

NEWSLETTER

"I've Come About the Drains!"

Study Group Topics

By Margaret Foster

Study Group Coordinator

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Editor: Margaret Thompson

Sub Editors: Jill Ibbott & Sylvia Jones.

Proof Reader: John Reeve.

NO, not me nor our two wonderful new sub editors, but Tony Rook who gave us such a wonderful, entertaining and informative talk at our May meeting about Roman Baths and Greek Temples, not to mention the dome of

St Pauls. He assured us that with a hard hat, a pencil and a clip board you can get onto any building site with a view to doing a spot of archaeology and when challenged all you have to say is 'I've come about the drains.' We learned why arches stay up! Why Roman loos have two holes and he made sure we did not get hold of the wrong end of the stick!

This newsletter seems to contain several dire warnings about various scams! **They** are out to get us but don't panic – they always have been and we have survived this far! Just common sense, folks. As we tell the children 'Don't talk to strangers' in this case on the phone and if it sounds too good to be true it is!

With frost again glistening white on the grass, despite being the merry month of May, I have been kept very busy 'hilling up' the potatoes who are wiggling their ears above the ground. I have also delayed planting out the runner and climbing beans as they don't take kindly to severe cold either. I bought some excellent cherry tomato plants at the WU3A plant sale last month. What a wonderful array of plants on offer. Thank you to all those who have beavered away, pricking out their spare seedlings on our behalf. What variety and value for money.



As you can see at the top of this page we now have two sub editors, Jill is responsible for the 'News from the Groups' and Sylvia for the back page, the 'Notice Board'. John Reeve is our proof reader. Phil Redshaw has also said he is able to help and he will be first reserve. A big Thank You to you all.

There are reports of superb walks among the bluebells in the woodlands which surround our area. one in particular in Ringshall Woods near Ashridge where one is surrounded by a fragrant sea of blue. But I can find quiet peace among the bluebells in my own garden. My house was built some 70 years ago on the parkland belonging to Oxhey Hall. Many of the wonderful majestic oak and ash trees still survive in our wonderful, large gardens, as do the myriad of bluebells which carpet my plot and never cease to bring amazement and joy.



Isn't it amazing that on the few days in the year when no newspapers are printed, "nothing happens, no news". Something similar has happened to me over the past couple of months. I have not been active so no-one has sent me anything for my column this month. I must however, say a very BIG THANK YOU to DENNIS FITTON on how very quickly he helped me by taking back the role of Study Group Co-ordinator (and he thought I would let him retire!). I must apologise to the members who have signed up for First Aid, I have not had time to arrange this but I will get round to it soon, I promise. It is a true saying that when one has nothing to say the best thing is to say nothing, so that is all the group announcements for this month.

On a personal note, I would like to take this opportunity to say a sincere thank you to the members who have been so kind, thoughtful and supportive to both me and my family during the period of my husband John's short illness and sudden death. It has given me tremendous strength to know how many friends John and I have in our U3A. I thank you for all the beautiful cards, letters, emails and phone calls, also for the many enquiries that have been made regarding my welfare. Thank you also to those members who were able to attend Johns funeral to help us celebrate his life.

Committee Notes From our Chairman John Carleton



AT THE April Monthly Meeting we were delighted to hear that two volunteers had come forward to help Margaret Thompson to edit the Newsletter and arrangements have been made for 'information for Study Group Leaders' to be sent electronically where possible, to smooth the process.

The Treasurer gave us a preview of his report for the AGM, which was very well received.

Francis Goode has kindly offered to handle the sale of next year's diaries again this year.

This month's meeting was rescheduled for 26th May, and thus will be too late for the June Newsletter.

The outgoing committee will hand over to the new officers at the AGM on June 1st. when we hope that a large number of members will be present to witness the change.

Obituaries



John Foster

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of John Foster, husband of Margaret, our Study Group Coordinator. He died on April 23rd at the Royal Free Hospital.

John and Margaret joined Watford U3A in the days of Associate Membership. In the short time since, John's ready wit and friendly nature had made him many friends. He was an active member, being the SGL for Photo Manipulation and enjoying almost all of the Exploring London trips and some of the foreign holidays as well as always being willing to step in to lend a hand where need arose. His illness prevented him from continuing to walk with the Strollers and playing his beloved golf.

He had many friends from all walks of life, including his days with BT. The fact that the large chapel at West Herts Crematorium had standing room only, showed the esteem in which he was held. We can only offer our deepest sympathy to Margaret, Tracey and Kevin. We have lost a good friend.



Pat Lucas

Pat Lucas, of pantomime fame, died suddenly on the 30th of March and will be greatly missed. A member of the Performing Arts Group she was a talented actress who brought her skill and expertise, honed in the Amateur Operatic world, to our Panto Group when she played Flora, the wicked step mother in Cinderella. and in 2007 when she directed our Christmas show 'An Old Time Music Hall'.



Nora Bellis

With great sadness we announce the death of Nora Bellis who has led the poetry group since its inception and used to attend the Shakespeare Group. For the "poets" among us, she encouraged the writing of many different types of poetry, and made it very interesting, discussing our efforts and developing our confidence.

