



WELWYN-HATFIELD  
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

[www.u3awelhat.org.uk](http://www.u3awelhat.org.uk)

Newsletter - Silver Anniversary Edition

January 2012 Issue 39



# 25th Celebration Year 2012

U3A Welwyn Hatfield was affiliated in February 1987.

Thanks to the initial enthusiasm of a handful of energetic members, we now have over 600 members and the dynamic organisation which we all enjoy today.

In 2012 we plan to have three events to celebrate those achievements.

*Wednesday 29th February*

Celebration Meeting at Ludwick with an entertaining speaker who will talk on

“Wonder Workers and the art of Illusion”.

Afterwards we will have bubbly wine and a 25th anniversary cake.

Arrival time – 10 a.m. as usual

*Wednesday 25th July*

Celebration Garden Party at Roe Hill Hall, Briars Lane, Hatfield.

Food, wine and soft drinks will be provided.

“Dress to Impress!”

Arrival time – 2 p.m.

*Wednesday 12th December*

Celebration Lunch at Beales Hotel, Comet Way, Hatfield.

Details of when tickets will be on sale to be circulated later.

*So now is the time to put these dates in your diaries!*

# Welwyn-Hatfield U3A – Silver Anniversary!

*Our Chairman, Sue Kershaw, greets our 25th year*



On 26th February 1987, with 67 members and six groups, Welwyn and Hatfield U3A became the 70th affiliated local branch of The Third Age Trust (operating as the University of the Third Age).

From early beginnings in 1981, starting with Cambridge, The Third Age Trust has grown and now comprises nationally 830 U3As with over 272,163 members. We ourselves now boast 630 members and 54 special interest groups.

We are also members of a much larger International Group, AIUTA (Association internationale des Universités du troisième âge), comprising many national U3As and their affiliates.

Members are welcomed worldwide when travelling abroad to attend their meetings.

Our Members are not only active within our own U3A but take advantage of Summer Schools; indeed, one of our members, Jack Wood, this last year was a lecturer at the Summer School in Cheltenham. We also take the opportunity to attend local U3A Network workshops, such as the recent History Day, participate in the Network Quiz and attend Science Lectures at The Royal Institution, and

Concerts and Opera performances in London organised by the Third Age Trust.

Many, like myself, regularly attend open lectures at the University of Hertfordshire, benefitting from lectures in the Faculties of Law, Science and Humanities. And many attend the Annual Vice Chancellor's Lecture.

Through the Internet and the Third Age Trust we can take advantage if we wish of online study, procurement of study aids, and assistance from National Group Leaders in various subjects; and as we become more immobile, become members of the Virtual U3A, continuing interests, study and contacts online.

Our thanks must go to those farsighted people who established Wel/Hat U3A and whose commitment and dedication gave us the format which we follow today.

I am convinced that Wel/Hat U3A will continue to thrive, giving many hours of pleasure, stimulation and companionship to all who join; remaining flexible and open to change and development will be the key.

CONGRATULATIONS Welwyn and Hatfield U3A on attaining your 25th Anniversary; may you continue to have many more very successful years.

*CHEERS,  
Sue Kershaw, Chair*

## ***Val Fieth's account of the origin of Welwyn-Hatfield U3A:***



*Dear Members,*

*A long time ago I was interested in all sorts of things and I was paid to encourage people to keep fit. One woman said to me, "I love your enthusiasm but I was a County squash player and now have rheumatism, so offer me something else", and I thought, "That is what I do. Encourage sport". But I went away to think about it.*

*I had many magazines in my office. I read in one about the "U3A" and I thought, "This is it! We must have one". My boss was away at the time, but I did a press release to say, "Everybody come and learn new things with U3A". The boss returned and said, "You can't do that. You are paid to encourage fitness". And I said "Watch me!". I went to meet the U3A groups in Stevenage and*

*Harpenden. I phoned the member who wanted something other than "fitness". I offered her fun in learning different things.*

*The following week five or seven people gathered in the Terrace suite. I made us into a circle and the "the rest is history".*

*Like Topsy, it growed. Soon there were many groups.*

*At first it was managed by The Council as in me. I got the programmes printed. I got permission for all of the sheltered accommodations to be used free, with the idea that the residents could join whatever was happening there. Those were exciting years! We used to meet in The Terrace Suite at Campus West until that idea was ruined as Tumble Tots met there at 9.30 a.m. Members coming on an early bus could not cope with bouncing small people. So they found another place to meet. So that is how and why we left Campus West.*

