



UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

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NEWSLETTER September 2016 Issue 53

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<http://www.u3awelhat.org.uk/newsletters.html>

Our “Royalty” Garden Party



The weather was initially disappointing for our Royalty-themed Garden Party at Breaks Manor on 13 July. For a while most members stayed inside, chancing their luck at the tombola, enjoying the splendid finger food provided, and puzzling to allot photographs of the Queen to their correct decade, asking WHEN? of the Majestic pictures.

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U3A Welwyn-Hatfield NEWSLETTER

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Left to right: Jackie Tutton, Tony Tutton, Marion Cleveland and Carol Payne ready to pour drinks for members



Boules was not played, although a set was provided, and advantage not taken of the open tennis court; but rain held off, and by 3 o'clock the garden was thronged with happy, well-fed members, many sporting red, white and blue. Jack Wood presented an appropriately



Pat Brown on left, Sheila Haywood on right, running the tombola



Jack Wood as Court Quizmaster

themed quiz, the first part asking WHO? of various Royal personages, the second, WHERE? some Royalty-connected events occurred.

Suzanne Brown won the Queenly photograph-dating; Pamela Williams the quiz; and Hazel Bell the best-dressed for the theme.

Photographs by John Brown

Hertfordshire Network Quiz

Welwyn Hatfield entered two teams in the quiz held on Friday 10 August, and we spent an enjoyable afternoon, in the company of 19 other teams from all over the county, puzzling over questions. The quiz was well organised by Melbourn and District U3A and took place in The Civic Centre in Welwyn: a bonus for us.

We were welcomed by Tony Garrick, the Chair of Melbourn and District, who welcomed two important guests: Eric Midwinter, one of the founding members of the U3A, and Jill Menghetti, the Vice-Chair of the Network Committee.

The Quizmaster was Adrian Jones, who kept the quiz moving and was clear and unflappable. We had four rounds before the interval, on Hertfordshire, Sport, Music and Wildlife, while also working on four Marathon Sheets comprising anagrams, pictures of famous people, Dingbats and identifying famous lines from films. After the interval (with welcome tea, coffee and cakes) we were off again for four more rounds on General Knowledge, Shakespearian and Elizabethan Times, Geography, and Science and Nature. Questions such as ‘from what country did tomatoes originate?’ (Mexico), ‘what kind of creature is a slow worm?’ (lizard) kept us on our toes.

I am sad to report that both our teams came in the bottom half of the rankings, although my team, WelHatonions 2, were more in the middle of the field. Lea Valley won with 66 points out of a possible 80. Our success in the marathon round was more commendable. Team 1 gained 40 points out of a possible 42 and Team 2 gained 39. Five teams tied for the winning position with 41 marks each, so Eric Midwinter drew the winner out of a hat and the prize went to Radlett. He presented the prizes to the winning teams.

I would like to thank Hazel Bell for organizing the entries and inspiring us to participate; it was good to be part of the wider U3A scene.

Judy Grant



Notes from the Chair



Although you won't be reading this until September, I sit here, nursing a most unwelcome summer cold, and reflect that it is already three weeks since our summer garden party. How time flies! As ever, the garden party, with its theme of "Royalty" proved to be a great success as the notes and photos above testify. Many thanks to Jenny Roden and her team for organising the catering this year so efficiently – it's such an important task. Thanks also to Judy Grant for setting up the Queen's photographic quiz and to Sheila Haywood and her team for reviving the tombola. Both attracted a great deal of interest, with the tombola raising an impressive £75 which will be shared between the Breaks Manor kitchen fund and Isobel Hospice. Of course, this sum was only possible given the generous contributions of gifts by U3A members, so many thanks for those. Finally, thanks also to Jack for running his quiz – very much enjoyed, with some quite challenging questions!