She was a very literary person, having published a book of poems herself some years ago. Nora was a very gentle lady who loved nature and the arts in general. She liked to tell us about her life, her work, her hobbies and interests, her family and her faith – she was an active member of the Quakers. She will be sadly missed and our thoughts are with her three sons and their families, and her friends.

Peace Hospice Hunton Park Event

By Margaret Redding

THE weather let us down again this year – after weeks of no rain, it chucked it down on Sunday afternoon! Nevertheless, it was a pleasant garden-themed event attended by more than 350 people plus their children, who enjoyed asking gardening questions of a panel of experts, buying plants, cakes and gardening books and bric-a-brac. The children were entertained by face painters, colouring competitions and story telling. Needless to say, the delicious cream teas, barbecue and ice creams were very popular. The event raised over **£5,000**, a very welcome addition to hospice funds, which like all other charities, have taken a knock since last year.

We had a most helpful and willing band of volunteers, numbering 53 this year! Someone asked if we could run the Hunton Park event without the U3A – to which the answer is "We certainly could not!".

On behalf of the Hospice and the fundraising department, thank you all so much for your unstinting help and encouragement – they are very grateful to you all.

'Peace in the Garden' from Valerie Webster & Pam Grant

Thank you so much for all the support you gave to this new venture to raise funds for the Peace Hospice - it was very much appreciated.



Photo: Jean A 'Raining Stair-rods

The plant stall at the Peace

Hospice Garden Party made nearly £420, thanks to contributions from the Gardening Group, who both brought and bought, and the helpers, – the Hitchmans, the Driscolls, the Waterfalls and Jim who joined them. At the end everyone was all soaking wet, having stood in the heavy rain for nearly 45 minutes, but had great fun doing it. Particular thanks are due to Jean Armstrong who coordinated it all.

Letter to the Editor

Huge thanks as always to U3A for their huge contribution to Peace in the

Garden at Hunton Park on 16th May. Visitors enjoyed listening to our Ask the Expert panel and having the chance to ask their burning gardening question. We were honoured to have a distinguished panel consisting of Matthew Biggs from BBC4's Gardeners Question Time, Martin Finney from Ayletts and Andrew Turvey from Myddelton House. And the panel was chaired by Liz Barclay from BBC Radio 4. There was also a superb flower demonstration by Jo Bromwich which was standing room only. Lovely cream teas complemented the ice cream and BBQ on offer. Thank you to everyone who grew plants for the plant stall, contributed books and plant pots, baked cakes and also volunteered on the day in whatever capacity; not forgetting our wonderful Committee mostly made up of U3A people.

Nearly **£5,200** was raised on the day – a very welcome sum towards providing our care for people with a life limiting or terminal illness and their families. **Kind regards Maggie**

Starlight Walk on Saturday 22nd May -

Get a team together and join in the fun – take part in our starlight walk, a midnight half marathon around Watford finishing with breakfast! Go to www.starlightwalk.org.uk for more information.

Science Interest SG Members Show Their Strengths by **AJP**

A GRAND 'home-grown' effort produced lively debating on 19 April when seven members gave their renditions of aspects of modern living.

Susan Sidders started the batting with a PowerPoint presentation on Energy Saving Light Bulbs (ESLB), emphasizing their main advantage was their 90% efficiency in light production, whereas the same percentage was lost to heat with incandescent bulbs (which will be phased out by 2012). John Reeve demonstrated the varying speeds at which different ESLBs took to light up. Disposal of ESLBs should be via a waste disposal facility.

Pam Grant took us through the mire of HIPs (Home Information Packs) with the conclusion reached all round that they failed in their purpose.

Next was Elizabeth Tothill who gave us an insight into the latest gadgetry in the form of E-books which could be loaded gratis with books produced before 1900. There were three different formats on the market at present, from upwards of £129.

After the interval Roger Millard gave us a flip-chart overview of Hybrid Cars which surprised everyone with their variety and the complexity in the use of propellants.

There followed an introduction to Wi-Fi (Wireless Fidelity) by Pat Walker, who said that those without the facility could buy a Wi-Fi adaptor with USB plug-in to start a home network.

To finish Phil MacMahon introduced us to the history of TV monitors and the advantages of the latest Flat Screens, being lighter, capable of being wall-hung and had better pictures, although the sound was perhaps not so good as older monitors.



19C decorated silk & wood framed fan.

ANTIQUES:- PERSONAL

ARTEFACTS by Sheila Wolff

OUR subject in April was personal artefacts, including handbags, patch boxes, vinaigrettes, fans, etc.

Interesting to learn that fans were brought centuries ago from the far east to the west by Portuguese traders, starting with simple open fans on wood or bone handles, and were first folded in the reign of Elizabeth I.

Other folding fans were composed entirely of overlapping sticks, bound by ribbon threaded through the slots on top of the sticks. From there we went on to purses and handbags, and were shown by one member some beautiful mid C20th handbags in snakeskin and crocodile. They don't make them like that any more! Also learned how the match girls at Bryant & May went on strike due to the poisonous phosphorous-head match which was abolished by the White Matches Prohibition Act of 1908 and thus the heyday of the silver matchbox was over. Our discussions encompassed a wide range of subjects and we even learned a thing or two - if we can remember them!

