

2025 July & August



The Buntingford Banner

Registered Charity No. 1185575

www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford/home

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This month has been just too hot. I for one would quite happily aestivate until some cooler weather comes along. But it gives us all the opportunity to get out into the countryside around our town, there are plenty of groups enjoying the outdoor life, look one up and get out there.

Recently I, along with Tim Marks, represented our u3a at the annual Civic Reception held by the Mayor of Buntingford at the Manor House. Representatives of many of the clubs, societies and charities in the town were present. It is valuable to have the u3a represented at such an event and it was useful to make and strengthen contacts with other groups within the town.

It is now a full year since the upgrade to the sound system at the Seth Ward centre started to make progress. It may not be obvious to all, but new equipment has been installed and we are still keeping in touch with the work as it proceeds.



Martin Gray

SEATED EXERCISE

The Seated Exercise is now FULL and can no longer accommodate casual drop-ins. For further information please contact the Lead Organiser, Ron Brighten 01763 273 175 ron.bofcw@tiscali.co.uk

WINE APPRECIATION



On Thursday 26th June, 26 hardy members of the u3a Wine Appreciation Group, wearing their best summer clothes, and with grey skies looming, set off for the Crouch Ridge Vineyard, just a short distance from Burnham on Crouch. The day stayed dry and all members were able to easily participate in the educational tour then indulge with wine tasting and afternoon tea, all served on the Vineyard's elevated deck. Suitably refreshed the party then drove the short distance to Burnham on Crouch for a meander, before returning to Buntingford early evening.

Group Leader Ron Brighten (photos Lesley Lowers)

QUIZZERS

A u3a Quiz team took first place in a quiz at The Golden Fleece Braughing and donated their £25 prize to the local Food Bank.

Jenny Gottfried
Michele and Chris Thurgill
Robert Bentley



CONGRATULATIONS.....

To Buntingford u3a member Duncan Wallace on being elected for a fourth year a Buntingford Town Mayor.

Prior to retirement, Duncan was our Police Sergeant for 12 years from 2007 – 2019 and at our monthly Full Council meetings he gave a Police Report. Full Council is where the reports of the Amenities, Planning and Resources Committees are approved and accepted. Duncan didn't just give his report and leave, he always stayed for the whole meeting so when he became a Town Councillor he had a complete understanding of how a Council works – and he already knew so many people!!

Born in Hertford County Hospital and brought up in Puckeridge, Duncan moved to Buntingford in 1979. He joined Hertfordshire Constabulary in early 1989 starting in Stevenage later moving to East Herts at Bishop's Stortford and in 2007 he joined the Neighbourhood Team and was asked to take ownership of Buntingford which evolved into having responsibility for all the rural areas of the district.

When he retired in 2019 he had served 31 years.

He immediately joined our u3a where his wife Jane was already a longstanding member.

He joined Buntingford Town Council in 2020.

As our Town Mayor he has done a terrific job and is a great supporter of its people, clubs and organisations. His love of all things Buntingford is obvious and he is fully supported by Jane.



SPOTLIGHT ON GROUP LEADER BILL HOOPER

You would think that having hobbies like running a weekly Karate Club, being the Group Leader of two Buntingford u3a Interest Groups – the fortnightly 'Guitar for Beginners' and the monthly 'Clay Pigeon Shooting' – you wouldn't have much time left to become an author. Well not for Bill Hooper who has just had his third book published!

Bill was born in Tottenham then moved to Edmonton and came to Buntingford in 1980.

Bill has always enjoyed telling a story – way back in his early days at school his teacher would get him to read his 11page homework essay to the class when the other children had only produced the best part of a page or two.

And it was an early teacher who had told his parents at one Parents' Evening "I expect to see Bill's name on the cover of a book one day". Sadly this teacher did not live to see Bill's first book which is dedicated to his wife Sue and his teacher.

But as I learned when I interviewed Bill for the Newsletter, publishing a book is not what it used to be – thanks to Amazon. Publishing for a newby can be daunting and frustrating – today's successful authors are already famous celebrities with agents and publicists. Publishers today are not interested in unknowns. Enter Amazon.

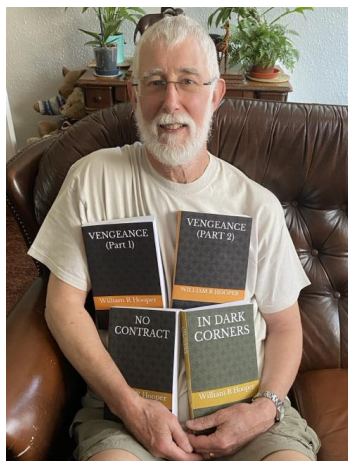
Bill types his manuscript in a Word document – reads it over and over again (he doesn't have a proof reader) then transfers it to a PDF (locked) document and sends it via email to Amazon together with the cover which he has designed himself – Bill explained that this is similar to sending a Moonpig birthday card with a photo!

