

WOODSIDE U3A NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2019

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>

Letter from Mauritius.....

Sorry not to be with you all at the first of our New Year gatherings , I trust you all enjoyed the seasonal break and as we welcome the start our 3rd year of Woodside I thought it would be fun to write my bit for the newsletter, while here in Mauritius on a break with my daughter and family.

For those who have not had the pleasure of knowing or spending time in Mauritius a brief wander into the islands history to set the scene, courtesy of Google. There were no indigenous people on the Island when the Portuguese arrived around 1510, then came the Dutch who settled the empty Island in 1598 and named it Mauritius after Prince Maurice of Nassau. Before leaving in 1710, for greater spoils in Cape of Good Hope, they had established mono cropping sugar cane and Java deer, both remain, though the sugar industry has diminished save for high quality speciality sugars. By 1715, the

Continued page 3



Laila, Chair

AGENDA FOR 15 JANUARY
9.30 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS,
STUDY GROUPS & VISITS SIGN
UPS
10.00 BUSINESS MEETING
10.15 REFRESHMENTS
10.45 OUR SPEAKER WILL BE
ALAN WISE WITH A TALK
ENTITLED 'FINDING HEALTH
AND HAPPINESS'.
11.45 ROUND-UP AND CLOSE

OUR SPEAKER FOR 19 FEBRUARY
WILL BE BARRY GOODMAN
WITH A TALK ENTITLED 'LORDS
AND LADIES'

YOUR COMMITTEE



Linda Williams Vice Chair



Lesley Cummings
Membership Secretary 01923 681478
lesley.scoble@btinternet.com



Bernice Caffrey
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Continued from front page

French occupied the island, building Port Louis now the Capital, creating a thriving sugar and rum trade, on the backs of the slaves, who were trafficked from Madagascar, Senegal and Mozambique from then on were born, worked and died creating wealth for the French white slave masters, while at the same time plaguing British ships from their strategic position in the Indian Ocean, on the then established India run. In 1810, no doubt sick of the raids on their ships the British conquered the Island and in 1814, the French ceded to them, the "Traiti de Paris" enabled French settlers to remain, keeping all their acquired properties, businesses, including slaves.

By 1835 slavery was abolished, and to make up for the loss of brutal slave labour the British imported indentured men and women from the British colony of India, these workers, like those taken to North America from Britain on contract, were heavily overworked and spent years paying back their passage costs to the Empire.

Development since these times has been rapid, but following independence from Britain in 1968, and becoming a Republic in 1992 the diverse population has in

general prospered with free education, healthcare, social welfare and pensions. A peaceful country that prides itself on welcoming millions of tourist each year, whether hikers, travellers, honeymooners, chilled or active holiday makers, to enjoy some of the first class hotels and beaches. Geographically together with Reunion and Rodrigues, Mauritius is part of the Mascarene Islands, a volcanic chain, situated east of Africa and Madagascar and West of Australia. The Mascarene's were formed as part of a series of undersea eruptions some 8-10 million years ago. Low mountain ranges zigzag across Mauritius, which is comparable in size to London with a successful ethnic diverse population, each retaining their own unique cultural heritages and faiths, yet all inclusive with massive encouragement for people to see themselves as Mauritian, attested to by the recent census, where questions of ethnicity were removed.

Climate is describe as a mild tropical Maritime climate, with two main seasons, currently we are in summer, typically hot, humid, laced with tropical rain and hot winds.

Continued page 4

Summer is the best time to see the rare endemic Mauritian weaver bird, the male visible in summer with its bright red plumage, that fades in winter; a bird now on the international endangered species list.



The Mauritian endemic Cardinal - protected species recognised as an endangered

There is so much more to say about this stunning Island, that I have had the privilege of visiting over the past 50 years, that space does not allow. Since my daughter moved here my visits have become more frequent and each visit there is so much more to explore and be astonished by. Just sitting on the veranda seeing the Plough constellation in all its glory, almost able to touch the stars, the sky is so clear and the night air filled with drifting Jasmine perfume, as Mark Twain who visited here in 1896, was alleged to have said, 'Mauritius was made first, then Heaven', certainly could be possible.

