

WOODSIDE U3A NEWSLETTER  
NOVEMBER 2018

Meeting at The Church of the Nazarene, The  
Brow, Woodside, Watford, Herts WD25 7NW  
On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 9.30am  
<https://u3asites.org.uk/woodside>

With the weather warning that a 'cold snap is arriving from the East anytime soon', I have been very busy catching up in my Autumn garden before the aforementioned chills reach their target, at the time of writing this, not quite sure what to expect, however as my mother use to say 'forewarned is forearmed'. So better finish writing this and get on with battening down and securing the vulnerable plants.

Despite the advances of autumn into winter, the Indian Summer, has proved a blessing, the extension of summer warmth has shortened the lead up to the winter months and as Ian our expert weather speaker last month informed us, October is the month where evidence of climate change in the northern hemisphere resides. I think all those present at our October general meeting can agree, as with many of our speakers this year, we enjoyed a vibrant presentation that included the exploding of many traditional weather myths, though some contained more than a ring of truth about them. Continued page 3



*Laila, Chair*

AGENDA FOR 20 NOVEMBER  
9.30 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS,  
STUDY GROUPS & VISITS SIGN UPS  
10.00 BUSINESS MEETING &  
A SING SONG IN REMEMBRANCE OF  
THE FIRST WORLD WAR  
10.15 REFRESHMENTS  
10.45 OUR SPEAKER WILL BE  
GLEN OWEN WITH A TALK ENTITLED  
'CIVIL ENGINEERING - MEGA  
PROJECTS FROM AROUND THE  
WORLD.  
11.45 ROUND-UP AND CLOSE

WE WILL BE HAVING A SOCIAL  
MORNING AT OUR MEETING ON 18  
DECEMBER AND THEREFORE WILL  
NOT BE HAVING A SPEAKER AND  
THERE WILL NOT BE BOOKSTALL.

## YOUR COMMITTEE



Linda Williams Vice Chair



Sheila Ramsamy

Speaker Secretary  
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Lesley Cummings

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Ken Appel

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Bernice Caffrey Study

Group Coordinator 01923 672359  
[caffreyba@gmail.co](mailto:caffreyba@gmail.co)



Anita Gullis  
(welcome back to Anita who has rejoined the committee)



Ken Emmons

Social Secretary 01923 672139

There are several **Vacancies** for help on the committee. Please see Laila or Linda if you are interested in joining the committee.

**Xmas lunch 3rd December @ 12.30**  
please put your name down on Ken Emmons list, payment £20, cheque/ cash.  
**Raffle tickets** on sale today and at the restaurant.

Continued from front page

Definitely been looking at clouds from a different perspective over the last few weeks. I don't know about you, but learning new facts from our broad range of speakers, has been a delight this year. I sincerely thank our Speaker Secretary Sheila, for providing us all with such a broad range of subjects, both educational and entertaining.

Talking of subjects, it was pleasing to read the reports in our October's Newsletter, from so many of Woodside study groups, which are the life blood of our movement. With new groups starting all the time, I thank all those who co-ordinate and organise such a range of learning, activity and social opportunities enjoyed by all our members. Don't forget if you have ideas for new subject groups please let Bernice know. A meeting for study group co-ordinators has been agreed for March 2019, date to be advertised in our newsletter.

Plans are in progress for our Christmas Celebrations at our December 20th General meeting, which should be a fun gathering, though be prepared for some tricky quiz questions. I remember last years superb tantalising questions, and learnt, that Turkey does not celebrate Christmas, I guess because it is a secular state. Your

catering team will be providing festive snacks and to avoid the queues of last year, seating at tables is being planned with festive food platters for each table. For those members who attended the October general meeting you may recall I requested that members who have specific dietary requirements, including allergies to certain foods, be sure to let me know, so that we may make suitable alternative provision for you. I reiterate this request again, for those members who may not have been present in October, who are planning to attend the Christmas event.

Woodside's Annual Lunch will take place at the Blue Check Restaurant, Bushey on Monday 3rd December. Payment will need to be finalised this month. I am sure those who attended last year not only had a delicious meal in excellent company but agree it was true value for money. This year again, I am sure the lunch will be hugely successful and I thank all those involved in the planning, organising and delivery of what looks likely to be a Annual event on our Woodside calendar of social activities. Talking of which, I am so looking forward to joining all our members

