

The

Newsletter

Weston-super-Mare



www.u3aweston.org.uk

Summer 2023 Issue No. 83

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Weston-super-Mare u3a Committee

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[Letter From The Chair](#)



Dear All,

It seems hard to believe that we are already nearly half-way through the year, and that the longest day is only a couple of weeks away. It has been a very eventful year so far. We held a very successful conference with the Northern Somerset Association of u3as, of which

Weston is a key member. As the new incoming Chair of the NSA, I want to try to re-establish closer links with other u3as to all our

mutual benefit.

We have also had two very enjoyable day trips; firstly, to the National Arboretum and, more recently, to Oxford. More trips are planned for the future including to Sidmouth, Hereford, The Big Pit in South Wales, and to Windsor Castle. The planned holiday to Liverpool is also proving to be very popular.

Our membership continues to grow, and we now have over 900 registered members; nowhere near what it was before the pandemic, but increasing as we continue to try to offer what people want to do in their spare time.

We are all aware of the continuing cost of living crisis, and I know the worst of the winter weather is now over, so I sincerely hope that we all stay safe and warm as things slowly improve.

Best wishes to all.

Bob Charters; Chairman

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[Weston-super-Mare u3a Newsletter Summer 2023](#) Staying In Touch

Staying in touch with each other at this time of continued uncertainty is vitally important. We traditionally use e-mails to circulate important information to our members, or direct mail to those without internet access. It is therefore important that you check the accuracy of the contact details we hold for you, and advise our membership secretary of any changes.

Don't want e-mails from u3a?

If you do not wish to receive e-mails from our Weston-super-Mare u3a please do not mark them as SPAM. If you do, Internet Providers will begin to believe every e-mail sent by Weston u3a is SPAM and it will prevent us communicating with the whole

membership. If you would rather not receive e-mails from Weston u3a please drop a line to our membership secretary at weston.u3a@gmail.com.

Welfare

Do you know of any u3a members who are unwell, or who have recently been bereaved? If you do, and you think they would appreciate a card: Get Well Soon, Thinking of You, or Sympathy, please contact Chris Mingo-West to have one sent from the u3a.

Next Newsletters

Publication Date	Cut-off Date for Submissions
Autumn Edition – Oct 2023	September 29 th 2023
Spring Edition – March 2024	January 26 th 2024

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General Meeting 2023

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held as an open meeting commencing at 2.15pm on Friday 9th June in the URC Church Hall located on the Boulevard in Weston town centre

This is a very important meeting in the calendar of the u3a, so we would like to encourage as many of our members as possible to attend. Based upon our current membership, we need at least 46 people to be present in order to make the meeting quorate in accordance with the requirements of our Constitution.

Dates For Your Diary

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Each Tuesday	10.00 – 11.15	Coffee Morning	Friends Meeting House, High St. WsM
Friday 9 th June	2.15pm	Weston u3a 2023 Annual General Meeting	URC Church Hall, The Boulevard, Weston Town Centre

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Monthly Talks

Monthly lectures are held in the United Reformed Church hall on the boulevard in Weston town centre. Lectures are held on the second Friday of each month (see below). In the event that a lecture still needs to be held via zoom, the appropriate log-in details will be provided well in advance.

Lectures commence at 2.15pm prompt and usually last for about an hour which allows time for questions, and for refreshments to be served. There is an entrance fee of £2, plus 20p for tea/coffee after the lecture.

Organiser: Mike Lynham

Date	Subject	Speaker
June 9 th	AGM; The Birth of Public Health	Barry Hil
July 14 th	British Sign Language	Emm Sharpe

August	Holiday; no lecture	
Sept. 8 th	Great American Songbook	Roger Browne
Oct. 13 th	Royal National Lifeboat Institute	Glyn Hayes
Nov. 10 th	Royal Weston	John Crockford-Hawley
Dec. 8 th	Whales and Dolphins	Chris Butler-Stroud
Jan 12 th	Singalong	Tim Lewis
Feb. 9 th	Holidays	John Crockford-Hawley
Mar. 8 th	Scams	Lyn Griffiths (Trading Standards)

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Important Information About Trips

Now that trips/outings/holidays are being advertised directly to your e-mail in box, please be aware that they are being sent by a central administrator.

PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THE MESSAGE

It is important that any questions you may have are directed to the person(s) organising the trip. Their name, address, phone number and e-mail will be contained in the body of the advert. Because of the volume of messages involved, replies addressed elsewhere are unlikely to receive a response.

Thank you for helping us with the smooth running of your trips, and for your continued support.

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Holiday: A Taste of Suffolk

4 nights Sunday 3rd to Thursday 7th September

In conjunction with Bakers Dolphin Travel, Wells u3a have arranged a holiday in Suffolk. They currently have a small number of vacant places on this trip. Bakers Dolphin have confirmed that they are willing to pick up customers at points between Weston and Wells including: Weston, Winscombe and Cheddar, or other designated pick-up points. The details of the holiday are as follows:



A TASTE OF SUFFOLK

Ufford Park Hotel, Woodbridge
4 nights: dinner, bed & breakfast
Leaving: Sunday 3rd September
Returning: Thursday 7th
September
Departing Wells Coach Station:
8.30am
Returning to Wells approx: 6pm
Cost: £562 pp
Single Supplement: £123pp

One of the most beautiful places in England, Suffolk retains a quintessential charm that makes it well worth a visit. We will visit fascinating places each day and make interesting stops en-route and again on our return journey.

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Day 1: We will depart from Wells, travelling to Windsor for some free time, before we make our way to East Anglia and the Ufford Park Hotel and Spa, set in 120 acres of historic parkland, with glorious views across the Debden Valley.

Day 2: Today we enjoy a tour along the picturesque Suffolk coast, taking in Southwold, with its painted beach huts and lovely pier;



Thorpness, with mock-Tudor houses and fairy-tale 'House in the Clouds'; and beautiful Aldeburgh, which retains lovely features of a bygone era.



Day 3: We visit the world-famous Anglo-Saxon burial site of Sutton Hoo, home to one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of all time. A guided tour of the site is included. (The walk to the burial mounds is a 10/15- minute outdoor walk on flat ground). There is also an exhibition, café and shop. (NT). In the afternoon we will make our way to Waldringfield, where we will enjoy a two-hour cruise (with tea/coffee and scones) along the river Debden.

Day 4: After breakfast we will head to the thriving village of **Lavenham** to explore the pretty, half-timbered houses, shops, and cafes. We will go on to **Ickworth**, an impressive Italianate palace. (NT).



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Day 5: Today we make our way home, making a short stop for coffee in **Ipswich**, before travelling on to **Waddesdon Manor** (NT). We will then continue our journey, arriving in Wells at approximately 6pm.

If you would like to join this holiday, please contact Jeanne Evans

in order to receive an application form and finalise pick-up details.

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Weston u3a Group News

Each month we have more than 70 groups running, thanks to the hard work put in by our Group Leaders – thank you to all of you.

Over the last few years a number of groups have closed, for a variety of reasons and it would be lovely if we could get some of them restarting, or new interest groups - could YOU lead any of these groups?

French Conversation – you don't need to teach.

Italian

Spanish

Ukulele

Singalong

Scrabble

Book Club – we already have several but need more. Card Making

Architecture Appreciation

Quiz

We have a member interested in forming a PICKLEBALL group – this sounds fun and is a combination of tennis, badminton and table tennis. He already runs one on a Friday evening, but we would plan a daytime group.

Please contact Jenny Schofield if you are interested in any of the above.

News From The History Book Club

This year so far members have enjoyed lively discussions, cups of tea and coffee and biscuits as well as debate and laughter. We have read a variety of books which often divide opinion and we try to include something for everyone by choosing members suggestions.

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We meet the first Friday of the month and are currently at full capacity. If anyone one like to start another group I would be happy to help them with advice.

Books we have read included:

Pompeii by Robert Harris, a very good book set just days

before the eruption with journals that were kept preserved in museums.

Master and Commander by Patrick O'Brian about the English navy and the pirating of the Mediterranean.

Sisi a Tragic Empress about the Austrian empire and Elisabeth, and how women were married - some as their only option.

A life in Nature Beatrix Potter by Linda Lear detailing her life, storytelling and the farming, Herdwick sheep breeding and more.

