

The Buntingford Banner

Learn, Laugh & Live!

www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford/home

Chairman's Remarks

How can it be December already – I still keep thinking that the year has only just started. Mind you, the colder weather recently has been a real reminder that we are in winter so I'm clearly wrong!

The Christmas Monthly Meeting is on Monday (13th December) with doors open at 13:30 and the meeting starting at 14:15. As well as the normal tea and coffee there will also be free wine and mince pies both before and after the meeting. As this is the Christmas meeting we are encouraging everyone to wear their Christmas jumpers – I'll certainly be wearing mine. Further information on the meeting, including details of the speaker, are contained later in the newsletter.

Unfortunately the dreaded Covid is on the march with the government putting additional safety measures in place. At the time of writing this article it is still not mandatory to wear masks for things like the monthly meeting but I would encourage everyone to wear a mask when they can. It is obviously not possible to wear a mask when eating and drinking but please consider it at other times on Monday e.g. when listening to the speaker. Obviously if the rules change before Monday then we must all obey the latest regulations.

For those that would prefer not to come to the hall, you can also take part in the meeting via Zoom. The link for this will be sent in a separate email soon.

It would also be useful to have some volunteers to help with putting out the chairs and tables for monthly meetings (not just the December meeting); see the next page for what is required and how to volunteer.

We have already started making plans for 2022. Lesley has all the speakers booked for all the monthly meetings in 2022 and we are thinking about other things we can do. We are planning to hold a Coffee Morning (or Afternoon) in the New Year. The date and arrangements have still to be confirmed but we will let you have that information in January, once we have had a chance to sort things out. We expect to have another Picnic in the Park during the summer and are trying to think of other ideas. If you have any suggestions, please let us know.

That's all from me for this newsletter. Whatever your plans for the festive period I hope you have a great Christmas and New Year and I look forward to seeing you at Monday's Monthly Meeting. Let's hope we all have a great 2022.

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

Volunteers Needed to Help with Chairs and Tables at Monthly Meetings

It would help if we had a roster of volunteers to help with putting out the chairs and tables before each monthly meeting and to clear them away at the end. To do this we need:

- Someone to set-up and manage the roster.
- Volunteers who are willing to be on that roster. We only need 2 or 3 people for each meeting so it is hoped that volunteers are only required to help occasionally rather than the same people doing every meeting.

If you are willing to help with either of these roles, please let me know. I did have some names prior to the start of Covid last year but we are starting from scratch again so don't assume I have your name even if you volunteered back in 2019.

Thanks,

Jim Farquhar (buntingfordu3achair@gmail.com)

Newsletters Back to Bi-Monthly

As we have now returned to some sort of normality, with the monthly meetings back in the hall and most groups having restarted, the newsletters have gone back to being every two months, rather than the monthly newsletters we produced during Covid.

It's your newsletter! Please let me know if you have any articles you would like included in future newsletters. It is always great to hear what is happening in the interest groups or if any members have done something others may be interested in.

Kate Farquhar (buntingfordu3anews@gmail.com)

RETURNING HOME AFTER A NIGHT OUT WITH DRINKING BUDDY

Eddie staggered home very late after another evening with his drinking buddy. He took off his shoes to avoid waking his wife. He tiptoed as quietly as he could toward the stairs leading to their upstairs bedroom, but misjudged the bottom step. As he caught himself by grabbing the banister, his body swung around and he landed heavily on his rump. A whisky bottle in each back pocket broke and made the landing especially painful. Managing not to yell, Eddie sprung up, pulled down his pants, and looked in the hall mirror to see that his bottom cheeks were cut and bleeding. He managed to quietly find a full box of Band-Aids and began putting a Band-Aid as best he could on each place he saw blood. He then hid the now almost empty Band-Aid box and shuffled and stumbled his way to bed.

In the morning, Eddie woke up with searing pain in both his head and bottom and with his wife staring at him from across the room. She said, "You were drunk again last night weren't you?" He said, "Why should you say such a mean thing?" "Well," she said, "it could be the open front door, it could be the broken glass at the bottom of the stairs, it could be the drops of blood trailing through the house, it could be your bloodshot eyes, but mostly it's all those Band-Aids stuck on the hall mirror".

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

Ian took us through various hoaxes of the 1700s, a period when the people of England seemed to be especially gullible. For example, they believed:

- Mary Toft, who in 1726 tricked doctors with her claims to have given birth to 17 rabbits. John Howard, a male midwife, was present at the birth of 17 bunnies who were all “born” dead and sometimes in pieces - the skin following rabbit feet etc.!
- Elizabeth Canning who claimed she was kidnapped and had survived for 28 days without sustenance.

Ian illustrated his talk with newspapers, journals, pamphlets and prints by satirical artists (such as William Hogarth and James Gillray) depicting the hoaxes. He also told us how court transcripts were a useful source of information, for example in the Elizabeth Canning case.

The tricksters had differing motives. Most were for financial gain, however they ranged from fun to drawing attention to themselves and everything in between!

