

# STUDY GROUP NEWS

*Notes From the  
Chairman  
Terry Godfrey*



Last month there was an improvement in the way in which we have our "tea break". It was not perfect but it will

get better as we streamline the service. However, the improvement is not for the committee, nor for our tea lady volunteers, alone. All members must help to make the system work.

Do you remember the days when we all queued and waited our turn? It would be nice if we could get back into that mode, during our monthly meetings when we are among friends.

There were a few incidents at our last meeting that surprised me; we had members squeezing through the barriers and entering at the exits in order to get to the refreshments first and we had one member take his chair from the floor of auditorium and place it and himself on the raised area where the teas and coffees were to be served.

I ask you all to be considerate towards each other and help to make this new system "tea break" be a success.

We were short handed for technical help at the September meeting, both John Grainger and Robin Hurley being absent, but Colin Richards did it all with some help from Alex James and, as always, our booksellers Marie and Barry Irwin were doing their bit for the Peace Hospice, as were John and June Baughen with the raffle. Our thanks to all.

Send us some News or write an article about your group or one that you attend and email to: [editor@watfordu3a.org.uk](mailto:editor@watfordu3a.org.uk) or type it out and post it.

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

**Anglo-German Walks**  
4<sup>th</sup> Friday 9.30am.

**Antiques**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tues of the month.  
2.00-4.00pm at my home.

**Art Appreciation**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mon 10am for 10.30am  
at Hollytree House.

At our September meeting Margaret Bolton gave us a wide-ranging introduction to some of the art and architecture in and around Liverpool that we were about to see on our trip at the end of September.

11 Oct War Artists (various presenters).

8 Nov William Frith, presented by Jan Palmer.

13 Dec 'One's a portrait, two's company, three's a crowd.' presented by Phil McMahon. This will be followed by our Christmas buffet.

**Book Discussion Group**  
4<sup>th</sup> Mon 2.00-4.00pm.  
28 Devereux Drive.  
Future books include - "The New York Trilogy" by Paul Auster and "The Pregnant Widow" by Martin Amis. Books are provided by the local Library.

**Chess**  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs 2.00pm Thorpe Community Room, Garston Fire Station, St Albans Road, (Next Asda).  
New members welcome.

**Classics Group**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Mon 2.15pm  
New members are always welcome.

**Cryptic Crosswords**  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Fri of the month.  
I regret this group is now full.

**Current Affairs**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tues 10.00am  
Hollytree House.

**Cycling**  
1<sup>st</sup> Mon & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed Watford Met Station 10.00am.

4 Oct South Mimms via Radlett and Ridge.

20 Oct Elstree Airfield café.

1 Nov Flaunden, Latimer, Chenies, Sarratt watercross beds.

17 Nov Apsley via Felden.

6 Dec Denham.

15 Dec Bovingdon, Whelpley Hill.

The usual American supper will be held in December. Watch this space for date, time and venue

**DIY Discussion**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mon 10am-12 noon Tree Bridge House, Garston La.  
This Study Group has been in existence for eight months, during which time we have, as a minimum, discussed, demonstrated and carried out items of the following:-

- Repairs to Ball valves (leaking overflows).
- Patching fitted carpets.
- Removing old and replacing with new, sealing around sinks and baths.
- De-scale shower heads and kettles.
- Determine the existence, or non existence, of rust inhibitor in central heating systems.
- Remove airlocks in central heating systems.
- Reasons for dampness on walls, in cupboards and lofts.
- Repairs to malfunctioning door bells.

- Installation of heat reflectors for wall mounted radiators.
- Repairs to cracks and damage in wall and ceiling plaster.
- Brickwork repairs.
- Replacing washers on leaking faucets.
- Correct ways to wire electric plugs and to use the correct fuses for appliances.
- Preparation for painting all manner of materials & using the correct tools.
- Use of fixings, from numerous nails and screws, plus many adhesives now available.

We have covered so much in the short time that the Group has been operative and, maybe, need to go back over some of the same items as reminders.

Much credit is given to Arthur Driscoll and Francis Goode for their work in making the class a success.

If members are interested in joining the Group, you are welcome to come along to Tree Bridge House, Garston Lane, Watford, WD25 9QR. Buses to and from Watford, Nos. 5, 6, 321. You may get directions from Francis Goode, Arthur Driscoll or Terry Godfrey.

**European Studies**  
4<sup>th</sup> 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.

27 Oct The Reign of Terror and Robespierre.

24 Nov Background of Napoleon and his rise to power.

22 Dec No meeting

**Exploring London**

6 Oct Leighton House, Waiting List.

3 Nov Museum of London.

## **Film Group**

**1<sup>st</sup> Thur 2.15pm (change of venue)**

**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 into the company of an established but aging actress and her circle of friends.

