

Latest News

Another month passed already...Groups have continued to meet in gardens and virtually (see Groups News), and we have held our second virtual Speaker's Meeting. Two weeks ago, I hosted our first Family History Group meeting in my garden since lockdown.



This was just before members arrived.....

and courtesy of the British weather, this is how we ended up.....



The moral of the outdoor meeting is ...always take your brolly and mac!

Have been experiencing issues with foxes in the garden over the past few months some of which include collections of objects from various Woodley venues such as shoes, children's wellies, softballs/toys, pond filters, appearing all over my grass. It seems foxes are clandestine magpies who have developed a penchant for using my back garden as their playground (as well as helping themselves to meat off the barbecue...) On Saturday, I happened to glance up the garden and saw movement. My first reaction was "Goodness, that fox has grown so much - have never seen one so big"..



...until it raised its head

So, if you see 'Roe' roaming around Woodley, you will know where he passed through and that he greatly enjoys eating shrubs!

Jane Wolsey, Webmaster & Newsletter Editor

Garden Socials

Following our request in last month's newsletter, we had a number of responses from members willing to host 'garden socials'.

The first garden social has taken place this week (many thanks to Alan Harland), and was enjoyed by all! We do have a few spaces left at two remaining socials. If any members are interested in attending these before winter drives us back indoors, please contact Jane at socialevents@woodleyu3a.org.uk.

Please note that to attend these socials, you do not need to be a member of a specific group, merely a member of Woodley U3A. These events are intended to provide opportunities to socialise in small (up to six people) socially distanced groups in the Woodley area.

Social Events

Speakers Meetings



Our second in the series of virtual Speakers' meetings was conducted via Zoom on 12 August. Our talk this month was by Megan Maltby a Senior Public Events Coordinator for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission based in Maidenhead. Her very interesting talk was about the history of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, what their current work involves and looks like all around the world.

Our next Speakers meeting will be on **Wednesday 2nd September** and our talk will be given by Reverend John Fieldsend on 'The Kindertransport', an organised rescue effort that took place during the nine months prior to the outbreak of WW II.



The UK took in nearly 10,000 predominantly Jewish children from Nazi Germany and occupied countries who were placed in foster homes, hostels, schools and farms. Many were the only members of their families to survive the Holocaust.

Mary Brenchley-Hole, Acting Speakers Secretary

If you would like to virtually attend a Speaker's Monthly Meeting, you will need to have Zoom installed on your device and register your interest in attending. Please [see our last newsletter for information from Chris Mould](#) on the steps you will need to take.

See also our [Computer and IT category](#) in the Useful Information section of our website for video support on setting up and making use of Zoom as well Skype platforms.

Speakers Meetings

Group News

The History and On-line quiz groups had their first meetings – thanks to Chris and David for all of their work in getting those groups started.

Groups have been continuing to take advantage of the dry weather to meet outside in our local parks and members' gardens, in small socially distanced groups.

The Book-lovers Group met up face-to-face for the first time since lockdown and the Virtual Visits Group picnic, postponed due to thunderstorms, was reorganised taking place on Friday 21 August.



Virtual Visits Group Making it a Reality in Ashenbury Park

Let's hope that lockdown eases further in the next few weeks to allow small U3A groups to meet inside before the colder weather arrives.

Even though government guidelines now allow community groups of up to thirty people to meet inside Covid-safe community halls, we are unable to do this as the local facilities we use are not yet Covid-safe. I will continue to monitor changes and keep your convenors informed about what might be possible for their groups in the coming weeks or months.

Virtual groups are working well for several groups. Groups meeting virtually with space for new members include –

Afternoon Film Group, Photography, Discovering Science and Indoor Board Games.

I am sad to report that, due to some members not renewing, two groups are not continuing – French Conversation 2 and Mah-jong. On a more positive note over-subscribed groups which have lost members were able to offer their places to people on the waiting lists.

If you are interested in joining on-line Rummikub, Play-reading or Bridge groups, please let me know as there may be sufficient interest to set up new groups.



Contact Paula, Groupsc@woodleyu3a.org.uk, to find out more about any of the groups listed above.

Paula Dove, Groups Coordinator

Website News

Over the next few months, I will be focusing on some of the links provided within a specific category of the [Useful Links to Ideas for Interests and Activities](#) section of our website.



This month's focus is on a link in the [Books & Literature Category](#) to Wokingham Library Services, and also includes latest information on Woodley Library.

Latest news from Wokingham Borough Council's News Centre includes information on the reopening of Woodley Library (summarised below) and the large number of on-line library services that are still available. These services offer a tremendous range of resources to library members and if you have not already done so, it is well worth joining the library to access online books, magazines, newspapers and music. Click on our website screenshot below which provides links to these online resources.

