

# NEWSLETTER

## Study Group Fair! It must be August

By MargaretThompson Editor

I AM really looking forward to our August Meeting when we can feast our eyes on the work and progress of our numerous Study Groups. We hope to meet lots of you Associate Members who, like all of us, will have the opportunity to visit the stands and displays and find out more about our U3A. The Monthly meetings are great and we have had some excellent speakers this year thanks to David Helliwell, our Speaker Secretary. Last month proves my point when we had a wonderful talk about 'The Ridgeway' long walk from John Tyler. I was so inspired that I went out and bought a new pair of walking boots! He assured us we are never too old and don't need to do the whole length at once, but can dip into the beautiful landscape as it strides along from Ivinghoe to Avebury.



John Tyler photo Reg Cooke

### COMMITTEE NOTES

From The Chairman  
John Carleton

AT THE July meeting the final revised version of the "Regulations for the Conduct of the Affairs of Watford and District U3A" was approved, thereby completing several months of deliberation. The committee has greatly benefited from the wise experience and guidance of Robin Burgess in producing this new revision. Copies of the Regulations will be published in this Newsletter [see pp 6/7] and on our website.

Arrangements for the launch of the new U3A in Watford are well in hand, thanks to the strenuous efforts of Dennis and Yvonne Fitton.

It was decided that, with the exception of family members, no new associate members will be admitted to our U3A from the beginning of August until the new U3A has had a reasonable period to become established.

All Associate Members have been invited to attend the Study Group Fair on August 7<sup>th</sup>. Invitations have also been sent to representatives of neighbouring U3As, civic dignitaries and the press.

The heart of the U3A

Movement, of course, as envisaged by Peter Lasslett, when he initiated the idea, was our continued learning and development through Study Groups. If there is something you would like to learn which is not on offer consider convening a group yourself. There is an amazing bank of resources held by the Third Age Trust, (TAT) our umbrella organisation and you would be very well supported by Dennis Fitton our Study Group Coordinator and the rest of our Committee.

This brings me neatly to matters concerning the TAT. The annual TAT AGM and Conference will be held this year in September, in Falmouth. There has been a movement afoot to reorganise the structure and working of the TAT. The National Executive Committee of the TAT now want to revisit the 'need to restructure', because they believe, quote:- "the current area structure does not work", unquote. They would therefore like suggestions from the general membership on what their direction should be. After discussion at last years Conference it became clear that the majority of the general membership did not want a major restructuring of the TAT but want to simplify the present mode of management. HOW DO YOU FEEL?

If any member has any thoughts and ideas for the good of the organization, to improve the structure and management and would like them brought to the attention of the TAT NEC at the forthcoming AGM, our Regional Representatives, who will be travelling to Falmouth on our behalf, will be pleased to present them. However, our committee would like to see the ideas prior to this AGM and request that all ideas on any subject should be sent to The Committee c/o WU3A Secretary, or email secretary@watfordu3a.org.uk in order that the Committee may have a chance to review them and if necessary clarify details with the member.

Finally it is again my pleasure to welcome some new Associate Members. To Ruth Walter, Harry Cooper, Adele Ryntjes, Alicia Friend, Phil Redshaw and Heather Pound I wish many hours of learning, fun and fellowship.

### Study Group Topics By Dennis Fitton Study Group Coordinator

THERE will be a 5 week course on Microsoft Excel starting on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September. This will start from scratch, showing what a spreadsheet can be used for, entering and editing data, formulae, layout and format. If you wish to attend, contact me or sign up on the Computer stand at the Study Group Fair. First come, first served! There will be another beginners course in Word starting on 31<sup>st</sup> Oct. Again contact as above.

The Study Group Fair is nearly upon us again. All of our members are invited on Aug 7<sup>th</sup>. The Committee will be there and will all have their labels on (3 line whip!) so please find one and take up any matters that concern you.

I have details of Herts Region Bridge Tournament on 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct at 2.00pm. They are looking for 2 pairs from each Herts U3A.

The Study Group Leaders Meeting will be at Hollytree House on 21<sup>st</sup> Sept at 2.30pm. If you have any matter you wish to raise, please let me know and I will put it on the agenda.

The public meeting for the new U3A will be at St Luke's Church Hall, Langley Way on 25<sup>th</sup> Sept at 2.00pm.

