

Dear Members,

I would like to express my thanks to all Group Leaders, their helpers, the AV team and everyone who helps at the monthly Meeting. It recently came to my attention that one of our groups closed due to the Group Leader requesting help from its 20 members but no-one came forward. In addition to this, no members have come forward to fill the vacancies I mentioned in the September Newsletter.

I need to remind you that the u3a is an organisation run by its members for its members. Without volunteers coming forward to help run Ware u3a, it will just wither and die, so please think very hard if you can help. I do realise that not everyone is in a position to do so, but hopefully there are a few of our 1144 members (currently) who are in a position to come forward and offer their help, otherwise we will be up the proverbial creek without a paddle. Please do not wait for someone else to volunteer as that way no-one comes forward.

Let me recap the vacancies coming up from the next AGM:



To organise the Tea Rota at the monthly meeting, this involves buying the biscuits, for which you will be reimbursed and arranging for 4 members from the rota to make tea/coffee at the monthly meetings. This is not a committee post and could be shared by a couple of members.

To book the speakers for our monthly meetings. Penny, our current speaker secretary, has made it very easy for anyone to take on this role as she has booked next year's speakers. It also involves getting in touch with the speakers beforehand to check arrangements, meet and greet on the day of the monthly meeting, talking to the AV team to confirm their requirements, looking after them at the meeting and arranging payment by the Treasurer and sending our thanks afterwards.

Without these 2 vacancies being filled, the monthly meeting would be very different, if it exists at all.

Another vacancy which needs to be filled is that for welcoming new members, both at the monthly meetings and also to organise occasional Coffee mornings, when there are sufficient numbers to do so.



The final vacancy we are looking to fill at present is that of Vice Chair. Our current Vice Chair, Keith, is willing to stand as Chair when I step down. Ideally, it would be beneficial for our new Vice Chair to be comfortable using computers for example, to be a deputy to Sue, our web manager. Also, to stand in for the Chair, should the very occasional need arise.

I really would like to see Ware u3a continue to thrive and I am sure that you do too.

If you think that you can help, please drop me an e-mail to [chair@wareu3a.co.uk](mailto:chair@wareu3a.co.uk) and we can have a chat and I can put you in touch with the people you will be succeeding.

Best wishes,

*Pauline*

If you are the member who left their strip of raffle tickets on the table as you had to leave the last meeting early, could you get in touch on the e-mail above please.

## Renewals

It won't be long before you will be invited to renew your membership of Ware u3a. We hope you have enjoyed your membership of Ware u3a this year and want to continue with us into 2025. Keep a look out for an email (or letter, if you haven't provided us with an email address) from us in the next couple of weeks. It will give you details of the new, reduced membership fee for 2025 and all the information you need in order to make your payment.

*Anna Hardy*

Please don't jump the gun, we do not want any payment before 1st December.

## Art Appreciation

The group is now 30 strong. Our last outing in 2024 was to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, where we viewed the Lord Fairhaven bequest of flower paintings, as well as others in the permanent collection.



We also visited Paris 1924, a very interesting collection of paintings, sculptures, photos, videos and artifacts relating to the Paris Olympics, which took place in 1924.



*Vee Doran*

## Concert

### An Alpine Symphony

Concert on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025 at the Royal Festival Hall at 7:30pm

Programme:

**Tania León** Time to Time\*

**Grieg** Piano Concerto

**R Strauss** An Alpine Symphony

Cost: £50 includes, ticket, coach and gratuity

**Last date to book if ticket available 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025**



### Mahler's 5th

Concert on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at the RFH at 7:30pm

Programme:

**R Schumann** Piano Concerto

**Mahler** Symphony No. 5

Cost: £50 includes, ticket, coach and gratuity

**Last date to book if ticket available 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

Please contact Jeff Bergman via Pauline on [chair@wareu3a.co.uk](mailto:chair@wareu3a.co.uk)

Please note that seats can only be confirmed upon receipt of payment.

