



# u3a Day



**Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield, Barbara Fitzsimon at Craftea's stall with Group Leader Nicola Beynon and Hazel Thorne.**

The u3a movement in the UK is 40 years old this year and the u3a Trust (our overall representative body) wanted all 1000 branches to celebrate this anniversary during u3a week which was 17-25 September. So Welwyn Hatfield u3a finally held their very first u3a day. I say 'finally' because plans were well advanced to hold an Open Day in June 2020 and combine it with the WGC centenary – but unfortunately a certain global pandemic prevented it.

After much thought, planning and publicising the event it took place on Wednesday 21 September at Breaks Manor in Hatfield. Our Chair Steve Hall introduced the Mayor, councillor Barbara Fitzsimon who

<b>CONTENTS</b>	
u3a Day	1
Christmas party and Quiz	4
Christmas lunch	5
Notes from the Chair	7
<b>GROUP NEWS :</b>	
Exploring London	9
Reorganization; Sonja Park; Group (3)	
Strollers	13
Sunday Solo	13
Travel: Lincolnshire; Isle of Man	14
Zoomers	20
Wednesday Meetings	22

opened the meeting at 10am. Mark Hanna the CEO of AgeUK Herts joined us as well; both were keen to see just what we offer to the local older population. I was struck by how friendly, approachable and interested the Mayor was. Both the specially invited visitors seemed impressed and surprised at the variety of topics we cover. They certainly talked to lots of people and seemed to enjoy what they saw.

Over a hundred members attended plus more than twenty visitors. The lobby was busy as usual at a Wednesday meeting with the hustle

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**The audience for Viva Voce**

and bustle of people registering and being greeted by a larger than normal team of Welcomers. A rolling presentation of talks was running on a laptop, and the notice boards were up. In the main hall our normal Wednesday morning presentation was running on a screen.

Tony Tutton was our MC and kept things moving along during the morning. We were treated to performances by our Ukes group, a group called Viva Voce who read some very amusing poems about ageing gracefully (or not!), and some reminiscences from our Wartime Memories group. Lots of artistic and craft displays were there to marvel at; brilliant photos from the photography group; some games groups were playing at tables, other groups such as Travel, Gardening, Exploring London, Spanish and Philosophy also showed how we spend our time.

We feel the whole event went well and with a couple of tweaks this might well become an annual event. Several new members joined up as a result of the morning so it was a success from that point of view. Of course it could not have happened without those members who contributed tirelessly to make it run so smoothly. We thank them very much.

If you didn't come along this year do put in your planner next year's date which is 4 October so you can experience it for yourself!

*Text by Ann Davies; photos by Peter Fox*

## Christmas Party and Quiz



On 7 December, we gathered for our final Wednesday meeting of 2022 – our traditional Christmas Party and Quiz. Around 80 members gathered at Ludwick Hall and many festive outfits were worn, although sometimes under extra outer layers due to the seasonally cold weather!

We arranged ourselves round tables and the WelHat Ukes began the entertainment with a selection of Christmassy songs. Not everyone knew the words of “Feliz Navidad” sufficiently well to join in but there were plenty to which they could sing along: “I’m Dreaming of a White Christmas”, “Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree”, and more.

Next, our resident MC and quizmaster Tony Tutton introduced this year’s brainteasers. Brows were furrowed over photos of faces that should have been recognizable (could that be Jack Nicholson? No! It’s Jeremy Irons!) With a music round and lots of general knowledge, we gave our little grey cells some exercise trying to answer questions such as who was Carol Hersey? (the

girl in the TV testcard picture) and how is 77 written in Roman numerals? (LXXVII). Inevitably we all had a good chuckle, too, as we acknowledged our triumphs and trip-ups. A team made up of the majority of the ukulele group was pipped at the post, beaten by a single point by a team which included some seasoned quizzers and another two ukulele members. Proof, surely, that music is good for the brain!

Everyone had brought nibbles which were shared around. Drinks were provided and members' eco-friendly habit of bringing their own cups on Wednesday mornings extended to vessels more suited to the wine and fruit juices which were on offer alongside teas and coffees.

The ukes returned to play a few more songs to round off proceedings, ending, appropriately, with "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" which proved to be just the right ear-worm to have for the rest of the day.