Amazon automatically checks the document and the cover and that's it! Bill then orders two copies – one for Sue and one for himself – and pays for both. Each book is printed individually when ordered. Bill has to do his own promoting and had 'business cards' printed which he hands out to people as and when.

The feedback from the first book was that it was too big and therefore too heavy to be a 'holiday book' so he changed it from one to two books. Vengeance is the same story but in 2 parts. When sending the manuscript to Amazon the author chooses how he wants it published, hardback, paperback, Kindle, etc. – Bill chooses paperback.

Bill became a serious author when he retired and in order to fit in with his other hobbies he tries to write during the afternoon; he doesn't stare at a blank piece of paper, the words come very easily to him and he is now working on his fourth book. He thinks he's sold 100/150 books so far and earns 15p a book – but it was never about money, Bill just loves writing.

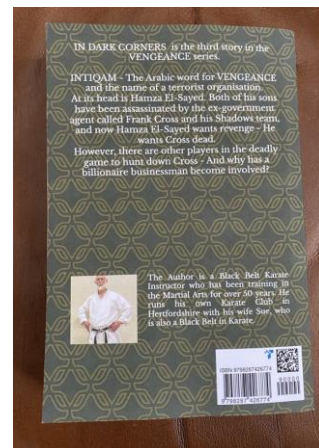
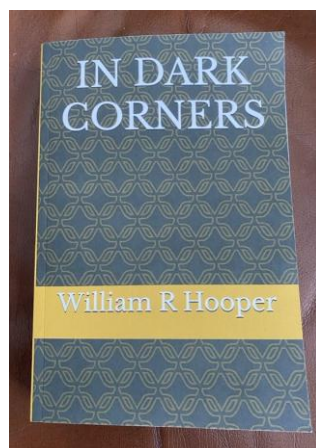
The books are part of a series called Vengeance and their hero is agent Frank Cross; they are all action books with assassins and traitors, twists and turns to the plots and glamorous locations around the world and Bill has included in them some of his Martial Arts knowledge.



Bill & his three books
(Vengeance is the same story but in 2 parts)

Just Published:
'In Dark Corners'

If you would like to order a book, go to Amazon Books, enter WILLIAM R HOOPER and the titles will appear.



SUNDAY SOLO LUNCHES 2

Good food and good company
at the Woodman Inn,
Nuthampstead

Gill Jackson, Pam Shaw
Jenny Newington
Rick Brown
Fran Feek (Group Leader)
Laurie Bullen
Sue Batchelor, Brian Bushell
Anne Franks, Betty Stocker
Lesley Jerome, Mary Palmer



TENNIS

I have been asked to include this again as we don't have a Tennis u3a Group:

"Puckeridge & Standon tennis club... details Diana Foster chairman.

Please email Diana dianafoster@btinternet.com if you are interested in playing. "

FORTHCOMING MONTHLY MEETINGS

Please note change of Speaker

Monday 14th July - Len Little: **The Operational Use of Police Dogs.**

AUGUST - no meeting

SEPTEMBER 8th - Becky Moore, Zoo Educator - **Hertfordshire Zoo (formerly Paradise Wildlife Park)** - its history and recent developments.

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

<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
Bridge	The Bury	Tuesdays 10-12	Phil Anderson 07484 122 847 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	Nuthampstead Herts League Grnd	Wed 23rd July at 2pm Wed 27th August at 2pm	Bill Hooper 01763 273 123 bunthoop@hotmail.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 FULL – no casual drop-ins	~URCH Opp Post Office	Thursdays 1pm	c/o Ron Brighten 01763 273 175 ron.bofcw@tiscali.co.uk
Leisure Afternoons Come along for company, chat and learn some new board games.	*SWCC Bunter Suite	3 rd Monday 2pm-4pm with some adjustments for bank holidays!	Maggie Bell 01763 274 259 07485 360 012
LETs (London, Elsewhere & Theatres)	Various	Various	Jean Cook Jean.M.Cook@btinternet.com
Line Dancing	*SWCC	Tuesdays 4.30	Gill Alderton 07984 039 016 gillalderton@yahoo.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	Cheshunt u3a Colin Meehan 07768 278 064 Steve Deeks 07392 298 788
Pétanque	The Crown	Fridays 1pm–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 - See Keep Fit	-	-	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
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 01763 272 276 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	Julia Bush	07905 117 675	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: Library	Maureen & Dennis Robertson		
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