

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

This Monthly Newsletter for February is a much shorter one than usual, due to pressure of time this month.

New Members

I am so pleased to welcome 7 new members to our u3a, who joined in January/early February

Jenny Froehlick

Professor Philip John

Peter Gilbert

Patricia Mitchell

Lena Pearson

Ian Simmons

Judi Simmons

I have been able to talk to the above new members and welcome them, and also to meet some of them at recent Members talks. All are very welcome as new members of the Harpenden u3a.

I also sadly, need to inform members that David Collins, the Group Leader of the Science and Technology Group, has suffered with a serious broken leg, which has resulted in hospitalisation. I talked to him and understand that he is like to be in hospital for a lengthy stay. Other members of the Group have also been in contact with David.

We all send our best wishes to David, for his recovery.

Members Meetings

The u3a has enjoyed two Members Meetings, and one Speaker Meeting event since the Christmas break. On the 4th January, Chris Marsden gave a very interesting and informative talk on the History and Future of Journalism, which was much appreciated by those attending.

At the end of January, due to a difficulty at the Trust Hall, we had to hold our Speaker meeting in the new Hall above the Co-op. We must thank the Harpenden Trust for their help with the move of our meeting to another venue at such short notice. We were then treated to a splendid talk by Paul Barwick, relating to the British spy in World War 2, Nancy Wake, alias 'The White Mouse'.

Our most recent Members Talk on Thursday February 1st was given by Tony Owens, with wonderful pictures of a journey through Cambodia and Laos. This was a both an interesting and colourful presentation by Tony, indicating the diverse culture in the above countries.

Our Next Speaker Meeting will be on February 15th, when the speaker will be Murray Craig, a former Executive at the City of London Council, who will be talking about his work for the City, including work relating to distinguished persons who have received the Freedom of the City of London.

Our first March Members meeting will be on 7th March in the Harpenden Trust Hall, and the speaker will be Barbara Cordina, who has recently retired as the u3a Regional Organiser for Essex and Hertfordshire.

A significant amount of work has been done to book contributions for future Speakers and Members meetings. So in next month's Newsletter, a new list of all bookings will be circulated.

The Committee is seeking to increase its membership, so we can more effectively cover all the tasks needed to be done by a growing u3a. I would be pleased if Members who would be interested in joining the Committee, make contact with me or other members of the Committee.

Below, are messages and information complied by Group Leaders, about some of their news and dates of their meetings.

With best wishes

Roger Thompson

HISTORY GROUP

The next meeting of the History Group will be on Tuesday 13th February at 2.30, in the Randall Room of the Harpenden Trust Hall.

The presentation will be 'In the Shadow of the Workhouse' and the talk will be by Terry Turner.

As usual, there will be a £1 charge towards the cost of the hire of the accommodation.

All are welcome

Roger Thompson

German Conversation

Guten Tag, Deutschersprechern!.

Haben Sie in die Schule Deutsch gelernt? Did you have a German pen pal? Have you ever lived in Germany? Would you like to speak German again?

Our plan is to meet once a month to discuss a pre-agreed topic and to share our thoughts in a different language.

We guarantee that you will enjoy speaking in a different language.

We already have a growing list of members who are interested in forming this group and we have already scheduled our first meeting.

To add your name to the list of group members contact Brian Ball on ballbrian193@gmail.com

Vielen Dank und ich hoffe, bald von Ihnen zu hören!

Science and Technology

The Science and Technology group was formed just over six months ago. It is a lively group which covers a wide variety of topics including 'Artificial Intelligence', 'The Creation of Greenway Spinney Nature Reserve', 'The science of joint replacement', 'Oil exploration in the North Sea and Sudan', 'The importance of the public perception of science', 'Satellites, Spacecraft and Space Exploration' and most recently 'Can Science & Technology provide future food security?' Members of the group give presentations and then lead discussions and field questions.

Meetings are held at 10:30am in the function room at the rear of the Plough and Harrow in Southdown on the third Wednesday of every month. It starts with coffee and chat followed by the presentation and discussion. Members order a snack lunch which is served around 12 noon, discussions continue informally.

The next three meetings are:

- 21 February 'Conducting clinical trials across the UK'
- 20 March 'Global Warming / Population'.
- 17 April 'Light, how the nature of light was gradually uncovered during 250 years of scientific research'

All members of u3a are warmly welcomed to the meetings. Steve Gledhill is temporarily running the group, please let him know if you want to attend a meeting so that the pub can organise things.

Mobile 07785 381912

Email steve.gledhill@outlook.com

CURRENT AFFAIRS GROUP

We discuss local, national and international issues and “big questions”. The big question this month is: “what do you think is the greatest threat facing humanity?!”

If you have a view, feel free to join us at our next meeting on 20th February (as usual the 3rd Tuesday of the month) in the Randall Room at the Harpenden Trust Hall in Southdown. Doors open at 2.15 pm for setting up. We start the meeting at 2.30 and end at 4.00.

NEW! U3a play reading group started

We are pleased to announce the formation of a new Play Reading Group, led by Judith Moseley and Joyce Bunting as co-leaders.

At our first session in January we enjoyed reading *'It Could Be One Of Us'*, a mystery comedy by Alan Ayckbourn. The dramatist created several possible endings, which the cast discussed afterwards. When the play was staged professionally, each night a different character was incriminated, by the clever expedient of omitting an important clue (or two).

We are currently borrowing sets of books from the Performing Arts Library which delivers them to Harpenden Library. It is hoped that the whole catalogue of plays will soon be computerised, which will make ordering speedy – if we can get the hang of it!

In February we will be reading *Hay Fever* by Noel Coward. The group members will be asked to suggest plays or choose from a list. Meetings so far have been in the homes of members.

Joyce Bunting and Judith Moseley