



Weston Turville U3A Newsletter

August 2021

Learn, laugh, live, learn.

Chairman's report It has been an interesting 16 months for us all. Lockdowns, isolation, masks, jabs, the list goes on - oh and Zoom. Now I'm not very techy, so you'll not be surprised to hear that before Covid I'd hardly heard of Zoom. Over the past months most of us have got to know it. At WTU3a we have tried, both with our monthly meetings and with individual interest groups, to keep in touch with you via Zoom.

After such a gap, our first proper, live meeting was always going to be difficult! It was a simple idea, bring your own picnic, a party in the park! The problem with picnics is they need fine weather, a decent venue and ideally some sort of entertainment. Well it worked! On a scorching day in July we had the perfect venue with tables, umbrellas for the sun rather than rain, a bar and live music from the group, Folk Blues & Beyond. I'd like to thank Ken and Lynne Padget and the 10th Anniversary Subcommittee, Paul Fincken and his group for the music, but chiefly yourselves (who used to say that?). Around 90 members attended so thank you all for your support, it was so good to see you all. Next Thursday, **26 August** we take another step with our first meeting inside. As with our last meeting, can I ask that we all take care, avoid crowding tables if you speak to group leaders about visits and events. I know that our interest groups are virtually back to normal, which is so good to hear. Please keep Mike Wise up to date with your activities and events, he is always looking for news from the groups for the newsletter.

Finally, as we slowly get back to normal, I can tell you our numbers are growing. I know we have had a lot of new members join us, I hope to see many of you at next week's meeting.

Next meeting Our next meeting at the Rugby Club is on **Thursday 26th August** from 2.30pm when our speaker will be Bernie Knill who has previously spoken to the Local History group. His talk is "Hughenden and Benjamin Disraeli - the most unlikely Prime Minister" and will focus on the character and achievements of Disraeli, as well as on the mark he left on Hughenden. Teas and coffees will be available but you must **bring your own cup**; remember **no cup – no tea!**

Thames Valley Network A couple of network events you can take part in: Wednesday 8th September at 10.30am - a free Zoom talk "Ocean Circulation in a Changing Climate" and Friday 10th September at 2.30pm - a Zoom quiz for TVN members in which teams are picked at random. Details on our website or from: www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk

Trip Information The Tower of London visit on **Friday 10th September** is now full but there may be some places on the reserve list. Contact trips@wtu3a.org.uk to check on late availability.

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

Church visits The visit to St Michael's, Stewkley had to be cancelled due to hardly anyone wanting to come but it's been rearranged for **Tuesday 12th October**. There will be no visit in September due to unforeseen circumstances. If anyone is interested in joining the list please contact Odette Harris at churches@wtu3a.org.uk.

Walking On Tuesday 10th August 20 of us enjoyed a 4¼ mile circular from the Full Moon pub in Cholesbury. We started and finished through the Iron Fort and onto mainly woods and a few fields. We visited the churchyard where we found the grave of David Newton, a Royal Marine who fought at the Battle of Trafalgar. There were many graves with the inscription IHS on the tombstones and Simon Evers researched it and means contraction of the Greek word for Jesus (IHΣΟΥΣ). Surprising what you can learn on a walk! The next walk is **14th September 2021** and details will be sent soon.

Garden Visits Turn End Gardens in Haddenham is the next garden for the group to visit and this will be on the afternoon of **Friday 16th September**. The cost is £7.50. More information from Mary Duly at gardens@wtu3a.org.uk

Flower arranging Hopefully meetings will resume at Buckland Village Hall on **Monday 13th September** and if the weather is good the meeting will be held outside. More details from Gaynor Edwards on: flowers@wtu3a.org.uk

Science & Technology The group is back with a trip to Milton Keynes Museum on **Tuesday 5th October**. Please note this is a Tuesday so we can have the whole site to ourselves. The tour will start at 11am with a 9.30 meeting at the Five Bells for anyone needing transport. The cost is £16 which includes lunch. Details from John Beer on wtu3ascitech@gmail.com. If there is interest, the trip to the Silverstone Experience will be repeated in November.

Extreme Activities The two sessions of paddleboarding were successful although on the first day the weather wasn't ideal and just two of the seven participants managed to keep out of the water. On the second session everyone remained dry. Nevertheless they enjoyed themselves and everyone managed to stand up on the board which is some achievement.

Patchwork & Quilting A beautiful quilt was on display at our July picnic. This will be raffled at one of the 10th anniversary events early next year. Members are currently meeting at Stoke Mandeville Community Centre for the morning group and at the Chapel Hall in WT for the afternoon quilters.

Mexican Train The group has started up again on the second and fourth Wednesdays at The Chandos in the village starting at 2pm. Please inform Mandi Simons if you are attending on mexicantrain@wtu3a.org.uk.

Crafts The Craft Group restarted on the second Wednesday of the month at 10am at Chapel Hall. Again, let Mandi know if you would like to attend on crafts@wtu3a.org.uk Numbers are limited.

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