



Weston Turville U3A Newsletter

September 2021

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 return to our indoor general meetings with a fascinating talk by Bernie Knill on Benjamin Disraeli which kept everyone enthralled for an hour. The afternoon was also livened up with a helicopter landing at the Rugby Club, with rumours rife as to who the occupant was. Suggestions varied from Tom Cruise to Stormzy to Boris Johnson!

Next meeting Our next meeting at the Rugby Club is on **Thursday 23rd September at 2.30pm** when Dr Kathryn Harkup's talk is entitled "A is for Arsenic". She is an author and chemist whose presentation is an exploration of the poisons used by the Queen of Crime, Dame Agatha Christie, in her bestselling detective stories. It looks at how the writer used her extensive knowledge of drugs and medicines mixed with real life cases to create her brilliantly plotted crime novels – a case of *howdunnit* rather than *whodunit*.

Our book (paperbacks only) exchange has restarted while refreshments are available, but you must bring your own cup. The following meeting is on **Thursday 28th October**.

Chairman's Report Last month we took another step towards normal with our first meeting indoors. 93 members attended our August meeting where we had an excellent talk from Bernie Knill on Hughenden Manor, Disraeli and Hughenden's secret work behind the scenes during WW2. Thank you for your support, it was very encouraging to see so many of you. I know that there were 4-5 new, would be members, visiting us for the first time. I did manage to speak to some, but others were missed, and this really was my fault, I need to be a little more organized! We will shortly be contacting you to ask you, together with all our new members who have joined since July, to meet us for a coffee, when we will be able to talk more easily as a small group. Next Thursday, is our September meeting and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible, perhaps we will hit 100+. If you haven't yet collected your membership card please visit the membership table, it's waiting for you there. Finally, I'd like to pass on our thanks to David Coleman. David started the Bridge Group within a month or so of Weston Turville U3A being formed, now he's decided it is time to take a break. Many thanks David from us all and especially from the Bridge Group.

u3a Diaries 2022 A message from our Secretary: It is the time again to be thinking of your pocket diary for next year. It is the 40th Anniversary of the u3a and a special edition has been produced to mark the event. Diaries are 150mm x 85mm, blue in colour at a cost of £3.30 each. Payment is with order and cash payment would be appreciated.

I will be attending at the September General Meeting from 2pm to take orders. Closing date 30th September with delivery anticipated for the October/November meetings. Further details or any queries from Jenny Hunt on 07831 241877 or email secretary@wtu3a.org.uk.

Committee changes Our Membership Secretary and Speakers Secretary have changed roles so Simon Evers is our new Membership Secretary and Carol Johnson will look after the speakers.

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.

Christmas Lunch Brenda Spear and Carol Williams would like to invite you to the U3A Christmas Lunch at Chiltern Forest Golf Club. Wendover on **Wednesday 8th December**. Please let me know if you would like to attend and let us know your choices of food. It would be a great help if you could pay for this meal at the next general meeting. There are 100 places on tables of eight and a few of ten so first come will have a place!

If you would let me know on my personal email: carolwilliams7170@gmail.com or phone 07917 177465 it would be gratefully appreciated, thank you! The price is £30 per head which includes gratuities and raffle

And now the choices:

Starters:

Christmas roast vegetable soup with Stilton served with brown bloomer bread
Traditional prawn cocktail with Marie Rose sauce served with brown bread
Chicken Yakitori skewers served with sweet chilli sauce

Mains:

Roast Turkey Served with pigs in blankets. stuffing balls and cranberry sauce
Fillet of Seabass with lemon and asparagus
Roast beef with Yorkshire pudding
Vegetarian Wellington
All served with traditional vegetables and roast potatoes

Desserts:

Traditional Christmas pudding in a brandy sauce.
Chocolate meringue with raspberries and cream
Cheese and biscuits

Tea/coffee with a warm mince pie.

Thames Valley Network There are still plenty of online talks coming up including: **24th September** – American Presidents (part 2). A talk by Mark Lovett **7th October** – Harvest Flowers. A demonstration by Katherine Kear, **12th October** – Ashmolean “Blue” Items. A talk by Jude Barrett, **21st October** – Little Men in Red Hats. A talk by David Marsh, **28th October** – The Music of Carol King. A talk by Clive Aronson. Details on our website or from: www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Church visits On **Tuesday 12th October** the group is visiting St Michael’s in Stewkley at 2pm. A flier will be sent out to people on the list so if you want to visit the church and are not on my list please contact Odette Harris on churches@wtu3a.org.uk Please note numbers are limited on this occasion.

