

# NEWSLETTER

## Another Wonderful Peace Hospice Garden Party.

Margaret Thompson Editor



**Jean Armstrong as ever among the plants on the Garden Group stall.**

Many thanks to all the people who grew plants from seed, plugs and cuttings to make the stall such a success. Also a huge thank you to all the folk who, on a very hot day, helped set up the stall and then manned it through the day, valiantly trying to stop very stressed plants (as well as themselves!) from wilting in the sunshine. Particular thanks go to Jean Armstrong who organized it all before and on the day. We raised nearly £300 which reflects everyone's tremendous efforts. **Pamela Grant Garden Group SGL.**



**Our Chairman John Carleton proudly surveying his troops in conversation with Jonathon Carmichael Chief Executive of The Peace Hospice. Above John & Cynthia Morgan buying some of the wonderful selection of cakes from Cynthia Birkett photos John Grainger**

Your editor was a very happy and proud little bunny at our latest AGM where I was presented with Life Honorary Membership by our President Reg Cooke "in recognition of exceptional services to the U3A"!! I had better make a good job of this Newsletter or I might find the offer withdrawn!! Seriously though, as I said at the meeting, I really do enjoy putting all your thoughts, ideas and pictures together. Keep the 'copy' coming as I also enjoy reading our Newsletter as it reflects the mass of wonderful activities that is WU3A.

### COMMITTEE NOTES

From The Chairman  
**John Carleton**

WE WERE pleased to welcome Margaret Foster and John Friend to their first Committee meeting in the Garston Fire Station.

The unadopted minutes of the AGM were reviewed and two items requiring correction were discussed. (See Secretary's note). In addition to being published in the Newsletter, all papers relevant to an AGM will be published on our website, under the AGM heading, to ease access to the information.

It was decided that, with communication between Committee members being facilitated by email, it would not be necessary to hold meetings every month. The next committee meeting will be in July.

GLORIOUS weather welcomed the many U3A volunteers and throng of happy visitors who helped to raise approximately £8000 (final total TBA) for **The Peace Hospice.**



### Study Group Topics

By Dennis Fitton  
Study Group Coordinator  
Studygroups@watfordu3a.org.uk

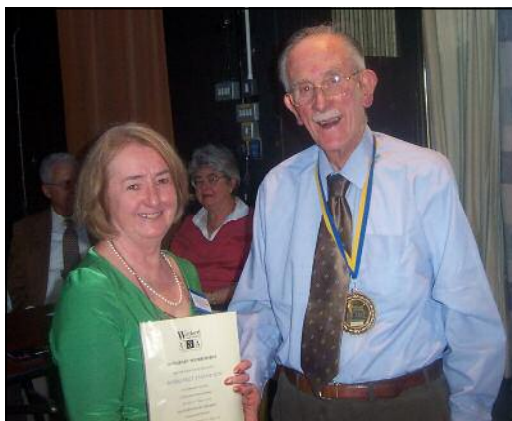
WE HAVE had a Doctor Who like transformation. Barbara announced at our last monthly meeting the Personal Development Group will transform itself into the Film Group. No one will be able to detect the join.

As we have sadly lost Pat Tubb who led the Calligraphy group I would like to hear from anyone who wishes the group to continue running. I have a potential Group Leader but he will need some enthusiastic support to keep it running. It's in your hands. There is a sign up sheet on the notice board.

We have successfully run several courses with follow up for members who were absolute beginners on the computer. I wonder if we need to repeat this in September or later. It would be on Wednesday afternoons at 4.00 until 5.30 lasting 5 weeks. If you are interested please contact John Carleton or me or sign up on the sheet which will be on the notice board at the next monthly meeting.

There will be a course on Digital Photography from Wednesday June 11th to July 9th 4.00 to 5.30 at WBGS. This will only run if there is sufficient demand. Please sign up on the sheet on the notice board or inform JC or DF.

I will put a sheet on the notice board asking for your suggestions re needs for computer courses. We will do our best to accommodate your wishes.

