

NEWSLETTER

Now We Are Ten!

By Margaret Thompson Editor

Study Group Topics
By Dennis Fitton
Study Group Coordinator
Study-groups@watfordu3a.org.uk

JUST back from a wonderful family wedding; a lovely day full of late summer sunshine; the last of the tomatoes need to be harvested and the raspberry canes should be cut down but they must wait! I must rattle these keys if this Newsletter is to be out on time so here goes.

This month we celebrate the Watford and District U3A's 10th anniversary; October 1997. Ten years since our President Reg Cooke sallied forth from Harrow U3A to chair the Inaugural Meeting at the Watford Central Library. Would anyone be interested? Was there a demand for Life Long Learning in Watford?

Leaflets were prepared and delivered and the Magazine Optima ran a full page article; 'Sharing Knowledge' outlining the principles of the U3A Movement. In response to this, to the surprise of the of the Harrow working party, 40



Our President Reg Cooke
Smiling as Ever photo Gerry Adams

people arrived to overwhelm the 20 seats put out by Iris Oakley the Library Development

Manager. A steering committee was enthusiastically formed with the late Anna McColl, Marie Coe, Tony Platts, Valerie Webster, Glenda Morren and Molly Fitzpatrick and chaired by our Reg. Another meeting was arranged for the 10th of November when 120 folk arrived and the rest as they say is history. From those humble, stumbling beginnings we now have 441 full members and 20 Associate Members with over 50 Study Groups to enjoy.

The wider membership is a wonderful achievement to the credit of Watford U3A past and present committee members who ventured out to launch 3 new U3As over the last 10 years. Rickmansworth (2001) now has 500 members and last year they started a new U3A in Sarratt, now standing at 200+. S W Herts U3A was launched by us in 2002 and now has 500 members and is also, like us, developing an Associate Members programme, while Bushey, started by Watford in 2004, now has 450+ members. How could we ever have thought that perhaps there would be no interest! Today it is my pleasure to welcome a new Associate Member Eileen Watts and to wish her days full of friendship and learning.

The door continues to be beaten upon and in the true spirit of the U3A Movement we aim to keep that door wide open. Our Executive Committee could think of no more fitting commemoration of the U3A's **Silver Jubilee** than to once again prime the pump of enthusiasm, wind up our computers and printers and produce the literature to ensure a good turnout on **September 25th for the Inaugural Meeting of a New Watford U3A**. We feel Peter Lasslett et al would approve. [see www.u3a.org.uk & click 'About U3A']

Perhaps one of the reasons for the popularity of our Monthly Meetings is the high standard of the multifarious speakers that tread our boards. Last month did not disappoint. We were treated to a very interesting talk on the 4th of Sept. by Mike Penning M.P (left) the new Conservative Member for Dacorum, which includes Kings Langley. Mike thoroughly enjoyed the experience and learned a lot about U3A which has to be good.



photo Reg Cooke

THESE notes are based on the proceedings of a SGL meeting held on Sept 21st at which 34 groups were represented. The minutes of this meeting will appear on our web site in due course.

Documents The SGLs pack have been modified and is available for every SGL either 'on line' or as a printed copy. This includes: a list of suitable places to hold meetings, FAQs on insurance matters and sources of information. If you wish me to email a copy or provide a hard copy, please let me know

Study Group Accounts SGLs please fill in a form and return it to our treasurer. This applies to ALL groups even if it is a nil return.

Computer Courses Both John Carleton and I are very disappointed at the lack of support for these and wonder whether to continue running them.

SG Fair A decision was made to run this every two years.

Watford Forum and the Protocol Confusion continues and it is the committee's opinion that neither are now working well and are no longer necessary having served their purpose when the other U3As in the area were relatively new. Be assured no-one's place in any Watford SG is in any danger. A members from another U3A who is an established WSG member is welcome to continue attending that SG. But we cannot accept any new members from another U3A, unless a **joint group** is formed. If you wish for further clarification please contact me.

Time Slots If anyone wishes to start a new SG, I can advise them on which are least used. We now have so many groups,
Cont p2

COMMITTEE NOTES

From The Chairman
John Carleton

THE MEMBERSHIP secretary confirmed that 40 Associate Members had now become Full Members who will be welcomed to our monthly meetings.

The reference, in the Regulations, to a limit of four hundred members has been deleted. This number was originally set in line with the expected number of members attending a monthly meeting and the number of seats then believed to be available. The arrangements will be kept under review. Once again the committee have benefited from the sound advice of Robin Burgess.

The arrangements for the visit of WHAC (West Herts against Crime) to the October meeting were confirmed.

Rickmansworth School has extended an invitation for U3A members to share their facilities for Science and the Performing Arts, this potential link was warmly welcomed and has been passed to the study group leaders.

