

The Buntingford Banner

Registered Charity No. 1185575

www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford/home

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Thank you to all those who have renewed their membership for the 2024-25 year already. You have been keeping Lesley and Mike busy keeping up.

The new London Walks group has taken off with great success. Upcoming walks will be on the website, so keep an eye out for some interesting trips. We are always open to the creation of new groups, especially if you are prepared to run it yourself.

The new website is proving popular. We have had over 3,000 visits since its launch and the membership form has been downloaded 270 times.

We don't track visitors by cookies or any other tricks but we can see counts of accesses and whether you are on PC, tablet or phone. Again, this is a facility for all the members.

If you have any suggestions or articles you would like to see on the site, let us know.

Martin Gray



Our New Helper

At the March monthly meeting,
Gill Gray stood in for Lesley Stevens,
who was busy dealing with
membership renewals,
and was helped by our new recruit
Dave, the 'resident' cat, at SWCC.



Emergency Numbers

Accidents can happen anywhere and at any time. Years ago the brother of a famous sportsman was jogging along a towpath when he fell ill and sadly, died. He was wearing only shorts and vest. It took two days for his family to be traced.

With our members being retired and belonging to a certain age group, there is always the possibility of someone having an accident or becoming unwell.

We also have a large number of members who are single.

The committee recently discussed this and has requested that each member, when attending any u3a event, be asked to carry their membership card with them and write on it an emergency contact telephone number please.

Next year, the cards will include a space for it.

Thank you.

GROUP NEWS

Church Crawlers



St James, Thorley was the venue last month where the oldest part is the font. The font is lead lined and babies used to be fully dunked in water which was only changed each Easter!

Group Leader Keith Bradfield is pictured helping our guide Bill Hardy replace the heavy lid on the font.



On the wall there is a unique World War 1 Memorial. It is unique because it shows the names of ALL the villagers who went to war – the two outer columns show the names of those killed in the war plus those who later died of their wounds or the Spanish Flu.

The dates at the top of the memorial are 1914 – 1919.

Leisure Group

Just a reminder that the monthly Leisure Group meets again on Monday 15th April 2.00pm – 3.30pm at the Seth Community Centre. Come along, meet new friends and play Rummikub, Scrabble, Dominos or card games to suit those attending. The cost is £3 which includes tea & biscuits; just drop in and join us on the 3rd Monday of each month. You will be very welcome!

Quiz Group

The quiz team won the quiz at the Woodman pub on 5th March and kindly donated their winnings to the Buntingford Food Bank.

Scrabble

There are a few places available for our Scrabble Group. It's a small friendly group that meets on Thursday afternoon, every other week, in Vicarage Road, Buntingford. New members will be made very welcome.

Please contact Sue Neal on 07862 220 787 sueneal2957@yahoo.co.uk for further details.

Thursday Morning Walking Group



LtoR: Brian Tebbutt, Beverley Stringer, Greg Amos, Jenny Helbig, Carol McKimmie, Steve Hisgrove, Paul Clifton, Sue Hisgrove, Lin Hood, Barbara Henderson, Naomi Olley, Nick Di Gregorio, Roger Henderson, Malcolm McKimmie, Marg Goodhill, Christine Newman, Norman Livings, Margaret Burleigh, Steve Deeks, Peter Remnant, Chris Thurgill, Chris Burleigh.

This photo was taken by Dave Austin at Bromley Hall Farm near Standon with some highland cattle in the background.

This walk was planned and led by Brian Tebbutt and Chris Thurgill. Twenty three of us started from The Star Pub at Standon and did a circular walk of 5.5 miles taking in 2 farms and a vineyard before returning to The Star for lunch.

As seems to be a tradition now, our March walk coincided with British Pie Week and the Star celebrated the occasion with no less than 11 different pies to choose from. Unlike last year, when it rained and snowed, the weather was much kinder with only a bit of mist to deal with.

Barbara Henderson, Group Leader

Wednesday Morning Walking Group



LtoR: John Hood, Malcolm Mckimmie, Lin Hood, Christine Newman, Jan Baxter, Jenny Helbig, Beverley Stringer, Norman Livings and Brian Tebbutt. Photo: Group Leader Carol Mckimmie.

With continuous light rain throughout, the Wednesday Morning Walking Group did a six mile circular walk from Chadwell Springs Golf Club going into Ware, along the river towards Hertford then across the river to a path that looks down on the valley and crosses the A10. They then walked to St Leonards Church across Hartham, back along the river to Herford Lock and across the Kings Meads back to their starting point.

