



Art and Photography Exhibition



The exhibition at Ludwick Hall on 23 November of work by four of our artistic groups was attended by some 130 members, much appreciative of all they saw. Products of the Watercolours and Photography groups, and Multimedia A and B, were displayed.

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U3A Welwyn-Hatfield NEWSLETTER

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The photographs showed a stunning range, including *inter alia* chimneys, flowers, birds, puppies and a laughing camel. As Chairman Jean Mackie observed in thanking all who had contributed: “The work on show is of an extremely high standard, of outstanding quality, variety and volume”.

Photographs by Peter Fox. Above, clockwise from top left: the Photography Group display; Christine Hester with the Multimedia B display; the Multimedia A table; Pamela Tebb producing a watercolour.

Notes from the Chair

It has been another busy term for our U3A this autumn. Once again our weekly Wednesday meetings have provided us with an extensive variety of topics. Particularly memorable talks for me included an entertaining history of Mr Punch (with puppets, of course!); a fascinating insight into the work of a TV licence inspector; a detailed analysis of our energy resources and the future challenges, both for the UK and internationally; and an intriguing look at Barnet and the famous people who lived there. Whatever the topic, I always find that I learn something new – whether I remember it or not is a different matter! Attendances have remained high, with well over a hundred members each week. We must thank our speaker booking team for maintaining such a high standard of inputs – they do a sterling job. However, the team leader, Sandy Pizzey, will be standing down next year, so we are looking for someone (may be two folk) to help out with this important role. I think it's worth noting again that we are one of the few U3A groups that run weekly meetings; a tradition that we are proud of and would wish to continue.

There have been three other major events this term: the art and photography exhibition (see pages 1 and 3), the Christmas quiz and the Christmas lunch. It was a full house for the quiz, with twelve teams competing – I did note that some teams were considerably larger than



**The winning team
at the Christmas
Party quiz**

*Photo by Richard
Griffiths*

others, however! Jack Wood was our faithful quizmaster, taxing us on topics including sport, geography, history, general knowledge and, of course, his favourite, music. It was a lively session, with a couple of challenges to the quizmaster, although, of course, Jack is always right! Congratulations to the winners who only had a few incorrect answers out of the 50 points available.

The Christmas lunch, held at Homestead Court, proved to be a great success too. The festive spirit was much in evidence, with the brightly coloured decorations (not to mention some stylish outfits worn by members!), flying balloons, crackers and fancy hats. There was plenty of laughter – although we did quieten down when the food arrived! The meal was most enjoyable and the service, as ever, efficient and friendly. Many thanks indeed to Linda Kent Taylor who took over the organisation this year from Phyl Grainge.

The Group Leaders' lunch, held at the end of September, gave us an opportunity to thank them for all of the work that they do to keep our study groups thriving. Many thanks to Ann Davies and her team for arranging a very productive morning with plenty of lively discussion. The new Exploring London Group 4, got underway in December under the guidance of Sonja Park. The group had a very enjoyable day around Kings Cross and its environs.

As you can see, there is plenty going on within our U3A: but it does not all happen in a vacuum. I have mentioned a few people in particular in these notes, but there are many more who work behind the scenes to ensure that the organisation runs smoothly and continues to grow. This only happens with volunteers who are prepared to give



The festive board at the Christmas party
Photo by Peter Fox



Top table at the Christmas Lunch *photo by Tony Tutton*

up a bit of time to help organise our events. We are thrilled with the number of new members who are continuing to join us, and are always looking for new (and indeed, well established!) folk to come and help out with fresh ideas. If you feel you can offer something, please don't hesitate to see me or any other member of the committee.

Many thanks to all of you who have managed to change your standing orders to accommodate the increase in fees this year. It has been a tricky time for us all and your support is much appreciated. As previously mentioned, we will be resorting to the old system at Wednesday meetings from 4 January on, so: no £1 fee, but tea and coffee to be charged at 20p.

I do hope you all enjoyed your Christmas festivities, and may I take this opportunity to wish you all the very best for the New Year.