*Gradually it became self managed and aquired charity status.*

*Val Fieth*

**Sue Kershaw adds:**

All the sheltered accommodation community rooms are constantly used today by our numerous groups, making our U3A inexpensive and affordable. A total of 23 groups meet for a total of 71 two-hour sessions each month, at – Friendship House

and Mead House in Hatfield; Barndicot, Cole Green House, Guessens Grove, Pear Tree Close, Springfield House and Verulam Close in Welwyn Garden City; and in Woolmer Green

***THANK YOU, VAL!***

# OUR U3A: A BRIEF HISTORY

We are celebrating 2012 as our Silver Jubilee year because 1987 is the date on our Certificate of Affiliation; but in fact the first activities occurred during the preceding year. Val Fieth, a local government officer charged with planning activities for the over fifties, called three meetings of interested parties in March 1986. It was decided to hold weekly Wednesday meetings. These started on 16 April; twenty-six people attended. At first it was managed by Val for the Council. She got the programmes printed and arranged for sheltered accommodations to be used free.

We have a copy of the first term's programme, starting with a talk by a member of Harpenden U3A; Harpenden and Stevenage are the only Hertfordshire U3As to predate us. Just two study groups, French and Creative Writing existed at this early stage.

Happily, there are still connections with this early U3A. Val Fieth, having retired, is now a member, regularly attending Wednesday meetings. Joan Bensley, who

was at the first meeting, still keeps in touch from her Hitchin retirement. The French group, meeting at Barndicot, has been tutored from the start by Jacqueline Sanger, who still continues in this capacity, with the group still meeting at the same place.

In June 1986, it was decided to appoint a steering committee, with Joan Bensley as Chairman. The programme for the second term shows a growing, more robust organisation. The range of topics for Wednesday meetings was broader and more like today's. Two more groups, Music Appreciation and Recorders had started. An interesting historical note is that the date of the summer garden party was changed because of the Royal Wedding; Andrew and Sarah Ferguson's.

Unfortunately, no programmes have survived from then until 1988, so committee minutes and an attendance book are our only historical sources. In November 1986, the first formally constituted committee was



The 15th Anniversary party, 2002

*Left to right:* Kate Wedd, National Chairman; Joan Bensley;  
Katie Nixon (the oldest member); Peter Lomer (Chairman); Martin Brennan (Past Chairman)

## WELWYN-HATFIELD U3A: CHAIRMEN

1986	JOAN BENSLEY
1986-7	ANN SARGANT
1987-9	MARGERY WOOD
1989-91	DEREK GREENER
1991-3	JOAN BENSLEY
1993-6	MYRTLE PIT-KEATHLY
1996-8	ONA GLOVER
1998-2000	MALCOLM PIT-KEATHLY
2000-02	MARTIN BRENNAN
2002-04	PETER LOMER
2004-06	BRIAN KENT
2006-8	MYRTLE PIT-KEATHLY
2008-09	STUART BARKER
2009-10	JOHN MIDDLETON
2010-12	SUE KERSHAW

Welwyn-Hatfield U3A started, we have been led by thirteen different chairmen as shown in the table: Joan Bensley and Myrtle Pit-Keathly each twice.

From a modest start, we now have more than fifty study groups. A characteristic of their activities has been visits to gardens, to London sights, to theatres and many more. Until recently members have enjoyed regular holidays, mostly ably organised by Margaret Hakansson. Perhaps the most exciting was Stan Stanley's trip to Poland in 2001, when many friends were made with local U3As. Wouldn't it be great if holidays were started again by one of the newer generation of members!

The world has changed in many ways over these twenty-five years; nowhere more than in the extraordinary growth of the digital world. We took our first dip in the water in 2003 when Stuart Barker negotiated a generous grant from the National Lottery and we bought our first digital projector and laptop computer. We now have a second projector, only a fraction of the cost and size of the original, and three laptops!

In 2005, we joined the World Wide Web and launched our own website. For most of our software we are much indebted to John Middleton, who developed our membership list into today's sophisticated database and who designed our complex programs for producing the annual subscription notices. John it was who installed our sound systems at Ludwick and Hatfield, a feat of remarkable physical agility for a Third Ager!

The election of Sue Kershaw as chairman in 2010, supported by a largely new committee, marked the arrival of the next generation of members. This can only be seen as a sign of the healthy state of Welwyn-Hatfield U3A. Long may it continue to flourish!

*Stuart Barker*

elected, with Ann Sargent as Chairman. The subscription then was two pounds per term.

From early in 1987, discussions took place on our affiliating to the Third Age Trust. Our affiliation certificate was issued on February 25th. This is the date we are now celebrating. We were the seventieth U3A to affiliate; today the latest figure is six hundred and thirty!

