

The Buntingford Banner

Learn, Laugh & Live!

www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford/home

Chairman's Remarks

It seems a long time ago now but I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year. If, like me, you ate and drank too much the next problem is shedding the extra weight gained over that period. Maybe we need a Losing Weight Group – any volunteers?!?

My plea in the last newsletter for volunteers to help with chairs at the monthly meetings resulted in an almost deafening silence! With a membership of over 400 we must be able to do better than that so there is another article later on the same topic. Remember that the u3a has no paid staff and is run entirely by the members. We need everybody to contribute, no matter how small, to make our u3a a success.

We had an excellent talk at the January monthly meeting and although I was worried that attendance would be well down because of Covid, we had a good turn-out with around 40 members in the hall and 30 joining via Zoom. For February's meeting we will try to give the Zoom attendees a better view of the speaker by using a separate "camera" (smartphone) – let's hope the technology works!

In the last newsletter I also mentioned that we are planning to hold a Coffee Morning (or Afternoon) soon. We have been waiting for the Covid situation to improve slightly before progressing this so that as many members as possible feel able to attend. We'll let you know when plans are in place.

The membership year ends on March 31st so we will be starting the renewal process soon. We are currently investigating if there is anything we can do to simplify the renewal process so look out for an email or hardcopy renewal coming to you in the coming weeks.

That's all from me for this newsletter.

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

More Volunteers Needed to Help with Chairs at Monthly Meetings

I only had 1 volunteer following the article in the last newsletter and 2 more volunteered after I raised it at the monthly meeting, but we need more! I don't want the load falling on the same people every month so want enough volunteers so that we can set up a rota, with everyone on the rota only having to help every few months. I realise that this activity is not suitable for everyone but if you feel able to help occasionally, please let me know.

Thanks,

Jim Farquhar (buntingfordu3achair@gmail.com)

Website and QR Codes

Martin Gray has done a great job in taking over the u3a website and one of the things he has added are QR codes for the monthly meetings. Don't worry if you don't know what these are (they are a bit like a square barcode) but if you do and have a QR reader on your smartphone, then scanning the QR code will automatically put that monthly meeting in your electronic diary (if you have one) along with details of the speaker for that month. Give it a try and let Martin know what you think (martingray@mail.uk).

ON A LIGHTER NOTE

I have a few jokes about unemployed people, but none of them work.

"I have a split personality," said Tom, being Frank.

It's hard to explain puns to kleptomaniacs because they always take things literally.

Don't irritate old people. The older we get the less the threat of "Life in prison" is a deterrent.

A lady was picking through the frozen turkeys at the grocery store but she couldn't find one big enough for her family. She asked a shop assistant 'Do these turkeys get any bigger?' The assistant replied, 'No ma'am, they're dead...'



Newsletters Back to Bi-Monthly

Newsletters are going 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. Next one to be published 31st March 2022.

Kate Farquhar (buntingfordu3anews@gmail.com)

10th January – Bob Redman ‘Elstree: Britain’s Hollywood’

Bob, from Elstree Screen Heritage, took us on a tour through the many studios that had been in Elstree/Borehamwood since 1914 when the first one, the Neptune Film Company, was opened. Over the following century a number of studios have come and gone, including MGM, Rank’s Gate Studio and Amalgamated’s Elstree Way Studios. Many remain, with Netflix now in Shepperton, Disney in Pinewood, Sky Studios being built at Elstree and Hertswood Studios waiting for planning permission. Hertsmere Borough Council owns Elstree Studios which saves its residents 20% of their council tax rates!

Bob told us that many feature films have been made in the Elstree studios over the past 100 years. These include the original *Star Wars* trilogy, *The Jewel in the Crown*, the *Raiders of the Lost Ark* movies, *Monty Python & Meaning of Life*, *Murder on the Orient Express*, *2001 Space Odyssey*, *The Shining*, *Saving Private Ryan*, *The King’s Speech*, and *Paddington*, to name a few.

He also explained that besides feature films, Elstree has been the home of ITV television series such as *The Avengers*, *The Saint*, *The Prisoner* and *The Muppet Show*. BBC productions such as *Grange Hill* and *Holby City* have been shot there, and of course *EastEnders* has been there for over 25 years. Channel 4's version of *Big Brother* was filmed at Elstree for a decade.

Elstree has seen many pioneering ‘firsts’, including films with sound, films with dubbing, multi-national films, all colour talking films and cartoons and has seen many big stars such as Audrey Hepburn, Lawrence Olivier, Anna Neagle and Richard Harris.

It was a very interesting talk about a significant industry in Hertfordshire, now growing into gaming and other digital content.