Ian gave us an amusing talk provided by a very entertaining and interesting speaker.

Ian is also a member of the Magic Circle so maybe we'll get him back for some future meeting to show us his magic!

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 and mince pies in the hall to help you get into the Christmas spirit!

Talks for January to March 2022

Planned are talks by:

- Bob Redman on 10th January regarding Elstree: Britain's Hollywood
- Len Little on 14th February regarding the training and use of police dogs
- Eve Regelous on 14th March on a year in her life as a theatrical agent, celebrity booker and event organiser, giving us a personal insight into some of the many personalities she has worked with.

GROUP NEWS

u3as operate on 'The Self-help Learning Principle' which means:

- By the members, for the members.
- Members form interest groups covering as wide a range of topics and activities as they find interesting.
- No qualifications are required or offered. Enjoyment is the prime motive, not qualifications or awards.
- There is no distinction between the learners and the teachers; they are all u3a members (except in distinct areas where it would be unsafe for a class to be run by someone who does not have the appropriate training and qualifications, like Keep Fit.)



With this in mind.....

Help Please with Groups:

Over-Subscribed Groups

We currently have a number of groups which are over-subscribed so new members are unable to join them as there are no places available. We therefore need volunteers to start additional groups to meet this demand. The Groups Coordinator and/or current group leaders are happy to help with setting up new groups. Groups affected include the following:

- Book Group
- 'Crafty Chat' Group
- Another Walking Group
- Spanish Language Group

Leader for Existing Group

We also need a new leader for the following group or it will have to close:

- Engineering & Transport Group

New Groups?

Have interest for a subject not covered in our current groups? You need no qualifications – just enthusiasm to share with others.

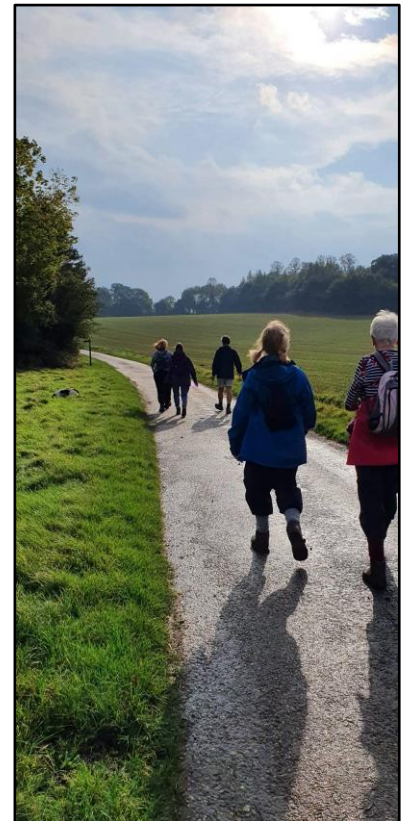
Please contact Gill Alderton, Groups Coordinator, if you're interested and can help. Thank you. Gill (01763 272276, gillalderton@yahoo.com)



Tuesday Walking Group:



Unfortunately group leader Carol and Malcolm couldn't join us for this month's Tuesday walk but, despite the weather forecast, it didn't rain, the sun came out and 12 members of the group, including 2 first timers, had a very pleasant 5 mile walk from Braughing to Albury church and back followed by lunch at The Axe and Compasses.



We saw these beautiful animals on the way, image captured by Phil Seaman.

Mary Deeks

My sister has a life saving tool in her car which is designed to cut through a seat belt if she gets trapped.

She keeps it in the car boot.....

While working at a pizza restaurant I observed a man ordering a small pizza. He appeared to be alone and the cook asked him if he would like it cut into 4 pieces or 6. He thought about it for some time, then said "Just cut it into 4 pieces; I don't think I'm hungry enough to eat 6 pieces"

General Knowledge

1. Which Yorkshire town is associated with liquorice?
2. Cheddar Gorge and Wookey Hole can be found in which range of hills?
3. Which body of water separates the Isle of Wight from the mainland?
4. What sort of bean did Hannibal Lecter enjoy with his Chianti?
5. The herb wormwood is used to flavour which strong alcoholic drink?
6. What was Juliet's family name in Romeo and Juliet?
7. What is the common name for Otagia?

Phobias

1. What is acrophobia?
2. What is brontophobia?
3. What is ergophobia?
4. What is hippophobia?
5. What is hydrophobia?
6. What is homophobia?
7. What is ornithophobia?

TV and Film

1. Who used to end his comedy show with the words, "May your God go with you?"
2. What was the name of Sigourney Weaver's character in the Alien movies?
3. Name Hyacinth Bucket's husband in Keeping Up Appearances.
4. What was Ronnie Corbett's job in the series Sorry?
5. In which year did Coronation Street first air?
6. Who played Rodney Trotter in Only Fools and Horses?
7. Which actor portrayed Inspector Morse?

History

1. Which Royal palace was once owned by Cardinal Wolsey?
2. Who composed Music for the Royal Fireworks in 1749?
3. Which "EF", born in Tasmania, was a swashbuckling film star?
4. What is the current name for Saigon?
5. What method of fast writing did Isaac Pitman develop?

