

WOODSIDE U3A NEWSLETTER

MAY 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>

As I compose this months newsletter I am reminded of the eponymous words of that British born, US resident comedian , the late Bob Hope when he wryly remarked 'England, the place where you can experience all four seasons in one day '. Absolutely true today, first pouring rain, then a smattering of warm azure sky and sunshine, followed by dark smoky low hanging menacing clouds bringing mothball sized hailstones clattering on the car windscreen, bringing M1 traffic that I was driving in, almost to a standstill. This was followed by still quiet late sunny evening.

May like April has been a rollercoaster of extreme weather; Easter very hot had me diving for the shade and sunscreen. Mayday Bank holiday, bone chilling with temperatures plummeting to just below 10 degree, light my log fire! Poor plants!

Now, here we are rolling forward into May through, what feels like a fast paced year, Easter behind us, Jewish Passover is over and
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Laila, Chair

AGENDA FOR 21 MAY

9.30 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS,
STUDY GROUPS & BOOK VISITS
10.00 BUSINESS MEETING
10.15 REFRESHMENTS
10.45 OUR SPEAKER IS
ANGELA COLLINS WITH A TALK
ENTITLED 'A PUPPET'S TALE'
11.45 ROUND-UP AND CLOSE

OUR 18 JUNE MEETING WILL BE
THE ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING

***PLEASE REMEMBER TO RENEW
YOUR MEMBERSHIP BEFORE
THE AGM - IF YOU DON'T YOU
WILL NO LONGER BE A
MEMBER OF WOODSIDE U3A***

YOUR COMMITTEE



Linda Williams Vice Chair



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



Bernice Caffrey
Study Group Coordinator
01923 672359 caffreyba@gmail.co



Ken Emmons Social Secretary
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Anita Gullis
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Barbara Elman business secretary
barbaraelman@hotmail.co.uk



Heather Lace New Committee
member



Alison Theobald New Committee
member

Continued from front page

Ramadan has just begun, with four weeks of fasting, reflection and spiritual renewal.

June is rapidly approaching on the horizon, and time for Woodside U3A to hold its Annual General Meeting. Your committee have been busy working hard to ensure all the required reports and financial accounting are in place, in the hopes all will run smoothly on the day. The AGM Agenda and other relevant information can also be found in this edition of the Woodside U3A Newsletter.

To end this editorial I thought for the Gardeners amongst us and those who enjoy the magic of our natural world; I would add a few seasonal prose, poems, and quips:-

"If it's drama that you sigh for, plant a garden and you'll get it. You will know the thrill of battle fighting foes that will beset it. If you long for entertainment and for pageantry most glowing, plant a garden and this summer spend your time with green things growing.

"Edward A. Guest, Plant a Garden.

"May and June. Soft syllables, gentle names for the two best months in the garden year: cool misty mornings gently burned away with a warming spring sun, followed

by breezy afternoons and chilly nights. The discussion of philosophy is over; it's time for work to begin." Peter Loewer

"A swarm of bees in May
Is worth a load of hay;
A swarm of bees in June
Is worth a silver spoon;
A swarm of bees in July
Is not worth a fly."

Anon

Finally from that supreme horticulturalist Gertrude Jekyll

"A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust."

"The lesson I have thoroughly learnt, and wish to pass onto others, is to know the enduring happiness that the love of a garden gives".

I thoroughly endorse Jekyll's sentiments, happy gardening whether hands on or enjoying observing others handy work or just walking and enjoying the lighter evenings in burgeoning spring as it moves into summer. Enjoy.

Laila

The article below is a draft for members to comment on
Woodside U3A Refunds Policy

Background

Woodside U3A arranges trips and other events for members with external venues and businesses e.g. performance venues, caterers, transport providers. The cost is collected from participants by the organiser and Woodside U3A then pays the overall amounts due.

Monies received from members are banked as soon as possible.

Members will usually be expected to pay deposits when booking for trips or other events and to make further payment up to the full cost before the date of the trip or other event. The timing of payments will be dependent on the requirements of the businesses involved in an event or trip.

Woodside U3A is not a business and cannot guarantee that trips or events will go ahead, and any payments made by members are at their own risk, except to the extent that Woodside U3A accepts responsibility for the safekeeping of money whilst under its control.

This policy sets out the circumstances in which members may be refunded any payments made and will be reviewed by the Committee at 3 yearly intervals.

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Cancellation by Woodside U3A without any external decision, action or reason

If the trip or event is cancelled by Woodside U3A itself (i.e. not through external decision, action or reason) before full payment is due, any deposits paid by members will be refunded to the extent that they can be without causing loss to Woodside U3A. Any additional refund will be at the discretion of the Committee if it considers the circumstances leading to the cancellation are such that it is appropriate for the loss to be met from general funds (effectively by the membership as a whole).

