



# Weston Turville U3A Newsletter

**April 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** On **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April** we have a change to our original schedule and we will welcome Jon Woodhouse to the Rugby Club. His talk is entitled “The Saxophone and my Life as an Army Musician.” Jon served in Her Majesty’s Lifeguards Band for 25 years. During his time with the Lifeguards, he enjoyed a long and varied musical career in the band playing clarinet (even on the back of a horse!), bass clarinet, and saxophone at many high-profile events. As usual we start at 2.30pm and will still feature the normal activities such as the book/magazine swop, teas and coffees (don’t forget to bring your own cup). The following meeting is on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May** when we have the AGM as well as a talk by Mervyn Edwards who speaks of his experiences as a firearms officer with Thames Valley Police.

**Last meeting** What an enjoyable and enlightening talk we had when Gwyn Williams spoke of his experiences in flying Concorde and explained how the aircraft was so different from other planes. A most informative and interesting afternoon – thanks, Gwyn.

**Chairman’s Report.** Hello everyone. I’m writing this the day after another very good WTU3a walk. This month we began and finished at The Lion, Waddesdon, walking 4-5 km and then lunching at the pub. A very pleasant morning in near perfect weather, the rain arriving after we had finished. Many thanks to Sylv Elliott for leading the walk and a reminder that there’s a walk each month on the second Tuesday.

Our speaker last month was Gwyn Williams who spoke about his time as a Concorde pilot. Fascinating to hear it from the horse’s mouth, so to speak and especially welcome as Gwyn is one of our members.

Finally, can I remind you that subscriptions are now due and that next month, May, our meeting will include the AGM. We currently have a vacancy on the Committee, if you would be interested in joining, please let either myself or Rosemary Williams, our Secretary, know. Better still, have a word with me at our next meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> April.

**Remember to check the website [www.wtu3a.org.uk](http://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.**

**Subscription renewal** A reminder that your annual subscription of £15 is due by the end of May. You should have received an email or letter about this already. Details of how to pay are on the website. If you have any queries please feel free to contact me on 07859 221109.

Simon Evers - Membership Secretary

**Teas** We are still looking for someone to co-ordinate the tea making at our general meetings. For more information please ask Lynn White at the next meeting or send a message to [refreshments@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:refreshments@wtu3a.org.uk) Chairman Chris Bennett would then be delighted to hear from anyone who will volunteer for this vital role.

**10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary follow-ups** As you will know the popularity of some of our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events means we are repeating them this year and the first one was the music night which attracted over 70 members who again enjoyed music – mainly from the 60's – played by the Blue Moons. Thanks to Mary Duly and Ken Shaw for leading the organising team. We still have two more events coming up with the Hog Roast being scheduled for the July general meeting on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July**, whilst the Quiz will be on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November** at Weston Turville Village Hall. As always, more details of all these events will be announced in future newsletters.

**National News** If you happen to be in the vicinity of Hadrian's Wall on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May**, u3a members from all over the UK will descend there to celebrate the building of the wall and the influence it has had on our creative lives. There will be a variety of workshops, activities, tours and talks and although the event could be fully booked by now, you can get on the waiting list. Details on the national u3a website.

**Local u3a news** Our friends at Aylesbury Vale u3a are running a Mid-Summer Rock 'n Roll party from 7pm to 10pm on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June** at the Rivets Sports & Social Club in Aylesbury and the excellent band will be The Blue Moons. Tickets are £10 and are available from John Wilford at: [sound@avu3a.org.uk](mailto:sound@avu3a.org.uk)

**Trusted Tradespeople** A reminder that we have a list of local tradespeople who have been recommended by our members. If you know of anyone to add to the list or need contact details of reliable people please contact Rosemary Williams on: [trusted@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:trusted@wtu3a.org.uk)

## NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

**Theatre Visits** Performances coming up in the near future are: **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April** - Dr Doolittle at the Court Theatre in Pendley where tickets will cost you £20. At Aylesbury's Waterside Theatre we have: **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**, Around the World in 80 Days (2.30pm - £22), **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May** – Buddy (2.30pm - £35) and **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June** – Strictly Ballroom (£30). Let Melanie Evans know at [theatre@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:theatre@wtu3a.org.uk) if you are interested or want more information.

