



## A Musical Garden Party



On 20 July more than fifty of us assembled in the grounds of Breaks Manor to enjoy the annual Summer Garden Party. After two days of unprecedented heat, it was relatively cool and we were thankful it wasn't 40 degrees.

As last year - all blame to Covid - the traditional buffet table in the hall, laden with members' contributions to the communal picnic, was lacking; instead, we each brought our own picnic and drink.

Proceedings were got off to a rousing start by the WelHat Ukes, our own Ukulele Group. They played and sang a wide range of hits, many from the 60s. "A Picture of You" took me right back to a Sixth Form dance when I was 17! (*Continued on page 3.*)

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## **u3a Welwyn-Hatfield NEWSLETTER**

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I imagine that many of us were briefly transported back to our pasts. The group of 16 played a 45-minute set with great panache and skill, which was most enjoyable. They rounded it off with extracts from numbers from the Roaring Twenties.

We were then treated to a Tony Quiz. Tony's quizzes are a wonder and this was no exception. There were four rounds, each having eight questions, and each covering a decade from the 1950s to the 1980s. Lots of thinking went on, hoping to bring to mind the answers. We knew the answers but for the moment we couldn't recall them. Nostalgia ruled!

The winning team achieved 26 correct answers so did well.

The WelHat Ukes completed the afternoon with a set of 25 minutes. Some brave souls were inspired to dance – some with style in the central space, with great panache, others jogging about in the surrounding ring of chairs. The finale, for which all joined in the singing, was "Alexander's Ragtime Band".

Chairs, food, empty drink bottles, etc. were gathered up and we said farewell after a varied and enjoyable afternoon. Many thanks are due to the talented Welhatukes and to Tony for his enjoyable quiz.

*Judy Grant*

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## **A memory-stirring dance**

What a fantastic evening was the Summer Dance held at Ludwick Hall on 25 June – and what a bargain! We had two bands for the price of one this time as Tony Tutton's band *Simply 60s* played before the fish and chips – and, amazingly, Tony Tutton's band *Simply 70s* played afterwards! It has to be said that the personnel were the same and the standard of music as high. Around a hundred members along with some friends enjoyed a wonderful evening of singing, dancing and entertainment. Tony's musicians were in fine form – we are so fortunate to have such talent in our midst.



If you haven't attended one of these dances, you don't know what you're missing. The atmosphere is electric, and even if you're unable to dance you can join in with the singing. I'm always surprised how many of the words from years ago we can remember — or at least think we do!! You don't need a partner either as everyone just joins in altogether, jigging and bobbing in their own little world. Do please think about coming along next time!

It's quite tricky to paint a full picture of the night—some words that spring to mind are fun, happiness, nostalgia, joy, love, laughter, satisfaction, garish jackets (Tony!), sparkle, friends, great music, energy, lively, pleasure, amusement. I'm sure anyone who came along could supply more.

Thank you Tony and your band for all the fun and great music that you bring us each time. I'm already counting down the weeks until the next one.

*Ann Davies*

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## Notes from the Chair

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Steve Hall

Well, we have come to the end of my first term as Chair and I am pleased to report that we are in great shape. Our membership is growing, currently over 800, our finances are sound, and we are beginning to get back to a good level of normality after the huge disruption caused by the Covid pandemic.

Many groups are once again meeting face-to-face, and the new payment system whereby groups fund their venue costs appears to be running smoothly. Many thanks to our Treasurer Sue Talbot, our Groups Co-ordinator Joan Scales, and all the Group Leaders involved for making this work so efficiently.

This term amongst other activities, we have had a Theatre Group trip to see the *Life of Pi*, Exploring London Group outings to Canary Wharf and Kings Cross, as well as a trip to the London Olympic Park by the Architecture Group. The Travel Group went to Lincolnshire, Bristol and Cardiff, whilst the Arts Appreciation Group have been to Wimpole Hall, King's Lynn and St Albans Abbey. The Gardening Group have also been busy, with outings to Easton Walled Gardens near Grantham, Leonardslee House and Gardens and Batsford Arboretum. Once again – a great job done by the group leaders who made all this happen.