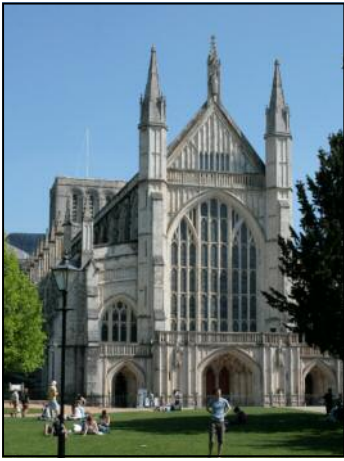


### Secretary's Note ref AGM

I apologise for a clerical error in the Final Agenda for the AGM. When asking for agreement for the level of subscription (item 10) the date should have read 1st April 2009 and NOT 1st April 2008. Agreement for a subscription of £19 (and pro rata for later joining members) for this current year had already been agreed at last year's AGM. This error will be noted in an appropriate manner in the Minutes of the AGM. I am sorry for any confusion this may have caused. Thanks are due to Tony Platts who raised this point at the meeting and later with the Newsletter Editor.  
Yvonne Fitton

### WU3A Almoners

Irene Lowe Peggy  
Element Janet Carleton  
Kathleen McMahon



**Exploring London Group  
Winchester**  
By Pat Harding Photos Pam Grant.

OUR MAY outing was a visit to the city of Winchester. The weather again was kind to us as we had one of the first hot days. Luckily the traffic was quiet and after a short stop still arrived in the city in time for coffee. We met our guides Angela and Kate, divided into 2 groups and set off on whistle

stop tours of the city.

We first walked along side the fast flowing River Itchen, cut across to the Cathedral where we were told a potted history of the city. One of its most famous residents was King Alfred. Another hero was William Walker, a deep sea diver who spent 6 years working under water when it was discovered that the cathedral was subsiding due to marshy ground. He replaced the foundations with concrete. The cathedral is over 900 years old and has the longest medieval nave in Europe. Some of our party visited the Cathedral.



We then were taken via the Westgate to the remains of the castle and the great hall. This is the only surviving part of Winchester Castle and was once home to the Domesday Book. Until fairly recently it was the main court house and famous trials that had taken place were of Walter Raleigh, and Judge Jeffries condemned supporters of the Duke of Monmouth in 1685. The round table associated with King Arthur has hung there for 700 years. Outside was Queen Eleanor's Garden, planted in the style of the 13th century.

We then walked round the corner to the Military Museums where there was the amazing sight of the Peninsula Barracks, now luxury apartments, which were originally designed by Christopher Wren as a palace for Charles 11.

After lunch we wandered by the river, found Jane Austen's last home, found a 12th century church at the top of one of the city gates and back via a welcome drink in the Guildhall to the coach. Our driver again was brilliant and apart from the usual traffic on the M25 gave us a good drive home.

**German Walks Janet Carleton photos Mike Young**

ANOTHER glorious day for a walk in the south Chilterns. Masses of bluebells in the woods and trees with a delicate shade of green leaves. The little white calf was so curious and gambolled like a lamb along with us as we walked down the footpath on the other side of the fence. He was full of the

joys of spring. Soon after we saw a duck with ten fluffy tiny ducklings all running after mother across the grass. A great walk thanks again to our leader Dick.



**Science, Technology and Society** by Brian Mee  
**Electric Energy**

LEON FRERIS gave us an excellent talk about the technology of generating, transmitting and distributing electric energy in the UK. If you have never given a thought to why you can push a switch and expect the light to come on, Leon's talk gave us many insights into what goes on to generate about 55 - 60 Giga-Watts of electricity in UK power stations, how very high voltages are best for transmission lines over long distances and the intricacies of why it is best to use AC of the sinusoidal type!

Leon discussed various energy sources and explained how it is vital to have 'headroom' - the capacity for extra electricity as the need arises over the 24 hour period. Fluctuations in demand could cause the whole system to collapse in certain circumstances especially if equipment is put under strain. North America suffered several days without electrical energy after a failure in the Canadian supply lines a few years ago during very cold winter. Catastrophic events like that can take days to recover from and so it is important that the headroom is available as a kind of buffer for the system.