Final arrangements for the meeting to **establish** were discussed, many offers of help have been received.

Obituary Eddie Francis

We are sad to report that Eddie, after a short illness died suddenly on the morning of Friday Sept 7th. He valued U3A; it kept him involved with people. He loved attending the monthly meetings and was a member of the U3A singers. He was elected to the committee in May 2002 and served as Assistant Membership Secretary during his first year, taking over the role of Membership Secretary in May 2003. He enjoyed his time as Membership Secretary. He was a lovely gentle man, so willing and thoughtful, always ready to give of his best.

Cont. from p1 (SG Coordinators report.)

so it is impossible to find a time that will not clash with some other group. Someone somewhere is going to be disappointed. C'est la vie as they say quelque part!

Keep Informed Please advise me of any changes in your group or errors that I make. Always inform the Almoners of any need, illness, or worse, among your members, so they can give support.

Newsletter Our chairman pointed out that we have an excellent communications medium in our newsletter. Our editor will be pleased to give you a set of guidelines for your contributions to it. (SGLs already have this).

Study Group Fair John and Jean Grainger were thanked for their sterling work.

Finally. **The Committee.** We do our best. If you don't like our decisions or actions it is your right to take us to task. Phone, email write or speak to any committee member and your comments will be addressed and you will receive a reply.

Really finally. **SGLs** The heart of any U3A is the effort made by the SGLs. No SGLs, no U3A. Thanks. Your efforts are appreciated.

Dennis Fitton Email studygroups@watfordu3a.org.uk

Explorer's Walk on 7th September 2007

Wendover Woods by John Grainger

TWELVE members of the Explorers group met on a dull misty morning for a walk in Wendover Woods. Our walk leaders were Diane & Allan Wray.

Wendover woods are renowned for the number of paths through them and the fitness trail which some of the group

took advantage of while the rest watched on. On route we came across a bird hide where we hoped we might catch a glimpse of a rare bird the Firecrest. But we were unlucky; I don't know the reason why. Maybe it had already flown to warmer climes, or the group were talking too much and scared it away.

After the walk we partook of refreshments at the "Café in the Woods" which is open all year round.

Wendover Woods are very popular with local people. There were many mums with small children, and dog walkers. It has good car parking and toilets.



Intrepid Explorers Zig Zag Walk Photo JG

Extract from Jean Goodeve's planned address for Hertfordshire's anniversary picnic at Knebworth on 22nd August

If the Heavens Hadn't Opened!

HOW grateful we must all be that we are blessed with such a wonderful staff who work under the inspirational leadership of Lin Jonas. The fire last December could have led to a complete collapse of the national organisation. That it did not is due solely to the magnificent, loyal and hard working team. The Office Staff have been shoehorned into temporary accommodation and we are all hopeful that October will see a return to East Street. This will be linked with an overall review of staffing requirements to meet the needs of an ever-growing membership and will hopefully lead us to deciding on where and how new staff should be deployed.

On the External Relationship front it has been an eventful year. The highlight was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Open University. This endeavour is the result of many years of hard work by a large number of people.

A grant from Mr & Mrs Hewlett, of Hewlett-Packard fame, has made 9000 hours of Open University courses available on line for anyone to examine, download, adapt and use, and all free of copyright. These courses make ideal material for our Group Leaders/Coordinators/Facilitators. Members of the Trust are going to involve the wider membership in the task of assessing how these courses can be used and adapted for use by U3As.

One of the aims of the Trust is to publicise the activities and role of U3As. In July Barbara Lewis (your Eastern Area Trustee) and a team of volunteers manned a stand at the Retirement Show held in Olympia in July. In May we were represented at the Pensioners Parliament in Blackpool and next month Ian Searle (one of our Vice Chairmen) has been invited to visit Hong Kong U3As to join their first birthday celebrations and to talk to them about the UK Model of U3A.

Another major highlight of the year was the election of Stan Miller, the other Vice Chairman, to the Presidency of AUITA, the International Association of Universities of the Third Age. The membership were correct in stopping the Trust from withdrawing from AIUTA.

2007 has been a year of visits to Government Departments. We have not gone "cap in hand" for money but we have asked for recognition of the contribution we all make to society. The Department of Work and Pensions have a subdivision involved in developing a holistic approach to all the services needed by Third and Fourth Aged and have started a LinkAge project. The Trust will be monitoring this and will report upon progress.

All in all it has been an eventful year. Thank you for inviting us to join you at Knebworth to celebrate 25 glorious years.

Long may U3A flourish.

Jean Goodeve Chairman of the Third Age Trust Aug 2007



Jean :Addressing Conference, Falmouth 2007
Photo Peter Arkell

STOP PRESS WE HAVE LIFT OFF.