Jean

Group News

Computer Groups

Tony Tutton organised a Christmas get-together for both the Microsoft and Apple computer groups on Friday 9 December at the Welwyn Garden City Cricket Club, with a light finger buffet. The bar opened at noon, contributing to the lively atmosphere of the occasion. About forty members came, including Peter Harrison, who founded the first Computer Discussion Group in 2001 as an offshoot of the Silver Surfers' computer courses. Peter formally presented Tony with a bell "to help him keep control of the members", acknowledging, "We're an unruly lot!". Tony commented that taking over the Computer Groups from Ted Webb had "been a great challenge – a bit like Question Time", and that he was anxious to keep the discussion open to all, at all different levels of IT experience – there was always something to be learnt .

Creative Writing Group

When the group was asked to write a story or event through one person's eyes, using only their thoughts and words, Ann Higgs produced –

The Afternoon Tea Dance

This afternoon seems doomed before it starts.

I only agreed to come because Peggy insisted. I wanted to go to the Odeon, that new James Bond Film is on, two for one in the afternoon and a cup of tea, but no, she wanted to come to the Tea Dance, so, here we are. Not too many people so far, at least we'll get a seat.

I think she's secretly keen on that Norman Albright, him with the moustache and the comb over. You know, the one that lives at the end of Welbeck Avenue. Nice house, can't be short of a penny or two to live there.

I can see him now sitting at the table in the corner, just changing his brown sandals for his soft black dancing pumps..

My feet are giving me gyp, shouldn't have worn these new shoes.

"Let's sit here Peg, we don't want to be too near the door, there's a

draught fit to cut you in half, I couldn't move my neck for a week last time we came."

"What's that? Oh I'll have a small lemonade please, no ice though, it makes the bubbles go flat."

He's got that music so loud, can't hear yourself think. Nice tune though, Frank Sinatra, "Fly Me to the Moon" – surely that's a fox trot?

"Oh, thanks love, I'm so thirsty, I was just thinking, isn't this a foxtrot? Look at Daisy and George, surely that's a cha cha they're doing, nice moves though."

Oh no look who's coming across, it's Charlie Fox from the fish shop, hope he's not going to ask me ... look at the floor, pretend you've dropped something, p'raps he'll go away.

"Hello Charlie, Yes I'd be delighted." Can't concentrate, thinking of all that wet fish slip sliding across the marble counter. Gosh even the overkill of aftershave can't disguise the smell.

"Ouch, Charlie that was my foot, No, there's no need to apologise, my fault I'm sure."

One of the most irritating things I find, is someone who sings incessantly in your ear whilst gliding around the dance floor, especially when the perpetrator doesn't know the words or even the tune.

Peg's dancing with Norman. She looks up at him with a rapturous expression, hanging on to every word. He may not be my idea of Mr Wonderful – but they say there's someone for everyone don't they?

Good I can sit down at last. "Thanks Charlie, no I'm fine I've got a lemonade over there with Peggy." – Narrow escape, couldn't face hearing the relative benefits of cod over haddock for the rest of the afternoon.

Wonder who that is over there sitting with Henry and Laura, don't recognise him, at least not from the back. Ah a rumba, that's nice. Oh well looks like I'll sit this one out then. Chance to take these shoes off for a minute or two, rest my poor feet.

The stranger is on the floor with Daisy, what a good mover he is. Even makes Daisy look good.

Be nice to waltz round the floor with him, don't suppose I'll get the chance though.

Good they're laying out the tea, hope we've got some nice biscuits for a change... looks like bourbons and custard creams, yet again.

“Come on Peg you get the biscuits, I’ll bring the tea.”

A Waltz. Here comes Norman to claim Peggy, off she goes starry eyed ... Can’t see the nice stranger, must have gone home, shame. Wait a minute though, there he is ... he’s coming across, hand outstretched. Quick slip your shoes on, now smile ... “Thank you – I’d love to!”

Exploring London (3)

Our scheduled outing to the Shakespeare’s **Globe Theatre** on 14 July was unfortunately curtailed at Welwyn Garden City, as the entire train network ground to a halt, owing to an incident at Potters Bar. The Globe could not wait for us to arrive, as they had a performance that afternoon.

