



"Registered Charity Number



NEWSLETTER JULY 2024

EDITOR'S COMMENTS



Editor: In the newsletter, I always like to feature any information/comments/ outing feedback/group news from any members and if you want to contact me, my details are below.

Newsletter Editor	Phil Joiner	ww3aphil@gmail.com 07728 748 131
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All newsletter contributions to be received by midnight on 19th July. Newsletter will go to the webmaster on 20th July

NEXT GENERAL MEEETING



On Tuesday 2nd July 2024
at 10.30 a.m.
At: The Memorial Hall,
South Woodford.
209 High Rd, E18 2PA.

The Woodford Singers are delighted to be performing once again for Wanstead and Woodford U3A on 2nd July. The choir's repertoire is varied in style, ranging from Folksong arrangements through classical repertoire to Musical Theatre and the occasional pop song.

2024 has already been quite busy with private functions, retaining the treasured Throne Challenge Cup at the Stratford and East London Music Festival plus a major concert with the Heron Quartet at St Gabriel's, Wanstead in May. The choir is also planning a second Tour, this time to the Isle of Wight in 2025, before their London debut in 2026 to mark their 15th anniversary.

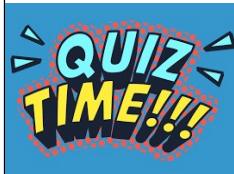
The concert on 2nd July will feature, by popular request, special arrangements of Musical Theatre and Film repertoire with a couple of Classical favourites for good measure.

CURRENT VACANCIES

Boules	Bridge	Evening Dinner 1
Film Group	French	History
Italian 1	Italian 2	Local Walks
Looking at Art	Table tennis	Ten Pin Bowling
Trains, Boats and Planes		

A man with money to burn finds it easy to get a match.

WWU3A NEWS



WWU3A QUIZ

ADVANCE NOTICE

We are going to have another WWU3A Quiz on Wednesday 18th September from 1.00 to 4.00 p.m. Please put the date in your diary. More details to be notified nearer the time.



FPR 1 WALK

Lesley Smith reports: For our June walk, FPR1 members met at Mile End Station and continued to Putney Bridge to visit Fulham Palace via Bishops Park. Putney Bridge is the only Bridge with a medieval church at either end and also where the Boat Race starts. After viewing a sculpture garden with 4 sculptures made by J. Wedgewood, we passed a memorial to local volunteers who fought in the Spanish civil war and visited a very nice teahouse, then continued to Fulham Palace.

This was the country home of the Bishops of London from 11th century until 1973 and is now managed by a Trust. It was reached via a moat and a Gothic Gate House and houses many historic rooms, the Great Hall being late medieval and the courtyard Tudor. The grounds also contain a large Botanic Garden and a walled garden. We then walked to the church of All Saints which retains many memorials including the graves of many Bishops.

At the exit, there are 12 stunning grade 2 almshouses intended for 12 poor women of Fulham Parish. This was a very enjoyable and interesting day. Thanks go to Mary Knights who organised it.



TRAINS BOATS AND PLANES

Ann Speed sends us this feedback on Didcot Railway Centre. Richard Moules convenor for Trains, Boats and Planes, guided a small group of members to the Living Museum of the GWR (Great Western Railway). It was an easy jaunt there, taking the Elizabeth Line to Reading and then one stop to Didcot on the mainline. The museum is adjacent to the station. Entrance for centre was £ 9.00 for seniors and we immediately boarded a steam train with Poirot like carriages to take us through the site. There was a café for lunch, essential for any good day out, sheds full of steam engines of all sizes and carriages in all stages of renovation. There was even a signal box that worked on the active Sundays on a small branch line. Absolutely delightful.