Despite some setbacks caused by Covid, and a motor accident whereby the speakers had to pull out at the last minute, the Wednesday morning presentations continue to be well supported with attendance figures usually just below a hundred members. Thanks to Jill Longman, Jill McKinnon and Corrie Godfrey for reacting so quickly to these dilemmas and finding last-minute alternatives so seamlessly. Not forgetting Stephen Brown for kindly allowing us to use some of his London History Group recordings.

The Summer Dance at the end of June was also a great success with over a hundred members attending and literally dancing the night away to Tony Tutton's *Simply 60's* Band as well as enjoying a good fish-and- chip supper. Hopefully we will be able to organise another one for early in the New Year. A terrific job done by Tony in putting this together.



**Tony Tutton - Quizmaster  
and Bandleader**

The Garden Party, our final activity of the term, was also a most enjoyable occasion. Over

fifty of us braved the hot weather to relax in the grounds of Breaks Manor, listening to the Ukulele Group entertaining us with a wide variety of music and songs. In the break between their sessions Tony Tutton entertained us with a quiz covering four decades which certainly tested our memories. Thanks to all concerned for creating a very pleasant afternoon.

The Autumn Term commences on 14 September at WGC and on 21 September we celebrate the u3a's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with our u3a Open Day at Breaks Manor, which the new Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield, Councillor Barbara Fitzsimon has kindly agreed to open. We will do our best to showcase what a wonderful organisation Welwyn Hatfield u3a is, and how the local community benefits from it.

In addition to the committee and group leaders there are many other members who help to make our u3a a success. Whether it is making coffee, completing the registers or setting up the front of house at Wednesday meetings, keeping our website functioning, producing our Newsletter or any of the other numerous tasks, which are essential to the smooth running of our organisation. Thank you all for bringing the u3a fully back to life after a very difficult period in our history.

Once again we can Learn, Laugh and Live our lives to the full.

## **Equality, Inclusion and Diversity Policy**

Our current policy was due to be reviewed this year, which for us was very convenient because u3a Trust had amended their sample policy in 2021.

Welwyn Hatfield u3a is committed to treating all people equally and with respect. We also consider that no member should suffer disadvantage or receive less favourable treatment on the basis set out in the Equality Act 2010.

The policy also includes the Code of Conduct. It is important that all members read the policy. The policy is available on our website. For those members who do not have access to the internet, please contact me and I will send you a hard copy of the policy.

*Marie Scales 01707 328986*

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## **Group News**

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### **Arts Appreciation**

#### *Trip to King's Lynn*

On the 5th July we were so lucky to wake up to such a warm and sunny day and Alan, our coach driver was excellent in every way.

On the outward journey everyone had a chance to read the pamphlets I had provided which enabled them to make notes and to take photos of any 'must see' buildings that could be visited later in the day.

A while beforehand I was in touch with The King's Lynn Information Centre. Alison was particularly helpful and enthusiastic which certainly made the day extra special.

We arrived in very good time and drove through the 15th-century South Gate which is the most impressive remaining part of the Kings Lynn defensive fortifications. We then turned into South Quay, with views of The River Great Ouse on our left.

Soon afterwards we arrived at our drop-off point in the



**Precincts of the Minster *photo by Janet Sibley***

Saturday Market Place, right in front of the Tourist Information Centre.

The entrance to King's Lynn Minster was just across this quiet road. Several of us walked straight into this lovely building where we were served with coffee, sandwiches and slices of cake. Tables and chairs had been arranged for us to sit and eat whilst listening to beautiful classical music. This was a good start to the day.

Our group had by now split into smaller groups so that everyone could investigate whatever appealed to each person the most.

Three of us decided to head for the Lynn Museum which tells the story of West Norfolk. We stepped back in time as we walked into the world of Seahenge. The astonishing 4,000 year old Bronze Age timber circle was reclaimed from the sea some years ago.

The museum's centrepiece was a full-sized replica of the original henge. We were lucky enough to be given much





**Part of the Town Hall photo by Janet Sibley**

more information by a gentleman who had been involved in the archaeological dig, followed by getting involved in intensive preservation work. A number of original treated timbers and the upturned oak tree stump in the middle of the original henge, now fully restored, still exist.

