



Weston Turville u3a Newsletter

April 2026

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

General Meetings **Thursday 23rd April** will be remembered for two events – St George’s Day and our next general meeting. The latter event will include an informative and entertaining presentation from Bobbie Darbyshire who is a novelist and has also won several awards for her writings. She will explain how character, location, plot and subplot arrive in a writer’s mind.

Also during the afternoon there will be teas and coffees (bring your own cups), the book swap table and some group leaders who will be letting us know what their groups are doing. It all starts at 2.30pm. The following meeting will be on **Thursday 28th May**.

Chairman’s Report Those who didn’t attend last month’s main meeting missed a real treat. Tom Way’s photographs of a variety of animals were quite simply stunning and his stories of how he came to take them fascinating. It was the third time he has been to talk to us and we hope he will come again. This month we welcome Bobbie Darbyshire, whose talk has the intriguing title of *Where do Novelists get their ideas from – A Beginning, a Muddle, and an End*. We certainly offer you a wide variety of talks!

And talking of books: Book stall We are truly much indebted to Chris Bennett who has agreed to take up again the responsibility of masterminding the much-used bookstall at our monthly meetings for the next twelve months. Chris did this for some years before. We continue to look for somebody to step into the breach and take over from him. Thank you, Chris, meanwhile. I can’t help saying that I think it is a pity that Chris (who has given much to our u3a in the past) has had to do this - because this means that no-one else has volunteered instead.

As you know, the whole ethos of the u3a is self-help and therefore we do not use professionals or paid help to organize groups, run our finances, deal with the website, sit on the committee in a variety of roles or simply help at our meetings and major events. We are all true volunteers.

It has been very good to see new groups being formed recently and we are all grateful to those members who have set them up.

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Meanwhile: We're always looking for new groups and group leaders

It would be good to see more! So if you have a hobby or something you think you could share with others, we would be delighted to hear from you. And you could of course get together with a friend (or two) to run a group together. For instance, it would be especially good to see a painting group re-established and also a group enjoying French or another foreign language. What about a choir for the singers amongst us or a group studying some aspect of history? The list is of course endless.

Would you be prepared to do this?

There is a very useful page about starting a group on the website. Click on: www.wtu3a.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/Running-a-group-at-Weston-Turville-u3a.pdf As this page says, we can provide plenty of initial help so please do not hesitate to contact me or Joy Mantell, our Groups Co-ordinator, for further advice. Of course an initial enquiry to Joy or me does not oblige you to do something. However, I can say from my own experience it is really very satisfying and encouraging to help others in this way.

So why not get in touch?

In addition - can you help in other ways?

- I am looking for someone to help me with the **organisation of the Quiz Night in November**. Not a big job but a necessary (temporary) one. Please contact me if you could help.
- I also have details of a company offering a **Murder Mystery Evening** – would you be interested in helping to organise this?
- And what about taking over the **organisation of the book stall** from Chris??

I look forward to hearing from you

Finally, **Dinner Dance / Rock 'n Roll Evening / Murder Mystery Evening**

Would you be interested in attending one or other (or all) of these if we organised them? Please let me know. *Simon Evers* chairman@wtu3a.org.uk.

General Meeting date change. Due to circumstances beyond our control, the June meeting will be held a week earlier than scheduled so put **Thursday 18th June** in your diaries.

“April is the kindest month. April gets you out of your head and out working in the garden.” – Marty Rubin

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NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Have a Go Group The last planning meeting for this exciting new group came up with a number of interesting ideas and the first one comes to fruition on **Thursday 14th May** with air rifle shooting. It provides a fun, exciting and challenging experience and costs just £12.50 per person if the maximum of 20 members is achieved. The range is at Great Brickhill and the session runs from 10am till midday. There may well be places left for members who have not yet registered for the group so email Karen Newman at haveago@wtu3a.org.uk if you are interested.

