

Charity Reg.: 1182140



*Laila, Chair*

Hello everyone.

I and your committee dearly hope you are all keeping safe, in good spirits and in good health, as far as it is possible. I think we can all agree we are living in the most extraordinary challenging times. Our resourcefulness and patience are being tested daily as we experience what looks to be a prolonged lock-down. Each of us will deal with this new set of circumstances in different ways. Despite this, there is lots to explore, new knowledge or just sheer joy at discovering a fictional gem, found from books we have that are unread, movies and series on various networks to catch-up

with, new hobbies and other interests to try. For those online YouTube offers a wealth of topics and activities to explore, I hear 'PE with Charlie', every morning is a massive global hit. Calmer exercise sessions are also available, like gentle yoga with meditation and less robust exercises, for all ages and abilities, even gentle dancing classes.

There are also several U3A Facebook pages, if you want to join, you just state which U3A you are a member of, for privacy reasons these two I mention are closed groups specific to U3A members. The two I visit are, U3A: Keeping In Touch and U3A Day. Both offer conversation, quizzes and general topics that users might find interesting. Just completed a History Quiz, no googling mind! Amongst other posts of interest are the weekly U3A Mindfulness session to be found on the National, U3A YouTube channel.

## YOUR COMMITTEE



Linda Williams Vice Chair



Lesley Cummings  
Membership Secretary 01923 681478  
[lesley.scoble@btinternet.com](mailto:lesley.scoble@btinternet.com)



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



Ken Emmons Social Secretary  
01923 672139



Sheila Ramsamy  
Speaker Secretary 01923 510207  
[ramsamysheila@gmail.com](mailto:ramsamysheila@gmail.com)



Ken Appel  
Treasurer 01923672620  
[kenneth.appel@gmail.com](mailto:kenneth.appel@gmail.com)



Anita Gullis  
[anitagullis@hotmail.com](mailto:anitagullis@hotmail.com)



Barbara Elman business secretary  
[barbaraelman@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:barbaraelman@hotmail.co.uk)



Heather Lace Committee member



Alison Theobald Committee member  
[a.theobald@sky.com](mailto:a.theobald@sky.com)

There are a myriad of free online courses available, I am Study one as from last week, with Future Learn , whose website is easily found by searching online.

As I am sure you have all found over the past few weeks, there are the inevitable outstanding jobs to done or completed at ones home and garden. These times are a good opportunity to engage as far as we can with interests that keep us motivated, positive, relaxed and as stress free as possible. Since my return to these shores I am amazed at the wonderful weather we are enjoying, just what we need to keep our spirits fresh.

I understand many of our interest groups are meeting on WhatsApp and Zoom. I guess that old adage 'where there is a will, there is away', and U3A members uphold the adventuring spirit and determination. However, dear members I do not underestimate that these days are and will be trying times for us all, given our different circumstances.

Before I write further can I ask those amongst you who are reading the Newsletter on our Woodside Website, (<https://u3asites.org.uk/woodside>) to please pass information onto any members you know of who are not

linked to a computer. To keep in touch with as many of you as possible we shall continue to upload the Monthly Newsletter on our website. Lesley our membership Secretary will send out emails to the majority of members who have emails addresses and we will try our best to contact those who are not contactable in that way.

We are still unfortunately unable to meet together for our monthly General Meeting, this will remain so for the foreseeable future. I and your committee will miss, addressing you all in person, sharing up-dates during socialisation before and after coffee time. Missing the chance to browse the bookstall, to see what's new, not so new and popular books to read, followed by our collective enjoyment that each unique speaker brings to our exceptional gatherings. For now it seems we must make the best of a situation that is beyond our control.

I thought it prudent to also advise you all that since formal activities are suspended, just as the point that our annual renewals at the March general meeting were due. We will of course take advice from National Office on how subscriptions should be paid one we are up and running again.

In addition, it's highly unlikely that our AGM will take place in June. Before we can constitute such proceedings all intended renewals must have been paid, which is again unlikely given our set-up in the foreseeable future. With no objection from the committee I have recommended that I remain Chair, though my constituted term of office ends in June 2020, until Woodside U3A is fully functioning again, I hope this meets with member's approval.

