

WOODSIDE U3A NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2020

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>



Here we are, already - welcome to January 2020, a new year and another decade. As we at Woodside U3A move successfully into our third year, I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a belated Happy and Healthy New Year. A year that I hope will be full of Learning, Laughter and the Joy of Living. Our 3rd Birthday celebration today, during the coffee break, serve as a reminder that the efforts of all within Woodside U3A act to make our movement welcoming and a rewarding organisation to be a part of, continuing as it does within the values and ethos of our founders some 25 years ago. U3A according to the latest National office estimates comprises 1,046 local U3As across United Kingdom with over 439,000 members. One of the largest, if not the, largest movement of citizens in our demographic, growing in strength and numbers.

Continued on page 3



Laila, Chair

AGENDA FOR 21 JANUARY
9.30 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS
INTEREST GROUPS & BOOK
VISITS
10.00 BUSINESS MEETING
10.15 REFRESHMENTS
10.45 OUR SPEAKER IS ALEX
PATERSON WITH A TALK
ENTITLED 'ENERGY FOR LIFE'
11.45 ROUND-UP AND CLOSE

OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON 18
FEBRUARY 2020
OUR SPEAKER WILL BE PHILIPPA
BERNARD WITH A TALK
ENTITLED 'ENGLISH GARDENS'

YOUR COMMITTEE



Linda Williams Vice Chair



Lesley Cummings
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Barbara Elman business secretary
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Heather Lace Committee
member



Alison Theobald Committee
member

Continued from front page

We can all be proud of our membership, not only superb value for money in this day and age, you can't buy a barrister coffee for £2.00 a month. Monetary details aside, to my mind, the greatest achievement of all is that U3A brings diverse groups of people together in friendship for fun learning in the knowledge every one of us is a part of a National family that relies upon its own skills, enthusiasm and funding that allows U3A to remain independent with accountable oversight. So many of our Woodside members over the past 3 years have let me know how being a member has encouraged them to participate in activities and interest groups that are new to them. Some have said they are reclaiming old interests that work demands and early family commitments meant they could not fully explore or spend time on. Others have felt that the severe impact of bereavement has been ameliorated by joining such a friendly and open organisation. Our own National U3A research that was presented to Government, highlighted one of the major areas that our movement has an impact is the reduction of loneliness and isolation, that can often present itself as life and lives undergo change in the third age. Whatever the reasons for discovering us, we

are pleased and proud of each other and our achievements.

Woodside executive committee is always keen to hear from members who have ideas for positive ways in which we can, along with you, improve the membership experience. We welcome suggestions for interest groups and want to encourage expansion by adding more groups with members keen to participate at contact people.

Already all existing interest groups will have some plans for further exploration of topic areas alongside a host of trips to places of interest offering new learning and social opportunities. Following today's General meeting there will be a gathering of Interest Group contact people, where your committee hopes to hear how groups are thriving and what issues have arisen over the last few months that need further clarification or discussion. I sincerely hope as many Group contact people can attend. I look forward to meeting with you as does Bernice our Interest Group Lead on the committee.

As those of you who attended the December General Meeting Social event are aware, I was unable to

attend due to illness. From all information passed to me it must have been the best Christmas social so far. I know a huge amount of effort was expended to bring this production to everyone, with massive inclusion of all members, fortunate enough to attend. My thanks go to all whose brainchild this magnificent (I am assured it was) romp through Panto-like Fairytales, including props, costumes, choirs and community singing. I am deeply disappointed that I missed my one chance of fame as a Wanabee-soldier, (Nutcracker Narrator), but alas I missed my opportunity of 15 minutes of fame. Everyone had a jolly time, along with a brain teasing quiz and festive food during the coffee break. I wonder who has worked out all 20 anagrams without reference to computer search engines.....be honest now?

