



# Weston Turville U3A Newsletter

**February 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** Don't forget our next general meeting is on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February** – a week earlier than normal. It is still at Aylesbury Rugby Club at 2.30pm and will still feature the usual activities such as the book/magazine swop, teas and coffees (don't forget to bring your own cup) and the chance to meet a few group leaders.

The speaker is Jeff Rozelaar who visited us last year. His talk this time is entitled "Bacon and Bagels" - an autobiographical account of growing up in the post war East End. The book, on which the talk is based, was described by Fern Britton as "hugely entertaining...a great sudsy wallow in the 1950s". The delivery is a lively and entertaining mixture of Jewish and cockney humour".

It's back to normal for the March meeting – **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**.

**Chairman's Report.** I must begin by apologizing for the problems we experienced with the sound system at our meeting in January. Those of you who attend our monthly meetings regularly will know it has become a regular occurrence. Normally we have Derek Ayshford hovering in the background, tweaking the system and making sure we get there in the end. Sadly, Derek and his wife Pam have not been too well recently, he wasn't there, and I need not tell you, I'm no sound engineer! I can assure you it will not happen again, hopefully we will have our own new, reliable system in place by our next meeting and if not I will make sure we have something other than what we had in January.

I should add that the misbehaving p.a. system caused more problems for the speakers and didn't seem to affect the listeners. The result was a superb presentation from our guest, Jeremy Holmes, on Shackleton's ill-fated Antarctic expedition. And our listeners? Well I'm delighted to say that we had 143 attending our meeting, it left us scrambling for more seats, but a lovely problem to have. Thank you all for your support hopefully our numbers will not be affected by our change of date for the next meeting. Don't forget for February only, meeting is the third **Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> February**.

**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.**

**A record?** According to information from our Membership Secretary Simon Evers our current membership is 421 which could well be a record for us. There were also 131 members signed in for the last general meeting plus another 12 visitors or guests which is likely to be another record.

**Tea Rota** Those attending our general meetings will appreciate the work put in by Lynn White and her team for providing teas, coffees and biscuits. However she is desperate for a few people to volunteer to help out occasionally so if you can help please let Lynn know or fill in the list which is by the serving hatch. Lynn can be contacted at: [refreshments@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:refreshments@wtu3a.org.uk)

**Third Age Magazine** As part of your WTU3a membership you can opt in to receive the national magazine at no extra cost to you. We currently pay the national body £3.35 a year for each member who receives the magazine. As this is going up to £3.60 per member shortly it would be appreciated if you could let Simon Evers (Membership Secretary) know if you no longer want to receive this publication.

**10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary successes** After the great success of last year's celebratory events we are intending to run some of them as a regular event. The first will be the 60s Evening which will take place on **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April** at the Rugby Club. The Hog Roast is again scheduled for the July general meeting (**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, details of all these events will be in future newsletters.

## **NEWS FROM THE GROUPS**

**Theatre Visits** Some new dates have been added to the calendar so we now have: **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March** The Addams Family at the Elgiva in Chesham with tickets costing £21.50 and **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April – Dr Doolittle at the Court Theatre in Pendley with tickets being £20.** As a reminder those already mentioned at the Waterside in Aylesbury are: **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April – 2.30pm** Shawshank Redemption. £18 **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May** at 2.30pm Around the World in 80 Days - £22 **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May – 2.30pm** Buddy £35 **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June – 7.30pm** Healthy the Musical - £28.50 **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June** at 2.30pm Strictly Ballroom - £26 Let Melanie Evans know at [theatre@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:theatre@wtu3a.org.uk) if you are interested or want more information

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**Flower Arranging** The group starts up again on **Monday February 13th**. For February and March we will be celebrating spring's arrival. Using spring flowers, narcissi, tulips and hyacinths we will enjoy making some lovely floral displays. If anyone is interested in joining the group please get in touch with Gaynor Edwards at: [flowers@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:flowers@wtu3a.org.uk) The meeting time is 2.15pm to 4pm at Buckland Village Hall.

**Science & Technology** The visit on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March** to the Greatmoor Recycling Centre is full but hopefully another date will be found for those missing out. Please use your own transport to get there. Into April and we have a coach trip to the London Transport Museum Depot in Acton (**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April**), a place we visited some years ago and is often seen on the "Secrets of the Underground" programme on television. Numbers are limited to 40 and the cost, including the coach, is £40. The Chiltern Open Air Museum is the following scheduled visit and this will be on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May**. The cost will be £9.50 including a tour and for this your own transport is required to get there. It is 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. The cost is about £8. Details on all activities from John Beer on: [science@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:science@wtu3a.org.uk)

**Walking Group** The next walk is a circular 4¼ miles from the Golden Eagle, Ashley Green on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February**. Group leader Sylv Elliott is hoping for a little less mud than on the last walk. More details from her on [walkers@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:walkers@wtu3a.org.uk)

**Joint Coffee Mornings with ACU3A** The next joint coffee morning will be on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February** –10.30am at the Five Bells in the village. Details from Marie Jones on 07733412295.

**Trips** Mandi Simons is looking at running a trip to Cambridge and needs expressions of interest before she goes ahead with the booking. There are four possible Fridays – **17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> March, 21<sup>st</sup> April or 19<sup>th</sup> May**. The likely itinerary is: coach to Cambridge, visit to the Central Mosque which is Europe's first Eco-Mosque, for a guided tour then lunch followed by a visit to the famous Fitzwilliam Museum (or shopping in the city) and on the way home a cream tea in Grantchester. The cost is expected to be £51, so please let Mandi know if you are interested on: [trips@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:trips@wtu3a.org.uk)

"In February, there is everything to hope for and nothing to regret." – Patience Strong

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**Italian Improvers** Unfortunately the group has now closed. Our thanks go to Bren Leleux for running the group for several years. Mille grazie.

**Grub Club** The next grub club is at 12.30pm on **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February** at the Dog House in Broughton. Let Annie Edwards know if you are interested.

**Folk, Blues and Beyond** The group is aimed at anyone with an enthusiasm for this broad range of music.

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.

Meetings are on the third Wednesday of the month, from 10.00am to noon, and they take place at members' homes. Numbers are limited but if you are interested, please contact the group leader, Paul Fincken, on 07977 540444 or [folk@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:folk@wtu3a.org.uk) to answer any questions about the group's activities and the availability of spaces.

**Chess** If you are interested in playing chess you may like to know that our Chess group meet every other Friday lunchtime 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](mailto:chess@wtu3a.org.uk) for more details.

**Rummikub** The group next meets on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February**. The game of rummikub is based loosely on rummy, but with a twist. Our group meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Five Bells in Weston Turville starting at 2.00pm. Contact group leader Deborah Brown at [rummikub@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:rummikub@wtu3a.org.uk) for more details.

**Food Appreciation** **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February** is the date for the first group meeting and this will be at the Basil and Thyme Restaurant in Great Kingshill. There is the option of two courses for £29.95 or three courses (£32.95) with gratuities included in the price. More details from Pam Wilson at [food.appreciation@wtu3a.org.uk](mailto:food.appreciation@wtu3a.org.uk)

"February teaches us the lesson of hope that there is a sunny day at the end of every freezing night." – Anonymous

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