



Dear Member,

Since the last newsletter in June, our U3A Group has progressed well. We held our summer Garden Party at the Jim McDonald Centre, and all agreed that it was a suitable venue for the 93 people who attended. The only comments which have reached me were that we had too many cakes, and not enough savouries, and that there was not enough time to chat. Hopefully, these matters will be dealt with at our Christmas Party on 7TH DECEMBER. We shall not have a formal entertainment on this occasion, but will celebrate the season with some Carol singing. All are invited (and their spouses).

The 'Pastimes and Passions' morning at Minster House indicated what a variety of talent we have amongst our members. This has been further proved by the excellent Wednesday morning talks we have enjoyed - Maria Reeve on 'Wartime Holland', and Michael McCardle on homeopathy. This has underlined to us the importance of recognising that someone in your Group has an interesting experience to relate, or a talent to share. Please don't let them hide it!

For this reason, the committee are asking Group co-ordinators to stress to new members that they are joining U3A, not just becoming a member of a Group, and as such should be willing to share their expertise, whether it be as a tutor, an organiser, secretarial skills, speaker, or providing refreshments or making tea occasionally. We recognise the fact that not everyone can attend our main meeting on Wednesday regularly, but hope that most will make an effort to come at least occasionally. Remember that your subscription covers attendance at any Group or meeting - which must be the bargain of the year!

There is a possibility of using the Council Minibus on Wednesday mornings, to transport from Hatfield to Welwyn and vice versa. Please signify on the enclosed form whether you would use it (approximately 80p return). We hope to get a rota of volunteer drivers - only an ordinary driving licence is needed.

There has been so much news from groups that we have an extra 'Group News' sheet. Thanks go to Derek for his hard work in searching out tutors and venues.

We have co-opted Doris Poth on to the committee as Travel Organiser. She has not let the grass grow under her feet, and 49 of us are taking over a hotel in Babbacombe in January; a good number have shown interest in a trip to Bruges in September 1992. Any enquiries on these trips to Doris please, WG.339499.

A future important occasion is next year's AGM, to be held on 5/9th September at St Luke's College, Exeter. We intend to pay expenses for two representatives to go. If you are prepared for a weekend of intensive listening and note-taking, please volunteer to go. You will enjoy it!

Time has not stood still for Welwyn/Hatfield U3A. Numbers are rising steadily (174 at the last count), and we are constantly being asked to provide information and speakers about U3A. I know that many of our groups are full at this moment, but enquirers should be encouraged to come to the Wednesday meetings. So far Derek has managed to form new groups to accommodate waiting lists.

I would like to thank tutors, Group co-ordinators, and the Committee for all their hard work to make our U3A so successful. However, to continue to be so we need YOUR help and YOUR ideas. To give you an opportunity of submitting these, we are providing an information slip which we hope you will complete and return.

My first eight months of chairmanship has passed very quickly, due I am sure to the help and encouragement given by members.

Thank you all,

Joan
Joan Bensley

Another Group for Hatfield, a French/German conversation Group will be starting on Thursday afternoons at the Forum.

Two Groups have recently displayed their talent in public, the Water Colour Group at Woodhall Library and the Pen and Ink Group at St Michael's Art Festival; both exhibits were very good and a credit to those who displayed their work. We have a need for more Art and Craft Groups, the three Groups operating have waiting lists - what can we do about it? All we want are leaders, don't be shy! After last months' debate on the munificence of TV., how about a Group taking a specific course from all those subjects on offer.

ADVANCE WARNING: there is another Pastimes and Passions morning, March 1992, at Campus West - what have you to offer?

DEREK

PS. Have we anyone with experience of Print Room operation. I have an offer of the use of a well-equipped Print Room but would like someone with relevant knowhow to accompany me on an assessment visit. No commitment at this stages, just sound advice needed.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

News from Group Co-ordinators

FRENCH CONVERSATION - Fridays, 10.30 am at Panshanger. Jim says that he has three willing helpers - two of whom are French nationals. At present the I beginners and II Advanced classes are full. There is no waiting list.

