

The Buntingford Banner

Learn, Laugh & Live!

www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford/home

Chairman's Remarks

Recent Events and Activities

We had a very good Group Leaders Meeting at the end of April. This is mainly a social event to thank the Group Leaders for their support and hard work throughout the year but we also had a useful discussion about volunteering, attracting new members, climate change, and many other topics. Thanks you to ALL Group Leaders, without whom we would not have a u3a.

We also had our first "new members" meeting last week. As well as the obligatory tea, coffee and cake, it was an opportunity for them to meet other members and some of the committee, find out more about the u3a, and for the committee to meet them. It was very successful and we plan to keep this going.

In early May a few of us attended a meeting in Thorley to discuss common problems, solutions and to share ideas with committee members from 6 or 7 other u3as. This, combined with the "A10" cluster group which meets 3 or 4 times a year, means we are now in touch with around 12 local u3as to share ideas.

I have also contacted 6 of the u3as closest to us (but not necessarily at the Thorley meeting or in the "A10" cluster group) to promote group sharing – see article later.

Contributor or Customer?

The biggest problem facing Buntingford u3a and threatening its very survival is the lack of people willing to help to keep it going. We are not unique in having this problem but that doesn't make it any easier. The u3a is a self-help organisation, run by the members for the members. In the recent issue of the national u3a magazine, Third Age Matters, there was a very good article by one of the founding members which included a quote which sums it up very well "*Everyone in the u3a should be an involved member, not a customer waiting to be served*".

We recognise that some people cannot volunteer due to health, fitness or other reasons while others may have done a lot for the u3a in the past and are taking a break, but with a membership of around 400 I know that there are far more able to help than the 70 or so that currently do so.

Volunteering can take many forms. The most pressing need is for committee members and group leaders but there are many other opportunities such as helping at the monthly meetings (e.g. meeters and greeters, kitchen help, setting out chairs), helping with stalls at events, delivering newsletters, etc. With more help we could do more to raise our profile in the town to get more members and offer more to everyone.

If you are currently a "customer" of the u3a but are fit and able to help then please think about what you could do or speak to one of the committee for ideas.

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

Committee Members Needed!

A number of committee members and officers will stand down at the AGM in October as they have reached the end of their allowed terms. We do not plan to extend these terms as we did last year as some of these members have already served an extra year and it is time for others to come forward. I am starting the process early this year for two reasons. Firstly, this allows time for potential volunteers to attend a committee meeting to see what we do. And secondly, we can't afford to leave it until the last minute because if we do not get enough volunteers for the committee then we will have to close the u3a.

Joining the committee should not be seen a chore. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as chairman and I know that the other committee members would agree that it is an enjoyable and rewarding experience, but it is time for a change to bring in new ideas and keep our u3a fresh and thriving.

Being a committee member does not require any special skills. We hold 10 committee meetings each year (we normally don't meet in August and December) with each meeting lasting no more than 2 hours, so it is not a huge commitment. Committee responsibilities include running the monthly meetings and other member events such as the recent Coffee & Cake event, supporting the group leaders as appropriate, producing the newsletter, and managing the governance of the u3a.

If you would consider becoming a committee member and would like to find out more about it then you are welcome to attend one of our committee meetings which are held at 15:00 on the third Monday of the month in the Bunters Suite, or contact me by email or phone (01763 287393) to discuss it further.

Jim Farquhar (buntingfordu3achair@gmail.com)

More Tea, Coffee & Cake!

We are planning to have another gathering in the Community Centre for members to get together for Tea, Coffee and Cake, and of course to have a good chat with your colleagues. This will be a repeat of the event held in March and will probably be held in July. Look out for further details. *Jim Farquhar (buntingfordu3achair@gmail.com)*

Membership Renewals

The membership year ended on 31st March and most people have now renewed. We are allowing a 3 months grace period but anyone who has not renewed by the end of June will be removed from the membership database and will therefore not receive further newsletters or update emails.