Continued page 4

booked on for the Winchester Seasonal Market trip, specially since we learnt that despite the fact St Swithuns or Swithins legend of forty days and forty nights of terrible weather is largely unproven, he is buried and enshrined in Winchester Cathedral, which I hope to visit. It is said the myths around the weather began when the Saint was moved from his simple burial place to the auspicious new Cathedral, indicating that perhaps he was not impressed about being exhumed and re-buried. His dying wish to be placed in a plain resting place outside where both members of the Parish and rainfall from the heavens could reach him. I leave you with the Elizabethan Verse of those days that reads:  
"St Swithin's day if dost rain  
For forty days it will remain  
St Swithin's day if thou be fair  
For forty days will rain an mair".  
I urge those of you who are interested in the legend to read up on the Saint behind the myths, makes for fascinating reading of our medieval history.  
Till next time,  
Laila

### **Refreshment Rota**

November - Books and Bowls

December - Bridge and Cookery  
(Spanish)

### **Local Cluster meeting**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> October Laila and Bernice attended a Cluster meeting which was organised by Radlett U3A. This meeting was attended by most of the U3A's in the area.

The meeting discussed membership numbers of their individual U3A, cost of membership and what that included. We were also asked if we had a post code restriction, and we were surprised to learn one U3A did in fact have a post code restriction due to their membership numbers.

We discussion how membership was collected and many groups, larger than ours, used an automated system.

Discussion took place highlighting that where possible U3As have a duty to take into consideration the diverse needs of its members.

Most present felt they complied with equalities legislation where possible, but all accepted that where study groups took place in private home that was not always possible, but worked to compromise. Whereas public facilities had greater compliance and as such met members needs for access, toilets, hearing loops, larger print newsletters and much more. All agreed that the ethos of U3A was to achieve inclusivity and we all strive to achieve that for our members.

A suggestion was also put forward that all the area study group leaders for Science and perhaps Family History, might consider meeting jointly to discuss subjects of interest and share how information could be obtained. Music such as Jazz might also be included in the project.

Laila and Bernice found the meeting interesting and a further Cluster meeting will be arranged in 6 months time by Bushey U3A.

At our **October meeting** our guest speaker was Ian Currie, a professional weather forecaster. His talk was entitled 'Weatherlore - fact or fiction'.



His main job is as a weather forecaster for BBC Surrey and Sussex, giving talks on weather, and running his website - see [www.frostedearth.com](http://www.frostedearth.com).

He explained that computers play a vital role in predicting weather conditions, and that mobile phones have more computing power than those used to put men into space in the 1960s.

The winter weather conditions in the 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> centuries the winds came more from the north than today; winter 1683-84 the Thames froze for three months and the Arctic ice reached Scotland along with polar bears!

He went on to say many folklores were not actually true eg 'cows sitting down' means that they are tired and ruminating, not that they were expecting rain. In 2007 a dry St Swithins day was followed by the wettest summer on record.

Today weather forecasters understand the science behind weather patterns better. Clouds are around -40 degrees C at the top and mostly frozen even when we are experiencing a heat wave on earth. Clouds can be 20 miles across and some we see high in the sky may actually be over the Irish Sea.

The highest rainfall measured in one day was 16 ins and once 7 ft of snow fell in one day! Fortunately we are not in the cycle of extreme weather conditions.

# WOODSIDE STUDY GROUPS November 2018

American History. Contact Barbara Lewis on 01923 260410.

*Joint with SWH*

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. *This is a joint group with SWH*

Belly Dancing: Contact Bernice Caffrey 01923 672359. Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at 1.30-4.30pm Asda Room 3  
*Joint Group with SWH*

Cookery (Spanish) Contact Carmen Copley on 01923 671003. Meeting every 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 01923 270584. Meeting monthly on the 1st Thursday at 2.00-4.00 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. 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

Line Dancing: Janet on 07835 260967. 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday afternoon at members homes

Local History: Contact Jan Taylor on 01923 262565 or 07725940453. Monthly 4<sup>th</sup> Monday

Lunch Group: Contact Joyce Gray on 01923 263213 or [rejoyce.gray@gmail.com](mailto:rejoyce.gray@gmail.com). Monthly 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday. Venues vary

Philosophy – Contact Jeanne Johnson on 01923 263598 Meeting monthly 1<sup>st</sup> Monday 2.00-4.00pm  
*Joint Group with SWH*

Photography: Contact Ken Jones on 01923264855. Meeting monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 2.0pm at members homes

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

Science and Technology:  
*This group is due to restart very shortly*

Sing for Pleasure. Contact Ady Shaw 01923 518021 meeting fortnightly on a Thursday at 9.30am until 11.00

Social Group: Contact Ken Emmons on 01923 672139 or email [kjemmons23@gmail.com](mailto:kjemmons23@gmail.com) 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 2.00pm at Tesco Extra Watford Community Room.  
*Joint Group with SWH*

Whist: Contact Gwen Barker on 01923 510699 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues at 1pm.

