

Watford Central

U3A

Learn Laugh Live

Volume 14, Issue 6 -June

www.u3asites.org.uk/watford-central

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to the newsletter for June. I hope by now you are enjoying the warmer weather and the longer days – we hear cries of at last! In our younger days, many of us would be heading off to rock festivals and the like. Almost guaranteed to be cold and wet so, be warned, there are several such festivals in June across the country - baton down the hatches.

There are also the more staid of British Institutions, the King's Birthday Parade, Trooping of the Colour, is on June 14th. It's a company of Coldstream Guards whose colour is being paraded this year. Prior to the event there are two rehearsals known as The Major General's Review and the Colonel's Review on Horse Guards Parade the two Saturdays before the King comes along. Tickets can be bought online, easier than tickets for the ultimate event, which is by ballot.

Apparently, the late Queen had an eagle eye for errors and I imagine the King is gimlet eyed too. Those of us without tickets can watch on TV as the BBC and Sky news usually cover the event. In the past there has been coverage on iPlayer without commentary if that is what you prefer, but I think you have to search for it.



Further into the newsletter this month are details of a day out by minibus. We are organising a visit to the Chiltern Open Air Museum in Chalfont St Peter. Many of us have been there before, but they continue to develop the area and there are more things to see than the last time you went. A date has been carefully worked out which is before the school holidays and which doesn't clash with Canasta. Also, importantly, when the museum is actually open. Before the school holidays it's four days a week but excludes Tuesday, our usual day for Interest Days Out. It's going to be Friday 11th July.

I'm looking forward to hearing our speaker at the next meeting on 5th June. Pam has organised a speaker from the police to help us to understand more about scams and it complements the speaker from the Fair-Trade Officer a few months ago. We are all vulnerable to being scammed, I think I saw one off only a couple of days ago, so we need to hear this information.

With best wishes, Sally

The next monthly meeting of Watford Central u3a will be on
Thursday, 5th June 2025 at 2.00pm
at the Ex-Services Club, 12-14 St Albans Road, Watford WD17 1BN

The Speaker at this meeting will be Chen Tsui,
Cyber Protect & Prevention Officer, Serious Fraud Unit at Herts Police.

VE DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY - 8TH MAY 2025
Flag raising and reading by local school children
of the proclamation made on 8th May 1945.



Watford Central U3a members were present at all of these events and Shenaz Ghani, invited Sue Ettridge to join her at the Bedford Almshouses VE Day tea party. What a busy day that was for Watford and the UK. These photos were taken by member Lynda Bullock who was in attendance at all three events and was at St Mary's on 8th May from noon. Thank you ladies, much appreciated.



Re-opening of St Mary's Green Space by Peter Taylor 23.5.25

Commemorating the end of WW2 at West Watford Community Centre on Friday, 23rd May 2025



There is more to come around the town in June, so let's hope from some more bright sunny days. Can anyone remember for how long a fun fair has been held in Cassiobury Park?

Stevens Fun Fair will be there from| 24 May – 1 June

Watford Fringe Festival:

This festival includes a "Cultural Party" on June 28th, featuring live music, dance performances, and vibrant decorations, according to Pump House Theatre and Arts Trust.

The Great Big Green Day:

This event on June 14th will feature stalls with tips, tricks, and products related to reducing, reusing, recycling, and repurposing, according to [Community News – Hertfordshire](#).

Big Bandstand:

Enjoy free live performances every Sunday afternoon at Cassiobury Park's historic bandstand, featuring jazz, swing, and brass bands, from June 15th to September 21st, according to Watford Borough Council.

Taste of the Caribbean Food & Drink Festival:

This event on June 29th will showcase the flavors and rhythms of the Caribbean, according to Watford Borough Council.

Lunch Group

Leader: Sally Macaulay

19th June at 1 p.m. at the Oddfellows Hall in Avenue Road.

I have asked Sara, who runs the catering, for a slightly later start to the lunch this time. As this goes to publication, I don't have a menu or a price, but they will be available by the next meeting where there will be a sign-up sheet. We know that Sara always produces excellent food at a very reasonable price.

Interest Days Out

Leader: Sandra Kay

For our trip out on **Tuesday 17th June to The National Archives**, please meet at Watford Junction Station at 09:40am in time to catch the London Overground (Lioness Line) to Willesden Junction, then change to the Mildmay Line to Kew, it's then about a 10/15 minute walk to The National Archives. It has a cafe.