After some negotiation we managed to get the theatre to agree to re-accommodate us on 6 October, and our group of 23 strong travelled to Mansion House underground station, walked across the Millennium Bridge and enjoyed a truly memorable experience at The



The Globe Theatre *photo by Kathi Leverton*

Globe. Our guide was very knowledgeable whilst taking us around the auditorium, and we were lucky too to see the actors rehearsing on the stage their modern production of *Cymbeline*.

We were then treated to a hands-on display of how programmes and posters were printed in Shakespeare's day and a demonstration of the clothes worn during that time. Additionally some of us enjoyed an unusual and very healthy lunch in the rehearsal studio coffee shop near the theatre.

Our outing on 24 November started with a guided tour of the **Kings Cross Development**, provided by an exceptionally knowledgeable lady who kept us enthralled with their history, descriptions of the new and refurbished buildings, and what was still to happen. This finished with us all walking along a very wobbly temporary towpath on the Regents canal. We then repaired for lunch to the Parcel Yard, a large pub and restaurant in the middle of Kings Cross station where the staff looked after us all magnificently. This building also has a fascinating history and is worth a tour of its own.

Following lunch we made our way to **St Pancras Old Church** and



St Pancras old church *photo by Doug, a church warden*

churchyard, where we were treated to a absorbing talk from a church warden about the history of the building: an oasis of calm in a very busy area. This was followed by a tour of the large churchyard with many protected monuments and a mausoleum which has somehow evaded the developers.

A full and enjoyable day!

Sue McLellen and Tony Dodd

Photography Group

The Photography group goes from strength to strength, with a number of new members joining and attendance increasing by old and new members this term. Meeting on the 2nd and 4th Monday mornings at the Ryde, we have continued with our proven successful format.

Each meeting we start by a presentation by one or two of the members or external presenter on a photographic theme.

These have included topics on taking photos with digital cameras, such as:

Composition; camera settings – both the automatic options



The Photography Group's Christmas Lunch at the Long Arm & Short Arm, Lemsford

*Photo by
Robert White*

included in cameras such as portraits, sports and night shot; the use of manual settings of aperture to blur the background behind people / flowers etc.;

Secondly, the use of various computer and tablet applications;
Transferring images from smart phones to tablets and computers;
Editing software such as Photoshop;
Converting old negatives and slides into digital images.

For instance, one member gave a presentation for those new to editing images on computers from cameras or mobile phones on the use of 'Layers' in Photoshop to provide non-destructive modification of images, adding text, etc.

After the morning coffee each week, we look at each other's images – usually with a theme such as "Spiders", "Autumn", agreed at the previous meeting. This includes friendly critique – often causing a good laugh. In some cases, editing an image immediately, for instance to show members how easy it is to straighten the horizon to be level, make buildings look vertical, etc.

We look forward to next term where we are again asking members for topics, problems they may have in taking and editing images as part of the new year's programme. So if you want to learn more about the use of your camera, through to showing or printing images why not join the Photography group!

Peter Fox

Travel Group

North Wales – 5 to 9 September

On a drizzly Monday morning, 43 U3A members boarded our coach; John, our driver, introduced himself; and we headed off to North Wales for a five-day visit.

We reached the National Trust's Attingham Park at 1.30pm, giving us two hours for lunch and a quick look over the large Palladian Mansion (where the room stewards were helpful and informative) and the walled garden.

Arriving at our 3* Celtic Royal Hotel in Caernarfon we enjoyed a hearty three-course meal, leaving time for an evening stroll around the town. During the holiday some of us made use of the hotel's Spa, Pool, Sauna, Steam room, Jacuzzi and Gym.

Day 2: We visited **Caernarfon Castle**, with weather much improved, where some joined an optional guided tour. Peta, the guide, was amusing whilst giving the history of the castle as well as telling us how to clamber up and down ruinous spiral staircases.

On rejoining our coach we drove over the Britannia Bridge to Anglesey, enjoying good views of the Menai Bridge and Straits. We visited the Toll House exhibition where the ladies of Llanfair PG Women's Institute gave us a superb ploughman's lunch, followed by a talk describing how this WI was the first in the country to be formed and about the exhibition within the Toll House.

