

The Newsletter



www.u3aweston.org.uk

Spring 2024

Issue No. 85

Table of Contents

Weston-super-Mare u3a Committee	p. 4
Letter From the Chair	p. 5
Staying In Touch	p. 6
Welfare	p. 7
Committee News	p. 7
Next Newsletters	p. 8
Dates For Your Diary	p. 8
Third Age Matters and Membership Renewal	p. 8
Membership Subscription Renewal for 2024/25	p. 9
Annual General Meeting 2024	p. 10
Weston u3a 30 th Anniversary	p. 10
U3a Monthly Talks	p. 11
Riviera Travel	p. 12
Weston u3a Group News	p. 12
Singalong	p. 12
.....Card Making	p. 12
Locking Music Group	p. 13
Armchair Travel 2	p. 13
Wine Appreciation with Good Food	p. 14
December 2023 Festival Sparkle	p. 15
Knitting Group	p. 16
History Book Club	p. 17
Contract Bridge Club	p. 18
Weston u3a Information Leaflet	p. 19
Weston u3a Groups Listing	p. 19 – 23

Weston-super-Mare u3a Committee

Chairman: **Ian Ludbrook**

Vice-Chair & Groups: **Jenny Schofield**

Secretary & Lectures: **Mike Lynham**

Membership Secretary: **Val Perrin**

e-mail: weston.u3a@gmail.com

Treasurer: **John Laycock**

Welfare: **Chris Mingo-West**

Public Relations: **Sylvia Claridge**

Cashier: **Rosie Evans**

Webmaster: **Graham Rain**

Newsletter Editor: **Bob Charters**

Nora Charters

e-mail address for general correspondence:

weston.u3a@gmail.com

Letter From the Chair



Dear All,

Firstly, I want to wish everyone a happy and healthy 2024. This is not just as your Chairman who runs 3 groups during a typical week, but also because this year we celebrate our 30th anniversary on 1st March.

Typically, Monday morning 9am I attend a national briefing of all volunteer and staff who operate the advice line. Some Mondays are taken up with regional

meetings in my capacity as secretary to SW regional trustee,

Tuesday I attend coffee mornings and run two of my groups.

Wednesday 9am I attend another briefing before manning the telephone lines from 9.30 to 4.30pm.

Thursdays, you will find me in the library helping from 10am until 4pm

Fridays will either be NSA or Weston u3a committee meetings or time for Gill and I to have time together and possibly over the weekend.

Another year has passed and Weston u3a enters 2024 with 1021 members, healthy reserves and a full programme of groups, trips and lectures for our members. Your committee has worked hard to modernise our post-covid organisation, you will see some details of our progress in this newsletter.

Our trips were a highlight of our activities last year with most being fully booked as soon as they were announced, and some requiring 2 coaches. Our annual holiday was well received, and this year we are off to York. We had 80 members attend John Crockford-Hawley's lecture on Royal Weston super Mare.

Our groups remain very popular, with many having a waiting list. Our thanks go to our group leaders who voluntarily work behind the scenes to ensure member's wishes are met. We always need new group leaders. Please let Jenny know if you would like to start a group and we have detailed guidelines to help you.

A good social life has many benefits. Our groups can lead to lasting friendships as well as meeting similar minded people, whether it's sports, dancing, books or participating in the annual drama group production, which delighted the audience at Kewstoke last September.

Regards

Ian

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.

We now have 1021 members in our u3a, with 111 of those not on e-mail. We send out e-mail messages about upcoming trips, group news and lectures, but the committee is very concerned these do

not reach the members who do not have e-mail addresses. If you are aware of members like this and you receive an e-mail you think they should know about, please let them know. This type of buddy system has worked in other u3as.

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.

Committee News

We are always seeking new committee members as we have relied on the excellent contribution of current holders for many years. Please contact the secretary, Mike Lynham, if you would like to volunteer for one of several roles, for which full descriptions are available.

At our group leader's afternoon tea last year, advertising of Weston u3a to encourage potential members and u3a events locally was raised. Do you know of anyone who you think would benefit from our trips, groups and coffee mornings? If so, we are producing a new leaflet outlining the benefits of the social and educational opportunities we offer.