It would be extremely unusual for the U3A to cancel after full payment has been made without external reason but if this does occur Woodside U3A will refund members' payments in full regardless of loss to itself.

Cancellation for external reason

If a cancellation at any stage is due to extraordinary external circumstances (e.g. natural disaster; government action; imminent danger etc.) Woodside U3a will refund members' payments to the extent it can do so without loss to itself.

If a cancellation at any stage is due to any of the businesses involved being unable or unwilling to provide the service for a reason not falling under the previous sentence, Woodside U3A will refund payments made by members to the extent it can do so without loss to itself. The Committee will also take such steps as it may consider appropriate in its absolute discretion to recover any money paid out by it with a view to reducing the loss and enabling the refund of members' payments in full.

Member cancellation

If a member withdraws from the trip or event at any stage for any reason, no matter how unavoidable, any monies paid will be retained by Woodside U3A unless the payment can be refunded, in part or full, without any financial detriment to the U3A or to other members participating in the trip or event. Usually this will only be if the place booked can be filled by another person who makes payment. Woodside U3A has no responsibility to seek such a replacement although the organiser will often do so if the cancellation is in good time.

Approved by Committee:
First Review date:

Refreshments rota

May - photography and sewing
June - singing and Woodside strollers

At our **March General Meeting**, our speaker Andrew Waite gave an interesting talk on gemstones, explaining their properties and history. He said amber was formed some 30million years ago and often encapsulates moss, leaves and even small creatures. It is made from sap weeping from trees.



Andrew Waite brought with him a selection of gemstone jewellery for sale.



Historically it was used in medicine, a powerful healer and cleanser of body, mind and spirit

Andrew also talked about the gemstones formed from crystals in volcanic eruptions like sapphires, amethyst and tanzanite.

**Notice of Woodside U3A AGM 18th June 10.00am-10.30am
Church of the Nazarene, The Brow.**

Hereby give notice of the Annual General Meeting of Woodside U3A
to take place on the 18th June 2019.

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Approve minutes of 2018 Annual General Meeting
3. Chair's Report
4. Treasure's Report
5. Election of Committee
6. Appointment of auditor
7. Any Other Business
- 8.



Entertainment from Ady
and his Sheddettes

9. Coffee plus
We will be having strawberries and cream after our June AGM!
10. Close

WOODSIDE U3A
Receipt & Payment Account
Year ending 31 March 2019

Receipts	2019	2018
	£	£
Membership Subscriptions	5,288.00	5,625.00
Trips & Events	6,517.20	6,630.32
Xmas Lunch	2,003.60	1,820.00
Book Sales	169.10	324.50
Charitable Donations	933.30	230.00
Sundry	42.00	233.20
Total	14,953.20	14,863.02
Payments		
Third Age Trust	1,366.66	621
Trips & Events	5,775.37	6,577.07
Xmas Lunch	1,920.00	1,958.00
Charitable Donations	997.50	230
Hall Rentals	685.00	330
Speakers	465.20	285
Catering	252.42	354.57
Equipment	194.25	169.34
Printing, Postage & Admin	1,372.19	1,471.72
Sundry	13.74	
TOTAL	12,942.33	11,996.70

BALANCE INCOME/PAYMENTS £ 2010.87 /

~~2010.87~~

27th April 2019.

I have examined Ken's Account and I am happy that everything is in order and the account one and accurate record.

I have checked the Bank Statements and all the ledger records.

Confirmed an accurate record.

M. Sheal

WOODSIDE STUDY GROUPS

May 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 6 June

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 and indoor): Contact: Anne Howarth on 01923 673110

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: New contact details to be advised.

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 for All : Contact Joyce Crawford on 07970271243. Meeting monthly on the 1st Thursday at 2.00-4.00 at Asda Community Suite.

Jewellery: Contact Gloria Barber on 01923 462462 or 077082058, At the moment meeting every 3rd Thursday. Venues vary

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.

Language (Spanish 3). Contact Carmen Copley on 01923 670001.
Meeting 1st and 3rd Friday of the month at 12.00 until 1.00pm at Asda Community Suite.

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

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

Sewing: Contact Tina Photi on 07427866825. Meeting 1st Wednesday of the month 10-00 and 12.00 at Tina's home

Sing for Pleasure. Contact Ady Shaw 01923 518021 meeting fortnightly on a Thursday at 9.30am until 11.30.

