



Weston Turville u3a Newsletter

June 2024

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

Last Meeting Our retiring Chairman, Chris Bennett, completed his official duties by getting us through the Annual General Meeting in just ten minutes, so congratulations to Chris on doing such a great job with both the AGM and by keeping us all in order for the last three years.

With the loss of Chris, as well as Ken Shaw and Rosemary Williams, from the committee we needed members to step up and get elected. So we now have a full committee of 14 and their responsibilities will be outlined next month.

As well as the AGM we had a fascinating talk from Steve Bacon on the story of Edward Jenner and his pioneering of vaccines in general and the smallpox vaccine in particular.

Our next meeting is on **Thursday 27th June** when we will hear from Fran Sandham on “The Sea Route to India” which is about the 15th century Portuguese explorers who braved natural disasters and superstitious dread to find a sea route around Africa to reach the rich spice markets of the East. It starts at 2.30pm with refreshments, group tables and the book exchange. The meeting afterwards is on **Thursday 25th July** and more of that later.....

Chairman’s Report It didn’t take Mike Wise very long to ask me (politely) for my first chairman’s report for the newsletter! It is far from easy trying to follow Chris Bennett’s excellent leadership and I was glad to have the opportunity to thank him on your behalf at our May meeting for all he has done as chairman over the last three years. I was also able to thank the other two people who are stepping down from the committee: Ken Shaw, who was chairman before Chris, and Rosemary Williams, who has been on the committee since our u3a branch started in 2010 (apart from one year) and has been secretary twice. The committee will greatly miss all three of them.

We are lucky to be able to replace them with Mike Bennett, who rejoins us after a short period off the committee, and four new members: Deborah Brown, Terry Jones, Pushpa Kelly and Joy Mantell. They will all be properly introduced to you at the next meeting and on the website shortly.

As a committee, we have plenty of things to consider and I hope we will be able to build on Chris’s legacy in various ways – watch this space.

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The AGM was efficiently and quickly run by Chris and Rosemary and was followed by a talk by Steve Bacon on Jenner and smallpox vaccination. Some people might have felt we should have had one of the dread 'trigger warnings' which seem to be necessary for the faint-hearted these days but what he told us was interesting, sobering and fascinating. Our thanks to him.

At our June meeting we will hear about the sea route to India and then in July we are having our Summer Lunch again – details elsewhere. Our grateful thanks to Lyn Padget and Ken Shaw for once more organising this for us.

I look forward to welcoming many of you on both occasions.

Meanwhile, 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. Simon Evers (Chairman)

Summer Lunch – Thursday 25th July. Planning for our annual summer lunch is well under way and means timings are slightly different from our usual general meetings. Doors open at 1pm (please don't come any earlier) with food being served at 1.30pm. Food will be brisket of beef and pork plus salad and a vegetarian option is available. Tickets are £5 each and will be available at the June meeting. Those not attending in June can contact Sarah Gunn at summerlunch@wtu3a.org.uk who will sell you tickets. Please note this event is only for members and spouses. During the afternoon there will also be entertainment from the Folk, Blues & Beyond group.

Annual Quiz Although it is not until **November (Friday 8th** to be precise) plans are underway for our annual quiz. This time there will be a slight difference as food will not be provided and participants should bring their own food, drinks and nibbles. More information will be available shortly.

Tea rota. We need about three people to help at each general meeting and a list is available at the serving hatch or you can contact Lorraine Tiernery on refreshments@wtu3a.org.uk

Books Unfortunately, the book/jigsaw/magazine swap we have at each meeting could be suspended or severely curtailed unless we get help to store them and bring them along to meetings. If you can help in any way please contact Simon Evers on: chairman@wtu3a.org.uk Don't forget that we do not need hardbacks as they are too heavy and cumbersome.

"Embrace the long days and sweet nights of June."

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NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Garden visits It was very disappointing that our planned visit to the garden of Chesham Bois House was cancelled at short notice because of the torrential rain, however ... the owner of the garden has kindly offered us an alternative date, **Wednesday 24th July**. The arrangements would be the same as previously planned; meeting in the car park of the Five Bells in Weston Turville by about 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.

In addition we have an opportunity to visit the **Walled Garden at the Luton Hoo Estate**. This would be on **Wednesday 21st August**. Garden entry is £7.50 per person and includes a fascinating guided tour of the walled garden which was designed by Capability Brown in the late 1760's. After years of decline a project began in 2001 to restore the garden. This work continues to be carried out by an enthusiastic team of volunteer gardeners, researchers and historians who work alongside a restoration and conservation team all working towards a bright future for this important five acre garden. 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 within the grounds of the Luton Hoo estate serves teas, coffee and light lunches.

Then on the afternoon of **Tuesday 10th September** we are invited to visit Robin Hill, the garden of Caroline Renshaw and Stuart Yates at Water End, Stokenchurch, High Wycombe. This is a relaxed designer's garden at the start of The Chilterns. Informal cottage garden/prairie style 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 again will include tea and cake.

Please let Heather Marshall on gardens@wtu3a.org.uk know if you would like to be included on any of these visits.

The visit to Cedar House in Wendover on **Tuesday 25th June** is fully booked but Heather is happy to add to a reserve list in case of any cancellations.

“June stands as a reminder that we have the power to bloom again, set new goals, and reach heights we’ve only imagined.”

