

## WOODSIDE U3A NEWSLETTER

MAY 2018

Meeting at The Church of the Nazarene, The  
Brow, Woodside, Watford, Herts WD25 7NW  
On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 9.30am  
<https://u3asites.org.uk/woodside>

'Tweet of the Day', not to be confused with the social media phenomenon known as Twitter, as many of you may know, is the year long early morning series featuring the numerous birds of Britain on BBC Radio 4. In the space of 9 minutes we can learn a multitude of facts about a particular bird, it's shrill, habitat, calls, folklore, science and any conservation concerns. For example an old favourite, the Blackbird (in spring) presented by Bill Oddie who describes this common garden thrush in quite exotic terms. The female has brown speckles; the male is 'velvety, shiny black', with an eye-ring as 'bright as a daffodil and a bill glowing like a butter cup'. A handsome chap to behold. We are told there are no conservation issues for this, one of our most frequent garden lodgers, who due to their great numbers, are willing to share territory with other blackbirds and often where one song overlaps another begins. Those with a passion for our wild bird-life, like me, may not have been up early enough to catch the dawn chorus of Tweet of the Day, but fear not, we can catch-up with these incredibly beautiful episodes on the BBC Radio 4 podcast online, and marvel at how technology can help us to gain greater knowledge of the topics, we as U3A, are interested in pursuing. Nothing gives me greater pleasure than sitting in my conservatory, while having dinner as dusk is about to engulf us, waiting to watch the black birds resident in our garden, hop from under the bushes in search of their supper across our lush damp lawn. Their slow motion actions, with a head stretch as worthy as a yoga pose, the serious business of

Continued on page 3



*Laila, Chair*

### AGENDA FOR 15 MAY

9.30 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS  
STUDY GROUPS SIGN UPS & BOOK  
SALES

10.00 BUSINESS MEETING

10.30 REFRESHMENTS

11.00 OUR SPEAKER WILL BE COLIN  
OAKES WITH A TALK ENTITLED  
'PLUMBING THE DEPTHS'

11.45 ROUND-UP AND CLOSE

OUR MEETING ON 19 JUNE WILL BE  
THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SO  
WE WILL NOT BE HAVING A SPEAKER

ON 17 JULY OUR SPEAKER WILL BE  
STEPHEN BARNARD WITH A TALK  
ENTITLED 'WHEN ROGERS MET  
HAMMERSTEIN' (AS PART OF ALF)

YOUR COMMITTEE



Linda Williams Vice Chair



Ken Emmons  
Social Secretary  
01923 672139



Heather Newey Business  
Secretary



Diane Howarth  
Refreshments Organiser  
01923 264474  
[dianehowarth47@gmail.com](mailto:dianehowarth47@gmail.com)



Lesley Cummings  
Membership Secretary  
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Sheila Ramsamy Speaker  
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Continued from front page

listening, then efficiently pulling out fat worms begins. This time of year mainly we see the male, as he fills his splendid buttercup beak with worms. He is so cute, when he drops his stash, to dig up another worm for his own consumption, which he does right there on the spot. Having satisfied his own hunger pangs, he rapidly resumes his main task, gathering food for his family, waiting nearby for their supper. Each evening it is the same rituals and once spring gathers pace so does the urgency of the task to ensure their brood of the next generation reach fledglings, ready to fly solo and develop families of their own.

This brings home that over the past months we have also been raising Woodside U3A through its fledgling stage, developing our committee, increasing our membership, offering a wide range of study groups and activities. Our recent feedback forms available for members to complete at the time of renewing membership, enabled us to gain insight of how as a recent fledgling we are doing. Feedback indicates positive support for the committee, signalling our progress as a viable and friendly movement, open to all, with great suggestions for improvements for the membership experience, that we are looking at. We are also looking at ways in which we can support our members who may experience hearing or sight needs, especially at our general meetings as well as any access problems that may create challenges.

