

Wheathampstead u3a Newsletter – September 2025

Speaker Meeting – Memorial Hall at 2:30pm on Thursday 25th August 2025.

OOH MATRON!: A HISTORY OF THE CARRY-ON FILMS, by Steve Dimmer

One of the most enduring and popular of film comedies is the Carry On films. 32 films were made between 1958 and 1992 and their reputation for bawdy fun has never disappeared. Steve Dimmer takes us through the rise of this beloved series, looking at the lives of some of the main players as well as showing clips from some of the most successful.

We'll also examine why the films began to lose their popularity and the legacy these hilarious

comedies have left behind. If you have a funny bone, this talk is definitely for you!

Afterwards, you are invited to enjoy tea /coffee and biscuits whilst you have a chat with your u3a friends and colleagues.



NB. Car parking space at the Memorial Hall is limited, so if you are able to walk to the venue, or car share that would be really helpful.

Coffee Mornings – The October one is scheduled for Wednesday 8th - 10.30 to 12am, at The Swan. Do come along – only £3 for a coffee and biscuit and as much nattering as you like with other u3a members.

Bring a friend if you'd like to. It's a very relaxed affair – just purely for socialising and getting to know each other.

Outings News

2nd October – A very exciting visit to the **Battle of Britain Bunker Exhibition and Visitor Centre in Uxbridge**. This housed RAF Fighter Command's No.11 Group Operations Room throughout the Second World War, from which most of the RAF's side of the Battle of Britain was co-ordinated. Key decisions that would decide the fate of the nation were taken in the bunker throughout 1940 and it was thanks to the tireless work of the plotters and controllers that the RAF's fighter pilots managed to keep the Luftwaffe at bay.

The Operations Room, in reality, a series of rooms on two levels some 60 feet (18 metres) underground, is reached via 76 steps. (NB – if you don't want to tackle the steps there is still plenty to see!) The plotting room with its large map table, squadron display boards, balloon and weather states, is exactly how it was when Winston Churchill visited on 15 September 1940.

"Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few" - Churchill's famous phrase about the Battle of Britain was first spoken following one of his visits to the bunker in August 1940.

I think there are still a couple of spaces available – if interested, contact <mailto:chrissie.chadney@googlemail.com>

4th December 2025 - Christmas at Waddesdon Manor

By popular demand, we're doing it again!

Join Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild and his beloved dog, Poupon, on a festive trans-European tour, exploring the unique holiday traditions that light up each country's winter season.

Every stop on their journey will highlight a different city, blending local heritage, seasonal customs, and links to Waddesdon's famous collection.

Outside, the Manor and Gardens will be illuminated with an innovative new immersive light show, combining a specially commissioned digital projection, lights and sound. The lawns and trees in front of the house will be transformed into a living, moving tapestry of colour while the popular Christmas Fair and Food Village move to the South side of the Manor.

Browse a carefully chosen selection of handcrafted gifts and one-of-a-kind treasures at the Craft fair. Take your time, chat with local makers, and enjoy a shopping experience that's as thoughtful as the items on offer.

2 months before the date, you will get an invitation to participate, by email, with details of the outing. You then apply for a place and get a request for money one month before the event.

Workshops News

14th October – 2pm – Lamer Room, Memorial Hall – **Seated Massage.** - Waiting list only – contact is <mailto:richard.brett@can-do.co.uk>

15th, 22nd and 29th October – **Art Course.** £15 per session Come and Discover or improve your inner artist! There are 3 sessions to produce 3 complete paintings in different styles. Please contact Sue Hawkins from our workshops committee if you would like to join or contact Tina Cameron discuss the course, emails: Sue Hawkins sue@hawkmil.co.uk and Tina Cameron tina.cameron4@gmail.com

10th November – 10am to 1pm, Lamer Room, Memorial Hall - **Sewing Machine Workshop.** Cost £35. Take your sewing Machine and learn the techniques needed to make a scrap catcher (kit provided). You should have received an email with full details of this on 19th September. Contact for this is <mailto:sue@hawkmil.co.uk>

29 November – from 7pm to 10pm at the Memorial Hall – Cost £3.50. **An Introduction to Astronomy Workshop,** Members of the Hertford Astronomy Group will present



an introduction to what is in the night sky. This will include demonstrations to show the distance of the Moon, the layout of the planets, and how eclipses take place.