Kate Farquhar

Further Talks for 1Q 2022

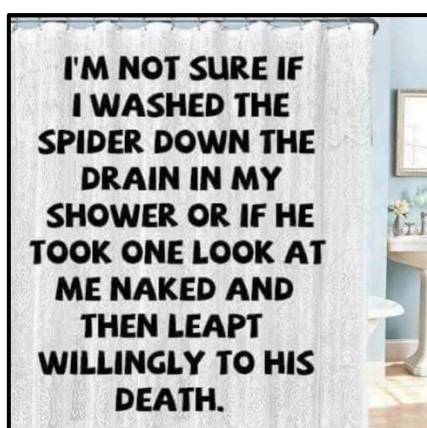
14th February: Len Little – “The Training and Use of Police Dogs”

Len Little served in Hertfordshire as a frontline dog handler for 17 years and as Home Office Approved Police Dog Trainer for 12 years.

14th March: Eve Regelous – “A Year in The Life of a Celebrity Agent & Event Organiser”

Eve had a 25 year career as a theatrical agent, celebrity booker and event organiser, running more than 120 major events and working with over 70 celebrities, from pop stars to actors, presenters to antiques experts, sports personalities to novelty acts and numerous tribute performers. This talk gives us a personal insight into that world and some of the many personalities she has worked with.

As mentioned earlier, you can add the monthly meetings to your electronic diary by scanning the appropriate QR code on the u3a website.



GROUP NEWS

Groups are run “by the members, for the members”, with the groups covering as wide a range of topics and activities as they find interesting. No specific skills or qualifications are needed, and the primary motive of each group is enjoyment. We are always on the look-out for ways to expand our offerings.



New Groups?

Have interest for a subject not covered in our current groups? You need no qualifications – just enthusiasm to share with others. Here are some examples from local u3as that might give you ideas of new groups you could start:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Barn Dancing• Railways• Bird Watching• Environment/Sustainability | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Curry Club• Astronomy• Family History• Bus Pass Trips |
|--|--|

Contact Gill Alderton, Groups Coordinator, if you would consider starting another group (01763 272276, gillalderton@yahoo.com)

New Active Adventurer's Group

I am thinking about starting an Active Adventurer's Group for members to try things they may not have tried before. The group would not focus on any one activity but would try something different each time. Activities could be anything that the group might like to try but examples might be Go-Karting, Indoor Skydiving, Falconry, Gliding, Tank Driving, Archery, White Water Rafting, Off-Road Driving, etc. Anything is possible depending on what people want. The plan would be to organise 4 to 6 activities each year and obviously members could pick and choose which to attend. If there is enough interest we can meet to discuss ideas.

Contact Jim Farquhar if you are interested (farquhar_jim@yahoo.co.uk)

Interest in joining 'Crafty Chat'?

We're looking to start a second 'Crafty Chat' group planned along the same lines as the first one, a version of 'knit and natter'. Bring your own project (e.g. knitting, stitching, crochet or other crafts) to meetings.

Contact Kate Farquhar for more information (farquharkate@yahoo.co.uk)

Volunteer for 'Walking Group'?

Do you go out walking each week? Like to have company? Our current Walking Groups are oversubscribed so another group would allow more participants.

Contact Gill Alderton, Groups Coordinator, to find out more about starting a group (01763 272276, gillalderton@yahoo.com)

LETS (London, Elsewhere and Theatres):



A visit to the Mill, Sonning (near Henley on Thames) for lunch and a performance of Top Hat, was booked for the LETs Group in January 2020 for Christmas 2020 but had to be postponed to 2021. It was very much touch and go if the trip would take place but on Sunday 19th December thirty nine members travelled by coach for a superb day out. We had to wear our masks on the coach, show our 'proof of vaccine cards' at the venue and wear our masks when moving around the venue and during the performance, strictly monitored by the Mill staff.

Jean Cook

Church Crawlers:

Church Crawlers had been to Whitehill Golf Club for a meal in 2020, just before Covid hit, and it was a great success. They therefore decided to go there again a few weeks ago for a post Christmas meal, and the golf club laid on a fine spread.

This may be Marion Ling's last meeting as she and Jonathan are planning to move to Sussex soon. The Church Crawlers group will continue with Mary Godfrey volunteering to take over the mantle of Group Leader and crawls to other churches are planned for the coming months.



I would like to thank Marion for all that she has done for Buntingford u3a both as Church Crawlers Group Leader and in other roles such as Committee Member and Newsletter Editor in the past. She will be sorely missed and we wish both Marion and Jonathan all the best in their new home.

*Jim Farquhar with thanks to
Jean Cook for photos*

General Knowledge

1. Which country produces Skoda cars?
2. Which American TV cartoon features a dog called Spike?
3. What does the waving of a red flag signify in motor racing?
4. Which parts of houses were taxed from 1696 until 1851?
5. While studying at Oxford former Australian PM Bob Hawke set a world record for downing which measurement of beer (about 11 seconds)?
6. In which modern-day country did the martial art of kung fu originate?
7. Which reptile features in a traditional Punch and Judy show?
8. Describe the police technique of dactylography.

Nature

1. Native to South America, which animal has the scientific name *Lama Glama*?
2. Which English cheese comes in white and blue varieties?
3. Which salad ingredient shares its name with a reprimand and a projectile?
4. Yeast is a form of which type of organism?
5. Which metal is the main constituent of pewter?
6. What name is given to the fruit of a rose bush?
7. What is the natural habitat of an arboreal creature?

