



# Weston Turville u3a Newsletter

**April 2024**

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

**General Meetings** From passports to crabs our general meetings continue to have a wide variety of interesting themes. Last month we heard various stories on assassins, traitors and spies given by Martin Lloyd with a selection of true tales which led to development of the passport as we know it today. Our next meeting is on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April** when John Tyler's presentation is "The Island of Crabs". He looks at the crabs and other wildlife of Christmas Island, many of which are found nowhere else, and follows the spectacular annual migration of crabs from the forests down to the sea.

It all starts at 2.30pm and as usual there will be teas and coffees, if you bring your own cup, and the ever-popular book exchange. Hopefully there will be a few more group leaders to show what their groups are up to. The following meeting is on **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May** when we have both the AGM (lasting not too long) and a talk which will be longer!

**Chairman's Report.** I rather enjoyed March's speaker, Martin Lloyd, his talk featured passports and the part they have played in history. He gave us three perfect stories; it was quite disappointing when he'd finished, I could have managed a fourth, he was very good. This month we welcome John Tyler who will talk about the wildlife on Christmas Island, "The Island of Crabs".

Next month we have our AGM! The joy of AGMs, certainly those of small organizations like ours, is that they are often brief, often routine. But they are hugely important, and I do hope that as many of you as possible are able to attend.

And finally, finally, can I once again mention the Defibrillator session coming up very shortly on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April**. I have not acknowledged everyone who has asked to attend, unless of course, they had asked me to. There is still space for WTU3a members. If you have already asked to come, or would like to come, I look forward to seeing you there. *Chris Bennett* [chairman@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:chairman@wtu3a.org.uk)

"If April showers should come your way,  
they bring the flowers that bloom in May." – Buddy de Sylva

**Remember to check the website [www.wtu3a.org.uk](http://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.**

**Defibrillator update** The second session run by Ash Webber will be on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April** at 2pm in Weston Turville Village Hall. Anyone who has already asked to attend this second event, can just turn up, and as there are a few spaces left anyone else interested can now also just come.

**Membership renewal** Membership fee 2024/2025 Thank you to all members who have already paid their annual membership fee – and a reminder to all members who haven't that this is now due. You should already have had an email from me about this.

A quick reminder if you have still to pay: £17 per person, please, paid preferably by bank transfer to Weston Turville u3a – Sort code 60-01-31; Account number 50853236. (Cheque payment to me at 3 Watermill Way, Weston Turville HP22 5SR.) If you have any questions about this (or any other membership matters) please feel free to email me at [membership@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@wtu3a.org.uk) or phone me on 07859 221109. Simon Evers (Membership Secretary)

**Books** Our popular book swap, which attracts many of us at each general meeting, is in need of a couple of members to help store some of the books, magazines and jigsaws. If you could help please let Chris Bennett know on [chairman@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:chairman@wtu3a.org.uk) Please remember that we do not need hardbacks as they are too heavy and cumbersome.

### **NEWS FROM THE GROUPS**

**Gardening** After the March talk on roses we move to summer flowering patio plants and hanging baskets. Edwin Ryder will be bringing some of his plants, possibly for sale, and showing us what to do ahead of the summer. It is on **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April** in the Chapel Room and starts at 2pm. There is no meeting in May due to the Bank Holiday but we hope to have visits to members' gardens for June and July. More details from Jenny Hunt or Rosemary Williams on [gardening@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:gardening@wtu3a.org.uk) Please let either of them know if you are able to come along as this helps when setting up the room. Fee payable is £3 and includes tea, coffee and biscuits.

**Quiz afternoons** The next quiz afternoons are on **Fridays 26<sup>th</sup> April** and **24<sup>th</sup> May**. The start time is 2.30pm in the Chapel Room. Individuals and couples are welcome so you don't need to have a complete team to take part. Details from Joy Mantell at: [quizzing@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:quizzing@wtu3a.org.uk) or [joymantell16@gmail.com](mailto:joymantell16@gmail.com)

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**Science and Technology** On **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May** there is a trip to the RAF Museum in Hendon. This requires own transport, although lifts can be given, and the tour – which starts at 11.00am - costs just £5. Car parking there is extra.

