

Speakers for Weston Turville u3a General Meetings June 2024 – April 2025

27 June 2024

The Sea Route to India – Fran Sandham

The extraordinary story of how the 15th century Portuguese explorers braved everything, from natural disasters to superstitious dread, in order to discover a sea route around Africa, to reach the rich spice markets of the East. How their journeys were originally inspired not so much by commerce but by the quest to find the mythical Christian emperor Prester John.

25 July 2024

Social Event – Summer Lunch and entertainment from Folk, Blues and Beyond group– no speaker

22 August 2024

Utterly Immoral – Robert Keable and his scandalous novel – Simon Keable-Elliott

Robert Keable was a Chaplain in WW1, who after the war wrote a novel called "Simon Called Peter", which shone a light on life behind the front lines during the war. The central story centred on an affair between a chaplain and a nurse. The book was considered to be so "utterly immoral" by F Scott Fitzgerald, that he mocked it in The Great Gatsby. It became a huge international bestseller and despite being banned in parts of America, it went on to spawn a Broadway play and the sequel became a Hollywood movie. The author's life was truly extraordinary. As a child he was an evangelical preacher. He won a scholarship to Cambridge, became a priest, worked in Zanzibar as a missionary and wrote devotional books. He left the church after a year as a teacher and an affair with a lorry driver; fled to live in Tahiti and 'married' a Tahitian princess.

26 September 2024

A journey through Rock'n'Roll sound – John Wilsford

His book is an autobiography of his life on the road and with the bands, musicians and celebrities he met along the way and what it was like working with them. It traces his 30 years from 1965 to 1995 working as a roadie, sound engineer, tour manager and production manager. It tells what happens on stage, off-stage, back-stage, at sound checks and rehearsals, on the tour bus and in the hotels. He will tell what really happens on those live television shows and in the recording studios. The road crews, stage crews and people he has met along the way and the liggers he wishes he hadn't!

24 October 2024

The wicked history of Covent Garden – Colin Oakes

Although now famous as a rather trendy shopping and tourist area, Covent Garden in its residential and Market past was far from safe. The talk looks at the many Criminal and shady aspects of the areas past. We will look at Mr Harris's book of the ladies of the area and the attempts at keeping down the "Dodges" we will look at in some detail.

28 November 2024

Christmas Swing and Carol Concert – Richard Stark

Richard's musical background began with playing the Cello as well as Guitar in a rock band and he then trained at Trinity College of Music and Morley Opera in London

He has performed hundreds of times, and his repertoire includes Opera, Musical Theatre, Rat Pack/Swing, International Folk and Popular songs from the 1920s to the 2010s.

Richard also sings in Operas and Concerts in the UK, USA as well as being an established Recording Artist, having sold over 25000 albums independently. His music has been taken to Australia, Nepal, USA, Canada and all over Europ

26 December 2024

No meeting

2025

23 January 2025 – Rugby Club

The questionable history of the TV Quiz Show – Jeff Evans

One of television's most successful creations is the quiz show – the programme where everyone can show how clever they are and possibly earn a small fortune in the process. But where did it all begin? Which shows have been the most successful? And who, along the way, have been the winners, losers and – perhaps most intriguingly – the cheaters?

This fully illustrated, entertaining talk covers the whole colourful history of the TV quiz show from its earliest days in the 1930s to today, showing how the format developed, celebrating the good, the bad and the ugly, and unearthing some very dodgy dealing along the way. Expect lots of warm memories, plenty of surprises and lots of 'I didn't know that' moments in this 60-minute talk delivered by TV historian Jeff Evans, who also writes questions for several TV quiz shows, including Mastermind.

27 February 2025 – Rugby Club

Good News: Bad News – Bill Hamilton

We hear about Bill's illustrated reflections on 50 years as a journalist, broadcaster and BBC tv correspondent. Born in Dundee, Bill began work as a trainee reporter on the Fife Herald before moving to the Hartlepool Mail and then to Tyne Tees Television.

His career with BBC television news began in Glasgow, before moving to London where he spent time as a Home Affairs correspondent and later as a Foreign Affairs correspondent, featuring regularly on national news bulletins.

27 March 2025 – Rugby Club

The Kennedy's – Saint or Sinners – Peter Hague

Much has been written about the Kennedy clan (especially JFK & Jackie). This talk aims to highlight the influence that their father (Joe Sr) and to a lesser extent, their mother Rose had on the Kennedy boys and girls. Was there a curse on them – you can decide!

24 April 2025 – Rugby Club

Fine Art Photographer – The History and Future of Piers – Janine Kilroe

Janine, a Fine Art Photographer, is passionate about capturing photographically and aerial filming “her” piers. The part they play in our history and what is to become of them. Illustrated throughout with historical as well as Janine’s own images and films.