

Watford Central

U3A

Learn Laugh Live

Volume 15, Issue 4 -April 2026

<https://watfordcentral.u3asite.uk>

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to the April newsletter. As I write this the sun is shining and it is warm, there are bulbs around the town and leaves are beginning to come out on the trees. Let's hope it lasts?

For Watford Central, April brings the beginning of our membership year. I am pleased that the majority of our previous members have signed up for another year. For those who have not renewed, there are reasons of all kinds but if you feel you want to rejoin at any time, we shall be very pleased to see you again. We are always pleased to have new members and if any of your friends or neighbours want to come along, they are welcome to join us at the monthly meeting, without charge, on two occasions if they like us. Also, have a look at the website and it gives you information about who we are and what we do. Speaking of the website, if you feel the need to look at the newsletter when you're out and about you can get it on your phone. Google *Watford Central u3a*, a link pops up and you can find the website and the menu takes you on to the newsletter. The print is small but remarkably readable and can be enlarged.

Easter is quite early this year, though not as early as it could be. The earliest date it can be is 22nd March but that hasn't happened since 1818 and the next time it occurs is 2285 - those dates are real and I haven't touched the wrong keys. We just accept the dates for Easter without necessarily thinking about it, so this time I took to Google (can it be trusted?) and asked the question: Why do the dates for Easter change each year? This is what came back: *'the Moon's phases shift throughout the year. Because lunar months last about 29.5 days and do not align neatly with our calendar months, Easter's date shifts from year to year. In the Gregorian calendar, Easter can fall on any Sunday between March 22 and April 25.'*

Also from another source: *Easter is the Sunday following the Paschal full moon date. The Paschal full moon date is the ecclesiastical full moon date or after the ecclesiastical equinox on 21 March. The fourteenth day of the lunar month is ecclesiastically considered the day of the full moon.* I didn't understand it all and maybe next time I will just look at a printed calendar to tell me when to buy the chocolate eggs.

I'm looking forward to meeting you on 2nd April and remember, it isn't too late if you want to join the Committee!

With best wishes from Sally



The next monthly meeting of Watford Central u3a will be held on

Thursday, 2nd APRIL, 2026 at 2.00pm

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

Our Annual General Meeting will take place at the commencement of this meeting and we hope as many people as possible are able to be there.

Sally is cooking up a few ideas to amuse and entertain us after the AGM and, if past years are anything to go by, we will all enjoy the afternoon.

End of year figures: Attached to this Newsletter, you will find the Financial Report from Meryl Abraham, our Treasurer.

Watford Ex-Services Club

Members have been asking about membership of the Ex-Services Club and the rules around using the bar.

When we first used the club there was a rule that if you were not a member you had to pay a fee of £1 per visit. In those days we had several different activities in the bar and we also used the large room. That has different rules because we pay rent and membership of the club is not an issue.

At that time, many of us came quite often and it became a bit expensive so we joined the club as members. This also gave you the option to go to club events at the weekends and to vote about the running of the club. A number of our members took advantage of that and went to quiz nights etc bringing their families with them. I kept my membership going through the pandemic even though there was nothing going on for a long time.

The pandemic changed many things and the club rules have become a little more relaxed. In the daytime they don't enforce the non-member rule at the moment but that could change.

We are very grateful to the Committee of the Club and especially Frank and Avril Goodenough who are very kind in helping us run our groups especially with the inconveniences of the scaffolding. We want the club to continue having a strong membership base and be a competitive enterprise.

If you are able, would you consider becoming one of their members. It is £25 in the first year and £15 in subsequent years (current prices), if you have previously been a member and still have your card it is £15. Ask Frank or Avril or anyone in the bar and they will explain the procedure.

Whether you have membership or not we ask that, when we come to play games in the bar, we buy at least one drink (it doesn't have to be alcohol). They have very good sausage rolls too!

REPAIR CAFE AT THE SCOUT HUT Durban Road West, Watford

This facility has been available in St Mary's Church for some months now and this new venture at Durban Road Scout Hut has hosted one session this year. Items such as small electrical appliances, toys, garments for mending and darning etc can be taken along. A friendly atmosphere prevails and the concept of getting things mended instead of throwing them out is surely worthwhile!

Any enquiries should be directed to **watfordsouthscouts@gmail.com**

Upcoming dates: Sunday, 26th April, 31st May, 28th June at 2- 4.45 pm.

Lunch Group

Leader: Sally Macaulay

Oddfellows Hall, Avenue Road, price of lunch £17 (including a £1 tip)

16th April 2026 to eat at 1 p.m.

We are returning to the Oddfellows Hall for our lunch group this month. There will be a set menu with a choice of main and desert courses, with coffee or tea to follow. Choices need to be made at the time of booking and the list will be available at the meeting in April. Soft drinks are available to buy on the day. If you want a glass of wine then you will have to bring something with you, as we do at Christmas.