The Awakening Gardens by Pam Grant

THERE can't have been many people who didn't notice how their gardens woke up in April after such a long and harsh winter! Everything seemed to happen at once. The beautiful sunny days encouraged growth from many plants that we thought had given up although some have inevitably been lost. When our group went off to Borde Hill Gardens in Sussex in mid-April we had a lovely bright day with a chilly breeze. The



Early Spring Sunshine Borde Hill Sussex

gardens, 17 acres of connected garden 'rooms' surrounded by woodland and parkland, have been gradually developed by the Clarke family who have owned Borde Hill since 1893. The Tudor House originally built by Sir Stephen Borde in 1598 remains as an attractive back

-drop to the gardens which are situated overlooking the beautiful Sussex Weald. Some people enjoyed a woodland walk or a quick visit into the house as well as wandering around the extensive grounds where there were lovely camellias, magnolias and rhododendrons. A few brave souls picniced by the lake!

Our May outing will take us back to the RHS gardens at Wisley, a great favourite with everyone. Wisley in March for a private visit was cold and damp and many plants were very late but in April on a warm sunny day the daffodils and flowering shrubs were simply lovely .

MoneyMatters by Philip Wolff

WHAT a wicked shame. I understand that we are loosing our Monthly Newsletter! It's to become a THREE MONTHLY letter. So if you want to hear MY 'words of wisdom' you will have to come to our meetings on the first Thursday of each month, because there won't be room for THREE reports in one Newsletter!!!

Report 7/04/10, APRIL 1st.! There I was expecting to be the prime April fool, it being right on two religious holidays but no we had a very good turnout albeit not quite as large as usual. (20 of us). We discussed a wide and varied group of subjects and heard fresh experiences relating to financial and care problems. The news that certain £20 notes would become illegal as from 30 June this year was explained in detail - Notes with the picture of Elgar on the reverse side will no longer be acceptable. After 30th. June they can be exchanged at banks but be warned some of them may make a charge for exchanging them, The only place you can be sure of a straight swap is at the Bank of England - if you happen to be passing their front door in the City! One thing you must watch out for is someone offering you the 'Elgar' notes AFTER the 30th, June. The typical scam will be someone asking you if you can change a £20 pound note for smaller change (for a parking meter perhaps). Have a nice month, don't get conned. See you at the June meeting.



RHS Wisley in the Spring

Hendon Aerodrome Revisited by Stuart Morris

ON 17 May, 19 Science Group members & friends visited my one-time workplace, the RAF Museum at Colindale. The day was mainly fine and we were treated to an excellent guided tour, focusing particularly on the pioneering role played at this Hendon site in the launch of aviation in Britain, and on the various developments elsewhere of engines to power all types of aircraft, military and civil. We learned of the inauguration by Claude Grahame-White before WW1, at what became known as Hendon Aerodrome, of an aero training school and factory which was taken over by the Government for operation successively by the RN Air Service, the Royal Flying Corps and ultimately the RAF, becoming central at that time in an aerial defence of London. Meanwhile, Hendon Air Shows had begun as early as 1912, becoming by 1920 the RAF Pageant and, later, Empire Air Day.



RAF Hendon had only a limited operational role during WW2. The runways were short by the developing standards and there was concern over the location's close proximity to densely developed housing. Flying from the site (except for helicopters) ceased during the late 1960s and the RAF moved out during the 1980s so that by now the Museum, opened in 1972 and subsequently having undergone several extensions, with today more in planning and the few remaining relics from the Grahame-White era imminently to be relocated within its bounds, stands virtually and proudly alone to represent this heritage. Meanwhile again, aero-engine technology has progressed from basic-derivative, through rotary and radial air-cooled, and water-cooled piston types to increasingly powerful turbo-jets.

The Museum's displays include not only a very extensive range of aircraft and replicas, covering all periods, together with the various classes of equipment and munitions which either they need to carry or are required for their ground support, but also, and not least, commemorate the men and women who operate and maintain them. Many exhibits have individual, and often moving, stories to tell.

We enthused over a 'Milestones of Flight' wall display, with a sequence of year-by-year information panels covering the century following the Wright Bros' first controlled, powered flight in 1903 and relating the development of aviation as a whole during that period, alongside events in other fields as varied as military conflicts and, in 1952, Tetleys' first marketing in the UK of tea bags. An audio-visual Battle of Britain presentation reminded us of the huge debt owed to The Few. We saw the (ex- 4th plinth in Trafalgar Sq) 5 metres tall statue of Sir Keith Park, the New Zealander under whose command were the Squadrons which bore the brunt of that Battle. Recommended! There is lots more info on the Museum's website: www.rafmuseum.org.uk And it was my birthday!

THE THIRD AGE TRUST THE "OLYMPICS" FOR U3A:

EXPLORING YOUR LOCAL WATERWAY

MANY U3As have Walking Groups and have already met their neighbouring U3As through various networks. But there are others who have not done so and here is an idea which may prove attractive.

In 2010 Regions, Networks and local U3As may like to discuss the possibility of a waterway walk to a rendezvous with a nearby U3A which would take place in summer 2012 as our contribution to an Olympic spirit. Your Regional Trustee may be able to help with contacts, and they will be able to report the degree of interest back to the NEC.

