



WOODSIDE U3A NEWSLETTER APRIL 2023  
MEETING AT THE STANBOROUGH CENTRE WATFORD

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

Charity Reg.: 1182140



Hi Everyone,

Welcome to our April 2023 newsletter.

Last month our speaker was George Rutland who regaled us with fascinating stories of his life as an actor, choreographer and male model for among others, Hardy Amies, Marks and Spencer and Wella. This month our speaker is Frances Walker speaking on Drugs derived from Plants. Louise, our Speakers Secretary is certainly giving us a varied programme this year.

We are having a change around at our *General Meetings*. To accommodate more people in the hall, our book table will be set up in the corridor. We can still have round tables in the hall - there are plenty of chairs for everyone.

April and May are months when we renew our membership. I am very pleased we have made the decision to reduce our annual membership fee to £22. Every penny helps with the cost of living going up all around us.

There are several coach outings lined up for this year. The Social Group (organised by Joan Gillett) is going to Windsor on Tuesday 11 July (£14 per ticket), Martin Rodel has a Mystery Coach Tour planned for Monday 22nd May (£16 per ticket) and also a day trip to Eastbourne on Wednesday 12 July (£17.50 per ticket).

Spring is here now, so let's make the best of life, enjoy the better weather and continue being active in Woodside u3a.

Barbara Elman  
Chair

**Agenda** for our April general meeting: Doors open 9.30am, notices 10.00am, refreshments/huddles 10.15am, speaker Frances Watkins with a talk entitled 'Modern Drugs derived from plants' and depart 12 noon.

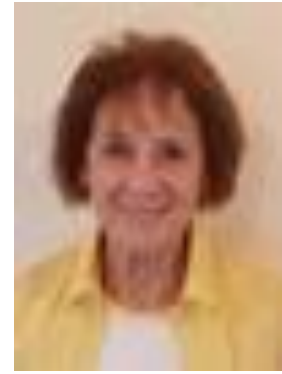
**YOUR COMMITTEE**



**BERNICE CAFFREY**  
**VICE CHAIR & INTEREST**  
**GROUP COORDINATOR**



**LINDA WILLIAMS**  
**COMMITTEE MEMBER**



**JOYCE GRAY**  
**PUBLICITY**



**ALISON THEOBALD**  
**TREASURER**



**HEATHER LACE**  
**SAFEGUARDING &**  
**EQUALITY**



**KEN COTTON**  
**COMMITTEE MEMBER**



**LESLEY CUMMINGS**  
**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**



**KEN EMMONS**  
**SOCIAL SECRETARY**



**LOUISE SMITH**  
*Speakers Secretary*

Please see back page for contact details of the committee, webmaster and newsletter editor

## Interest Group News

Art.	Contact: Sue Walters on 07989 250483, Group meets fortnightly 10-12am at Manor House Pavilion
Badminton	Contact: Susan Coultrup on 01923 334387. Group meets weekly on Wednesday at Watford Leisure Centre (this is a joint group with SWH)
Books	Contact: Libby Crawford on 01923 247847. Group meet every 3rd Wednesday at 10.30am
Bridge Improvers	Contact: Judith Evans on 01923 260354 or 07960 642651. Group meets 1st and 3rd Mondays at 1.30 - 4.30 at Asda Room 3 (this is a joint group with SWH)
Bus Pass Travel	Group leader required – no trips planned until someone comes forward to make arrangements.
Canasta	Contact: Denise Branton on 07786 391534. Group meets 3rd Tuesday of the month at Asda Community Suite at 2.00pm
Chess	Contact: Barbara Elman on 07833996358. This group meets monthly at members' homes.
Craft:	Contact: Jo Bromwich on 01923 443758. This group meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month at Abbots Langley Cricket Club at 10 until 12 noon. Next meeting 26 April making waterfall cards.
Drama	Contact: Carol Stanton at <a href="mailto:carolstanton225@gmail.com">carolstanton225@gmail.com</a> . This group meets on a Tuesday at Asda Community Suite, 10.00am until 11.30am.
Family History	Contact: Bea Luffrum on 07711709039. Group meets monthly on the 1st Wednesday morning at members houses (this is a joint group with SWH).
French	Contact: Heather Lace on 07951937064. Group meets fortnightly on a Monday at 2.30p at members houses
Garden Visits	Contact: Teresa Brunswick on 07712710811. Watch out for news of visits at the General Meeting. We currently have three visits on offer.
Line Dancing	Contact: Judy Lovell on 01923 893368. Group meets 1st and 3rd Mondays. First session 10.15am. Second sessions 11.15am (this is a joint group with SWH)
Listening to Music.	Contact: Diane Reilly on 01923 261840. Group meets monthly 1st Tuesday afternoons at members homes
Lunch Group	Contact: Joyce Gray on 01923 263213 or <a href="mailto:rejoyce.gray@gmail.com">rejoyce.gray@gmail.com</a> . Monthly. Days and Venue vary
Mexican Train	Contact: Bernice Caffrey on 01923 672359. Group meets every 4 weeks on a Thursday at 2.00pm.
Pathfinders	Contact: Patrick Turner on 0923 263511 or 7954640263 for details of next meeting (this is a joint group with SWH)
Philosophy	Contact: Jeanne Johnson on 01923 263598. Group meets monthly on 1st Monday 2.00-4.00pm. (this is a joint group with SWH)
Photography	Contact: Ken Jones on 01923 264855. Group meets 2nd Monday at 2.00pm at members homes
Play Reading for Fun	Contact: Derek Giles on 01923 270971. 4th Wednesday at Asda at 10.00am -12.30pm and again 1st Monday at Asda at 2.00pm - 4.30pm (This is a joint group with SWH)
Spanish 1	Contact: Sue Brown on 01923 661516. Group meets fortnightly on Friday at 11.00 - 12.00am at the Royal Oak, Abbots Langley
Sewing	Contact: Tina Photi on 07427866825. Group meets Wednesday at 10.00-12.00am at Tina's home
Sequence Dancing	Contact: Janet Moles on 07835 260967 All Saints Church Hall from 2.00pm until 4.00pm

