

Watford Central

U3A

Learn Laugh Live

Volume 14, Issue 10 - October 2025

www.u3asites.org.uk/watford-central

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to the newsletter for October. Deeper and deeper we go into the Autumn but, as I write this, we are having one of those lovely late summer warm days. Long may they last, though it still remains that the ground needs rain.

As we observed last month the leaves on the trees have turned brown very early this year. I was on a train recently and we came through woodlands that were much greener than those in Hertfordshire. They obviously had a wetter summer than us.

The Autumn is the time when the days shorten until, eventually, we put back the clocks and they become really short. There are lots of celebrations in those shortening days, Harvest Festivals, Oktoberfest if you are a beer drinker, Diwali and Halloween. In between those are celebrations for Lincolnshire Day (1st October commemorating the anniversary of the Lincolnshire Rising of 1536 (I know little about that one except it was a rising against Henry VIII and the Dissolution of the Monasteries) the Battle of Hastings (14th October, which year?), Trafalgar Day the anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805, though not commemorated in many places and we finally arrive at Halloween. I'm not a great lover of that one and I really dislike the merchandise that we find in shops. I won't get on my high horse about that one? By the way the clocks go back on 25th October this year.

At the last meeting we began the countdown towards our Christmas Lunch on 8th December. We had 19 people ordering so that give us a further 21 spaces available as there is an absolute limit of 40 people. So don't delay, bring your order forms on the 2nd October. If you can't print your own form I will have spares at the meeting. The Oddfellows Hall is not licensed but they allow us to bring our own wine, which we, as a branch, usually provide, so come and begin Christmas on 8th December,

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you on the 2nd October,

With best wishes, Sally

The Christmas menu/order form is on the final page, after Page 6 for those who wish to order at the next meeting.



The next monthly meeting of Watford Central u3a will be on
Thursday, 2nd October 2025 at 2.00pm
at the Ex-Services Club, 12-14 St Albans Road, Watford WD17 1BN
Our Speaker on 2nd October is Laurie Elvin talking about
The Earl of Essex. Cassiobury Estate.

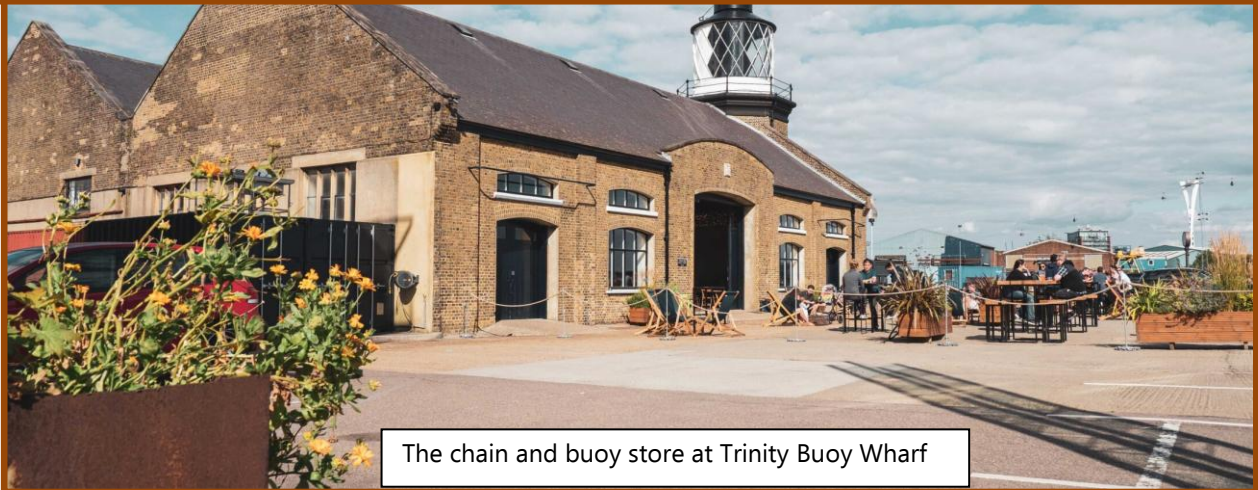
What's Your Story? Leader: Sue Ettridge

On 24th September, we met at my home as the Alms Houses was unavailable. We had a good chat about so many subjects. Does anyone have any ideas for a story for our 22nd October meeting? Even the bare bones of a story (true or false) could be turned into something we could relay at one of our meetings, whether or not you wish to join us when it is told. Please ring or email Sue Ettridge with the basics of a story and come along to one of our meetings at the Alms Houses, if you would like to try us out. You will be most welcome, with or without a story.