**Science & Technology** Due to a date change which was beyond our control, a new date had been made for the trip to the London transport Museum. However, this date was not ideal for us, so the trip has been cancelled. Hopefully it can be rearranged for later this year.

On **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May** we are visiting The Chiltern Open Air Museum. The cost will be £10 including a tour and for this your own transport is required to get there. This is your chance to step back in time and explore over 30 reconstructed historic buildings, including an Iron Age roundhouse, 1940s prefab, blacksmith's forge, Victorian toll house, tin chapel, WW1 and WW2 Nissen huts, earthen cottage and working historic farm that is home to goats, sheep, chickens, cows and farm cats. There are just a few places left.

It is also own transport for the **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June** trip to the Battle of Britain Bunker and Museum in Hillingdon. There are 76 steps down to the bunker with a stopping place halfway down. Again, there are just a few places left for this private tour and the cost is £10.

Further on John Beer is hoping to run a tour round the BMW factory in Oxford in September and the Bletchley Park Computer Museum in October.

Details on all activities from John on: [science@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:science@wtu3a.org.uk)

**Handbell Ringers (Beginners)** The group meets every two weeks on a Friday morning at 10am at Weston Turville Chapel Hall. For more details and further dates of meetings, contact Group Leader, John Beer at [handbells@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:handbells@wtu3a.org.uk)

**Chess** The Chess group meets every other Friday lunchtime (next ones are on **28<sup>th</sup> April** and **12<sup>th</sup> May**) at the Chandos in Weston Turville where you can play chess and enjoy some refreshment. No particular ability for the game is required. Contact Geoffrey Howell at [chess@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:chess@wtu3a.org.uk) for more details.

*“There is no glory in star or blossom till looked upon by a loving eye;  
There is no fragrance in April breezes till breathed with joy as they  
wander by.” William Cullen Bryant*

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**Walking Group** After a recent enjoyable walk in the Waddesdon area, the next walk will be on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May**. Hopefully it will be amongst bluebells and will be just over four miles long. We will meet in the car park at the Ashridge monument and afterwards drive to the Greyhound where lunch is available. Lifts are available from the Chandos in Weston Turville. Please contact Sylv Elliott on: [walkers@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:walkers@wtu3a.org.uk) for more information.

**Petanque** The group is now up and running again after the winter's break and it meets every Monday afternoon (weather permitting) from 2pm to 4pm at the village hall in Weston Turville. For more details please contact Ken Shaw at: [petanque@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:petanque@wtu3a.org.uk)

**Book Club 3** The club is thriving with a slight change to the members as one is replaced by another. We are roughly even as regards gender. The book choices are open to suggestions from all and reflect the varied interests of the members. We try to ensure the choice has been in publication as a paperback for some time. We also try and keep away from the writers like Ken Follett with their 800+paged odes. We find nine members works well with the size of our front rooms and ensures everyone gets a decent slice of cake.

Peter Smith – Group Leader 01296 397714

**Joint Coffee mornings with AC U3A** The next coffee mornings are scheduled for Thursday mornings **20<sup>th</sup> April** and **18<sup>th</sup> May**. We always meet in the Five Bells Weston Turville from 10.30am until 12.00 As usual people can contact Marie Jones on 07733 412295 for more details.

**New members' meeting** If you are a relatively new member and have not attended such a meeting, you would be very welcome to attend the next one. It is a good opportunity to meet others and chat also to members of the Committee. We are always keen to hear your views on what we do - and indeed not do! It is being held on **Tuesday 2nd May at 10.30am** in the Oak Room, adjacent to Weston Turville Church. If you would like to come, please let me know as soon as possible. Simon Evers Membership Secretary  
email - [membership@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@wtu3a.org.uk) Telephone 07859 221109

*“April hath put a spirit of youth in everything” William Shakespeare*

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