



Weston Turville u3a Newsletter

August 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 After the excellent summer lunch, the next meeting on **Thursday 27th August** is the Annual General Meeting followed by a visit from Aylesbury's M.P. Laura Kyrke-Smith. The book/jigsaw swaps will be there and teas/coffees are available (for those that bring their own cups). This means the original speaker for the day has been changed to next month so cheese lovers will have to wait until **Thursday 24th September** for the talk and cheese tasting.

Chairman's Report

Open Day Tuesday 22nd September – W.T. Village Hall – 1pm to 5pm

I hope you are all aware of this forthcoming event – and, importantly, mean to attend and, even more importantly, **bring friends who don't know about our activities and might be interested in joining.**

A lot of work, under the direction of our Groups Co-ordinator, Joy Mantell, has been involved and quite a number of members and all group leaders are involved and will be present to talk about and also demonstrate where possible what goes on in individual groups. Please come along and support their efforts and your u3a – it really would be appreciated. Thank you in advance.

We had much better weather for our **Summer Lunch** this year, which helped to make it a really good occasion – or so I thought, anyway. Lynne Padgett and her team (together with Beef Olive) produced another really excellent lunch. The friendly bar staff at the Rugby Club and the ice cream van (when it eventually arrived) did very good trade.

The Chiltern Bell Ringers performed outside for a change while inside Folk, Blues and Beyond in a slightly different set-up both kept us entertained.

Our thanks to them all and also to Sarah Gunn for looking after the tickets and money – and to everyone who attended and helped to make it such a happy and enjoyable day.

We now look forward to **our AGM on 27th August** (about which you should have received the usual notification separately).

This will be **followed by the visit of Laura Kyrke Smith, our MP**, who will answer members' questions and I hope have the opportunity to meet you.

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.

(As you should already know, this means that the talk scheduled for this month has been postponed to September.)

Draft Local Plan Buckinghamshire Council have recently sent out a communication which says: *'We're inviting residents and organisations to make representations on the Draft Local Plan for Buckinghamshire (publication version) during the Regulation 19 consultation period.*

(The Local Plan sets out how Buckinghamshire will grow and develop to 2045.) This Regulation 19 consultation is the final opportunity to make comments (called representations at this stage) before the Draft Local Plan for Buckinghamshire is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for independent examination.'

This is your and our opportunity to say what we think about in particular the amount of building which is creeping ever closer to our village. I know from questions which members have submitted to ask our MP that this is an issue which is of concern to many. The consultation is opening until the beginning of September: if you are interested in giving your opinion, I advise you to look at the Council website **Buckinghamshire.gov.uk/local-plan** and add your comments to this very important Plan.

Simon Evers - Chairman

WTu3a Annual General Meeting A reminder that the AGM is on Thursday 27th August at 2.30pm. By now you should have received all the relevant paperwork about the meeting, but if not contact our secretary Susan Horwood on secretary@wtu3a.org.uk

Christmas Lunch Yes, it may only be August but plans are well advanced for our annual festive lunch. It will again be at Weston Turville Golf Club in New Road and it's on **Friday 11th December** starting at 12.30pm. The cost is £38.50 and includes service and a raffle ticket. Tickets will be available at the September and October general meetings and can be paid for by cheque or by bank transfer. More details and the menu are at the end of this newsletter.

Anyone for cricket? Several members from local u3a groups attend a walking cricket session at Aylesbury Town Cricket Club in Wendover Road every Tuesday morning from 10.30am to 12.00. If you need any more details just turn up or contact Melissa Wing on melissa.wing@buckscricket.co.uk Could we be looking at having our own team next season?

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NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Art & Culture Next month we are off to the theatre, The Globe at Stratford where we have a behind the scenes tour. I'm afraid this visit is now **full**.

At the end of November we are visiting the Royal Courts of Justice, in London's Strand. This astonishing Victorian building, opened in 1882 is, together with the Old Bailey the principal law court in the country. We will have a guided tour of this cathedral like building to learn more of its history and place in British law. Final details of date, time and cost will follow in September.

More details from Chris Bennett or John Masters at: culture@wtu3a.org.uk

Discussion Group The next meeting is at 10.30 am on **Friday 4th September**, at the Five Bells.

Recently we have discussed these topics -

Do you think there is too much news about football? Should colours replace whites at Wimbledon? Is Andy Burnham going to be good for the whole country? Do you believe Nicola Sturgeon knew nothing about her husband stealing party funds?

Do come along or contact Terry Jones on 07884121657 or at discussion@wtu3a.org.uk

Chess The chess group meets on the second and fourth Fridays of each month at 12.30 pm at the Chandos Arms. Come and join us on Fridays **28th August, 11th and 25th September**, for convivial chat, a drink (both compulsory), lunch (optional) and the odd game of chess. All are welcome, from raw beginners to Grand Masters. If you want to find out more, email Geoffrey Howell on chess@wtu3a.org.uk

Walking Group The August walk was based at Whiteleaf and was an enjoyable trip through the woods and thankfully the weather was a little cooler than in previous days. Fifteen walkers took part and were then joined by another eight group members for a picnic with some Sangria. The next walk is on **Tuesday 8th September** and Sylv Elliott will give you more details. She can be contacted at walkers@wtu3a.org.uk

Folk, Blues & Beyond As you know we lost Paul Finckin from the FBB group and also have another member who has decided to call it a day, so we could do with some new members and are particularly looking for a couple of guitarists. Please contact Terry Lewis at folk@wtu3a.org.uk

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Quiz Group With no quiz in August, the next one will be on **Friday 25th September** – 2.30pm in the Chapel Room. The quiz is great fun and enjoyed by all those taking part. 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

Gardening Gardeners have been busy in recent weeks trying to preserve their plants shrubs and veg during the current drought and hosepipe ban. However our early summer programme of garden visits to further our knowledge about gardening continued.