National U3A office is closed and the CEO and staff are working from home, exploring ways in which they can still support over the 1000K U3A's across the country. All relevant online newsletters from the CEO and team have been forwarded to you as members, who have email, via our membership secretary, for this I give Lesley my grateful thanks.

This extraordinary situation means that Woodside U3A is not in a position to pay its capitation or Third Age Trust magazine yearly invoices that are normally due and paid in April. We have so far only operated the finances on a 3 signatory cheque book basis and paid the annual fees in this manner.

All three of us are in isolation and therefore cannot write or sign the required cheques. National office has been apprised of this situation and have been assured that as soon as we are able accounts will be paid. Our treasurer, who is in the 'shielded' category has forwarded me the yearly accounts and as soon as feasible our auditors will have sight of them. From my own observation the accounts are clearly in order, and the funds are fully available to pay National office invoices as soon as situation improves.

I had to cut short my family visit to Mauritius, and return home. I boarded the last flight out, till possibly August. Due to the islands small population, 1~2million people, the Mauritian Government took rapid action to lockdown the population, close supermarkets for deep cleaning, reopened one week later and well organised thereafter. A curfew from 8pm-8am was implemented to keep people off the streets and beaches. All passenger flights were cancelled after March 26th. A returning national from Belgium, already infected, sadly died, which precipitated the rapid action. We were in lockdown a week before UK. Four weeks later, situation seems under control, minimally 7 deaths and 300, cases all being

tracked and testing of all contacts in progress. For a developing country, albeit small, there swift actions have saved lives.

Following my return I tried to set up a Woodside FaceBook page, that has not worked out as I anticipated. If there is anyone among the membership who has greater knowledge of how to do this please contact me to discuss how we may proceed. In addition I now have most of the committee on a WhatsApp group so that we may continue to communicate with each other throughout this challenging time. We need to plan when the time comes, how to move forward with you all to reopen Woodside U3A.

Finally, Jo our newsletter editor will need material to keep going in the next few months. Please forward your stories to her. Are any of you keeping diaries of your lives during the lock-down? How do you keep occupied/ relaxed during your day? Any amusing moments to share with us? Any updates on how Interest Groups are staying in touch and continuing to keep their interests going? Any advice on how to plan the day? Any tips on suitable exercises to keep us fit and healthy during our stay in-doors. We need to hear from you in what ever way you choose. You can call me by

phone with ideas, stories, updates on how you are getting along. Please do not hesitate to call me or other committee members with questions you may have about U3A matters or other concerns you may have. Till next time, keep safe, keep well , Blessings to you all.

Laila Chair  
April 2020

### ***National U3A day 3rd June 2020***

Due to the current situation with Coronavirus, the National Office has decided to postpone this event until 1st October 2020. So a bit longer to think about what you can do on the day. Perhaps you could contact your group and ask them to think about some ideas during this isolation period, then we'll all be raring to go in October.

Take care

Alison Theobald  
a.theobald@sky.com

## ***SELF ISOLATING POEM***

*By our treasurer Ken Appel*

I LOVED TO MEET MY MATES  
BUT LATELY WITH THE VIRUS  
HERE  
WE CAN'T GO OUT THE GATES

YOU SEE, WE ARE THE OLDIES  
NOW  
WE NEED TO STAY INSIDE  
IF THEY HAVEN'T SEEN US FOR  
A WHILE  
THEY THINK WE'VE UPPED AND  
DIED

THEY'LL NEVER KNOW THE  
THINGS WE DID  
BEFORE WE GOT THIS OLD.  
THERE WASN'T ANY FACEBOOK  
SO EVERYTHING WAS TOLD

WE MAY SEEM SWEET OLD LADS  
WHO WOULD NEVER BE  
UNCOUTH  
BUT WE GREW UP IN THE 50s  
IF YOU ONLY KNEW THE TRUTH

THERE WAS SEX AND DRUGS  
AND ROCK 'N' ROLL  
THE PILL AND MINISKIRTS  
WE SMOKED, WE DRANK, WE  
PARTIED  
AND WERE QUITE OUTRAGEOUS  
FLIRTS.