We then returned to Caernarfon where there was free time to explore. The sun was shining so the harbour and river was glorious for photos.

Back to the hotel for our evening meal, after which Iris Maddox entertained us with a quiz which was enjoyed by all. Thanks, Iris!

Day 3: Our visit to Portmeirion had to be cancelled as a music festival had been arranged for this week. Pity the poor visitors: as shown on TV, the field in which they parked had become a quagmire, and many cars were marooned when we passed. Our changed visit was to Plas Brondanw, the home of William Cluff-Ellis, the Architect of Portmeirion. We were split into two groups, one for a tour of the gardens by the head gardener whilst the other group availed themselves of the coffee and cakes. It was a lovely setting on the side of the hill overlooking Snowden.

We stopped for lunch at either a pub or supermarket, overlooking Harlech Bay. I made my way down to the superb beach.

Onward to Blaenau Ffestiniog for a trip on the **Ffestiniog railway** to Portmadog, a narrow-gauge steam railway originally built in the 1800s to carry slate from the mine to Portmadog. This was an enjoyable trip of just over an hour, through woods and down-hill to be met at the bottom by a fleet of Rolls Royces and Daimlers on a rally.

Day 4: Last full day already, and it is raining – well, this is Wales! Off to **Bodnant Gardens**. Our driver took us through the Bremar Pass, viewing the mountains, valleys, sheep, rocks and a spectacular rainbow. By the time we arrived it had stopped raining. The gardens lived up to our expectations: they were wonderfully landscaped on the side of the hill with many superb plants and trees.



Ffestiniogg railway *Photo by Helen Bristow*



Bodnant Garden *Photo by Helen Bristow*

We drove back across the Menai Bridge and along the Menai Straits to Anglesey and Plas Newydd House and Gardens, home of the Paget family. The artist Rex Whistler was a friend of the family and painted a fantasy landscape mural of them: huge, 58ft long and 15ft high. Whistler was in love with one of the daughters, but he went off to the 1914 war and did not return. There is still a sad cigarette awaiting him.

Back to the hotel to get ready for dinner after which some listened to the resident singer whilst others played Canasta and Bridge, then packing for the drive home.

Day 5: The journey home. It was raining as we left. The hotel had been good, well placed in the town, and the rooms were very comfortable. The food was well cooked and plentiful with multiple choices, and the young staff were efficient and friendly.

On the way home we stopped off at the National Trust **Powis Castle** — a red, medieval castle with a great courtyard entry, perched on a hill overlooking a wide valley. The terraced gardens were quite brilliant with great views. We did visit some wonderful gardens on this trip!

To finish, I'd like to thank our U3A organisers Jean Davis, Kathy Dugan and Tony Bristow. I hope they too enjoyed North Wales!

Susan King



The Travel Group at Powis Castle *Photo by Tony Lammiman*

Walkers

Mike Dorrington, who has led the group for many years, has stepped down now, and after their walk on 2 December group met for lunch at the Sun pub in Lemsford to mark the occasion. Karen Nevshehir, wife of Rob, the new point of contact for the group, presented Mike – the ‘retiring’ leader – with gifts from the group to thank him for his years of inspiring leadership. He received a wonderful engraved walking stick, a couple of books including a historical atlas of Hertfordshire, and some John Lewis vouchers. Mike hopes to carry on walking with the group next year – albeit in a more relaxed capacity!



The Walkers on
the bridge on the
Brocket Hall
estate.
Mike Dorrington
5th from right.

Photo by
Karen Nevshehir

The fourteenth in our series of profiles of distinguished Welwyn Hatfield U3A members features ...

Val Fieth

Valerie Bird was born in 1945, precipitately, on the landing, in twenty minutes, the fifth of six “railway children” of an Irish rail engineer, living on a railway estate in Hayes, Middlesex. She attended Catholic schools, travelling ten miles to the Girls Grammar School at Isleworth, by bus (or bicycle during bus strikes). She showed early propensities by being Company Leader of the local Girl Guides, and



doing twelve Tall Ship Trips. In school holidays she worked in a cake factory, rolling up Swiss Rolls for 2/7^{1/2}d an hour.

