

Watford Central

U3A

Learn Laugh Live

Volume 14, Issue 9 - September 2025

www.u3asites.org.uk/watford-central

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to the newsletter for September. September has become a month when new things begin and it has become the gateway to the last quarter of the year. I am sure that there are lots of the younger members of our families that are going off to 'big school', even bigger school, university and the world of work. That is certainly so in my own extended family. Such a lot of anxiety and adrenaline! We coped when it was our turn and they have too, eventually. I'm sure we all must have thought at some time or other that we've got to do this – *insert your own words here* - for years!

If you were unable to come to the last monthly meeting, shame you missed it, we had a fun afternoon playing Beetle, and I was saying that it's time to book for Christmas Lunch. As we usually do, we are going to the Oddfellows Hall on Monday 8th December. It's slightly later than usual because we felt the earlier date at the beginning of December was rather remote from the main celebration. The menu is to be found further into the newsletter and you can order two or three courses. The cost includes a small tip to give to the staff. Sara always sets the cost at with 99p at the end so I add a £1.01 as a tip. It rounds off the sums and makes life easier. The total of the tip is passed on in cash when I pay the final bill.

I will begin taking bookings at the September meeting and I have to give Sara the numbers at the beginning of November. That gives the September, October and November meetings to make up your mind, decide on what you want to eat, give me the booking form and pay. If you don't have a printer at home I will print some and bring them with me. I would prefer not to do it for everyone though, just if you have a need.

So, off we go into the autumn though the trees have been turning for a good while already. So little rain through the summer has made them turn to survival mode. It will be interesting to see what the colour changes are like this year. Erratic water levels often have a surprising effect on the colours but will that be so this year!

Onwards towards Christmas, I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the next meeting when we will have a speaker once more.

With best wishes, Sally



**The next monthly meeting of Watford Central u3a will be on
Thursday, 4th September 2025 at 2.00pm**

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

The Speaker at this meeting will be Martin Orkin speaking on The Simon & Garfunkel Story.

You may remember that Martin visited us on 6th February this year, to tell us all about The Beatles, their Heroes and their Music. It was a very lively meeting and was much enjoyed by all. Hopefully this one will be as popular.

Pam Grant

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. (See Page 5 for details.)

What's Your Story? Leader: Sue Ettridge

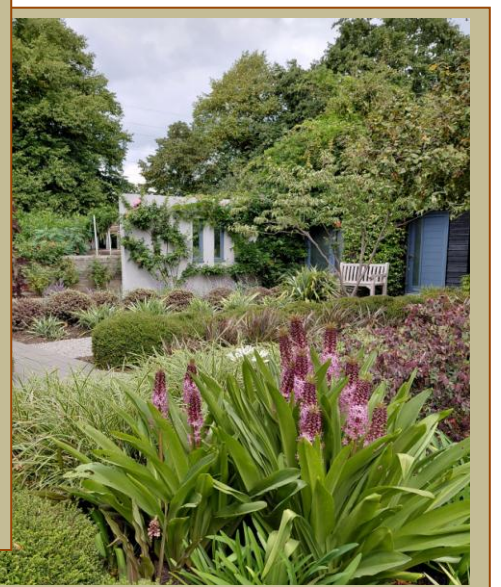
Our meeting at 2.00pm on Wednesday, 24th September, will be held at my home, as the Alms Houses are closed on that day. If you wish to attend please call Sue for directions.

Interest Days Out

Leader: Sandra Kay

Our trip to Capel Manor Gardens was enjoyed by all, even though it was a bit of a long journey getting there by train and all the walking. However, it was a really nice place to visit. Lots of different gardens and we even ventured round the maze. There was even a mini zoo.

Nothing for September from me, but the sheets to sign up will be available at the next meeting for Trinity Bouy Wharf in October and The National Army Museum in November.



Theatre Visits

Leader: Sally Macaulay

Please remember that theatre trips are open to everyone - payment at time of booking, tickets held until the day, meet in the foyer 30 minutes before the beginning of the show.

