

NEWSLETTER

A Happy and Successful Day

By Margaret Thompson Editor

Study Group Topics
By Dennis Fitton
Study Group Coordinator

THE DAY of our 2007 AGM dawned glorious, a good omen for what proved to be a very happy and successful meeting. A strong new committee is now in place and we all wish them well. John Carleton who has been our Vice Chairman for the last year takes on the task of Chairman while Terry Godfrey will move from the role of Regional Representative to Vice Chairman. Yvonne Fitton, who has manfully produced the committee meeting minutes for the last three years becomes Secretary. Her place will be filled by Janet Carleton, who returns to the committee. Some of you will remember her stirring efforts, in an earlier life, as Study group Coordinator. Alan Wray will be our Treasurer, Dennis Fitton will continue his great work as SGCoordinator and Dorelle Boardman will continue to coordinate the Associate Members. Tom is still our hard worked Membership Secretary and Francis Goode is joining the valiant crew.

COMMITTEE NOTES

From The Chairman
John Carleton

THE COMMITTEE praised the work of the Speaker Secretary in providing a varied and balanced programme across the year.

The Treasurer confirmed a healthy statement of accounts.

In future, the Study Group Synopsis and the Diary will only be published once annually, changes will be printed in the Newsletter in between.

Confusion has arisen over the application of the Joint Study Group Protocol, it is hoped that this will be resolved at the next meeting of the inter U3As Forum later this month.

It is planned to arrange for new members to be welcomed on arrival at their first monthly meeting and similarly for Associates Members at the August Fair.

Obituary

We were sorry to hear of Jean Sugden's death on 20th April in the Peace Hospice after a short illness. Her husband, Derek, spoke highly of the care which she received there. Jean was a loyal and valued member of the Art Appreciation Group and gave several well researched and knowledgeable presentations on Breughel, Picasso and Lucian Freud. We shall miss her.

A big thank you to all Study Group Leaders who have updated their Group's Synopsis. Plans and 'Modus Operandi' do change and members do need to be kept informed as it is the main source of information about your group. Reading it, as I prepare it for publication, I continue to be astonished at the variety and breadth of what is on offer and I am determined to try some more groups myself. If you do want to give a group a try, please do telephone the group Leader to ensure you are expected.

I am very pleased to welcome aboard five new Associate Members, Jean Wiggs, Mary Horne, Mary Ann Hopper, Brian Musckett and Carol Henry and to wish them many happy years of membership.

Does anyone know a good recipe for pigeon pie? I came back last week from a couple of days visiting my family in Southampton to find my gloriously, flourishing sprout plants virtually shredded, sporting spectacular serrated edges!! (how!) and some very plump waddling pink pigeons were looking very well fed. I suppose it's first catch your pigeon!



A smiling Shirley Ross, one of our founder members, with retiring Chairman Peter Andrews at the 2007 AGM where Shirley was made an honorary Life member of WU3A photo Reg Cooke

Life Honorary Membership for Shirley

By Reg Cooke President of WU3A

SHIRLEY ROSS was granted Life Honorary Membership at the 2007 AGM to recognise the role she has played in the development of WU3A. Her home was, for a time committee headquarters, where the meetings were held, photo copying done, with tea and coffee always available and where some homeless Study Groups were also welcomed.

From September 1998 she was co-opted onto the committee to undertake the job of Study Group Coordinator and her co-option was confirmed by her election to the committee at the 1999 AGM. She did excellent work for her three year term of office and then went on to form and lead a Study Group, Exploring Hertfordshire.

At one of our Christmas Lunches during her term of office she was declared Watford U3A Personality of the Year and presented with a plaque "U3A Mansion" for display at her house. We look forward to seeing more of Shirley at future meetings.



