



Weston Turville u3a Newsletter

February 2024

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

Last meeting What a brilliant start to 2024 with Pete Allen's presentation on the history of the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane. It was so good that no-one signed out before the end of the afternoon, which is probably a record. As everyone attending was so enthralled by the talk, members were asking if he could come back again to give another presentation.

Next meeting The next general meeting is on **Thursday 22nd February** when Gordon Rogers speaks on "The Sky at Night". The lighthearted talk is about the work that has taken place at the observatory in Long Crendon and also mentions the achievements of British amateur astronomers who lead the field in some branches of this science. He will also relate some recent achievements in the professional world of astronomy. It starts at 2.30pm and as always refreshments are available as well as the usual book swaps and group tables. The following meeting will be on **Thursday 28th March**.

Chairman's Report. It's not easy finding new and interesting speakers. Carol Johnson, our Speaker Secretary does an excellent job. They are always good and often very good and sometimes they are outstanding, and that was the case with January's speaker. Pete Allen talked about the History of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, a theatre he had worked at and one that he loves. He gave us an hour of facts and reminiscences, almost without taking breath, it was a tour de force! You will not be surprised to hear we plan to ask him back in the future. There were 137 attending our January meeting, but it may well have been rather more as I believe some of you may not have signed in! Can I ask that you always enter the Rugby Club via the main entrance and our reception. That way we know how many are attending, together with your names, as it's part of our Health & Safety process.

Whilst talking about monthly meetings, an apology from me. They are often very busy. I see people who I mean to say hello to but then get sidetracked! People come up to me with questions or queries that I either don't hear (I think I've got that sorted) or because I'm very old, I forget all about! So, if I ever say,

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“I’ll look into it” or “I’ll see what I can do”, please feel free to remind me with an email (chairman@wtu3a.org.uk) that way I’ll have no excuses!

On Thursday 8th February we had the Defib/CPR session at the Village Hall, it was excellent, many thanks to Ash Webber of Webber Training for providing the session. His simple, enthusiastic approach to a medical emergency was really appreciated. I’m certain all of us (68 attended) left the meeting feeling much more relaxed about what to do, much more confident that in an emergency we really would get involved. We plan to have another session in March or April and details will follow. I already have more than 20 people on a waiting list. If you are unsure as to whether you would find it helpful, have a word with anyone who attended the first one, I’m sure they’ll soon persuade you! Our next monthly meeting is on **Thursday 22nd February** when our speaker is Gordon Rogers with an amusing look at “The Sky at Night”. I look forward to seeing you all there.

National news Last month we mentioned the u3a’s national festival in York between **18th and 20th July**. Although tickets are still available for the various activities (three days for £35) all accommodation within the university has been snapped up but there will be plenty of alternative accommodation in the York area. Further details are available on the national website: www.u3a.org.uk

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Flower Arranging After 11 years’ service, Gaynor Edwards is retiring from her leadership of the group. This is a great shame as the group has been very popular but unless someone is prepared to take on the leadership the group will be closed. Any volunteers should contact Chairman Chris Bennett.

Gardening The next meeting for the group is on will be on **Monday 26th February** at the Chapel Room in Weston Turville and features a talk on bees and their value in the garden. Details can be had from Jenny Hunt or Rosemary Williams on gardening@wtu3a.org.uk

Garden Visits Although details were given last month this is another reminder that the first visit of 2024 is to Touchwood in Great Missenden on **Tuesday 20th February**. If you are haven’t yet booked a place contact Heather Marshall on gardens@wtu3a.org.uk and include a phone number with your message.

“It’s paradoxical that the idea of living a long life appeals to everyone, but the idea of getting old doesn’t appeal to anyone.” - (Andy Rooney)

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Trips The Hampton Court trip will now be on **Wednesday 17th April**. The visit will consist of half the party having a guided tour of the palace whilst the rest will tour the garden, including the famous tulips, and perhaps also try the maze. In the afternoon the groups will swap over. There is an excellent café on site or you can take a picnic. The palace admission is £20.10 unless you are a Historic Palaces member, and the coach will be a similar amount. Let Mandi Simons know: trips@wtu3a.org.uk if you want to go as it is sure to fill up quickly.

