



Ware u3a Newsletter July 2025

Dear Members,

We hope you're managing to stay cool during this warm spell. Despite the heat, we've had a very busy and enjoyable time in Ware—especially with our recent summer party. It was a great success, and we were grateful to have both indoor and outdoor areas available.

Please remember, there will be **no monthly meeting in August**. Our next gathering will be on **Wednesday, 10th September**, featuring the talk:

“The Highs and Lows of a Stuntwoman’s Life”

This event will be held at **Wodson Park** at the usual time.

Africa Group

A thank you from the members.

Our heartfelt thanks to Tony Dodds from the current members of the Ware u3a Africa Group.

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Tony, our dear friend and Group Leader. However, we are also very grateful for the time we have spent with him as he led our group through a wide-ranging exploration of the vast continent he loved so much. We started with Tony sharing his in-depth knowledge and experience of the many countries he and his family had lived in, frequently through turbulent times.

As our group matured (in all senses of the word), we would agree on topics we wished to explore further and our discussions and debates were always very lively with Tony continuing to contribute his wisdom and perspective. He had been particularly extraordinary these past months, joining our Group meetings by Zoom, and being fully engaged when receiving visitors at Westgate. He kept us on our toes to the end even suggesting a few interesting topics for us to pursue as we move the Group forward.

We, Tony’s Africanists, owe him a debt of gratitude for bringing us together and for sharing his unwavering passion for Africa. A wonderful gentleman and a great champion against injustice.

Heartfelt thanks and much love."

Free Safety Door Stickers for Older People



Able Community Care is offering free door stickers to help safeguard against unwanted callers. These stickers are designed for older individuals living alone. If you're interested, simply email info@ablecommunitycare.com. They respect your privacy and do not store or share personal information. Please note: **Ware u3a is not affiliated with Able Community Care**, and participation is entirely up to individual members.

Creative Writing Group

On **16th June**, **Zara** hosted a delightful afternoon in her garden for the Creative Writing Group. The weather was lovely, and members shared original stories and poems—ranging from fact to fantasy.

They ended the session with **tea on the lawn**, enjoying Zara's delicious **homemade lemon sponge** and other baked treats. A perfect summer gathering!



Craft Group Update



The Craft Group had a blast recently creating vibrant, **exotic flowers using chenille pipe cleaners**. We're not quite sure what we'll do with them next, but they certainly added colour and cheer to our day!

Diana Perkins for the Craft Group.

Monthly Meeting – July 9th: Tales from the Riverbank

We enjoyed a fascinating talk by **Jo Laurie** about her summer 2019 journey walking from the **source of the Thames to the Thames Barrier**.

Along the way, she highlighted historic buildings and curious traditions, such as a spot used by **Eton College students** for swimming—known as *Athens*—where boys would hide or stay submerged when boats carrying women passed by, reflecting the social norms of Victorian England.

One particularly quirky fact: the **HMS Belfast's guns** are pointed at **London Gateway (formerly Scratchwood services on the M1)**—not as a threat, but to demonstrate the ship's firing range!

Summer Party Highlights

A heartfelt thank you to all who attended our **Garden Party on 1st July**. Though the heat may have kept some away, those who joined us had a wonderful time—and we've received some fantastic feedback.

Special thanks go to **Marilyn** for her hard work in organizing the event, and to the talented **pianist**, whose music was thoroughly enjoyed.

Thankfully, we had plenty of indoor space and shaded outdoor areas, which made the heatwave—the hottest day of the year—more manageable. The **Glaxo Sports and Social Club** proved to be an excellent venue with extremely helpful staff.

We're sorry to those we were unable to accommodate. Your support is always appreciated.

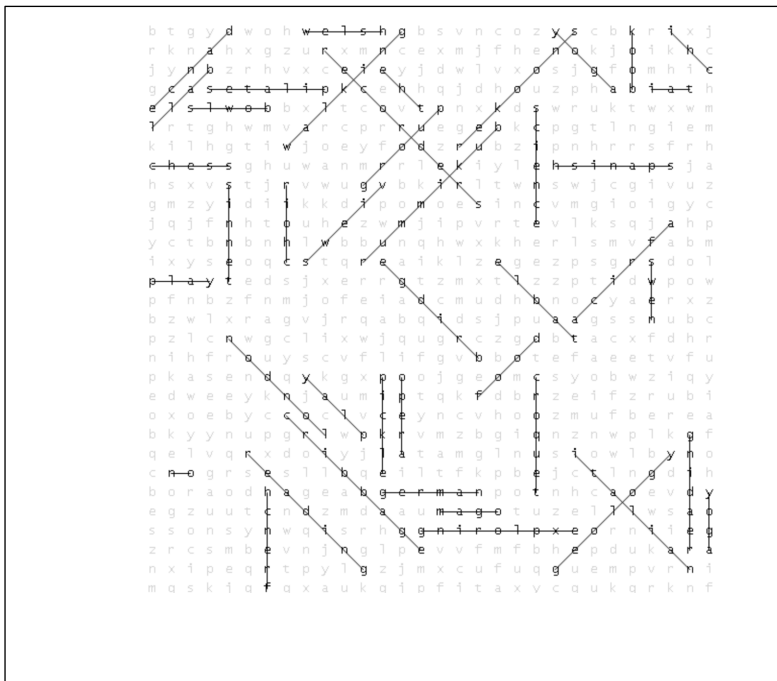
Member Feedback:

“It was a lovely afternoon. The food was amazing, the bar was handy, and the music beautifully played. My thanks to everyone involved.” – *Nikki*

“Thank you for a lovely afternoon. My husband and I had a great time and even made some new friends. A big thank you to all who organised it.” – *Cheryl*



Answers to June word search



We wish everyone a restful and joyful August. See you in September!

Yours,

Keith

chair@ware3a.co.uk