

NEWSLETTER

Harvest time

Study Group Topics

By Margaret Foster

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THE raspberries are picked so it time to gather the green beans, harvest the courgettes before they are marrows and lift another root of potatoes.

There is nothing as satisfying or tasty as eating vegetables you have grown yourself. My garden is looking good except for mouldy garlic (white onion rot) in one corner!

Disaster, as it takes 15 years, not growing onions on that patch, for it to be eradicated.

Jean Grainger, who is a very knowledgeable gardener, says that it could be spread by foxes feet. They like garlic and dig it up, moving from garden to garden. Alan Wray tells me you can get 'stuff' to deter them.

Ah well, a new day, a new Committee, a new Chairman ; another wonderful year of

*Notes From the
Chairman*
Terry Godfrey



WU3A. On behalf of us all; thank you for coming forward, without you no WU3A!

Yes we need members, but we need a strong team to steer the ship and keep it on course and it would seem, to also be experts in crowd control! It was good to see people getting to their seats quickly after the coffee break, thus not keeping either our chairman or the speaker waiting.

In July we had a real treat hearing Chris Pound, [R] who is a consultant for World Heritage,



tell us about his work and the amazing world sites with which he has been involved. We really are very privileged to get such eminent speakers. Thanks to David Helliwell, our Speaker Secretary.

In August the very high standard was maintained when Graham Marrett took on the complicated matter

of 'Black Holes', A difficult subject which he managed to explain in terms which I, not a physicist, could enjoy and understand.

I was pleased to hear that we will be able to continue to meet in the wonderful Metropolitan Police Club for the foreseeable future, now that the limit has been increased to 300. When it was only 250 our membership was capped at 400 and Ass. Membership, had to be introduced, enabling people to at least attend the Study Groups. The Committee had a horror of members arriving at the monthly meeting and being turned away or not having a chair to sit on.

Finally a plea to 'keep safe' your Study

AT our last Monthly meeting I am sure that you were pleased at the way that Study Group Leaders made their announcements, concise, to the point with no time wasted. It was John Grainger who suggested that the SGL's be assembled on one side of the hall and it was a nice touch that Margaret Foster introduced each of the SGL'S as they came to the podium. It was well organised and thanks to all concerned.

I am pleased to advise that at the next Third Age Trust AGM we will have two representatives, Margaret and Brian Redding, casting Watford's two votes for the selection of Chairman, two Vice Chairman and other issues, not least where future AGMs are to be held; in the past TAT have held AGMs all over the UK in the hope that more people from the regions would attend, but it has not worked out that way, for if in Scotland, or way down in South Wales, it was too far and too costly for many, thus attendance was low.

You will be surprised and I hope pleased with the new system for serving morning coffee. Margaret Redding and I attended a monthly meeting of Bushey U3A in order to find out how they managed their monthly meeting's coffee breaks. They do not suffer the congestion around the stage area of the hall and their members have better access to the tables where the coffee is located, which is the way that we have arranged it for this month. No one likes change, but please be patient and let us see if the new method is better than what we have been used to.

IT feels like a long time since I last wrote my column, but was in fact last June, three whole months and here we are again.

There will be an opening ceremony for the joint U3A art exhibition (See ad p9) on Saturday 11th September at 2.00pm. If you can go along it will be a nice support for our exhibitors.

I have forwarded to Watford Boy's Grammar School, the lists of members who signed for up for the Languages courses and as soon as I hear from them I will contact the relevant members.

If you are a member of a group and for any reason feel you would like to move on to experience a different group, this is very acceptable, and one reason why we have so many groups enabling members to have a variety from which to choose. BUT please tell the Study Group Leader of the group you will be leaving, it is courtesy and helps the SGL to know there is a vacancy in their group.

As you will understand I receive a good number of telephone calls from members which is very nice, however if you get the answer phone would you please remember to leave your name, telephone number, date and time of the call. It helps me to return your call quickly.

This month I had the pleasure of joining the Cycling Group for their summer picnic and the Gardening Group for their Garden Party, both very enjoyable occasions and the opportunity for me to speak to members and put even more names to faces. Thank you both groups (same time next year!).

The SGLs meeting will be on Friday 17th September 2010 at 2.30pm at The Watford Library. Please let us repeat the good attendance that we had last March. Give us a good, safe month and I hope to see you at the Monthly Meeting

Group Synopsis and the most recent Newsletter which contains, (if the SGLs have sent it in!) the most recent Group information. I know that yesterday's news is today's fish and chip wrapper but not our NL surely! Jill has agreed to produce 'News from the Groups' every month! The next full NL will be a bumper Christmas Issue in December. *Ed.*

Science Interest Study Group Reports by A.J.P Professor Leon Freris Tells Us Straight.

OUR own expert on wind-generated power gave us a powerful exposition in June, explaining that the world electrical power is derived from coal 39 %, gas 15%, nuclear 16%, oil 10%, and 19 % hydro and other renewables.

