



Volume 14, Issue 8 - August

www.u3asites.org.uk/watford-central

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to the newsletter for August. I am sure that many of you find August a very busy month because you have Grandparenting duties. If that is the case and we don't see you so often, I hope you have enjoyable times with the offspring's offspring.

Those of you who were at the last monthly meeting heard me explaining the situation with the Ex-Service Club and the building work that is going on. You may have seen the scaffolding that is being raised around the building. There is an awful lot of it and I am reliably informed that there are still several weeks to go before the whole building is covered. We shall still have our monthly meeting but it does mean that there is absolutely no parking for the foreseeable future. Further into the newsletter is information about parking, especially if you have a Blue Badge, as several people have.

Entry to the club has been protected from the scaffolding above and the front door can only be entered from the corner of the building nearest the hedge. Do not try to cross the forecourt as it is now a building site and you will be shooed away pretty sharpish! We shall be inside the usual meeting room ready to entertain ourselves for the August meeting.

August again? What do we know about August? Unsurprisingly, August is typically one of the warmest months in the UK, with average highs ranging from 18–23°C (64–73°F), though heatwaves push temperatures much higher. The first in a series of 'the Hottest Day on Record' was 10 August 2003, the UK recorded a then-record temperature of 38.5°C in Faversham, Kent. This was beaten in 2019 with a temperature of 38.7°C but that the hottest day ever recorded in the UK was July 19, 2022, with a temperature of 40.3°C (104.5°F) at Coningsby in Lincolnshire, phew what a scorcher!

If you are in need of something different to do in August try Bog Snorkelling in [Llanwrtyd Wells](#) a small town in the Mid Wales uplands. All you need is a pair of goggles, flippers and a snorkel, participants race each other along a 120ft trench filled with mud. People come from all over the world to raise money for charity this way – rather than me!

I'm looking forward to our August meeting but without a snorkel, on the 7th hope to see you there

With best wishes, Sally

The next monthly meeting of Watford Central u3a will be on

Thursday, 7th August 2025 at 2.00pm

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

There is no Speaker at this meeting as it's the month we entertain ourselves.

Don't forget that scaffolding has been erected against the Ex-Services Club building and that there is no parking outside the building for the time being. Please see details from Sally of where to park and payment methods on Page 5 of this Newsletter.



Our Day Out at The Chiltern Open Air Museum on Thursday, 11th July 2025

Although we were not greeted by this gentleman, the staff and volunteers welcomed us on that very hot day to partake of some of their delightful fare during our browse around the most interesting exhibits. I will try to fit some photos into a future Newsletter, where space allows. This photo was taken at one of their past historical events. I learned that our Knit & Natter leader, Joan Morse, once volunteered at this museum and was involved with its establishment. Well done, Joan.

HARLEQUIN SHOPPING CENTRE

Speaking on the name change in May, centre manager Simon Plumb told the *Watford Observer* that “listening to the customers' feedback, it was just the right thing to do”.

The seemingly unanimous public reaction has backed up his statement, with many residents saying they never stopped using the original name.



The Bayeux Tapestry — an historic 70-metre-long needlework piece depicting scenes from the Norman invasion and Battle of Hastings of 1066 — will go on display at London's British Museum next year.

Around 400,000 people visit the almost 1,000-year-old artwork in the French town of Bayeux, Normandy each year. The Bayeux Tapestry has never left France before now (apart from when it was created, most likely in England), but the timing makes sense, as the Bayeux Museum will close in September 2025 for a two-year renovation.

In exchange for the loan of the 11th century embroidery — featuring 58 scenes, 626 characters and 202 horses — from the French, treasures from the British Museum representing all four nations of the UK — including Sutton Hoo and the Lewis chess pieces — will travel to museums in Normandy.

Lunch Group

Leader: Sally Macaulay

Lunch Group this month will be at Fratelli's in the Parade Watford on Thursday 21st August at 1 p.m. The cost will be £16.50 for two courses, make your choice on the day.

A sign-up sheet will be available at the meeting on 7th August

Theatre Visits As Sally reported last month, there isn't any theatre news at this time as the theatres don't seem to have much of interest at this time of the year.

Walking Group

Leader: Jenny

The next walk on Friday 29 August will be in Richmond. We shall meet at Watford Junction in time to catch the 10.15 am train on the Lioness line to Willesden Junction. Then we shall change trains for Richmond. Outside the station we shall catch a bus to Richmond Park. We shall walk through Richmond Park stopping at Pembroke Lodge cafe for refreshments then continue along the Thames footpath cross Richmond Green and back to the station for the return trip back to Watford. The walk is about two miles.

