



Weston Turville U3A Newsletter

October 2017

NEWS FROM THE CHAIRMAN:



I hope you are spending these darker autumnal evenings making or baking for our 'bring and buy' sale next month in aid of Children In Need. We already have a few items to sell and various groups are displaying their wares that they have created this past year or have given information on what they have been up to. It is an opportunity to have a look at what some of the other groups are doing as well as a social get together with mulled wine and Christmas nibbles. If you have any items for the 'bring and buy', either give

them to Mandi (rumour has it she still has a few inches left on her dining room table) or bring them along on the day. Remember there will be no information tables and no speaker for the November meeting but Mike Bean will be running a Petanque game for the afternoon!

As Mary Duly has stood down from being the custodian of our wheelchair, we need to find a volunteer who can store it and bring it along to meetings. It folds down and is light weight so doesn't take up a lot of room. If you have a bit of shed or garage space that we could use, please contact me. Pat Housego.

MONTHLY MEETING: Our speaker for **Thursday 26th October** is Ian Keable who has visited us before. On this occasion his talk is to be "Charles Dickens, Conjuror". As usual 2.30 start and please don't arrive before 2pm or you will be required to move tables and chairs around! Please remember to bring any DVD's, CD's, books or jigsaw puzzles you have read, heard, seen or done to the meetings so someone else may enjoy them.

DIARIES: 2018 diaries can be collected at October monthly meeting. Rosemary Williams

WTU3A 2017 CHRISTMAS LUNCH – XMAS LUNCH – PENDLEY MANOR – 15TH DECEMBER

FINAL CHANCE TO BOOK as reservations close on 31st October 2017. There are still spaces available.

Cost is £28 per head. To reserve your place contact: Mary Duly, email: xmaslunch@wtu3a.org.uk. cheque with reservation made payable to "Weston Turville U3A Travel"

TRIPS AND TRAVEL: This year we made the decision to reduce the number of main trips to 3 per year including Christmas because there are so many competing visits going on with the interest groups. We were struggling to find things that may interest you that weren't already covered by historic buildings, garden group, science and technology, visiting churches, extreme visits, digital photography or local history.....plus odd visits by wine tasting or other groups! However we have been nagged by a few members to reintroduce the 3 or 4 visits plus Christmas Lunch: So what we need to know now is what do you want? They take quite a bit of organising and we need about 50 people per visit to make it work for you financially and to get the benefits of group discounts.

We are still trying to arrange a visit next year to The Charterhouse in London which opened its doors to the public for the first time in 400 years. For those who don't know about this historic place here is an extract from their website:



The story begins in 1348 during the Black Death, when the land was used as a burial ground for victims of plague. In 1371, the Charterhouse was built – a Carthusian monastery, which flourished throughout the later medieval and early Tudor period. With the dissolution of the monasteries, the Charterhouse became a mansion for wealthy noblemen and a refuge for royalty. Elizabeth I met the Privy Council here in the days before her coronation in 1558 and James I used the Great Chamber to create 130 new Barons before he was crowned. But it was in 1611 that Thomas

Sutton bought the Charterhouse and established the foundation that now bears his name. Thomas Sutton's will provided for up to 80 Brothers: 'either decrepit or old captaynes either at sea or at land, maimed or disabled soldiers, merchants fallen on hard times, those ruined by shipwreck or other calamity' as well as Charterhouse school. James I retained his connection with the Charterhouse, becoming the first Royal Governor of Thomas Sutton's foundation. Since then, the Charterhouse story has continued. Wellington, Gladstone and Cromwell have all been Governors. The Charterhouse

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appears in the writings of Daniel Defoe, Charles Dickens and William Makepeace Thackeray. Indeed, Thackeray, Robert Baden-Powell and John Wesley attended school here. When the school moved to Godalming in 1872, the Brothers remained at the Charterhouse in Clerkenwell.

We are hoping to try again for the annual afternoon tea at Waterperry Garden to coincide with the apple fest so you have lots to entertain you and we will have the Christmas Lunch somewhere which will be organised by the Food Appreciation group as Mary is standing down from organising it after this year.