Wind power relies on adequate average annual wind speed. The UK generates 40% of the total European wind energy resource. The intention is that by 2020, 34% of the European electricity will be generated by wind power, the UK reaching this level mainly through the development of 33GW of offshore wind farms. In power systems typically there is a 5 per cent loss in transmission from generators to consumers but for large offshore wind farms Direct Current transmission will be used which is more efficient than Alternating Current. Wind turbines have efficiencies approaching 50% which is quite an engineering achievement as the maximum theoretical efficiency is 59%. In that respect they are not different but a lot more efficient than ordinary power stations the best of which have efficiencies approaching 40% with an upper limit set by the Carnot cycle for heat engines.

At peak demand the average UK house uses 7-10 kw. If all houses in the UK were to demand their maximum requirements, simultaneously, there would not be enough installed generation capacity to provide it! This is avoided through 'aggregation' i.e. the 'time shifted demands of millions of houses, transport, industry, that provides a smooth 'power demand - time' curve. Predicting the demand is essential in meeting it from minute to minute and hour to hour. The computers used by the National Grid use historical and other data capable of an average prediction error of only 1.3 %.

To ensure security of supply an operating reserve or 'headroom' and a 'plant margin' are essential to avoid disconnecting consumers. This 'headroom' in the UK is about 2.5 GW and the plant margin is 15GW. Achieving 100% reliability is not possible - hence the power cuts which we experience very occasionally. The 'power balancing' task of the National Grid will be more onerous if considerable energy generated by wind is added to the system. Wind has its own variability which can also be moderated by 'aggregation' of wind turbines in a wind farm and of geographically dispersed wind farms over the UK. To maintain the same security of supply, extra reserves will have to be provided. The cost of these has been calculated and will only add a few percentage points to the price of electricity. The talk ended with a list of various technological fixes that can mitigate the variable output from wind for even larger penetrations from wind power than those planned for the UK by 2020.



Tower Bridge Exhibition Outing **Photos John Reeve**

MONDAY 16th August started cloudy but changed later to a brilliant sunny day for 15 of us to enjoy a day in London among the many foreign visitors to Tower Bridge. After we watched a video, our guide shared several stories and anecdotes about the bridge's history as we traversed the upper walkways, where we sampled the many photographic views of the Thames depicted

in the 'Source to Sea' exhibition, all the while enjoying panoramic views of London and the water traffic. Then taking the lift down to the bowels we marvelled at the huge steam-powered machinery (since 1976 superseded by oil & electric power) in the Victorian engine room that, from 1892, was responsible for the lifting of the centre parts of the bridge, the bascules ("bascule" comes from the French for "see-saw").



Historical Dyes

IN July Chris Cooksey gave us a fascinating overview of fashionable dyes that were developed in the distant past, some of which are still used to-day.

Indigo produced from native woad leaves is also sourced from India and French West Indies. Wool immersed in woad for 20 minutes is colourless when removed but becomes coloured when exposed to air. Nowadays synthetic indigo, developed by a German chemist, is more efficacious than dried woad.

Chinese Green was used by steeping the material in a suspension of two varieties of buckthorn in water and when sun-dried it turns green.

Mauveine is derived from coal. Adding nitric acid & potassium dichromate to the extract produces an aniline dye; the first synthetic organic dye. At the Royal Exhibition of 1862, Queen Victoria made an appearance in a silk gown dyed with mauveine.

Fuchsine (magenta) –A dark green aniline dye used to make a purple-red dye employed in colouring textiles and leather and as a bacterial stain on slides.

Lichen Purple grows on rocks by the sea and is gathered and ammonia is added, urine in former days, then it is exposed to air and stirred daily. Used as litmus. Kermes, an insect dye made by using dried female cochineal insects captured on oaks and, then boiled, cooled & dried.

Madder, an orange-red dye from this long lived perennial of the family Rubiaceae, is the same family as coffee. Madder roots produce one of the most light-fast of natural dyes and have been in use for over 5,000 years. Archaeologists have found traces of madder in linen in Tutankhamen's tomb (1350 BC), and in wool discovered in Norse burial grounds.

Shellfish Purple or Tyrian purple is from 3 types of shellfish found in the Mediterranean and is sometimes called royal purple or imperial purple. Tyrian Purple was actually much closer to magenta in colour, with the raw dye looking like "clotted blood" according to Pliny the Elder (Gaius Plinius Secundus, 23-79 AD) who wrote about the process of manufacturing Tyrian Purple.

Today, a variety of synthetic dyes are used instead.

Obituary

Dr. Maurice Tylerman

We are sad to announce the death, after a long illness, of Maurice Tylerman who until his illness was a regular attendee at our monthly meetings and whose dry wit will be greatly missed. Our sympathy goes to his family and friends.

Look at our website for more information :www.watfordu3a.org.uk

LAKE GARDA AND OBERAMMAGAU

by Pat Harding

WOW! what a holiday. It was nonstop action from the time we left Watford until we returned. The weather was hot apart from some showers in Verona. After worrying as to whether we would get away, the flight was rearranged for 7-20am which meant leaving the Essex arms at 4-30am. We were joined by some members of Bushey U3A, and later at Milan airport by members of the Basingstoke Methodist circuit and some extra passengers to make up the numbers. Our guide was Natalie.

It was a 2.5 hour journey to Lake Garda where we checked in to our hotel and then some of us walked to the lake which was beautiful with lots of fish and ducks. We walked back through the narrow streets of Garda, filled with cafes and small shops selling leather goods and souvenirs. Others took



advantage of the swimming pool at the hotel or just took it easy.

