



Weston Turville u3a Newsletter

May 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 Bobbie Derbyshire's presentation on how novelists get their ideas was well received and certainly give budding writers food for thought. Next month's guest is Sarah Slater who will speak on the origins of celebrating royal jubilees. The date is **Thursday 28th May** and it starts at 2.30pm. As usual there will be teas and coffees (bring your own cups), the book swaps and the group tables. The following meeting will be on **Thursday 18th June** – remember this is a week earlier than usual.

Chairman's Report *A gentle reminder:* if you have not yet paid your annual subscription, please do so without delay.

Our speaker last month on St. George's Day, Bobbie Darbyshire, gave us an interesting outline of writing a novel and what it entailed. She also told us something about the five novels she has had published. I followed up her talk by asking ChatGPT (AI) how many manuscripts of new novels were on average submitted to publishers in the UK each year. It said 'a plausible estimate would be 300,000' - or more. So don't give up the day job, as they say . . .

This month we have **Sarah Slater talking about Royal Jubilees** – a talk about the origins of celebrating the Royal Jubilee, the pomp and pageantry and also the role that Hampton Court Palace played within the celebrations of four recent monarchs.

A reminder that our **June meeting is on Thursday 18th June** – i.e. a week earlier than usual. (This does not include our AGM – this is in August this year.)

u3a online learning events These talks cover a wide range of topics and are offered free via ZOOM each week to all u3a members. Google "u3a online learning events" to have a look. In particular, you might like to scroll down and see **what's on offer on 11th June**. And you might even decide to join me then!

Suggestions Box Please don't forget your committee is always open to suggestions for future events, improvements on our present arrangements or anything else you wish to tell us. The Suggestions Box is always there at monthly meetings for you to use if you want to. Alternatively please feel free to send me an email in the first instance. Simon Evers 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.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Trips First the bad news and then the good..... The planned trip to Windsor on 26th June has been cancelled due to lack of numbers but the trip to Bath Christmas Market on **Thursday 3rd December** is full and a reserve list has been started. If you want to be on that list send a message to Sarah Gunn on trips@wtu3a.org.uk

Rummikub The group's next meeting is on **Tuesday 19th May** starting at 2pm in the Five Bells. More details of the group and the game are available from Deborah Brown on rummikub@wtu3a.org.uk

Discussion Group The group meets on the first Friday of each month with the next one being on **5th June** at 10.30am in the Five Bells. Recent topics have included – do we have too many Bank Holidays, should national service be introduced, will greetings card be taken over by computerised ones and should Trump have annihilated Iran? More details on the group from Terry Jones on discussion@wtu3a.org.uk or 07884 121657.

Walking Group - from Group Leader Sylv Elliott.

We have just returned from the walking group's holiday in Dorset.

I organised and led three walks - Arne nature reserve, Brownsea Island and Harry Rocks with sea views on each walk. We had blue skies and warm sunshine each day. The hotel was comfortable serving good service and food. We entertained ourselves in the evening with games and quizzes.

The next regular walk is on **Tuesday 9th June**. Details from Sylv on walkers@wtu3a.org.uk

Chess The chess group meets regularly on the second and fourth Fridays of each month (and often on other Fridays as well) for lunch, chat, companionship and the odd game of chess - sometimes very odd, but always fun and sociable. The next meetings are on 22nd May and 12th June. If you want to find out more, email Geoffrey Howell on chess@wtu3a.org.uk .

Have-a-go Group The Have a Go Group ran its first event recently - a trip of 21 to an air rifle shooting range near Great Brickhill. After a short safety briefing and demo everyone took it in turns to fire at their favourite (paper) targets the squirrel and rat being very popular! To find out what other activities are being considered email Karen Newman at haveago@wtu3a.org.uk - the aim is run one event every couple of months.