Leon gave us a rich variety of figures for efficiencies of different types of power generation and it was clear that it is impossible to rely on any one type of generation, since flexibility of supply is paramount. Nuclear power is fairly constant, whereas wind and tidal energy is very variable, coal and gas are more controllable and therefore a mix of all these is required in order to maintain a stable supply to the consumer!

In May Phil McMahon gave us a good account of how the Sun distributes its energy to the Solar System and how sun spots are formed, described with very clear diagrams of the convection currents within the Sun's strata. There are strong magnetic fields associated with the Sun which may cause severe problems if they hit Earth's power-lines at an inappropriate time. Enormous masses of material are ejected at high speed every second as by-products of the process which converts hydrogen into helium by means of nuclear fusion reactions. We depend entirely upon the Sun for energy to drive all the biological processes on Earth and have about another 7 billion years worth of energy before the Sun runs out....

**Rhododendron time for the Gardening Group!**

By Pamela Grant

OUR MAY trip took us off to Surrey to a privately owned woodland garden which is only opened for three months in



Photo Pamela Grant

Spring and early Summer. Ramster Gardens at Chiddingfold near Guildford proved a real discovery with a maze of paths through beautiful beech and oak woodland and past areas of water. There were many different trees and shrubs but the main pleasure came from seeing rhododendrons and azaleas of all sizes at every turn. The combinations of different shades of background green and the varied colours of the flowers, vivid or muted, were all the more beautiful for being accompanied by birdsong, almost no traffic noise and the sound of a cuckoo nearby. We were fortunate in having none of the heavy rain forecast and had a lovely and very relaxing day.

## Dulwich Art Gallery from Kathleen McMahon and Joyce Hoffbrand.

ON A glorious sunny day a group from Art Appreciation visited the Dulwich Art Gallery to view the "Coming of Age of American Art" Exhibition 1850-1950. The journey took us through central London which was an art show in itself and we arrived at the Gallery ready and eager to round off the last few months study of American Art. It was exciting to see at first hand some of the work of artists that we had only seen projected on the screen. We came away enthused with the paintings we had seen.. The pre-exhibition lecture underlined our recent study and we are all grateful to Dorothy Steele for her excellent organisation of a lovely day out.

### NEW GROUP FILMS

AFTER ten-and-a-half years **Personal Development** is changing into a Film Group, meeting at 2 p.m. on the third Monday. DVDs/ videos of classic and other films will be brought by members of the group. After the film there will be tea and discussion of the film. There are one or two vacancies.

Contact Barbara .

## Thirsty Walkers

by John Reeve

THE Thirsty Walkers' April 'bluebell' outing set out on a complicated route devised by me to include at least one bluebell wood in attractive country within reach of The Boot at Sarratt, where the owner had turned over their restaurant for our exclusive use. My inability to measure the mileage correctly meant we walked six miles, more than enough to work up a splendid thirst for the welcome repast that followed. We ensured our route passed the watercress farm on the Chess which enjoyed some unexpected good business. John Morgan's picture shows 18 of the 19 participants (John Morgan being the 19th), with the Chess Valley in the background. This was the largest turnout since the group was formed two years ago. Was it the bluebells, the watercress or the lunch that brought them all out?



## Tales from the History Group E & B Long

AT OUR May meeting Gwen Rowbotham gave an account of Churchill in his home at Chartwell, and Betty Long continued her saga of James II and his daughters.

Chartwell was one of Churchill's lasting passions. He bought it, in 1921, with its 80 acre estate, for £5000 (£150000 in today's values). It was in a dilapidated condition, but at 650ft, it had a spectacular view across the Kent Weald. He had not told his wife, Clementine, but taking her and their three children on a mystery car ride, called in at Chartwell, where the children were enraptured by the extensive grounds. It was only after they had returned home to Sussex Square, that he revealed his purchase, at which Clementine was not too happy, having previously stayed at Chartwell, becoming aware of its inconveniences, but Churchill needed a property with a grand setting, in order to entertain on a lavish scale.