Local History. Our Local History group is now up and running with meetings now being on a Tuesday afternoon at Weston Turville Village Hall. **Tuesday 21st September** (2.30pm) is the first one when Glynn White will be showing slides of the village comparing it with 100 years ago and now. Entrance is £3. Following meetings are on **19th October** on the history of Amersham and **16th November** on the life of Cecilia Payne. More information from Glynn on localhistory@wtu3a.org.uk

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Walking 13 intrepid walkers took part in the September walk which started in the dry and ended up in drizzle going over Naphill Common and along to Downley before ending at the Black Lion pub where seven more non-walkers joined them. The next walk is on **Tuesday 12th October** and will be around the Waddesdon Manor estate.

Sylv Elliott is looking to have a Christmas dinner for the walking group. It will be an evening meal (no walking necessary!) on **Thursday 16th December** at the Harrow in Bishopstone and will cost £35. Anyone interested should contact Sylv at: walkers@wtu3a.org.uk

Grub Club The next get together is for lunch at Orchard View Farm in Meadle HP17 9UG on **Wednesday 29th September** at 12.30pm. This is a family run farm serving homemade produce at reasonable prices. 20 places have been booked, so if you want to go contact Annie Edwards at grubclub@wtu3a.org.uk.

Science & Technology The group is back with a trip to Milton Keynes Museum on **Tuesday 5th October**. The tour will start at 11am with a 9.30 meeting at the Five Bells for anyone needing transport. The cost is £16 which includes lunch. The Silverstone Museum trip mentioned last month will be on **Thursday 4th November** and starts at 11am. This is a self guided tour so we can break for lunch when we want and will probably look to finish about 3pm. The cost is £17.50. Details from John Beer on wtu3ascitech@gmail.com.

Trips *A message from Jayne Lennard:* 32 intrepid individuals sallied forth to the Tower of London. Expectations were high that we would be released later, in time for our highly recommended fish and chips. Our guide Owen was knowledgeable, entertaining and patient with us, it was a bit like herding cats, it showed we hadn't been let out for some time and we were easily diverted by men in uniform marching and shouting at each other. The crown jewels were excellent, but some people just wanted to go on the travelator so went round several times! After the jewels we were let loose and left to explore. Some of us climbed the 280 odd steps of the white tower to see the Chapel and armoury and to do the interactive bits (designed for the slightly younger generation). We fired canon, built castles and shot long bows. We then explored the bloody tower, with a spiral staircase so narrow I was reduced to doing it on all fours! Others walked the ramparts interacting with the art work soldiers. The best bit was there were no tourists there. No queues, no fighting and jostling for positions, it was quiet and at times all you could hear were very noisy ravens demanding attention. A fish and chip supper rounded off the day and a tired coach load of happy people returned home.

A big Thank You to Mandi Simons for taking over the trip for me, she is the Queen of Trips, which we all know. Also thank you to Mike Bennett our Treasurer for all the help and assistance with sorting out all the money side of things and to the committee for assisting us and helping to pay for some of the coach costs.

We are trying to see if anyone would be interested in doing a Christmas outing coach trip to Faversham and Canterbury on **Tuesday 7th December**.

Faversham is one of our most historic and yet least known market towns. Arrive for lunch at midday in Faversham, cost included, then get a tour around some of the 475 listed buildings within a stone's throw of the pub. We then head off for some sightseeing in the heart of Canterbury and shopping if you choose; with the option to enjoy Choral Evensong at 5.30pm sitting in the Quire at the very heart of the Cathedral. Teas, wees and home! Cost in the region of £40 each which includes the cooked lunch, coach and guides. Let Mandi or Jayne know if you are interested in coming on: trips@wtu3a.org.uk

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Patchwork & Quilting So, life seems almost back to normal now that we are able to hold our meetings in person and my zoom “studio” has been packed away. We started holding face to face meetings in our gardens in June when the weather was dry and warm and we enjoyed some hand sewing projects but I’m pleased to say we are now back indoors and able to use our sewing machines, as I was running out of hand sewing ideas.

We have two groups - one meets in the morning one in the afternoon on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month and the morning group has moved to a new venue at Stoke Mandeville Community Centre. This room is light, bright and spacious which has made social distancing possible and we are now also able to offer places to new members. Members can work on their own projects or try some new techniques and skills range from experienced quilters to beginners. If you would like to know more about joining the group, please contact me with a view to joining in November. Maureen Reeves Group Leader email quilting@wtu3a.org.uk

Social bridge The group has restarted on a Monday afternoon in the Chandos pub in Weston Turville, where we aim to practise and help each other with advancing our knowledge of the game. If anyone would like to join us, please contact socialbridge@wtu3a.org.uk for further details.

Theatre Visits Melanie Evans is running a trip to the Waterside in Aylesbury for an afternoon performance of Dolly Parton’s “9 to 5” on **Thursday 30th September**. Tickets are £32 (normally £48.50) If you are interested in this or other theatre trips please let Melanie know on theatre@wtu3a.org.uk

Memento of the Tower of London trip - photo by Mandi Simons



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