For some U3As a Canal walk may be more appropriate. Or you may prefer to go kayaking or canoeing or whatever. If not you may like to use waterways as a theme for a joint Study Day with neighbouring U3As.

The only essential elements for this to emerge as a national project would be U3As enthusiasm for water, meeting your neighbours and seeing it as an idea for U3A to celebrate the 2012 Olympics wherever you are.

The National Subject Network co-ordinators for Walking and for Canals and Inland Waterways are aware of this possible project, as are National Office and your Regional Trustee. Or you may contact me about it.

If there is enough support for the idea by the end of 2010 it is hoped to use 2011 to plan a co-ordinated U3A event.

Jill Moore (jill.moore@blueyonder.co.uk)
Regional Trustee for London

Art Appreciation at the National Gallery London By Margaret Thompson

THE Art Appreciation Group will, over the next few months, be exploring 'Social History Through Art' and to introduce this it was decided to take one of the free lecture tours which the National Gallery offer to U3As, so forty of our members made their way to London and were duly assembled in the Sainsbury Wing by 11 am. We divided into two groups to look at different pictures.

Our lecturer was Norman Cody who gave us an insight into the background and history of 5 different paintings. In Renoir's 'Umbrellas' we considered who these people were, looking at their dress and demeanour. What was the significance of the umbrellas? It was raining! Compare this with Canaletto's Feast Day of St. Roch where the Doge of Venice [detail below] carries his umbrella as a status symbol.

We had a fascinating time privileged to learn from

enthusiastic experts. What treasure in wonderful surroundings.



Family History Returns!

By Phil Redshaw

I AM planning to start a Genealogy Group, focused on family history including tracing your ancestors and their lives. Some of you may have been a member of the previous group which Michael Chapple led so excellently for many years.

The group I envisage will build on this by exploring new internet resources. All levels of experience should consider joining as beginners will be able to learn and get support from those more experienced. The later will be able to learn from each other by exploring new resources and discussing and problems they have come across.

If you are interested please put your details on the list on the N board at the next monthly meeting or contact me.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS

JOINT U3A EXHIBITION OF ART Bushey and District, Watford and District, and Watford Park U3A Upper Gallery at the Harlequin Centre 10th-19th September

In holding this exhibition I would like the accent to be on the promotion of the U3A organisation with its various activities, the painting group being just one of many.

Within the U3As there is a wealth of experience and talents and it is a real pleasure that we might showcase but just a small part of what we can do. I want to get away from the concept of being a famous artist, attracting enormous sums of money and move towards an art experienced by all. Art, in whatever field, is a fundamental and important part of our lives and it is hoped that the artists participating in the exhibition, particularly those who have not exhibited before, will enjoy the opportunity of showing their work to a wide public. The works will be for sale and hopefully we will be self supporting.

Once the idea has sufficiently progressed I will issue further information regarding the hanging procedure.

From **Francis Smith**, Painting Group1 Leader,
Watford Park U3A francis659@btinternet.com

Computer Faulty & Virus Scams from Pat Walker

IF someone saying they are from Microsoft rings up and tells you that a fault has been identified on your computer do NOT turn on your computer but try to ascertain a name or phone number (dial 1471) and notify the police 0845 33 00 222 who are aware of this scam. Microsoft will not know your telephone number and will always contact you by e-mail. The scammer is trying to corrupt your machine and then charge you a lot for fixing it. Let your neighbours know if this happens to you. There also seems to be another spate of e-mails saying there is a delivery problem with a parcel. The e-mails say they are from parcel delivery firms, like DHL or UPS. They all contain an attachment with a VIRUS.

Wine Appreciation Group. By John Britten

MANY U3A study groups include an annual lunch in their programme, but I suspect that few of those meals form such an integral part of the course as that arranged each year for the Wine Appreciation Group. Our monthly tastings are usually carried out without any food to accompany them, but the lunch meeting gives us an opportunity to try a number of wines in a more realistic situation. This year we had eleven wines, accompanying an excellent four course meal, which allowed some interesting combinations. A dry white port was one choice with the smoked mackerel paté starter, but most of us thought that a classic Chablis was the ideal partner. This wine like two others was from the Tesco Finest range, and it surprised many of us who normally shop in other supermarkets. Some of the red wines struggled to cope with the rich beef casserole, but a well oaked New Zealand Merlot was the winning choice for some.

For dessert, a Spanish Muscatel was almost as good as the superb orange jelly which preceded the cheese, and we ended with another surprise; a sweet Greek Mavrodaphne which was likened to a good light port. Throughout all this, Ron Swithenbank managed to remember Tony's introductory words, and so won this year's "Wine Challenge". Our thanks were due to Jill for her cooking, Tony for his selection of wines, and this year to Tony's wife Maureen for the heavenly dessert; recipe promised; next month!



Exploring London

by Pat Harding

OUR April outing was a tour round the Olympic sites in London. We were guided by Edwin through the East End to Stratford. There we took a short walk to a viewing area and saw a very large building site taking shape. The Stadium was visible and is now being fitted out. Edwin pointed out the swimming pools and velodrome where work is well

underway on the athletes' accommodation. We then drove back to Stratford where we had lunch in a shopping centre, followed by a drive round the perimeter of the site and then on to the Thames Barrier. After viewing the barrier we saw the Excel Centre, City Airport, Greenwich and back to the Dome for a welcome drink. Edwin caught his train while we journeyed back to Watford.

