



Hello Everyone,

Welcome to the newsletter for April. March was a month to be welcomed in my household and April is appreciated even more. It is almost time for the clocks to go forward and we can enjoy the longer and hopefully, warmer, days. Isn't it wonderful to see everything springing back into life around us. It also means that the grass is growing and not to mention the weeds!

The numbers of members are growing steadily and I do urge anyone who has not yet renewed to bring or complete a form at the next meeting. The more members we have gives us more scope for speakers at the monthly meeting and more people at our groups. We would love to add more groups to what we have on offer but, because we are a u3a this has to come from members. It is an organisation where members help to provide activities for other members. We are very grateful for those of you who look after groups but we would love to have more.

It is the AGM at the meeting on the 3rd April when we will be voting in the committee.

Further into the newsletter are the financial statements of how our money has been spent. A huge thank you to Meryl who looks after our books and keeps us up-to-date on where money is spent. A huge thank too you to all the others on the committee, Sue our Secretary, who is an important liaison between us and the Third Age Trust, Sandra, who is our Minutes Secretary and manages to record everything said at Committee Meetings, not an easy task I hasten to add. Pam who took over from Chris Raby last year as the Speakers Secretary. Between them they not only found us some very compelling speakers but took on the task of fielding the oddities and demands of each one, you'd be surprised how tricky that is sometimes; and finally, the other members of the committee who all contribute to the smooth running of the branch but keep me on the straight and narrow when I forget something or my ideas are not in tune with the members. If you think you can help us out with that and other tasks please step up and join us, we could usefully have one or even two more brains on the committee.

I often look up what is an especial event in each month, just to keep us abreast of things that are going on in our great nation. This one amused and intrigued me ... It turns out that April the 19th, Easter Saturday this year is also designated **NATIONAL HANGING OUT DAY**. That is hanging out your washing not hanging out with friends drinking coffee and gossiping (who would ever do such a thing?) Each year on April 19th, Project Laundry List works with hundreds of other organizations to sponsor National Hanging Out Day. This day encourages communities to learn about the benefits, both financially and environmentally, of using a clothesline for drying laundry.

I think that as far as we are concerned this day is rather superfluous, we could tell them a few things! Strange old world!

Enjoy the sunshine (if we have some) and I look forward to see you on the 3rd April for the AGM which, I promise, will be as brief as we can make it while still being legal.

With best wishes, Sally

**The next monthly meeting of Watford Central u3a,
which will start with our Annual General Meeting, is on**

Thursday, 3rd April 2025 at 2.00pm

at the Ex-Services Club, 12-14 St Albans Road, Watford WD17 1BN



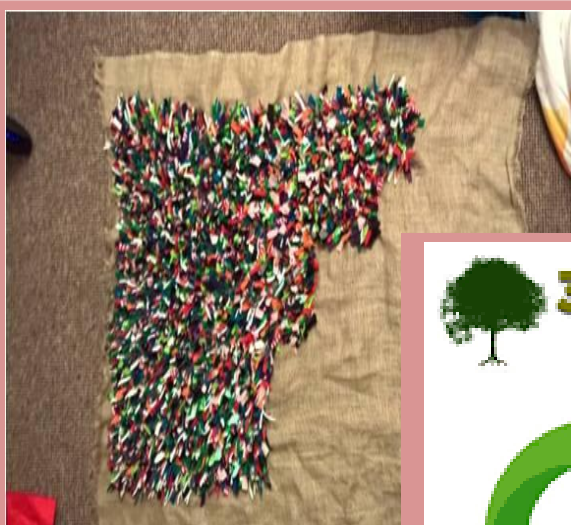
This day encourages communities to learn about the benefits, both financially and environmentally, of using a clothesline for drying laundry.

Editor's note: Sally is right - most of us know these benefits from childhood, Who else other helped mothers and grandmothers with this task, even if to just hold the pegs or the bundle of washing when it came off the line?

Who remembers the advertisement slogan "Persil washes whiter and it shows"



Annual General Meeting - 3rd April 2025

Following the more formal business side of our April meeting, we are hoping there will be a half an hour or so to join me in looking at the ways and means that have been employed in past and present times of cutting down on waste, reducing, reusing and recycling items that would otherwise go to landfill. If you have ideas about how to avoid waste, perhaps you could bring these along for discussion at our meeting on 3rd April.



Rag rugs made from old clothes were a good way of keeping toes warm on cold nights in the middle of the 20th century.

3 R'S OF ENVIRONMENT


MEMBERS COULD BRING A CONTRIBUTION TO THE MEETING

- Photos of weddings, christening, other events and holidays from the forties and early fifties
- Recipes remembered from mothers and grandmothers etc, especially those which used ingredients in short supply during WW2 and the rationing period ending in the mid-1950's.
- How did rationing affect schools and work places and memories of products used in the 1940's and 1950's.



Watford Borough Council has been named the winner in the highly competitive Council of the Year category at the iESE Awards.

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e UK Day, or Mothering Sunday, is celebrated on the
"Watford is leading on sustainability, with initiatives such as the Green Loop and the decade-long restoration of the River Colne, creating new green spaces and enhancing biodiversity. The town's award-winning parks, including Cassiobury Park and Oxhey Activity Park, continue to provide outstanding recreational opportunities."

Mayor Peter Taylor

Chief Executive of Watford Borough Council, Donna Nolan, said:

"This recognition is a testament to the dedication of everyone who makes Watford such a fantastic town—our residents, volunteers, local businesses, and community groups, as well as the hardworking council staff."

day of Lent. Thanks to the movable date of Easter, the date for

Have you ever needed to know how to operate or fix something, but are not sure how?

