Weston Turville u3a Newsletter

September 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 Don't forget the next general meeting at 2.30pm on **Thursday 24th September** when we have a visit from John Pearson who will talk about cheese and then offer a few pieces to taste. Also on offer that day will be our book/jigsaw swap, some group tables and also teas/coffees for those who bring their own cups. The following meeting is on **Thursday 22nd October.**

Chairman's Report Last month's meeting was slightly unusual. The AGM was (thankfully) dealt with in a few minutes, after which we were joined by the MP for Aylesbury, Laura Kyrke-Smith. She answered a variety of questions which had been put forward by members and stayed afterwards for a cup of tea and to talk to a considerable number of members as well. We were particularly pleased to find that she shared our concerns over Buckinghamshire Council's local plan, especially with regard to planning matters and infrastructure. But it was good to hear what she had to say on a various issues as the first female and Labour MP for the seat and it was, I am sure, a worthwhile exercise. (*See below*)

We now look forward to our
Open Day on Tuesday 22nd September from 1pm in the Village Hall.
No fewer than **38 groups will be represented** and showing what they do and I very much hope you will find the time to come and support them – and in particular bring along any friends who may not be aware of the wide range of activities we cover and who might like to join us. The more the merrier! (Tea and coffee will be served.)
And don't forget our
Next monthly meeting on Thursday 24th September when John Pearson will be talking to us. John has spent all his working life in the Food Industry, primarily with Marks & Spencer. He is an international cheese judge having travelled throughout Europe visiting dairies selecting dairy products for M & S. In this talk he describes some amusing anecdotes about encounters with suppliers, impossible customers and will conclude with a short, tutored CHEESE-TASTING.

Finally, with only (about) 80 days to Christmas, now is the time to book up for two major events: our
Quiz Night on Friday 13th November (which will be lucky for some . . .) and **Christmas Lunch on Friday 11th December**. See below for how to apply for tickets to both events.
And please note that, if you come to the monthly meetings, you no longer need to bring your cheque book with you to pay for trips, etc. as Sarah Gunn, our Treasurer, can now take cards.

Simon Evers - Chairman

MP's newsletter The following appeared in the monthly newsletter produced by Laura Kyrke-Smith:

Meeting with U3A

I was recently invited to meet with the U3A in Weston Turville, taking questions about the issues on members' minds, whether local or national. We discussed everything from Andy Burnham to NHS appointments, and I enjoyed the spirited and open discussion. I want to thank the U3A for the great communities they build in our area. I remember how much my mum loved her local U3A, and lifelong learning and enjoyment is such a wonderful mission. If you are retired and interested in joining a local u3a, you can find out more here: u3a - Join a u3a

Your Bucks Your Say

Following on from our MP's visit, you may have recently received (as I have) an email from Steven Broadbent, the leader of Buckinghamshire Council, which says: *The decisions we make about spending affect the services people rely on every day, and we want to hear your views before any final decisions are made. Your feedback will help us understand what matters most to residents, communities and local businesses as we consider how best to use the council's budget in the financial year ahead. (1 April 2027 – 31 March 2028)*
He adds: *This year we've also included a few extra questions specifically to get views from organisations – so if you're a business owner or part of a community organisation do make sure the views of your organisation are also put forward to us.*
I shall therefore respond on behalf of our u3a. If you have any views you would like to put forward yourself (or would like me to put forward on your behalf) you can access the survey on this website:
buckinghamshire.gov.uk/your-bucks-your-say It is open until 18th October.

"I love September, especially when we're in it." – Willie Stargell

Christmas Lunch Our lunch will be at Weston Turville Golf Club in New Road and it's on **Friday 11th December** starting at 12.30pm. The cost is £38.50 and includes service and a raffle ticket. Tickets/places can be booked at the September and October general meetings and your food choice should also be made. The menu is on our website and also at the end of this newsletter.

Tea/coffee rota An integral part of our general meetings is the preparation and serving of teas and coffees. We need more volunteers to occasionally help with this so if you can lend a hand, probably only once a year, please let Lorraine Tierney know on refreshments@wtu3a.org.uk or sign up at any meeting.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Have-a-Go The next activity will be rock climbing in Milton Keynes from 3.30 to 5pm on **Friday 20th November**. The cost will be around £12.50 depending on numbers. If you are interested or want more details please email Karen Newman at haveago@wtu3a.org.uk by Tuesday 22nd September

Card making How nice would it be to make your own Christmas cards? Yes it's on its way! October and November's group meetings will centre on this theme but not restricted to it. I post pictures of the ladies work on Facebook so please have a look. They told themselves they couldn't do it but proved themselves wrong. We are a friendly group so come and see what we do. The next meeting is at 10am in the Chapel Hall on **Thursday 8th October**. I also sell cards at the monthly general meetings and will sell them on the Open Day. More details from Lindsey Beer at: cardmaking@wtu3a.org.uk

Discussion Group The next meeting is at 10.30 am on **Friday 2nd October**, at the Five Bells. Just come along or phone Terry Jones at 07884121657. Last time, we discussed the following topics: Has the hot dry summer made you rethink garden plans for next year? Should first cousin marriages be illegal?
Should Harry and Megan be given security paid for by the tax payer?
Should more be done to deport foreign prisoners?
Is swearing on TV now the norm?
And more! COME AND TAKE PART!

"Come September, children return to school, grownups to work, and the brain to the head." – Roger Rosenblatt

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.

