



Hi Everyone,

Welcome to our October newsletter. In normal pre Covid-19 times I would be referring to how wonderful it is to spend time on our projects and passions in the autumn. Amidst the beautiful changing colours of the shrubs and trees we await the onset of the reds and golds of autumn. It's a cooling down month and we find ourselves on a path to Halloween and, dare I say it, Christmas. I heard on the radio this morning of a lady who is wrapping her Christmas presents as I write. There's organised and then there's normal behaviour!

Life has been turned upside down for everyone, including Woodside U3A. We are doing our best to get through the pandemic with our masks, sanitisers and risk assessments and those study groups who have been meeting have re-formed themselves in groups of six (whether it is an inside or outside activity).

Our September Zoom General Meeting was well supported though we had room on the call for many more members. We now approach our AGM on 20 October and we hope as many of you as possible can log in.

In the next couple of weeks Bernice Caffrey and I will be logging in to the Zoom call for the U3A National AGM and I will log in to the Zoom call for the Herts Network AGM. I'll report back in the next newsletter.

May I remind you of our new Facebook page (with the profile photo of The Church of the Nazarene) where our members list is growing. Whilst we appreciate not all members have access to this technology we ask you to spread the word around so we can maximise our publicity, give out group information, upload photos and have general banter between us.

Stay safe, keep well and look out for each other.
Barbara Elman, Acting Chair

2020 Annual General Meeting

Chair person's Annual Report

This will be my 3rd and final Annual Report to you all, since my election as your Chair in 2017 also my last year as your Chair. As my two previous reports evidence, as a new U3A there is much of which we can be truly proud. In this our third year one might have predicted a steady state and some consolidation of the past two developmental years. True to say the first seven months demonstrate, to my mind, that prediction. However, who could have known that just around the New Year corner, we would be a part of the global pandemic known as Corona Virus 19. Not since 1918 has the world witnessed such a devastating illness, that currently, to date has no cure or vaccine to protect our global population.

For Woodside U3A, along with others, the decision was made by the Committee in early March to cancel the March General Meeting. As March moved on, a nationwide lockdown was declared. This meant all further Woodside U3A activities that involved contact would cease until further notice, which remains the case during the writing of this report. The annual March renewal process has not taken place. The Committee has agreed that membership fees this year will be reduced and set from the month we are allowed to be up and running again. The first meeting will be renewals, followed by an AGM if the conditions allow. Dear members, please be reassured that your Committee are still meeting virtually and remain ready to open Woodside U3A when it is safe to do so. They are already planning celebrations.

The yearly 2019/2020 Financial Statement was prepared and approved by the Committee, though not as yet independently audited, will appear in the June Newsletter. Please address any questions you might have to our Treasurer Ken Appel, via the Woodside U3A webpage.

Despite the challenges presented by the lockdown it is pleasing to record that many interest groups have found alternative ways of keeping in touch and supporting each other. I have been in contact with the majority of group contact members. As Chair I am aware that for many of our members the past few months have been difficult and extremely challenging. I do hope by the time you read this life has become a little easier, with reconnections to family and friends and greater opportunities to enjoy getting out and about a bit more, while being cautious and staying safe.

As is customary I would like to thank everyone who has worked so very diligently over this and the last two years without which Woodside U3A would not have been able to grow and flourish in such a splendid and friendly way. Such voluntary dedication by so many wonderful people must be fully appreciated, recognised and admired. For without them Woodside U3A would cease to be.

I will be standing down as Chair from June 2020 in accordance with our Constitution. Despite thoughts of staying on until the Corona Virus crisis is over, I realise that is neither possible nor appropriate. Between now and Woodside U3A re-opening again, there will be time for your dedicated Committee to seek out a new Chair person to take Woodside onto new and exciting horizons.

It has been a wonderful experience for me personally, as your Chair over the past three years and I have enjoyed so many special moments with you all. Finally I cannot end this, my last report, without mentioning our amazing and energetic founder Barbara Lewis. Without Barbara's drive and years of U3A experience Woodside would not have been born and thus enjoyed by so many today.

Heartfelt good wishes to you all, remember Stay Safe, we are not through the woods yet.