Following on the theme of generosity, many of you donated scarves to be transformed into headgear for Cancer Hair Care based in Old Stevenage. This organisation provides treatments and support for patients from local hospitals. Marion Cleveland was overwhelmed by the response; all contributions have been (and still are!) gratefully received.

Wednesday meetings have continued to provide a wide range of entertaining and thought-provoking sessions, with good attendances each week. Groups continue to thrive, with a number now having waiting lists. Our thanks go to Hilda Goddard who has led one of our walking groups for several years but now decided to call it a day. Jack Wood, whose "Music for Pleasure" group has been going strong since 2005, has also decided that the time has come for him to step down, so many thanks to him for all the hard work that he has put in to the group over the years. We now have enough new folks interested in a fourth exploring London group so we're looking for one or two of you to take over the running of it. The experienced organisers of the other three

groups are happy to help, so it could be you!

There is no further news as yet about the introduction of fees for Council venues but, as mentioned at both Ludwick and Breaks Manor, as a first step, we will be introducing a £1 fee for Wednesday meetings, to include tea and coffee, from the beginning of September. This will be under review until we hear any further news. We will keep you posted.

Our membership continues to grow, which is always a healthy sign for an organisation. I would like to mention especially Peter Jenkins and Belinda Putley who have reached their ninetieth birthdays this year and so become Honorary Members of our U3A; so congratulations to you both! However, on a sadder note, I have to report that Diana Reddaway sadly passed away in July. Diana will be much missed, especially by the members of the recorder group, which she led enthusiastically for many years.

I hope that you all have enjoyed a good summer and look forward to catching up with you all during the autumn term.

Best wishes,

Jean

Group News

Creative Writing

Ann Smith wrote this when the Creative Writing Group was given "homework" to produce an account of a holiday.

Cruise, Bruise and Gremlin Abuse

I am convinced that there lives within my suitcase a principally passive little Gremlin that springs to wayward life the very moment my case is opened on board any cruise ship chosen for my holiday. It generally makes a beeline for the engine room, the array of mischief-making spanners on its belt and bandolier clanging as it wraiths its way to the engine room and command areas of the unfortunate ship chosen for my cruise.

Earlier cruises were bedevilled by my Gremlin, causing the engines to stop by judicious tossing of one of its many spanners into the works. But this time the gremlin invaded my personal space, firstly by causing the lift to stop whilst I was in it. This wasn't the ghastly



experience it might have been as I was incarcerated for ten minutes with a rather dishy waiter. The Gremlin later embroiled my friend Mary and me in a most unfortunate accident.

We were very happy to have Mary and her husband John travelling with us on our Baltic cruise on a small, elegant ship, staffed by delightful, friendly Filipinos. John and Mary possibly have reservations upon their overall enjoyment of the cruise.

On the third day out, approaching the Kiel Canal, on our way to the drawing room where we could send emails, Mary passed through the door in front of me – but unfortunately, I caught the toe of my sandal on the slightly proud

door-sill, resulting in my totally losing control of my body, which with consummate ease set me in a into trajectory involving a base-over-apex movement perfectly devoid of grace. With astonishing velocity I cannoned into poor Mary who, acting perfectly in the role of energy transferee, brought down in turn an inoffensive, elderly little Asian man who was ahead of her. This bewildered Asian gent was momentarily having trouble understanding why his hitherto lack of sexual attraction for the opposite sex was reversed, as he was suddenly leapt upon and felled by two apparently desperate women.

During my uncontrolled precipitation into the room, my wildly flailing arms, reminiscent of a helicopter out of control, were desperately but ineffectually attempting to regain my lost balance. The unintended outcome of these fruitless flailings was my sweeping playing cards from a table where a demure couple were engaged in a, till then, quiet hand of whist. Their astonishment at the abrupt and untimely end of their placid game was plain to read in their faces. This I could unmistakably see as, inexplicably, I landed upon my back, there feebly performing my hapless upended beetle mime. Regrettably, once down, regaining the perpendicular unaided is simply not possible for me. The prone Mary, Asian gent and I were festooned with cards from the scattered game of whist, an involuntary benediction upon our prone, horizontal bodies.

