

WOODSIDE U3A NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2018

Meeting at The Church of the Nazarene, The
Brow, Woodside, Watford, Herts WD25 7NW

On the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 9.30am

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

'April showers bring forth May flowers', so says the old proverb that according to [Www.Prase Finder.org.uk](http://www.PraseFinder.org.uk). A proverb that has its origins in the sixteenth century and is said to mean something good may happen as a result of unpleasant events, you know that sort of after the rains comes the rainbow sort of feeling. Given the recent tumultuous weather patterns we have all been experiencing the good will surely be following, and rainbows are on their way, if not already here.

Old proverbs aside, the less romantic cause of April showers, is as you all know, down to the Atlantic Jet stream, that in early spring moves northwards and in its 'wake-up call', delivers a large climatic depression that brings with it strong winds and plenty of chilly wet weather days. It was the late comedian and raconteur Bob Hope, a regular visitor from across the Atlantic to our shores, who quipped ahh yes, 'England the only place where you can experience all four seasons in one day'. He must have visited in Spring as his observation could accurately describe the past few weeks with its copious rain, mixed with intermittent sun, howling winds, snow and the odd hail storm. In the words of the wonderful actor Bette Davis necessitated us to 'hang on, its going to be a bumpy ride', however there were rainbows. In March I participated in my first U3A outing to Star Gaze at the Bayfordbury Observatory with 34 other members. It was a brilliant learning experience and despite the fact it was a cloudy night and we were not able to track the stars just seeing the enormous telescopes and hearing about space was a definite rainbow experience.

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Laila, Chair

AGENDA FOR 17 APRIL

- 9.30 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS
- STUDY GROUPS SIGN UPS & BOOK SALES
- 10.00 BUSINESS MEETING
- 10.30 REFRESHMENTS
- 11.00 OUR SPEAKER WILL BE PAM WHITFIELD WITH A TALK ENTITLED 'TALES OF AN ANTIQUE DEALER'
- 11.45 ROUND-UP AND CLOSE

AT OUR MEETING ON 15 MAY OUR SPEAKER WILL BE COLIN OAKES WITH A TALK ENTITLED 'PLUMBING THE DEPTHS'

LOST & FOUND After our March meeting a pair of glasses were found. See Laila if they are yours.

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



Lesley Cummings

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Sheila Ramsamy Speaker

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Ken Appel

Treasurer
01923 672620

kenneth.appel@gmail.com

Continued from front page

Whatever the weather, our U3A continues to thrive and grow with more study groups added this month and other learning opportunities being experienced through our busy outings and social activities. I thank all who work hard to make Woodside U3A a friendly and successful movement that works hard to retain the key ethos which is 'self directed learning, coming together to share ideas, lead by members and independent of the state'.

Wishing you all many rainbows as the May flowers emerge from an April filled with abundant challenges.

Laila
Chair

Refreshment Rota

17 April - LISTENING TO MUSIC and LOCAL HISTORY

15 May - SINGLES LUNCH CLUB and TABLE TENNIS

19 June - WOODSIDE STROLLERS and QUIZ GROUP

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 in excellent condition with £8202.00 in the bank but we have some large bills to pay soon.

Ken A

At our March general meeting we sold **books** to the value of £21.

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Notice of Woodside U3A AGM 19th 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 19th 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

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 March meeting, 75% of our members had renewed their membership.

We gave **Feedback forms** to everyone at the March meeting and 70 have been completed and returned. So far 64 have joined a study group (many more than one) and 44 had been on one of Martin's trips. The response so far has been positive and constructive; with many people adding good ideas and comments.

First Aid training update: we are still trying to find a new venue suitable for the training.

MARCH GENERAL MEETING

At our March meeting we had an uplifting talk by Woodside U3A member, Brenda Southorn, President of the Abbots Langley Gilbert & Sullivan Society.



Brenda began by telling us about Gilbert & Sullivan's Victorian partnership which produced 14 comic operas over 25 years (1871-1896), despite being very different people.

Their success was international and remains popular today with professional musical companies in Europe, Australia, Japan and the US still performing G&S's comic operas today. Modern writers of musical theatre are still influenced by them.

Gilbert's background was as a writer, illustrator and critic; Sullivan was a serious and accomplished musician and composer. Onward Christian Soldiers being one of his most recognized pieces. The Doyle Carte Opera Company commissioned many works by them. Their comic operas were sometimes a '*thorn in the side of the establishment*', poking fun at prominent people and covering subjects such as women's' rights.