As we move further into-mid winter I am reminded of that beautiful poem by the British poet Christina Rossetti, which was written by her in 1872 and published in the American magazine, Scribner's Monthly. Published the original title 'A Christmas Carol'. It was not until 1906 that Gustav Holst set the work to poignant music, and the poem became known by the title of, 'In the Bleak Mid-winter',

Page 4

thereafter becoming one of the nations favourite and most descriptive carols. Rossetti was the youngest child of equally talented parents and siblings. The first few lines of the poem/ carol set the scene that many of us identify as an evocation of the coldest days of winter, capturing as it does the taunted starkness, from which emerges the Christmas story and the possibilities of hope and redemption.

'In the bleak mid-winter
Frost wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone'

Rossetti was a prolific writer, amongst her other Works is 'Goblin Market' her 'Complete Poems', runs to over 1,000 pages, a challenge for any poetry lover. Steely stoicism is the key signifier we find in her work, influencing later poets like Larkin, Manley Hopkins and others. Here in mid-winter we will soon turn the corner of Rossetti's bleak imagery knowing that Spring will soon arrive to liberate us from the whatever the remainder of Winter has in store for most of us here in the Northern Hemisphere.

Finally all being well, I will be journeying to Mauritius to spend valuable time with my daughter and granddaughters, from February to the end of April. Linda Williams,

our deputy chair will be leading the Committee Meetings and General Meetings during my family break. I will write for the newsletter as usual and hope to share aspects of Mauritian life and any other thoughts that come to mind while away.

All Good wishes to you all.

Laila Chair

New Chair required by June

In Accordance with National U3A and Charity Commission Rules Woodside U3A must elect a Chair when the incumbent Chairs term of office (3 years as specified in Woodside U3A Constitution) ends at the June 2020 AGM.

In order to encourage the recruitment of a new Chair either from the existing Executive Committee or from the floor of the membership, I have set out the main criteria within the following Job Description/Role.

Though every chairperson brings their own unique management style to the role certain of the below functions and tasks are essential and require a certain level of skill and some, no matter how small, past experience of chairing meetings.

I am very happy to talk those who are interested, about the role of Chair, which is not, I must emphasise, as difficult as it might

seem. Woodside U3A has an experienced Executive committee that will support a new Chair. I am happy to do a full handover and offer the benefit of my experience for the well being of Woodside U3A.

Description/Role in no specific order.

Function

* Chairs/Sets / Distributes agenda for Monthly executive committee meetings.

* Chairs agrees Monthly General Meeting Agenda and Leads business meeting

* Leads Preparations and Chairs AGM

* Oversees and ensures Woodside U3A finances are managed efficiently and effectively to yearly Audit

* Manages all meetings with equity enabling all voices to be heard.

* Maintains Good time management

* Own our mistakes, offers support and help where needed to Executive Committee Tasks

* Uphold U3A Objectives/Purpose

* Ensure correct National U3A policies /procedures are followed.

* Assist, in the development, implementation and review of local policy pertinent to Woodside U3A.

* Inducts new executive committee members.

* Upholds Executive committee code of conduct and that of the membership.

* Acts as link person to National U3A.

* Supports executive committee attendance at local and regional U3A meetings and events.

Additional Roles undertaken by current Chair (not essential)

* Writes Editorial for Monthly Woodside U3A Newsletter
Laila, chair

Refreshment rota 2020

February - badminton and board games

March - Books and Bowls

April - curry group and creative writing

May - crafters and cycling

June - drama and family history

July - environmental and flower arranging

Page 6



Interest Group News

HAPPY NEW YEAR

I am pleased to say the American History Group is to start again on Tuesday 25th February and will be lead by Stewart Lewis. The subjects that will be included are when the next President is elected. Details on the Interest Group page.

Unfortunately, the Jewellery Group is being suspended for the time being, but hopefully it will start again early in the New Year.

Once again there are two "huddles" at this general meeting, namely Current Affairs and Computer Studies. Unfortunately, unless we are able to agree contacts for these groups they are unable to proceed. Firstly, I would suggest that you arrange to meet over a coffee and discuss what you would like to do.