**4 Nov** LA Confidential (1997). Kevin Spacey, Russell Crowe, Guy Pearce, Kim Basinger. A shooting at an all night diner is investigated by three LA policemen in their own unique way.

**2 Dec** Gerry Maguire (1996). Tom Cruise, Cuba Gooding Jr., Renee Zellweger, Kelly Preston. When a sports agent has a moral epiphany and is fired for expressing it he decides to put his new philosophy to the test as an independent with the only athlete who stays with him.

**I regret this group is now full. There is a waiting list.**

## **Food & Nutrition**

**4<sup>th</sup> Tues 2.00pm**

**Combewood House.**

**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**

**21 Oct** Burghley House & Gardens (including private gardens not usually open). All tickets sold. Waiting list.

**18 Nov 10am** Hollytree House. Planning Meeting and Talk "A Taste of Chelsea" by medal-winning gardeners Patricia Thirion and Janet Honour

**16 Dec 10am** Hollytree House. Christmas Social. More details later.

## **Genealogy**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Frid 10.00am.**

**Watford Rural Parish**

**Council Hall, Oxhey Drive, South Oxhey**

Our first meeting was a great success and a full report will appear in next month's

newsletter. Our next meeting will be on **8 Oct**. New members welcome

## **German conversation**

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs 10am-12 Noon**

Have fun with German conversation.

## **Greetings Cards**

**Hollytree House**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs.**

## **History**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Mon 2.00pm Fire Station Garston (Asda CP off A41).**

## **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**

**3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

Will those going to see Evita on 28th October and who are boarding the coach at the Essex Arms please make sure that they leave enough time to park. Three quarters of the Cassiobury estate is now a controlled zone. At the moment you can still park in parts of Cassiobury Drive, Bellmountwood Ave, Parkside Drive and Richmond Drive – but things might change.

There are still tickets for The Nutcracker Suite on the 5th November.

### **Luncheon Club**

**4<sup>th</sup> Wed.**

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

## **Money Matters**

**1<sup>st</sup> Thurs 10.00am to Noon**

**Hollytree House.**

**7 Oct** We are having a speaker who is an expert on Equity release AND the new CARE HOME insurance policies for the elderly who may need to go into a care home which saves a lot of expense. I understand he includes updates on the law relating to the effects of the budget. Come and listen and ask questions – at the same time enjoy learning and as a bonus there's coffee & biscuits!

## **Music Appreciation**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Wed: 10.00am** Coffee and chat. **10.30am** meeting. Following on from our last meeting, in September we listened to more choral music. Madrigals were the beginning of choral music and were originally lyrical verse in 4 parts but later they were accompanied and more parts were added. We then listened to some Russian prayers by Father Alexander Men (1935-1990) set to music by Alexander Levine. Bruckner, Brahms and Schubert followed, and a delightful piece by Delius "To be Sung on a Summer Night". The session ended, as last time, with the Welsh Male Voice Choir.

**Oct.** Mahler (Janet Carleton).

## **Needlecraft**

**1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mon, at Combewood, Garston. 10am Opera**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Mon, 2.00pm** at Christine's house.

**11 Oct** 'Joan of Arc' by Verdi – a seldom performed opera by Verdi conducted by Riccardo Chailly and starring Rentato Bruson, Susan Dunn and Vincenzo la Scola at the Teatro Communala di Bologna on video.

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

**12 Nov** 'Don Giovanni' at Milton Keynes – Please remember that the coach will leave the Essex Arms at 5.30

pm. and I shall be letting you have your tickets shortly. I do have a waiting list of one at the moment if anyone is unable to go at the last moment. Please contact Christine on 01923 229639.

**12 Dec Christmas Party** – bring your favourite excerpts from DVD, video or CD

## **Pathfinders Group**

**4<sup>th</sup> Tues 9.25am** Essex Arms  
**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**

**4 Oct** Poetry Evening  
The subject is Children  
The evening will be led by Francis Goode

**25 Oct** Discussion Group on any of the following plays you have seen, all at the Watford Palace:-

Von Ribbentrops Watch  
The Game

The Human Comedy  
Songs from a Hotel Bedroom

**6 Dec** Met Club  
Dress rehearsal of the Christmas Show at

**7 Dec** The Christmas Show at the Met Club. Further rehearsals of the show will be organised when the content is finalised. Contact:- Brian Redding Tel: 01923 825203.

## **Science Interest**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Mon 10.00am.**

**18 Oct** - Historic Pictures of Science & Technology - Phil McMahon.

**13 Nov** - Visit to Diamond Light Centre.

**15 Nov** - The Causes of Weather - Pat Walker.

**20 Dec** - Forum TBA.

New members welcome!