Next Newsletters

Publication Date	Cut-off Date for Submissions
Summer Edition – July 2024	May 31 st 2024
Autumn Edition – October 2024	September 27 th 2024

Dates For Your Diary

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Each Tuesday	10.00 – 11.15 am	Coffee Morning	Friends Meeting House, High St. WsM
Friday 14 th June	2.15pm	Annual General Meeting 2024	United Reformed Church Hall, The Boulevard Weston-super-Mare

Third Age Matters and Membership Renewal

Weston u3a committee has previously confirmed that your membership will be extended for an additional 6 months for free, with the next annual renewal starting at the end of March 2024. Members who do not wish to receive the u3a Third Age Matters magazine delivered 5 times a year, can cancel any time by letting our membership secretary, Val Perrin, know. This will save us the cost of subscriptions for publications which are no longer required.

Membership Subscription Renewal For 2024/25

The annual membership renewal will commence on the 1st April. The amount has been kept at £12 for the year, however many groups you attend. If you have joined recently and have a red-edged membership card, this is valid until March 2025, and you are not affected.

There are 4 ways to renew, in order of preference:

Pay Through Group Leaders

Some Group Leaders are willing to collect your subscriptions from you at one of your regular meetings. They will then issue you with your new cards at a subsequent meeting.

Pay Online

Please transfer £12.00 into the following account:

Bank account name is **WESTON-SUPER-MARE U3A**.

Sort code is **30-99-51** Account number is **00060950**

In the reference field please put the initial of your first name followed by your u3a number. If you are paying for 2 members then follow this with the initial of the 2nd member and their u3a number also.

A voluntary addition of £1 per address for postage costs of your card(s) would be much appreciated.

Pay at a Coffee Morning

We will commence processing membership renewals during the weekly Tuesday coffee mornings during late March. Please arrive at The Friends Meeting House before 11.00am to allow us time to cash up before the end of the session. Both cheques and cash are acceptable.

Pay by Post

Send a cheque for £12.00 made payable to “**U3A WsM**” to the Membership Secretary:

Val Perrin
10 Charlton Road,
Weston-super-Mare.
BS23 4HQ

Please ensure that you enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

Annual General Meeting 2024

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held as an open meeting commencing at 2.15pm on Friday 14th June in the URC Church Hall located on the Boulevard in Weston town centre.

Full details, including the detailed agenda and associated papers, will be provided nearer the date of the meeting. 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 40 people to be present in order to make the meeting quorate in accordance with the requirements of our Constitution.

Weston u3a 30th Anniversary

Weston u3a celebrates its 30th anniversary in 2024. We joined the Third Age Trust on 1st March 1994 with ~50 members in St. Paul's Church. We plan to recognise this milestone later in 2024, and are

seeking ideas on how best to do this. Please contact the Committee with any ideas or suggestions you may have.

u3a Monthly Talks

You will see our programme for the next few months below and we have speakers lined up until April 2025.

Monthly lectures are held in the United Reformed Church Hall on The Boulevard in Weston town centre on the second Friday of each month (see below).

Lectures commence at 2.15pm prompt and usually last for 45 minutes, plus any questions at the end, followed by teas/coffee. Entrance costs £2, including 20p for tea/coffee after the lecture, and is open to non-u3a members.

Organiser: Mike Lynham; e-mail mikelynham@yahoo.co.uk

Date	Subject	Speaker
Feb. 9 th	A Day in Parliament	John Penrose MP
Mar. 8 th	Scams	Lyn Griffiths (Trading Standards)
Apr 12 th	Climate Emergency	Libby Watts
May 10 th	The Moon in Space	Jo Richardson
Jun 14 th	AGM; followed by Forensic Pathologist	Dr. D. Jeffrey
July 12 th	Barrow to Bagdad	Philip Caine
August	No lecture - holiday	

Riviera Travel

If you book a holiday with Riviera Travel, and state you are a u3a member, 10% of your travel cost will be refunded to the u3a after your holiday.

Contact details are Riviera Travel 01283 248304 or rivieratravel.co.uk/u3a. State that you are a member of u3a as you book.

Full details can be found in the advert for Riviera Travel on p34 of the current (Winter) edition of "Third Age Matters".

Weston u3a Group News

Singalong

We restarted our popular monthly singalong in September. We meet on the first Friday afternoon every month at 2pm in the United Reformed Church Hall in the Boulevard. 35-40 members attend and find singing (groaning?) a pleasurable way to get ready for the weekend. Songbooks are provided and Wendy Withington plays the piano (and usually gets the notes in the right order!) with free tea/coffee/biscuits at the interval, a time when we get to chat to each other.

