



Weston Turville u3a Newsletter

July 2024

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

Next meeting Our next meeting is the Summer Lunch on **Thursday 25th July** and don't forget you need a ticket. There may still be a few left so you need to contact Sarah Gunn at summerlunch@wtu3a.org.uk who will let you know the current position. Doors open at 1pm (please don't come any earlier as you won't get in until then) with food being served at 1.30pm. Food will be brisket of beef and pork plus salad and a vegetarian option is available. The bar will be open so our usual tea/coffee service will not be operating.

Please note this event is only for members and spouses. During the afternoon there will also be entertainment from both the Folk, Blues & Beyond group and our handbell ringers.

The following meeting will be on **Thursday 22nd August** with a presentation called "Utterly Immoral!"

Chairman's Report Our speaker in June, Fran Sandham, travelled all the way from the Wirral to tell us about Vasco da Gama and his fellow Portuguese explorers as they travelled down and round Africa to find the route to India and the east in the 16th century. These extraordinarily brave men sailed in their tiny ships on voyages often lasting two years or more. A fascinating story.

My appeal to find someone to take care of the books and puzzles for our popular books and puzzles swap has, I am glad to say, yielded results. Two members have now volunteered to take one box every month: my thanks to them. If we can find perhaps two more to join them this would solve the problem. Please contact me as soon as possible if you think you could help in this way.

Your new committee had a very useful meeting recently and covered quite a lot of ground and in particular a sub-committee is shortly meeting to look at various aspects of our constitution which need updating. We are also in the throes of adapting the Beacon system for our administration and the website. Heather Macknight, our hard working webmaster, has spent many hours working on it and deserves our grateful thanks for this. As they say, please watch this space over the next month or so as these changes come into effect.

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Meanwhile, as I said at the meeting, please feel free to get in touch with me directly if you have any suggestions for the future of our u3a, either by emailing me at chairman@wtu3a.org.uk or ringing me on 07859 221109. I would be glad to hear from you.

Finally, it looks as if we are going to have a large turnout on 25th July for our Summer Lunch and I look forward to seeing you there. I would just remind you that doors open at 1pm (and not before) – and I would ask you to support the Rugby Club by buying drinks at the bar, which will be open for the afternoon. Let's hope for good weather! Simon Evers (Chairman)

New committee Following the AGM we now have a committee of 14 and their roles will be:

Chairman	Simon Evers
Vice Chairman	Mike Bennett
Treasurer	Sarah Gunn
Minutes Secretary	Jenny Hunt
Membership Secretary	Mike Munday
Web Master	Heather Macknight
Speaker Secretary	Carol Johnson
Publicity/Newsletter	Mike Wise
Groups Liaison	Joy Mantell
Committee members	Pushpa Kelly
	Annie Edwards
	Sylv Elliott
	Deborah Brown
	Terry Jones

You will see from the list that there is no Secretary or Accessibility Officer so if anyone is interested in either (or both) of these positions would they please let Simon Evers know.

Tea rota. We need about three people to assist at each general meeting and we currently need help over the last three months of the year. If you can help please contact Lorraine Tiernery on refreshments@wtu3a.org.uk

Books/Magazines/Jigsaws You will see from the Chairman's report that we have a couple of volunteers to store the paperbacks and bring them to each meeting. However we still need more help with this so if you are able to assist please let Chairman Simon Evers know.

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NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Social Bridge This happy group continues to meet every Monday (except Bank Holidays) at the Five Bells at 2pm. We play with different partners, don't score and have a good chat between times! We usually fill three tables (and occasionally four) and, while some of our number are good players, others are less so, if no-one is an actual beginner. If you would like to join us – or simply find out a bit more – please contact Simon Evers at socialbridge@wtu3a.org.uk.

Garden Visits After the postponement of the Chesham Bois House visit due to the appalling weather, the new date of **Wednesday 24th July** is rapidly approaching. The plan is to meet at the Five Bells in Weston Turville by 1.15pm in order to arrange car-sharing for those who do not drive. The visit will begin at 2pm and the cost is £9 as a cash donation to the NGS (national garden scheme) which will include tea and cake. On **Wednesday 21st August** we have a visit to 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 aim to arrive there at 10.30 to 11am which would enable our party to finish the tour at around lunchtime. The Woodyard Coffee Shop there serves teas, coffee and light lunches. Into September and on **Tuesday 10th 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 pastureland, now restored to 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 know if you would like to be included on these visits.

Theatre visits There is plenty going on with the group starting on **Thursday 22nd August** with “Ghost the Musical” at the Waterside in Aylesbury at 7.30pm - tickets costing £37.50. Then it is **Thursday 26th September** for “Bonnie & Clyde” at Wycombe Swan starting at 7.30pm and costing £35.20 followed by **Thursday 3rd October** also at Wycombe Swan “A Chorus Line” at 7.30pm with seats being £37. Back to the Waterside on **Thursday 17th 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 27th 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.

