



# Woodside

u3a  
learn, laugh, live



**Newsletter**

**December 2023**

**MEETING AT THE STANBOROUGH CENTRE WATFORD**

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

Charity Registration Number.: 1182140



Hello everyone

**T**his is usually a busy time of year, and I hope everyone is enjoying some of the u3a and other events which are taking place - although I know many people have suffered from seasonal viruses and have missed events they were looking forward to. This is also a time when some people are thinking about resolutions for the New Year - which, by the time we meet in January, some of us will have already broken. My intention was to try and find out more about things which I have resisted trying to understand but I have rejected Dark Matter and Bitcoin (which hopefully will have little impact on my life) and decided to understand how I can utilise Artificial Intelligence (AI). More on this in January!

On a sad note, several of our members have died in the last few weeks - our sympathy and condolences to the family and friends of all of them, particularly at this time of year.

With very best wishes to all for a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. *Heather*

**The Shedettes and Drama Group Perform + Quiz**  
**To help the environment please remember to bring your own drinking vessel.**

## Speakers Report

Charles said he has had a wonderful job working for the Sun newspaper and has travelled the world with the royals, watching and reporting on history as it unfolds. He has reported on the Irish troubles, the fall of the Berlin Wall and been shot at. The monarchy has undergone a huge change in recent times and he feels Megan was not pleased to find herself lower down in the pecking order than she liked. Andrew allegedly spent twelve million pounds to silence the girl in the infamous photo and has



Charles Rae

no way back to public life after the picture was verified as genuine by Quantico. Charles said that the series "The Crown" is full of distortions and untruths that cleverly exploits situations. Diana loved a gossip and often told the press where and what she would be doing. The Queen always called Nelson Mandela Nelson and he always called her Elizabeth. The talk was full of amusing anecdotes and facts. Charles is a very interesting man and he was asked lots of questions afterwards. We could have listened to him for a lot longer.

*Louise*

## Mexican Train

**NEW GROUP!**

We are hoping to start a second Mexican Train group in January. If you are interested then please speak to me at the meeting or phone 01923 672359. The group will meet on the 4th Monday of the month from 2-4pm. *Bernice*

## u3a UK 3 Day Festival 2024

Next summer the University of York will play host to the very first UK wide u3a Festival taking place from the 18th-20th July 2024 in the exhibition hall and sports centre of York University. There will be workshops, walks, talks, music and sports to enjoy making the most of the festival fun. Planning is in its early stages but you can keep up with developments by signing up to their monthly news updates.



**Ticket Prices:** Thursday 18th July £25 (incl. Buffet Supper) Friday 19th July £10 (Full Day) Saturday 20th July £10 (Half Day) All Three Days £35 (incl. Buffet Supper on Day 1)

If you contact me at: [woodsideo3a22@gmail.com](mailto:woodsideo3a22@gmail.com) I will forward the link to you.

For more information search:- [festival@u3a.org.uk](mailto:festival@u3a.org.uk) *Ken Cotton*



## Doodle Art

## NEW GROUP!

**A**lthough it was only our second Doodle Art Group meeting, there are now ten of us in the group. Just the right number. With Christmas fast approaching, we started on holly and as we are of mixed abilities it was nice to see how the more experienced 'doodle arters' helped the less experienced with helpful suggestions on how to achieve a holly leaf. Not easy to get your head around which way to do the curves if you have never drawn anything in your life however, everyone ended up with a great looking holly doodle that could easily be sent as a Christmas card to either friends or family. Lunch afterwards is a nice social end to the morning.

*Pam Cotton*



'Doodle Art' By Pam Cotton

**Spot The Doodle:** Anne Osborne's Robin is in this Newsletter....but where?

## Christmas Lunch



**A** very pleasant social Woodside u3a Christmas lunch at the Hunton Park Hotel to start the festive season. Many thanks to Joan Gillett for organising this event for us.

*Ken C.*

## Alexa Joke

How much does it cost Santa to park his sleigh?  
Nothing, it's on the house!



## Glen's Christmas Quiz

1. Elvis isn't going to have a white Christmas, he's going to have a.....?
- 2 In "Home Alone" where were the MaCallister's going on vacation when they left Kevin behind?
- 3 Which Hollywood actor played 6 different roles in 'Polar Express'?
- 4 In the song "Winter Wonderland", what do we call the snowman?
- 5 What was the real name of the character Tim Allen plays in "The Santa Claus"?



