

WOODSIDE U3A NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2018

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>

Just when we thought there was a rise in temperature signalling winter was on the wane, up comes the arctic blast that arrived in early March, creating challenges both on an individual and national level. Was spring ever going to arrive? There remained early signs following the thaw, of primroses and snowdrops even my autumn planted broad beans have survived the below zero chills, such a hardy warrior of a vegetable.

In the past weeks we may have celebrated and even participated in events associated with spring with its symbol of renewal and birth. Women's Day of Prayer, International Women's Day and Mothering Sunday and as you read this we are already heading for Easter with its eternal message for Christians of hope and re-birth and of course Easter eggs.

When is spring's designated moment of arrival and what determines this event? This year the Spring Equinox, (equinox from the Latin 'aequus', meaning equal and 'nox' Meaning night) happens on the same day as our General meeting March 20th, where day and night are almost equal in time, due to the earth not tilting toward or away from the sun, but staying in equilibrium. Giving us twelve hours of light and dark, more or less. Equinox occurs twice a year; the next one is in September, different from Solstice that also visits us twice yearly heralding on 20/21st of June the longest day and in December during the same dates the shortest day.

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(and we've had more snow since Laila wrote this!
- Jo)



Laila, Chair

AGENDA FOR 20 MARCH

- 9.30 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS
- STUDY GROUPS SIGN UPS & BOOK SALES
- 10.00 BUSINESS MEETING
- 10.30 REFRESHMENTS
- 11.00 GUEST SPEAKER BRENDA SOUTHORN WITH GIVE A TALK ON GILBERT & SULLIVAN
- 11.45 ROUND-UP AND CLOSE

AT OUR MEETING ON 17 APRIL OUR SPEAKER WILL BE PAM WHITFIELD WITH A TALK ENTITLED 'TALES OF AN ANTIQUE DEALER'

YOUR COMMITTEE



Linda Williams Vice Chair



Ken Emmons

Social Secretary
01923 672139



Heather Newey Business Secretary



Diane Howarth

Refreshments Organiser
01923 264474
dianehowarth47@gmail.com



Lesley Cummings

Membership Secretary
01923 681478
lesley.scoble@btinternet.com



Sheila Ramsamy Speaker

Secretary
01923 510207
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Bernice Caffrey Study

Group Coordinator
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Ken Appel

Treasurer
01923 672620
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The Iranian Spring festival known as 'Nowruz' has been celebrated for over 3,000 years and is rooted in the ancient religion of Zoroastrianism. In Japan during this time, a Buddhist week of prayer known as 'Higan' begins, meaning the other shore, willing spirits to cross the river of existence to nirvana. On the 30th of March the Jewish festival of Passover (Pesach), having already celebrated Purim, begins to commemorate the deliverance of the Jewish people from slavery.

Globally, Earth-day is celebrated on April 22nd, with the reminder of our duty as stewards towards the preservation from pollution and destruction of our wonderful planet. This global event transcends nationality, race and religion as it urges all peoples to take care of our natural environments. The recent Blue Planet series on BBC left a profound message delivered by the genial David Attenborough asking what will be our legacy if we carry on filling the Oceans, Seas and Rivers with toxic plastic waste and chemicals.

For us here at Woodside U3A we may celebrate many of these festivals and religious events in the spirit of hope, rebirth and renewal and it is also our time to consider the renewal of our membership and how we may take Woodside through the next year with renewed energy and commitment.

This year, your committee would like to see the introduction of more study groups to add to our growing list of interests and activities. I am sure you will all agree that in order to keep our movement healthy and vibrant we need to retain

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your interest and motivation. Please let us have your ideas for study groups even if you do not feel able to start one yourself, we are here to support your ideas and make them happen where possible.

I wish you all Springtime Greetings however you may celebrate, with of course lots chocolate eggs.....

