



Speakers for Weston Turville u3a General Meetings June to November 2021

24 June 2021 – via Zoom

Gardens for Us and Them – Dr Ian Bedford

Despite many worrying facts about Global Warming and Climate Change affecting ecosystems and biodiversity, almost 35% of Britain's land mass is being protected from development within National Parks and Nature Reserves. Many projects are also underway to try and connect these protected areas so that their wildlife doesn't suffer through geographic isolation.

Home gardens can all become valuable stepping stones for our wildlife in the quest to connect the natural reserves. This talk explains some of the very easy things we can all do to help achieve this, for us and the future generations of not only our population but those of Britain's wildlife.

Ian Bedford says:

I have been fascinated by insects and other invertebrates for most of my life.

Starting out as an Amateur Entomologist, studying and conserving butterflies on the South Downs, I went on to pursue a professional career as an entomologist. For over 42 years I undertook plant science research at the John Innes Centre (one of the UK's leading research centres), where I became Head of the Entomology Department. Retiring from my life as a Research Entomologist, I now continue with my love of entomology through a wide range of public engagement activities.

I'm also often called upon by the media to speak about topical bug issues and have appeared on popular TV shows such as Gardeners' World, Inside Out, Tonight, Horizon, BBC Breakfast, the A to Z of TV Gardening, The Great British Garden Revival and even Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule show on ITV. I've also featured on BBC Gardeners Question Time.

22 July 2021 – Rugby Club (subject to Government restrictions being lifted)

Social Meeting with entertainment – No Speaker

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 Licentiatehip 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.