



Weston Turville U3A Newsletter

April 2018

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MESSAGES FROM THE CHAIRMAN: As most of you will probably know by now (if you have read the Chairman's Report for the AGM) this will be my last month as your Chairman. I am standing down at the AGM for health reasons – nothing serious but something I do need to pay attention to. Also standing down is Pam Wilson as she has come to the end of her three year tenure. Pam has served us well on the committee alongside her role looking after the Meeters & Greeters. Fortunately she has agreed to continue with this aspect of her role, for which she does not need to be a committee member. Our Speaker Secretary, Heather Marshall has also given us notice that she will be standing down. She has already arranged the speakers up to March 2019 so whoever takes over this will be able to ease gradually into the role. (Please get in touch with the new committee if you think this might be of interest to you.) I would like to thank Pam and Heather for the work they have done for Weston Turville U3A and the support that they have personally given me. The last few months have not been any easy time for any of us on the committee. With the changes to the data protection laws; the changes with the Charity Commission and the empty positions within the committee we have, at times, struggled to keep up with the work. However that is all now in the past and once again the U3A will move forward as we always do. I am pleased to see that there are a good number of people applying for places on the committee and wish them luck in their new roles. The strength of the committee is vital for any organisation and it is testament to the present committee that we have managed this year. I give them all my heartfelt personal and public thanks.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the AGM on Thursday afternoon (26th April) at the Rugby Club, Weston Turville at 2.30pm. There will be no speaker following this meeting but there will be cake! I am continuing in my roles as leader of the Craft group and day trip arranger so will still be around at the meetings. I would just like to finish by thanking all of you for your continued support in my time as Chairman, particularly to those of you who do the often unnoticed jobs behind the scenes. There are too many of you to mention by name but you are, every one, appreciated. I believe that together we have come a long way in my time as chairman and look forward to continuing this exciting journey with new hands on the reins. Pat Housego.

MONTHLY MEETING: Our next meeting is on Thursday 26th April where we will hold the AGM and eat cakes..... As always please don't arrive before 2pm unless you are going to help in setting up the hall.

MEMBERSHIP: From Carol the membership secretary: Please do not use the old membership forms for your membership renewal; the correct form will be sent out via email before this month's monthly meeting and must be completed whether you pay by cheque, standing order, a hire purchase agreement or in kind! It has the new data protection information and permissions on which we are required by law to get you to sign your agreement to. If you have sent in your membership forms already, don't panic as you will just be asked to fill out the correct form. Please remember to put your membership number on your form and as a reference if you pay by bank transfer. If you can't remember your membership number, look at your old membership card or contact the membership secretary. Membership cards will be given or sent out over the next month or so.

VISITING CHURCHES: Our next church visit is on 8th May 2pm at St Mary the Virgin, Drayton Beauchamp. To find out more see one of us at the AGM meeting or contact churches@wtu3a.org.uk. Odette Harris and Geoffrey Howell.

GARDEN VISITS: We have two garden visits in May due to our February visit being cancelled. Please note leave times for each garden visit. Meadow Cottage NGS, Thursday May 3rd meet for car share at the Five Bells 1.10pm leave at 1.15pm. Pay on the day £6.50p, a few spaces available. Red Kites NGS Tuesday May 22nd meet at Five Bells 1.20pm leave at 1.30pm. Pay on the day £7.00 a few spaces available. Our garden visit to Greys Court N.T. on Thursday June 14th is now by car and not by coach. I will return your original cheques at the AGM meeting. The new cost will be for the tour and cream tea £9.00 for members and non members. National Trust members bring your card on day of visit. Non Member garden entry is a group price pay on the day £10.40p. Meet at Five Bells at 11.40am leave at 11.45am.

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.

Our visit to Hidcote National Trust will be by coach on Thursday July 12th. Hidcote is one of England's great Arts and Crafts gardens. It's famous for its rare trees and shrubs, herbaceous borders and unusual plants from all over the world; created by the talented American horticulturist, Major Lawrence Johnson. Leave bus stop opposite the shops at 8.45am arrive approx.10.45am. There is no tour booked for this visit but the garden is divided into a series of outdoor rooms to visit. An easy access map is provided free for those who have disabilities where walking is difficult. There are a couple of cafes where you can get lunch or lighter snacks. Picnic benches are available if you would like to take a picnic. There is a N.T shop and plant centre. Cost £18.00 cheques on booking please. NT Members bring your card on day of visit. Non Member garden entry £12.00p pay on the day. Depart 4.15pm. Arrive Weston Turville 6.10pm.
Gaynor Edwards

OVERSEAS NEWS: Aston Clinton U3A have sent an invitation to us to join them for a trip to Imperial War Museum Duxford. They have at least 10 spare seats at the time of writing. It's on the Thursday 10th May leaving at 9am from the Bell at Aston Clinton and returning about 6pm. The cost is £27 which covers coach and entrance fee. Duxford is a huge exhibition of planes through the last 100 years and you can stand in awe of the world's most famous aircraft at this historic museum. Be dwarfed by the B-52 and Concorde; get up close to famous Second World War classics including the Spitfire, Lancaster and Tiger Moth; and stare up into the guts of the Vulcan bomber. It also has lots of other RAF displays and memorabilia. Anyone interested should contact me, Pete Shaw on 01296 482495 or pete@pete-shaw.com.



Glasses collection for Malawi: The Aylesbury Grammar School Malawi Initiative has been running for fourteen years and raises money to build classrooms and buy sports equipment, teaching equipment, hospital beds and other vital supplies for the Malosa area of Malawi. Each student raises money to go towards their own special fundraising project and also helps raise funds for a number of Malawian students to visit England. As part of the Malawi Initiative, Joshua Cuddy and Ben Parsons who both live in Weston Turville are raising funds to build a pre-school to improve the education of young children in the Malosa area and are also collecting old spectacles to take with them when they visit Malawi. If you have any old glasses, please bring them along to the monthly U3A meetings. All the glasses will be used by the hospital out in Malosa as they are desperately short of supplies.



Extreme “Extreme Karting revisited”; 27 April – Rogue Racing.



Our planned event on 2nd March was postponed by the “Beast from the East” and will now be held on 27th April! As before, 1-hour endurance in teams of 3 in up to 10 karts. £25 per person. PAYMENT NOW DUE. Photo from an earlier successful U3A Extreme visit to Rogue Racing.

Extreme “Extreme Dart Marathon”; 30 April – ?? Breaking News.



It now seems that there is a chance that the Rotary Club will cancel their darts marathon event due to lack of interest from other groups. Our plan is to hold a practice session at the Chandos from 12:00 on Monday 23 April if the pub is sufficiently empty and schedule our own marathon under revised rules on 30th April at 12:00 in the Chandos. The event will still be in aid of the original charities (Medical Detection Dogs, PACE & other Rotary Charities). It is for teams of 4 - £10 entry per team. Anyone interested in throwing some arrows?

Soapbox Derby: The WTU3A “Extreme” group have entered our carefully crafted Duck into the 2018 Aylesbury Town Soapbox Derby after resting during 2017. The event is on Father's Day, Sunday 17th June, 11AM till 4PM at Whitehill Park, Aylesbury HP19 8EN.



In 2016 our cart won the “Best Looking Soapbox” award and it would be great to see as many members as possible on the day in support again.

We need more volunteers to push the cart at the start or even to drive but also to man the pit-lane for our legendary demonstration pit-stop where our egg laying Duck becomes a Mallard!

For an Extreme experience or to add to our photo album, contact the Extreme Team at extreme@WTU3A.org.uk Tel 0777 150 6055

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.