Their songs were popular throughout society and often played on pianos in the home; piano sales doubled by 1890 to provide family entertainment.

Over the years their work became more serious, as Sullivan especially wanted to concentrate on grand opera. The Mikado was the most successful of all time. Gilbert settled at The Grimmsdyke in Stanmore and Sullivan in the south west but with the wider use of the telephone kept in touch. Sullivan died in 1900 aged 48 and Gilbert in 1911.

Brenda went on to tell her story and involvement with Abbots Langley Gilbert & Sullivan Society. It was started in 1950 by the local vicar, Raymond Wilkinson, who made good use of the church choir to fill various roles. Their first performance was The Mikado in 1951. Within the comic operas for any G&S performance, all stage directions were dictated by the two men saying how each character was allow to move - so the singers didn't need much acting ability. By 1963 singers were allowed to move on stage without G&S directions for the first time.

Earlier performances took place at Leavesden Hospital Theatre, where under the direction of the dynamic vicar the G&S society played alongside the Abbots Langley Players.

The Abbots Langley G&S Society is going strong with many younger singers taking part though the audience attending is getting older. They put on two shows a year at Henderson Hall in Abbots Langley High Street.



By 1960, at the invitation of Jimmy Perry, one performance a year took place at the Watford Palace Theatre. This was a huge undertaking as, if the production lost money then the singers paid for the loss. This was not the case and most performances were very successful. Their first performance at The Palace was 'Yeoman of the Guard' in 1962.

Brenda joined the society in 1966 in a performance of 'Ruddigore' singing with her contralto voice.

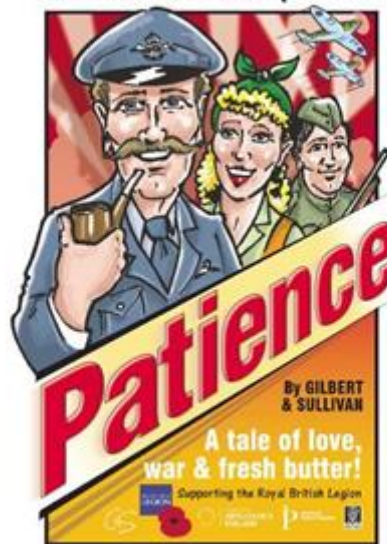


Brenda kneeling (3rd right), orange dress hiding that she is very pregnant

For the Silver Jubilee in 1975, their chosen performance was 'Iolanthe', all the costumes were made in the Victorian way without the aid of sewing machines.

At the opening night, in 1976 of 'Sorcerer', a bomb scare emptied the theatre (this was at the height of the IRA bombings) - the suspicious item turned out to be a thermos flask left in one of the boxes.

Abbots Langley Gilbert and Sullivan Society
22-26 January 2013



Watford Palace Theatre
Box Office: 01923 225671 www.watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk

It costs £35,000 to stage comic opera at The Palace!

Brenda went on to say that in 1998 Abbots Langley G&S society were invited to the International Gilbert & Sullivan event at The Buxton Opera House where they performed The Gondoliers. They continued to perform there for the next 11 years. The society has won many prizes over the years.

Finally Brenda was joined by Jan; they sang a duet from Princess Ida called Hoity Toity. Brenda played Lady Blanche and Jan Melissa.



The Gondoliers, Watford Palace Theatre July 2017

On the 21 April at 3pm at Henderson Hall A/L they are holding a 'Bring it & Sing it' event - open to all. Then at the same venue 'Music & Laughter 2' 5-8 July. See their website for details.

www.algss.org.uk

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WOODSIDE STUDY GROUPS

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 2nd and 4th Mondays, 2-4pm
Joint Group with SWH

Belly Dancing: Contact Bernice Caffrey.
2nd and 4th 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. This group starts again in May.

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

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

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
4th Tuesday at 11.00am

Cycling; Contact Derryck Croker on
01923 673719

Family History: Contact Bea Luffrum
on 0771 1709039. Meeting monthly
on the 1st 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
4th 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. 1st and 3rd Monday at
St Hilda's Room, All Saints Church Hall
at 1.30 to 2.30pm

Line Dancing: Vera Pickering on 01923 269733.
1st and 3rd 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
1st Tuesday afternoon at members homes

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

Lunch Group: Contact Joyce Gray
on 01923 263213 or rejoyce.gray@gmail.com
Monthly 4th Wednesday. Venues vary

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

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

Play Reading for Fun: Contact Derek Gile
s on 01923 270971. 4th 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
3rd Wednesday at 1.30pm at
Watford Leisure Centre Cafe.

