



## Speakers for Weston Turville u3a General Meetings September 2021 to January 2022

**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.

## **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!