Wokingham Library Services

Check out the library's full range of services and join if you are not already a member.

Their [Online Library Events & Activities page](#) has links to virtual events.

Their Virtual Library page has links to their [Online Catalogue](#). Here you can search the library catalogue for books, audiobooks, CDs, DVDs and other items, or you can access the relevant apps/info by clicking the links below.



Online Resources & Information	Online Books/Audio Books	Online Magazines & Newspapers	Online Music
<p>Provides access and links to useful resources including the Ancestry Online family history website with access to census records, births, marriages and deaths records, and much more. Available at Wokingham, Woodley, Earley libraries and to cardholders at home during the lockdown period.</p>	<p>The e-Books and e-Audio Books Services allow you to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Download the RB Digital mobile app to your computer, smartphone or tablet -Borrow/Read 6 e-books at a time for up to 21 days (e-books) -Listen to unlimited audio books on your phone, MP3 player, iPod or computer 	<p>This service allows you to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Download the Press Reader app to your computer, smartphone or tablet -Read current copy of most daily/Sunday newspapers, many local newspapers, wide selection of magazines -Access a selection of newspapers and magazines from all over the world 	<p>This service allows you to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Download the Frøegal Music app to your computer, smartphone or tablet -Stream music for 3 hours per day, and download 3 tracks each week -Choose from over 15 million tracks from 1000s of artists -Create your own playlists, or choose from existing lists

Reopening of Woodley Library

Woodley Library is now open on weekdays from 9am to 1pm purely for returning and borrowing books with other services such as public computer use, study space, and newspaper and magazine browsing not available. However, a large number of online library services are still available, including ebooks, emagazines, enewspapers and audiobooks. During the coming weeks it is hoped to increase opening hours.

Hand sanitiser stations are in position at the entrance to the library for people to use as they enter and leave, and face coverings must be worn inside the building. A one-way system around the library has been introduced, and social distancing must be maintained at all times. Visitors are asked to minimise handling of books while browsing. Books that are touched, but not booked out, and borrowed books that are returned to the library must be/are placed in the returned books area where they are quarantined for 72 hours before being returned to the shelves.

Other Woodley Town Centre Developments



Woodley Town Centre August 2020 Newsletter



Woodley Town Centre is now open for business to its weekly Saturday Markets and Wednesday Artisan & Produce markets.



The Authentic French Markets make a return on Friday 4 September from 9am-5pm



The fortnightly Sunday car boot sales return on 23 August from 8.00am-1.00pm.



WTC reports Markets have had full Risk Assessments carried out by the Market Manager. See their newsletter for full details by clicking on the Newsletter image.



Over the past few weeks Woodley Town Centre Management have been working closely with Wokingham Borough Council and the Public Protection Partnership to ensure that Woodley reopens safely following the easing of the lockdown restrictions. We have placed several signs around the town centre reminding visitors of the social distancing requirements and have also produced a reopening pack and checklist that has been sent to every shop in the town centre.

As a result, we are now pretty much back to normal with our Saturday Market, our Wednesday Artisans Market and our monthly Vegan Market.

Saturday 4th July will be another big milestone on the road out of lockdown. The cafes and bars in Woodley have been working hard to ensure everything is safe for their big reopening and we wish them all every success for the future.

Future Events

You will be aware that we have had to cancel a number of events this year because of the Covid-19 crisis and although things are slowly returning, we all know that it will never be the same again and that some restrictions will be in place for some time yet.

Woodley Town Centre - Useful Information

Eat Out to Help Out Scheme in Support of Local Businesses

Just a few days left (Mon 24, Tues 25, Weds 26, Mon 31) of the Government's Eat Out Scheme with up to £10 off per person. Locally, a few eateries participating in the scheme are Cozze, Woodley Precinct; Crumbs, Library Parade, Woodley; The Red Rose, Headley Road, Woodley; The Waterside, Fairwater Drive, Woodley; The Dragonfly Café at Dinton Pastures; The Café at Winnersh Garden Centre; Heron on the Ford Pub, Charvil. [Other participating local eateries can be found here.](#)

Jane Wolsey, Webmaster & Newsletter Editor

Eat Out to Help Out

Contacts

For special enquiries:

Email: Paul Atkins chairman@woodleyu3a.org.uk

For membership and speakers' meetings queries:

Email: Mary Brenchley-Hole membershipsecretary@woodleyu3a.org.uk

For queries about groups and related activities:

Email: Paula Dove groupsco@woodleyu3a.org.uk

For queries about Social Events:

Email: Jane Wolsey at socialevents@woodleyu3a.org.uk

For General Enquiries

Telephone the duty officer on **07565 585545**.