



# Weston Turville u3a Newsletter

**March 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** Despite the appalling weather there was a good turn out for Gordon Rogers' interesting and humorous talk on "The Sky at Night" and we told of the work that goes on at his observatory in Long Crendon as well as recent developments in both amateur and professional astronomy.

**Next meeting** Our next general meeting is on **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March** at 2.30pm when we have a talk by Martin Lloyd on "The Secret Art in the Passport". He will speak about passport design over the past 300 years and explain the defences built in to prevent forgery and to explain the tricks the forgers use to defeat them. Please remember to bring your own cup if you want tea or coffee. The book swap will also be there. The following meeting is on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April**.

**Chairman's Report.** It was raining on the day of our February meeting, and I rather thought that many of you would stay away, but no it was as busy as ever, over 120 of you attended. We had an excellent talk by Gordon Rogers on The Sky at Night.

I was very pleased to see so many of the Interest Group Leaders at their recent meeting. It reminded me once again how lucky we are to have so many, willing and able to help run these groups. Many thanks to Ken Shaw for Chairing the meeting and thank you all for attending.

The second Defibrillator/CPR event is on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April**. Like the first it's at the Village Hall, commencing at 2pm. So far over 40 of you have asked to attend, there is still space if you wish to come, but please register on [defib@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:defib@wtu3a.org.uk)

Our next monthly meeting is on **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March** when our speaker is Martin Lloyd who will tell us about "Passports, Assassins, Traitors and Spies" and how that vital travel document has got involved in murder and intrigue! I look forward to seeing you all there. Chris Bennett [chairman@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:chairman@wtu3a.org.uk)

Let March be the month you shed your winter skin and bloom into the person you were meant to be. *Unknown*

**Remember to check the website [www.wtu3a.org.uk](http://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.**

**Defibrillator update** The second session run by Ash Webber will be on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April** at 2pm in Weston Turville Village Hall. Anyone who has already asked to attend this second event, can just turn up, but anyone else wanting to come should just send Chris Bennett a message on: [defib@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:defib@wtu3a.org.uk).

Following the first session, which attracted over 60 participants, Ash sent through some notes and, briefly, that in the event of an incident there are three simple steps:

1. Do something – take out the phone, call 999, get help. As I say “pass the buck!”
2. If casualty is responsive, talk to them. If not, roll the head back to open the airway & check the breathing for 10 seconds. If the breathing sounds ok, brilliant! Roll them onto the side whilst waiting for the ambulance. If the breathing isn't ok, begin CPR (2 hands, Centre of chest, push hard at a ratio of 30 compressions to 2 breaths.) Remember, done is better than perfect. Don't strive for perfection.
3. If the AED arrives ..... TURN IT ON. Really nothing else to it, listen to the voice prompts!

**Committee Members** The success of our u3a is partly down to the enthusiasm and work of your committee, and shortly we will need new members to keep us fresh. The committee meets once a month to hear reports from the chairman, the membership secretary, the speaker secretary, the website manager and the publicity manager – and to discuss future events and look at ways we can improve the way our u3a runs. Meetings are never dull, discussions are usually lively and the biscuits are always good! By becoming a member, you would therefore be making a real and important contribution to our future. Experience is not essential but enthusiasm is, so if you would like more information about the role please get in touch with Chris Bennett on [chairman@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:chairman@wtu3a.org.uk)

**Christmas Lunch** Yes, we know it is nine months before the festive season, but plans are already in hand for our popular Christmas lunch. It will be on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December** at the Weston Turville Golf Club. A three course meal will be followed by mince pies and coffee/tea. Tables are 8 or 10 and a complete table can be booked in one name. Names and money will be collected from September with more details to follow. Please note that this is a cashless site and can only accept card payment.

March: the only time of year where you can experience all four seasons in a single day! *Unknown*

**Remember to check the website [www.wtu3a.org.uk](http://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.**

**Membership renewal** It's that time of year again:

During the first week in April, you will receive an email from me asking for you to renew your membership by paying your annual membership fee for 2024 – 2025. For several years, the annual membership fee has been £15 and indeed it was reduced to £10 during the pandemic. Costs have inevitably continued to rise and, in addition, we will be changing our system and database to the u3a Beacon system, which is used by the majority of u3a's in the country and this incurs an extra cost each year.