Sign Language	Contact: Sue Hickson on 07958669311. Group meets the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month at Asda Community Suite between 2.00pm and 3.30pm.
Singing for Pleasure	Contact: Ady Shaw on 01923 518021. Group meets fortnightly on Thursday at 10.00am -11.30am at Asda
Social Group	Contact: Joan Gillett <a href="mailto:jgillett43@gmail.com">jgillett43@gmail.com</a> .
Table Tennis	Contact: John Simpson on 07531 542605. Group meets fortnightly at 10.00-12.00am at the YMCA Haines Way
Trips	Contact: Martin Rodel on 01923 442417. Available trips advertised at General Meetings
Ukulele	Contact: Trevor Boardman on 01923 244016. Group meets 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursday and 2nd, 4th and 5th Wednesday at 2.00pm at Tesco Extra Community Room (this is a joint group with SWH)
Weekenders	Contact: Teresa Brunswick on 07712710811. Watch out for news of visits at the General Meeting.
Wednesday Walkers	Contact: Derryck Croker on 07941 401 421 for details. Group meets month on the 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 0945 (joint group with SWH)
Woodside Walk Five	Contact: Derryck Croker on 07941 401 421 for details of next meeting. Group meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday at 09.45 (joint group with SWH)
Quiz	Contact: Glen Price on 07787155461 meeting at YMCA Haines Way at 7.00pm on the third Thursday of the month.

### Interest Groups News

On 4 April the Theatre Group met at Burstons and out of the 20 so members who put their names on the list 10 attended. Pam Young has agreed to be the contact for this group but other members are currently contacting the many local theatres to obtain their programmes, costs and booking fees. At the next General Meeting on the 18th there will be a huddle at approx 11.30am to discuss the information obtained and hopefully agree a first visit to a theatre.

They hope to be able to offer members a trip to the theatre in June/July and seats would have to be booked and paid for at the May General Meeting.

We also have had a fair amount of interest in Ten Pin Bowling, so if you are interested come and put your name down.

Bernice, Interest Group Co-ordinator

### Walking Groups

It wasn't third time lucky for leaders Mary and Nigel for the first walk of the joint walking group with SW Herts u3a Woodside Walk 5. This one was to be from Bedmond, but poor weather stopped play as it had done twice before. Better luck for them for November.

The new to Woodside, Wednesday Walkers, on the other hand had a very successful walk from the Brocket Arms in Ayot St Lawrence, ably led by Judith. It will come as no surprise that a good lunch was enjoyed by all 14 walkers afterwards.

Both my Woodside and SW Herts u3a's walking groups have been suffering from a diminishing number of active members, so the ability to open up one's group to another u3a



'Striding out on the Ayot Greenway'

(with the necessary permissions from both) has certainly helped swell the numbers, and gives each u3a another walking group.

Both groups' walks are medium-paced 5 miles or thereabouts, sometimes from a pub or cafe, but always with convivial company. Woodside Walk 5 is the 2nd Wednesday in the month, Wednesday Walkers the 4th, both start at 09:45am for a 10:00am start. You can find my contact details in the interest group section of the newsletter, as always.

Derryck Croker

### **Craft Group**

For their March meeting, the craft group made spring wreaths. Using bought wreath rings, fresh foliage and either fresh spring flowers or artificial flowers, everyone enjoyed a relaxing morning. Once the flowers were in place, they added small Easter eggs, toy rabbits and chicks. Some were made to sit on a table and others to hang on the front door.



### **Social Group**

Our next Social Group outing will be to Windsor on 11 July. Day trip will cost £14 for the coach (Watford to Windsor return).