Theatre Visits

Leader: Sally Macaulay

Ticket prices shown are the maximum asked by the theatre but cheaper seats are sometimes available at the time of booking. Refunds are given if this occurs.

Watford Palace Theatre on Wednesday 27th May at 2.30. pm. N.B. it's on a Wednesday!

The Theatre Chipping Norton and Selladoor Worldwide present Reduced Shakespeare Company in: The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) by Adam Long, Daniel Singer and Jess Winfield

The Theatre Chipping Norton and Selladoor Worldwide present a new version of the West End classic – rebooted and re-imagined for 2026. All 37 plays. Three actors. One wildly funny show.

The worldwide comedy hit returns with a brand-new, updated version of The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged), a fast, furious and gloriously absurd sprint through all of the Bard's tragedies, comedies and histories.

Expect Hamlet performed backwards, Titus Andronicus as a YouTube cooking tutorial, and all of the History plays turned into a chaotic football match where the crown is kicked from king to king. Throw in lightning-fast costume changes, sword fights, outrageous improvisation and the result is a wildly inventive and hilarious celebration of Shakespeare.

Run-time: 2 hours (incl. interval) **Ticket price: ££32.50**

What's Your Story?

Leader: Sue Ettridge

At our meeting on Wednesday, 25th March we viewed a short history of Cheslyn House & Gardens, looked at some trench art made by soldiers in WW1, then at some 1950's craftwork from school days and finally learned some interesting facts about Watford's Darby & Joan Club. Next time, on **Wednesday, 22nd April**, we decided to continue looking at personal memorabilia and discussing our intentions for the summer to come. Why not join us and bring along some new ideas or simply listen to us, You will be most welcome.

Sue Ettridge - Newsletter Editor

Would you believe that it was nearly 60 years ago when England won the World Cup in 1966!

Walking Group (The Walk for April is being led by Jenny Shelock)

Meet in time to catch the number 20 bus to Hemel Hempstead; Stop "S" in Clarendon Road at 10:28am and at Stop 6 at Watford Junction Station at 10:31am. Jenny will meet everyone at the stop on Swallowdale Lane at 11:22am, the stop is called "Maylands Business Park, opposite Atlas Copco". From there we will walk the Nicky Line (the disused railway line) to Hemel Town Centre, it's all downhill and is about 2 miles, should take about 1 hour to walk. If you wish you are welcome to call in at Jenny and Colin's Flat afterwards for coffee/tea and a snack. Alternatively the bus back to Watford is close by. Please add your name to the signing up sheet at the next meeting.

Best wishes from Sandra Kay

Interest Days Out

Leader: Sandra Kay

Please note that the date of our next trip to Queens House in Greenwich on Tuesday 21st April has now been changed to **Wednesday 29th April**.

This is due to the Underground Train Strikes. It is possible that the strikes may get called off of course, as the March ones did, but we require entrance tickets which need to be ordered in advance. The travel arrangements are as follows: please meet at Watford Junction Station in time to catch the 10:02am train to Euston. From there we will take the Northern Line to Embankment and it's a short walk to the pier where we can take the River Bus to Greenwich Pier and walk to Queens House. The cost of the River bus is about £10, but cheaper with Oyster or Contactless Payments. We can return the same way or on the DLR train. Apologies to those who can't make the new date.

For our trip in May on Tuesday 19th, we will be going to Gunnersbury Park Museum and Gardens. This time we will be travelling on mainline trains, so it won't matter about the underground train strikes, if they go ahead, and no tickets required for entrance to the museum. There will be a sign up sheet at our April monthly meeting.

If anyone who has signed up then wishes to make their own way to a destination, they are more than welcome to do so, but please let Sandra know and liaise with her on timings.

Sign-up sheets will be available for these trips at our monthly meeting.

Photos taken by Lynda Bullock, Watford Central u3a member



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.

This pretty little Easter Bunny postbox topper was recently photographed by Stephen Danzig.



This view of Oxhey Park where the bridge spans the River Colne was taken last year by Stephen Danzig. What a lovely green space this is.

**River Colne Art Exhibition in the Charles Room, Pump House
Closing date: 17th April 2026**

A vibrant community-led showcase delivered in partnership with Watford Borough Council, Groundwork East, and the Pump House Theatre and Centre.

Open to both amateur and professional artists, the exhibition invites creative interpretations inspired by the River Colne, its wildlife, rich history, personal stories, and environmental importance.

Viewing Times: Mon, Weds, Thurs, Fri 1-5pm; Tues: 2pm–9pm; Sat: 2pm - 6pm (When Tina Lake's Cafe is open).



'Different hands' by Anne Pearson, Hale & District u3a

This rough sketch of two very different hands proved to be a difficult subject.



Who bought stamps, did banking and sent parcels from this General Post Office in Market Street that closed in 1996? I bought my first National Lottery ticket there.

Sue - Editor