Woodside Walk 5: Contact Derryck Croker on 01923 673719. Monthly morning meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays on the month, 9.30 – 10.30am at the Orbital Centre

## Study Group News

Our Environmental Group is now up and running.

A reminder about the swimming group at Watford Central Baths every Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings between 8.30 and 10.00am. This group is available to U3A's in the Watford area.

The model making group looks as though it may well go ahead and we will arrange a huddle at the meeting for those members who put their names down for Jewellery.

Also there are details of the proposed trip to Lisbon next year, leaving on the 30<sup>th</sup> September and returning on the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2019. Note for Leaders - Should the details of your group be shown incorrectly in the newsletter please let me know.

Members joining the committee meeting this month were Louise Smith and Linda Murphy  
Bernice

The **Woodside Beginners Bridge group** has made good progress and has been amalgamated into the bridge group run by South West Herts (joint group with other local U3As). This group is aimed at improvers and meets on 2 Monday afternoons each month.

Any absolute beginners wishing to join would need to contact the

group leader first to see if provision could be made for a subgroup of at least 4 learners and they would need a regular commitment from an experienced player.

Judith (SW Herts)

## Study Group **American History**

Suspended for the present - no meeting in November. Members will be informed of future dates by email.



*Our U3A is open to all in the community - here Graham (right) has found a new friend.*

The next meeting of **The History Study Group** will be at 2pm on Thursday 6th December at Asda Community Centre for a Christmas social event and planning for 2019! We are trying to recruit new members, and everyone is welcome to this meeting to see if they are interested in joining the group.

Many thanks

Heather



The **History Study Group** held an open meeting for any of our U3A members to attend on 1st November where they had invited Janet Seward to give a talk on the British legend, Dick Turpin.

She began by giving us a feel of his 'real' life (or as much as can be found) rather than the legend that lives today.

Born in 1705 in Hempstead, Dick followed his father and became a butcher but fell into bad ways when he was found to be selling poached venison. He went on the run and joined the very violent Gregory Gang. One of first robberies was from a chandlers in Watford.

The gang were caught and executed in 1735, but Dick escaped and became a highway man around Epping. In the days before banks people travelled by coach carrying their worldly goods with them - ripe pickings for men like Dick. During an ambush by the authorities, Dick killed his partner-in-crime but escaped and fled north. He was arrested and taken to York where he was sent to the gallows in 1739 aged 33.

Move forward 100 years and writers were publishing stories of romantic and noble outlaws of bygone years. William Ainsworth Harrison wrote about the 'hero' Dick Turpin in his novel of 1834 called '[Rookwood](#)', part of a new genre of glamorised criminal

stories know as The Newgate Novels. Chap books and 'penny dreadfuls' told stories of wholesome adventurers including Dick Turpin.

Tales of his adventures have been glamorized as seen in 1925 feature film by Tom Mix, 1958 in Dan Dare comics, 1979 Richard O'Sullivan as Turpin on TV, 1974 feature film Carry on Dick, 1989 Hugh Grant in The Lady and the Highway man and more recently Adam and the Ants singing 'stand and deliver'.

Dick Turpin was a low life, thief and murderer - not at all the glamorous and gallant highway man of legend.

**Missing Books.** Mary Berry and Orla Jordan, both hardbacks.

Would the persons who purchased these 2 books at the last meeting, please contact Ken Emmons at this November meeting, or on 01923 672139. Thank You.

**New study group** starting soon called the **WeekEnders** for anyone wanting to be active on a Saturday or Sunday to do anything that people want to do. This could be walking, meals out, theatre visits etc. Just bring your ideas and see Bernice on the Study Group table and sign up.

**Quilt Raffle**, £2.00 per Ticket - the Quilt will be on display today at the November General Meeting. Raffle will be called at the Annual U3A lunch in December however tickets will only be on sale at the November meeting not at the December Lunch. Best buy now. Various Charities will benefit from the generous good will of our members once again, with one amongst you winning a beautiful handcrafted quilt made by the collective enterprise of Woodsides' own Crafters Study Group

**Dietary Requirements** As has already been announced at October's General meeting and in the interest of inclusion, the Chair requested that all those members who will be attending the social to please ensure they let her know if they have any special dietary requirements, including food allergies so that the Catering team can cater for your needs.

