

# Woodside



Newsletter

September 2024

MEETING AT THE STANBOROUGH CENTRE WATFORD

<https://u3asites.org.uk/woodside>

Charity Registration Number.: 1182140



Hello everyone

Welcome back after our Summer break. I hope many of you managed to get away for a change of scenery, and possibly some favourable weather! I was fortunate enough to take a short road trip to France, visiting Brittany and the Loire Valley, and was quickly struck by the differences between the French roads and the British ones. Firstly, there were no potholes on either the main roads or the roads through the towns and cities. Secondly, there was no litter in the town streets or beside the roads - a pleasant surprise for anyone who has recently driven north on the A41. Lastly, we were travelling on a Sunday and it soon became clear there were no HGVs on the roads. Apparently these are banned on Sundays not only in France but in many other European countries such as Italy and Germany - it made the driving much more pleasant! On the other hand, French patisseries that are open from 6.30am to 7pm, and wine at less than 3 euros a glass, could pose a serious threat to health, so perhaps it is as well it was only a short visit.

See you in October

*Heather*

**Today's Speaker:- Bee Keeping with Kate MacNish & Chris Bromwich  
To help the environment please remember to bring your own drinking vessel.**

## Speakers Report 'Body In A Bag'

**O**ur speaker on 16th of July was Paul Barwick on the subject of Gareth Williams, who was the victim of the still unsolved mystery of how his body came to be found in a locked holdall in his bath. The police found his body after a terrible stench was noticed emanating from his Government allocated Pimlico flat, where the door was locked from the outside and the heating was turned up to full in high Summer. Gareth had a small circle of friends, and was extremely clever, especially with computers. He was an unbeatable online gamer and worked for both GCHQ and MI6. He had been an expert code breaker for six years, maybe working on cyber crime or money laundering? There was no evidence at all of a struggle, drink or drugs or cause of death, also no DNA evidence. His computer and phone had been returned to factory settings. Had the immaculate flat been forensically cleaned? There were wigs

and women's clothing found in his wardrobe, but nothing had ever been worn by him. He had tried on one shoe. Lurid media stories began to circulate about Gareth's private life but these were rubbish by the police. Experts in escapology were unable to fit themselves into the holdall. At the coroner's court MI6 were accused of concealing information. Was it an accident, suicide or murder? Why did he die? Someone knows but the public may never know. So very sad that this gifted man died at the age of just 34. Paul is a very interesting and charismatic speaker. We could hear a pin drop throughout his presentation and we may well have him back, as he presents on other subjects.

*Louise*



### Craft Group *(and a note from Jo)*

**P**lease remember gardeners that caterpillars are baby butterflies (or moths). Using insecticide will wipe out generations of beautiful butterflies to come. Many birds such as blue tits eat caterpillars and your poison may kill them as well.

The craft group made these delightful bowls using piping cord and narrow strips of fabric.

## 'Doodle Art' Comes To York University



**I**n July the National u3a held its first ever national 3 day festival in York University campus where **our very own Pam Cotton** was invited to run a 'Doodle Art' workshop. Though not all of those who signed up for the event appeared, several people asked to join on the day so the event was very well attended with 24 participants. Pam first started by asking "Is there anyone here who can't draw?" Several hands went up and Pam then said "Well, by the end of this workshop you will be able to". Having showed them a method to write a greeting on a greetings card, she then demonstrated some easy to follow shapes

which, when put together, were used in so many different ways that everyone had a beautiful hand crafted greetings card to take away with them. *Ken*

## Gardening Group *by Sue Brown*

**O**n July 5th - some members of the Gardening Group went on a trip to Gotha Gardens near Baldock - organised by our member Linda Murphy. What a hidden gem it was, and despite not perfect weather we discovered the most delightful gardens and had a really delicious lunch. All in all a really lovely day and we can't wait to return next year.



# CHRISTMAS LUNCH

*Dave D.*

**W**e will be taking bookings for the Christmas Lunch as from this morning and also at the October meeting.

In the October meeting a table plan will also be available to book your seating. The Menu is available at the booking desk. The price is £31 per person for a 3 course meal. Payment is preferable by BACS please where possible.