Social Group: Contact Ken Emmons on 01923 672139 or email kjemmons23@gmail.com 3rd Wednesday at 1.30pm at ASDA

Swimming. Central baths- Monday Wednesday and Fridays between 8.30 and 10.00am. Tea and coffee in the Library afterwards.

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 SW

Weekenders are a group of people who will participate in organising events and visits for the weekend. Contact Teresa on 077712710811

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 Marta Hall. Meet at the Harebreaks Community Hub at 10.00 – 11.00am. Weekly commencing 17th May.

In Memorial

It is with deep regret and great sadness that I announce the deaths of two members of our Woodside U3A , as follows.

Corrina Scott, who joined us in September 2018. Lesley our membership Secretary was kindly notified by member Marie Welsh, that Corrina had sadly passed away earlier this year in March. It is pleasing to hear that she enjoyed being a member and especially the Blue Check Christmas lunch. We offer our sincere sympathies to Corrina's family and friends.

Anne Davison, an early member who joined in November 2016, sadly passed away on Easter Monday. Anne was a member of both Creative Writing and French study groups and enjoyed trips to France to practice her French skills with fellow group members she also enjoyed attending in Woodside 3a monthly General meetings and expressed to me how much she, along with others, enjoyed the Gem Presentation earlier this year. We offer our sincere sympathies to Anne's family and friends.

Laila

Study Group News

Creative Writing. I understand that this group is to continue following the death of Anne Davison. Once it is known who is to be the contact for this group will you please let me know so that I can update the Study Group page

Line dancing will not commence again until the 1st Monday in June. This is due to the Bank Holiday and Janet being away on holiday.

Our **Yoga group** has changed instructor and venue, so please see the study group page for details.

On the Notice Board we now have a section where members can post items of interest, forthcoming events and requests.

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

Lastly, our Committee meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month and we like to encourage one or two members to attend each month. If you would be available and would like to come along, please let me know.

Bernice

PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY

On the 25th April the Photographic Group made a display of photographs from their recent "Cassiobury Park" walk at our General Meeting. These were presented on the new U3A display board which the committee recently purchased for use by all study groups in the Woodside branch. At the U3A meeting all members were invited to vote for their favourite photo and I am pleased to congratulate Ken Speller and Glen Price as being the joint winners by popular vote.



Ken Jones, Janet Perry, Pam and Ken Cotton at the first exhibition with the new display boards.

A photographic critique has been planned with an external judge who will provide marks for each photo so it will be interesting to see how the results of this compare to the U3A popular vote.

Ken Jones
Photographic Group

STOP PRESS



The above competition was judged by Andy Robinson, Watford camera club member. He provided a critique on all of our members photos which was extremely useful. The winner was Janet Perry.

New Display Boards available

At our U3A meeting in May. The **Crafters** group will be making an exhibition of their work on the new display board. The new display boards are for the use by all study groups. To make a reservation for these display boards please contact Ken Jones by telephone 01923 264855 or email ken.newcom@btconnect.com

Up The Amazon

One bright spring day members of the Social Group took a trip up the Amazon. Actually the Amazon Course at Crazy Golf. There was great rivalry between the teams but we soon lost count of the

number of shots taken, (probably a good thing). Some players were seen to cheat, and several balls landed in the water never to be seen again, despite this, great enjoyment was had by all.



*No
that
was not
a Hole
in One!
Joan.*

The **Garden Visits Group** made their way to Cliveden Gardens, a National Trust property, for their April outing. After a welcome refreshment break, the group took in the wonderful views over the Parterre and River Thames, before exploring the glorious herbaceous borders, topiary and statues in the long garden, and taking in the ornamental fountain before finishing the visit in the oriental inspired Water Garden.



The ornamental fountain

We were all in agreement that Cliveden is certainly worth another visit, maybe taking in a river cruise at the same time.



The 'long view' with Teresa, who organises such great trips to gardens - for gardeners and non-gardeners alike.

The Garden Visits Group have a number of visits planned this year, including West Lodge Arboretum on 22nd May, Kew Gardens on 12th June, a coach trip to the Hampton Court Flower Show on 7th July and a private viewing of Theobalds Farmhouse Garden on the 17th July. Tickets for the coach trip to Salutation Gardens on Saturday 7th September go on sale today, further details can be found at the

Garden Visits table.



Members of the Garden visits group with the wonderful wall of wisteria behind.

Teresa Brunswick

The Hell Fire Caves

The second trip of the month for the **Social Group** was to the Hell Fire Caves in West Wycombe.

After being fortified with tea and scones, we descended into the depths of West Wycombe Hill. These caves were quarried out of the chalk by employees Sir Francis Dashwood in the 1750's who were each paid 1shilling day.