I hope this will be as interesting as it sounds:

Rifco Theatre & Wolverhampton Grand Theatre in association with Imagine Theatre & Watford Palace Theatre present Surinderella

Saturday 25th October at 1p.m ticket price £34 (*The tickets for this show vary in price in each row so it is possible that a small refund might be possible if we do not have to pay for the most expensive prices*)

From the makers of Frankie Goes to Bollywood and Britain's Got Bhangra, the award-winning Rifco Theatre brings you an evening of laughter, romance, and larger-than-life entertainment! Welcome to The Bolly-Woods, where the naach is non-stop, the drama is bigger than your aunties', and the romance is straight out of a film blockbuster.

Meet Surinder – sweet, strong, and stuck in a never-ending chore list thanks to her two selfie-obsessed, Insta-vlogging stepsisters, Lovely & Bubbly. Her only real support? The one and only Basanti, a cow with more attitude than a desi girl. Sounds familiar

A sign-up sheet will be available at the meeting on September 4th.

Lunch Group

Leader: Sally Macaulay

Lunch Group this month will be at **Opus Kitchen, King Street, Watford on Thursday 18th September at 1 p.m.** The cost will be **£18** for two courses, including service charge, make your choice on the day. A sign-up sheet will be available at the meeting on 4th September.

Walking Group

Leader: Jenny

The next walk on **Friday 26 September** will be across the fields from Bedmond to Abbots Langley. Catch the 20 bus towards Hemel Hempstead at 10.28 am at Clarendon Road, 10.35 am at Watford Junction or 10.37 am at the Railway Bridge in St Albans Road. I shall catch the bus near my home so will already be on it.

The walk will be about an hour for two miles. After the walk we shall go to Elvira's cafe for refreshments in Henderson Hub before getting the 329 bus back to Watford.

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

New members will be very welcome.



Here we are in a field on the way to Hampermill Oxhey on our last walk.

OUT & ABOUT VISITS

Leader: Sally Macaulay

Day out in Birmingham

It's good to see the interest there has been in this visit to the Back-to-back houses of Birmingham and we trust that all those who have booked enjoy themselves on 16th September. Look out for news of how the event went in the October Newsletter - there may be some photos too!

Watford Central member, Joan Morse, has added a touch of comedy to this month's Newsletter by including the following poem she keeps handy in her kitchen. It makes her smile if she just happens to burn the toast!

What a great poem by the late Spike Milligan about smiling ...

*Smiling is infectious
You catch it like the flu*

*When someone smiled at me today
I started smiling too*

*I walked around the corner
And someone saw me grin*

*When he smiled I realised
I had passed it on to him*

*I thought about the smile
And then realised its worth*

*A single smile like mine
could travel round the earth*

*So if you feel a smile begin
Don't leave it undetected*

*Start an epidemic
And get the world infected*



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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.

St Mary's News : July/August 2025 Watford's Original Alms Houses

In this issue of St Mary's magazine, Val Bordley (a member of the Church Fellowship Group) writes glowingly of her experience at the celebration of 445 years since the Alms Houses were built. Val was at this event by invitation from Shenaz Ghani, a Watford Central u3a member who lives in one of these houses.

The weather was kind and the organisers had prepared a splendid spread, enhanced by beautiful crockery and, of course, the presence of so many dignitaries - Nicholas Buxton (the High Sherriff of Hertfordshire), Luther Blissett (his Deputy), Watford Mayor Peter Taylor and other special guests including local councilors.

A blue plaque commemorating the building of these homes and a bird bath representing the 8 ladies who originally were housed there, were unveiled by Nicholas Buxton.

Some of our u3a branch Interest Groups meet at the central flat of the Alms Houses and appreciate its value. We are delighted that this event was so successful. Thanks, Shenaz for this story and we hope you enjoyed yourself as much as your friend, Val.



Bedford, Morison and Cordery
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