

Hitchin u3a Newsletter April 2025 No4

CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS

Good day,

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Maggie Bedingfield, and I am delighted, but a bit daunted, to take on the chairmanship of our u3a.

We all owe a huge debt of thanks to Heidi for steering the group through the last four years. I am happy to tell you she has agreed to stay on the Committee as Vice Chairman and will be an enormous source of help and advice. Thank you, Heidi.

A bit about me – I am a widow and live in Hitchin. I am lucky enough to have three children and two grandchildren, all of whom live locally. My husband was a career diplomat and that meant we spent nearly 40 years travelling and working around the world. We lived in nine countries over this time and visited many more for work and pleasure.

After the AGM we had 26 people sign up to the Positive Movement Group which was demonstrated at that meeting, and we hope to get it started soon. If anyone else would like to join, please let me know or June Parker (Group's Co-ordinator) know. The day and venue are still being finalised.

We have had two other suggestions for new groups: firstly, a Men's Group as some of our gentlemen feel a trifle outnumbered so a mutual support group would address this.

Secondly, a Local Theatre/Cinema Group. This would be in addition to the Theatre Group, which would continue to go to shows in MK. The new group would be led by a member who has links to the QMT and would cover the QMT in Hitchin, the Gordon Craig in Stevenage and the Broadway in Letchworth, with people making their own travel arrangements. If you are interested in either or both of these groups, please let me or June must and we will try to put a programme together.

If any of you have ideas for new groups, please do let us know. Just suggesting a group does not mean that you have to run it, but we do need ideas and suggestions.

Thank you and a Happy Easter

Maggie



The Origin of Easter

Easter originated as a pagan festival celebrating the spring equinox and the goddess Eostre. The name "Easter" comes from the goddess's name

In Christianity, the day was dedicated to observing the resurrection of Jesus Christ, celebrated around the time of the Jewish Passover.

Easter traditions include sunrise services or late-night vigils, exclamations and exchanges of Paschal greetings, flowering the cross, the wearing of Easter bonnets by women, clipping the church, and the decoration and the communal breaking of Easter eggs (a symbol of the empty tomb)

Your new Hitchin u3a committee Officers

Chairman – Maggie Bedingfield

Vice Chairman – Heidi Ebrahim

Treasurer – Anne Rapley

Committee Members

Membership Secretary – Diana Lowe

Group Secretary – June Parker

Other Members

Maggie Killingbeck

Barbara Allison

June Young

Alisa Elder Vass

Co-opted Members

Dennis Sexton- Lindsay Freeston

Friends of the committee

Carol Mascaranhas

Steve Pullinger



4-mile Walking Group

Our group meet during the second week of each month on various days, and we are open to all members, so come along and give us a try. We walk about 4 to 4 ½ miles all over North Herts and South Beds. Our walks are circular and usually start and finish at a pub for a well-earned lunch.



The photo on left was our walk in November last year. We were in the Pegsdon Hills and climbed Deacon Hill before returning to Pegsdon for lunch. We had magnificent views over Bedfordshire.

The photo on the right was taken in March at the memorial to Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother in St Paul's Walden cemetery, on our walk from Whitwell. On both occasions sunglasses were required!! It is good to get out in the countryside to appreciate the changing seasons; buds developing, catkins dancing in the breeze and bluebell foliage bursting through the woodland floor.

The walks for the next few months are:

16th April, Wain Wood at Preston,

16th May Norton to Radwell,

11th June in Offley area.

Please email group co-ordinator if you would like to join us

Play Reading Group

We have an enthusiastic group of Play Readers and, also members who enjoy coming to listen and (thankfully) to add their applause at the end of a session.

We have recently done several theatre farces, all well and good, except our enthusiastic actors have had to hold their collective breath whilst an outbreak of corpsing (uncontrolled laughter) ensues. The most remarkable moment of total hilarity, was when one of our cast mixed up the pub name "The Red Stag" with "The Red Shag". It took some time for order to be restored. The play that we were doing, had several moments of delicacy, so the mistake was not totally out of context.

Our last play was "1976", a BBC drama about Angela Morley (a transwoman - formerly known as Wally Stott) who was an important member of the British music scene. The story relates to a crisis in finishing off the music for the film "Watership Down" and how success was achieved. Certainly, not a farce, but a play that allowed the group an opportunity to test themselves - which they did brilliantly.

We would welcome new additions to our friendly group and have an opportunity to act, with the comfort of a script at hand.

Come on give it a try and if you fancy giving it a try, please contact Group co-ordinator, through the Group Page.



HISTORY GROUP

The Vikings are Coming

The History group has begun to look at the history of the Norsemen – the Vikings. If our ancestors the Vikings wrote a "Blog", would this be what it would be like?

The Viking History Blog:

Day 1

As Vikings we had completed our harvest and now decided to take to the seas and visit our nearest neighbours, some of us from Norway invaded and occupied the North and North West of Britain as well as Ireland western Britain and others from Denmark decided to go nearer home and invade and occupy Eastern Britain.

Day 9

We arrived at the holy island of Lindisfarne where we burned buildings, stole treasures, murdered most of the monks and captured a few as slaves as they could read and write. We were also attacking their religion as we knew our gods were strong and effective.

Day 20

We decided to make more raids on different places. We plundered their goods burned their buildings stole their women and decided we liked where we were and we stayed. We built our farms, we integrated with the regions we visited, we left our mark so history knew we had been there.

The above is of course tongue in cheek, but the history group are looking forward to studying all aspects of the Viking way of life. Where did the Norsemen come from, what was their culture, their religion. How did they manage to be so successful? A lot of us have DNA from the Nordic countries so why is that? What was their social structure, their language and what was their daily life like.

In March we have started looking at their invasion into Scotland. All of Britain suffered devastating Viking attacks and they imposed their authority on large portions of British land for some years. However, Scotland has never been successfully conquered – the Vikings raided and looted but eventually settled there.

