

Woodside



Newsletter

December 2024

MEETING AT THE STANBOROUGH CENTRE WATFORD

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

Charity Registration Number.: 1182140



Hello everyone

'I'M SORRY, COULD YOU SAY THAT AGAIN?'

I don't know about you, but recently I seem to be struggling a bit with hearing. Noisy restaurants, particularly with background music, are becoming more challenging, and I find I often either turn up the volume on the television or, more frequently, turn on subtitles - although I am convinced actors are mumbling more! Especially irritating, apparently, is when family members make a remark and when asked to repeat it reply, 'Oh, it doesn't matter.' I am also concerned about a possible link with hearing loss and dementia, although this link does not apply if the loss is corrected, so I will be making an appointment for a hearing test.

At our monthly meetings I am aware that several people struggle with our speakers, even with a microphone, so will try to ensure everyone (including myself) speaks a little more slowly and clearly, faces the audience and reduces background noise, and hopefully seasonal gatherings will be more enjoyable for all with an awareness of potential issues.

In spite of concerning world issues, I hope all our members have a peaceful and happy Christmas and New Year. See you in 2025!

Heather

The Shedettes and Drama Group Are Performing Today

To help the environment please remember to bring your own drinking vessel.

Speakers Report *by Louise*

Our November speaker was **Joanna Bogle** who is a writer and historian. Her talk is entitled **Winter Tales**. Joanna has a passion for keeping alive our traditions and place names, some of which are over 1000 years old. Street names, pub names and skipping rhymes are being lost to time and passing season rituals are also being forgotten. November is the dying season and pagans had a tradition of bonfires which were practical, to get rid of dead wood and leaves, and bonfires provided light in the darkness of Winter. Halloween is not meant to be a spooky occasion but fun, and All Hallows Eve is a celebration of the saints; hallowing meaning holy. When christianity arrived in 597 with Augustine, bonfires were connected to All Saints Eve. Although not celebrated with bonfires, warriors from earliest times would understand and recognise the concept of honouring our war dead on 11.11.11 each year.



Bonfires connected to Guy Fawkes are a separate event and should not be linked to events celebrated from many centuries before. There is no evidence in the Bible that Mary arrived in Bethlehem on a donkey but the dates we celebrate are checkable there. Joanna reminded us of the Advent wreath with its four candles representing light and eternity, one lit every week for the four weeks leading up to Christmas. There is only evidence in the bible of gifts to Jesus but not of three wise men. The tradition of Santa Claus began with Saint Nicholas, a Scandinavian bishop who sent three bags of gold down the chimney of three good girls with no dowry. The money fell into their stockings which were hanging from the mantle piece to dry. Santa asking children if they've been good or bad may be connected to this. Joanna reminded us of stockings of our childhood filled with a tangerine, sweets and simple toys. She is a very entertaining and interesting speaker. It was a pleasure to listen to her.

Christmas Singalong: 'When A Child Is Born'

It's all a dream and illusion now

It must come true, sometime soon somehow

All across the land, dawns a brand new morn

This comes to pass when a child is born.

Badminton Is Nearly In It's 8th Year!

In February we start the 8th year of badminton. It has been one of the most enjoyable days in my week, good games, laughs and chatting over coffee afterwards. Sadly we are losing one of our players as she is moving away to live near family on the South Coast, we will miss her greatly. However, a new lady has joined us and is fitting in very well with everyone. We recently had our Christmas Lunch at The Harvester which was very enjoyable. Sometimes people cannot make it but we usually have about 14 players to enjoy this beautiful game. **HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE.** *by Sue Coultrup (Group Leader)*



This Is A Joint Group with SW Herts

Christmas Quiz

- 1, *What Was The Name Of Best Selling Single Of All Time?*
- 2, *What Year Did The Film 'Wonderful Life Come Out?*
- 3, *Who Wrote The Classic Story 'A Christmas Carol'?*
- 4, *Where Did Joseph, Mary & Jesus Travel To After Bethlehem?*
- 5, *Which Artist Recorded 'Run Rudolph Run'?*

Answers On Page Five

Alexa Christmas Joke

How Much Does it Cost Santa To Park His Sleigh?
Nothing!....It's On The House!