Our next trip out will be in August on Tuesday 19th we will be going to Capel Manor Gardens in Enfield. We can get there by train, or may use cars depending on numbers. The sign-up sheets will be available at the June monthly meeting. Then in **October we will be going to Trinity Buoy Wharf** on the Thames.

Best wishes, Sandra

Theatre Visits

Saturday 5th July St Albans Arena, at 2 p.m. Rare Productions presents **The Adams Family**

In the kooky, upside-down world of the Addams Family, to be sad is to be happy, to feel pain is to feel joy, and death and suffering are the stuff of their dreams. Nonetheless, this quirky family still has to deal with many of the same challenges faced by any other family, and the spookiest nightmare faced by every family creates the focus Lippa, Brickman, and Elice's musical: the Addams kids are growing up.

Rare Productions is a youth theatre company. Its website claims it is the largest of its kind in the country. We have seen several of their productions, which are always lively.

Ticket Price £21.50

Theatre website: <https://everyonetheatres.com/theatres/the-alban-arena/>

Walking Group

Leader: Jenny

The next walk will be on **Friday, 27th June from How Wood station to Bricket Wood station** across the moor and alongside the river Ver. Meet at Watford Junction in time to catch the 10.45 am train towards St Albans on platform 11. Buy a return ticket to How Wood. We shall have refreshments at Bricket Wood station cafe before getting the train back to Watford. The walk is about 2 miles.

There will be the usual signing up sheet at the next main meeting, otherwise phone or text me on 07957 155625 if you would like to join our friendly group.

New walkers will be very welcome.



Our walk through Whippendell Woods to see the bluebells on 9th May.

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.

We look forward to welcoming new and existing members and anyone wishing to join may obtain a membership form from our Chair, Sally Macaulay. Interested parties may attend two of our general meetings prior to taking up membership.

We are keen to start new interest groups and would welcome ideas and offers of leadership from our current members. Many thanks go to those who have offered to assist our executive committee.

OUT & ABOUT VISITS

Leader: Sally McCaulay

Friday 11th July, Chiltern Open Air Museum, Chalfont St Peter

Pick up at 10 a.m. from the layby near Watford Central Library, drop off at the same place.



A minibus has been hired to take us to the museum, a 19 seater. Should we have more than 19 wanting to go the booking can be changed to a 22 seater. The cost of the current hire is £350 shared between us. If 19 people travel, it would work out at £20 each (including a tip for the driver). If fewer people go the cost will go up. The entry fee is £11 each for a group of more than 15. Again, if we're fewer than 15 we would have to go as general visitors and the cost would be slightly higher.

The return journey will start at 3 p.m. so that will give us several hours to look around. Skippings Barn is the place to buy food or drinks but there are picnic tables in various areas so that you could bring your own food if you prefer.

Museum website: <https://www.coam.org.uk/>

There will be a sign-up sheet at the meeting in June. **It is essential that you sign up at the June meeting.** However, on this occasion, I can take money when you book or, pay at the July meeting. It is the numbers that are needed to liaise with the museum and minibus hire.

The Living Room : Breaking the cycle of addiction - a charity supporting adults in Hertfordshire.

What's Your Story?

Leader: Sue Ettridge

Our meeting for June at 2.00 pm will be on Wednesday, 25th June

Despite the fact that there were only three of us on the 21st May (due to Sally putting others right about this being only the 3rd Wednesday and not the fourth in May) we had some very interesting disclosures from Lynda Bullock who had researched organisations that were currently celebrating an anniversary. We first heard about *The Living Room*, which for the past 25 years has supported people affected by addiction from their hub in Station Road. Then we were told about *Watford Harriers* who are celebrating their centenary this year. Their aim is to provide facilities in all disciplines of sports, its members aging from 7 to 90! So get your trainers on and head for Woodside for their track and field session or some may prefer action to be in Cassiobury Park where their runners meet.

I will ask Lynda to run through her notes for us at a future meeting, when she may even find a few other organisations who are celebrating anniversaries in 2025. On the 27th we could have a discussion about summer holidays and where we have been and would like to go next. Does anyone have old photos of childhood hols or memorable summer outins?

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

