

STUDY GROUP NEWS

Notes From the Chairman Terry Godfrey



Almost the beginning of Spring and hopefully the start of continued better weather.

I am sure that the majority of us, who attend our monthly meetings, thoroughly enjoy the Speakers selected by our Speaker Secretary David Helliwell. His selection of Speakers is not a haphazard job for it has to be well planned for eleven months in advance and the content of the talk has to be known by David prior to making a selection. In addition he has to have a reserve should a planned speaker be unable to attend. Last month we had one of our own, Ray Gynne, who gave us the opportunity to enjoy his talk on his wonderful array of photographs of India. It was excellent and my thanks to Ray for sharing his experiences with us and not least, a big thank you to Audrey, his wife, for carrying the extra cameras and lenses across the sub continent.

In last month's message I wrote of our past President Reg Cooke being recently honoured by the Third Age Trust; I had it wrong for he was honoured on the 2nd July 2009 and the certificate honouring him is displayed at each of our monthly meetings. However, it was the first time that it was mentioned in the U3A News, copies of which were sent to his daughters who responded with a "Thank You" note that is displayed on one of the notice boards.

Best wishes to all, Terry.

Correction and Apology.

In the February Issue of the Newsletter the authorship of the Book Critique from the Book Discussion Group was wrongly attributed. It should have read 'by Ann Woolf'. My sincere apologies to Ann.

Margaret Thompson, Editor

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

Attention Study Group Leaders Study Group Full-Year Accounts to 31st March 2011

Just a reminder to SGLs to let Dick Chapman (treasurer) have their Group's full year accounts as at 31st March 2011. A summary of monthly receipts and expenditures, including opening and closing balances is required. Detailed invoices and receipts are not required – the Auditor will request these if he so wishes.

Accounts please, by Friday 15th April. Thank you!
Dick Chapman, Treasurer

Anglo-German Walks 4th Friday 9.30am.

Antiques

2nd Tues 2.00-4.00pm at my home. I now have room for one or two new members.

Art Appreciation

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

In February Phil and Kath McMahon gave us a splendid introduction to the "The New English Art Club", showing us some of the best of current figurative art, created by a group of very talented female and male artists.

14 Mar Pat Woollard presents the local artist Hubert von Herkomer.

11 Apr Various Presenters. "Art we would like our grandchildren to know."

This group is now full, constrained by the size of our venue. With reluctance we have decided to close the list for the present.

Book Discussion Group

4th Mon 2.30-4.30pm.
28 Devereux Drive.

Chess

2nd & 4th Tues 9.30am.

Computers

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

Future subjects to be looked at are The Use of Paint, Power Point, Picture management (use of Adobe and Picasso), System Manager, Security and Passwords, using e-bay and any subject that YOU need help with.

New members welcome.

Classics Group

3rd Mon 2.15pm.
New members are always welcome.

Study Group Leaders Meeting

Friday 11th March
2.30-4.30pm

Orbital Community
Centre

Haines Way
Watford WD25 7QU

Parking available on site

Cryptic Crosswords

1st & 3rd Frid of the month.
I regret this group is full.

Current Affairs

3rd Tues 10.00am.

Hollytree House.

15 Mar Our regular meeting will be followed by lunch at The Blue Check. If you wish to join us but haven't yet put your name down for it, please let Betty Crowder know.

Cycling

1st Mon and 3rd Wed starting at Watford Met Station at 10.00am.

7 Mar Whelpley Hill

16 Mar Soup run. Mystery ride ending chez Y & D for home made soup and bread. I have decided to change one of the days on which I run cycling. I have long wished to join the groups for Music Appreciation and Jazz Appreciation. I have on rare occasions managed to get to the latter meeting but never the former as they are on the third Wednesday of the month; the same as cycling. I will transfer the Wednesday ride to the second Friday of the month, starting on May 13th. The Monday ride will continue as before.

4 April, 20 April, 2 May Meet and go where the fancy takes you.

13 May St Albans via Chiswell Green. NB. This is the second Friday.

DIY Discussion

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

European Studies

4th Wed 10.00am.

23 Mar Napoleon 1804-1812.
27 Apr Napoleon 1812-1815 and Congress of Vienna and exile.

Followed by Lunch at the Blue Check Restaurant
This group is full.

Exploring London

2 Mar Cabinet War Rooms and Central Hall Westminster Visit and Tour. Waiting List now applies

6 Apr Tower of London. Waiting List. Cheques only please

Film Group

1st Thurs 2.15pm.

52 Malden Road.

3 Mar Jerry Maguire.

7 Apr Sleeping with the Enemy.

5 May Amadeus

Sorry this group is now full.
There is a waiting list.

