



Ware u3a Newsletter May 2025

Dear All

I hope you are all enjoying the weather we have been having. Nice to see some blue sky. There are some new members of the committee. New speaker secretaries are Ann and John Mizen and new members secretaries are Abi Anson and Mabel Dendonca. We wish them well in their new roles. We still have the post of Vice Chair vacant so if you are interested and would like to know more about the role then contact me at chair@wareu3a.co.uk

Our May speaker was Dr Charlie Haylock on the topic of The History of Spoken English Part 2.



Charlie showed us how the seeds of spoken English were first set. How each invading force affected the English language, and the different sounds they brought; from the Angles and Saxons to the Vikings and Normans.

How Shakespeare was really spoken . . . the effect of the Italian Renaissance on the English language . . . how England, by being an international trading nation, adopted words from across the globe.

Charlie included a dialect tour of the British Isles and further afield, and demonstrated the different facial expressions of each dialect . . . and how a deaf person he knows can tell what dialect a person has . . . just by lip reading.

Summer Party

On Tuesday 1st July we are having a Summer Party which will be held at The Glaxo Garden Room, Allenbury's Sports and Social Club, Harris Lane. It will be from 2-5 pm and free parking is available. We can move indoors if the weather is inclement. The cost will be £5 per person, with the rest subsidised by Wareu3a. It will be a buffet tea.



I am afraid that all available places have now been booked.

Upcoming talks

11th June 2025

1:45 pm

Monthly Meeting

Sheep Across London Bridge - Murray Craig

former Clerk of the Chamberlain's Court

9th July 2025

1:45 pm

Monthly Meeting

Tales from the Riverbank - Jo Laurie

All at Wodson Park

News from the groups.

Exploring London had a tour of the Houses of Parliament. Josh Dean MP for Ware met the group at the end of the guided tour, which was very brave of him choosing to meet 25 pensioners.



Rummikub

The group goes from strength to strength and the most recent meeting had the highest attendance yet. They meet on the second Tuesday each month at the Waterside Inn. If you require any information then please contact Ann and John Mizen.

Making a Green Impact.

This meets the third Friday every month at Allenburys Sport and Social Club. This month they had a talk about electric vehicles-what you need to know. This is very topical as petrol and diesel cars are being phased out but it is not as simple as it seems. The common questions are.

1. Charging an EV-How long does it take
2. EV Range- How far can you go
3. Are there any government grants
4. What is regenerative braking
5. Do tyres wear out faster
6. Road Tax-How much
7. Are EVs really greener
8. Is servicing an EV cheaper or not
9. Lifespan of an EV battery
10. Where can you buy online.

Answers

1. Cheaper if you install a fast charger at home otherwise commercial ones can be quite expensive
2. Ranges quoted are always optimistic and are quite dependant on how you drive and weather conditions
3. Most have been cancelled
4. In a regular car, energy is lost when slowing down, in EV some goes back to charge the battery
5. Yes they do as the car is heavier and you get instant torque
6. Between £10 and £195 depending on when the car was registered
7. Yes but battery production involves rare earth mineral production and can have a large manufacturing and transport footprint
8. Tends to be cheaper
9. Depends on usage and size, it is believed that after 10 years or 100,000 miles the range can drop significantly.
10. RAC lists the cheapest options but there are lots of options on the internet.

The Opera Appreciation Group

We went to see The Marriage of Figaro on 26 April streamed from the New York Met to the Queensgate Cineworld cinema in Harlow. We all enjoyed it immensely.

It is a comic opera by Mozart about a single chaotic day in a Spanish palace. Figaro, a servant, plans to marry his love, Susanna, but they have to outwit their employer, Count Almaviva, who wants Susanna for himself. Through clever schemes, disguises and misunderstandings, Figaro and Susanna expose the Count's infidelity and manage to get married, while the Count is publicly humbled and must beg for his wife's forgiveness.

Conductor Joana Mallwitz made her Met debut. Bass-baritones Michael Sumuel starred as Figaro, opposite soprano Olga Kulchynska as his betrothed, the wily maid Susanna.

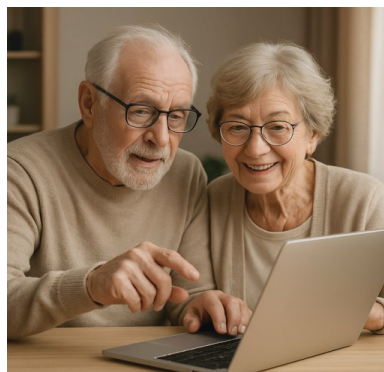
We are planning to see The Barber of Seville at Cineworld on 31 May, go on a tour of the ROH and there are a few other plans in the pipeline.

For those that are interested Verdi's La Traviata it is being performed at Holland Park, London from 19 July to 2 August. Bookings can be made via operahollandpark.com.

We next meet at 12.15 on 12 June at the Waterside Inn, Ware.

AI Artificial Intelligence

You will have heard over the last two years about the coming of Artificial Intelligence AI. There is even a u3a Network Link Summer Event on AI for members of the committee to attend on Zoom. Given that it is going to become a much larger part of our lives I thought I would try and explain a few things about it so that we are better informed.



What is AI?

Artificial Intelligence, commonly known as AI, refers to the simulation of human intelligence in machines that are designed to think and act like humans. These intelligent systems have the ability to perform tasks that typically require human intelligence such as visual perception, speech recognition, decision-making, and language translation.

Examples of AI in Everyday Life

AI is already making our lives easier in many ways. Here are a few examples:

- **Virtual Assistants:** Devices like Amazon's Alexa or Apple's Siri can answer questions, play music, and control smart home devices.
- **Recommendation Systems:** When you watch a show on Netflix or shop on Amazon, AI helps suggest other shows or products you might like based on your past choices.
- **Healthcare:** AI is used in medical imaging to help doctors diagnose diseases more accurately and quickly.
- **Transportation:** Self-driving cars use AI to navigate roads and traffic safely.

Addressing Common Concerns

It's natural to have concerns about new technologies. Here are some common worries about AI.

- **Job Loss, Privacy and Control.**

Conclusion

AI is a powerful tool that can greatly enhance our lives. By understanding the basics of AI, we can better appreciate the ways it helps us today and the potential it holds for the future. AI is here to stay and will continue to evolve and improve.

Remember, AI is not something to be feared but rather embraced as a part of our technological advancement. With proper use and regulation, it has the potential to bring about positive change in many areas of our lives.