Watford Central U3A

Learn Laugh Live

Volume 15, Issue 11 - November 2026 **https://watfordcentral.u3asite.uk**

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to the newsletter for November, by the time this newsletter comes to you we will have put the clocks back and the shorter days will have begun. We just need the next months to go by in a rush until March when we can enjoy longer days again. But maybe we shouldn't wish our lives away …….

For those of you who were at the last meeting, have you worked out yet how the magician was able to know the thoughts of Ellen and Mair and how a playing card with my name on it turned up in his shoe? No? Me neither, clever but puzzling.

I hope that you will be pleased to see that we have been able to get some places for lunch at the West Herts College Training Restaurant. I have been able to book 20 places but it is very much first come first served as to who gets onto the list. It is on a different day this time, we have to take pot luck with dates for this venue as it is very popular with a lot of people in the town and there are some groups, like the Alzheimer's Group that have regular bookings and we have to fit in around them. The next lunch after that one, the December one, is our Christmas Lunch on Monday 7th December. There is one more opportunity, at the meeting on 5th November to make a booking. After that I have to compile the lists for Sara at the Oddfellows Hall. I haven't put cheques etc into the bank yet but I will be doing that in the middle of November to allow for a little time for the cheques to clear before I have to pay on the 7th December. We will be providing wine as usual and we hope a good time will be had by all.

I am always fascinated when I see them, so called, days of celebration for, well, almost anything you might like to suggest. Looking at a list the other day, I saw there are days designated for World Vegan Day, 1st November; Guy Fawks Night, of course, we're British, 5th November; Remembrance Day, 11th November, which is Veterans Day if you're in America; World Kindness Day, 13th November and International Day for Intolerance, 16th November and Black Friday & Buy Nothing Day on 27th November. To name but a few and the last one is a definitely commercial day thought up by some person in a suit.

No suits for us at our next meeting which will be on 5th November, I hope to see many of you there.

With best wishes,

Sally

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

5th November, 2026 at 2.00pm

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

"*What I did on my holidays*" is our Speaker Chris Hillier's story of a visit to London in 1892, made by a young girl. So, look forward to hearing about a new Tower Bridge and Buffulo Bill's Circus, as told in her journal.

Christmas Lunch Monday, 7th December at The Oddfellows Hall
An order form is attached at the back of this newsletter.

Those who wish to join Sally and other members should bring the completed form and payment to the November meeting, or let Sally know by email and post it to her with a cheque by
. **5th November at the latest.**



INTEREST GROUPS

Do you have ideas about what new Interest Groups would suit us, then tell Sally or one of our Group leaders about it. We look forward to hearing about them.
Thanks, Sue

Lunch Group *Leader: Sally Macaulay*

The next lunch we hold will be on **Friday 20th November at West Herts College at 12 noon.** Usually, when we go to the college, we have the menu in advance for you to choose from before the day. This time it will be different because I have been told that the college is holding a **'Ready, Steady, Cook Day'**. So, if you're brave enough, we turn up at the venue without any knowledge of what we will eat and take pot luck! If you want to come to the lunch but need to have a vegetarian option, then we can ask the staff to make something different for you. However, they are not going to do that for all 20 of us!

Cost: £15.50

Theatre Visits *Leader: Sally Macaulay*

There's not much going on at Watford Palace Theatre until February when there is a production of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang to look forward to from Abbots Langley Gilbert and Sullivan Society. I will wait for a while till I book for that show as it is quite a long way ahead. Apart from that there seems only to be one-night performances at both the Palace and St Albans Arena. Times change but we will keep looking.

However, I have found something at the **Abbey Theatre in St Albans**, the theatre in the park. **Saturday 19th December at 2 p.m. Around the World in 80 Days,** produced by the Company of Ten. The ticket cost is **£14** for our age-group. The Group of Ten is an amateur group but who put on a wide range of plays and performances at a very reasonable cost and they are great actors.





Macmillan Cancer Support

Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning at the Ex-Service Club in October

Avril Goodenough, one of the organisers, has written to say thank you for your support for the event and they have raised £292 for the charity.

Sally thought it was a very pleasant way to spend a morning; lots of different cake and coffee, not to mention lots of talking and laughter. One of the things we do best!

Knit & Natter

Please note that as from January 2027, this Group will be lead by Caroline Bagley. Retiring leader, Joan Morse, is looking forward to continuing her membership of this Interest Group. Thanks to Joan for her time spent as leader and best wishes to Caroline on taking up the reins.