In Praise of the good old British Sausage by Margaret Foster

WHAT CAN one say about the humble sausage? Well, if you had been present at the monthly meeting of the Food & Nutrition group on 24th April you would now know that there is more to the humble sausage than most people realise. Our newly found knowledge came via a lady who has had a lifetime's experience in the trade. Karina Pickering gave the group a very entertaining and educational afternoon (see photo of Liz Shrives on work experience) explaining about the

various types of sausage skins, and various recipes used to make sausages, she coupled this with very amusing tales from her experience of giving the same talk to other groups. While talking, Karina was making a substantial amount of sausages for sale to the group at the end



Photos Reg Cooke

Exploring London The Geffrye Museum

By Pat Hardy

OUR MAY trip was to the Geffrye Museum in Shoreditch. We left Watford in bright sunshine and had an interesting journey through North London and arrived in an oasis of calm within the sight of the Gherkin Building in the City. The museum was originally Almshouses used by the pensioners and widows of the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers, set up from the bequest of Sir Robert Geffrye in 1704. There were 56 almshouses and a chapel set round a green.

In 1908 the pensioners were moved to Kent and eventually the building was restored into a museum depicting the evolution of English furniture from the 16th to the 20th century. We were lucky to be able to look round a typical almshouse, one room furnished for a couple in 1780, and the other upstairs which was slightly more modern in the 1880s. This one had a sink with running water. The laundry and washing facilities were in the basement. The gardens were at the back and were set in plots designed for each century. They were full of flowers and herbs, and several of our members took advantage of the weather and sat in the seats provided.



Picnicking in the dappled sunshine on The green, under the trees, photo Pat Hardy.

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of the afternoon. The whole afternoon was very enjoyable and I can say from personal experience that the sausages when cooked were "to die for", what a shame her company only sell to the trade.

St Albans Organ Museum

Report by Peter & Joan Manhire

ARE YOU looking for somewhere to go on Sunday afternoon? May we suggest a visit to the St. Albans Organ Theatre at 320 Camp Hill Road, St Albans.

This theatre is a permanent working exhibition of mechanical musical instruments. Be prepared to enter a fantasy world of delights. From small music boxes to huge versions made for the fairgrounds, dance halls and cafés.

Sit down in comfort or wander around, as each one is described and demonstrated by organ enthusiasts.



Photo Peter Manhire

Two magnificent Theatre Organs rescued prior to demolition of two London Cinemas, are also played. It's a unique and entertaining experience. The Museum is open on Sunday afternoons from 2.15pm until 4.30pm for a small charge. Be assured you will have a very enjoyable afternoon.

Thirsty Walkers Tripping Through the Dew

From John Reeve

A VERY happy team of Thirsty Walkers swishing through the bluebells in late April. We enjoyed a lovely walk through Merlins and Harrocks Woods in near perfect weather to see bluebells at their best. Here, lots of laughter from the group who are watching to see how long it will take the photographer (me) to remember to remove the lens cap from his camera.



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Allotment Calling

Do you have any large tents and poles tucked away at the back of your garage?

We are looking for some to make fruit and vegetable

anti-bird cages!

Kate Klyhn



Irene Lowe with many willing helpers set up the bric-a-brac stall with the myriad of fascinating donated treasures.

THE WEATHER smiled despite the forecast. Volunteers from many local organisations were mustered to achieve the day's success including U3A members from Watford, SWHerts and Bushey U3As. Army Cadets helped John Britten marshal the seemingly hundreds of cars that brought the merry, spending hoards. Many of our members brought along excited grandchildren who had a great day enjoying the games run by Bernard Steele among others with Francis Goode organising the clock golf and Janet Carleton the Croquet.



Jean Armstrong has a serious discussion at the Plant Stall with Marie Urwin and Jean Dix. All the plants looked so healthy and fresh.



Mike Dix concentrates hard to work the Magic.



John Dolamore, in pole position for the cakes, is happily watching the tea urn until he is drafted to do the washing up! Was ever man so thwarted.

Peace Hospice Garden Party a Great Success

I WOULD like to say a huge THANK YOU from everyone at The Peace Hospice to all U3A members who helped with our garden party at Hunton Park at the beginning of May. It was so helpful to have so many willing helpers on the day on the various stalls. The day went with a real buzz, full of people enjoying themselves and helping raise money for the hospice. Thank you also to those who gave items for the stalls. Three quarters of our £3.1million income comes from the actions of ordinary people putting themselves out to help improve the quality of life of others in their community. We couldn't do it without you.