WATFORD U3A
LAUNCH A NEW U3A
in Watford to

Commemorate the
U3A Silver Jubilee.

Congratulations to Dennis
and the WU3A Committee.

Story and more pictures
next month.



A Lively Buzz of Enthusiasm
Photo Arthur Driscoll

WU3A Almoners

Irene Lowe

Peggy Element

Janet Carleton

Kathleen McMahan

2008 U3A Diaries

Last opportunity!

Jacqueline Godfrey will take orders and money, £1.90 each, in the 'notice board area' at the coffee break at THIS, the October meeting.

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

A Merry Throng - Life is Good WU3A STUDY GROUP FAIR August 2007



**Photos
John Grainger**

**Congratulations
on your 10th anniversary!
From Margaret
LeMarie Joint
Chair of Rick-
mansworth U3A**



**Raising the profile of U3A.
Councillor Tony Poole Chairman of
Watford Borough Council and Mrs
Poole enjoyed their visit to our fair so
much they stayed the whole morning.**

A Fitting

**Antiques
to Writers
Workshop
in 10 yrs
1997-2007**



**Col Bob and all that Jazz 92 NOT OUT
Says a lot about the health benefits of U3A in
promoting an active Mind and Body.**



Enthusiasm for U3A Membership

Friendship Joy Challenge
Learning Pause for thought Fun

Hope

People

Growing

Laughter

Trust

Thought

Thoughts on the U3A from members of the Art Appreciation Group

We've come so far, from handing books round, via epidiscopes and slides, to full PowerPoint presentations. We learn so much, especially when we do a talk ourselves.

We gain knowledge and friendship.

U3A Opens our eyes to treasures.

We are introduced to artists who we do not know.

The talks given by our members are always of an excellent standard each presenter learning technical skills as well as an understanding of the artist and their work.

By studying groups of artists we develop an understanding of an era.

It is very satisfying now to go to a gallery and recognise the works of an artist and also to detect the influence of one on another.

The U3A is open-ended: members can be as much involved as they wish.

Where else could you go when you're feeling miserable on a wet Monday morning and find companionship and shared interests?

Ideas

Why do I like the U3A? Why do I intend to remain a member for the foreseeable future? I could say **laughter, intelligence, wit, charm** etc! But what I really like most of all is the absolute trust I have in every person in the hall. This may read "OLD LADY" in capital letters, but what a wonderful feeling not to have to "keep an eye on my handbag" to ignore it completely (unless I need my chequebook). Yes, I do love laughter, wit, charm and intelligence, which you all possess in abundance, but the trust I have in every member of the U3A wins first prize every time.

Barbara Harriman.

Close Encounters of the Third Kind.

Tolerance

Debate

A Life Line

Support

Gossip

Companionship

Interest

Enthusiasm

Knowledge

What Does U3A Mean To You?

Brenda Woodley's thoughts: U3A is like an **EXTENDED FAMILY** to me with new friends and interests. I was very fortunate to join Watford U3A in 2002 on the recommendation of a friend. It was two years before my husband died and I had a ready-made life all set up for me, with many new friends and interests. I could take part in something every day if I so wished.

The walking group helped me overcome my asthma. At the history group, I have learnt so much that I didn't learn at school. The German group has rekindled a love for the language I hadn't spoken for 30 years. The coach trips took me to so many interesting places I had always wanted to visit.

The Christmas Panto, in which I was involved, gave us such fun at rehearsals and terrific camaraderie.

In short, I am constantly learning something new and am never bored or lonely. The marvel of it is that you can take part in as little or as much as you like with very little expense.

My son calls us "Close Encounters of the Third Kind". He says he hopes there is something like it when he is old! He has seen it bring me through some very difficult times. Thank God for the U3A!

My Story: Like many of our age group, some years ago, I too found myself alone. Well not exactly alone as I am fortunate in having four children but, nevertheless, after 31 years of marriage, my husband died and when I shut that front door it was devastatingly quiet and the house felt very alone. I was still teaching and there is nothing like a class of lively 8 year olds to fill ones mind with things other than oneself, so I was able to put one foot in front of the other and carry on, UNTIL a year later I retired!! A vast chasm loomed before me; what ever was I to do? This was not part of the Master Plan. We were going to travel the world now. One of my best friends is a member of Alton U3A and she told me about this amazing, inexpensive, wonderful, accessible organisation called U3A. "There must be one in your area" she said. "It's for retired people and you can study and do all the things you never have had time for and you meet interesting, like minded people. There is always somebody to walk with and there will be a history group and an art group. You like painting."