Other activities being looked at include croquet, backwoods campfire, chocolate making, a walking tour of London, paddle boarding, a sushi workshop, white water rafting and an escape room trip.

Card making There is still room for new cardmakers with meetings on the second Thursday of each month – 10am to 12.00 in the Chapel Hall – so if you are interested let Lindsey Beer know at: cardmaking@wtu3a.org.uk The next meeting is on **14th May**. Over the last year card making has gone from strength to strength we have all learnt a lot but still have lots to learn so newcomers are welcome. We have fun every month trying new techniques from embossing to layering, stencilling and building cards in different shapes, to creating shadow box cards, tea bag folding and using different dies to cut out the edges of a card or cutting patterns into a card. Lindsey has all the equipment you need and supplies of card, paper, stencils, inks, pastes; in fact everything to make a finished card. Sometimes the results are not as planned but that's part of the fun! All you need to do is come along and if you have a special card that needs making we'll see what we can do.

Touch tennis There is currently availability for more players to join the group. We play on a Tuesday afternoon from 2:45pm to 3:45pm at Halton Tennis Centre. The cost is £3 per session. Please contact, Ken Shaw at touchtennis@wtu3a.org.uk if you are interested.

Pétanque: We are back to a summer start time of 2pm playing through to 4pm every Monday at the pétanque terrain behind the Weston Turville Village Hall. If you want to give it a go please come along, no previous experience needed. Please arrive by 1:55pm as play starts at 2pm. More information from Ken Shaw at petanque@wtu3a.org.uk

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Scrapbook and Memory Book This new group will now meet on the second Monday of each month so the next one is on **11th May**. Meetings are currently at Lindsey Beer's house but as the group increases in size it will move to the Chapel Room. This hobby has changed since the days of children sticking pictures in a cheap scrapbook. Lindsey has several dies to cut shaped books and several instructions on making larger special folios and books with pockets, flaps, and fancy embellishments! She has all the equipment and supplies needed to make any book up to 12x12 inches as well as the equipment to make bound books of various methods. Books can be for a wedding, a baby, holidays, a teenager's journal, a diary, a recipe book it's only limited by your imagination! Come along with your ideas and we will see what we can create and we won't stop at one book there's always a present to be made for someone. Anyone interested should contact Lindsey at scrapbook@wtu3a.org.uk or speak to her at the next general meeting.

Quiz Group The next afternoon quiz will be on **Friday 24th April** at 2.30pm in the Chapel Room. The well supported March quiz included rounds on Spain, food, transport and people called Susan. Great fun, so why not come along and give it a try. You can come on your own or as a group for this enjoyable afternoon's entertainment. More details from Joy Mantell on quizzing@wtu3a.org.uk

Joint Coffee morning with ACu3a **Thursday 16th April** is the date for our next coffee morning at the Five Bells starting at 10.30am. You can either just turn up, or Marie Jones on coffee@wtu3a.org.uk will let you have further details. The following one will be on **Thursday 21st May**

Theatre visits On **Tuesday 19th May** we have an evening of "That'll be the Day" which celebrates timeless hits from the 1950s until the 1980s. This has a 7.30pm start and costs £33.50. A new performance is on **Thursday 11th June** with "2.22 A Ghost Story" This is a modern ghost story which has won several theatrical awards and should provide a spine-tingling afternoon. It starts at 2.30pm with tickets ranging from £27 to £31. Finally, there is on **Thursday 3rd September** a performance of "Choir of Man". This is an evening of foot-stomping entertainment featuring bar songs, folk classics, Broadway hits as well as classic rock and pop anthems. All these events are at the Waterside Theatre in Aylesbury and Melanie Evans at theatre@wtu3a.org.uk will take your bookings and answer any questions.

"April hath put a spirit of youth in everything." – William Shakespeare

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Science and Technology There is another trip to Matthews Brickworks in Bellingdon near Chesham on **Thursday 30th April**. It may be full by now but John Beer will confirm this. The visit starts at 10.30am and there is no charge although a donation would be appreciated.

