

The

Newsletter

Spring 2025



www.weston.u3asite.uk

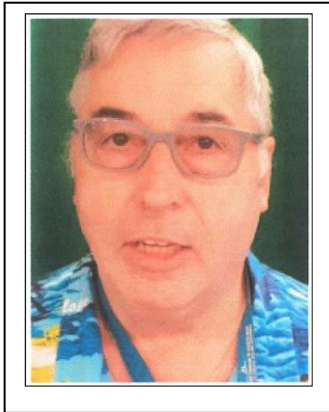
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Issue No. 88

Weston-super-Mare Committee

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



On the 25th February, 2025 I addressed members of the u3a present at the Coffee morning to explain why we in u3a don't have to adhere to any Health And Safety Guidelines. This is because the Government guidance on this subject is for 'Health And Safety at Work' in order to provide working people with adequate safety guidance and equipment to carry out their daily tasks at *work*.

It therefore, does not refer to groups and associations such as our own. We do have our own insurance cover and it is understood that every member has a duty of care to provide safety for its members. This includes keeping all gangways clear; and to this end we have reverted back to having tables at the coffee morning in 3 columns. This will allow chairs to be added to the outside walls and in the middle columns. It is asked that members use common sense in order not to block any gangways.

Unfortunately, our Secretary, Mike Lynham, has had to retire on health grounds. We thank him for his past services to this group and wish him a speedy recovery. If any member would like to take on the position of Secretary, please let me, or any member of the Committee, know. (June Tatch is carrying it out on a temporary basis but would like to stress that it is only very temporary!!)

There is also a Vacant Position for the post and work of a Treasurer.

Our group of the local u3a are always appreciative of work carried out by Group Leaders and to this end there was an Afternoon Tea held in December to express our thanks. 50 Group Leaders and their Deputies attended and were thanked for their hard work this year.

To all new members we offer a Warm Welcome' to our u3a. Please visit us for a chat at the coffee mornings held in the Friends Meeting House every Tuesday morning from 10. – 11.00am.

Ian Ludbrook

Next Newsletter

Please submit any newsletter items for our next (Summer 2025) edition by the **30th May 2025** to newsletter@u3a.weston.org.uk

Monthly Lectures (Shirley Harvey)

Talks are held on the second Friday of each month (except August) in the United Reformed Church Hall in the Boulevard - starting at 2.15pm, with doors open from 1.50pm.

Admission is £2, which covers Hall hire and includes tea/coffee/biscuits after the talk. Non-members are very welcome.

We have recently had some interesting talks ranging from Magic to Waste Management with more to come over the coming months. Thank you to members for helping out and making meetings very enjoyable.

11 April	British Honours System
9 May	Bristol Airport, past, present and future
13 June	'Falling with Style'
11 July	Medical detection dogs: - the training of special dogs to detect illness in humans (for more info consult the website http://www.medicaldetectiondogs.org.uk)
August	<i>No lecture</i>
12 September	Somerset maps – Historian, Adrian Webb
10 October	Cllr John Crockford- Hawley - Mayor of Weston), Holidays
14 November	Legacy Fortune for Generations - Poppy from silvertimelegal.co.uk . Talking about Wills and Probate
12 December	A I - Mark Stoneham

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The annual membership renewal process has started. The amount has been kept at £12 for individual members for the year, however many groups you attend. If you have joined recently and have a green-edged membership card, this is valid until March 2026, and you are not affected.

Reduced rates are applicable for other types of Membership:-

Joint - two members at the same address can join as Joint members at a reduced rate of £10 each a year.

Associate - if you are already a member of another u3a you can join our u3a as an Associate member at a reduced rate of £8 per year.

There are now 5 ways to renew:

a) NEW: Renew and Pay Online through the Members Portal

Please see our website www.weston.u3asite.uk for full details in the members area.

You can of course still use any of the other methods outlined below.

b) Pay Online by making a Bank Transfer

Please transfer the appropriate amount 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.

c) Pay at a Coffee Morning

We will commence processing membership renewals during the weekly Tuesday coffee mornings during 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.

d) Pay by Post

Send a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to **“WESTON-SUPER-MARE U3A” with your name and membership number(s)**

to the: - Membership Secretary

16 Coombe Road, Weston-super-Mare. BS23 2QP

Please ensure that you enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

e) 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.

Trip to St Fagan's Museum, Wales

Over 90 members and friends boarded two coaches for a trip to the Welsh Folk Museum at St Fagan's, just west of Cardiff. Louise and Martin, our two drivers, regularly take us on u3a outings, so we felt very reassured. On arrival we passed through a vast new entrance hall and dispersed over the 100 acres of grounds.