We will be looking at the effect they had on the Wirral and Liverpool areas, we will investigate their origins in much more detail particularly in Denmark and we will also look at their religious beliefs in more detail.

I hope this gives you a brief idea of what the History group do, you never know with DNA readily available there may be a number of Norsemen and Norsewomen in our midst!

Sue Zacharias

17 February 2025

A Map of Viking advance



Theatre Group after another successful visit to Milton Keynes Theatre this time to see Kinky Boots



Remaining U3A Theatre Shows for 2025

Girl On The Train – Wednesday, 11th June at 2.30 p.m. - £ 54.50

Rachel Watson longs for a different life. Her only escape is the perfect couple she watches through the train window every day, happy and in love. Or so it appears.

The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe, Wed, 23rd July – 2.00 p.m. - £50.00

This adaptation of C.S.Lewis' well-loved tale of good and evil is a delight for the whole family.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Thurs, 7th August at 2.30 p.m. Wednesday - £ 52.50

If you are looking to join the party and celebrate over half a century of a musical theatre classic, this is one event you won't want to miss!

Top Hat – Wednesday, 24th September 2025 at 2.30 p.m. - £ 48.00

Don't miss this brand new production! Irving Berlin's irresistible score includes some of Hollywood's greatest songs, the immortal Cheek to Cheek, Let's Face the Music and Dance, Top Hat White Tie and Tails and Puttin' on the Ritz.

Death on the Nile – Wednesday, 15th October at 2.30 p.m. - £ 48.50

On board a luxurious cruise under the heat of the Egyptian sun, a couple's idyllic honeymoon is cut short by a brutal murder. Please contact Group Co-Ordinator if you are interested

Pétanque/Boules

Please note that Pétanque started at Ickleford and Social Club on Friday 4th April, in sunny conditions and all had a great time.

This will be a weekly event, weather permitting. Please contact Graham H for further information through the Group Page

Current Affairs Group

As you can imagine we never run out of topics in our Current Affairs group. Members take turns in choosing a topic for the meeting and provide the information to the group, a week or two before the meeting, to enable members, if they wish, to research the topic.

Topics that have been discussed in the last few months were:-

- 'Mysogyny through digital media'
- 'House of Lords - do we think it needs reform?'
- 'Food security vs energy security -particularly large solar panels'
- 'Is religion the cause of wars?'
- 'Should private companies make a profit from our Children in Care?'

As you see there is a wide selection of topics we cover. You may find it surprising that we can discuss these in a friendly and pleasant atmosphere, but we do. Every member gets an opportunity to contribute to the discussion. Of course we don't end in agreement by all, but I have had my view changed by some of the discussions. Come and voice your thoughts.

Contact:
Margaret B

Architecture and the Built Environment



The star of our recent Architecture session, about Art Deco buildings has to be the Chrysler Building in New York. We showed the magnificence of this by displaying a full sequence of pictures on the big screen. We will be moving on to looking at Arts and Crafts buildings at Portmerion.

If you interested in joining our group, please contact Group Co-ordinator

The Positive Movement Group

The Group started on Friday 4th April They will meet at Christchurch each Friday from 2.00pm. The cost is £2.50 per session, to be paid in advance at £10 per month, which should cover the 5-week months too. It will be led by Lindsey Freeston. At present we have 25 people signed up, but of anyone else would like to join, please give your name to June P or Lindsey.

Creative Writing Group

Fantasy

My fantasy came alive in 1989 when I watched a film called Dead Poet's Society starring Robin Williams as an ex-pupil returning to teach English to boys at a highly prestigious public school. His teaching methods were unconventional and challenging but the overwhelming feeling it left me with was inspired and I wanted to teach.

I watched in awe how this one man through his care, consideration and understanding found a way to allow the boys to feel free to be the best version of themselves they could be.

To be able to play a part in helping young people and work with them became a fantasy of mine.

Imagine how I felt in 2001 standing in front of my first class of excited faces of thirty year 5 pupils. I will never forget that feeling. Not too many people are lucky enough to fulfill a fantasy. For the best part of twenty years, I am amazed to say that I lived out my fantasy and it was something I will always treasure.

There are so many happy memories from those years as my fantasy rolled on and I enjoyed many rewarding experiences with hundreds of young people. Believe me working with someone who finds that belief in themselves is much more rewarding than any paycheck.

Sadly, ill health meant I had to walk away from the classroom two years ago, but I can honestly say I am so fortunate and grateful that I was privileged to be involved with so many wonderful young lives and live out My Fantasy.



My Fantasy

"Come and sit on my lap Archie" I said, patting my lap encouragingly. He looked and jumped up onto my lap and turned round a few times before settling down. "Thanks, he said, but please don't keep getting up so often when I'm on your lap, as it disturbs my peace!". Am I hearing things, was it the TV I was hearing, or has my be-loved cat just spoken to me?

I've always wanted to hear my precious, nearly 18-year-old, cat speak, and constantly imagined what he would say to me if he could and indeed, if he could understand what I was saying to him.

"Am I really hearing you Archie and can you understand what I'm saying to you?". "Yes, I am speaking and know what you are saying to me". Now was my chance "Archie, can you tell me what food you really like as I've tried so many different options over the years and you seem so self-important with your nose up at most things and I'm worried that you are not eating enough? You seem to be getting thinner with age." "I know, but I am just fussy, which is to be expected for a cat of my grand age". What can I say to that?!

"I do worry about you though Archie, as I guess you must be suffering from arthritis in some of your joints as you squeak at times when you move". "Yes, I do feel it at times" he replied, "but don't we all?! I am happy and content though and have had a wonderful life being part of the family for all these years".

"One thing I do need to ask you Archie, is can you please stop sticking your paw in my cup to catch the milk as I'm pouring my tea. You never drink it when I do give you some!" I know" he said, "it's just one of my quirks!"

