



Chairman's Monthly Letter – July 2026

Dear Member

120 members attended this month's talk by Jeff Rozelaar about Ruth Ellis, the last woman to be hanged in Britain. Jeff re-enacted some of the scenes at the Old Bailey which led to Ruth Ellis's conviction; it was quite an emotional experience for members as the sequence of events unfolded, both in relation to the abuse she had suffered and the manner of the trial and imprisonment. Members were left with the question of what we might have done had we been members of the jury when the trial took place at the Old Bailey. A very original and different talk, with the issues raising questions of significant relevance today.

Last Month's events

Two events which I would like to highlight from June. Belinda told me about all the events which had taken place on the holiday to Harrogate. The members who went on the holiday clearly had a really enjoyable time as this picture demonstrates. Members took part in a courtroom drama at Ripon Courthouse, where members played out the different roles in relation to a real event from the past.

On a different note, It was a real pleasure to arrange a coffee morning to meet some members who have recently joined Wendover u3a. It never ceases to amaze me about the wide range of experiences which members bring to our u3a. A warm welcome to all who have recently joined and I hope you gain a huge amount from your membership.



Group Activities

Rail Rovers

Martin Elwood has now decided on the next Rail Rovers trip to Ffestiniog Railway from Milton Keynes on Saturday 12 September. The rail journey is along the coast of Wales to Portmadog, to join the narrow-gauge railway on its journey into the mountains and slate quarries of the Eryri (Snowdonia) National Park. Let Martin know on mellwood4@btinternet.com if you are interested in joining the trip which is open to all members. The cost is approximately £55 with railcards.

Bridge Beginners

The Bridge Beginners group, that started earlier in the year, now have some understanding of the game and would like to encourage more players to join them. The group would therefore like to invite anyone with a basic knowledge of the game (bidding & play) to contact the convenor francis@thetempletons.me.uk if they are able to play, overseen by an experienced Bridge player, on a Thursday morning in Wendover. To reflect this, the group will be changing its name to "Bridge - Developing Bidding Skills".

Theatre Group

The following trips are planned for the later part of the year, all at the Waterside Theatre in Aylesbury:-

The Choir of Man 3 September at 7.30pm cost £37

The Mousetrap on 11 November at 2.30 pm cost £21.50

Boyzlife (Boyzone and Westlife members) on 22 November at 7.30pm cost £43.00

The Archers @ 75 on 24 November Circle - 2 tickets only

Contact Wendy Shute on wendyshute@yahoo.co.uk if you would like to go to one or more of these shows.

Dates for your diary.

Saturday 3 October 2026

Members asked if the concert which was held last year could be repeated. The Folk, Guitar and Ukulele Groups have agreed to hold another concert on Saturday 3 October from 2.00pm until 4.30pm at St Annes Hall. Tickets will be available at the August and September main meetings. The event is free, but the groups have suggested a collection for a charity at the end of the concert.

Wednesday 2 September 2026

Once again, we are holding an Open Day for members of the public to learn about what we do and for members to meet up and show what Groups have been doing. Last year over 200 people attended (both members and local residents interested in Wendover u3a) and 20+ groups have taken tables to demonstrate what they do. I do hope that you have this date in your diary. Do come along and support our groups and, if you know anyone who might be interested in Wendover u3a, do invite them to come. Tea and coffee will be available, and we have publicised the event in Wendover News and on local notice boards.

Your committee

Rose Robinson who has been the welcoming face to so many new members has decided to step down as membership secretary. Rose has done so much for Wendover u3a and she will be very much missed. In the interim and until the AGM in November, I will be acting membership secretary, so do refer any queries about membership to me.

In relation to the Committee, several members are standing down after giving many years to supporting Wendover u3a. There will be vacancies for a Membership Secretary, for a Speaker Secretary and for a Social Secretary and, of course, the Group Co-ordinator role has been vacant all year. I will also retire having completed my 3-year term as your Chairman.

I do hope that all members will consider whether they might be willing to be appointed to the committee, including some positions with no specific role but able to assist with advice and help as needed. Please have a word with me or any committee member if you want to find out more (without any obligation). It is important to have a functional committee if Wendover u3a is to be effective.

Next Main Meeting

Our next main meeting will be at 10.00am on Wednesday 5 August when Neil Hanson will be talking about "Inn and Out at the Top".

I look forward to seeing you next month and, in the meantime, I hope you are all able to safe and cool as the third heatwave of the summer arrives.

Best wishes to you all.



6 July 2026