Through the week we explored Lake Garda, took an optional excursion to the Dolomite Mountains. The scenery was fantastic, and to our surprise when we ascended the Sass Pordoi ski lift, 2950 metres high it was snowing. We went to Verona and Venice where in both places we explored thoroughly. Saturday we drove to Innsbruck where we said goodbye to Natalie and Servina, the driver. We transferred to another coach and met the guide Gavin and driver Herbert who would look after us in Germany. We had some time in Innsbruck, and then drove into Bavaria, to our Hotel in Oberau. The party had been split into several hotels and guest houses around the area. Oberau was a small village about 8 kilometres from Oberammergau.



Image: Courtesy of Wikipedia

hours which included dinner, and the play ended at 11 o'clock. A lot of the villagers took part and included donkeys, sheep, goats, horses and camels. Although performed in German, we had a translation to follow. It was very moving. The oddest part was that as the crucifixion scene neared, clouds rolled up and at the exact time, we had heavy rain, thunder and lightning! Afterwards we met Gavin who took us back to the coach park and our hotels.

Monday, we left Oberau for Munich airport from where we flew home to Heathrow and then back to Watford. Thank you Jackie for arranging this trip. It was an amazing experience and I'm sure none of us will forget it. I understand that we may do a return visit to Venice next year for a short break and would be pleased to welcome some more members to join us.



???? Having Problems with using your computer software? Why not come along to The Computer Club On the 3rd Thursday Of each month at 2 pm, at the Fire Station next to Asda. We will do our best to help You solve those problems. Spam Phone Calls

One of my neighbours received a telephone call from a man saying he was from BT (he gave an English name but his voice was African). He said they owed £118 in unpaid bills and if they did not pay up immediately he would cut them off.

People do need to register with the Telephone Preference Group who filter out their number from lists flying about. However try to obtain the persons' name, telephone number and the location from which they are calling and then pass onto Police and BT. Do not get into conversation the with caller best to put the phone down. **SGL Pat Walker.**



Absolutely Brilliant Household Tip

From David Helliwell. (It works well for him!)

Always keep several get well cards on the mantle so if unexpected guests arrive they will think you've been sick and unable to clean.

Wine Wine!! Quite Unusual - Probably Expensive by John Britten

RON'S expansion of the acronymically branded Californian Roussane QUPE was an apt description of our July tastings, when we were treated to a group of wines that we would probably seldom buy for ourselves. The most expensive of them was a 2008 Graticciaia, made from 100% semi-dried Negroamaro grapes from Puglia in Southern Italy which cost £34 from Tony's special wine merchants in Clitheroe. It was liked by everyone in the group, without the usual difference of opinion between those on the right and left sides of the table. Another universal favourite was the nectar-like Vouvray with which we ended the meeting; very traditional, very sweet, and very very good. Earlier in the summer, rather as the Orchestra of the Air had once famously performed without Toscanini, the Group had carried on without their guide and mentor. "Rehearsals" had taken place in May, when we were set the task of ranking eight medium-priced wines in terms of value for money. We were surprisingly consistent in our judgements, and very much in line with Tony's own ranking. So in June, whilst Tony was on holiday, six members each introduced a wine of their choosing. Most were classic French wines, ranging from Jill's Sancerre-like Sauvignon Blanc to John's false-GSM Faugeres. So in a true expression of U3A principles, we learned as we taught, and we taught what we had learned Q E D!

Gardening Group News by Pam Grant

All the members of the Gardening Group have been facing the same challenges as everyone else in looking after their gardens, large or small, during the hot dry summer we've had in the South-East. After such a hard winter and late spring some plants have struggled or given up completely and others have done surprisingly well. We benefited from the delayed spring on our trip to Wisley in May for example because all the rhododendrons and azaleas were late so the colour on Battlement Hill in particular was glorious and everyone enjoyed a lovely relaxing day in the sunshine.

June saw us travelling up to Birmingham for the Gardeners' World Live Show at the NEC. A favourite show with many, it is generally quieter and more relaxed than say Chelsea and a good day was had by all. There were lots of stands and outside garden exhibits to see as well as the beautiful Floral Marquee and numerous talks and demonstrations were going on too. There were many shopping opportunities! With the Good Food Show also on, there was plenty to see and enjoy.

Merriments Nursery and Gardens near Hastings [R] was the destination in July for a much requested return visit. The day started with seriously threatening black clouds but the rain miraculously held off and we even got a tiny bit of sunshine later on.



situation and colour, these plants then being available in the extensive Nursery. We had a brief guided tour with the owner David which was somewhat hampered by the amazingly strong wind which nearly blew us all over numerous times and whipped his words away quite frequently. In spite of this, it was a very enjoyable if blowy visit and well worth the tedious journey back.

August will hopefully have seen us all relaxing in Ian and Hazel's garden rather than doing lots of travelling and September's outing will be a gentle one to round off the summer.



The gardens were developed from scratch by the owners from a bare field and they were designed to show in beautiful fashion how plants can be combined both in preferred



Snooker Wakey, Wakey!