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Gardening Our next event is a visit to the garden of two of our members David and Julia Creese at 2.15pm on **Monday 24th June** at 4 Bridleway , Weston Turville HP22 5SU which is just off Church Lane. You will be shown around the garden with an explanation of the planting and answers to your questions. As Bridleway is a small close, car parking is along Church Lane with a short walk to the end of the Close. No 4 is on your right. There are still few places available so let Jenny Hunt know on gardening@wtu3a.org.uk if you want to go. If it is inclement weather our visit will not go ahead.

There is no cost to our group for this visit and we will provide tea and biscuits. However a small donation to our funds would be appreciated before you leave. Our second visit is on **Monday 22nd July** to the garden of Gardening Group member Viv Parrott who lives in Worlds Lane and details will be sent nearer the time. If you wish to be included in this visit please let Jenny know. Please do not just go along to either visits until you hear further from either Rosemary or Jenny. With no meeting in August it is back to our base in the Chapel Room for the following get together on **Monday 23rd September**.

Quiz afternoons The next quiz afternoon is on **28th June** starting at 2.30pm in the Chapel Room. There will then be a short break over the summer and these pleasant afternoons will restart on **Friday 27th September**. Details from Joy Mantell at: quizzing@wtu3a.org.uk or joymantell16@gmail.com

Science and Technology The recent trip to RAF Hendon was a great success and with so much to see, another visit could well be in the offering. But what is it about the first Thursday of each month? The scheduled visit to the Museum of Military Medicine and Milestone Museum_Basingstoke which was planned for Thursday 6th June had to be postponed due to the numerous D-Day celebrations and it will now take place on **Thursday 3rd October**. Although the visit on **Thursday 4th July** to the Hydraulics Research Organisation in Wallingford is still going ahead, the general election means that some participants can't now attend, so there may still be a couple of places left.

The following day, **Friday 5th July**, there is another opportunity for an evening visit to Beckonscot starting at 6pm. There is no charge but it has been suggested that those who attend make a donation to Beckonscot. The cafe will be open for teas, coffee and basic fare such as pasties and chips. Further details from John Beer at: science@wtu3a.org.uk

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Joint Coffee morning with ACu3a **Thursdays 20th June and 18th July** are the dates of the next two coffee mornings. They start at 10.30am and finish around 12 at the Five Bells in Weston Turville. Marie Jones on coffee@wtu3a.org.uk will be happy to provide more details, or you can just turn up.

Theatre visits There are a number of performances coming up at various venues so the current list is: **Thursday 22nd August** “Ghost the Musical” at the Waterside in Aylesbury at 7.30pm with tickets costing £37.50. **Thursday 26th September** – “Bonnie & Clyde” at Wycombe Swan starting at 7.30pm and costing £35.20. **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.

Handbells This group aims to perform, promote and teach handbell ringing. You don't need to read music as we ring by numbers. The group meets on a Friday morning at 10am at John Beer's home and we welcome new and prospective ringers. For further information and contact Group Leader John Beer at: handbells@wtu3a.org.uk

Card making The second meeting of the card making group recently took place. We attempted tea bag folding which had mixed results due to the thinness of some papers and a very stubborn die! There was a lot of laughter and we all learnt something. Next time we are doing gatefold cards with cut out edges. The group meets at 10am on the second Thursday of each month at the Weston Turville Chapel Room. More information is available from Lindsey Beer at: cardmaking@wtu3a.org.uk

Walking Group Our next walk will be on **Tuesday 9th July** and Sylv Elliott will contact all those on her lists with details of the walk. After last year's cancellation of the Christmas lunch due to bad weather conditions on the Thames, a similar trip is planned for **Friday 6th December**. Starting from Windsor the three hour cruise will include mulled wine, a festive meal and will end with optional carol singing. The cost is £41 and will fill up very quickly. Details from Sylv on walkers@wtu3a.org.uk

“Embrace the magic of June, where every sunrise promises new beginnings and every sunset holds the hope of sweet dreams.”

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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 on Fridays **28th June, 12th July and 26th July**. 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

Patchwork & Quilting The group meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month in the Park Room at Stoke Mandeville Community Centre with sessions at 10am and 2pm. Beginners and experienced quilters are welcome at either session. More details from Maureen Reeves at: quilting@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 on a date to be decided. Please contact them at churchvisits@wtu3a.org.uk to be added to their mailing list.

Network News The Thames Valley u3a Network is holding an online quiz on **Friday 21st June** at 2.30pm. This has to be booked at least a couple of days in advance and more details are on their website: www.u3a.tvnetwork.org.uk or you can link from our website. Their series of Zoom talks continues and on **Wednesday 10th July** at 10.30am there is a presentation by historian Richard Marks called "They also Served". He explores the roles and responsibilities of women in the Royal Air Force, Royal Navy and the Army, as well as the medical services associated with them. The cost is £2 and booking information is available on their website. As yet we have no further details on the talk on **Monday 22nd July** at 10.30am which is about Women Artists of the Ashmolean.

Finally a message from our Chairman: Unfortunately, at some time during last month's meeting, a member's car was inadvertently hit by another member's opening car door, causing some significant damage. I am naturally sorry that this happened. The lines delineating parking spaces in the Rugby Club car park are not very clear (and in areas do not exist). I would remind all members of this and that you park at the Club at your own risk. In addition, neither Aylesbury Rugby Club nor Weston Turville u3a takes any responsibility for your car while it is parked there. Please take particular care when first parking and particularly when leaving after a meeting.

"I wonder what it would be like to live in a world where it was always June." – L.M. Montgomery

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