



The Buntingford Banner

Registered Charity No. 1185575
www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford/home

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

So another year approaches its end, we're going out with something of a bang as our last meeting, "The Ratpack at Christmas," saw our largest audience of the year. It is good to see the Seth Ward Community Centre so full, with mince pies going down a treat.

I think the speaker was disappointed that we didn't all join in and sing along, but that was probably for the best.

The membership of Buntingford's u3a has risen quite considerably during 2023. If any of our new members would like to start a new group then we are listening.

Our list of speakers for the meetings of 2024 is already in place. As ever we have a wide variety of topics for your delight. This includes some favourite speakers of the last couple of years returning with a different talk.

I look forward to seeing you all, members old and new, in the new year. I hope it is a good one for you all, and before that, I wish you all a merry Christmas.

Martin Gray



BT Email addresses

Our apologies to those of you with BT email addresses (72 of us). November's Newsletter was sent out on the 30th October but was rejected by the BT emails. Our Webmaster, Martin, sorted it and the Newsletter was sent to the BT addresses on the 4th November.

GREETERS

It can be very daunting for new members to enter a hall full of noisy people chatting and laughing so every u3a has a team of Greeters who welcome them at the Monthly Meeting and make sure they know 'where everything is' and answer their questions. Unfortunately we haven't had any Greeters since coming out of Lockdown.

But that is now changing. Val Reedman has taken on the role of Greeters' Co-ordinator and is now looking for volunteers. We need two people each month – we don't meet in August – to do this very important and rewarding job. Ideally, we will have enough volunteers so that you will only need to do it once a year. If you would like to volunteer for one month please contact Val on 01763 272 135 valbuntu3a@gmail.com



Brian Tebbutt & Lesley Stevens - pre Lockdown

BOBBY CHARLTON Ps. see Newsletter November 2023



Bobby Charlton, Bill & Sue Hooper



Bill Hooper, Mr Bovis (Bovis Homes), Bobby Charlton, Ian Niven, Town Mayor

When the November Newsletter went out Gill Alderton spoke to Bill Hooper and discovered he had these photos of himself standing in for Bob Dingley at the opening ceremony and persuaded him to send them to me. He sent them with a covering email:

"I remember that after Christopher Dingley had saved a goal from Mr Charlton he then asked Christopher to "Move aside lad". He then tossed the football up into the air and, as it came down, he kicked it. The ball went away from him like a missile and struck the back wall of the community centre with such force that it ricocheted all around the hall and we all had to duck lest it knocked us out or caused GBH!! Such power! Also....when we did a Grand Opening of the community centre I came up with the idea of maybe the Red Arrows could do a fly past. So, I contacted them and spoke to a Wing Commander who informed me that they were performing somewhere in the south of England that day but he would see if they could come back over Buntingford on the way back home. This he did, and indeed the Red Arrows were diverted to fly over our town but the weather was so atrocious on the open day, and the cloud so low, that no-one ever saw them!! Shame, but that's show biz!

Bill is Group Leader for our Guitar Group.

THANK YOU PRESENTATION



At the December monthly meeting, Chairman Martin made a presentation to Lesley Lowers (left) and Val Reedman thanking them for all their hard work as Speaker Secretary and then Secretary (Lesley) and Membership Secretary (Val).

“.....and finally” ITV News at Ten, Wednesday 13th December



Barkway Parish Council recently applied to Historic England to have its 'Carriage Wash' recorded as a Protected National Historic Site.

A full report was sent to them by the Local History Group and then Historic England came and took some photos.

The Carriage Wash was built probably around 1750 and has a brick base with two 5ft high brick walls either side and is approximately 20ft wide and 100ft long.

Secretary of the Local History Group, Graham Penning is a member of our u3a Bridge Group and when it had been added to the list he was interviewed by an ITV News team for their “and finally” item at the end of their 10pm bulletin.

(I saw the news item when I was away and when I got home I traced it on my tv so I took this screen shot including subtitles!! J.)

GROUP NEWS - CHURCH CRAWLERS



Church Crawlers visited St John the Baptist Church in Royston last month and enjoyed a talk and power point presentation by Phil Burchell.

The church suffered a disastrous fire in December 2018 which is believed to have been caused by an electrical fault in the clock. Restoration was completed in October 2022 at a cost of £4m which was met mainly by the insurers.

The congregation decided not to have it restored back to where it was before the fire but to modernise it – one item being the pews. These were sold to individuals and replaced by linked chairs which were donated by parishioners and Royston organisations and each chair has a plaque on the back with the donor's name.