As a consequence, **the annual membership fee for 2024-2025 is increased to £17 from 1<sup>st</sup> April.** We hope you feel this still represents good value for money. **Please do not pay your renewal fee now** but wait until you receive my email. (We much prefer you to pay by bank transfer rather than by cheque if this is possible.) If you have any questions about this (or any other membership matters) please feel free to email me at [membership@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@wtu3a.org.uk) or phone me on 07859 221109. Simon Evers (Membership Secretary)

**Books** One of the highlights of our general meetings is the book/jigsaw/magazine swap which has recently become even more popular.

Chris Bennett currently looks after all these but would like to relinquish to role, so we need members who can store a few books between meetings and then bring them along to the following one. This could be done by several people – we already have a volunteer to look after the magazines – so if anyone will take on the puzzles or some of the books we would be very grateful. Contact Chris at [chairman@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:chairman@wtu3a.org.uk) if you can help.

## **NEWS FROM THE GROUPS**

**Walking Group** Alas the March walk was very wet but we are hopeful for better weather on the next walk which is on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April** and this is a 4½ mile trek based at the Old Hunters Lodge in Whipsnade. Sylv Elliott will contact those on her mailing list but anyone else can get her on [walkers@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:walkers@wtu3a.org.uk) On walk days transport is normally available from the Chandos in WT at 10am. However if you need a lift let Sylv know as we had a couple turn up recently and they found themselves walking with another group who were also meeting at the Chandos at that time!

**“Daffodils, That come before the swallow dares, and take  
The winds of March with beauty.”** — William Shakespeare, [The Winter's Tale](#)

**Remember to check the website [www.wtu3a.org.uk](http://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.**

**Gardening** For our March meeting on **25<sup>th</sup> March** we have Dr Sandy Primrose talking on Roses, Romans and Renaissance including the history of roses and differences in types. More details from Jenny Hunt or Rosemary Williams on [gardening@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:gardening@wtu3a.org.uk) Please let either of them know if you are able to come along as this helps when setting up the room. Fee payable is £3 and includes tea, coffee and biscuits.

At its February meeting over twenty members of the group welcomed local beekeeper, Andrew Smith who had been invited to come along to talk about bees in our gardens of which there are many species . A bee colony would have up to 55,000 bees. He described the beekeepers year and said that In order to encourage pollinate bees into our gardens , it is important that we grow the right type of flowers with high nectar and pollen count and are in flower during the bee season. We should not spray insecticide when bees are about and not spray into open blooms. Andrew warned of the Asian Hornet a predator to our bees but which had not yet reached these shores. However, we should keep a watchful eye!

U3A national has a Facebook page on Gardening which offers information, logs questions and gives hints and suggestions from other gardeners. If you are a Facebook user log on through your own Facebook address. You will need your membership number to hand in order to join.

**Quiz afternoons** The next quiz afternoons are on **22<sup>nd</sup> March** and **26<sup>th</sup> April**. The start time is 2.30pm in the Chapel Room. Individuals and couples are welcome so you don't need to have a complete team to take part. Details from Joy Mantell at: [quizzing@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:quizzing@wtu3a.org.uk)

**Garden Visits** The trip to Touchwood in Great Missenden proved very popular so Heather Marshall has lined up two more outings – on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March** there is a visit to Montana, Shire Lane, Cholesbury, HP23 6NA. This is a **morning** visit, starting at 11am, to a large woodland garden and will include home-made refreshments in the covered open barn. The garden features rare and unusual flowering trees, shrubs, perennials and loads of bulbs including an avenue of thousands of daffodils which hopefully will still be in bloom. On **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June** it is an **afternoon** visit to Cedar House, Bacombe Lane, Wendover, HP22 6EQ where there is a great variety of trees, shrubs and plants leading via a sloping lawn to a delightful natural swimming pond. The visit will start at 2.30 and will include home-made teas. More details from Heather at: [gardens@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:gardens@wtu3a.org.uk) .

**Remember to check the website [www.wtu3a.org.uk](http://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.**

**Trips** The Hampton Court trip on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April** is now full with a waiting list as is the visit to Highgate Cemetery on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July**. As yet there is no date for the visit to the National Arboretum but as it is sure to fill up quickly let Mandi Simonds know on [trips@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:trips@wtu3a.org.uk) if you want to be on her mailing list for it. There may be a few places left for the group visit to Ronnie Sunshines shooting range (air pistols and rifles only) in Berkhamsted which is scheduled for **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March**.

