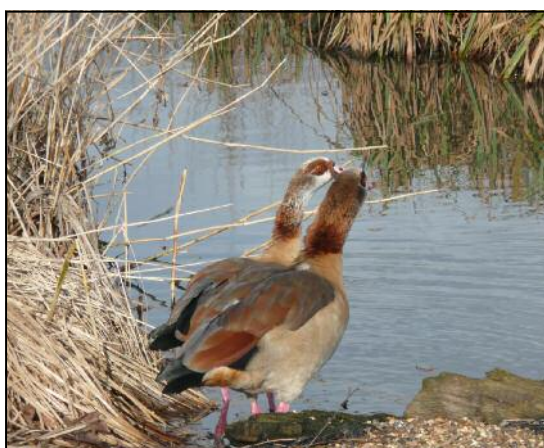


NEWSLETTER

ROUND AND ROUND IN CIRCLES

Margaret Thompson Editor

IF YOU are a shoveler duck (R) you are a great stirrer, swimming round and round in tight circles to disturb the mud and get your dinner to rise. I took these pictures at Barn Elms Wetlands Centre, Hammersmith. Super place with lovely walks, great café and children's learning space. Just the place to entertain our grandchildren on half-term granny/grandad duty. Below are two beautiful, "Egyptian Geese". To quote our



COMMITTEE NOTES

From The Chairman
John Carleton

The Treasurer reported that the Gift Aid claim for members, for the current year had been received, a welcome benefit from HMRC! It is hoped that all members who pay income tax will complete a Gift Aid form, obtainable from the Treasurer, if they have not already done so.

Arrangements for the AGM in May are well in hand and the information pack has been distributed to all members. New study group courses for the Spring and Summer were outlined.

The Chairman and his wife Janet, will represent Watford and District U3A at the Watford Borough Council Audentior Awards in March.

birdman in residence John Britten, whose help in identification I sought, they don't just live in Egypt as there are several feral populations in east Anglia and South East England, where they were introduced in the 18th century.

I have managed a few hours in the garden on some of the beautiful 'spring like' days but it is quite the wrong time of year to be 'cutting down' as I saw a busy neighbour of mine doing. On these bitter cold mornings our feathered friends need the seeds 'a top' the straggly vegetation. My mum said half her friends lost their precious plants because of their tidy gardens with all the natural winter protection removed. It sounds like good advice to me affording more opportunity to sit by the fire and knit. I have recently discovered some old patterns for pretty tea cosies and also the magical therapeutic powers of K1, P1, drop one. NO perhaps not the last bit; definitely NOT relaxing.

Have you renewed your WU3A Membership?? See Tom's notice on p2 and look forward to another year of 'finding out', fun and friendship.

SGL Year-end Accounts

I REQUIRE all Study Group year-end summary accounts as at 31 March. Many will still be nil returns and most should be able to close accounts before 31 March. I would appreciate these as soon as possible and the remainder by the 7 April. I can supply a copy of the half-year summary sheet if this will help you, plus a new blank form if required. I will be at the monthly meetings (with the forms) on 4 March and 1 April and I will attend the next SGL meeting at Hollytree House on Friday 14 March.

Also, our Auditor, Stan Hewitt (tel 01923-720105) wishes to examine Study Group detailed year-end accounts for those with significant monies or bank accounts, ie. Opera, Science, London Theatre, Gardening and Exploring London. If it continues to prosper, Sports Forum may be required next year. I suggest that you contact Stan Hewitt direct as you know your accounts best. I have his address and email if you need them.

Alan Wray, WU3A Treasurer.

Study Group Topics By Dennis Fitton

Study Group Coordinator
Studygroups@watfordu3a.org.uk

AT THE last monthly meeting I was approached by members on various topics. Here are a few ideas arising from this.

Is there any interest in running a 2 week course on using the computer to produce decorative posters, leaflets and greetings cards?

The users of Mac computers are in the minority and their interests have not been catered for by WU3A. Are there sufficient people with Macs to set up a self help group?