Science and Technology With the final trip on the Elizabeth Line due on Thursday 17th September, the following foray for the group is on **Thursday 1st October** with a visit to the Museum of Berkshire Aviation at Woodley Airfield near Reading. This museum records the history of many places in the county which have contributed to our aviation heritage and on display are many items including ejector seats and black box recorders. Transport will be by car (lifts can be arranged) and the cost is just £6.50.
On **Thursday 5th November** we have arranged a trip to Trent Park in Enfield whose house was used during the second WW to house German officer prisoners of war. The house was heavily bugged so that the conversation between the offices was recorded and surveyed for any information given away through their private conversation. The officers were unaware that this was the case. There will be a limit of 25 and the cost will be £20. Access to the house has challenges and for those going we will have to make prior arrangements for travel. Travel will be by own car.
More details from John Beer at: science@wtu3a.org.uk

Theatre visits All these forthcoming performances are at the Waterside in Aylesbury:
Wednesday 11th November (2.30pm) – The Mousetrap. £31.50 (circle)
Sunday 22nd November (7.30pm) – Boyzlife. £43.77
Tuesday 24th November (7.30pm) The Archers Live at 75. £43.77 (second circle)
Melanie Evans at theatre@wtu3a.org.uk will take your bookings and answer any questions.

Gardening The Gardening Group has been on pause for the month of August with the weather being somewhat disastrous for our gardens . We start the new term with a presentation on **Monday 28th September** on the planting and care of David Austin Roses by horticulturist Edwin Rye. It starts at 2pm in the Chapel Hall. Further details of Gardening Group can be found on WTU3A website or from gardening@wtu3a.org.uk

Chess The chess group meets on the second and fourth Fridays of each month at 12.30 pm at the Chandos Arms. Come and join us on Fridays **25th September**, **9th and 23rd October** for convivial chat, a drink (both compulsory), lunch (optional) and the odd game of chess. All are welcome, from raw beginners to Grand Masters. If you want to find out more, email Geoffrey Howell on chess@wtu3a.org.uk

Quiz Group After a break in August the next afternoon quiz will be on **Friday 25th September** – 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

Folk, Blues & Beyond As you know we lost Paul Finckin from the FBB group and also have another member who has decided to call it a day, so we could do with some new members and are particularly looking for a couple of guitarists. Please contact Terry Lewis at folk@wtu3a.org.uk

Joint Coffee Mornings with AC u3a Dates for the next two coffee mornings with Aston Clinton u3a are on **Thursdays 17th September** and **15th October**. They are held at the Five Bells in Weston Turville and start at 10.30am. Just turn up or let Marie Jones know at: coffee@wtu3a.org.uk

Scrapbook and Memory Book Despite some lovely scrapbooks being on display at recent meetings, there has been little enthusiasm for the group so it is on hold for the time being. If you fancy trying this wonderful activity let Lindsey Beer know on cardmaking@wtu3a.org.uk

Patchwork & Quilting Group members have been busy lately making cushions for the Cushion Raffle which takes place at our u3a Open Day on **22nd September** where some of the group's work will be on display.
The group meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month in Stoke Mandeville Village Hall with sessions between 10am and 12.00 and 2pm to 4pm. More details from Maureen Reeves on quilting@wtu3a.org.uk

Handbell ringing The group continue to practise and ring merrily every Friday morning from 10am. You don't need to be musical as it's all done by numbers. Let John Beer know on handbells@wtu3a.org.uk if you fancy a go.

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Another reminder of a possible new group. David Aylmer is proposing to start a new group based on listening to blues music. His idea is to have a monthly session listening to CDs and vinyl. Contact David at dwha1952@gmail.com if you are interested or would like more details.

"Let this be the September you always remember." – Morgan Harper Nichols

News from HQ Our Open Day is part of the national u3a week and as part of the celebrations there are a number of free, online presentations and these are:

- Monday 21 September - *Secrets of the human brain: Sleep and dreams (2pm)*
- Tuesday 22 September - *The Enchanted Archipelago - a journey through the Galapagos with* HX (2pm)
- Thursday 24 September - *Promoting brain health: from evidence to action (2pm)*
- Friday 25 September - *Live cookery demonstration - try something new (10am)*

All are on Zoom and booking details can be found on their website: www.u3a.org.uk

Charity book sale We have been asked to mention a charity book sale on **Saturday 3rd October** in Wendover Community Library from 10am to 1.30pm. It is for the excellent charity Weston Turville Wells for Tanzania.

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WESTON TURVILLE u3a CHRISTMAS LUNCH
FRIDAY 11th DECEMBER @ 12.30 FOR 1.00
Weston Turville Golf Club

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
Beef & Ale Pie
Brie & Mushroom Wellington
(All served with seasonal vegetables & Roast potatoes)

DESSERTS
Christmas pudding & brandy sauce
Raspberry & White Chocolate Cheesecake
Cheese & biscuits

TO FINISH
Tea/Coffee and Chocolate Mints

Cost is £38.50 – this includes service charge and raffle
Seating plan will be arranged. Tables of 8 or 10 – we will need to know if you want to be seated in groups.
PLEASE INFORM OF ANY ALLERGIES
Tickets will be on sale September and October meetings. Food orders and payment (cheque) will be required at the time of booking.
PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A CASHLESS SITE AND WILL ONLY ACCEPT CARD PAYMENT AT THE BAR

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.