

WOODSIDE U3A NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 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>



New Year, New Beginnings and Celebrations

Thinking back over the past year since our new Woodside U3A began, it is hard not to be amazed by our good fortune over that time and how our membership has risen to the challenge of ensuring our new baby thrives and grows from strength to strength. We are all still 'learning' still 'exploring' the path we have all embarked upon. Learning through experience and owning mistakes, which is an intrinsic part of improving our movement.

We have many study groups with coordinators who are willing communicators, supporting the smooth running and continued viability of the groups that are so crucial to ensuring the best outcomes for all involved that reflect and demonstrate our commitment to the values of Third Age Trust movement (TAT).

Continued on page 3

Sadly Laila is not with us today as she is attending the funeral of a close family member. We send our condolences to her and her family.



Laila, Chair

AGENDA FOR 16 JANUARY

9.30 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS
STUDY GROUPS SIGN UPS &
BOOK SALES

10.00 BUSINESS MEETING

10.30 REFRESHMENTS &
BIRTHDAY CAKE!!!

11.00 GUEST SPEAKER CHRIS
MERRITT WITH A TALK
ENTITLED 'FIRE STATION'

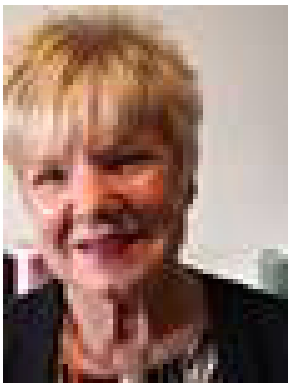
11.45 ROUND-UP AND CLOSE

AT OUR MEETING ON 20
FEBRUARY OUR SPEAKER WILL
BE MERVYN EDWARDS WITH
'POLICING ENVIRONMENT'

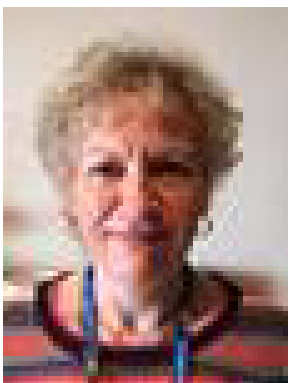
YOUR COMMITTEE



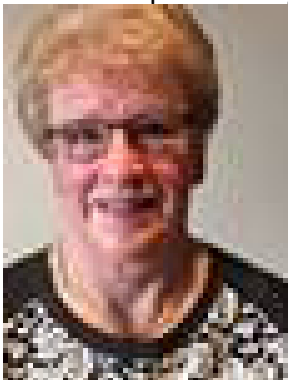
Linda Williams
Vice Chair



Heather Newey
Business Secretary



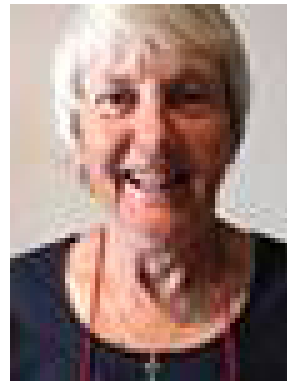
Lesley Cummings
Membership Secretary



Bernice Caffrey
Study Group Coordinator



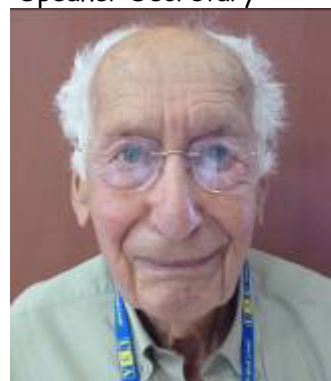
Ken Emmons
Social Secretary



Diane Howarth
Refreshments Organiser



Sheila Ramsamy
Speaker Secretary



Ken Appel,
Treasurer

Continued from front page

To this end I must advise you all, that this coming year, under Charity Commission guidance, TAT will implement a new 'single objective clause', to replace the old one in all U3A Constitutions, that encompasses all the activity undertaken by every U3A in future, as follows:

New single clause

" The advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work by, all means, including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development."