As your Chair I am always open to hearing from members, as are our amazing committee members, who work diligently on behalf of the Woodside U3A. Here we are midway through May, enjoy the birds and watch out for their fledglings....

Laila Chair

## Refreshment Rota

15 May - SINGLES LUNCH CLUB and TABLE TENNIS

19 June - WOODSIDE STROLLERS and QUIZ GROUP

17 July - AMERICAN HISTORY and ART

As we are unable to have our usual venue in August we will instead be having 'A Picnic in the Park'. If anyone is interested in getting involved to organise this event please contact Ken E (details page 2). Details to follow ..... when we know!

Our **finances** are good with £3389.80 available as disposable funds (after paying several large bills).

Ken A

**Notice of Woodside U3A AGM 19<sup>th</sup> June 10.00am-10.30am Church of the Nazarene, The Brow.**

Hereby give notice of the Annual General Meeting of Woodside U3A to take place on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

## Agenda

Welcome

Approve minutes of 2017 AGM

Chair's Report (brief)

Treasures report (financial audited statement will be available with the agenda)

Vote endorsing the Third Age Trusts new single clause.

Close

Coffee plus .....

We will also be having strawberries and cream after our June AGM!

Our accounts for 2017/18 have been audited and will be printed in the June Newsletter.

Page 3

Please note:

Only members who have paid their 2018/19 membership are entitled to attend the AGM, Monthly General Meetings, All study, outing and social groups.

After our April meeting, 176 members had renewed their membership. All those who still want to renew, need to do so before the June deadline.

We gave **Feedback forms** to everyone at the March and April meetings. and another 30 have been completed and returned. The response from the latest forms is very similar to the March forms. So far feedback has been positive and constructive; with many people adding good ideas and comments.

**First Aid training** update: this course will run on 21 May 2018 from 9.30am to 12.00 noon in the community rooms at ASDA on the Dome roundabout in St Albans Road Watford.

#### **Lost and found**

A purple multi-coloured light weight scarf was found after the April GM . Please see Laila to recover the scarf.

#### **Christmas meal**

Ken E has booked the Blue Check Restaurant in Bushey for your Christmas lunch.

This will be on 3 December and this year we will have the restaurant to ourselves (rather than sharing with another U3A group).

The price will be £22.00.

Ken will let us know when he will be taking bookings.

#### **May committee meeting observer**

Marie Welsh

'I was warmly welcomed on Wednesday May 9<sup>th</sup> 2018 to a meeting of the U3A Woodside Committee, attending as a visitor.

The meeting format followed the designated agenda and topics followed sequentially. In one instance, on a discussion point about the aims and objectives of U3A national and formal governance of the organisation, the chairperson explained, with lucid articulation some of the key points, for which I was grateful, as a new member, I am still learning about the organisation structure, operation and governance. There was strict adherence to national protocol and significant references made to policy during the meeting.

All members reported on their specific area of responsibility and there was lively discussion on many points, informative exchanges and reasoned conclusion. All points received relevant deliberation and remained concise; time management of the meeting was excellent, ensuring profound consideration yet measured appropriately to negate digression.

The committee members demonstrated such commitment to their roles and I concluded that U3A Woodside is very fortunate to have such a group of hardworking volunteers, who ensure the effective operation of our group.

I sincerely recommend that members attend such a meeting and witness the efforts of these altruistic individuals.

Regards,

Marie Welsh (New Member Woodside U3A)



## APRIL GENERAL MEETING

Our April speaker, Pam Whitfield has been involved with the antiques trade for over 30 years and two husbands! When she was young, antiques were dusty things found in her grandmother's house. She grew up in Liverpool, before training to be a teacher, and moving to Essex.

In Essex she had to teach in the local accent not Liverpoolian. During her early years she needed to make some extra money so sold various unwanted items at car boot sales until she ran out of things to sell. So another idea was to buy items at car boots sales, clean them up and re-sell elsewhere. For example an early purchased jug (75p) was resold for £7.50. A cranberry glass found very cheap at a car boot sale was sold for £75.