Go to *YouTube* or *Wikihow*, a handy site which is part of the Wiki family, recommended by Committee Member, Wendy Norwood. Thanks Wendy and I now know how to mend a puncture, although I do not possess or could ride a bicycle if I did. *Sue Ettridge (Editor)*

In April 2025, notable events and holidays include

April Fool's Day (April 1st) and Easter (April 20th)

2 April.	1914	Sir Alec Guinness, actor who won an Oscar for <i>The Bridge over the River Kwai</i> .
3 April.	1367	King Henry IV, first Lancastrian king of England, responsible for suppressing Glendower's rising in Wales and the burning of heretics.
6 April.	1906	Sir John Betjeman, author, broadcaster and English Poet Laureate from 1972 until his death in May 1984.
7 April.	1770	William Wordsworth, English poet whose works include <i>Ode on the Intimations of Immortality</i> .
8 April.	1889	Sir Adrian Boult, conductor closely associated with the works of Elgar, Vaughan Williams and Holst.
9 April.	1806	Isambard Kingdom Brunel, most influential engineer of his day whose achievements included the Clifton suspension bridge, the <i>SS Great Britain</i> steamship, the Great Western railway track, etc.
10 April.	1512	King James V of Scotland. Defeated by Henry VIII's forces at Solway Moss in 1542, he was succeeded by his daughter, Mary Queen of Scots.

We are sorry to advise that Christine Dobie passed away recently.

Christine and her late husband joined us as members of Watford Central u3a from its very beginning.

They are in our thoughts at this sad time.

At our AGM on 3rd April 2025, we hope to welcome new members onto our executive committee to take the place of those who are due to retire. Help with existing and new interest groups and at general meetings is always welcome. If you need a membership form, please ask Sally for one at the AGM. Membership for 2025/2026 began on 1st April 2025.

Theatre Visits

Leader: Sally Macaulay

Saturday 3rd May St Albans Arena at 1 p.m.

St Albans Musical Theatre Company presents: **A Chorus Line** the groundbreaking musical that follows seventeen dancers auditioning for a coveted spot in a Broadway chorus. As the director pushes them to reveal their personal stories, the dancers share their hopes, fears, and sacrifices made for a life in the spotlight. With unforgettable songs like "What I Did for Love" and "One", this production captures the heart and soul of what it means to chase a dream on stage. Join us for this captivating journey of passion, perseverance, and the pursuit of stardom.

This is an amateur production, but as we know, they are usually great productions.

Cost £22

Please note the early start at 1 p.m.

Watford Palace Theatre Saturday 24th May at 2.30 p.m. Pride & Prejudice Sort Of

This is the blurb on the Palace Theatre website: Direct from its triumph in the West End where it won the Laurence Olivier Award for Best Comedy and the Evening Standard Award, *Pride and Prejudice** (*sort of) is a unique and audacious retelling of Jane Austen's most iconic love story.

Men, money and microphones will be fought over in this irreverent but affectionate adaptation where the stakes couldn't be higher when it comes to romance. This multi-award-winning production features a string of pop classics including *Young Hearts Run Free*, *Will You Love Me Tomorrow* and *You're So Vain*.

IT'S THE 1800S.

IT'S PARTY TIME.

LET THE RUTHLESS MATCHMAKING BEGIN.

Cost £40 but might be less depending on which tickets are available when they are booked (refund given). See Watford Palace website for a preview video:

<https://watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk/events/pride-prejudice-sort-of/>

Lunch Group

Leader: Sally Macaulay

Thursday 17th April at 12.30 at Opuz Kitchen in King Street

They offer a two-course meal for £17.50 (including service charge). We have been several times and they are always welcoming. We chose from the lunch time weekday menu on the day and there will be copies of the menu with the sign-up sheet at the next meeting.

Some members have suggested that we go to ZaZa in Bushey and I hoped to book that for the April Meeting, turns out it's not as simple as just booking a table so I hope to have things sorted out for the May lunch. Watch this space

Walking Group

Leader: Jenny

The next walk on Friday 25 April will be to see the bluebells in Whippendell Woods.

Meet at 10.30 am at the short stay car park at Watford Junction where Sandra and I will be with our cars ready to drive to the car park in Grove Mill Lane.

We shall do a circular walk around Whippendell Woods and then go to the pub for refreshments. Anyone wishing to join our friendly group can sign up as usual at the main meeting otherwise phone or text me on 07597 155625.

New walkers will be very welcome.



Our walk to the Grove.
What a lovely sunny day!

Interest Days Out

Leader: Sandra Kay

Our trip to the Home Museum was enjoyed by everyone who went and so easy to get to as you step out of the station, a few steps and into the museum. We visited here quite a few years ago, probably about ten. When part of it was still the original Almshouses and remember doing a tour of them.

For our visit on Tuesday 15th April to The Royal Hospital Chelsea and Museum, please meet at Watford Junction at 09:50am in time to catch the 10:15am LNR Train to Euston (10:19am at Bushey). From Euston we will get the Victoria Line to Victoria and then the Circle/District Line to Sloane Square. It's then a 15-minute walk to the Museum.

There is a cafe in the square along with a shop and post office, and there are also cafes roundabout in the area.

Sandra won't be doing a trip in May but there will be one in June, details will be in the May Newsletter.

What's Your Story?

Leader: Sue Ettridge

Our next meeting will be at 2.00 pm on Wednesday, 23rd April.

At our March meeting we learned from Lynda about Hertfordshire's role in the straw plating industry and viewed Sally's beautiful and precious album of French silk greetings cards collected by her grandmother when her husband was serving in WW1.

A sign-up sheet will be available at the next meeting.

Yellow Envelopes

Please remember to carry your up-to-date medical details with you if you're out and about with u3a. It's not compulsory but a good idea to have. If you need a new form or envelope we have plenty of both.

Come Country Dancing



Details of venue and timings are on back page.