The old ii clauses

- i. " to advance education and in particular the education of people not in full time gainful employment who are in their Third Age (being the period of time after the first age of childhood dependence and the second age of full time employment and/or parental responsibility) residing in Woodside and its surrounding locality**
- ii. In this constitution 'people in their Third Age has the meaning set out above'.**

The adoption of the new objective clause by resolution will be formally discussed by Woodside U3A at the January 2018 committee meeting. From here the process is as follows

1. Woodside U3A will formally advise TAT of the opt-in by email by 20th March 2018.
2. Woodside AGM to ratify and adopt the new resolution at their 2018 AGM
3. Woodside to send a formal statement to TAT that such a resolution has been passed.
4. As from beginning of all U3A financial years **ALL** income and expenditure are reported (accounted for) as charitable activities.

These changes will safeguard our movement and allow us to continue developing into a fit for purpose organisation both under the umbrella of TAT and the Charity Commission.

On a lighter note we herald in another new year with all the anticipation that can hold for us all as individuals. The New Year was first celebrated in 45BC with the implementation of the Roman Calendar, apparently the celebration of New Years Day fell out of favour during the Middle Ages because the Romans failed to calculate accurately, causing all kinds of problems. 'It was the Romans what done it' they shouted in the Middle Ages!

To remedy the anomalies, in 1570 Pope Gregory X111 bade the Jesuit astronomer Christopher Clavius to rustle up a new calendar and in 1582 what is now known as the Gregorian calendar was born. Since then globally, those in the know, celebrate the arrival of a new year. For many Capitals of the world, it is a great opportunity to put on a pyrotechnic extravaganza each city vying to out-do the other, claiming

their show was judged the best. However the first place to welcome the New Year is not a pyrotechnic wonder city but the modest and beautiful Pacific island of Tonga. The last place? Well, once time travel comes full circle that will be outlying uninhabited islands of Baker and Howland which are part of the United States. Finally, just leaves me to say on behalf of myself and your committee Bonne Annee, Feliz ano Nuevo, Buon anno, in short Happy New Year with Blessings all round. Laila : Chair

Refreshment Rota

16 Jan - HISTORY and LANGUAGE (FRENCH)
20 Feb - LANGUAGE (SPANISH) and MUSIC APPRECIATION
20 March - LUNCH GROUP and PHOTOGRAPHY.
17 April - LISTENING TO MUSIC and LOCAL HISTORY

The **Study Groups co-ordination Meeting** will be 24th January 2018 - Venue The Church of the Nazarene at 2-4pm.

At the **committee meeting** on the 10th January, the committee were joined by Martin Rodel, Coach trip organiser. to observe how meetings were run and how decisions were made.

Fire drill - if you hear the fire alarm whistle please leave the building in an orderly manner using the exit closest to your seat.

Due to lack of support, Martin has cancelled the trip to the Music Museum. For those who have already paid, please see Martin for your refund. Watch this space for future trips!!

U3A Catering

I would like to say a big 'Thank you' to everyone who has helped with refreshments at the monthly meetings over the last year, I couldn't have done it without you! The practice of Study Groups helping out on a rota basis seems to be working well and I think everyone has enjoyed getting involved and seeing a bit of what goes on behind the scenes.

I would like to think we might be able to do rather more creative "catering" some time in the future; providing coffee and biscuits once a month is essential and all very well but think of it as a study group and who knows what we might achieve! If you have any ideas please let me know.

We are having a celebration cake to mark our 1st birthday this month, courtesy of Costco but maybe next year a budding (or established) cake maker could show off his or her skills with a 2nd birthday cake, (expenses paid of course).

Happy New Year to you all!
Diane Howarth (Catering)

First Aid Training Huddle this Tuesday with Lesley. If you have put your name down for this training please do attend so we can go forward.



Birthing a New U3A or How did this happen to me?