### Obituary Gwen Gill

Gwen Gill died on July 14<sup>th</sup>. Gwen was a very active lady who belonged to both the Gardening and Food & Nutrition groups. She was also a member of the Townswomen's Guild and the Heyday Club, a social club for the retired. A keen animal lover she worked tirelessly for the Animal Welfare Trust. She also belonged to the Friendship Club and with them travelled to Canada and South Africa. A very warm hearted lady Gwen will be very sadly missed.

**WE SHOULD ALL BE MILLIONAIRES** by Philip Wolff  
IT SEEMS that all the knowledge being imparted by members of the MoneyMatters Study Group is being well received. Thirty-two



persons came and as soon as someone asked a question, they all came to life at once! What a super morning we had. Thank you all for your contributions. I said that I learn something new each time and today was no

exception. Judging by what has come out of these meetings we should all be millionaires (bankrupt if you should misunderstand what's said!!). I look forward to seeing you all next month and there is still room for more members.

## Current Affairs 'An Inconvenient Truth'

By John Crowder

AT OUR July meeting we viewed and discussed the Al Gore video, 'An Inconvenient Truth' which illustrates, in a frightening way, how human activities are largely responsible for the global warming which is having such a devastating effect on our planet.

A build-up of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere reduces the heat loss by infra-red radiation, which until the last century was able to balance heat gain from solar radiation and helped maintain the earth's temperature. There is significant evidence of the speed-up of glacial melting and reduction of the Arctic and Antarctic ice-caps in recent years. The oceans are becoming warmer, leading to a range of changes in climate, including droughts and violent storms with more intense rainfall. Use of fossil fuels as a source of energy for heating and in internal combustion engines is a major factor, as is a near geometric growth in world population, though climate change and consequent loss in agricultural productivity may eventually and devastatingly balance out the latter factor.

It was agreed that the film presented a one-sided picture but nevertheless it was accepted that it is up to all of us to take steps to reduce our individual carbon footprints. We should be using less energy in the home, taking fewer flights abroad, driving smaller cars. If we are to save the planet, we need a universal political will to minimise and reduce our energy consumption. It is up to all the advanced nations to give a lead in this endeavour.

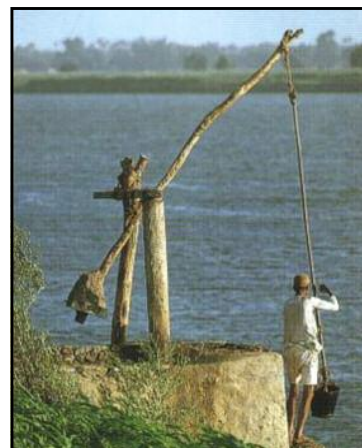
Some of the Exploring London Group as they set off on a walk around Hampstead with their guide, John Neal.  
Photo Diane Livesey.



## Science Interest July 2007 WATER IN DRY

**PLACES** by Brian Mee  
**ROSEMARY HOPEWELL** presented some excellent slides and gave a most interesting talk about such places as Egypt, Iran, Oman and Namibia, focusing on the lack of water, uses of water and some extraordinary plants and animals that live in very dry places.

Egyptians have survived on a narrow region either side of the Nile for over 5 millennia. Flooding used to supply fertiliser in the form of silt, which has now been stopped by the Aswan High Dam. As the Dam prevents flooding, chemical fertilisers have to be used but irrigation is fully controllable with large canals either side of the main Nile. They are still using 'shadoufs' a small crane to lift water in a leather bucket from the canal to pour into irrigation channels to water crops, just they did in Biblical times 5000 years ago.



Shadouf on the River Nile  
Photo Rosemary Hopewell



Archimedes Screw photo  
'Insight Guide to Egypt'

Iran has very complex systems of boreholes and tunnels to bring water from the mountains to the towns and farms. The system was developed a very long time ago. Oman is profligate in use of water with fountains and gardens using vast quantities. Namibia is vast but supports a very small population due to shortage of water. There is subterranean water with tree tap-roots over 100 feet deep. The five-yearly rains replenish these supplies. Some animals have adapted to the dryness and heat, ground squirrels can live for up to a

month without drinking and ostriches incubate their eggs by sitting on them to keep the sun off so they remain cool!