"I'm going to rest now in my other favourite place in the house." "Let me guess, I said, the radiator at the back of the house?" "You really know me" Archie answered.

Off he went moving in that slow, self-important way that he does. I watched him settle down on the warm and inviting radiator with his head over his front paws. "We all love you Archie" I said. "And I love you and the family" he responded. He then closed his eyes and dozed off



HOW WELL DO YOU REMEMBER THE 1960'S?

1. On 3rd Jan 1961 Eisenhower announced that the USA had severed diplomatic relations with which nation?
2. Which classic UK espionage series was first aired on ITV in 1961?
3. Which bank note ceased to be legal tender in UK in March 1962?
4. Which political figure was excommunicated by Pope John XXIII in 1962?
5. Which iconic UK band made their debut at London's Marquee Club in July 1962?
6. Which Caribbean island gained independence from UK in August 1962?
7. Which leader of the Labour party died suddenly at age 56 on 18th January 1963?
8. The Beatles released their debut album Marcu1963 . What was it called?
9. Which epic movie won the Oscar for Best Picture in April 1963?
10. Which weekly magazine for teenage girls was first published in January 1964?
11. What was launched from a ship moored off the coast of Felixstowe, March 1964?
12. The construction of which iconic London landmark was completed in July 1964?
13. Which creature was captured and returned to London Zoo in March 1965?
14. Which football team won the FA Cup on 1st May 1965 for the very first time?
15. What new scheme to ensure Road Safety was announced on 18th June 1965?
16. Who was sworn in as President of India on 24th January 1966?
17. A new means of crossing the English Channel was introduced on 30th April 1966.
What was it?
18. Which album did the Beatles begin recording at Abbey Road Studios in November in1966?
19. Which UK song won the Eurovision Song Contest in April 1967?
20. Why was Muhammed Ali stripped of his heavyweight title in April 1967?
- 21.What did Cambridge University announce in February 1968 had been discovered by astronomer Jocelyn Bell Burnell?
22. Who stepped down as President of France in April 1969?

Answers at the end of the Newsletter if anyone gets all the answers correct, without Google, the editor will buy them a Cadbury Cream Egg, how generous!!

Some very interesting information for you to mull over without taxing your brain

- The first crossword in a British Newspaper appeared in the Daily Express on 2nd November 1924
- In Tudor times, men believed that rubbing horse urine into their scalp would prevent baldness
- The first person to withdraw money from a cash machine was Reg Varney, who opened the first cash machine at the Enfield branch of Barclay's Bank on 27th June 1967.
Maximum withdrawal at the time was £10.00





Men don't have babies because God saw the way they handle a cold and knew the species would never survive.



The 3 Types of People in Your Life.....

The Leaf People.....
These come into your life for just a season. You can't depend on them, they are weak. They only come to take what they want, then they leave.

The Branch People.....
They are strong, but break away when life becomes tough. They will stay a season, but will go when life becomes harder.

The Root People.....
These are very important people, they don't do things to be seen. They stay during the difficult times, they will water you, they are not moved by your position, they take you as you are.

Only the Root type of people



Thanks, anyways. But I think I'm just gonna poop somewhere in the house tonight.



CONGRATULATIONS! YOU'RE PREGNANT!



OH, SORRY! WRONG ROOM!



WELL - HOW MUCH DID IT COST TO FILL UP THE CAR?

The fitness trainer asked me, "What kind of a squat are you accustomed to doing?" I said, "Diddly."



THE TOWER OF MANY COLOURS



A Knitting Challenge

To raise funds for the St Mary's Appeal and
Philip Veale Children's Centre, Malawi
Launched from the top of the tower on Sunday 6th July 2025.
(weather permitting)

Please get knitting

Cast on 40 stitches DK wool size 4mm (old size 8) knit in garter stitch until
8 inches, change colour and repeat 4 times.

(5 squares in all 40 inches long)

Cast off

Ask your friends and family to sponsor each square for £2
(£10 per a strip)

Hand your completed knitting and sponsor money to Lois Veale, Lesley Davies or
Robin Sternberg.

The knitting will then be joined together and after the drop be made into blankets for
Malawi.

Get together with other knitters for a chat and a cuppa.

Just turn up with your knitting at 53 Benslow Lane SG4 9RD on Thursdays:

Feb 13th, March 6th, March 27th, April 25th, May 15th, June 26th

Everyone most welcome. Time 11.00am – 12.30pm.

(there's free parking on Benslow Rise from 11.00am

If you don't want to knit please sponsor someone to do it for you!

The church will look amazing, thank you.

Further details or queries ring Lois 01462 436426, 07779 145650

LOOKING FOR SOMEWHERE TO EAT

If you are, then here are a few suggestions published by "Open Table" for Hertfordshire

Lussmanns – Harpenden



Situated in an 18th century former coach house overlooking Leyton Green, Lussmanns Harpenden has a delightful rural character and feel. Guests can enjoy courtyard dining in the charming walled garden and private meals in our lovely first floor room. We are a short stroll from leafy Rothamsted Park, the boutique high street shops and Public Halls Tel: 01582 297444

<https://www.lussmanns.com/restaurants/harpenden/>

El bar de tapas



Cuisine: Spanish, Tapas / Small Plates
Friendly and knowledgeable service.
Great Authentic Spanish Food
Contact: <https://elbardetapas.com/>
Tel; 01438 721010
5a Middle Row, Stevenage, SG1 3AN

The Sword in Hand Buntingford



The Sword Inn Hand is a charming countryside pub known for its "fantastic food" and "friendly, attentive staff." Guests rave about the "lovely garden" and "excellent service." The menu features seasonal dishes, including the highly recommended Sunday roast.

Contact: 01763 271356

The Sword in Hand,
Westmill, Buntingford
Hertfordshire SG9 9LQ

<https://www.theswordinnhand.co.uk/>

North Herts Place Names

Stevenage is thought to derive from an Old English word meaning ' (place at) the stiff oak'. The name was recorded as 'Stithenaece' in 1060 and as 'Stigenace' in the Domesday Book.

