



# Weston Turville U3A Newsletter

**September 2023**

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

**Next meeting Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September** is the date of the next general meeting with a 2.30pm start at the Rugby Club. Our speaker will be chemist and author Dr Kathryn Harkup and her talk is called “Mad, Bad and Dangerous”. Teas and coffees are back on the agenda (bring your own cups), and the paperback book, magazine and jigsaw swaps will also be available. The following meeting is scheduled for **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October** and the following one has had to be put back a week until **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November**.

**Chairman’s Report** I must begin by apologising to you all once again for the last minute non-appearance of our August speaker, Paul Robbins, who was unwell. No one’s fault, a combination of circumstances that were difficult to predict. It has been suggested that we might have a contingency plan for cancellations or no show, but I have to say in my 8+ years with WTU3a, it has never happened before. We have now taken steps to ensure it will not happen again and of course wish Paul a speedy recovery.

Our speaker this month is Dr. Kathryn Harkup, her talk, Mad, Bad and Dangerous. Kathryn has spoken to us before and was excellent, we’re in for another treat!

Best wishes to our two new groups who meet for the first time in the next week or so - Gardening and Quiz, I hope it goes really well for you both.

We are in desperate need of someone to organize and help make tea and coffee at our monthly meetings. Lynn White finishes in November having stayed on for the rest of this year, after having said at the AGM that she wanted to stand down. Without a replacement there will be no tea or coffee at meetings next year! We also need two or three new people to complete the Committee. If you are interested or keen to help with either refreshments or the Committee, please contact me.

Finally, and I’m sure you will hear plenty about this elsewhere, the date of our November meeting has changed! It will now be the following Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> November. Everything else, the venue and Christmas entertainment remains the same. Chris Bennett

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**Diaries** As you may know the u3a produces a diary each year which is available to members. The cost for the 2024 diary will be £4 (cash with order please) and Rosemary Williams will be taking orders at the September and October meetings for delivery in November.

**Deputies** The committee needs volunteers to act as deputies for our officers if they become indisposed, so if you could help as a deputy to the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Webmaster, Membership Secretary, Newsletter Editor etc please let Chairman, Chris Bennett know. It won't involve you joining the committee unless you desperately want to.

**Books etc.** As you will know the book/jigsaw/magazine swap at our meetings is a popular part of the afternoon. As we get more books we need help bringing and storing them so we need volunteers to help. One idea is to have three members – one to bring the books, one the jigsaws and another (who we may already have) take on the magazines. Let Chris Bennett know at [chairman@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:chairman@wtu3a.org.uk) if you could help.

**Quiz** After last year's successful event which was part of our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations we are having another quiz on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November** at Weston Turville Village Hall. Tickets are £12.50, which includes fish and chips, and it is a maximum of six people per table.

### **NEWS FROM THE GROUPS**

**Trips** The coach trip to Winchester for the Christmas Market has now been arranged for **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November** and the cost will be around £15. During your five hour stay in the city you can visit the market, shops, cathedral or any of the local attractions. Further details are available from Mandi Simons at [trips@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:trips@wtu3a.org.uk)

**Quiz afternoons** This new group gets underway on **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September** from 2.30pm to 4.30pm at the Chapel Hall in Weston Turville. Individuals and couples are welcome so there is no need to get a complete team together. Questions will suit all levels of knowledge so everyone will be catered for. More details from Joy Mantell at [quizzing@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:quizzing@wtu3a.org.uk)

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**Chess** It doesn't matter whether you are a beginner or an experienced player, the Chess Group will be delighted to see you at the Chandos in Weston Turville at 12.30pm on the second and fourth Fridays of each month. Coincidentally the excellent fish and chip lunch is available at the Chandos on these days although lunch is optional. More details of the group from Geoffrey Howell on: [chess@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:chess@wtu3a.org.uk)

**Theatre Visits** The next performance that Melanie Evans is running will be to the Pendley Theatre in Tring on **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September** at 8pm for Willy Russell's comedy Educating Rita. Tickets are £11. Back to the Waterside in Aylesbury and we have: **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November** 2.30pm – Take That's Greatest Days. (tickets are £32.50) and **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November** at 2.30pm - The Full Monty which costs £28. Contact Melanie at: [theatre@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:theatre@wtu3a.org.uk) if you are interested.