Make the day your own.



French brothers run boat trips up river which you can book on arrival.

Visit the castle or just have a wonder round the shops.

Booking from March General Meeting. Please pay when booking cash or cheque (cheques payable to Woodside u3a)

Joan

### **Bus Pass Group**

Following his successful group trip to St Albans, John Simpson is planning another trip - details at the April General Meeting.

## Coach Trips for 2023

**Monday 22 May**

Mystery trip

Depart Stanborough 8.45am &  
Greenwood Drive Bus Stop North Orbital Road 8.50am  
approx Arrive back 6pm approx.  
Cost £16



**Wednesday 12 July**

Eastbourne

Depart Stanborough 8.45am &  
Greenwood Drive Bus Stop North Orbital Road  
8.50am approx  
Arrive back approx 7pm Approx.  
Cost £17.50



## The Christmas Market



I will know later on in the year where this will be and the date.

Please be aware that as a condition of travel I must have passengers Mobile Phone Numbers in case of people falling ill, accidents or getting lost! My Mobile Number is printed on the Ticket so don't forget the ticket!

Cheques made payable to Woodside u3a please

Martin

## March General Meeting

Our speaker for March was *George Rutland* who came to speak to us about his career as an actor, dancer in musicals, street theatre and as a model.

At the age of thirteen and from a large family *George* got a job as a bus boy at the local hotel in Bermuda. He learned all about food and wines and progressed to a waiter and served many stars such as Noel Coward.



*George talking about his memorabilia*

He joined the local musical and dramatic society and by 1958 he had saved enough money to travel to England and enrol at a drama school that encouraged him to work professionally in repertory. He met and was encouraged by stars such as Albert Finney during his time at Queens Theatre Hornchurch.

Never short of work, *George* met his wife while appearing in *The Sound of Music* and they married in 1962 in a whirl of publicity. As a result he was offered modelling work, tv commercials and film parts.

*George* has travelled the world and mentioned Charlie Chaplin, Marlon Brando, Princess Margaret and many others. Lately he has taught line dancing and appeared at the Queen's Jubilee dancing on a boat!

*George* was swamped by our members looking at his memorabilia and speaking with him after the meeting. He is a delightful and interesting man.

Louise

To Gardeners: Please remember when gardening this spring that caterpillars are baby butterflies (or moths). Spraying them with insecticide will wipe out a generation of beautiful butterflies that would have enhanced your garden.

## General Meeting talks this season

16.5.23 The Shedettes performing. No speaker.

20.6.23 AGM. The Drama Group performing. No speaker.

18.7.23 Hearing Dogs For Deaf People by Liz Arendt and Rufus the dog.

## Refreshment Rota

April - Photography and Mexican Train

May - Spanish 1 and Sewing

## WANTED: NEWS & PHOTOGRAPHS

suitable for publication please send to  
The Webmaster, Andrew Cummings at  
[andrew.cummingsu3a@btinternet.com](mailto:andrew.cummingsu3a@btinternet.com)

The newsletter is available online at  
<https://u3asites.org.uk/woodside>

## AND FOR THE NEWSLETTER

**Copy date for the MAY Issue is  
1<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2023**

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

## IMPORTANT CONTACT DETAILS

[webmaster@woodsideu3a.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@woodsideu3a.org.uk)  
[newsletter@woodsideu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@woodsideu3a.org.uk)

ANY ARTICLES RECEIVED AFTER THE  
COPYDATE MAY NOT BE INCLUDED

So our u3a can be as environmentally friendly as  
possible, you are invited to bring your own mug to  
our monthly general meetings. These are easier  
to drink from and will save using paper cups.

### The committee contact details:

Barbara Elman, Chair - [chair@woodsideu3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@woodsideu3a.org.uk)

Bernice Caffrey, Vice Chair & Interest Group  
Coordinator - 01923 672359 [caffreyba@gmail.com](mailto:caffreyba@gmail.com)

Linda Williams, - no contact details

Alison Theobald, Treasurer - [a.theobald@sky.com](mailto:a.theobald@sky.com)

Lesley Cummings, Membership Secretary - 01923  
681478 - [membership@woodsideu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@woodsideu3a.org.uk)

Ken Emmons, Social Secretary - 01923 672139  
[kejoem23@gmail.com](mailto:kejoem23@gmail.com)

Heather Lace, Safe Guarding & Equality -  
- 07951 937064 - [heuzit@hotmail.com](mailto:heuzit@hotmail.com)

Joyce Gray, Publicity - 01923 263213 -  
[rejoyce.gray@gmail.com](mailto:rejoyce.gray@gmail.com)

Louise Smith - talks organiser  
[louise.c.smith@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:louise.c.smith@hotmail.co.uk)  
07483214815

Ken Cotton - [mandolinken@gmail.com](mailto:mandolinken@gmail.com)  
01923 269720