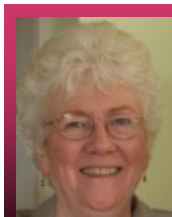


STUDY GROUP NEWS

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



*Message
From the
Sub-
Editor
Study
Group
News*

Jill Ibbott

Hasn't it been a pleasure to see the young green leaves appearing on the trees, and all the spring flowers and blossom suddenly exploding? Dare we hope that it augurs well for the coming summer? Well, we'll make the most of it anyway.

Terry, our Chairman hasn't sent us his usual message for the Newsletter as he has just produced his end of year Chairman's Report and didn't want to duplicate any of the content here.

However, he has sent a couple of items of interest, one regarding a trip to the World War II battle fields organised by S.W. Herts U3A, and another regarding your copy of U3A News. Look out for these items elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Thank you, SGLs, for putting the name of your group in the Subject Box of your emails. It has made my life so much easier! Keep up the good work.

Copy for the next Newsletter, which will be for JUNE, should be emailed by **20th May** to **watfordu3a@yahoo.co.uk**. I am on holiday from 21st May so the next Newsletter will be mainly edited by Margaret; please help by sending in your contributions as early as possible before 20th. Thanks.

Watford & District

U3A

A G M

Tuesday, 3rd June 2011

Hope to see you there!



Study Group Topics
By Margaret Foster
Study Group Coordinator

Hello Everyone, I hope you all enjoyed your Easter, it was so nice to have the sunshine in our favour. To all Study Group Leaders, the May 3rd Meeting is the closing date for updating your entry in the Synopsis. I have received quite a lot of updates so don't be the one that is left behind, if your group entry needs updating, do it now and please let me know if your group is full. To all members, this is the time when the Study Group Leaders will be asking to see your new membership card, please help them by having it ready for them to see. It is a good idea to always have your card with you in case you want to book for a course or if you are asked to show it. We do not ask members to show their cards for fun, it is necessary for Insurance purposes.

A plea from me: I honestly do like getting telephone calls from you. I speak to members who were in the U3A before I had even heard of it, and I get calls from new members, then there are the calls from us – the in betweens – and it's nice to speak to everyone who phones. However, if you have to leave a message on the answerphone please speak slowly and clearly and give the date and time of your call. Sometimes it takes me ages to work out a call and I do try because I never want to leave someone waiting for a reply. So **SLOWLY AND CLEARLY DATE AND TIME PLEASE**. The coffee break at the May meeting is the "U3A for PEACE" month when we are asking for a voluntary contribution when you collect your drink; this will be sent to the Peace Hospice to help with their funds. A fuller explanation was given in last month's newsletter. Have a happy and safe month and I hope to see you at the next meeting.

Obituary

Col. Robert Dawson Wheal

It is with very great sadness that we announce, at the age of 95, the death on Saturday the 16th of April, of Col. Bob Wheal. He was a very talented and knowledgeable musician who created, led and conducted the fabulous 'Top brass Orchestra' which many U3A members supported at their many concert performances. Generous with his time and his ideas he 'tinkled the ivories' at a number of our Christmas productions. He also brought his jazz trio to entertain at several WU3A Christmas lunches, setting our feet tapping and greatly adding to the festive enjoyment.

He led the Jazz Appreciation Group for 10 years with Peter Andrews, bringing great enthusiasm and a fund of information to the meetings. He was also a member of the Chess group where he enjoyed regular games. Always the perfect gentleman, WU3A has lost a very special man who will be greatly missed but he leaves us some great memories.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his sons, family and friends at this time.



*Committee Notes from
our Secretary*
Margaret Redding

The Committee met on April 14th when details and arrangements for the AGM in June were discussed. At least 57 people have not yet renewed their membership and it is hoped that the membership figures will be finalised by the June meeting so that the decision regarding capping membership can be decided. The Treasurer presented his Accounts and Report, and the Chairman his Report, for distribution with the Agenda before the AGM.