Can you please drop me an email or call to say if you want us to arrange other visits and also if you have any suggestions. The criteria: it shouldn't be more than 1.1/2 hours away traveling by coach and it can't be covered by an existing group! Thank you. Mandi Simons

SCIENCE AND TECH GROUP: The next meeting for The Science and Tech group is on the 2nd of November in the Chapel Hall at 2-30. Colin Tufnel from Aston Clinton U3A will talk on the the History of Fireworks with a demonstration of fusing. The December meeting, the 7th, has been tricky to organise but I will provide a talk about Composite Materials if I can't arrange another speaker. No meeting in January. February 1st we will find out 'Why things move' with Paul Brown hosting the event. Trips to Waterside Theatre and the Bus museum are being planned. John Beer

GARDEN VISITS: I will be taking names only for our first garden visit in 2018. We plan to visit Meadow Cottage, Christmas Common, Watlington, Oxfordshire OX49 5HR. NGS Garden. Wednesday February 28th. Time of visit 11.15am. There is a 1and 3/4 acre garden adjoining an ancient bluebell wood created by the owner from 1995 with many areas to explore. Wonderful snowdrops in February. Cost £6.50p to include coffee, tea and biscuits. We will meet at the Five Bells car park, Weston Turville at 10.30am. Please come to the back of car park at the Five Bells for car share. Drivers needed please. Approximate travel time 30minutes. Gaynor Edwards

TRUSTED TRADESMAN: Diana Richmond runs our local trusted tradesman scheme. You give her a ring if you want a tradesman and she will pass on the details of someone who has used an appropriate tradesman and who has recommended them. Diana has reported that she is getting lots of requests for tradesman but the recommendations have dried up and she needs more of you to make contact with her. If you have had work done that was good and you think someone else may benefit from your recommendation please give Diana an email or call. Contact trusted@wtu3a.org.uk .

OVERSEAS NEWS: For any family historians out there...a reminder from Aston Clinton U3A: The speaker, Ian Waller is coming on 7th November to give us a talk entitled '**Bread, Gruel & Suet Dumplings: life in the workhouse.**' The meeting starts at 2pm and is at Halton Village Hall. All are welcome. The one off charge for visitors is £4.

The **Soft Tennis** advertised on behalf of Wendover U3A last month got such a good response that they cannot take any more players at this time.

Desk Top Computer needs new home: One of our members, Margaret Hamley is offering her desk top computer, screen, mouse and keyboard to any member who may want it for a donation to the MS Chilterns Charity. It is a Packard Bell running Windows 7 but upgradable to Windows 10. If you are interested please contact Margaret via me (Mandi Simons) and I will pass on.

This is the spot where I normally tell you what is happening with the Extreme Visits group, but they haven't told me so instead I will tell you a joke sent in by Adrian Randall in lieu of the article!

*At dawn the telephone rings, "Hello, Senor Roy? This is Ernesto, the caretaker at your country house."
Ah yes, Ernesto. What can I do for you? Is there a problem?" "Um, I am just calling to advise you, Senor Roy, that your parrot, he is dead". "My parrot? Dead? The one that won the International competition?"
"Si, Senor, that's the one." "Damn! That's a pity! I spent a small fortune on that bird. What did he die from?" "From eating the rotten meat, Senor Roy." "Rotten meat? Who the hell fed him rotten meat?"
"Nobody, Senor. He ate the meat of the dead horse." "Dead horse? What dead horse?" "The thoroughbred, Senor Roy." "My prize thoroughbred is dead?" "Yes, Senor Roy, he died from all that work pulling the water cart." "Are you insane? What water cart?" "The one we used to put out the fire, Senor." "Good Lord! What fire are you talking about man?" "The one at your house, Senor! A candle fell and the curtains caught on fire." "What the hell? Are you saying that my mansion is destroyed because of a candle?!" "Yes, Senor Roy." "But there's electricity at the house! What was the candle for?" "For the funeral, Senor Roy."
"WHAT BLOODY FUNERAL?!!!" "Your wife's, Senor Roy. She showed up very late one night and I thought she was a thief, so I hit her with your new Ping G20 204g titanium head golf club with the TFC 149D graphite shaft." SILENCE..... LONG SILENCE.....VERY LONG SILENCE....
"Ernesto, if you broke that driver, you're in deep s***."*

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