## Hitchin Lavender by Jean Armstrong

FOR OUR trip to Cadwell Farm at Ickleford, near Hitchin the weather stayed dry and sunny and after a packed lunch in the barn or sitting outside in the sunshine, we split into two groups, each group going out to the lavender fields with Alec Hunter, who with his wife Zoe have amongst other crops, 10 acres of lavender of several varieties, for distilling to make lavender essential oil, for drying and fresh flowers, and for plants to sell. Hitchin was a large English centre for lavender for four hundred years; in its heyday more than 100 acres were under cultivation. Alec explained that his sons did not want to follow their father into farming so the use of contractors instead of family labour at harvest time left him and Zoe with some time on their hands and they decided to try growing lavender. They are part of a large co-operative and don't distil on site, the flowers being harvested and dried are then sent to a distiller outside the area. A great outing, and the lavender fields looked absolutely spectacular.

**Bushey Museum**  
**Bushey Heath**  
**Annual Garden Party**  
Aug 18th 1.00pm-5.00pm.  
We look forward to seeing you there  
Joan & Peter Manhire

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

for more information about our u3a and the activities visit our website [www.watfordu3a.org.uk](http://www.watfordu3a.org.uk)

## Tales from the History Group July 2007

### **KINGS LANGLEY FROM ROMAN TIMES** by E & B Long

AT OUR July meeting Mo Reed reported on her research into the history of Kings Langley. In Roman times, a road was built through the later site of Kings Langley, traversing the east side of the Gade valley. This road had branched NW from Watling St at present-day Edgware, rising over Bushey Heath, descending to ford the R. Colne at the site of Watford, continuing along the E bank of the R. Colne to Nash Mills, where it joined Akeman St, running W from Verulamium (St Albans) to Cirencester and Gloucester. There was a Roman villa on the east bank of the Colne, near the present Railway station, adjacent to the former Dickinson Home Park factory site, now an industrial park.

No records of the subsequent history of Kings Langley exist until those of the Doomsday Book, of 1086, which recorded an estate of one and a half hides (120 acres), having 240 swine, and two mills. The next reference is to a hunting lodge of Henry III, after 1216, located on the left bank of the river, between Hunton Bridge and the foot of Langley Hill, at the top of which a royal palace was built in the late 13<sup>th</sup> cent. In 1302 Edward I, gave it to his son (who became Edward II), who spent his childhood there. In 1308 Edward II built a Dominican Friary to the N of the palace, the monks having previously been housed in the Hunting Lodge. The Dominican church was consecrated in 1312, wherein Edward's favourite, Piers Galveston was buried in 1315. In 1349, at the time of the Black death, Edward III used the palace as the seat of Government. *(to be cont.)*

In a second presentation, Betty Long continued the story of Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire. In the early 1800's, Britain and France were again at war. Pitt (the Younger), the Prime Minister, was fearful that Napoleon might, with the support of Irish Catholics, use Ireland as a base for invasion. In order to try to win the Irish to Britain's side, Pitt wished to grant full emancipation to the Irish Catholics. However George III made it clear that he would never agree to this; such a move ran counter to the so-called "Glorious Revolution" of 1688, when the Catholic James II was deposed because of his religion. Later Pitt discovered that the King was planning to overturn him, and set up his own Government. As a result, Pitt immediately resigned. The King appointed Addington, a former Speaker, as PM, with other posts to be filled by members of the King's Party.

Georgiana, an enthusiastic Whig supporter, realised it was time to try to unite the various Whig factions into a viable and coherent Opposition to Addington and the King's party. She worked for two years at this goal. Pitt and the leading Whig, Charles Fox, had been at odds with each other for some time. Fox desired not only Catholic emancipation, but Parliamentary reform and an end to Britain's participation in the slave trade. In March 1802, Addington managed to secure peace with France, and Britons were again able to travel in France, until Napoleon invaded Malta, at which Britain declared war, as a consequence of which, Britons in France were held as prisoners of war. In the midst of all her political activities Georgiana became ill with kidney stones, the only treatment for which was bleeding and Laudanum. However, she recovered and Fox asked her to be his Whip. When there was a Crucial vote in the Commons, she would arrange for her coach to take lackadaisical MPs to the House. *(to be cont.)*



300 year old artefacts found during the excavation of the Roman Villa in 1981. Photo Courtesy of Kings Langley Local History & Museum Society website.

