

## Wheathampstead u3a Newsletter – January 2025

### **Speaker Meeting** – Memorial Hall at 2:30pm on Thursday 23rd January 2025

Our Speaker will be Tony Tutton who will take us on a trip through his life and love of music including his stage performances from 1953 to the present day. Those of you who attended our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration last year will, no doubt, remember him well!

His talk covers his early musical influences (Skiffle, Rock & Roll etc.) his various bands, and celebrities he has met and worked with along the way.

The presentation features images & amp - great songs from 50s, 60s & 70s, together with audio and video clips that you can sing along to (and will surely bring back some nice memories).

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 make a table available at the Speaker Meeting for you to bring and take jigsaw puzzles. We have quite a few left over from last time but as we do not have any storage for them we will have to start taking some of them to Charity Shops, so if you like doing jigsaw puzzles, please take some.

### **Outings** – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025 - SNOWDROPS at Thenford Arboretum & BANBURY.



Chrissies sent out the invitation to this on 7<sup>th</sup> January and places have been snapped up very quickly.

Just as a reminder – the coach leaves Marford Hall at 9am. (Please walk or lift-share if possible so we don't hog the car park too much!).

Look out for the next outing which is on 25th March 2025 – a visit to Milton Keynes Medical Assistance Dogs.

**Workshops** – The Argentine Tango Workshop is underway with the 4<sup>th</sup> and final session being on February 6<sup>th</sup>. We are trying to establish a regular “Argentine Tango” group afterwards so if this is something you might like to join, watch this space!



Our workshops are proving to be very popular and more are planned – I will let you know more in the next Newsletter.

**Coffee Mornings** – The next one is Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> Feb, 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.

**Groups** – Some new groups are being set up for 2025 –

A Creative Writing Group is currently under discussion

A general games group is starting - the intention is to play various board games once a month.

Corinne Heath-Evans will be the Convenor and the first meeting will be 25<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm. If you would like to join this group please email [corinnescards@hotmail.com](mailto:corinnescards@hotmail.com)



## **AGM and “Meet The Groups”**

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

3 or possibly 4 of the current Committee are stepping down this year, which will only leave 6 or 7 people left to oversee the running of our 330 member strong u3a. Obviously, this will not be sustainable, so in order to maintain the level of activities you have come to expect, we are going to need some new people on the Committee. It isn't too onerous – just 1 Committee Meeting a month in the back room of The Swan to plan and make all the decisions needed to run a successful organisation. Please consider joining us – we really do need your help. Karen will be sending out the AGM forms shortly.

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 - \*\*\* Save the date \*\*\***

- Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm for another fantastic Quiz Night. More details to follow!

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### **General News –**

#### **Exercise Survey**

We all know by now of the benefits of taking regular exercise to help keep us fit and healthy as we get older and we have been asked if our members will take part in a survey for the “Live Longer Better” initiative that Wheathampstead is engaging in. The first stage is to get peoples’ views on what they would like to see, so I have attached a flyer telling you more about the survey and giving the link to go on to complete it. I have just done it and the questions were not too personal or intrusive and it only took a few minutes.

#### **Crinkle Crankle Garden Improvements**

A working group has been set up for an exciting new project - a community initiative led by Wheathampstead & District Preservation Society and Wheathampstead Parish Council to transform the entrance into the Crinkle Crankle Garden into an attractive but functional space that serves as a welcoming gateway and enhances the heart of our village.

This redevelopment is to reflect the needs of our community and your input will be invaluable. We are issuing a questionnaire and will arrange a community meeting.

Whether it is ideas for features like planters, raised herb beds, a metal memorial tree or any other thoughts we would love to hear from everyone, so please do complete our survey on

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/crinklecranklecorner> or collect a paper copy from the Parish Office at Marford Hall.

#### **Wilder Wheathampstead**

We are aware that our workshops and interest groups are rather lacking in Science topics and so would like to draw your attention to Wilder Wheathampstead (although you don’t need an interest in science to enjoy learning more about this).

There is a Meeting on Tuesday March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm – entry is free and there are refreshments (see flyer attached).

There will be a speaker – Professor Gemma Harvey to how wilding can take place locally and even in our own back gardens. There will also be an update from Martin Matlin of the Hedgehog Sanctuary.

My neighbours and I have a little wild area at the bottom of our gardens – it's a bit of a no-man's-land between our gardens and the ones behind, so I am going to try to go along and find out if I can do anything useful with my bit. My neighbours with a similar space tell me they have seen badgers and foxes as well as squirrels and muntjac (not to mention the blessed heron who cleared our pond of fish – 3 times – and frog spawn – annually!)

That's all I can think of for this newsletter – the next one will be sent out a few days before the next Speaker Meeting (which is on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month).