Hitchin, the first historical mention of Hitchin is as the central place for the Hicce people, a tribe holding 300 'hides' of land measurement in a seventh century document call The Tribal Hidage, which detailed tribes in Anglo-Saxon England.

The Old English tribal name 'Hicce' or 'Hicca' is thought to mean 'the people of the horse'.

Letchworth's name is derived from the Old English @lyccea weorth', meaning a farm inside a fence or enclosure. It appears in the Domesday Bool as 'Leceworde', when it was described as having just nine households of villagers, four cottages, one slave and one priest

Baldock. The most popular origin story for the name Baldock is that it is derived from the old French name for Baghdad, 'Baldac or later 'Baudac'.

Baldock was founded by the Knights Templar, who may have picked the name due to Baghdad's significance as the most prosperous market town in the world. Contemporary documents from its founding use the spelling 'Baudac', but it was recorded as 'Baldac' in the Pipe Rolls of Hertfordshire in 1168.

Codicote. The earliest version of the name Codicote was recorded in 1002 as Cuthingcoton, which means 'the cottages Cuthere's people'.

St Ippolyts unusual name derives from St Hippolytus, to whom the village church is dedicated. Although Ippoyts' is accepted as the standard spelling, the 1881 census mentions 22 different spellings, all referring to the same place – and the name is still spelled differently on some road signs.

Knebworth. In the Domesday Book Knebworth is referred to as 'Chenepeworde', and had a recorded population of 33 households. The name may mean either the farm belonging to the fifth century Saxon Dane, Cnebba or could simply have meant 'village on the hill'.

Royston. A cross, known variously as Royse's, Roheisa's or Roisia's Cross, was erected by the town's crossroads at an unknown date, which gave the settlement its name of 'Crux Roesia or 'Roisia's Cross'. By the 14th century this had become 'Roisia's Town', 'Roiston' or Royston

I trust you found this bit of area's history of names interesting. If you have any other such facts you would like to show with out membership, please send to me.

Thanks

SPRINGTIME

On a lovely spring morning, the sun shining bright,
The colourful flowers made a wonderful sight.
Daffodils swaying in the gentle breeze,
Blossom appearing on leafless trees,
Snowdrops white and primroses yellow
Fresh and new after Autumns' mellow.
The birds are singing a song of joy,
Tuneful songs for a girl and boy.
Lambs are frolicking in pastures new,
Protected proudly by mother Ewe.
Dark winter days are in the past.
Summer is on its' way at last

Ruby T



A little spring foliage

The Gardener's Last Wish

Don't carry me off
In a brass-handled coffin
With a wreath on my chest
I will not be at rest

There's nothing much worse,
Than a ride in a hearse,
To a hole in the ground,
With just strangers around.

No.... bury me deep,
In the compost heap.
Or put me under
A beautiful florbunda.

It's really much wiser,
To become fertiliser.
Then I can grow roses
As I decompose

Unknown

The Kingfisher

I marvel at the Beauty,
The colour in the Wings,
And then I stop and Listen,
As so cheerfully he Sings.

He clasps the wooden tree Branch,
In sheer Majestic Stance,
And then he opens up his Wings,
As if to do a Dance.

He blinks an eye, as if to say,
One more Glance,
One more Dance.

Then into flight He turns this Way,
Lookout ... I'll be back to you one day.

Mary H



Dear Dog's Trust

You are the best we say,
We love you in every way,
We are Rover, Lily, Sandy and Honey,
We don't cost a lot of money,
In a house or kennels quartered,
Walked, well fed and watered,
We sit and wait for our option,
Hoping for a quick adoption,
Please come and have a look,
We are just an open book,
All of us so cuddly and fluffy,
Never, haughty, never stuffy,
We just want a human to love,
This is a blessing from above,
We will give you all our devotion,
We are just the perfect potion,
So, hurry up, do not hesitate,
Please, before it's too late,
From all the ever-hopeful canine friends,
Hoping wait soon ends.

JK



Poetry Corner Continued

A hunger pandemic is abroad,
Whilst we food and money hoard,
In our inertia let us not be caught,
Our hungry brethren need our support.

Live Aid was an inspiration,
It lifted the mood of the nation,
Millions of pounds were raised,
Geldorf will forever be praised.,

Rich celebrities of this nation,
Another chance for your salvation,
Sell the Rolex, give up the Bentley,
Live a bit more fundamentally.

Calling all fat cat bosses,
Think of the hungry man's losses,
Donate that bonus Million Pounds,
See how generosity stands.

If you own a mansion or four,
Hunger will never knock at your door,
Flog that Vilal with infinity pool,
Donating the money would be so cool.

Those who own yachts with a helipad,
This sort of thing makes us really sad,
None of these are necessities for living,
It's so much better to be giving.

So come on you tycoons and sheiks,
Never so big have been the stakes,
Dig deep into your bank accounts,
Give to the hungry your surplus amounts.