Other alterations included some steps being removed, floors raised, a slope put in and underfloor heating added – all with the agreement of English Heritage. It really is superb and well worth a visit. (Photo Phil Burchell)

THURSDAY WALKING GROUP



LtoR: Naomi Olley, Paul Clifton, Brian Tebbutt, Peter Remnant, Sue Hisgrove, Barbara Henderson, Steve Hisgrove, Lin Hood, Cynthia Kattau. (Photo: Roger Henderson)

These photos were taken on the 2nd November in the eye of storm Ciaran.

Cynthia Kattau had planned and arranged the walk from Whitehill Golf Club at Dane End and, in spite of the forecast, a few hardy group members turned out to face the elements.

It was a challenging walk with flooded roads, paths & fields to negotiate, not to mention the mud.

They all made it back to the golf club and enjoyed lunch in their restaurant.

(Rumour has it that after this photo was taken they all turned round and splashed in the puddle but methinks that's just fake news).



(Photo above: Peter Remnant)

OUR COMMITTEE

Susan Peters Secretary plus Buntingford u3a Facebook Page

The youngest of 8 siblings, Susan had lived all her life in Leytonstone, East London.

Her last job was working as a civilian with British Transport Police for 16 years from which she retired in June 2022 and moved to Buntingford shortly afterwards with her partner Pauline.

Susan immediately joined our u3a and belongs to several groups. Susan also enjoys the theatre, cooking, gardening and is currently learning Spanish.

It was a big step moving from East London to Buntingford and Sue was a little sad at first but soon settled in and agrees that the people of Buntingford are friendly and sociable and that it's a great place to call home.



Forthcoming Monthly Meetings

January: Our Speaker for Monday 8th January is Charlie Haycock 'An Eccentric Look at the English Countryside'

February: Our Speaker for Monday 12th February is Andy Strange 'The History of WW2 Airfields, concentrating on East Anglia.'

We meet at the Seth Ward Community Centre on the Second Monday of the month - doors open 1.30pm.

OUR GROUPS

Buntingford u3a Interest Groups			
*SWCC – Seth Ward Community Centre ** BBC – Buntingford Bowls Club #OGPS – Old George Pottery Studio, Puckeridge ~ URCH United Reformed Church Hall (opposite the Post Office)			
If you wish to join a group please contact the Group Leader			
Group Co-ordinator Gill Alderton 07984 039 016 gillalderton@yahoo.com			
Badminton	*SWCC	Fridays 11-12	Gill Alderton 07984 039 016 gillalderton@yahoo.com
Bookworms	Fairfield	Last Wednesday 2.30 – 4.30	Anne Austin 01763 272 066 anne.austin555@btinternet.com
Book Group 2	Royal Gardens	First Monday	Vicky Chappell viccyfrank@hotmail.co.uk
Braughing Shed Group NB: This is not a u3a gp	A Barn at Furneux Pelham	Wednesdays 12noon – 4pm	Jacqui Thorne 07557 966 526 jacquithorne@mail.com
Bridge	The Bury	Tuesdays 10-12	Phil Anderson 01763 274 201 philpoppy@btinternet.com

