



Weston Turville u3a Newsletter

May 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 The interesting themes continue for our general meetings and we now move on from the fascinating story of wildlife on Christmas Island to this month's presentation by Steve Bacon on "Jenner and his Vaccine". The story of the development of the vaccine is more complicated than people would imagine and we will hear how Edward Jenner developed the technique and how he eventually got it accepted by society.

Prior to that will be our Annual General Meeting and by now you should have received all the relevant information.

It starts at 2.30pm on **Thursday 23rd May** and as usual there will be teas and coffees, if you bring your own cup, and the ever-popular book exchange.

The following meetings are on **Thursday 26th June** and **25th July**. We have a speaker for the June meeting and the July one will be our annual members-only social event which includes food and entertainment. More details will be in the next newsletter.

Chairman's Report. Our next monthly meeting is on **Thursday 23rd May**. We welcome Steve Bacon as our speaker with the story of Jenner and the development of vaccines. It is also our AGM and as I have said elsewhere, whilst the AGM will be brief, it is also very important. I hope as many of you as possible are able to attend.

This month's report is also brief and I'm afraid, also my last! After serving for six years, the last three as Chairman, I shall be stepping down at the AGM and leaving the Committee. My Annual Report is a roll call of the many people I have worked with whilst I've been Chairman. We really are very lucky to have so many enthusiastic individuals who are prepared to serve on the Committee and who run all the many interest groups and events. Thank you to all of them, thank you to all of you, firstly for putting up with me but also for your help and enthusiasm over the last three years. Finally, best wishes to my successor and the new Committee, I know they will have your support over the coming year.

Chris Bennett chairman@wtu3a.org.uk

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.

Membership renewal Thank you very much to all those members who have renewed their membership. **However, there are well over 50 members who have yet to do so and, if you are one of them, I would be grateful if you would see to this as soon as possible.** Standing Order or Bank Transfer (preferred) to: Weston Turville U3A: a/c no 50853236: sort code 60-01-31. Please quote your full name as a reference. Or a cheque – made payable to Weston Turville u3a – to me at 3 Watermill Way, Weston Turville HP22 5SR.

I look forward to receiving this! Simon Evers Membership Secretary

General Meeting help We need help to make our monthly meetings as successful as possible and volunteers are wanted for:

Tea rota. We need about three people to help at each meeting and a list is available at the serving hatch or you can contact Lorraine Tiernery on refreshments@wtu3a.org.uk The big advantage of helping is you get first choice of the chocolate biscuits!

Books Our popular book swap is in need of a couple of members to help store some of the books, magazines and jigsaws and bring them along to the meetings. If you could help please let Chris Bennett know on chairman@wtu3a.org.uk Please remember that we do not need hardbacks as they are too heavy and cumbersome.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Gardening The April meeting saw thirty one Members attending to hear Edwin Ryder, a well-known local and national gardener talking about the planting of summer patio pots and flowering hanging baskets. Edwin demonstrated and recommended various containers as well as bringing with him a number of plants for sale to be used in our displays. An enjoyable and informative session was had by all. There is no monthly meeting during May due to the Bank Holiday. On the planned meeting dates of **Mondays 24th June and 22nd July** we will be visiting the gardens of two of our members who live in Weston Turville village. Further information will be circulated shortly when arrangements have been finalised and anyone else wanting to be on the mailing list should contact either Jenny Hunt or Rosemary Williams on gardening@wtu3a.org.uk

"May is the most beautiful month of the year, a month alive with warmth and colour." – Abigail Reynolds

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Card making We have finally pinned down a day in the month for our meetings. They will be 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

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

Quiz afternoons The next quiz afternoons are on **Fridays 24th May** and **28th June** starting at 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 or joymantell16@gmail.com

Garden visits Although the planned visit to Cedar House in Wendover in June is now fully booked but I have just been able to arrange for the Garden Visits Group to visit the garden of Chesham Bois House (which lies just north of Amersham-on-the-Hill) on **Wednesday 22nd May** from 2pm. This is a beautiful 3 acre garden which is interesting for most of the year, with lovely herbaceous borders, rill with small ornamental canal, walled garden, old orchard with wildlife pond and handsome trees some of which are topiary. It is described as a peaceful oasis. The cost for the visit will be £9 as a cash donation to the NGS (National Garden Scheme) to include refreshments. We would plan to meet in the car park of the Five Bells pub in Weston Turville by about 1.15 pm and share cars from there to assist those who do not drive. Please let me know if you would like to join the visit; numbers are limited to 30. Also if anyone would be interested in helping to plan further visits do please get in touch. Heather Marshall: gardens@wtu3a.org.uk

Science and Technology After the visit and tour of the RAF Museum in Hendon, the next foray is on **Thursday 6th June** when 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. On **Thursday 4th July** we are going 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

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Trips Our trip to Highgate Cemetery on **Wednesday 17th July** filled up quickly although there is a reserve list in operation.