In May we visited Kew Bridge Steam Museum and the Musical Museum and after a traffic free journey arrived very early. However there was a garden to look round before coffee was served and then, split into three groups we were shown round the Museum.

The enthusiastic guides were excellent. We heard about the history of developing safe drinking water and how the engines worked. Unfortunately the engines are expensive to steam up and are only run on certain weekends. It would certainly be worth a return visit on one of those Sundays.

Next we walked round to the Musical Museum where a buffet lunch was served in the concert hall. We were



entertained by Richard Cole, the curator, who played the Wurlitzer Organ and demonstrated all its sounds. He then took us to the ground floor galleries and told us the history of the instruments, mainly organs, pianos and pianolas and played some of these. He has concerts at the museum which would be well worth attending. He also accompanies silent films. After tea and biscuits and a visit to the shop we made our way home.

A Warning to U3A Members from Dennis Fitton

Yvonne and I are going to Antwerp and need to renew our European Health Insurance Cards (Formerly E111). I 'googled' E111 and picked the first site on the list. This informed me that we would have to pay £9.45 per card. I thought it should be free. Sure enough when I checked the NHS site *it is free*.

When obtaining official documents such as this or visas it is necessary to check that you are on the official site and not on one that is going to charge you for supposedly rendering you a service.

'Words and Music'

An April Miscellany of Love by The Performing Arts Group led by Brian [L] and Margaret Redding [R] who performed 'A Fine Romance'. Directed by Alex James Photos John Grainger

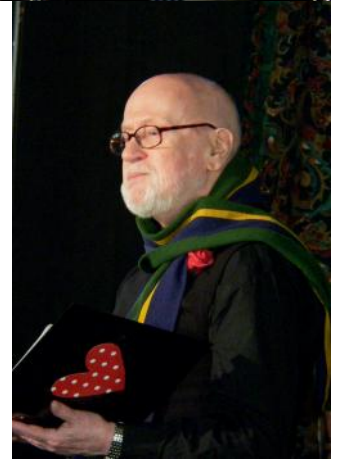


[Above] Alex receives a bouquet of thanks from of the cast.



From Shakespearean Sonnet to Pam Ayres an excellent entertainment was provided by [R] Colin Richards and Basil Groves 'On taking a Wife' and David Helliwell [L] 'On the Road to Mandalay' [Below] Colin Richards and Margaret Thompson provide

[above] Colin Dorme with 'A Thunderstorm in Town' and below Cynthia Morgan with 'Polly Garter's Song'. Ron Wood [Far R] in 'The bar on the Piccola Marina'.



'An Elergy for Arthur Prance the Man who taught the Stars to Dance'
[bottom L] Eileen Burnett and Basil Groves with 'Lady Singleton'. And [far R] the final bow and applause for a superb audience who obviously enjoyed it as much as the cast.



STUDY GROUP NEWS

Please see 'The Study Group Diary' for Group Leaders contact numbers and times and venues of Study Group Meetings.

Anglo-German Walks

4th Friday 9.30am

Antiques

2nd Tues of the month

2.00-4.00pm at my home.

8th Jun Oil lamps, lighting.

Art Appreciation

2nd Mon 10.00 for 10.30am at Hollytree House.

14 Jun National Gallery Art

Lecture revisited part 1 'Social History in Art' and 'Pieter Brueghel the Elder Margaret Thompson.

12 Jul National Gallery Art

Lecture revisited part 2 Margaret Bolton and 'William Hogarth' Cynthia Morgan.

9 Aug - 'L S Lowry' (1887-1976) & 'James Tissot' (1836-1902) Joyce Hoffbrand.

13 Sep 'Art in Liverpool's Galleries' Margaret Bolton.

27 Sep Liverpool 5 day visit.

Bridge Improvers

2nd & 4th Tues 2.15-4.30pm

NB. earlier start. New members welcome, but please check first as dates will sometimes vary.

Book Discussion Grp

4th Mon 2.00-4.00pm

28 Devereux Drive.

New members welcome.

Chess

2nd & 4th Tues 9.30am

We still have members joining us to relearn the game and they are most welcome. The general strength of the original members is very good which means very competitive games between them at our meetings. Very pleasurable they are, too. Anybody still wishing to either learn from scratch or relearn to play grandchildren is welcome.

Computers

3rd Thurs 2.00pm Thorpe Community Room, Garston Fire Station, St Albans Road, (Next Asda)

New members welcome.

Classics Group

3rd Mon 2.15pm

New members are always welcome.

Cryptic Crosswords

1st & 3rd Fri of the month.

Current Affairs

3rd Tues 10.00am

Hollytree House.

Cycling

10.00am 1st Mon & 3rd

Wednesday starting at Watford Met Station.

7 Jun Apsley via Felden.

16 Jun Leader away, still no volunteers to lead today. Do what you like!

5 Jul Heronsgate.

21 Jul Denham.

2 Aug Bridle paths Sarratt.

18 Aug Black Jack's Mill followed by Summer picnic chez Y & D.

6 Sep St Albans via Chiswell Green.

15 Sep Car Assist to Ware area. Contact DF for details.

4 Oct South Mimms via Radlett and Ridge.

20 Oct Elstree Airfield café.

DIY Discussion

2nd Mon 10.00am-12 noon

Tree Bridge House, Garston Lane.