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 1st, 3rd and
5th Thursday and 2nd, 4th and
5th Wednesday at 2.00pm at Tesco Extra
Watford Community Room.
Joint Group with SWH

Whist: Contact Gwen Barker
on 01923 510699 1st and 3rd 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 2nd Tues at 1pm.

Woodside Walk 5: Contact Derryck Croker
on 01923 673719. Monthly morning meetings
2nd 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
- Woodside Striders
- Woodside Pathfinders

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.

Also there will be a "huddle" during our refreshment break at the general meeting on the 17th April for our proposed **Spanish 2 group**. A new member, Carmen Copley, is willing to take this group forward so anyone interested in Spanish for beginners, please listen out for where this huddle will take place.

Attendee at the Committee meeting -
Beryl Emmons
Bernice

A reminder to Garden Group members, don't forget to let Teresa know if you intend coming on the afternoon visit to Kathy Brown's garden, Tuesday 24th April. Numbers are needed by 17th April at the latest for catering purposes: 07712 710811.

There are still a few tickets remaining for the trip to Sissinghurst & Merriments Gardens on Sunday 15th July, 8:30am - 7:30pm. Tickets are on sale to all Woodside members at the Garden Group table: £18 for National Trust members, £30 for standard tickets.

Linda

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.

The belly dancing group.

The belly dancing group started the second week of February and at that time we had no knowledge of the subject. Our first meeting resulted in hoots of laughter but we did discover one of our group, Val, had done some before and so we enlisted her help. Since then we have learned several steps with her help but, obviously, we are only just beginning and there's a lot to learn but we should after a while become fitter and supple.

Bernice

Walking Book Group

The set book for next time is "Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie" by Mary Shaffer

A couple of the group have already read this and recommended it, so here are some other suggestions if you wish to read more or have read the set one:

"The Hearts Invisible Flurries" by John Boyne

"The Hypnotist's Love Story" By Liane Moriarty

"Still Me" By Jojo Moyes (The third in the trilogy of 'Me Before You' and "After You")

We are giving Chipperfield another go in the hope that it will be sunny and devoid of mud at 10am on Wednesday 2nd May meet in the car park by the church if you can find a space!

Libby

Correction to last Newsletter

The Whist Study Group meets on 1st and 3rd Thursday *not* Wednesday as printed in the March newsletter. This is a Joint Group with SWHerts. Gwen



Hare you are! Hares on the run

Oh how 'hoppy' the **Art Group** were with their latest achievements. They look fantastic and they look like they are haring around the room.

The Woodside U3A **French group** recently enjoyed an action packed three days in Lille with the intention of speaking French as much as possible.

Heather Lace's superb organisation of the trip meant that the only challenges were linguistic ones, and Joyce's arrangement for the taxis to and from St Pancras meant we could chill out even more on the journey. Our stay at the Ibis Hotel was very comfortable with a tasty breakfast to set us up for the day. This did not stop us, however, from enjoying the cuisine of various establishments for our other meals.



Lunch in the sun

There were indeed a few unexpected linguistic challenges to deal with such as explaining a serious food allergy, seeking a repair for broken spectacles, an attack of vertigo, (we climbed to the top of the Bell Tower at the old Town Hall), and obtaining first aid for a sprained ankle.



View from the

top of the Bell Tower.

One of the highlights was a guided tour of the city by a young tour guide, Nicolas, who was willing to speak in English, but we bravely agreed for him to speak only in French. There were many interesting stories and we all agreed that we learned far more than if we had just wandered around the city with a guide book.

Another highlight was the visit to La Piscine, an art deco swimming pool converted to a museum. We had to negotiate the transport system to take a tram and this proved to be far more interesting a journey than taking the Metro.

We returned home on the evening of 27 March, having practised our French despite the steadfast attempts of everyone else to talk to us in English. Some of us still continued in French mode as we alighted from the train in St Pancras, forgetting we were now back home. Certainly a good sign of a successful language trip.