Laila Chair

**Local History group visit to the Tin Church, Bedmond.**

We visited this lovely little church (proper name The Church of the Ascension) in Bedmond and learnt about the fascinating history of these 'flat-pack' churches. In the religious revivalist period in the

nineteenth century many of this type of church were built by joiners and builders companies using the latest material of the day - corrugated iron. They were intended to provide temporary accommodation for the pastor and his flock, in areas where new industries had sprung up (the dark satanic mills), the agricultural communities and for the missions overseas. They were used mainly by denominations other than the Church of England, some even being used as synagogues.



*Local History Study Group leader Jan Taylor (right) with Wendy Ball who gave the guided tour.*

The Tin Church at Bedmond - a grade two listed building - seems to have originally been bound for an overseas mission, However it was surplus to requirements and lying on the docks at Southampton Docks, when it was bought by Mrs

Solly of Serge Hill House, Bedmond for £80 'so that the spiritual lives of those residing in Bedmond shall go forward with increased vigour'. It was completed in 1880 and dedicated on 9<sup>th</sup> May of that year. It was originally under the custodianship of St Lawrence Church Abbots Langley. However Anglican services ceased at the Tin Church in 1974 and the church was taken over by an independent evangelical church, who removed the wooden pews to make the space more suitable for their style of service. After some years of neglect the church was sold back to the parish of St Lawrence and reopened for worship again in 1983.



*The Tin church - an iconic local building*

In 2005 whilst carrying out some outside repainting it was found that the steeple was in a dangerous condition and so this was replaced and covered with copper. The original corrugated iron roof has now been replaced with profiled coated sheet steel. Inside there is some original painting on wood, and a lovely stained-glass window - quite rare in this type of church. This church is well worth a visit - always open on the first Wednesday of the month (10 - 12) with a coffee morning.  
Jan

**Social Group** visit to Jordans Mill  
15 members enjoyed a day at the Mill where we saw a fully working mill in action. We then watched a short film about the Jordan family's history from farming to milling. Later we walked round the flower and vegetable garden. All vegetables grown in the gardens are used in their restaurant. The flower garden still very pretty this late time of the year. Finally we visited the Mill shop to stock up on flour and other merchandise, before enjoying lunch at the Pleasant cafe.  
Joan

**Spanish cookery** study group leader Carmen has given us a recipe that her group has made for Patatas bravas with salsa and mayonnaise.  
**PATATAS BRAVAS CON SALSA RECIPE**

As many potatoes as you wish to cook. Oil for deep frying.  
 Homemade mayonnaise. (I will be making it)

**For the salsa:** Homemade tomato sauce with a little chile. Fry half an onion and a clove of garlic in oil. Add a tin of tomatoes and one chilli. Fry until very well cooked. Blend with a blender.

**For the homemade mayonnaise** (Bought mayonnaise if you don't want to make it) Oil, Garlic, 1 egg Blend together little by little until thick.

Boil potatoes first until just cooked and then fry potatoes until crunchy. Pour salsa over the potatoes. Add mayonnaise to the side.

**SPEAKERS FOR OUR TUESDAY MEETINGS**

|                 |   |   |
|-----------------|---|---|
| <b>15 Jan</b>   | <b>Alan Wise</b><br><b>Finding Health and Happiness</b>                 | <b>WANTED:</b><br><b>NEWS &amp; PHOTOGRAPHS</b><br>suitable for publication please send to The Webmaster, Andrew Cummings at <a href="mailto:andrew.cummingsu3a@btinternet.com">andrew.cummingsu3a@btinternet.com</a> for inclusion on the website<br><a href="https://u3asites.org.uk/woodside">https://u3asites.org.uk/woodside</a>   |
| <b>19 Feb</b>   | <b>Barry Goodman</b><br><b>Good Morning Lords&amp;Ladies</b>            |   |
| <b>19 Mar</b>   | <b>Andrew Waite</b><br><b>Introduction to Gemstones</b>                 | <b>AND FOR THE NEWSLETTER</b><br><b>IMPORTANT CONTACT DETAILS</b><br><a href="mailto:chair@woodsdeu3a.org.uk">chair@woodsdeu3a.org.uk</a><br><a href="mailto:membership@woodsdeu3a.org.uk">membership@woodsdeu3a.org.uk</a><br><a href="mailto:webmaster@woodsdeu3a.org.uk">webmaster@woodsdeu3a.org.uk</a><br><a href="mailto:newsletter@woodsdeu3a.org.uk">newsletter@woodsdeu3a.org.uk</a> |
| <b>16 April</b> | <b>Colin Richards</b><br><b>T:Visual Perception: Artist's illusions</b> |   |

**SOCIAL GROUP MEETINGS**

**January:**

12th January. Sat. Numbers needed for this event Bushey Museum/Gallery

**February:**

4th. Mon Holywood 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