Financially I'm set for life, provided I die next Wednesday

WWU3A EVENTS



CHENIES MANOR HOUSE, GARDENS & CHAPEL

On Tuesday 13th August. Meet at James Hawkey Hall at 9.00 a.m. Cost £55.00. Includes Private tour of the Manor House, morning tea/coffee & mixed sandwich platter lunch. Editor: Please note that the cost is £55.00 NOT £45.00 as reported in the June newsletter

Just recalling a visit to some places make you smile and Chenies Manor House is just such a place. Nestled close to the banks of the River Chess, which marks the boundary of Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire, it has a rich history dating back to at least 1180, which includes visits by Henry VIII and Elizabeth 1st right throughout modern times by Nikolaus Pevsner and the Time Team. Chenies' picturesque architecture has also made it a favourite of TV and film makers and you may recognise it from *Midsummer Murders*, *Tom's Midnight Garden* or *Little Dorrit* to name just a few.

We will leave the Hawkey Hall at 9.00 a.m. to arrive by 10.30 a.m. where a cup of coffee will be waiting for us before we get divided into smaller groups for a private tour of the House. After which, it's time for our sandwich lunch before the House is opened to the public at 2.00 p.m. and the time is your own to explore the beautiful gardens, well house and so much more. Our coach will leave to return to Woodford at 5.00 p.m. Sandra Reekie 07969430936.

U3A LONDON REGION



MEET THE SCIENTISTS' AT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM on 23rd July 13.00-15.00

As part of the London Region Summer programme, this event has been curated especially for u3a members and will comprise two lectures by Museum scientists describing their work relating to climate change and how the resources of the Natural History Museum can be instrumental in preventing biodiversity loss and understanding how life responds to a changing planet. Natalie Cooper will talk from a life sciences perspective. James Witts who studies mass extinctions and climate change will be talking from an Earth science perspective. Tickets £10.00. Click on the link below which includes further information on p.22 with a direct link to the Booking Form

<https://u3asites.org.uk/files/l/london-region/docs/lru3asummeeeventsprogrammema-y-july2024revisedv3.3.pdf>

USEFUL INFORMATION



HIGHAMS PARK STATION

A commemorative plaque has been unveiled at Highams Park station on Saturday 25th May 2024 to mark its 150th anniversary on 17th November 2023. The plaque provides a snapshot of the station's rich history, including its transition from a small wooden building to the Neville Ashbee design, which still stands today. The station opened on 17th November 1873, originally called Hale End. It was renamed Highams Park on 1st October 1894, and on 1 May 1899, renamed again, this time to Highams Park & Hale End. Neville Ashbee, the architect behind Liverpool Street station, redesigned the current station building at the turn of the century. In early 1969, the station name reverted to Highams Park. The history of Highams Park demonstrates how railway stations are key to the development of local economies and communities and this continues to the present day. The station became part of the London Overground network in 2015. You won't be able to read the plaque in this article but the wording is the same!



NATIONAL ART PASS

The National Art Pass, a card that gets you cheap or free entry to museums and exhibitions, has a three-month trial offer at the moment. The card is a standard offer from many venues across the UK, but if you're unsure whether the annual membership fee will be worth it or can't afford it at the moment, the three-month offer can be useful. The 3-month pass costs £15.00 and it gives you half the price off many paid exhibitions and free or cheaper entry to many paid museums. For example, the Art Pass gets you free entry into: Charles Dickens Museum, Osterley Park and House, Keats House, Handel Hendrix House and The Foundling Museum. The three-month trial Art Pass can be bought for £15.00 before 30th June 2024. The trial National Art Pass will be valid for 3 calendar months from the date of payment. The expiry date will be rounded up to the end of the month of expiry. Note that if you've had a trial or bought a National Art Pass in the past, you cannot take up this offer

INTERESTING FACTS

English children are "world leaders in laziness", says The Times. A new WHO study shows that only 11% of 15-year-old girls and 16% of boys did the recommended 60 minutes of exercise a day, placing them near the bottom of the global table below the likes of Romania, Poland, Croatia and Spain.

British taxpayers spent almost 800 years on hold to HMRC in the 2022-23 tax year, says The Daily Telegraph. A new report by the government's spending watchdog found that Britons were left waiting on the taxman's helpline for a total of seven million hours, more than double the 3.2 million – or 365 years – they spent on hold in 2019-20. People who did manage to get through to an adviser waited 23 minutes on average, while a third of calls weren't answered at all.