She Wolves by Helen Castor very well researched about the Queens that helped shape England before Elizabeth I.

We are looking forward to reading our next choices over the summer months.

Cheryl Laycock

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Drama Group

We are trying again with something a bit different

We are rehearsing a show for you to come to at Kewstoke Village hall on Saturday 7th October at 2pm

We have an amusing "visit" to a B and B. After an interval for a cup of tea there will be a selection of short sketches to make you laugh. Tickets @ £5 will be on sale in September.

Sylvia Claridge

ECO Group

This group continues to grow and thrive. We have now happily settled into our new meeting venue of THE OTHER PLACE at 81 - 83 Meadow Street. We feel very fortunate to be there, with a lovely meeting room and refreshments.

Our monthly meetings are always held on the last WEDNESDAY IN THE MONTH commencing at 2.30 pm for refreshments. The actual meetings being held between 3.00 – 4.30pm, and are always interesting with speaker, or films, etc.

In May we had a visit from John Penrose MP, to give his replies to pre-arranged questions.

Our June meeting will be about Forest Schools both for children and adults, and will be presented by Louise Brogan from Play Wild CIC. If the weather is dry and fine, we will hold this meeting in the Rainbow Garden in Grove Park.

In July we are having a mini-bus to take some of us to Enover in Gloucester, to visit the re-cycling unit for North Somerset Council.

We still have a few places available on this mini-bus, and we would welcome u3a members who are not necessarily attendees at our ECO GROUP meetings to come with us. The cost is just £20

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and the first pick up is at Locking Road car park leaving at 12.30pm. We can also pick up at Farm Foods and Worle, near Sainsburys. We plan to return by 5.30pm. If anyone is interested

in a place on this outing please email June Tatch

Anyone wishing to know more about this group please contact
Group Leader , Pauline Cook

Armchair Travel 2

For the first time since our zoom group started meeting we have spent the last few months focussing on one region of the world, rather than jumping from place to place.

With over 1000 photos to look at and many stories to accompany them, we spent our sessions comparing and contrasting the very different images from The Five Stans. The quirky modern buildings of gas rich Turkmenistan's major cities compared to its countryside, the poverty of its neighbour Tajikistan with nonesuch riches, the outstanding countryside and mountain ranges in Kyrgyzstan with their nomadic yurt lives and the magnificence of the architecture in Uzbekistan. We ended with a short look at one of the largest countries - Kazakhstan.

We explored the influences key invaders (Greek, Persian, Mongolian) had on the region over the past 1000 years, and how each country had fared since the more recent Soviet era. There are a number of wonderful UNESCO sites we looked at, as well as exploring the mosques, bazaars, markets and walking in the 5000m mountains and even a huge walnut forest. This region of the world was dominated by the influence of the Silk Road. Traders from near and wide journeyed in all directions trading their riches and staying on route in the caravanserais overnight for protection, and to water their camels. This region is steeped in history from the very varied religions that have been practiced there to the impact a number of invaders have had on the culture, politics and facilities over time.

We even had time to appreciate the achievements of the astronomer Ulugh Beg and wonder at his unique observatory. This was a refreshing way to spend our time as a group made possible by this very rich and varied region in Central Asia.

Chris Gardner
(Group Leader)

Mah Jong.

There is space for new members on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month from 2pm - 4pm, in St Saviour's Church Hall, but please contact the Group Leader Ian Ludbrook before your first meeting as he needs to print out basic instructions for the game.

Folk Dancing.

The meeting scheduled for 11th July has had to be cancelled as the Group Leaders will be away.

The group usually meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 2pm - 4pm in St Saviour's Church Hall. There is plenty of space in this group which could double in size. You don't even need a partner! Please contact Ian Ludbrook if you would like to join in.

Photography

The Photography Group meets on the 4th Wednesday at the group leader's house. The next meeting will be on the 28th June with a car sharing trip to Stourhead National Trust leaving Weston at 09.30am and returning at about 4.00pm Please contact Ian Ludbrook for further information.

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Words and Wit

This year's very enjoyable "Words and Wit" performance was held in the URC hall and featured our Recorder Group together with personal poems and recollections from a number of our members. A date for your diary: next year's performance is scheduled to be held on Thursday 30th May 2024.