If you are interested please come along – you'll be made very welcome.

Card Making

The Card Making Group has now been re-established and is being run by Nora Charters. Please contact her if you would like further information about joining.

Locking Music Group (was Guitar Group)

Rod Holloway has taken over the group at Locking from Steve Morgan. We now intend to have different instruments in the group if we can find the people. We already have had a few enquiries and some people have already come to our meeting in January. Please contact me if you would like to join us.

We intend to meet every Tuesday afternoon from 14.00 to 16.00 in Locking Village Hall. We are allowed into the hall at 13.45 for us to set up all our gear. The Hall is in Grenville Avenue in Locking and there is a carpark at the front for a limited number of vehicles.

Rod Holloway

Armchair Travel 2

This autumn we have spent our zoom sessions travelling two regions of the world- Europe and the Caribbean. Every other Friday morning for 80 minutes we look at photos and videos of places of interest. Back in September we went to Romania to see what it was like just after Covid had finished and travelling abroad was possible again. I combined this trip with a family wedding, which added an extra dimension to the photos. Then we were off on a two-week Caribbean cruise visiting around twelve different islands and comparing them. The warmth of the photos was much appreciated during the cold October days.

Our next stop was a tour of Austria and Germany. This was a summary of the many visits I had made to these two countries during 2023. So, from the wonderful green pasture lands and high ice capped mountains of Austria to the beautiful buildings, cities and parks of Germany there was so much to see. We spent a whole session looking at Cologne and its beautiful Cathedral and many art galleries. We concluded these talks in December, looking at

videos of concerts and Operas I attended throughout the year to add a new dimension to the sessions. It made a change to see two countries through all four seasons of the year in one presentation, even if it was over a series of weeks.

Chris Gardner

Wine Appreciation Group with Good Food

We are a small group of five people, all female, who meet the second Wednesday of the month to taste wines, discuss them, and enjoy good company and food.

The group meets in member's houses hosted by that member. They provide the food, which is usually a cheese board, choice of two breads, meat, pate, crisps and may be other food as the choice is up to the hostess. The hostess presents four different wines of her choice. The bottles are covered so we cannot see what they are, so they could be from one country, or different countries. There are usually two white and two red, but sometimes a rose will be selected instead. We take our own taster glasses and pour a taste amount which we use to look at the colour, sniff its nose, and discuss the aroma and taste. We then discuss what grape we think the wine is from, it's country, alcohol percentage, cost and year. The bottle is then uncovered and passed around to enable us to compare notes. Often the hostess will provide food that is suggested on the bottle.

We normally finish with coffee and cake. We all share the cost of the wines between us and contribute a set amount to the cost of the food. Any remaining wine is taken by the attendees.

I hope this gives you an insight to what this group does. If you are interested in joining us, please contact me, my number is at the back of this newsletter.

Gina Gaskill

December 2023 Festive Sparkle

Torquay was the venue for a Festive Sparkle weekend. We stayed at the Metropol Hotel where we had bed, breakfast and evening meal along with entertainment in the evenings. We stopped at Sidmouth on the way down and had a couple of day trips out.

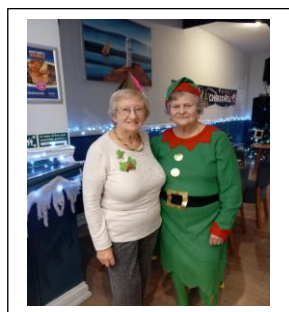


See photos.

Sunday evening was fancy dress and Sheila Wescott won first prize.

This was a very enjoyable weekend.

Laura Woodard



Knitting Group.

The last few months have been challenging, but we have kept going.

With the help from the knitting ladies in Pegasus Court we have sent several parcels of hats and scarves to the Mission for Seafarers. We have also given items of hats, scarves and gloves to the homeless via Somewhere To Go.

We have also given Christmas decorations to Weston Hospice for them to sell at their Christmas Fair, and some were placed on the Christmas tree in the Sovereign Centre. Some members have also been busy knitting their own projects including the wonderful shawl (below), that was knitted for a friend's grandchild.



New members are always welcome. We are a friendly group; you just have to enjoy a natter and maybe do a bit of knitting. If interested, please contact me for more details.

Ros.



History Book Club

The History Book Club meets the first Friday of every month at Gemstones 80 Severn Road WsM. We are a friendly group and have lively discussions about the books we have read. There are currently two vacancies so, if you are interested in history, please do get in contact with me to find out more.