After this, we sat outside The Wennis Chop & Ale House, where we enjoyed an excellent plate of very fresh fish and chips, washed down by a glass of white wine!

At this point, some of our group had decided to book the Local Town Guide for a two-hour walk. This revealed over 900 years of maritime and trading history, medieval churches and guildhalls, as well as giving us the opportunity to see secret courtyards and hidden waterways. King's Lynn being one of the most important ports from the 12th century, there was still much to be seen.

We visited the Town Hall Complex, which houses the 1420s-built Trinity Guildhall, an 18th century gaol house and cells and the museum containing the borough archives. We walked past fine merchants' houses and along cobbled lanes



*The Custom House photo by Dee Thomas*

which stretch down to The River Great Ouse.

Starting with the town's early development in the 11th century, King's Lynn quickly developed as a major port and became an important base for trade between the local area and the cities of Northern Europe, through the Hanseatic League.

There are many more interesting buildings to visit, such as the 1420's-built Trinity Guildhall, which is the centrepiece of the town hall complex with impressive windows and distinctive flint chequerboard-patterned front. Thoresby College is a fine Tudor building incorporating a beautiful courtyard. Hanse House is a Grade 1 listed building with the only surviving Hanseatic warehouse in the country.

The Custom House built in 1683 is interesting), as is The Guildhall of St George built in the 1430's. Finally, the 13th-15th century Greyfriars Tower set in beautiful gardens would have been a lovely spot for a picnic on such a fine day.

*Janet Sibley*

## Theatre Trips



May 12<sup>th</sup> saw our first trip for the Theatre Group since lockdown, to see *Life of Pi* – and what a magnificent production it was! We were taken to London by coach and dropped off outside Wyndham's Theatre at 12.30pm. The show started at 2.30pm so we had time to explore the area: Leicester Square, Covent Garden, China Town, as well as to grab a bite to eat before the show started. We arrived back in WGC at about 6.55pm after a fantastic day out.

Wyndham's Theatre is lovely and cosy, and one of the smaller theatres in London, which was great for a first post-Covid visit. The organisers had managed to get seats in the stalls. This meant you almost felt part of the set which was amazing. It was so lovely to be back in the theatre watching a live performance again. I heard lots of comments showing appreciation of that. We even had a technical hitch, something that happens occasionally with live theatre. A back-stage crew member came on the stage to apologise about a technical hitch with some of the props. The cast just talked among themselves while the audience watched, rather bemused. It only took a couple of minutes to rectify and, when everything was fixed, one of the cast said "Now where was I?" and the performance continued. True professionals!

The story is one of tragic loss, learning to adapt to new concepts and ideas, overcoming fears, and of survival. The story unfolds with Pi Patel re-living his experiences as he tries to explain to the medics what has happened to him.

Pi is a young man whose family own a zoo in India. Because of political unrest there, his father decides to move his zoo to Canada. The family set sail, the animals are safely in their cages, with the ship's crew supposedly looking after them all.

Animals from the zoo represented in the story are a Zebra, an Orang-utan, a Hyena and a Tiger. All goes well until a terrible storm hits their boat, when most life is lost.

Pi awakens to discover he is the only human to survive the shipwreck. One by one he fights off the animals who have also survived, until Pi is left with just the fearsome Bengal Tiger called Richard Parker. The pair learn to coexist on a lifeboat as they struggle to depend on each other for food and survival.

The animals are presented as puppets, worked with two or three performers who make the animals come to life.

Puppetry is an art form and in this production you can clearly see what it is capable of. Actors and Puppets become one. Finn Caldwell, who worked on the puppets for *War Horse*, designed the puppets for *Life of Pi* with Nick Barnes.

This was an excellent performance, excellent day out, and it was so good to be back in the theatre for live performances again. Thank you Pam for organising it.

*Sue Dorrington*

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## **Travel Group**

*The Historic Houses and Heritage of Cardiff, Somerset and the Wye Valley*

At last the time came at the end of May for our first Travel Group holiday since the pandemic. Unfortunately, our leader Jean Davis was unable to accompany us following her accident during the winter. However, Ann Davies and I were happy to take the reins as Jean had planned the trip.