By Dick Chapman

You tend to think of snooker being a very quiet game, with just the click of balls to be heard above under-breath (natural) curses. Not with us! Whilst we realised that our lack of skills would never associate what we were doing with anything anyone's witnessed on TV, we hadn't realised that our laughter and curses in equal mix were of such a decibel level, of such a frequency and so prolonged as to disturb anyone. How surprised we were then, when the manager of the Town and Country Club (where we hit the balls around), popped his head through the serving hatch to say ' Hey, keep the noise down lads, we've got a wake on in here.'

I'll grow some courgettes I thought, did you?? Mine have flourished



magnificently so everyday !!! but I have found some great recipes of which this is one, courtesy of Easy Living Magazine website. Ed.

Stuffed courgettes

Serves 4

Preparation 10 mins

Cooking 15-20 mins

4 large courgettes
1tbsp olive oil
1 onion, finely chopped
1 clove garlic, crushed
30g (1oz) fresh breadcrumbs
2tbsp roughly chopped flat-leaf parsley
1tbsp chopped fresh mint
125g (4oz) goat's cheese or feta, crumbled
50g (1¾oz) Parmesan, grated
1 small egg, beaten
40g (1¼oz) pine nuts (optional)

Heat the oven to 200°C (gas mark 6). Cook the courgettes whole, in a saucepan of boiling, salted water for 4 minutes, then drain. Cut each in half lengthways and, using a spoon, hollow out most of the flesh from each. Roughly chop the flesh. Heat the oil in a frying pan and add the courgette flesh, onion and garlic and cook, stirring, for 5 minutes, or until the onion is soft. Remove from the heat and stir in the breadcrumbs, herbs, cheese and egg. Season well. Divide the mixture between the courgette cases and lay them in an oiled baking dish. Bake for 15-20 minutes, sprinkling the pine nuts over about 10 minutes before cooked.

MOBILES - MARVEL or MENACE Gordon Hitchman

DO YOU see Mobile phones as something glued to the ear of near enough every youth of today, or an annoying tone sound at the critical period of the recital in the Theatre, or the constant - I'm on the Bus/Train on my way to Home/work etc. There is another side.

Mobiles are a god send in an emergency but do you know what to do if you cannot get a signal? then dial 112 the international emergency number and your clever little mobile will look for an alternative signal frequency and save the day. Also picture this, you have locked your keys in the car (which has a remote control locking system), you are 100 miles from home. Well do not despair, phone home on your mobile and ask whoever has access to the spare key to hold it to the phone and press to open while you hold your mobile close to the car - hay presto the door unlocks. Clever or what. Now you need to make that urgent call whilst out and the battery in the Mobile is dead. No problem - dial star key followed by 3370 and then the hash key. Your clever little mobile has a reserve battery source which you can use. (do not forget to recharge when you get home though).

Finally if you dial Star key, hash key, 06, hash key you will be shown a 15 digit code number - write this down and if your mobile is ever stolen inform your service provider who will block all calls made from your stolen mobile.

Another safety issue (not connected to mobile phones). If you are being forced by a mugger to draw cash from an ATM cash machine, key in your pin number in reverse, ie if your number is 1234 then key in 4321. The machine will recognize that the pin has been reversed and will alert the police whilst still processing your cash request. (hopefully the police will get there in time to arrest the offenders). Interesting aye!

Yes! But do they all work? Let us know Ed

Current Affaires by John Crowder

IN the past four months, our regular discussions have embraced many topical subjects. The flight disruption caused by volcanic ash not only affected our holidays but also the livelihood of third world countries dependent on exports to Britain of fruit and flowers. Does the SATS exam achieve anything other than more statistics? All sorts of statistics have come to play a dominating role in our lives. Does the coalition after the election make sense? Form-filling (box ticking!), means testing, school closures, parking charges and clamping, banking problems - all provided grist to our discussions.

Two topics have drawn a significant amount of comment. One is the question of equality of men and women in the world - why not women bishops? Should burkhas be allowed? Jewish and Muslim traditions both influence people's attitude.

The second followed recent government white paper proposals for the NHS, giving more responsibility to GP's, for budgets and social care. The feeling is that it's rather a leap in the dark, but with hope that it may provide as good a service as hitherto but with saving in costs.

Exploring London by

Pat Harding

OUR June outing was to Ely in Cambridgeshire. We had a guided walk round the city followed by a visit to the Cromwell Museum.

July was a visit to Bletchley Park where we spent an enjoyable and educational day with our guide. He took us all over the site including a visit to the enigma machine, but also gave us some time to look round by ourselves.

August was a visit to Basildon Park, near Reading. A National Trust property which was featured in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.



Bridge: Beginners and Improvers Groups

Rod McNamara

THE U3A members who have attended these groups, which have finished due to ill health, would like to express their thanks to Sue Winterbotham for her patient and expert help given whilst the groups were running. Thanks to this help we have become competent intermediate players, some of us starting as raw beginners. As the groups met in her flat Sue sent our donations, given at each session, to the Peace Hospice and a substantial amount must have been donated to them over the life of the groups. I am sure that, as well as members of these groups, all U3A members will wish Sue their best wishes for her future health.

The "South East U3A" Summer School

from Elisabeth Pearce, Music Group

THIS was held at Chichester on 6th-9th July 2010. Over 82 U3As were represented by the 200 delegates who attended.