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Weston-super-Mare u3a
(University of the Third Age)
Registered Charity No. 1048773

INFORMATION LEAFLET

WHAT IS THE THIRD AGE?

It refers to a period of time after the First Age of childhood dependence and the Second Age of full

time employment and parental responsibility.

WHAT IS THE UNIVERSITY?

The u3a is a self-help organisation and we look to members to share their knowledge and skills. Members meet in groups to develop their particular interests. We do not have any paid tutors; group leaders are members who volunteer to coordinate groups in subjects of their choice. Members are not students and qualifications are neither required nor given.

Members who are fit are expected to offer to help in any way they can with the running of u3a.

WHAT DOES IT COST?

The subscription for the year October 2022 to September 2023 is £12. Members can join more than one group if they wish. At each group meeting in a private home 30p is payable to the group leader for refreshments and incidentals. There is an additional charge of £2 when a room or hall is hired.

COFFEE MORNINGS

10am to 11.15am on Tuesdays.

These are held at the Friends Meeting House in the High Street (corner with Oxford Street) and they provide an opportunity for members to meet socially. Notice boards display current information.

Enquiries and fee payments are dealt with at the coffee morning.

GROUPS

Most groups meet in the daytime.

WESTON u3a GROUP MEETINGS

W = weekly; M = monthly; Q = quarterly;
O = fortnightly, (odd numbered weeks in your diary);
E = fortnightly (even weeks in your diary).

Please contact the Group Leader for more details. If the group is currently full they may offer to put you on a waiting list. Also contact the Groups' Coordinator, Jenny Schofield, - 01934 822450 - who may be able to start an additional group in that subject.

Similarly, contact Jenny if there is a subject or interest group you would like to join or run but which is not on offer at present.

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u3a Groups – May 2023

Armchair Travel 1	Mon	PM	3 rd Monthly	John Montacute	
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Armchair Travel 2	Fri	AM	1 st Monthly	Chris Gardner	
Art (All Saints)	Thu	AM	Weekly	Tracy Horstead	
Art Appreciation	Thu	AM	3 rd Monthly	Val Marsh	
Art Group 2	Wed	AM	Weekly	Brenda Pope	
Astronomy	Tue	PM	Last Monthly	Sean Hopkins	
Badminton	Mon	PM	Weekly	Ken Marsh	
Bird Watching	Mon	AM	4 th Monthly	Kay Newrick	
Bobbin Lace	Fri	AM	Weekly	Susan Brooks	
Book Club 1	Thu	PM	3 rd Monthly	Corinne Edbrooke	
Book Club 3	Mon	AM	4 th Monthly	Val Perrin	
Book Club 4	Thu	PM	3 rd Monthly	Dot Agassiz	
Book Club 5	Fri	AM	2 nd Monthly	Jan Marr	
Book Group - History	Fri	PM	1 st Monthly	Cheryl Laycock	
Chess	Wed	AM	1 st Monthly	Philip Dinham	
Computer Confidence	Tue	AM	Weekly	Peter Morgan	
Computer Confidence 2	Wed	AM	Weekly	Gordon Grice	

Computer Group 1	Fri	PM	Odd Weeks	Laura Woodard	
Contract Bridge.	Thu	PM	Weekly	Howard Middleton	
Crafts	Thu	AM	Weekly	Diane Whitfield	
Creative Writing 1	Wed	PM	2 nd Monthly	Marilyn Edbrooke	
Cribbage	Wed	PM	Weekly	Alan Brewer	

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Crochet	Tue	PM	2 nd + 4 th Monthly	Suzanne Evans	
Crochet 2	Wed	AM	Odd Weeks	Laura Woodard	
Crochet for Beginners	Tue	PM	1 st Monthly	Suzanne Evans	
Crochet for Beginners 2	Mon	AM	Weekly	Mary Smith	
Cycling	Thu	AM	Fortnightly	Gill Terrell	
Discuss & Debate	Thu	AM	Weekly	Ken Hill	
DNA for Family History	Mon Zoom	PM	2 nd Monthly	Jenny Towey	
Drama	Wed	AM	Weekly	Sylvia Claridge	
Early Evening	Varied	PM	Flexible	Sandy	

