



## Chairman's Bulletin – 7 June 2023

After last month's bumper newsletter, we are back to the normal four-page bulletin but it's still full of items about new and potential groups. At the end of the bulletin, there is a list of all the national u3a's online Zoom sessions for June. I know these Zoom sessions are more for the wintertime but there are some interesting subjects so do have a look.

Please also give thought to joining the committee. This year will see quite a change with the Chairman, Treasurer and Minutes Secretary coming to the end of their tenure in office.

My very best wishes

Viv (01582 766147)

### **Members' News**

This month we are delighted to welcome **Hester Gabbutt**, **Dishan Singh** and **David Collins** as new members. I hope you all enjoy your membership.

### **Dates for Your Diary**

Below is the programme of General Meetings up to the end of September. They will, unless otherwise stated, 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> June**                      **Speaker Meeting – "A Concise History of our Great British Parks"** by Paul Rabbitts, author and historian

**6<sup>th</sup> July**                      **Members' Meeting – "Protect Yourself from Scams"** by Sue Shanahan, Senior Trading Standards Officer at Hertfordshire County Council. Sue is a very welcome return speaker following her well-received talk last year.

**20<sup>th</sup> July**                      **Annual Summer Get-Together at the Plough and Harrow** (at 2.15 as usual)

**10<sup>th</sup> August**                      **Guided Walk around Redbourn.** Further details further down this page.

**7<sup>th</sup> September**                      **Open Afternoon** with tea and coffee

**21<sup>st</sup> September**                      **Illustrated talk by Tom Way, renowned Wildlife Photographer**

### **Redbourn Walk – 10<sup>th</sup> August**

Following on from our successful guided walks of Wheathampstead and Harpenden last year, we have arranged a similar one around Redbourn during our summer break. It will start at the car park next to the cricket pavilion on Redbourn Common at 10.30. The walk will cost £6 but this time we have decided to add on a sandwich lunch at the Hollybush pub, Church End, Redbourn for those who want it. This will cost a further £5, making £11 in all.

As usual we are restricted to 20 people maximum so it will be on a first come, first served basis.

Please contact me for further information (and how to pay) and to be put on the list if you would like to join us.

### **Wanted – Committee Members!**

Three of our committee members come to the end of their respective terms at our AGM in October. Luckily, we have a prospective Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary who have put their names forward for election.

**However**, we are in need of at least two more members to fill the remaining places. I would be extremely grateful if you could seriously think about whether you are able to give some of your precious spare time to keep Harpenden u3a running smoothly. It is such a worthwhile organisation.

## **Group News**

**History Group** – The History Group presentation on **June 13th** is by Phil Marsh and the title is 'The Middle East– Insiders and Outsiders'. This will be Phil's first presentation to the Group so he will be given a very warm welcome.

The **July 11th** meeting of the History Group is a presentation called 'The British Cabinet's Decision to Go to War in August 1914'. Initially, Roger Thompson will give a background of events leading up to the July Crisis in 1914, and then some members of the Group will participate in a 'role play', as cabinet members making the decision about going to war'.

Both meetings are to be held in the Harpenden Trust Hall and will commence at 2.30. As usual, there will be a £1 charge to cover the cost of the room hire.

## **New Groups**

**Science and Technology** – This group held its very successful inaugural get-together a couple of weeks ago. It will be meeting on the morning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month and so the first meeting will be on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> June when the discussion will be on 'AI – Artificial Intelligence'. For further information, please contact **David Collins** on 01582 760756.

**Weekday Strollers** – We have had a very good response and this group will be setting off on its first stroll shortly. The strolls will not be fixed to a specific day of the week so that we can get as many people involved as possible. If you are interested in this, please contact **Viv**.

**Latin Group** – This new group will hopefully be starting in September. It is aimed at 'People who wished they had learned Latin', in other words, beginners or people who want to brush up their school Latin from 50 years or so ago! The base resource to be used is <https://www.minimuslatin.co.uk/> which looks a lot of fun and is certainly different to how I was taught Latin all those years ago! If you would like further information, please contact **Sharon Shahryar** on 07740 777695 or **Steve French** at [stevenfrenchlanguages@gmail.com](mailto:stevenfrenchlanguages@gmail.com).

## Potential New Groups

A **Poetry** group has been suggested. We had a successful one until a few years ago so perhaps it's time to try again. Anybody who could be interested in this, please contact **Viv**.

I have also received the following from our member, **Jeannette Nelson**, who is proposing a **Folk Group**. This is her email:

### **"U3A Folk**

Is there anyone who is interested in forming a u3a folk singing group? I would love to hear from players of guitar, ukulele, keyboard, other instruments such as fiddle, tin whistles etc. plus singers, who would like to join such a group.

Please contact **Jeannette** on 01582 767215"

Don't forget – we are always open to ideas for new groups so do let Viv know if you have any ideas for groups.

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**Book on Old London.** Following Alan Bunting's talk last week, he was asked by several members about the book he used and he has provided the following details. The book is called: **London, The Great Transformation 1860-1920** by Philip Davies. Its cost is £50 but you can find it for £32.85 on Amazon. A good present for someone?

## u3a Online Learning Events

As u3a members, you are entitled to attend any of the **free** online Zoom events provided by the national u3a. For June, the subjects include **Laughter Yoga; Family History – Parish Registers; Mindfulness and Meditation (6 sessions until November); Creative Writing (2 sessions); Leo, the World's First Business Computer; Into the Mind of an Artist – Van Gogh; Adapting to Climate Change; Introduction to Cryptic Crosswords; Richmond Roman Fort and Amphitheatre.**

For further information and how to book, please visit the national u3a website – <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>.