

The Carry On Edition



At the October monthly meeting, we enjoyed an engaging talk by Steve Dimmer on the history of the Carry On films. The franchise produced 31 films, at times releasing two per year—one in the spring and another in the autumn. According to Steve, the quality of these films varied, with the later ones not being as good. The cast featured some of the UK's most renowned actors of the time. Kenneth Williams appeared in 26 films, while Sid James, who often had a lead role, starred in 19. Joan Sims was the female actress with the most appearances, with a total of 24. The humour of Carry On was rooted in the British comic tradition of music hall and bawdy seaside postcards. Jim Dale, the only surviving member of the original cast, turned 90 in August. The talk was very entertaining and enjoyed by all, even those who do not particularly like the genre. We hope to invite Steve again for another of his talks.

Having enjoyed the presentation the Chair was moved to propose a 32nd film called

Carry On Volunteering



**Starring the
Ware u3a
membership**

The new blockbuster to be premiered in Arew.

In the small town of Arew in East Hertfordshire, a group of retired and semi-retired individuals engage in various events and specialised groups. The group is led by an enthusiastic football supporter who recently moved to the town. Recognising the group's success, he sees potential for improvement by encouraging more members to volunteer. Understanding that some members are unable to volunteer due to their circumstances, he targets the rest. A questionnaire is distributed, but with only about a tenth of the membership responding, the results show a desire for more groups, although many respondents are unwilling to lead one. Despite this challenge, Super Chair remains undeterred and seeks ways to make slight improvements. As a completely volunteer-run organisation, monetary considerations are irrelevant, so he devises a clever plan to simply ask people to volunteer their time. Echoing JFK's famous words, he says, "Ask not what the u3a can do for you, but what you can do for your u3a."

The film concludes with a waiting list for committee membership and the formation of several new groups. While it would be ideal for the film to be set in the present, it will likely need to be set in the future.

CONCERT GROUP

JANUARY CONCERT DETAILS

Date: 18th January 2026

Venue: Barbican

Start time: 7pm

Conductor: Sir Simon Rattle and the London Symphony Orchestra

Violin: Patricia Kopatchinskaja

Mezzo-soprano: Rinat Shaham

Repertoire:

Bartok: Violin Concerto No2

Bartok: Five Hungarian Folksongs for voice and orchestra

Manuel de Falla: The Three-cornered Hat-Ballet

Pick up points:

Bengeo: New Road, by Holy Trinity church: 4pm

Hertford: Ware Road, Saracens Head: 4.10pm

Ware: Bus stop opposite Ware College: 4.25pm

Cost: £60 including tickets, coach and gratuity for the driver.

Please contact the Chair for a booking form—last date for booking 1st December if tickets remain.

Exploring London

Exploring London 8 discovered Hidden London with Jonathan, he was the perfect guide, extremely knowledgeable, witty and gave us an insight of London over the years from the Monument to St Paul's. Thank you Jim and Jo for organising.



Cars Ancient and Modern

This new group in the Hertford and Ware area has just enjoyed its first club activity session.

The group's organisers arranged a Members' Car Run on Tuesday 21 October and 5 cars (each with their owner/driver and a navigator) gathered at The Goat, Hertford Heath at 10.30 a.m. and were each issued with a route plan (although one which required the interpretation of instructions set out in symbols).

The event was designed to offer participants a leisurely and enjoyable drive through the picturesque and unspoiled countryside and villages north of Ware, including Dane End, Great Munden, and Nasty. The emphasis was on a relaxed pace, with no racing allowed, and full consideration for the residents of the peaceful villages along the route. The journey took us through delightful wooded areas and serene villages, and once on the open road, we encountered only a few other members' cars before regrouping at The Goat. We relished the fresh country air and were fortunate to have sunny and clear weather throughout.

Martin Evans

Below is Mick O'Blath's experience of the Car Run

The drive was expected to take about an hour, and this was achieved. At The Goat, ten members enjoyed a delicious lunch, cooked to order, and all agreed that it was a great start for the new group. We look forward to more events like this in the future!

I participated in the drive as a navigator for Colin Dye. Colin and his wife are members of my Walking Group, known as Ware Walkers. The first car to set off was a BMW 3 Series, and we followed about five minutes later after quickly reviewing the instructions. The route was straightforward: from The Goat to Rush Green, onto the A10 Northbound, then left onto the A602, and right onto the new bypass to Dane End. We followed the signs for Great Munden and Nasty, and between the fourth and sixth signs, we saw the BMW twice coming towards us. We consulted the O.S. map and, using the Nasty clue, found our way to Westmill and the A10. We turned right and returned to Rush Green and back to The Goat. We were the first to return, but others soon followed. The BMW arrived after I had left, as I did not stay for lunch. It was an enjoyable first attempt in pleasant weather.

The Craft Group

The Craft Group will be providing items for sale - general and Christmas at the November meeting.

Items will be of variable price from 50p up to £s - cash only! They will include lots of cards for all occasions, Christmas decorations and two hand crochet blankets.

Everything is being sold in aid of Ware in Bloom, Ware Museum and Southern Maltings.

Geology Group

Geology group has vacancies, no prior knowledge required. Contact Diana Perkins via ware u3a website.

Simply Fit

Simply Fit Thursday class has vacancies. Interested parties should contact Annette O'Neill about classes.

Please see Ware u3a website for further information.

DO YOU ENJOY DANCING? COME AND JOIN US!

On Wednesday morning we have a fun dance class at Wodson Park and have space for some more members who enjoy exercising to music! The session is an hour and a quarter with a warm up and cool down and a fun dance to learn in the middle. We learn a routine to songs that get your feet just wanting to start dancing - it's low impact so no pressure on our joints but amazing fun. Come and try it out! You can just turn up but it would be good if you could let me know so that I can look out for you?

Contact Lesley Carter 07973 126126

Bridge Group

Bridge group is a Hertfordshire u3a group who meet at Place House, Ware every Tuesday afternoon. There are vacancies at present. Some knowledge of card games if not bridge would be an advantage.

If you are interested in joining please contact Roger Celia on 01992 589538 or r.celia1@outlook.com

Future Monthly Meetings

12th November 2025

Monthly Meeting

[Women Codebreakers of World War II - Mike Barbakoff](#)

10th December 2025

1:45 pm

Monthly Meeting

[Christmas Music through the Ages - Lynn Willson](#)

14th January 2026

1:45 pm

Monthly Meeting

[A Solo Walk Across Africa - Fran Sandman](#)

Yours,

Keith