JK

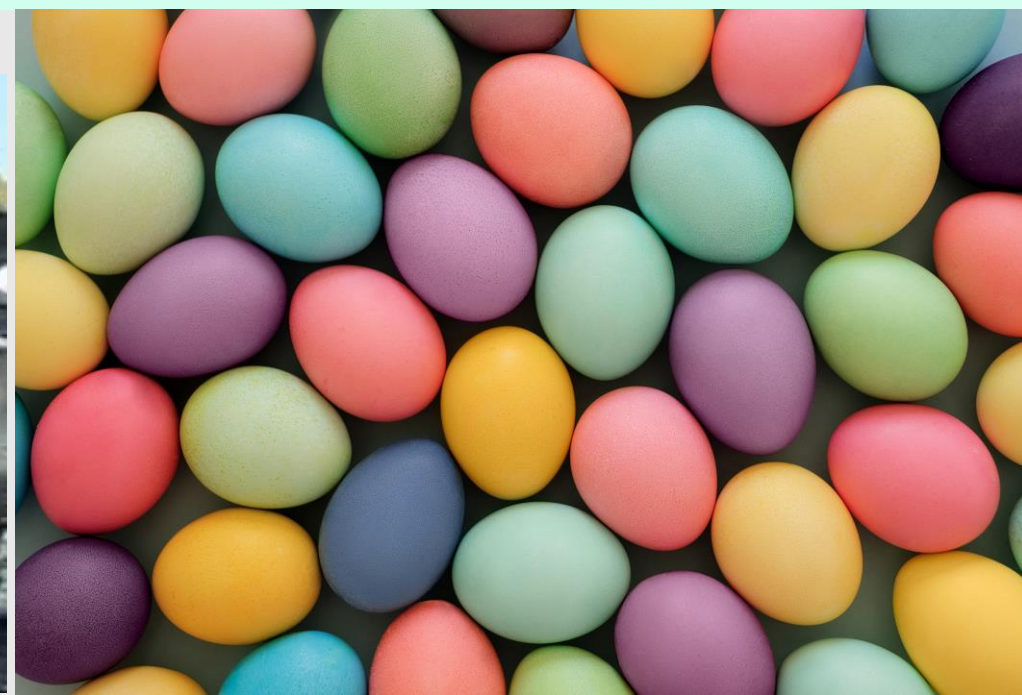
Online Events Coming Up The Future of Digital in Our Daily Lives Thurs 17 April, 2pm

Robin Christopherson, Head of Digital Inclusion at AbilityNet

Being blind himself, Robin is only too aware of the empowering potential of technology to overcome life's challenges. Covering areas including getting the most from today's tech, the role of specialist vs mainstream, and how AI-fuelled devices and services will impact almost every aspect of our lives, Robin will invite us to explore how digital technology can shape our future years for the better.

Register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-future-of-digital-in-our-daily-lives-tickets-1255505293129?aff=oddttdtcreator>



Important Technical advice regarding Microsoft and Windows10

Those of you with computers that run under Microsoft's Windows 10 operating system will have received a message from Microsoft to say that Windows 10 will reach its end of support on October 14, 2025. After this date, Microsoft will no longer provide security updates, non-security updates, or technical support for Windows 10. I was asked what this means and so I asked ChatGPT, the AI tool and below is the tool's output.

In essence you have 6 options

- o Ignore the warning – your computer will still work but support will be discontinued.
 - o Buy a new computer which will run the new version of Windows.
 - o Stop using Windows – switch to Linux but this is really only an option for the technically competent.
 - o Pay Microsoft for security updates – it's generally accepted that this will be available but at a price.
 - o Upgrade the hardware so you can use Windows 11 – could costly if you're not very technical.
 - o There again you could buy an Apple Mac and be free of Windows – perhaps an expensive if reliable and long living option
- I have included the live links from ChatGPT so you can delve further into this.

ZDNET

This means that while your Windows 10 device will continue to function, it will become more vulnerable to security risks and compatibility issues over time.

Options to Consider Before End of Support:

1. Upgrade to Windows 11:

- o Check System Requirements: Ensure your device meets the minimum system requirements for Windows 11, including a compatible 64-bit processor, 4GB of RAM, and 64GB of storage. Microsoft
- o Perform the Upgrade: If your device is eligible, you can upgrade through Windows Update by navigating to Settings > Update & Security > Windows Update and selecting "Check for updates." Follow the on-screen instructions to complete the process.

2. Purchase Extended Security Updates (ESU):

- o If your device cannot be upgraded to Windows 11, Microsoft offers ESU to receive critical and important security updates for an additional fee. For consumers, the cost is \$30 for one year of updates. Businesses will face higher pricing, starting at \$61 for the first year. The Verge

Note that ESU will only cover security updates and exclude new features, bug fixes, and technical support.

3. Consider New Hardware:

- o If your current device does not meet the hardware requirements for Windows 11, you might consider investing in new hardware that comes pre-installed with Windows 11. This option ensures compatibility and provides access to the latest features and security enhancements.

Additional Considerations:

- Security Risks: Continuing to use Windows 10 after support ends exposes your system to potential security vulnerabilities as new threats emerge.
- Software Compatibility: Some applications may eventually discontinue support for Windows 10, leading to compatibility issues.
- Technical Support: Without official support, troubleshooting and resolving technical issues may become more challenging.

It's advisable to assess your current hardware's compatibility with Windows 11 and plan accordingly to ensure a smooth transition before October 14, 2025.

Anne Rapley

PS: The Apple Mac laptop I use is eleven years old running Safari and Firefox operating systems. It is still faster than most Windows machine and more reliable.

Thanks to Anne R

Your u3a needs you!

Let's think about the fortnightly speaker meetings.

If you arrive at about 13.30. You'll see the wide expanse of the entrance hall and an empty spacious hall. Within a few minutes the entrance hall is transformed into a welcome desk, where we register our attendance and friendly faces gathering to meet and greet new members as well as potential members. In parallel the tables and chairs are put out in the hall, so we have somewhere to have our post talk tea and chat to each other. But that not the end of what's going on behind the scenes. In the church hall the roadies are setting up and testing the audio-visual facilities and preparing to stream our talks for those members who attend by Zoom. Finally, the fire marshals are finding the "high viz" jackets which they will don in the very unlikely event of an emergency.

So, then we listen to the Speaker and during the questions the Hospitality group prepare the refreshment for the social part of our afternoon event. And as we finish our tea and biscuits, the roadies reinstate the church hall ready for church services, the hospitality group clear up our teacups. Then the "tablers" put away the tables and stack the chairs. Finally, the fire marshals hang up the gaudy jackets. Everything is reinstated so we can steal away, like church mice, leaving no trace of our presence. Go on, admit it, you had never given much thought about how this all happens - it isn't magic! No, it is all achieved with the help of our members who volunteer to provide a well-oiled mechanism. So, in the spirit of Lord Kitchener and his famous World War I recruiting poster, Join your u3a volunteers – **we NEED you!**

Do you believe it?