Since retirement, through friends, I was hearing good things about being part of a U3A. I wanted to find out more and join, which as I found out, was not that easy. Both U3As nearest to me had long waiting lists and I almost shelved the idea until I made one last effort, I rang one membership secretary for an update on waiting times and was pleased to hear that a meeting had been organised with the purpose of starting a new U3A. Armed with the details I attended the preliminary meeting in October 2016, astounded to enter a crowded hall, to calls being made for those interested to join a steering committee. Unwittingly I found myself meandering towards the sign-up desk, leaving details to become involved, me a complete U3A novice.

The first steering group comprised fourteen keen individuals and under the sound mentoring of the wonderful Barbara Lewis and support from Third Age Trust we were transformed from a group of random individuals into a team on a mission. By January 2017 we had defined roles, a constitution, opened a bank account, agreed upon the name for our 'baby' Woodside and secured a marvellous venue in which to hold our monthly meetings. We

launched in January 2017 and signed up our first wonderful members, a book stall was started and everything just seemed to fall into place, with everyone doing their bit and so committed to making our new venture a rollicking success.

Barbara agreed to remain the steering group chair until the June AGM and lead us through the maze of requirements to ensure all bases were covered for the election of new officers and membership renewals, all passed smoothly to enable us to take Woodside through to 2018. We engaged with our fantastic study group coordinators in a relaxed afternoon to share information that would assist smooth running of the groups followed by celebration cakes, which will become a regular support event in the Woodside calendar. Much has been achieved, great outings and social events have been well planned and enjoyed. I thank each and everyone who has made all this possible in such a short space of time and all done with such generosity of spirit so in keeping with the values and intentions of the U3A movement.

For me it has been a roller coaster journey, joining the U3A was an intention but I had not for one moment expected to be so fully drawn into the birthing of Woodside. I have loved every minute of my involvement and thank all members for the support and encouragement I receive that keeps me motivated, along with our great committee members I look forward to another successful year with you all. Laila

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.

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

Board Games: Contact June Dyer on 01923 265229. Meet 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 01923 264855. Meeting monthly on the 2nd Monday at 2.0pm at members homes

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

Science and Technology: Contact Elizabeth Gradkowska on 01923 239829. Meeting 2nd Tuesday at 10.30am.

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. YMCA Haines Way

Coach Trips: 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 Wednesday 2pm-4pm
Joint Group with SWH

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 meetings at a local hostelry to join in quiz as a team(s).

DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING

Our first Christmas social was a great success. After our usual books sales and study group chat we were called to order for the business meeting.....



by one of Santa's little helpers

After our usual business meeting, we were entertained by *Ady*, one of our members. He is a semi-professional singer and guitar player who is mainly involved with dance music. However his own preference is traditional English folk music. For our meeting he sang and played guitar; seasonal songs such as 'So this is Christmas', 'The twelve days of Christmas' and 'We wish you a merry Christmas', accompanied throughout by most of the audience.



Back when Woodside started, Ady led a study group choir but people dropped out for various reasons. He is happy to start another choir if members are interested. See Ady if you are.

After a lively start, refreshments were served, biscuits, cakes etc plus special Indian snacks created by our own Curry Group led by Anne & Sue; these included pakora, spicy cashews, mini poppadoms and Bombay mixes. However we needed twice as much as the Indian snacks disappeared very quickly, leaving several dozen members without a chance to try them.

Our newly formed Quiz Study Group then held a quiz. It was so popular that all the tables were full and some teams moved into the church.



The questions were interesting and about everyday things - no need to be a University Challenge contestant - just needed a good memory. Questions such as the speed of a sneeze (100mph), the colour of a slug's blood (green) etc.



The Study group Quiz team

Congratulations to the winners on Table 1.

1st Christmas lunch



Our 1st Christmas lunch at the Blue Check restaurant, Bushey on 5th December, was

attended by 89 members. The food and service were excellent, a big raffle, and enjoyed by all. Roll on Xmas 2018. Ken

Family History Group

We research our own family history and are a small, friendly group which meets in each other's homes every other month. Past events have included a speaker, sharing source information and looking at school photos and memorabilia. Next meeting, 7th March looking at wedding photos. If you are interested please contact Bea Luffrum,

Evening trip

To the Bayfordbury Astronomical Observatory near Hatfield, we have booked for Thursday 22nd March. There are 7 very large telescopes to view the galaxy, and there is a guided tour of about 2 hours, enabling everyone to take advantage of all that is on offer.