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



This photo was taken during our walk from How Wood to Boreham Wood, in July.

Interest Days Out

Leader: Sandra Kay

Our next trip will be on **Tuesday 19th August 2025 to visit Capel Manor Gardens in Enfield**, but first, I must apologise as I forgot to mention the entrance fee previously which is **£9.00 and payable on entry**, so nothing payable beforehand. The journey time by train and a walk from the station will only take about 95 minutes altogether and, according to Capel Manor Gardens, to tour the gardens only takes 90 minutes. There is of course a cafe there.

For our journey, please meet at Watford Junction Station at 9:40am in time to catch the 10:02am train to Euston. We then take the Victoria Line to Seven Sisters and then the Weaver line (Overground) to Turkey Street. It's then a walk which, according to Capel Manor, is only 15 minutes, but other sources say 20 to 25 minutes. However there is a bus from the station if preferred.

There will also be a sign up sheet for our October trip on Tuesday 21st to Trinity Bouy Wharf at our August monthly meeting.

Best wishes, Sandra

OUT & ABOUT VISITS

Leader: Sally McCaulay

Day out in Birmingham.

There is still time to book for the visit to Birmingham to see the National Trust Back-to-Back Houses in Birmingham. They are the city's last surviving court of back-to-back houses. They are preserved as examples of the thousands of similar houses that were built around shared courtyards, for the rapidly increasing population Britain's expanding industrial towns.

The cost of the entry ticket is £10 which I will be collecting at the meeting on 7th August.



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However, do not buy a train ticket yet because the entry tickets for the 16th September have not been released and there is always a chance that we can't get the tickets we need for that date. If that should happen, we could change the date or if absolutely necessary cancel the trip (I very much doubt that will happen). I will contact you when I have the entry tickets so that you can buy the train tickets. I won't bank any money until the entry tickets are bought and I have let you know to book the train.

There will be an information sheet at the 7th August meeting giving suggestions for buying the train ticket.



A Message from Watford & District U3A

We all understand that we can be members of other u3a branches as well as Watford Central, but we can't drop in on other branches unless it is an activity authorised by committee. Below is a message from Watford and District who are starting a Singalong group and are inviting members of other branches to join them.

Diana Ivory and David Becker are keen to start a new singalong group, meeting at St. Mark's Church, Leggatts Way, Watford, WD24 5NQ. It would meet two Mondays a month, 3 pm till 4 pm, **starting in September.**

"We can singalong to any tune of your choice. WORDS WILL BE GIVEN FOR EACH SONG. Some of us will choose Frank Sinatra, Doris Day, Ella Fitzgerald, Nat King Cole, Alma Cogan, songs from West End shows, folk tunes, etc. which we download from Spotify. We have really good speakers, giving great sound. Cost will not be more than £4, could be less, depending on numbers attending"

It will be a drop-in class, no commitment. If you are interested, please email: david.becker@btinternet.com. For more information call 07985 703 444.

What's Your Story?

Leader: Sue Ettridge

Our meeting for August will be on Wednesday, 27th at 2.00 pm at the Almshouses.

We have quite a few subjects in hand to mull over, but are always keen to hear a few tales from new friends.

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.

Parking for the Ex-Service Club During Building Work

Blue Badge Holders:

Single and Double Yellow Lines:

Blue Badge holders can park for up to three hours on single or double yellow lines, provided there are no active loading bans.

On-Street Pay and Display Bays:

You can park in these bays without paying for as long as you need, provided your Blue Badge is clearly displayed.

Off-Street Disabled Bays:

If a car park has marked disabled bays, Blue Badge holders can park there, but they may need to pay depending on the car park's rules.

Limited Wait Bays:

You can park in these bays for as long as you need, with no time limit, if you have a Blue Badge.

St John's Road is the nearest to the Ex-Service Club

Public Car Parks:

Gade Car Park, Rosslyn Road
– usually plenty of space but the lifts are not working.

Pay through an app or at the pay station at the entrance.

It's number plate recognition on entry and you enter your registration number into the pay machine.

You can also use the Ringo App.

Spaces on upper levels reserved for a local company, but there is space below.

Avenue Car Park – pay in cash, card, or Ringo App

Just Park, Wellington Road next to the Quarters

– Limited space on two levels, some, but not all, of the upper levels are reserved.

Stairway to street level.

Pay by Phone App