The most impressive story of a 4 meters long Crocodile attack, averted by a woman with a single bullet shot, from a small caliber revolver in Darwin, Australia...

A Darwin woman, Beverly Thompson, 38, stopped a crocodile attack using a small .22 calibre Ruger pistol. This is a story of self-control, marksmanship and quick thinking by a brave, cool-headed woman, with a small pistol against a fierce predator.

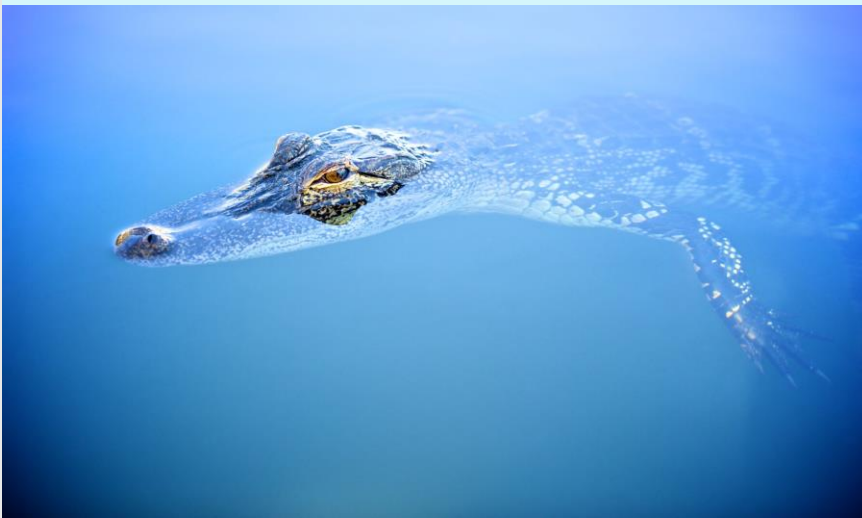
Here's her story in her own words :

"While walking along the edge of a lake near my house in the Villages Estate near Darwin, discussing a property settlement with my soon-to-be ex-husband & other divorce issues, we were surprised by a huge 4-metres crocodile, which suddenly emerged from the murky water.

"It began charging us with its large jaws wide open. She must have been protecting her nest because she was extremely aggressive. If I had not had my little Ruger 22 calibre pistol with me, I wouldn't be here today!" said Beverly.

"Just one shot to my estranged husband's knee-cap was all it took.

The croc got him easily & I was able to escape by just walking away at a brisk pace. *The amount I saved in lawyer's fees was really incredible & his life insurance was also a big bonus...!!!"*



I am coming to get you cobber!!



What happens when Old Car Guys get sent to a nursing home ...

Remember this from the back of our Exercise Books?

NUMERATION		MULTIPLICATION TABLE											
Units	1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Tens	12	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24
Hundreds	123	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36
Thousands	1,234	4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36	40	44	48
Tens of Thousands.....	12,345	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60
Hundreds of Thousands.....	123,456	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72
Millions	1,234,567	7	14	21	28	35	42	49	56	63	70	77	84
Tens of Millions.....	12,345,678	8	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72	80	88	96
Hundreds of Millions	123,456,789	9	18	27	36	45	54	63	72	81	90	99	108
		10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120
		11	22	33	44	55	66	77	88	99	110	121	132
		12	24	36	48	60	72	84	96	108	120	132	144

FEDERAL MONEY	ENGLISH MONEY	FRENCH MONEY
10 cents (¢) make 1 dime	4 farthings make 1 penny (d)	100 centimes make 1 franc
10 dimes " 1 dollar (\$)	12 pence " 1 shilling (s)	GERMAN MONEY
10 dollars " 1 eagle	20 shillings " 1 pound (£)	
	21 " " 1 guinea	100 pfennig make 1 mark

AVOIRDUPOIS WEIGHT	APOTHECARIES WEIGHT
16 drams (dr.) make 1 ounce marked (oz)	20 grains (gr.) make 1 scruple marked (ʒ)
16 ounces " 1 pound " (lb)	3 scruples " 1 dram " (ʒ)
25 pounds " 1 quarter " (qr)	8 drams " 1 ounce " (ʒ)
4 quarter or 100 lb " 1 hund. wt. " (cwt)	12 ounces " 1 pound " (lb)
20 hundred weight " 1 ton " (T)	

TROY WEIGHT	PAPER MEASURE
24 grains (gr.) make 1 pennyweight(dwt.)	24 sheets (sh.).....make.....1 quire
20 pennyweights " 1 ounce(oz.)	20 quires (qu.)..... "1 ream
12 ounces " 1 pound(lb)	10 reams (r) "1 bale (ba.)

LONG MEASURE	SQUARE MEASURE	SOLID OR CUBIC MEASURE
12 inches.....make 1 foot	144 square inches make 1 square foot	1728 cubic inches make 1 cubic foot
3 feet..... " 1 yard	9 " feet..... " 1 " yard	27 " feet..... " 1 " yard
6 feet..... " 1 fathom	30 1/4 " yards..... " 1 " pole	128 " " " 1 cord of wood
5 1/2 yards..... " 1 pole or rod	40 " poles..... " 1 rod	24 1/4 " " " 1 perch of stone
40 poles..... " 1 furlong	4 rods..... " 1 acre	NOTE—A cord of wood is a pile 8 feet long, 4 feet wide and 4 feet high, therefore 8 x 4 x 4 equals 128.
8 furlongs..... " 1 mile	640 acres..... " 1 square mile	A perch of stone or brick is 16 1/2 feet long, 1 1/2 feet wide and 1 foot high.
5 miles..... " 1 league		
39 1/2 miles..... " 1 degree		