## **Scrabble 1**

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thurs.**

Our group is still full.

## **Scrabble 2**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs 10.00am.**

Our group is now full.

## **Shakespeare**

**Last Wed 2.00pm.**

## **Snooker**

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

**Look at our website for more information :[www.watfordu3a.org.uk](http://www.watfordu3a.org.uk)**

## **Sporting Forum**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Tues 2.00pm**

**Combewood, unless otherwise advised.**

**19 Oct** Ten Pin Bowling.

Meet, 2.00pm at the Hollywood Bowl, Woodside.

**16 Nov** Lionel Birnie, Sunday Times Sports Journalist.

## **Strollers**

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tues 11.00am.**

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

**26 Oct** Sheila and Dorelle: 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.**

Next Session **11 Oct.**

## **The Explorers**

**1<sup>st</sup> Friday Most walks start at 10am.**

**1 Oct 9.30am** Meet: Essex Arms to car share.

Marsworth / Tring. Eat: The White Lion PH? Walk Leader Diane Falkener.

**5 Nov 10.00am** Meet:

Aquadrome Car Park . Rickmansworth Aquadrome. Eat: New Cafe. Walk Leaders Jean & John Grainger.

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

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

## **Thirsty Walkers**

**Every 4<sup>th</sup> Thurs. 9.30am** outside The Essex Arms to share cars (new parking restrictions in place).

At the end of the walk we stop to enjoy a friendly lunch. Why

not come and join us for the last two walks of the year?

**Please note change of walk location for October**

**28 Oct** Jill Jenkins and Carol Freeman are walking us around the Aquadrome, Rickmansworth. Lunch at The Cafe in the Park (private rm). **25 Nov** The two Alans again! Betts and Humphris taking us to Wigginton. Lunch at the Greyhound.

## **Toffee**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs 10.00am-12.00.**

At 27 Jenkins Ave. Bricket Wood. SGL Margaret Foster. Relax, have a drink or two & talk with friends. One subject always leads to another.

## **Tuesday Trekkers**

**Meet 9.45am for 10.00am.**

**12 Oct** Dennis the trick cyclist leads. Meet Croxley Green CP off Barton Way rear of library.

**9 Nov** Carol and fragrant Alan Rose lead. Meet Essex Arms 0930 to car share. Walk Apsley to Scatterdells Wood via Shendish Lodge.

Afterwards enjoy a pint of chips or half pint of scampi at The Paper Mill pub.

**14 Dec** Brian leads as it's that time of year again! Meet Chipperfield CP by the church. Bring your own tinsel and mincepies.

## **U3A Singers**

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon 2.30pm**

Extra voices welcome!

Dates for meetings: **18 Oct;**

**1 & 15 Nov.**

## **Walking**

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wed**

**Most walks meet. JS A41**

**Eight miles 9.30am.**

**13 Oct 9.00** Kimpton.

**10 Nov** Flamstead.

**8 Dec** Wheathampstead.

**Six miles 10.00am.**

**27 Oct** Shenley.

**24 Nov** London Colney.

Contact Peter Manhire.

## **Wine Appreciation**

**Last Frid 2.30-4.30pm**

## **'Wit Knits'**

**1<sup>st</sup> Monday 10.00am**

Various venues

## **Writers Workshop**

**Fortnightly Tues 2.00pm.**

Develop your writing skills. New members welcome.

## **Obituary** **Bill Endell 1930-2010**



Bill died in hospital at the end of August at age 80 after a flare-up of his chronic bronchitis.

He was a stickler for ensuring we all adhered to our U3A Constitution and with his fine bass voice and ability to sight read he was a stalwart amongst the four men and fifteen ladies in the U3A Singers.

He was also one of four Wood Turners who jointly turned a baby's rattle with four rings for his grandson, born seven years ago.

Our sympathy goes to his family and friends..

## **TOO MANY COURGETTES?**

Seeing the recipe for Stuffed Courgettes in the last Newsletter, I wondered if you were interested in the following recipe sent to us from a friend in Canada. Most of the family like it, especially grandson who would live on it. It could almost as easily be carrot cake and I have tried both.

Maurice Crewe (a new member)

## **ZUCCHINI LOAF**

### **Ingredients**

2 or 3 eggs

1 cup cooking oil

2 cups white sugar

3 tea sp vanilla essence

3 cups flour

1 tea sp bicarb soda

3 tea sp cinnamon

1 tea sp salt

1/2 tea sp baking powder

1/2 cup sultanas (or a whole cupful)

2 cups grated zucchini

### **Method:**

Mix all together until dropping consistency. Grease 2 loaf tins. Bake at 350 mark 4/5 for 45 to 60 mins. Test with toothpick. Remove immediately from tins. Many like it with butter on, but it can be crumbly.