Anne Davison

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Bayfordbury Observatory

Ken, my husband, and I had only just joined Woodside U3A in January but because of family illness I couldn't attend the January monthly meeting. Ken had seen this outing and knew I would enjoy it and it even sparked his interest so we were duly booked and paid up attendees. The weather had perked up a little the days before our visit so I was quite excited at the thought of looking through their powerful telescope at whatever they pointed it at for us to see. It was sunny all through the morning of the day that we were scheduled to visit the Observatory. "Great" I thought. By lunchtime it was a little cloudy but then it was downhill from there. By late afternoon there was solid cloud cover. After meeting at The Vue the car sharing worked beautifully and we had great conversations on our trip there. Well! it was, of course, a very interesting evening. We were all seated in a large classroom and the young man addressing us told us he was called Lord by his parents. He left us all to think what we wanted about that, and he then gave us the choice of hearing about Rockets or Aliens or at least the chance of life on another planet.



The general sense of opinion was aliens which Lord was happy about as he said that was his favourite topic. He showed us some great slides as he discussed the

likely hood of there being life, of some sort, on one of the billions of other, possibly habitable, planets and how we, as humans, are sending out radio signals and information into space, however his personal opinion came across that he didn't believe in aliens.



Thirty four members visited the Observatory

We were next split into 2 groups, one to see the telescopes first and the other to go to the Planetarium. Out into the cold we went and as we were walking towards the telescope buildings we were shown a building from which a green Laser light was directed straight up into the sky which is used in their research.



The first telescope we saw was a new automatic version where instead of an eye piece you would just look at a picture on a screen and although a very impressive piece of equipment I, personally, wanted to see an original telescope with all the mirrors and lenses.



I was not to be disappointed as the next building we went into contained such a 'beast' and we were able to look into the reflective mirrors as the young lady told us all about it. After that it was our turn in the Planetarium, a small domed room that, cosily, fitted our group in and another young man showed us images of our night sky and then the Ancient Greek constellations projected on top of the stars.

It was a very enjoyable trip.

The Observatory has open evenings most months but booking is essential as it is very popular.

Pam Cotton

Changes to how **Quiz Group** run

Quiz Group - contact Sue Brown on 01923 661516 or 07812840047 or email susanmaybrown@hotmail.com. Monthly quizzes - dates and times vary - currently held at Asda Community rooms. Refreshments provided and various quiz masters each month.



Some of the Spanish group celebrating one year together

A poem by Nicky from The Creative Writing Group

A Grumpy Old Man

He's a grumpy old man
Glass half full, no
glass half empty
It's been like this since he turned
seventy

Prices going up
Computer going down
Everything seems to
Produce a frown

Nowhere to park
Too much traffic
The banks are closing
Nothing is rosy

How to survive
With this much angst
Just hope
He'll be better at eighty!
Nicky

Social Group visit to Bentley Priory

We had a good turn out, 19 in total. Found it to be a very interesting tour. The guides were very helpful and answered any questions we had. We watched a short film on the war which I have never seen before so was very pleased with the afternoon.

We were unable to go round the garden due to the weather but what we saw was good. Most enjoyed a well earned cup of tea in the small cafe.

Joan

Woodside U3A - OUT & ABOUT

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

The Bluebell railway trip in May is fully booked.

Upcoming trips:

13 June - The Cotswolds

4 July - Eastbourne

15 August - Swanage

Christmas Market in Winchester Date TBA

Please make cheques payable to:

Woodside U3A

Social Group Outings -

Contact Joan on jgillett43@gmail.com

CLAYDON HOUSE/GARDEN - 24 April

As booking is needed by 17th April please

1750's Family Home of the Ralph Verney - a very
interesting house to visit.

Discover the connection between Claydon House
and Florence Nightingale, Lady of the lamp,
Phoenix Tea rooms. Selection of food (cakes,
scones, hot soup etc) situated in the court yard.

Second hand book stall. Shop offers a small
selection of products such as jams, sweets etc.

Guided Tour only. Opening times: 11am to 5pm

Admission: HOUSE- £7.50. GARDENS £6.00.

National Trust members £5.00

Meet at Woodside Leisure Park. (vue). At 10am.

Car sharing. CLAYDON HOUSE. MIDDLE

CLAYDON. BUCKINGHAM. MK18 2EY

St. ALBANS MUSEUM/PARK - MAY 1st Full
details apply to the email address above

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. NEWLANDS 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.

APRIL 2018

24TH April - Visit to Kathy Brown's garden at
Stevington

MAY 2018

15TH - 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 for
inclusion on the website

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

AND FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Copy date for the May Issue of the Newsletter
is 1st May.

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

IMPORTANT CONTACT DETAILS

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Our monthly newsletter is available in full online

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