DRY MEASURE	LIQUID MEASURE	TIME MEASURE
2 pints (pt.) make 1 quart	4 gills..... make 1 pint	60 seconds.....make 1 minute
8 quarts (qt.) " 1 peck	2 pints..... " 1 quart	60 minutes..... " 1 hour
4 pecks (pk.) " 1 bushel	4 quarts..... " 1 gallon	24 hours..... " 1 day
36 bushels (bu.) " 1 chaldron (ch.)	3 1/2 gallons..... " 1 barrel	7 days..... " 1 week
	2 bbl. or 63 gals. " 1 hogshead (hhd)	365 days..... " 1 common year
		366 days..... " 1 leap year
		100 years..... " 1 century

MISCELLANEOUS DENOMINATIONS	
12 units..... make 1 dozen	196 lbs. make 1 bbl. of flour
12 dozen..... " 1 gross	200 lbs. " 1 bbl. of beef, pork or fish
12 gross..... " 1 great gross	280 lbs. " 1 bbl. of salt at the N. Y. State Salt Works
20 units..... " 1 score	32 lbs. " 1 bushel of oats
56 lbs. " 1 firkin of butter	48 lbs. " 1 bushel of barley
100 lbs. " 1 quintal dried salt fish	56 lbs. " 1 bushel of corn or rye
100 lbs. " 1 cask of raisins	60 lbs. " 1 bushel of wheat



A Trump View of the World?

Photo Corner



A Patio Surprise
KH



Very Busy Squirrel at Fairlands Lake



Zambia

The leopard was sitting there at the place we were going to stop for sundowners – guess what - we moved on!
from Judy H

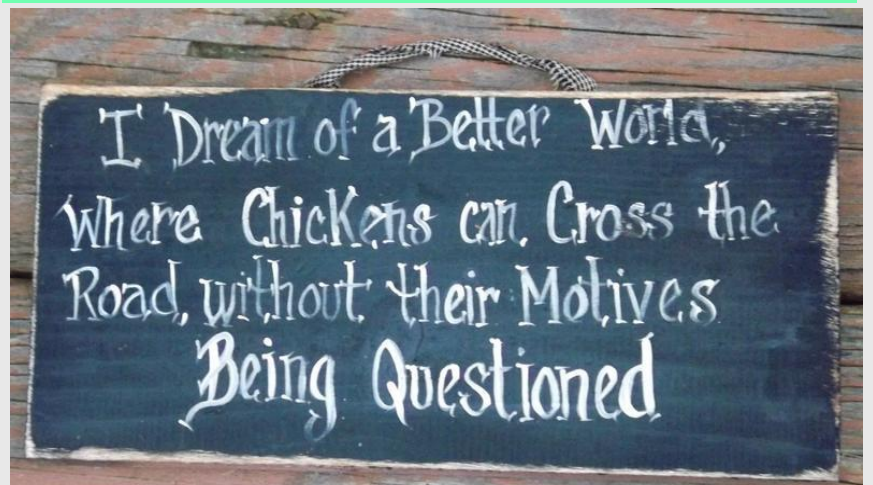


Washing hung out to dry in New Zealand
Not for taking!!

Jan N



Another friendly Zambian animal
Captured by Judy H





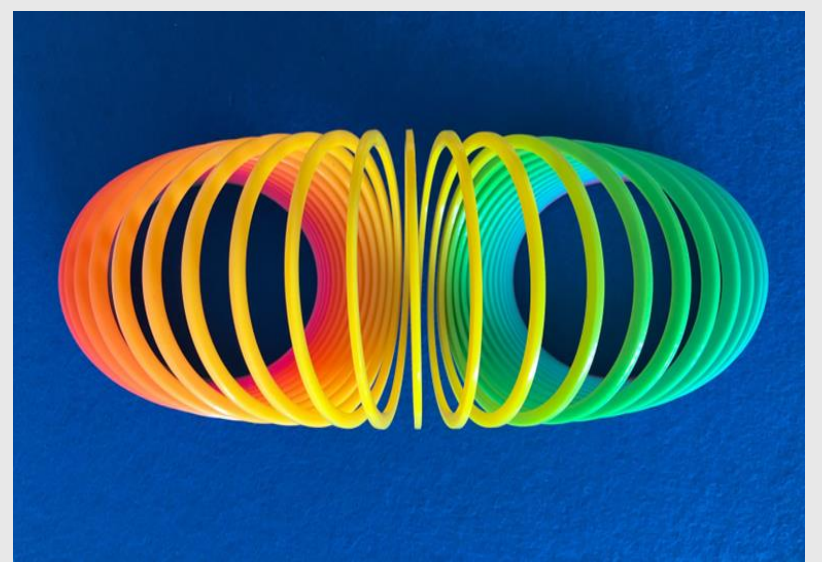
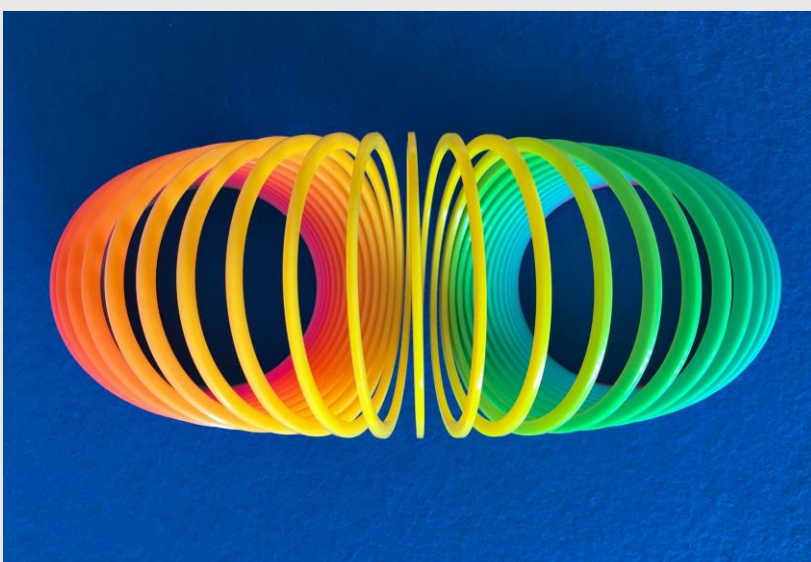
Oakham's signal box is not only a recognisable local landmark, but was the prototype for the signal box in Airfix plastic model kits, making it nationally famous!