The following week (**Thursday 7th May**) we visit Frogmore Paper Mills near Hemel Hempstead. This is a unique heritage site, where paper has been made since 1774 and the first paper machine was placed in 1803. During the visit you will also get the chance to make and take home some paper. There will be morning and afternoon visits and the cost is £15 which includes tea and cakes. At present there are just a few places available.

There will now be two Elizabeth Line tours and these are on **Thursday 4th June**, and **Thursday 2nd July**. The coach will leave Weston Turville at 8.45am (cost is £18) for the journey to Taplow to meet the guide. We travel on the line to Paddington for a look behind the scenes, then Westbourne Park before going to Canary Wharf for lunch and a talk on their environmental policies. Apart from the coach cost, the rest of the trip is free.

Let John at: science@wtu3a.org.uk know if you are interested in any of these visits.

Writing Group For our next meeting on **5th May** – the group meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 2pm - we have a Fictional title of 'The one that got away' for the group to write about. There are many ways to look at this. The group would still welcome two or three more members. Contact Joy Mantell writing@wtu.org.uk if you fancy a go.

Chess The chess group meets regularly on the second and fourth Fridays of each month (and often on other Fridays as well) for lunch, chat, companionship and the odd game of chess - sometimes very odd, but always fun and sociable. Come and join us! We next meet at 12.30 pm at the Chandos Arms on **Fridays 24th April** and **8th May**. If you would like to join us or simply want to find out more, email Geoffrey Howell on chess@wtu3a.org.uk.

Mahjong Group The group has really taken off in a big way with a lot of interest being shown, several mah-jong sets being borrowed and enjoyable matches taking place. The next meeting is on the afternoon of **Thursday 14th May** and thereafter on the second Thursday of each month. Nevertheless there is still room for anyone else interested so contact Joy Williamson at mahjong@wtu3a.org.uk for more information.

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Handbell ringing It's all done by numbers so you don't need any musical experience to ring handbells. The group meets every Friday morning at John Beer's house so contact him at handbells@wtu3a.org.uk if you fancy trying it.

Walking Group The April walk was, as usual, well supported – it was based at Bulbourne near Tring and used towpaths and woodland paths. The following walk will be on **Tuesday 12th May**. Details of the group's activities are available from Sylv Elliott on walkers@wtu3a.org.uk

Crafts The group meets on the second Wednesday of each month, from 10am to midday in the Chapel Hall, with the next one being on **13th May**. Tea and biscuits are available. Our current members continue to support and share their skills — and together we enjoy a creative, friendly morning full of ideas and laughter. If you'd like to try something new or learn new craft skills, come along and see what we do! If you are interested have a chat with Sandra Crannage or email her at crafts@wtu3a.org.uk

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Line Dancing The Aylesbury Vale u3a are opening their Line Dancing group to local branches so we have been asked to publicise it. They meet fortnightly usually on the second and fourth Thursday mornings from 10am to 11am at Roman Park Hall which is by Aylesbury Vale Parkway Station. The cost is £3 per session.

Network News Upcoming Thames Valley u3a Network's Zoom presentations take on a wartime theme as on **Tuesday 5th May** at 2pm Helen Fry gives a talk on Women in Intelligence whilst at 2.30pm on **Friday 5th June** Mike Cooper's presentation is on air raids during World War 1. The usual booking arrangements apply and details are on their website: www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk or you can link from our site.

Finally Although we don't usually publicise community news, this may be of interest to some of our members. Every Thursday from 1.45pm to 2.45pm there is a seated exercise session in Weston Turville Village Hall. All ages and levels of ability are welcome and each session costs £3. More details on: www.activeinthecommunity.org.uk/seated-exercise There are similar classes in Stoke Mandeville (Tuesdays 2pm-3pm) and Wendover (Wednesdays 1.15 to 2.15pm).

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