Their next walk will start from Royston Heath Café and they are hoping they will be able to see the Pasque Flowers (see below) that the Heath is famous for.

The Pasque Flower



The Pasque Flower, Pulsatilla vulgaris, is a beautiful spring flower, traditionally a sign that Easter has arrived. The silky buds open to light purple, cup-shaped flowers which mature to develop a star shape. As the flowers develop, ferny foliage starts to appear at the base of the stems, which continues to look good after the flowering season has finished.

It is now a rare plant in the UK, restricted to just a few chalk and limestone grasslands. Steeped in legend, it flowers at Easter, so is known as the 'anemone of Passiontide'.

(When I was a member of Royston Golf Club we would temporarily leave our clubs at the 10th tee and walk over the ridge to see the Pasque Flowers when they were in bloom. A truly lovely sight.)

Wine Appreciation



It was Ladies Night last month with Lesley Lowers (left) and Viv Savage (right) as the Presenters taking turns to talk about the six different wines.

Lesley chose wines from her holidays abroad and Viv chose some of her favourite wines.

The audience was very appreciative and the ladies were given a great ovation. (Group Leader Ron Brighten can be seen listening intently to Viv's talk – I don't know if he's making notes or marking her out of 10!)

FORTHCOMING MONTHLY MEETINGS

APRIL 8th: Suzie Harrison: Cambridge American Cemetery A talk and history of the American Cemetery in Cambridge.

MAY 13th: Lloyd Crowley: The History of the Ukulele. With a variety of Ukuleles, demonstrations and songs and an opportunity to have a go

JUNE 10th: Mary & Graham Brace: Wildlife and Conservation. An illustrated talk from around the world.

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 FULL	*SWCC	Fridays 11-12	Gill Alderton 07984 039 016 gillalderton@yahoo.com
Bookworms FULL	Fairfield	Last Wednesday 2.30 – 4.30	Anne Austin 01763 272 066 anne.austin555@btinternet.com
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 FULL	**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 2-3.30	c/o Keith Bradfield 01763 448 914 - 07704 945 209
Line Dancing	*SWCC	Tuesday 4.30-5.30	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	Cheshunt u3a	Mondays 10-12	Colin Meehan 07768 278 064

The A Train Jazz Band			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 FULL	Cottered Village Hall	Mondays 11-1	Gill Alderton 07984 039 016 gillalderton@yahoo.com
Pickleball 2	Cottered Village Hall	Fridays 10am-12	Ditto
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	Thursday afternoons 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) FULL	Sandon	Intermediate	Jim Farquhar 01763 287 393 farquhar_jim@yahoo.co.uk
Sunday Lunches for Solos - FULL	Various	2 nd Sunday	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 & Puckeridge Tennis Club	New Members welcome	Chairman Diana Foster dianafoster@btinternet.com
They Matter FULL	*SWCC Bunters Suite	Last Monday 2-4	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
Walks in London	London	Monthly Wed or Thurs	Mike Murfitt 07803 708 181 mikemurfitt@sky.com Tim Marks 07754 583 599timbo2256@yahoo.co.uk
Wine Appreciation	*SWCC Bunters Suite	Last Thursday 8pm	Ron & Maureen Brighten 01763 273 175 ron.bofcw@tiscali.co.uk

Quiz Corner:

1. What is telesphobia the fear of?
2. Who were 'Going to Ibiza' in 1999?
3. If you get something with 'aloo' in an Indian meal what would you be eating?
4. What Rapper's real name is Curtis James Jackson 111?
5. Comedy duo Frank Skinner & David Badiel teamed up with the Lightning Seeds to record which 1996 football song?

Answers at end of Newsletter.

Committee Contact Details

Chairman	Martin Gray	07588 708 257	buntingfordu3a@proton.me
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Speaker Secretary	Mary Godfrey	07802 482 721	marygmusic@btinternet.com
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Non-committee: Tea Rota	Hilary Curtis	01763 661 508	hilarycurtis38@gmail.com
Non-committee	Newsletter Editor & Buntingford Journal	Jean Cook	Jean.M.Cook@btinternet.com

Quiz Corner Answers: 1. Being late 2. Vengaboys 3. Potato 4. 50 Cent
5. Coming Home