The following month, **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June** we have a visit to the Museum of Military Medicine and Milestone Museum Basingstoke. This will be a coach trip leaving at 9.00am. The cost is £50 including a tour at the Medical museum and all entrance fees. On **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July** we are going to the Hydraulics Research Organisation in Wallingford using own transport. This trip is already full but a reserve list has been started. Further details from John Beer at:

[science@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:science@wtu3a.org.uk)

**Trips** Our trip to Highgate Cemetery on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July** filled up quickly although there is a reserve list in operation.

There has been a lot of interest in the proposed visit to the National Arboretum and as it is sure to fill up quickly let Mandi Simonds know on

[trips@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:trips@wtu3a.org.uk) if you want to be on her mailing list for it.

**Book Club 1** We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 2pm in Wendover to discuss the book we have been reading. We read a wide range of authors and genre, which are democratically chosen!

We are a friendly group who enjoy talking about books amongst many other things! We are also treated to delicious tea and cakes, which are enjoyed by all. Come and join us! Please contact Jackie Aggett at [bookclub1@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:bookclub1@wtu3a.org.uk)

**Book Group 2** Last month we tried a different Author, Joanne Quinn, “The Whalebone Theatre”. This is the story of an aristocratic family starting just after WW1, with stories of parties, fine food and wine. The children are left to run wild turning the skeleton of a whale into a theatre. Then WW2 arrives with many changes to the family. A good read. Details of all our activities from:

[bookclub2@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:bookclub2@wtu3a.org.uk)

**Garden Visits** On **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June** we have an afternoon visit to Cedar House, Bacombe Lane, Wendover, HP22 6EQ where there is a great variety of trees, shrubs and plants leading via a sloping lawn to a delightful natural swimming pond. The visit will start at 2.30 and will include home-made teas.

More details from Heather Marshall at: [gardens@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:gardens@wtu3a.org.uk)

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**Joint Coffee morning with ACu3a** The next get togethers are on **Thursdays 18<sup>th</sup> April** and **16<sup>th</sup> May** from 10.30am at the Five Bells in Weston Turville. Contact Marie Jones on [coffee@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:coffee@wtu3a.org.uk) for further details.

**Theatre visits** A visit has been planned to the Pendley Theatre in Tring on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May** at 7.30pm for a performance of "Me and My Girl" whilst there are a couple of musicals at Milton Keynes Theatre - on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June** there is a 2.30pm performance of "Everyone's Talking About Jamie" with "Come From Away" being on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November**. Tickets are £37 and £39.50 respectively. Back to the Waterside in Aylesbury and there is a screening of "Titanic – the Musical" on **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May** at 7pm (£14.85) and on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August** it is "Ghost the Musical" at 7.30pm (£37.50) with "Lord of the Dance" being at 2.30pm on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October** (£44) Contact Melanie Evans at [theatre@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:theatre@wtu3a.org.uk) for more details.

**Handbells** This group aims to perform, promote and teach handbell ringing. You don't need to read music as we ring by numbers. The group meets on a Friday morning at 10am at John Beer's home and we welcome new and prospective ringers. For further information and contact Group Leader John Beer at: [handbells@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:handbells@wtu3a.org.uk)

**Chess** **Fridays 26<sup>th</sup> April** and **24<sup>th</sup> May** are the next dates for the Chess group meetings (plus chat and fish & chips if desired) which are at 12.30pm at the Chandos in WT. Details from Geoffrey Howell on: [chess@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:chess@wtu3a.org.uk)

**Card making** There has been quite a lot of interest in this new group but Lindsey Beer will be pleased to hear from anyone else who would like to get involved. Contact her on [wendoverbeers@btinternet.com](mailto:wendoverbeers@btinternet.com) for more details.

**Network News** The Thames Valley u3a continues to hold its Zoom talks and the next one is on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April** at 2.30pm when Timothy Walker's presentation is entitled "Bordering on Insanity" in which he will talk about creating herbaceous borders in your garden. Other Zoom talks coming up are on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May** (2.30pm) – "Doctors to the Rescue" which is about Medecins sans Frontieres and **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June** – "The Korean War" More details on their website: [www.u3a.tvnetwork.org.uk](http://www.u3a.tvnetwork.org.uk)

"Grandchildren don't make a man feel old, it's the knowledge that he's married to a grandmother that does." - Norman Vincent Peale

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