Interest Days Out**Leader: Sandra Kay**

For our trip to Trinity Buoy Wharf on Tuesday 21st October; please meet at Watford Junction Station at 09:40am in time for the 10:02am train to Euston. We will then take the Northern Line to Bank Station, then the DLR To East India Dock Station, after that it's a 17 minute walk to Trinity Buoy Wharf. Sign up sheets will still be available at our next monthly meeting, including our November trip to The National Army Museum.

Best wishes, Sandra



The chain and buoy store at Trinity Buoy Wharf

Walking Group**Leader: Jenny**

The next walk on Friday 31 October will be in Cassiobury Park.

Meet in the short stay car park at 10.30 am at Watford Junction where Sandra and I will be waiting to take the short drive to Cassiobury Park. Otherwise you can meet us at the car park in Cassiobury Park at about 10.45 am. We shall walk for about two miles and then go to the cafe for refreshments.

The usual signing up sheet will be available 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.



This photo was taken on the last walk to the top of Richmond Hill.

Lunch Group

Leader: Sally Macaulay

Lunch Group this month will be at the Blue Check in Bushey **on October 16th at 1 p.m.** The price of two courses is **£18.70**. Choose from the lunch menu on the day and there will be a booking sheet at the meeting on 2nd October.

Buses 142 and 258 go pass the door and go from Watford Junction and central Watford approximately every 10 minutes.

ADVANCE INFORMATION:

For the **November lunch** we have a booking for West Herts College Training Restaurant. Please note that it will be on **WEDNESDAY 19th NOVEMBER** because we cannot get a booking for the Thursday of that week. There is a top limit of 20 people so it really will be first come on that occasion. The cost has gone up slightly at £14 and choosing what to eat is in advance. By that time, I will know what they are offering on the menu and a booking sheet will be available only on Thursday 6th November. There can be a waiting list if all the spaces are filled.

Theatre Visits

Leader: Sally Macaulay

We've had a lean time theatrically in the past few months but there are a two amateur productions this time. They are both societies of long standing so well worth seeing. Choose either or both, it's up to you.

Saturday 8th November at 2.30 p.m. Watford Palace Theatre

Cassio Productions Present: Crazy for You

A zany rich-boy-meets-hometown-girl romantic comedy, Crazy for You® tells the story of young New York banker Bobby Child, who is sent to Deadrock, Nevada, to foreclose on a rundown theatre.

In Deadrock, Bobby falls for spunky Polly Baker, the theatre owner's daughter. But Polly takes an instant dislike to the city slicker, so Bobby vows – through cunning, razzmatazz, and a hilarious case of mistaken identity – to win Polly's heart and save the theatre.

Memorable Gershwin tunes from the score include "I Got Rhythm," "Naughty Baby," "They Can't Take That Away from Me," "Embraceable You," "But Not for Me," "Nice Work If You Can Get It" and "Someone to Watch Over Me."

Ticket price: £25

(Personal note – I usually go to each show and bring the tickets with me. I can't be there this time as I have a family wedding on the same day. If you want to see this show, I will make sure you have the tickets in advance. Shame I can't go but I have known about the wedding for two years!

Saturday 15th November at 1 p.m. St Albans Arena

St Albans Amateur Theatre Company Presents: A White Christmas (Cont on Page 4)

Theatre Visits (Continued)

Saturday 15th November at 1 p.m. St Albans Arena
St Albans Amateur Theatre Company Presents: A White Christmas

The beloved musical that brings festive cheer and dazzling song and dance to the stage. When entertainers Bob Wallace and Phil Davis follow a pair of talented sisters to a Vermont inn, they find romance, laughter, and a mission to save a failing business, just in time for Christmas. Featuring iconic songs like "Blue Skies", "Sisters", and the cherished title tune, this heart-warming production is filled with joy, nostalgia, and plenty of holiday spirit. Join us for a magical celebration of love, friendship, and the power of a perfect Christmas wish.

Ticket Price: £24

Who remembers Pete Murray of Top of the Pops fame? He recently had his 100th Birthday! What a star!

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.

Yellow Envelopes

Here is an article from the u3a magazine issued on-line in September. Thanks to some keen Interest Group Leaders, some interesting pieces have been included,

From the March, Cambs u3a group, here is an extract (shown on the right) from an article about a little girl in 1943 who asked an injured uncle to draw a picture of a bird. She didn't think it very good, but took it to school and it became an annual activity which developed in her home town.

On 8th April each year, participants in **Draw a Bird Day**, simply do their best (good or bad) to draw a bird and share it with others to raise awareness about birds and conservation.

We should try something like this, perhaps at a general meeting.

Draw a Bird Day - 8th April each year



Celebrating 200 years of the railway!!

The first photo below, is of a 1938 tube train recently on show at Watford Met Station, on which rides could be taken throughout the day. So sorry I missed that opportunity - very Art Deco! The second photo shows the logo being used in 2025 on bunting to encourage us to celebrate the 200 years of progress made since Britain led the world in the development of railways.



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