"Vienna, City of Music" was my choice from a very varied programme of subjects. The course tutor was Shirley Carey, who had selected the three composers who had lived in Vienna between the 17th and 18th centuries. We studied in detail the lives, travels and music of Mozart, Schubert and Beethoven with video recordings, tape recordings and some practical demonstrations on the piano. This all led to some lively discussions and was a thoroughly enjoyable week.

Antiques by Sheila Wolff

OUR July subject was glass. What a fascinating thing this is! As it is colourless, tasteless, odourless and transparent, it is well used to store medicines and doesn't change the taste of the G & T either. However, it is also used in a fascinating myriad of items, from mirrors, wine glasses, vases, microscopes, magnifying glasses and of course, eye-glasses. No-one knows when it was first developed but there is a theory that the Phoenicians, in heating some sand for whatever purpose, upset the sand into the fire, and on being enveloped by the heat, it developed the glacial tendencies that started it off in such a variety of uses.

Aug We had a 'bits and pieces session', i.e. members brought some of their small treasures to talk about, discuss and even, perhaps, identify. Amongst the pieces of silver, ivory and so on were two fascinating letters written at the time of the American Civil War. One was about sending supplies to the troops and the setting up for battle, and the other was pointing out that it was to be 25c for food per day for soldiers who were on furlough, until further notice. This last letter was dated 10th May 1865 and gave us all pause for thought, knowing the outcome of the war and wondering if the person to whom the letters were sent had survived. Lump in the throat time.

It's amazing the treasures that people have in their homes and fascinating to learn about such important times from such personal items. Another fascinating piece was the Chinese ivory 'ball within a ball' and we had a good discussion wondering how they managed to carve such intricate work, with the smaller balls inside the larger ones and yet being able to move and not; fixed and with no obvious sign of entry. Those clever Chinese, we never worked it out to everyone's agreement!

STUDY GROUP NEWS

Sub Editor Study Group News



Jill Ibbott

'Study Group News, will be published monthly. Please send us News about your group, or

one that you attend to watfordu3a@yahoo.co.uk by **20th September** for the **October** issue. A short report in Times New Roman Font/10 & no tabs or tables please, should precede your dates in bold, 3 letters please with no full stop. Longer reports will become articles edited by Margaret Thompson and will be published in December.

Anglo-German Walks 4th Friday 9.30am.

Antiques

2nd Tues of the month.
2.00-4.00pm at my home.
14 Sep Porcelain, pottery etc.

Art Appreciation

2nd Mon 10am for 10.30am
at Hollytree House.

At our August meeting, Phil McMahon introduced us to the early 20th century "Scottish Colourists", who combined influences from the French Impressionists and Fauvists, with the painting traditions of Scotland. Few of us were familiar with this group of artists and they proved to be a delightful discovery. Thank you Phil!

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

27 Sep Liverpool: 5 day visit to the city and its nearby art galleries.

11 Oct War Artists.

Book Discussion Group

4th Mon 2.00-4.00pm.

28 Devereux Drive.

Future books include-"Sheer Abandon" by Penny Vincenzi, "The New York Trilogy" by Paul Auster and "The Pregnant Widow" by

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

Martin Amis. Books are provided by the local Library.

Chess

2nd & 4th Tues 9.30am

We have some excellent players and they are not heavy competitions, just very enjoyable games. If anyone has a desire to come and play please do. If anyone wants to learn chess I am very happy to tutor them. You can then play your Grandchildren!!

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.

I regret this group is now full.

Current Affairs

3rd Tues 10.00am

Hollytree House.

21 Sep Next meeting

Cycling

1st Mon & 3rd Wed starting
at Watford Met Station



Dennis Fitton

10am.6 Sept St Albans via Chiswell Green.

15 Sep 10.30am. Car Assist to cycle along

the Phoenix Trail from Princes Risborough to Thame. Meet at layby NE of railway bridge on B4009 SW of junction with B4444. Grid ref SP 789039.

4 Oct South Mimms via Radlett and Ridge.

20 Oct Elstree Airfield café.

DIY Discussion

2nd Mon 10am-12 noon Tree Bridge House, Garston La.

European Studies

4th Wed 10.00am

We are now about to begin our study of the French Revolution and its effect on the rest of Europe historically and culturally.

22 Sep The Outbreak of the French Revolution and Rights of Man.

27 Oct The Reign of Terror and Robespierre.

24 Nov Background of Napoleon and his rise to power.

22 Dec No meeting

Exploring London

1 Sep Colchester

NB trip is before general meeting.

6 Oct Leighton House, w. List.

3 Nov Museum of London

Film Group

1st Thur 2.15pm. 18 Herga Court.

2 Sep A Handful of Dust (1988). James Wilby. Kristin Scott Thomas. The wife's affair hastens the demise of an upper-class English marriage.

7 Oct All About Eve.(1950)

Bette Davis. Anne Baxter. George Sanders. Marilyn Monroe. It's all about women- and their men. An ingénue insinuates herself in to the company of an established but aging stage actress and her circle of friends.