So when I saw an ad in the Watford Observer's 'What's on Page' for 'Watford & District U3A'. I noted the time and place and marshalling my courage I appeared at the Metropolitan Police Club the following week. I was faced by about 170 complete strangers and still in a very fragile state I wanted to turn and run, but a jovial, smiling face shouted "Hello!" from the doorway "Oh" I said "Hello I'm new!" "Oh Hello New" he replied "Come in. Have a Newsletter." That was the dearly missed, late Jim Element, the then Newsletter editor and the rest as they say is history. Keep sending me **Your** 'stories' and 'words' Margaret Thompson Ed.

Science report Sept 2007 **Renewable Power** by Brian Mee

Kim Gauld-Clark from nPower Renewables presented an extensive overview of the renewable energy industry in UK. She is involved in planning applications for wind farms around UK and gave us a



nPower Dan Towers

clear picture of the processes of researching conditions on the proposed sites from visual to aural effects and the building of the foundations and erection of the wind turbines, all of which come from Germany or Denmark. Transporting a 35 metre long propeller blade by road has some interesting problems to solve! Connection to the National Grid has to be paid for by the company and sites in remote areas such as Wales, often need expensive connection infrastructure to be built maybe as much as £50m

just to connect the wind farm to the Grid. Government requires that 20% renewable energy is generated in UK by 2020 and includes hydro, wind, tidal and other forms of energy

Henry Moore's Legacy at Much Hadham from Heather Pound

THE VISIT to the Henry Moore Foundation was most interesting. Fortunately it was a perfect sunny day to walk around the sculpture park, to look, touch, feel and talk about the sculptures arranged in the natural surroundings.

There was a very well organized and extensive guided tour around the Henry Moore homestead and numerous workshops and studios where the works of art were produced and completed.

It was a lovely tribute to Henry Moore, which showed his prolific and productive life, his inspirations and aspirations and his friendships.

The Foundation was created by Henry Moore in his lifetime and it continues to be active endeavouring to further the place of art in order to enrich our society today.

Landscape sculpture towering over U3A Art Appreciation Group photo Heather Pound



Ken Hangs Up His Wheels! From Dennis Fitton

ON OUR September ride we had a change of scenery and took our bikes in our cars to Princes Risborough. This enabled us to have a flat ride on the Aylesbury Plain through a fine spray of rain to a pub at the village of Towersey near Thame.

The general consensus was that the beer, food and service were excellent. This view was not shared by the leader as he and Yvonne had to wait half an hour longer than everyone else for food. However the pain of waiting was eased by a fine pint of 'Black Sheep'. (ie 'proper Theakstones'). The more energetic of us carried on along an old railway path to Thame which had almost disappeared under the trappings of a funfair. We returned to collect our brethren from the pub and rejoined the railway path which is now called the 'Phoenix Trail'. We were rewarded with sunshine, the sight of a red kite being mobbed by crows and fine views of the Chiltern Hills.

The sad news for us was that Ken a popular member of our group had decided that it was time to hang up his wheels. He has ridden with us from the first meeting and I think has been out more times than anyone else including the leader. We will have to enjoy his company in the other groups he attends and on our bike free social occasions which we hope he will join.

Tales from the History Group October 2007

By Betty & Eric Long

AT OUR September meeting, Pat Woolard recounted the history of Moor Park Mansion, our local "Stately Home." There is evidence of settlements in the Stone and Bronze Ages and a second cent. Roman building, on what is now the Moor Park Estate. In the Anglo-Saxon period of Offa, an area which included Moor Park, Rickmansworth and Batchworth was known as the "Manor of the More". Later the whole area was given to the monastery of St Albans, which had been founded c. 790.

After the Norman invasion of 1066, the manor passed through Norman dynasties. In 1425 a house was built NW of the site of the present one, near to what is now Sandy Lodge Road. This house was later owned by Cardinal Wolsey, who, in 1525, on behalf of Henry VIII, secured peace with Francis I of France, in an agreement known as the "Treaty of the Manor of the More". It is said that Henry first met Anne Boleyn whilst a guest of Wolsey. In the 17th cent, with the old house in a state of decay, a new Mansion was built on the site of the present one by the Duke of Bedford. Subsequently the Moor Park estate, of some 830 acres, was in the hands of the Duke of Monmouth, later, in 1685, to be executed by James II. This house was rebuilt in 1725 by Benjamin Styles, who had made a fortune in the so-called "South Sea Bubble" affair. His architect was James Thornhill, who encased the brick structure in Portland stone with a four column entrance portico.