Membership numbers have grown steadily through the years: the hundred mark was passed in 1988, two hundred in 1993, the year in which we became a registered charity and adopted our first constitution. There were three hundred members in 1996, after which the rate slowed. Four hundred was not reached until 2007. Things speeded up to five hundred in 2009, and early in 2011 we enrolled our six hundredth member. Since

*The second profile of one of our members features a founder member.*

## **Joan Bensley — a born organizer**

Joan Pearce was born in Islington in 1925. She attended Highbury Hill grammar school until the outbreak of World War II, when she was offered a place at Southgate County School to avoid the London bombing. After matriculation she worked in a Central London Bank, and joined the Bank's Red Cross VAD detachment. This was called out to such emergencies as the Spitalfield bomb, and did night duty at underground stations, where people were sleeping on bunk beds during the raids. Joan would walk through the warren of tunnels dispensing Aspirin and advice. During this time she often made cloth dolls to sell for charity, as there were no toys in the shops. After the end of the war, the Lord Mayor held a children's party in the Mansion House and invited members of the City VAD to attend.

Joan married John Bensley, moved to Potters Bar, had two sons — and embarked on a career of community organization.

In those pre-nursery-school days, she started and ran a pre-school playgroup as part of a community centre organised by St John's Church, Potters Bar. She continued to be in charge for twenty-five years. Her husband ran a Scout troop; she was Cub Scout leader. Subsequently they both became Commissioners, and attended a Buckingham Palace Garden Party in recognition of their work in Scouting.

Joan was besides a church worker, an active member of the National Trust, and did voluntary work at the CAB. After moving to Hatfield she took up the exacting post of Manager of the Hatfield CAB until she retired in 1985.

That was the year when Val Fieth called meetings to set up a Welwyn-Hatfield U3A. Joan attended, feeling the need for another



interest now that her sons had left home to enter their married and professional lives, and her husband, a Financial Consultant, was working from home. She signed up as one who might join a U3A, and became Chairman of the steering committee of the small initial group.

Speakers were unpaid: "People used to cross the road when they saw me!" says Joan. She formed the Arts Appreciation group, which made good use of study days at Theobalds Park; joined the Book Discussion and Keep Fit Groups; and went on the first U3A-organised holiday, a day in Paris in 1990, organised by Doris Poth.

During 1986/7, with Derek Greener, Joan evangelised for U3A, going round other Hertfordshire towns, helping those who wished to start new groups. She was our Chairman again in 1991-3, and attended the National U3A Conferences as Welwyn-Hatfield representative in 1999, 2001, 2002 and 2007. In 2002 she was elected President of Welwyn-Hatfield U3A.

On the death of John in 1999, U3A proved 'a life-saver' for Joan.

In 2008 Joan left her Hatfield house, deciding, "instead of waiting for the family to put me in a home, I'd do my own thing", and moved to a warden-retirement flat in Hitchin. Hitchin U3A meets in the church next door, but Joan has not joined, having new commitments in the block of flats where she lives – itself a lively community with many organised events of social and educational content.

She wrote in her farewell message in the newsletter (no. 30, November 2008), "Anything I have done over the years for our U3A has been rewarded a thousand-fold by

the pleasure I have had in your company".

She was pleased to be invited to the Welwyn-Hatfield garden party last July, but "felt like a visitor" with so many people she didn't know, and younger members – "such a turn-around, but necessary and encouraging".

Joan considers U3A to be an excellent organization, but urges members to realise that it is a National one. It is necessary to have representation on District and National events, particularly the National conference. Its members are all "lucky to have a good group of people willing to share their interests".

*Hazel Bell*

## GROUP NEWS

### The Philosophy / Psychology Group

The group started about fifteen years ago. We now study philosophy each week for some months, then change to psychology. It is a great group in which to study. Ann Smith is our coordinator and performs this role with tact and humour. We have nine members; everyone contributes to the discussions with interest and involvement. We read the current book aloud round the group and stop and discuss difficult or interesting points. We do our best to remember the meanings of terms such as numinous, dialectic and teleological in philosophy, and hippocampus, glial cells and attributional ambiguity in psychology. Luckily we can always look them up!

We have studied the following books during my three years in the group. In Philosophy we have covered an Ethics text book and are partway through *Philosophy and Living* by Ralph Blumenau; in psychology we have covered *Outliers* by

Malcolm Gladwell, *The Human Mind* by Robert Winston and are now partway through a social psychology text book.