There was much to see as over 50 buildings have been reassembled at the museum and they range from a pigsty to an elaborate Victorian workmen's institute. Even if you've been before they are always adding something new - this time it was a pub from the 1800's with distinctive tiling. A row of terraced workmen's cottages is always of interest as each one is furnished from a different time. There are even two churches; one medieval with colourful paintings on the walls and screen and the other has the austere beauty of a Unitarian chapel. Some people were able to get to the Castle, more a minor stately home than a fort, and see inside. On the way they enjoyed the landscaped gardens with a succession of ponds and the last of the autumn colour. We met very heavy traffic on our return, but it kept moving and we got home in good time.

Gordon

U3a Carol Service 2024

This year's Carol Service took place at All Saints Church – a different venue this year. It proved to be an excellent choice and Father Brendon was a superb host. Simon Martin played the organ, and we thank him as he stood in at the last minute to play for us. Andrew Spearman and Bob Charters did the readings. Afterwards there was coffee, mulled wine and mince pies, along with cake and biscuits. We had a great attendance, so this year we will bring more mince pies!

The committee would like to thank all the volunteers who helped with the teas, coffee and mulled wine along with Maureen Chambers who organised this event and Mike Lynham who also had a large input. The committee would also like to thank all those who attended to make this a successful event.

This is late in the day (year) but we wish you all a Happy and Healthy 2025.

Laura Woodard

November 2024 - Festive Sparkle Weekend

At the end of November the u3a had a trip to Newquay in Cornwall to celebrate an early Christmas. Leaving Locking Road car park on Friday 29th November we had a pleasant drive to Cornwall, having a service stop, then spending the afternoon in Padstow, before heading to our hotel in Newquay. In the evening we were treated to a pre-dinner drink and after dinner live musical entertainment, where we danced late into the evening.

The following day we had a trip to Truro in the morning where we were able to visit the Christmas market as well as the cathedral if we wanted and other places of interest. In the afternoon we visited Falmouth. Again in the evening we had live entertainment. Sunday was a free day and many of us walked into Newquay. The hotel provided us with lunch as well as dinner. After lunch the hotel put on a quiz and games for those that wanted to join in. After dinner live entertainment was provided.

Generally the weather was not too bad. Although heavy rain when we arrived in Padstow. Some of us had to take shelter in a pub and enjoy a glass of mulled wine! On Monday 3rd December we returned home - stopping at Jamaica Inn for coffee and Exeter, to visit the Christmas market and have lunch before making our way back to Weston-super-Mare.

The trip organiser provided a quiz, dingbats and card bingo to keep us entertained on the journeys to Newquay and home.

Winners of these games were able to draw small token prizes from Santa's sack!

Thank you to everyone who came on the trip.

Laura Woodard



Christmas Tree Festival

Saint Nicholas Church in Uphill held a festival of Christmas trees. These trees were to display the organisations and business in and around Uphill. Weston u3a were asked to decorate a tree to promote the u3a. Laura Woodard provided the tree and with the help of many people who attended the coffee morning, made decorations displaying the groups and activities in which our u3a is involved. Once again many of you came along to support this event and the u3a committee and St. Nicholas Church would like to say a big thank you.

Laura Woodard



Exeter Christmas Market

Sunday December 15th dawned fairly bright but very cold. Felling very relieved that the "Storm" had hit us the weekend before, 96 members of the u3a boarded 2 coaches and had a very pleasant journey to Exeter to enjoy a good look round the Christmas Market and the shops.

The weather was on our side all day, the only blip unfortunately was the Cathedral not being open due to a Nativity Play taking place, (which was to be expected due to the time of year). Very soon it was time to board the coaches back to Weston, a lot of people full of wonderful food and the odd glass or 2 of mulled wine. A very good day was had by all. Here's to this year's visit, I don't know which one yet!

Nora Charters

Forthcoming trips:- Trips have been arranged to go to Salisbury on 29th March and to Stratford on Avon in April see a play at the Theatre. There has been a good take up but speak to the organisers if you wish to be placed on a waiting list.

DIARY NOTE

Northern Somerset Association of u3as (NSA)
Network Interest Day,
Cheddar Village Hall, Church St., Cheddar BS27 3RB

Friday 21st March 2025

P R O G R A M M E

- 09.30 *Registration*
- 10.00 Welcome and Introductions:
Bob Charters: Chairman North Som Assoc
- 10.10 Opening Address:
Councillor John Crockford-Hawley:
Mayor of Weston-Super-Mare
- 10.25 The National u3a Network:
Implementation of Regional Council
- 11.30 Special Assistance:
Iain Cassidy: CEO of Third Age Trust
- 11.00 *Tea / Coffee Break*
- 11.30 Special Assistance Dogs:
Neil Smart: Medical Detection Dogs Charity
- 12.15 Goats of the Gorge:
Nick King; Goats of the Gorge Ltd
- 13.00 *Buffet Lunch*
- 14.00 Secret World Wildlife Rescue:
George Bethell: Head of Education and PR
- 15.00 Ian Spencer - who sings basso profundo (the lowest
bass voice) will talk about music, his work in opera
and will perform some songs.
- 16.00 *Closing Remarks*

Entry by ticket only; fee £10 per person to include a buffet lunch.

