



Speakers for Weston Turville u3a General Meetings October 2021 to January 2022

28 October 2021– Rugby Club

“From Guns and Roses to Hearts and Flowers” – Kate Jones

The talk is about how I went from being an army officer – and, by definition, a trained killer – to a writer of romantic fiction

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Kate went to one, all-girls' school from 4–18 and left to join the army where the ratio of men to women (500:1) was much more satisfactory. In the next few years, she met her husband, moved countless times, and discovered extreme sports. When, after eight years of marriage, she fell pregnant and had to give her job up, she produced three children in four-and-a-half years and wrote a book taking the micky out of being an army wife. Luckily even the army liked the book, so her husband kept his job until he decided that 17 moves were more than enough and it was time to stop.

Kate now writes romantic novels (she has had 22 published), lives in her own home in Oxfordshire where she has put down roots, got to know her neighbours and looks after her cats, kids and husband (not listed in any order of priority) as well as working for the Romantic Novelists' Association. She was chairman of the RNA from 2007–2009 and captained the RNA's team in University Challenge – The Professionals in 2005.

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 Licentiate 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.

23 December 2021 – NO MEETING

27 January 2022 – Rugby Club

You've Never Had it so Good! – Paul Robbins

From his Step back in Time series – “You’ve Never Had it so Good!” is a nostalgic look back at society, culture, news, and music from the wonderful golden decade that was the 1950’s. Do you remember white £5 notes, rationing, trams, the festival of Britain, smog, and the third man film? If so, then this is the talk to bring back so many memories!

If you are too young to remember British Pathe News, Muffin the Mule, Ford Anglia cars or the wooden tops, then this very popular talk will explain much more about British society and how it changed so much in this decade. It will also explain how even to this day, the changes that took place in the 1950’s still have a very big impact on Britain today.

Was this really a decade where life for ordinary people improved? Did people have better housing, health, and more money than they had ever had before? Was life really that much better than only a decade before? Finally, be prepared to roll back the carpets and be ready to dance to the music of this Golden era!