

# Woodside

u3a  
learn, laugh, live

Newsletter

April 2024

MEETING AT THE STANBOROUGH CENTRE WATFORD

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

Charity Registration Number.: 1182140



Hello everyone

As the days get longer and warmer, a lot of us are turning our thoughts towards travel. At a recent Walking Book Group meeting we discussed, prompted by our latest book choice, the 'best' places we had ever visited. Favourites ranged from Egypt to Japan, and from Venice to Victoria Falls. We were all agreed on how fortunate we had been to be able to travel and experience such fantastic places. Inevitably, as we get older, more thought and planning might have to be taken when organising future trips, but many of us are venturing on exciting and challenging adventures - one member has recently returned to ski-ing after a 5 year break, and another has undertaken a three-week journey down the Amazon. There are plenty of interesting and enjoyable places closer to home, however. I still have a long list of locations in the U.K. I am keen to visit, and I always get a thrill when I cross the River Tamar and see the 'Kernow a'gas dynergh' sign.

It is great to see so many at our monthly meetings and to hear the positive response to our speakers. See you all in May. *Heather*

Today's Speaker:- "The People and Places of Bletchley Park"  
To help the environment please remember to bring your own drinking vessel.

## Speakers Report

**O**ur speaker in March was Simon Smith talking about the history of almshouses. Simon had worked for the Jesus Hospital Charity, which has been in existence since 1679, before becoming a trustee. He brought with him four other trustees and a lady who actually lives in an almshouse. Today almshouses exist worldwide. Charitable housing for poorer retired folk has been in existence since before the Battle of Hastings and the Jesus Hospital Charity since 1679. Many almshouses were founded by benefactors who had been former employers of the residents, like Bourneville and Thomas Cook. Others were founded by wealthy individuals. French almshouses were established here for Huguenots escaping persecution, with many people in public life here today descended from them. In its earliest



*Almshouses*

days residents had to be over fifty, holy and innocent; drunks, thieves, witches or sorcerers need not apply! Some are for men only and some for women only - depending upon the will of the founders. These days the houses provide independent living at an affordable price for local people. A one bedroom cottage with a small garden could be as little as one hundred pounds a week plus a

contribution towards utility bills. Almshouses are often recognisable from their beautiful architecture. Until recently a picture of some Cotswold almshouses appeared on

one of our passport pages. Simon presented a very interesting, informative talk accompanied by slides and music. He is an extremely pleasant person and it was a pleasure to meet him and hear him speak.

*Louise*

## Engineering Heritage Group

These talks are open to all local u3a's  
If you would like to join us or want further information please contact  
Roger Frost 01923 465739 [roger.frost@beechcombers.co.uk](mailto:roger.frost@beechcombers.co.uk)

## Woodside Walk 5

Our walk in March turned out to be rather different to the one that had been planned. We were to have walked through the Chorleywood Estate and along the River Chess, but previous rain had turned footpaths to deep and slippery mud paths, and crossing points over the Chess flooded and all but impassable. This would not do, not even for our intrepid group. So an alternative had to be found and quickly, so after a hasty recce, a walk from the Leavesden Country Park north to the network of footbridges that cross the M1 J6A and M25 J21 was brought into play. A swift on-the-hoof reroute to avoid some deep mud on the downhill track between Searches and Millhouse Farms, and we were on the return to the Country Park. The drizzle that had heralded the start of our walk had fortunately come to naught, so all walkers returned dry and ready to take coffee and cake in the cafe. What could be nicer? *Derryck Croker*



*Derryck's Muddy Boot!*

## Did You Know?

Telephone boxes in Hull were white because they never joined the Post Office network and were run by an independent company!



## Trivia

What is the distance between London & New York? 3459 Miles



## Easter Alexa Joke

What do you get if you spill hot tea on a rabbit?

A hot cross bunny!





## Martins Coach Trips

**H**ere is a list of the trips for 2024. They will ALL depart from Stanborough Centre at 8.45am SHARP and Kingswood Greenwood Drive Bus Stop, North Orbital Road at approx 8.50am. If anyone wants the Kingswood pick-up they **MUST LET EITHER MYSELF OR JOAN GILLETT KNOW AT THE TIME OF BOOKING. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RENDER THE PERSON AS A 'NO SHOW' AND WILL BE LEFT BEHIND.**

1. MONDAY MAY 13<sup>th</sup> New forest tour, inc Lyndhurst and hopefully Bucklers Hard. cost £16 pp
2. WEDNESDAY JUNE 12<sup>th</sup> Milestones Living Museum Basingstoke. Cost £13 pp (Coach Only) Entrance to the Museum is payable on the Day only and is £14pp Group Price. YOU MUST WEAR YOUR LANYARDS TO GET THE GROUP ENTRANCE PRICE !! This Trip is being run by Joan Gillett.
3. WEDNESDAY JULY 17<sup>th</sup> Bournemouth or Poole, The choice is yours! Cost £18pp
4. SEPT (Date to be confirmed, it will be a Tuesday) Hearing dogs for the deaf. NUMBERS WILL BE LIMITED ON THIS TRIP. Cost will be around £21pp inc.tour. Details later. This trip will depart at Approx 10.30am
5. Birmingham German Christmas Market £18pp date not available yet.

