



Weston Turville u3a Newsletter

September 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 After the “Utterly Immorality” of last month’s talk on Robert Keable, it is back for another interesting subject for our next meeting on **Thursday 26th September** when John Wilford speaks on “A Journey Through Rock’n’Roll Sound” in which he tells us what it was like being a tour manager, sound engineer and “roadie” for musicians, bands and celebrities between 1965 and 1995. It all starts at 2.30pm with refreshments, books/jigsaw swaps and group tables. Don’t forget this is an open meeting in which you are welcome to bring along any friends, neighbours or anyone else who might be interested in joining us so they can experience a general meeting and enjoy the talk and the convivial atmosphere. Also at the meeting Paul and Sue Brown will be selling Christmas cards on behalf of Barnardo’s so please bring along a little money for this worthy cause – it is cash only.

The following meeting will be on **Thursday 24th October**.

Chairman’s Report First, I am delighted to report that we have a new Secretary in **Susan Horwood** who was a very senior secretary in the Civil Service and therefore has masses of the right sort of experience. Having taken early retirement, she moved to the village from Harrow two years ago and is already an active member of several groups. I look forward to introducing her to everyone at our next meeting.

At our main meeting in August, Simon Keable-Elliot’s talk about his grandfather and his extraordinary life was both entertaining and fascinating and I am sure was enjoyed by everyone who was present.

This month’s meeting is on **26th September**, and apart from our speaker John Wilford we have opened it up to anyone who is interested in the u3a who is not currently a member. Please encourage anyone you know who might like to join us to come along – and please welcome all those who do join us on the day.

I also remind you of the **Eco Family Fun Day** on **Saturday 12 October** from 10am to 4pm in the Village Hall, an event organised by the Parish Council and which promises to be very interesting. We will have a stall at the Fun Day and I hope you will be able to support this event.

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Like it or not, Christmas is looming on the horizon and two of our annual events are too – the **Quiz Night** on **Friday 8th November** and the **Christmas Lunch** on **Friday 13th December**. Details of how to book for both are given below. Meanwhile, grateful thanks to those members who are now looking after the books and puzzles which are available for you to take and enjoy or add to. More volunteers are required, please, to sign up for the rota to serve tea and coffee at monthly meetings. As always there are also plenty of other activities to enjoy – good luck in particular to the new Art & Culture group. *Simon Evers (Chairman)*

Quiz Night This is on **Friday 8th November** at Weston Turville Village Hall. Doors open at 6.30 for a 7pm start. Tables are for 6 or 8 people so you can come as a team or on your own. This year there is no food so bring your own food, snacks and drink. Buy your tickets (£5 each) at a general meeting or via quiznight@wtu3a.org.uk and the closing date is the previous Saturday.

Christmas Lunch A reminder that the lunch is on **Friday 13th December** at Weston Turville Golf Club in New Road. The cost is £35 which includes four courses, service and a raffle. Tickets will be on sale at both the September and October general meetings and further details can be had from Sarah Gunn or Rosemary Williams at: xmaslunch@wtu3a.org.uk

As a reminder the menu options are:

STARTERS

Tomato & Basil soup with crusty roll & butter
Melon with a Raspberry Coulis
Pork Pate with crusty roll & butter

MAIN COURSE

Roast Turkey with all the trimmings
Roast Pork loin with apple sauce
Salmon in a butter Jus
Vegetable Lasagne
(All served with seasonal vegetables & Roast potatoes)

DESSERTS

Christmas pudding & brandy sauce
Sherry Trifle
Cheese & biscuits

TO FINISH

Tea/Coffee and mince pies

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NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Music Making Firstly an apology to Barry Burton for the wrong email address last month. He is looking to set up a group of musicians to play together for fun and he would especially like to hear from guitarists, drummers or brass players. Contact him on burtonbarry77@gmail.com if you need to know more.

Theatre visits On **Thursday 26th September** there is a performance of “Bonnie & Clyde” at Wycombe Swan starting at 7.30pm and costing £35.20 followed by **Thursday 3rd October** also at Wycombe Swan “A Chorus Line” at 7.30pm with seats being £37. Back at the Waterside Theatre in Aylesbury on **Thursday 17th October** at 2.30pm is “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.

Joint Coffee morning with ACu3a Why not come along for a drink with likeminded u3a members at our joint coffee mornings which are on **Thursdays 19th September** and **17th October** at the Five Bells in Weston Turville. They start at 10.30am and finish around 12. Marie Jones on coffee@wtu3a.org.uk will be happy to provide details, or you can just turn up.

Quiz afternoons Our popular quiz afternoons restart on **Friday 27th September** at 2.30pm in the Chapel Room. Remember, you don't have to come with a team as you can join others. The other two for this year are on **25th October** and **22nd November**. Details from Joy Mantell at: quizzing@wtu3a.org.uk

Trips There are a few places still available for the much awaited trip to the National Arboretum on **Tuesday 8th October**. The coach leaves at 8am and on arrival at the arboretum there are refreshments. Then we have a walking guided tour (2 groups with 2 guides) before having lunch and then doing the train ride with commentary. There will be time for a toilet break before heading home about 3.30pm so should arrive back around 5.30pm. The cost is £48 for the whole day. Several people indicated their interest in the visit but have not made a commitment so unless you get in touch with Mandi Simons immediately your place will be made available to others. Her contact email is: trips@wtu3a.org.uk

“A fallen leaf is nothing more than a summer's wave goodbye.” – Unknown

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Science and Technology There are still places left for our next scheduled tour on **Thursday 3rd October** which is a visit to the Museum of Military Medicine & Milestones Museum in Basingstoke. The MMM tells the story of army medicine and healthcare, human and animal, from the English Civil War to the current day. One group will start a guided tour whilst the other listens to a talk. The Milestones Museum in Basingstoke allows you to step inside the story of our social, retail and industrial heritage and imagine what life would have been like during the Victorian era and the 1930s as you explore the life size streets, buildings, shops and vehicle. The cost will be £50 and includes the coach fare and all entrance fees and guided tours. The coach leaves Weston Turville at 9am and expected return time is soon after 6pm. More details from John at science@wtu3a.org.uk He will be at the next general meeting to answer any questions and to take money.