# STUDY GROUP NEWS

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

### **Art Appreciation**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Mon 10.00 for 10.30am** at Hollytree House.

In July Yvonne Fitton gave us an enthusiastic introduction to Georgia O'Keefe, a remarkable lady who achieved much during her long lifetime, including the highest awards given to American women. Her work was a revelation, covering a wide variety of styles, including abstract designs, which promoted much discussion.

**13 Aug** Collections and Recollections: Joyce Hoffbrand.

**11 Sep (Tues)** A provisional booking has been made for the people who signed to go to the Henry Moore Foundation.

Arrangements are somewhat different from those I was told earlier. The tour of the house will be **12 noon to 1.00pm**, a lunch break (picnic or pub) then tour of the sculpture park and studios at **2.30pm**. Cost £7 (I was told earlier £4 for concessions, but. ?) Please confirm at the August meeting, or tell Dorothy.

### **Better Photos**

**20 Aug 10.00am NB change of date.** Aquadrome CP photos around the lake.

**24 Sep 10.00am** Gerry's Hse. Planning for next 6mths & to view photos.

### **Book Discussion Grp**

**4<sup>th</sup> Mon 2.00pm-4.00pm**  
**9 Parkside Drive, Watford**  
In July the book for discussion was 'Breathing Lessons' by Anne Tyler.

**Aug** This will be followed by 'The Kite Runner' by Khaled Hosseini. Potential newcomers are advised to phone and check on the August meeting, which will not take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday, as it is a bank holiday; an alternative date has not yet been fixed.

### **Computers**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs 4.00pm** Beechfield School, Gammons Lane.

There is a charge of £2 per person to cover the hire costs of the facilities.

### **Aug N.B. No session**

**20 Sep** Top Tips for your computer from the internet.

### **Counted X Stitch**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month**  
**2.00pm-4.00pm** We met on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July and have been making our display board for the "August Study Group Fair" and I am hoping this will encourage some more people to join us in the autumn.

### **Cryptic Crosswords**

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Fri of the month.**  
**3 & 17 Aug.**

### **Current Affairs**

**10.00am** at Hollytree House.  
**21 Aug** will revert to the regular pattern of discussing current topics and issues raised by members of the group.

### **Cycling**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday** and from time to time the **1<sup>st</sup> Monday.**  
**15 Aug 10.00am** Watford Met. Mystery ride (Trust me!) and return to Y & D for Summer picnic.

**19 Sep 10.30am** Meet at Princes Risborough for a ride on the Aylesbury Plain ending down the Phoenix Trail. Details will be sent to members of the Cycling Group. Anyone else contact me.

### **Exploring London**

**1 Aug** Maldon and Burnham on Crouch. 4 tickets left.  
**3 Sep** Visit to the Museum of Childhood and the Ragged School in Bethnal Green.  
**NB** the change of day as we can have a private visit to the Ragged School on that date. Tickets available, £15.

### **Family History**

**13 Sep** visiting Public Records Office, Myddleton St. As these Office are closing & will be moving to Kew the Group decided we must take advantage of their research facilities. I shall be away during August and return on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept.

Members may obtain this Newsletter by: 1.e-mail 2.Collecting it at the monthly meeting. 3. Asking your SGL or a friend to collect it for you. 4. Sending a sae to Dorelle Boardman

## Food & Nutrition

**28 Aug 2.00pm.** Combewood. Maureen Pye, wife of our wine expert and study group leader, Tony Pye, will give a talk and demonstration on Lancashire cooking. Lots of delicious samples for us to try no doubt.  
**25 Sep** Trip to Brogdale, Faversham, Kent for a guided tour of the National Collection of Apple Trees. There are also cherry trees, pears, nuts and soft fruits. Cost £14. Payment at the August and September Monthly meetings please.

## Gardening

**16 Aug** Our annual garden party event this year is at Jean's. Buck's Fizz, small cream tea, a little planning, a chat, possibly some garden games. Bring a chair and try to share cars as much as possible please, also there is a certain amount of building going on in our road (in spite of all our objections), so take care when parking. Any Associate Members who would like to join us please phone Cilla or Jean to get more information & tickets for the garden visits.

