

The Buntingford Banner

Registered Charity No. 1185575

www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford/home

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

In the last month, I've been approached by a number of people from various walks of life, who all said how wonderful the u3a is and what a great role it plays in the community. Some of them wished they could join even though they are still in full-time employment. It is of course true, the u3a is a collection of groups that keep us all fit and entertained. We are always indebted to those who run the groups and those who assist in so many other ways.

There are two changes to our collection of groups this month. The highly popular LETs Group has a new leader. The members will be kept up to date with new trips.

Also, the very popular 'Seated Keep Fit Group' has spawned a second copy of itself. Keep an eye on the website for more information.



Martin Gray

SURPRISE VISITOR

Our County Councillor, Cllr Terry Smith, made a surprise visit to our April monthly meeting.

Like many others he had not heard of the u3a and wanted to see what we do.

With over 100 members present, chatting and socialising before the excellent talk, he was pleasantly surprised to hear about all the things we get up to!!



Our County Councillor, Cllr Terry Smith
& Mike Murfitt, u3a Treasurer

WINE APPRECIATION INVITATION

The Wine Appreciation Group has arranged a trip to Gifford Hall Vineyard and then Bury St. Edmunds on Thursday 30th July 2026 cost £50 and still has a few spare places. If you would like to join them please contact Ron Brighten, Group Leader. on 01763 273 175

ron.bofcw@tiscali.co.uk

DAVE (again)

From Gill Alderton: Dave invited himself to line dancing this afternoon where he helped member Pam Shaw perfect her moves.



GROUP NEWS

STOP PRESS 1

LETs (London Elsewhere & Theatres)

Great news – Cindy Greaves, with the help of her husband Stephen, has taken over the LETs group and has even arranged her first TWO trips!

Cindy and Steve joined our u3a in 2024 and Cindy is also a very keen member of the Bowls Club.

We send them our warmest congratulations and wish them every success.

Cindy's contact email is: cindykgreaves@me.com

STOP PRESS 2

SEATED EXERCISE 2

A second Seated Exercise Group begins on Thursday 4th May and will follow Exercise 1 each week in the URC Hall at 2pm. The cost is £4 per session payable in cash on the day. For further details please contact Ron Brighten 01763 273 175 ron.bofcw@tiscali.co.uk



MAH JONG



Table Left: Sylvia Hamilton, Maggie Bell, Marion Ling, Val Reedman, **Liz Cooper (Group Leader)**, Mike Cooper, Graham Frary, Ann Brunt, Evelyn Smith

Table Back: Pat Tidey, Margaret McGee, Howard Baker, Caroline Pryor, Jane Farish

Table Right: Jennifer Weeder, Anne Moore, Alan Tan, Sue Hounslow, Anne Austin, Lesley Stevens

Members of the Mah Jong Group enjoyed their annual meal at The Bull, Cottered.

PICKLEBALL

The three Pickleball Groups meet in Cottered Village Hall.

Unfortunately the floor in the hall was badly worn and in some places the ball just died when it hit it.

But fortunately the Group Leader of Pickleball 3, David Baxter (pictured) is a Master Upholsterer and Carpenter and has reupholstered one of the broken chairs (note the green cushion he is sitting on), and is now systematically working his way across the floor, fixing the tongue and groove wooden planks.

So no more spots where the ball lands and just dies!

Thank you Dave.



Photo: Gill Alderton

GROUP LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS



Group Leaders: Back: Cindy & Stephen Greaves, Phil Anderson, Mike Cooper, Tim Marks, Roger Henderson, Ron Brighten, Keith Bradfield, Dave Austin, Martin Gray, Mike Murfitt

Front: Maggie Bell, June Fairbrother, Lyn Kendal-Archer, Maureen Brighten, Liz Cooper, Barbara Henderson, Gill Gray, Anne Austin, Fran Feek, Susan Peters



Volunteers: Back: Darren Vidler, Lyn Dundas, Graham Hows, Sheila Anderson, Roy Batten, Mayor Duncan Wallace,

Front: Jane Wallace, Evelyn Smith, Ann Brunt, Maureen & Dennis Robertson, Lyn Chapman

From the beginning, the u3a has always recognised the valuable work done by the Group Leaders, the backbone of all u3as.

Last month, our annual "Thank You" reception, organised by the committee, was held in the Bunters Suite at the Seth Ward Community Centre and this year included the volunteers who help with the smooth running of our monthly meetings.

A chance for the chairman to say a few words of thanks on behalf of the membership and for the GLs and Volunteers to meet up for a good old chat.

Sadly, not all our Group Leaders and Volunteers were able to attend so we thank them all here.

