

The Buntingford Banner

Registered Charity No. 1185575

www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford/home

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This month, the Third Age Trust has announced the date of its AGM – Wednesday 16th October.

As with our own AGM, they are asking for volunteers to become directors of the Trust. If anyone wishes to stand for election, or indeed wishes to attend the AGM either in person or online, then please let me know and I can get some more information from the Trust.



It is also the time of year when I start nagging you about standing to join our own committee at our October AGM. We have people standing down this year and replacement members will be needed.

Meanwhile, as I mentioned at the last monthly meeting, there are moves afoot to replace the sound system at the Seth Ward Community Centre. As we all know, our old sound system is less than ideal and we have been looking to replace it for a while. Since all the other groups that use the centre are in the same position, it has been agreed to club together to get an upgrade that can be used by all. The agreed specification will have loudspeakers ranged along the walls of the hall to provide sound to all parts.

The latest hearing aid standards will be catered for. At the moment, an application for Lottery funding has been submitted and we are waiting for the outcome of this before placing any orders. So, watch this space.

Finally, if anyone is still using bookmarks for our old website, be warned that they will stop working on 1st June. At the moment, the old website redirects to the new one, but from June you will get a 404 error - Site Not Found.

Martin Gray

BRAUGHING REPAIR CAFÉ

The Braughing Repair Cafe, organised by the Sustainable Living Group (SLG), will be held on Saturday 29th June from 2-5pm in the Braughing Community Centre, Green Ln, Braughing SG11 2QL.

We throw away so much these days that could have a new lease of life after a simple fix and people have forgotten the skills needed to repair items. A repair café is the answer – a place for people to meet with others to share knowledge and skills. Tea, coffee and cake will be on sale.

You can bring clothes, furniture, electrical appliances, bicycles, crockery, toys, etc., and there is no charge, but we would like a donation please.

There is no guarantee that your item will be repaired on the day but the repairer will try. If it is repairable but not actually on the day, suggestions will be given to where it might be fixed. If it's unfixable, recycling facilities will be suggested.

A booking system will be up and running shortly. Information will be on social media.

If anyone is interested in becoming a repairer and for further details please contact Braughingrepaircafe@gmail.com or call Nicole West 07739 693 754.

THE MAYOR OF BUNTINGFORD, COUNCILLOR DUNCAN WALLACE

Duncan's wife Jane has been a member of Buntingford u3a for many years and Duncan joined her when he retired. At an AGM I was attending, Mayor Duncan arrived and came and sat next to me at my table. During our conversation he told me that he was going to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party the following Tuesday so, ever mindful of something different for the Newsletter, I asked him if I could take a photo of him before he left for the Palace. Here's a couple that I took plus a brief report from Duncan.



The Mayor of Buntingford Cllr Duncan Wallace
and Mrs Jane Wallace



I was extremely honoured to represent Buntingford Town Council and our community at the (very wet!) Buckingham Palace garden party. It was even more special as I had Jane by my side and I was proud to see our town's Chain of Office on display among the many present. Despite the weather, we met and spoke with so many people from varied backgrounds and nationalities. And to add icing to our cake, I stood face to face with Zara Tindall, resplendent in a cream outfit as she spoke with us as she moved along the line.



The Buntingford Chain of Office is quite unusual – it's a large oval shape and whereas most other Chains have a Coat of Arms as their centrepiece ours has the Reed Bunting Bird.

The Centrepiece was made in India which was organised by Cllr Vidyut Sharma;
the chain itself was made in England.

Whenever worn at large gatherings it is always a popular talking point!

Buntingford Town Council used to have a Chairman but that changed to a Mayor in 1998.



MAY MONTHLY MEETING



Lloyd
&
Chris



Lloyd Crowley was the speaker at last month's meeting. Lloyd runs the Ware Ukulele group which meets every Monday evening 6.30-8.30pm at Allenbury's Social Club. His love of the Ukulele was clear to see by a collection of over 12 instruments of various shapes and sizes displayed on the stage.

Lloyd has performed widely in and around Hertfordshire, gives educational talks and performs at public and private events. He gave a brief history of the instrument and included audience participation.

When the Buntingford u3a Ukulele Group disbanded during Lockdown five of its members, including Mary Deeks and Chris Thurgill, transferred to the Ware group which is not a u3a group. Ware Ukulele is open to all abilities. New members are very welcome – for further information please contact Lloyd on lloydukulele@hotmail.com. A ukulele will be provided for beginners if necessary.

