranfordd@gmail.com).

Meetings will be every Thursday 2.00 – 3.00pm at Standon and Puckeridge Community Centre, Station Road, Puckeridge. SG11 1TF

The objective is to bring people together to sing a variety of well-known and loved songs in a fun and friendly environment. Mind & Music welcomes people affected by dementia and their carers, as well as those concerned about their memory.

GROUP NEWS

Our groups are beginning to open back up. Please contact your group leaders for further information.

Ukulele group: membership has dropped considerably so is no longer running although Colin Meehan is happy to re-start if numbers recover.

Craft group: is changing.... At a recent meeting members agreed the thing they wanted most was meeting people with the craft really just being an excuse to get together!

It was decided to re-form and re-name (coming soon!), meeting once a month to enjoy all forms of knitting, stitching, crochet, crafts plus natter. Members will bring their own projects so some people could be knitting, others sowing or crocheting etc., (and some may be spending more time nattering than working on their activities!).

Unfortunately, meeting at members houses makes it difficult to expand the group to more than 8. There is therefore a real need for a second group as there are already 4 members who would like to join but cannot be accommodated in the current group. Would you be willing to set up another similar group? There is very little to do to keep it running and meetings are shared around. Talk to Kate Farquhar (01763 287393, farquharkate@yahoo.co.uk) if you are interested and would like more information.

Group leaders required: for Engineering & Transport and for Language groups.

New groups: We have approximately 35 groups but are always looking for new ones, particularly where existing ones are full and so not available to new members. The u3a is about members helping each other so please consider how you could help with groups.

Talk to Gill Alderton, Groups Coordinator (01763 272276 gillalderton@yahoo.com) for advice and guidance if you could start a second group or have an idea for a new one.

THE CAR PARK ATTENDANT

Outside Bristol Zoo there is a car park for 150 cars and 8 buses. For 25 years, its parking was managed by a very pleasant attendant. The cost for cars was £1.40 and for buses about £7. Then, one day, after 25 solid years of never missing a day of work, he just didn't come in.

The zoo management called the city council and asked it to send them another parking attendant. The council did some research and replied that the car park was the zoo's own responsibility. The zoo advised the council that the attendant was a city employee. The city council responded that the parking attendant had never been on the city payroll.

Meanwhile, sitting in his villa somewhere on the coast of Spain, or France, or Italy, is a man who'd apparently had a ticket booth installed completely on his own and then had simply begun to show up every day to collect and keep the parking money, estimated at about £560 per day -- for 25 years. Assuming 7 days a week, this amounts to just over £7 million pounds - and no one even knows his name!

Geography

1. In which county would you find Blenheim Palace?
2. Germany's Kiel Canal links the Baltic Sea to which other body of water?
3. Which country can be found in The Pyrenees, between Spain and France?
4. What is the capital city of Iceland?
5. Name the longest river in Scotland.
6. In which county would you find the English town of Stilton?
7. What is known as The Red planet?

GK

1. Which great composer is often linked with the music for Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star?
2. What sort of musical instrument is a tam-tam?
3. What sort of a creature in a glow worm?
4. What sort of snake is supposed to have killed Cleopatra?
5. Which "American" actor, who appeared in several Hitchcock movies, was born Archibald Leach in Bristol?
6. In which city would you find The Hermitage Museum?
7. Auld Reekie is a nickname for which British city?

The 90s

1. Kevin Costner played Lieutenant John Dunbar in which 1991 film?
2. Dan Quayle was Vice President to which American leader?
3. Who played Ma and Pa Larkin in The Darling Buds of May?
4. Who replaced Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow?
5. What two colours was Mr Blobby?
6. Who was British Prime Minister at the beginning of this century?
7. Whitney Houston's I Will Always Love You featured in which 1992 film, starring Kevin Costner?

The age of man

1. Which British pop star was shot dead in New York at the age of 40?
2. Which American Civil Rights leader was shot dead at 39?
3. Which American president was 38 when he was shot dead?
4. Which one-eared Dutch painter died at 37?
5. Which British royal was 36 she died in a car crash?

6. Which famous Austrian composer only made to 35?
7. Name the Brazilian motor racing driver killed on the track at 34.

Scotland

1. The film Braveheart was about which Scottish hero of the 13th and 14th Centuries?
2. Skye is the largest island of which group?
3. Translate the Gaelic for whisky, Uisge Beatha, into English.
4. Haddock known as Smokies come from which town? (Jim comes from here too!)
5. Dundee is said to be famous for Jam, Jute and which other "J"?
6. To do with sport, Scotland boasts 550 what?
7. The Battle of Bannockburn took place in which century?

