



Weston Turville u3a Newsletter

April 2025

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

General Meetings At our last meeting we had an interesting, but brief, talk on the Kennedy family and the influence the parents had on their children particularly JFK and Jackie. It is a completely different subject for our next meeting on **Thursday 24th April** when fine art photographer Janine Kilroe will give an illustrated talk on “The History and Future of Piers – the part they play in our history and what is to become of them. It will be illustrated throughout with historical, as well as Janine’s own, images and films.

As usual, teas and coffees will be available (don’t forget to bring your own cup) and the book swap and group tables will also take place. The date for the following general meeting is **Thursday 22nd May** when our AGM will be followed by a presentation on the history of Harrods.

Chairman’s Report The recent monthly meeting was as always well attended and Peter Hague told us all about the numerous members of the American Kennedy dynasty. He told us that an extraordinary number of the family died young in a variety of ways and more about the lives of the main members, both male and female. Altogether a very interesting story.

Otherwise, you will have recently received all the paperwork necessary with regard to the AGM and the renewal of your membership. As already mentioned, we will be asking you at the AGM to agree to the updating of our constitution. Although this doesn’t have any real effect on our activities, it is obviously important that we keep up to date with the relevant legislation.

I am looking forward to our speaker this month: **Janine Kilroe is talking about the history and future of our piers.** We lived in Eastbourne for 20 years, which has a very fine and much appreciated pier which we used to stroll along - although the ‘penny arcade’ was sadly destroyed in a fire not so long ago. See you on 24th April! *Simon Evers - Chairman*

“April is the sweetest month of the year, the mellow season of rebirth and renewal.” – Mary Sojourner

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

Quiz group Dates for the next afternoon quizzes are **Friday 25th April** and **23rd May** at 2.30 in the Weston Turville Chapel Hall. If you haven't been before come along and give it a try. Questions are suited to all abilities and you can come on your own, as a couple or as a team. Your £2 entrance also covers tea and biscuits. Details from Joy Mantell at: quizzing@wtu3a.org.uk

Joint Coffee morning with ACu3a The next coffee mornings will be on **Thursdays 17th April** and **15th May** at the Five Bells in Weston Turville starting at 10.30am. You can either just turn up, or Marie Jones on coffee@wtu3a.org.uk will let you have further details.

Theatre visits Future performances are: **Thursday 1st May** at 7.30pm for £69 in the stalls "Last Dance" with Giovanni Pernice from Strictly Come Dancing. Tim Rice, "My life in Musicals" in which he reflects on his life in musical theatre, is on **Thursday 8th May** at 7.30pm with circle tickets costing £39.50. Fast forward to **Wednesday 8th October** at 2pm and you can step into the magical world of Narnia in "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe". Stalls tickets are £41. For more details contact Melanie Evans at theatre@wtu3a.org.uk.

Science and Technology Following on from the recent trip to Pendon Museum the next visit is on **Thursday 1st May** to H.G.Matthews Brickworks in Bellingdon near Chesham. This is a guided tour of the manufacturing process for the handmade bricks that they make. There is no charge although a charity donation would be welcome. There is a limit of 20 for this morning visit but if there is sufficient demand another trip will be made. Again, this is using your own transport.

Two further visits by coach are planned with **Thursday 5th June** to the National Space Centre in Leicester and on **Thursday 2nd October** to the Think Tank at Birmingham Science Museum. Costs will be dependent on numbers but if you are interested please let John Beer know on science@wtu3a.org.uk

Discussion Group At our last meeting we discussed various topics including house building, who has been the best prime minister in the last hundred years, has the younger generation forgotten good manners and should the House of Lords be an automatic right for friends of the government? The next meeting is on **Friday 2nd May** at the Five Bells starting at 10.30am. If you are interested just turn up or contact Terry Jones at: discussion@wtu3a.org.uk

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Chess Next meetings for the group are on **25th April** and **9th May** at 12.30pm in the Chandos in the village. Chess, chips (and fish) and chat are all available. More news from Geoffrey Howell on chess@wtu3a.org.uk

Gardening Twenty seven members of the Group came along to our meeting at the end of March when local horticulturist and gardening enthusiast Edwin Rye from Wendover came along to talk to us about planting for smaller gardens. Edwin brought with him a selection of suitable plants for sale which he had mentioned in his talk. As always his plants are good value and if interested he can be found on his plant stall at local markets in Princes Risborough every Thursday, on the first Saturday of the month at Haddenham and Wendover on the third Saturday of the month. He returns to us again in September to talk to us about growing delphiniums.