Food & Nutrition

4th Tues 2.00pm

Combewood House. First of all apologies for the last minute cancellation of our summer party in July. We hope to have a celebration in the not-too-distant future. I am also having to cancel the trip to Wobbly Bottom Farm for Tuesday, September 28th, but this again will be reinstated early in 2011.

Oct a presentation by Kim Crundall on Balanced Nutrition. If you have any

questions in particular on the subject please let me know and I can forward them to Kim in order that she can include information on the particular points of concern.

Gardening

16 Sept The Savill Gardens near Windsor. Some tickets still available.

21 Oct Burghley House & Gardens (including private gardens not usually open). Tickets on sale to group members this month, open sale in October.

18 Nov 10am Hollytree House Planning Meeting and Talk "A Taste of Chelsea".

16 Dec 10am Hollytree House Christmas social. More details later.

Genealogy

2nd Friday 10.00am.

10 Sep Our first meeting Anyone who signed up for this Group has not been forgotten. I am trying to find a room large enough. New members welcome

German conversation

1st & 3rd Thurs 10am-12 Noon Have fun with German conversation.

Greetings Cards

Hollytree House

2nd Thurs

We have been widening our activities/membership over the past two months. We have had an outing to the racecourse at Newbury for a card and papercraft



Yvonne Fitton

show in July which was very pleasant (even if we did spend more than anticipated) and a summer picnic at our last meeting in August at Hollytree House. As always, the members brought along some very tasty food and we enjoyed meeting the 'other

Look at our website for more information :www.watfordu3a.org.uk

half-day' members! The next joint picnic lunch will be December as usual.

9 Sep We will continue using the punches for some interesting shapes/ideas which will, hopefully, continue seamlessly into designs for Christmas cards.

History

2nd Mon 2.00pm Fire Station Garston (Asda CP off A41). Last year when Pat Woollard took over as our SGL, we worked our way through "The Georges" - each one leading us off into other subjects for discussion, both social and political.

This January, Pat gave us all a list of subject for meetings so that we could vote for them in order of preference. American History and Medieval

England got equal top votes, so for the past few months we have studied America from prehistory to Columbus. After several months of America, on September 13th we turn to Medieval times and everyday life. Stand by for the grisly details of The Black Death! Also, one of our members will talk about her family connections and tell us how she and her husband might have been very rich.

We all contribute to the meetings and people's holiday travels sometimes lead us in different directions but it's great fun and we learn lots in the process.

Italian

alt Thurs 10.00am.

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.

Our Meetings are always well attended and appreciated. Any style of Jazz, players, instruments or era can be covered. Sometimes the programme is given by a Member of the Group which is interesting for Bob and I to sit and hear. Always good, we have had some very interesting presentations in the past and will have more to

come, I am sure. Please feel free to come along if Jazz is your thing or new to you. See Peter Andrews.

London Theatre Group

We thought that we would try something different so we have got tickets to see **The Nut-cracker Suite** by the EYB. It is the evening performance on the 5th November and is at the Aylesbury Waterside Theatre. Tickets are £22 incl. Coach. Please let Eileen Cox or Marie McMorrin know a.s.a.p. if you wish to go. All tickets for **Evita** on October 28th are sold and there is a waiting list.

Luncheon Club 4th Wed.

1 Sep at the Banana Leaf Thai Restaurant in Hemel Hempstead.

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.

It's a constant source of amazement to me that all the regulars and most of the newcomers are such a jolly happy lot. I wonder if it is that hearing about other people's problems (not necessarily fellow members' problems) and the remedies that manifest themselves make them realise that their troubles are not so bad after all! Anyway, I'm delighted that we have such a jolly crowd because I for one feel much younger and happier for it. Thanks to you all and I look forward as always to our next meeting on **2nd Sept** (the week BEFORE the WU3A monthly meeting).

Music Appreciation

3rd Wed: 10.00am Coffee and chat. **10.30am** meeting. At our **August** meeting we enjoyed a varied programme of choral music starting with early works by Palestrina, Byrd, Vivaldi, Bach, moving on to Mozart, Handel and

then an example from the Russian Orthodox Church and finishing with a recording of a Welsh male voice choir.

Sep Carrying on with Choral music into the 19th & 20th C.

Needlecraft

1st and 4th Mon, at Combewood, Garston. 10am Opera

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

13 Sep NB. the venue for this meeting is at Pat & David Hancox's at - Garden Close. I shall be away at that time in Northumberland. The remaining 2 acts of 'The Marriage of Figaro' will be shown. It is proving to be quite an intriguing production.

11 Oct 'Joan of Arc' by Verdi a not very often performed opera of Verdi conducted by Riccardo Chailly and starring Rentato Bruson, Susan Dunn and Vincenzo la Scola at the Teatro Communala di Bologna.

8 Nov Opera Italia – a recording of one of Antonio Pappano's fascinating opera programmes recently shown on BBC Four.

12 Dec Christmas Party - bring your favourite excerpt from DVD, video or CD The tickets for '**Don Giovanni**' in November at Milton Keynes theatre have now been sold, but if anyone would like to go on the waiting list, please contact Christine.