*Pam behind her table of antiques and collectables.*

From here she moved to buying and selling at antique fairs.

She once purchased a decorative bowl that had been repaired with bronze rivets (repairs done by drilling very slowly through the porcelain, a wax mould made into which the molten metal was poured). Pam now collects items repaired with metal rivets.

Pam had a table full of antique items of varying values. One, a great piece of social history, was a Victorian 'paint by numbers' kit. The kit consisted of a shaped glass panel (A4 size ish) with a pre-printed domestic scene in black.

Page 5



*The back of the glass was painted quite crudely.*

The ladies 'of leisure' would paint the back of the glass with the provided paints which gave the impression they had painted the whole thing.



*Once painted the front of the glass looked very professional.*

Pam said that glass unlike metal objects was rarely marked so can be more difficult to date. A magnifier was often required to find any marks. Once she found a lovely glass bowl with a lid at an antiques fair and paid, what she thought to be a good price. When she got home and looked more closely, in small letters on the base said 'Avon Cosmetics'.

Members were able to touch the many items Pam brought along and talk to her about items they had at home that may be of value.



# WOODSIDE STUDY GROUPS

American History. Contact Barbara Lewis on 01923 260410. Next meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 10.00am at Barbara's house

*Joint with SWH*

Art: Contact Sue Walters on 01923 682317. Thursday, Fortnightly 10-12am, at Tanners Wood Hall.

Badminton: Contact Susan Coultrup on 01923 334387. Wednesday, weekly, at Watford Leisure Centre. *This is a joint group with SWH*

Ballroom Dancing: Contact Vera Pickering on 01923 269733. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays, 2-4pm  
*Joint Group with SWH*

Belly Dancing: Contact Bernice Caffrey. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday 11.30 -12.30 All Saints Church Hall

Board Games: Contact June Dyer on 01923 265229. Meeting Monday afternoons. Monthly at members homes

Books: Contact Libby Crawford on 01923 247847. Meet every 6 weeks

Bowls (Outside): Contact: Anne Howarth on 01923 673110. Started again 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Bridge: Contact Anita Gullis on 07983 606049. Monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 2.00 to 4.30p at Asda Community Hall, The Dome, Watford

Bridge Improvers: Contact Judith Evans on 01923 260354 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at 1.30-4.30pm Asda Room 3  
*Joint Group with SWH*

Cookery (Spanish) Contact Carmen Copley on 01923 671003. Meeting every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 1.00pm at Carmen's Home

Curry Group: Contact Anne Mitchell on 01923 671662. Thursday – times and venue vary.

Curry Group: Contact Anne Mitchell on 01923 671662. Thursday – times and venue vary.

Crafters: Contact Janet Perry on 01923 679844 or 07778056026. Meetings fortnightly on Monday evenings at 7.30 – 9.30pm. Venues differ

Creative Writing: Contact Anne Davison on 01923 269548. Monthly meetings 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 11.00am

Cycling; Contact Derryck Croker on 01923 673719

Family History: Contact Bea Luffrum on 0771 1709039. Meeting monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday in the morning at members homes.

Flower Arrangement: Contact Jill Macey on 01923 221634. Meet monthly on a Friday at Asda Community Suite. *Joint Group with SWH*

Garden Visits and Outings: Contact Teresa Brunswick on 07712710811. Venue, days and time vary.

History: Contact Alison Williams on 01923 679819. Meeting monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 2.30-4.30 at Asda Community Suite

Language (French): Contact Heather Lace on 01923 270584. Fortnightly on Monday at 2.30pm at Members Houses.