The Study Group Co-ordinator reported a successful SGL meeting and that the new Boards were working well, even though rather heavy to bring to meetings. Assistance will be given, and it is hoped to get help to continue with the Book Stall for the next few months. During the coffee break in May, a U3A for Peace collection will be made which will be entirely voluntary. The sponsorship for the Third Agers Starlight Walk team will be given as a U3A donation rather than individually.



Anglo-German Walks 4th Frid 9.30am.

Antiques

2nd Tues 2.00–4.00pm at my home.

Our subject for April was tea, coffee and furniture and artefacts relating thereto. Fascinating to learn that tea was so expensive when it was first discovered – it was thought that the tea leaves were stewed and then eaten. Didn't go down too well, literally and figuratively, until someone decided to reverse the recipe and throw away the leaves and imbibe the remaining liquid. At first teacups were handle-less – in old paintings one can see that the cups were held in numerous ways, such as by the base rim or not filling the cups and holding the tips so as not to burn one's fingers. Then it was discovered that handles enabled one to drink without scalding oneself and thus a happy ritual was formed. Tea was so valuable that it was kept in special 'caddies' – beautiful and well sought after boxes made of tortoiseshell, ivory and precious woods, with a mixing bowl between two containers to enable one to mix one's own blend. Beautiful pieces of furniture such as teapoys were made: a tripod table upon which the caddies were inbuilt. A heart-warming subject concluded with an excellent cup of the aforesaid beverage – in a cup with handles of course!
10 May: What is it? Members' curios and pieces of interest.
Art Appreciation
2nd Mon 10am for 10.30am at Hollytree House.
In April several members of the group presented art that they would like to share with their grandchildren. This included a wide range of art and artists including a work by William Rockwell, from Phil McMahon and paintings by Picasso and Dendy Sadler from Kath McMahon. Pat Woollard chose a number of landscapes, while

Joyce Hoffbrand showed us paintings of her grandparents. Margaret Thompson concluded with a selection of paintings by Braque and the 17C portrait by John Rile of the Scullion of Christ Church Oxford. This made for a very enjoyable morning, so a big 'thank you' to all the presenters.

9 May Cynthia Morgan presents 'Women Artists' and Colin Richards presents 'Women in Art'.

The group is now full.

Book Discussion Group

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

Chess

2nd & 4th Tues 9.30am.

We have dwindling numbers of players coming so I would like any player who has never been to consider coming. Any strength of play is very acceptable and I would be pleased to re-teach any past-players. Those who do attend have some great games.

Computers

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

Classics Group

3rd Mon 2.15pm.

New members are always welcome.

Cryptic Crosswords

1st & 3rd Fri of the month.

I regret this group is full.

Current Affairs

3rd Tues 10.00am.

Hollytree House.

Our April meeting started with a presentation by Robert Carnaghan on the topic of "Climate change". He made us realise that, though many scientists and governments are committed to the idea of mankind's responsibility for global warming, there are equally authoritative views that this is not the case and much of what we have seen in recent years can be ascribed to natural causes. We had a lively discussion on this topic.

After coffee we considered the opinion expressed by Kenneth Clarke, the Justice Secretary, that sending criminals to jail is a waste of money and this led to a broad ranging discussion on how to deal with offenders.

17 May Next meeting.

Cycling

1st Mon and 3rd Wed (??)

starting at Watford Met Station at 10.00am.

I have decided to change one of the days on which I run cycling. I will transfer the Wednesday ride to the **2nd Friday** of the month, starting on May 13th. The Monday ride will continue as before.

I will most likely be around to lead rides in April and also the first ride in May. I do not know when I shall be available again after that. I suggest that you just meet and go where the fancy takes you.

Remember that I plan to change the **Wednesday ride to the 2nd Friday from May** but until I am around again you can please yourselves.

Please note that it will be the turn of the Cyclists together with the Tuesday Trekkers to run the tea and coffee distribution at the monthly meeting in June.

Discovering the South East

The Three Rivers Tour.

Tuesday 19 July 2011.

Price £30.50. Pick up:- Essex Arms at 8am.

