

FEBRUARY 2025



The Buntingford Banner

Registered Charity No. 1185575

www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford/home

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A Happy New Year to you all.

I went to see the Aspenden Christmas Tree Festival in December, well done to all involved in putting together the u3a entry. There is a full report elsewhere in this newsletter.

Following a suggestion from our members, we have placed a list of all the 2025 monthly meetings on the noticeboard in the Seth Ward Community Centre. This will be kept updated as it provides an alternative to the notices that we put on the website, here in the newsletter and email reminders.

Work is proceeding on the new sound system at the Seth Ward Community Centre. This is being led by the Film Club, so thanks are due to them for all their efforts.

I've mentioned the Buntingford Mosaic in previous newsletters. It describes the many activities that our town has available. Come along to the unveiling, mentioned below, and have a look if you're in the area.

Martin Gray



THE BUNTINGFORD MOSAIC



This beautiful tribute to our town will be officially unveiled by Buntingford Town Mayor, Cllr Duncan Wallace on Sunday 2nd February. We are invited to gather at the junction of the High Street and Church Street just before 3pm. The reference to our u3a is the blue and yellow, head and shoulder silhouette, under the letter G.

WARD FREMAN SWIMMING POOL



The Ward Freman Community Pool Group CIO is selling these hessian bags, £5 each, to raise funds to help the fight to re-open the pool. All £5 goes to their funds as the production costs have been covered by the supporters listed. We will try and get some bags to sell at our February meeting.

BASH (Buntingford Action for Social Help) – new telephone number

BASH (Buntingford Action for Social Help) is a group of volunteer drivers who drive patients registered with Puckeridge and Buntingford to medical appointments. There have been some changes lately. They have a New Chairman: Lyn Kendal Archer and a new designated telephone number **07787 183 288** on which to request transport and this will be manned by Val Reedman.

They are still desperately short of volunteer drivers; if any of you could possibly spare just a few hours each month it would make an enormous difference. BASH has a list of fixed charges from £2 local to £17 to Cambridge Lea and Luton for the clients and drivers are reimbursed at 45p per mile.

OUR GROUPS

3 Mile Walking Group – Norman Jones, new Group Leader



Gill Jackson, Lesley Lowers, Mick & Mary Millen, Jean Handley, Norman Jones, Linda Marsh, Ron & Barbara Coxall.

Great news – Norman Jones has very kindly stepped in to take over the 3 Mile Walking Group which can now carry on walking on the last Wednesday of the month meeting at 11am. A big thank you to Norman and also to Liz Wright for leading the group for the past nine years. Norman's contact details are: : normanbjones1@gmail.com - 07766 367 983.

Aspenden's Christmas Tree Festival



Gill at work



The Finished Tree

St Mary's Church, Aspenden organised its first Christmas Tree Festival in December and our u3a took part.

Many items were made by the They Matter, Pottery and Crafty Chat Groups and depicted some of our 31+ groups.

The tree itself was then decorated by Gill Alderton. The two day weekend event was open free to the public who then voted for their favourite tree.

First place went to the Army Cadets who made a tree of food parcels (subsequently delivered), 2nd the Gardening Club with a bean cane wigwam decorated with horticultural bits and bobs and 3rd was a small hand knitted tree made by Lil Foster, a member of St. Peter's Church.

OUR COMMITTEE

Susan Batchelor – Asst Group Co-ordinator

Sue was born in Surrey & having lived in Epsom, Folkestone & finally Guildford she moved to Buntingford when she married in 1974.

She worked at Building Components in Ware until she had her first child. Sue was the Admissions Secretary at St Edmund's College & finished her working career as the Medical Secretary at the Buntingford Medical Centre, retiring in 2012.

She has 2 children, 2 stepchildren & 6 grandchildren, 2 of whom are in Sydney. Sue was sadly widowed in 2016.

Sue joined the Buntingford u3a in 2012 and belongs to the u3a Crafty Chat, They Matter, Solo Lunches, Mah Jong & LETs Groups.



Buntingford U3A - Speakers 2025

Meetings take place at the Seth Ward Community Centre
on the Second Monday of the month - doors open 1.30pm.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker & Title</u>
February 10 th	Clare Mulley an English biographer of notable women: "Agent ZO" - the untold Story of Fearless WW2 resistance Fighter Elzbieta Zawacka.
March 10 th	Simon Keable-Elliot: "Robert Keable - Utterly immoral WW1 Chaplain" - an extraordinary tale, highly recommended by other u3a groups.
April 14 th	Charles Garland: "Dad's Army" - A fascinating insight into the making of this very popular Television Sitcom.
May 12 th	Charlie Haylock: "The History of Spoken English pt 2" - we welcome Charlie again for this fascinating talk, language developed from the Tudors and Stuarts.
June 9 th	Mike Barbakoff: "Bletchley Park WW2 History" - Mike, a volunteer Guide will tell us about the Code Breakers.
July 14 th	Lee Baddock: "Buntingford Dramatic Society" - the History of the society's past , present and future productions.
August	NO MEETING
September 8 th	Becky Moore, zoo educator: "Hertfordshire Zoo (formerly Paradise Wildlife Park)" - its history, recent developments and future.
October 13 th	AGM
November 10 th	Richard Thomas: "Flanders Fields to the Tower" - a topical talk around Remembrance Day
December 8 th	An a cappella choir: "Christmas themed a cappella" - a short history of a Cappella, before they perform their music

FORTHCOMING MONTHLY MEETINGS

MONDAY 10th - February 10th - Clare Mulley an English biographer of notable women: "Agent ZO" - the untold Story of Fearless WW2 resistance Fighter Elzbieta Zawacka.