GROUPS ROUND UP

LOCKING MUSIC GROUP CELEBRATES ITS 1ST ANNIVERSARY!

The u3a Locking Music Group (aka LMG), was formed by a merger of the Guitar Group and the Music For Fun Group, holding its first combined music session in Locking Village Hall on 9th January 2024.

So we are delighted to have just celebrated our first Anniversary in January, and are looking forward to many more to come. Here are some of us at our lunchtime Bring & Share 1st Anniversary party at Locking on 21st January, 2025.



There are now over 20 of us and LMG is at maximum capacity. Our singers' voices range from bass to soprano, including jazz singing. The instruments played are acoustic, electric and bass guitar, tenor ukulele, keyboard, autoharp, harmonica, piano accordion, bodhran (Irish drum) and occasional snare drum. Our current song repertoire varies for example from Blue Moon, 1934, to Fairytale of New York, 1988, - and beyond.

We hope to play some traditional Irish songs for St. Patrick's Day in March, and played Christmas songs in December 2024. We have tremendous fun, much joking and banter and are able to keep in touch in between sessions on our LMG WhatsApp group, ensuring plenty of feel-good endorphins.

For further information contact **Rod on 07949 476417** or **Heather on 07779 091077**.

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL 2

Our Friday morning sessions occur about twice a month in the comfort of your own home via zoom and last about 90 minutes with a short break for coffee half way through. New members are always welcome to join us by contacting me via email. (see below).

Last summer saw us visit beautiful places closer to home.

Back in May we spent time looking around Vienna from the beautiful classical architecture to relaxing in the wonderful green parks. You can't visit this vibrant city without feasting on their music so we took in a classical concert, an opera and an open air live screening outside the city hall of a Franz Zimmer tribute to his film music. The final stop was to the vineyards on the outskirts of the city where they produce some outstanding wines you can taste.

In June we looked at the outstanding villages and towns in South Tirol, Italy close to Bolzano. The area is dominated by the majestic Dolomite mountain range that towers above the settlements. Vineyards dominate the slopes and engulf the tiny roads that weave in between them. We looked at food of the area; hams, cheeses and knodel, which added to the experience when sampled with the wines. Whilst there I was researching a family tree which involved visiting the churches and graveyards which are have so much character and differ in so many ways from ours.

In July our talk reflected upon the wonders of Cornwall over the past ten years of visiting it. We looked at Looe, The Lizard Peninsular, Artists like Barbara Hepworth and a wide range of gardens open to the public. A visit to St. Michael's Mount and looked at the disused Tin Mines really conjured up the special qualities this county has to offer us.

We had a break in August and the first half of September to allow me to travel abroad collecting photos and videos for talks in 2025. So we have a lot to look forward to as a group.

Since then we have had talks on Amsterdam and Germany including videos of the Adele concert from Munich and a gospel choir evening. Just before Christmas we visited Bournemouth and the surrounding countryside. Views from Stonehenge and Avebury together with visits to Harry Selfridges home, Chichester Priory and Salisbury Cathedral gave us an interesting insight in to the area.

2025 has started well as we are just off on a cruise to Iceland and The Faroe Islands.

I have just returned from a cruise in the Middle East and I am working my way through my photos and preparing a talk on this for later in the year.

Chris Gardner (Armchair Travel 2 group leader- chrisgardnerwsm@gmail.com)

Book Club 2

The new book club is going well. It started last November and membership has reach capacity in just a short time. We meet the first Wednesday in the month. At present we meet in Waterstone's Book Shop. However, with such a large group I am looking for another venue. I would like to thank the members for their friendliness and enthusiasm.

Weston-super-Mare library had been very helpful is supplying a book list that they have plenty of copies, so members don't have to buy their own books, if they don't want to.

If you want to join a book group and it's full please contact Laura Woodard on - 07946317463 or email Laura Woodard at - laura.woodard@hotmail.co.uk

Laura Woodard

The Social and Economic History Group

Our group continues to flourish with over twenty members meet regularly, fortnightly, on Tuesday mornings at Weston Golf Club when we explore the everyday lives of ordinary men and women at various periods over our English past. We don't talk about kings or queens and we don't talk about battles or famous men and women. Instead we concentrate on how these ordinary people faced the difficulties in their everyday lives and the factors which influenced them in earning a living and coping with the changing world around them. We have spent recent weeks looking at life in Anglo Saxon England and we shall move on to look at the coming of the Normans and the changes they brought.