Gardening

Our first trip of 2011 was to the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens near Romsey to see the Winter Garden and we were blessed with a simply beautiful day. The sunshine showed a lovely destination at its best and many people explored the whole area. The glorious sight of snowdrops, hellebores, cornus and witch hazel in particular was a real tonic for everyone. Maybe Spring really is on its way!

17 Mar 10am Hollytree House. A photo morning – Gardens and more. Short photo presentations from Hazel and Ian, Pam and Diane Livesey.

20 Apr WEDS (Day changed from Thurs because of Easter). Birmingham

Botanical Gardens. Tickets on sale to Group members in March, on open sale in April.

19 May A Spring outing to Sheffield Park in Sussex, a lovely National Trust destination which we have only visited before in Autumn. Tickets available in April/May.

Cheques only for payments please.

Genealogy

Normally **2nd Frid 10.00am**. Watford Rural Parish Council Hall, Oxhey Drive, South Oxhey

German Conversation

1st & 3rd Thurs 10am-12 Noon
This group is now full.

Greetings Cards

Hollytree House

2nd Thurs 10.00am & 1.30pm.

10 Mar. Weaving using paper and/or ribbons.

14 Apr. As for March? (YF away)

History

2nd 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

3rd Wed 2.30pm.

London Theatre Group

We have tickets for THE NAKED TRUTH on 23rd May at 7.30pm at the Aylesbury Riverside Theatre. Price £26 inc coach.

We are also hoping to go to a matinee performance of THE MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET at The Noel Coward Theatre in April. Date should be confirmed by March meeting. Cost £35 inc. Coach. Make sure to remember your cheque books. Please ring Eileen or Marie if you can't make meeting but wish to go.

Luncheon Club

4th Wed.

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.

Music Appreciation

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

We watched a magnificent performance last month of Beethoven's Choral Symphony, conducted by Otto Klemperer.

This month we will be seeing another conductor closely associated with this orchestra – Carlo Maria Giulini. He will be conducting "Pictures at an Exhibition" by Mussorgsky/Ravel, which was filmed at Watford Town Hall in 1964.

We shall also watch: Mozart's Symphony No. 40, and three dances from "The Three Cornered Hat" by de Falla. These were filmed at Fairfield Hall, Croydon, also in 1964. New members will be warmly welcomed.

Needlecraft

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

Opera

2nd Mon 2.00pm at
Christine's.

14 Mar Don Carlos (last 2 acts)

Pathfinders Group

4th Tues 9.25am Essex Arms.

22 Mar Shenley.

26 Apr Studham.

24 May Windsor.

28 Jun Ashridge.

Performing Arts

Science Interest

3rd Mon 10.00am

16 Mar Visit to Culham Centre for Fusion Energy. List full.

21 Mar Potamogetons: An illustrated talk by Tony Platts.

18 Apr The History of Floor Slipperiness: Dr Malcolm Bailey.

Prospective new members please contact SGL.

Scrabble 1

2nd and 4th Thurs.

The group is now full.

Scrabble 2

2nd Thurs 10.00am.

Our group is now full.

Shakespeare

Last Wed 2.00pm.

30 Mar Continuing the reading of that most famous play: 'Hamlet' at the usual meeting place of 135. There is much to discuss and we want ideas on which is to be our next play. The following meeting is **27 Apr.**

Snooker

Every Mon 11.00am-1.00pm.

Joint Group with WPU3A.

Sporting Forum

3rd Tues 2.00pm

Combewood, unless otherwise advised.

15 Mar 'Oh to be an Umpire' – Richard Goodfellow, Premier Cricket League Umpire

19 Apr Magic Moments, Memories, Mementoes, Moans – Members Forum.

Strollers

2nd & 4th Tues 11.00am.

8 Mar Pat and Bob - Exploring St Albans. Park in the Abbey Theatre car park.

22 Mar Elizabeth - Rickmansworth Aquadrome.

Park in the Aquadrome car park and eat in their cafe.

Table Tennis

Mondays TBA at 7.30pm.

St. Marks Church Leggatt's Way.

As the Table Tennis season nears its close, being generally a winter sport, there are just two dates left before we break for a well deserved rest. These are **7** and **28 Mar**, both are at St. Marks starting at 7.30pm.

We have had, as a social group, an enjoyable nine months and thanks are given to all that have participated. So have a great summer and return fit and raring to go in the autumn.

The Explorers

1st Frid Most walks start at 10am.

Brian led our walk in February, from the Green Dragon, Flaunden, on a dry but windy day that certainly blew the cobwebs away and showed us how much we had missed our regular walks, and we were more than ready for our pub lunches.