On the first day we had an en-route stop at Bowood House



and Gardens in Wiltshire (*photo above*). The gardens here were landscaped by Capability Brown and featured a large lake with a Doric temple visible across the water. The gardens, especially the roses, were beautiful at this time. All that remains of the original house is one wing featuring the former orangery but the house has many treasures such as the sculpture gallery and a magnificent library. We learnt that this was the house where Joseph Priestley discovered oxygen gas in 1774. This was a delightful visit and set the mood for our further visits during the coming days.

Later in the day we arrived at our hotel, the Aztec Hotel and Spa on the outskirts of Bristol. This was a lovely hotel with very pleasant rooms and facilities. I think we were all delighted by the water coolers on the corridors and milk fountains, which we could use to fill our bottles in our room fridges. A small detail but very welcome. As the week went on we were to discover that the food was excellent and even breakfasts were served at tables. The hotel also had an excellent spa; my one regret was that I only managed to get a swim on one day as we had a full itinerary. Another great personal surprise for me was to find that the hotel was opposite the listed office building designed by my architect brother-in-law.

*Day 2: We set off across the Severn Bridge and into Wales*

on our way to Cardiff. We met with our guide and had a conducted tour of some of the sights. First stop was the Millennium Centre with its impressive exterior and, almost next door and passing the Ivor Novello statue, the Senedd, the National Assembly building. We then had a walkabout in the Tiger Bay area on a bright, sunny morning. Then we boarded the coach and headed into the city centre. We passed the huge Principality Stadium which is right in the centre of the city and close to the railway station. We then had some time to explore the centre which runs opposite the Castle. In the afternoon we visited the Royal Mint Visitor Centre for a guided tour. Many of us took the opportunity to make our own souvenir coins by pressing a button! The volume of coins manufactured here was quite astonishing – but no free samples!

*Day 3:* This morning we headed to Wells in Somerset, and began with a visit to the wonderful Gothic cathedral with its astronomical clock, stained glass and medieval statuary (*photo right*). I

always enjoy visits to cathedrals and their environs. They seem like an oasis of calm in our busy lives, and with such a sense of history. On walking beside the building we came to the Vicar's Close, a complete medieval street. The sunshine, the bells ringing and the pleasant cathedral green made it hard to leave this lovely spot. But onward and upward! Next stop was the National Trust's



Montacute House, Somerset. This is a glorious Elizabethan House and gardens with an exceptional Long Gallery which houses paintings from the National Portrait Gallery. The formal gardens and orangery were well worth a visit.

*Day 4:* Today we set off to explore the scenic Wye Valley. Our first stop was Tintern Abbey where we had plenty of time to explore the ruins and contemplate Wordsworth's and Turner's inspiration. While we were there, a sound installation was played which reflected the continuing inspiration of the place. Personally, I enjoyed the tranquillity and time to enjoy the peace.

In the afternoon we made our way to Berkeley Castle, Gloucestershire, which was begun in 1117 and is still occupied. The castle is the place where Edward II met his gruesome death. We saw the room which was his prison. But, on a lighter note, we were greeted at the entrance by actors in Tudor dress and Henry VIII sporting an over-sized cod-piece!! Difficult to ignore, really. Inside the castle were many rare paintings and tapestries. Whilst there we had the opportunity to see a video of the process of cleaning a valuable medieval tapestry and the result, which was very interesting.

*Day 5:* And so we came to our final day. On our way home



we visited the National Trust's Stourhead property in Wiltshire (*photo above*). The gardens have been described as "a living work of art" and are considered some of the finest in the country, perfectly complemented with a lake and classical temples. The Palladian villa was completed in 1725 and was full of regency furniture and paintings. This was another highly enjoyable visit with so much to see.

The journey home was quite slow with the usual slowdown past Stonehenge and rain on the M3 – but we had been fortunate throughout the trip. So, many thanks to the team, led by Jean Davis, for organising this – and I'll just end with a little Wordsworth:

O sylvan Wye! Thou wanderer thro' the woods,  
How often has my spirit turned to thee!

*Text and photos by Pamela Williams*

#### *Travel Group plans for 2023*

15–19 May 2023 – East Sussex Tour, staying at East Beach Hotel, Eastbourne. Trips out to the surrounding area. Applications available from 14 September 2022. Just for Groups is the travel agent.