The tiny but resolute felled elderly Asian was the first to scramble to his feet, and by tugging ineffectually at my sleeve he tried to raise

me. He was partially successful, and with much effort managed to raise my left arm off the floor. The rest of the body remained unmoved. Eventually a posse of Filipinos with carefully controlled faces arrived and skilfully reinstated me right way up.

Having regained the vertical, I could focus on Mary, who I could see was looking quite peaky, having been helped into one of the now vacated card-player's chairs. Her leg was hurting. The impolitely disturbed card players were by fortunate coincidence doctors, who suspected a break just above her ankle. Sadly, an X-ray performed in the ship's hospital confirmed this diagnosis and Mary had to be disembarked at Stockholm to have her leg set in plaster at the local hospital's A&E department.

I greatly fear that my suitcase-Gremlin is heading towards a form of more malignant mischief. Although there is no question of my giving up cruising, the purchase of a new, Gremlin-free suitcase is imperative.

London History

Val Fieth spoke to the London History group about the history of Hammersmith Hospital and her work there in the 1960s.

Hammersmith Guardians erected a workhouse and infirmary next to Wormwood Scrubs in 1902, purchasing the land for £14,500 from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. In 1916 the patients and inmates were moved to other establishments and the site was taken over by the War Office for use as the Military Orthopaedic Hospital; it was renamed the Special Surgical Hospital, and in 1919 it became the Ministry of Pensions Hospital. It was returned to the Guardians in 1926, becoming Hammersmith Hospital. Today it is a major centre of medical study, with extensive research and development of imaging techniques.

Val Fieth started training there in 1963, worked as a nurse there, and qualified in 1966.



Staff Nurse Bird (later Val Fieth) in 1966 – a part of London History

Photography

This Summer term for the Photographic Group has been beset with Gremlins. Firstly, Anita Hoyle, our leader, was taken ill; but we are pleased to say she is recovering and hope she will be back with us next term. Peter Fox and Eileen Pegrum stepped in to front our meetings, and the support of the members has been brilliant. Secondly, the group has had many problems with laptops and projectors, making the start of the meetings complicated.

However, this term the group has had some interesting subjects tackled by its members: “Golden Ratio”, an absorbing subject adding knowledge to all who use Photoshop; “Is it cheating?”, a very interesting hour given by member Bob White who ably demonstrated how it was possible to manipulate images back in the darkroom days – so is it cheating to use the numerous digital enhancement programmes available today? and “Garden Design”, one of the latest subjects undertaken. This talk and projected images from Stately homes included many of the features previously covered in our work sessions: leading lines, vistas, colour etc.

This group goes from strength to strength and now has a waiting list of U3A members wishing to join.

Eileen Pegrum



Collage of water – Turkey and Canada Celia Boccacci

Strollers



On Tuesday 19 April, a glorious spring day, the Strollers (including some members of the Photography group) met at the Queens Head pub at Sandridge for a walk around the woods near Heartwood forest. The former landlady of the pub, Susie, was invited to join us as a guest.

Langley Wood has been delicately cleared and coppiced and is a beautiful walk at any time of the year, but at that time has the added wonder of old English bluebells, which were enjoyed by all, as Peter Fox's photograph below shows.

Our strolls are up to three miles of easy walking (and looking at the scenery etc.) over two hours – with many pauses for the keen photographers. Over the year we visit various places, such as Green Tye, where we walk past a few Henry Moore sculptures; Canal walks at Ware; Stanstead Abbots; or country walks at Gustard wood and Tewin, to name but a few.

Beryl Sharp

Shakespeare Group

In the Shakespeare Group we read the plays aloud as in the playreading groups; watching a DVD (from the splendid U3A Resource Centre – free!) of each scene or Act when we finish studying it; and discuss it. We plan to read all the (36) plays, in order of their composition (or, for the histories, of historical chronology). We started in December 2015, and so far have read the three early comedies: *The Comedy of Errors*, *Love's Labour's Lost* and *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. Next we will assay *The Taming of the Shrew*.