All trips will have an onboard WC on the coach except The hearing dogs for the deaf trip which is not far away.



## Garden Visits Group

**O**ur garden visits group has arranged to visit the new garden of Sue and Tom Stuart-Smith. We would like to extend the invitation to all members of Woodside u3a and others. The visit is on 11 July 2024, 6pm-8pm. The garden is at The Barn (corner of Serge Hill Lane and Featherbed Lane), Serge Hill, Bedmond.

Sue and Tom have create a new project garden to run a garden school, a plant library and which will support their mental health programme and the importance of gardens. Sunnyside Rural trust will also have a new garden within the project.

There will be refreshments available. Entrance is £5 on the gate; all of which will go to support their Serge Hill garden project. There is plenty of parking. Tom is an international garden designer who played a major role in the new RHS garden at Bridgewater, Salford, Greater Manchester. Sue is a psychiatrist and psychotherapist, who has published a book called The Well Gardened Mind about the importance of gardens/gardening on mental health.

Email Jo on [jo.bromwich@ntlworld.com](mailto:jo.bromwich@ntlworld.com) for further information Jo

## Grand Union Canal Boat Trip

**A**s mentioned at the March General Meeting, we are arranging an evening boat trip on the Grand Union Canal on the evening of July 1<sup>st</sup> 2024. We have booked the 35-seater boat for the trip from the Nash Mills, Kings Langley boatyard which will leave the venue at 4.00p.m. and return at approx. 8.00p.m. The cost is £10.00 each person payable by cheque made out to Woodside U3A. If you would like to join us for this excursion then please contact John Simpson, as soon as possible, to book your place on the vessel. As this trip takes place on a Monday evening there will be the option of having a Fish and Chip supper during the evening. Details to follow of the menu which is available, together with costs

*John Simpson*



*Sheldrake III*



## Murder Mystery Evening



**T**he Murder Mystery Group met on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 to investigate the murder of Lord Michael Jaggard who had invited some of his 'friends' to meet for an evening meal. Upon arrival it was established that the host had been murdered and the guests were told to find out which one of them had performed the dastardly deed. All of the those present disliked their host. Using the available clues, the assistance of a DVD commentary together with the ability/opportunity to question the other suspects, their task was not straight forward with those present having to reveal facts about their relationship with the deceased. Having been invited to have a meal with their deceased host it would have been impolite not to have partaken of the meal that was available. The evening was enjoyed by all the suspects with much fun/laughter as those present tried not to reveal too much information of their connection with the deceased and thus implicating themselves in the demise of their 'friend'. Many thanks to Sue Brown and her husband who hosted the evening at their home and to those who provided the refreshments. We are meeting again in May to solve another mystery/murder.

*John Simpson*





## Interest Groups Contact Details



<b>Art</b>	Contact: Sue Walters on 07989 250483, Group meets fortnightly 10-12am at Tanners Wood Hall.
<b>Badminton</b>	Contact: Susan Coultrup on 01923 334387. Group meets weekly i Wednesday at Watford Leisure Centre (This is a joint group with SWH)
<b>Books</b>	Contact: Libby Crawford on 01923 247847. Group meet every 3rd Wednesday at 10.30am
<b>Bridge Improvers</b>	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)
<b>Bus Pass Travel</b>	No trips planned at present. John Simpson is currently looking into places to visit.
<b>Canasta</b>	Contact: Denise Branton on 07786 391534. Group meets 3rd Tuesday of the month at Asda Community Suite at 2.00pm
<b>Craft</b>	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 am
<b>Creative Writing</b>	Contact: Ian Woolcott on 07505 769911 (Details to be advised)
<b>Doodle Art</b>	Contact: Pam Cotton 07876 384026. Group meets 1st Tuesday of the month at the Royal Oak, Abbots Langley 11am. Stay for lunch and a chat.
<b>Drama</b>	Contact: Carol Stanton at carolstanton225@gmail.com This group meets on a Tuesday at Asda Community Suite, 10.00am until 11.30am
<b>Family History</b>	Contact: Bea Luffrum on 07711709039. Group meets monthly on the 1st Wednesday morning at members houses (this is a joint group with SWH).
<b>French</b>	Contact: Heather Lace on 07951937064. Group meets fortnightly on a Monday at 2.30p at members houses
<b>Garden Visits</b>	Contact: Teresa Brunswick on 07712 710811. Watch out for news of visits at the General Meeting.
<b>Line Dancing</b>	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)
<b>Listening To Music</b>	Group metes on the 2nd Monday of the month at 2pm. Contact: Lawrence Pearlman on 07752 367664 or email <a href="mailto:pearlyman58@gmail.com">pearlyman58@gmail.com</a>
<b>Local Theatre Group</b>	Contact: Pam Young on 07811 219936. Trips to be advised. Payments to be made at the time of putting your name down for a trip. Travel will be shared vehicles.
<b>Lunch Group</b>	Contact: Joyce Gray on 01923 263213 or <a href="mailto:rejoyce.gray@gmail.com">rejoyce.gray@gmail.com</a> Monthly. Days and venue vary.
<b>Mexican Train</b>	Contact: Bernice Caffrey on 01923 672359. Group 1 meets every 4 weeks on a Thursday at 2.00-4.00pm. Group 2 meets every 4th Monday 2.00-4.00pm
<b>Murder/ Mystery</b>	Contact: John Simpson on <a href="tel:07531542605">tel.no 07531 542605</a> - Group meets on a ad hoc basis in group members homes.
<b>Pathfinders</b>	Contact: Patrick Turner on 0923 263511 or 7954640263 for details of next meeting (this is a joint group with SWH)
<b>Philosophy</b>	Contact: Jeanne Johnson on 01923 263598. Group meets monthly on 1st Monday 2.00-4.00pm. (This is a joint group with SWH)