## **Christmas Lunch**

Tickets for the Christmas Lunch, on 14 December at The View, Panshanger Golf Club, sold like the proverbial hot cakes and we were all looking forward to a good gathering to bring the term to a close. Then, a couple of days before, extremely cold weather hit us all and a significant snowfall settled and showed no sign of thawing. We wondered whether this would deter people from coming out as some roads and pavements were decidedly treacherous, but we are a hardy bunch and not easily put off when we want to do something! So on the appointed day the tables set out for us were soon filled and nearly ninety members enjoyed the event.

The room was tastefully decorated with lights and a Christmas tree, and Dave Charwood kindly supplied festive music. The large window gave onto a beautiful scene with sparkling white snow and a brilliant blue sky, but pretty as it was it must be admitted that the extremely cold weather meant that the heating system was on a hiding to nothing against all that glass. Nevertheless, drinks were poured, crackers were pulled, hats donned and silly jokes exchanged, so the atmosphere was warm and friendly.



We enjoyed very tasty (and hot!) food and were all glad that we had been able to get together to round off the year. Sincere thanks are due to the team who organized the event – Dianne Coxon, Ann and Roy Madell and Sue Talbot – and to everyone whose company made it so enjoyable.

*Jill Longman*



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## Notes from the Chair

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*(on this occasion a very big chair!)*

As we approach the end of our Autumn Term, this one seems to have flown by, and what a momentous period it has been.

We have lost our beloved Queen Elizabeth who has been a constant for most, if not all our lives, and entered a new Carolean era. The world seems to be lurching from one crisis to another, but fortunately we have the benefit of an organisation built by us and for us to give some continuity and stability in our lives. Our u3a continues to grow, our membership numbers are increasing, and despite the financial pressures we face we have been able to avoid a subscription increase next year.

At the Third Age Trust AGM in October it was proposed that our subscription to them should be increased next year and in subsequent years by the rate at which pensions were increased. This was to make up for a loss in membership nationally and to fund new development plans they were proposing. Along with the majority of other u3as the Committee strongly objected to this proposal and it, and a

number of other proposals was roundly defeated. However, in the current financial climate an increase in our subscription charges may be inevitable in 2024.

Our first Open Day in September was a great success, raising our profile locally, and led to a number of new members joining us. Our current membership stands at a very healthy 825; at a time when many u3as have lost many of their members, we are back to our pre-covid level. Our guests at the Open Day, the Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield and the CEO of Age UK were most impressed with what we had to offer. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the day a success.

Our groups are now fully active again, with a number of trips being undertaken by several of the groups, including the Theatre Group, Exploring London Groups, Arts Appreciation and Gardening, to name but a few.

The photograph above which I entitled the Chair within a Chair is me in a giant deckchair we came across on our first trip with the Travel Group to the Isle of Man in October – and what a great time we had!

Other activities this term have included the New Members Meeting, which was very well attended, and the Group Leaders Meeting, which gave us the opportunity to thank them for the sterling work they do in keeping our u3a such a vibrant organisation. We have had some very entertaining and informative speakers at our Wednesday meetings and we already have a full programme booked for 2023 thanks to our programme team. In addition we already have dates booked for Spring and Autumn dances next year, so once again we have a full programme of activities.

We end 2022 as usual, with our Christmas Party and our Christmas Lunch enjoyed by 70 and 90 members respectively.

May I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year, and I look forward to seeing many of you at Hatfield on 11 January for the start of what I am sure will be another very successful year.

*Steve Hall*



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## Group News

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### Exploring London

#### Groups Reorganisation

Over the past few years, Exploring London has proved to be one of our u3a members' most popular activities, so much so that we eventually had five Groups to accommodate everyone who wished to take part. We are very grateful to all who have acted as Group Leaders over the years.

Following the sad death of Group 4 leader Sonja Park and the fact that Group 5 leader Sue Hayman felt it was time to retire from the role, we are having to reorganise the Groups. Thank you to Pam Williams for stepping in to run a new Exploring London (4) Group, and to Elaine and Roger in Group (1), Suzanne and John Group (2), and Sue and Tony in Group (3), for agreeing to take a few more members. Those members of the original Groups (4) and (5) who have not moved into one of the other Groups will be added to the new Group (4) membership list. If anyone else would like to come forward to start another Group, then more Welwyn Hatfield members could enjoy trips to explore London – just a short train ride away from us.