For anyone who still wishes to renew, details were contained in emails sent to you in the week beginning 28th February and on 30th March. If you can't find the emails or need further information, contact Kate Farquhar (buntingfordu3asec@gmail.com) as our membership secretary Val Reedman is on holiday during June.

Coopers of Stortford Discount

Coopers of Stortford offer 15% discount to a number of local u3as, including Buntingford. They may give the discount just by telling them you are a u3a member but they may ask to see your membership card. Memberships cards can be picked up at the monthly meeting on 13th June if you haven't already collected yours.

If you have any difficulties claiming the discount, please let Jim Farquhar know.

MONTHLY MEETING TALKS

11th April: Jenny Gibbs – Turkish Tales, Chasing the Sun

Jenny moved to Turkey in 1994 at the age of 50 after being captivated by the country during her first trip abroad. She met her husband Mustafa there and together they set up home in a remote village. She told us about her move to Turkey and her early years there in a previous talk so this time she told us about her travels in the country, focusing on Cappadocia with its honeycombed hills and caves carved by ancient men. Jenny still lives in her beloved village and farmhouse, but she spends a few months each year in England.

She brought with her various embroidery and handicrafts which had been made in the traditional way and were available for sale after the meeting.

9th May: Paul Barwick - Nancy Wake, The Legend of the White Mouse

Paul told the story of Australian WW2 spy Nancy Wake. She was intelligent, beautiful, and married to a wealthy French industrialist, living in Marseille in the South of France at the time of the German invasion and occupation of France. She became active in the French resistance, working initially as a courier and then as a saboteur and spy, taking part in running escape routes and assisting the resistance. She became one of the most decorated Allied service personnel of the war and the Gestapo's most wanted person, with a 5 million franc price on her head and nicknamed by them 'The White Mouse'.

Nancy was arrested in 1943, but was released four days later and managed to escape over the Pyrenees to Spain and eventually to England. She then worked for the British Special Operations Executive and was parachuted into France in April 1944 to deliver weapons to French resistance fighters before D-Day. She coordinated resistance activity prior to the D-Day landings, helped to recruit new members and carried out attacks on the Gestapo Headquarters in central France.

Her husband was captured, tortured and executed by the Gestapo in October 1943, for refusing to give her up, and she was not aware of his death until the end of the war.

Further Talks for 2022

13th June – Fools Gold, Steve and Carol Robson – "Bang Up the Elephant"

The title usually gets people interested! Essentially this show is concerned with all things Victorian, murders, doctors, high adventure and the working poor all make an appearance. Original music is mixed in with well known can't-help-but-join-in Victorian Songs you didn't know you knew.

12th September – speaker withdrawn, new speaker being arranged!

Oops....

Boss: "Do you believe in life after death?"

Employee "Certainly not. There's no proof in it"

Boss "Well there is now. After you left yesterday to go to your uncle's funeral he came round looking for you...."

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 or to create a second group for any groups which are full.



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

Group Sharing

We currently have a group sharing agreement with some other u3as but as this was set up through the "A10" cluster group, these u3as are all south of us. Apart from Ware and Hertford, they are fairly distant. Jim has therefore contacted the 6 u3as which are closest to us (Royston, Melbourn, Hitchin, Stevenage, Thorley, and Bishops Stortford) to try to expand our group sharing options. Most have responded positively and are in the process of deciding which groups they can share. To find the list of shared groups, check the "Shared Groups" page in the "Groups" section of our website. At present this just lists the groups available from the u3as in the "A10" cluster group but other u3as and groups will be added as they are confirmed.

Church Crawlers



Church Crawlers began in 2014 under the direction and enthusiasm of Marion Ling. It currently has about 30 members with an average attendance at recent monthly visits of about 23. To date, we have visited over 60 churches and places of worship throughout Hertfordshire, Cambridge and Essex. We are interested in all faiths and our visits have included a mosque, a Sikh Temple, a Quaker meeting house and all Christian and Roman Catholic Churches. We are fortunate in that a local historian or usually a church Warden will give us a very informative talk on each occasion.

