

# *Memories of Launch Day of*

## *Ware U3A*



Ware U3A was set up in 2008. A Committee was formed consisting of 13 people who met on many occasions in the summer to see if it was feasible, and it was decided to launch on 17 September 2008. Leaside Church Hall was booked with seating for 50 to 100 people, posters were displayed, and decisions were made as to who was to do what in the organisation.

On the allotted day, the whole Committee were kept busy setting-up tables, arranging chairs and putting up posters. The plan was to hand out membership application forms to the people as they came in. They would then be seated to await the Chairman's welcoming address.

By 1.45pm information was coming in that the queue outside was getting quite large and restless. The workers (i.e. the Committee) inside the Hall, carried on setting up, quite unperturbed by this news, but when the doors opened at 2pm it was quickly realised that we were going to be inundated. The application forms started flying off the table, and we soon ran out. We had runners going to Hertford Display for more copies and then the Church's photocopier was brought in to play. Still people kept coming. News reached us that we were blocking the pavement in Ware High Street. We just could not believe it! The room filled up, some people were put into a side room but at this point it was decided to abandon the meeting in the Hall as an invitation had come from the Rector to use the Church instead. The majority of the people went there and our Chairman did a sterling job, speaking to his audience from the pulpit, whilst we laboured on in the Hall, and eventually succeeded in completing 180 membership applications. What an afternoon!

Fortunately the sun shone throughout, auguring greater things to come, but our first priority was to go straight back to the drawing board and find a bigger Hall to house a much larger number of people than we had ever envisaged. This is where Wodson came to the rescue.