Laila

June 2020

When Laila stepped down as Chair of Woodside u3a, she was given a garden centre gift voucher. Laila whatsapped Barbara with the following message:

'Thank you for coming, the card and gift are appreciated. When I decide what to buy I will post a picture for the Newsletter.'

Accounts

WOOSIDE U3A

RECEIPT & PAYMENT ACCOUNT

YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2020

RECEIPTS	2019	2020
	£	£
Membership subscriptions	5,288.00	948.00 1
Trips & Events	6,517.20	7,303.50
Xmas Lunch	2,003.60	1,869.00
Book Sales	169.10	229.02
Charitable Donations	933.30	237.87
Sundry	42.00	268.50
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TOTAL	14,953.20	10,855.89
	=====	=====

CORONAVIRUS : UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

1 No 2021 Membership renewals were received due to cancellation of meetings

PAYMENTS	2019	2020
	£	£
Third Age Trust	1,366.66	1,276.00
Trips & Events	5,775.37	8,175.54
Xmas Lunch	1,920.00	1,826.60
Charitable Donations	997.50	582.87
Hall Rentals	685.00	405.00
Speakers	465.20	541.30
Catering	252.42	378.01
Equipment	194.25	73.46
Printing, Postage & Admin	1,372.19	1,123.88
Conference		561.90
Sundry	13.74	12.50
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TOTAL	13,042.33	14,957.06
	=====	=====

Minutes of the Third Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 18 June at the Church of the Nazarene, The Brow, Watford, Herts WD25 7NW

Present:

Laila Namdarkhan (Chair)
Linda Williams (Vice Chair)
Lesley Cummings (Membership Secretary)
Ken Appel (Treasurer)
Bernice Caffrey (Study Groups Co-ordinator)
Barbara Elman (Business Secretary)
Sheila Ramsamy (Speakers Secretary)
Anita Gullis.
Heather Lace (Safeguarding and Equality)
Members of Woodside U3A

Apologies:

Jo Bromwich, Alison Theobald, Ken Emmons, Roland Bedford

1. Welcome:

Laila welcomed everyone to the AGM. She pointed out the health and safety reminders.

2. Chair's Report:

As published in the newsletter. Laila especially thanked Roland Bedford for his work in Woodside U3A joining the Charity Commission. The Safeguarding Policy was another requirement for our organisation. Heather Lace will take responsibility for this, in addition to Equal Opportunities. The report was proposed by Stuart Lewis and seconded by Ken Jones.

3. Treasurer's Report:

Ken advised that his report was in the newsletter, and he thanked the Committee and Study Group Co-ordinators for their support. The report was proposed by Said Namdarkhan and seconded by Anita Gullis.

4. Election of Committee:

The vote was on block as no-one else had been proposed. The existing Committee was all prepared to stand again. The vote was carried unanimously. The Committee was then individually introduced. Laila referred to the group constitution. Our steering committee, who started Woodside U3A, is due to step down after their third year in 2020. We are looking to amend the constitution to take into consideration a new group, so some of the Committee could continue if they wished, to maintain expertise on the Committee. Roland Bedford is investigating this.

5. Appointment of Auditor

Glen Price was elected. This was proposed by Steve Parker and seconded by Janet Perry.

The business of the AGM closed at 10.29am.

Any Other Business/Announcements:

Stuart Lewis addressed the members regarding his wife, Barbara, who is a founder member of Woodside U3A. There is a special presentation Barbara is organising in conjunction with South West Herts U3A on Monday 12 August at 9.30am at The Francis Combe Academy, Horseshoe Lane, Watford WD25 7HW. All members are welcome to attend.

There will be a Woodside U3A Garden Party at the home of Ken and Beulah Appel on Saturday 29 June from 2pm to 5pm. Members were reminded to bring a picnic (food and drink) and a chair.

The book stall is open.

Refreshments at the AGM were served by the Sewing, Singing and Social Groups.

There was a huddle for the Environmental Group.

For those going to the Hampton Court Flower Show on Sunday 7 July, parking should be outside the Woodside Leisure Centre as they lock their car park gates early.

There is a plan to visit the Salutation Gardens on Saturday 7 September. It is £14 for the coach and entrance is £6.50. This will be organised by the Gardening Group.

Ady and the Shedettes entertained the members and everyone enjoyed their singing.

Tea, coffee, strawberries and cream were then served.

