

Wheathampstead u3a Newsletter – February 2025

Speaker Meeting – Memorial Hall at 2:30pm on Thursday 27th February 2025

The topic of our Speaker Meeting this time is “Life as a Counter Terrorism Officer”. Our speaker is a retired police officer who served in the Metropolitan Police and was awarded a Queens Police Medal for her services.

It sounds exciting and dangerous and I can't wait to hear what she has to tell us.

As always there will be refreshments afterwards and if you are able to stack a few chairs or clear a few tables at the end, your help is always appreciated.

These meetings are for u3a members only, as space in The Hall is limited, but none members, thinking of joining the u3a and wanting to experience a Speaker Meeting are welcomed for a small fee of £2.50. Please contact a Committee member to arrange.

Jigsaw Swap Table – We will do this again at this speaker meeting, but may have to review whether to continue with this as jigsaws are quite bulky to store and we seem to be building up a stock!

Outings News – The trip to Banbury and Thenford Arboretum was a big hit and here are a couple of photos which those of you who went may recognise.



The next outing is on 25th March 2025 – a visit to Milton Keynes Medical Assistance Dogs and lunch in Stony Stratford (I'm afraid the cut off date for applications has now passed on this one)

On 26th June the Outing will be a Racing afternoon in Newmarket – so if you're interested in having a little flutter on the gee-gees, watch out for the invitation which will arrive in your inbox around the middle of May and make sure you book your places quickly.

Workshops – The Argentine Tango Workshop was a great success and a new “Argentine Tango” group is to start on the 7th April.



This is a photo of Gina and Pat demonstrating to the group and showing how it should be done!

It's a 10 from me!

The next workshops are as follows

25th February 10:30 am - 12:30 pm - [Reflexology for Self-Help](#) Lamer Room [Marford Memorial Hall](#)

18th March 10:30 am [Mandarin through Art and Calligraphy](#) at [Marford Memorial Hall](#)

25th March 10:30 am - 12:00 pm [Mandarin through Art and Calligraphy](#) at [Marford Memorial Hall](#)

1st April 10:30 am - 12:30 pm [Reflexology for Self-Help](#) Lamer Room: [Marford Memorial Hall](#)

Groups

Good News on the Groups front – We have some new groups starting – Argentine Tango, Creative Writing and coming soon a Science group.

Argentine Tango

The new group will meet on the first and third Monday of each month at the Mead Hall, East Lane. Sessions will run from 3.30-5.30 pm.

The cost for each session will cover the cost of hall hire and tutor fees, coming to £76 per week. This will be split between the attendees. It is estimated that the average number of attendees per week will be about 12, therefore the cost to each person will be about £6.50.

If you are interested in joining, please contact Gina on gina@twilightmilongas.co.uk

Please tell you U3A friends!

Creative Writing

This group will meet monthly on the first Friday of the month at 2pm. It is intended that members of the group will take it in turns to host meetings at their homes. The first meeting will take place on Friday 7th March.

If you are interested in joining, please contact <mailto:annabeljay36@gmail.com>

Games Group

The First meeting for new Games group will be on 25th February 2pm – 4.30, with Rummikub as the first game chosen.

Science Group –

- Coming soon - all enquiries to <mailto:annabeljay36@gmail.com>

It would be lovely to see what our members get up to in their groups, so if you are able to take a few photos that we can share in future newsletters and let me have them, that would be brilliant

<mailto:janice.danby@gmail.com>

Jenny has kindly sent in this photo of the Painting Group at work on their masterpieces.



Coffee Mornings – The next one is Wednesday 12th March, 10.30 to 12am, at The Swan.

This is purely a chance to socialise so do come along and have a chat with other u3a members over coffee and biscuits. You are welcome to bring a guest if you would like to.

AGM and “Meet The Groups”

On March 27th, in place of our usual Speaker Meeting we will hold our AGM where you will have the chance to elect/re-elect your Committee.

After the AGM. We will hold our annual “Meet The Groups” event, where our groups create displays of what they do and if you are interested they can enrol you (if space is available) or add you to a waiting list.

There will be refreshments available and some of the groups may even be offering tasty treats to tempt you to talk to them.

Social Events - Friday 28th March, 7pm - another fantastic Quiz Night.

This one will be held in the Marford Hall so that we can accommodate more people.

There will be party nibbles (bread, cheeses, charcuterie etc.) on the tables, but **please bring your own drinks, as there will not be a bar.**

Annabell is once again our “quiz setter extraordinaire” and she tells us she will be including an extra round about the Irish (as it is St Patricks day the week before) – something to swat up on then!

Prize for the winning team and of course a booby prize for the team that comes last.

The price is £9 to cover the costs

There are a few places left so follow the link in the email that Dexter sent out on 9th Feb if you want to join the fun.

And Finally (almost) A couple of Wildlife photos sent in by Robert Gregory – A Coot walking on ice at Stanborough Lakes and a Squirrel on the bank at Four Limes. What fabulous photos- Thank you Robert. (watch out Hamza – you have competition!)



If you have any local photos you'd like to share please send them to <mailto:janice.danby@gmail.com> and I'll be pleased to include them in the next Newsletter.

General News –

The Harpenden Trust have organised another Seniors Fair at the Eric Morecambe Centre on Wednesday 9th April from 10.30 to 1.30pm. We have some flyers which will be available at the AGM.

Over 30 Local organisations will attend, with all sorts of information which might be of interest to you. Entry is free.



Congratulations – if you are reading this, you will be pleased to know that you have made it to the end of the Newsletter!

If you want more information about anything – Groups, Workshops, contact details etc please see our website <https://wheathampstead.u3asite.uk/>

I hope to see some of you at the Speaker meeting.

Regards

Janice