As we meet only monthly, and each play seems to take three meetings, it will be years before we reach the perplexities of *Hamlet*, the passions of *Othello*, and the terrible pain of *King Lear*. And then there's all the poetry, the sonnets ... But meanwhile we all greatly enjoy our study of the Bard. The play's the thing!

Hazel Bell

The Sunday Solo Lunch Club

This group, for those without partners, has lunch together at a pub on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Our first such lunch was in February 2013; since then we have lunched at nine different venues. Recently we held a vote to select our favourites for future visits. All



Members of the Sunday Solo Lunch Club at The Waggoners, Ayot Green (with waitress)

those nine pubs were listed, plus four others, and each member was offered six votes: three for their first choice, two for the second, one for the third. Fourteen members voted, and the results were close. Top came The Waggoners at Ayot Green, with 17 votes; second was the Long Arm & Short Arm at Lemsford, with 16; third, the Crooked Chimney, also at Lemsford, with 12.

Hazel Bell

Travel Goup

“What country, friends, is this?

This is Illyria, Lady.” (*Twelfth Night* – Shakespeare)

Montenegro/Illyria/Crna Gora are some of the names this beautiful country, which we visited 11-18 May, has been known by; with its short but impressive coastline and tree-covered mountains stretching down to the sea. It has a population of only 675,000; the majority living by the coast and earning their living by tourism. Inland there are large forested areas, which are now national parks and home to bears, deer, wild goats and wild boar, and much birdlife. There are several lakes, the largest of which, Lake Skadar, we visited, and a couple of ski resorts. The country is bordered by countries we have associated with civil war in the recent past: Albania, Kosovo, Serbia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, and Croatia. But Montenegro was not engaged in this conflict, boasting the peaceful co-existence of its Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Muslim communities. Indeed, in many larger towns the churches and mosques are represented in close proximity and inter-marriage is not unusual. The citizens are anxious to prove their European credentials as they are awaiting the opportunity to be accepted into the European Union, conscious of the economic advantages this would present. They are fairly self-sufficient agriculturally, but for larger items they depend on trade with Serbia. The country is proud of its heritage and, before the arbitrary coalition into former Yugoslavia, its connections with the royal houses of Europe. Along the coastline are pretty walled medieval towns, fortified against invasion from the sea by Greek, Roman, Venetian and Italian interlopers. Their presence can be seen in the buildings and artefacts in museums. We had to remind ourselves that the distance across the Adriatic Sea to Italy is comparatively short.

And now to the climate! Normally mid-May is fine, warm and dry. We were particularly unfortunate with the weather with only glimpses

of how beautiful the country looked in the sunshine. We were unable to appreciate some of the panoramic vistas from the mountains because of heavy cloud and rain, and the full beauty of Lake Skadar was obscured by trying to keep warm! I can only add that my new raincoat was an excellent investment as I wore it nearly every day and it was totally waterproof!

We flew to Tivat Airport and our hotel, the Hotel Tara, was a short drive away close to the extensive Becici Beach. This beach is 1950 metres long and 100 metres wide in places. The hotel was busy at this time but facilities were good: light, airy rooms, a large restaurant serving a wide range of dishes, a pool, our own Saga lounge and a large hall. It was well-situated for exploring on foot and by bus or taxi. Each evening there was some form of entertainment in the bar, either a singer or some dancing. The young entertainments team worked hard to provide a pleasant experience for guests.