INTEREST DAYS OUT *Leader: Sandra Kay*

Our trip to Kensington Palace was enjoyed by all. The section about the young Queen Victoria and her Jewels was amazing, you forget how slim she was then, (from pictures that is.) The Exhibition about the Princess of the Punjab was a fascinating story. The Palace is definitely worth a visit. The photos are taken in the gardens of the Palace.





For our final trip for this year on **Tuesday 17th November to the V&A Museum**; please meet at Watford Junction Station at the usual time of 09:40am in time for the 10:02am train to Euston. From there we will take the Victoria Line to Victoria and then the District Line to South Kensington, we can then walk through the tunnel to the Museum.

For next year it's a question of running out of places and ideas of where to go. So, if anyone has any ideas of places to go for the future please do let Sandra know. You can contact her by email, Whattsapp, Text or even let her know when you see her. All contributions gratefully appreciated.

Walk for November

The walk for November on Friday 27th, will be in Cassio Park, but we can include a walk along the canal. All will be weather permitting, but of course we will be going to the cafe afterwards. Please meet in the car park at 10:30am, if the cafe is easier for you, please state on the sign up sheet which will be available at the November monthly meeting.

Best wishes, Sandra

What's Your Story? *Leader: Sue Ettridge*

We have cancelled our meeting for October due to non-availability of members, but my thoughts will be turning to our town's Remembrance Service on Sunday, 8th November and It would be interesting to find out what our members' thoughts are about this annual event. What do our Newsletter readers think too? Why not come along to join us at our meeting on **Wednesday, 25th Novembe**r for a welcome hot drink. If you have something that could be shared about a family member caught up in WW1, WW2 or another conflict, we will be keen to hear your story.

Remembrance Sunday, 8th November 2026

Watford will unite in remembrance on Sunday 8 November, paying tribute to the generations of servicemen and women who have served their country and remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

From those who left their homes and families to serve during the First and Second World Wars to the men and women serving in the Armed Forces today, Watford has a proud and enduring connection to Britain's military history.

The town's main Remembrance Sunday ceremony will take place at 3pm on Sunday 8 November at the Peace Memorial outside Watford Town Hall.

As part of this year's commemorations, striking silhouette figures of First World War soldiers, known as 'Tommies', will once again be displayed at locations across Watford.

Remembrance Sunday is a national opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life...

Remembrance Sunday - Sunday 8 November

Watford Town Hall, Rickmansworth Road
• 3pm Peace Memorial

All Saints Church, Horseshoe Lane
• 9am service in person and live streamed
• 10.45am Civic Service at the War Memorial High Road, Leavesden

Other services will be held around the town as well.

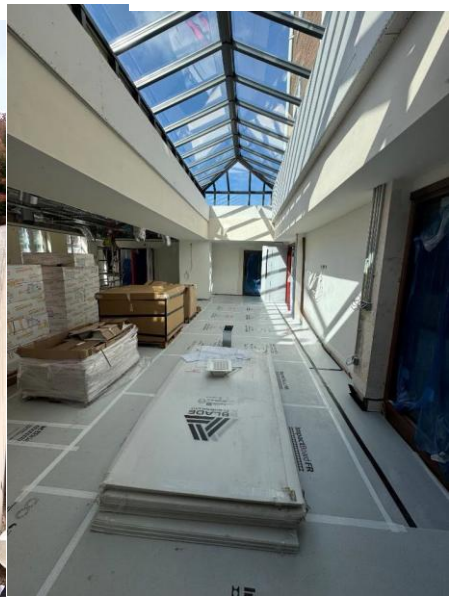


Photo supplied by Colin Shellock





The Town Hall steps revealed
(Lynda Bullock)



A section of the completed interior
(Watford Observer)

Looking at these two photographs, it seems what we have been told about the new Museum of Watford being open in 2027 may be happening!

We all hope so!

Some images and information on this page have been taken from recent Watford Observer reports.
PLEASE SEE THE FOOTNOTE BELOW FROM SUE, EDITOR.

Museum of Watford staff are gathering stories from local people as they wish to set up a section of the new display area dedicated to local history. I am compiling a file for this purpose and have filled it with some of the information collected in my capacity as Secretary of West Watford History Group and 1st Watford South Scout Group.

There is undoubtedly much to add and it would be appreciated if you could help me furnish the Museum with a comprehensive report from our u3a branch.