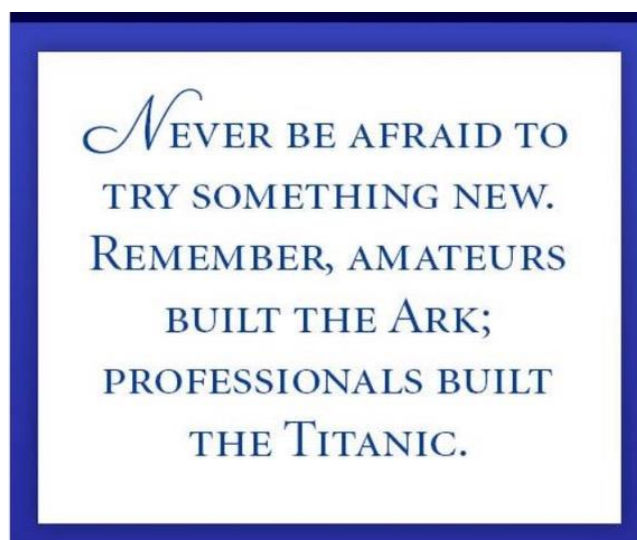
6. Which Swiss company developed instant coffee?
7. In which century were The Wars of the Roses fought?

Nature

1. A group of geese is called with a gaggle or a...what?
2. What type of fruit is a Morello?
3. The only male creature to give birth lives in the sea. What is it?
4. Which wading bird is the symbol of the RSPB?
5. How many wings does a flea have?
6. What, to Spaniards, is a burro?
7. Which is the only mammal capable of true flight?

Christmas

1. Which book begins, "Marley was dead...to begin with?"
2. Robin Hood often turns up in which pantomime?
3. The words, "The Play What I Wrote," were used in whose Christmas Specials?
4. Tony Blair spent his first Downing Street Christmas in which year?
5. In which fictional land is it always winter but never Christmas?
6. Who is the first of Santa's reindeer alphabetically?
7. Who played the lead role in the Christmas film It's A Wonderful Life?



Answers to Quiz published in October 2021 newsletter

Geography

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

GK

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

The 90s

1. Kevin Costner played Lieutenant John Dunbar in which 1991 film? Dances with Wolves
2. Dan Quayle was Vice President to which American leader? George H W Bush
3. Who played Ma and Pa Larkin in The Darling Buds of May? Pam Ferris and David Jason
4. Who replaced Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow? Boris Yeltsin
5. What two colours was Mr Blobby? Pink with yellow blobs
6. Who was British Prime Minister at the beginning of this century? Tony Blair
7. Whitney Houston's I Will Always Love You featured in which 1992 film, starring Kevin Costner? The Bodyguard

The age of man

1. Which British pop star was shot dead in New York at the age of 40? John Lennon
2. Which American Civil Rights leader was shot dead at 39? Martin Luther King
3. Which American president was 38 when he was shot dead? JFK
4. Which one-eared Dutch painter died at 37? Van Gogh
5. Which British royal was 36 she died in a car crash? Diana
6. Which famous Austrian composer only made to 35? Mozart
7. Name the Brazilian motor racing driver killed on the track at 34. Ayrton Senna

Scotland

1. The film Braveheart was about which Scottish hero of the 13th and 14th Centuries?
William Wallace
2. Skye is the largest island of which group?
Inner Hebrides
3. Translate the Gaelic for whisky, Uisge Beatha, into English.
Water of Life
4. Haddock known as Smokies come from which town? (Jim comes from here too!)
Arbroath
5. Dundee is said to be famous for Jam, Jute and which other "J"?
Journalism
6. To do with sport, Scotland boasts 550 what?
Golf courses
7. The Battle of Bannockburn took place in which century?
14th (1314)

Ireland

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

**FIRST RULE OF CLEANING
WHILE LISTENING TO MUSIC
THE TOILET BRUSH IS NEVER
THE MICROPHONE...NEVER**

Committee Contact Details

Chairman:	Jim Farquhar	01763 287393	Buntingfordu3achair@gmail.com
Vic-Chairman:	Lyn Kendal-Archer	01732 271972	LKendalArcher@outlook.com
Treasurer:	Paul Brunt	01763 272961	Buntingfordu3atreasurer@gmail.com
Secretary:	Kate Farquhar	01763 287393	Buntingfordu3asec@gmail.com
Membership Secretary:	Val Reedman	01763 272135	valbuntu3a@gmail.com
Groups Coordinator:	Gill Alderton	01763 272276	gillalderton@yahoo.com
Speaker Secretary:	Lesley Lowers	01763 271885	lelowers@hotmail.com
Welfare Officer:	Janet Murrells	01763 274341	j.murrells@icloud.com
Webmaster:	Martin Gray	07588 708257	martingray@mail.uk
Newsletter Editor:	Kate Farquhar	01763 287393	Buntingfordu3anews@gmail.com
Other committee members: Tony Phillips			