Minutes were taken by Barbara Elman

Members of the Committee 2020

Barbara Elman (Acting Chair)

Linda Williams (Vice Chair)

Ken Appel (Treasurer)

Lesley Cummings (Membership Secretary)

Bernice Caffrey (Study Groups)

Sheila Ramsamy (Speakers Secretary)

Ken Emmons (Social Secretary)

Heather Lace (Equality and Safeguarding)

Alison Theobald

Anita Gullis

Committee members need to be nominated and seconded. All current members are prepared to stand again.

If you wish to nominate someone for the committee then please email or post your nomination to

Lesley Cummings membership@woodsidesu3a.org.uk

Or by post to

27 Lysander Way Abbots Langley

WD5 0TN

Report on AGM of National U3A

Tuesday 29 September 2020

Attendees:

Barbara Elman - Acting Chair

Bernice Caffrey - Interest Group Co-ordinator

The internet meeting was audio only (no visual) with a slide show presentation. We were to vote on resolutions by clicking on For, Against or Abstain.

There were 263 groups voting; with a total of 648 votes being counted plus 964 proxy votes. This covered 40% of groups.

The Chair's report advised that due to Covid-19 National Office staff were working from home. He reported on the National Creative Writing competition which had taken place this year and the launch of u3a Radio on YouTube (a pilot podcast). Online learning is at the heart of their work. He thanked the 350 Trust volunteers, 40,000 interest group leaders and 10,000 committee members, who serve in 440 groups. We have approximately 450,000 members.

He spoke about the progress of Beacon, u3a Trading which is being launched on 27 November. Details will be in the TAM magazine which circulates to 300,000 readers. He also advised that the newly formed Trust u3a, which is virtual, is doing well. This fills the gap until local groups reopen after the pandemic.

Other news, the 40th Anniversary of u3a will be in 2022.

Treasurers Report

The Treasurer detailed the balance sheet.

He spoke of dwindling membership which has been taken into account in the budget for next year and suggested that people who retire early or who become unexpectedly unemployed due to Covid-19 could be interested in joining the movement.

A question and answer session followed with queries on Beacon computer programme costs, the Development Plan (it is now shown on the u3a website) and legal costs of Third Age Trust Trading Ltd (which are a one off cost while it is being set up).

Third Age Matters magazine - it costs £3.10 per member for 5 issues. A member asked if it was going online but it is going to continue to be printed at the moment.

We only have to pay postage for the magazine, and if postal charges increase the cost will increase. However the actual magazine is paid for by revenue generated by advertising

Resolutions followed for voting:

Membership fees - whether to go to £4 in 2022 or 2023 or whether to go to £4.50 in 2022. Voting resulted in £4 fees from April 2022. Bernice and I were outvoted. We tried to defer to 2023. These fees are already included in our local group membership fees. After the AGM there was a presentation on Marketing and Re-branding the image. The new logo is u3a with a strap line of learn, laugh, live. The meeting closed after 3 1/4 hours.
Barbara

RISK ASSESSMENTS AND GROUP GATHERINGS

Just a reminder that all Interest Groups meeting should complete a COVID Risk Assessment, taking account of National and Local guidelines and also the fact that a high proportion of u3a members are likely to be particularly vulnerable. We know that some groups of members are meeting 'informally' at the moment, or are proposing to do so. Clearly, any such friendly gatherings are not official u3a events, should not be circulated as such and would not be covered by u3a insurance.

Many thanks
Heather

Coach trips

As you are aware I have not been able to run any coach trips due to the pandemic. For those of you who paid by cheque, they have never been paid in as the lockdown came in just before I was able to get to the bank. As it is now more than six months since the cheques were written, they are now invalid so you have not lost anything.

Those of you who paid cash, I still have your money (under lock and key).