Monday 10th March - Simon Keable-Elliot: "Robert Keable - Utterly immoral WW1 Chaplain" - an extraordinary tale, highly recommended by other u3a groups.

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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 Fran Feek fran.feek@hotmail.com

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DAY & TIME</u>	<u>GROUP LEADER</u>
Badminton FULL	*SWCC	Fridays 11-12 noon	Gill Alderton 07984 039 016 gillalderton@yahoo.com
Bookworms FULL	Fairfield	Last Wed 2.30 – 4.30	Anne Austin 01763 272 066 anne.austin555@btinternet.com
Braughing Shed Group NB: This is not a u3a group	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 (Late Sep-Mar)	Thursdays 10-12	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 Grnd	Contact GL for mthly 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
Guitar for Beginners	Crown Pub	Alternate Mons 2-4	Bill Hooper 01763 273 123 bunthoop@hotmail.com
Keep Fit	*SWCC	Mondays 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 No need to be on your own these winter months - come along for company, chat and learn some new board games.	*SWCC Bunter Suite	3 rd Monday 2pm-3.30	Maggie Bell 01763 274 259 / 07485 360 012
Line Dancing	*SWCC	Tuesdays 4.30	Gill Alderton 07984 039 016 gillalderton@yahoo.com
LETs (London, Elsewhere & Theatres)	Various	Various	Jean Cook Jean.M.Cook@btinternet.com
Mah Jong	The Bury	Tuesdays 2-4pm	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 11-1pm	Gill Alderton 07984 039 016 gillalderton@yahoo.com

Pickleball 2 FULL	Cottered Village Hall	Fridays 10-12	Ditto
Pilates FULL	*SWCC	Fridays 12.30-1.30	Jacqui Plummer plummerkj11@aol.com
Pottery FULL	#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
Sunday Lunches for Solos 1 FULL	Various	2 nd Sunday	Lyn Kendal-Archer 01763 271 972 lkendalarcher@outlook.com
Sunday Lunches for Solos 2	Various	4 th Sunday	Fran Feek 07775 857 335 fran.feek@hotmail.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 & Puck Tennis Club	New Members welcome	Chairman Diana Foster dianafoster@btinternet.com
The Thursday Group Go along and try your hand at darts, crib, dominoes, snooker, pool or just for a chat.	Social Club	Thursdays from 2.15	Ian Round 07920 688 190 ianround@yahoo.com
They Matter FULL	*SWCC Bunters Suite	Last Monday 2-4	Hilary Curtis 01763 661 508 hilarycurtis38@icloud.com
Walks – 3 Mile Walk	Various	Last Wednesday 11am	Norman Jones 07766 367 983 normanbjones1@gmail.com
Walks	Various	Wednesdays 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
Wine Appreciation FULL	*SWCC Bunters Suite	Last Thursday 8pm	Ron & Maureen Brighten 01763 273 175 ron.bofcw@tiscali.co.uk

Committee Contact Details

Chairman	Martin Gray	07588 708 257	buntingfordu3a@proton.me
Vice Chairman	Tim Marks	07754 583 599	timbo2256@yahoo.co.uk
Treasurer	Michael Murfitt	07803 708 181	buntingfordtreasureru3a@gmail.com
Secretary	Susan Peters	07723 343 282	buntingfordu3asec@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Lesley Stevens	07767 152 259	buntingfordu3a@gmail.com
Groups Co-ordinator	Fran Feek	07775 857 335	fran.feek@hotmail.com
Asst Groups Co-ordinator	Sue Batchelor	01763 271 884	sue.clark2007@googlemail.com
Speaker Secretary	Susan Peters	07723 343 282	speakersecu3abunt@gmail.com
Welfare Officer	Janet Murrells	01763 274 341	j.murrells@icloud.com
Webmaster	Martin Gray	07588 708 257	martingray@mail.uk
Monthly Meeting Chairs Rota	Mike Murfitt	07803 708 181	mikemurfitt@sky.com
Non-committee: Greeters	Val Reedman	01763 272 135	valbuntu3a@gmail.com
Non-committee: Tea Rota	Hilary Curtis	01763 661 508	hilarycurtis38@icloud.com
Non-committee: Raffle	Evelyn Smith		
Non-committee	Newsletter Editor & Buntingford Journal	Jean Cook	Jean.M.Cook@btinternet.com
Our Website	https://buntingford.u3asite.uk/		
Our Facebook page	https://www.facebook.com/groups/143301880900601/?locale=en_GB		

