



# Weston Turville u3a Newsletter

August 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** Our Summer lunch at the end of last month went very well with good food, entertainment and a pleasant atmosphere. More of that later. It is back to normal for our next meeting on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August** with tea, coffee and biscuits (don't forget to bring your own cup), as well as the book/jigsaw/magazine swaps. The guest speaker is Simon Keable-Elliott whose talk is called "Utterly Immoral" and is about his grandfather's (Robert Keable) novel which caused outrage on both sides of the Atlantic and was denounced as being libellous, offensive and "reeking of drink and lust". So what more could we want for a pleasant August afternoon in Weston Turville? It all starts at the usual time of 2.30pm

**Chairman's Report** Despite the dull weather, nearly 200 members (getting on for half the membership) much enjoyed our Summer Lunch, prepared by Lynne Padgett and her helpers and with the pork and beef supplied from Beef Olive. We were also well entertained by the Chiltern Handbell Ringers (although they were a little difficult to hear – something we will try to correct next year) and by Folk Blues and Beyond.

With drinks from the Rugby Club bar and a very happy atmosphere, judging from the comments I had as people left it seemed the whole occasion could hardly have been bettered.

So our very grateful thanks to Lynne and her team, all the musicians and indeed all who were involved in the organisation of the Lunch in any way – and here's to next year!

**Looking ahead**, please note:

- **First, we are throwing open our September meeting to anyone who is not a member but who might be interested in joining us.** Please see below. The week beginning 23 September is National u3a Week when u3a's across the country will be doing something similar. Please encourage your friends to come. If you receive the *Weston Turville Times* from the Parish Council, you will also see in the next edition a piece I have written

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about the u3a which should be useful reading for those who don't know about us. Please point it out as necessary!

- Secondly, you will have an attachment with this newsletter on **Gift Aid** and the considerable financial benefit that we receive from members who are tax-payers who join the scheme simply by filling in a form. Please consider doing this if you have not done so already.
- Finally, plans are being made by the Parish Council for a **special community day in the Village Hall on 16<sup>th</sup> October** – watch this space.

*Simon Evers (Chairman)*

**Open Meeting** We are always happy to welcome new members to our u3a and we have decided to open up our monthly meeting on **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September** to anyone who might be interested in joining to learn a bit more about us.

This will give them the opportunity to experience a general meeting and in particular to enjoy one of our regular talks

If you know of anybody who you think might like to come, please ask them to come along or better still bring them along.

On that day our speaker will be John Wilford whose talk is called “A journey through Rock'n'Roll sound”.

**Christmas Lunch** Preparations are well under way for the lunch which is on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December** at Weston Turville Golf Club in New Road. The cost is £35 which includes four courses, service and a raffle. Tickets will be on sale at both the September and October general meetings and further details can be had from Sarah Gunn or Rosemary Williams at: [xmaslunch@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:xmaslunch@wtu3a.org.uk)

The menu can be found on the back page of this newsletter.

**Christmas cards** Some years ago Christmas cards were sold at our general meetings in aid of Barnado's. Paul and Sue Brown will again be selling them at our September meeting.

**2025 u3a Diaries** As there wasn't too much take up for the 2024 diaries, we will not be selling them this year, but if you are desperate for one you can buy them direct from Headquarters. Their website is: [www.u3abrand.org.uk](http://www.u3abrand.org.uk)

“August creates as she slumbers, replete and satisfied.”

— Joseph Wood Krutch

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## **NEWS FROM THE GROUPS**

*Firstly a brief note from our Groups Liaison Officer – Joy Mantell*

A final call out for someone to run the Extreme Visits Group. The previous leader is happy to give advice so please get in touch with me if you can help at: [groups@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@wtu3a.org.uk)

**Garden Visits** On **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August** the group is visiting the Walled Garden at the Luton Hoo Estate. The garden entry is £7.50 and includes a guided tour of the walled garden which was designed by Capability Brown in the late 1760's. We will arrive there at 10.30 to 11am so our party can finish the tour at around lunchtime. The Woodyard Coffee Shop there serves teas, coffee and light lunches. On **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September** we are visiting Robin Hill, the garden of Caroline Renshaw and Stuart Yates at Water End, Stokenchurch, High Wycombe. This is an informal cottage garden with a variety of trees, woodland edge plants, shade borders, shrubs, perennials and grass borders blending into a beautiful long grass meadow. There is also a mature cherry orchard, chickens and vegetable garden. The cost will be £10 as a donation to the NGS and will include tea and cake. Please let Heather Marshall on [gardens@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:gardens@wtu3a.org.uk) know if you would like to be included on either visit.

**Theatre visits** There is plenty going on with the group starting on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August** with “Ghost the Musical” at the Waterside in Aylesbury at 7.30pm - tickets costing £37.50. Then it is **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September** for “Bonnie & Clyde” at Wycombe Swan starting at 7.30pm and costing £35.20 followed by **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October** also at Wycombe Swan “A Chorus Line” at 7.30pm with seats being £37. Back to the Waterside on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October** at 2.30pm for “Lord of the Dance” with tickets being £44. Finally there is “Come From Away” (2.30pm) which is on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November**. Tickets are £39.50. If you are interested in going to any of these performances and want more details contact Melanie Evans at [theatre@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:theatre@wtu3a.org.uk).

**Joint Coffee morning with ACu3a** Why not come along for a drink with likeminded u3a members at our joint coffee mornings which are on **Thursdays 15<sup>th</sup> August, 19<sup>th</sup> September and 17<sup>th</sup> October** at the Five Bells in Weston Turville. They start at 10.30am and finish around 12. Marie Jones on [coffee@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:coffee@wtu3a.org.uk) will be happy to provide details, or you can just turn up.