THEN SETTLED DOWN, GOT  
MARRIED  
PARENT BECAME UNHURRIED  
THEN SOMEONES PA AND  
GRAND MA  
TIME PASSED QUICKLY: LA-DI-  
DA

WE DIDN'T MIND THE CHANGE  
OF PACE  
BECAUSE OUR LIVES WERE  
FULL,  
BUT TO BURY US BEFOR WE'RE  
DEAD  
IS LIKE A RED RAG TO A BULL

SO HERE YOU'LL FIND ME  
STUCK INSIDE  
FOR FOUR WEEKS MAYBE MORE  
I FINALLY FIND MYSELF AGAIN  
INSIDE THE FIRM CLOSED  
DOOR.

IT DOES'T REALLY BOTHER ME,  
I'D WHILE AWAY THE HOUR  
MIGHT BAKE A CAKE FOR  
FAMILY  
BUT GOT NO BLOODY FLOUR!

NOW NETFLIX IS JUST  
WONDERFUL,  
I LIKE THE GUTSY THRILLER,  
I'M SWOONING OVER IDRIS  
OR OVER THE SEXY KILLER.

'OH GOOD' I'VE GOT A STASH  
OF BOOZE,  
FOR WHEN I'M BEING IDLE

THER'S WINE AND WHISKY,  
EVEN GIN  
IF I'M FEELING SUICIDALL!

SO LET'S ALL DRINK TO  
LOCKDOWN,  
TO RECOVERY AND HEALTH  
AND HOPE THE BLOODY VIRUS  
DOESN'T DECIMATE OUR  
WEALTH.

HERE'S HOPING WE'LL GET  
THROUGH THIS CRISIS  
AND SOON TO JOIN OUR MATES  
TO HURRY THROUGH THE OPEN  
GATES

*Personal thoughts on the impact  
of Covid-19 from Val May*

Well this isn't something I'd expected to find myself writing- but in these unprecedented times the unexpected seems to be the norm. History talks about plague and destruction - regardless of our hazy memories of history we will each have one event that lingers in the subconscious - Black Plague, Spanish flu, Smallpox, Cholera , Influenza, Pneumonia and more recent ones - Ebola, SARS and HIV. Thankfully most of our lives are not affected by them - we see the aftermath on the news and, whilst it may strike a chord within us of how awful it is and provoke some empathy for those involved, the news doesn't affect our day to day

life. We drop a quid into a charity box. We are thankful it's not us. This time we are all affected - how we respond, how we cope, how we get through is all individual but it is also about doing it together. The reality of just how serious it is - and will remain so for some time - was slow to register- yet the evidence was presented to us daily as it spread throughout the world at an alarming speed. It had no boundaries, showed no mercy, no respect for age wealth or status! It was indiscriminate - totally!!!

Within weeks Covid-19 was pandemic. The world was locked down almost in a domino effect as each continent, each country, each town or city found themselves in turn fighting the invisible killer. We thank the courage and gritty determination of the work sustained by the wonderful NHS and just hope that they - and us - survive!!!

Most of us joined the U3A because we wanted outside interests, make new friendships and acquaintances, experience new opportunities, learn new skills, to share and enrich our lives in joint adventures. It was about being sociable, not being lonely. It was because we found ourselves at a cross roads -

for whatever reason - retirement, bereavement, health - and were actively encouraged to get out and do something. Personally I had gone through some significant life changes, leaving a very demanding full time job, to becoming a full time carer, to zilch. Finding groups to join, people to talk to, and places to visit meant I wasn't at home alone.

Suddenly despite not feeling unwell I couldn't do any of the now norms for me - I couldn't visit friends for fear of catching this virus - or worse, passing it on. I couldn't just pop to the shops because I wanted a light bulb or some bread. Wow this was a discipline I couldn't battle with.