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## **Ukulele Group**

### ***The Continued Progress of WELHAT UKES***

*Our Ukulele Group is getting out and about and gaining a reputation!*

*Asked to sum up the experience of being a part of the band, member Julie Grey describes it thus:*

#### **FIVE RULES OF BEING IN A BAND** (Ukulele Version)

[1] BE COOL – Let's face it – being a member of the u3a and of Welhat Ukes is not the last word in cool.

Being actual pensioners doesn't help. How do the Rolling Stones get away with it? In fact, most of the artists we like (the ones who are still alive) are distinctly on the mature side. OK, forget cool.





**The Ukulele Group playing at Lemsford Fete.**

[2] BE GOOD AT IT - We are trying. Some of the group are proper musicians or choir singers. Our band leader, Dave Charlwood, plays electric things. Roger and Romy play accordion and others shake or blow through various objects. We got a lot better when our drummer, Stephen Green, joined the group. Many of us started the ukulele as complete beginners and we are grateful for the patience of those who know all the real musical stuff.

[3] BE BIG ENOUGH TO HAVE ROADIES - A road crew is a distant dream. We would be stuck without Tony Dodd who expertly deals with all the equipment. The rest of us pitch in; carrying big black things, winding miles of mystery cable and puzzling over collapsible mike stands. Professional roadies probably wouldn't leave an amplifier in a school car park. (We got it back.)

[4] HAVE FUN - That's the easy bit. Dave would probably prefer it if we spent a bit less time having fun and got down to business. Someone has just bought him a whistle to keep us

in order. Making music with other people is hugely enjoyable. The ukulele is the perfect instrument for playing and singing in a large group. Guitars or pianos in that quantity would be thunderously loud, and you'd never get a harp or a double bass on the bus.

[5] PLAY ALL THE BEST VENUES - We've got that one nailed. We've played beneath a painting of King George III at Hatfield House, at school and church celebrations, Jubilee parties, and a thank-you do for vaccination centre workers. Some of our most satisfying gigs are in care homes and at the Digswell Dementia cafe. There is nothing, absolutely nothing, that makes a connection like live music. We have seen memories awakened, and people who have lost speech singing along to old favourites. We have got people up dancing, having a good time with the people who love them. We always enjoy performing at Christmas (except Dave.) We love singing carols. (Dave doesn't.) There is nothing like Frosty the Snowman and Winter Wonderland, (unless you're Dave). Well it's all his own fault, he started it. Thank you, Dave.

**Julie Grey**

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*The thirtieth in our series of profiles of distinguished Welwyn Hatfield u3a members features ...* **Steve Hall**

Steve Hall was born in Bedford, and lived there until he was eleven, when he moved to S.W. London, where he attended the local boys Grammar School.

Whilst at Grammar School, Steve joined the Army Section of the Combined Cadet Force, a new experience, which he thoroughly enjoyed. During his time in the cadet force, Steve had the dubious privilege of having his ability at Drill tested by the Guards at Chelsea Barracks, which fortunately he passed. Like his friends in the cadet force, Steve was 'Army Barmy', volunteering to go on any activity available. Not surprising then that despite coming from an engineering family, Steve considered a career in the Army. Whilst still at school and studying for his A levels, Steve enlisted in the



**Steve and Doreen Hall**

Territorial Army to get some more experience. The T.A. headquarters was in King's Road Chelsea, at the time one of the 'coolest' places in the UK, so going there twice a week was no great effort, although he says the PT was!

However, all that was to change, when he met Doreen. The idea of a career in the Army now seemed less attractive, and as a leading supermarket company where he also had a part time job had offered him a place on their management training scheme, Steve took up their offer and married Doreen instead.

Steve and Doreen moved out of London to Stevenage under the New Towns' Scheme, and Steve continued his management training, becoming Deputy Grocery Manager at a newly opened, large supermarket. This role included dealing with Sales Representatives from some key suppliers, and on one occasion one of them told Steve of a vacancy in the local area and asked if he might be interested. Having received a positive response he returned the next week with his Area Manager who after a brief interview offered Steve the job. This was the start of a career in Sales with the company lasting 19 years. In that time Steve worked in various Sales roles as well as a spell in Marketing. During this period he was involved in the launch of a number of well known products as well as seeing the retail trade go through a major transformation.

