



The Buntingford Banner

Registered Charity No. 1185575

www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford/home

Chairman's Report

Welcome to my first report from your committee. We are finding our feet now that we have got them under the table. We have some big shoes to fill after Jim, Kate, Lyn and Paul have put their feet up.

The process of transferring signing rights on the bank accounts to our new treasurer is being problematic. This is due to the bank being unnecessarily obstructive. All will be resolved in good time.

There has been some mixed feedback from the last monthly meeting, Medical Detection Dogs. There was an issue with the presentation file brought by the speaker. I think a word or two of explanation would help. We normally copy presentations onto the U3A laptop for ease of linking to Zoom. This presentation was not only in a new format we couldn't handle but was an enormous file. Downcasting the file and transferring to our laptop would have taken at least 20 minutes, so I put Zoom on the speaker's laptop and made him host. Then Zoom's screen-sharing feature was confused by the presentation's split-screen mode. Technology can be wonderful at times.

December's meeting is a performance, see our website for details, so is unsuitable for Zoom. The number of Zoom viewers has dwindled to just a few, as almost everyone has returned to the hall in person. The cost to the U3A of these meetings, expressed in terms of cost per attendee, is becoming unjustifiable. We will therefore discontinue the use of Zoom. I suspect our next trick will be to set up a meeting in the metaverse! Watch this space!

AGM

There was a good turnout for our AGM but sadly, no nominations had been received for the position of Chairman. However, Webmaster Martin Gray had said he would do it if no-one else came forward so Martin is now our chairman and this was ratified by the committee at their meeting the following week.

The committee members standing down were Jim Farquhar (Chairman), Lyn Kendal-Archer (Vice Chairman), Kate Farquhar (Secretary & Newsletter Editor), Paul Brunt (Treasurer). We thank them all for all the work they have done, mainly behind-the-scenes, for our u3a. We are very grateful to them for the time and effort they have spent on our behalf.

Dave Austin gave the vote of thanks to Jim for leading our u3a so well through the very difficult period of Lockdown and Covid 19.

The new committee is:



Michael Murfitt (Treasurer), Lesley Lowers (Secretary), Keith Bradfield (Vice Chairman), Janet Murrells (Welfare), Martin Gray (Chairman & Webmaster), Val Reedman (Membership Secretary) and Tony Phillips. Not in photo – Gill Alderton (Group Co-ordinator) and Mary Godfrey (Speakers).

Outgoing Chairman

Jim Farquhar has been our u3a Chairman for the past four years – he was elected in 2019 before Covid and Lockdown. Despite us being in Lockdown there were numerous jobs still to be done behind the scenes and Jim and his committee carried on quietly and efficiently.

Things have changed due to Covid, one of them being when Zoom suddenly arrived in our lives where previously it was only for businessmen and women and referred to as a Conference Call. Jim embraced this and many members used Zoom to watch and listen to the monthly meetings.

Jim has been a great chairman and has attended many meetings with other u3a's in our area, keeping us up-to-date with any changes. We thank Jim for all that he has done and are pleased to know that he will continue as Group Leader for the Cycling Group.

Incoming Chairman

After the October AGM, Martin Gray was elected chairman of our u3a by the committee. He moved to Buntingford from Glastonbury originally in 1986 and, after a spell living in Letchworth, returned in 2018 on retirement.

Martin worked in the safety-critical software industry. Producing software for the nuclear, chemical and railway industries. For this, he had the Internet at home in 1982, before most people knew it existed. Latterly he worked on defining BSI and ISO standards for software quality and developing new programming languages.

Apart from taking on the role of our u3a Chairman, Martin is also our Webmaster

and, together with wife Gill, is the new Group Leader for Carpet Bowls. He is also a member of the Badminton, Bridge, Computer and Mah Jong Groups.

The Norman Oliver Award

The last job for our out-going Chairman was to present his wife Kate with the Norman Oliver Award for outstanding service to Buntingford u3a.

Kate, who has now stepped down from the committee having served her term of office, was Secretary and Newsletter Editor but will continue as Group Leader for 'Crafty Chat'.