Pope Francis, is always putting his foot in it, this time for apparently telling a group of young priests that "gossip is a women's thing" and that men have to do the talking because "we wear the trousers".

NEWS FROM U3A CENTRE

U3A FESTIVAL

Members can now book tickets for u3a Festival 24, which is taking place at the University of York from 18th to 20th July.

Margaret Fiddes, one of the organisers of the festival, says "Many hundreds of people are coming to join us in York for the largest ever gathering of u3a members in the movement's history." The taster programme and booking link can be found on the Festival page of the u3a website and if you have any questions, please email festival@u3a.org.uk.

USEFUL INFORMATION

EASTWOOD GREEN



Eastwood Green, off George Lane, has become a wonderful haven for bees and butterflies as well as a pleasant space for residents. Opposite the roundabout on George Lane, Eastwood Green was started

by a group of volunteers in Autumn 2022, with the intention of transforming an uninspiring patch of grass into a vibrant haven for people and wildlife. What a difference a year and a half has made! The wonderful work undertaken by the South Woodford Gardeners in the local area shows how much difference green space can make to our community. All the work here is carried out by a team of fantastic volunteers in collaboration with the South Woodford Society and funding from Redbridge Council. The plants were selected to be drought-tolerant, so no watering necessary. The occasional weeding is all that's needed, but they embrace the wild aesthetic. They are also trialling some grass alternatives, such as chamomile and thyme. These plants are an attractive, low-maintenance option for those who like a lawn but don't have time to maintain it. Editor: This is a photo I took in May showing it at its best.

SEEING DOUBLE?



A double yellow line that once said 'no to parking' is now a park bench saying 'yes to sitting' after a road in Central London was turned into a mini pocket park. The short road at the North end of Gordon Square in Bloomsbury was closed to road traffic in 2015, to be used as storage space for construction works, and now they have finished, rather than reopening the road, the council decided to turn it into a pocket park. They recently filled the road with planters and seating areas on one side and a new cycle lane on the other. Right next to the UCL Institute of Archaeology, it's a student breakout space during the week and a place for wandering tourists to relax on the weekends.

Old lawyers never die. They just lose their appeal.

MORE USEFUL INFORMATION

SPIRIT OF INVENTION



Find your inner inventor at Spirit of Invention, a fun, free design exhibition at The National Archives opening until Sunday 29th October. Step into a world of creativity from past to present - see original Victorian designs that capture the glorious imagination of Victorian Britain alongside designs from modern makers. Try on a Victorian ventilating top hat, make a call on an early telephone and be inspired to become an inventor. Nearest tube: Kew Gardens. Exhibition open Tuesday-Sunday 9.30 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

GIR LION LODGE LONDON ZOO



For those of you who want something that is unique, (but expensive!) there is an exciting opportunity to stay overnight in the Gir Lion Lodge at London Zoo. Many hotels in London claim to have the best views, but here is an offer of a luxury room with a zoo, within roaring distance of the lions. Guests will have a complimentary drink on arrival, a delicious two-course dinner and bed down for one night in a beautifully decorated twin or double lodge inspired by the welcoming charm of hotels in the lion's home in India. Breakfast is included as are exclusive tours led by passionate and knowledgeable hosts; sunset by torchlight and in the morning. Also included is free car parking and 2 days free entry to London Zoo.

MORE FROM LONDON ZOO



London Zoo's annual late evening openings during the summer months are back, with tickets on sale now. Every Friday until 26th July 2024, London Zoo will be open to adults only from 6.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. with the whole zoo open alongside events and drinks. Arguably, it's also a way of seeing the animals in a different way from the daytime visits, as many of them become more active in the evening. Find out what the animals really get up to after dark with a Birds and The Bees guided tour, then learn more about their bathroom habits with The Origin of the Faeces exhibition. In addition to drinks, there will also be a street food market in the zoo. Tickets cost £21.50

SPELL IT OUT

When you re-arrange the letters

ELECTION RESULTS	= LIES - LET'S RECOUNT
PRESBYTERIAN	= BEST IN PRAYER
ASTRONOMER	= MOON STARER
DESPERATION	= A ROPE ENDS IT
THE EYES	= THEY SEE
THE MORSE CODE	= HERE COME DOTS
DORMITORY	= DIRTY ROOM
SLOT MACHINES	= CASH LOST IN ME
THE EARTHQUAKES	= THAT QUEER SHAKE
ELVEN PLUS TWO	= TWELVE PLUS ONE
MOTHER IN LAW	= WOMAN HITLER

Most things you buy now won't wear out!