We have an upcoming visit to this oldest building in Letchworth, St Mary's Church Old Letchworth, which dates back to Saxon times. We have a plan to Visit St Dunston's Church in Hunsdon with lots of interest in the Royal Tudors.

Our wish list includes A Salvation Army Citadel and a Cathedral and members are encouraged to arrange a visit of their choice.

Mary Godfrey (marygmusic@btinternet.com)

Pottery Group

The pottery group in action.

Gill Alderton
(gillalderton@yahoo.com)



'They Matter' Group

This group continues to flourish. Next week we'll be donating some mats to Hazel End Care Home in Bishops Stortford.

We now have a couple of spaces in the group should you feel you might like to join us. If you care to come along (as a tester) to see how we work you would be very welcome at one of our meetings. Our next one is on Monday 27th June at 2pm in the Bunters Suite, upstairs in the Community Centre, and thereafter the last Monday of the month.

Even if you do not sew, knit or crochet but would like to see work in progress then please come along and have a tea/coffee and a natter with us.

Hilary Curtis (01763 661508)

3 Mile Walking Group



The group enjoyed a lovely walk around Panshanger Park, Hertford at the end of April. Led by Lesley Lowers it provided plenty of variety, including bluebells, the remains of the Orangery (which was part of the rather grand Panshanger House, the ancestral home of the Cowper family, demolished in the early 1950's).

We stopped for a photoshoot by the great oak thought to be about 500 years old (Thanks to Mick who took the photo.) The Park also offers wide open spaces, lovely views and walks down to and alongside the lakes and is something of a wildlife haven.



In February we enjoyed the snowdrops in the churchyard at Benington before walking up to Walkern Hall. And in March, Jean and Heather guided us on another lovely walk in the countryside around Sandon village.

We are a large group now and if anyone (already in the group or otherwise) would like to start up a parallel group we could include those who are patiently waiting for a place. I'd be happy to meet with anyone interested.

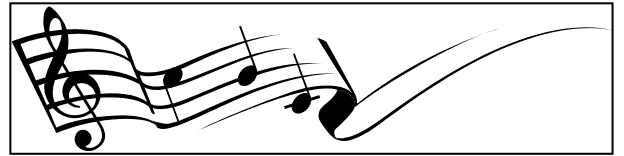
Liz Wright (lizmoorsup@hotmail.com)

Table Tennis Group

The group meets on Wednesdays 2-3pm and has space for more members. Contact Dave Austin for further information (daustin2020@btinternet.com)

Music Appreciation Group

The group meets from 2pm to around 3.30pm in Bunters Room at the Seth Ward Community Centre on the last Monday of each month, this group covers a wide range of music from pop songs through the years to musicals to light classical works and indeed anything that its members would like to share with the other members. A must for all fans of singing!!



Contact Mary Godfrey for further information (marygmusic@btinternet.com)

Group Changes:

Church Crawlers new leader Mary Godfrey taking over from Marion Ling
Mary Godfrey (marygmusic@btinternet.com)

Cycling Group meeting arrangements change Now 1st Wednesday and 3rd Thursday each month.
Jim Farquhar (farquhar_jim@yahoo.co.uk)

PhotoGroup new group every third Tuesday
David Dixon (interestingplace@hotmail.com)

Pickleball new group weekly on Mondays starting 6th June 11:45 – 13:45
(finishing early when monthly meetings) Gill Alderton (gillalderton@yahoo.com)

Pilates Group new leader Jacqui Plummer (plummerkjll@aol.com)

What Are Our Members Up To?

We hope you'll find things our members are up to interesting. If you have anything to be published in future editions then let the editor know.

(Buntingfordu3anews@gmail.com)

Bill Hooper (the Guitar Group Leader) started writing his book VENGEANCE (now available on Amazon) some 5 years ago, but was really pushed into overdrive when the pandemic struck and it gave him something to concentrate on when we were all in lock-down. He's enjoyed all the research into equipment and places.