Chartwell Kent

photo MCT

The house was renovated to give the most important rooms the benefit of the spectacular views. Meanwhile Churchill turned his attention to the gardens, damming a spring to provide a lake for fish and black swans, and building terraces and walls, even joining the builder's union so that he could participate in the work.

For many years Chartwell was a drain on Churchill's purse. At one time the house had to be "mothballed", with the exception of the library where he wrote his books, while the family lived more spartanly in an estate cottage. Later success in politics and literature enabled him to enjoy the full comforts of his lovely house for the rest of his life. It is now a National Trust property. Continuing the story of James II and his two Protestant daughters, Mary and Anne, Betty told us that when his first wife died,

James decided to marry again, hoping to produce a male heir. By now he had discarded all evidence of being a practicing Protestant, much to the discomfiture of brother Charles and Parliament. He married the 17 year old Princess Mary Beatrice of Modena who did not want the marriage, but the Pope saw great political advantage, if in due process of time, England would have a Catholic king and queen. Bonfires were lighted in London to show that the population was most unhappy about the Catholic marriage.

In the meantime daughter Mary had married her cousin Prince William of Orange, an equally ardent Protestant, and head of State in the Netherlands. Unfortunately for Mary, the couple were to remain childless. On the death of Charles II, James and his wife were crowned at Westminster Abbey and England accepted the situation, rationalising that James was well past middle age, and as there was no sign of the hoped-for male heir, in time the throne would pass to Mary. However trepidation arose when the Queen, having taken the waters at Bath, announced that she was pregnant. To the horror of Parliament and the majority of people, a healthy son was born christened James Francis Edward. This gave rise to the so called 'Glorious Revolution' when seven Parliamentarians from noble families, wrote to William of Orange, urging him, on behalf of his wife Mary, the Protestant heir, to come to England to support Parliament in their objection to a Catholic dynasty. William, with Catholic France and Spain on his borders, and knowing that Louis XIV had designs on Dutch territory, accepted the invitation, having gained the support of the German princes who were confirmed Protestants, gathered a force of 500 ships with foot soldiers and cavalry, and landed at Brixham. James, fearing for the life of his son, had sent him, with his mother, to France, and with a small army marched westwards to oppose the advance of William.

However, outside Salisbury, two of his commanders, John Churchill (later Duke of Marlborough), and Prince George of Denmark (husband of James's daughter Ann), deserted. James decided to retreat to London, and seek refuge himself, in France. He reached the coast at Rotherhithe, where he was apprehended and taken back to London. (To be continued)

## Art Appreciation

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

Last month, we enjoyed Phil McMahon's presentation on Norman Rockwell, who was under contract for many years to produce a painting to be used for the front cover of the NY Saturday Evening Post and also posters to carry the US Government's message during the war.

Joyce Hoffbrand produced a pot-pourri from her large library of American art.

9 Jun. Colin Richards is assembling a selection from our year's presentations on the New World artists. Come and see how much you remember!

## Antiques

2<sup>nd</sup> Tues of the month NB 2.00pm-4.00pm in my home.

## Book Discussion Grp

4<sup>th</sup> Mon 2.00pm-4.00pm 9 Parkside Drive, Watford For the foreseeable future, the Watford Group and the Park Group will hold joint sessions under their joint leaders - Betty Crowder (Watford) and Ruth Walter (Park). Times and venue as above but venues could vary, so please contact your SGL if you wish to join. Current book: 'Case Histories', by Kate Atkinson.

## Computers

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

12 Jun Excel spreadsheets - summary charts (CHANGE of DATE this month.)

17 Jul Scanning 35mm transparencies in to your computer. There is a charge of £2 per person to cover costs.

## Cryptic Crosswords

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Fri of the month. We held our 100th meeting earlier this year and have now handed over to Hollytree House a total of more than £1000 for the use of their lounge.

6 & 20 Jun Next Meetings.