My Favourites

Name: Dave Daniels

Committee Member

Place Of Birth: King Street Watford

Favourite Food: Fish & Chips

Favourite Film: Blues Brothers

Favourite TV Program: Any Quiz Show

My Hobbies: Playing Golf & Jigsaws

Favourite Kind Of Music: Anything From The 60's & 70's

My Bucket List: Play A Musical Instrument

Who Would you Most Like To Meet

(Living Or Passed Away): Sarina Wiegman (English Ladies Football Manager)

Favourite Holiday: Caribbean Cruise

Where Would You Like To Visit: See The Northern Lights

Who Would You Not Want To Be In A Lift With: Anyone Who Is Claustrophobic

1st Car: Ford Anglia



Please Help Make Our New Members

It can be a daunting experience for new members to enter a hall full of people they do not know. For various reasons members leave and unless new members join and replace them our u3a cannot survive. We pride ourselves on being a welcoming and friendly u3a so if someone asks to join your table, **please make them feel**

Ken

*'Christmas Is Coming, The Goose Is Getting Fat
See who's sitting Next To You And Have A Little Chat'*

Can You Find These Christmas Words?

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L | L | Y | L | B | H | S | I | E | Y | L | L | O | H |
| E | T | E | B | S | A | N | N | M | O | R | E | S | N |
| B | G | R | G | C | B | O | Y | I | O | I | R | G | O |
| L | B | I | E | N | C | W | R | S | O | B | B | N | E |
| S | E | N | C | E | A | F | C | T | H | B | A | I | R |
| T | T | N | S | O | R | L | R | L | E | O | U | K | A |
| N | H | K | U | S | O | A | A | E | S | N | B | E | T |
| E | L | E | S | O | L | K | C | T | T | J | L | E | S |
| S | E | E | E | C | S | E | K | O | A | O | E | R | C |
| E | H | P | J | M | A | E | E | E | B | S | G | H | A |
| R | E | E | Y | A | E | N | R | S | L | E | I | T | M |
| P | M | R | B | R | L | P | D | E | E | P | B | U | E |
| E | S | L | A | Y | A | R | A | L | E | H | N | N | L |
| U | R | E | B | T | M | A | N | G | E | R | O | G | T |

Tree
Candle
Snowflake
Bauble
Star
Cracker
Three Kings
Shepherd
Bethlehem
Holly
Ribbon
Presents
Baby Jesus
Stable
Angel
Mistletoe
Inn Keeper
Manger
Joseph
Mary
Carols

One Word Is Missing!..... But Which One?

New Quizmaster Needed!

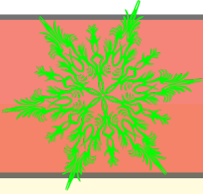
Glen has sadly decided it is time to give up running the quiz. Bernice has suggested that maybe members could take it in turns to run the quiz? If anyone is interested in taking it over from Glen, or running it jointly please contact Bernice at the meeting or at: caffreyba@gmail.com

Quiz Answers

1, Bing Crosby's White Christmas 2, 1946 3, Charles Dickens
4, Egypt 5, Chuck Berry