*Joan Scales, Groups Coordinator*

#### Sonja Park



**Sonja Park**

Sonja joined Welwyn Hatfield u3a in 2016. I was Groups Coordinator then and during 2015 we had to add Exploring London group (3) as groups (1) and (2) were full. That group quickly filled up and so come 2016 I had to find someone else to head up a new Group, number (4). Sonja volunteered to take it on. She explained that she was a qualified Blue Badge guide who took groups all over the country but was prepared to lead an

Exploring London group. It quickly filled up with keen participants and they visited all kinds of places. Sonja was an absolute fount of knowledge and always managed to find extra hidden nooks and crannies that most people would have walked past. She organised all the outings with care and enthusiasm. It was a very successful group with an extremely loyal following.

We are all very sad that Sonja passed away recently after an illness that she faced with determination. She will be missed by all of us who knew her and her gentle wit and kindness. Sonja's granddaughter Amber is following in her footsteps and has qualified as a Blue Badge guide. I'm very pleased to say that many of us met her virtually during lockdown when she led us on guided London tours via Zoom. She has also recently done live tours in London with our groups – so Sonja's memory lives on.

*Ann Davies*

### **Group (3)**

Our group managed two outings over the last term. In October, we made a return visit to the Kings Cross Development, having first visited six years ago. This time we were greeted with ice creams – delivered on the wrong day for another group!

A lot has changed at Kings Cross. The Coal Drops Yard was a building site then and is now an upmarket shopping area with designer shops and restaurants. Lots more office buildings have been erected and the new Google building (as big as the Shard lying down) is taking shape. Apparently when finished there will be a rooftop garden and we would love to visit. We had a very knowledgeable guide who took us around the whole of the Kings Cross complex on an hour-long tour, pointing out the very expensive apartments, the art college, the theatre, the school and various companies who have made the area their home.

After a well-earned refreshment stop we walked round to the Canal Museum, where we had a knowledgeable guide who gave us an overview of what life aboard a canal boat was like in the last century and some of the hardships the crew endured. The deep shaft where ice was stored after



**Briefing prior to the Kings Cross tour Photo by Alan Green**

being shipped from the Continent was fascinating, as were the stories told on the various information boards. Upstairs there were also videos and exhibits telling the history in more detail, whilst outside many canal boats were moored in the basin.

We finished our day together here and travelled home, somewhat exhausted.

Our second outing, in December, was to the Science Fiction exhibition at the Science Museum in South Kensington: Voyage to the Edge of Imagination. There were 21 of us in the group and we gradually spread out, walking around the displays and exhibits, boldly going where lots of people had gone several times before. There were lots of hands-on displays and videos; those of us with an almost obsessive interest in this genre were having great fun pointing out Gort, the robot from "The Day the Earth Stood Still" and the version of the NC 1701 model of the Enterprise on display, signed by some of the cast. There were Wormholes: you could go along a short tunnel and through a door to find yourself at another display representing a



**Tony Dodd waving goodbye before he enters the Wormhole Photo by Sue McLellen**

different planet, as if you had travelled instantaneously from one planet, solar system or time to another by a Startrek transporter.

The commentary made by the android controller on screens around the area was also cleverly arranged to include references to various science fiction films and TV series. Some of us spent two hours in this exhibition, whilst others visited other parts of the museum, which is over four floors and impossible to give justice to in one go.

The Science Museum building is very well served with refreshment stops and you could easily spend several days exploring. A good day. Live long and prosper!

*Tony Dodd and Sue McLellen*

*page 12 U3A W-H Newsletter No. 72, Spring 2023*

## Strollers



Some members of the Strollers Group, who have enjoyed a full programme this year of various walks and pub lunches. They have experienced hot weather as in the photograph above, taken in Woodhall Park in August; many dry walks; and one occasion when six hardy members braved the weather and got rather wet ! – other members bailed out of this walk but still enjoyed the lunch.

This year we have also found additional walks and a range of pub restaurants adding further interest to views of the Hertfordshire countryside.

*Peter Fox*

## Sunday Solo Lunch Club

We meet on the second Sunday of each month for a lunch and lively conversation. We welcome anyone who is by themselves, whether they be widows, widowers, divorced, single, or their partner is in a care home.

2022 has seen an increase in the numbers who attend our monthly lunch. Prior to the pandemic we were averaging 12 to 15 people who joined us; currently we are averaging 15 -19. This year we have a number of new members who are coming on a regular basis. The majority of us like to go to pubs so that we can have a Sunday Roast – because who cooks a roast dinner for one!. There are some that we all enjoy regularly but I try to add a new venue each year.



