

Speakers for Weston Turville u3a General Meetings March – November 2024

28 March 2024

Passports, Assassins, Traitors & Spies – Martin Lloyd

Thrill to stories of how three passports have played their influential role in the course of history; an attempted assassination which altered the regulations for issuing passports; the capture of a spy which caused a worldwide modification to the design of the document and for one person the passport itself which turned into a killer.

25 April 2024

The Island of Crabs – John Tyler

Christmas Island, a remote speck in the Indian Ocean beyond Java, has for millions of years remained out of reach for most mammals. Instead, it is dominated by a vast number and variety of crabs, which rule virtually every habitat on the island. This talk looks at the crabs and other wildlife of Christmas Island, many of which are found nowhere else, and follows the spectacular annual migration of crabs from the forests down to the sea.

23 May 2024

AGM + Jenner and his vaccine – Steve Bacon

Steve is a retired Primary School teacher, whose initial specialism was science, however, he has for many years developed a passion for history. The story of the development of vaccination is more complicated than you may think. He explains how Jenner developed the technique and how he got it accepted by society.

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 – 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 entertainment (tbc) – With mulled wine and mince pies

26 December 2024

No meeting