(Photos Sue Peters)

GROUP NEWS

CANASTA

We are a group of Canasta players who meet weekly each Tuesday in the Golden Fleece, Braughing for 2 hours for an afternoon of playing cards in a very relaxed, friendly, informal and fun way. The group has grown in popularity over the last year which prompted us to move from fortnightly to weekly.

It doesn't matter whether you are a seasoned Canasta player or whether you are an absolute beginner, everyone is welcome. Each session is £3 pp which covers the cost of coffee and biscuits and hopefully a Christmas lunch around the festive season!

For further details contact me Shelagh Mavin on 07506 066 080 shelagh.disney@gmail.com.

PÉTANQUE GROUP

The Pétanque group has re-started and, weather permitting, is held at The Crown, Buntingford, 12.30-3pm on Fridays. Whilst the majority of our players are u3a members, we don't have exclusive use of the Piste as it can be used by Crown customers at any time. We also like to think that players will buy at least one drink. Members need to bring their own set of 3 boules.

It's proving to be a very enjoyable Friday lunchtime gathering in the pub garden, and we welcome any u3a members wanting to join in for a social hour or two, whether they play the game or not. For further details contact Group Leader, Dave Austin 01763 272 066 daustin2020@btinternet.com.

THEY MATTER



Standing: Joan Jones, Brenda Blanks, Mercy Wilson, Prue Pidduck, Chris Scott-Hake, Cecily Zetter, Glynis Jaycock, Maureen Bedborough, Maggie Bell, Lynn Dundas

Seated: Sandra Evans, June Fairbrother, Linda Edge, Val Reedman, Group Leader Hilary Curtis



Working



Sorting



Each Mat has its Own Label

We have a number of new members who might be puzzled by the name 'They Matter' listed in our Groups so perhaps now is a good time to bring you all up to date. In 2017 Hilary Curtis met up with an old friend who told her that she had just answered an advert for volunteers to make activity mats for people with dementia and told her all about it.

Hilary was so moved by the idea that she suggested to the committee that she should start a group with the Buntingford u3a. They agreed. Hilary put out an appeal for volunteers and then materials, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Over the years, people have been very generous with donations of various materials to make the mats and at the moment they have need of the following: large coloured buttons, bells, keys, keyrings, jewellery (even if broken), slinkies, cotton reels, buckles, and shoe laces, preferably coloured. If you can donate any of these please contact Hilary (see below).

The ladies of the group have had various 'homes' but are now based in Bunters, upstairs at the SWCC, where they meet once a month.

To date they have made over 400 mats which have been distributed to 28, very grateful, Care Homes.

The group is full but if you would like to go on the waiting list please also contact Hilary hilarycurtis38@gmail.com 01763 661 508.

The 'They Matter' title refers to the people who are locked in the world of dementia and for whom these mats give something they can touch and play with.

Thank you, ladies, you do us proud!

LETs



Photo: Group Co-ordinator Gill Alderton and husband Ian waiting for their Sunday Lunch.

Member of LETs recently enjoyed a Sunday Lunch aboard the Shakespeare Express - a vintage train pulled by a steam engine. They travelled by coach to Stratford-on-Avon where they boarded the train.

FORTHCOMING MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

MONDAY JULY 8th: Andy Smith Prosthetic Perils. Andy is a double amputee who suggests that life with a disability, whilst often challenging, can have its lighter side.

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			
GROUP	VENUE	DAY & TIME	GROUP LEADER
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
Book Group 2	Royal Gardens	First Monday	Vicky Chappell vickyfrank@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	Tuesdays 2-4pm	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	Nuthampstead Herts League Ground	Contact Group Leader for June date	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	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 12.30–3pm 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 10-12	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 Grp	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 FULL	*SWCC Bunters Suite	Last Thursday 8pm	Ron & Maureen Brighten 01763 273 175 ron.bofcw@tiscali.co.uk

Quiz Corner:

1. American actor born in 1960 famous for playing Fox Mulder in the X Files.
2. English antiques expert and TV Presenter.
3. Former Presenter of TV's Question Time.
4. Author of the novel Robinson Crusoe.
5. Walt Disney character whose first appearance was in 1934 in 'The Little White Hen' cartoon.

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
Assistant Treasurer	Tony Phillips	07518 169 682	a.phillips500@btinternet.com
Secretary	Sue Peters	07723 343 282	suemary1958@hotmail.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
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 & Buntingford Journal	Jean Cook	Jean.M.Cook@btinternet.com

Quiz Corner Answers: 1. David Duchovny 2. David Dickenson 3. David Dimbleby
4. Daniel Defoe 5. Donald Duck