We meet at the golf club in very pleasant surroundings and coffee is available. Members of the Group are not asked to speak or to prepare talks but only to share an interest in historical topics with others of a like mind in a very friendly atmosphere

If you would like any further information please contact **Keith Bosworth** on 07421 143915.

Photography

As Group Leader I have 5 City and Guilds qualification in this subject and the group normally meets between March and October every year.

However, this year unfortunately it will be a later start because of my inability to drive following my surgery. I will let you know when I am able to drive again and resume this group.

Mahjong

There is still space in this group for newcomers!

Mahjong is the ancient Chinese tile game – of which nearly every country has their own variation to the rules. The Chinese version is taught at this class and together with u3as sets together with my own there is enough sets for everyone.

Folk Dance Group

There are still plenty of spaces available in this group which usually has fun whilst learning new dances. I have a wealth of knowledge on folk dancing – having taught it for nearly 4 decades. So come along and join us – you don't even need a partner!

Ian Ludbrook

Canasta and Card Games

Susan Purkis has started a new group on a Monday morning. It will run weekly at her home on Beach Road, Weston-super-Mare. If you are interested please get in touch with Susan via the Groups Co-ordinator, Jenny Schofield.

Words and Wit 2025

Weston-super-Mare u3a members will be attempting to entertain you **on Friday 30th May** at the United Reformed Church Hall, Waterloo Street, starting at 2pm.

Come and smile or even laugh! It will all be done in the best possible taste.....and at half-time you can recover with tea/coffee and biscuits. Just come along with friends and pass away an enjoyable afternoon. Usual £2 entrance fee.

Contact **John Eustace**

U3A Astronomy Group

*Held at:- Woodspring Indoor Bowls Club
236-238 Milton Road
Weston Super Mare, BS22 8AG*

Programme Second Quarter 2025

We aim for 3rd Tuesday of month but not always due to other commitments

Tuesday April 15th

2.00–3.00	Sun Grazing Comets	- Paul March
3.00-3.20	Tea/coffee/biscuits and Chat	
3.20–4.00	Solar Orbiter & Parker Solar Probe	- Sean Hopkins

Tuesday May 6th

2.00–3.00	Generation Starships	- Paul March
3.00-3.20	Tea/coffee/biscuits and Chat	
3.20–4.00	Astrobiology Part 1	- Sean Hopkins

Tuesday June 10th

2.00–3.00	Shapley Concentration	- Paul March
3.00-3.20	Tea/coffee/biscuits and Chat	
3.20–4.00	Astrobiology Part 2	- Sean Hopkins

Enquiries to:

Sean Hopkins 07956 967135 sean@sphopkins.co.uk

Paul March 07305 811076 pmarch7@icloud.com

HELP!!! --- Out and About Group

The Leader of this Group, Shirley West, is looking for a kind gentleman to replace a member of our group who is no longer able to assist in this regard. It's nothing too onerous!! It involves the occasion recce to a local village or church and then drive two or three ladies to our outing destination. Petrol expenses will be paid and no doubt a coffee when we have our coffee stop.

I should be very grateful if someone is able to help us.

I can be contacted via the u3a booklet - or on (01934 622793).

Many thanks. **Shirley West.**

The Walking Group

The Walking group is probably one of the largest groups in the WSM u3a with approximately 50 members. It carries on during the winter (as we always do) but find countryside walks too wet and muddy and positively dangerous sometimes - so we do look for alternative. This often means walking on pavements in and around Weston but there can still be interesting places to see. Two of these walks were completed over the last month.

Firstly, at the end of January we did a walk along Brean and Berrow beach which took us around the Church at Berrow and a visit to the ship wreck on the beach.

During March 1897 very high winds found many ships in distress and among them was the Norwegian barque, the SS Nornen - which had tried to find shelter in the lee of Lundy Roads; but with her anchors dragging she was driven on to the Berrow mudflats. Thanks to the aid of the Burnham lifeboat everybody including the dog, were saved- but the sea pounded the ship and it could not be saved. The ship now lies just North of St. Mary's parish church at Berrow and the remaining skeleton can be seen at low tide.

The wreck as it is today



Posing in front of the wreck



On another walk in early February (with lovely weather) we all parked at Ashton Court in Bristol and walked through the grounds past the huge Sequoia trees and into Bristol Docks. Where, just before catching the little ferry across the water just by the SS Great Britain, we had our usual mid walk coffee but couldn't resist this little pantomime.



Pantomime



We're now all looking forward to sunnier and drier so that we can get out into the lovely Somerset countryside.