Car sharing, we leave Vie car park at 6.15pm. Cost is £9 per person.

See Ken Emmons for information.

The **crafters study group** have been busy again - this time knitting tea cosies.



They intend selling tombola tickets for £2.00 each for a chance to win a tea cosy and all proceeds will be donated to the Dementia society, as several of the crafters have experienced this with relatives. The majority of the teapots were donated to us by a lady who in the past has run tea parties to raise money for the cause also. Remember bring some £2 coins to the February meeting for a chance to win. Janet

Social group has around 40 members. We meet at the Leisure Centre in Horseshoe Lane the 3rd Wednesday of the month over a drink or food.

We normally have a very good attendance at these meetings. We then talk about future events and if anybody has a particular event we would be interested in, it will be discussed among the team.

We have full year's events such as: Visiting Watford museum. Afternoon Bowling. Screen Heritage at Borehamwood. Bentley Priory. Knebworth House/Gardens St.Albans Park and Museum. Lincolnsfield Centre in Bushey. Stockwood Park Museum/garden, Reveley Lodge tour/vintage tea/garden. Uxbridge Bunkers. Hughenden Manor. Jordans Mill. Hollywood bowl/Lunch. Organ Recital at St.Albans. Christmas lunch and Santa's Steam train.

We hope in this list is something for every one. Also have selected various days as we appreciate there are days people are not able to do. We also like to car share as this keeps the cost down. We keep if possible our trips to around 20miles (not always possible).Our meeting place for all our trips/events is Watford Leisure Park (vue). Joan

The Curry Club visited the



Thai restaurant at the Nascot Arms in Watford

The **Spanish for beginners** class is unable to start as we do not have anyone to run the class but please put your name down on the list and Bernice will try and find someone.

The ladies who put their names down to **Knit & Knatter** please get together for a huddle with Bernice this month.

Four gentlemen who would like to discuss **Current Affairs** get together for a huddle this month with Bernice. Huddle not cuddle!

Christmas Market

For our third trip this year we travelled to the very popular Gloucester Victorian Christmas Market. After a prompt departure from The Brow we traversed the southern part of the

Cotswolds and then dropped down into Gloucester where we arrived at 12.15. We were met by a 'meet and greet' team who gave us various bits of information regarding the Christmas Market and Shopping Outlet. Visiting the market midweek was much more comfortable than at the weekend.....I know from bitter experience!!

There were plenty of stalls selling a variety of gifts, craft gifts, handmade jewelry etc. Mulled Wine and Mulled Cider was also in abundance too. Fortunately the rain held off till we left and after a fairly uneventful journey home we arrived back at 9pm. Martin

Several study groups got together for a New Year celebration in an Italian restaurant in St Albans on the 9th January.



they even had a view of Tuscany on the back wall!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please make contact with Woodside and 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 STUDY GROUP Page before the event.

JANUARY 2018

16th TUESDAY - OUR FIRST BIRTHDAY and CAKE!!!

17th Wednesday 1.30 Social Group at Woodside Leisure Centre

24TH WEDNESDAY - Study Group Leaders meeting at the Church of Nazarene

25TH THURSDAY- Social Group & Local History Group visit to WATFORD MUSEUM/GARDEN

FEBRUARY 2018

9TH FRIDAY - Social Group - Hollywood Bowl (Woodside Leisure Park)

20TH TUESDAY - GENERAL MEETING

27TH TUESDAY - Social Group - Elstree & Borehamwood Screen Heritage Trail



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

Send to Jo Bromwich, 01923 443758 or email jo.bromwich@ntlworld.com

Copy date for the February Issue of the Newsletter is 6th February.

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

We are looking forward to receiving your news.