It has been suggested that we have a Science and Technology group. This could include such items as how to get the full benefit of a smart phone. Please let me know if you are interested in such a group.

If you are interested in attending one of our monthly committee meetings (very informal in someone's home) please let me know.

Bernice Caffrey
IGC

***Answers to Christmas anagrams
(for those who did not use the internet to get the answers!!!)***

Christmas anagrams

1. CONGRESS LIAR(5,7)
Carol singers
2. CAN ASSAULT(5,5)
Santa Claus
3. REFRESHED ERUDITE
LONDONER (6,3,3,4,8)
*Rudolf the red nosed
reindeer*
4. DRASTIC CHARMS (9,4)
Christmas card
5. IN THE GLINTS (6,5)
Silent night

6. ENJOY MAD SHARP (4,3,6)
Mary and Joseph
7. UNREADY CABS (6,5)
Brandy sauce
8. GAP PAWN RIPPER(8,5)
Wrapping paper
9. I'M A POET MADMAN(9,4)
Pantomime dame
10. SMART HERETICS(9,4)
Christmas tree
11. OFF THE SANE PEST(5,2,7)
Feast of Stephen
12. IN ACTION SLASH(5,8)
Saint Nicholas
13. VICARS THEMES(9,3)
Chrstmas eve
14. HONESTY WARMS
FONT(6,3,7)
Frosty the snowman
15. TINY PAY VITAL (8,4)
Nativity play
16. ROBUST SPURLESS (7,7)
Brussel sprouts
17. STREAKY ROUT (5,6)
Roast turkey
18. MUDDLING PUP (4,7)
Plum pudding
19. WITH FT LENGTH (7,5)
Twelth night
20. BE THE HELM (9)
Bethlehem

WOODSIDE

Interest Groups

January 2020

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

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

Art: Contact Sue Walters on 07989 250 483. 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 2nd and 4th Monday at 11.30 – 12.30 at All Saints Church Hall.

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

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

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

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.

Creative Writing: Contact Mary Miller on 07887 991892. Meeting 3rd Tues of the month at 2.30pm until 4.00pm

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

Drama: Contact Barbara Elman barbaraelman@hotmail.com. meeting twice a month on Tuesday between 11am and 12 at Asda Community Suite. Meetings start 14th January 2020.

Environmental Group. Contact Laila Namdarkhan on 01923 269388. Times and venues to be confirmed

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

Flower Arrangement: Contact Jill Macey on 01923 221634. Meet monthly on a Friday at Asda Community Suite. *Joint Group with SWH*

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

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

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

Jewellery: Contact Gloria Barber on 01923 462462 or 077082058, This group is suspended for the time being

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

Language (Spanish): Contact Carol Stanton on 01923 676471. 1st and 3rd Monday at St Hilda's Room, All Saints Church Hall at 1.30 to 2.30pm

Language (Spanish 2) Contact Alison Theobald on 01923 463573. Meeting every other Wednesday at 10am to 11am starting from the 20th June.

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

Joint Group with SWH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Social Group: Contact Ken Emmons on 01923 672139 or email kjemmons23@gmail.com or Joan Gillett jgillett43@gmail.com 3rd Wednesday at 1.30pm at Room 2 Asda Community Suite

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

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

Trips by Coach
Contact Martin Rodel on 01923 442417

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yoga. Contact Marta Hall. Meet at the Harebreaks Community Hub at 10.00 – 11.00am.
Weekly Fridays

Christmas Extravaganza!

Over 100 Members attended the pre - Christmas general meeting on 17 December with the doors opening a little earlier than usual. Unfortunately, our Chair Laila was too unwell to be there but impeccably, including warning us of impending surprises and maybe a little chaos!

Once we were seated at round tables in the main hall the festivities started with Sue posing the questions in the now traditional Christmas quiz compiled by the quiz group, with photos for the picture round from the photography group.



