

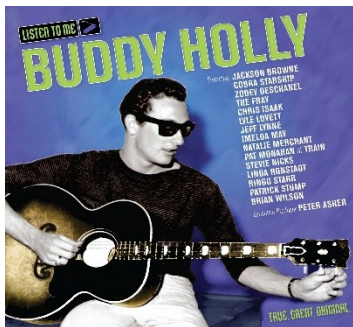
## Wheathampstead u3a Newsletter October 2025

### **Speaker Meeting – October 23<sup>rd</sup>, Memorial Hall, 2.30.**

We welcome a return visit by Tony Tutton and this time his presentation is entitled “That’ll Be The Day – The Life and Influence of Buddy Holly”.

The talk features many of Buddy Holly’s smash hits along with songs from the artists who influenced him.

Tony will also explore the stories behind the songs and he highlights the influence Ho;;y had on numerous performers. We are guaranteed to leave the Hall singing!



PLUS – “Wear it Pink!” – October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and many offices, schools etc agree to wear pink on October the 24<sup>th</sup> in support. As our meeting is so close we thought it might be nice to show our support too so if you fancy donning something pink that would be good and if you could

also make a donation (as we have decided not to have Charity Speakers in future) that would be even more amazing. We’ll put a suitable decorated bucket on the stage! No obligation of course.

As always there will be refreshments afterwards and a chance to chat about your own musical memories with your u3a friends and colleagues.

### **Coffee Morning – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November at The Swan**

We have noticed that attendance at our coffee mornings has fallen recently and hoping this is just due to people being on holidays etc. Obviously it is a concern though as we can’t expect The Swan to open early especially for us if the numbers aren’t viable.

Anyway, lets hope it’s just a blip and that we’ll see lots of you there in November. After all, what could be better on a chilly November morning than cosying up with friends and putting the world to rights over a lovely cup of coffee. Don’t forget you can bring a friend to this one if you would like to.

### **Outings News**

We had some lovely comments telling us how much people had enjoyed their visit to the Battle of Britain Bunker Exhibition and Visitor Centre. Even those who felt unable to tackle the stairs said that because what was down there was available on a video loop they could also enjoy seeing what was down there.



### Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December

Our next outing is to Waddesdon Manor to walk their magnificent Light Trail, see the house decorated in all it's glory and to visit the Christmas Market to browse a carefully chosen of handcrafted gifts and "one of a kind" treasures. Take your time, chat to the traders and enjoy your shopping experience. There will also be festive food and drinks stalls with flavours ideal for savouring as you make your way round the trail.

Watch your emails for your invitation to this as numbers are naturally limited by the number of coach seats

### Workshops News



The **Seated Massage** workshop on 14<sup>th</sup> October went well and we should hopefully now have some very relaxed members.

There are still 2 sessions of the Acrylics and Oil Pastels workshops on 19<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> October. If you are interested in these or future art sessions, please contact [tina.cameron@gmail.com](mailto:tina.cameron@gmail.com)

**Sewing Machine Workshop** – Unfortunately this has had to be cancelled due to insufficient numbers.

**29<sup>th</sup> November – 7pm to 10pm at the Memorial Hall, Cost £3.50 –  
Introduction to Astronomy**

Members of the Hertford Astronomy Group will provide an introduction to what is in the night sky, including demonstrations to show the distance of the moon, the layout of the planets and how eclipses take place. They will also explain and demonstrate different types of telescopes and if the weather permits, take you outside to view the Moon, Saturn, The Milky Way and The Andromeda Galaxy. If interested please contact [Sue@hawkmil.com](mailto:Sue@hawkmil.com)

### **Supper Club**

Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control the visit to Dalvero on **21<sup>st</sup> October** had to be cancelled. All is not lost however as **Nonno's** has agreed to step in. This has been communicated to those who had booked, but in case you missed it I thought I'd reiterate in the Newsletter for good measure.

The November Supper Club visit will be to **The Wicked Lady on 18<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm**. Further details and a sample menu will follow shortly – watch out for the email!

For 2026 we plan to visit The Golden Elephant (Thai), The Engineer (British) and Havin (Turkish, St Albans).

Anyone can join the Supper Club but the idea is that members take a turn to find a venue, negotiate a price and organise the visit for the others.

