



Weston Turville U3A Newsletter

January 2019

A Happy New Year to you all

NEXT MEETING Our next meeting is on Thursday 24th January at Aylesbury Rugby Club and features a talk entitled "A Journey of Exploration from Theory to Discovery." It is given by Keith Westcott whose enthusiasm for diving, history and treasure hunting saw him end up in the dock at Oxford Crown Court! It should be a fascinating talk with a 2.30pm start. The following meeting will be on Thursday 28th February.

LAST MEETING What a great turn out for the November meeting which included the bring and buy sale, music from the Folk, Blues and Beyond group together with seasonal refreshments.

TEAS A plea from our refreshment providers. In an effort to do our bit for the environment it would be appreciated if people could bring their own cups.

MAGAZINES As we have a willing volunteer to bring them each month, we are able to reinstate the magazine swops at our general meetings.

GOSH You may recall that following a talk from the Great Ormond Street Hospital we were presented with a book on the hospital's history. Anyone wanting to borrow the book should contact Rosemary Williams.

SPEC SAVERS We are still collecting spectacles for distribution in Malawi. The box is available at the Rugby Club at each general meeting and these old specs will be taken by Aylesbury Grammar School pupils when they go out there later this year.

TOUCH TENNIS aka Short tennis. This is played with short handled racquets and soft tennis ball. We are now being offered an initial 24 week programme from 2pm to 3pm on Tuesday afternoons at Halton Tennis Club for a maximum of 12 participants per session. The cost will be £4 per session which includes equipment, court time and some coaching. Initially it will take place indoors and will move outdoors when the better weather arrives. Anyone who is interested should let Ken Shaw know as soon as possible at: chairman@wtu3a.org.uk.

NETWORK NEWS There are plenty of events available to us from the Thames Valley U3A Network including Polar Exploration (4th April), Medicine & Art (30th April), History on Film (28th May) and the Work of William Morris (30th August). Details can be found on our website and you are advised to apply early as these events are often oversubscribed.

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 The programme for 2019 is rapidly taking shape and, as usual, there will be a mixture of talks in the Chapel Room and visits to various places of scientific and technological interest. The first one will be on Thursday 7th February with a talk on Land Speed Records given by Dennis Trebble from Aston Clinton U3A. It's in the chapel from 2.30pm. Our own Damian Campbell will lead the March meeting – Thursday 7th – when the world of spreadsheets will be investigated as will alternatives to Excel. From April the group will be visiting various places of interest with Leighton Buzzard Railway on 4th April, the Museum of Military Medicine and Milestones Museum on 2nd May and Portsmouth Dockyard on 6th June.

Garden Visits The group's first foray of the year is on Saturday 16th February to Old Church Cottage in Long Marston which is an NGS garden. Hopefully there will be plenty of crocuses, irises, snowdrops and other spring bulbs to look at. The garden opens at 11.30 am and for your £5 you will get garden entry, mulled wine and shortbread. Please meet at the Five Bells by 10.50am – leave at 11.00am - if you need a lift, although any drivers would be welcome as this is a popular trip. More details from Gaynor Edwards on gardens@wtu3a.org.uk

Looking ahead there is a visit planned for Wednesday 8th May to the Rothschild family's private gardens at Eythrope on the Waddesdon Estate at 10.45am. A tour round the garden will be followed by lunch – inspired by produce from the garden - at Waddesdon Manor and in the afternoon there is a tour of the manor at 2.30pm. The cost is £40 and a cheque for this amount will secure your booking – be quick as it is likely to fill up fast. Again, you can get more information from Gaynor.

Theatre Visits The Theatre Visit group has been revived thanks to Melanie Evans and although tickets for their first outing to see The Comedy about a Bank Robbery on 14th March have been sold, there will be plenty of other trips on offer. Further details can be had from Melanie on: theatre@wtu3a.org.uk

Local History Metal detecting is the theme of the first talk of 2019 and this will be in the Chapel Hall at 10.30am on Tuesday 22nd January. The February meeting starts at 10.00am and will be about the Battle of Chalgrove Field. It is back to the normal 10.30am for the March and April – 26th March about Hughendon Manor - and 23rd April on Aspects of Heraldry –meetings.

Walking Group The group have already had one trip this year so the next one on Tuesday 12th February will meet at the Chandos at 10.00am.

Petanque Although this is our close season until the weather improves, we are looking at entering teams for the National U3A Petanque tournament which is held at Hayling Island on the 21st/22nd September. If anyone is interested 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.

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