By now a number of fairies could also be sighted in the hall - but only on foot - we wondered if there was another summit at The Grove imposing a further temporary flight restriction? The welcome refreshment break then arrived with drinks and seasonal bites brought to us by more helpers. Intriguingly during this break, the ringing of a bell resulted in the disappearance of several people from each table to prepare for the main

Page 10

entertainment. This was followed, even more mysteriously, by the arrival at our tables of several packages of varying sizes which when unwrapped revealed a whole series of well-crafted thought-provoking props.



We were shortly re-joined by our missing friends now dressed in marvellous costumes as a variety of pantomime and story book characters, in our case Dick Whittington complete with stick, bundle and of course boots, accompanied, as you might expect, by a splendid black and white cat.

The performance itself now started with an equally traditional Christmas event - two children squabbling over a present! - in this instance a nutcracker soldier doll which they managed to break.



From then on however, reality disappeared as we were taken to a land of fantasy signalled by a toy maker (who also doubles as our Treasurer) promising to repair the doll and indeed, miraculously succeeding. The newly reconstituted Toy Soldier then took on the role of narrator, issuing invitations to a party before spelling out a tale featuring virtually all the pantomime characters you could think of.



In true panto style the story was helped along throughout by well - known songs with seasonal or local variations, performed by the ever popular Ady and the Shedettes and including some notable solos.

Steadfastly refusing to be put off by a series of amusing interventions from the rival "Voice of Doom" our narrator introduced us in rapid succession to the characters, each taking their turn in vignette performances revealing not only dramatic talent but above all the huge

sense of fun and enjoyment of all those taking part.

After first meeting an environmentally aware Cinderella, the Cat duly set off for London and once reunited there with Dick, they encountered Aladdin and Jasmine.



This pair immediately demonstrated that any earlier flight restriction was no longer in place by whisking their new friends off on what I can only describe as an "Axminster Uber" (yes, Voice of Doom, I know - other carpets and modes of transport are indeed available).

Very soon the travellers and audience had met amongst others: Hansel and Gretel; Robin Hood with some very Merry men and a fierce

sounding Sheriff of Woodside; Jack ascending a spectacular extending bean stalk; Snow White and her seven companions - in the shape of puppets; Little Red Riding Hood and hungry wolf; Dorothy with her Land of Oz friends and foes including a superbly constructed Tinman; the luxuriantly moustachioed Mr Gepetto and Pinocchio; and Goldilocks along with the Bears and their porridge.



After all these various adventures I'm delighted to report that the story concluded as happily as we would hope, with the traditional ballroom party scene, and our morning was brought to an end by the rousing mass singing of a specially written "Twelve days of Panto" (see December's newsletter) followed by the carol Silent Night.



Judging by the smiling faces and laughter around the room (not least from the performers!) the 2019 Woodside U3A Christmas celebration was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. Apologies that I've not been able to make specific mention of everyone but a big thank you and congratulations to all of you who contributed in any way - whether in preparation behind the scenes, or on the morning itself.



In particular of course, thanks to Val who devised, scripted, recruited the cast, and generally organised the whole event - all done so well that it looks like a huge challenge for future festive extravaganzas to match it..... or do I hear confident cries for 2020 of "Oh no, it doesn't"???

Roland

Our Barbara- aka Babs the Fairy Godmother as above - had a little incident shortly after Christmas but like all good fairies help was at hand !!

Her daughter wrote this for her.

Ode to Christmas magic

It was the day just after Boxing day,
and Barbs was in her car;

She'd dropped her son off with his
bags, and hadn't gone that far.....

When suddenly she heard a bang,
and looked up to the sky,

In time to see (with quite alarm),
her exhaust go flying by!!

And so, she waited patiently, her
car parked on the side

And thought 'If Santa's flying near,
he'd offer me a ride!'

A friendly policeman came along,
'Allo! Allo! Allo!

I've got a nice warm blanket here,
in case it starts to snow'.

But Barbs is made of sterner stuff,
she said 'I'll be alright,

(But maybe come back with some tea,
if I stay here all night)!