On our first day, Thursday, we had a free morning and a trip to the

nearest town, Budva, in the afternoon. I took the opportunity for a half-hour language lesson in the morning to enable me to express one or two phrases in the mother tongue. In the afternoon we went on a guided tour of the local and very picturesque medieval town of Budva. Unfortunately, soon after our arrival the heavens opened and I don't remember ever experiencing being out in such a rainstorm. As well as pouring down on us, the drainpipes from the buildings just opened onto the cobbled streets and we found ourselves paddling ankle-deep in water! We



Downpour at Budva. Photo by John Brown

sought sanctuary in the little museum but we were a large group and it was quite a challenge negotiating slippery steps. I do remember some very beautiful examples of Roman glass on display before we headed off to find a café to wring out our wet things. We loitered there for a while dripping on seats and floors. I even saw someone trying to dry out the notes from her purse! We knew we would be laughing about it over dinner.

Friday was a free day so I took one of the optional excursions to Albania, being fascinated by the previous mystery surrounding this country. There was little evidence of its cold-war past except the numbers of concrete bunkers which still survived. It was approximately a two-hour drive and as we travelled along one became aware of the increasing Islamic influence on this side of Montenegro. This was evident in the numbers of little mosques, graveyards with Islamic iconography and in the dress of the older inhabitants. Our tour guide was a very pleasant young man, eager to promote the European nature of the country and the peaceful co-existence of Muslim, Orthodox and Roman Catholic peoples. En route we visited the historic and legendary Castle Rozafa with spectacular views, then headed onward to our ultimate destination, the town of Shkoder. The main street housed an impressive mosque on one side and a Roman



Inland Montenegro seen from the Travel Group's coach. Photo by Tony Bristow

Catholic Church on the other, and in between a statue of Mother Theresa. It was a warm, sunny day, and as I sat drinking coffee, I couldn't help thinking that the groups of young people strolling by looked just like those of any other European town. The only sense we had of being somewhere "other" was in the long waits at the border crossing, especially on our return as it was a Friday evening. But we were anxious to return for our cocktail party.

So we enjoyed our cocktails with Janina, our tour guide, followed by our gala dinner, where we were set apart from other guests in the hotel. Some dancing ensued in the bar. A most convivial evening.

On Saturday we were offered a full day optional "Montenegro Tour". Though, in truth, it was only a small sample of Montenegro, it was nevertheless interesting and varied. We made our way inland and by steeply rising roads to Cetinje and the museum of King Nikola's Palace, once a royal residence visited by some of the crowned heads of Europe. It contained some beautiful tableware, furniture and silverware as well as costumes. We continued on mountain roads bordering the Lovcen National Park until we reached our packed-lunch stop. Unfortunately we were deprived of the panoramas this area holds as weather conditions were wet with low cloud and it was quite chilly sitting outside a tiny hostelry eating our sandwiches. We made our descent down hair-raising hairpin bends overlooking the spectacular Bay of Kotor and, as we descended, the weather improved until we reached the coast and the luxury yacht resort of Porto Montenegro. This was, indeed, another world, surrounded by luxury apartments and a stunning marina, developed by a Canadian businessman. A good place for a coffee stop!

On our return, we were offered a treat of folkloric dancing on the stage in the hall after dinner. This was a special evening. The young people were intensely proud of their traditions and danced in spectacular costumes loaned from museums. The young men danced with athleticism and vigour and the young women were graceful and skilful in their execution of the many dance routines we saw. It was an absolute delight.

On Sunday there was an optional excursion to Dubrovnik which was enjoyed by all in good sunshine. I and a number of our party took the option of taking a taxi to Kotor, a UNESCO world heritage site. The town is surrounded by fortifications built during the period of Venetian occupation, which seem to rise almost vertically into the

mountainside. The area appears to be a fjord but is actually a ria, a submerged river canyon and certainly part of an impressive landscape. Half-day visits left plenty of time to explore the Becici beach and environs of the hotel.