To me the best part of the lunch is seeing everyone enjoying each other's company. For those of us who live alone this is vitally important.

If you are interested in joining our Sunday Solo group, please contact me on **01707 328986**.

The dates and venues for 2023 are on the website.

*Marie Scales*

## Travel

### Lovely Lincoln

On either side the river lie  
Long fields of barley and of rye,  
That clothe the wold and meet the sky  
And thro' the field the road runs by . . .

*Tennyson*

We set off for Lincoln on 11 July with few of us having much knowledge of the area – so all was to be revealed. En route we had a pleasant visit to Burghley House, Stamford, with its impressive state rooms and beautiful gardens. Sir William Cecil began the building and the gardens were designed by Capability Brown. There was plenty to see here and we finished with lunch in The Orangery. Our destination was The Olde Barn Hotel at Marston complete with swimming pool.

On Tuesday we visited the International Bomber



International Bomber Command Centre.  
*Photo by Steve Hodges*

Command Centre in the morning. This was a revelation. It was impressively curated with a really international focus, paying tribute to all the people involved in Bomber Command – both military and civilian. At the entrance were small gardens dedicated to the various nationalities who had been involved. There were many video and sound archive extracts which recreated their lives and times. Outside, some distance away, was a striking memorial to those who lost their lives during this period. Close by was a stunning view overlooking Lincoln and the Cathedral.

Overall this was a very moving experience.

From here we moved on to the Newark Air Museum. Although this was more about aircraft it couldn't have been more different. The displays in the sheds were quite random and delightfully chaotic with bits of tech in glass cases arranged in a slightly haphazard way but with typically British genius and eccentricity! This was so different from the exhibitions at IBCC in the morning. There were lots of planes to explore too.

Wednesday was the day we went to explore the city of Lincoln and its magnificent cathedral. It was a gloriously sunny day and Lincoln is a very fine cathedral to explore. Work on the cathedral began in 1072 but went through various stages of collapse and repair. By 1311 it was reputed to be the tallest building in the world until the central spire



**The Nave of Lincoln Cathedral** *Photo by Pam Williams*

collapsed. Near the cathedral is the castle; the area around is very attractive to explore. Later we descended into the city to experience the rest of the city.

On Thursday, our itinerary contained visits to two local attractive and historical towns. In the morning we visited Melton Mowbray (and sampled the pies!) and an interesting small museum. In the afternoon we explored Stamford with its attractive stone buildings and walks down by the river.

And then it was time to return. A trip to Anglesey Abbey en route completed our tour. Anglesey Abbey is a Jacobean-style house with gardens and, although it is not far from us, I had never visited it before.

This was another enjoyable tour with opportunities to visit places we might not have visited before. Once again, many thanks to our tour organisers; Jean Davis, Tony Bristow and Kathy Dugan for ensuring a stimulating and rewarding trip.





*Anglesey Abbey Photo by Pamela Williams*

### **The Delights of the Isle of Man**

I had an open mind about this trip. It had never been on my “must see” list but I’d never been there so it was worth a visit – and what a surprise it turned out to be! Unfortunately, our dates were delayed because of flights so we didn’t set off until 1st October. Our flight arrived late in the evening and our drive from the airport soon proved that this was one of the darkest places in the UK.

On Sunday we woke to discover that the location of our hotel was between the sea and a lake, so very picturesque. Our guide escorted us on a short walk through Ramsey to catch the Manx Electric Railway to Laxey on one of Britain’s longest vintage narrow-gauge railways, built between 1893 and 1899. The scenery was stunning as we made our way along this coastal route with spectacular views of the cliffs and the sea. It was a fine day and, on arrival, we explored briefly and had a lunch stop. I confess I was delighted to find



clam chowder on the menu and I was not the only one to enjoy this speciality. After lunch we climbed up to the Great Laxey Wheel (*photo on left*) which dates back to 1854. It is the largest waterwheel in the world and was designed to pump water from the mineshafts. We then boarded the Snaefell Mountain Railway, the only electric mountain railway in the British Isles. We travelled up to the summit of the mountain, the highest

point in the Isle of Man. It remained gloriously sunny so the views were spectacular but very windy when we stepped off the train. After a stop in the café at the summit, we descended to Laxey, then back to our hotel.