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Science and Technology Since the last newsletter there have been two excellent trips – one to Matthews Brickworks near Chesham which was an enlightening experience into various methods of making bricks, and the second to the fascinating Frogmore Paper Mills near Hemel Hempstead where paper has been made for over 250 years

The two Elizabeth Line tours on **Thursday 4th June**, and **Thursday 2nd July** are fully subscribed. The coach will leave Weston Turville at 8.45am (cost is £18) for the journey to Taplow to meet the guide. We then have a train ride to Paddington for a look behind the scenes, then onto Westbourne Park before going to Canary Wharf for lunch and a talk on their environmental policies. Let More details from John Beer at: science@wtu3a.org.uk

Writing Group For our next meeting on **2nd June** – the group meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 2pm – the stories will be centred around extreme weather. If you need any more details of this exciting new group contact Joy Mantell on writing@wtu3a.org.uk

Quiz Group The next afternoon quiz will be on **Friday 22nd May** at 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

Joint Coffee Morning with ACu3a You are welcome to just turn up or ask Marie Jones on coffee@wtu3a.org.uk for more details of the joint meeting with our friends at ACu3a. They start at 10.30am at the Five Bells with the next ones being on **Thursday 21st May** and **Thursday 18th June**.

Touch tennis There is currently availability for more players to join the group. This is a more gentle form of tennis with a squeazy ball and played on a small court. We play on a Tuesday afternoon from 2:45pm to 3:45pm at Halton Tennis Centre. The cost is £3 per session. Please contact, Ken Shaw at touchtennis@wtu3a.org.uk if you are interested.

Theatre visits A new performance at the Waterside is on **Thursday 11th June** with "2.22 A Ghost Story" It starts at 2.30pm with tickets ranging from £27 to £31. On **Thursday 3rd September**, also at the Waterside, is a performance of "Choir of Man". This is an evening featuring bar songs, folk classics, Broadway hits as well as classic rock and pop anthems. Melanie Evans at theatre@wtu3a.org.uk will take your bookings and answer any questions.

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Scrapbook and Memory Book This new group will now meet on the second Monday of each month so the next one is on **8th June** . Meetings are currently at Lindsey Beer's house but as the group increases in size it will move to the Chapel. Anyone interested should contact Lindsey at cardmaking@wtu3a.org.uk or speak to her at the next general meeting.

Pétanque The group starts plays between 2pm and 4pm every Monday at the pétanque terrain behind the Weston Turville Village Hall. If you want to give it a go please come along. More details from Ken Shaw at petanque@wtu3a.org.uk

Card making There is still room for new cardmakers with meetings on the second Thursday of each month – 10am to 12.00 in the Chapel Hall – so if you are interested let Lindsey Beer know at: cardmaking@wtu3a.org.uk The next meeting is on **Thursday 11th June**.

Gardening As gardeners we have been busy whether it be with plants, shrubs, fruit trees or vegetables. To learn more about spring planting we invited local horticulturist Edwin Rye to our meeting at the end of March. He took us through suitable plants for spring planting with some old favourites and some new especially the planting of small fruit strawberries in hanging baskets! Edwin can be found at his plant stall at Princes Risborough Market every Thursday. At our April meeting we welcomed Lindsay Engers who gave an enthusiastic and fascinating talk about Chiltern Heritage Orchards: Growing Organically. He has created an orchard in St Leonards for his conservation work containing 200 old varieties of apples, pears, damsons and plums, cherries, greengages and medlars. Lyndsay went on to give us tips about growing and fertilising fruit trees and answered our many questions during the tea break. The Gardening Group for active gardeners takes place on the fourth Monday afternoon of the month from February to November at the Chapel Room Weston Turville except where there is a Bank Holiday on that date and no meeting during August. For further details or if you wish to join the Group see Gardening Group on the WTU3a website where you can leave a message.

Network News Thames Valley u3a continue to have talks on Zoom starting at 2.30pm on **Friday 5th June** with Mike Cooper's presentation "The First Blitz - Zeppelins & Giants, 1914 -1918". A couple of weeks later (**Friday 19th June**, also at 2.30pm) is their annual summer quiz. The usual booking arrangements apply and details are on their website: www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk or you can link from our site.

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