Stay at home, save lives! That was our new mantra. Wash your hands with soap and don't stop till you've sung happy birthday. Don't touch your face, stay six feet apart, don't socialise! Stay home, save lives - do not go out and sunbathe. Wear a mask, don't wear a mask, and make sure you bleach surfaces; check to see how long the virus stays live on which surfaces. Now wash your hands and sing happy birthday!! Only shop once a week - well that wouldn't be hard - the stock pilers hadn't left anything in the shops to buy!!!! They were all at home eating  
Page 8

pasta and rice and waiting for nature to take its course so they could use up some of their hundreds of toilet rolls!! They could sing happy birthday all day long too - cos they had all the soap!! And as for those bakers amongst us - well there's not a grain of flour to be had!!! Presumably that's hiding amongst the pasta, soap and toilet rolls. But you can't always get eggs either so ..... I just wonder what they're doing with all that flour .....!!!! But to backtrack a couple of months. I had been approached and asked if I would take a temp post in a local school utilising my professional skills and knowledge- I'd laughed and said no - I didn't have the time. A week later I was being interviewed and negotiating how much of my week I was prepared to free up - settling on two and a half days. Still bemused by how this had happened I found I quite enjoyed the challenges of primary school and all it brings. What I hadn't expected was to find myself becoming a 'key worker'!! School as we knew it was to close but to remain open for key workers and vulnerable children. So I'm currently working a full week and then off a week. This has helped with reducing my self isolation and I'm trying hard to practice social distancing at work -

quite a challenge with the little ones!!!

I do feel I'm very lucky - I have a large circle of friends and enough technical know how to be able to keep in touch by various means. I've discovered Zoom and Houseparty, I've learnt how to prop my phone up so video callers don't spend the whole time looking up my nose or down on to the floor, I've done group exercise classes being able to see and talk to other members, I've done cooking and baking in tandem with my daughter, had conversations with my son and grandson. I've joined group chats and had virtual tours of people's gardens and watched and listened to the delightful sound of my friend's daughter practice her guzheng. Technology has certainly brought our world closer - even those who only live up the road seem as far away as those across the continents. It's enabled me to see how people are, to remain part of their life, to reduce the hours of silence and loneliness.

I am lucky - I have one special trusted friend and we share the cupboard challenge of the day - we send each other photos of before, during and after!! I win on the 'before', she wins on the 'after'!!! We haven't let the closure of the

dump or the charity shops dampen our enthusiasm - we both just have new heaps elsewhere!!!! But together we bring some light to the darkness of our day- something I will always treasure. I do feel lucky - I'm part of a number of groups. I do 'plant of the day' and 'project of the moment' with crafters, I do song of the week which Steve sings and records and sends out to us, I do quizzes, I do joke of the day, swap recipes, virtual taste testing. What it doesn't give you is a smile or a hug, or someone to simply share how you are feeling when you are watching the daily Boris Bulletin, or if you feel you have a headache or a sore throat, no one to offer reassurances that you are ok. The silence can be deafening. But I am lucky- during my working week I can chat with others over our shared circumstances, realise we all have the same worries, the same lack of flour, soap and toilet rolls!!! We chat with the children and we get lost in their worlds, we listen, we offer assurances and we sing happy birthday - a lot!!!! I'm lucky - I have a great circle of friends - and the U3A!!!! I realise that not all of us is as lucky - or may be you are. I do realise that we may not all come through this terrible time unscathed- for some more so than others. We will all

have different approaches, different experiences and different views; we will all have stories - sad and happy. We have shared experiences which I would like to have help bring everybody together - Mmmm now there's a plot for our December meeting !!!!! Would be very keen for us to do a shared 'show and tell' of how we achieved the impossible and how we coped through this extremely frightening and painful time.

Throughout it all we stayed sane, learnt new skills, we developed our garden, watched beautiful floral displays grow, new buds, birds or animals, new grandchildren, decorated the house, wrote poetry, decluttered - successfully or not, read that book, created new group on-line activities, or just sitting in the sun enjoying a cuppa or a tippie - whatever it is you are doing take photos and keep a diary!! You never know!!! 2020 is going to be a memorable year - in so many ways. In the mean time stay safe, stay indoors, don't touch your face, sing happy birthday - remember we are all in this together.

It's good to talk and perhaps the person you contact may be very happy to hear from you. It takes courage to acknowledge when we are struggling and even greater  
Page 10

courage to seek help. If you want to talk to someone pick up your phone and text or call someone within the U3A- via your groups etc.