## Current Affairs

3<sup>rd</sup> Tues 10.00am Hollytree House. At present the Group is at capacity level, so anyone interested in joining should speak with one of the leaders first.

17 Jun Next meeting.

# STUDY GROUP NEWS

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

## 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.

2 Jun Mon Ley Hill, Whelpley Hill.

18 Jun Wed Denham via Aquadrome.

7 Jul Black Jack's Mill

16 Jul Moor Mill followed by Summer picnic chez Y & D

## European Studies

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

11 Jun Overview of European Literature followed by French Literature in the 18th Century.

23 Jul Russia after Peter the Great.

27 Aug Slave Trade.

24 Sept Spain; Change of Venue for this meeting.

22 Oct European Music 1850.

26 Nov Cook the Explorer.

Dec No meeting.

## Exploring London

4 Jun Saffron Walden and Audley End Waiting List.

2 Jul Trip to Windsor Waiting List.

## Films 3rd Mon 2 00 pm

27 Stratford Way.

16 Jun 'Grey Friars Bobby' Please let Barbara know if you are coming.

## Food & Nutrition

4th Tues of the month Combewood House

24 Jun 2.00pm.

Dennis Webster will talk about British beef as to sourcing, quality and the various cuts.

He will also demonstrate the different cuts of beef to be obtained from a rump and loin of beef and these will be on sale at the end of the demonstration.

## Gardening

Hollytree House.

19 Jun Picnic or a snack at the National Trust Chiltern Gateway Centre, Dunstable Downs then on to an afternoon at Toddington Manor, where the private gardens are being opened just for us. There are rose and herb gardens, and a pleached lime walk surrounded by herbaceous borders. With orchards, meadows and woodland too there will be lots to explore. We still have some tickets for sale and the price includes a short tour and refreshments.

17 Jul Barnsdale Gardens near Oakham. A visit to Geoff Hamilton's gardens, now being maintained by Geoff's son Nick. This will be a long day but there will be plenty to see in all the areas that were originally developed for Gardeners' World. Please note that no picnics are allowed in the gardens.

21 Aug An outing on a car-share basis to Shenley Park. More details to follow!

## Greetings Cards

Hollytree House

12 Jun handbag designs.

10 Jul using old CDs to make a 'spinning' card with Marie.

14 Aug playing with paint for backgrounds. There will be no actual making of cards on this day. Wear old clothes and bring protective gloves if you have them if you don't like getting painty hands! (I have some spares)

11 Sep cards for men shirts and waistcoats. Yvonne away on this day (U3A trip). Alternative arrangements.

9 Oct and 13 Nov Christmas designs.

11 Dec acetate and joint lunch.

## Italian

10.00am alternate Thurs

This is very much a self help group, using audio/visual material, written exercises and

original Italian texts. We are guided by a fluent Italian speaker.

## London Theatre Group

plays, the Pump House

## MoneyMatters

1<sup>st</sup> Thurs of the month Hollytree House.

## Music Appreciation

3<sup>rd</sup> Wed: 10.00am Coffee and chat. 10.30am meeting.

Subsequent meetings will teach us about the members of the Orchestra, accompanied by relevant music.

## Needlecraft

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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

9 Jun 2 00pm at David & Pat Hancox's. We shall be seeing the production of Tosca, which was broadcast in 1992 for TV from Rome live in the original locations indicated in Puccini's opera. Placido Domingo sings Cavaradossi, Ruggiero Raimondi is Scarpia, & Catherine Malfitano sings the role of Tosca.

## Pathfinders Group

The Essex Arms 9.25am

24 Jun Rickmansworth.

I regret this group is full.

## Performing Arts

Johanna's Mon 7.30pm

## Personal Development

**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 based on the Watford B C map of local cycle routes.

5 Jun, 3 Jul The Pump House, Local Board Road.

## Science Interest

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday 10.00am

Hollytree House.

