



Weston Turville U3A Newsletter

March 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 Our next meeting is on **Thursday 23rd March** when one of our members, Gwyn Williams will be giving a talk on “The Spirit of Concorde” As usual we are at Aylesbury Rugby Club from 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 will be on **Thursday 27th April** and will now feature a talk by Jon Woodhouse entitled “The Saxophone, and my Life as an Army Musician.”

Last meeting Once again we had a visit from Jeff Rozelaar who entertained us with his autobiographical talk "Bacon and Bagels" It was a trip down memory lane for many of us and all 100+ members who attended were enthralled with his wonderful presentation.

Chairman’s Report. Hello everyone,

I wanted to begin by welcoming the many new members who have joined us in the last few months, our numbers continue to grow so we are now close to 430! I must apologise for often only managing a quick hello at our monthly meeting and then rushing on. Please look out for one of our new member coffee mornings, coming up in the next few weeks, when there will be more time to meet and chat.

Can I remind everyone of our three big events for this year. Firstly, the music evening hugely popular last year, this year on 14th April. It’s a Friday, so no “school” the next day and it will run to midnight! Details on our website and at our meeting on the 23rd March.

And for your diaries, the Hog Roast, it will be part of our July meeting on 27th July and our Quiz on 25th November.

Finally, an appeal! Lynn White who has organised tea and coffee at our monthly meetings for what seems like forever, has decided to stand down. We owe her a huge vote of thanks, but we now need somebody to take over. If you think you can help, can you speak to Lynn at our meeting on the 23rd and she will be able to tell you what’s involved. Alternatively, please contact me.

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.

Teas After several years' sterling service Lynn White is retiring from her role co-ordinating the refreshments at our general meetings. We therefore need someone to take on this vital position. For more information please ask Lynn at the next meeting or send a message to refreshments@wtu3a.org.uk Chairman Chris Bennett would then be delighted to hear from anyone who will volunteer.

Musical Night Following on from the success of the 60s night last September we are holding another Musical Night. It will be on **Friday 14th April** at Aylesbury Rugby Club starting at 7.30pm. Music will again be by the Blue Moons. Ticket prices will be announced shortly but should be about £8 and this time we will not be providing any catering so please bring along your snacks and nibbles. If you wish to reserve a table of 10 you may do so. For tickets and more details please contact Mary Duly at event@wtu3a.org.uk.

More 10th Anniversary follow-ups After the music night we still have two more popular events from our anniversary which are being held again later this year. The Hog Roast is again scheduled for the July general meeting (**Thursday 27th July**) whilst the Quiz will be on **Saturday 25th November** at Weston Turville Village Hall. As always, more details of all these events will be announced in future newsletters.

Third Age Magazine We mentioned last month that as part of your WTU3a membership you can receive the national magazine at no extra cost to you. As we will be paying £3.60 per member, the committee has now agreed that those wanting to continue receiving the magazine must opt-in to get it when they renew their WTU3a membership in April.

Network News The Thames Valley Network of which we are a member is still holding Zoom meetings as well as trips. Their next online meeting is at 10.30am on **Wednesday 12th April** and features a talk entitled "Ways over Water – a History of Thames Crossings". Joining details are on their website www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk . The following Wednesday (**19th April**) they are running a trip to Hughenden Manor and again details are available on their website.

Now when the primrose makes a splendid show,
And lilies face the March-winds in full blow,
And humbler growths as moved with one desire;
Put on, to welcome spring, their best attire...
~ William Wordsworth

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NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Theatre Visits More tickets are now available for Strictly Ballroom on **14th June** so let Melanie Evans know if you are interested. It is at the Waterside in Aylesbury and tickets are £30. Other performances coming up at the Waterside are: **Thursday 6th April** (2.30pm - £18) – Shawshank Redemption, **Wednesday 3rd May**, Around the World in 80 Days (2.30pm - £22) **Wednesday 10th May** – Buddy (2.30pm - £35). Finally on **Wednesday 19th April** we have Dr Doolittle which is at the Court Theatre in Pendley where tickets will cost you £20. Let Melanie Evans know at theatre@wtu3a.org.uk if you are interested or want more information.

Science & Technology The Greatmoor Recycling visit was oversubscribed so John Beer managed to get another date to ensure we were all catered for and it proved a most interesting and informative experience. Such is the popularity of the group's visits that the coach trip to the London Transport Museum Depot in Acton (**Tuesday 4th April**), is likely to be full by now. On **Friday 5th May** we are visiting The Chiltern Open Air Museum. The cost will be £10.50 including a tour and for this your own transport is required to get there. It is own transport for the **Thursday 1st 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. The cost is about £8. Details on all activities from John Beer on: 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

Chess Our Chess group meet every other Friday lunchtime (next ones are on **17th** and **31st March**), at the Chandos in Weston Turville where you can play chess and partake of refreshments. No particular ability for the game is required. Contact Geoffrey Howell at chess@wtu3a.org.uk for more details.

Church visits Unfortunately Odette Harris and Geoffrey Howell are not able to continue with the running of the Church Visit group so this group will stop functioning unless someone else offers to take it over. Thanks go to Odette and Geoffrey for their work in organising lots of visits over the past few years.

Our life is March weather, savage and serene in one hour – Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Walking Group By the time you read this the March walk will have just happened so make a note in your diary for the next one which is on **Tuesday 11th April**. Details will be sent to everyone on her mailing list, but if anyone else wants information they should contact Sylv Elliott on: walkers@wtu3a.org.uk

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

Folk, Blues and Beyond The group meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 10am to 12 noon and takes place in members' homes. Because of this numbers are limited but Paul Fincken (07977 540444) or folk@wtu3a.org.uk will let you know about the group's activities and availability of spaces. The first half hour of each meeting is spent playing recordings of and discussing the music. During the rest of the session, we sing and play music together. We currently have guitars, bass, harmonicas, ukuleles, banjolele, cajon and other percussion, and some people just come and sing. We have a specially compiled songbook with all the necessary words and chords.

Trips The intended trip to Cambridge won't happen for a while due to the mosque not having visitors on Fridays so Mandi Simons has another trip planned. This will be on **Monday 17th April** and will go to Holland Park and then to the nearby Leighton House. The trip costs around £45 and more details are available from Mandi on trips@wtu3a.org.uk

The visit looks at the Holland Park Set of Politics and Painters. It explores romantic Holland Park including the Kyoto Garden and visits the newly refurbished and remodelled studio house of Lord Frederic Leighton - possibly the most astonishing house in London. At the heart of Leighton House is, possibly, the most astonishing room in London – an Islamic courtyard reimagined as a London drawing room. Some of the tiles for this Arab Hall were bought by Leighton on a trip to Damascus with others brought home by his friend Sir Richard Burton, traveller, diplomat and translator of the Kama Sutra and One Thousand and One Nights.

A little old man shuffled slowly into an ice cream parlour and pulled himself slowly, painfully, up onto a stool... After catching his breath, he ordered a banana split. The waitress asked kindly, 'Crushed nuts?' 'No,' he replied, 'Arthritis.'

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