**Sep 20** Trip to Penshurst Place & Gardens in Tonbridge, Kent. Home of the Viscount de L'Isle, Penshurst Place has been described as the "grandest and most perfectly preserved example of a defended manor house in all England". Price £15.50, which includes

admission to house, gardens and a toy museum. There are catering facilities on site as well as plants and a gift shop. We were sorry to hear of the recent death of one of our members, Gwen Gill, who enjoyed trips with us along with her friends Peggy and Ruth. Gwen will be missed by us all. As always, we welcome your suggestions for activities.

## German conversation

**2 Aug NB: No Meeting.**

## Greetings Cards

### Hollytree House

Many thanks for your efforts in supplying cards for the Study Group Fair – for sale and display. Next meetings **9 Aug, 13 Sept, 11 Oct, 8 Nov, 13 Dec.**

## History

**13 Aug** Completing the tale of Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire and more about the 18<sup>th</sup> C. with Jan Prest.

## 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.

## London Theatre Group

We are hoping for third time lucky after having our last two outings cancelled. We have booked to see the **matinee** performance of 'Billy Elliot' on **November 15.** We will be selling tickets at the next two meetings.

## MoneyMatters

An informal group where members learn and gain knowledge about different types of investments, methods of saving such as "Best savings interest rates", motor & home insurance, investing for children, how these can affect inheritance and income taxes, government benefits, equity release, best suppliers, etc. Members discuss their own monetary experiences. Sometimes we have the occasional invited speaker, but we always have a bit of a laugh.

## Music Appreciation

**3<sup>rd</sup> Wed:** The talk at **10.30 am. 10 00am** coffee and chat. Members' contributions are always very welcome!

## Needlecraft

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mon** each month at Combewood House, Garton. This group is now full.

## Opera

**13 Aug. 2.00pm.** at Christine's. This month we will have what is hoped will be a special treat, as we are going to see a video entitled 'A Year in the Life of Placido Domingo' following his travels to the various opera houses of the world and seeing excerpts from some of the many productions in which he has appeared, and learning about the background work which goes on in preparation for a performance.

## Pathfinders Group

**9.25am** Essex Arms at except London walks.

**24 Jul** Redbourn.

**28 Aug** Cookham.

**25 Sep** Tring Reservoirs.

**23 Oct** Croxley.

**17 Nov** Bentley Priory and Christmas Lunch at Blue Check Restaurant, Bushey.

**Dec** No Walk

I regret this group is full.

## Performing Arts

Having had a very enjoyable outing to the Globe to see "Loves Labours Lost" we are now entering the Summer/Autumn schedule.

**7 Sep** 'We The People' Globe Theatre. Tickets already distributed.

**10 Sep 7.30pm** Discussion group on "Loves Labours Lost" and "We the People" at Nancy Downs.

**14 Sep** 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' Watford Palace. Book own tickets. This production, done in five different languages, but mainly English, has had "rave" reviews.

**21 Sep** "A Small Business" by Alan Ackbourne Watford Palace; Book own tickets.

**24 Sep 7.30pm** Discussion Group at Nancy Downs on 'A Small Business'.

## Personal Development

**20 Aug 3.00pm.** Afternoon of games and quizzes in the garden (if fine) at the home of Alan and Carol, followed by bring and share tea. Please let Alan and Carol know if you can bring either a savoury or a dessert dish. Bring partners.

**17 Sep 2.15pm** 'How to turn your fears and indecisions 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'.

**2 Aug 2.00pm** Meet junction of Parkside Dr./The Gardens

## The Rock 'n' Roll Yrs

**4<sup>th</sup> Thursday** each month.

**27 Sep 2.00 pm** Hollytree House. NB change of time If you haven't put your name on the list, please do so.

## Science Interest

**20 Aug 10.00am-Noon** Lab work at St Margaret's School, Merry Hill Road, Bushey. Come, take part and enjoy doing some experiments! (Supervision provided!)

**17 Sep Watford Central Library:** Renewables Kim Gauld-Clark from nPower Renewables.

**15 Oct** Bletchley Park Bombe visit - £23 for coach, drivers tip, talk & demo by John Harper and tour  
New members very welcome!