The first trip for this new group is a full day guided tour exploring the Stour, Orwell and Deben, visiting the smallest town in England, then on to the ancient and compact centre of Ipswich for exploring and for lunch. Finishing off the day with a boat trip incl. tea and cake; depending on the tide this will either be up river past the Sutton Hoo burial site to elegant Woodbridge, or seawards towards the estuary and Felixstowe. The main group of people will have first choice for this trip (that is all of

those who are not currently on Exploring London). If however there are seats left, the reserve list will get an email/phone call from group leader to let you know availability. As the group leader is on holiday Margaret Foster will be selling tickets for this at the May meeting in the side room at 9.15 am and in the coffee break. PLEASE make sure you bring your cheque book to book your ticket.
Pam Lumsden, SGL.

DIY Discussion

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

European Studies

4th Wed 10.00am.

This group is full.

Exploring London

4 May City Walk and Guildhall Art Gallery. We still have four seats available. If any member would like to join us, please contact Pat or Terry.

1 June Greenwich Observatory. Waiting List now applies.

Film Group

1st Thurs 2.15pm.

5 May Amadeus.

9 Jun Raising Arizona.

7 Jul Fargo.

Sorry, this group is now full.

Gardening

19 May A Spring outing to Sheffield Park in Sussex, a lovely National Trust destination which we have only visited before in Autumn. A few tickets remain..Remember your NT or RHS membership cards please!

16 June Outing to RHS Gardens at Hyde Hall in Essex. Tickets on sale to Group members in May, on open sale in June.

21 July Outing to Mottisfont Abbey in Hampshire. More details to follow.

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.

12 May Using old/unwanted photographs. These will be cut up and rearranged to make interesting designs, perhaps with punched shapes and/or other papers. Please bring some if possible although I will have some to use.

9 Jun - as for May

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.

Lifestyle

24 May at 2pm.

The May meeting will be all about colour matching colour to your profile. Find out about yourself about colour and image in a talk with demonstrations.

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.

9 Jun We are also going to the matinee performance of THE MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET at The Noël Coward Theatre Cost £35 inc. Coach.

Please ring Eileen or Marie if you can't make meeting but wish to go. Please remember your cheque book. 5th April is the deadline for payment.

Luncheon Club

4th Wed.

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

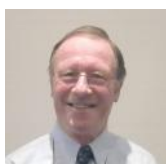
Money Matters

1st Thurs 10.00am to Noon
Hollytree House.

Music Appreciation

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

18 May This month we will be seeing a performance of Debussy – La Mer,



Ray Gynne

Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No 2 in C minor and Ravel Daphnis and Chloe Suite No 2.

This will feature The Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Herbert von Karajan, and Alexis Weissenberg – piano. The Rachmaninov piano concerto was made famous in the film “Brief Encounter”. Come and enjoy some wonderful music.

Needlecraft

PLEASE NOTE: from

Monday 4th April 2011: New Venue – Fire Station at Garston and we have changed from the 1st and 4th Mondays to once a month, the 1st Monday only. The Group is now full.

Opera

2nd Mon 2.00pm at Christine's. 9 May - 'Rusalka' by Antonin Dvorak.

13 June - La Traviata, a new recording of Verdi's tragic opera with Rene Fleming, Josef Calleja and Thomas Hampson. This is a 'not to be missed' production recorded at Covent Garden in 2009 and was relayed live to cinemas all over the country.

11 June – tba.

Pathfinders Group

4th Tues 9.25am Essex Arms.

24 May Windsor.

28 Jun Ashridge.

I regret this group is now full

Performing Arts

Mon 9 May Play reading.

Tues 19 Apr Watford Palace – Time of My Life.

Weds 1 Jun Watford Palace – Lady in the Van.

Thurs 16 Jun Hall Barn, Beaconsfield “A Winters Tale”.

Sun 24 Jul Summer Garden Party

SGL – Contact for information Brian Redding

Science Interest

3rd Mon 10.00am.

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.