Pathfinders Group

4th Tues 9.25am Essex Arms

28 Sep Ruislip

26 Oct Savill/Valley Gardens Windsor.

23 Nov Letchmore Heath and Christmas Lunch. Please let Jan know if you are NOT coming to the Christmas Lunch.

Performing Arts

Johanna's Mon 7.30pm

13 Sep 7.30pm. Play reading. 9 Nancy Downs, Oxhey. Other dates to be confirmed via Performing Arts Newsletter. Membership enquiries Johanna.

Science Interest

3rd Mon 10.00am.

20 Sep Galileo – Graham Marrett.

18 Oct Historic Pictures of Science – Phil McMahon.

13 Nov Visit to Diamond Light Source Open Day at Didcot.

15 Nov The Causes of Weather Pat Walker.

20 Dec Inventions Forum – John Britten.

New members welcome!

Scrabble 1

2nd and 4th Thurs.

Our group is still full.

Scrabble 2

2nd Thurs 10.00am.

Our group is now full.

Shakespeare

Last Wed 2.00pm.

29 Sep We continue to study the very odd play: "Timon of Athens", and will be deciding, in our democratic way, which play we want to study next.

27 Oct Introduction to the play still to be chosen.

Snooker

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

Sporting Forum

3rd Tues at Combewood (unless outing).

August gave us the opportunity to enjoy a very pleasant lunch at Combewood with excellent food and great company. It was also the occasion, when for the first time we presented the prestigious Sporting Forum Awards, following our recent 'Top Golf Competition' and 'Mystery Car Run', both of which were well supported and great fun

21 Sep Visit and Tour to Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum.

Strollers

2nd & 4th Tues 11.00am.

14 Sep Yvonne: Aldenham Park. Park and eat at The Fishery Inn (opposite the reservoir).

28 Sep Gwen and Don: Sarratt. Park, eat at The Cock (opposite the old church).

12 Oct: Pat and Bob: Grand Union Canal & Ebury Way. Park at the Aquadrome car park.

26 Oct Sheila and Dorelle:

Look at our website for more information :www.watfordu3a.org.uk

Shenley Park. Park and eat at the Pavilion (entrance after the cricket ground).

9 Nov Jane and Myra: Merry Hill, Bushey. Park at Kemp Place; choice of local eating places.

23 Nov Peggy and Joan: Ruislip Lido. Meet in the car park; eat at The Gateway.

14 Dec: Gwen and Don: Cassiobury Park. Meet at their home to walk in the Park (or if the weather is too December-ish, to stay in the flat and drink their coffee).

Table Tennis

Mondays TBA at 7.30pm
St. Marks Church Leggatt's Way.

Time to get off the sun bed, discard the sun glasses, and look to burn off some of the stored summer energy. Table Tennis season starts in September.

20 Sep The first session. then **27 Sep** and **11 Oct**.

The Explorers

1st Friday
Most walks start at 10am.

3 Sep The Coach & Horses Croxley Green. Croxley Green Area Leader Yvonne Fitton.

Oct 1st 9.30am Meet Essex Arms to car share. Marsworth / Tring. Eat The White Lion PH? Walk Leader Diane Falkener.

Nov 5th Meet Aquadrome Car Park 10.00am. Rickmansworth Aquadrome. Eat New Cafe. Walk Leaders Jean & John Grainger.

3 Dec Essex Arms CP **11.00am** for a short walk followed by planning meeting in the pub. Walk leaders Jean & John Grainger.

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

Thirsty Walkers

Every 4th Thurs. 9.30am outside The Essex Arms to share cars (there may be new parking restrictions in place). At the end of the walk we stop to enjoy a friendly lunch. Why not come and join us?
23 Sept Alan and Carol Rose

are leading the walk through Scatterdells Wood, Kings Langley

28 Oct Jill Jenkins and Carol Freeman are walking through Merryhill, Bushey

25 Nov The two Alans again! Betts and Humphris taking us to Wigginton. Lunch at the Greyhound.

Toffee

3rd Thurs 10.00am-12.00. All meetings at 27 Jenkins Ave. Bricket Wood. SGL Margaret Foster, Relax, have a drink or two & talk with friends on any subject. One subject always leads to another.

Tuesday Trekkers

Meet 9.45am for 10.00am.

14 Sep Jean and Peter lead from Ivanhoe Beacon.

Note Jean has requested we all meet Essex Arms, **9.30am** so that she can give us a lift. Yes, she has a 51 seater bus!

U3A Singers

1st & 3rd Mon 2.30pm Extra voices welcome! Our singing group will resume in September after the summer break. We have already started on our music for the entertainment programme at the December meeting. With only 6 scheduled sessions between now and then, some hard work is ahead of us - as well as a lot of fun! Dates for meetings: **6 & 19 Sep; 4 & 18 Oct; 1 & 15 Nov.**

Walking

2nd & 4th Wed

Most walks meet. **JS A41** **Eight miles 9.30am.**

8 Sep London. Peter Manhire
Watford Met 9.00am.

13 Oct 9.00 Kimpton.

10 Nov Flamstead.

8 Dec Wheathampstead.

Six miles 10.00am.