The entrance hall, decorated with paintings by Amigoni, leads into the preserved saloon with paintings of the "Four Seasons" lining the walls. A dome was



Moor Park Mansion The Thornhill Room. Paintings depict spring and summer. Ceiling by Verrio. By kind permission of © Halcyon Bushey

added in 1763. Styles improved the landscape by the removal of a hill, to provide a view of the Chess valley, later supplemented by "Capability" Brown who provided a lake. The south entrance drive from Batchworth Heath has a Romano-Doric central arch. Moor Park, now the home of a golf club, provides guided tours to the public, well worth a visit.

After a tea break, Gerry Adams regaled us with his tales of life as a Supply Officer in the Navy during World War II. His postings from Portsmouth in the south, to Scapa Flow in the north, were rich in experiences. It is presentations such as this which bring history to life. We have already had accounts of wartime experiences from other members of the Group and also a series under the heading "History of my Hometown". We look forward to further presentations by other members of the Group.

ENGLISH CLASSICAL PLAYERS

WATFORD COLOSSEUM
Sunday 11th November
at 7.00 pm

PURCELL SCHOOL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Until 6th October ALL tickets £5,
with school children FREE

boxoffice@watfordconcerts.com
01923 888320

For further information contact
Tony Platts

JOHN REEVE

Watford U3A Member
AUTHOR IN OUR MIDST!

John Reeve has just had a book of reminiscences published. It is called "A Life to Remember" ISBN number 1-904502-98-9, available (probably by ordering) from Waterstones or Amazon. The second half of the book describes his coming to Watford and who knows? -- some of us might be found between the pages. ?!!!!!!

Friends of Bushey Museum Garden Party

by Peter Manhire

SEVEN members of the Watford U3A spent Saturday 19th August selling the entrance tickets at the annual Garden Party of the Friends of Bushey Museum, held in the beautiful grounds of Rev-eley Lodge, Elstree Road, Bushey Heath. Opened in 1993 the Museum is a registered charity and is run by the Bushey Museum Trust helped by over 800 Friends, who provide the social and fundraising organisation for the Museum..

The Museum aims to preserve much of Bushey's past and has an important collection of works from the Munro Circle of the early 19th Century. It includes many works by Hubert von Herkomer and the Herkomer Art School students. The Museum Trust manages a local study centre and their Education Officers provide imaginative educational activities both at the Museum and at Rev-eley Lodge for schools. The Museum is situated in Rudoph Road, Bushey Village and is open from 11am to 4pm Thurs Fri Sat Sun.

Exploring London September Trip

A Peek at a Victorian Childhood by Pat Harding

OUR September Outing was to the Ragged School Museum at the end of the Mile End Road, and to The Museum of Childhood in



Ragged School Museum Photo Diane Livesey

Bethnal Green. As the Ragged School was quite small we split into two groups, leaving half at the museum, the remainder went on to the school. Ragged schools were set up by Dr. Barnardo in 1877 in a warehouse by the Regents Canal, to give poor children a free education plus a hot meal every day. It grew so fast that at its peak, over 1000 children attended and extended into 3 warehouses. Other Ragged Schools were created over London, but this was the biggest. They only lasted about 40 years as the free Education Act was extended to all children in London. The guide, Eleanor gave us a potted history about the east end of London in Victorian times while we sat in the classroom. The seats were very hard and we didn't envy the children. There was also a reconstructed 1900's front room and an exhibition about the history of Tower Hamlets and its people.

At the Museum of Childhood we had lunch and looked round the museum. There were fascinating displays of toys, some from the 16th century, up to present times. Several times we heard, "I played with that", or "My grandchild has that!" There were some small parks near to walk round and some of us ventured to the nearby street market. A very interesting day.

STUDY GROUP NEWS

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

Art Appreciation

2nd Mon 10.00 for 10.30am at Hollytree House.

Last month, continuing our course on American artists, we enjoyed an excellent presentation on Andrew Wyeth by Margaret Thomas.

The visit to the Henry Moore house and sculpture park was blessed with lovely weather and enthusiastic guides.

8 Oct Dorothy Steele will explore the work of Marc Rothko.

Antiques

2nd Tues of the month

2.30pm-4.30pm at my home.

Well, we're certainly up and running and even have a waiting list!

9 Oct will be our first meeting.

Most people have been contacted, so will know who is on the waiting list and who are new members. I am pleased to welcome people from our earlier group as well as new members and Associates. We will discuss the way forward; what form the meetings will take and look forward to an interesting, rewarding, and no doubt hilarious (in parts!) 'get togethers'. I shall be pleased to have any suggestions on subjects from anyone; relating to antiques, of course: Sheila Wolff

Better Photos

Book Discussion Grp

4th Mon 2.00pm-4.00pm

9 Parkside Drive, Watford

Computers

3rd Thurs 4.00pm Beechfield

School, Gammons Lane.