Remember if you are really struggling with any aspect of our current situation there are many professional agencies available - many of which can be accessed via the U3A website.  
Love to you all for now  
Val xxx

### ***Woodside Walk 5 and Cycling***

Spring has sprung, the grass is riz, I wonder where the walkies is? (oh dear!). The daffodils are over now but the bluebells are in full bloom, so I hope you've all been making the most of them and have been recce'ing or at least planning your walks for the rest of the year. Anyhow, I'm hoping it won't be too long before we're back in full swing, in the meantime keep safe.  
Cheers  
Derryck Croker

### ***Quiz group***

As the Quiz Group is quite a large group with over 25 members, and not everyone is on WhatsApp, an email to members is my way of keeping in touch.

We would have been meeting for our monthly Quiz at Asda in April -

so on 11th April I sent out an email to all group members letting them know the situation. I included a picture quiz that I thought some might like to try. I also suggested that if anyone had an on-line Quiz they may like to share it with the group. I will probably send another message in May, once we know more about the situation concerning Social Distancing.

Very best wishes Sue (Brown)  
Contact for the Quiz Group

### *Inner Peace*

If you can start the day without  
caffeine,  
If you can always be cheerful,  
ignoring aches and pains,  
If you can resist complaining and  
boring people with your troubles,  
If you can eat the same food  
every day and be grateful for it,  
If you can understand when your  
loved ones are too busy to give you  
any time,  
If you can take criticism and blame  
without resentment,  
If you can conquer tension without  
medical help,  
If you can relax without alcohol,  
If you can sleep without the aid of  
drugs,  
Then You Are Probably

*The Family Dog!*

*Anon.*

### *Garden Visits Group*

We hope that you are all staying well and that you've been enjoying the good weather, even the rain is a welcome bonus for the parched gardens. Due to the ongoing crisis, the decision has been taken to postpone the visit to Pashley Manor and Merriments Gardens; we're hoping to be able to rearrange the visit for next year. Any refunds will be made at the next Woodside U3A meeting. Thanks for your understanding.

In case you missed the previous update, all Garden Group activities have now been postponed until the end of July, we will keep you updated on remaining trips for the year dependent on official guidance as the crisis unfolds.

In the meantime here are some sites that you may want to check out:

[newsletter@allotment-garden.org](mailto:newsletter@allotment-garden.org)

<https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/deals/gardeners-world/>

[info@gardenmuseum.org.uk](mailto:info@gardenmuseum.org.uk)

Many thanks to Linda W for sharing links with the group, if anyone has any other interesting

garden tips or relevant news that they wish to share, please reply to all.

Do take care everyone and stay safe.

Teresa & Linda x

### ***Beware Scams***

It would appear that there are some new scams being reported to the police related to the NHS and the Covid 19 virus. Below are the links, so that you can make yourself aware of these.

Attached is the Little Book of Scams, although not COVID-19 related, it does cover off the most common scams we are receiving. All scams you receive should be reported online to [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

The website also has useful information on the different scams, please take time to visit and study the advice given.

### **Download Associated Documents**

Documents accompanying this message are linked below. Click to download and open a file which use the popular PDF

format. If you experience problems downloading or viewing a file please [visit this help page](#).

[Little Book of Scams](#) (1023 KB)

If you need to reply regarding this message, tap on this email address:

[wlo@herts.pnn.police.uk](mailto:wlo@herts.pnn.police.uk)

### **Police Contact Advice:**

Telephone 999 in an emergency where there is a danger to life or a crime is in progress.

Telephone 101 for **non-emergencies** where police attendance is required, to report a crime or to report any other incidents. Calls to 101 have a fixed cost of 15p per call.

Alternatively, visit [www.herts.police.uk/contact](http://www.herts.police.uk/contact) to report a non-emergency crime online or chat to a police operator live via our web chat service.

If you are calling about the above, please tell us that you are responding to a message from OWL.

## *Tulips, Turbans and Squirrels*

It cannot be denied that the glorious and versatile Tulip is ubiquitous. Especially seen at this time of the year during the many Tulip festivals both here in Spalding, Holland and Turkey. Annually coach loads of visitors descend upon these locations to enjoy the breathtaking vista of the rainbow Tulip fields and gardens. What of the Tulips history and origins? Many of you reading this might already have an in-depth knowledge of the journey that the noble Tulip has taken, half way across the globe, back in the 10th century.

