



Chairman's Bulletin – 7 August 2023

I hope you are all enjoying the summer, although this past week summer has been a bit difficult to find. Luckily, I think the weather will improve in the coming week so perhaps we will now get some lovely sunny days before autumn sets in. Mind you, I am preferring our weather to that on the Continent. Thank goodness we haven't had those excessive temperatures this year and at least the countryside and our gardens look lovely and green.

Our social on the 20th July at the Plough and Harrow was a great success and, once again, we were lucky with the weather and, thankfully, it was not as desperately hot as last year. An enormous thank you must go to Jan Warr for being the lynchpin of this event once more and also to our members for bringing along such a delicious selection of cakes. Somebody left behind a plain white plate – is it yours?

Within the next couple of weeks, you will be receiving your membership subscription renewal. Please pay promptly but **do not** do anything until you receive the notification.

And then it is time for our new term of activities. You will find all the details of our meetings on the following pages and, of course, they can always be found on our website. My old English teacher will be turning in her grave to see I have started a sentence and a paragraph with 'And'. Never, ever, allowed back in the fifties and sixties but perfectly acceptable now – English is a living language after all.

My very best wishes to you all,

Viv (01582 766147)

Members' News

This month we have just one new member – **Peter Doyle**. Welcome Peter.

David Lloyd – I very much regret to report that David Lloyd died unexpectedly on 10th July. David had been a member for many years and was the leader of our Current Affairs Group. He had also been a Committee Member and up until the pandemic had arranged our monthly speakers. Our sympathy goes out to his wife, Christel, and his family of three daughters, eleven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Six of us attended his funeral at Garston on 1st August.

Dates for Your Diary

Below is the programme of General Meetings until the end of the year. 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/coffee, a biscuit and a chat.

7th September	Open Afternoon , Please come along for a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit and meet the Committee and Group Leaders. Visitors welcome., especially prospective members
21st September	Speaker Meeting , 'Wildlife on your Doorstep' by Tom Way , renowned Wildlife Photographer
5th October	Members' Afternoon , Phil Marsh on 'The Middle East from the Inside'
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
14th December	Christmas Social

Further Redbourn Walk – Date to be arranged

We have had so many people interested in the guided walk of Redbourn on 10th August 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 the month or in September. We need about five more people to make it viable.

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

Please email me to be put on the second list. We will try and arrange a mutually convenient date.

Group News

History Group – The next meeting of the History Group will be held on **8th August** at 2.30 in the Randall Room as usual. There will be a charge of **£2** to cover a slight shortfall covering the costs of the room hire. This month **Gerald Cuff** will be giving a presentation 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.

The talk and discussion on the 12th September will be led by **Eric Midwinter** and the title will be '**Hitler and Others: a Study of Dictatorship**'.

Science and Technology Group – The third meeting of this new group will be on Wednesday, 20th August. Our member, Dishan Singh, retired Orthopaedic Consultant, will be giving a presentation on the technology of joint replacement. For further information, please contact **David Collins** on 01582 760756.

Weekday Strollers – This new group has held three very enjoyable short walks around the Common and Rothamsted. We have now settled on a length of two to three miles which fits nicely between the slightly shorter strolls of the **Saturday Strollers** and the five miles or so of the **Monday Walkers** group. If we can find anywhere at the end for a coffee or drink or even a snack, that is a bonus. We walk on varying days of the week to accommodate everyone. If you are interested in being added to the mailing list for this group, please contact **Viv**.

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.

New Groups

We have members interested in a **Poetry** group and an **Astronomy** group. Would you be interested in either of these? We only need about four people to start up a group. Once started the numbers increase rapidly as our new **Science and Tech** group has demonstrated. The other groups in the pipeline needing a couple more members before they can start are **Play Reading** and **Needlecraft 2**. If anybody is interested, please contact **Viv**.

u3a East of England Regional Newsletter

The latest bumper edition of the above newsletter has two articles including photos about Harpenden u3a. It is distributed to all u3as in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk and, of course, Hertfordshire. I have included an attachment to this as well. Please find our mentions on page 7 and page 14. Fame at last!

u3a Main Website – Online Learning Events

In the first four months of this year, there were 65 online learning events – all free – offered by the Third Age Trust. Over 11,000 u3a members took advantage of this amazing free resource – were you one of them? If not, have a look at the learning events on the main u3a website at www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events to see if there is anything that would interest you, and while you are there, click on the ‘subscribe now’ button to get regular updates of new talks.

The talks planned for August and early September include: Laughter Yoga; a Science Network event; Expedition Cruising – The Story of the Aleutian Islands; Mindfulness & Meditation; Exploring World Faiths – Faith & Youth; The Story of Lela Black; Staying Safe Online; Heritage Open Days; Cryptic Crosswords for Beginners 6 session course from 6 Sept (booking closes 18 Aug); Electing the President in 2024 – a three part series and a Maths Activities Day for All.