Howard Blackman

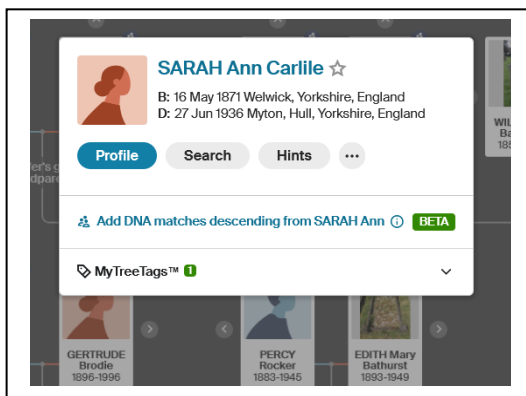
DNA for Family History - Update January 2025

We are a small group that get together in zoom meetings. We work together to discover our family histories and share tips on using various tools including Ancestry, GEDmatch, BanyanDNA, MyHeritage, and FTDNA.

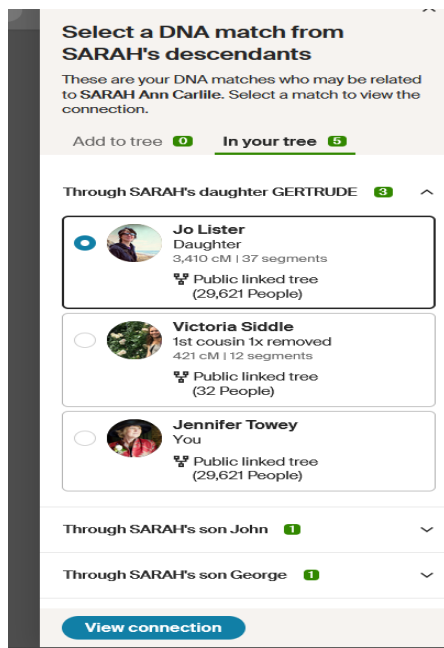
Ancestry

On ProTools Ancestry has now created a filtering facility so that your shared matches' shared matches will be shown with their highest matches at the top.

On your direct ancestors, on your Ancestry tree, Ancestry have now placed a ThruLines symbol (looks like a bunch of grapes but is actually 3 heads and shoulders). When you now click on someone's name a white box appears with a new BETA feature: click on the blue words *Add DNA matches descending from (name of person you have just selected)*. You will get a right-hand pop-up box: click on someone's name, then click on *View Connection* and it will show the line of descent...how cool is that! You might discover matches you hadn't noticed before. Word of warning, though: this feature utilises ThruLines – so is based on comparing other peoples' trees to your own...therefore you need to thoroughly check out each connecting generation before adding them to your tree. I would suggest that you do NOT use the *add to my tree* button but manually add them once you have verified that they're correct.



I would suggest that you do NOT use the *add to my tree* button but manually add them once you have verified that they're correct.



Ancestry has released the England & Wales 1921 census: they have not transcribed it themselves but are using the FMP transcription. Ancestry has released the England & Wales 1921 census: they have not transcribed it themselves but are using the FMP transcription

Ancestry have started digitising post 1921 British Army records. There will be free-to-access indexes but the digitised image will only be available through their partner Forces War Records (which is a separate subscription). The scanning is due to be completed by 2029. There are 500,000 records of soldiers, who were born pre 1900, *who continued to serve (after WWI, or re-enlisted, after 1921)*. The scanning commences in 1921 up to 1963. 1.7 million medal cards are already online.

DNA Painter

This site has new features such as being able to add pictures on your tree, using coloured dots and adding YDNA & mtDNA information to your chromosome map.

FTDNA

FTDNA is creating a Million Mito Project with 40k branches – which will be released early this year. Having concentrated on YDNA for the last few years mitochondrial DNA now gets it's chance. However, just recently the world tree of YDNA has just been split 5 ways below 'Adam'.

FindmyPast

FmP has produced *Explore* – which is a mapping system whereby all the places that an ancestor lived (that you have previously entered on your tree with them) are marked on the map...so you can *follow your family through time and discover the streets where they lived, with historical maps, photos and snippets from our archives*.

The Genealogist

The Genealogist has just released nearly half a million burial records from The City of London Cemetery...contains name, age at death, occupation, home address, date of burial, plot location, death registration district and more.

GRO

The GRO has released birth and death records for 2023.

Living DNA

Living DNA has updated their mtDNA haplogroup assignments – bringing them in line with the latest mt developments. It is bringing in 2-step authentication sometime this year

My Heritage

Only on their app, at present, MH now has *LiveMemory* – which animates old photographs that you have uploaded to their site. You can see people dancing, playing the piano etc. They have announced that their ethnicity estimates will be updated “in January” – unfortunately, they did not mention which year!

ROOTS TECH 25

The programme of speakers is now available – go to FamilySearch and access RootsTech 25 through them – you can organise a schedule of talks that you are interested in.

WATO+ WATO+ has upgraded and now has age-based probabilities, a structured research question and more intuitive scores.