Some months ago we watched a series of TV programmes on Justice, Equality, Democracy and Citizenship, featuring Professor Michael Sandel. He was lecturing to an auditorium of eager, young law students at Harvard, using a discussion-oriented format (the Socratic method), rather than recitation and memorization of facts. He looked at the ideas of Immanuel Kant, John Rawls and Jeremy Bentham, amongst others, and as we had studied some of this, it was an especially interesting series for us.

Being in this group has really stretched my mind, and it is great that a second Philosophy group has started. I wish you all good studying!

*Judy Grant*

# ART EXHIBITION



The autumn term, 2011, opened with an event offering spectacle and sociability, when members of the Multi-Media, Photography, Greeting Cards and Watercolours Groups displayed their products and their talents at Ludwick Family Centre. The hall was packed; both with tables all around manned by the artists, and with circles of chairs in the centre where members, reunited after the summer break, chatted animatedly.

Watercolour paintings were not only on display but being produced before our very eyes, as members, having brought their own

equipment, sat painting copies of pictures and photographs. Others knitted and produced silk paintings: the Multi- Media groups are 'a place to explore different materials', Andrea Steberson explained. Pastels, acrylic, and pen and ink were all employed, with humour also shown in some pictures. There was an impressive variety of greeting cards, with intricate folds.

The Photographic Group had an exhibition along one wall, with the results of their 'Out and About' excursions displayed both in prints on a board and digitally on a computer: it was fascinating to watch the changing



sequence. The Beginners Digital Photography group had its own computer sequence, including many shots of the garden party with its extraordinary assembly of stunning hats – and betraying no lack of expertise.

## Wildlife Watch Group

British Wildlife is under threat, but it is amazing what you can see and hear if you look for it.

This year we have visited Welney Wildfowl reserve, Stockers Lake, College Lakes, Paxton Pits, Weeting Heath, Lakenheath, Waterford Heath, Balls Wood, Oare Marshes and Rutland Water. One highlight was a visit to Tony Bristow's garden to see his moth-trap catches for the previous night; it revealed 35 different species. Seen close, moths display many beautiful colours and patterns, and they have splendid names such as Large Nutmeg, Dwarf Cream Wave, and Double Striped Pug.

## Exploring London Group

Our visit to the Globe and Rose Theatre was superbly organised by Roger Swaine. We arrived in London about 11 a.m. on a warm sunny day, and walked a short distance from the Tube, passing a bustling Market, through quaint winding cobbled streets surrounded by tall warehouse buildings from the by-gone era of London Docks. We arrived at the Embankment with a couple of hours to explore the surrounding area and have lunch before meeting outside the Globe for the start of our Tour.

A warm welcome by staff at the Globe, who instructed us to visit the Exhibition first, was followed by a demonstration of Elizabethan apparel in the Hall. This was excellent, with details of how London would have looked in Elizabethan times, how the current Globe Theatre was constructed,

Sue Kershaw formally thanked Jean Hughes for organizing the display, and all the demonstrators who showed such impressive work.

*Hazel Bell  
Photographs by Geoff Bowers*

Later we explored Ellenbrook Fields on the site of the former Hatfield Aerodrome, alive with flowers and butterflies, including many Marbled Whites.

At Waterford Heath we found at least sixty flowering plants, and we caught a glimpse of the Silver Washed Fritillary at Balls Wood. Our many bird sightings included Whooper and Bewick Swans, Bittern, Cuckoos, Nightingales, Stone Curlew, Spotted Flycatcher and a Merlin, plus many more.

If you enjoy the open air, the thrill of searching for beautiful plants and animals, also good company, do come and join us on the first Tuesday of each month.

*Janet Lewis*

‘hands-on’ items to touch, costumes on view and screen-touch to look ‘behind the scenes’ on various topics relating to the Globe Theatre. In the hall we sat down for a demonstration of what a Servant and a Lady would wear in the 16c; the many layers of clothing worn would take several minutes to get dressed. Interesting to learn that Red, Black or Gold colours could only be worn by gentry – a servant could be jailed for wearing those colours!

Our Guide met us in the Hall for a short stroll to visit the Rose Theatre, which is older than the original Globe theatre, pointing out places of interest en route. This surprising ‘old’ theatre, slowly being excavated, is housed under a block of offices. It is an on-going project relying on donations to continue its excavation.

Our beautifully spoken guide, also an actor, was full of information and kept us amused and interested throughout. Returning to the Globe, we passed another project in the area owned by the Globe, a lovely Georgian building which is also to become a theatre, perhaps with candle-lit performances.