Ireland

1. Which 1951 film was shot on location in County Mayo, directed by John Ford and starred John Wayne?
2. What sort of musical instrument is a bodhran?
3. For what does GAA stand? It is a sporting body.
4. What lies on top of an Irish Coffee?
5. What are the Twelve Bens?
6. In 1986 which Bob received an honorary knighthood after founding Band Aid?
7. Which is the most famous title contested at the Tralee festival In Co Kerry?

WHEN THE CAT WENT TO HEAVEN

A cat died and went to heaven. God met her at the gates and said "You have been a good cat all these years. Anything you want is yours for the asking." The cat thought for a minute and then said "All my life I lived on a farm and slept on hard wooden floors. I would like a real fluffy pillow to sleep on." God smiled and instantly the cat had a huge fluffy pillow.

A few days later, six mice were killed in an accident and they all went to heaven together. God met the mice at the gates with the same offer that he had made to the cat. The mice said, "Well, we have had to run all of our lives from cats, dogs and even people with brooms! If we could just have some little roller skates, we would not have to run again. God answered, "It is done." All the mice had beautiful little roller skates.

About a week later, God decided to check on the cat. He found her sound asleep on her fluffy pillow. God gently awakened the cat and asked, "Is everything okay? How have you been doing? Are you happy?" The cat replied, "Oh, it is WONDERFUL! The Meals on Wheels you have been sending over are delicious!"

Answers to Quiz published in September 2021 newsletter

So last century

1. In which decade was the Festival of Britain held? 1950s (1951)
2. Eddy Shah launched which British newspaper in 1986? Today
3. Name the Argentine cruiser sunk in The Falklands War, inspiring The Sun's "Gotcha" headline
General Belgrano
4. Who, in 1938, spoke of "Peace in our time?" Neville Chamberlain
5. In which year did Britain join what was then the EU? 1973
6. In which year did Neil Armstrong walk on the moon? 1969
7. What was the name of Sir Freddy Laker's transatlantic air service launched in the Seventies?
Skytrain

Film

1. Which 1964 Michael Caine film tells of an African battle of 1879? Zulu
2. Who sang the theme song to the James Bond movie Thunderball? Tom Jones
3. In which film does Tom Hanks play the long-lived prison warden Paul Edgecomb?
The Green Mile
4. In which Macaulay Culkin movie were the baddies called Harry and Marv? Home Alone
5. What did Bombadier Billy Wells do at the start of films made by The Rank Organisation?
Bang a gong
6. Mack Sennett founded which celluloid police force? Keystone Cops
7. What was the name of Gregory Peck's son in The Omen? Damien

TV

1. Name Frank Spencer's wife in Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em. Betty
2. Which pop star narrated Thomas the Tank Engine? Ringo Starr
3. What make of car does Rowan Atkinson's Mr Bean drive? Mini
4. Who replaced Bamber Gascoigne as presenter of University Challenge? Jeremy Paxman
5. Who lived at 23 Railway Cuttings, East Cheam? Tony Hancock
6. Who has played Dr Who and Worzel Gummidge? Jon Pertwee
7. Lou and Andy Pipkin are established characters in which comedy? Little Britain

History

1. In 27BC who became the first Roman Emperor? Augustus
2. Who was executed after reigning in England for nine days? Lady Jane Gray
3. What was the name of the Pilgrim Fathers' ship that sailed to America in 1620?
The Mayflower
4. What became the 50th State of the USA? Hawaii
5. Which king put his seal on Magna Carta in 1215? Jon
6. Which Italian was known as Il Duce? Mussolini
7. The Roundheads followed which military and political leader? Oliver Cromwell

Geography

1. Shah Jahan's masterpiece building can be found in which country? India
2. Orly Airport serves which European capital city? Paris
3. What was the former name of Ethiopia? Abyssinia
4. La Paz, the world's highest capital city, can be found in which country? Bolivia
5. Name Japan's largest island. Honshu
6. In which State is America's Waikiki Beach? Hawaii
7. Which is the world's largest island (not continent)? Greenland

Not only but also

1. What word can be a card game and also a racecourse? Newmarket
2. ..a sword and a sheet of metal? Foil
3. ..a holiday camp attendant and a British soldier of old? Redcoat
4. ..a waterfall and an eye problem? Cataract
5. ..a bird and an Arthurian character? Merlin
6. ..an English school and a sport? Rugby
7. ..headgear and a gangster? Hood

Snail with an attitude

A guy is sitting at home when he hears a knock at the door. He opens the door and sees a snail on the porch. He picks up the snail and throws it as far as he can. Three years later there's a knock on the door. He opens it and sees the same snail. The snail says: 'What the hell was that all about?'

Committee Contact Details

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