I was asked if the Watford Park newsletter was available on the notice board. It certainly was at the beginning of the meeting but someone had taken it which I thought was rather selfish. If there is something on the notice boards that you would like, please ask me and I can arrange a copy for you, thus allowing the other 250 members present the opportunity to look at it.

The response to the London Architecture course has been overwhelming. 46 people expressed interest in the 25 places. There will be a small charge of £4 for the whole course as we have to pay for the hire of the venue.

Several people have asked about courses on digital photography. We are looking into this. Is there any interest in setting up a group for this?

Don't forget that U3A is a self help organisation. If you have an interest or idea for a study group you need to air it with me, in the newsletter or at the monthly meeting. You don't have to be the SGL. Even if you are it is not that difficult. Some SGLs are almost human. Come along to the SGL meeting at **Hollytree House at 2.30pm on Friday 14th March** and have a look at us if you have any ideas.

Tales from the History Group by E & B Long

AT OUR February meeting, Brenda O'Connel reviewed the Chartist Movement, named for the working class action concerning representation, which began to develop soon after Waterloo. Support for proposals grew with public meetings throughout the country, initially peaceful, but then, the Government, fearing outbreaks similar to those which grew into revolution in France, turned out the Army, soldiers opening fire at a meeting at St Peter's Field, Manchester (The "Peterloo" Massacre of 1819). A peaceful meeting in London in 1839 supported the "Peoples Charter" of 1838, the main aim of which was for Parliamentary reform giving greater opportunity for those, other than the landed gentry, to enter Parliament. The draft Bill had six points - a vote for all adult males, secret ballot, abolition of property qualification for MPs and giving them salaries, equal sized electoral districts and annual elections. This petition, having some three million signatures, was presented to Parliament in 1842. The Bill was rejected, not unexpectedly. In due course however, all the measures, except that of annual elections, eventually came into force. MPs were paid from 1895, changes in franchise occurred throughout the 19th cent. The Reform Acts of 1867 & 1885, and the Representation of the Peoples Acts of 1918 & 1928 brought improvement to the distribution of seats and universal suffrage to all, including women over the age of twenty-one.

A presentation by Jan Prest which she called an eclectic collection included the remarkable story of the marriage of Edward I to Eleanor of Castille. So many of these royal marriages came about for political or financial gain, but this was a real love match. For 36 years she was Edward's constant companion, and accompanied him on crusade to the Holy Land in 1270. For Edward, it was fortunate that she did, because when he was attacked by an assassin with a poisoned dagger, Eleanor sucked out the poison, while others, concerned for their own safe, stood by. within a fortnight, Edward was back on his feet. Eleanor followed him on all his campaigns. She bore him 4 sons and 9 daughters, but 6 of their children died

The Much restored Eleanor Cross at Waltham Cross.

Photos Courtesy of Adrian Fletcher, Paradoxplus.com an excellent, informative website with many good links.



Eleanor's Tomb in Westminster Abbey.

Westminster Abbey. Wherever her body rested overnight, he had a stone cross erected, the best known being at Charing Cross.

Another love story concerned John of Gaunt, father of Henry IV, who, in 1396, married, after the death of his second wife Constance, Katherine Swynford, his Mistress for 20 years. Constance, he had married for Castille, following the death of his first wife, Blanche, whom he had married for money. Katherine was the daughter of a herald, and sister of Philippa, wife of Geoffrey Chaucer. John and Katherine founded the line of Beaufort, a descendent of which, Margaret Beaufort, was the mother of Henry VII.

On an entirely different tack, Jan gave us a little local history concerning the old watermill in Cassiobury, which drove the pump supplying water from springs, to Cassiobury House, demolished in 1927, with the lodge gateway following in 1970. The Mill was situated on an island in the River Gade, which runs along the western boundary of Cassiobury Park to join the Grand Union Canal. The mill was built of red brick with a timber frame. The mill was in working order until the 1920s, then decaying until demolished in 1956.