**Science and Technology** The first trip visited the excellent Museum of Natural History and the unusual Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford. Coming up we have: **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April** a visit to The Museum of Water and Steam in Brentford. This is by coach leaving Weston at 9am and returning around 5pm. The cost for coach and admission is £38.

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May** there is a trip to the RAF Museum in Hendon. This requires own transport, although lifts can be given, and the tour – which starts at 11.00am - costs just £5. Car parking there is extra.

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June** we have a visit to the Museum of Military Medicine and Milestone Museum\_Basingstoke. This will be a coach trip leaving at 9.00am. The cost is £50 including a tour at the Medical museum and all entrance fees.

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July** it is off to the Hydraulics Research Organisation in Wallingford using own transport. This trip is already full but a reserve list has been started. Further details from John Beer at: [science@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:science@wtu3a.org.uk)

**Chess** **Fridays 22<sup>nd</sup> March** and **12<sup>th</sup> April** are the next dates for the Chess group meetings (plus chat and fish & chips if desired) which are at 12.30pm at the Chandos in WT. Details from Geoffrey Howell on: [chess@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:chess@wtu3a.org.uk)

**Coffee morning with ACu3a** The next get togethers are on **Thursdays 21<sup>st</sup> March** and **18<sup>th</sup> April** from 10.30am at the Five Bells in Weston Turville. The group's contact is Marie Jones on [coffee@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:coffee@wtu3a.org.uk)

**Theatre visits** A visit has been planned to the Pendley Theatre in Tring on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May** at 7.30pm for a performance of "Me and My Girl". There are still a few places left for the following at the Waterside in Aylesbury – **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April** 7.30pm Seven Drunken Nights – the Story of the Dubliners (£31.50), **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April** 7.30pm House of Jo Jo – Johannes Radebe (£56) and **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April** 7.30pm Madama Butterfly - Ellen Kent (£37.75). Contact Melanie Evans at [theatre@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:theatre@wtu3a.org.uk)

**Remember to check the website [www.wtu3a.org.uk](http://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.**



**Book Club 1** We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 2pm in Wendover to discuss the book we have been reading. We read a wide range of authors and genre, which are democratically chosen!  
We are a friendly group who enjoy talking about books amongst many other things! We are also treated to delicious tea and cakes, which are enjoyed by all. Come and join us! Please contact Jackie Aggett at [bookclub1@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:bookclub1@wtu3a.org.uk)

**Grub Club.** A message from Annie Edwards: As you might have read in last month's newsletter I am unfortunately having to stop organising the Grub Club. I have some ongoing health issues which seem to be going on a lot longer than expected. If you or any other u3a member would like to take over, please speak to me on 07941 314586 or any Committee member.

**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. For further information and contact Group Leader John Beer at: [handbells@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:handbells@wtu3a.org.uk)

**Card Making** Are you interested in making your own cards for friends and relatives or to sell? I am looking for like-minded people to start a group whether you are experienced or just starting out and need help. I have a lot of supplies and various equipment to experiment with but you can bring your own as well. If you are interested or want more details contact Lindsey Beer at: [wendoverbeers@btinternet.com](mailto:wendoverbeers@btinternet.com) Depending on the response meetings will either be at Lindsey's house in Wendover or at the Chapel in Weston Turville.

**Network News** The Thames Valley u3a continues to hold its Zoom talks and the next one is on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April** at 2.30pm when Timothy Walker's presentation is entitled "Bordering on Insanity" in which he will talk about creating herbaceous borders in your garden. More details on their website: [www.u3a.tvnetwork.org.uk](http://www.u3a.tvnetwork.org.uk)

**Finally.** We have been asked to mention a new publication "Aylesbury Grammar School" by Dr Joel Burden. "The 425th anniversary book reveals the fascinating history of Aylesbury Grammar School through an exploration of key events and personalities that have left a lasting impact on the School. Importantly this is a book for the entire community of Aylesbury as Aylesbury Grammar School and the town have a rich and inextricably shared history". If your interest has been aroused you can contact Alison Cox on [ACox@ags.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:ACox@ags.bucks.sch.uk) or on 01296 480276 and she is happy to discuss the book or take an order. The book sells at £30.00 which is the actual cost price to the school but it is well worth the price and can be collected at the school or sent by post

**Remember to check the website [www.wtu3a.org.uk](http://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.**