4 Mar Our next walk is from St Michael's Car Park, St Albans, 10.00am, around the Gorhambury Estate. Walk leaders John & Jean G.

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

We started the year listening to the ladies who were popular singers in the 50s & 60s, from Alma Cogan to Connie Francis. Their careers often only lasted a few years so they had to release many records over a short period of time. However after the sixties many had equally successful careers singing Jazz or Country & Western.

It was good to see so many members come to hear Rock of Ages at the Kings Langley Services Club on 12th February. Age goes out the window when we are dancing and singing the songs of our youth! We were privileged to hear their guest, Stuart. He is only 14 years old but is amazing on the guitar playing the hits of the Shadows – including the dance. He plays numerous instruments equally well but can't read a note of music! Rock of Ages will be appearing there again on 25th June.

24 March Ladies Special, part 2.

28 April Original Recordings, part 2.

Thirsty Walkers

4th Thur 9.30am

We held a Planning Meeting in January to decide our walking programme for the

oncoming year and then on to our New Year Lunch at The Young Pretender at Kings Langley.

As before, we meet every 4th Thursday leaving the Essex Arms at 9.30am; car-sharing where possible. We always enjoy a good lunch after the walk with friendly company. Do come and join us!

The next two walks are:
24 Mar Ruislip from The Waters Edge PH, led by John and Cynthia.

28 April Potten End from Martins Pond PH, led by Jill Jenkins and Alan Betts.

Toffee

3rd Thurs 10.00am-12.00.

On Feb 17 fifteen of our members enjoyed a post Christmas Lunch at the "West Herts College Restaurant", a very good meal, made for people with good appetites. A good choice of Menu, well served by the students who we are sure will do very well in their chosen career. The restaurant is very comfortable with a relaxed atmosphere, and I have never seen such value for money. We all agree well worth a visit and a return visit. Our thanks to Yvonne & Michael Chapple who suggested the restaurant and made all the arrangements for a very enjoyable February meeting!

Travel Group

Tuesday Trekkers

Meet 9.45am for 10.00am.

8 Mar Dennis leads, bicycle always at the ready. Meet CP off Barton Way behind library Croxley Green.

12 Apr Jean and Peter will lead us to where, ice skating? Meet The Green Dragon Pub, Waterside, London Colney, A12 1RB, southern end of High St.

May and June, warm weather volunteers required to lead walks.

New members always welcome.

Tuesday Ramblers

4th Tue Meet varied.

This is a new group walking 10 - 12 miles in 4-5 hours, stopping for a pub lunch mid-

day. New members welcome. Details from John Carleton

U3A Singers

1st & 3rd Mon 2.30pm.

Extra voices welcome!

Walking

2nd & 4th Wed

Most walks meet JS A41.

Six miles 9.30am.

9 Mar S.Mimms

23 Mar Valley Gardens

13 Apr Prestwood

27 Apr Aldenham

11 May London.

Met Station 9.00am.

25 May Tonwell

Contact Peter Manhire.

Wine Appreciation

Last Friday 2.30-4.30pm.

Wit Knits'

1st Monday 10.00am.

Various venues

Writers Workshop

Fortnightly Tues 2.00pm.

From Your Study Group Coordinator



Hello Everyone.
Study Group Leaders, please remember the SGLs' Meeting on 11th March.

Margaret Foster

We always have a good attendance so let's keep that going. Did I mention we are aiming for 100% this time? I look forward to seeing you there. Full details were on the front of last month's Newsletter and are elsewhere in this copy of Study Group News.
INTERESTED IN SPANISH? Then come together with others who have the same interest to decide if we can form a Study Group and what kind of Study Group(s) you'd like to have e.g. Spanish Conversation, Walk 'n Talk in Spanish, etc. Either fill in the form on the Notice Board at the monthly meeting, or email/telephone your details to me, giving, Name, Telephone Number, email address, and whether you would be able to host the group-forming meeting? (possibly/ no).

We are still looking for someone to start a second Current Affairs group, Please consider this, I am sure with the variety of personalities and talent we have in our membership at least one member must be able to fill this role. Someone please respond soon because I am not going to give up when I know someone is out there who would do a great job of setting up and running this group. I wish you all a very happy, healthy and safe month. See you at the meeting.

Sub-Editor Study Group News



Jill Ibbott

The next 'Study Group News' is due to be published in April and will be included in

the full Newsletter. Please send me your contributions for the March issue by **20 March** to watfordu3a@yahoo.co.uk. Thank you.

Committee Notes

The committee's main task was to finalise the documents for the June AGM. The Membership Secretary and the Secretary will be responsible for the distribution of the papers at the appropriate times.