Entering the Globe auditorium, one is surprised by the intimacy of the theatre: a two-tiered half-circle of wooden seating with the open 'Stall' section for standing, gives everyone an excellent view of the stage and enables everyone to hear the actors' lines.

## Photographic Group

Following their successful display at the Art & Craft show the group's next meeting was a still life and table top practical session, with a competition for paired photographs, with a link. This was won by Ron Benfield with the pair below, captioned, "No, you apologise first!"

The other image was captured on one of our many "Out & About" sessions organised by Anita Hoyle. Members would meet up at various venues for a photographic walk about. We photographed boats capsizing at Fairland's Lake Stevenage, butterflies and gardens at Butterfly World St Albans,

Many stories and tales were related; and the joy of audience participation as in Elizabethan times is still encouraged.

Our tour ended with a most enjoyable cup of tea or coffee and large home-made biscuits. Those who wished could spend more time at the Globe or return to the Exhibition; others continued into the City for a night out!

Thank you, Roger, for a super outing. There was so much to see and look at, it is well worth a revisit.

*Pat Pike*

animals at Whipsnade, Reflections on the River Lee at Hertford and autumn colour at Waterford Heath where Jean Tookie shot the little dog "Being Nosey". Other regular meetings covered various topics including digital camera settings, the use of different lenses, and some Photoshop techniques.

Our latest project for 2012 is to photograph the A1M. We will be creating a record of images taken up to half a mile either side of the Motorway as it passes through our area.

*Ron Benfield*



# DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY COURSE FOR BEGINNERS

She Came In Through The Bathroom Window, and was captured DIGITALLY! and the image could be viewed and shared instantly.



**We didn't have to wait to take the rest of the film, then wait again to have it developed and printed as we did back in the Swinging Sixties when the Beatles recorded that track on the Abbey Road album.**

Welwyn Hatfield U3A ran a beginners course in Digital Photography so that pupils could transfer their knowledge into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century method of photography allowing them to instantly see and share their images. The course ran for 10 weeks held at the Welwyn Garden Cricket club and covered the modern cameras' settings and modes. These included "Portrait" "Landscape" "Sunset" "Fireworks" and many more depending on the individuals' camera.

Many aspects of photography were covered from basic composition to the capture of landscapes, portraits, architecture, flowers and gardens, nature and animals, and events.

Once the images were captured putting them on the computer, the making of slide shows and how to do some basic editing was covered.

On week five we invited two young ladies in to pose for the group, everyone got the chance to shoot some portraits, both inside and out in the autumn sunshine. Oh yes the Lady in the Bath – This picture was part of a project set for the class to produce images inspired by the titles of that Beatles Abbey Road album. There were lots of great pictures and this one captures a fabulous look of glee on the young lady's face and it makes you wonder what she's doing in that bath fully clothed. You can see other pictures from the project on our website [www.welhatu3a.co.uk](http://www.welhatu3a.co.uk) and also some of the final images the pupils proudly produced at the end of the course.

This course just goes to prove that we are never too old to learn something new. One of the guys on the course is 86 years old and cheerfully announced that he did not get a computer 'till he was 81. We are running this successful course again in January. Only 9 places left. See our U3A website for further details.

**Welwyn Hatfield U3A members are in the Digital Age not Old Age!!**

Geoff Bowers MCIM

## HERTS NETWORK QUIZ

On 6 November our U3A team competed in the annual Herts Network Quiz. Hazel Bell lead the team which included Gillian Kemp, Stuart Barker, Jack Wood, David Steed and Martyn Lomas. It was held in the bright modern buildings of Wodson Park Sports Centre in Ware.

Sadly we didn't finish among the leaders. The winners were S. W. Herts U3A. We were strong on music which did not feature. Better luck next Year!!

Stuart Barker

# The Welwyn-Hatfield U3A Website

[www.u3awelhat.org.uk](http://www.u3awelhat.org.uk)

Just type this in your Google Search Box or into the browser URL bar, and you will be connected to us and all the great stuff we do.

Did you know that we owe this great modern tool to Tim Berners-Lee? He was the British scientist who invented “The Internet”. He was working at CERN in Switzerland in 1989. He had many computer- based files of information that he was using, all in different locations, and found that, while working on one document, he often had to refer to others. It was an awful job to find them each time. He needed a system whereby if he found in one document a reference to another, he would be able to look at that directly. Being a clever guy, he put together such a system and showed it to his colleagues. Some were enthusiastic, and worked with him on it. It expanded rapidly, with many more people contributing to it. He called it the World-Wide Web (now referred to as WWW), and it has extended so far that many people now see the Internet and the World-Wide web as the same thing. Tim did not patent the web, but he ensured that the software that made it work could be used by anyone without payment.

