

Woodside

u3a
learn, laugh, live

Newsletter

January 2025

MEETING AT THE STANBOROUGH CENTRE WATFORD

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

Charity Registration Number.: 1182140



Hello everyone

Although I am writing this in 2024, I wish everyone a **Happy New Year for 2025!** One of my 'resolutions' for the year is to stop exclaiming about how expensive things (first class stamps, tradesmen, cups of coffee) are now, and celebrating when there are 'bargains'. On a recent trip to Bath Christmas Market we had cappuccinos in a stylish, central coffee shop delivered to the table in elegant mugs costing only £2.50 and I haven't stopped telling people about it since! One other bargain I would like to celebrate is our u3a - for an annual subscription of £22 members can attend monthly meetings in a warm comfortable venue, with coffee and biscuits and a range of interesting speakers as well as a copy of the monthly Newsletter, regular Third Age Matters magazines and access to many study groups and trips. I have had several recent conversations with members who have told me how much they value our u3a, and of the difference it has made to their lives, particularly in challenging times, and I think this is something of which we should all be proud - and for not much more than the price of a pizza!

Heather

**Today's Speaker:- Aliens 'What are the chances' by Peter Altman.
To help the environment please remember to bring your own drinking vessel.**

Speakers Report *by Louise*

As has become traditional with our U3A, in the month of December, instead of a speaker, our own groups perform and present to us. Over the years these December meetings have become more and more well attended. First up was a pantomime, which was an updated Red Riding Hood story. The unusually saucy Red Riding Hood met the woodsman who gave her a very good but unheeded warning about talking to strangers. We heard the wolf howl in the forest and by the time Red Riding Hood reached granny's, the old lady had been devoured!. of course the woodsman arrived at the last moment to save the day. The pantomime was followed by an excellent sketch about a salesman from hell. First he tried to sell the hapless Mrs King a set of encyclopedias, followed by a dodgy vacuum cleaner, double glazing, a health drink and information about the temple of inner light, representing every religion. When Mrs King said she didn't know about different religions, he said well! buy the encyclopedias!. Next came a sketch taking place in the corridor of a primary school where a parent and head teacher discussed the Nativity play. The parent wanted her daughter to play the lead role of Mary instead of the 1st sheep. The parent tried blackmail by saying that the child's dad had bought buildings and other things for the school. The head had the difficult task of ringing the mum of the little girl who had been chosen to play Mary and telling her that she was now playing 1st sheep, proving that children are often not the problem but their parents. In conclusion there was a very moving rendition of the beautiful song "When A Child Is Born" and we all sang along. Next we had a quiz, which Jo Gray had devised, and during our coffee break each table answered 15 general knowledge questions, followed by 16 questions in a picture round, about flags of Europe. Thank you Jo for a very entertaining time when we could all speak to everyone else on our table. The final entertainment was given by our group "Singing For Pleasure", ably led by Ady on his guitar. This highly popular part of the programme consisted of a series of carols and Christmas songs that we all know and love. We all joined in as the group sang: Good King Wenceslas, While Shepherds Watched, Hark The Herald Angels Sing, Deck The Halls, Ding Dong Merrily On High, Oh Come All Ye Faithful, God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, Jingle Bells, I'm Dreaming Of A White Christmas, Winter Wonderland, Let It Snow, Rocking Around The Christmas Tree, Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer, Mary's Boy Child, Silent Night and finally We Wish You A Merry Christmas. It was so enjoyable I just had to list them all. In the spirit of the U3A though I was still learning, as I didn't know before that Mary's Boy Child" is actually a Caribbean Carol. It was a wonderful morning with everyone having a great time. So much hard work had gone into it and it was hugely appreciated by all our members.



Christmas Lunch

Our Christmas Lunch this year was held at the Aldenham Golf & Country Club on the 4th December attended by 82 members. We all enjoyed excellent food and service with a raffle afterwards which raised £154 for the 'Air Ambulance' and 'Hearing Dogs' charities. **Well done to Dave Daniels** for organising the event this year and securing some wonderful prizes for the raffle. Angela Drew won a pampering day at the Colorista Hair Salon in Abbots Langley which she said she was very happy with. Other prizes were donated by the Unicorn Pub as well as some from members of the committee. **Dave has already booked for next year and allowed for extra seating!** *Ken*



Angela enjoying her raffle prize!