LONDON WALKS



Photo taken by their Blue Badge Guide on Mike's phone

Back: John Dewey, Keith Plummer, Roger Peacock, Chris Thurgill, Paul Clifton, Brian Tebbutt, Lyn Kendal-Archer, Keith Bradfield. **Front:** Jennifer Gibbs, Beverley Peacock, David Hill, Tricia Hill, Jacqui Plummer, Monica Bird, **Mike Murfitt (Group Leader)**, Gaye Murfitt, Veronica Dewey, Heather Jackson, Naomi Olley, Ann Griffin, Anne Franks, Fran Feek.

The very first walk organised for the London Walks Group was over 2 years ago on 14th February 2024! It was the Inns of Court and there were 5 attendees joining other members of the public. Since then the membership of the London Walks Group has grown and having enjoyed that walk so much it was an easy choice to arrange it again for April. This time it was a private walk for members of our u3a London Walks Group and we were fortunate to be able to book the same guide, Simon Law.

Twenty two members met up with Simon at Holborn tube station and were guided around the legal area of London learning so much about the 4 Inns of Court and the work of barristers from the beginnings of London to the present day. Yet again, the weather was very good to us.

The photo shows the group outside one of the chambers. If you would like to know about our future walks please contact me, Mike Murfitt on mikemurfitt@sky.com

WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP



Carol Mckimmie (Group Leader), Barbara Henderson, Keith Bradfield, Naomi Olley, Malcolm Mckimmie, Paul Clifton (at back), Roger Henderson, Greg Amos (looking down), Jenny Helbig, Janice Baxter, Brian Tebbutt, Clare Roberts, Jan Spong, Prue Pidduck, Christine Newman, Peter Remnant, Deborah Robinson, Chris Burleigh

Bryan & Clare Roberts led the April 5 mile walk in and around Burnham Green where they looked down on a train coming out of a tunnel – great timing! – walked through stunning bluebell woods and even passed through a farm with Highland Cattle. This was followed by a group lunch at the White Horse, Burnham Green.

(Photo Bryan Roberts)

The Pine Tree

Lesley Stevens, Jean Hunter and I should have been playing Canasta (we were one short to play Bridge) at my house but instead we watched four very skilled men cut down a tree. We can play Bridge/Canasta anytime we want to but to watch a 30m/90ft pine tree come down was really something special.



(Angelo, the man up the tree, is on the right)

It was not an easy decision to have this tree felled especially as it gave me the only shade I had in the garden. But I'm afraid last year was the last straw – the pine needles were horrendous.

I am still finding them in between the patio slabs as well as everywhere else in the garden.

Naively, I thought they only affected me but I now know that my poor neighbours have all been suffering too.

Maybe it will morph into some nice pine furniture.

A brilliant job by Michael Oakman, Oakleaf Solutions Ltd.

FORTHCOMING MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monday 11th May: Sue Thiedman – ‘Nepal Adventures’. Sue tells us about her Adventures trekking through Nepal and about the people she met along the way.

Monday 8th June: Nick Dobson – “Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole.” An illustrated look at two amazing and controversial women who won fame in the Crimean War.

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 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
Bridge	The Bury	Tuesdays 10-12	Phil Anderson 07484 122 847 philpoppy@btinternet.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	Monthly – contact GL	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	Black Bull Pub	1 st Thursday 7.30-.30pm	Susan Peters 07723 343 282 suemary1958@hotmail.com
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 1 FULL – no casual drop-ins	~URCH Opp Post Office	Thursdays 1pm	c/o Ron Brighten 01763 273 175 ron.bofcw@tiscali.co.uk
Keep Fit Seated Exercise 2	~URCH Opp Post Office	Thursdays 2pm	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 a.bell100@btinternet.com
LETs (London, Elsewhere & Theatres)	Various	Various	Cindy Greaves cindykgreaves@me.com
Line Dancing	*SWCC	Tuesdays 4.15-5.15	Gill Alderton 07984 039 016 gillalderton@yahoo.com
London Walks See Walks			
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
Pickleball 3 FULL	Cottered Village Hall	Wednesdays 10-12	David Baxter 07745 501 965 coverupholstery@aol.com
Pilates FULL New day and time w.e.f. Thurs 15 Jan 2026	*SWCC	Thursdays 3.30-4.30	Jacqui Plummer plummerkj11@aol.com
Pottery FULL	#OGPS	Thursdays 10-12	Gill Alderton 07984 039 016 gillalderton@yahoo.com
Quiz Nights	Various	Occasional	Tim Marks timbo2256@yahoo.co.uk
Scrabble FULL	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 FULL – reserve list	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 Making activity mats for people with dementia. Donations of buttons, ribbons, fabric, zips, etc., always appreciated	*SWCC Bunters Suite	Last Monday 2-4	June Fairbrother 01763 271 600 fairjune1181@gmail.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 7.30pm	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	Vacant		
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
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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	Sue Batchelor	01763 271 884	sue.clark2007@googlemail.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		