There was also local interest in connection with the Chartists, of which Brenda had told us earlier. Their land plan launched in 1846 by one of their leaders, Fergus O'Conner, as the Chartist Co-operative Land Company occupied a 100 acre site at Heronsgate, just west of Rickmansworth, best reached from junction 17, on the M25. In 1847 there were 35 small holdings made available, by lot, to tenants from towns in the north, where 7000 people had subscribed £100,000 to buy the site, hoping to make a living from the land. The scheme did not succeed and the company was declared bankrupt in 1851. There is a blue commemorative plaque on a wall of the village school.

Local history will always be of interest alongside the richer pattern of events of national concern, and we hope that more will be forthcoming from other members of our History Group.

Obituary

Professor Gordon Onions

We are very sad to report the death of Gordon Onions on Thursday 16th of February

A regular attendee, with his wife Wendy, at our Monthly meetings, Gordon was one of the founder members of WU3A.

A keen ornithologist, Gordon was a knowledgeable member of WRSPB. He loved Jazz, and as a skilled pianist himself, he brought both enthusiasm and knowledge to the Jazz Group.

Until recently Gordon enjoyed walking with the Strollers. He was a fund of information and his cheerful and interesting company will be sadly missed. Our thoughts and sympathy are with his family at this time.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

MANY THANKS to those members who have returned their renewal forms, separate cheques and SAEs.

The renewals will be processed when all are in and then new cards will be sent by post to arrive during March. Cheques will be banked in April.

Only half have arrived so far and as you know your membership runs out on the 31st March, so if you haven't sent them yet, please rummage around and fill them in and) you know the drill.

It may be that Honorary Members have been sent renewal forms but they don't have to be returned as the white membership card is for life, a decision of the members at the last AGM.

Tom O'Callaghan Membership Secretary

DRIVING TESTED

AT OUR last monthly meeting Mark Walsh from the Driving Standards Agency gave us a very comprehensive

talk about driving as we get older. At 70 we must renew our licence. It is a scary thought contemplating losing our wheels which enable our independence. I have been researching the alternatives. We get a free bus pass but buses rarely go where we need to be. What about dial a ride or Arthritis Care or the hospital drivers volunteer service?? If anyone has information or experience of these services and how they can be accessed please let me know. Ed





Gardening Group Anniversary lunch

by Jean Armstrong.

SEVENTY ONE of us sat down to lunch on the 17th January at the Blue Check restaurant in Bushey. It was Molly Fitzpatrick's 91st birthday the next day so they brought her a little cake with a candle on it and I took her photo. She was one of the steering committee when Watford U3A was first founded and is still an active

member of a number of Study Groups including Gardening and Science.

Tutankhamun and the O2 Dome

by Pat Harding, Photo Christine Betts.



THE FEBRUARY Exploring London trip was to visit the Tutankhamun Exhibition held at the in Greenwich. We were lucky to have the first sunny February day this year. On the way we passed part of the Olympic site which was being cleared

ready for 2012. The dome itself had been altered to accommodate cinemas, an ice rink, the exhibition site and a further tented show area which was showing an African Circus. There were also plenty of restaurants and coffee shops set out in lanes. There was music playing and some of our members couldn't resist and were spotted dancing!

The exhibition itself told the story of ancient Egypt and included the stories of the lives and relics from Tutankhamun's grandparents Tiye and Amenhotep III; his father Akhenaten, and Nefertiti, and Kiya, his two wives. It is not clear who Tutankhamun's mother is but it appeared to be Kiya. Tutankhamun himself was married to Ankhesenpaaten, his half sister and reigned from 1332-1322 BC from the age of 9 to 19 when he mysteriously died. We saw lots of the treasures found in his tomb which were necessary for his role in the afterlife. There was also film and pictures of Howard Carter showing how he discovered the tomb and treasures. We ended the visit as usual at the giftshop and then had a welcome drink before heading home.