Then up ahead some light appeared,
'Perhaps it's Santa's Sleigh?'

It was in fact the RAC, to help her
on her way!

The man was jolly - dressed in red,
he said 'It's not that tragic,
I'll get you on your way real soon
with rope and Christmas magic'!!!!

Bowls group

Bowls meet weekly at Garston - indoor in winter and outdoor in summer. Great fun with lots of laughter despite the seriousness of each team!!!



Who wins - often we don't know as we chat and laugh so much the score doesn't matter - however there's lots of encouragement by both teams. Indoor bowls has a large 'cheese' that we have to avoid in order to reach the Jack.

As you can see we like a bit of reality!!!!



Celebrating Christmas was with an amazing spread provided by Anne who facilitated our playing at the Club. Thank you Anne - we all had a great time. Val

Quiz Group

The next quiz will be held on Thursday 23rd January at Asda Community Room 3 from 6.30 - 8.00 pm .

Many Thanks
Sue

Walking Book Group



A photo of Libby's book group - where some met in The Royal Oak Abbots Langley for a really great Christmas lunch following a walk on 18th December. The recommendation of the book to read for December was *Skipping Christmas* by John Grisham .

Christmas Lunch in Bushey

Our Christmas lunch at Blue Check restaurant was enjoyed again by all members who attended, plenty of good food



plus a big raffle. An amazing £245 was raised for Herts and Essex Air Ambulance.



Good company at the Christmas lunch

Bus stop in lay by at Orbital Road, Watford

Social Group events.

Please note that all social events must be paid for at the time of booking at the Social Group Table

GLADSTONE POTTERY
WEDNESDAY 5th FEBRUARY
Meet at Top of Greenwood Drive/North Approach Bus stop in layby Nth Orbital Road Watford at 9am travel by Coach

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM
Entrance free
MONDAY 2nd MARCH
Coach payment only



Art Group

Before Christmas the Art Group were given a 'master class' in watercolour painting by professional artist Nicky Bell. She began by showing the group how to break down the different shapes of her chosen subject, a colourful pheasant.



She used a pencil to create simple circles, triangles and ovals to get the basic shape. These were then brought together with smooth lines giving the outline of her bird.



A great deal of concentration was required - Bernice and Lesley sketching their pheasants



Nicky was there to help and advise

Watercolours were then applied to bring 'life' to the pheasants. Each pheasant had a different personality.



Nicky with her finished colourful pheasant



Three members of the art group at the recent art display: Graham, Judith and Sue (group leader)

Speakers and their topics for 2020

1	21 January	Speaker: Alex Paterson Topic: Energy for Life
2	18 February	Speaker: Philippa Bernard Topic: The English Gardens
3	17 March	Speaker: Steve Lester Topic: The Titanic
4	21 April	Speaker: James Taylor Topic: Pictures Postcards 1840-1950
5	19 May	Speaker: Alan Mordey Topic: Cyber Crime/Fraud Prevention
6	16 June	No Speaker-AGM
7	21 July	Speaker: Khloe Ebanks Topic: Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH)
8	August	No Speaker Picnic
9	15 September	Speaker: Roger Yapp Topic: Back to the Front
10	20 October	Speaker: Paul Rabbitts Topic: The Decline and Revival of Bandstands
11	17 November	Speaker: John Pearson T: Blessed are the Cheesemakers
12	December	No Speaker-Xmas



SOCIAL GROUP ACTIVITIES

In the New Year all trips will have to be paid for at time of booking to secure your place. Remember to bring a cheque book or cash if you wish to join the trip.

WANTED:

NEWS&PHOTOGRAPHS

suitable for publication please send to The Webmaster, Andrew Cummings at

andrew.cummingsu3a@btinternet.com

The newsletter is available in full online

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

AND FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Copy date for the February Issue of the Newsletter is 1st February.

Send to Jo Bromwich, 01923 443758 or email

jo.bromwich@ntlworld.com

IMPORTANT CONTACT DETAILS

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