We can now link to so many computers that we've given up counting, but it's got to be over a billion.

What makes the web so powerful is that, by using the computer program called a browser, you can read millions of documents that are stored on these computers all over the world. In these documents there are certain words, often in blue and underlined, that are

set up as “Hyperlinks” or “Hotlinks”. This means that they link to other documents – all you have to do is to click with your mouse (hand-operated control) on the link and you get taken to the other document. Once you've got the hang of it you'll find it both easy and powerful, and you can join the ranks of ‘Silver Surfers’. It's rather like having all the libraries of the world at your fingertips.

Anyone can set up a website. You have to pay a company (called an Internet Service Provider) to give you a place on the web, but it is cheap. You also have to create your website. For simple ones this is fairly straightforward for anyone with experience of writing computer programs.

Every website has an address. On the Internet this is called a “URL” (= Uniform Resource Locator). The full Welwyn-Hatfield U3A address, or URL, is

<http://www.u3awelhat.org.uk>

Type this into the address field of your browser, and you'll get to what is called the “Home Page” of the website. This resembles the contents page of a book, as it lists the information that's available on the website. So by clicking on a “hotlink” you can go to pages giving:

*Information about the U3A as an organisation;*

*Details of the weekly meetings for the current term;*

*Information on how to join;*

*A list of the various study groups, with contact information;*

*Details of the committee (with photographs of the members);*

*Noticeboard, with miscellaneous information;*

*The latest newsletter.*

There's also a "Stop Press" section for urgent news.

The great advantage of the website is that we can put information on it which can be read by anyone with access to the World-Wide Web. With over 600 members in Welwyn-Hatfield U3A now, we cannot possibly telephone everyone if there's an urgent message – but we can put a message on the website in a matter of minutes.

*So, if you think, for example, that the weather may make it necessary to cancel a meeting, get to the website and look at the "Stop Press" messages. Please pass this information on to members and friends.*

The future – we are already in the digital age!

Most people joining the U3A in the future will be familiar with the World-Wide Web, know how useful it is, and have it at home. Our U3A World-Wide-Web-site will more and more become the easy way that we all find out about what's going on at our U3A and elsewhere. So go on, take the plunge – get connected!!

*Roger Swain*

*Sue Kershaw adds –*

Please remember to visit The Third Age Trust online at –

**www.u3a.org.uk**

You can register and access the Members Area, then you will have at your fingertips everything you need to know about the U3A movement past, present and future and be able to take advantage of any new developments.

For instance, the Virtual U3A, Chess on Line, online tutored Courses on many subjects, advice from National Coordinators to assist your groups' development, loan of course material, notification of Concerts or Study Days arranged by The Third Age Trust, Summer Schools and the AGM.

Indeed, a whole New World!

\*

*Also on the website – a cumulative index to the 39 issues of the Welwyn-Hatfield U3A newsletter. This will be regularly updated to include each new issue as it is published.*

## **U3A Welwyn-Hatfield NEWSLETTER**

Published three times yearly, in *January, May and September*

Available on the Website, *plus cumulative index to issues 1-39*, at [www.u3awelhat.org.uk](http://www.u3awelhat.org.uk)