Art & Culture The new Art & Culture Group will begin with a visit to Tate Britain. This new group is aimed at everyone, not just lovers of art. We're hoping to attract anyone who likes visiting buildings and galleries. There are many visits that can be arranged locally or in London where travel can be by own or public transport, meeting and joining the group at the venue. We hope that visits like this will be a little easier on the pocket (yes, we know, a day return to London still makes your eyes water!) but, making your own travel arrangements allows flexibility to lunch at leisure or do other things, like the Christmas Lights for this November's visit. All our visits will be guided, beginning with Tate Britain, a tour that will include the Clore Gallery, home to the largest collection of Turner paintings in the country.

Tate Britain, **Tuesday 19 November**. Meet at the Tate at 12 noon, cost £18. The tour is about an hour and a half.

Contact – culture@wtu3a.org.uk

In 2025 we are planning visits to Waddesdon Manor, Kenwood House and behind the scenes at the Royal Opera House.

John Masters and Chris Bennett

Mahjong Joy Williamson is looking for more members to join the group, otherwise it is likely to fold. At least a dozen people are required to play to make the session viable so if you are interested or need more information contact Joy at mahjong@wtu3a.org.uk The group meets at 2pm on the first and third Thursday of each month at the Chandos Arms in the village. It is very much a mixed ability group so don't worry if you haven't played before.

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Gardening This summer has been somewhat of a struggle for gardeners due to scorching sun and a lack of rain. Vegetables have suffered and plants in pots needing constant watering. It has been a quiet time for the group since our two visits to the gardens of our members in June and July. September marks the first anniversary of our start up and we have been fortunate to have an increasing membership. Our next meeting is **Monday 23rd September** which is a social gathering when we plan to have a gardening quiz and planning for the year ahead. Further meetings are to take place on **Monday 28th October** with a presentation from Lindengate Wendover [see August newsletter] and our final meeting of the year is on **Monday 25th November**. They all start at 2pm in the Chapel Room in Weston Turville and more details can be had from Jenny Hunt at: gardening@wtu3a.org.uk.

Patchwork & Quilting Meeting on the first and third Tuesday of each month at Stoke Mandeville Community Centre, the group has two sessions with one at 10am and another one at 2pm. Experience is not necessary as the group contains both expert and novices quilters. If you need more information either come along to a meeting or contact Maureen Reeves at: quilting@wtu3a.org.uk

Lace making Sandy Latimer would still like to hear from anyone who would be interested in forming a lace making group. So if you are keen on picking up your bobbins please contact Sandy at sandi_latimer@hotmail.com for an initial discussion.

Handbell Ringing The group meets on Friday mornings at 10am at John Beer's house in the village. New and prospective members are welcome and musical knowledge is not necessary. For more information contact John at handbells@wtu3a.org.uk

Whilst it is unfortunate that many of our groups are full – often due to lack of room at their meeting place - and have waiting lists, there are a number of groups that do have immediate availability and amongst these are: Book Group 1, Canasta, Card Making, Chess, Coffee Mornings, Handbells, Mahjong, Mexican Train, Quiz, Patchwork & Quilting, Rummikub, Scrabble and Social Bridge. For more details look on our website or contact our Groups Liaison Co-ordinator, Joy Mantell on groups@wtu3a.org.uk

“September holds the promise of crisp mornings and dew-kissed grass” – anon.

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u3a Friends Extra. Recently we mentioned u3a Friends Extra which gives extra benefits to members who sign up to the service on www.u3a.org.uk Anyone registering can make savings on well-known brands, shopping, travel, days out and more. One of the latest deals is on motoring items with several thousands off a new Seat Ibiza or Ateca estate, car maintenance through Fixter who will collect and return your car after servicing it, parking through Q-park and breakdown coverage with Start Rescue.

Alas it doesn't cover purchase of the brand new Kia which makes the fastest ever U-turns. It is called the Kia Starmer.

They are also promoting a will-writing service with WSL Wills who will come to your house and help you with your requests.

Other u3a news

Wendover u3a The Wendover Travel Team have vacancies on a visit to Northampton Guildhall & Charles Rennie Mackintosh House on **Friday 20th September**. The cost is £33.00 including refreshments at The Guildhall. Travel is by coach from various locations in Wendover and Aylesbury from around 8am and the return departure from Northampton is about 4.45. Please contact Belinda Horn 01296 624200 or email: horn20@ntlworld.com for more information.

Thames Valley Network There are some Zoom events coming up shortly and these are: **Monday 23rd September** at 10.30am A Virtual Tour of CERN (the European Organization for Nuclear Research) at 10.30a.m
Friday 4th October at 2.30pm - A new Autumn Quiz for TVN Members
Monday, 7th October at 10.30 - The American Presidential Election; a talk by Mark Lovett.

All these events need booking at least three days beforehand and further details are on their website: www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk

Finally Our friends at the Weston Turville Chapel, who are so helpful with providing an excellent meeting place for some of our groups, are holding a craft, cake and plant sale at the chapel from 10am on **Saturday 26th October**. Refreshments will be also be available. Prior to that they are holding a Macmillan coffee morning on **Monday 30th September** from 10.30 am to 12.00

“September has come, it is hers whose vitality leaps in the autumn, whose nature prefers trees without leaves and a fire in the fireplace.” – Louis Macneice

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