Steve's next major role was as an Area Sales Manager with a different company, managing a team of nine Territory Managers covering a third of the UK, including London. This role later grew, with Steve and his team covering the southern half of the UK, coast to coast, including the Channel Islands – although he only got to visit them once! This was to

be Steve's last job and after nearly 17 years with them, he decided to retire. However, he was asked to stay on for a further year to represent the company, whilst working for a Prince of Wales Charity. This role involved linking local businesses with charities and community groups to the common good. For this final year Steve was able to work three days a week, which he says was a good way to prepare for retirement. During his time in the role he also had the pleasure of meeting and chatting to the Prince of Wales.

Since retiring Steve has further developed his interest in military history, including trips to the Somme, Ypres and Dunkirk and reading countless books on both World Wars. He has also visited the Waterloo Battlefield where one of his forebears fought alongside Wellington.

Steve first heard about the u3a from a friend in Essex who suggested it might be of interest. Having checked out the Stevenage and Hitchin u3as, he looked at Welwyn Hatfield which seemed to offer more activities of interest to him and Doreen. They joined Welwyn Hatfield u3a in 2019 and initially were content to attend the Wednesday presentations, which fitted in with their other activities. Later they enrolled in the Family History, London History, Exploring London and Strollers Groups. A year later, having helped with various activities, Steve joined the committee – only to see everything change as we went into lockdown. During this period, however, it was decided that we should try to increase our exposure, and Steve was asked to take on the role of committee member for PR. (although with no experience of PR he was not sure why!) However, as a result we have had a few articles published in the *Welwyn Hatfield Times* as well as *TAM*, and even a mention on Google News!

When Pam Williams' term as Chair concluded in March this year Steve was asked to take over the role and he was duly elected as our current Chairman, also persuading Doreen to join as a committee member.



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## Review

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*World War II: Childhood Memories – Adult Reflections* by u3a Wartime Memories Group: HKB Press, 2022. Paperback, 32 pages. £2.00 + £1 p&p from Mary Perren: <maryperren@icloud.com>



There is a wide variety of experience within a group of people such as the members of Welwyn Hatfield u3a. As one of those of a slightly later vintage, I have no personal experience of wartime and perhaps surprisingly little understanding of what it would have been like. My parents didn't speak much about it, in a way that I think was common at the time as it was still raw for many people, and it was too recent for the subject to be part of any history curriculum during my school years, as it is for many of our grandchildren now. So it was with few preconceptions that I read the booklet of reminiscences that has been produced by our Wartime Memories Group, under the leadership of Mary Perren.

It begins with Mary's own explanation of her aims in starting the group and ends with her postscript observation of the tragic irony of the current situation in Ukraine. In between are memories of doodlebugs, sandbags and gasmasks, air raids, Anderson shelters and barrage balloons, and pet rabbits allowed to breed in order to supplement the meat ration. We learn of childhood exploits in cities, on the coast and in the countryside, with family or as evacuees. There are stories of fathers away on active service and others in the Home Guard; mothers sent to Brocket Hall to give birth, or working in the WVS; relatives coming home on leave, or never coming home again.

Black and white photographs are scattered through the 31 pages, adding extra interest; and colour illustrations on the front and back help to set the scene. I found the booklet fascinating and enlightening and I feel sure that the members who contributed will have enjoyed the experience of doing so.

*Jill Longman*

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## Autumn Term 2022 – Wednesday Meetings

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*Doors open at 9.45am. Tea and coffee are served from 10.00am to 10.30am. The meetings start at 10.30am with notices, followed by the talks. Bring your own cup or mug for free tea or coffee.*

*We are now making recordings of talks delivered at our Wednesday morning meetings, whenever speakers are willing for us to do this.*

*We are making these recordings without investing in expensive new equipment or requiring a lot of technical knowledge, so the results are not perfect, but improving, and a number of members are now benefitting from the opportunity of watching talks that they were unable to attend in person.*

*If you would like to receive recordings whenever they are available, please email [video@u3awelhat.org.uk](mailto:video@u3awelhat.org.uk)*

### SEPTEMBER

**14, Ludwick Family Centre, Welwyn Garden City**

**Tony Earle – “The Thames Barge”**

Thames Barges we see today are survivors of a fleet of over 2000 that carried goods to London. Tony’s talk outlines their history and use up to the present day, illustrated with a model and pictures.