Wills

The British Government has announced it will *not* proceed with controversial proposals to digitise all copies of post 1858 Wills in England & Wales and *destroy the originals* – due to the public outcry. Phew!!! However, this decision probably means that Wills will cost more – so get cracking and order them at the current price of £1.50.

Jenny Towey jenny@towey.me.uk

A Cornish Tale

A long weekend in Cornwall has been arranged for 40 people on a coach trip. The coach left Weston-super-Mare on a Friday morning, carrying enough snacks to feed a small army (or at least fend off the hungry passengers). Everyone was cheerful and excited, except for Mr. Jenkins, who had already started complaining about "modern coach seat ergonomics." The journey was pleasant enough and without incident, unless you count the questionable karaoke performance from seat 12.

Arriving at the hotel, guests were shown to their rooms where they had time to freshen up before the evening meal. Guests were treated to a pre-dinner drink that one cheeky traveller named "mystery juice," and after dinner, there was entertainment in the bar: a bingo night hosted by a man whose jokes were older than the building itself.

After breakfast the following morning, they embarked onto the coach for a tour of the area, stopping for lunch in a quaint local village with suspiciously identical "authentic Cornish pasties" in every shop window. Then it was back to the hotel for their evening meal and more entertainment. This time, it was karaoke night, and Susan from accounting absolutely butchered "I Will Survive," while Mr. Jenkins shouted "Sit down, Mariah!"

Saturday night, in the early hours of Sunday morning, one of the guests, Genevieve, woke up feeling sick with chest pains. Convinced she was having a heart attack, she alerted her friend next door by banging on the wall so loudly that half the hallway woke up. Her friend called an ambulance, and Genevieve was whisked off to the hospital, making her the first person in history to escape hotel bingo willingly.

Sunday morning at breakfast, the organizer was informed that three other people had also been sick in the night. The hotel management was told, and these guests were confined to their rooms like misbehaving schoolchildren. In one room, a couple were both unwell, and in another, friends sharing a twin room were divided: one sick, the other smugly unaffected – apart from having to stay confined in the room!

Enter Nurse Ratchet, who was clearly a drill sergeant in her past life. Her prescription? Warm salt water every hour. She marched into rooms like a general on a mission, armed with mugs of salty misery. "Drink up," she barked, while the patients groaned and attempted to hide under their duvets. But Nurse Ratchet was having none of it—she was the Florence Nightingale of tough love.

Because of this outbreak, the coach tour for Sunday was cancelled, much to the dismay of the organizer, who had planned an elaborate itinerary involving sheep-shearing demonstrations and a surprise cream tea. Meanwhile, Genevieve, who was thankfully not suffering a heart attack, was kept in the hospital for observation. She passed the time trying to teach her nurse how to fold hospital gowns into swans, with mixed results.

Monday morning, after breakfast, the passengers boarded the coach for the homeward journey. The three travellers who had been unwell also boarded, looking pale and fragile, like extras in a zombie movie. The coach stopped for coffee and then again at Exeter for lunch and a look around the town, which the poorly travellers could have done without. "We're sightseeing our way to death," muttered one, clutching their stomach dramatically.

Once the coach arrived in Weston-super-Mare, everyone was relieved to get off and make their way home. Genevieve, having been discharged from the hospital on Tuesday, had to arrange for her belongings to be collected from the hotel. She then endured a train journey home with multiple changes, culminating in her collapsing onto her bed late Tuesday evening. "Next year, I'm staying home," she declared to her cat, who looked unimpressed but glad to have her back.

This is a story of fiction. However, the sickness was very real and had these unwell travellers had insurance they would have had private transport home. Therefore not enduring the discomfort they had to put up with to get home. So the gist is - 'When travelling in the UK please think about taking out insurance'

Wells and the Bishop's Palace, for the snowdrops

Despite the very wet start to our day about 50 of us had an enjoyable day in Wells. (Sorry if you went and disagree!) The coffee shops and the shops in the main street were very grateful for our business – wherever I went the friendly shopkeepers told me that Weston u3a people had already been in.

The market, In front of the Town Hall and Cathedral, had a good variety of food and good quality gift stalls. It is just a morning/mid-afternoon market and is very popular with locals. If you wish to return you can go on the 126 bus, it's a pretty journey through the villages once you have got through Hutton and Banwell, (and you can use your bus pass).

We were able to go into the Bishop's Palace from about 12.30 (once I had collected the tickets, which were really good value at £9.50), and then wander around the 14 acre site to admire the lovely snowdrops and primroses.

It was lovely seeing the cathedral from inside the grounds of the palace. Our ticket also included entry to the palace, where we were able to go around guided by a radio/headset – this made it far more interesting for me – I was told what was of special interest in each room. The dining room was laid up for what could have been a wonderful banquet

As usual Bakers Dolphin served us well and our driver, Martin brought us back to Weston safely.