PEACE HOSPICE GARDEN PARTY HUNTON PARK A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY SUN MAY 11TH 2008 1.00pm-5.00pm.

We are collecting your donations of books, particularly children's books, bric-a-brac, soft toys, bottles of any description and CDs, videos and DVDs from this month, April and May meetings. Please put them in the **upstairs foyer** to the left of the signing in table and **not in the meeting hall itself**.

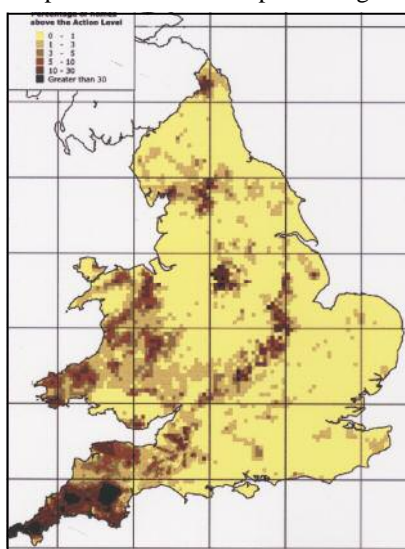
Still more volunteers are needed on the day and cakes for our very successful cake stall. The lists for both of these will be on the notice board. Thank you.

Val Webster

Science Interest by Brian Mee

JOHN BRITTEN gave us a most enjoyable and entertaining morning of brain-teasers for our December meeting. The oldest plant still alive; over 6000 years old; the inventor of waterproof ink; units of most obscure types; various poisons; computer viruses; bot-net herders and many other esoteric yet important scientific facts were all in his Christmas Quiz! Food was tasty and especially delightful for this meeting.

John followed this, this month, with a very interesting talk about Radon in Buildings explaining that the radioactive gas is one of the heaviest gases, collecting in some houses, mainly in the South West, Wales and up the spine of England and easily penetrates the lungs, where it will decay and emit alpha particles (these are helium nuclei consisting of two protons and two neutrons and having a double positive charge) causing much damage to tissues, often causing cancer if exposure is long term. Polonium is a solid decay product which is also radioactive and causes further tissue damage. It is alarming that in recent times health spas, John cited one in Bad Gastein, have promulgated the (false) healthy effects of imbibing radon in various forms, when in fact the gas is carcinogenic and in time causes cancers to appear in the patient. It appears that there may be some beneficial effect of very low doses of radioactivity in humans; natural background radiation bathes us all from the moment of conception onwards! John noted that measurements of radioactive exposure have become very sensitive and Becquerel units are now many thousand times smaller compared with Curies or Greys. Building regulations are now very strict in areas where radon collects, with impermeable membranes incorporated into the foundations and sumps with ventilation to disperse the radon thus preventing it from coming into homes.



The National Radiological Protection Board and Health Protection Agency's map, shows the percentage of homes in each sample square which are above the so-called "action level" of 200 Bq/m³ averaged over a year. The darker squares are where at least 30% of the houses are above the level and about 2 EXTRA people in a thousand would develop lung cancer in addition to those getting it anyway.

On a frosty cold Wednesday evening the Members of the Science Group who ventured along the Jurassic Coast last summer, on a field trip, superbly organised by Richard and Rosemary Agg, held a 'Dorset Reunion'. It was lovely to meet again the Aggs, who had made the trip to Watford specially for this gathering. We enjoyed a splendid, 'Jacobs Join' supper at Hollytree House, revisited our memories and saw a collection of people's photographs, compiled by Colin Richards, which brought back happy moments of sunshine, learning and companionship.

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.

German Walking Group

Janet Carleton

No, we are not praying that it will not rain, we are watching a beautiful red kite flying overhead. This was a lovely January walk in the Chilterns around Great Missenden, eight of us chatting in German. It really is a great way to improve. Not long after this photo was taken we were enjoying a well earned pub lunch.



Project Linus from Jean Pearce

THE NEEDLEWORK Group have just completed a quilt which we are donating to Project Linus, whose aim is to provide security blankets for seriously ill or traumatised children.