At the end of June we returned to the gardens of our members David and Julia Creese both experienced and knowledgeable gardeners to learn from their experiences and listen to their ideas and learn from them. An enjoyable and useful afternoon which finished with tea and homemade cake.

At the end of July we were invited for a summer garden party by one of our frequent presenters Edwin Rye a qualified horticulturist and former winner of the BBC Gardener of the Year Award. Edwin's garden is compact and packed with beautiful blooms of every colour and variety. There was an opportunity to ask questions and to buy plants. The afternoon concluded with tea and cake made and provided by members of the group. A useful and interesting visit. The Gardening Group is for hands on gardeners and meetings take place on a Monday afternoon.

The next meeting is on **28th September** for a session on David Austin Roses. The group is not a Garden Visits Group but one of learning and sharing knowledge and experience, For further details please look at the U3A website under Groups or ring Jenny Hunt on 07831241877.

Science and Technology After our recent first visit to the Elizabeth Line, the two extra dates are **Thursdays 3rd September** (which is now full) and **17th September** for which there may be a few spaces. The coach leaves the Chandos at 8.45 and the W.T. shops at 9am for a trip to Slough. We visit Paddington and Westbourne Park sidings before lunch at Canary Wharf. Then it's back to Slough for the return coach journey with an expected arrival time in W.T. at 3.30pm. On **Thursday 1st October** there is a visit to the Museum of Berkshire Aviation at Woodley Airfield near Reading. This museum records the history of many places in the county which have contributed to our aviation heritage and on display are many items including ejector seats and black box recorders. Transport will be by car (lifts can be arranged) and the cost is just £6.50. More details from John Beer at: science@wtu3a.org.uk

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Patchwork & Quilting While we wilt in the heat of summer the Patchwork & Quilting Group have Christmas in mind with two festive projects. For those with a fireplace we have a frieze to decorate the mantle shelf and a wall hanging to house the Christmas cards. Another project on offer - is it a cushion or is it a quilt? Well, a Quillow is both, a cushion front hides a lap quilt inside handy for a winter evening in front of the TV. This would make a great Christmas present. Meanwhile members of the group have been busy making cushions for our Cushion Raffle to take place at the u3a Open Day on **22nd September** where we will also have some of our work on display.

The group meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month in Stoke Mandeville Village Hall with sessions between 10am and 12.00 and 2pm to 4pm. More details from Maureen Reeves on quilting@wtu3a.org.uk

Theatre visits All these performances are at the Waterside in Aylesbury:

Thursday 3rd September (7.30pm) – The Choir of Man. £33 tickets

Wednesday 11th November (2.30pm) – The Mousetrap. £31.50 (circle)

Sunday 22nd November (7.30pm) – Boyzlife. £43.77

Tuesday 24th November (7.30pm) The Archers Live at 75. £43.77 (second circle)

Melanie Evans at theatre@wtu3a.org.uk will take your bookings and answer any questions.

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A reminder of a possible new group. David Aylmer is proposing to start a new group based on listening to blues music. His idea is to have a monthly session listening to CDs and vinyl. Contact David at dwha1952@gmail.com if you are interested or would like more details.

Network News Next on the Thames Valley u3a Network's programme of Zoom talks will be "China – the Red Dragon awakes" on **Wednesday 16th September** at 10.30am. Andrew Baker will speak on the global and political rise of China and how it affects us in the West. The usual booking arrangements apply and details are on their website: www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk or you can link from our site. The TVu3a Network's annual online quiz is on **Friday 25th September** at 2.30pm – alas it's the same time and date as our quiz afternoon.

News from HQ u3a Getaways is a new travel service provided by our head office. You can join other u3a members on a range of bespoke holidays which are exclusive to u3a members and friends. Currently there are trips for aviation enthusiasts, wine lovers as well as trips to Stratford on Avon, Dartmoor and Yorkshire. Details can be found on the u3a Friends Extra website.

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WESTON TURVILLE u3a CHRISTMAS LUNCH
FRIDAY 11th DECEMBER 2026 @ 12.30 FOR 1.00

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
Beef & Ale Pie
Brie & Mushroom Wellington
(All served with seasonal vegetables & Roast potatoes)

DESSERTS

Christmas pudding & brandy sauce
Raspberry & White Chocolate Cheesecake
Cheese & biscuits

TO FINISH

Tea/Coffee and Chocolate Mints

Cost is £38.50 – 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. PLEASE INFORM OF ANY ALLERGIES
Tickets will be on sale September and October meetings.
Food orders and payment (cheque) will be required at the time of booking.
PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A CASHLESS SITE AND WILL ONLY ACCEPT CARD
PAYMENT AT THE BAR