Jenny Schofield

BEACON

Our members' data has been transferred to the Beacon system and the system has been live since November.

In future you will receive emails from noreply@u3abeacon.org.uk, so please add this address to your safe senders list to stop emails from the u3a going into your spam folder. Beacon sends emails on behalf of members, so If you need to reply to an email sent via Beacon, simply click reply and your email will be addressed to the member who sent it to you.

GROUPS TABLE

Weston u3a Groups – February 2025

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

Armchair travel 1	Mon	PM	3rd Monthly	John Montacute
Armchair travel 2	Fri	AM	Various	Chris Gardner
Art Appreciation	Thu	AM	3rd Monthly	Val Marsh
Art group 2	Wed	AM	Weekly	Brenda Pope
Astronomy (note 1)	Tue	PM	3rd Monthly	Sean Hopkins
Badminton	Mon	PM	Weekly	Ken Marsh
Bird watching	Mon	All day	Last Monthly	Malcolm Taylor
Bobbin lace	Fri	AM	Weekly	Susan Brooks
Book club 1	Thu	PM	3rd Monthly	Corinne Edbrooke
Book club 2	Wed	AM	1 st Monthly	Laura Woodard
Book club 3	Mon	AM	3rd Monthly	Val Perrin
Book club 4	Thu	PM	3rd Monthly	Dot Agassiz
Canasta	Mon	PM	Weekly	Susan Purkis
Card making	Wed	AM	1st & 4th Monthly	Nora Charters
Chess	Wed	AM	1st Monthly	Philip Dinham
Computer Confidence	Tue	AM	Even Weeks	Peter Morgan Jill Tolley
Computer Confidence 2	Wed	AM	Weekly	Gordon Grice
Computers Group 1	Fri	PM	Odd Weeks	Laura Woodard
Contract Bridge	Thu	PM	Weekly	Roger Thompson
Crafts	Thu	AM	Weekly	Pauline Bird

Creative writing 1	Wed	PM	2nd Monthly	Marilyn Edbrooke
Cribbage	Wed	PM	Weekly	Maddy Neighbour
Crochet	Tue	PM	2nd & 4th Monthly	Suzanne Evans
Crochet 2	Wed	PM	Odd Weeks	Laura Woodard
Crochet for beginners	Mon	AM	Weekly	Mary Smith
Cycling	Thu	AM	Monthly (various)	Gill Terrell
Discuss & debate	Thu	AM	Weekly	Ken Hill
DNA for Family History	Mon	PM	3rd Monthly	Jenny Towey
Drama	Wed	AM	Weekly	Maureen Tracy
Early Evening Dinners	Var	PM	Various	Sandy Flood
Early Evening Eating Out in Weston	Thu	PM	Last Monthly	Barbara Dawson
Earth Science	Wed	AM	1st Monthly	Conrad Collinge
Eco group	Wed	PM	Last Monthly	Pauline Cook
Family history	Fri	PM	1st Monthly	Anne Lockyer
Folk dancing	Tue	PM	2nd and 4th Monthly	Ian Ludbrook
French	Tue	PM	Weekly	Robert Roscoe
French Beginners 1	Fri	PM	Weekly	Sue Marshall
French Beginners 2	Wed	PM	Weekly	Pauline Pereira
French for Absolute Beginners	Mon	PM	Weekly	Sheila Richards
German Conversation	Tue	AM	Weekly	Susanne Zemp
History Book Club	Fri	PM	1st Monthly	Cheryl Laycock
History, Social & Economic	Tue	AM	Even Weeks	Keith Bosworth

Knitting	Mon	PM	Weekly	Ros Trump
Latin and Roman Studies	Tue	AM	Weekly	Rikk Earthy
Locking Music Group	Tue	PM	Weekly	Rod Holloway
				Heather Bird
Lunch group	Wed		1st Monthly	Gina Gaskill
Mahjong	Tue	PM	1st & 3rd Monthly	Ian Ludbrook
Mindfulness for Beginners	Tue	PM	1st & 3rd Monthly	Corinne Edbrooke
Mindfulness Meditation	Mon	AM	Weekly	Joy Kenward
Monthly lecture	Fri	PM	2nd Monthly	Shirley Harvey
Music Appreciation	Wed	AM	Flexible	Lilias Critchley
Out & About	Sat	All Day	2nd Monthly	Shirley West
Patchwork and Quilting	Wed	AM	Odd Weeks	Olivia Ready
Patchwork and Quilting	Wed	AM	Even Weeks	Diane Whitfield
Philosophy	Wed	AM	Odd Weeks	Hazel Uren
Photography (runs Mar to Oct)	Wed	All 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	3rd Monthly	Tessa Bailey
Railway Modellers	Wed	PM	1st & 3rd Monthly	Paul March
Recorder Group	Mon	AM	Weekly	Louise Harwood
Rummikub	Tue	PM	Odd weeks	Brenda Wall

