Speakers for Weston Turville u3a General Meetings
September 2026 – November 2027

24 September 2026 – Rugby Club

Blessed are the cheesemakers – with tasting! – John Pearson

John Pearson has spent all his working life in the Food Industry, primarily with Marks & Spencer. He is an international cheese judge having travelled throughout Europe visiting dairies selecting dairy products for M & S. In this talk he describes some amusing anecdotes about encounters with suppliers, impossible customers and will conclude with a short, tutored CHEESE-TASTING.

22 October 2026 – Rugby Club

How we remember and why we forget - Jim Ellis

How do we comprehend, remember and retrieve information, and do we all do this in the same way? Jim explains and demonstrates this with various examples and dispels some common myths about the brain and memory. He also encourages some audience participation – but only if people are comfortable doing so.

26 November 2026 – Rugby Club

Christmas entertainment (see below) with mulled wine and Christmas Fayre.

"The Great American Songbook" – Gershwin, Rogers, Porter and More – Roger Brown

Professional pianist, speaker, raconteur and singer – Roger has been the pianist with the internationally renowned Manchester Jazz Band since 1995, having started his jazz career in 1958. He is also President of Stockport operatic Society and Artistic Director of Manchester Athenaeum Drama Society. He will be entertaining us with music and his wealth of fascinating and hilarious stories.

24 December 2026– NO MEETING

2027

28 January 2027 – Rugby Club

The KGB Remembered – Keith Muras

The KGB - what it was and what it did. Its spying successes and failures. Drawing on unique personal experiences, tales of KGB actions and plots against western citizens in the Soviet State.

25 February 2027 – Rugby Club

Trouble at the Mill – Life in Victorian Factories – Dr Richard Marks

Was Britain engulfed in smoke and pollution from factories? Did workers truly face "mortal danger "every day, live in slums, and endure harsh treatment from mill owners? This discussion aims to examine the real conditions of Victorian factories, scrutinise the dynamics between workers and factory owners and delve into the reasons behind the formation of trade unions and their accomplishments. Join us, as we venture behind the scenes, to uncover the truth!

25 March 2027 – Rugby Club

TBC – Andrew Baker

Tbc.

22 April 2027 – Rugby Club

The most dangerous animals on Earth – David Jones

Which animals kill the most humans? Based on published research, David lists the top culprits, debunks some of the popular myths and reveals the scary truth behind the statistics. He will then focus on his favourite killers - the snakes!!.

27 May 2027 – Rugby Club

My life and experiences of being a TV & Film Extra – Rob Brewer

Having been a film tv extra for over 6 years and been in over 40 different features, from Hollywood blockbusters and low budget films to tv dramas, soaps and a couple of adverts. He will talk about some of the productions he has been on, how

he got involved in the industry and how anyone can do it. And maybe a little bit of audience participation if you are up for it!.

24 June 2027 – Rugby Club

Oh No – Not you Again! – Bill Hamilton

Bill talks about his life in broadcasting with the BBC.

22 July 2027 – Rugby Club

Summer lunch and entertainment (No Speaker)

26 August 2027 – Rugby Club

AGM + An ABC of Victorian Painters (and a postscript) – Simon Evers

This talk covers three Victorian painters – one very well known at the time, a second who changed views with his paintings and a third who is really unknown today. The postscript is about a little known discovery which however completely changed the whole business of painting in oils.

Simon Evers is a retired headmaster, with a keen interest in art and art history, in particular British art. In 2018 he did an online course in art history with the Art Institute and graduated with distinction.

23 September 2027 – Rugby Club

A day in the life of a crime scene investigator – Hayley Scott

Delve into the world of forensic science with Hayley Scott, a former Crime Scene Investigator with the Metropolitan Police. Find out what happens behind the crime scene tape.

28 October 2027 – Rugby Club

Victorian Explorer, Soldier and Spy – The life and times of Sir Francis Younghusband – Chris Simmons

Francis Younghusband was all the above and much more besides! His early life resembles a "Boys Own" adventure story, but his later career would take an

unexpected turn, revealing a very different side to this fearless and complex man.

25 November 2026 – Rugby Club

Lights, Camera & Ho Ho Ho – Pete Allen - With mulled wine and Christmas fayre

A surprising celebration of Christmas movies! "It's A Wonderful Life"," Home Alone", and The Muppets in a "Christmas Carol" - Christmas and movies have gone hand in hand since the early days of cinema. But do you think you know what makes a great festive film? In this talk on the seasonal classics there is always room for a little surprise in the festive movie stocking!

23 December 2027– NO MEETING