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

18 Oct TAX CALC. Send your tax returns in on line.

15 Nov Mail merge: print Xmas card address labels from your computer.

Counted X Stitch

3rd Wednesday of the month

2.00pm-4.00pm

Cryptic Crosswords

1st & 3rd Fri of the month.

Now in its fifth year! 5 & 19

Oct and 2 Nov next meetings.

Current Affairs

3rd Tues of the month

10.00am at Hollytree House.

The Northern Rock problems dominated much of our discussion last month, with some criticism of the bank, but also a lack of information on how the banking system works. Because of a letter signed only with his first name by the chairman of Northern Rock, we got on to the familiarity and loss of respect engendered by the use of first names. Disciplinary problems might arise from such familiarity in schools and there were some who thought that a period of National Service might help to remedy the problem. There was general disgust at the proposal to lower the voting age to 16. Human rights, and the criticism of the Government's apparent unquestioning acceptance of EU legislation also generated some strong feelings; there was acceptance that rights had to be balanced by responsibilities and might be forfeited by criminal activity. At the next meeting we expect to discuss the usual range of current topics; later a meeting might return to discussion of the British legal systems.

Cycling

3rd Wednesday and from time to time the 1st Monday.

17 Oct 10.00am Watford Met Station for a ride to Elstree aerodrome led by Alan. He's kinder than me. He stops for coffee!

European Studies

We are currently studying the 18th Century which is proving to be very interesting.

24 Oct The Rise of Prussia

28 Nov English Literature

26 Dec No meeting

23 Jan Music of the period

Exploring London

3 Oct Fleet Valley and Household Cavalry Museum Tickets

West Herts Against Crime

will have a manned Information Stand explaining their

Home Safety and Security service at the Monthly Meetings on 2 Oct and 6 Nov. For additional peace of mind in your home, do 'drop in'!

Russell Cleaver WU3A

Chair WHAC.

OUR U3A

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

WEDNESDAY

DECEMBER 19th 2007

Details and application forms will be available at the back of the Hall at the monthly meeting from

Dorelle Boardman

Associate Mem. Secretary

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

available at £15. Please contact Terry Waterfall for details.

7 Nov 1st Emperor and Terracotta Warriors Exhibition - Waiting List.

5 Dec Visit to a Christmas Market- details /tickets available at meeting.

Family History

Food & Nutrition

23 Oct 2.00pm Combewood. Colin Smith from Smith's Coffee is coming to talk about the history of coffee. He will bring along artefacts from his coffee museum and we will be having a tasting of different blends of coffee. He will also bring a range of coffees and teas, to include Fairtrade, which we can purchase if we want to. Do come along and enjoy a very sociable afternoon. We will also be planning for our November meeting which is to be our pre Christmas extravaganza. Great!

Gardening

God smiled on our trip to Penhurst Place, a beautiful Tudor House with wonderful gardens. Fill report next month.

18 Oct Trip to Batsford Arboretum near Morton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire. "The jewel in the crown of the Cotswolds". According to one of the Sunday papers the staff believe that the Autumn colours should peak in mid-October - let's hope they are right! Tickets £15.00, includes coach, admission and driver's gratuity. Buy your tickets during the break at the meeting.

15 Nov 10.00am-12 noon at Hollytree House, forward planning and a speaker TBA.

20 Dec Our usual pre-Christmas social get-together, more info at a later meeting. To Associate Members who would like to come on our trips - read the newsletter and phone either Cilla or Jean to get information and tickets.

We are open to suggestions as to meetings and garden visits. This will be Jean's 8th year and Cilla's 5th organising the group. Please consider if you could help with any aspect of the admin. or trips. We would be very grateful.

Greetings Cards

Hollytree House

Next Meetings:-

11 Oct, 8 Nov and 13 Dec.

The last meeting will be the usual two meetings but with the addition of a 'joint bring and share buffet lunch' from 12.00-2.00pm.

History

8 Oct The defence of the south coast against attacks from the sea, featuring the Roman forts of the Saxon Shore, the Cinque Ports and the forts of the Tudor period.

In accordance with the principles of the U3A, we have suggested that more members of the Group may be prepared to make more contributions to our programmes, no matter how brief ranging from: histories of their home towns or other places, or people, or events; reports on items of historic interest culled from TV news, factual programmes, newspapers or magazines or new theories, or new knowledge arising from archaeological research, thus providing material of broader interest for discussion, leading to deeper studies as well as proving that "It is fun finding out".

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

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

MoneyMatters

1st Thurs of the month Hollytree House, Gammons Lane. We had an exceptionally high turnout for what was a truly enlightening talk by Pete Drew who took us through the intricacies of some of the more threatening aspects of the changes in Inheritance Tax law. Quite an eye opener. What was even more interesting were the questions and answers. Just what MoneyMatters is about.