16 Jun Do you remember Radio Luxemburg? Pat Walker.

25 Jul FRIDAY visit to West London Composting - sorry list is full!

**18 Aug** Practical experiments at St Margaret's School – Graham Hall. New members always welcome!

### Scrabble 2

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

**12 Jun 10.00am**

### Shakespeare

**Last Wed 2.00pm**

In April we discussed 'As You Like It' as performed at the Palace Theatre and seen by 14 of the Group. Nearly all of us were impressed by the skilful interpretation and by the clarity of speech. I, having done Judo at Cambridge, particularly admired the wrestling scene; it was brilliantly choreographed.

**25 Jun** will see us continuing 'Anthony and Cleopatra' and looking ahead to another play; but which, is as yet undecided.

**30 Jul.** We continue as usual.

### Snooker

**Every Monday** ( except Bank Holidays) **11.00am- 1.00pm.** Joint Group with Watford Park.

### Sporting Forum

At our May meeting we were pleased to welcome Ed Coan - PR & Media Consultant (formerly with Watford FC but now freelance, including work for the national FA).

**16 Jun (Mon)** Evening at Windsor Races.

**15 Jul** Car rally.

**19 Aug** Garden Party Lunch.

### Strollers

**Meeting time 11.00am**

**10 Jun** Brenda & Valerie, walk in/around Kings Langley Park, lunch The Young Pretender.

**24 June** Margaret and John - Bentley Priory Stanmore Cricket Pavilion CP Lunch at The Harvester.

**8 July** Elizabeth -Walk in/ around Shenley Meet at The Pavilion Lunch at The White Horse.

**22 July** Sheila and John - Berry Woods, Aldenham Park and lunch at The Toby (on A41 roundabout).

### The Explorers

**9.30am Meet at the Essex Arms to car share**

**6 June 09.30 Charlock Way,** West Watford, Burnham

Beeches Myra Jarrett.

**4 Jul 09.30 Essex Arms to car share** Ashridge. with Diana & Alan. Park Aldbury Village near pond or in CP.

**The Rock 'n' Roll Yrs**

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

**2.30 pm Hollytree House.**

**26 Jun** Chuck Berry

**24 Jul** Bobby Darin/Duane

Eddy Contact: Andrew Cannon.

### Thirsty Walkers

**9.30am The Essex Arms!**

**26 June** Walk at Aldenham led by Jill Jenkins. From The Roundbush.

**24 Jul** Walk at Chorleywood. Led by Peter and Jean Groves.

### Tuesday Trekkers

**9.45am start at 10.00am.**

New members very welcome especially if you like walks of about 5 miles and a very worthwhile pub afterwards.

**10 Jun** Brian the Brave for a more sedate uneventful walk starting from Chipperfield Church car park.

### Walking

**Walks start at JS A41**

**9.30am except London ones.**

**Eight miles**

**11 Jun** Gt Offley.

**9 Jul** Land End.

**Six miles All 10.00am start**

**25 Jun** Harpenden.

**23 Jul** Coles Hill.

**27 Aug** Sleafshyde.

### Summer Picnic

**11 Jul Sun 11.30am Meet**

### Any News from your Study Group?

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.

**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. either for Study Group News or a short article please, to ensure that everybody is aware of all WU3A, has to offer. Ed.

**MICROSOFT OFFICE PROFESSIONAL WORD, EXCEL, ACCESS, OUTLOOK, POWERPOINT, PUBLISHER.** MRP Cost: £400+ special offer to bona fide members of the U3A **£87.03.** Contact: THE THIRD AGE TRUST 19 East Street Bromley Kent BRIQH TEL 02084666139 national.office@u3a.org.uk

**JS A41** Stowe Buckingham

### Wine Appreciation

**Last Friday in the month.**

### WitKnits

**10.00am 1<sup>st</sup> Mon each month**

### Writers Workshop

Come along and develop your skills.

New members welcome.

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

MEMBERS free ADVERTISEMENTS

A Victorian Sampler for you to sew and personalise as you wish. Kit comes complete with wool stranded cotton and instructions. £12 Marie Coe .

Advertisements may be edited or omitted depending on space available.