The book is about a new fanatical terrorist organisation plotting to bring down the British way of life by destroying the British Security Services from the inside. It's a large book at 714 pages (phew!) which allows the storylines to unravel without having to cut corners. There are a good number of twists and turns in the story to keep the reader guessing and a fair number of red herrings. He is now writing the sequel and is hopeful that won't take 5 years!

You may have seen **Steve Deeks** and **Margaret Burleigh** in the u3a Trust national magazine in April. They play in a seven piece band called 'The A Train' whose repertoire comes from a range of Jazz standards, songs from the musicals and from The Great American songbook. Margaret plays the clarinet and Steve drums.

See them next at:

- Duxfest Jubilee Festival at Duxford Community Centre, Hunts Road, CB22 4RE on 4 June at 3.15pm
- Buntingford Arts Festival at Layston Gardens, Buntingford on 19th June at 2.30pm

Latest Quiz

(answers in next newsletter)

General Knowledge

1. What are lasers and inkjets?
2. Which university is in Norwich?
3. For what does C in C stand?
4. Name Buddy Holly's backing group.
5. Which Shakespeare play features Goneril, Regan and Cordelia?
6. Name the Californian fault, along which earthquakes occur.
7. Who painted the Rokeby Venus?

History

1. What was the first name of Bismarck, the 19th-Century German chancellor?
2. What is the popular four-letter name of the Shaftesbury Memorial Fountain in Piccadilly Circus?
3. What was the large open area in ancient Rome, used for public meetings (five letters)?
4. Name the Berkshire RAF station that became a focus for a Women's Peace Camp in the Eighties.
5. What line marks a ship's maximum load depth?
6. Who was the RAF legend who lost both legs but still flew Spitfires in the Battle of Britain?
7. What was the old practice of lay people giving one-tenth of their income to the church?

Scotland

1. Which famous Scottish battle took place in 1314?
2. Which Scot gave the first public demonstration of television?
3. Where would you find a chanter and a drone?
4. What Scottish foodstuff did Robert Burns call the Great Chieftain o' the puddin' race?
5. Which schoolteacher was created by Muriel Spark?
6. Name the dog who spent 14 years guarding the grave of its owner.
7. What is the date of St Andrew's Day?

TV

1. Where did the Flintstones live?
2. What was the mythological name of the Steptoes' horse?
3. Who was the aristocratic owner of Grantleigh Manor in To the Manor Born?
4. What does Trigger call Rodney in Only Fools and Horses?
5. Who starred in I Love Lucy?

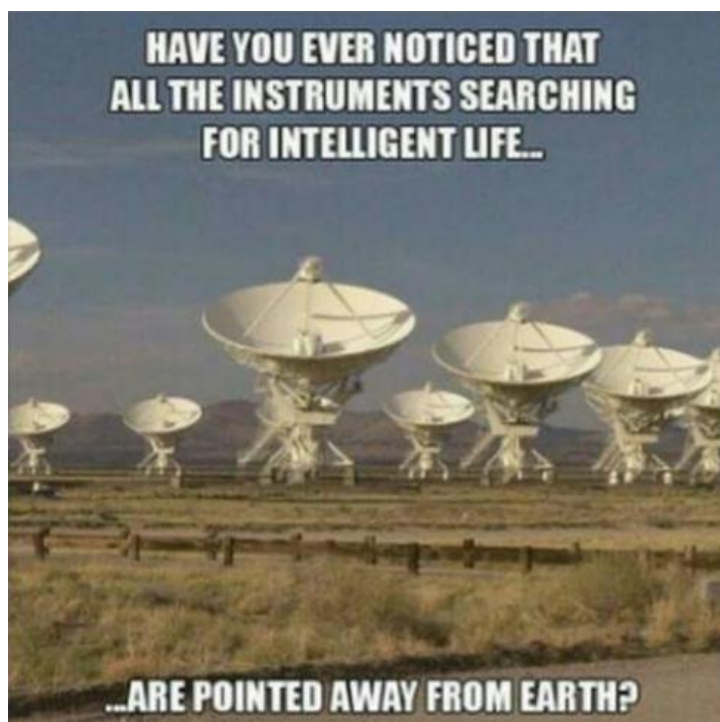
6. In which comedy did Polly and The Major appear?
7. In Dad's Army, what was Private Fraser's occupation?

