



Weston Turville U3A Newsletter

April 2017



This is the month of our AGM, and as we intend to keep it as brief as possible I have asked for all reports to be forwarded to you before the meeting. We asked last month for volunteers for our U3A stand at Weston Turville Fete on 24th June: since no one has stepped forward we have decided to have no representation at the fete at all. This will be the first time since we started this U3A that we have not had a stand there but we need volunteers to assist and without them the activity must cease. The same goes for the Soap Box Derby on 18th June: The soapbox is ready for use but needs a team to race it. It is not too late: if you are interested in helping with organising or helping at either event then please contact me.

Since it is April and as the bluebells are out I am showing you a picture of Dockey Wood, Ashridge of the beautiful display. Photo taken by photography group member Paul Eastwood. Pat Housego

SPEAKER: Our next meeting is on Thursday 23rd March where Chris Dingley is giving us a talk entitled "Tax, Care and Toy Boys". Please don't arrive before 2pm unless you want to help set it all up! *We have just received a letter from Medical Detection Dogs (Patron: HRH the Duchess of Cornwall) thanking everyone at WTU3A for our recent donation of £219.50 and hoping that we all enjoyed learning more about their work from one of their key volunteer speakers, Geoffrey.*

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS: Membership subscriptions are now due - you have already received details of your unique membership number and also renewal application form which must be completed and returned to the Membership Secretary. Mary Duly

TRIPS: The trip to the **Black Country Living Museum on Friday 12th May** has 5 spaces left. Last chance to book! We will be leaving about 8am and returning about 6 ish. The cost is £25 each.

The second trip is on **Friday 7th July to the English School of Falconry** where a "hands on" day with all sorts of animals is planned: Leave WT. 9.15am and home again for tea! The cost is £42 which includes the morning coffee and lunchtime BBQ. For those persons nervous about flying birds there are plenty of other things to see and do.



Mandi Simons.

NEW MEMBERS - A coffee morning to welcome new members that have joined since January 2017 will be held on Monday 15th May at the Costa Coffee shop in Wyevale Garden Centre. Come and join us for a complimentary coffee/tea and a chat. Rosemary and Pam

TWO NEW GROUPS STARTING! The first new group is **CHESS FOR FUN:** Two rather rusty chess players are hoping to brush off the cobwebs and get to play chess again. A chess group of two is, of course, viable but would doubtless soon become somewhat boring. We therefore hope that a few more members may be interested in joining us. You may be rusty (as we are, you may be brilliant (as we are not)) or you may be interested in learning to play chess from scratch - it doesn't matter, as all are welcome. At the moment we're thinking of meeting for 90 minutes once a month on a Wednesday morning, but for the first few to join us, we are very willing to be flexible.

If you'd like to join us or simply find out more, please contact Geoffrey on 01296 614826 email

gphowell@btinternet.com. The second group is **CARD MAKING:** It is proposed to start a card making group which will meet up on the second Thursday at 1030 am. If you are interested in making different types of greeting cards to from scratch, then please make contact with Susan Monro 01296 392488 susanmonro@icloud.com.

SCIENCE AND TECH GROUP: Both the Amazon 4th May (63 members) and Chatham Dockyard 1st June (50 Members, Three remaining places) arrangements are complete. Those going on these trips should have had details. On the 6th July we gather at the Chapel hall for a talk about the 4 minute warning (Not 3 minute as in stated before). This should complement Adrian's examination of our local contribution. On 3RD August I have arranged with ATG for them to hold a day of workshops designed to be basic and practical. Each course will last the day from 9-30 to 4-0 with a hours lunch and whilst they sound very technical I am assured that anyone can take part. Cost £20 and there will be number limitations. The subjects are as follows: Cad basics 2D and 3D; Working with microcomputers targeted at Home automation; Basic Cycle Repairs; Metalworking Basics. John Beer

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.

GARDEN GROUP: I have now one space available for **West Green House** garden visit on May 18th. You can sign up for two garden visits this month. **Cedar House:** A chalk garden in the Chiltern Hills with wild flowers and native orchids. A great variety of trees, shrubs and perennials. Requested by one of our members as a great garden to visit again. We will be visiting Cedar House, Bacombe Lane, Wendover HP22 6EQ. On Thursday June 15th at 2.15pm. Cost which includes garden visit, tea and cake is £6.00. There is a limit to 10 cars only for this garden visit. Meet at the Five Bells at 1.50pm leave at 2pm. **Hillesden House:** By a superb church Cathedral in the Fields. Carp lakes, fountains and waterfalls with mature trees. Five acres of formal gardens with 80 acres of deer park and parkland. Wild flower areas. We will be visiting Hillesden House, Church End, Hillesden MK18 4DB On Thursday July 13th at 2.30pm. Tour included. Cost with refreshments is £8.00. Meet at the Five Bells at 1.30pm leave at 1.40pm. Both gardens have wheel chair access to at least the main features of the garden. Both gardens are NGS and are opening for our group only. Please can I have your cheques at the time of booking this month please? Gaynor Edwards

VISITING CHURCHES GROUP: Our next visit will be in the afternoon of Tuesday 9th May to St Mary the Virgin, Eaton Bray. Please confirm your name on our list of members at our table at the April monthly meeting if you intend to come along, or if you would like to enquire about joining our group. All welcome.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS: April 28th visit to Lavenham and NT Guildhall and NT Melford Hall. Three seats available. Pick up Chandos 8.50 : shops 8.55. Cost is £16.50. On May 26th visit to Marlborough - time for shopping and lunch then Avebury for the National Trust mansion and garden. There is also a museum. There is an optional guided tour of the Stones (payable on the day. £15.50 if NT member.

EXTREME VISITS: Extreme Urban Axe Throwing; 18th April – Trip Report.



The Family that slays together

Like any other responsible organisation, Weston Turville U3A prepared for any eventuality and learned to throw DIY store axes at Whistle Punks. Remarkably, no one owned up to having any experience of throwing an axe, though there were some suspiciously high scores. For those treating the event as serious competition, Damian won. There are plenty of photographs already on the WT U3A Facebook page – do upload more. Should anyone feel the need to instruct their grandchildren, Whistle Punks have sent us a special discount code.

In the afternoon, we toured the restored Wilton’s Music Hall. I say “restored” but it was to the point that the paint was peeling, windows were broken and there was even a bird’s nest still in place. An inspiration to anyone looking for Interior design inspiration. Though it won many RIBA



awards last year, Wilton’s didn’t make it through to the finals of “The Great British Restoration”.

Extreme Buggies; 18th May – Honda Pilots & Rage Buggies.

We have up to 20 places for an all-action event with Banzai Action Sports at Stratton Audley, near Bicester.



Friends who have experienced this said it is the best thing they have ever done on 4 wheels! So it’s not to be missed. Age is not an issue, but is not recommended for those with back or neck problems.

We will lunch at the Red Lion in Stratton Audley. £60 per driver for 2 driving activities and £5 per spectator – cheques payable to ‘Weston Turville U3A(Travel)’ by the April general meeting.

Extreme Aquatic Hovercraft; 18th July – Highcross Hovercraft.



By popular demand from those that joined the WT U3A more recently, we have started working on the logistics for a return to Highcross Hovercraft in Sharnford for a re-run of our 2014 event. To raise the bar, this trip will include “over water” instruction for those that graduate from the land based training.

£30.00 per pilot; cheques payable to “Weston Turville U3A (Travel)” by April General Meeting. 2 places remaining.

For an Extreme experience or to add to our photo album, contact the Extreme

Team at extreme@WTU3A.org.uk Tel 0777 150 6055

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