

The Buntingford Banner

Registered Charity No. 1185575
www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford/home

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A couple of days ago I spotted an item about Buntingford on the Look East section of the BBC News website. It was about the transfer of ownership of the Ward Freman Swimming Pool from the council to the charity that has been set up to try to save it.

I know that many of our members have been active in campaigning and supporting the efforts to revive the pool. Congratulations to all of you, this is a great step forward in getting this facility back in use by our town. I can see a flurry of new aquatic groups being formed in a few months time, providing other ways for all of us to keep fit and healthy. It is hoped that the refurbished pool will be open before the end of the year.

Talking of getting fit, a couple of groups that were full and running waiting lists are no longer full and are open for new members. Keep an eye on our website as all such changes are put there first. Don't forget you can always use a change detector to be notified when the pages are updated.

Also this month we welcome Chris Candler onto the committee. Chris will be taking on the role of Secretary, at least until October's AGM. If you bump into Chris at our meetings say hello to him.

Martin Gray

STOP PRESS

u3a on front cover of Buntingford Journal

My copy of the June Buntingford Journal dropped on my doormat early on Friday 29th May and there on the front cover was the super photo – taken by John Hood - of our Thursday Walking Group in front of the Summer House at Scott's Grotto!

The Buntingford Journal is delivered free to members of the Civic Society – annual membership £10 - or can be purchased at the Co-op, Budgens and Mark Doel Butchers.

See full article under Group News below.

FOUND – an Earring



This silver earring was found at the end of the April monthly meeting and no one claimed it at the May monthly meeting; although we did have a false alarm as another earring has gone missing too.

If this one is yours please contact me on Jean.M.Cook@btinternet.com.



BUNTINGFORD REPAIR SHOP

For further information

please contact

Madela Baddock

madela1@hotmail.co.uk



THEFT ON THE GOLF COURSE...

I was on a Zoom when I heard that Paul Brunt, our former u3a Treasurer, was the victim of a theft (which I thought was hilarious), whilst playing at East Herts Golf Club, so I emailed him for the full story.

This is it:-

"I started on the 10th and left my bag (which was on an electric trolley) about 30 yards from the green, ready to go down to the 11th tee.

I was on the green and looked back to see a crow sitting on my bag, trying to get its head into a tiny space in the pocket that was not quite zipped up. I shouted and gesticulated at it, and it flew away.

However, as I set up to putt, one of my partners shouted. The crow had come back and had managed to unzip the pocket a little more and take my banana!

Another crow joined it and they pecked at the fruit until they could get to the fleshy part. Crow No.1 then had a fight with Crow No.2 and won, taking his winnings to a tree but I don't know what happened after that!

At the time I was unaware that the crows were doing this but I have heard since that crows have been at other players' bags - one told of a bird that pulled out a polystyrene cup!!"

Paul was playing in the 'Tuesday Swindle' where scores are recorded and prizes awarded annually for the highest.

Despite not now having any sustenance for the remaining 17 holes, Paul did manage to record a decent score.



GROUP NEWS

LONDON WALKING GROUP

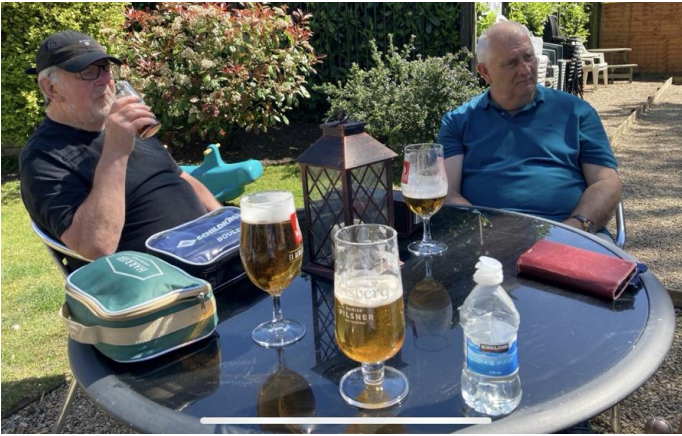
The London Walking Group were across the river when suddenly their Blue Badge Guide pointed out that the Union Flag above the Houses of Parliament was being Lowered.

Seconds later it was replaced by the King's Standard as the King was there for the State Opening of Parliament.



Photo Gill Alderton

PÉTANQUE



Dave Austin & Glenn Jenkins 'resting' between games.....



Photos Gill Alderton

Pétanque has restarted for the summer at the Crown Pub, Fridays 1 – 3 pm. If you have never played this game why not give it a try? Just pop along, boules will be provided. For further details contact Dave Austin on daustin2020@btinternet.com

THURSDAY WALKING GROUP



The Summer House photo left to right shows:-

Photos: John Hood

Back row: Roger Henderson, Steve Elliot, Chris Burleigh, Peter Remnant.

Front row: Barbara Henderson, Chris Newman, Greg Amos, Cynthia Kattau.

The Grotto photo left to right shows:-

Back row: Peter Remnant, Greg Amos, Brian Tebbutt, Jan Spong, Bryan Roberts, Steve Elliot.

Middle row: Cynthia Kattau, Chris Burleigh, Barbara Henderson, Roger Henderson, Steve Hisgrove, Clare Roberts, Prue Pidduck.

Front row: Carol McKimmie, Malcolm McKimmie, Sue Hisgrove, Chris Newman

Group Leaders Roger and Barbara Henderson led the walk from Ware along the River Lea towards Hertford then back to Ware via the New River, where a visit to Scott's Grotto had been pre-arranged.

They were split into 2 groups to avoid overcrowding. The first photo shows half of the group at the Summer House and the second, the full group at the entrance to the Grotto. The group much enjoyed the day which was a little different from their usual straightforward country walk and Roger and Barbara were surprised at how many of the group hadn't visited the grotto before, despite living in the area for many years.

GROUPS THAT WERE FULL THAT NOW HAVE VACANCIES are:

Badminton (Fridays, Seth Ward Community Centre)

Pickleball 2 (Wednesdays, Cottered Village Hall)

Pickleball 3 (Fridays, Cottered Village Hall)

See contact details in Our Groups at the end of the Newsletter.



The Seth Ward Community Centre has Dave the cat
now Cottered Village Hall has Alfie the dog
albeit only for one morning.

He was visiting the Pickleball 1 group.

(The line dancing ladies had to evict Dave from one of the ladies' cars – he had snuck in whilst she was standing with the door open having a chat!)

FORTHCOMING MONTHLY MEETINGS

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.

Monday 13th July: Andrew Baker – 'The Profumo Affair'. Over 60 years on, a fascinating British Political Scandal and the consequences that followed.

**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	*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	Cottered Village Hall	Fridays 10-12	Ditto
Pickleball 3	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	Christopher (Chris) Candler		chrisandler@hotmail.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	Caroline Nash	07746 068 275	carolandynash@aol.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	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		