The narrow tunnels, small cells leading from them eventually reach a large cavern.

It is said that these were used to host a number meetings and parties for members of the Knights of St. Francis of Wycombe later to be known as The Hell Fire Club. This included a number of notable, members of Parliament, Poets, artists, professors and other influential men of the era. Benjamin Franklin who was a friend of Sir Francis was also a visitor to the caves.



We declined to join them.

The meetings were reputed to have included 'black magic, mock rituals, pornographic material, much drinking, wenching and banqueting', none of which goes on today, the most you can hope for is coffee and cake.

Janet

The Crafters

Having been approached by a member of the 'Tin Church' Bedmond who was starting a Mother and Toddler group, as to whether if we could produce a knitted Ark, The Crafers set about it with Gusto!

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Mrs Noah aboard their knitted Ark!



Mr & Mrs Noah's animals - two by two

They produced 15 pairs of animals and birds, Mr & Mrs Noah and the Dove of Peace, together with the vessel in which they set sail!

Our next project, with the help of other crafting groups, is to **Yarn Bomb Abbots Langley** for the week of the Carnival, at the request of the Watford Lions organisation. Our target is a minimum of 1,000 knitted flowers!

If you would like to help the Yarn bomb or to donate wool please contact Janet Perry (details on Study Groups page)

Please look after your lanyard and card holder -if lost it will cost you £5 to replace it. If you decide to leave our U3A please hand in for recycling

On Saturday May 11th, the newly formed **Weekend Group** aimed with their first London trip by visiting the Sky Garden on the 35th floor of the walkie talkie building at 20 Fenchurch Street. The views from the terrace were spectacular in the sunshine and the trees and plants, mostly tropical were very colourful!



Everyone enjoyed the visit as the smiling faces shows Marie

Trip to The Guide Dogs for the Blind Breeding Centre

The first trip of 2019 was a visit to The Guide Dogs for the blind Breeding Centre at Bishops Tachbrook Warwickshire.

We departed just after 10.10 and arrived at Banbury at 11.30, when we spent time having lunch and look around.

After signing the group in, we were issued with Visitor Passes and taken to the lecture room for an introduction into the Guide dogs for the blind workings.

We were then split into groups and taken around by volunteer guides who were very knowledgeable and passionate about what they do. We were shown various harnesses that are made onsite and the guide dogs are not given to their owners until they can put the harness on. Being blind or partially sighted, I would think that it would not be that easy!



What a handsome trio - Toy dogs were used to show different harnesses that are used.

Surprisingly very few pups are born at the centre, most are born at volunteers homes and then come to the centre later.

We were able to see the puppies but through glass partitions as they have to be kept away from any infections.



Mother and pups fast asleep

There was a litter of pups born at the centre; silently viewing through window as they were 3 days old.

We went through a sensory tunnel wearing blacked out goggles to give the impression of being blind walking through with both arms stretched out touching the sides with various surfaces, some people did and some didn't.



Though our eyes were covered we were told to keep our eyes open as we were likely to lose our balance.



The pups stay with mum until six weeks old - they leave before 'the pack' instinct happens. Their pack leader must be their blind owner.

We finished with being plied with Tea/Coffee/Juice and homemade cakes and visited the gift shop where people purchased various items and made donations.

We had a good journey back thanks to Brian our driver.

I hope everybody enjoyed the day, my wife and I certainly did.

Martin, Day Trips Leader

STOP PRESS People asked me about a trip to the training school in Leamington spa so I have managed to secure a date,

THURSDAY OCTOBER 3rd. More info at the next meeting

Social Group Trips for 2019

June

Tues 4th Bletchley Park (car share) Joan

Thurs 20th **Windsor river trip (coach)** Joan

Sat 29th Beulah/Ken Garden Party

July

Mon 8th **Brighton Trip (coach)** Ken

Thurs 25th Wrest Park Joan
August

Sat 31st Croxley Great Barn
Sept

Wed 11th Gunpowder Mills

Sun 15th Hughendon Manor ???

Fri 27th Mosquito Museum

Oct

Sun 13th St Albans Signal Box

Tues 29th **Postal Mail Rail Museum (coach)** Ken

Nov

Wed 6th Ten Pin Bowling/lunch

Thurs 21st **Imperial War Museum (coach)** Ken

Dec

Mon 2nd **London Xmas Lights/Eat at Covent Garden(coach)**

Tues 10th Christmas lunch/Blue Check Restaurant

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 June Issue of the Newsletter is 1st June.

Send to Jo Bromwich, 01923 443758 or email

jo.bromwich@ntlworld.com

newsletter is available in full online

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

IMPORTANT

CONTACT

DETAILS

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