Laila

Page 4

Refreshment Rota

January - creative writing and environmental

February - family history and garden visits

March - History and French

December Social

Happy new year to you all.

Well what a fabulous morning we had at the December meeting-lots of fun and laughter, everyone joining in and enjoying the entertainment and refreshments.

As one of Ady's shedettes I was as shocked as the others in the group when, many weeks earlier, he suggested we did a little showcase of our eclectic song choices for the December monthly meeting.

After we had picked our chins up off the floor, and stopped laughing - partly shock and partly hysteria - we realised he was serious!! And so began the first inkling of our Christmas meeting plans!!! We already had Sue B- our very able and enthusiastic quiz group leader - keen to replicate the success of last year's quiz. As you will know by now she is also a Sheddete, as is Anne M, curry group leader and Bernice - committee member. So our first task was to check with the committee that the quiz and singing could go ahead - and more importantly how much they would stump up for refreshments!!

Bernice duly approached them and once the formalities were agreed so the detail of the morning evolved!! Timing for the morning was crucial - with the quiz starting the fun and the singing bringing it to a close - hopefully in a positive way!!! We Shedettes are not renowned for our self confidence - singing for pleasure was our goal, not an audience!!! We also had to give over a little of our precious time to our Chair, Laila, so she could welcome everyone, do any quick business and then bring the proceedings to a close. She wasn't exactly on the clock but her time was monitored carefully and closely, no chance of her commandeering the stage, not even a second longer!!!! Laila, you were perfect!!! Now those of you who know me, know that I'm so disorganised I rarely have matching socks on - one on each foot, job done surely?? So being faced with selecting songs to fit within a set time and being tasked with contributing to the quiz, also with a set time, made me think that the whole lot needed a little planning and coordination if it was to be a successful morning. Plus - despite my lack of paired socks - I'm a bit of a planner, disorganised but assertive - some may say bossy -

including me, and it came as no surprise to those around me to find they were gathered together to create a little plan!!!! Everyone contributed to it, with great thought and enthusiasm, each taking responsibility for their group's contribution and others undertaking various tasks. The crafters group was approached about helping make props for a certain Christmas song - and I have to say they did brilliantly- and also table top numbers, needed for the quiz and a certain Christmas song!! The curry group members were willing to take on



The Curry Group with a magnificent spread of food the refreshments ably led by Anne M, Anne H and Jan R, Bernice secured some fun Christmas themed raffle prizes which Laila agreed to present, John S was happy to be Santa, and the rest as they say is history!!!

Continued page 8

WOODSIDE STUDY GROUPS JANUARY 2019

American History. Contact Barbara Lewis on 01923 260410. Suspended at the moment. Next meeting to be advised
Joint with SWH

Antiques. Contact Lesley Barrett on 01923 676427. This group will meet at varying days and times. Please contact Lesley for details.

Art: Contact Sue Walters on 01923 682317. Thursday, Fortnightly 10-12am, at Tanners Wood Hall. Next meeting 17th January 2019

Badminton: Contact Susan Coultrup on 01923 334387. Wednesday, weekly, at Watford Leisure Centre. *This is a joint group with SWH*

Belly Dancing: Contact Bernice Caffrey 01923 672359. Meeting 2nd and 4th Monday at 11.30 – 12.30 at 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. Started again 30th April 2019

Bridge: Now closed as all moved to Bridge Improvers. Any members wishing to learn could start a new group.

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

Cookery (Spanish) Contact Carmen Copley on 01923 671003. Meeting every 3rd Thursday at 1.00pm at Carmen's Home.

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 as times to be arranged

Environmental Group. Contact Laila Namdarkhan on 01923 269388. Times and venues to be confirmed

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*

Folk Dancing at All Saints Church Hall on the 2nd Friday of the month at 2.00 – 3.30pm. *This is a joint group with SWH*

Garden Visits and Outings: Contact Teresa Brunswick on 07712710811. Venue, days and time vary

History: Contact Heather Lace on 07951937064. Meeting monthly on the 1st Thursday at 2.00-4.00 at Asda Community Suite.

