



Weston Turville U3A Newsletter

December 2020

Learn, laugh, live, learn, laugh, live, learn, laugh, live, learn, laugh, live, learn, laugh, live, learn, laugh, live, learn, laugh, live, learn.

Many of you will know that we don't normally publish a newsletter in December, but these are not normal times so we have come up with one.

Chairman's Christmas Message

2020 has been a very unusual year, best described as one we really want to put behind us as quickly as possible! Despite the many disappointments, including the cancellation of our Ten Year Anniversary plans, we have managed to stay connected using technology such as Zoom and where we could meet in limited numbers we had social distancing rules in place. Moving forward into 2021 we intend to resurrect our meetings, trips and group activities as soon as we are allowed and when it is safe to do so. We will dust off our Anniversary Plans to celebrate the past ten years (plus one) and importantly our new found freedom. On behalf of your committee, may I wish you all good wishes for Christmas and every happiness in the coming year. Merry Christmas to you all - Ken Shaw (Chairman)

General Meetings. As you will appreciate our next General meeting would have been scheduled for Thursday 24th December so it was thought everyone would be too busy with Christmassy things, so there won't be a meeting. The November meeting was very good and well received by the 50 or so attendees. It was a wonderful comparison between the Plague of 1666 and the villagers of Eyam efforts to stop it spreading and the coronavirus issues of today. Could this lead to a trip to Eyam for a guided tour sometime next year?

The meetings scheduled for early 2021 are

Thursday 28 January Great British Eccentrics & Rogues by Paul Robbins He is an experienced presenter, historian and author who will give a highly amusing talk which looks at some of the World's great eccentrics & Rogues who just happened to be British!

Thursday 25 February Big Cats around the Globe – Barbara Meyer. Barbara is the owner of Big Cat & Nature Photography (see www.bigcatphotography.co.uk). In 2008 she took redundancy from a job in banking and took up her lifelong interest in photography professionally.

Thursday 25 March Tales from a Dairy Farmer's Wife – Jane Barnes Jane is passionate about sharing her farm life experiences and educating members of the public all about cows!

Remember to check the website www.wtu3a.org.uk for more up to date information and for any old newsletters and articles. Use the Search box or tag words on the right of the page. WTU3A has its own Facebook page with lots of photos on. Search for it, ask to join and within no time at all you could be viewing the albums.

U3A Diaries These have now arrived and thanks to the efforts of Jenny Hunt and Chris Bennett they have all been distributed. Such was the demand for the diaries that Jenny received an order from a U3A member in Wolverhampton who wasn't able to get one from Head Office. Now you have your new diaries, you can note the dates of our 2021 general meetings. They are all on the fourth Thursday of the month – 28th January, 25th February, 25th March, 22nd April, 27th May, 24th June, 22nd July, 26th August, 23rd September, 28th October and 25th November.

Anyone for Tennis? *A message from Aylesbury Tennis Club.*

Attention all U3A tennis lovers! Are you wanting to move your tennis playing to another level, or are you simply wishing to take up a racket and hit some balls! Here at Aylesbury Tennis and Squash Club we would love to offer (for U3A members only) a special Tennis Taster Session. This would comprise of a coaching session for an hour during a morning or afternoon. We have seven all weather AstroTurf courts which are able to be played on throughout the year, so the changing seasons are not a problem! If this sounds just up your street then please contact Ken Shaw so we can tailor make a special event for you and your group. It's never too late to learn and if you already know how, or have been playing short tennis, then this is a great way to get you moving onto social doubles tennis, with the added bonus of having a great deal of fun!

Live Auctions from Brenda Daniel I usually contribute to the AVU3A Newsletter, but we live in Weston Turville so both U3As are important to us. We joined AVU3A some years ago and then joined WTU3A when it came into being. During lockdowns 1 & 2, we haven't been able to indulge in our usual fun way of entertaining ourselves by attending live auctions. We have been following them online via audio instead. They're always good for a laugh and you hear the general banter between the auctioneer and the people monitoring bids online and on the phones. Of course, you don't have to buy anything and can just join in, but not register for bidding.