We will also explain and demonstrate different types of telescopes

After our presentations, we shall go outside (weather permitting!) to observe the Moon, the planet Saturn, the Milky Way and even the Andromeda Galaxy

A few places available – contact <mailto:sue@hawkmail.co.uk>

Supper Club – The Supper Club now has venues/organisers taking us up to March 2026

October 21st - Davero (Italian)

November (Second week) - Wicked Lady (British)

December (w/c 8th) - Nonnos (Italian)

January 2026 (4th week) - Golden Elephant (Thai)

February (4th week) - The Engineer (British)

March (4th week) - Havin St Albans (Turkish)

Anyone can join the Supper Club. The idea is that Members take their turn to find a venue, negotiate a price and organise the evening for the others, with occasional meetings from time to time to discuss future venues/organisers.

Groups News

The 2nd Latin group will not start yet as the tutor is unwell

The search for a tutor for an Italian group has been unsuccessful so far, but if you know of anyone who could take up this role, please let us know.

London Theatre Group

Our first theatre visit, to see "Operation Mincemeat" was a great success in spite of the Tube Strike trying to thwart our travel arrangements! Everyone enjoyed the afternoon and we're now looking forward to the next one. Here is a photo to remember it by

Also in the pipeline are "The Producers" on 9th October and "Witness for the Prosecution" on 13th November.



Social Events

Race Night - 10th October - Memorial Hall 7pm – cost £22 (includes Fish

and Chips/vegetarian meal) plus some £1 coins for your bets (£8 would give you 1 bet on each race). There will also be a raffle.

Charities often run these to raise funds and they are great fun, but ours is NOT a profit-making event – it is purely for your entertainment. The idea is that there will be 8 horse races, shown on films and you will be able to “place your bets” at the “Tote”, where you can also collect your winnings (just like the real thing!)

This is a more detailed explanation for those of you who have never been to a Race Night.

1. Overview -Throughout the evening there will be films of 8 horse races, each race will be between 8 horses and each horse has a jockey and an owner. Each race is unique and was a real race in America. Neither the true identity of each horse, nor the identity of each race is revealed – consequently there are no advantages to seasoned racegoers.

2. Betting:- Each bet costs £1. You can bet on as many of the eight horses in each race as you want to and you can bet as much as you want to on any one horse. For example: you may wish to bet £3 on horse number 2, £2 on horse number 5 and £1 on horse number 8; or you may decide to put £5 on horse number 6.

3. Winnings: All the bets will be put into a “pot” for each race and then split amongst the winners on the same basis as used by the Tote, i.e. winnings will be split on a percentage basis for the horses that come in 1st, 2nd and 3rd and in proportion to the amount of the bets on each horse.

4. *Sponsor a horse: You can become an “owner” of a horse for £1. Assuming that all 8 horses are sponsored, the owner of the horse that comes first wins the £8 sponsorship money. If only some of the horses are sponsored, the owner of the horse that comes first will receive the proportionally smaller pot. If the winning horse is not sponsored, then the pot will be added to the u3a social fund for use on another social event.

5. *Sponsor a Jockey: In exactly the same way as sponsoring a horse, you can sponsor a jockey for £1. The rules about winnings are the same as for sponsoring a horse (in 4 above).

6. Fish and Chip Supper: Around 8:00pm the fish and chips will arrive – and racing will be suspended while we enjoy our supper.

These instructions will be placed on each table and there will be plenty of people to help you if needed.