For those, like myself, who have not, let me tell you some of the story that has captured the imagination of nobility, poets, adventure writers and many others who have been enchanted by, what some think is, an exotic Springtime bloom.



Let's begin this 'rough guide', through millennia of time. The Tulip is a member of the auspicious Lily family and its name, so legend has it, derives from the Persian, Tulipa, meaning Turban. Certainly when one inspects the flower up close and personal the formations of its grand petals do resemble the noble Turban, worn extensively across many parts of Asia, Iran and Turkey. The origins of the Tulip are said to be the Tien Shan mountains in China and were recorded as being cultivated in Istanbul from 1055, some might argue even before then. As the plant grew in notoriety amongst the Ottoman Sultans and Sultanates it became a highly prized adornment for not only found in luxury gardens but as the symbol of both wealth and piety. Tulip in Turkish translates to 'Lale' from the Persian 'Laleh', which when written in Arabic contains the same letters as Allah. This is said to be the reason why the Tulip became not only a Holy symbol but also part of Turkish cultural heritage. The Tulip can be seen woven into the carpets that bedeck the floors of the Suleymaniye Mosque, known outside of present day Turkey as The Blue Mosque due to its impressive Iznik blue tiled interior.

20,000 of these ceramic tiles depict more than 50 breathtakingly different Tulip designs.

The Mosque gardens and the massive square leading to the Hagia Sophia, which was formally both a Cathedral and a Mosque, contain at least 10million tulips encased in flower beds surrounded by low level artisan wrought iron fencing that again has as a central feature the emblematic Tulip. One is enjoined to visit this frenzied Tulip season of celebration from March to April. Some of you may have already noticed if you have travelled by Turkish airlines that their tail emblem, is that of, you guessed it, the Tulip.

Before its arrival in Europe the Tulip was not only eulogised for its immense beauty but enshrined within the poetry and writing of both Rumi, the notorious Sufi poet along with Omar Kayam.



The Tulips arrival and its eventual spread across Europe occurred at some point during the 16th Century

and allegedly the Ambassador to Ferdinand 1st, one Oghier Ghislain de Busbecq, after being transfixed by the blooms, received the precious prized bulbs as a gift from the Court of Suleyman the Magnificent. The Netherlands wealthy merchants became not only enchanted by the Tulip but created, for a short period, what has to this day become known as 'Tulip Mania'. You may have seen the film of the same name that was released in 2017, that gives a great insight into the goings on of that period of Dutch history. This affair turned the bulb into a futures currency, with huge guilders being paid for one bulb, often valued at the equivalent of a grand of house. Eventually the government stepped in to curb the frenzied market in which the value of the bulb collapsed along with many fortunes being lost. However today the Tulip remains closely identified with the Netherlands, not only its wholesale production of bulb and thriving flower markets, but its propagation of new varieties of Tulips is a market leader throughout the world. Tourist trips to the glorious bulb fields are a yearly pilgrimage almost, for many people. The constellation of colours and varieties are magnificently breathtaking. Closer to home, we have had up until recently the

Lincolnshire, Spalding Tulip Parade' also known as the Tulip Manis festival. The festival has been held in May, since 1959 until 2013, when due to diminished numbers In attendance the local council sponsors decided to end the event. At its height more than 100,000 people would enjoy a wonder cultural day out. However it has been replaced by a Spring festival, since 2016. Spalding has a rich history of bulb growing; Tulips have been farmed there since 1907, later influenced by Dutch growers John and Leonard Van Geest, brothers who moved to Lincolnshire in the 1930's. Today Spalding still farms tulips but not on the same scale as 40yrs a go.



So, perhaps you are wondering why the title of this piece includes squirrels. Well, I am no aficionado of the noble Tulip, like many of you, I buy them, plant them to enjoy in the Spring, it's only this year that I have begun to wonder about the bulbs origins and why so many of my bulbs are appearing in random place

in my rather large garden. Well, I have researched a little of the tulips origins and history, but have had to draw my own conclusions about the odd places I am seeing tulips in my back yard. Safe to say, my thesis is this, given that some of these tulips are not varieties I have purchased, though some are. Sometime ago I was advised that potting tulips one needed to ensure they were not swiped by covering them, which I have done, for the past season. However it seems that the local squirrels who I am assured love Tulip bulbs, almost as much as the Dutch and the Ottomans, have not only dug up my own tulips and securely hidden them for later consumption, but must have dug up neighbours bulbs as well, and stored those in safe places here. Those that have survived, having not been found by the thieving scoundrel or eaten are now displayed in the vegetable patch, the wild border, my flower beds where none have been planted. Actually I am finding this odd-ball planting really delightful if not somewhat surprising. I have attached some photos of the specimens, not planted by me, I hasten to add.