22 Sep Cookham.

27 Oct Shenley.

24 Nov London Colney.

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

H.F.& U3A Ramble



Brian Ashford



John Grainger



Peter Manhire

18 Sep 10mile, 6mile walk, Cotswold Way to Bath, or just go to Bath only, all are welcome. Depart at 8.00am J S. A41 Dome. Leaving Bath 5.00pm. Cost £15.00

Wine Appreciation

Last Frid 2.30-4.30pm

'Wit Knits'

1st Monday 10.00am

Various venues

Writers Workshop

Fortnightly Tues 2.00pm.

Come and develop your writing skills. New members welcome.

Look at our website for more information about our U3A and give the details to prospective members:
www.watfordu3a.org.uk

Any News from your Study Group?

COULD YOU HELP?


by writing an article about your group or one that you attend? Everyone seems to enjoy the articles about the various activities in which we become involved. How else are non members of a Group to know what it is all about? If you have a computer send your copy to:
editor @watfordu3a.org.uk
if not type it out and post it. Thanks! Eds.

Combined U3A Art Show at Harlequin from Phil McMahon

Exhibition of Art

A Joint U3A Exhibition

Bushey & District Watford & District
Watford Park



In the Upper Gallery at the Harlequin Watford

Opening Times
Saturday 11th – Sunday 19th September
Monday to Saturday 10.00 am – 6.00 pm
Sunday 11.00 am – 5.00 pm
Admission Free

Opening Ceremony Saturday 11th September 2.00 pm

Watford, Watford Park and Bushey U3As

are co-operating to put on an Exhibition of member's paintings and other art works in September.

All members of these U3As are warmly invited to exhibit examples of their own work. Artists may submit as many items as they wish for a fee of £5 per artist.

The Exhibition will open at 2pm on Saturday September 11 in the Upper Gallery of the Harlequin Centre. Even if you are not exhibiting please come along to the exhibition. **Admission is FREE.**

I will be pleased to provide Entry Forms etc and can be contacted at jpmcmahon@btinternet.com

Look at our website for more information :www.watfordu3a.org.uk

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

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' The Globe Theatre.
12 Oct. 6.15pm 'As You Like It' The Globe Theatre.
15 Nov. 2pm 'Tsarina's Slippers' Ballet Royal Opera House.
16 Nov 6.15pm 'Tsarina's Slippers' as above.
20 Dec 2pm 'Nutcracker Suite' Ballet Royal Opera House
21 Dec 6.15pm 'Nutcracker Suite' Ballet Royal Opera House

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

S.O.S. The Top Brass Jazz Orchestra

Watford's own Orchestra will end 36 years of popular concerts in September unless it can get a replacement Conductor/Music Director and a Librarian to look after all the 600 American Jazz manuscripts The Orchestra has Monday evening rehearsals in Watford and various concerts. An experienced musician is essential and some remuneration will be considered. C.V. is required for me to inspect please. Bob Wheal, .

WARNING ABOUT SAS FIRE & SECURITY SYSTEMS LTD. ROGUE TRADERS

This is a message from Neighbourhood Watch, courtesy of John Grainger.

Some people are being called by a security company saying they are from the Police and that they would be coming to fit a free device for home security.

When they arrive they tell the occupier that they will be getting a FREE alarm system fitted but they are then told there is a one off fee which was not mentioned before of approximately £6,000.00 !

Other names used: **GS BANKS, RAPID RESPONSE. SAS SAFE & SECURE FIRE & SECURITY SERVICES LTD.** If you receive this electronically and need to reply by email click on my address here:

christine.butler@herts.pnn.police.uk.

Next Peace Hospice Raffle September

IN spite of less members attending the June meeting, with a nice donation from the Scrabble group, we had a grand total of £255. Thank you all very much and many thanks to our happy band of helpers, selling and folding tickets. We are very grateful for the many prizes you donate – please keep them coming in. We sit at the back of the hall (right hand side as you come in). Bring your donations to any meeting or we can collect.

John and June Baughen.

The Christmas Lunch

This has been booked for 1pm on Tuesday 14th December in the restaurant at The Metropolitan Police Sports Club, Aldenham Road, Bushey. Further details will be available at the September meeting and will appear in the October Newsletter.

John Friend



Watford U3A's Projector & Laptop computers

To make a booking for a digital projector and a laptop computer contact:

Colin Richards
digitalequipment@watfordu3a.org.uk

Committee members

Chairman
Terry Godfrey

Secretary
Margaret Redding

Study Group Coordinator
Margaret Foster

Membership Secretary
Alan Prest

U3A Almoners

Please let us know of any member who is sick or bereaved and in need of support.

Irene Lowe
Peggy Element
Janet Carleton
Kathleen McMahon

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Contact:
THE THIRD AGE TRUST, 19 East Street, Bromley, Kent BRI IQH
tel 02084666139 email: national.office@u3a.org.uk

Monthly Meeting Talks programme.

**1st Tuesday
10.00am - 12.00noon.**

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

5 Oct Alan Ruffhead : 50 years of making medicine.

2 Nov - Peter Loosley : A Millenium of Water Tower Worldwide

7 Dec - In House Entertainment—NOT TO BE MISSED

For more detail contact Speaker Secretary:-

David Helliwell

speakers@watfordu3a.org.uk

**Next Newsletter
October**

Copy from the groups can be sent anytime but **MUST** be received by:

20 September
E-mail copy to:

watfordu3a@yahoo.co.uk