A New addition to Hitchin to be found in the Arcade leading on to market square



Spring is here!!
The evidence is shared with us.
Thanks to the Photography Group



Forth Coming Events

Summer Social on 21st July 2.15pm to 4.00pm

To be held at Christchurch

It will be an afternoon of Music – Games – Convivial Chat

Free Tea and Coffee

Can you please bring cakes to share

Please let Alisa know on: alisa.eldervass@googlemail.com, what cakes you will be contributing

September Lunch and Quiz 26th September 12.00pm to 2.00pm

To be held at Hitchin Town Hall

Christmas Social 8th December 2.00 to 4.00pm

Hitchin U3A presents

THE CHILTERN HILLBILLIES

Country & Western

At the Mountford Hall,

Hitchin Town Hall

on Monday 2 June 2025

- Doors Open at 7pm
- Music 7.30pm to 9pm incl a break
- Doors Close at 9.30pm prompt
- Entrance: £10 payable in cash at the door
- Bar service available, but payment by card only

Bring friends or family members and be prepared for some audience participation.

Our new Line Dancing Group may make a brief appearance. Not to be missed!

Please let Heidi Ebrahim know in advance so that we get an idea of numbers; email heidi_ebrahim@msn.com

or phone 07974 374106

River Cruising

River cruising is a fast-growing industry but still an undiscovered concept for many. Maybe those in the know are keeping it to themselves! Now there's a thought! Recently there was an opportunity to attend presentations and tours of ships which were docked in Budapest, to find out what each offered. Attendees rotated the ships for meals and overnight accommodation, giving a unique opportunity to experience the different ships and consider who they might appeal to.

Many U3A members are probably already familiar with ocean cruising and may have enjoyed a river cruise too. For those that haven't, there are some important differences between ocean and river cruises:

River cruise ships are much smaller than ocean liners, with many river cruise lines accommodating 100-200 passengers rather than the thousands of passengers some ocean cruise ships can accommodate. This means that river cruisers generally have a more intimate feel than ocean liners and will probably seem more spacious.

·River cruise ships can dock in the heart of a destination, meaning that boarding and disembarkation are quicker and easier, and passengers can step ashore and immediately start exploring the destination.

You're much less likely to feel seasick on the smooth and more sheltered waters of a river.

There are no 'sea days' on a river cruise and you are rarely far from shore, allowing you to take in the picturesque landscapes including pretty towns, villages and castles along the route.

Many river cruises include flights, meals, wifi and tips in the fare, making budgeting easier. Some will include drinks and excursions too so that you have very little to pay in addition to the initial outlay.

River cruise ships cover all the main rivers of Europe, including the Danube, Rhine, Rhone, Seine and Douro so Budapest, Vienna, Paris and Porto are just a few of the beautiful European cities you can visit.

If you have an interest in the concept of River Cruises, please contact:

Susan Downie (susandownie14@gmail.com)



Images from one of the River Cruisers



Answer to the Quiz

1. Cuba
2. The Avengers
3. Black and White £5.00 notes
4. Fidel Castro
5. Rolling Stones
6. Jamaica
7. Hugh Gaitskill
8. Please, Please, Me
9. Lawrence of Arabia
10. Jackie
11. Radio Caroline
12. G.P.O. Tower
13. Goldie the Eagle
14. Liverpool
15. Introduction of Blood Alcohol Limit
16. Indira Ghandi
17. Hovercraft
18. Sgt Pepper
19. Puppet on a String – Sandie Shaw
20. For refusing military draft to fight in Vietnam
21. A pulsar
22. Charles de Gaulle



If you have answered all the questions correctly without the help of Google then Cream Egg or Cream Eggs are your richly deserved prize(s). Please contact me. Dennis S

Herts and Beds Boomers in Praise of Boom Radio

We are a bunch of Herts/Beds Boomers,
Quite old but we don't wear bloomers,
We tune in religiously every day.
Booming now is the only way!

All Boom DJs are really great,
It's like listening to a much-loved mate,
Nicky, David Simon, Roger and Jane.
The music they play keeps us sane.

We love Phil Riley's "Choices"
All those celebrity voices
When we are in the bath or shower
We tune in to the "Easy Hour"

On Sundays from 6 to 8
For Paul Robey we can't be late
The songs requested are so divine
Better than the dearest wine.

The Beach Boys harmonies can't be beat
Like the Mama and Papa, what a treat!
But what makes a Boom Show
Any song by the Big "O"

Nina, Ella, Sinatra and Bing,
Now those guys they could really sing,
In nostalgia we love to wallow,
Current pop is so hollow

None of us ever frown,
When you play a song from Motown.
Our music memories cannot get rusty
Hearing Billy, Adam, Cilla and Dusty.

Some of us love hear the 80's hits.
These thrill us to bits
Spandau, Duran, REM, Soft Cell.
What a voice, Erasure's Andy Bell

Gladys Knight sang ... "You're the Best Thing
About Boom did she sing?
Many Generation "Z" are now tuning in
To get away from the rappers din

We are spreading the word
So, by more people Boom can be heard
Every song is a surprise.
Full marks to all the Boom guys

Janina k

A big thank you to everyone who contributed – it is very much appreciated