4 Oct Next meeting

Music Appreciation

3rd Wed: The talk at **10.30 am**. **10 00am** coffee and chat.

Needlecraft

2nd and 4th Mon each month at Combewood House, Garston. Thanks to everyone who supported us at the Study Group Fair. As a result of the Group's work and your support, we are able to donate £90 to the Peace Hospice. We were also able to give them a quilt, in memory of Mary Kerr, who was an active member of the group until just before her death recently. We can now go back in September to replenishing our stock and making things for the Coffee Morning we hold nearer Christmas at Coombewood House with the residents who live there and who give us such support across the year. This group is now full.

Opera

8 Oct 2.00pm at Christine's home. Having so much enjoyed watching the first half of the 'Don Giovanni' production from La Scala Milan in September, we decided we will continue to watch the production with Thomas Allen in the lead, instead of switching to the Cecilia Bartoli DVD as originally planned.

Pathfinders Group

23 Oct Croxley.

27 Nov Bentley Priory and Christmas Lunch at Blue Check Restaurant, Bushey. **Dec** No Walk.

I regret this group is full.

Personal Development

15 Oct 2.15pm 'How to turn your fears and indecisions into confidence and action' Part II.

19 Nov 2.15pm 'Forensic Forum' with Catherine; please bring your questions.

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'.

4 Oct 2.00pm Meet: the junction of Parkside Drive and The Gardens.

The Rock 'n' Roll Yrs

4th Thursday each month.

Hollytree House, 2.30 p.m.

25 Oct feat (sic) Buddy Holly. Andrew Cannon

Science Interest

Watford Central Library unless a visit:

15 Oct Bletchley Park Bombe visit - full

19 Nov How it all began! Bernard Steele. New members always welcome!

Scrabble 2

2nd Thurs of the month

11 Oct 10.00am. New players most welcome. Words are only made up of letters joined together, so no problems there then! Carol and I look forward to seeing you.

Shakespeare

Last Wed 2.00pm

31 Oct at Gwen & Don's place for a showing of The Taming of the Shrew.

28 Nov back to the usual '135' location for reading The Taming of the Shrew.

Attendance and numbers are now so healthy that we shall be considering possible developments of the group.

Snooker

1st and 3rd Mon 11.00am-1.00pm.

Town and Country Club.

Sporting Forum

At our September meeting we welcomed Terry Dyson the former Tottenham Hotspur footballer who presented a most entertaining, amusing and information insight into the life of a footballer in the 1960s.

Terry was a member of the Spurs team that won 'the double' in 1961, achieved success in Europe, and all on a weekly wage of £15! The lifestyle of a footballer then was far removed from that of many of the over-paid so called 'super stars' that appear on the inside and back pages of today's newspapers.

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

20 Nov Members meeting.

18 Dec Christmas Social & Sports Quiz.

Strollers

Meeting time 11.00am

Distances 2.5-3mls.

9 Oct CP Old Redding; lunch Case is Altered; Myra & Jane.

23 Oct CP Kemp Place, Merryhill. Lunch Various; Sheila & Audrey.

13 Nov Verulamium Museum CP (80p) or Westminster Lodge CP (3hrs free) Lunch Six Bells or local Pubs Valerie & Brenda.

The Explorers

Oct 5 9.30am Essex Arms Cholesbury.

NB Change to the November walk.

2 Nov 10.00am Essex Arms; now a walk in Cassiobury park & Whippendell Woods led by Brenda Woodley.

7 Dec Planning Mtg.

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.

25 Oct The Boat PH Walk at Berkhamsted led by Cynthia and John Morgan.

22 Nov Walk at Redbourn led by Peter.

Dec No walk.

24 Jan I have booked 'The Southern Cross' for our New Year Lunch. Those who attended this year's lunch will remember how good it was. Make a note in your new diary now!

Tuesday Trekkers.

New members very welcome.

9.45am start walk at **10 00am**. The following walks are being led by probably the finest Trekkers in Watford U3A.

9 Oct Aldenham Church, led astray by Brian!

13Nov Ivinghoe Beacon, Jean & Peter Groves.

U3A Singers

Walking

Most walks start at JS A41.

Eight miles

11 Oct 9.00am London. Meet at Watford Met station.

8 Nov 9.30am Flamstead.

13 Dec 9.30am Chenies.

Six miles

25 Oct 10.00am Latimer.

22 Nov 10.00am Boxmoor.

Wine Appreciation

Last Friday in the month.

We have room for new members so do join us.

WitKnits

1 Oct 10.00am The season will commence at 15 Wentworth Close. Looking forward to seeing what's been created throughout the summer.