**A couple of people will be selling the horse and Jockey sponsorships on the night so if you'd like to participate in this just look out for them.

Friday 12th December – OUR VERY SPECIAL, EVENING, CHRISTMAS EVENT!!! – Save the date!!!

For your delectation, we have gone all out and planned a 1920's themed event this year, complete with genuine 1920's music from a live band, some lovely table snacks a bar (courtesy of our supportive friends at The Swan), and suitable decorations.

Decadent, glamorous, stylish and flamboyant; what's not to love about the Roaring '20s? Think Art Deco and *Great Gatsby*, Speakeasies and flapper girls, the Charleston, champagne and those daring shorter skirts. This should be an evening of fun, fun, fun so get that date in your diary now.

We'd love it if you fancy "dressing to impress", but, of course you don't need to, the important thing is that you really enjoy the evening. ... Now where did I put my feather boa and evening gloves?

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

Just a quick heads up - it's that time of year again I'm afraid. Your u3a subscription will be due on 1st October. We're keeping it to £20 again and I hope you will agree that it is good value.

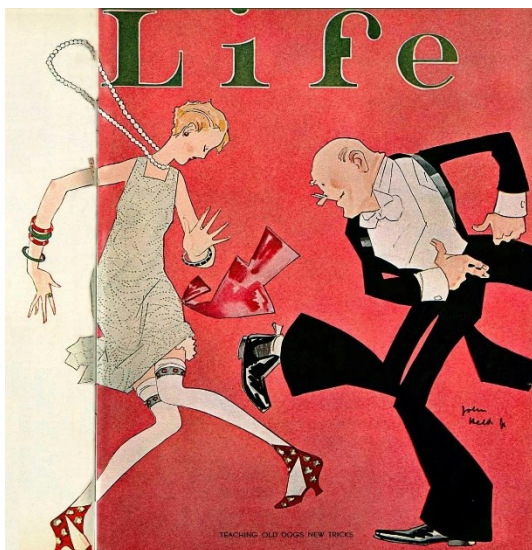
Cash – in an envelope with membership number on back – bring to next Speaker Meeting or post to Membership Secretary Sarah Willgress at 286 Lower Luton Road, Wheathampstead, AL4 8HT

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 – (PLEASE DO NOT PAY VIA BANK TRANSFER BEFORE 1ST OCT – IT MESSES UP THE ACCOUNTS!)

Payee **Wheathampstead U3A**, Bank - Barclays Bank, Howard Centre, Welwyn Garden City. Sort code 20-92-54, Account No. 53664058, Reference – insert your membership number.

From the wider u3a



Friends Newsletter

Please click on the following link to view the September "Friends Newsletter", which celebrates the legacy of Eric Midwinter together with news from other u3a's and gives details for savings on travel insurance and holidays via the u3a.

<https://mailchi.mp/u3a/your-u3a-friends-newsletter-september-2025?e=9180adf469>

If you would like to have this coming directly into your inbox, sign up at u3a.org.uk/news/newsletter

Other, None-u3a stuff

From time to time we agree to advertise local events which we think may be of interest to our members, but which are not directly related to our u3a.

We hope some of you might be interested in the two events detailed in these flyers.

**COMMUNITY
EVENT**



**Come and meet local
service providers**

**Thursday 25th September
11.30am to 2.30pm**

**Marford Memorial Hall
Wheathampstead AL4 8AY**

07951169233
All welcome



**INVESTING IN CREATION:
THE ROLE OF MONEY IN
TACKLING THE CLIMATE
CRISIS**

Guest Speaker:
David Britton
Campaign Officer
Operation Noah

Friday 10th October 2025
WUC Chapel Halls AL4 8AH
Refreshments from 7.00pm
Talk will start at 7.30pm



**OPERATION
NOAH**

Faith-motivated. Science-informed. Hope-inspired.

This is taking place at the Hall just before our Speaker Meeting

You may be interested in attending this
so you might like to pop in before the meeting.