On Monday our guide led us on a trip to The Sound, at the southernmost tip of the island, which was very beautiful with plenty of wildlife. We were lucky to spot some seals at a distance. We then moved on to the Cregneash Village Folk Museum with its cottages, which was a living, working illustration of the Manx crofter's way of life. We were grateful for the information and conversation with the "residents". We even met some Manx cats! In the afternoon we visited the old Manx capital of Castletown and explored Castle Rushen, once taken by Robert the Bruce in 1313. We ended the day with a trip on the Isle of Man Steam Railway opened in 1874 and still running with its original locomotives. The journey took us from Castletown to Douglas. Of course, wherever we went there were signs and evidence of the TT

races which take place here every year and stunned us with the hairpin bends – there are no motorways or dual carriageways on the Isle of Man.

On Tuesday we set off for Peel, one of the world's smallest cathedral cities. We visited the cathedral and planned to visit the castle – but the weather was so wet and windy then that only the brave ventured over to the castle on a little island off the coast. However, we spent a long time in the House of Manannan. I thoroughly enjoyed this interactive museum which took us on a journey with the mythical sea god, Manannan, through the island's Celtic, Viking and maritime past. It included a life-size model of a Viking ship, *Odin's Raven*. After this we had an interesting – if malodorous – visit to the local fish smokehouse, where the young man who had recently taken over the business was very enthusiastic about his trade. We all wished him success in being able to continue this long-established business. My hair smelt of the smoke for hours!

Wednesday was our final day but still action-packed . . . but pouring with rain. We headed off to Douglas to visit the Douglas Horse Tramway Stables. This was another long-established tradition and, after stroking the horses and watching the blacksmith at work, we took a ride on the horse-drawn tram along the promenade. It was pouring with rain which blew in at us from all sides – but all part of the fun! We then visited Tynwald, the parliament of the Isle of Man. Apparently, it is the oldest parliament in the world and has a non-adversarial system. The Isle of Man is a self-governing British Crown Dependency and King Charles holds the title "Lord of Mann". We learnt many facts about this island during our trip which made it all the more fascinating. We then had a little time to explore Douglas before visiting the Manx Museum and boarding our coach to begin our journey home. This was a very full and interesting itinerary with a very varied programme of activities. All thanks are due to our party leaders, Jean, Tony and Kathy and to our knowledgeable blue guide. I think most of us felt stimulated and refreshed by this enjoyable visit.

*Pamela Williams*

## Zoomers

We taught ourselves how to use Zoom during the Pandemic out of necessity: we wanted to keep in contact with our members by whatever means possible. It worked out well eventually as one week we had a speaker and alternate weeks we had a chat session. After the main restrictions eased we returned to face-to-face meetings again. I felt that there were still members who couldn't get out who might appreciate the chat-session format, so I set up the Thursday Zoomers chat hour. Anyone can join in, but it's primarily aimed at housebound people.

We meet on Thursdays between 10 and 11am. People can drop in and out as they wish. We have between 10 and 15 regular attendees, but some weeks fewer people are free to log on. It's great fun because the topics covered are wide and varied.

So what do we talk about?

Shared knowledge of local amenities such as the community car service; 'I wonder if someone can help me?'; 'does anyone know anything about...?'; are questions often heard. There's always someone who can.

We've had people tell of their previous lives; someone spent time in India with the Army, someone worked in Germany when big changes were afoot, someone canoed in the UK and all over the world, someone worked in Scandinavia, someone had a keen interest in aviation . . .

At times we incorporate a quiz – always very popular. There is never a dull moment. I enable the subtitles as we have some members who are hard of hearing. People seem to enjoy the morning. Here are a couple of quotes from our regulars:

'I live alone and am housebound so Thursday Zooming is an eagerly anticipated part of my week'.

'The Thursday Zoom chats are very welcome for me. I miss catching up with people at the Wednesday meetings.'

'The Thursday Zoomers keeps me in touch with what's going on. We cover many different subjects putting the world to rights and most importantly have a good laugh.'



(From a deaf member): 'This morning I joined the local u3a zoom meeting. It had subtitles. There were seven other familiar members. Photographs of the Christmas dinner were posted which was lovely. And then a quiz. It was delightful.'

Another use we make of Zoom is to broadcast and record our Wednesday talks. We can't always do it as some speakers won't allow it and sometimes the wifi signal isn't strong enough. We are still working out how to do this more professionally as the present system is rather hit and miss. I put my phone on a tripod and use it to Zoom and record. Occasionally there have been some confused members who see me talking at the phone on a Wednesday morning. I am, in fact, not going crazy but am greeting the two or three people who have logged on and am chatting to them – but I look like a madwoman! If we record successfully we then upload the video to a special YouTube channel where people can watch the talks if they can't join Zoom live on Wednesday morning. Please contact me if you'd like to have information on how to access this service.