Language (French): Contact Heather Lace on 07951937064 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

Language (Spanish 2) Contact Alison Theobald on 01923 463573. Meeting every other Wednesday at 10am to 11am starting from the 20th June.

Line Dancing: Contact Judy Lovell 01923 893368
1st and 3rd Mondays. 10.15am and 11.15am

If possible please attend the second class as the first class is full.

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 Giles on
01923 270971. 4th Wednesday 10-12 at Asda

Joint Group with SWH

Science and Technology:

*This group is looking for someone to take it
over on a temporary basis*

Sing for Pleasure. Contact Ady Shaw 01923
518021 meeting fortnightly on a Thursday at
9.30am until 11.00. Next meeting 24th January 2019

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.

Yoga. Contact Uma Patil on 07459 731597.
Sessions 2nd, 3rd and 4th Fridays on the month,
9.30 – 10.30am at the Orbital Centre



Santa with two of his elves

Several cheery volunteers came to the hall Monday evening to set out 12 tables and 120 chairs, prep for the refreshments and bring in any equipment or props for the great event. A great big thanks to Sue and her reindeer assistants for a fun quiz, and to Santa for keeping score! A great big thanks to Anne, the Curry group and others for providing a range of refreshments! A great big thanks to Jan P and the Crafters group for such a wonderful and fun range of props that were certainly very well received and well used for that certain Christmas song - and last but not least a great big thanks to Ady and his Shedettes -



and Elvis for making a special appearance - for their fabulous range of songs and leading the way with that certain Christmas song!!! All in all over forty Woodside U3A members were involved in producing, presenting and participating in the Christmas event.

Overall my involvement was one of fun and laughter, both in huge dollops!!! I just want to thank everyone for being so willing and giving so much of your time, skills and knowledge to this. We have huge talents between us.



Let the fun and games begin

Only Woodside U3A could make a monthly meeting so much fun, in its own inimitable calm and quiet manner!!! For a small group we sure made a lot of noise - especially when the whole group rose up, and down, as they sang that certain Christmas song !!!! Happy new year - and thank you xxx
Val

Meeting Members of the Mauritian U3A

On the 9th January our Chair met with members of the Mauritian U3A at their headquarters based at the Global Rainbow Centre in Petite Raffrey. Laila will report on this event in our next newsletter.

STUDY GROUP NEWS

I am pleased to confirm that Janet will be taking over the Line Dancing Group following the death of her Mother. Same place, same times. However she has requested any new members wishing to join that they come to the 11.15am class as the 10.15am class is very busy. She says we are all line dancers now.

We have two further possible groups starting, which are model making and jewellery. Model making will be holding a huddle at the general meeting on the 15th January. If you can't make it please get in touch with me and I will pass

your contact details on to the leader of this proposed group.

If anyone has ideas for new groups, please come and see me

Note for Leaders - Should the details of your group be shown incorrectly in the newsletter please let me know.

Committee meeting attendee for 9th January, - Penny Emery
Bernice

Walking book group

Our next meeting is on 16th January at 11am in Chipperfield. meet in the car park by the church. Our book is 'Mystery of three quarters' by Sophie Hannah

Albert Hall Classic Spectacular

There are 7 tickets left for the concert at the Albert Hall on Sunday 24th March 2019. Circle seats and coach £32. Anyone who has not yet paid, please contact Ken Emmons/ Joan Gillett - the last possible time is 16th January, as the final payment has to be made and any spare tickets need to be sent back. 01923 672139

The Bowling Group

Bowling with a difference!! Indoor bowls is about missing the big cheese -festive fun is about missing the little cheese !!! Ho! Ho! Ho!



Trip to Paris

In anticipation of the Christmas celebrations the **French Group** decided on a visit to Paris to discover how Parisians prepare for the Fêtes de Noël. This trip featured more tentation au Chocolat than even Joanne Harris's novel.