Laila
Chair

Refreshment Rota

20 March - LUNCH GROUP and PHOTOGRAPHY

17 April - LISTENING TO MUSIC and LOCAL HISTORY

15 May - SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY and SINGLES LUNCH GROUP

Committee meeting news

March 7th Woodside U3A Committee Update

The meeting welcomed Sylvia from the Creative Writing study group as part of our ongoing programme to be open and transparent with members in our committee work. Anyone wishing to attend as an ex-officio guest please let Bernice, Study Group co-ordinator know. The committee put the final touches to the renewal process that takes place at this month's GM; we also updated on the planning for the June Woodside AGM. It is disappointing to report that despite all the planning by our Membership secretary for the First Aid Course with St. Johns Ambulance (SJA), on the day despite participants and the trainer turning out on a bitterly cold day the person responsible for unlocking the venue did not turn up.

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The committee have made a formal complaint to SJA and are currently seeking a further training date on a Monday. In compensation they will refund our fee and provide a free training for Woodside U3A.

Our treasurer reported that Auditors have been appointed to produce financial statement at the close of our financial year 30th March with a report ready for the June AGM.

Our Business secretary has been continuing her scoping exercise of gathering information regarding future suitable meeting venues.

Chair reported she had spoken to the contact person at The Church of the Nazarene regarding last month's fiasco where 'fire doors were not unlocked'.

Assured this won't happen again.

Plans for the April meeting were discussed and it was thought members might want to come wearing Easter Bonnets or Caps for fun, totally optional of course.

It is possible our speaker booked for this month (March) may not be able to make it; contingency for this were agreed.

Woodside U3A currently has 211 members, but after renewals we will have a clearer update how membership is developing and if we need to advertise. The meeting thanked Jo Bromwich for her sterling work producing our newsletter and all agreed the new format was a real treat.

Laila

A Morning with the Executive Committee

On the 6th March, by invitation, I attended the monthly meeting of the Executive Committee as a representative of the Creative Writing Group.

In a relaxed atmosphere, helped by Ken's coffee and biscuits, the committee was led through a full agenda by our able and organised chairperson, Laila. Everyone's opinion was valued and committee members were given the opportunity to raise points relating to their area of responsibility. Planning strategies were priority; short-term planning for the forthcoming hectic day of membership renewals and longer-term planning for possible events at Easter, in the summer and even Christmas! As well as that, there were attendances at regional and national conferences and participation in a first aid seminar to discuss plus lots more. It quickly became apparent to me how each member of the team is professional and hard-working, freely giving up a lot of time to ensure that Woodside U3A thrives and runs smoothly.

I think that the initiative of inviting a group study leader or representative to attend a monthly meeting is an excellent idea as then ordinary members can experience first-hand what goes on behind the scenes and just how the committee's energy, dedication and team work combine to make Woodside U3A successful.

Sylvia Pert

Our **August speaker** has been cancelled as we cannot have our usual venue. Dr Wise has been rebooked for January 2019.

How Woodside U3A Subs are used

As we move towards membership renewals I thought it would be appropriate to remind members how subs are used throughout the financial year.

All monies collected through subs, book sales or fund raising are specifically used for the benefit of all Woodside U3As members. A portion of your subs are paid to our National Third Aid Trust (TAT) as a capitation fee per member. Your subs also include a copy of Third Age Matters our quarterly journal. The remaining subs pay for the following:-

1. refreshments at each monthly meeting and special events like Christmas and our Annual General Meeting
2. hire of the venue for monthly general and twice yearly study group leaders meetings
3. delegates attending TAT AGM,
4. cost of speakers and sound equipment
5. plus incidental costs as designated by your elected committee for the benefit of Woodside U3A members.

Our governance of finances is audited annually and yearly statement of accounts is provided at each Woodside AGM in June where members are encouraged to ask questions concerning expenditure.

This year 2018/19 subs will remain at £24.00 . U3As that have lower subs generally have much larger membership and therefore can spread costs.