European Studies

4th Wed 10.00am

We have now planned our meetings through until February 2011.

23 Jun Portugal.

28 Jul Pursuit of Glory Rulers and Elites .Discuss.

25 Aug Outbreak of French. Revolution and Rights of Man.

22 Sep Reign of Terror.

27 Oct Rise of Napoleon.

Exploring London

Essex Arms at 10.30am.

Please park away from the roundabout at the Essex Arms.

2 Jun Ely Walking tour plus visit to Cromwell House.

1 Ticket available

7 Jul Bletchley Park Guide for day. Includes lunch.

5 tickets available

4 Aug Basildon Park near

Reading. National Trust Property. Tickets on sale at the meeting

If any members would like to join us in June or July please see Terry at the meeting

Film Group

1st Thurs 2.15pm

18 Herga Court

1 Jul A Town Like Alice (1956) Virginia McKenna.

Peter Finch. In 1941 the advancing Japanese army captures a lot of British territory very quickly. The men are sent off to labour camps. (117mins)

5 Aug Little Miss Sunshine

(2006) Abigail Breslin. Greg Kinnear. A family determined to get their young daughter into the finals of a beauty pageant take a cross-country trip in their VW bus. (101 mins)

2 Sep A Handful of Dust

(1988). James Wilby. Kristin Scott Thomas. The wife's affair hasten the demise of an upper-class English marriage. (118mins)

Food & Nutrition

Combewood House. 2.00pm

(5th Tues. in June).

29 Jun Trip to Thaxted and The Chocolate Lady in Steeple

Bumpstead. I will be collecting the money at the AGM - £19 if you have selected tea and biscuits or £20 for a cream tea.

I will be issuing tickets with your selection on it and displaying places to eat in Thaxted for your individual choice. There are a few seats available so please come and see me if you would like to come.

27 Jul 2.00pm Combewood.

Presentation and sampling of dishes from Oakhouse Foods. We will be saying goodbye to Combe-wood Manager, Jenny Janes on this occasion so please come along to give her a rousing send-off!

August No meeting.

28 Sep Trip Wobbly Bottom

Farm Hitchin; specialising in goat's cheese with a presentation by the owner, sampling and a chance to purchase goats and hard cheeses, followed by a trip to Hitchin to visit the market and museum. List will be on the notice board.

Gardening

3rd Thurs

17 Jun Gardeners' World Live and Good Food Show at the NEC, Birmingham.

15 Jul Merriments in East

Sussex. Nursery, gardens and short tour. Tickets on sale in June to Group members, on open sale in July.

19 Aug Garden Party for Group members in Ian and Hazel Jones' garden. More details later.

16 Sep Saville Gardens. Tickets on sale in Aug, Sept.

German conversation

1st & 3rd Thurs 10am-12 noon

Greetings Cards

Hollytree House

10 Jun Iris Folding

3 Jul Outing to 'International

Art Stamp and Papercraft

Fair' at Newbury Racecourse.

Coach 9am from Essex Arms.

Leave Newbury approx 4.30.

£16 includes entry to show.

Contact YF to book/pay.

Cheques to Watford and

District U3A.

8 Jul and 12 Aug to be

arranged by group.

History

2nd Mon 2.00pm Fire Station

Garston (Asda CP off A41)

Italian

10.00am alt Thurs

A self help group, using audio/visual material, written exercises and original Italian texts. We are guided by a fluent Italian speaker.

Jazz

3rd Wed 2.30pm

See Peter Andrews.

Our last session was based on Jazz Percussion. So I did it on Vibes and Drums with a fair number of different and unusual combinations of players.

19 May, David will continue to progress with the Jazz Alphabet and will programme players and sessions starting with C.

London Theatre Group

Aylesbury Waterside Theatre is a brand new theatre which is opening in October. We have got seats for one of the first productions which is Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Weber's **Evita**. The price of a ticket, including coach, is £20. We will be selling tickets at the July meeting. Please let Eileen Cox or Marie McMorrin know asap. if you wish to go.

Luncheon Club

4th Wed in month

Any members who would like to join us for lunch. Please phone Fay for further details.

Money Matters

1st Thurs 10.00am to Noon
Hollytree House; corner of Gammons Lane & Courtlands Drive, Watford.

Music Appreciation

3rd Wed: 10.00am Coffee and chat. **10.30am** meeting.

Jun Greig.

Jul & Aug Choral Music, bring your favourite CD.

Sep TBA.

Oct & Nov Mahler.

Needlecraft

1st and 4th Mondays, at Combewood, Garston.

Opera

2nd Monday in month 2.00pm at Christine's house.

14 Jun Otello by Verdi

12 Jul The Marriage of Figaro - Mozart

9 Aug No meeting

13 Sep Joan of Arc by Verdi

12 Nov Glyndbourne Touring company's production of 'Don Giovanni' at Milton Keynes; tickets will be on sale at the June meeting.

