



NEW MEMBER INFORMATION

This is intended as a short guide to Watford Park U3A (University of the Third Age) - where we meet, what we do and where we go! We are always pleased to meet new and enthusiastic members and hope you will enjoy your time with us.

Watford Park U3A (WPU3A) was founded in October 2007 as a Registered Charity (No. 1123484) to enable older people no longer in full time employment to share many educational and creative activities. U3A stands for "University of the Third Age". It is a self-help, self-funded educational organisation. We confer no degrees, but study and learn for the fun of it and no prior qualifications are required to become a member. As well as learning academic subjects our members meet and make great friends with whom they may develop social activities.

Today we have about 500 members and approximately 60 study groups. These are organised by our members for our members, the philosophy of the U3A being "Those who Learn shall also Teach and those who Teach shall also Learn". Everybody can contribute something for the benefit of themselves and others.

MAIN MEETINGS

Main Meetings are held once a month on the fourth Tuesday (the exception being December which is usually the third Tuesday) at St. Luke's Church, Langley Way, WD17 3EG at 3pm. This start time gives sufficient time to park after the end of the 2.30pm parking restriction on a number of roads around the church. Do check the signage on the roads though as this could change without our knowledge.

Please register yourself as present with the Membership Secretary each time you come to ensure she knows how many attendees are in the hall in case of emergency.

The usual format for main meetings is an introduction by our Chairman followed by a talk on a subject of interest, followed by announcements about trips, new study groups or other items after which tea and coffee are served. Study groups take turns to serve the refreshments which is ably organised by our Refreshments Supervisor who ensures that sufficient supplies are available. Study Groups also take turns once a month to make a presentation of their work or exploits in the foyer.

Watford Park U3A appoints a New Members' Champion who will be present at each monthly meeting and can give advice and information to new members on the operations of the U3A and the various study groups and activities available to members. The current New Members' Champion is Ron Duckling.

STUDY GROUPS

There is currently a wide variety of study groups operating at WPU3A. The list of these is published in our monthly newsletter. Some are run in members' homes if space and subject matter permit. Larger groups hire venues around the area. And of course the walking and cycling groups meet outside and sometimes finish at a pub or other public place for refreshments.

Study Groups are formed with the help of the Study Group Coordinator (SGC). Anyone can instigate the formation of a group by first contacting the SGC who will announce the subject in the newsletter and put a notice on one of the tables in the foyer of the church at main meetings. Interested parties can add their names to this document. Once a few people have signed up, a 'mini meeting' will be arranged, usually after a main meeting, for interested parties to get together to discuss arrangements such as when and where to meet and how frequently etc. Don't be afraid to put ideas forward for fear of getting committed to doing all the work. You don't have to become a Study Group Leader just because you've suggested a subject – although it does help. You will find that everyone helps by participating in some way.

There are a few groups which are open to all members of WPU3A so you don't have to 'join up' for those. These are the 'Luncheon Club', the 'Gardening Group', the 'Theatre' and the 'Outings' groups. Many of these are quite popular and tend to be restricted in number to the capacity of a coach.

The 'open to all' group trips are usually run on a first come first served basis so do read the newsletter. Also note that **currently only cheques are accepted for payment** as we have strict rules on how money is handled by organisers.

THE NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter is published once a month. Anyone can submit an article or small announcement relevant to WPU3A but publishing is dependent on space and relevance.

The Membership Secretary will send digital copies to those who have email addresses several days before the main meeting. This keeps costs down and we are lucky to be one of the cheapest U3As in the area due to our care in managing our funds. However a few newsletters are also printed for the benefit of those who don't have email and these are available at the main meeting.

THE e-NoticeBoard

The e-NoticeBoard is a document that is compiled each month from information received usually from outside sources and occasionally from WPU3A. It is sent digitally with the Newsletter. A paper copy is also available in the church foyer to be read at the main meeting.

Email

As email is commonplace now members are encouraged to learn how to use it if they don't already. The membership Secretary will occasionally email notices about places which become available at short notice for theatre trips or outings. If we don't have an up to date email address you will not receive this information. If you don't have a personal email address, please find a friend or family member who is willing to help.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee (EC) consists of the following members whose contact emails and phone numbers are published in the newsletter.

Chairman – Ron Duckling (also New Members' Champion)	Minutes Secretary – Tony Yates
Vice Chairman – Jerry England	Member – Maureen Miller
Treasurer – Andrew Robertson	Member – Alison Imrie
Secretary – Tony Johnson	Member - Frankie Hogan
Membership Secretary - Heather Parry	
Study Group Coordinator - Zoe Mowbray	

Now - make your plans and enjoy yourself!