Laila

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

Last month we had a talk by the fire brigade, and this month it was the turn of the police - or rather a former policeman of some 30 years service. Mervyn Edwards started his talk by explaining the 'ABC - XYZ' of public speaking ie 'Always be clear - examine your zip'. He had a varied career as a fire arms specialist, on counter-terrorist duty,

Royal and PM protection, and final job as Chief Superintendent in charge of operations for the whole force (which not only includes police men and women but also dogs, horses, helicopters, underwater searches.



Mervyn warned us that not all speed cameras were live at the moment even if they flash but all were going digital so every camera will be recording very soon.

The main part of his talk was about the policing of the building site that was to become the Newbury Bypass. It was his responsibility, as Operation Commander, to ensure that any protesters did not hold up the construction for long. They were protesting against the felling of 10,000+ trees, destroying areas of SSSI (plants, badgers, birds, bats, snakes, insects) and the desecration of archeological sites - a Stone Age village took 3 months to be moved to safety - and the bypass went through the 1644 battlefield of the 2nd Battle of Newbury. He explained that 150-200 protesters were permanent residents but were joined by 300 daily supporters and 6-7,000 at weekends. The majority of the protesters were peaceful but a handful were hardcore violent troublemakers. The protesters lived in camps and in trees, wearing various devices to attach themselves to trees and the ground. The police used cherrypickers to remove them from the trees but had to do this from above to prevent themselves being hurt by thrown tins of baked beans!

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WOODSIDE STUDY GROUPS

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.

Ballroom Dancing: Contact Vera Pickering on 01923 269733. 2nd and 4th Mondays, 2-4pm
Joint Group with SWH

Board Games: Contact June Dyer on 01923 265229. Meet 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. This group starts again in May.

Bridge: Contact Anita Gullis on 07983 606049. Monthly on the 1st Wednesday at 2.00 to 4.30p at Asda Community Hall, The Dome, Watford

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

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

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

Creative Writing: Contact Anne Davison on 01923 269548. Monthly meetings 4th Tuesday at 11.00am

Cycling: Contact Derryck Croker on 01923 673719

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*

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

History: Contact Alison Williams on 01923 679819. Meeting monthly on the 4th Thursday at 2.30-4.30 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. 1st and 3rd Monday at St Hilda's Room, All Saints Church Hall at 1.30 to 2.30pm

Line Dancing: Vera Pickering on 01923 269733.
1st and 3rd 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 1st
Tuesday afternoon at members homes

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

Lunch Group: Contact Joyce Gray on 01923
263213 or rejoyce.gray@gmail.com. Monthly
4th Wednesday. Venues vary

Philosophy - Contact Jeanne Johnson on 01923
263598

Meeting monthly 1st Monday 2.00-4.00pm
Joint Group with SWH

Photography: Contact Ken Jones on 01923
264855. Meeting monthly on the 2nd Monday at
2.0pm at members homes

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

Science and Technology: Contact Elizabeth
Gradkowska on 01923 239829. Meeting 2nd
Tuesday at 10.30am.

Singles Lunch Group: Contact John Lane on
01923 672479.
Meet 1st Tuesday of the month.

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

Table Tennis: Contact John Simpson on 07531
542605. As from April 12th 2018 Fortnightly
10.00a.m. to Noon YMCA Haines Way

Coach Trips: Contact Martin Rodel on 01923
442417

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

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

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 meetings at
a local hostelry to join in quiz as a team(s).

STUDY GROUP NEWS

Evening trip

To the Bayfordbury Astronomical Observatory near Hatfield on Thursday 22 March. There are several very large telescopes to view the galaxy, and is a guided tour of about two hours. Car sharing at 6pm, please stand immediately outside the Vue Cinema doors, after parking your vehicle. This is to ensure everyone who is going on this trip can be recognised and checked off.

Garden Group visit



The Garden Group went to see the lovely display of snowdrops and enjoy the beautiful grounds at Benington Lordship Gardens last month. This was followed by a pub lunch in the village. An enjoyable visit as you can see in the photographs.



