



## **Chairman's Bulletin – 7 December 2022**

Another rather brief Chairman's Bulletin this month, I'm afraid. I'm making good progress after my shoulder accident but still cannot use my right arm for typing. Anyway, this is a very busy time of year so it's better to keep this brief.

Since 19<sup>th</sup> November, there has been a major problem with the websites of local u3as around the country, including ours, but I'm glad to say that this has now been rectified. May I encourage you all to look at our website at <https://u3asites.org.uk/harpenden/home> (or just google 'Harpenden u3a') if you need to check our meetings or to find details of our groups as I am not able to include as much as usual about them here.

Later in this bulletin you will find our Thursday afternoon programme until the end of April. There is a good variety of talks and I would like to thank Jan Warr, our Programme Secretary, who has searched for and booked the speakers. I am looking forward to hearing them.

At the beginning of January, we will be issuing our New Year edition of our 3x a year Newsletter. This will include up-to-date reports of our groups, news from the National u3a plus other articles/poems etc written by any member about anything they feel may be of interest. So, please start writing now. Contributions should be no longer than about one A4 page, preferably shorter. Please email them to me by Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> January as the Newsletter will go out on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

With my very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Viv

## **Members' News**

This month we are delighted to welcome seven new members – **Patricia Collins, Carol Freeman, Mavis and Ian Marshall, Marian Williams and Shona and Suheil Shahryar**. I hope you enjoy your membership and we look forward to meeting you.

## **Dates for Your Diary**

Below is the programme of General Meetings up to the end of April. They will all take place in the Trust Hall, opposite the Plough and Harrow, at 2.15 on the dates shown. Whereas the Speaker Meetings have a talk by a visiting speaker, Members' Afternoons have a shorter talk by one of our own members, followed by time for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat.

**15<sup>th</sup> December**      **Christmas Social** – our annual festive get together.

**19<sup>th</sup> January**      **Speaker Meeting – Mike Barbakoff**, a guide at Bletchley Park will talk on **'The World War II History of Bletchley Park'**

**2<sup>nd</sup> February**      **Members Afternoon** – our member, **Tony Owens**, will give an illustrated talk on **'The Way to Compostela'**

**16<sup>th</sup> February**      **Speaker Meeting – 'Welcome to my World'**, a talk by **William French**, butler to the Royal Family and Stars

**2<sup>nd</sup> March**      **Members Afternoon – tba**

**16<sup>th</sup> March**      **Speaker Meeting – 'William Morris and the Arts and Craft Movement'** This talk will be given by **Mark Lewis**. Mark is a freelance artist, designer, silversmith and semi-retired university lecturer.

**6<sup>th</sup> April**      **Members Afternoon** – Our Vice Chairman, **Roger Thompson**, will give a short presentation on **'The History of the BBC as it turns 100'**

**20<sup>th</sup> April**      **Speaker Meeting – Bobbie Darbyshire** will give a light hearted, informative talk on **'Where do novelists get their ideas from?'** Bobbie is a prize-winning author of four novels. She has much life experience to draw upon having worked as a barmaid, mushroom picker, film extra, maths coach, cabinet minister's private secretary, care assistant and volunteer adult-literacy teacher, as well as in social research and government policy.

## **Group News**

### **History Group**

The next meetings of the History group will take place on 13<sup>th</sup> December and 10<sup>th</sup> January. Both meetings will, as usual, be in the Randall Room at the Harpenden Trust Halls beginning at 2.30. Those attending will be asked for a £1 contribution to cover the cost of the room hire.

The meeting on **13<sup>th</sup> December** will be the **Christmas event**, with a short presentation by **Eric Midwinter**, followed by two history quizzes. On **10<sup>th</sup> January**, there will be a presentation by **Gerald Cuff** on '**The Chinese Civil War 1937 to 1945**'. All welcome.

### **Singing for Pleasure**

The dates for Singing for Pleasure next term are: **12 January, 26 January, 9 February, 23 February, 9 March and 23 March**. We meet in the Renwick Hall at the Harpenden Trust Halls and there is a small charge toward the hall cost. All welcome.

More information about our groups in the January Newsletter. In the meantime, for more information about our 21 groups, to find out when they meet and how to contact the group leaders, please visit the **Groups** page on our website <https://u3asites.org.uk/harpenden/groups>.

## **u3a Online Learning Events**

There are excellent FREE u3a national online learning events arranged throughout the year. Subjects coming up include 'Sleep and Dreams', 'The Story of Motown Records', 'Getting Started with your Family History', 'Relativity – Numerical Illustrations', 'The Geology of Oil and Gas, Pt 3' and 'Fashion and 'Sustainability'. For more info on these and other subjects please visit the national website at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>.