Pathfinders Group

The Essex Arms **9.25am**

22 Jun Aston Hill.

Performing Arts

Johanna's Mon 7.30pm

14 Jun 7.30 pm Talk on script-writing for film and theatre by Joan Greening. 9 Nancy Downs, Oxhey

Sun 25 Jul Summer Garden Party. 12 St Marys Avenue, Northwood. Invitations to follow.

13 Sep 7.30 pm. Play reading. 9 Nancy Downs, Oxhey Other dates to be confirmed via Performing Arts news-letter. Membership enquiries Brian.

Return to Cycling

1st Thurs Pump House 2.00pm.

Science Interest

3rd Monday 10.00am

21 Jun Integrating Wind Power - Leon Freris.

19 Jul Historic Dyes Chris Cooksey.

16 Aug Visit to Kelvedon Hatch? More on this 21 Jun. New members welcome!

Scrabble 1

2nd and 4th Thursdays. Our group is still full.

Scrabble 2

2nd Thurs 10.00am. Our group is now full.

Shakespeare

Last Wed 2.00pm

30 Jun Having completed the reading of: "King Richard the Second", we will prepare to read the newly chosen: "Timon of Athens".

28 Jul We shall watch the BBC DVD version of the play, using the U3A projection equipment.

25 Aug We continue reading the play with, hopefully, a better understanding.

Snooker

Every Monday (except Bank Holidays) **11.00am-1.00pm.** Joint Group with WPU3A.

Sporting Forum

3rd Tuesday at Combewood (unless outing)

7 Jun (Mon) Evening racing at Windsor.

15 Jun Top Golf.

20 Jul Mystery Car Run.

17 Aug Summer Lunch

Strollers

2nd & 4th Tues 11.00am Distances are not shown but are usually 2.5 to 3 miles.

8 Jun CP Prestwick rd/Oxhey Dr. Walk Oxhey Woods eat Load of Hay, Phil.

22 Jun 'Garden of the Rose' Chiswell Green. Ent. Charge £5. Gwen & Don.

13 Jul Grimsdyke Big CP overlooking Harrow. Eat at Bushey Harvester or nearby. Leader Myra.

27 Jul Planning meeting host Peggy, bring own lunch.

10 Aug Chorleywood CP by the Cricket ground. Eat Black Horse Dog Kennel Lane

Table Tennis

Mondays TBA at 7.30pm

St. Marks Church Leggatt's Way. Gordon Hitchman SGL.

As summer approaches playing table tennis becomes hot work, so, like football it has a close season. The Table Tennis group will start up again in September when the season begins. I will E-mail all known members from last year as to time and date on the first meeting, so pack your bats away, have a good summer with plenty of sunshine and leisure and be ready to give it your all in September.

The Explorers

1st Friday All walks start at 10.00am.

4 Jun 9.30 am . Essex Arms to

car share .Pulpit Hill nr Princes Risborough. Leaders Jean & John Dolamore.

2 Jul 9.30 am Charlock Way to Car Share. Thames Walk & Picnic Leader Myra Jarrett.

6 Aug 10.00am Near Red Lion PH Chenies. Chenies / Sarratt. Leader Elizabeth Tothill

3 Sep 10.00am The Coach & Horses Croxley Green. Croxley Green Area

Leader Yvonne Fitton.

The Rock 'n' Roll Yrs – 4th Thurs 2.30pm Hollytree House.

24 Jun :Hits of 1961 Part 1.

22 Jul : Hits of 1961 Part 2.

Aug: no meeting!

Thirsty Walkers

Every 4th Thurs.

9.30am outside The Essex Arms to share cars. At the end of the walk we stop to enjoy a friendly lunch. Why not come and join us?

24 Jun Walk in Chess Valley with Bob Bassett and Alan Rose.

22 Jul Walk at Bedmond led by the two Alans, Humphris and Betts. From The White Hart.

26 Aug Walk from Redbourn Common. Lunch at The Cricketers. Led by Peter and Jean Groves.

Toffee

3rd Thursday 10.00am-12.00

Tuesday Trekkers

Meet 9.45am 10.00am.

8 Jun Brenda/Tony. This will be different walking London country to and over Hampstead Heath. Lunch at Kenwood, is it their ancestral home? Poss tea at Golden Hill Park. **Note** meet 10.30 Finchley Rd Met Station. Bring bus pass.

13 Jul Jean/Peter. Meet Ley Hill to start walk at 1000. CP near Crown Pub. Three iron required to cover last few hundred yards.

10 Aug Dennis. Another bus pass epic use 724 towards Heathrow and alight Denham Stn. Bus stop Garston garage 09.43 St Alb Rd Library 09.50 Wat Junc 10.02 Ricky Rd 10.08 Crox 2 Bridges 1011 Crox Met 10.14 Ricky Stn 10.16 Ariv Denham 10.26. Walk back to Ricky and many return buses to Watford, unless you want to carry on walking!

U3A Singers

1st & 3rd Monday 2.30pm

Extra voices welcome!

Walking

Most walks meet. JS A41

Eight miles 9.30am

19Jun Mill End Henley.

14 Jul Caldecott.

Six miles 10.00am

23 Jun Gt.Gaddesden.

18 Jul 12.15hrs (Sunday).

Walking Summer Picnic.