There has been a lot of interest in the proposed visit to the National Arboretum and as it is sure to fill up quickly let Mandi Simonds know on trips@wtu3a.org.uk if you want to be on her mailing list for it.

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

Book Group 2 This month in book group two we read "How to kill Your Family" by Bella Mackie. A story of revenge, at times chilling, but also laugh-out-loud funny. Told through the eyes of the Villanelle-esque Grace Bernard. If you want any tips..... Details of all our activities from: Rosemary Williams at: bookclub2@wtu3a.org.uk

Joint Coffee morning with ACu3a The next get togethers are on **Thursdays 16th May, 20th June and 18th July**. It starts at 10.30am at the Five Bells in Weston Turville and Marie Jones on coffee@wtu3a.org.uk will be happy to provide more details, or you can just turn up.

Theatre visits A couple of performances at Milton Keynes Theatre have been booked with "Everyone's Talking About Jamie" on **Wednesday 12th June** at 2.30pm whilst later in the year there is "Come From Away" which is on **Wednesday 27th November**. Tickets are £37 and £39.50 respectively.

At the Waterside in Aylesbury and there is a screening of "Titanic – the Musical" on **Thursday 23rd May** at 7pm (£14.85) and on **Thursday 22nd August** it is "Ghost the Musical" at 7.30pm (£37.50) with "Lord of the Dance" being at 2.30pm on **Thursday 17th October** (£44). If you are interested in going to any of these performances and want more details contact Melanie Evans at theatre@wtu3a.org.uk.

Chess **Fridays 24th May and 14th June** 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

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

Mahjong Rather like football which has a summer break so does our Mahjong group and hopefully they will be back in the autumn. More details in future newsletters but you can always contact Ken Shaw on: mahjong@wtu3a.org.uk for an update.

Walking The next foray for the walkers will be on **Tuesday 11th June** and group leader Sylv Elliott will be in touch with everyone on her mailing list. If you want to join the group contact her on: walkers@wtu3a.org.uk

Rummikub The game of rummikub is like rummy but with a twist. The group meets on the third Tuesday of each month, so the next ones are on **21st May** and **18th June**, starting at 2pm at the Five Bells in the village. Group leader Deborah Brown can provide more details at: rummikub@wtu3a.org.uk

Network News The Thames Valley u3a holds a number of talks on Zoom and the next ones are: **Wednesday 29th May** at 10.30am "Avebury Stone Circle – A new light on old stones" and on **Monday 10th June** it is "The Korean War." The network also has an online quiz and this will be on **Friday 21st June** at 2.30pm. All these have 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.

Local News Aylesbury Vale u3a trips co-ordinator, Dan McGregor, has advised us that there are a few seats available on their coach trip to Althrop House and Canon's Ashby on **Monday 1st July**. The cost is £47. Details can be viewed on their website www.avu3a.org.uk. If you would like to book a seat please contact Dan McGregor directly on outings@avu3a.org.uk.

Very local news Our friends at the Chapel in Weston Turville are holding a plant sale on the morning of **Saturday 25th May**. As many of our groups and the committee use the chapel room it would be good if we could give them our support to help with the maintenance of this valuable asset.

"May means long walks in the evenings, eating outside in the garden and lots of healthy, fresh salads to use up all the lovely summer veg that's available." – Sophie Morris

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Finally, an important message from the u3a Headquarters

u3a Friends Extra

Extra benefits for u3a supporters

We are delighted to announce a new range of services to those who sign-up to receive the u3a Friends newsletter.

u3a Friends Extra is a benefits website developed exclusively for members of the u3a Friends newsletter community. The website provides access to a wide range of offers, discounts and additional services. Friends Extra is completely free to access.

Anyone signed up to the u3a Friends newsletter can now also make savings on well-known brands, shopping, travel, days out and more.

Offers and services on Friends Extra include:

- ✓ Health and wellbeing
- ✓ Shopping savings on major brands and retail discounts
- ✓ Travel and holidays
- ✓ Leisure offers, like family days out, trips to the cinema and theatre
- ✓ Insurance offers on car, travel and medical insurance
- ✓ Access to financial advice and a legal helpline.

To become a 'Friend', simply sign up to receive the Friends Newsletter on the u3a website: <https://www.u3a.org.uk>

Each issue of the Friends Newsletter will include a link to the Friends Extra benefits website and highlight one of the offers. This is just one element of the u3a Friends newsletter, which brings together stories from local u3a groups, learning opportunities and news of upcoming events to highlight the fun and learning within the u3a community.

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