**Answers On Page Five**

# Christmas Wordsearch



- TINSEL
- SNOW
- TREE
- PRINCE
- DONKEY
- SHEPHERD
- NATIVITY
- STAR
- COFFEE
- CANDY
- LIGHTS
- HONEY
- BABBLE
- WAXY
- REINDEER
- SESAME
- ELVES
- WORTH
- GOLD
- NOEL
- STABLE
- SLEIGH
- JOSEPH
- LAMB

## Glen's Christmas Quiz Answers

1, Blue Christmas 2, Paris 3, Tom Hanks 4, Parson Brown 5, Scott Calvin

## Martin's Coach Trips - Canterbury Christmas Market

What a lovely day we had in Canterbury. The weather was kind to us, albeit a bit on the chilly side which it should be this time of year. The sun shone all day and although not all the market stalls were yet open, just strolling down the pedestrian precincts perusing the quaint shops was very relaxing, even for a 'non shopper' like me. We met for lunch with u3a friends and then visited St



Thomas's church where Thomas A' Becket's finger and sample of cloth from his robe were on display. The journey home was traffic free apart from a small delay at the Dartford tunnel. The only disappointment was the £17 fee for entering the Cathedral, even if you only wanted to walk around the perimeter! Certainly somewhere to visit next year for a city weekend break. Many thanks to Martin for organising these trips. *Ken C.*



## Badminton Group

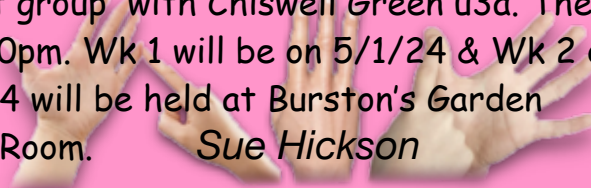


After an hour of hard work playing badminton there is nothing like a coffee and chat! (This is A Joint Group With SW Herts) *Ken C.*

## Sign Language Group

The **Sign Language Group** will now be a joint group with Chiswell Green u3a. The sessions will be on Fridays from 2.00pm-3.30pm. Wk 1 will be on 5/1/24 & Wk 2 on 12/1/24 at Liz Arendt's house. Wk 3 19/1/24 will be held at Burston's Garden Centre & Wk 4 21/1/24 at Asda Community Room.

*Sue Hickson*



## Garden Visits Group



As it's very unpredictable this time of year. What to do on a wet and windy day : have a lovely lunch in the warm . Thanks to Louise Smith for booking it. *Linda Murphy*



## 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>	Contact: Diane Reilly on 01923 261840. Group meets monthly 1st Tuesday afternoons at members homes
<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 rejoyce.gray@gmail.com Monthly. Days and venue vary.
<b>Mexican Train</b>	Contact: Bernice Caffrey on 01923 672359. Group meets every 4 weeks on a Thursday at 2.00pm
<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)
<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.



## Interest Groups Continued

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)
Pub Lunch And Darts	Contact: Ken Cotton 01923 269720. Group meets at the Unicorn, Abbots Langley. Meets On A Tuesday Please contact Ken for day and time.
Quiz	Contact: Glen Price on 07787155461 meeting at YMCA Haines Way at 7.00pm on the third Thursday of the month.
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 Next meeting Friday 9th December at All Saints Church Hall from 2.00pm until 4.00pm.
Sign Language	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.
Singing for Pleasure	Contact: Any Shaw 01923 518021 Group meets fortnightly on Thursday at 10.00am -11.30am at Asda.
Social Outing Group	Contact: Joan <a href="mailto:jgillett43@gmail.com">jgillett43@gmail.com</a> Mobile: 07881 768793
Table Tennis	Contact: John Simpson on 07531 542605. Group meets fortnightly at 10.00-12.00am at the YMCA Haines Way.
Ten Pin Bowling	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
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.
Woodside Walk Five	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)
Wednesday Walkers	Contact: Derryck Croker on 07941 401421 Group meets monthly on the 4th Wednesday. (This is a joint group with SWH)

**Happy Christmas Woodside U3a**

**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 Year



January:- 'Job Of A Laugh Time'-Brad Ashton

February:- 'Coffee Tree To Cup'-Colin Smith

March: Sandy Highsted "Hatch, Match and Despatch" Vow, renewal and baby naming. An interactive speaker.

### Refreshment Rota

December - Craft & Doodle Art

January - Drama & French

February - Garden Visits & Line Dancing

### 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 January Issue is 1<sup>ST</sup> January 2024

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

**Copy Date Is 1st 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: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.co.uk](mailto:chair@woodsideu3a.co.uk)



Ken Cotton - Vice Chair

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**Next General Meeting  
16th January 2024**