Laila

**APRIL PHOTOGRAPHIC  
COMPETITION  
'HOME & GARDEN'**

In April we held our normal completion but due to the lockdown we had to make a few interesting changes.

We first all joined CLUSTER which is an APP that any group can join and keep all photos private. This enabled us to all send in our entry photos to Ken Cotton in the normal way and have them all displayed on Cluster such that all members and see them.

We normally have different themes for our photo competitions but the lockdown severely curtailed our outings so for our first virtual competition we chose the theme " Home & Garden " Therefore nobody had to leave their home in order to participate in this competition.

We had a full house of photos from our members and the standard and ingenuity was very high. All could have been worthy winners. All photos were displayed on our Cluster site anonymously with a number only. We then asked all members to email their secret vote to our independent arbiter Lesley Eldridge who is a U3A Woodside

member but not a photographic group member.

The big day came on 20<sup>th</sup> April when Lesley announced to all members the winning photograph.

The winner of our competition was Andrew Bynoe.



So our congratulations to Andrew for his superb photo taken in his back garden of a squirrel stealing the bird nuts.

We all enjoyed our competition and the use of "Cluster" was a good way for us all to keep in touch during these difficult times of lockdown.



*The winning photo - This is one very fat squirrel - must have visited the bird table many times!*

We are now preparing for our next virtual photo challenge but like everyone else we all hope it will not be too long before we can all meet up again.

Ken Jones  
U3A Photographic Group

## Interest Group News for April.

Firstly, I hope you are well and keeping safe.

As you can imagine there is very little Interest Group News, however, I sent an email requesting an update from group Contacts to those whom I have an email address, plus I contacted one or two by phone.

From those that replied to my request, it would seem that groups are keeping in touch with each other by WhatsApp or email. The French group are carrying on using Zoom and the Photography group are using Cluster and arranging competitions through this medium.

If you should have any news, or photos, please forward this to Jo.

Keep safe.

Bernice Caffrey  
Interest Group co-ordinator.

# WOODSIDE

## Interest Groups

### April 2020

Creative Writing: Contact Mary Miller on 07887 991892. Suspended at the moment, if members would like a new group please do.

Language (Spanish 2) Contact Alison Theobald on 01923 463573. Meeting every other Wednesday at 10am to 11am

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

American History. Contact Stewart Lewis on 01923 260410. Next meeting 25th February starting at 10.00am at Stewart's house.

Cycling; Contact Derryck Croker on 01923 673719 as times to be arranged

Line Dancing: Contact Judy Lovell 01923 893368 1 st and 3 rd Mondays. 10.15am and 11.15am If possible please attend the second class as the first class is full.  
Joint Group with SWH

Table Tennis: Contact John Simpson on 07531 542605. Fortnightly at 10,00am until Noon at YMCA Haines Way

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

Drama: Contact Barbara Elman barbaraelman@hotmail.com. Twice monthly Tuesday 11am and 12 Asda Community Suite.

Listening to Music: Contact Diane Reilly on 01923 261840. Meeting monthly on the 1st Tuesday afternoon at members homes

Trips by Coach  
Contact Martin Rodel on 01923 442417

Art: Contact Sue Walters on 07989 250483. Thursday, Fortnightly 10-12am, at Tanners Wood Hall.

Eastern Exercise: Contact Bernice Caffrey 01923 672359. Meeting 2 nd and 4 th Monday at 11.30 – 12.30 at All Saints Church Hall.

