



## Speakers for Weston Turville u3a General Meetings August to November 2021

### 26 August 2021 – Rugby Club

#### ***Hughenden and Benjamin Disraeli – the most unlikely Prime Minister – Bernie Knill***

Bernie works for the National Trust. His talk is about Benjamin Disraeli; Victorian Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer, author, friend of Queen Victoria and Hughenden's most famous resident.

The talk will focus on the character and achievements of Disraeli, as well as the mark he left on Hughenden, which is now in the care of the National Trust.

### 23 September 2021 – Rugby Club

#### ***A is for Arsenic – Dr Kathryn Harkup***

Kathryn is a chemist and author. She completed a doctorate on her favourite chemicals, phosphines, and went on to further postdoctoral research before realising that talking, writing and demonstrating science appealed a bit more than hours slaving over a hot fume-hood. She writes and gives regular public talks on the disgusting and dangerous side of science.

Kathryn's first book was the international best-seller *A is for Arsenic: The Poisons of Agatha Christie*, which was shortlisted for a Mystery Readers International Macavity Award and a BMA Book Award.

Her talk is an exploration of the poisons used by the Queen of Crime, Dame Agatha Christie, in her bestselling detective stories. This talk looks at how the writer used her extensive knowledge of drugs and medicines mixed with real life cases to create her brilliantly plotted crime novels. We will look at *howdunnit* but *whodunnit* is for you to find out.

## **28 October 2021– Rugby Club**

### ***40 Years Bomb Disposal – Still 10 Fingers – Ian Jones***

Ian Jones has spent 40 years involved with bomb disposal operations. His first Explosives Ordnance Disposal (EOD) tour of duty was as a corporal in Northern Ireland in 1974. He then gained a commission, returned to the Province in 1982 and, as a captain, was responsible for all bomb disposal operations in Belfast. In 1992, as a major, he was Officer Commanding 321 Company RAOC, responsible for all bomb disposal operations in the whole Province. This was followed by a year in an intelligence post gathering information on improvised explosive devices worldwide. He left the Army in 1994 and joined the Counter Terrorist Command of the Metropolitan Police where he served as an Explosives Officer dealing with all incidents involving explosives in London. He answered over 2000 calls for assistance in the following 18 years before retiring after the London Olympics.

He has written two books: 'Malice Aforethought – The History of the Booby Trap' and 'London – Bombed Blitzed and Blown Up' a history of the bombing of the capital from 1867 to 2007. He is a keen military historian and for many years was a member of the Durand Group that open and explore WW1 tunnels. He is an enthusiastic shooter of old military rifles and, much to his wife's displeasure, collects antique ammunition.

## **25 November 2021 – Rugby Club**

### ***Curiosities in the Cotswolds – Alan Copeland***

Prior to taking early retirement in 1998, Alan was employed within the Financial Services industry selling endowment mortgages, with profits pension policies and investment bonds – enough said!

He is a keen photographer and gained his Licentiateship of the Royal Photographic Society (LRPS) in October 2002. For long and dedicated service to Camera Clubs, he was recently privileged to receive the APAGB, awarded by the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain.

This talk is a gentle, laid back tour of the Cotswolds villages looking at the odd, unusual and bizarre aspects of village life in addition to admiring the beauty of the warm Cotswold stone cottages.

Part One guides us round the North Cotswolds starting at the most well-known popular village, Bourton-on-the-Water and moving gently around the area

including Adlestrop, Stow-on-the-Wold, Chipping Norton, Stanway, Winchcombe and Blockley before ending with a relaxed, lingering view of Lower Slaughter.

Part Two takes us around the South Cotswolds starting at the area around Northleach and proceeding south-west through Fairford, South Cerney, Painswick and Bisley down to Wootton-under-Edge and Hawkesbury before returning to the ever-popular Bibury and Arlington Row for a final look at the beauty which is The Cotswolds.