**RAFFLE AGAIN NEXT MONTH - 3rd JUNE in aid of the Peace Hospice**

LOTS OF GOOD PRIZES thanks to all who have donated. We are pleased to receive more at any meeting, or to our home.

**JUNE AND JOHN BAUGHEN CAN COLLECT THANK YOU.**

**Watford HF Rambling Club**  
Invites U3A Members to walk 6 miles in the Brighton Area on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September at 8.00am.** Cost £15. Meet Coach at JS A41 **Peter Manhire**

**JB Computer Services**

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Price agreed in advance

Evenings available

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**John Boughton**

**Watford U3A's**

### Projector & Laptop

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

**Colin Richards**

Email [digitalequipment@watfordu3a.org.uk](mailto:digitalequipment@watfordu3a.org.uk)

## TALKS PROGRAMME

**2008**

**Jun** Marion Birch

'Age Concern'.

**Jul** Gillian Stansfield

'Irrational Numbers'.

**Aug** Extended Coffee

**Break.** Come and catch up with your friends.

**Sep** Kyle McClland

'Watford New Health Facility'

**Oct** Pat Purcell

'Tales of the Opera'

**Nov** TBA

**Dec** WU3A

'Christmas Variety Show'.

For More detail contact Speaker Secretary

**David Helliwell**

[speakers@watfordu3a.org.uk](mailto:speakers@watfordu3a.org.uk)

Material for the

## July Newsletter

**MUST be received by: 20 June**

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

**E-mail copy to:**

[editor@watfordu3a.org.uk](mailto:editor@watfordu3a.org.uk)

## WATFORD AND DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

### Minutes of the Eleventh Annual General Meeting held at 10.00 am on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2008 at the Metropolitan Police Sports and Social Club, Aldenham Road Bushey, Herts.

**Present: John Carleton Chairman and 188 members.**

**1. Apologies for Absence** were received from 21 members, a list of the names is held by the Secretary.

**2. To approve the Minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2007.**

2. 2006 AGM held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May not 1<sup>st</sup> May. 4. Correction; Rabi Martins title not Mayor but "Chairman of Watford Borough Council". 14. 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007 not 2008\*.

On a proposal by Trevor Boardman, seconded by Peter Andrews and carried nem con., the Minutes were adopted as a correct record.

\* see footnote at end

**3 Matters arising from the Minutes.**

There were no matters arising.

**4. To receive and approve the Annual Report by the Chairman John Carleton** (printed in April Newsletter).

The Chairman said what a pleasure it was to work with the members of Watford U3A and with such an excellent committee. He thanked Dorelle Boardman, the retiring committee member, who had worked extremely hard with the Associate Members to make them welcome and feel part of the U3A. He thanked Tom O'Callaghan, who has offered to stand again as Membership Secretary, for all his hard work.

On a proposal by Jean Armstrong and seconded by David Wynne-Jones the Report was accepted nem con.

**5 To receive and approve the examined Accounts** (available at the AGM)

5a The Treasurer thanked the Committee and the Members for their support. The Auditor approved of the SGLs' reports and accounts.

5b The Treasurer said the surplus had been too high in 2007 according to the Charity Commission guidelines, but having reduced it we now had to make provision for the future replacement of ageing equipment. Our surplus was now well within the Charity Commission guidelines.

5c In response to a question by David Wynne-Jones concerning the Social Surplus the Treasurer replied that it was money accumulated from various accounts such as Christmas Lunches.

On a proposal by Terry Waterfall and seconded by Jean Pearce the Accounts were accepted nem con.

**6. To appoint an Examiner of Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009.**

Stan Hewitt was willing to stand as Examiner of Accounts for the year 2008-2009.

On a proposal by David Helliwell and seconded by Bernard Steele the appointment was confirmed nem con.

**7. To consider motions from the Committee.**

7a That Reg Cooke be re-elected as President.

On a proposal by Tony Platts and seconded by David Ware the motion was carried nem con.

7b That Mrs. Margaret Thompson be elected as an Honorary Life Member. This recognition by the Committee was for all of Margaret's work with the U3A as Chairman and all the time spent and effort involved producing the excellent Newsletter.