On Monday the intrepid among us took a trip to Skadar Lake, which is partly in Montenegro, partly in Albania. It is the largest lake in the Balkan Peninsula and home to some 270 bird species including pelicans. The trip included a two-hour sail on the lake. Once again, the weather was against us as it began to rain steadily and blow across the little boat and it turned quite cold. Shelter was at a premium and at one point the crew offered us a tot of the local powerful spirit to lift ours. None of this deterred the birdwatchers among us and I am reliably informed that the following species were spotted: Great Crested Grebe, Little Grebe, Dalmatian Pelican, Cormorant, Pygmy Cormorant, Squacco Heron, Little Egret, Great Egret, Grey Heron, Coot, Yellow-legged Gull, Whiskered Tern, Swallow, Red-rumped Swallow, House Martin and Sand Martin. After this expedition, we were seriously in need of refreshment and some warmth, so the local fish soup went down well in an inn at the edge of the lake. On boarding



Overlooking Kotor Bay. Photo by Tony Bristow



Farewell to Montenegro! The Travel Group outside the Hotel Tara
Photo by Jean Davis

the coach for our return, we soon stopped for an additional visit to a small museum which had curated displays to represent the flora and fauna of the several national parks in the country.

Tuesday was the last day of our visit and the afternoon afforded a visit to Sveti Stefan, often featured in photographs of the region. First we had a visit to an orthodox chapel attached to a small monastery nearby. Sveti Stefan is a small island rather like St. Michael's Mount but it was not possible to visit the island itself as it is now an exclusive hotel resort. Instead we had a walk in a local park and an opportunity to stop at beachside cafés and bask in the sunshine.

Wednesday was the day of our return and, of course, the sun shone brightly. But we went home with good memories of a beautiful country with a varied history reflecting most of the upheavals of the rest of Europe. In the past it lay on the fault line between the Byzantine and Roman Empire. In the twentieth century it was surrounded by all the turmoil of the Balkans. Now it stands at the edge of Europe hoping to enter what we have left behind.

Pamela Williams

Plans for 2017 –

We had hoped to go to Puglia, Southern Italy, but were put off by the Flight time from Gatwick – 07.30am! – so decided to cancel. We have now booked with Tailored Travel to go: to Italy for The Delights of Northern Italy from 7-12 May; Historic Houses of Devon, 17-21 July; and The Art and History of Liverpool 10-14 September. All these trips can be viewed at www.tailored-travel.co.uk quoting welu171, welu172 and welu 173.

Jean Davis

The thirteenth in our series of profiles of distinguished Welwyn Hatfield U3A members features ...

Judy Grant

Judith Ann English was born in Oxford, and attended grammar school there; then went on to Newcastle University to read Mathematics. There she met her future husband, Robin Grant, a Physics student. After graduation she taught Mathematics in Gateshead for a year, meanwhile studying moral philosophy in extra-mural classes. In 1968 she married Robin, and they both went to the University of Bath to do Diplomas in Education.

Robin got a job teaching Physics at Sir Frederic Osborn School, WGC, so they came to Hertfordshire living on the Panshanger Estate. Judy taught Mathematics in several local schools, meanwhile continuing her perpetual quest for learning by taking A-Levels in Economics and Sociology at night school

Her sons were born in 1972 and 1975: in those years she worked at home, marking O-Level Mathematics papers. She became a team leader, and finally one of the group determining examination grade boundaries and checking the borderline candidates. She also began work for an Open University degree in Politics and Sociology (gained in 1981), and helped to found a book discussion group in WGC.



Returning to outside work once her sons attended school, Judy taught Mathematics at Hatfield School, Presdales in Ware, and later became Head of Mathematics at Bishops Hatfield.

Sadly, in 1993 the Grants' marriage ended, and Judy moved to The Commons, WGC. Later she became Head of Mathematics at St Francis College, Letchworth. She has always enjoyed travel, and now made many trips, initially to Uzbekistan, making many friends: the group with whom she travelled still meets often for lunch.