Science and nature

1. What sort of creature is a zander.
2. Frugivores mainly eat what sort of food?
3. Name the highest sort of cloud formation.
4. If adults have 206 bones, approximately how many do babies have?
5. Which rays produce sunburn?
6. What do pangolins eat?
7. Which British steam locomotive set a world-record 125mph in 1938?

Geography

1. Which is America's Windy City?
2. The Azores belong to which country?
3. In which country of the UK is Cape Wrath?
4. What is the capital of Barbados?
5. In which Caribbean island did the idea of Steel Bands develop?
6. Which orange is named after an Israeli port?
7. Name the Underground system in Paris.



Answers to Quiz published in March 2022 newsletter

General Knowledge

1. What sort of creature is a marmoset? Monkey
2. What does Danke mean in German? Thank you
3. What does A la Mode mean? Fashionable
4. Who ruled Russia from 1924 to 1953? Stalin
5. Who was the father of Indira Gandhi, twice PM of India? Nehru
6. Burke's, founded in 1826, deals with which facet of British life? The Peerage
7. What do we do with winklepickers? Wear them on our feet
8. What do we call a young kangaroo? Joey
9. The word aquiline describes what sort of bird? Eagle
10. What B was the surname of Busby, the American film director and choreographer? Berkeley

History

1. Who was The Beatles' drummer before Ringo Starr? Pete Best
2. What started as the Oxford Committee for Famine relief? Oxfam
3. Which member of the Royal Family was born in Greece? Philip
4. What was Gandhi's first name? Mohandas
5. Who was the last English monarch to be replaced by two of his sons? George V
6. What is the National Animal of India? Elephant
7. What links a one-time capital city of Egypt with Elvis Presley?

Geography

1. Which part of the Med lies to the east of Italy? The Adriatic
2. There are 640 what in a square mile? Acres
3. The deepest trench in the world, the Mariana Trench, is in which ocean? Pacific
4. Bucharest is the capital of which country? Romania
5. Cuba is less than a hundred miles from which American State? Florida
6. Jamaica is considered part of which continent? North America
7. What country is called Land of Fire and Ice? Iceland
8. Where is Scafell Pike, England's highest peak? The Lake District

Film & TV

1. How many contestants compete on each University Challenge team? Four

2. What was the 'real' name of The Saint in Leslie Charteris books and the TV series originally starring Roger Moore?
3. Which show has been hosted by Terry Wogan, Les Dawson, Lily Savage and David Walliams?
Blankety Blank
4. Who preceded Jeremy Paxman on University Challenge? Bamber Gascoigne
5. Tracey Stubbs, Sharon Theodopolopodous and Dorien Green featured in which sitcom?
Birds of a Feather
6. Who played John McClane in the Die Hard films? Bruce Willis
7. Humphrey Bogart played Rick Blaine in which 1942 film? Casablanca

Nature

1. It was once known as Brimstone. What is it now called? Sulphur
2. As what is the lower jawbone in vertebrates known? Mandible
3. The symbol Hg denotes which element? Mercury
4. Which temperature has the same value in Centigrade and Fahrenheit? Minus Forty
5. What is the common name for the star cluster called The Pleiades? Seven Sisters
6. Which is the shortest human digit? Little toe
7. Copper is named after which island in the Med? Cyprus
8. Which element has the lowest atomic number? Hydrogen



Committee Contact Details

Chairman:	Jim Farquhar	01763 287393	Buntingfordu3achair@gmail.com
Vice-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			