

Speakers for Weston Turville u3a General Meetings March 2023 – November 2023

23 March 2023 – Rugby Club

Flying Concorde – by Gwyn Williams

Covers how the crew flew the aircraft in passenger service, it also examines a number of the aircrafts unusual design features and contains film onboard during a supersonic transatlantic flight. It lasts just under an hour.

27 April 2023 – Rugby Club

The Saxophone, and my Life as an Army Musician – Jon Woodhouse

Jon started playing the Clarinet from the age of fourteen, and quickly demonstrated an aptitude for music, joining the Army as a Musician at the age of sixteen. Jon served in Her Majesty's Lifeguards Band for 25 years.

During his time with the Lifeguards, Jon has 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. He has also participated in concert tours across Europe, America and Japan. In 1999 Jon retired from the Army, and is now semi-retired, but still teaches, and can be seen playing in various local bands.

25 May 2023 – Rugby Club – AGM

Walking the beat to Nirvana – Mervyn Edwards

Mervyn Edwards, is a retired former police officer, having served in Thames Valley Police for more than 30 years. He reached the rank of Chief Superintendent, but this talk concentrates on a part of his career where he served as a specialist firearms officer as a member of the Tactical Firearms Team for 15 years in three different ranks. His recently published book covers this period and the reasons for publishing it. It includes details of incidents which attracted national interest, as well as his involvement in serious crime operations, specialist tasks in a number of murder enquiries, and working with Crime Squads

and Drug Squads. Despite describing the serious nature of such work, there is a great deal of humour throughout the talk and the book.

22 June 2023 – Rugby Club

Wild Life Photography – Tom Way

A returning visit from this popular speaker.

27 July 2023 – Rugby Club – Social Event

No Speaker

24 August 2023 – Rugby Club

The Life of Edward VIII – Paul Robbins

Eighty-Five years after his abdication, an event that shook Britain to its core, King Edward VIII still generates controversy and debate. Did Britain have a lucky escape when he decided to give up the throne because he couldn't make Wallis Simpson, a divorced American, his Queen? Or was Britain deprived of a King whom some of his supporters believed would have reached an arrangement with Germany thus avoiding the horrors of the Second World War?, Paul Robbins reveals much about the complex character that was Edward, Prince, King, Emperor and finally Duke. The talk explains his early life, the strained relationship Edward had with his father, his quest for a purpose in life, and his often-disastrous personal life. Was he a Nazi sympathiser, and would he have regained the throne had Germany won the war? This is an enthralling talk that has as its backdrop a crisis that threatened the very existence of Britain's Royal family.

28 September 2023 – Rugby Club

Mad, Bad and Dangerous – Kathryn Harkup

Scientists sometimes get stereotyped. Why are scientists depicted as chronically shy, slightly odd and carrying out crazy experiments to try and take over the world? Of course it's only Bond villains who are plotting to take over the world and most scientists are lovely sociable people. But the stereotype has to come from somewhere...

26 October 2023 – Rugby Club

The History of Photography and Kodak – Tony Earle

I spent 40 years at Kodak working as a scientist. This talk covers the early years of photography and the founding of Kodak in the 1880's. Light hearted with audience participation.

23 November 2023 – Rugby Club

The Bob and Dot Show: A Christmas Entertainment – Graham Harrison

A feast of anecdotes and music on a seasonal theme. Christmas songs from the Golden Age of Hollywood musicals combine with humorous tales about the artistes. We also look at the origins of some of our Christmas traditions and how one of them was (and still could be) illegal.