Judy joined our U3A promptly upon retirement in 2008 – seamlessly, she says, as it enabled her to continue meeting many people, and satisfied her enduring interest in learning. She joined the Architecture, Arts Appreciation, Philosophy/Psychology and Science & Technology groups. Within six months she was on the Committee, was Groups' Coordinator in 2010, Vice Chairman in 2011, and Chairman 2012-14. She was much concerned with front-of-house arrangements and Welcome teams for the Wednesday meetings, and her successor as Chairman, Jack Wood, wrote in the Newsletter:

I moved from Vice-Chairman into the Chair, following a really splendid tenure by Judy Grant, and I thanked her – as I do here – for the innovations she made on rotas and the placing of personnel, all to make our U3A life even better and smoother for all our members, new and old. Hers was a firm but friendly hand on our tiller, and I have a lot to measure up to!

Now Judy is giving us the benefit of her mathematical talents as our Treasurer, battling Gift Aid and the prospect of paying charges for group meetings in Council halls.

She is still active in the book discussion group that started in the 1970s, and enjoys gardening, swimming, and travelling. Ever eager to learn, she has also joined NADFAS, remains in three of the groups she joined initially, and – obviously! – proves a very knowledgeable member of our team in the annual Network Quiz. She gives talks on Art to other U3A groups, and speaks about the U3A to other organisations preparing members for retirement.

With so much learning that she is willing to impart, and ever eager for more, the U3A seems made for Judy, and Judy for the U3A.

Hazel Bell

Publications

Taking Off edited by Phil Marris. Hatfield Local History Society, 2016. A5, 94pp. ISBN 978-0-9928416-5-2. £5.00+pp.



The early story of the de Havilland Aircraft Company is told here through the eyes of some who were there, from the early 1930s into the 1950s. It has been assembled from a variety of sources including: Don Lawrence's "Early Days of de Havilland at Hatfield"; a boy's first flight over Hatfield in 1939; eyewitness accounts of the 1940 bombing; chapters on the spy Agent Zigzag; women working at de Havilland; and farming on the airfield. It recalls famous personalities such as Amy Johnson and Ralph Richardson, includes photographs and contemporary advertisements, and

lists aircraft built at Hatfield and key events for this period.

Hatfield and its people: Cumulative Index to Parts 1-12. Compiled by Hazel K. Bell. Hatfield Local History Society, 2015. 70 pages. ISBN 9780992841645. Price £4.00 + PP

An impressive set of booklets was published in the 1960s by the Hatfield Branch of the Workers' Educational Association under the overall title *Hatfield and its people*. These slim volumes, comprising 12 parts, describe different aspects of the history of Hatfield. A re-issue of the series by the Hatfield Local History Society was made in 2014 (see *U3A Newsletter* for September 2015, pp 17-18). Now this has been supplemented with a cumulative index for the whole series.

Indexes add immeasurably to the usefulness of documents, more so when several documents are involved. In this case, consider, for example, the role of barley in the history of Hatfield. Vol. 3 relates it to brewing, and Vol. 11 brings in the families involved. Vol. 9 relates barley to farming practice. The place of barley in the diet is considered in Vol. 12 while Vol. 5 describes the transport of barley. The index quickly puts together a coherent picture.

Jack Kampmeier

Autumn Term 2016 - Wednesday meetings

Doors open at 9.45; tea and coffee are served from 10.00 to 10.30 a.m. The meeting starts at 10.30 a.m. with notices, followed by the talk. We ask for £1 per meeting to cover costs and tea or coffee.

SEPTEMBER

7, Breaks Manor, Hatfield

Geoff Barrett: 'The Story of Mr Punch'

Although childhood is long in the past we all remember Mr Punch and his wicked deeds. As well as being a lecturer at Barnet College, Geoff is also a Punch and Judy man. His talk will tell us where, when and how Mr Punch first appeared, his journey across Europe, and some information about his supporting cast.