We have also been learning to embroider on canvas; this took place at our last meeting and took all our concentration. I have never known such a quiet 'Needlework Group' Monday morning!



Beginners Plus Computer Course

By Carol Henry

4.00PM ON WEDNESDAY afternoons at Watford Boys' Grammar School has become the rallying point for a group of enthusiastic but uncertain prospective computer users. John Boughton, admirably assisted by knowledgeable U3A volunteers, has gently and patiently eased us into a fascinating new world.

We have been helped and encouraged to use Microsoft programmes to set up an e-mail address, access the internet and much more. We have moved from nervous ignorance to 'have a go' mode, learned a new vocabulary, icons, handles, clicks, toolbars etc.

It has been a really worthwhile experience, one we hope to have the opportunity to take further in the future.

A repeat of this course starts on February 20th and runs for 5 weeks. Do go along, you will benefit enormously.

Do you, like me, resent using costly 0870 telephone numbers? From Shirley Jennings

I WOULD like to pass on to fellow U3A members a money saving tip (no catch at all - honestly!) Do you, like me, resent using costly 0870 telephone numbers? Alternative geographical numbers can be found on the website

<http://www.saynoto0870.com/>

When on the site, click 'Search to find an alternative number', enter either/both the company name and/or 0870/0845 number and geographical number(s) will be listed. You can also add any you find to their site. Rarely, saynoto0870.com are unable to provide an alternative number. I have made my own directory of some 40+ substitute geographical numbers by using this site.

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

STUDY GROUP NEWS

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

Anglo-German Walks

Art Appreciation

2nd Mon 10.00 for 10.30am at Hollytree House.

Margaret Bolton's presentation on Jackson Pollack drew our largest audience yet - 49! Most of us were surprised at the variety of his earlier work before his later signature " drip paintings ". Margaret had seen several of his original paintings in New York and we were able to share her enthusiasm. The presentation provoked much discussion.

Mar 10 Pat Woollard will share her knowledge of contemporary American artists.

Mar 20 (Thurs) If you are interested in joining the Gardening Group outing to Kew and the Henry Moore Exhibition.

Apr 14 I have tickets for all who asked for them, to visit the Royal Academy in April to see the FROM RUSSIA exhibition. I will exchange a ticket for £9 in cash or cheque to D A Steele at the March Monthly meeting. Travel independently or with friends; meet at 10:50am in the foyer of the R. A. when I will give you a brochure for the exhibition.

13 May 9:00am I have made a provisional booking for a visit to the Dulwich Picture Gallery in May for the " Coming Of Age " exhibition on American art. Entry to this and the permanent exhibition is included together with a lecture on American Art. Cost approximately £27 We shall travel by coach leaving the Essex Arms. Further details later. See Dorothy for available places.

Antiques

2nd Tues of the month NB 2.00pm-4.00pm in my home.

Better Photos

Book Discussion Grp

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

Bridge for Beginners Calligraphy

Chess

Classics

Computers

3rd Thurs 4.00pm Beechfield School, Gammons Lane.

13 Mar Spreadsheets EXCEL and WORKS, an overview.

NB this is the 2nd not 3rd Thurs(Early Easter)

17 Apr Combined session with Photography Group, getting the photos into the computer. There is a charge of £2 each to cover costs.

Counted X Stitch

3rd Wednesday of the month NB 1.30pm-3.30pm

New members are welcome.

Cryptic Crosswords

1st & 3rd Fri of the month.

Current Affairs

3rd Tues of the month 10.00am at Hollytree House.

A very full February meeting picked up on an earlier discussion of "Human organ donation", led by excerpts from a recording of a recent BBC programme on the subject in the Moral Maze Series. Should it be permissible to take organs without formal consent if the potential donor has not opted out? A very difficult question.

We moved on to the recent declaration of independence for Kosovo and realised the concern that small units everywhere would be encouraged to seek independence, e.g. the Basques in Spain, or the Scots.