25 May We

have been

discussing:

“The Merchant of Venice”, so now is the time to watch the DVD; we shall be doing this, again at Don and Gwen's place in Station Approach, starting at the usual 2 pm.

29 Jun We shall be back at our normal meeting place of 135 to continue reading the play.

Snooker

Every Mon 11.00am - 1.00pm.

Joint Group with WPU3A.

Sporting Forum

3rd Tues 2.00pm Combewood, unless otherwise advised.

17 May Graham Sterry, Chairman Watford Football Supporters Trust. Meeting at Combewood House 2pm.

16 Jun 20/20 Cricket Middx v Lords. Extra Event

21 Jun Ten Pin Bowling Woodside Bowl, 2pm.

13 Jul Evening Horse Racing at Sandown.

The planned Car Rally for June will now take place in September.

Future event:

18 Oct Visit to Olympic Site at Stratford and Greenwich.

For further details on all these events contact Allan Humphris

Strollers

2nd & 4th Tues 11.00am.

10 May Brenda & Valerie – Leavesden Park. Park at YMCA and eat at Essex Arms.

24 May Peggy & Joan: – Merlin Woods (in Whippendell

Woods). Park in Rousebarn Lane and eat at Essex Arms.

14 Jun N.B. Change of Programme! Peggy, with Joan or Dorelle – Woods near Rousebarn Lane. Park in Rousebarn Lane and eat at Essex Arms.

The Explorers

1st Fri of the month.

6 May - Marsworth. Walk Leader Diane Faulkner. Meet Essex Arms to Car Share. Eat at White Lion PH, Marsworth.

3 Jun - Ashridge. Walk Leaders Allan & Diana. Meet 09.30 Essex Arms to car share or 10.00 car park nr Ashridge Monument. Eat at Bridgewater Arms.

The Rock 'n' Roll Yrs

4th Thurs 2.30pm Hollytree House.

In March we listened to yet more songs from the ladies of the fifties & sixties, Petula Clark, Kay Starr, Wanda Jackson, Maureen Evans, Helen Shapiro, Brenda Lee and Connie Francis. We finished with us all singing along to Susan Vaughn singing Bobby's Girl!

There will be no meeting in May.

23 Jun Original Recordings part 3.

Visitors welcome

Thirsty Walkers

4th Thur Essex Arms 9.30am Car-sharing where possible. We always enjoy a good lunch after the walk with friendly company. Come and join us! The next three walks are:

26 May Walking The

Ridgeway, led by Mike and Rae Thomas. Lunch at The Valiant Trooper.

23 Jun

Scatterdell

Woods, led by Alan and Carol Rose from The Paper Mill PH.

28 Jul Peter and Jean Groves are taking us on a walk at London Colney, lunch at The Green Dragon.



Francis Goode



Peter Birkett

Toffee

3rd Thurs 10.00am - 12.00.

19 May Next meeting.

Travel Group

Tuesday Trekkers

Meet 9.45am for 10.00am.



10th May David leads (no not Cameron) and he has found some hills. Meet

Rickmansworth Aquadrome CP.

14th June Alan and Carol lead. Meet 0930 Essex Arms and travel to darkest Bedmond for hopefully a circular walk.

Lunch: The Compasses, Abbots Langley.

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 midday. New members welcome.

Details from John Carleton



John Carleton

U3A Singers

1st & 3rd Mon 2.30pm.

We are enjoying singing some familiar, traditional songs from all over the British Isles which have evoked memories of our schooldays, it is sad to think that nowadays, the younger generations are not familiar with our rich, musical heritage! Also, since Christmas, we have been without an **accompanist**, which means that our leader, Celia, is having to play the piano as well as selecting and arranging the music, teaching the parts, conducting – and keeping everyone busy!!! We would dearly love to hear from someone who would be willing to assist us in this way, if not full time, perhaps as a part-time accompanist. If you can help, please get in touch with Celia. Reminder to members:

2 May No meeting – Bank Holiday

Extra voices welcome!

Walking

2nd & 4th Wed.

Most walks meet JS A41.

Six miles 10.00am.

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.