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**Quiz afternoons** There is no quiz in August so the event will return on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September** starting at 2.30pm in the Chapel Room. Details from Joy Mantell at: [quizzing@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:quizzing@wtu3a.org.uk) or [joymantell16@gmail.com](mailto:joymantell16@gmail.com)

**Science and Technology Wednesday 11th September** will be a day out at the Didcot Railway Centre home of the GWR society. They house a lot of railway artefacts, coaches and steam locos for you to see and climb on. Wednesday is a Steaming day so there will be trains running on the short track. Cost for entry is £14 and it is own transport, although lifts can be arranged via John Beer. Activities during the day include the train ride, a chance to get on the footplate of an engine, visit the museum, view the turntable and restored coaches plus much more.

The next scheduled tour is on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October** and will be a visit to the Museum of Military Medicine & Milestones Museum in the Basingstoke Area. The MMM tells the story of army medicine and healthcare, human and animal, from the English Civil War to the current day. One group will start a guided tour whilst the other listens to a talk. The Milestones Museum in Basingstoke allows you to step inside the story of our social, retail and industrial heritage and imagine what life would have been like during the Victorian era and the 1930s as you explore the life size streets, buildings, shops and vehicle. The cost will be £50 and includes the coach fare and all entrance fees and guided tours. The coach leaves Weston Turville at 9am and expected return time is soon after 6pm. More details from John at [science@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:science@wtu3a.org.uk)

**Art & Culture** The new Art & Culture Group will begin with a visit to Tate Britain. This new group is aimed at everyone, not just lovers of art. We're hoping to attract anyone who likes visiting buildings and galleries. There are many visits that can be arranged locally or in London where travel can be by own or public transport, meeting and joining the group at the venue. All our visits will be guided, beginning with Tate Britain, a tour that will include the Clore Gallery, home to the largest collection of Turner paintings in the country. **Tate Britain, Tuesday 19 November, 2024. Meet at the Tate at 12 noon, cost £18. The tour is about 1½ hours.** Contact Chris Bennett or John Masters at [culture@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:culture@wtu3a.org.uk)

**Chess** The next meetings for the group (12.30pm at the Chandos in WT) are on Fridays **23<sup>rd</sup> August** and **13<sup>th</sup> September**. You can play, watch or talk about chess and enjoy an optional fish and chip lunch. Details from Geoffrey Howell on: [chess@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:chess@wtu3a.org.uk)

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**Gardening** Despite the damp and showery weather on 22<sup>nd</sup> July fifteen members of our Gardening group undertook their second visit to a garden of our members. This time it was the garden of Viv and Chris Parrott with its mature flower beds, shrubs and roses in bloom amongst curved pathways and cobbled areas and a sitting arbour winding around their bungalow home. Viv and Chris have been there for only two years and are still discovering what their garden contains. The layout had been beautifully thought out and planned by the previous owner. For Viv and Chris it is still work in progress and as with all of us taking on mature gardens from previous owners. This was a garden to which we could all relate and take away ideas. Our visit concluded with refreshments and we came away having enjoyed a refreshing glass of Sangria. Our grateful thanks to Viv and Chris for inviting us to share their beautiful garden and for their hospitality.

On 18<sup>th</sup> July Julia and David Creese opened their garden once again to enable those who had been unable to attend during June to visit. It is hoped we can pay a further visit during the autumn to see the how the many plantings have changed during the months.

The Group does not meet until **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September** it being a Bank Holiday during August. This will be a social event to celebrate our first year of existence and to discuss where we want to go from here. We need your ideas and your involvement in planning for the year ahead, We also hope to have a Quiz. At the October meeting we have a speaker from Lindengate, Wendovet, a very worthwhile mental health charity providing social and therapeutic horticulture in gardening for people of all ages. More details from Jenny Hunt at: [gardening@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:gardening@wtu3a.org.uk).

### **A possible new group or two:**

**Lace making** Last month we mentioned the possibility of starting a lace making group, so if anyone is interested in picking up their bobbins they need to contact Sandy Latimer on [sandi\\_latimer@hotmail.com](mailto:sandi_latimer@hotmail.com) for an initial discussion.

**Music making** Barry Burton is a u3a member and is an accomplished and very experienced vibraphone player. He would be very interested in setting up a group of musicians to play together for fun. In particular, he would be interested to hear from anybody who is a guitarist (bass or otherwise), a drummer or a brass player who would be interested in joining him to play hits from the past. He can be contacted via his email: [burtonbarry77@gmail.com](mailto:burtonbarry77@gmail.com)

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**WESTON TURVILLE u3a CHRISTMAS LUNCH**  
**FRIDAY 13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER @ 12.30**

**STARTERS**

Tomato & Basil soup with crusty roll & butter  
Melon with a Raspberry Coulis  
Pork Pate with crusty roll & butter

**MAIN COURSE**

Roast Turkey with all the trimmings  
Roast Pork loin with apple sauce  
Salmon in a butter Jus  
Vegetable Lasagne  
(All served with seasonal vegetables & Roast potatoes)

**DESSERTS**

Christmas pudding & brandy sauce  
Sherry Trifle  
Cheese & biscuits

**TO FINISH**

Tea/Coffee and mince pies

**Cost is £35.00 – this includes service charge and raffle**

**Seating plan will be arranged. Tables of 8 or 10 – we will need to know if you want to be seated in groups.**

**Tickets will be on sale September and October meetings. Orders and payment method (cheque or bank transfer) will be required at the time of booking.**

**PLEASE NOTE: WESTON TURVILLE GOLF CLUB IS A CASHLESS SITE AND WILL ONLY ACCEPT CARD PAYMENT AT THE BAR**

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