Rummikub Mead Vale	Tue	PM	Even Weeks	Iris Bailey
Sequence dancing	Mon	AM	Weekly	David Lloyd
Shakespeareana	Thu	PM	4th Monthly	Sylvia Montacute
Short tennis	Thu	AM	Weekly	David Toomer
Singalong	Fri	PM	1st Monthly	Wendy Withington
Spanish Conversation	Wed	AM	Odd Weeks	John Sach
Sunday lunch 2	Sun		3rd Monthly	Rosemary Evans
Sunday Lunch 3	Sun		4th Monthly	Jenny Schofield
Table Tennis	Mon	AM	Weekly	Mike Bamford
Theatre Visits	Var		Various	Jenny Schofield
U3a's Four String Strummers	Wed	PM	Weekly	Sheila Alston-Pottinger
Uno for Fun	Wed	AM	Even Weeks	Heather Bird
Walking Group	Wed	AM	Weekly	Howard Blackman
Wine Appreciation	Tue	PM	3rd Monthly	Diana Connolly
Wine Appreciation with Food	Wed	PM	2nd Monthly	Gina Gaskill
Yoga	Fri	AM	Weekly	Conrad Collinge

note 1 Astronomy – we aim for 3rd Tuesday of the month but this is not always possible due to other commitments – (check programme on the u3a web)

In the table some groups are shown as meeting on Even or Odd weeks. This refers to the week number in the year.

Most diaries show the numbered weeks of the year but here is a table to help you.

Week No		From Monday	To Sunday	Week No		From Monday	To Sunday
Week 1	ODD	30/12/24	- 05/01/25	Week 27	ODD	30/06/25	- 06/07/25
Week 2	EVEN	06/01/25	- 12/01/25	Week 28	EVEN	07/07/25	- 13/07/25
Week 3	ODD	13/01/25	- 19/01/25	Week 29	ODD	14/07/25	- 20/07/25
Week 4	EVEN	20/01/25	- 26/01/25	Week 30	EVEN	21/07/25	- 27/07/25
Week 5	ODD	27/01/25	- 02/02/25	Week 31	ODD	28/07/25	- 03/08/25
Week 6	EVEN	03/02/25	- 09/02/25	Week 32	EVEN	04/08/25	- 10/08/25
Week 7	ODD	10/02/25	- 16/02/25	Week 33	ODD	11/08/25	- 17/08/25
Week 8	EVEN	17/02/25	- 23/02/25	Week 34	EVEN	18/08/25	- 24/08/25
Week 9	ODD	24/02/25	- 02/03/25	Week 35	ODD	25/08/25	- 31/08/25
Week 10	EVEN	03/03/25	- 09/03/25	Week 36	EVEN	01/09/25	- 07/09/25
Week 11	ODD	10/03/25	- 16/03/25	Week 37	ODD	08/09/25	- 14/09/25
Week 12	EVEN	17/03/25	- 23/03/25	Week 38	EVEN	15/09/25	- 21/09/25
Week 13	ODD	24/03/25	- 30/03/25	Week 39	ODD	22/09/25	- 28/09/25
Week 14	EVEN	31/03/25	- 06/04/25	Week 40	EVEN	29/09/25	- 05/10/25
Week 15	ODD	07/04/25	- 13/04/25	Week 41	ODD	06/10/25	- 12/10/25
Week 16	EVEN	14/04/25	- 20/04/25	Week 42	EVEN	13/10/25	- 19/10/25
Week 17	ODD	21/04/25	- 27/04/25	Week 43	ODD	20/10/25	- 26/10/25
Week 18	EVEN	28/04/25	- 04/05/25	Week 44	EVEN	27/10/25	- 02/11/25
Week 19	ODD	05/05/25	- 11/05/25	Week 45	ODD	03/11/25	- 09/11/25
Week 20	EVEN	12/05/25	- 18/05/25	Week 46	EVEN	10/11/25	- 16/11/25
Week 21	ODD	19/05/25	- 25/05/25	Week 47	ODD	17/11/25	- 23/11/25
Week 22	EVEN	26/05/25	- 01/06/25	Week 48	EVEN	24/11/25	- 30/11/25
Week 23	ODD	02/06/25	- 08/06/25	Week 49	ODD	01/12/25	- 07/12/25
Week 24	EVEN	09/06/25	- 15/06/25	Week 50	EVEN	08/12/25	- 14/12/25
Week 25	ODD	16/06/25	- 22/06/25	Week 51	ODD	15/12/25	- 21/12/25
Week 26	EVEN	23/06/25	- 29/06/25	Week 52	EVEN	22/12/25	- 28/12/25
				Week 53	ODD	29/12/25	04/01/26