## Interest Groups Continued

<b>Photography</b>	Contact Ken Jones on 01923 264855. Group meets monthly at a venue to be decided, to take a photograph and have a social time at a local cafe.
<b>Play Reading For Fun</b>	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)
<b>Pub Lunch And Darts</b>	Contact: Ken Cotton 01923 269720. Group meets at the Unicorn, Abbots Langley. Meets On 1st Tuesday Of The Month
<b>Quiz</b>	Contact: Glen Price on 07787155461 meeting at YMCA Haines Way at 7.00pm on the third Thursday of the month.
<b>Spanish 1</b>	Contact: Sue Brown on 01923 661516. Group meets fortnightly on Friday at 11.00 - 12.00am at the Royal Oak, Abbots Langley.
<b>Sewing</b>	Contact: Tina Photi on 07427866825. Group meets Wednesday at 10.00-12.00am at Tina's home.
<b>Sequence Dancing</b>	Contact: Janet Moles on 07835 260967 Next meeting Friday 9th December at All Saints Church Hall from 2.00pm until 4.00pm.
<b>Sign Language</b>	Contact: Sue Hickson on 07958669311. Group will start on the 26th August and meet the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month at Asda Community Suite between 2.00pm and 3.30pm.
<b>Singing for Pleasure</b>	Contact: Ady Shaw 01923 518021. Group meets fortnightly on Thursday at 10.00am -11.30am at Asda.
<b>Social Outing Group</b>	Contact: Joan <a href="mailto:jgillett43@gmail.com">jgillett43@gmail.com</a> Mobile: 07881 768793
<b>Table Tennis</b>	Contact: John Simpson on 07531 542605. Group meets fortnightly at 10.00-12.00am at the YMCA Haines Way.
<b>Ten Pin Bowling</b>	Contact (initially) Bernice Caffrey on 01923 672359. Group meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at Hollywood Bowl at 2.00pm starting on the 11th September
<b>Trips</b>	Contact: Martin Rodel on 01923 442417. Available trips advertised at General Meetings.
<b>Ukulele</b>	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)
<b>Weekenders</b>	Contact: Teresa Brunswick on 07712710811. Watch out for news of visits at the General Meeting.
<b>Woodside Walk Five</b>	Contact: Derryck Croker on 07941 401421 for details of next meeting. Group meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday. (This is a joint group with SWH)
<b>Wednesday Walkers</b>	Contact: Derryck Croker on 07941 401421 Group meets monthly on the 4th Wednesday. (This is a joint group with SWH)

**We are always looking for new interest groups  
If you have any ideas then please speak to Bernice at the  
general meeting**



## General Meeting Talks Next Two Months



May:- A Talk By An 'AIR AMBULANCE' Volunteer  
June:- The 'Sheddettes' & 'Drama Group' Performing

### Refreshment Rota:-

April - Lunch Group and Mexican Train  
May - Photograph Group & Pub Lunch and Darts

**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**  
Send to Ken Cotton, 01923 269720 or  
email:- [woodsideu3a22@gmail.com](mailto:woodsideu3a22@gmail.com)

**\*Copy Date Ist Of The Month\***  
N.B. Due To Limited Space, Articles  
May Need To Be Edited!

**IMPORTANT CONTACT DETAILS**  
[webmaster@woodsideu3a.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@woodsideu3a.org.uk)  
[newsletter:- woodsideu3a22@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter:-woodsideu3a22@gmail.com)

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 plastic  
cups.



### The Committee Contact Details:

Heather Lace - Chair  
07951 937064  
[chair@woodsideu3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@woodsideu3a.org.uk)



Ken Cotton - Vice Chair  
01923 269720  
[woodsideu3a22@gmail.com](mailto:woodsideu3a22@gmail.com)



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)



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



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



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



Linda Williams 01923 445598  
[linda57williams@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:linda57williams@hotmail.co.uk)



Dave Daniels [lehdansom@aol.com](mailto:lehdansom@aol.com)



**Next General Meeting  
21st May**