### **Group New**

The **2nd Latin Group** is still on hold whilst we try to locate a new tutor. If you can help with this please contact [Chrissie.chadney@googlemail.com](mailto:Chrissie.chadney@googlemail.com)

### **London Theatre Group**

On 9<sup>th</sup> October we enjoyed our 2<sup>nd</sup> theatre visit, this time to see “Witness for the Prosecution”, at the London County Hall – a real court with a Judges bench and a Witness stand and the rest of the seats were what would have been the court seating – lovely comfy leather chairs with arms. It was an Agatha Christie Murder masterpiece with a twist at the end (but our lips are sealed – if you want to know what it is you’ll have to go and see it!)



Next is “The Producers” on 13<sup>th</sup> November and I think Chrissie still has a couple of tickets for this if you’d like to go.

Based on the classic cult film, the original Broadway production won a record twelve Tony Awards, and skewers Broadway traditions, taking no prisoners as it proudly proclaims itself an “equal opportunity offender!”

Convinced that you can make more money from a flop than a hit, Max Bialystock, a down-on-his-luck Broadway producer, and Leo Bloom, a timid accountant with dreams of grandeur hatch a scheme to produce the worst show ever conceived. After scouring the big apple for some seriously rotten ideas, “Springtime for Hitler” is born.

However, when their sure-fire disaster turns into an unexpected hit, chaos ensues. Featuring outrageous gags, dazzling musical numbers, and

unforgettable characters (with inconceivably long names), The Producers is a laugh-out-loud spectacle that celebrates the absurdity of show business.

## Social Events

### Race Night

Well, what a night that was!

“Many thanks for a very enjoyable evening on Friday - Great fun and well organised”

“Had a really good evening – even won a box of chocolates – a fun evening – very well run”

“Thank you to you and the team for all the hard work that was put into making Friday night so enjoyable – everything went like clockwork and even though I didn’t win anything I still had a great time!”

These are just some of the lovely comments we received after another successful social event

And here are a few photos -



\*\*\*\*\* **SAVE THE DATE!** \*\*\*\*\*  
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**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December** – Our 1920’s Style Christmas Extravaganza! The Party of the year! Shine up your dancing shoes, Fluff up your feathers and join us for live 1920’s music. Dance if you want to or just watch and listen, it should be a fun evening!

\*\*\*\*\* **SAVE THE DATE!** \*\*\*\*\*

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**\*\* Raffle Prizes Needed** - As most of you enjoy our raffles, we're on the lookout for prizes and we'd love it if you could donate any unused/unwanted items that you may have consigned to a drawer after last Christmas, birthdays etc – we're thinking Choccies, toiletries, candles, wine, spirits – or anything you think would make a nice raffle prize. We had some lovely things last year. Please bring items to the next few Speaker meetings, or coffee mornings or get in touch with a Committee member and we'll come and collect them.

## **Subscription Renewals – A few still outstanding**

### **Due 1<sup>st</sup> October**

#### **If you haven't already done so, please let us have your subs asap!**

**Cash** – in an envelope with membership number on back – bring to next Speaker Meeting or post to Membership Secretary Sarah Willgress at 286 Lower Luton Road, Wheathampstead, AL4 8HT

**Standing Order** – Please check your Bank account to ensure this is set up correctly for 1st October and for the correct amount £20.

**Bank Transfer** – Payee Wheathampstead U3A, Bank - Barclays Bank, Howard Centre, Welwyn Garden City. Sort code

20-92-54, Account No. 53664058, Reference – insert your membership number.

## **Brandenburgh Choral Events**

As in previous years, Bob Porter is offering our u3a discounted tickets to the Brandenburg Christmas concert.

Please see attachment for more details.

(NB this is NOT organised by the u3a so the Committee cannot answer any queries – you need to follow the links in the attachment if interested)

## **Crinkle Crinkle Pebbles – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2 – 4pm (see Flyer attached)**

If you have visited the Crinkle Crinkle Gardens lately you will have notice lots of changes going on there. The access area from the Bakery Car park has been completely cleared of weeds and now looks massive. One of the features there will be a pebble filled gully, following the line of the wall and separating it from

the path and villagers are being invited to come along and paint a pebble to add to it. Have a look at the flyer attached – your pebble will become a permanent part of Wheathampstead’s artwork.

And Finally – a really good idea from one of our members.

Many phones are protected by fingerprints/facial recognition or a secret code making it difficult for anyone else to open – which means (in a time of emergency) info can no longer be accessed.

So, attach a sticker to the back of your mobile phone case with contact details of your next of kin. That way there will be no delay in getting help (and if you lose your phone – whoever finds it has a better chance of returning it to you)

You might also want to add your car reg for all those annoying parking apps where you have to insert it correctly but when put on the back of the car it!