**Aldenham Golf & Country Club**

**Wednesday 4th December**

**1.00 Start - Til 5.00 pm**

## Afternoon Garden Picnic



**O**n Tuesday 20th of August, instead of our usual monthly meeting, we were all invited to an afternoon picnic between 2 and 4 pm. We were very lucky that Joyce Gray offered her beautiful garden as the venue. Joyce greeted us with a huge jug of Pymms and other cold drinks. It was a lovely sunny day and a chance to chat and mingle outside. Members attending were very generous with their picnics, offering round both sweet and savoury treats. A massive thanks to Joyce for opening her garden to us and for the tempting cold drinks. *Louise*

## Canal Trip *by John Simpson*

**O**n July 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 numerous members from Woodside U3A gathered at The Waterways Experience Centre at Nash Mills and boarded a splendid canal boat for a cruise down to Hunton Bridge. The vessel was fully equipped with seating, tables, a kitchen where tea/coffee could be made and consumed by the passengers. The actual cruise included a very leisurely paced ride down the Grand Union Canal where some of the passengers assisted with the opening/closing of the locks which made our journey safe, smooth and enjoyable. Opportunities were available to steer the vessel, under supervision, with confidence. On the return journey we enjoyed our Fish and Chips or similar meal.



The journey was relaxing (vessels have a speed restrictions to observe so as not to damage the banks of the canal ), but reluctantly we had to return to the 'real world' as we returned to Nash Mills wharf. Many thanks to all who supported this event and made this such a pleasant experience.

### **Did You Know? Armadillos are bulletproof!**

(This is NOT an invitation to test the fact though:)

### **Alexa Joke**

**Bald men always keep their last comb.....they just can't part with it!**

## Interest Groups Contact Details

<b>Art</b>	Contact: Sue Walters on 07989 250483, Group meets fortnightly 10-12am at Tanners Wood Hall.
<b>Badminton</b>	Contact: Susan Coultrup on 01923 334387. Group meets weekly on a Wednesday at Woodside Leisure Centre 2-3pm (This is a joint group with SWH)
<b>Books</b>	Contact: Libby Crawford on 01923 247847. Group meet every 3rd Wednesday at 10.30am
<b>Bridge Improvers</b>	Contact: Judith Evans on 01923 260354 or 07960 642651. Group meets 1st and 3rd Mondays at 1.30 - 4.30 at Asda Room 3 (this is a joint group with SWH)
<b>Canasta</b>	Contact: Denise Branton on 07786 391534. Group meets 3rd Tuesday of the month at Asda Community Suite at 2.00pm
<b>Craft</b>	Contact: Jo Bromwich on 01923 443758. This group meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month at Abbots Langley Cricket Club at 10 until 12 am
<b>Creative Writing</b>	Contact: Ian Woolcott on 07505 769911 (Details to be advised)
<b>Doodle Art</b>	Contact: Pam Cotton 07876 384026. Group meets 1st Tuesday of the month at the Royal Oak, Abbots Langley 11am. Stay for lunch and a chat.
<b>Drama</b>	Contact: Joyce Holton 07795 193405 This group meets on a Tuesday at Asda Community Suite, 10.00am until 11.30am
<b>Family History</b>	Contact: Bea Luffrum on 07711709039. Group meets monthly on the 1st Wednesday morning at members houses (this is a joint group with SWH).
<b>French</b>	Contact: Heather Lace on 07951937064. Group meets fortnightly on a Monday at 2.30p at members houses
<b>Garden Visits</b>	Contact: Teresa Brunswick on 07712 710811. Watch out for news of visits at the General Meeting.
<b>Line Dancing</b>	Contact: Judy Lovell on 01923 893368. Group meets 1st and 3rd Mondays. First session 10.15am. Second sessions 11.15am (This is a joint group with SWH)
<b>Listening To Music</b>	Group meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 2pm. Contact: Lawrence Pearlman on 07752 367664 or email <a href="mailto:pearlyman58@gmail.com">pearlyman58@gmail.com</a>
<b>Local Theatre Group</b>	Contact: Pam Young on 07811 219936. Trips to be advised. Payments to be made at the time of putting your name down for a trip. Travel will be shared vehicles.
<b>Lunch Group</b>	Contact: Joyce Gray on 01923 263213 or <a href="mailto:rejoyce.gray@gmail.com">rejoyce.gray@gmail.com</a> Monthly. Days and venue vary.
<b>Mexican Train</b>	Contact: Bernice Caffrey on 01923 672359. Group 1 meets every 4 weeks on a Thursday at 2.00-4.00pm. Group 2 meets every 4th Monday 2.00-4.00pm
<b>Murder/ Mystery</b>	Contact: John Simpson on <a href="tel:07531542605">tel.no 07531 542605</a> - Group meets on a ad hoc basis in group members homes.
<b>Pathfinders</b>	Contact: Patrick Turner on 0923 263511 or 7954640263. Meets on 4th Thursday morning of the month. (this is a joint group with SWH)
<b>Philosophy</b>	Contact: Jeanne Johnson on 01923 263598. Group meets monthly on 1st Monday 2.00-4.00pm. (This is a joint group with SWH)
<b>Photography</b>	Contact Ken Jones on 01923 264855. Group meets most months at a venue to be decided, to take a photograph and have a social time at a local cafe.