The second trip is to Highgate Cemetery: This is on **Wednesday 17th July** and again timings are about 9am to 5.30pm. The group will be split into four and using two tour guides for each 'side', half the group will do the east in the morning and the other half the highlights; then we swap over after lunch and so everyone sees both sides. There are several places nearby to eat or you can get hot drinks and snacks from the onsite concession or you can also take a picnic! Each tour takes about 90 minutes and you will be walking or standing throughout. Stout shoes are recommended.

Mandi has also provisionally arranged for a group to go to Ronnie Sunshines shooting range (air pistols and rifles only) in Berkhamsted. The cost will be about £30 for an hour's shooting, no previous experience required and everything is supplied. They can accommodate a group before lunch and another after lunch. Lots of lovely places to eat in Berko! Lift share to get there. It will be on either **Wednesday 28th February** or **Wednesday 20th March** which ever gets best response.

Science and Technology After the recent talk on iphones, there is a session on Android phones on **Thursday 15th February** in the Chapel Room at 5pm. The cost is £6. This is a chance to get some helpful advice and to get answers to any problems you may have.

The programme of trips gets under way on **Thursday 7th March** with a visit to the Oxford University Museum of Natural History and the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford. The entrance is free to both these attractions. Meeting time is 11am and own transport is required.

Thursday 11th April sees a visit to The Museum of Water and Steam in Brentford. This is by coach leaving Weston at 9am and returning around 5pm. The cost for coach and admission is £40.

On **Thursday 2nd May** we have a trip to the RAF Museum in Hendon. This requires own transport and the tour costs just £5. Car parking there is extra. Two other visits later in the year are to the Museum of Military Medicine and Milestone Museum in Basingstoke on **Thursday 6th June** and to the Hydraulics Research Organisation in Wallingford on **Thursday 4th July**.

Further details will can be had from John Beer at: science@wtu3a.org.uk

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Quiz afternoons The quiz afternoons are increasing in popularity and the next ones are on **Fridays 23rd February, 22nd March and 26th April**. The start time is 2.30pm in the Chapel Room. Individuals and couples are welcome so you don't need to have a complete team to take part. Details from Joy Mantell at: quizzing@wtu3a.org.uk

Chess **Fridays 23rd February and 8th March** are the next dates for the Chess group meetings (plus chat and fish & chips if desired) which are at 12.30pm at the Chandos in WT. Details from Geoffrey Howell on: chess@wtu3a.org.uk

Coffee morning with ACu3a The next get togethers are on **Thursdays 15th February and 21st March** from 10.30am at the Five Bells in Weston Turville. The group's contact is Marie Jones on coffee@wtu3a.org.uk

Theatre visits Contact Melanie Evans at theatre@wtu3a.org.uk if you want to go to any of these performances at the Waterside Theatre in Aylesbury:

Saturday 9th March 2.30pm The Kite Runners £30

Wednesday 17th April 7.30pm Seven Drunken Nights – the Story of the Dubliners £31.50

Thursday 18th April 7.30pm House of Jo Jo – Johannes Radebe £56

Sunday 28th April 7.30pm Madama Butterfly - Ellen Kent £37.75

Walking Group After the February walk around Cholesbury, the next one will be on **Tuesday 12th March**. Sylv Elliott will contact those on her mailing list but anyone else can get her on walkers@wtu3a.org.uk

TV Network News There is a Zoom meeting on **Tuesday 27th February** at 10.30am with a presentation on the work of the great songwriter Burt Bacharach. You need to book at least three days beforehand and it will cost £1. Details from: www.tvu3a.org.uk or you can link from our site.

News from AVu3a The group is having a day trip to Bath on **Tuesday 2nd April** and there are a few places available. The cost is £34. Details from Dan McGregor at: outings@avu3a.org.uk or ring him on 07759 476962

And now for something completely different. The Aylesbury Festival Choir wants to recruit new members. They meet on a Thursday night at the Church at Fairford Leys in Aylesbury and sing a wide variety of music – their website www.aylesburyfestivalchoir.weebly.com is probably the best place to see what they do and how to join.

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