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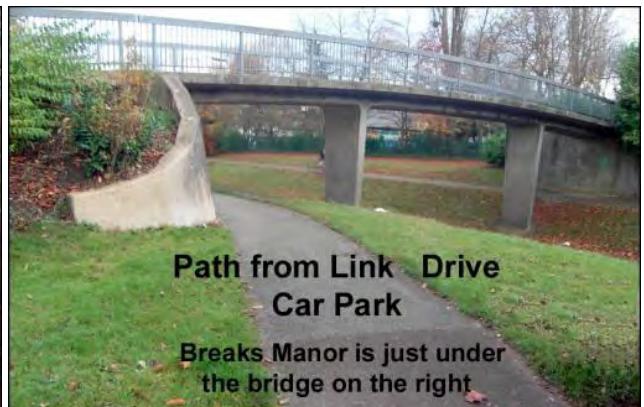
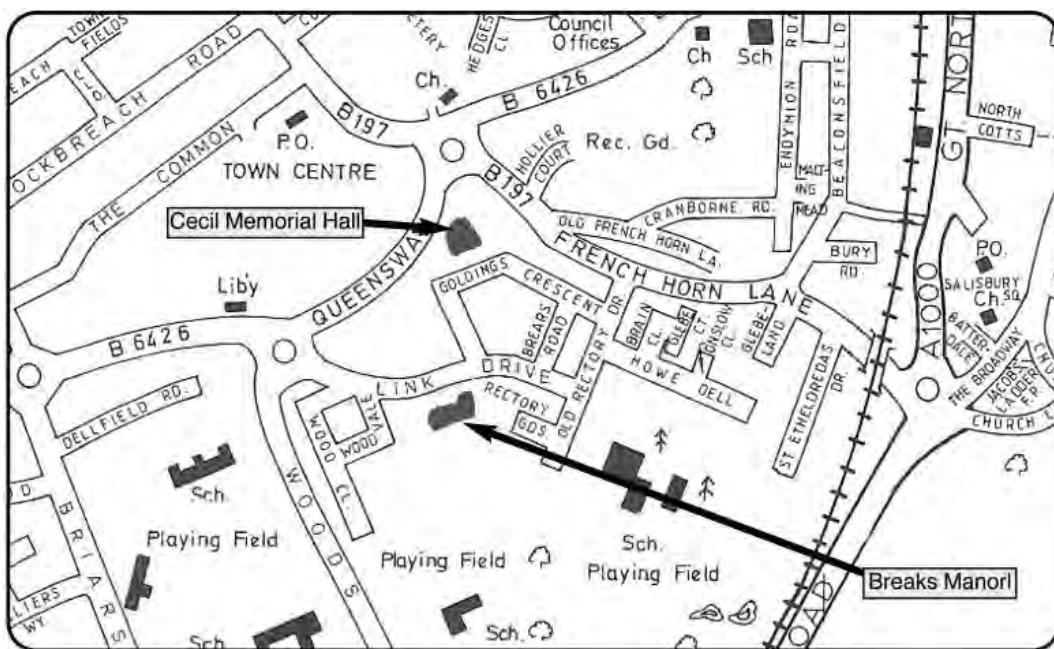
Copydate for May 2012 issue is 6 April 2012.

Send copy and photographs to [hkb@aidanbell.com](mailto:hkb@aidanbell.com)

# OUR NEW HATFIELD HOME FROM 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2012

## Breaks Manor Youth Centre Link Drive – Hatfield – AL10 8TP

Here is a location map and two photos to help everyone find it.



Here are a few key facts about Breaks Manor Youth Centre.

Opened by Lady Cranborne on 15 September 1951 with 168 members and a long waiting list - Bill Salmon was the first Warden - 1956 De Havillands donated their old drawing office building to Breaks - The relocation builders went bust so 40 club members did the work - 1958 and the self built dance hall was opened in time for the 60's pop boom which saw many top bands perform here – 1990's there was a fire then it was rebuilt.

Breaks now houses a recording studio, a computer suite, a coffee bar, a meeting room, a workshop – and the revamped refurbished hall we will be using.

**Now Breaks caters for all - from Teen Age to the Third Age**

# **THE AGM OF WELWYN/HATFIELD U3A**

**Will be held at 10.45 am. On the 7th March 2012 at Breaks Manor Youth Centre, Link Drive, Hatfield. AL10**

**Any issues you wish to raise at this meeting should be submitted in writing to The Secretary, Jean Davis, 42 Wren Wood, WGC AL7 1QG. E-mail [jean.davis7@ntlworld.com](mailto:jean.davis7@ntlworld.com) to be received no later than 14 days prior to the meeting.**

**THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS WILL BE VACANT ON THE COMMITTEE FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF TERMS OF OFFICE.**

**Chairman**

**Membership Secretary**

**2 Committee Members**

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## **WELWYN/ HATFIELD U3A**

### **NOMINATION FORM 2012-2013 Committee**

**Name.....**

**Nominated for the post of: -**

**1 - Chairman**

**2 - Membership Secretary**

**3 - Committee Member**

**Proposed By.....**

**Seconded By.....**

**Signed by Nominee..... Date.....**

**Please return to Jean Davis – Secretary or any Committee Member by February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2012**

# Dates for your Diary



## U3A SUMMER SCHOOLS



***At Harper Adams University College, Newport, nr Telford.***

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> JULY to Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> JULY 2012**

**SUBJECTS: -** Cinema History, Design Principles in Art, France, History,  
Music Appreciation, Philosophy/Fiction, Poetry  
Recorder Ensemble Playing and Writing Fiction

***At The Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester***

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> AUGUST to Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST 2012**

**SUBJECTS: \_** Drama, History, Literature, Needlepoint Lacemaking,  
Philosophy, Psychology, Singing for Pleasure and Website  
Design.