14, Ludwick Family Centre, Welwyn Garden City

Louise North and Patrick Pearce: 'Osteopathy – not just backs'

Osteopathy is a way of detecting, treating and preventing health problems, using no medication or surgery. This illustrated talk will include the history and development of the treatment, the training and qualifications involved, and tips to help manage certain conditions.

21, Hatfield

Patrick Burke: 'Antique Silver and Auction Houses'

Patrick started as a porter in the silver department of a London auction room and rose to become a valuer of silver brought in by the general public. In the 1970s he became an antiques dealer in Georgian and Victorian silver, and took medical retirement in 2012 because of multiple sclerosis. This illustrated talk includes stories about antique dealers and the way business was conducted.

28, WGC

(St Albans Tour Guide): 'Made in St Albans'

The industrial past of St Albans is rich and varied – from straw hats to steam trains and from brickmaking to bouquets of orchids. This illustrated talk looks at the industrial archaeology of the city from picturesque watermills and blacksmiths to the breweries and printing works. A real trip down memory lane!

OCTOBER

5, Hatfield

Mike Long: ‘A Day in the Life of a TV Licence Inspector’

Mike is a member of Welwyn-Hatfield U3A and we are pleased to welcome one of our own members as a speaker. He has worked as a TV Licence enforcement officer, and has trained new recruits and given talks on the subject. We will hear about the procedures and possible outcomes involved.

12, WGC

Alex Paterson: ‘Energy for Life’

Dr Alex Paterson is a graduate and post-graduate in Mechanical Engineering. His work has included aero engines, heat exchangers and large steam turbines. He will explain the origin of our main energy sources, the current situation regarding fossil fuels and, looking to the future, the use of nuclear energy, together with sustainable resources such as hydro, wind and solar power.

19, Hatfield

Pamela Wright: ‘Beatrix Potter, Authoress, Artist and Conservationist’

Pamela is an Art Historian, Calligrapher and Artist. She has been Head of Art at an Independent Girls Grammar School and is currently Secretary of The Association of Art Historians Committee. She holds several positions with the WI and National Trust and is a former Potters Bar U3A Chairman.

26, WGC

Philip Dunford: ‘Playing with fire – the Art and History of Fireworks’

Philip has been interested in fireworks all his life, particularly in their chemistry. He is a qualified firer and stage pyrotechnician and was for some years Vice Chair of The UK Pyrotechnics Society. He has given talks in schools and on television and has been appointed an Associate of the Institute of Explosives Engineers. This is an illustrated talk, but there will be no live demonstrations!

NOVEMBER

2, Hatfield

Lorimer Burn: 'Stories from a Career in Flying'

Captain Lorimer Burn joined the Royal Navy in 1967, aged 21, as a helicopter pilot. He went on to British Airways Helicopters at Aberdeen, flying helicopters to North Sea oil rigs, and later to British Midland Airways, flying the Boeing 737 and the Airbus A320 series out of Heathrow. This is an illustrated talk with some dramatic video.

9, WGC

Barbara Foster: 'A Year by The River Thames'

Barbara is a retired teacher and has been tackling long-distance walks for a few years. Currently she is walking to all the cathedrals of England. Her illustrated talk about The Thames Path covers one part of these cathedral walks.

16, Hatfield

Paul Baker: 'In The Footsteps of the Famous in Barnet'

In this virtual tour of High Barnet and Monken Hadley, we will hear about the famous people who have lived or passed through this area and left their traces. Paul is a qualified City of London guide and also leads walks in his own borough of Barnet.

23, WGC

Art and Photo Exhibition and Demonstrations

30, Hatfield

Philippa Bernard: 'The History of the English Garden'

This talk covers the development of the garden in England from Roman times to the present day. It will include gardens of many types, showing why gardening is now the fastest growing hobby in the country.

DECEMBER

7, WGC

Christmas Party – Quiz at 10.30 am.

Please bring finger food for buffet afterwards.

14 Christmas Lunch – Homestead Court Hotel, WGC