A New Record Set!

97 members attended the December meeting which set a new record!

Collection Of Used Stamps

I collect used stamps-not just at Christmas but all year if anybody would like to bring them in. Just cut them off leaving about 1/2 inch of paper around the stamp. They will be sent to the **Bone Cancer Research Trust**.

Lesley (At The Book Stall)

Alexa Joke

What Is Faster, Hot Or Cold?
Hot Because You Can Catch A Cold

This Months Wordsearch

Months Of The Year

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

JANUARY
FEBRUARY
MARCH
APRIL
MAY
JUNE
JULY
AUGUST
SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER
NOVEMBER
DECEMBER

January Quiz Questions

- 1, January Is named after which Roman God?
- 2, What Is January's birthstone?
- 3, Which Grand Slam Tennis Tournament is held in January?
- 4, Who played the lead role in the January 2024 series 'Mr Bates v the Post Office'?
- 5, Where did the Beatles perform an impromptu concert on January 1969?
- 6, Popeye The Sailor Man appeared in 1929. What was the name of his girlfriend?
- 7, Who did Marilyn Monroe marry in January 1954?
- 8, What is the name of the full moon in January?
- 9, Who received the patent for the first lightbulb in January 1880?
- 10, Which American singer was born on January 8th 1935 in Tupelo, Mississippi?

Answers On Next Page

My Favourites

Name: Ken Cotton

Vice Chair



Place Of Birth: Highgate, London

Favourite Food: Chicken Madras

Favourite Film: Mississippi Burning

Favourite Kind Of Music: Any 60's, 70's Rock & Bluegrass

Favourite TV Program: The Sweeney

My Hobbies: Playing Guitar, Mandolin & Video Editing

My Bucket List: Carry On As I Am

Who Would you Most Like To Meet (Living Or Passed Away):

Jimi Hendrix

Favourite Holiday: Australia (Especially Seeing Uluru)

Where Would You Like To Visit: Vietnam & Cambodia

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

Peter Sellers (In The 'Pink Panther' 😄)

1st Car: Ford Escort Mk. 1

January Quiz Answers

1, Janus 2, Garnet 3, French Open 4, Toby Jones
5, Apple Building Rooftop 6, Olive Oyl 7, Joe DiMaggio
8, Wolf Moon 9, Thomas Edison 10, Elvis Presley

Amateur Radio...What Is It?

The Radio Society of Harrow is arranging a free talk and demonstration on amateur radio exclusively for U3A members. The talk will be held at the Society's premises in Bushey at 2pm on Wednesday 29th January. Seating is limited so **please email (preferred) or phone Brian g3ykb@yahoo.co.uk or 01923 228121** for more details or to reserve a place. As is traditional at U3A meetings, tea and coffee will be provided. There is plenty of free car parking and the venue is about one mile from Bushey rail station. *Brian Hodgson (S.W Herts)*

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 meets 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: Derek Thorpe 07887 560601. 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 Next Month:

The Work Of The Isabel Hospice-Barbara Doherty

Refreshment Rota:-

Today: Creative Writing & Drama
Next Month:

Family History & French

WANTED FOR OUR NEWSLETTER

News & Photos

Maximum 150-200 Words Please

Copy Date Is 1st Of The Month

Send to Ken Cotton, 01923 269720
or

email:- woodsides3a22@gmail.com

ALSO: NEWS & PHOTOGRAPHS

suitable for publication please send to
The Webmaster, Andrew Cummings
at:

webmaster@woodsides3a.org.uk or
andrew.cummingsu3a@btinternet.com

The newsletter is available online at
<https://u3asites.org.uk/woodsides>

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@woodsides3a.org.uk

Ken Cotton - Vice Chair
01923 269720



woodsides3a22@gmail.com

Alison Theobald - Treasurer
a.theobald@sky.com



Lesley Cummings - Membership
Secretary 01923 681478
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Joyce Gray - Minute Secretary &
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Louise Smith - Speaker Organiser
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linda57williams@hotmail.co.uk



Dave Daniels lehdansom@aol.com



Next General Meeting
February 18th