## **STUDY GROUP LEADERS' MEETING**

A meeting of the Study Group Leaders was held on 17 September at the Watford Library. It was nice to see 47 SGLs at the meeting, thank you very much for your attendance.

We had a lively meeting where a number of items were discussed. It was decided, following a show of hands, that we will not be holding a Summer Fair in 2011.

Study Group Leaders have been asked to carry a list of members' emergency contact details to include name and telephone number of a responsible person. Your support in this will be much appreciated.

As a result of a meeting of Study Group Co-ordinators of all the 9 local U3As, it has been decided and accepted that members wishing to join a group of another U3A, please contact your Study Group Co-ordinator, who will make the arrangements if possible.

If any member should have any items you wish to add to the noticeboards for the monthly meeting, please could I request that these are sent to me by the weekend prior to the meeting.

Thank you as always, for your support and I look forward to seeing you at the next monthly meeting.

**Margaret Foster**  
Study Group Co-ordinator

## **Sub Editor Study Group News**



**Jill Ibbott**

'Study Group News' is published monthly. Please send news for the November issue by **20th**

**October** to the following: [watfordu3a@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:watfordu3a@yahoo.co.uk). Contributions in Times New Roman Font/10 & no tabs or tables please, should precede dates (3 letters only with no full stop) and times in bold. Other articles, sent to Margaret Thompson, will be published in December.

**Look at our website for more information :[www.watfordu3a.org.uk](http://www.watfordu3a.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



## Watford U3A's Projector & Laptop computers

Colin Richards

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

digitalequipment@watfordu3a.org.uk

## Computer Repair Home visits

Viruses cleaned; Memory upgrades; Data backups Price agreed in advance 10 years repairing PCs John Boughton

JB Computer Services 01923 230607

## Christmas Lunch

### CHANGE OF DATE

Wed 15th December

12.30 for 1.00

Venue : Ballroom, Metropolitan Police Station

COST £21.50

John Friend



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MRP Cost: £450+

special offer to bona fide members of the U3A: £55.22 to order a copy, first contact Colin Richards

digitalequipment@watfordu3a.org.uk

## A Safety Warning for Drivers

Reported at a Crimewatch Meeting on 18th August

“While driving on a rural road, I saw an infant car seat on the side of the road with a blanket over it. I did not stop, even though I had all kinds of thoughts running through my head. When I got to my destination, I called the Police and they were going to check it out.”

**This is what the Police advised before they went to check....**

“There are several things to be aware of ...gangs and thieves are now plotting different ways to get a person (mostly women) to stop their vehicle and get out of the car. Police are aware of a gang initiative reported where gangs are placing a car seat by the road with a fake baby in it waiting for anyone, particularly a woman, to stop and check on the abandoned baby.

That the location of this car seat is usually beside a wooded or grassy (field) area and the person will be dragged into the woods, beaten and/or raped, robbed and usually left for dead.

**DO NOT STOP FOR ANY REASON! DIAL 999 AND REPORT WHAT YOU SAW, BUT DON'T SLOW DOWN.**

“If you are driving at night and eggs are thrown at your windscreen, do not stop to check the car, do not operate the wiper and do not spray any water because eggs mixed with water become milky and block your vision up to 92.5%, and you are then forced to stop beside the road and become a victim of these criminals.

**THIS IS A NEW TECHNIQUE USED BY GANGS, SO PLEASE INFORM YOUR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES.**

## Committee members

*Chairman*  
Terry Godfrey

*Secretary*  
Margaret Redding

*Study Group Coordinator*  
Margaret Foster

*Membership Secretary*  
Alan Prest

## Monthly Meeting Talks Programme.

**1st Tuesday**

**10.00am - 12.00noon.**

**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 details contact Speaker Secretary**

**David Helliwell**

speakers@watfordu3a.org.uk

## 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

## Next Newsletter November

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

**20 October**

**E-mail copy to:**

watfordu3a@yahoo.co.uk

## Next Peace Hospice Raffle December

Thank you very much for your generosity and hard work by our helpers. We made a staggering £287 on the raffle and had donations from the Opera, Bridge and Wit Knits Groups, making a grand total of £385.69 towards our money to be handed over to The Hospice in January. Hopefully we will do even better at the December raffle and to at least match last year's total.

We will be pleased to collect any prize donations, or you can bring them to the monthly meetings. We sit at the back of the hall (right hand side as you come in).

John and June Baughen