Language (Spanish): Contact Carol Stanton on 01923 676471. 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at St Hilda's Room, All Saints Church Hall at 1.30 to 2.30pm

Language (Spanish 2) Contact Carmen Copley on 01923 671003. Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 12.00 at Asda

Line Dancing: Vera Pickering on 01923 269733. 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays. 10.15 for line dancers and 11.15 for beginners.  
*Joint Group with SWH*

Listening to Music: Contact Diane Reilly on 01923 261840. Meeting monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday afternoon at members homes

Local History: Contact Jan Taylor on 01923 262565 or 07725940453. Monthly 4<sup>th</sup> Monday

Lunch Group: Contact Joyce Gray on 01923 263213 or [rejoyce.gray@gmail.com](mailto:rejoyce.gray@gmail.com). Monthly 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday. Venues vary

Music Appreciation. Contact Barbara Lewis on 01923 260410. Next meeting 18<sup>th</sup> May at 10.15am at Barbara's house  
*Joint with SWH*

Philosophy – Contact Jeanne Johnson on 01923 263598  
Meeting monthly 1<sup>st</sup> Monday 2.00-4.00pm  
*Joint Group with SWH*

Photography: Contact Ken Jones on 01923264855. Meeting monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 2.0pm at members homes

Play Reading for Fun: Contact Derek Giles on 01923 270971. 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 10-12 at Asda  
*Joint Group with SWH*

Science and Technology:  
*This group is taking a break. Restart date to be confirmed*

Singing for Pleasure. Contact Ady Shaw 01923 518021 meeting fortnightly on a Thursday at 10.00am until 11.30

Singles Lunch Group: Contact John Lane on 01923 672479.  
Meet 1st Tuesday of the month

Social Group: Contact Ken Emmons on 01923 672139 or email [kjemmons23@gmail.com](mailto:kjemmons23@gmail.com) 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 1.30pm at Watford Leisure Centre Café

Table Tennis: Contact John Simpson on 07531 542605. Fortnightly at 10,00am until Noon at YMCA Haines Way

Trips by Coach  
Contact Martin Rodel on 01923 442417

Ukelele: Contact Trevor Boardman on 01923 244016. Meet 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 2.00pm at Tesco Extra Watford Community Room.  
*Joint Group with SWH*

Whist: Contact Gwen Barker on 01923 510699  
1st and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 2pm-4pm  
*Joint Group with SWH*

Woodside & SWH Pathfinders. Contact Patrick Turner on 01923 263511 or 07954640263 for details of next meeting

Woodside & SWH Striders.  
Contact Patrick Turner on 01923 263511 or 07954640263 for details of next meeting

Woodside Strollers Contact Gloria Barber on 01923 462462 or mobile 07708020583. Meeting monthly 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues at 1pm.

Woodside Walk 5: Contact Derryck Croker on 01923 673719. Monthly morning meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday

Quiz Group. Contact Sue Brown on 01923 661516 or 07812840047. Monthly quizzes - dates and times vary - held at Asda Community Suite.

## Study Group News

We now have several new groups which are

- Singing for Pleasure
- Spanish 2
- Cookery (Spanish)
- Outside Bowls has started again
- American History (Joint with SWH)
- Music Appreciation. (Joint with SWH)

and please do not forget about the swimming which is open to all U3A's and takes place at the Central Baths in Watford on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at 8.30am until 10.00am.

**Please remember that the forms on the study group table are for groups that are not yet up and running. All other groups are shown in the newsletter and are in progress. If you are interested in joining a particular group you should contact the group leader.**

The proposed Environmental Group has 5 people and needs a few more. A huddle will take place at the May meeting during coffee break to make plans for starting the new group, with group co-ordinator Laila.

Bernice

The **Social Group** visited Claydon House & Garden on the 17<sup>th</sup> April. This is the 1750's home of Ralph Verney and family, set in 5000 acres in north Bucks. They had a very interesting tour of the house which had lots of features such as, what looked like ornate stone carvings but were in fact wood carvings painted to look like stone. They also visited an art gallery and pottery exhibition in the courtyard (once stables and workshops).