**Jonathan Carmichael
Chief Executive
The Peace Hospice Watford.**

Peter Andrews & Don Shortman watch the games.



Marie and Cynthia 'sort it out'. What a lot of wonderful contributions for the Bric-a-brac stall.



Alex James guards the book stall.

Music was provided by the Accordion School Band to add to the atmosphere.

A smiling bustling crowd across the generations spent their money and ensured a lot of funds were raised. Some had come a long way to enjoy the fun. Sadly yours truly was required on Grandma duties, so missed it all, but many thanks to my informants for contributions to this report. They painted a word picture of a very happy day. I am sorry I missed Peter Birkett et al in the beer tent Not drinking the profits I hope? It all sounded splendid. My apologies to you whose names I have not included and many congratulations to everyone for a good job well done.

Margaret Thompson Ed. Photos John Grainger.

Hunton Lodge provided a beautiful setting for the Peace Hospice Garden Party. Thanks to all those who baked such wonderful cakes for Marie McMorris and Peggy Thomas and all who helped on the cake stall to sell.



Tales from the History Group -

EJP & BAR Long

AT OUR May meeting, Betty continued her account of Georgian times, featuring Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, who, by the time she was in her late twenties, had become a skilful political hostess, working tirelessly in promoting the Whig party.

When the young Prince of Wales had run up a huge personal debt of £100,000 (£6M in today's values), and his father, George III, refused to help, calling him a delinquent, this was putting pressure on the Whig minister, Charles Fox, to provide funds. Georgiana realised that the demands of the Prince were putting the Whigs in a dangerous position. Consequently she wrote to the Prince as "his dear friend and sister", putting it to him that he himself as a Whig supporter, was endangering his own Party. The Prince immediately withdrew all pressure on the Party, and looked for help elsewhere.

In 1784, Georgiana gave birth to her first child, a daughter who had the nickname of "Little G", but there was great disappointment that the Duke still had no son and heir. New political troubles arose when Fox, worried about the vast sums that members of the East India Co. were making, tried to get a bill through Parliament which would, to some extent, control their activities in India. However the King was strongly against this measure. He issued a statement declaring that any Member voting for it, would incur his extreme displeasure. Naturally the King's Party in the House of Commons, voted against the Bill. Fox lost a Vote of Confidence, and the young William Pitt, still in his 20s, became Prime Minister.

Much to her concern, Georgiana was called to Carlton House, one evening, to try to reason with the Prince of Wales, who had set his heart on marrying Mrs Fitz Herbert, a widow and a staunch Catholic, who, however, had refused him on several occasions. "Prinny", desperate to win her over, had stabbed himself in the chest. Georgiana was called upon to intervene, and she and Mrs Fitz Herbert arrived to find him in a hysterical state, lying with blood stained bandages across his chest. To placate him, the Widow agreed to marry him, and much to her displeasure, Georgiana had to hand over one of her rings so that they could consider themselves betrothed. Later Georgiana wrote to the Prince, pointing out that she would not be held responsible for his actions, and that such a marriage to a Catholic would not be countenanced, but the Prince would not be discouraged. Shortly afterwards, he shut Carlton House, sold his horses and coaches, and, to everyone's surprise, travelled to Brighton on a public coach, and rented a small villa, where Mrs Fitz Herbert joined him. They found a vicar who was willing to marry them and the couple lived there quietly for nearly a year. *(to be continued!!)*

Science Interest Nitrogen to Arsenic

by Brian Mee

IN MAY we took a brief look at 'Group Five Elements' in the Periodic Table seeing how the nature of the elements change from non-metal gaseous nitrogen through non-metal solid phosphorus to metalloids arsenic and antimony and on to pure metal bismuth. Nitrogen and phosphorus are both essential for living things although phosphorus burns can be very severe. Nitrogen is converted to ammonia and hence to nitric acid and then to a variety of fertilizers and explosives. Arsenic has been dubbed the King of Poisons and the Poison of Kings! Arsenic poisoning is now a major problem in Bangladesh where millions of people are put at risk from arsenic levels in drinking water.