The Family History and Poetry groups are still using Zoom for their meetings; the Photography group use it occasionally; I use it for my language groups so a member who moved away can still join in.

So although it isn't such a regular part of most of our lives any more, Zoom is still serving a very useful function for WelwynHatfield u3a.

Long live Zoom!

*Ann Davies*

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## Spring Term 2023 – 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 make recordings of talks delivered at these meetings, when speakers are willing for us to do this. We make these recordings without investing in expensive new equipment or requiring a lot of technical knowledge, so the results are not perfect, but 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)

### JANUARY

**11, Breaks Manor, Hatfield**

**Damien O'Dell – “Adventures of a Ghosthunter” (POSTPONED from February 2022)**

Damien will share with us personal encounters with ghosts in over twenty years of investigating haunted properties.

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

**Kharlie Staves –**

**“The Compassionate Neighbours Project at Isobel Hospice”**

About the development of this project, including how volunteers can become involved, and the wider services offered by Isobel Hospice.

**25, Hatfield**

**Chris Bennett – “Apsley Cherry-Garrard – Hertfordshire’s Arctic Explorer” (postponed from May 2022)**

Chris Bennett, Hertfordshire’s County Archivist, takes us through the writings of Apsley Cherry-Garrard of Lamer, Wheathampstead, who accompanied Captain Scott on his ill-fated expedition to the South Pole, 1910 – 1913.



## FEBRUARY

### **1, WGC**

#### **Brian Freeland – “George Bernard Shaw Playing the Clown”**

Brian’s theatrical career included many years touring abroad, often with plays by or about G. B. Shaw. Shaw said that the clown was the best part of the circus and wrote “all my life I have been merely playing the clown”. In this presentation, Brian is both narrator and player, adding memories of his overseas tours to his light-hearted chronicles of the life, the works, the correspondence and the complicated personal relationships of the “best playwright since Shakespeare”. “Playing the Clown” tells Shaw’s story with respect, with admiration, and – as Shaw himself always told it – with humour.

### **8, Hatfield**

#### **James Higgs – “35 Years as a TV Quizzer”**

We will hear of James’ experiences on six different quiz shows including “15 to One”, “The Weakest Link” and “Eggheads”, including verbal sparring with celebrities such as Gyles Brandreth, William G. Stewart and the formidable Ann Robinson!

### **15, WGC     ART & PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION**

### **22, Hatfield**

#### **Paul Barwick –**

#### **“Gareth Williams and the Mystery of the Body in the Bag”**

Gareth Williams went missing in 2010. Police found him dead, unclothed, inside a locked sports bag placed inside his bath in his London flat. Who would want to kill this mild-mannered maths genius?

We delve beneath the sensational media headlines, into Gareth’s world of international espionage as an MI6 spy. We trace his life from a young boy with enormous mental potential to the man who perhaps knew too much!



## MARCH

### **1, WGC**

**Stephen Barnard –**

#### **“Pack up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit Bag”**

The strange story of one of the most popular songs of WW1 and the two troubled brothers who wrote it.

### **8, Hatfield**

**Eric McLaughlin – “My Life in the Royal Household”**

As the Queen’s clerk, Eric accompanied her to her palaces, *HMY Britannia* etc. His duties involved organising and supervising many types of Royal functions.

### **15 WGC AGM**

### **22, Hatfield**

**Rupert Dickens –**

#### **“Off the Record: Album Cover Art 1959–2000”**

Some iconic images of the 20th century were created for record sleeves. The zebra crossing immortalised by the Beatles’ Abbey Road is a site of pilgrimage for people travelling thousands of miles to recreate this famous scene. We will explore the art of the album cover and reveal the close connections between visual and musical creativity in this vibrant period of popular culture.

### **29, WGC**

**Mike Beech – “The Livery Companies of London”**

In the 12th century, groups of tradesmen in London formed associations which became guilds, then livery companies. They became very powerful, organising trade and commerce. Today there are over a hundred companies. We also look at some of the ceremonies such as The Trial of the Pyx, Doggett’s Coat and Badge and The Lord Mayor’s Parade.

*The Summer term starts on 19 April, in WGC.*

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