Membership numbers and attendance at monthly meetings were discussed with a possible need to cap membership after the meeting in June.

The Treasurer discussed the current financial situation of our U3A, which we are pleased to report is healthy. The accounts and forecasts will be available prior to the AGM.

The Study Group Coordinator gave an update on new group leaders and possible new groups to be formed. The Study Group Leaders' meeting will take place at a new venue on 11th March at 2.30 p.m. The committee discussed some ideas for fund raising for the Peace Hospice.

WU3A COMMITTEE

2010-2011



**Secretary
Margaret Redding**



**Chairman
Terry Godfrey**



**Membership
Secretary
Alan Prest**



**Vice Chairman
John Friend**



**Study Group
Coordinator
Margaret Foster**



**Treasurer
Dick Chapman**



**Speaker Secretary
(Non Committee)
David Helliwell**



**Committee member
Frances Ayrton**

**Minutes secretary
Tricia Ashby**

VIRTUAL U3A

www.vu3a.org.uk

There is a Virtual U3A on line for those unable to attend an ordinary U3A. If you have any friends or know anyone who would benefit from this please pass it on. The website says "An important target group for this virtual development includes older people who are geographically isolated through illness or perhaps personal commitments (carers, for example)".

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MRP Cost: **£450+**

special offer to bona fide members of the U3A:

£56.40

to order a copy, first contact Colin Richards
digitalequipment@watford
u3a.org.uk

Watford Fairtrade Steering Committee is seeking recruits to replace Jill Jenkins and Valerie Webster who have now left the Steering Group after several years of sterling work for the Fairtrade Town Campaign. If you live in Watford and would like to find out more please contact:

Brian Mee

bandjmee@ntlworld.com

CHARITY APPEALS

On behalf of the 6th North Watford Scout Group (a registered charity) we are collecting old printer cartridges, toners and old mobile phones. We also collect Sainsburys Active Kids and Tesco Vouchers which are used to purchase a variety of goods. Your help will be very much appreciated.

David & Sue Saunders

sue.saunders@fsmail.net

* * *

On behalf of The Peace Hospice we are collecting stamps

Marie & Barry Irwin

Apple Mac G4 computer,
keyboard & screen
FREE

Contact Philip Wolff
philipwolff@btinternet.com

VUE CINEMA OVER 60s RATES

Mon - Thurs before 5pm.

£4.70. After 5pm. £5.65

Fri before 5pm. £5.65

After 5pm. £6.30

Sat & Sun £6.30

SENIORS CLUB

Mon at 12.00noon £3.50.

Selected films are shown and include tea and biscuits
Titles can be obtained from the website

www.myvue.com

or by telephone

08712 240240

U3A Study Afternoon

Science & Conservation at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Thursday 5 May

1.30-4.30 pm. £12.50

including refreshments.

Places are limited.

Details of Summer Schools

1. Newport 18-21 July

2. Cirencester 22-25 August

Contact Margaret Foster

SG Co-ordinator

Committee Members

Chairman
Terry Godfrey

Secretary
Margaret Redding

Study Group Co-ordinator
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

Kath McMahon

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

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

Monthly Meeting Talks programme. 1st Tuesday 10.00am - 12.00noon.

1st Mar Robert Lowe - The genius of Gilbert & Sullivan

5 Apr David Butler MBE, Chairman of the British Motor Sport Association: Driving for the Disabled

3rd May Kim Crundall - Balance Nutrition: Nutritional advice in plain English

For more detail contact Speaker Secretary:-

David Helliwell

speakers@watfordu3a.org.uk

Next Newsletter April

Copy for Study Group News can be sent anytime but **MUST** be received by:

20 March

E-mail copy to:

watfordu3a@yahoo.co.uk

Next Peace Hospice Raffle March

For those who weren't at the January Meeting, we were pleased to hand over a cheque for £1,786 to Gill from The Peace Hospice. Valerie Webster added a further £75 from the Food and Nutrition Study Group, making a grand total of £1,861. Once again we have managed to increase our total – this time by over £287 more than last year. We wouldn't be able to do this without all your generous support, prize donations, surplus Study Group monies and all our lovely hard working "helpers".

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

Next raffle will be in March – let us make a good start to the 2011 Peace Hospice donation.

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 (on the right as you come in).

John and June Baughen

Interest form for individuals

Following extensive research and consultation with users, the Payments Council has taken the decision to set a target date of 31st October 2018 – in eight years' time – to close the UK's central cheque clearing, effectively bringing an end to the cheque as we know it.

Name :

Contact Information :

Your views/comments on the Payments Council work on the future of cheques :