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A DOG'S LIFE?

If only real life was so blissful



The kindness
one does
for an animal
may not change
the world...

But, IT WILL
change the world
for that one animal.



His and hers!



Trust me - I'm a dog



ONLY JOKING!

I intended to form a UK Apathy Party but couldn't be bothered.
The space programme is expensive. The cost is astronomical.
When the wheel was invented, it caused a revolution.
If guillotine executioners are laid off, do they get severance?
My dog's taste in music is Bach. It's on the top of his Liszt.
He also likes Beethoven so he can 'Roll Over.'
The princess at the photo shop was waiting for her prints.
The broom was late for the meeting. He overswept.
The Chinese restaurant had bright lights. They had to Dim Sum.
The stadium heated up after the game because all the fans left..
People in Afghanistan can't watch TV because of the telly ban.
An archaeologists wife left him. His life is now in ruins.
My smoking jacket caught fire. Now it's a blazer.
I wasn't trained to be a dustman but just picked it up as I went along.
The vicar turned around during a christening. He was back to font.
I asked a friend if he knows where the Pope lives. He said Vat I Can do.
My neighbour worships exhaust pipes, he's a Catholic converter.
Chimney jokes - I've got a stack of them. The first one is on the house.
We tell actors to 'break a leg' because every play has a cast.
My grandfather invented the cold air balloon. It never really took off.
Exaggerations went up by a million percent last year.
He entered a poetry related pun contest and stanza good chance.
I posed nude for a magazine. I'm not going to that newsagent again
It used to be free to put air in your tyres Now it's £1.00. That's inflation.
I have a logic fetish. I can't stop coming to conclusions.
I can't stop telling airport jokes. Doctor says it's terminal.
Music was coming from my printer. The paper was jamming.
I wanted to give him a nasty look, but he already had one.
Most funerals are at 10.00 a.m. I'm not a mourning person.
Sometimes I wake up grumpy; other times I let her sleep.
I married Miss Right, Her first name was Always.
Optimistic gardeners always look to the fuchsia.
What do you call a line of Rabbits? A receding hare line.
My wife and I were happy for twenty five years; then we met.
A horse called Mayo loved Salad Cream or sometimes Mayo neighs.
I lived in a houseboat and dated the girl next door but we drifted apart.
A man drowned in a bowl of muesli. A strong currant pulled him in.
I played 'quiet' tennis today. It's Lawn Tennis without the racquet.

A man is in bed with his wife when there is a knock on the door. He looks at his clock, and it's half past three in the morning. "I'm not getting out of bed at this time,". Then, a louder knock follows. "Aren't you going to answer that?" says his wife. So he goes downstairs, opens the door and there is a drunk man standing at the door. "Hi there," slurs the stranger. "Can you give me a push?" "No, get lost. It's half past three. I was in bed," says the man and slams the door.

He goes back up to bed and tells his wife what happened and she says: "Dave, that wasn't very nice of you. Remember that night we broke down in the pouring rain on the way to pick the kids up from the baby sitter and you had to knock on that man's house to get us started again? What would have happened if he'd told us to get lost?" "But the guy was drunk," says the husband. "It doesn't matter," says the wife. "He needs our help."



The husband gets out of bed again, gets dressed and goes downstairs. He opens the door, and not being able to see the stranger he shouts: "Hey, do you still want a push?" And he hears a voice cry out: "Yeah, please." "So, still being unable to see the stranger he shouts: "Where are you?" And the stranger replies: "I'm over here, on your swing."