Interest Groups Contact Details

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Art | Contact: Sue Walters on 07989 250483, Group meets fortnightly 10-12am at Tanners Wood Hall. |
| Badminton | 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) |
| Books | Contact: Libby Crawford on 01923 247847. Group meet every 3rd Wednesday at 10.30am |
| Bridge Improvers | 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) |
| Canasta | Contact: Denise Branton on 07786 391534. Group meets 3rd Tuesday of the month at Asda Community Suite at 2.00pm |
| Craft | 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 |
| Creative Writing | Contact: Ian Woolcott on 07505 769911 (Details to be advised) |
| Drama | Contact: Joyce Holton 07795 193405 This group meets on a Tuesday at Asda Community Suite, 10.00am until 11.30am |
| Family History | Contact: Bea Luffrum on 07711709039. Group meets monthly on the 1st Wednesday morning at members houses (this is a joint group with SWH). |
| French | Contact: Heather Lace on 07951937064. Group meets fortnightly on a Monday at 2.30p at members houses |
| Garden Visits | Contact: Teresa Brunswick on 07712 710811. Watch out for news of visits at the General Meeting. |
| Line Dancing | 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) |
| Listening To Music | Group metes on the 2nd Monday of the month at 2pm. Contact: Lawrence Pearlman on 07752 367664 or email pearlyman58@gmail.com |
| Local Theatre Group | 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. |
| Lunch Group | Contact: Joyce Gray on 01923 263213 or rejoyce.gray@gmail.com Monthly. Days and venue vary. |
| Mexican Train | 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 |
| Murder/ Mystery | Contact: John Simpson on tel.no 07531 542605 - Group meets on a ad hoc basis in group members homes. |
| Pathfinders | Contact: Patrick Turner on 0923 263511 or 7954640263. Meets on 4th Thursday morning of the month. (this is a joint group with SWH) |
| Philosophy | Contact: Jeanne Johnson on 01923 263598. Group meets monthly on 1st Monday 2.00-4.00pm. (This is a joint group with SWH) |
| Photography | 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

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Play Reading For Fun | 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) |
| Pub Lunch And Darts | Contact: Ken Cotton 01923 269720. Group meets at the Unicorn Pub, Abbots Langley. Meets On 1st Tuesday Of The Month at 12.30pm |
| Spanish 1 | Contact: Sue Brown on 01923 661516. Group meets fortnightly on Friday at 11.00 - 12.00am at the Royal Oak, Abbots Langley. |
| Sewing | Contact:Tina Photi on 07427866825. Group meets Wednesday at 10.00-12.00am at Tina's home. |
| Sequence Dancing | Contact: Janet Moles on 07835 260967 Next meeting Friday 9th December at All Saints Church Hall from 2.00pm until 4.00pm. |
| Sign Language | Contact: Sue Hickson on 07958 669311. Group meets 1st & 3rd Friday of the month. 2.00-3.30pm. Contact Sue for venue. |
| Singing for Pleasure | Contact:Ady Shaw 01923 518021. Group meets fortnightly on Thursday at 10.00am -11.30am at Asda. |
| Social Outing Group | Contact: Joan jgillett43@gmail.com Mobile: 07881 768793 |
| Table Tennis | Contact: John Simpson on 07531 542605. Group meets fortnightly at 10.00-12.00am at the YMCA Haines Way. |
| Ten Pin Bowling | 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 |
| Trips | Contact: Martin Rodel on 01923 442417. Available trips advertised at General Meetings. |
| Ukulele | 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) |
| Weekenders | Contact: Teresa Brunswick on 07712710811. Watch out for news of visits at the General Meeting. |
| Woodside Walk Five | 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) |
| Wednesday Walkers | Contact: Derryck Croker on 07941 401421 Group meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month (This is a joint group with SWH) |

**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 In January 2025
Aliens 'What Are The Chances'
by Peter Altman.

Refreshment Rota:-

June: Quiz and Spanish.

July: Sewing and Sign Language

WANTED: NEWS & PHOTOGRAPHS
suitable for publication please send to
The Webmaster, Andrew Cummings at
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

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
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

Ken Cotton - Vice Chair
01923 269720



woodsideu3a22@gmail.com

Alison Theobald - Treasurer
a.theobald@sky.com



**Lesley Cummings - Membership
Secretary** 01923 681478
membership@woodsideu3a.org.uk



**Joyce Gray - Minute Secretary &
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**Bernice Caffrey -
Interest Group Coordinator**
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Louise Smith - Speaker Organiser
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Linda Williams 01923 445598
linda57williams@hotmail.co.uk



Dave Daniels lehdansom@aol.com



Next General Meeting
Tuesday 21st January 2025