

Message from your Chairman,

Welcome to 2021! I do hope you are all keeping well. I know many of you are getting the call to have your vaccine and looking forward to some peace of mind. I am sure Christmas was rather strange for many of you and after a quiet Christmas we did see the new year in with a sneaky peek at fireworks from others and a socially distanced wave at our neighbours at midnight. We celebrated with a takeaway from our favourite restaurant.

REMINDER: Your 2021 membership is now due £12 for the year. Forms on the website.

A look back to 2020 – in January I usually do a clear out and set all my files up for the New Year – and in doing this take some time out to review the previous year. Do you do the same, or do you prefer to wait for Spring? My most positive memory of 2020 has been keeping in touch with friends, family and just talking to people (usually on Zoom), but I did enjoy making time for a coffee and chat at Bridget's or MILADY and meeting up differently with the Ware in Bloom team and Southern Maltings volunteers. Please continue to keep in touch with whatever means available to you – post, phone, video chat, garden fence, Facebook and if you find yourself wondering how one of your u3a friends is doing, give them a call.

My best wishes for this year – Jan

Planning for our future – all welcome. As we come out of current restrictions, we need to be planning how we operate as we will need to adapt for many months yet. **Please join me for a "coffee and chat" at 10.30am on Wednesday 20 January.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83280794001?pwd=V3JrckVqT0xiMjBRTVpib1JSVThwUT09>



Ware u3a in Photos 2021

Please share a photo every month of what you are doing – perhaps your daily walk, something you are spending time on, something you are enjoying or making. Nothing professional, just a memory captured on your camera or phone. Email chair.wareu3a@gmail.com No rules but **January's theme** to get you started is **New things**. If you cannot email, post to 99 New Road, Ware, SG12 7BY! Make sure you have your name on it!



My January photo

I have been scanning old family photos and sharing with my Welsh family. My graduation from Bath Uni June 1975 – I'm on the right next to the proudest mum ever!! The dress was shared between the 3 of us who lived together (Laura Ashley smocks and long skirts were not "proper" for a graduation).

Forthcoming Events

Wednesday 13 January 2021: Myths and Legends of the Stars by Valerie Calderbank 2.00pm on Zoom

Wednesday 10 February 2021: London - An Illustrated History by Simon Gregor 2.00pm on Zoom

We are looking to add in some extra talks January to March when the weather is cold and the nights dark – look out for dates and times.

A few **You tube** links found when I went googling recently.
A glance towards later this year when we will have a talk by **Christine Adams about May Savage** who moved her house from Ware to Wells next the Sea

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8w7rCAM9RuE>

Photo - Baldock Street Roundabout showing the Cherry Tree planted to mark the location of **May Savage's Hall House by Ware in Bloom**



1963 – I was 11 and remember the winter in this film, a reminder of the beauty and challenge of wildlife and weather – titled the hardest winter ever! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=658eoX3ERAs>

Group Activities

We appreciate that keeping up with the rules is a bit like the Hokey Cokey but to let you know that we are asking the current status of our many groups, some are dormant, but we know many others have been busier than usual – Please do let us know what is happening with your groups, sadly, since Geoff Morrison died we have been trying to cover his role on committee and we do really need some help as restrictions begin to ease in a few months. **We know when you can, you do!** In the “quiet” time up to March we want to refresh our website and it is vital that information is accurate for new members to find ways to join in. If you can help co-ordinate perhaps a small number of groups to ensure we are up to date, please get in touch or join us for the coffee morning on the 20th January at 10.30am.

IT small groups/Zoom help – Once we can meet face to face with 1 other person, even outdoors, I will start the digital skills training.

Trips and Outings

Wendy MacKenzie has been doing a sterling job updating various trips and holidays but is reliant on decisions close to the planned dates on cancellations. Most trips are now pushed to later this year and into 2022 and there will be a leaflet outlining trips available next month. We will ensure the listings on the website are up to date and Wendy will notify members booked of any updates. My thanks to Wendy for sticking with this difficult job. For information contact Wendy.

2021

Thu Mar 18th Newmarket: A guided tour of the National Stud. For more details read day trips (**Hoping to proceed**)

Thu Apr 8th St Pauls Waldonbury: We start by having a guided tour of the house. For more details read *day trips*

Thu Apr 29th A Tale of Two Riverside Towns For details visit *day trips*

21-25 Jun Summer holiday to Scotland Staying at the Doubletree by Hilton, Westerwood, Glasgow. For more information visit the *holidays page*.

3rd – 5th Sept Wales (not yet confirmed)

Fri Oct 8th Autumn break 2021 to Coventry: staying at the Novotel Coventry. Price £272 plus £39 single supplement. For more details of the holiday read *holidays*

Feb 2022 Weston Super Mare holiday

If you need help or support HertsHelp is here for you!

Need help and don't know where to turn? Have a question or problem? If you or someone you know are struggling help is available to you through HertsHelp - from 8am-8pm Monday-Friday (10am-6pm weekends/bank hols). **Just call HertsHelp on 0300 123 4044, visit <https://www.hertshelp.net/winter-health.aspx> , www.hertshelp.net or email info@hertshelp.net**