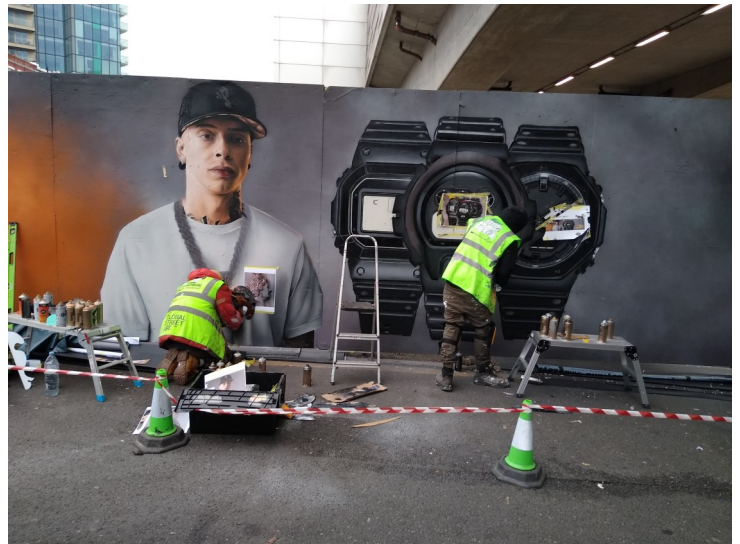
### Concert group leader

The current leader of the group is intending to stand down at the end of the 2024-25 season, after two years of organising the visits for the group.

To continue with the successful and enjoyable concerts that we have had, the U3A are hoping that a member would step forward and volunteer to join the current leader to eventually takeover the leadership of the group from June onwards.

## Exploring London 4

Exploring London Group 4 enjoyed a fascinating tour of Street Art on Thursday 7 November, with a huge variety including old and new Banksys, and all within a mile of Liverpool Street station! We saw the difference between graffiti and real street art, and by lucky coincidence even saw a new piece being created!



## Exploring London 6

On November 19th, 29 members of Ware u3a visited the historic Charterhouse in London for a fascinating guided tour. The Charterhouse, with its rich and varied history, offered the group an engaging journey through time, beginning with its founding as a Carthusian monastery in 1371. The monks lived in secluded devotion until the Dissolution of the Monasteries under Henry VIII, after which the site was repurposed.



In 1611, Thomas Sutton, a wealthy philanthropist, transformed the Charterhouse into an almshouse and schoolhouse. He established a foundation to care for elderly men and

since 2017 women, a tradition that continues to this day with the Charterhouse providing residence for a small community. The site's connection to education is also significant, as it once housed a prestigious school before it moved to Godalming, Surrey, in 1872.

During the tour, members explored the peaceful courtyards, the medieval chapel, and the Great Hall, learning about the lives of the



residents who have called the Charterhouse home over the centuries. A particularly poignant part of its history is its role during the 14th-century plague, where part of the grounds served as a burial site for victims of the Black Death.

The Charterhouse tour provided Ware u3a members with a deep appreciation of their building's layered past, from its monastic origins to its role in education and charitable work. The visit was both educational and enjoyable, offering a window into a lesser-known chapter of London's history





The elephant photo was taken in Spitalfields Market, before we went off to Charterhouse.

*Richard Johnson*

## **Making a Green Impact (MAGI)**

### **Christmas cheer for Isabel Hospice**

The year end meeting of the Making a Green Impact Group (MAGI) was an occasion with a difference. It featured a highly informative presentation by Madeleine Clark and Donovan Vickery of Isabel Hospice highlighting their commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This is particularly through their Tonnes of Care Initiative



As well as their charity shops across eastern Hertfordshire, Isabel Hospice now has clearance shops in Hoddesdon, Hatfield & Waltham Cross. These take items not sold in their other shops after four weeks and sell all for less than £5! Bric-a-Brac and Kilo Clothing Sales selling for £7 per kilo are also very popular. All unsold items are then sent to East London Textiles Limited which works with 80 charities to close the loop in the fashion life cycle by promoting recycling, repurposing and upcycling of textiles.

Following the talk, MAGI raised donations for Isabel Hospice through a sale of clothing and other merchandise kindly donated by the members. All unsold items were taken by Isabel Hospice to be sold in their shops and we are delighted to have donated 60 bags, raising 40 Nursing Hours for the Tonnes of Care Initiative.

*Ann Neuff, Gay Haskins, Marion Oliver and all MAGI members*

Thank you to all contributors to this edition of the newsletter. There will be no Newsletter in December, so the deadline for the next newsletter is 20th January 2025!