Further info. on our notice boards or at [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk) or *in U3A NEWS*

**A GREAT EXPERIENCE – highly recommended.**

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## The Hertfordshire Network of U3As



**The dates of the 'Lea Valley Walk' riverside walks to celebrate the Olympics are now confirmed.**

**Lea Valley Walk:**

**1<sup>st</sup> leg Leagrave to Luton Parkway Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January.**

**Hertfordshire Way Walk starts Thursday March 8th**

**[www.hertsnetwork.org.uk](http://www.hertsnetwork.org.uk) for further information .**



# Herts. Network

## “Challenges facing our U3As”

A Study Day, Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2012 - from 10a.m to 3p.m.

Woolmer Green Village Hall, Knebworth.

Providing an opportunity for any U3A member, particularly those aspiring to office, to focus on the challenges all U3As are facing -

Managing Growth, Accommodation, The Committee,

Study Groups and Communication.

[www.hertsnetwork.org.uk](http://www.hertsnetwork.org.uk)



## Welwyn Hatfield U3A Theatre Trips

7<sup>th</sup> Jan 2012                    “Wind in the Willows “ (Fully Booked.)

24<sup>th</sup> May 2 012                “Crazy for You”

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2012                “ Ben Hur “

The Architecture, Arts Appreciation, Gardening, Explore London and Walking groups will be meeting in the New Year to formulate their plans for 2012.

## Proposed New Groups and Courses.



GROUPS: Mah-jong , Basic Computers , Poetry, Community Choir and Apple Users. COURSES: Turn on My Laptop, Basic Photoshop and Improvers Photography.

Please contact the Groups Coordinator with ideas for new groups.

Please watch the notice Boards and website for the latest information.

# Wednesday morning meetings - Spring 2012

*11 January*

*BREAKS MANOR, LINKS DRIVE, Hatfield*  
The Rise and Fall of the Pub Trade in 19th  
Century St Albans — Jonathan Mein

Jon has a degree in History and Law.  
Having worked in the Computer industry,  
he is taking a career break giving time to  
research and write about 19th-Century St.  
Albans and the Coalmining Community of  
Pembrokeshire.

*18 Jan, Ludwick Family Centre, Hall Grove,  
Welwyn Garden City*

Witchcraft in Hertfordshire —  
Tom Doig

Tom is a qualified teacher, an  
automobile engineer and a social historian.  
He is well known for his books on local  
history and for his radio and television  
programmes.

*25 Jan, Breaks Manor*

Experiences as a Prison Clergyman —  
Philip Abrey

*1 February, Ludwick Family Centre*  
The Day Before Their World Ended —  
Peter Wadsworth

Peter's talk is based on copies of two  
newspapers, *The Times* and the *Herts  
Advertiser*, dated 25 July 1914, that were  
buried in a time capsule.

*8 Feb, Breaks Manor*

Shrove Tuesday: more than pancakes —  
Colin Oakes

Colin is an archeologist by profession  
with a degree in Archeology and an MA in  
London Studies. He organizes walking and  
coach trips around London and last year  
talked to us on 'John Betjeman's London'.

*15 Feb, Ludwick Family Centre*

The Childwickbury Estate:  
Christine Aitken

*22 Feb, Breaks Manor*

The de Havilland Airfield Heritage Project  
— Owen Davies

Owen is a Lecturer at the University of  
Hertfordshire. This talk will cover the  
history, development and future of the  
Project and those involved.

*29 Feb, Ludwick Family Centre*

**Anniversary Meeting**

Wonder Workers and The Art of Illusion  
— Bertie Pearce

Bertie has travelled world-wide  
performing his astonishing miracles on  
cruise ships and at corporate and private  
functions.

*7 March, Breaks Manor*

**Annual General Meeting**

*Please note, nominations are required  
for new Committee!*

Plus readings from the Creative Writing  
Group

*14 March, Ludwick Family Centre*

Fakes and Forgeries — Tim Turner

Tim is a valuer for an auctioneers.

*21 March, Breaks Manor*

Talking to children — Tony Maisey

An ex-GP, Tony has visited us twice  
before. He always brings humour and  
provocative insight to his talks.

*28 March, Ludwick Family Centre*

Meet the Groups

# THIRD AGE TRUST

WELWYN-HATFIELD  
25th  
ANNIVERSARY



## CERTIFICATE OF AFFILIATION

U3A - Welwyn Garden City / Hatfield Group

IS AN AFFILIATED LOCAL BRANCH OF THE  
THIRD AGE TRUST (OPERATING AS THE  
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE)

Date February 25/87

No. 70

Registered Charity No 288007