**Science & Technology** There are still a few places left for the visit to the National Computer Museum at Bletchley Park on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October**. The cost is £23 for entrance and the guided tour starting at 2.00pm. Own transport will be needed to get there. There may also be a couple of places left for the coach trip on **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October** to the London Transport Museum in Acton where we get two guided tours – the Poster Tour which looks at the many posters that have been used on LT over the last century, and the Depot Tour which looks at the main artefacts at the museum. The cost of this is £40 which includes coach, entry and both tours. Following a recent trip to see a collection of old buses in Aylesbury, there will be another opportunity to take part and to ride on a Routemaster bus on the evening of **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October**. Those going should meet at the Five Bells in the village at 6pm. The final meeting for the year will be on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December**. This is a talk in the Chapel Room at 10-30am on 'The latest development in Fusion Technology' There will be a £2 entry fee. More details on all these events from John Beer at: [science@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:science@wtu3a.org.uk)

**Gardening Group** The inaugural meeting for the group will be on **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September** in the Chapel Room in Weston Turville. There will be a £2 charge to cover the hall hire. Thereafter the group will meet on the fourth Monday of each month. More details are available from Jenny Hunt or Rosemary Williams on: [gardening@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:gardening@wtu3a.org.uk)

“By all these lovely tokens, September's days are here. With summer's best of weather and autumn's best of cheer” Helen Hunt Jackson

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**Walking Group** The group's Christmas outing won't involve any walking! Instead those taking part on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December** will enjoy a three hour cruise on the Thames around Maidenhead plus a two-course lunch and a glass of mulled wine. The cost is £31 and Sylv Elliot at [walkers@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:walkers@wtu3a.org.uk) has more details. Their next "normal" walk is on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October** and is based at the Lions in Bledlow. It will be just over four miles in length and mainly flat. Car share will be available from the Chandos in WT at 10am and the walk will start in Bledlow at 10.30am.

**Garden Visits** The revamped group's first visit is on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September** and it will be to 'Patchwork' in Berkhamsted. The owners, Jean and Peter Block have kindly arranged for us to visit from 2 to 4 pm. Patchwork is a 1/4 acre garden with lots of year-round colour, interest and perfume. It is a sloping site containing rockeries, 2 small ponds, herbaceous borders, island beds with dahlias, roses, fuchsias, hostas, begonias and patio pots - all set against a background of trees and shrubs of varying colours. The entry charge will be £7 a head which goes to the NGS and biscuits/tea/coffee/soft drinks will be available for a £1 donation. If the weather is inclement we can have the refreshments indoors. For those wanting lifts the meeting time will be 1.30pm in the Five Bells car park. More details from Heather Marshall at [gardens@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:gardens@wtu3a.org.uk)

**Coffee morning with ACu3a** The next joint coffee morning is on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October** at the Five Bells in Weston Turville from 10.30am. As usual, the contact is Marie Jones on 07733 412295.

**Patchwork & Quilting** The groups continues to meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month at Stoke Mandeville Community Centre with one group running from 10am to 12.00 and the other from 2pm. There are a few spaces so if you are interested please contact Maureen Reeves on: [quilting@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:quilting@wtu3a.org.uk)

**Mahjong** The group still has room for new members with or without experience in playing the game. Meeting on the first and third Thursday of each month from 2pm to 4pm in the Chapel Room in the village. There is a £2.50 charge for information contact Ken Shaw on: [mahjong@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:mahjong@wtu3a.org.uk)

**Canasta** The group is looking for new members, so whether you are a beginner or player come along to the Chandos Arms in WT on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 2.30 pm. You will be most welcome as we are a friendly group. More information from Carol Bean at: [canasta@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:canasta@wtu3a.org.uk)

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