



Weston Turville U3A Newsletter

November 2020

Learn, laugh, live, learn.

Next meeting The last general meeting before Christmas is on **Thursday 26th November** starting at 2.30pm and as usual the log-in details will be sent a few days beforehand.

Speaking on this occasion will be Sam Loveday whose talk is entitled “Social Distancing in 17th Century Derbyshire” which in these coronavirus hit times will be extremely topical.

In 1665-66, the plague ravaged the Peak District village of Eyam. The village quarantined itself whilst the disease ran its course and this act of heroism and self sacrifice is something that we can all understand after our experience over the past few months. This virtual walking tour will tell Eyam’s story from outbreak to isolation and resolution, drawing parallels between the Seventeenth Century and our experience of Covid-19 today.

Last month’s talk on the Gunpowder Plot was very interesting although not very well presented and over 50 members were “in attendance”.

Speaker Secretary Simon Evers has now booked Zoom speakers early 2021 and details will be announced in the next newsletter.

U3A Diaries These have now arrived and thanks to the efforts of Jenny Hunt and Chris Bennett they have all been distributed.

National U3A News Head Office has reiterated the latest coronavirus restrictions which are in operation until at least 2nd December. This means that virtually all our activities, are prohibited so we will be grateful to Zoom for still being able to have online meetings.

A free talk?? Mirthy broadcasts educational and entertaining online talks by the best public speakers for U3A members. They broadcast a FREE talk every Thursday which is open to our members to join (over 1,000 joined from across the country last week!). This is a great way for them to raise awareness of their speakers and talks. 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.

And another free talk Aylesbury Vale U3A are running a ‘Sounds of 50s/70s’ talk via Zoom which is also open to our members to join. The event is on Tuesday 24th November at 2pm and if WTU3A members are interested in ‘tuning in’ please email Heather Macknight at webmaster@wtu3a.org.uk who will provide you with the login details.

Thames Valley Network News There is a virtual Zoom course to tell you about: Wednesday 16th December from 10.30 which is a talk entitled Art v Photography. Details are on our website or from Gill Le Du at gill.ledu@btinternet.com

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.

Coffee mornings. Some U3A branches are holding coffee mornings via Zoom and these have been a way of getting members to meet interactively. We are looking at holding some but need someone to take it on. Details from either Heather Macknight or Ken Shaw.

Friends of Wendover Health Centre Their helpdesk is now open between 1pm and 3pm on weekdays to book transport or get prescriptions delivered. They can be contacted on 01296 522565 or on friendsofwhc@aol.com

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Walking First the bad newsThe regulations covering coronavirus means that the planned December lunch at the Greyhound in Wigginton has been cancelled. Now the good news.... The December walk is expected to take place as planned on **Tuesday 8th December** (group members will be updated with developments) and will finish at the Greyhound.

Patchwork & Quilting The group has now completed its contribution to the national 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. The block was passed around relay fashion with progress reported at our Zoom meetings. The Patchwork construction of the block made by Rachel Groom and Jean Twitchen, hand embroidery by Margaret Coleman, machine embroidery Susan Monro, hand applique by Deirdre Barker and machine applique by Liz Thomas
Quilting and design was by Maureen Reeves and all members of the group added their names in embroidery. We look forward to seeing our block join others from across the UK in the giant digital collage.

Touch Tennis (aka Soft tennis) Alas, the recent restrictions mean that Halton Tennis Centre cannot operate at present so there will be no more Touch Tennis for the time being.

Petanque The weather has now managed to ensure that Petanque will now finish for the winter. Restart dates will be notified in due course.

Finally some good news: A while ago we had a talk about Medical Detection Dogs and we continue to hear from them. The charity has donated three withdrawn dogs to the COVID-19 team. If successful the trio could be deployed in the first line of defence against the disease in public places and assist with rapid, non-invasive screening of large groups of people by identifying the odour of COVID-19, even when the person displays no symptoms. The two year old dogs, Ivan and Spencer (labrador-golden retriever crosses) and Mabel (a chocolate labradoodle) were raised as guide dogs, but proved unsuitable for aiding people with sight loss. Instead, their love of using their noses and their high energy combined with their willingness to please made them the perfect candidates for a change in career.

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