## Scrabble 2

**2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs of the month**

**9 Aug 10.00am.** We still have room for more. It's good fun and so relaxing. Please come and join Carol and Alan.

## Shakespeare

**Last Wed 2.00pm**

**29 Aug** Macbeth is well and truly buried and we have now moved on to study Twelfth Night, in preparation for visit.

**27 Sep Thursday** Our outing to Stratford-upon-Avon is planned for the matinee performance of Twelfth Night. This will be our only meeting in September.

**31 Oct NB** will be at Gwen & Don's place (NOT at 135) to watch a video.

## Snooker

**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon 11.00am-1.00pm.**

## Sporting Forum

Our programme of summer activities continues as we take to the croquet lawns of Cassiobury Park. Here is a wonderful opportunity to try a sport new to us all and one to which we are looking forward to with eager anticipation.

**20 Aug** 'Try croquet'.

**18 Sep** Terry Dyson, former 'Spurs legend will be our guest.

**16 Oct** Chad King; lead coach to GB paraplegic rowing squad.

## Strollers

**Meeting time 11.00am**  
Distances approximate.

**14 Aug** Robin & John Canal Walk at Harefield (1.5-2.5mls)  
CP & Lunch Coy Carp Coppermill Lane.

## The Explorers

**3 Aug 10.00am** Martins Pond, Potten End; or **9.30am** Essex

Arms, to car share. Frithsden / Gaddesden, Jean & John.

**7 Sep 9.30am** Essex Arms; Allen & Diana Wray; Wendover Woods Halton Pk.

**5 Oct 9.30am** Essex Arms, to car share; or **10.00am** Cholesbury Common near the Full Moon PH Cholesbury, Brian.

### Thirsty Walkers

**NB From August a change of start time to 9.30am** to allow Thirsty Walkers to attend another study group in the afternoon if they wish. We will still be able to enjoy our lunch as usual before returning to Watford.

**23 Aug** Essex Arms to share cars. Walk at Ashridge/Ridgeway, from the Valiant Trooper PH. Mike Thomas.

### Tuesday Trekkers.

New members very welcome. **9.45am** to start walk at **10.00am**. The following walks are being led by probably the finest Trekkers in Watford U3A. They also have proven ability to locate the best Pub to celebrate another walk successfully completed. Why not come and join us next time?

**14 Aug** CP 3 miles on left from Albury to Ivinghoe road. Map ref 95515.

Jean & John Dolomore.

**11th Sep** White Horse Pub, Bourne End, Jean Grainger.

**9 Oct** Aldenham Church, led astray by Brian!

**13Nov** Ivinghoe Beacon, Jean & Peter Groves.

### U3A Singers

The singers are having a well earned rest during August.

**3 Sep** With renewed enthusiasm we shall start to rehearse for the Old Time Music Hall.

### Walking

Despite a gloomy weather report of heavy showers for 1<sup>st</sup> July the we set off for our annual picnic. After coffee at Jean and John's home in Watford, our destination was the village green at Mentmore, where we enjoyed our picnic lunch. Promptly at 2pm we arrived in the Buckinghamshire village of Cheddington where six gardens were open as part of the National Gardens Scheme. Each was a little paradise of pattern, colour and

imaginative planting. A visit to the 11<sup>th</sup> Century Church and tea and cakes at the Methodist Chapel rounded off a wonderful trip, and it didn't rain at all. Most walks start at JS A41.

### Eight miles

**8 Aug 9.30am** The Lee.

**12 Sep 9.00am** Met Station-London walk.

**10 Oct 9.30am** Marlow.

### Six miles

**22 Aug 10.00am**

Rickmansworth.

**26 Sep 10.00am** Ashridge.

**24 Oct 10.00am** Sarratt.

### Wine Appreciation

**Last Friday in the month.**

One year has now passed since this study group was first started. A bottle of Champagne was presented to Tony, our wine expert in appreciation of his informative and interesting talks on wines selected from around the world. We still have much to cover as there are more than 5000 different grape varieties, plus all the variations from different countries and soil conditions. In June we tasted some varieties we had never heard of: Godello, Falanghina, Arnies, Trincadeira, Juan Garcia,

Durif, etc. All interesting, but particularly good was the Trincadeira grown in Portugal.