GROUP NEWS

The [Wine Appreciation Group](#) has started back on the last Thursday of the month 8-10pm in the Seth Ward Community Centre. For more information please contact Ron Brighten ron.bofcw@tiscoli.co.uk



The new [Quiz Group](#) launched last month and Tim Marks, Phil Anderson and Michael Murfitt took part in the Football Themed Quiz at one of the Thursday quiz nights at the Black Bull and what they lacked in numbers they made up for in enthusiasm and head scratching. Although they were some way behind the winners, Buntingford Football Club, they enjoyed the event and achieved a "credible" 4th place. Group Leader Tim Marks timbo2256@yahoo.co.uk

There is a second [Book Group](#) starting in January on the first Monday of the month for more details please contact Vicky Chappell viccyfrank@hotmail.co.uk

Frank Martin has kindly opened his [Royston u3a Clay Pigeon Shooting Group](#) to us. If you would like to participate in regular monthly shoots at the Nuthampstead Herts League ground, please contact Frank and he will keep you updated. theofmartin@outlook.com

From 7th November the [Pickleball Group](#) has relocated to the larger hall at Cottered and will run from 11-1.00 every Monday.

We have had an offer from Heidi Langan to start a new [Seated Yoga Class](#) on a Tuesday morning at 9.30. If you would be interested in such a group, please would you let Gill Alderton know so that she can see if she has sufficient interest to make it viable. She can be reached on gillalderton@yahoo.com or 07984 039 016.

Shelagh Mavin, one of our new members, has offered to start a [Canasta Group](#). If you are interested please email her at shelagh.disney@gmail.com.

Contact Gill Alderton, Groups Co-ordinator, if you would consider starting another group (01763 272 276, gillalderton@yahoo.com)

Spotlight On: 1. The Wine Appreciation Group



The Wine Appreciation Group was started by **Dave Austin** in 2011. Dave had a career in the wine industry, before retiring as Marketing Director for The Thresher Group.

The Wine Appreciation evening consists of tasting a selection of White, Red & Rose Wines, sometimes with cheese and biscuits, whilst sitting at tables chatting with other members and listening to the Host Member who had researched and chosen that month's wines.

Sadly, Dave, after thinking long and hard, has now decided to step down as the Group Leader. Dave is a very committed member of our u3a – currently he is the Group Leader of Wednesday's Table Tennis Group and Friday's (Summer) Pétanque Group. He is a Former Chairman of our u3a and a receiver of the Norman Oliver award for excellent service to our u3a.

Thank you Dave – and Annie! – so very much for all you did for the Wine Appreciation Group – we've had great fun!!

Our new Group Leader is **Ron Brighten** who, with the help of wife Maureen, took over when the group re-started in October – same place same time. Ron has been a member of the group from almost the beginning and is a former Group Co-ordinator. Ron also co-ordinates the three Keep Fit Groups plus the occasional Clay Pigeon Shoot. We are delighted Ron and Maureen have taken on the role of Group Leaders of the Wine Appreciation Group and wish them well.



Ron & Maureen can be contacted on ron.bofcw@tiscali.co.uk.

The details have changed. The Hearing Advisory Service for those people who wear hearing aids and who need new batteries and/or new tubes, will now be coming to Buntingford on the 1st Monday Afternoon of the month. They will be based in the inner room of the Bunters Suite, upstairs at the Seth Ward Community Centre. You will need to make an appointment by calling 0707 324 582 or emailing: info@hhas.org.uk. Please check their website www.hhas.org.uk for up-to-date information.

Future Meetings

Our next monthly meeting takes place on **Monday 14th December** when our Speaker will be Mike Wabe ‘Medieval World’ – Christmas Carol. This is a 60-minute adaptation of Dickens’ famous Christmas story, delivered by none other than Charles Dickens himself. Doors open at 1.30pm. Christmas nibbles and drinks will be served.

Our January meeting takes place on **Monday 9th January**, our Speaker is Len Little ‘The Training and use of Specialist Police Dogs’. This is a return visit by a very popular speaker, Len Little, who served in Hertfordshire as a frontline dog handler for 17 years and as Home Office Approved Police Dog Trainer for 12 years. He was awarded a Scholarship to study sniffer dog training in West Germany in 1987 with the German Police and Customs.

On **Monday 13th February** a member of Herts Police will give us an Awareness Session on Cybercrime and Cyber – enabled fraud. Several million cases of fraud and of computer misuse are reported to the police every year. It's staggering, but even more staggering is that so many of those crimes could have been prevented by making a few small changes in online behaviour. To avoid becoming a victim of online crime you don't need to be a computer expert. Developing a few good online habits drastically reduces your chances of becoming a victim of cybercrime, makes you less vulnerable and lets you use the web safely.