NEW PROJECT FOR CRAFTERS

Following our last successful venture (Tea cosies), which raised £220.00 for Alzheimer's Research, thanks to you all for participating, Woodside Crafters were looking for a new challenge. A visit to our meeting from a staff member of 'Victim Support' has given us a new impetus.

We heard how victims of domestic violence, stalking, cyber violence and controlling behaviour, were "snatched" by Police (usually women with children in tow) and taken to a safe house when circumstances led them to believe lives were in danger.

There is usually such a 'small window of opportunity' to escape that victims are forced to leave all their possession behind. We heard how Police advise taking only Passports, Bank Details, Birth Certificates and any other relevant paperwork. This means that they arrive at the Safe House with nothing but the clothes they stand up in. Children also have to leave everything familiar to them including any toys that they may have. This has highlighted a situation that we may have been aware of but not focused on. Our guest emphasised that money was not a priority; they need goods that can be given immediately. Therefore our next project is to produce blankets, children's toys, toiletries and any other luxuries that we take for granted, in order to bring a little warmth into some very sad lives.

I believe I speak for all the Crafters when I say that it made us aware of just how blessed we are.



That's Entertainment 2018

It has been agreed by the respective Chairs and Study Group Co-ordinators that our SW Herts Revue this year should be produced in conjunction with Woodside U3A. It will be held on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 29th 30th November at 6.30 pm with a matinee performance on Saturday 1st December at 3.00 pm at The Henderson Hub in Abbots Langley.

Brenda Southorn and Brian Dorsett-Bailey will soon be considering their cast and helpers and if you wish to be involved in anyway please sign up at the Study Group Co-ordinators Table or contact Brian at briand_b@hotmail.co.uk or 01923 447422 We have booked The Hub for the whole week and we expect to hold final technical rehearsals on the Monday/Tuesday with a full Dress Rehearsal on Wednesday afternoon 28th November. We propose to start rehearsals and selling tickets during September. This is early information but it would be appreciated if you could sign up as soon as possible as this will assist in the detailed planning of the show!

Brenda



Woodside Walk 5

Sheltering from a biting wind in the lee of a hedge near Sarratt, Derryck and his dames, AKA Woodside Walk 5, have a welcome break.

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The **Social Group's** visit to Elstree/Borehamwood Museum was a worth while visit. Although a small museum a lot of interesting subjects to see. Staff made us welcome and answered any questions we put to them. Because of the cold weather we all enjoyed hot beverage and a sandwich after the visit.

Joan



Change of **Table Tennis** Meeting

As from April 12th 2018 Fortnightly 10.00a.m. to Noon YMCA Haines Way

Watford Park U3A has a **swimming group** which they are now opening to other U3As in the Watford area. Would any Woodside members be interested?

Watford Park Swimming group meets at Watford Central Baths every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8.30am to 10.00am. Members are welcome to come along as often as they wish for a sociable swim with U3A members from all around the Watford area. If you are interested contact Malcolm Robb (malzac_2003@yahoo.com)

The Garden Group's next trip is planned for 24th April, an afternoon visit to Kathy Brown's Garden, Stevington. Teresa will need to firm up on numbers beforehand, please contact Teresa or reply to the group email by 17th April.

Linda

The Art Group together with SWHerts U3A Art Group was treated to a special teaching session with professional artist Nicky Bell.



Water colours were used to paint the eagle



Nicky shows how to get the texture of the eagle's feathers.

Badminton is now a joint group with SWHerts

Whist group require two more members.

Knit & Natter huddle at next General Meeting.

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**A poem by Libby
From the Creative Writing Group**

It was a cold day
Icicles hung like stalactites
From the balcony roof above.
The carpet spread beneath her
Whiter than any dove.

She tiptoes cautiously
Breaking through
The surface that sparkled bright.
What had happened to the world
she knew
During one sleepy night?

Where the green grass? The
leafless trees?
Now shrouded in sleeves of white.
The sounds of day
Now muffled, at bay
As cold in her paws began to bite.

