



Weston Turville U3A Newsletter

February 2019

NEXT MEETING Our February general meeting is on Thursday 28th at the Rugby Club. Our guest speaker is Bernard Lockett who is an author, broadcaster and speaker on the subject of Gilbert & Sullivan. He is also a trustee of the annual International G&S Festival. The usual preliminaries and refreshments will start at 2.30pm. For your diaries, the following meeting is on Thursday 28th March.

MAGAZINES A reminder that we have now reinstated the magazine swops at our general meetings, so please bring along any old magazines and take away any you want.

CHAIRMAN'S PIECE At a recent Thames Valley Network meeting I learned that *Learn, Laugh and Live* is the emerging philosophy (or is it strapline?) for the U3A. If, like me, you watch Eggheads it came up in a recent show with challengers from a U3A group explaining what the U3A is. Personally I feel it really sums up what the movement is all about. Since joining the U3A three years ago I have learned a great deal, laughed a lot and really lived. May we all carry on to *Learn, Laugh and Live* even more for ages to come.

THAMES VALLEY NETWORK EVENTS Some events coming up include:
Thursday 4th April: Polar Exploration – Arctic geopolitics: Benson, Oxon
Tuesday 30th April: Study Day on the interaction of medicine, science and art: Benson
Tuesday 28th May: History on Film – 18th Century women on film and TV: Abingdon.
More details on our website. Book early though as they fill up quickly.

TRIPS Mandi Simons and her trip organising team have been busy putting together a programme for 2019. The first one is scheduled for Friday 22nd March with a visit to Adam Henson's farm in the Cotswolds. First up is a guided tour of Burford with tea/coffee and lardy cake followed by a tour round Cotswold villages. Northleach is next up for lunch (not included in the cost) and exploration of the Cathedral of the Cotswolds. Adam's farm follows with a tractor safari and various other activities – hopefully including lambing. Tea over a Q & A session conclude the visit. It costs £35 plus around £10 for the coach.

Events planned for later in the year are: Friday 24th May (provisionally) – Vintage Essex. This will be a trip exploring the Essex countryside as well as various vintage vehicles and coaches including Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

Friday 19th July – Cliveden. An exploration of the history of the Cliveden set and the surrounding countryside. Lunch can be bought there or you can bring a picnic.

Friday 13th September – North London, visit to the William Morris' house plus cream tea and river cruise.

Further information on all these will be in future newsletters

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.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Science & Technology Damian Campbell will lead the March meeting – *Thursday 7th* – when the world of spreadsheets will be investigated as will alternatives to Excel. It starts at 2.30pm in the Chapel Room. After that comes a host of trips with Leighton Buzzard Railway being on the agenda for *Thursday 4th April*. This is a lovely little railway that was built to take sand from the pits to the main line at Leighton Buzzard and the cost will be £8. *Thursday 2nd May* is a visit to two museums – the Museum of Military Medicine near Aldershot followed by the Milestones Museum in Basingstoke. The former one is self-explanatory, whilst the Milestones explores the social, retail and industrial heritage. There is a coach of this with the total cost being £35. Portsmouth is the venue for the trip on *Thursday 6th June* where we will have guided tours of the Mary Rose Museum and HMS Warrior. There will also be time for a visit to other parts of the Historic Naval Dockyard. Total cost including the coach is £55. More details from John Beer on science@wtu3a.org.uk

Garden Visits The garden visits get under way again in April and will continue through to October. The April one is on *Wednesday 17th* and will be to Chenies Manor House and Gardens which open at 2pm. The popular Huntsmoor Gardens on Bovingdon will be visited on *Wednesday 29th May*. Travel information for both visits will be available shortly. More details from Gaynor Edwards on gardens@wtu3a.org.uk

Local History Another reminder that the February meeting (*Tuesday 26th*) starts at 10am (rather than the usual time of 10.30) in the Chapel Room. This is another talk by Mike Payne and is about the Battle of Chalgrove Field which was one of the most famous English Civil War encounters. The following meetings are on *26th March*, where we will have a talk on the History of Hughendon Manor (hopefully to be followed up with a trip there later in the year), and *23rd April* which will feature a talk called “Aspects of Heraldry”.

Walking Group After a very pleasant trip around Caldecott Lake in Milton Keynes, the next walk will be on *Tuesday 12th March* with a meeting time of 10am outside the Chandos.

Theatre Visits There are three more visits planned for the Waterside Theatre during the year and early booking is advised. They are: *Sunday 5th May* 7.30pm - Remembering the Musicals with Jeanette and Alijaz (from Strictly), tickets £2.25 in the circle, *Wednesday 26th July* 2.30pm - Avenue Q tickets for the stalls £24 and *Thursday 7th November* 1.30pm – Nativity the Musical where stalls tickets are £19. More details from Melanie Evans at: theatre@wtu3a.org.uk

Touch Tennis The group got under way recently with the participants having plenty of fun even if it was quite hard work. Anyone wanting to try short tennis should contact Ken Shaw as numbers are limited. It takes place from 2pm to 3pm every Tuesday at Halton Tennis Club. Contact Ken at chairman@wtu3a.org.uk if you are interested.

Pétanque Anyone interested in competing for us at the National U3A Petanque tournament in Hayling Island on *21st/22nd September* could they please contact Ken Shaw at: chairman@wtu3a.org.uk

Please remember to bring your membership card to any of our group activities as it may be inspected by the group leader.

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.