Heather again did a stirring job in organising the trip, and the hotel and excursions were splendid. Such was the impeccable timing, we even managed to avoid the gilets jaunes. As veterans of the Eurostar we enjoyed a smooth and uneventful journey apart from when Linda, in

search of the toilettes, attempted to climb into the huge fridge in the dining car. Thankfully she was rescued by the attendant, there being no harm done.

Our visit to the Musée d'Orsay was a favourite, as was also the history tour of the Marais district, where our hotel was situated. Being a fit bunch, we covered a lot of ground walking through the back streets, and along the Seine, and hopping on and off the Metro.

Our first encounter with chocolate was in a tiny café in Montmartre where it soon became apparent that the hot chocolate was made with a special ingredient called Love.



Heather and Lesley's drinks were met with much laughter and merriment as the rather gorgeous waiter had gone to great length to win their hearts. (see picture)

At the restaurant Chez Janou for our first evening meal, although only three of us ordered chocolate mousse, the waiter brought to the table a massive bowlful of the most sublime, enticing, fragrant, melt-in-the-mouth chocolate heaven that seduced all six of us,

all night! There would have been enough for the whole Woodside U3A membership. Meanwhile Joyce's beautifully modulated English voice could be heard "Shall we order another bottle?" and then she did so, just like a Parisienne. Our last morning was spent shopping in the *Galleries Lafayette*. We marvelled at the ornate architecture, the splendid giant Christmas tree and the beautiful chic Christmas displays in all the



windows.

It was here that we had to use our French the most, having lost one of our group, Anne H. She was in an entirely different building, but we all managed to meet up with her in time to purchase the delectable (but very expensive) macarons that had been recommended by our tour guide the day before. The last Metro journey was to the Gare du Nord and then it was the Eurostar to St Pancras and then a taxi home organised by Joyce.

We shall soon be planning our next French adventure.

Anne

For their November outing the **Garden Visits Group** made their way to the Christmas Fair at Waddesden Manor.



We all enjoyed sampling the festive fayre and purchasing gifts at the Christmas Market before the lights came on at dusk. The floodlit trees and illuminations created a magical view of the manor house.



Some of our members treated themselves to a tour of the manor in all its Xmas finery. Others took in the lightshow and illuminated tunnel at the Stables and followed the floodlit trails either side of the manor house. Another great trip enjoyed by all.

SOCIAL GROUP MEETINGS

February:

4th. Mon Hollywood Bowl

February: 21st. Thurs. Wardown House/Museum.

Numbers needed for this event

March:

12th. Tuesday Tring museum/Lakes

March: TBA Postal/Mail Rail.(London).
Coach. Booking

April:

14th. Sunday Roman Baths. (Welwyn)

29th Monday. (Afternoon)Adventure
Golf/Crazy Golf

May

3rd Friday: Hellfire Caves

20th Monday: Dover Castle

See social Table at monthly meetings
payable at the monthly meetings Coach

June

4th Tuesday: Bletchley Park

20th Thursday: Windsor Day.

River trip/Castle opt. Full. Waiting list
Coach.

July

8th Monday: Briton Trip.

see social table at monthly meetings
payable at meetings Coach

25th Thursday. Wrest Park

August:

Date to be arranged. Croxley Great Barn

August. Date to be arranged U3A Annual
Event

September Hughendon

Manor. 1940's day.

Date to be arranged. Coach

27th Friday: Mosquito Museum

October

13th Sunday. St.Albans Signal
Box

29th Tuesday. Postal mail Rail
Museum.

see social Table at monthly meetings
payable at meetings
Coach

November

6th Wednesday. Hollywood
bowl/lunch

22nd Friday. London
Underground Railway.

see social table at monthly meetings
payable at meetings) Coach

December

9th Monday. Christmas Lunch
Blue Check.

see social table for details)

Note=. Events other than by
coach will be sent an email well in
advance of the event as booking is
required, Ken/Joan

WANTED:

NEWS & 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 February Issue of the
Newsletter is 3rd February.

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

Our monthly newsletter is available in
full online

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

IMPORTANT CONTACT DETAILS

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