*Claydon House surrounded by spring bulbs.*

The tea rooms served a welcomed lunch with all home made food.

The Garden visit was very colourful with flower beds full of spring tulips. The parkland was designed by James Sanderson, a student of Capability Brown.



The walled kitchen garden and greenhouse provides much of the vegetables, fruit and flowers for the estate. Weather could have been better but did not prevent anyone from walking round.

Joan



The **curry group** enjoyed another lunch together on 25th April. We had a lucky dip for each course and then all made a dish for our lunch. The food was delicious.



I'm thinking we could open up a restaurant with the high standard of cooking.



Everyone enjoyed it and we are all looking forward to our next challenge.

Anne

### **Woodside Strollers**

We did a lovely walk in the sunshine yesterday at Verulamium Park in St Albans, going around the lake, looking at all the baby geese and coots, admiring all the beautiful colours of the trees, ending with a refreshing drink at the Café in the Park. Our two four legged companions enjoyed a bathe and drink in the river!



*The first photo shows our start at the top overlooking the park with the cathedral in the background*



*and down by the lake.*

Jan

**American History Study Group's** next meeting will be on Tuesday 22 May 10am at Barbara's house when the topic will be: Alastair Cooke's 'America'

Ken E has booked the Blue Check Restaurant, Bushey for our **Christmas lunch**. This will be on 3 December. Last year we shared part of the restaurant with another U3A group. This year we will have it all to ourselves. Look out for further details and booking requirements. Tickets will be £20.

Usually the **Quiz Group** meet together and take turns in running their quiz but in May they took part in a quiz organised by the Abbots Langley Gardening Society held at Manor House. So 12 quiz group members and four other Woodside U3A members took part ..... we won't dwell on our success as we were somewhere in the middle. During the evening hot food was served and glasses replenished.



Some U3A members did well in the raffle.

Page 9

The **Garden Group** were treated to the splendour of Kathy Brown's Garden during their April outing.



Despite bouts of rain



and a late spring there was plenty to enjoy in the atmospheric gardens, certainly worth a follow up visit at a different time of the year. We started off with a guided tour led by the charming owners, culminating in a spread of delicious homemade cakes accompanied by a hot beverage.



On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May, the Garden Group is planning a trip to The Grove including a talk by the Head Gardener.

Page 10

If you interested in joining the Garden Group on their coach trip to Sissinghurst & Merrimants Gardens on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July, 8:30am - 7:30pm, please check availability with Teresa at today's meeting or on 07712 710811: £18 for National Trust members, £30 for standard tickets. Tickets are on sale to all Woodside members at the Garden Group table.

Teresa

The **Social Group** visited St.Albans Park & Museum on 1<sup>st</sup> May.

A nice time was had walking through the park taking in the Roman Wall which proved interesting. After lunch a second visit was completed by going to visit the Museum and the Hypocaust.



*Three U3A members showing that learning is part of what the trust is all about - here in Roman museum.*

All worth a visit and so close to home.

Joan



## Out & About

On a beautiful spring day, 48 members of the Woodside U3A took a coach trip to The Bluebell Railway in East Sussex.

The Bluebell Railway runs steam trains on a 22mile return trip between Sheffield Park and East Grinstead. It was one of the first preserved train services in August 1960.

As a result, they have one of the finest collections of vintage steam locomotives and carriages, many of which were preserved straight out of service from British Railways.



Today they are able to recreate trains from the 1880s through to the 1960s which are favoured by film and TV companies, for popular period drama such as Downton Abbey and Howards End.

We arrived in time at Sheffield Park station to have lunch before our train left. There was a restaurant and bar on platform 1, though many preferred a sandwich in the sun.

As we were a large party two carriages on the train were reserved for us. The noise, smoke and soot soon brought back childhood memories. The carriages were original with sliding windows that let in the smoke when the wind was in the wrong direction.



The trip to East Grinstead took us through bluebell woods, passing fields of grazing sheep and oil seed rape.