PIANIST WANTED

To accompany U3A singers

Please contact

Celia Jackson

WORLD WAR II BATTLE FIELDS – WITH S.W.HERTS U3A

S.W. Herts U3A are organising a Tour which commences on 29th September 2011 and returns on 2nd October.

The trip is by coach from Watford, there will be an experienced guide – the cost is £375 B&B for two people sharing twin or double room.

Watford U3A Members are welcome to join the trip.

For more details contact

JUDITH BOGIE

Ask the chairman for email address.

PEACE HOSPICE STARLIGHT WALK

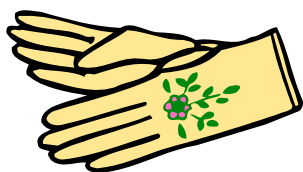
Third Agers Team

Our team for the 6 mile Peace Hospice Starlight Walk on June 11th/12th is growing nicely, and we are looking forward to our Girls' Night Out!

We wondered whether those extra-fit Third Agers who are planning to undertake the 13 mile walk would like to join our team – even though they will be travelling on when we have stopped for breakfast!

We have agreed that our sponsorship will be combined and entered on behalf of Watford and District U3A, unless you prefer an individual contribution in your own name. If anyone else would like to take part in this Walk, please let me know and you will be very welcome!

Margaret Redding



LOST PROPERTY

A pair of ladies gloves were left behind at the April Monthly Meeting. and will be available for collection at the May meeting.

Thank you to the finders, Jean and Peter Groves.

U3A NEWS & SOURCES

The THIRD AGE TRUST

is offering all members the opportunity to receive copies of the U3A NEWS and SOURCES by mail directly to your home address for £1.60 per year.

For more details contact the THIRD AGE TRUST, email:

national.office@u3a.org.uk

telephone : 020 8466 6139

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?

Editor.

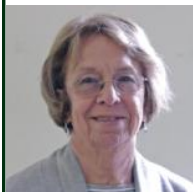
Look at our website for more information :www.watfordu3a.org.uk

WU3A COMMITTEE

2010-2011



Chairman
Terry Godfrey



Secretary
Margaret Redding

Vice Chairman
John Friend



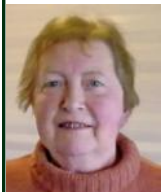
Treasurer
Dick Chapman

Study Group Coordinator
Margaret Foster



Membership Secretary
Alan Prest

Committee Member
Frances Ayrton



Minutes Secretary
Tricia Ashby

Speaker Secretary (Non Com.)
David Helliwell



Peace Hospice Raffle – April 2011

There was a coffee morning in April which sold homemade jams, marmalade etc. and also had a Tombola. £342.00 was raised which has been added to our raffle money. Thanks to all who supported it.

The next raffle will be on Tuesday 7th June

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

John and June Baughen

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)".

U3A Almoners

Irene Lowe
Peggy Element
Janet Carleton
Kath McMahon

MICROSOFT OFFICE PROFESSIONAL 2007

WORD, EXCEL, ACCESS, OUTLOOK, POWERPOINT, PUBLISHER.

MRP Cost: £450+
special offer to bona fide members of the U3A:
£56.40

to order a copy, first contact Colin Richards
digitalequipment@watfordu3a.org.uk

VUE CINEMA OVER 60s RATES

Mon - Thurs before 5pm. £4.70. After 5pm. £5.65
Fri before 5 pm. £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

CHARITY APPEALS
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 much appreciated.
David & Sue Saunders.

STAMPS

We collect these for The Peace Hospice.
Marie & Barry Irwin

Members' Free Adverts

FREE

Apple Mac G4 computer, keyboard and screen
Contact Philip Wolff

Advertisements may be edited or omitted depending on space.

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.

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

7th June AGM

5th July Butterfly World (Speaker TBA)

For more detail contact Speaker Secretary:-

David Helliwell

speakers@watfordu3a.org.uk

Next Newsletter June

Copy for Study Group News can be sent anytime but **MUST** be received by:
20 May
email copy to:

watfordu3a@yahoo.co.uk