Future plans will include tasting the same grape variety but grown in different countries to highlight the great variation in taste. A session on fortified wines will be held later, travel by bus will be recommended on this occasion! New members are very welcome.

### WitKnits

**1 Oct 10.00am** Bring along everything you've done since we last met; venue TBA.

### 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.

## IS YOUR NEWSLETTER THE BEST IN BRITAIN?

**EVERY U3A** can take part in a competition to celebrate in print the 25th anniversary of the U3A. You've just got to send in your U3A newsletter; to the usual high standards which members set themselves.

There are only **two** requirements: The newsletter must feature **an article** or articles **about the movement's 25th anniversary: how you have celebrated it, and what U3A has meant to you**, how U3A membership has changed members' lives etc. It must be submitted, complete to TAT by 31 December.

There will be a team of internal and external judges, including the editor of U3A News. The winning entry, announced in the April 2008 issue of U3A News, will be published on the U3A national website and made available to all current and future U3As as an example of what can be achieved. The 'winning' U3A will also receive software of its choice up to the value of £100.

This is an extract from the Spring Edition of Third Age News which also features some lovely articles about people's perception in 'What U3A means to me' p24. I would like to submit our NL but need to assemble the content ASAP! My deadline is **October 20th**. By then I will need to know if we have enough suitable material. As Watford celebrates our 10th anniversary in October this should not be difficult.

Get Writing! Ed.

*Dear Editor*

### FREE PRIORITY FAULT REPAIR SCHEME for severely handicapped/elderly BT customers.

People who are connected to a BT telephone line can apply to BT to be put on their **FREE PRIORITY FAULT REPAIR SCHEME**, in the event of their being cut off as a result of a faulty line. For more information call BT on 0800 800 150 Best wishes and regards, Peter Sinclair Harrow U3A.

**Watford U3A's Projector & Laptop** To check availability and make a booking for the digital projector and laptop computer contact **Colin Richards**

## ATTENTION NEXT RAFFLE

in Aid of  
The Peace Hospice  
**Tuesday**  
**4th September, 2007**

All donations to

### JUNE & JOHN BAUGHEN

at any meeting, we usually sit at the back of the hall or to our home address:

**CAN COLLECT THANK YOU**

## TALKS PROGRAMME

**7 Aug** Study Group Fair.

**4 Sep** Mike Penning M.P. The new Conservative MP for Dacorum, which inc. Kings Langley.

**2 Oct** TBA

**6 Nov** Geogiana Perrott 'Behind the Scenes at the Royal Ballet'.

**4 Dec** 'Old Time Music Hall' The Performing Arts group.

Speaker Secretary

David Helliwell

Email

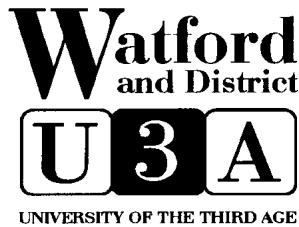
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Material for the  
**September  
Newsletter**  
**MUST be received**  
**by: 20 August**

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

E-mail copy to:

editor@watfordu3a.org.uk



## REGULATIONS FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE AFFAIRS OF WATFORD & DISTRICT U3A

*(Amended June 2007)*

These regulations are made under the provisions of Clause 4 (xi) of the Constitution of **Watford & District U3A** hereinafter referred to as "The U3A" and adopted on 04/05/2004.

### **1. MEMBERS AND MEMBERSHIP**

Each individual applying for membership shall be given a copy of the Constitution and of these regulations.

The membership of The U3A shall be limited to four hundred full members (excluding the President, Vice-Presidents and Honorary Members) together with as many associate members as the Executive Committee shall in its absolute discretion permit. Associate members shall have the same rights as full members except for the right to attend the monthly general meetings.

A decision to limit the total number of full members admitted to membership shall only be made by the Executive Committee.

Any associate member, who becomes a Study Group Leader, serves on the Executive Committee or undertakes a specific task on behalf of The U3A shall be eligible, at the discretion of the Executive Committee, for full membership

Every member shall notify the Secretary or Membership Secretary in writing of any change of address.

The Executive Committee may nominate a member for election or re-election at an Annual General Meeting as President, who may be invited to preside at meetings. On retirement from office the President may adopt the title of Vice-President. In addition, existing Vice-Presidents, if any, shall be eligible for re-election.