Forthcoming visits are to Lindengate and Hollydyke House. These are instead of our routine meetings in the Chapel. As Lindengate does not open on Mondays, the visit will be on **Thursday 1st May** which is the same week as the originally planned April meeting. We will be given an introductory talk at the beginning of our visit and then be free to wander and explore at our leisure the fifteen separate areas in this six acres garden. Plants are available for sale. Despite Dobbies closing down Lindengate continues to operate and uses the same entrance and car park near to its entrance. There is no charge for admission as it is a charity and they depend on donations so please give generously. It is important that you let Jenny Hunt know as soon as possible if you wish to attend. Also if you require transport or are willing to offer a lift so we can arrange a car share from the car park at the Five Bells.

On **Monday 23rd June** we visit Hollydyke House (HP7 ORD) which is placed off the A.413 at Little Missenden. Sandra Wetherall the owner says that there will be sufficient room on her drive for us all to park. She warns that most of the paths are either gravel or wood chip but there are some paving stones which could be slippery if wet underfoot so please wear suitable footwear. It is a large, natural garden and part of the National Garden Scheme which raises money for charities. There is a charge of £10 pp which includes refreshments. If anybody has a food allergy you take responsibility for your choice of food. We need to have at least ten people to go ahead so please let Jenny know as soon as possible if you wish to attend although it is a month or so ahead. We will meet in the Five Bells Car Park at 130 in order to car share.

More details of the group from Jenny Hunt 07831 241877 or Rosemary Williams 07949 171652 or go to: gardening@wtu3a.org.uk

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Mahjong The next meeting of the group is on **Thursday 8th May** between 2pm and 4pm in the Chapel Hall. New members are welcome and Joy Williamson will be delighted to hear from any prospective new players. She can be contacted at mahjong@wtu3a.org.uk

Handbell Ringing The group meets on Friday mornings at 10am at John Beer's house in the village and no musical expertise is necessary as it's all done by numbers. New members are welcome. For more information contact John at handbells@wtu3a.org.uk

Art & Culture I'm very sorry to say we have decided to cancel the visit to the MK Gallery and the Andy Warhol Exhibition. The cost of entry together with a presentation is too high! When we originally spoke to the Gallery they quoted a price that included a 20-30 minute presentation on Warhol and Pop Art. It was not an accompanied tour, though the cost was similar to what we paid elsewhere when we have had a guide. The Gallery have now said we would have to pay an entry fee on top of that for the guide! John has spent some time in conversation with the Gallery but to no avail! It does mean we now have a gap in our programme, but the Andy Warhol Exhibition runs until the 29th June, entry is £14.50. Like us, you may decide to go to the Exhibition anyway. On a more positive note, a reminder that we have arranged a guided visit to The Queens House at Greenwich on **Thursday 17th July**. The cost is £16 with a limit of 25 people. The Queen's House is set alongside the National Maritime Museum and the Greenwich Observatory with Cutty Sark close by, so plenty to see and do! The tour will be mid-afternoon so you might decide to travel by boat from Westminster to Greenwich. The journey takes about 70 minutes. At this time, we just need your expressions of interest, no commitment. John Masters & Chris Bennett - culture@wtu3a.org.uk

Thames Valley u3a Network news Events booked for the forthcoming months are: **Wednesday 30th April** – 10.30am, a talk on A.I. by Alun Morgan and **Wednesday 14th May** 10.30am, talk on Photography also by Alun Morgan. It will cost £2 per device for each talk and bookings have to be made at least three days beforehand. On **Tuesday 3rd June** at 10.30am there is an illustrated talk on Petra the Rose City by Dr Jill Eyers and on **Friday 6th June** they are having their online Summer Quiz. As yet there are no more details but they will soon be found on their website www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk or link from our site.

“April is the month of dreams come true.”— John Baillie

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