Monday 13th March Lucy Allen “From Titanic to Cruella” – The Highs and Lows of a Stuntwoman’s Life. This talk is about Lucy’s life as a Stunt Woman: How she got into it, what Stunt Work actually is, the Highs & Lows of the work and other stories about her long career.

Monday 17th April, Jill Campbell “Seeking Servants for Knebworth House.” Country houses and estates relied on a large staff to keep things running smoothly. In this talk, Jill Campbell of the Knebworth House Archive discusses the types of records that can be found when tracing ancestors who were in service, focusing on Knebworth House and sharing the stories of some of its longest serving staff.

Quiz Corner:

1. In Britain, what were classified as A or B in 1920?
2. Who sang an Englishman in New York in 1988?
3. What are Escargots?
4. How many Steps to Heaven were there for Eddie Cochran in 1960?
5. Muller & Scully were the main characters in which tv series?

Answers at bottom of Newsletter

Committee Contact Details

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Other committee members	Tony Phillips	07518 169 682	a.phillips500@btinternet.com

Answers to Quiz published in August 2022 newsletter

Quiz No 30 Answers

GK

- 1 What ceremony usually takes place on Horse Guards Parade on The Queen's Official Birthday?
Trooping the Colour
- 2 Describe a pirouette in ballet.
The act of spinning on one foot
- 3 Who starred as Dr Doolittle in the 1967 movie of that name?
Rex Harrison
- 4 Probate is the legal process of "proving" what?
A Will
- 5 How many sit on a jury in England?
12
- 6 Who was the last Stuart monarch?
Anne
- 7 Where, near Windsor, did King John accept Magna Carta in 1215?
Runnymede

History

- 1 Yasser Arafat became a leader of which people?
Palestinians
- 2 Who was Britain's PM during the 1936 Abdication Crisis?
Stanley Baldwin
- 3 Chris Bonington found fame doing what?
Mountaineering
- 4 Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos ruled which country for more than 20 years?
Philippines
- 5 Which country formed the first independent air force?
GB
- 6 Who was the husband of Princess Margaret?
Lord Snowdon
- 7 In 1958 the US submarine Nautilus travelled 1,000 miles to go underneath which Pole for the first time?
North Pole

8 Kenneth Kaunda served as the first President of which African country, from 1964 to 1991? [Zambia](#)

9 Mungo Park became famous for exploring which continent? [Africa](#)

[Geography](#)

1 In which city is the Sikh Golden Temple? [Amritsar](#)

2 To which country do The Azores belong? [Portugal](#)

3 Which county is known as the Garden of England? [Kent](#)

4 What is the name of England's smallest city? [City of London](#)

5 Which Yorkshire city, beginning with R, features the Cathedral of St Peter and St Wilfrid?

[Ripon](#)

6 Which capital city is sited where the Blue Nile converges with the White Nile? [Khartoum](#)

7 What is nicknamed The Roof of the World? [Tibet](#)

8 Which city was the capital of Brazil before Brasilia? [Rio](#)

[Film and TV](#)

1 Who were TV's Dr Evadne and Dame Hilda over the last quarter of the 20th Century?

[Hinge and Bracket](#)

2 In which decade did EastEnders first air on BBC1? [Eighties](#)

3 Who plays Doc Martin? [Martin Clunes](#)

4 What are the first names of the two children in The Addams Family?

[Wednesday and Pugsley](#)

6 What is the pub called in ITV soap Emmerdale? [The Woolpack](#)

6 Name the tower block where the Trotters live in Only Fools and Horses?

[Nelson Mandela House](#)

7 "Get down, Shep" was the catchphrase of which Blue Peter presenter? [John Noakes](#)

8 Knots Landing was a spinoff from which more famous American soap? [Dallas](#)

[Wales](#)

1 What is the name of the highest mountain in Wales? [Snowdon](#)

2 Who is the Patron Saint of Wales? [David](#)

3 What is the biggest lake in Wales? [Bala \(by surface area\)](#)

4 Which South American country has a large Welsh population? [Argentina](#)

5 Which actor won an Oscar as Hannibal Lecter in Silence of the Lambs? [Anthony Hopkins](#)

6 The Welsh language is a member of which wider group? [Celtic](#)

7 After Cardiff, which city is the second most populous in Wales? [Swansea](#)

8 Name the three national parks in Wales?

[Brecon Beacons, Pembrokeshire Coast and Snowdonia](#)

Quiz Corner Answers: 1. Roads 2. Sting 3. Snails 4. Three 5. X Files