Writers Workshop

Come along and develop your skills.

New members welcome.

A New Group ??

BEGINNERS' BRIDGE

Is there anyone out there who would like to learn how to play Bridge? I am thinking of starting a beginners' group, using the 'Acol weak no trump system', as approved by the English Bridge Union.

Meeting at my home to start with, which is not over-endowed with space, numbers will have to be very limited. If interested please contact Sue Winterbotham .

BIG CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

in Aid of

The Peace Hospice

Tuesday

4th December, 2007

Thanks to you again for the generous donations, we raised £220.00 for the Peace Hospice in our September raffle. We believe some study groups have surplus tea money around the end of the year and we would be delighted to add any you can spare to the Raffle Money Account. If possible please may we have it in November or December for us to be able to hand it all over to the Hospice at our January meeting on Tuesday 8th January 2008

All donations to

JUNE & JOHN BAUGHEN

at any meeting, or to our home address:

CAN COLLECT THANK YOU

Any News from your group? Could you help by offering to pen a few lines on behalf of the Group? Ed.

The Peace Hospice Gardens need **YOU**

2 to 3 hours to spare?

contact Maggie on 335348

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

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

TALKS PROGRAMME

2 Oct Ken Ingemels

Global Warming, Fact or Scaremongering.

6 Nov Geogiana Perrott

'Behind the Scenes at the Royal Ballet'.

4 Dec 'Old Time Music Hall'

The Pantomime Group.

2008

Jan Tony Rook The Nile.

Feb DSA Drive Alive.

Mar Charlotte Peters

Dogs Trust.

For More detail contact
Speaker Secretary

David Helliwell

Email

speakers@watfordu3a.org.uk

Look out for 'DROP US GUTSY, I SANG MA RAN' ??? from the Cryptic Crossword Group in the Dec Issue Ed

Cryptic Crossword Number 3

compiled by Jan Prest, Cryptic Crosswords Study Group

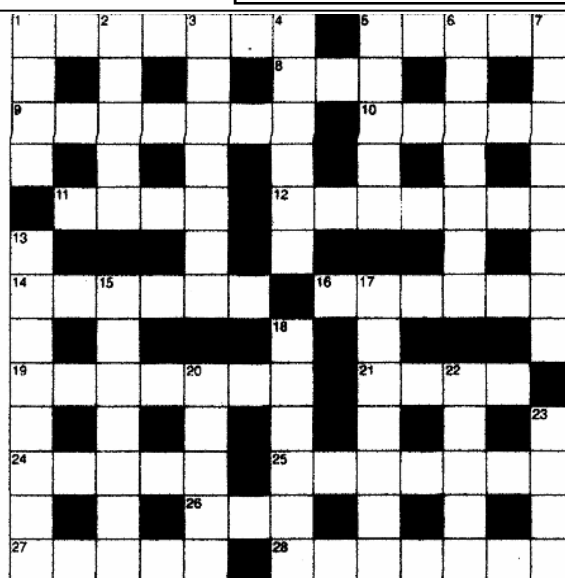
ACROSS

- 1 What a fuss to rave about, after a friend (10)
- 5 Rage in bad weather (5)
- 8 Years - some are rare (3)
- 9 Provokes one insect (7)
- 10 Little Maureen let out a place to stay (5)
- 11 Cast aspersions in indistinct speech (4)
- 12 Student worked for money and became educated (7)
- 14 Where a confused airman keeps his boat (6)
- 16 Lashes out - what a nuisance (6)
- 19 Is rough, playful and mischievous (7)
- 21 Stun using heads! (4)
- 24 Cooked peach is not expensive (5)
- 25 Overtake agent (not National Trust) in corridor (7)
- 26 Shelter in castle edge (3)
- 27 Horrid, treat an eye infection (5)
- 28 Franked and impressed (7)

DOWN

- 1 Quiet edge is prudish (4)
- 2 See endless call is nearby (5)
- 3 Old doctor 'e fled (7)
- 4 Lustre changed outcome (6)
- 5 America's favourite uncle arrived at the start of the ball to dance (5)
- 6 Quiet on excursions? Just loud noises (8)
- 7 Mother and other females have ailments (8)
- 13 Race a happy tin, we hear (8)
- 15 Sorry for right birds (7)

Answers in next Newsletter



- 17 Ambrosia gained Tyneside but lost a brother with memory loss (7)
- 18 Forms different phases (6)
- 20 Hint - I am thick! (5)
- 22 Trudge to junction and slope (5)
- 23 Top player is the source (4)

Material for the
November Newsletter

MUST be received by: 20 October

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

E-mail copy to:

editor@watfordu3a.org.uk