Dinners				Flood	
Earth Science	Wed	AM	1 st Monthly	Conrad Collinge	
Eco Group	Wed	PM	Last Monthly	Pauline Cook	
Family History	Fri	PM	4 th Monthly	Anne Lockyer	
Folk Dancing	Tue	PM	2 nd + 4 th Monthly	Ian Ludbrook	
German Conversation	Tue	AM	Weekly	Susanne Zemp	
Guitar	Tue	PM	Weekly	Steve Morgan	
History, Social & Economic	Tue	AM	Even Weeks	Keith Bosworth	
Intermediate Latin Language	Mon	PM	2 nd + 4 th Monthly	Mike Perrin	
Knitting	Mon	PM	Weekly	Ros Trump	
Latin and Roman Studies	Tue	AM	Fortnightly	Rikk Earthy	
Line Dancing	Thu	PM	Weekly	Val Icely	
Lunch Group	TBA	TBA	Monthly	Gina Gaskill	
Mah Jong	Tue	PM	1 st + 3 rd Monthly	Ian Ludbrook	
Mindful Meditation	Mon	AM	Weekly	Joy Kenward	

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Monthly Lecture	Fri	PM	2 nd Monthly	Mike Lynham	
Music Appreciation	Wed	AM	Flexible	Lilias Critchley	
Music for Fun	Wed	AM	2 nd + 4 th Monthly	Heather Bird	
Patchwork & Quilting 1	Wed	AM	Odd Weeks	Olivia Ready	
Patchwork and Quilting 2	Wed	AM	Even Weeks	Jean Brookes	
Philosophy	Wed	AM	Odd Weeks	Hazel Uren	
Photography	Wed	All Day	Last Monthly	Ian Ludbrook	
Play Reading	Mon	AM	Odd Weeks	Marlene Flint	
Play Reading 2	Wed	AM	4 th Monthly	Bridget Andrews	
Poetry Reading	Mon	PM	Even Weeks	Diana Connolly	
Poetry Reading 2	Mon	PM	Odd Weeks	Margaret Stagg	
Poetry Reading 3	Wed	PM	3 rd Monthly	Tessa Bailey	
Railway Modellers	Wed	PM	Weekly	Paul March	
Recorder Group	Mon	AM	Weekly	Louise Harwood	
Rummikub	Tue	PM	Fortnightly	Brenda Wall	

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Sequence Dancing	Mon	AM	Weekly	David Lloyd	
Shakespeare 2	Thu	PM	3 rd Monthly	Betty Jerram	
Shakespeareana	Thu	PM	4 th Monthly	Sylvia Montacute	
Short Tennis	Thu	AM	Weekly	David Toomer	
Somerset Villages Gp 1	Sat	DAY	2 nd Monthly	Shirley West	
Sunday Lunch 2	Sun	DAY	3 rd Monthly	Rosemary Evans	
Sunday lunch 3	Sun	DAY	4 th Monthly	Jenny Schofield	
Table Tennis	Mon	AM	Weekly	Mike Bamford	
Theatre Visits	TBA	TBA	Various	Jenny Schofield	
Walking Group	Wed	AM	Weekly	Howard Blackman	
Walking Group 2	Fri	AM	Last Monthly	Howard Blackman	
Wine Appreciation	Tue	PM	3 rd Monthly	Diana Connolly	
Wine Plus (food etc)	Wed	PM	2 nd Monthly	Gina Gaskill	
Yoga	Fri	AM	Weekly	Conrad	

				Collinge	
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For more information contact the individual Group Leader; to start a group contact the Groups Coordinator Jenny Schofield, e-mail groups.wsm.u3a@gmail.com

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We now have fewer groups than we had before the pandemic; some groups have closed because no one is willing to be the leader. If you could be that leader please come forward – we have lost some of our language groups, architecture appreciation, quiz and an art group to name but a few. We used to have scrabble and cribbage – is anyone interested in reforming those groups?

Are there any groups you would like us to consider starting (maybe for you to lead?). Please contact Jenny Schofield; Groups Coordinator.

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The Newsletter



Weston-super-Mare

e-mail: ***newsletter.wsm.u3a@gmail.com***

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