Walkers are invited to enjoy a picnic lunch, followed by visiting Stevenage Old Town where 12 gardens will be open at a cost of £5.00 pp. Proceeds to the Red Cross. Meet at J Sainsbury's A41, Dome.

28 Jul Whippendell Woods.

Did you know these two Groups have space for YOU. Contact Peter Manhire.

18 Sep 8.00am J Sa.A41 Dome, Leaving Bath 5.00pm.

Combined H.F.& U3A

Ramble Destination Bath, 12mile, 6mile walk, on the Cotswold Way to Bath. Those who would like to go to Bath only, are welcome.

Wine Appreciation

Last Friday in the month.

Writers Workshop Come and develop your writing skills. New members welcome.

Sub Editor

Study Groups News

My name is Jill Ibbott and I am taking over the editing of the 'Study Group News' section of the newsletter.

Please send us some News about your group or one that you attend. Copy to the usual email address:-

editor@watfordu3a.org.uk

by **20th of August** for the

September issue. Please

include dates up to or beyond December when the Newsletter will again be published.

Short reports (in Times New Roman Font/10 & no tabs or tables please) should precede your dates which should be date /month (3 letters only) in bold, time and then the activity. Longer reports will become articles edited by Margaret Thompson.

Thank you *Jill*

**VUE CINEMAS –
OPERA, BALLET & SHAKESPEARE
SHOWINGS FOR 2010**

28 Jun 2pm 'La Fille du Regiment' from the Royal Opera House .
29 Jun 6.15pm 'La Fille du Regiment' the Royal Opera House .
5 Jul 2pm 'Swan Lake' from the Royal Ballet Covent Garden.
6 Jul 6.15pm 'Swan Lake' the Royal Ballet Covent Garden.
16 Aug 2pm 'Il Barbiere di Siviglia' from the Teatro Real, Madrid
17 Aug 6.15pm 'Il Barbiere di Siviglia' the Teatro Real, Madrid.
27 Sept. 2pm 'Aida' from the Royal Opera House.
28 Sept 6.15pm 'Aida' from the Royal Opera House.
11 Oct. 2pm. 'As You Like It' from the Globe Theatre.

DON GIOVANNI by MOZART

The Glyndbourne Touring Company production on 12 Nov 2010 at Milton Keynes Theatre

Tickets £41.50 will be on sale on June 2nd at the monthly meeting or please contact
Christine Betts

WU3A Greetings Cards Group Outing.

Places available

International Art Stamp and Papercraft Fair

Newbury Racecourse : Saturday 3rd July.
Coach Pick-up: 9.00am. Essex Arms, Langley Way.
Please park carefully with regard to residents.
Leaving Newbury at approx 4.30pm.
Cost: £16 includes entry and driver's tip. Cheque made payable to Watford and District U3A.
Contact: Yvonne Fitton

Peace Hospice Raffle

WOW! what a great start for the 2010 raffles. We made £260 in March. Thank you so much for your generosity and thank you too, to our many helpers selling the tickets, and folding and drawing them. Without your generous prize donations we couldn't do it so, PLEASE, keep them coming in. Bring to any meeting, or we can collect.
Next raffle will be at the June meeting.
Thank you, John and June Baughen.

**Watford U3A's
Projector & Laptop
computers**
To make a booking for a digital projector & a laptop computer contact:
Colin Richards
**digitalequipment@
watfordu3a.org.uk**

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Contact:
**THE THIRD AGE
TRUST, 19 East St.
Bromley, Kent BRI 1QH**
tel 02084666139 email:
national.office@u3a.org.uk

**Vue Cinema Senior
Citizens**

Mon at 12.00noon £3.50.
Films are shown and include tea and biscuits Titles can be obtained from the website or by telephone 08712 240240

U3A Almoners

Please let us know of any member who is sick or bereaved and in need of the support of our U3A so that we can contact them.

**Irene Lowe
Peggy Element
Janet Carleton
Kathleen McMahon**

Committee members

**Chairman
John Carleton
Secretary
Yvonne Fitton
Study Group Coordinator
Margaret Foster
Membership Secretary
John Friend**

**JB Computer Services
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jb.computerservices@yahoo.co.uk**

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visits
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upgrades; Data backups
Price agreed in advance
10 years repairing PCs
John Boughton**

Dear Editor From Barbara Rogers:-
I am awaiting an urgent operation on my hip and I am being considered for a cancellation in the near future. Raymond will have to go into respite care in Watford. As he likes short walks every day he would appreciate friends calling at the care home and taking him out. Please telephone me or our son if you can help and put my mind at rest. Thank you.

**Monthly Meeting Talks
programme.**

1st Tuesday

10.00am - 12.00noon.

6 Jul Chris Pound : Works for UNESCO on world heritage sites.

3 Aug Graham Marett: Black Holes.

7 Sep Geoff Runnells Davis : An introduction to UK Canals & Waterways.

5 Oct Alan Ruffhead : 50 years of making medicine.

**For More detail contact
Speaker Secretary:-**

David Helliwell

**speakers@watfordu3a
.org.uk**

**Next Newsletter
September**

**Material for this
can be sent anytime
but MUST be
received by:**

20 August

E-mail copy to:

**editor@watfordu3a.org.
uk**