She started training as a nurse at Hammersmith Hospital in 1963, sharing a flat in Barnes, and doing much hitch-hiking with colleagues on their days off, to Oxford, Stratford, Wales, Greece – 30,000 miles in total!

Aged 21, Val was diagnosed with epilepsy and told that she would never work and would live in an institution. But ...

She qualified as a Registered Nurse in 1966, and worked for a while as a Staff Nurse at Hammersmith. Then she moved to Plymouth to work as a midwife, then back to London to work at the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases.

In 1968 she married David Fieth, who worked at IBM in WGC, and thus Val came to Hertfordshire. They lived in Harpenden, where she ran a nursing home. After the birth of their first child Val moved to work as a Staff Nurse at the new Lister Hospital in Stevenage, which had a crèche where she could place the baby. In 1975 she moved to be a Staff Nurse at the QEII in WGC, the family moving to a house in Brockswood Lane. She was a founder member of Garden City Runners, and organised a Going Places project, taking groups on visits to theatres, National Trust sites, and cities both in the UK and on the Continent.

The marriage broke up in 1983. Val ran in the London Marathons in 1983, 84 and 85, and spent much time playing badminton at Gosling Stadium, where she was eventually asked to teach it. She so much enjoyed teaching sport that when the Welwyn Hatfield District Council post of Community Activity Officer for Over-50s fell vacant, she successfully applied for it, leaving her nursing career after twenty years.

In this post, she says, “I had eighteen creative, happy and sometimes challenging years”. And while in it, as she wrote in our newsletter of January 2012:



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”. I had many magazines in my office. I read in one about the “U3A” and thought, “This is it! We must have one”. I did a press release to say, “Everybody come and learn new things with U3A!”. I went to meet the U3A groups in Stevenage and Harpenden. I phoned the member who wanted something other than “fitness”, and offered her fun in learning different things. The following week five or seven people gathered in the WGC Campus 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. Gradually our U3A became self-managed and acquired charity status.

Indeed, Val reverted to her earlier career to act as midwife to our newborn U3A, which has thriven.

As well as enthusiastically attending Wednesday morning meetings, as special groups later formed, Val joined the Creative Writing Group, and recently the London History and Playreading groups. In 2011 she started the Google group (on-line), “A group for people in the University of the Third Age to discuss ideas” who may be nervous about leaving their homes.

Besides this, Val spent about ten years working with Quaker Action for the homeless. Having needed to wear hearing aids since her twenties, she attended the subtitling conference in London and devised a system for the National Theatre for deaf people to book. Now she is a keen photographer and bridge player, makes many theatre visits, and enjoys the company of her two daughters and two granddaughters.

Now that we are facing a financial crisis as the Council intends to charge rent for meetings in its sheltered accommodation halls, it is fitting to remind ourselves that we owe the luxury of the previous thirty years of free meetings to Val Fieth.

Altogether a career of astonishing achievements for one who was told at the age of twenty-one that she could never work or live independently!

Hazel Bell

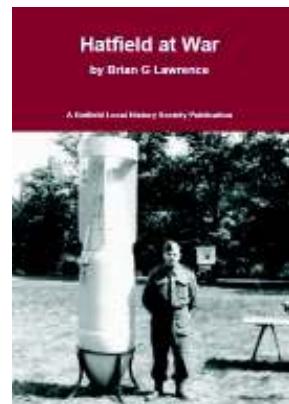
Publications

Hatfield at War: The story of life in a small town in 1939–45 by Brian G. Lawrence; Hatfield Local History Society, 2016. 120 pp, with illus. and index. ISBN 978-0-9928416-6-9. £6.00

For the generation which includes many members of the U3A, World War II was their first normality. Over a handful of years life meant – being awoken by a mournful wailing in the night then plucked from a cot and carried to a dimly-lit shelter; the shattered house which had stood in the next street; men and women tin-hatted and uniformed; Alvar Liddel soberly reading the six-o'clock news on the wireless (not radio, that came later); unknown children carrying their gas masks arriving from somewhere called The Blitz; staring up at skies filled with growling bombers. Doodlebugs, rationing, digging for victory, clothing coupons, shrapnel, blackout curtains, powdered eggs, good old Winnie, Yanks and bubblegum forged a first infant vocabulary.