We stopped at two other stations, which like the terminal stops had the authentic wooden styled platforms with shelter from the rain. Each station had well attended flower beds and refreshment areas.

We had time to stretch our legs when we reached East Grinstead and watch as the Steam locomotive changed to the other end of the train.

When we returned to Sheffield Park, we had an opportunity to look around the railway museum on platform 2.



*Some authentic railway outfits tried for size at the museum.*

All agreed it had been a great day out and Martin had done an excellent job arranging the trip and arranging us to ensure we were where we were meant to be at the right time.



Well done Martin!

### **Woodside U3A - OUT & ABOUT**

Contact Martin on 01923 442417 or 07855 666 900 for more details about the trips below.

Upcoming trips:

13 June - The Cotswolds

4 July - Eastbourne

15 August - Swanage

22 November - Christmas Market in Winchester

Please make cheques payable: Woodside U3A

### **Social Group Outings -**

Contact Joan on [jgillett43@gmail.com](mailto:jgillett43@gmail.com)

### **LINCOLNSFIELD CENTRE. "1940**

Experience" - MAY 27th SUNDAY.

Admission Adults £5.00. Senior £3.00.

Naaf cafe. Hot /cold drinks. Sandwiches.

Soup. Cake. Photography permitted around the site.

Wheel chair access. Disabled parking. Free parking. Well sign posted.

Meet at the Lincolnsfield centre at 10.30 am

LINCOLNSFIELD CENTRE. BUSHEY HALL DRIVE. BUSHEY. WD23 2ES.

### **CHILTERN OPEN AIR MUSEUM - JUNE**

27th

Admission Adult £10.50. Consession £9.50.

Adventure playground. Working farm.

Woodland trail. Tea room/picnic area. Dogs welcome.

Mobility scooters available free. Sturdy shoes needed. Meet at Woodside Leisure Park (vue). At 10.30am. Car share. CHILTERN

OPEN AIR MUSEUM. NEULANDS PARK.

GORELANDS LANE. CHALFONT St.GILES BUCKS.HP8 4AB

### **STOCKWOOD PARK/MUSEUM/GARDEN -**

JUNE 18th Restaurant/Picnic area. Parking and admission free. Disabled access. Meet at Woodside Leisure Park (vue) at 10am. Car share.

STOCKWOOD PARK. LONDON ROAD.

LUTON. LU1 4LX. Tel: 01582- 548600

### **REVELEY LODGE/VINTAGE TEA/GARDEN -**

JULY 4th WEDNESDAY THIS TRIP IS FULL

**CANAL TRIP&FISH /CHIP SUPPER -**  
JULY 20th THIS TRIP IS NOW FULL.

**UXBRIDGE BUNKERS - AUGUST 4th**  
BOOKING NOW FOR THIS TRIP

### **OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Please make contact with Woodside or other U3A groups before turning up to ensure that they have spare places. Some group visits may have a limit on numbers so contact group leaders on the STUDY GROUP Page before the event.

### **MAY 2018**

15<sup>TH</sup> - General Meeting

### **JUNE 2018**

19<sup>th</sup> - Annual General Meeting

### **WANTED:**

#### **NEWS & PHOTOGRAPHS**

If Study Group Leaders or Woodside U3A members have any information about events or photographs suitable for publication please send to The Webmaster, Andrew Cummings at

[andrew.cummingsu3a@btinternet.com](mailto:andrew.cummingsu3a@btinternet.com) for inclusion on the website

<https://u3asites.org.uk/woodside>

### **AND FOR THE NEWSLETTER**

**Copy date** for the June Issue of the Newsletter is 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Or the 1st Tuesday of any month (two weeks before the General Meeting)

We are looking forward to receiving your news.

Send to Jo Bromwich, 01923 443758 or email [jo.bromwich@ntlworld.com](mailto:jo.bromwich@ntlworld.com)

### **IMPORTANT CONTACT DETAILS**

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