Lunch Group: Contact Joyce Gray on 01923 263213 or rejoyce.gray@gmail.com. Monthly

Ukelele: Contact Trevor Boardman on 01923 244016. Meet 1 st , 3rd and 5 th Thursday and 2 nd , 4 th and 5 th Wednesday at 2.00pm at Tesco Extra Watford Community Room. Joint SWH

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

Family History: Contact Bea Luffrum on 0771 1709039. Meeting monthly on the 1st Wednesday in the morning at members homes.

Philosophy – Contact Jeanne Johnson on 01923 263598 Meeting monthly 1 st Monday 2.00-4.00pm. Joint Group with SWH

Weekenders are a group of people who will participate in organising events and visits for the weekend. Contact Teresa 07712 710811

Board Games: Contact June Dyer on 01923 265229. Meeting Monday afternoons. Monthly at members

Flower Arrangement: Contact Jill Macey on 01923 221634. Meet monthly on a Friday at Asda

Photography: Contact Ken Jones on 01923264855. Meet monthly on the 2nd Monday at 2.0pm at members homes

Whist: Contact Gwen Barker on  
01923 510699 1st and 3rd  
Thursday 2pm-4pm Joint Group SWH

Books: Contact Libby Crawford on  
01923 247847. Meet 3rd Wednesday at  
10.30am

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

Play Reading for Fun: Contact  
Derek Giles on 01923 270971. 1st  
Monday 10-12 at Asda  
Joint Group with SWH

Woodside & SWH Pathfinders.  
Contact Patrick Turner on 01923  
263511 or 07954640263 for details  
of next meeting

Bowls (outside and indoor): Contact:  
Anne Howarth on 01923 673110

Garden Visits and Outings: Contact  
Teresa Brunswick on 07712 710811.  
Venue, days and time vary

Scrabble. Contact Christine Hunt  
on 01923 573236. Meeting the 1st  
Thursday of the month between  
2pm and 4pm. Venues member's  
home.

Woodside & SWH Striders.  
Contact Patrick Turner on 01923  
263511 or 07954640263 for details  
of next meeting

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

History for All : Contact Joyce  
Crawford on 07970271243.  
Meeting monthly on the 1st  
Thursday at 2.00-4.00 Venues vary

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

Woodside Strollers Contact  
Gloria Barber on 01923 462462 or  
mobile 07708 020583. Meeting  
monthly 2 nd Tues at 1pm

Curry Group: Contact Anne Mitchell  
on 01923 671662. Thursday – times  
and venue vary.

Language (French): Contact  
Heather Lace on 07951937064  
Fortnightly on Monday at 2.30pm at  
Members Houses.

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

Woodside Walk 5: Contact  
Derryck Croker on 01923 673719.  
Monthly morning meetings 2nd  
Wednesday

Crafters: Contact Janet Perry on  
01923 679844 or 07778056026.  
Meetings fortnightly on Monday  
evenings at 7.30 – 9.30pm.

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

Social Group: Contact Ken  
Emmons on 07775578091 or email  
kjemmons23@gmail.com contact or  
Joan Gillett jgillett43@gmail.com  
tel:07881768793 3rd Wednesday at  
1.30pm at Room 2 Asda  
Community Suite

Quiz Group. Contact Sue Brown  
on 01923 661516 or 07812840047.  
Monthly quizzes- dates and  
times vary - held at Asda  
Community Suite.

Yoga. Marta Hall. Meet at the  
Harebreaks Community Hub at  
10.00 – 11.00am. Weekly Fridays  
This group is a commercial  
group which we list for  
members.

## **WANTED:NEWS&PHOTOGRAPS**

suitable for publication please send  
to The Webmaster, Andrew  
Cummings at  
[andrew.cummingsu3a@btinternet.com](mailto:andrew.cummingsu3a@btinternet.com)

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

## **AND FOR THE NEWSLETTER**

**Copy date** for the May Issue of the  
Newsletter is 1<sup>st</sup> May

Send to Jo Bromwich, 01923  
443758 or email  
[jo.bromwich@ntlworld.com](mailto:jo.bromwich@ntlworld.com)

## **IMPORTANT CONTACT DETAILS**

[chair@woodsideu3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@woodsideu3a.org.uk)  
[membership@woodsideu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@woodsideu3a.org.uk)  
[webmaster@woodsideu3a.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@woodsideu3a.org.uk)  
[newsletter@woodsideu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@woodsideu3a.org.uk)