There were some interesting views on increase in contradicting policies supported by government, eg. 24-hour opening; clampdown on binge drinking; excessive exposure of children to television; teaching 5-year olds to operate remote controls.

Having offered very few solutions to any of the problems, we then retired to The Blue Check for an enjoyable lunch.

18 Mar no doubt there'll be plenty of topics to discuss.

Cycling

10.00am 1st Monday and 3rd Wednesday starting at Watford Met Station. The Monday ride is run jointly with Watford Park U3A.

NB that the Monday rides are similar to those on Wednesday. They are no further or faster. As we cycle on canal towpaths, I must point out that we should all have a permit to do this. This is free from www.waterscape.com. Click on 'cycling' and then on 'get a permit'.

3 Mar Mon Whelpley Hill.

19 Mar Wed St Albans via Bricket Wood.

7 Apr Mon Belsize, Felden, Hemel Hempstead.

16 Apr Wed Elstree Airfield.

European Studies

We are pursuing our study of European History and Culture in the 18th Century and have many interesting subjects ahead of us as you can see and later on literature. France under Louis XV, the Slave Trade and what was happening in Spain and Portugal. There is no end to the possibilities. NB that the information I sent for last month for March has had to be changed.

26 Mar Architecture

23 Apr European Art

NB. May and June are not the 4th Wednesday deliberately as we have changed them as I shall be on holiday.

7 May European Literature and French Literature

11 Jun Schiller/Goethe

Exploring London

5 Mar Wallace Collection & Apsley House - Waiting List.

2 Apr Royal Opera House backstage tour.

Family History

Food & Nutrition

4th Tues of the month Combewood House

25 Mar We will be looking into winter vegetables, particularly root, and interesting ways of serving them. If you have not already put your name down to prepare a dish for us to sample please come and see me in the coffee break for the greater variety of vegetables and ways of pre-

paring and cooking them the better.

New members welcome.

Gardening

Hollytree House.

20 Mar Last opportunity for anyone to get a ticket for our trip to Kew Gardens and the Henry Moore sculptures. This will be positively the last call as we have to send the cheque in today (4 Mar) to get the reduced group rate.

17 Apr Tickets on sale for our trip to the Royal Horticultural Society's Gardens at Hyde Hall, near Chelmsford in Essex. "This 28-acre hilltop garden is perched above the East Anglian wheatfields in a truly Tuscanesque manner."

There are lots of things to see including a spring garden with hellebores and many bulbs, national collection of Viburnums, dry garden and wildflower areas. Tickets are £13.50 or if you are a RHS member you and one friend can go in free, making the tickets £9.50. There is a restaurant, and needless to say, a plant and gift centre, as well as a library and information centre. Don't forget to take your card and your friend!

15 May Emmetts Garden (N.T.) near Sevenoaks in Kent, more info later.

Note from Jean Armstrong: A big thank you to all of you for the gardening vouchers you gave me at Christmas. I have bought a Gardena lightweight, long handled pruning gizmo so that I can prune the apple trees without falling off my ladder, and a snazzy pink-handled trowel - pink so that I shan't lose it! I have so enjoyed being in the group and made many friends now I shall be able to enjoy the outings; no stress!

German Conversation Group now full.

Greetings Cards

Hollytree House

History

10 Mar will include Florence Nightingale and Edward VIII.

Italian

10.00am alternate Thurs This is very much a self help group, using audio/visual ma-

terial, written exercises and original Italian texts. We are guided by a fluent Italian speaker.

Jazz

London Theatre

Group

23 Apr Wed Come and join us for a double bill of Harold Pinter's "The Lover & The Collection." Timothy West will be leading a Post Play Q & A forum for us after this matinee performance. The cost for the play, talk and coach will be £30.50pp. We will be selling tickets at the March meeting. Please phone if you wish to come but can't make the meeting

Luncheon Club

MoneyMatters

1st Thurs of the month **Hollytree House, Gammons Lane.**

Music Appreciation

3rd Wed: 10 00am Coffee and chat. **10.30am**

The March meeting will be devoted to Jean Sibelius, the great Finnish composer. Janet Carleton will enlighten us. Subsequent meetings will teach us about the "members of the Orchestra", accompanied by relevant music.