History

1. Which English sailor "sing'd the king of Spain's beard" with his 1587 raid on Cadiz?
2. Which British family produced a 19th-Century PM and a 20th-Century philosopher?
3. What was the name of Boudicca's tribe, who fought the Romans in the first century?
4. Name Henry VIII's ship that famously sank in The Solent in 1545.
5. What title was conferred on Gandhi by adoring followers?
6. Which famous bushranger was hanged in Melbourne in 1880?
7. Who led English troops to victory at Quebec in 1759 but was killed during that battle?

Geography

1. What is the capital of Switzerland?
2. In which city does St Basil's Cathedral overlook Red Square?
3. Which Berkshire racecourse is owned by the Crown Estate?
4. Ben Nevis is the tallest mountain in the UK. What is second?

5. The second highest mountain above sea level is K2. In which country can it be found?
6. Mount McKinley is the highest peak in the USA. In which state would one find it?
7. Name the largest island in the Mediterranean.

Literature

1. What is the name of the Beadle in Oliver Twist?
2. Which Tudor statesman wrote Utopia?
3. Who wrote the play The Importance of Being Earnest in 1895?
4. What was the occupation of Mr Chips in a novella by James Hilton?
5. Which DH Lawrence book was the subject of an obscenity trial in the Sixties?
6. Who killed Shakespeare's Macbeth?
7. Who wrote The Just So Stories in 1902?

Film and TV

1. What is the name of Don Vito Corleone's son, played by Al Pacino, in The Godfather?
2. In which film did David Bowie star as a goblin king?
3. From which children's programme did we hear the line, "as if by magic the shopkeeper appeared"?
4. What was the name of the lioness featured in Born Free?
5. In Doctor Who, for what does TARDIS stand?
6. How many Dalmatians featured in the 1961 Disney film?
7. Which Doctor did Omar Sharif play in a 1965 film set in the USSR?



With thanks to Colin Meehan for the cartoons

As you get older, you've got to stay positive. For example, the other day I fell down the stairs. Instead of getting upset, I just thought, "Wow, that's the fastest I've moved in years!"

Answers to Quiz published in December 2021 newsletter

General Knowledge

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

Phobias

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|---------------------------|---|
| 1. What is acrophobia? | Fear of heights |
| 2. What is brontophobia? | Thunder |
| 3. What is ergophobia? | Work |
| 4. What is hippophobia? | Horses |
| 5. What is hydrophobia? | Water |
| 6. What is homophobia? | Dislike of or prejudice against homosexual people |
| 7. What is ornithophobia? | Fear of birds |

TV and Film

- | | |
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| 1. Who used to end his comedy show with the words, "May your God go with you?" | Dave Allen |
| 2. What was the name of Sigourney Weaver's character in the Alien movies? | Ripley |
| 3. Name Hyacinth Bucket's husband in Keeping Up Appearances. | Richard |
| 4. What was Ronnie Corbett's job in the series Sorry? | Librarian |
| 5. In which year did Coronation Street first air? | 1960 |
| 6. Who played Rodney Trotter in Only Fools and Horses? | Nicholas Lyndhurst |
| 7. Which actor portrayed Inspector Morse? | John Thaw |

History

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|---|------------------|
| 1. Which Royal palace was once owned by Cardinal Wolsey? | Hampton Court |
| 2. Who composed Music for the Royal Fireworks in 1749? | Handel |
| 3. Which "EF", born in Tasmania, was a swashbuckling film star? | Errol Flynn |
| 4. What is the current name for Saigon? | Ho Chi Minh City |
| 5. What method of fast writing did Isaac Pitman develop? | Shorthand |
| 6. Which Swiss company developed instant coffee? | Nestle |

7. In which century were The Wars of the Roses fought?

15th

Nature

1. A group of geese is called a gaggle or a...what? Skein
2. What type of fruit is a Morello? Cherry
3. The only male creature to give birth lives in the sea. What is it?
Seahorse (as well as their close relatives the pipefish and the seadragon)
4. Which wading bird is the symbol of the RSPB? Avocet
5. How many wings does a flea have? None
6. What, to Spaniards, is a burro? Donkey
7. Which is the only mammal capable of true flight? Bat

Christmas

1. Which book begins, "Marley was dead...to begin with?" A Christmas Carol
2. Robin Hood often turns up in which pantomime? Babe in the Wood
3. The words, The Play What I Wrote," were used in whose Christmas Specials?
Morecambe and Wise
4. Tony Blair spent his first Downing Street Christmas in which year? 1997
5. In which fictional land is it always winter but never Christmas? Narnia
6. Who is the first of Santa's reindeer alphabetically? Blitzen
7. Who played the lead role in the Christmas film It's A Wonderful Life? James Stewart



**THE OLDER YOU GET
THE MORE YOU APPRECIATE
BEING AT HOME DOING
ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.**

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