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Gardening In late June we visited the garden of group members David and Julia Creese who live in Weston Turville. We were met by David at the gate of this remarkable garden to a backdrop of the most beautiful dark blue delphiniums.. We were escorted around the garden with central pond and stream running along the rear boundary. An abundance of plants of every description and colour met the eye, some of which were known to us as old favourites and others a mass of beguiling shapes of varying heights and spread in a variety of colours. We were able to identify Campanula, Honesty, Salvia nemorosa, Blue Bouquetta, Inula and very tall yellow daisy Baptisi, Aстранtia Star of Beauty and several varieties around the garden, Phlox not quite in flower and lots of different salvias as well as Allium seed heads and verbena of different varieties which had self-seeded after initial planting. David is very involved with RHS and does trials judging at Wisley including whether a plant should receive an Award of Garden Merit. This is only the “tip of the iceberg” of the names and descriptions of the plants seen on the visit but Julia has written a detailed article which has been circulated to those who visited and which I am quite happy to forward to members of the Group and any member who would like a copy. .A very pleasant and enjoyable visit with our amazing and knowledgeable hosts who told us so much about types of plants, shrubs and flowers and provided welcome refreshments. Our next visit is on **Monday 22nd July** to the garden of Viv Parrott in Worlds End Lane. If you wish to be included in this visit please let Jenny Hunt know at gardening@wtu3a.org.uk. With no meeting in August it is back to our base in the Chapel Room for the following get together on **Monday 23rd September**.

Patchwork & Quilting Although Maureen Reeves is away, the group continues to meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month in the Park Room at Stoke Mandeville Community Centre with sessions at 10am (currently being looked after by Jeanne Wise) and 2pm (with Mary Duly looking after things). Beginners and experienced quilters are welcome at either session. More details from Maureen Reeves at: quilting@wtu3a.org.uk

Joint Coffee morning with ACu3a Fancy a drink with likeminded u3a members? Then come along to our joint coffee mornings which are on **Thursdays 15th August** and **19th September** mornings at the Five Bells in Weston Turville. They start at 10.30am and finish around 12. Marie Jones on 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 July and August so the event will return on **Friday 27th September** starting at 2.30pm in the Chapel Room. Details from Joy Mantell at: quizzing@wtu3a.org.uk or joymantell16@gmail.com

Science and Technology The next scheduled tour is on **Thursday 3rd October** and will be a visit to the Museum of Military Medicine & Milestones Museum in the Basingstoke Area. The Military Medicine Museum (MMM) tells the story of army medicine and healthcare, human and animal, from the English Civil War to the current day, as Army Medical Services personnel continue to serve across the globe as part of the British Army. On arrival and after a toilet break, we will split into two groups. One group will start a guided tour whilst the other has a cup of tea and listens to a talk. Roles are then reversed. 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 vehicles. See how our homes developed through the decades from 1930 to 1970s with the authentic room-sets. Experience the 1940s sweet shop when you purchase an old penny for £1 to buy your 2oz ration of sweets in the sweet shop. Have fun in the vintage penny arcade, dress up in Victorian costumes and experience the working Edwardian pub where you can enjoy a pint and a sandwich. The cost will be £50 and included 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 Beer at science@wtu3a.org.uk

Walking Group There is so much planned for the walking group starting with an extra walk for those who fancy doing 9½ miles. It will be on **Thursday 1st August** starting at 10.30am in Wooburn and using woods and fields around Burnham Beeches. The “usual” walk in August will be on **Tuesday 13th** and will be a circular walk based at Whiteleaf Hill. Looking forward to the festive season and the group’s Christmas Cruise lunch on **Friday 6th December** is already fully booked for the three hour cruise along the Thames. Finally, Sylv Elliott is looking to have another walking holiday in May 2025. It is based at the Speech House Hotel in the Forest of Dean for three days (four nights) with a walk of around six miles each day. Further details from Sylv on walkers@wtu3a.org.uk

Handbells This group aims to perform, promote and teach handbell ringing. They meet on a Friday morning at 10am at John Beer’s home and both new and prospective ringers are welcome. For further information and contact Group Leader John Beer at: handbells@wtu3a.org.uk

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Chess Why not have a convivial lunch experience at the Chandos in Weston Turville by coming along to the Chess group's meetings from 12.30pm with the next ones being on Fridays **26th July, 9th August** and **23rd August**. 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

Visiting Churches Although the group stopped a while ago, plans are now in hand for it to restart under the guidance of Geoffrey Howell and Odette Harris. The first visit is expected to be to the historic Rycote Chapel near Thame Please contact them at churchvisits@wtu3a.org.uk to be added to their mailing list.

NETWORK NEWS The Thames Valley u3a Network's talks on Zoom continue on **Monday 22nd July** at 10.30am with a presentation about Women Artists of the Ashmolean in which Jude Barratt talks about the artists whose paintings are on display at the museum. It costs £2 to register via www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk. There is then a break until **Wednesday 11th September** when Clive Aronson will play and talk about the music of "Two Neils" (Diamond and Sedaka). Details as above or via our website.

LOCAL u3a NEWS The Aylesbury Vale u3a have a coach trip to Stratfield Saye House and Henley-on-Thames on **Tuesday 3rd September**. The cost is £37 and you need to contact Dan McGregor on outings@avu3a.org.uk if interested.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 8th November This is our annual quiz which is being held again in Weston Turville Village Hall. A slight difference this year is that food is not included so you are welcome to bring your own nibbles and drinks. More information next month.

Friday 13th December Preparations for our annual Christmas Lunch are already under way and details of the menus, costs etc will be in next month's newsletter

FINALLY Hopefully, a new group:

Lace Making Many years ago I used to make lace but then children and work got in the way and lace was pushed to the side. Now that I'm no longer working I'd like to pick up my bobbins again and I wonder if there are any other lace makers who would like to join me. If that's you, then please contact me on sandi_latimer@hotmail.com and we can arrange to meet up to discuss times and venues etc. for a possible group.

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