



Chairman's Bulletin – 7 July 2023

We are just coming to the end of our financial year, the first full year since the pandemic. Can it be only 16 months ago that we recommenced our meetings in the Trust Hall? We are now approaching our summer break but as I write this on a very dark, wet day it seems like November. Our main meetings in the Trust Hall come to an end now until September but I think the committee has decided the break is rather too long so hopefully next year we will carry on at least a couple of extra weeks.

Even if the main meetings are finishing, don't forget that most of our groups carry on as normal through the break. We now have 24 groups and you can always find details of them on our website. The majority of them have vacancies.

And, of course, we have the Redbourn guided walk on 10th August. All the spaces for that have now been filled but we have opened a second list and hopefully can arrange a second walk later in the month. Details below.

But before the break, we have our annual 'end of term' get-together at the Plough and Harrow on Thursday, 20th July – hopefully in their garden. Please drop in for a chat and some cake at some point during the afternoon. Cake donations are welcome, either homemade or bought. Please just make sure they are easy to eat (no chocolate if it's a hot day!) and bring a serving plate or dish for them. This will be the fourth such event and we have been blessed with good weather each time previously – in fact, it was too hot last year! Let's hope for good weather again but at a slightly more pleasant temperature.

My very best wishes,

Viv (01582 766147)

Members' News

This month we have just one new member – **Gwenda Harvey**. Welcome Gwenda. We also wish **Joyce Thomas** and **Christine Lea** well after their recent spells in hospital.

Dates for Your Diary

Below is the programme of General Meetings for the next few months. Unless otherwise stated, they will all take place in the Trust Hall, opposite the Plough and Harrow, at 2.15 on the dates shown. The Speaker Meetings have a talk by a visiting speaker, while the Members' Afternoons have a shorter talk by one of our own members, with time afterwards for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat.

20th July	Annual Summer Get-Together at the Plough and Harrow , opposite the Trust Halls – 2.15 onwards. Fingers crossed for good weather.
10th August	Guided Walk around Redbourn . Details further down this page.
7th September	Open Afternoon with tea and coffee
21st September	Speaker Meeting, 'Wildlife on your Doorstep' by Tom Way , renowned Wildlife Photographer
5th October	Member's Afternoon, Phil Marsh – subject tba
19th October	'Harpenden Village' by David Keen from the Harpenden Local History Society followed by our Annual General Meeting
2nd November	Member's Afternoon, Derek Morris on 'The Early Life of Captain Cook'
16th November	Speaker Meeting 'MI9 – Secret Escape Lines Across Europe in WW2' – welcome return visit by Helen Fry

Redbourn Walk – 10th August

We have had so many people interested in the guided walk of Redbourn that we have started a second list and hopefully will be able to arrange a second walk around Redbourn with our guide, Susan Bullen, later in August.

The cost is £6 per head plus an extra £5 if you would like to include the sandwich lunch at the end of the walk at the Hollybush pub, Church End, Redbourn.

Please email me for further information (and how to pay) and to be put on the second list. Date for this second walk to be arranged.

Group News

History Group – The next meeting of the History Group will be held on **11th July** at 2.30. There will be the usual charge of £1 to cover the costs of the room hire. The topic is '**The July crisis of 1914 and the decision of the cabinet to go to war**'. Roger will make an introductory presentation to outline the background of the Crisis and then five members of the History Group will take the role of pro-war and anti-war cabinet members to discuss their views and decisions. It should be an interesting session.

The talk at the following meeting on Tuesday, **8th August** will be by **Gerald Cuff** on "**The Republic of China and the Kuomintang**". It covers the rise of the Nationalists, the power struggles of the warlords, and the legendary Long March of Mao Tse Tung and the Communists.

Science and Technology Group – This group held its very successful first meeting on 'Artificial Intelligence' on 21st June. Future meetings will be on the third Wednesday of the month. For further information, please contact **David Collins** on 01582 760756.

Weekday Strollers – We had our first very pleasant 'stroll' around Rothamsted on 30th June. The next stroll is in the morning of Thursday, 13th July. If you are interested in going on the mailing list for this group, please contact **Viv**. This group is in addition to the Saturday Strollers. For details on that group, please contact **Sylvia Cutler**.

Latin Group – This new group will, fingers crossed, 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**.

New Groups

Play Reading – We used to have a popular Play Reading Group which did not start up again after the pandemic. We have several people who are really interested in this group but sadly not enough yet to start it up again. If you think you could be interested, please let me know.

Needlecraft Group – if you are interested in joining the second needlecraft group, please contact **Judith Moseley** on 07593 579415.

Ideas for new groups are always welcome. If you have any suggestions, please do let us know. Five new ones have started in the past 12 months.

2024 u3a Diaries

It's only just July but yes, the u3a diaries for 2024 are now available. This year they are bright orange! At least they will be easy to find! The cost is £6.70 inc postage although the price will drop if we place a bulk order. Please contact **Pauline Waddilove** on 01582 768656.

Message in a Bottle

The Message in a Bottle scheme is a simple but effective way for people to keep their basic personal and medical details on a standard form where they can be found in an emergency in a common location – the fridge.

The project helps emergency services personnel save valuable time identifying an individual and knowing if they've allergies or take special medication.

The Lions Club organisation is promoting this excellent scheme. For further information and how to obtain a bottle locally, please look at the relevant page on the Harpenden Lions website <https://www.harpenden-lions.co.uk/message-in-a-bottle>.