GERMAN : in WGC Wednesdays at 2.00 pm. The beginners group and the conversation Group are going well. At present the Intermediate Group is at a standstill.

GERMAN CONVERSATION: Meets on Mondays in members homes - seems to be a good social occasion, as well as a learning session.

PLAYING RECORDERS : A Group of 13 players meets every Thursday morning at Guessens Court, led by Diana Reddaway. Beginners are taught by Diana by arrangement. They especially need new members who play the large recorders. An indication of the Group's enthusiasm is that small Groups of members meet in private homes for extra practice!

CLASSICAL MUSIC APPRECIATION : is one of the most popular subjects. There are now four Groups, three meet in Welwyn Garden City and one in Hatfield. They offer a variety of music chosen by members. There was a good attendance at a Combined Meeting at Minster House in October, when the music played was very enjoyable.

PLAY READING: On Thursday mornings at Guessens Court, with an average of seven members. They have read plays in the context of a chronological survey of English Drama, but they do not expect 'experts' - I quote from Margery's report "There is no intention to 'act' but there is no rule against putting one's utmost into bringing to life a character who exists only as words on a page. The Group empathy which has developed over four years has tended to make for a relaxed and self-confident approach to speaking the parts." There is only ONE male member - how about it you budding Romeos?

READING FOR PLEASURE: now has eleven members, which poses a problem in obtaining sets of books from the library. However, they are seeking ways round this, and are pleased to be thriving. They meet at Guessens Court, in the library, on alternate Thursdays.

CREATIVE WRITING: Group A meets in Welwyn Garden City. They have nine members who are in the process of having a second booklet published as a follow-up to 'Autumn Leaves'. This will be on sale shortly, in aid of Arthritis research. Group B meets in Panshanger with at present nine members. I quote "All members seem to enjoy writing and learning from each other, so forming a happy interested group."

ARTS APPRECIATION: usually visits an Art Gallery or Museum on the second Tuesday in each month. The highlight this year was their visit to Amsterdam, closely followed by a very interesting visit to the Bank of England Museum.

PEN AND INK DRAWING: the two classes have merged into one, which meets at the Forum on alternate Mondays. They recently had some work displayed at the St. Michael's Arts Festival.

Groups continued:

WILDLIFE WATCH: visits a variety of places, and to quote Adam, "Gives a chance to become involved in a most interesting activity, bringing an awareness that though we may observe nature through binoculars, we are part of the whole." The Group generally meet on the first Tuesday of each month.

WATERCOLOUR PAINTING: meets at Cole Green House on Friday afternoons. At present the Group is full, but a waiting list is held. Members have visited the Mall Galleries twice in the last year, and had their own work exhibited in Woodhall Library.

PAINT AND DRAW: group was formed as a result of the Watercolour Group being full, and quickly became full itself, with eleven members who are enjoying the chance to experiment with different media.

CHORAL GROUP: meets on Thursdays in Hatfield. Eleven ladies and one man enjoy the challenge and variety provided by Audrey. More singers would be welcomed - an ability to read music is not essential.

OPERA GROUP: has listened to several operatic recordings by invitation of David and Vikki Drain. Unfortunately meetings have ceased for the moment due to their illness, but they look forward to starting again soon.

Details of co-ordinators of Groups can be found in the current U3A programme, or you can contact DEREK GREENER on WG.536989

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

PLEASE COMPLETE this form as soon as possible and hand it to your Group co-ordinator, or the Subscription Secretary at the Wednesday meeting.

- (1) I am interested in representing our U3A at next year's AGM.
am not
- (2) I have a skill I could demonstrate at the next Pastimes and Passions meeting
have not
(if so, what is it?
- (3) I would use a Minibus for the Wednesday meeting if provided.
would not
My joining point would be: HATFIELD STATION
THE FORUM HATFIELD
PANSHANGER WGC
CAMPUS WEST WGC
WOODHALL WGC
- (4) I would join a rota to drive the bus.
would not
- (5) YOUR comments on U3A generally, Requests for new Groups, suggestions for speakers for the Wednesday meeting. You may like to volunteer to lead or co-ordinate a Group.

SIGNED
please write legibly.