Needlecraft

2nd and 4th Mon each month at Combewood House.

This group is full at the moment as the space we have is just adequate for our present needs but perhaps another group could be started?

Opera

10 Mar 2 00pm. at Christine's. Following on from last month's first and second acts of Berlioz's 'The Trojans' presented by Ray Gynne, we look forward this month to seeing the rest of the opera, again with Placido Domingo and Jessye Norman in the lead roles.

Pathfinders Group

The Essex Arms **9.25am** (Except 25 March)

25 Mar 10.00am Whippendell Woods and Lunch at The Harvester en route.

22 Apr Harefield.

27 May Apsley and Kings

Langley.

24 Jun Rickmansworth. I regret this group is full.

Pathfinders 2

Performing Arts

Johanna's Mon 7.30pm

The two plays we have selected for discussion this season are:- "An English Tragedy" @ Watford Palace from; 15th Feb- 8th March; we have booked for 4th March for the "after show discussion" and "As you Like It" @ Watford Palace from 4th April- 26th April. The "After Show discussion" is on 15th April. Can you please book your own tickets on 225671.

We will be performing an entertainment of poetry and prose on the themes of Easter, Spring, and April Fools day at the U3A meeting on Tuesday 1st April.

10 Mar Discussion of "An English Tragedy".

1 Apr Perform at U3A Monthly meeting.

28 Apr Discussion of "As You Like It".

12 May Play reading.

Personal Development

17 Mar 2.15pm Sharing our worries or problems in a confidential setting, followed by our plans for 2008.

21 Apr Meal out TBA.

Poetry Read & Study

Monday evening, monthly by arrangement. New members welcome.

Return to Cycling

2.00pm 1st Thursday This group is run jointly with Watford Park U3A. The rides are between 5 and 10 miles based on the Watford B C map of local cycle routes.

Please look under Cycling for my note about a permit to cycle on canal towpaths.

6 Mar & 3 Apr The Pump House, Local Board Road.

Science Interest

NB Same time but Change of Venue to Hollytree House.

17 Mar Colin Richards Diabetes Mellitus.

21 Apr Leon Freris. Technol-

ogy of generating, transmitting and distributing electric energy.

19 May Phil McMahon. The Sun our nearby star.

New members welcome!

Scrabble 2

2nd Thurs of the month

13 Mar 10.00am

Shakespeare

Last Wed 2.00pm

26 Mar We shall be completing 'The Taming of the Shrew' and preparing for 'As You Like It', which is on at the Palace Theatre in April.

23 Apr A group of us are going to this matinee and others are going earlier.

30 Apr We shall discuss the play we have seen and start on 'Anthony and Cleopatra'. The Group is now larger, but not everybody comes every time.

Snooker

1st and 3rd Mon 11.00am-1.00pm. Town & Country Club.

Sporting Forum

The Watford Observer award-winning photographer, Jane Parr, came along to our February meeting with a portfolio of her sports pictures. Although many of the slides featured the manager and players of Watford FC there were also superb 'action' shots of other sports with a local theme.

Our next two meetings see us playing away!

18 Mar Visit to Walthamstow Stadium.

15 Apr Tour of the new Wembley Stadium.

Strollers

Meeting time 11.00am

Distances 2.5-3mils.

11 Mar Sheila & John, Abbots Langley High St. CP. Old Manor House walk. Lunch The Compasses.

8 Apr Kate, Pavilion CP

(bottom of Green Lane/Highlands) Oxhey Woods
Lunch The Load of Hay.