Libby



Photograph of a bumble bee by our Study Group

Our Woodside U3A will be taking part in the **Abbots Langley Festival** for the first time which runs during June & July. Our meeting on 17 July will be an opportunity for people to visit us and see what we are about. As with all visitors there will be a £1 entrance fee. The festival Event Guide will be distributed to 6,000 homes in the area so giving us wide publicity for nothing.

The Crafters raised an amazing £220 on their tea cosy tombola for Alzheimer Research UK.

Below: Two of the lucky winners Pam and Beryl.



Social Group Events

MARCH 31st - BENTLEY PRIORY

Admission £7.70. Guided tour or self guided tour.

Parking free. Disabled parking. Cafeteria.

Meet at Woodside Leisure Park (Vue).

At 1pm. Car sharing

APRIL 24th - KNEBWORTH

HOUSE/GARDEN

Admission £13.00. Senior £12.50

Parking free. Restaurant/picnic area/ Snacks available.

Disabled access.

Meet at Woodside Leisure Park. (Vue).

At 10am. Car sharing.

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MAY 1st - St.ALBANS MUSEUM/PARK
Visit museum. Hypocaust. Roman Mosaic Floor. Remains of the Roman Wall. Visit to the Waffle House.

Full details apply to the email address jgillet43@gmail.com

Joan

When taking photographs for the newsletter, please make sure all those in the photograph agree that they are happy to have their photograph published. Sadly some people in any community have a need to keep their identity or whereabouts private for fear of violence. I have no idea if this is relevant to anyone at Woodside U3A but just in case please ask. Jo

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When work started on the Newbury Bypass no one knew that one special tiny creature would cause delay. It was discovered that the very rare Desmoulin's Whorl snail was living in the path of the road. As a protected species a court injunction granted that all work should stop, the snails and their habitat be moved to a new safe home which had to include a large pond. Fortunately the Highways Agency owned land suitable and over the next three months the habitat and the snails were moved - at a cost of £500,000. The shell of this snail measures just 3mm.



Police remove protesters from trees.

**Woodside U3A
OUT & ABOUT**

Wednesday 9th May

Take a trip back in time to

The bluebell railway and

**See the carpets of Bluebells as you
travel the line**

Travel and rail trip (1hour 45 mins) costs
£26 inclusive.

Martin, trip organiser, says ' we will have
ample time to purchase refreshments at
Sheffield Park or on the train or at the
Bessemer Arms (for something a little
stronger!) We will also have time to visit
the Museum on platform 2 telling the
story of the Bluebell Railway with many
artifacts.

Depart The Brow Bus stop 9.00am

Return approx. 6.30pm

Please make cheques payable to:
Woodside U3A

Contact Martin on 01923 442417 or
07855 666 900
For more details.

Upcoming trips:

13 June - The Cotswolds

4 July - Eastbourne

15 August - Swanage

Christmas Market in Winchester

Date to be advised.

Copy date for the April Issue of the
Newsletter is 5th April.

Or the 1st Tuesday of any month (two
weeks before the General Meeting)

We are looking forward to receiving your
news.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please make contact with Woodside or
other U3A groups before turning up to
ensure that they have spare places.

Some group visits may have a limit on
numbers so contact group leaders on the
STUDY GROUP Page before the event.

MARCH 2018

20TH Tuesday - GENERAL MEETING

31st March - BENTLEY PRIORY

APRIL 2018

17TH Tuesday - GENERAL MEETING

24TH April - Visit to Kath Brown's garden
at Stevington

24th April - KNEBWORTH
HOUSE/GARDEN with Social Group

WANTED:

NEWS & PHOTOGRAPHS

If Study Group Leaders or Woodside U3A
members have any information about
events or 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

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

IMPORTANT CONTACT DETAILS

chair@woodsidesu3a.org.uk
membership@woodsidesu3a.org.uk
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newsletter@woodsidesu3a.org.uk

If you are unable to attend our Tuesday
General Meetings, our monthly
newsletter is now available in full on line
<https://u3asites.org.uk/woodside>