If those people want a refund, please would you like to ring me on 01923 442417 and we can see what can be sorted out as I don't drive

Stay safe everyone

Martin, Day Trips leader

A Poem

HISTORY WILL REMEMBER WHEN THE WORLD STOPPED
AND THE FLIGHTS STAYED ON THE GROUND
AND THE CARS PARKED IN THE STREETS
AND THE TRAINS DID NOT RUN

HISTORY WILL REMEMBER WHEN THE SCHOOLS CLOSED
AND THE CHILDREN STAYED AT HOME
AND THE MEDICAL STAFF WALKED TOWARDS THE FIRE
AND THEY DID NOT RUN

HISTORY WILL REMEMBER WHEN THE PEOPLE SANG
ON THEIR BALCONIES IN ISOLATION
BUT SO VERY MUCH TOGETHER IN COURAGE AND IN SONG

HISTORY WILL REMEMBER WHEN THE PEOPLE FOUGHT
FOR THEIR ELDERLY AND WEAK, PROTECTED THE VULNERABLE
BUT DOING NOTHING AT ALL
HISTORY WILL REMEMBER WHEN THE VIRUS LEFT
AND THE HOUSES OPENED AND THE PEOPLE CAME OUT
AND HUGGED AND KISSED - AND STARTED LIFE AGAIN!!
Anon.

Here is the *Quiz Group's*
Septembers Quiz -

***September's solutions -
Capital Cities***

Mat dreams = Amsterdam
Open Change = Copenhagen
Bad Setup = Budapest
Lock Moths = Stockholm
Basilar Vat = Bratislava
Java Rose = Sarajevo
Less Rubs = Brussels
Like Shin = Helsinki
Hasten = Athens
Bun Lid = Dublin

Hope you did well

Best of luck everyone - Answers in
November Newsletter
Sue for the quiz Group

plus a new one for October

Guess the Chocolate Quiz

1. High Class thoroughfare
2. Pub Pins
3. Dark occult
4. Mothers local
5. Clever folk
6. Various black items
7. Sport for princes
8. Good children get these
9. Feline equipment
10. Garden flowers
11. Assorted girls
12. Dairy holder
13. Arrange marriage partners
14. Edible fasteners.....
15. Wobbly infants
16. Talk quietly
17. Big Bus.....
18. Gem orchard

General Meetings

We have an interesting couple of months ahead between now and the end of the year. The committee has decided not to invite paid guest speakers until we have face to face meetings. However our Treasurer, Ken Appel, has very kindly agreed to speak to us on 'The History of Leavesden Mental Hospital' at our November Zoom Meeting on Tuesday 18 November. Then in December we have a Christmas treat in store for you. Val May and Sue Brown have arranged a Christmas variety show live on the Zoom call on Tuesday 15 December. We encourage you to decorate your homes and dress up in Christmas clothes and accessories when you log in to the Zoom call. You won't want to miss it.
Barbara

September online general meeting - watched by 22 members

Our speaker was Roger Yapp, Chairman of the Abbots Langley Local History Society, who gave a talk entitled 'Man from the bottom of my garden'. Roger has tracked the life of Bertie Owen, who before World War 1 lived in a wooden house in what is now Roger's garden. Bertie joined up at the start of the war and served in Ypres and the Somme. Roger showed several maps of the battle areas and troops movements, some of which proved fatal to our soldiers. Bertie's brother Walter died in action.

The war memorials at St Lawrence (Abbots Langley), Bedmond and Langleybury list five women and 667 names on record after WW1. As part of his 'Back to the Front' project, detailing the local people involved with WW1, Roger obtained grants from several local organisations. See www.allhs.org.uk (projects) and especially www.backtothefront.org. Roger has built a new wooden house (shed) at the bottom of his garden.



Asylum Road (now College Road) Leavesden 1900 near where the Owen family lived.



Bertie Owen in his army uniform



400 stickers were placed in windows in the parish in 2014 showing where a serviceman had lived.

Message from Bushey & District U3A - Iceland Cruise places available

Our Travel Group has spaces available for a cruise to **Iceland**, with Fred Olsen for 12 days **from 3rd June** next year. The cost has a special discount for our U3A and a VERY GOOD discount for single travellers. Book by **31 December** to receive a 15% discount on the brochure price. If any Woodside members are interested, can they please contact Denise Piddington.

denisepiddington@talktalk.net

WANTED: NEWS & PHOTOGRAPHS

suitable for publication please send to The Webmaster, Andrew Cummings at andrew.cummingsu3a@btinternet.com

AND FOR THE NEWSLETTER

The newsletter is available online at <https://u3asites.org.uk/woodside>

Copy date for the November Issue is 1st November

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

IMPORTANT CONTACT DETAILS

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Anita Gullis, Committee - anitagullis@hotmail.com

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