

Speakers for Weston Turville u3a General Meetings April 2026 – June 2026

23 April 2026 – Rugby Club

***Where do Novelists get their ideas from – A Beginning, a Muddle; and an End
– Bobbie Darbyshire***

In an entertaining, informative talk, Bobbie Darbyshire will explain how the complex world of character, location, plot and subplot arrives in a writer's mind. Winner of the 2008 fiction prize at the National Academy of Writing and the New Delta Review Creative Non-fiction Prize 2010, Bobbie is author of five novels. She has also worked as a barmaid, mushroom picker, film extra, maths coach, cabinet minister's private secretary, care assistant and volunteer adult-literacy teach, as well as in social research and government policy.

28 May 2026 – Rugby Club

Royal Jubilees–George III, Victoria, George V and Elizabeth II – Sarah Slater

A talk about the origins of celebrating the Royal Jubilee, the pomp and pageantry but also the role that Hampton Court Palace played within the celebrations of the four monarchs.

18 June 2026 (moved from 25 June) – Rugby Club

***Andrew Carnegie – The World's Richest Man – Rags to riches to giving it all
away – Jeremy Holmes***

Andrew Carnegie came from a slum in Dunfermline, Scotland, made his fortune in America as a ruthless steel magnate, then at the start of the 20th century gave it all away by setting up philanthropic foundations all over the world. In his day he was worth more than Bill Gates and earned so much that he couldn't give it away fast enough. This talk illustrates his rise, his motivations and his unique personal story, in the context of the dramatic industrialisation of America. The speaker was a trustee of the Carnegie UK Trust for many years.

23 July 2026 – Rugby Club

Summer lunch and entertainment (No Speaker)

27 August 2026 – Rugby Club

AGM + Blessed are the cheesemakers – with tasting! – John Pearson

John Pearson has spent all his working life in the Food Industry, primarily with Marks & Spencer. He is an international cheese judge having travelled throughout Europe visiting dairies selecting dairy products for M & S. In this talk he describes some amusing anecdotes about encounters with suppliers, impossible customers and will conclude with a short, tutored CHEESE-TASTING

24 September 2026 – Rugby Club

The Beatles- their story Part 1 – Beatlemania! – Martin Orkin

A fascinating talk about the early years of The Beatles and how they got started on the road to amazing success! Martin Orkin will discuss the group, who made so many fantastic recordings during the era of Beatlemania: 'Love Me Do', 'She Loves You', 'I Want To Hold Your Hand', 'A Hard Day's Night', 'Help!', 'Day Tripper' and 'We Can Work It Out'. We will hear snippets of each of these great records and many more, as Martin tells their story.

22 October 2026 – Rugby Club

How we remember and why we forget – Jim Ellis

How do we comprehend, remember and retrieve information, and do we all do this in the same way? Jim explains and demonstrates this with various examples and dispels some common myths about the brain and memory. He also encourages some audience participation – but only if people are comfortable doing so.

26 November 2026 – Rugby Club

TBC

TBC.

24 December 2026– NO MEETING