STUDY GROUP NEWS

Please keep 'The Study Group Diary' for Group Leaders contact numbers, times and Group venues.

Art Appreciation

10.00 for 10.30am at Holly-tree House.

Last month, we had a splendid presentation on Alberto Giacometti by Margaret Thompson supported by technical wizardry and obvious extensive research.

11 Jun This month we move on to our survey of North American artists. Pat Wool-lard on John Singer Sargent and Joan Manhire on Mary Cassatt.

Book Discussion

Group

4th Mon 2.00pm- 4.00pm
9 Parkside Drive, Watford

Sorry you haven't heard from us recently but we are still very much alive and reading, with some new members, who take us once more to near capacity. Books are provided by the library (though chosen by us) and this is why our numbers have to be somewhat limited by the number of copies available, but vacancies do arise so please enquire if you're interested in joining us. We take our discussion seriously, but are very relaxed and friendly. This month we are reading 'The Icarus Girl' by Helen Oyeyemi to be followed in July by 'Breathing Lessons' by Anne Tyler and in August 'The Kite Runner' by Chaled Hosseini.

Computers

3rd Thurs 4.00 pm. Beechfield School, Gammons Lane. NB. change of day and time. There is a charge of £2 per person to cover the hire costs of the facilities.

21 Jun Revision: file management, saving work and backing up.

X Stitch Embroidery

3rd Wednesday of the month 2.00pm-4.00pm

Gwen Brackfield's home
Watford .

Cryptic Crosswords
First Friday of the month.
1 Jun & 15 Jun.

Current Affairs

10.00am at Hollytree House. At the May meeting, topics ranged from climate change through National Health rationing, leaving children alone in hotel bedrooms, government's attitude to Zimbabwe and Prince Harry serving in Iraq to interfering in other countries' conflict.

19 Jun A general discussion on topics of the day.

17 Jul Al Gore's video on climate change!

Cycling

3rd Wednesday and from time to time the 1st Monday.
20 Jun 10.00am Watford Met. Join me in a potter round my favourite lanes of Flaunden and Bovingdon.

Exploring London

6 Jun Unfortunately we have had to **cancel** this outing. Please see Terry at the meeting and he will return your cheques.

4 Jul Visit to Hampstead and Keats Museum and a walk round Hampstead. Still a few tickets left.

1 Aug Maldon and Burnham in Crouch. Our Summer outing 'out of London'. Tickets will be on sale at the June meeting.

Gardening

21 Jun Trip to David Austin Roses. This is a postponed visit from 2006 and the gardens this time are near Wolverhampton and not only are there roses but many perennial plants, plus the usual tearoom, plant centre etc. David Austin's daughter has developed a parallel business here selling hardy perennials

for more information about our u3a and the activities visit our website www.watfordu3a.org.uk

of many species, but she specialises in the lovely early summer flowers, especially peonies and bearded irises, so we are really looking forward to the visit. Ticket price of £16.00 includes a tour round followed by a small cream tea. Tickets available at the June meeting.

Don't forget our own first plant stall of the year this month. As always, we welcome your suggestions for outings and events.

German conversation

7 Jun NO MEETING

21 Jun The next meeting.

Greetings Cards

Hollytree House

14 Jun, 12 Jul, 9 Aug.

Please bring your patterns for IRIS folding to the next meeting. I still have a few copies for those who didn't take any. Also, bring any ribbons you think might be suitable to use although we do have a group supply. There is the usual charge of 50p each to Hollytree plus £1 each to cover the cost of all materials.

History

11 Jun We will continue the story of Georgiana, and also our progress through the history of British Government.

Italian

10.00am alternate Thurs

This is very much a self help group, using audio/visual material as well as written exercises and original Italian texts. We are guided by a fluent Italian Speaker.

MoneyMatters

Seems boring to keep repeating that we have had yet another very successful meeting, but we have. We discussed the many aspects of Inheritance Tax Planning as demonstrated at the previous meeting; what an eye opener that was! The consensus of opinion was that both meetings have given us plenty to think about and act on. Well that's why we have the group meetings You could give

yourself a treat and find out what you have been missing.