On a proposal by John Grainger and seconded by David Wynne-Jones the motion was carried nem.con.

The presentation was made by the President to the acclaim of the membership. Margaret expressed her appreciation and said how much she enjoyed editing the Newsletter.

**8. Address by the President Mr. Reg Cooke**

The President paid tribute to all those mentioned in the Chairman's Report who helped with the smooth running of the U3A. He felt the appointment of Margaret Thompson to become a Life Honorary Member was well justified. He also thanked John Grainger, Robin Hurley and Colin Richards who worked in the background to add to the success of our meetings.

**9. To elect three Committee Members.**

Only three nominations, John Friend, Margaret Foster and Tom O'Callaghan (current Membership Secretary) had been received for the three vacancies and so no vote was needed.

The Chairman welcomed the new Committee Members.

**10. To consider a recommendation from the Committee that from 1st April 2008\*\* the Membership Subscription**

**shall be:**

\*\* see footnote at end

£19 for members renewing their subscriptions between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 31<sup>st</sup> July.

£13 for members joining between 1<sup>st</sup> August and 30<sup>th</sup> November.

£6.50 for members joining between 1<sup>st</sup> December and 31<sup>st</sup> March.

£3.50 for Members on Income Support, whatever the time of year the member joins.

Provided that the annual subscription may be increased to such sum, not exceeding £21.50, as the Committee shall recommend to the membership by at least three weeks' written notice given at any time and expiring not later than 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009.

In response to a question from Maureen Bates as to why the subscription was reduced for 2007-2008, but raised by 27% for 2008-2009 the Treasurer replied:

1. The income had decreased by the abolition of the 50p money collected at each monthly meeting.

2. The cash in hand had seemed a little high in 2007 by Charity Commission standards, but with rising costs of e.g. the monthly venue, postage and the photocopier maintenance, there was a need to make a revised forecast.

3. The number of Members was lower this year 415 (including 5 Honorary Members) as opposed to 465 last year. The reason for this was the new U3A to which 14 members had transferred, 20 simply resigned, and 14 did not notify the Membership Secretary at all even after a telephone reminder.

4. When notification of this year's rise was sent out no-one objected.

The Chairman said the potential rise was a caveat – in case of an emergency, needing extra expenditure.

On a proposal by Monica Creegan and seconded by Dorothy Steele the recommendation was carried nem. con.

**11. To consider a proposal, from Dr. Tony Platts, duly notified in advance.**

11a THAT Clause 4(xi) of the Constitution of the Watford and District U3A be amended to read (with the amending words in italics):

4. POWERS In furtherance of the Objects but not otherwise, the Executive committee may exercise the following powers:

4(xi) Power to make and alter regulations for the conduct of the affairs of the U3A(provided such regulations are not inconsistent with this constitution *and are ratified by at least two-thirds of the membership present and voting at a general meeting*) and do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the Objects.

Tony Platts spoke to his proposal on the grounds that the existing constitution gave excessive freedom to the Committee to make changes to the Regulations without prior consultation with the membership.

The proposal was seconded by Basil Groves.

The Chairman stated his opposition to the proposal on the grounds that members are able to raise any concerns over any action of the Committee either informally or formally (by requesting a Special General Meeting).

David Wynne-Jones and Alan Prest spoke against the proposal, supporting the Committee and its right to make changes to the Regulations for the smooth running of the U3A. Bernard Steele supported the two previous speakers adding that any change to the Regulations be published.

The Proposal was put to the Meeting and was lost by an overwhelming majority.

11b Tony Platts had withdrawn this second proposal before the meeting.

**12. AOB**

12a Alan Prest said that he was unable to access the information about the AGM on the website. The Chairman agreed to investigate.

**13 Date of next AGM to be 5<sup>th</sup> May 2009.**

**14. The Chairman closed the meeting at 11 05 am.**

Signed.....

**Chairman**

.....

**Vice Chairman**

.....

**Date**

\* Change made in error

\*\*Incorrect date, should have been 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009.