I am Group Leader of Readers' Circle 2 for AVU3A (apologies WT) and have a painting which reflects our Group when it meets at my house. This is 'The Reader' Russian School on canvas by Viktor R Efimenko, who unfortunately died in 2017. Our Group consists of 10 people and this is our maximum number as we meet in each other's homes. Since lockdown means we can't meet in our homes, we have changed the logo for our Group to 'Group Hug' aka The Snowman which one of our Group x-stitched for us. Previously, we had a lady sitting in a bath 'tea-cup' surrounded by books and reading one in the 'bath'! This is now in storage waiting for a 'get out of jail' card.

Like everyone else in both U3A Groups we are missing our Group meetings, lawn bowls and other activities where there is quite a lot of discussion about everything under the sun! We're lucky in the Reading Group I run that we can still read the book for that month, make up a new Programme for the next six months and then send in opinions via e-mail to be collated by me and then sent round to the rest of the Group. We've also had during the last 6 months - two 80th Birthdays and an 85th in the Group which we have managed to celebrate in another way and still had some fun whilst not meeting up. So, apart from essential shopping, short walks and a drive round the countryside when we need to get out of the house, that's it. Keep safe and well, everyone.

Remember to check the website www.wtu3a.org.uk for more up to date information and for any old newsletters and articles. Use the Search box or tag words on the right of the page. WTU3A has its own Facebook page with lots of photos on. Search for it, ask to join and within no time at all you could be viewing the albums.

Membership If you have not renewed your membership this will be the last newsletter you will receive and you will also come off the National U3A magazine mailing list. Please remember that we need as many members as possible to sign up for Gift Aid as this is a vital source of revenue for us.

10th anniversary celebrations (plus one) As you will know celebrations for our 10th anniversary have been postponed due to the virus. Nevertheless the sub-committee has been meeting to look at what can be done in 2021 and they are looking at having the main event at our July 2021 meeting (Thursday 22nd July) and this will feature a hog roast and the bake off. It is anticipated that the Isle of Wight trip will continue on the weekend of 11th to 14th June and there will be more information on this in next month's newsletter. The Sixties Evening will be put back until next autumn with the date depending on the availability of the venue and the band.

National U3A News We mentioned last month that Mirthy broadcasts educational and entertaining online talks by the best public speakers for U3A members. Several of our members have registered and have found the talks very interesting. A FREE talk is broadcast every Thursday. If you are interested you can register for these free talks on <https://mirthy.co.uk/talks/> or use the link from our website. There will be a live Q&A with the speaker and a chance to interact with other attendees by typing comments in a chat box. Well worth exploring.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Book Club 1 Book Club 1 has continued reading a wide variety of books during this difficult time. We were able to meet a couple of times in the summer in a member's garden but apart from that we have done written reviews of the books. We would welcome new members, we normally meet in Weston Turville on the second Wednesday of the month. We are currently reading *The Unseen* by Roy Jacobsen and next month we will be reading *Flowers for Algernon* by Daniel Keys. If you are interested in joining the group please send an email to Jean Alexander on bookclub1@wtu3a.org.uk

Patchwork & Quilting Instead of their usual pre-Christmas get together, members of the group were treated to a really informative Zoom presentation on how to quilt with a walking foot!! We mentioned in last month's newsletter that group members have been busy creating a digital collage of craft activities carried out during lockdown. Different elements of the 10inch square were completed by members and represent the activities we have been involved in. The central "friendship star" appropriately named is also one of the blocks we have used in a charity quilt which we have all been working on during Lockdown. A rainbow symbolises "Sewing for the NHS" which several of the members have been involved in. Quilting and design was by group leader Maureen Reeves and all members of the group added their names in embroidery. On the next page you will see the finished article.

Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing? They always drop their needles.

Remember to check the website www.wtu3a.org.uk for more up to date information and for any old newsletters and articles. Use the Search box or tag words on the right of the page. WTU3A has its own Facebook page with lots of photos on. Search for it, ask to join and within no time at all you could be viewing the albums.



*A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL
OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS*

Remember to check the website www.wtu3a.org.uk for more up to date information and for any old newsletters and articles. Use the Search box or tag words on the right of the page. WTU3A has its own Facebook page with lots of photos on. Search for it, ask to join and within no time at all you could be viewing the albums.