Canasta	The Golden Fleece Braughing	Fortnightly	Shelagh Mavin shelagh.disney@gmail.com
Carpet Bowls	**BBC	Thursdays 10-12 (Late Sept-March)	Gill & Martin Gray 07717 220 431 gill.gray@mail.uk .
Church Crawlers	Various Churches	1 st Tuesday 10am	Keith Bradfield 01763 448 914 - 07704 945 209 u3abuntchurchcrawlers@gmail.com
Clay Pigeon Shooting	Various	Occasional	Ron Brighten 01763 273 175 ron.bofcw@tiscali.co.uk
Clay Pigeon Shooting	Royston u3a	Monthly at Nuthampstead Herts League Ground	Frank Martin theofmartin@outlook.com
Computer Group	On-line	Email	Martin Gray buntingfordu3a@proton.me
Crafty Chat	Various	1 st Monday 2-4pm	Kate Farquhar 01763 287 393 farquharkate@yahoo.co.uk
Current Affairs	Bridewell Close	1 st & 3 rd Thursday 7.30pm	Derek Cooper 01763 271 115
Cycling	Various	Occasional	Jim Farquhar 01763 287 393 farquhar_jim@yahoo.co.uk
Guitar for Beginners	Crown Pub	Alternate Mons 2-4	Bill Hooper 01763 273 123 bunthoop@hotmail.com
Keep Fit	*SWCC	Mons 9.30-10.30 & 10.30-11.30	c/o Ron Brighten 01763 273 175 ron.bofcw@tiscali.co.uk
Keep Fit Seated Exercise	~URCH Opp Post Office	Thursdays 1pm	c/o Ron Brighten 01763 273 175 ron.bofcw@tiscali.co.uk
Leisure Afternoons	*SWCC Bunters Suite	3 rd Monday 2-4	Hilary Curtis 01763 661 508 hilarycurtis38@gmail.com
Line Dancing	*SWCC	Tuesday 4.30	Gill Alderton 07984 039 016 gillalderton@yahoo.com
LETs	Various	London, Elsewhere & Theatres	Jean Cook Jean.M.Cook@btinternet.com
Mah Jong	The Bury	Tuesdays 2-4	Liz Cooper 01763 271 027 lizandmikecooper1@gmail.com
Musicians United The A Train Jazz Band	Cheshunt u3a	Mondays 10-12	Colin Meehan 07768 278 064 Steve Deeks 07392 298 788
Pétanque	The Crown	Fridays - summer	Dave Austin 01763 272 066 daustin2020@btinternet.com
Photography	Tann Bar	3 rd Tuesday 10am	David Dixon interestingplace@hotmail.com
Pickleball	Cottered Village Hall	Mondays 11-1	Gill Alderton 07984 039 016 gillalderton@yahoo.com
Pilates	*SWCC	Fridays 12.30-1.30	Jacqui Plummer plummerkj11@aol.com
Pottery	#OGPS	Thursdays 10-12	Gill Alderton 07984 039 016 gillalderton@yahoo.com
Quizzes	Various	Occasional	Tim Marks timbo2256@yahoo.co.uk
Scrabble	Vicarage Road	Thursdays Fortnightly	Sue Neal 07862 220 787 sueneal2957@yahoo.co.uk
Seated Exercise	~URCH Opp Post Office	Thursdays 1pm	c/o Ron Brighten 01763 273 175 ron.bofcw@tiscali.co.uk
Spanish (intermediate)	Sandon	Intermediate FULL	Jim Farquhar 01763 287 393 farquhar_jim@yahoo.co.uk
Sunday Lunches for Solos	Various	2 nd Sunday FULL	Lyn Kendal-Archer 01763 271 972 lkendalarcher@outlook.com
Table Tennis	*SWCC	Wednesdays 1.30-3.30	Dave Austin 01763 272 066 daustin2020@btinternet.com

Tennis NB. This is not a u3a Gp	Standon & Puck Tennis Club	New Members welcome	Chairman Diana Foster dianafoster@btinternet.com
They Matter	*SWCC Bunters Suite	Last Monday 2-4 FULL	Hilary Curtis 01763 661 508 hilarycurtis38@gmail.com
Walks – 3 Mile Walk	Various	Last Wednesday 11am	Liz Wright 07931 412 874 lizmoorsup@hotmail.com
Walks	Various	Wednesday am	Carol McKimmie 01763 271 054 carolmckimmie@yahoo.com
Walks	Various	Thursdays am	Barbara & Roger Henderson 01763 272 035 barbarahenderson87@outlook.com
Wine Appreciation	*SWCC Bunters Suite	Last Thursday 8pm	Ron & Maureen Brighten 01763 273 175 ron.bofcw@tiscali.co.uk

Quiz Corner:

1. How many Chess Pieces are there on the board at the start of the game?
2. What are the stage names for Richard McCourt & Dominic Wood?
3. Which international courier company has a white horizontal arrow 'hidden' in its logo?
4. What colour is the cross on the national flag of Switzerland?
5. One night in Bangkok written by Tim Rice Taylor was a song from which London musical?

Answers at end of Newsletter.

Committee Contact Details

Chairman	Martin Gray	07588 708 257	buntingfordu3a@proton.me
Vice Chairman	Keith Bradfield	01763 448 914	krbradfield@googlemail.com
Treasurer	Michael Murfitt	07803 708 181	buntingfordtreasureru3a@gmail.com
Secretary	Susan Peters	07723 343 282	Buntingfordu3asec@gmail.com
Assistant Secretary	Tim Marks	07754 583 599	timbo2256@yahoo.co.uk
Membership Secretary	Lesley Stevens	01920 822 066	lesleystevens44@gmail.com
Groups Co-ordinator	Gill Alderton	01763 272 276	gillalderton@yahoo.com
Speaker Secretary	Mary Godfrey	07802 482 721	marygmusic@btinternet.com
Welfare Officer	Janet Murrells	01763 274 341	j.murrells@icloud.com
Webmaster	Martin Gray	07588 708 257	martingray@mail.uk
Other Member	Tony Phillips	07518 169 682	a.phillips500@btinternet.com
Non-committee: Greeters	Val Reedman	01763 272 135	valbuntu3a@gmail.com
Non-committee: Tea Rota	Hilary Curtis	01763 661 508	hilarycurtis38@gmail.com
Non-committee	Newsletter Editor	Jean Cook	Jean.M.Cook@btinternet.com

Quiz Corner Answers: 1. Thirty two 2. Dic & Dom 3. Fed X 4. White 5. Chess