Music Appreciation

We start the talk at **10.30 am.**

10 00am coffee and chat.

20 Jun Maurice Ravel (Johanna Woodmansterne).

18 Jul Camille Saint-Saens (Janet Carleton).

Members' contributions are always very welcome!

Needlecraft

2nd and 4th Mon each month at Combewood House, Garston. This group is now full.

Opera

In May we had a good attendance for the delayed showing of 'Norma' by Bellini and despite the Australian opera stage sets being rather dull, everyone agreed that they were pleased to have now seen the opera with Joan Sutherland.

11 Jun 2.00pm Christine's house David Hancox will present a talk about three tenors from the past - Caruso, Gigli, Bjorling, illustrated with excerpts from CDs. We look forward very much to hearing their voices and, of course, what David has to tell us about them.

Pathfinders Group

9.25am Essex Arms at except London walks.

26 Jun Coleshill.

I regret this group is full.

Personal Development

19 Jun 2.15pm How to turn your fears and indecision into confidence and action. Part 1.

Poetry Read & Study

Monday evening monthly by arrangement New members welcome.

Return to Cycling

Short rides in the Watford area based on the Watford Council 'Cycling in Watford'.

7 Jun Meet at the Pump House Local Board Road to explore the Ebury Way.

Science Interest

Watford Central Library:

18 Jun VISIT to Hanson's Brickworks, Bedford. 6 places on coach available at £13 each.

16 Jul Water in Dry Places – Rosemary Hopewell.

20 Aug Lab work at St Margaret's School, Bushey New members very welcome.

Scrabble 2

2nd Thursday of the month Jun NO MEETING

Shakespeare

Last Wed 2.00pm

27 Jun Macbeth.

27 Sep Thursday Our visit to Stratford-upon-Avon is planned for the matinee performance of Twelfth Night.

Snooker

1st and 3rd Mon 11.00am-1.00pm

New members welcome.

Sporting Forum

Last month 15 members visited the quite spectacular Emirates Stadium, the new 'home' of Arsenal Football Club situated just off the Holloway Road in north London. The tour of the stadium, which is innovative in its design, gave us the opportunity to go 'behind the scenes' and witness the facilities that are available to the players, the media, and most significantly over 60,000 spectators. Incidentally, there is a waiting list of 40,000 who wish to become season ticket holders. Please note that our next three monthly meetings are not on the 3rd Tuesday.

18 Jun Trip to Evening Race meeting at Windsor.

25 Jul Garden Party Lunch.

20 Aug 'Try croquet'.

Strollers

Meeting time 11.00am

Distances approximate.

The Explorers

1 Jun 9.30am Essex Arms Ivinghoe; Chilterns Walk; Leader, Raymond.

6 Jul 9.30am Charlock Way, West Watford. Thames Walk. Hurley & Picnic; leader Myra.

3 Aug 10.00am Martins Pond, Potten End; or **9.30am** Essex Arms, to car share. Frithsden / Gaddesden. Leader, Jean & John.

Thirsty Walkers

28 Jun Walk to Studham from The Bell, 5 miles. Led by David Hollingsworth.

Tuesday Trekkers

12 Jun 9.45am for 10.00am Meet at Croxley Green Car Park off Barton Way for a local walk with Dennis followed by a pub lunch.

10 Jul 9.45am for 10.00am Meet at the Full Moon pub, Cholesbury common. Brian. New members very welcome.

Walking

Most walks start at JS A41.

Eight miles

13 Jun 9.30am Prestwood.

11 Jul 9.30am Hertford.

8 Aug 9.30am The Lee.

Six miles



Members of the Sporting Forum Study Group viewing proceedings as they relax in the luxury and comfort of the Directors seats on the occasion of their recent visit to the Emirates Stadium (Arsenal Football Club).

27 Jun 10.00am Tring
 1 Jul Sun 11.30am JS 41
 Summer picnic Open Gardens Cheddington.
 25 Jul 10.00am Wheathampstead.
 22 Aug 10.00am Rickmansworth.