Our last few months reads have included “Daughters in Time” - a joyous read. “Silver Darlings” by Neil Gunn about the herring industry that grew from the Highland Clearances.

“Seven Pillars in Time” by T E Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) an epic battle of a read with not all members enjoying or reaching the end. Everybody agreed it was interesting to learn about a period in history that we did not know much about.

December saw us reading - Jane Austin’s “Family through Five Generations” by Maggie Lane. A fascinating insight into a talented, close-knit family whose correspondence through letters have preserved a way of life, especially the women and the restrictions of their lives.

An “Act of Oblivion” by Robert Harris was our first read in the New Year. This is a gripping read chasing the men who signed Charles 1 death warrant across to Canada to bring justice.

Do get in contact if you think you might like to join the History Book Club.

Cheryl Laycock

Bridge Club

Due to family circumstances, Howard Middleton has had to stand down as Group Leader for the Bridge Club. Roger Thompson has now taken over this responsibility. With effect from the 15th February meetings of the Bridge Club will take place in Weston Golf Club.

Roger Thompson

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 (Now extended to March 2024). 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 who may be able to start an additional group on 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.

www.u3aweston.org.uk

Weston u3a Groups – January 2024

All telephone numbers are local (01934) unless stated otherwise.

Armchair Travel 1	Mon	PM	3 rd Monthly	John Montacute
Armchair Travel 2	Fri	AM	1 st Monthly	Chris Gardner
Art Appreciation	Thu	AM	3 rd Monthly	Val Marsh
Art Group 2	Wed	AM	Weekly	Brenda Pope
Astronomy	Tue	PM	Various	Sean Hopkins
Badminton	Mon	PM	Weekly	Ken Marsh
Bird Watching	Mon	AM	4 th Monthly	Malcolm Taylor
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
Card Making	Wed		4 th Monthly	Nora Charters
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 (Zoom)	Fri	PM	Fortnightly	Laura Woodard
Contract Bridge.	Thu	PM	Weekly	Roger Thompson
Crafts	Thu	AM	Weekly	Diane Whitfield
Creative Writing 1	Wed	PM	2 nd Monthly	Marilyn Edbrooke
Cribbage	Wed	PM	Weekly	Alan Brewer

Crochet	Tue	PM	2 nd + 4 th Monthly	Suzanne Evans
Crochet & Chatter	Wed	AM	Fortnightly	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	3 rd . Monthly	Jenny Towey
Drama	Wed	AM	Weekly	Sylvia Claridge
Early Evening Dinners	Varied	PM	Flexible	Sandy Flood
Earth Science	Wed	AM	1 st Monthly	Conrad Collinge
Eco Group	Wed	PM	Last Monthly	Pauline Cook
French	Tue	PM	Weekly	Robert Roscoe
French Beginners	Fri	PM	Weekly	Sue Marshall
French Conversation	Thu	PM	Fortnightly	Robert Roscoe
Family History	Fri	PM	1 st Monthly	Anne Lockyer
Folk Dancing	Tue	PM	2 nd + 4 th Monthly	Ian Ludbrook
German Conversation	Tue	AM	Weekly	Susanne Zemp
Guitar				Rod Holloway
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	Weekly	Rikk Earthy
Locking Music Group	Tue	PM	Weekly	Rod Holloway

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
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
Out & About	Sat	DAY	2 nd Monthly	Shirley West
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	DAY	Last Monthly	Ian Ludbrook
Pickleball	Thu	PM	Weekly	Ray Thomas
Play Reading	Mon	AM	Odd Weeks	Marlene Flint
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
Rummikub Mead Vale	Tue	PM	Fortnightly	Iris Bailey
Sequence Dancing	Mon	AM	Weekly	David Lloyd
Singalong	Fri	PM	1 st Monthly	Mike Lynham

Shakespeare 2	Thu	PM	3 rd Monthly	Betty Jerram
Shakespeareana	Thu	PM	4 th Monthly	Sylvia Montacute
Short Tennis	Thu	AM	Weekly	David Toomer
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
Welsh	TBA	TBA	TBA	Robert Craig
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

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

The Newsletter



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

Next Issue: Summer 2024

(Copy deadline: May 31st 2024)

©Weston-super-Mare u3a

All rights reserved. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without prior permission.

Registered Charity No. 1048773. The publisher cannot accept responsibility for any unsolicited material or for the views of contributors.