## Interest Groups Continued

<b>Play Reading For Fun</b>	<b>Contact: Derek Giles on 01923 270971. 4th Wednesday at Asda at 10.00am -12.30pm and again 1st Monday at Asda at 2.00pm - 4.30pm (This is a joint group with SWH)</b>
<b>Pub Lunch And Darts</b>	<b>Contact: Ken Cotton 01923 269720. Group meets at the Unicorn Pub, Abbots Langley. Meets On 1st Tuesday Of The Month at 12.30pm</b>
<b>Quiz</b>	<b>Contact: Glen Price on 07787155461 meeting at YMCA Haines Way at 7.00pm on the third Thursday of the month.</b>
<b>Spanish 1</b>	<b>Contact: Sue Brown on 01923 661516. Group meets fortnightly on Friday at 11.00 - 12.00am at the Royal Oak, Abbots Langley.</b>
<b>Sewing</b>	<b>Contact:Tina Photi on 07427866825. Group meets Wednesday at 10.00-12.00am at Tina's home.</b>
<b>Sequence Dancing</b>	<b>Contact: Janet Moles on 07835 260967 Next meeting Friday 9th December at All Saints Church Hall from 2.00pm until 4.00pm.</b>
<b>Sign Language</b>	<b>Contact: Sue Hickson on 07958 669311. Group meets 1st &amp; 3rd Friday of the month. 2.00-3.30pm. Contact Sue for venue.</b>
<b>Singing for Pleasure</b>	<b>Contact:Ady Shaw 01923 518021. Group meets fortnightly on Thursday at 10.00am -11.30am at Asda.</b>
<b>Social Outing Group</b>	<b>Contact: Joan <a href="mailto:jgillett43@gmail.com">jgillett43@gmail.com</a> Mobile: 07881 768793</b>
<b>Table Tennis</b>	<b>Contact: John Simpson on 07531 542605. Group meets fortnightly at 10.00-12.00am at the YMCA Haines Way.</b>
<b>Ten Pin Bowling</b>	<b>Contact (initially) Bernice Caffrey on 01923 672359. Group meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at Hollywood Bowl at 2.00pm starting on the 11th September</b>
<b>Trips</b>	<b>Contact: Martin Rodel on 01923 442417. Available trips advertised at General Meetings.</b>
<b>Ukulele</b>	<b>Contact: Trevor Boardman on 01923 244016. Group meets 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursday and 2nd, 4th and 5th Wednesday at 2.00pm at Tesco Extra Community Room (this is a joint group with SWH)</b>
<b>Weekenders</b>	<b>Contact: Teresa Brunswick on 07712710811. Watch out for news of visits at the General Meeting.</b>
<b>Woodside Walk Five</b>	<b>Contact: Derryck Croker on 07941 401421 for details of next meeting. Group meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday. (This is a joint group with SWH)</b>
<b>Wednesday Walkers</b>	<b>Contact: Derryck Croker on 07941 401421 Group meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month (This is a joint group with SWH)</b>

**We are always looking for new interest groups  
If you have any ideas then please speak to Bernice at the  
general meeting**



**General Meeting Talk Next Month**  
**'Music Of Our Time' by Alan Duffy**  
**November**  
**'Winter Tales' by Joanne Bogal**

**Refreshment Rota:-**

**September: Weekenders & Walking**

**October: Art & Badminton**

**WANTED: NEWS & PHOTOGRAPHS**  
suitable for publication please send to  
The Webmaster, Andrew Cummings at  
[andrew.cummingsu3a@btinternet.com](mailto:andrew.cummingsu3a@btinternet.com)  
The newsletter is available online at  
<https://u3asites.org.uk/woodside>

**AND FOR THE NEWSLETTER**

Send to Ken Cotton, 01923 269720 or  
email:- [woodsideu3a22@gmail.com](mailto:woodsideu3a22@gmail.com)

**\*Copy Date Is 1st Of The Month\***

**N.B. Due To Limited Space, Articles  
May Need To Be Edited!**

**Max 150-200 Words Please**

**IMPORTANT CONTACT DETAILS**

**[webmaster@woodsideu3a.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@woodsideu3a.org.uk)**  
**[newsletter:- woodsideu3a22@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter:- woodsideu3a22@gmail.com)**

So our u3a can be as environmentally friendly as possible, you are invited to bring your own mug to our monthly general meetings. These are easier to drink from and will save using plastic cups.



**The Committee Contact Details:**

**Heather Lace - Chair**  
07951 937064



[chair@woodsideu3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@woodsideu3a.org.uk)

**Ken Cotton - Vice Chair**  
01923 269720



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**Dave Daniels** [lehdansom@aol.com](mailto:lehdansom@aol.com)



**Next General Meeting**  
**15th October 2024**