In *Hatfield at War*, Brian G. Lawrence (identity number DFEH 30:4) revisits those years through the lives of people in one town somewhere in England, the one where we live. More than a hundred pages and evocative photographs – it was a war that seems ideally suited to monochrome – capture the minutiae of how ordinary people caught up in history carried on, how they coped. The splendidly named Mr D'Arcy Cayley protested to the rural council, its civic affairs now governed by the war effort, that £4,000 was too much to pay for a new cemetery; cricket was played at Hatfield House (a wartime military hospital) for the duration; in July 1940 the townsfolk collected, among much else, 79lbs of copper, 197 dozen bottles and 5wt 104lb of bones to make munitions; George Formby at the Regent cinema; Hatfield firemen went to fight flames in London, Southampton and Manchester.

The Luftwaffe attacked 503 times – the de Havilland factory, where the legendary Mosquito was built, was an inevitable target – but it was V1 rockets striking in Selwyn Crescent and roads around St



Audrey's school that brought 34 deaths, to be remembered in the placid memorial by the Hatfield House gates.

Only since 1937, when Mass Observation began to ask everyday citizens to record their ordinary lives, has it been recognised that history is not exclusively made up of the great, the good or the infamous. Such people are chronicled by social historians such as the constantly readable Brian Lawrence.

Robert Richardson

The Game. Beaucrees band. Video single released on Armistice Day, 11 November 2016. The song may be downloaded for 99p from Amazon, iTunes and many other music sites

Computer group's leader and committee member Tony Tutton has played in a band since 1963.

The Beaucrees (pronounced "Boh-Krees") were formed in Walthamstow in 1963 by founder members Tony Tutton – Drums & Vocals; Dave Francis – Vocals & Drums; Mick Kain – Lead Guitar; Pete Jackson – Rhythm Guitar; John Astrop – Bass Guitar.

The Beaucrees started playing pop music at local youth clubs, dances and universities, and as the years went by developed a large following of loyal fans. They became very popular and in demand at USAF bases and cabaret shows throughout the south of England.

The band worked hard and developed a strong reputation for the fun and energy of their shows, and began to be booked by major London entertainment agencies to support headlining acts such as The Hollies, The Foremost, The Fortunes and in cabaret shows with Lulu, Jimmy Tarbuck, Mike and Bernie Winters, Morecombe & Wise, The Barron Knights and many more.

The Beaucrees continued to improve its stage shows and was booked into many top London venues such as The Dorchester, The Hilton, Café Royal; they also had a residency at the famous 100 Club in Oxford Street and many "society functions"

The Beaucrees continued in this format until it split up in 1979.

In December 2011 the lads held a reunion dinner and had the idea of "getting the old band back together" [à la Blues Brothers!] for a reunion



Tony Tutton

gig. After a few glasses of Merlot, everyone was well up for it.

So on 3 November 2012 the Beaucrees played their first live show again, 33 years after it had broken up! Since then the boys have gone from strength to strength, playing their favourite songs from the 50s, 60s, and 70s at clubs dances and parties.

In 2016 The Beaucrees wrote, recorded, filmed and funded an anti-war charity single called "The Game" which was released on Armistice Day 2016. The song may be downloaded for 99p from Amazon, iTunes and many other music sites. All the profits go to Help for Heroes, a charity founded in October 2007 to help provide better facilities for British servicemen and women who have been wounded or injured in the line of duty.



The boys in the band

To promote the single, The Beaucrees have appeared on London Live television, Nub TV and been interviewed on Three Counties Radio.

If you would like to see – and hear – the band performing: Tony is arranging a Supper Dance for Welwyn Hatfield U3A on Saturday 20 May 2017 at The Ludwick Family Centre in Welwyn Garden City. *See back page.*

Spring Term 2017 – Wednesday meetings

Doors open at 9.45; tea and coffee are served from 10.00 to 10.30 a.m. The meeting starts at 10.30 a.m. with notices, followed by the talk. Entry is free: tea or coffee at 20p.