The Executive Committee may nominate one or more members for election at an Annual General Meeting to become an Honorary Member for life for exceptional services rendered to The U3A.

The President, Vice-Presidents and Honorary Members shall be exempt from payment of the annual subscription.

### **2. MEETINGS**

The U3A shall every month hold a meeting which shall be open to all full members and to which a speaker may be invited. In addition members (both full and associate) wishing to pursue particular interests may join or form themselves into Study Groups which shall each meet under the guidance and direction of a Study Group Leader.

### **3. VISITORS**

- (i) A visitor may attend any meeting of The U3A (as defined in Clause 2 above) with the consent of the Executive Committee or the Study Group Leader for a period of not more than six consecutive weeks in any twelve-monthly period from April to March, unless the purpose of the visit is to provide expertise or special knowledge to The U3A or a Study Group.  
(Note: Associate members are not permitted to attend the monthly general meetings as "Visitors")
- (ii) A monetary charge, as decided by the Executive Committee, shall be made for each visit and shall be paid to the Study Group Leader, who will pay it to the Treasurer by such date as the Treasurer shall decide. Such charges shall be waived in respect of a person invited:
  - a) to an Executive Committee meeting
  - b) to a monthly meeting or a Special General Meeting by the Chairman, Executive Committee or Speaker Secretary
  - c) to a Study Group meeting by the Study Group Leader to provide expertise or special knowledge to the Study Group
  - d) to aid a disabled member
  - e) in such other circumstances as the Executive Committee may decide and notify to the membership.

#### **4. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Nominations to the Executive Committee, duly agreed by the Nominee, shall be proposed and seconded and delivered in writing to the Secretary by a date specified by the Executive Committee.

The Agenda for each Executive Committee meeting, with all relevant papers, shall be made available by the Secretary to each Executive Committee member not less than seven days prior to each meeting.

In an emergency the Chairman may appoint a sub-committee for the sole purpose of providing a report on a specific matter for the next Executive Committee meeting. Such sub-committee shall be dissolved after presenting its report unless the Executive Committee shall decide otherwise.

A sub-committee, appointed by the Executive Committee, shall consist of not more than four members and a quorum shall be a minimum of two members. At their first meeting, and annually thereafter, the members of the sub-committee shall elect a chairman and a minute taker, the latter being responsible for ensuring that a copy of the minutes reaches the Secretary not more than two weeks after the meeting.

The Executive Committee may from time to time employ persons who are not members of The U3A to carry out the work of The U3A and may fix their remuneration and terms and conditions of employment. The Executive Committee shall be the employer for purposes of employment law.

The Treasurer shall keep accounts of all monies received and expended on behalf of The U3A and shall present such accounts, duly examined, to the Annual General Meeting.

All monetary transactions, including those for Study Groups, shall be made through properly authorized accounts in accordance with the directions of the Executive Committee.

#### **5. STUDY GROUPS**

The members of The U3A may form themselves into Study Groups and each Study Group shall have a leader or leaders responsible for overseeing the running of the Group, and being the link with the Executive Committee.

Each Study Group Leader shall be responsible for ensuring that every member of the Group is a paid-up member of The U3A and holds a current membership card.

The Executive Committee shall invite all Study Group Leaders to a meeting at least twice a year as a forum for the exchange of ideas and the dissemination of information.

Any member collecting and laying out money within a Study Group for the benefit of the members of that Study Group (other than donations for refreshments) shall be accountable to the Study Group by keeping accounts of all monies received and expended and shall prepare a Receipts and Payments account for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March in each year which shall be sent to the Treasurer of The U3A so as to be received no later than 15<sup>th</sup> April of the same calendar year.

#### **6. JOINT STUDY GROUP PROTOCOL**

- (i) Joint Study Groups may be formed between neighbouring U3As subscribing to the Protocol where there are insufficient members belonging to a single U3A to support a viable Study Group.
- (ii) One member from each Joint Study Group shall be responsible for relaying information relating to such Joint Study Group to their own participating U3A.
- (iii) There shall be no visitor charge for paid-up members of participating U3As.
- (iv) If a Joint Study Group becomes too large to accommodate new members then the Group shall split either into separate U3A Groups or, if appropriate, into differing levels of proficiency.