**21, Breaks Manor, Hatfield 10am-1pm**

**u3a Day – Open event with displays and performances**

**28, WGC**

**Steve Dimmer – “Walt Disney – the Struggles of a Legend”**

Walt Disney is a name that conjures up magic and happiness. Yet in his life, Disney was constantly battling to realise his ambitions. Steve explores the life of this extraordinary man and the trials he overcame. Liberally illustrated with clips from landmark films and sprinkled with anecdotes that will inform, entertain and surprise.

### OCTOBER

**5, Hatfield**

**Gill Hodgekinson-Price – “Highgate Cemetery”**

In this talk we will learn about the construction of the Victorian burial ground and many of the famous current-day occupants.

## **October 12, WGC**

### **David Callaghan – “René Lalique”**

Lalique is better known to the general public for his work in glass, but this talk introduces some of the extraordinary jewels he created. His ideas and technical achievements became a huge inspiration to other designers and craftsmen. The talk concludes with a “tour” of his lasting monument – the “Glass Church” of St. Martin in Jersey.

**19, Hatfield** – *Please note the early start!*

### **10 a.m.: James Hinkins - "Appraisals for Older Drivers"**

James is Lead Driving Assessor at Herts Ability, a charity based in WGC. He will tell us about a new service designed to "review and rev-up your driving skills" aiming to support drivers in continuing to be safe on the road and retaining their independence.

### **10.30 a.m.: Stephanie Bevan – “Hertfordshire Careline”**

Established by North Herts Council in 1982, the Herts Careline supports the independence and safety of thousands of residents by the provision of sensors, alarm buttons and other devices which call for help in an emergency. Their control room, in Letchworth, takes around 1800 calls every day.

## **26, WGC**

### **David Felton – “Walking from Lands End to John O’Groats”**

On 15 May 2017 David Felton set off on the adventure of a lifetime, walking from Land’s End 1,269 miles north to John O’Groats in 82 days. In this talk, David outlines the highs and lows of his long walk, using more than a hundred beautiful photos.

## **NOVEMBER**

### **2 Hatfield**

### **Tony Eaton – “The Curious Disappearance of Major Glenn Miller”**

Tony has a particular interest in unravelling some of the hitherto unresolved air mysteries of the 2nd World War and is a recognised authority on the disappearance of the famous bandleader Glenn Miller. A member of the Glenn Miller Society since 1955, Tony is the main contributor to its International *Moonlight Serenader* magazine.

## **November 9, WGC**

### **Carole Hawkins – “Tales from the Chalk Face”**

Carole is 21 with 46 years experience! She has been Head of three schools and an independent advisor to independent schools for many years, and has written several books including the biography of Peggy Batchelor. She is also an occasional public speaker and presenter.

## **16, Hatfield**

### **Roger Wotton – “Angels, Putti, Fairies & Dragons”**

Artistic impressions of these beings usually depict them as having wings, enabling them to move from the realm of their existence to another world – ours. We will survey images of angels, putti, fairies and dragons and consider how each uses their wings for flight.

## **23, WGC**

### **Chris Truran – “A funny thing happened to me on the way to the Old Bailey”**

Criminals sometimes do unbelievably stupid things that get them arrested. While fingerprints and Forensics capture many, there are plenty more times when they have brought about their own downfall. Very much a light-hearted look at the criminal world.

## **30, Hatfield**

### **Colin Oakes: “Christmas Traditions: Samain to Twelfth Night”**

Colin is an archaeologist who, as well as giving talks, takes groups on walking tours and coach tours in London and the South East.

## **DECEMBER**

### **7, WGC Christmas Party & Quiz**

*Bring your own food – drinks will be provided*

### **14 Christmas Lunch at The View, Welwyn**

*The Spring term starts on 11 January 2023 at Hatfield.*

*Welwyn Hatfield U3A does not endorse any products or services offered by speakers.*