

Speakers for Weston Turville u3a General Meetings October 2022 – November 2023

27 October 2022 – Rugby Club

The RNLI “it’s not all at sea” – Colin Brown

The presentation explains how the modern RNLI continues to provide the world’s finest marine rescue service entirely funded by voluntary contribution and predominantly using volunteer crew. The PowerPoint presentation includes short video clips, pictures, and sound to ensure you obtain the very best understanding of RNLI operations, equipment and training reinforced with stories of real rescues.

24 November 2022 – Rugby Club

***‘Secrets, Sex, Scandal and Salacious Gossip of the Royal Court, 1660 to 1830’
– Sarah Slater***

Sarah delivers this talk in one of her beautiful costumes and talks about all the naughty bits of history you would probably not have learnt about at school! She discusses royal mistresses, prostitution, sexual diseases of the time and the methods used to prevent STDs and unwanted pregnancies. Warning, this talk is not for the prude, it is fun but rude!

22 December 2022

NO GENERAL MEETING IN DECEMBER

2023

26 January 2023 – Rugby Club

The Most Heroic Failure of Modern time – Shackleton’s Antarctic – Jeremy Holmes

When Ernest Shackleton set off to cross the Antarctic for the first time in 1914 he was already a celebrated explorer, but his ship quickly got trapped and then

crushed in the ice. He and his crew camped for months on the ice with only rudimentary supplies, until he decided to sail a lifeboat 750 miles to South Georgia – a feat never before attempted. Arriving exhausted they had to climb a mountain range before eventually finding a remote whaling station and ultimately returning to rescue their comrades. Shackleton's leadership became the stuff of legend; and this talk explains why.

23 February 2023 – Rugby Club

The Legend of Marilyn Monroe – Howard Slater

Chronicling her life and career, shown through a very rare film and includes how she died, "the truth", shown by slides and video.

24 March 2023 – Rugby Club

Flying Concorde – by Gwyn Williams

Covers how the crew flew the aircraft in passenger service, it also examines a number of the aircrafts unusual design features and contains film onboard during a supersonic transatlantic flight. It lasts just under an hour.

27 April 2023 – Rugby Club

The Sky at Night with a Laugh! – Gordon Rogers

I am privileged to say that Sir Patrick Moore was my proposer for membership of the Royal Astronomical Society having filmed an entire "Sky at Night" Programme at the Crendon Observatory. The talk describes the imaging of Deep Space from the observatory and is regularly updated with recent astronomical discoveries. I recount the achievements of several amazingly gifted British amateurs where this in one area of science in which the sheer enthusiast gives great aid to the professional. Discoveries by these amateurs command the deployment of major observatories such as Hubble. Many things in astronomy go wrong and I recite some of them!

25 May 2023 – – Rugby Club – AGM

No Speaker

22 June 2023 – Rugby Club

Wild Life Photography – Tom Way

A returning visit from this popular speaker.

27 July 2023 – Rugby Club – Social Event

No Speaker

24 August 2023 – Rugby Club

The Life of Edward VIII – Paul Robbins

Eighty-Five years after his abdication, an event that shook Britain to its core, King Edward VIII still generates controversy and debate. Did Britain have a lucky escape when he decided to give up the throne because he couldn't make Wallis Simpson, a divorced American, his Queen? Or was Britain deprived of a King whom some of his supporters believed would have reached an arrangement with Germany thus avoiding the horrors of the Second World War?, Paul Robbins reveals much about the complex character that was Edward, Prince, King, Emperor and finally Duke. The talk explains his early life, the strained relationship Edward had with his father, his quest for a purpose in life, and his often-disastrous personal life. Was he a Nazi sympathiser, and would he have regained the throne had Germany won the war? This is an enthralling talk that has as its backdrop a crisis that threatened the very existence of Britain's Royal family.

28 September 2023 – Rugby Club

Mad, Bad and Dangerous – Kathryn Harkup

Scientists sometimes get stereotyped. Why are scientists depicted as chronically shy, slightly odd and carrying out crazy experiments to try and take over the world? Of course it's only Bond villains who are plotting to take over the world and most scientists are lovely sociable people. But the stereotype has to come from somewhere...

26 October 2023 – Rugby Club

The History of Photography and Kodak – Tony Earle

I spent 40 years at Kodak working as a scientist. This talk covers the early years of photography and the founding of Kodak in the 1880's. Light hearted with audience participation.

23 November 2023 – Rugby Club

***The Bob and Dot Show: A Christmas Entertainment* – Graham Harrison**

A feast of anecdotes and music on a seasonal theme. Christmas songs from the Golden Age of Hollywood musicals combine with humorous tales about the artistes. We also look at the origins of some of our Christmas traditions and how one of them was (and still could be) illegal.