**Wine Appreciation
 Last Friday in the month.**

Our April meeting was attended by 25 enthusiastic wine tasters for a special extended session which also included a four course lunch. This consisted of a smoked salmon starter, followed by exotic stew and vegetables, Bakewell tart for dessert and finishing with a choice of cheeses. To compliment the food, we had a choice of ten different wines, including champagne and port. What a fantastic occasion. Could we have some more, please! Many thanks to Gill who supplied the food, home cooked, and to Tony, our resident wine expert for organising a very interesting selection of wines. Waiting list for New Members.

WitKnits

First Monday in October. Details of a venue will be given nearer the time.

Writers Workshop

Come along and develop your skills. New members welcome.

**IS YOUR
 GROUP HERE?**

IF NOT it does not mean that it has ceased to exist but merely that your SGL has not sent in any news this month.

YOU could help by offering to pen a few lines on behalf of the Group either for Study Group News or a short article please, to ensure that all members, particularly Associate Members are aware of all WU3A, has to offer.

I look forward to hearing from you. Ed.

Dear Editor

Reduce telephone charges

Might this be of interest to our members? Are you irritated by having to pay excessive call charges to contact 'customer services' when complaining about faulty goods or calling your bank or insurance company? Many 0870 etc numbers have an 01**** or 020**** alternative which is cheaper. Use **www.saynoto0870.com** and click on 'Search to find an alternative number'. You can then enter the company name or high rate phone number and frequently will find a cheaper alternative.

Brilliant!! Thank you Dennis. Ed.

A Message from Our Almoners

As almoners we like to be aware of anyone experiencing difficulties such as illness, bereavement or having problems getting to meetings. We can only be of help if we know. We would therefore be grateful if you could let one of us know of anyone in need. SGLs often know when there is a problem so would they also let us know.

WU3A Almoners

Irene Lowe
 Janet Carleton

Peggy Element
 Kathleen McMahon

**WEST HERTS AGAINST CRIME
 HON. TREASURER and
 other TRUSTEES Wanted**

We are a charitable company providing a free home security service for people over 60. Please contact Russell Cleaver (Chair): email -

Thank you Pat Walker for the following information.

**Royal Society
 Summer Science
 Exhibition
 2nd & 5th of July**

entry is **FREE**

Internet address for details
www.royalsoc.ac.uk

**U3A National & Local
 Anniversaries
 HARROW U3A**

From the 29th Oct 2007
 We are having the use of the Harrow library Gayton Road for an exhibition to celebrate the 25th year of U3A nationally and our 15th year. I will be sending out some flyers nearer the time but in the meantime perhaps you may like to make a note in your diaries.
 Maurice Sofa Harrow U3A

**The Peace Hospice
 Gardens
 need YOU
 2 to 3 hours to spare?
 contact Maggie on
 01923 335348**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The De Havilland Aircraft Heritage Centre

I received an appeal for volunteers to 'keep an eye' on visitors, help in the shop or even assist in giving guided tours at the De Havilland Aircraft Heritage Centre. Enthusiasm is probably the most important 'qualification'. The Heritage Centre's www.dehavillandmuseum.co.uk website will tell you more. The museum is located next to Salisbury Hall, at junction 22 on the south side of the M25. Perhaps some of our U3A members will be able to offer their services as volunteers. If so please contact:-

**Peter Kay 020 8440 2404 or
 E-mail on peter@ashkay.com**

**Watford U3A's
 Projector & Laptop**

To check availability and make a booking for the digital projector and laptop computer contact
Colin Richards

NEXT RAFFLE

**in Aid of
 The Peace Hospice**

Very many thanks to all who donated prizes and bought raffle tickets. We raised **£223.00** in April. The next raffle is in June and hopefully you will be just as generous as you were this time

Donations to:

JUNE & JOHN BAUGHEN

at any meeting or to our home address:

Watford

CAN COLLECT THANK YOU

Material for the

**JULY
 Newsletter**

MUST be received by:

20 JUNE

For Written contributions see Study Group Diary or the website contact details.

E-mail copy to:

editor@watfordu3a.org.uk