JANUARY

4, Ludwick Family Centre, Welwyn Garden City
Leanne Walters: ‘The History of Pantomime’

Leanne Walters, from the Ambassador group of theatres, will take us on a jaunt through the history of pantomime – this uniquely British form of entertainment: oh yes she will!

11, Breaks Manor, Hatfield

Brian Cumming: ‘The History of the Royal Hospital Chelsea’

Brian Cumming MBE enlisted in the Royal Corps of Signals at the age of eighteen and travelled world-wide during military service. He received his MBE for services to Military Welfare and is also a Freeman of the City of London. He entered the Royal Hospital Chelsea in 2010 after the death of his wife and will tell us about life in this famous residence.

18, WGC

Carl Gray: ‘Lottery frauds and fiddles’

A light-hearted look at the National Lottery.

25, Hatfield

Leon Freris: ‘Marconi and The Beginning of Radio’

Professor Leon Freris was the head of the power systems section in the Department of Electrical Engineering at Imperial College. He then joined Loughborough University to set up CREST, the Centre for Renewable Energy Systems Technology, and has published extensively. He is a founding member of RenewableUK and a Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology. This talk will include a demonstration using original equipment for the first experiment.

FEBRUARY

1, WGC

Dick Smith: 'Life and Times of a Town Crier'

After over forty years as Town Crier in Beaconsfield, and having lived in the area all his life, Dick is an expert on the local area and its history. He has even won awards for his Town Crying.

8, Hatfield

Carla Stanton: 'Is it possible to harness the power of the placebo?'

Dr Carla Stanton is a GP specialising in Dermatology. She was a Clinical Teaching Fellow at the University of Nottingham, teaching medical students, until she moved back to Hertfordshire last year. She is fascinated by the placebo effect, how it works and how we can potentially harness it for health and healing.

15, WGC

Colin Oakes: 'Allotments and the strange people who serve them'

We are pleased to welcome Colin back. He is an archaeologist who has been taking walking tours of London and the south east since 1982. In 1979 he started on an allotment of his own and soon discovered what an independent, eccentric lot he had joined – and he was not the most unusual!

22, WGC

Tony Eaton: 'The Rudolf Hess Cover-up'

Tony has a particular interest in unravelling some of the hitherto unresolved mysteries.

MARCH

1, WGC

Maggie Radcliffe: 'A Lady and Her Spitfire – Carolyn Grace'

We welcome Maggie back to talk about Carolyn Grace, a remarkable lady who with her son Richard is keeping ML407 Spitfire, a rare Spitfire credited with the first enemy aircraft destroyed on D-Day, flying in the skies of Britain.

8, Hatfield Annual General Meeting

Followed by readings by the Creative Writing Group

15, WGC

Corinne Price: 'The Swiss Garden at Shuttleworth'

This garden was created between 1824 and 1832 with a 'Swiss' theme. It was the project of Lord Ongley, 3rd Baron of Old Warden.

22, Hatfield

Diane Finlayson: 'Medical Detection Dogs'

This organisation trains dogs to detect the odour of human disease and is at the forefront of research.

29, WGC

Meet the Groups

This meeting is well worth a visit to see many of our varied groups demonstrate their skills and display the results of their efforts.



Supper Dance

Evening of 50s & 60s music

on

Saturday 20 May 2017

at

Ludwick Family Centre



Tony Tutton and his band "The Beaucrees" will be playing songs by Lonnie Donnigan, Marty Wilde, The Beatles, Rolling Stones, Kinks, Cliff & The Shadows, Rod Stewart, Chuck Berry ... and many others.

The cost will be £10 per person, including a fish-&-chip supper.
You can bring your own drinks.

Doors open at 7.30pm and the fun will start at 8.30.
The dance is open to all Welwyn Hatfield U3A members,
their families and friends.

**Reserve your tickets by contacting Tony on 07887 528 811
or emailing him at tonytutton1@yahoo.co.uk**