22 Apr Angele & Gerry CP & lunch at the Gate Station RD. walk in/around Bricket Wood.

The Explorers

09.30am Meet at the Essex

Arms to car share

Isn't it great when the weather forecaster gets it wrong and the dull and wet day forecast turns out bright and sunny? So it proved on February 1st when an intrepid band of Explorers led by John and myself braved the M25 and various other roads to explore Valley Gardens. The Gardens put on a brave show for us. Witch Hazel, Camellias and a few foolhardy Rhododendrons were a feast for our eyes. The Heather Garden lived up to its name with a lovely display. The Totem Pole was admired on the way, also Smiths Polo Lawn and of course Virginia Water. In all a successful day.

7 Mar Redbourn CP near the Cricket Pavilion on the green. Walk Leaders;- Jean & John G Eat at the Holly Bush PH.

4 Apr Sarratt area. Walk Leader;- Raymond, CP near the Cock PH Nr Church.

May Harpenden.

For full details of all our walks please contact John or Jean Grainger 234004 or see us at the monthly meeting.

The Rock 'n' Roll Yrs

4th Thursday each month

2.30 pm Hollytree House.

27 Mar Jerry Lee Lewis.

Thirsty Walkers

9.30am The Essex Arms! (bear in mind the roadworks which may cause delays!).

27 Mar Wheathampstead, from The Bull led by Peter and Celia.

24 Apr Sarratt (Bluebells, we hope), from The Cock led by John Reeve.

Tuesday Trekkers

9.45am start at 10 00am.

11 Mar 09.30am Essex Pub to car share. Bedmond area, led by Rose Two. Allan not sure of length or direction of walk at this stage but carefully evaluating local pubs to get it right.

8 Apr Dolamore Duo, last seen heading into the Herts sunset Will return in time to lead this walk. Details later.

13 May Jean & Peter Grove. British Bluebells. Aldenham church.

New members very welcome.

U3A Singers

Walking

Walks start at JS A41

9.30am except London ones.

Eight miles

12 Mar 9.00am Met Station Watford for London.

9 Apr Barton-Le-Clay.

14 May The Lee.

Six miles All 10.00am start

26 Mar Amersham.

23 Apr London Colney.

28 May Gerards Cross.

25 Jun Harpenden.

Wine Appreciation

Last Friday in the month.

WitKnits

10.00am 1st Mon each month

Writers Workshop

Come along and develop your skills.

New members welcome.

Any News from your Study Group?

COULD YOU HELP by offering to pen a few lines on behalf of the Group? Or send the 'copy', on your computer if your SGL does not have the use of a computer.

Everyone is keen to have more time for coffee and chat at the monthly meetings and do NOT want to hear long announcements about Study Groups they do not attend.

Announcements made in the meeting do not reach all the 450 members of our U3A as the average attendance is about 200, so a majority of members need to read information in this NL and when they don't they ring me up!! & I don't know do I? Ed.

INVITATION FROM BUSHEY U3A

Sat 26 April 7:30pm.

Tkts (group) **£21.60/ £16.80.**

Bushey U3A Concert Group go to concerts in London.

Would any of us like to join them at the Royal Festival Hall for a performance of the Verdi Requiem. Tel. Patricia Wicebloom 0208 954 2926.

RAFFLE AGAIN NEXT MONTH - 4th MARCH.

in Aid of

The Peace Hospice

Bring plenty of cash as our next raffle looks like being another good one - thanks to all your donations. Didn't we do well - **£1,200** to The Peace Hospice - let us try and beat that for their next January cheque. Thank you so much. All Raffle donations to

JUNE & JOHN BAUGHEN

at any meeting, or to our home

CAN COLLECT THANK YOU

Watford U3A's Projector & Laptop

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

Colin Richards

TALKS PROGRAMME

2008

Mar Charlotte Peters

Dogs Trust.

Apr Performing Arts

'Spring Miscellany' of Poems, Prose & Music.

May AGM

For More detail contact Speaker Secretary

David Helliwell

Email

speakers@watfordu3a.org.uk

Material for the

April Newsletter

MUST be received by: 20 March

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

E-mail copy to:

editor@watfordu3a.org.uk