

FROM YOUR CHAIR

Welcome to the Spring edition of Westbury & District u3a's Newsletter. Without your contributions, photos and news you would not be reading this message. Thank-you to all.

I am delighted to welcome several new members to our small branch this year and to see the formation of new groups. The feedback from members and the numbers attending our monthly meetings are very positive and encouraging.

We must all be doing something right and I look forward to the coming year with great enthusiasm.

With very best wishes to you all

Erica Watson

Chair

Your Committee

Contactable via the Westbury u3a website: www.u3asites.org.uk/westbury

Chair Erica Watson	Membership Jen Faulks	Publicity & Newsletter Chris Crosby	Maggie Skyrme, Joy Hancock, Caroline Murray, Julie Vince
Vice Chair Joy Hancock	Treasurer Steve Crosby	Speakers Secretary Pauline Medhurst	Member Without Portfolio John Osborne
Secretary Faith Dyson	Groups Coordinator Maggie Skyrme	Social Secretaries	

WEBSITE

Please see the website for more information on each group, and to contact the Web Master with items you would like to add. Thank you.

www.u3asites.org.uk/westbury

GROUPS

Archaeology & History

- Richard Woodroffe
- Various Fridays monthly

The March meeting had a talk from Professor Michael Hicks, a national expert on the Wars of the Roses. He focussed on the disappearance of the two Princes in the Tower of London, relating events of 1483, especially the months between the accession of Richard III following the death of his elder brother Edward IV in the spring and the disappearance of his young sons, Edward V and Prince Richard later in the year. Michael is in no doubt that Richard III, the boys' uncle, was responsible for their killing, but this is unlikely to be proven. In April the speaker will be Dr Nicola Tallis talking about the history of the Crown Jewels.

The summer programme includes a guided walk by a local historian around Frome, a trip to Hampton Court and a walk led by an archaeologist along part of the Wansdyke.

Membership of the group is open to any u3a member. Forthcoming events are publicised on the website.

Art - Painting for Pleasure

- Joyce Field
- 1st & 3rd Tuesdays monthly 9.30-12.00 Bratton Church Institute

We have no formal tuition; we paint or draw our own choice of subject in any medium. We have a coffee mid-morning. New members welcome!

Art Appreciation

- Joyce Field, Barbara Osborne
- 3rd Wednesday monthly 2.00

Bird Watching

- John Osborne
- 3rd Thursday monthly, usually all day

The year began with a walk around Westbury ponds led by Mike Smith. On a bright, frosty morning fourteen of us wandered around the edge of the town and found a variety of birds. A Water Rail was spotted in Bitham Brook, numerous Chiffchaffs were feeding on the insects around the Sewage Works and a Goosander was on Frogmore Pond. In February, nine of us visited Chew Reservoir. Our morning walk along the lake edge produced woodland species including Redpoll. After lunch and a hot drink we found wetland birds including displaying Goldeneyes.

Book Club

- Erica Watson / Jean Hine
- 2nd Monday monthly 2.15-4.00

Our group is very lucky to have the use of John and Barbara Osborne's annexe which is so generous of them; I would like to thank them on behalf of our group. Wiltshire Library's input is hugely appreciated.

We are reading Minette Walters The Swift and The Harrier this month, an historical novel about life during the Civil War in 17th Century. It has a medical theme and a romantic story running throughout. We have yet to discuss this book so watch this space for our views! We read The Seven Sisters by Lucinda Riley, the first of 7 books each about a different sister and their "father", a tale of sisters and backgrounds. We enjoyed Robert Goddard's The Night They Came For Us, an excellent story on the war in Algeria featuring the French Algerians and those native to the country. I learnt a lot, though was aware of the fictional licence.

Book Club 2

- Judy Semple
 - 4th Monday monthly 2.30 Library at Chantry Court, Chantry Lane, Westbury, BA13 3FE
- If you are interested in joining please contact the group leader, Judy Semple, via the website.

Canasta

- Pat Walker
- 1st & 3rd Mondays monthly 2.00 in each members' homes

The group met in winter and have been joined by two new members, Nigel and Eileen, so are almost full. Our afternoons are very enjoyable and lively and though we play to win, we do not take it too seriously!

Computer Group

- Keith Melford
- 1st Thursday monthly 2.00 at Fairfield College Café Dilton Marsh

The group continues each month to help with any computer or tablet problems that members have.

Creative Textiles

- Barbara Osborne
- 2nd Wednesday monthly at Barbara's home

This year we have worked on dry needle felting. We have some activities planned this spring and summer. In June we have a wet-felting workshop at Beggars Knoll where a friend of our group, Penny, will tutor us.

Creative Yarn

- Jane Dyer
- 1st Wednesday 10.00-12.00 Barbara & John Osborne's annexe

The group started with some members learning to crochet, and others working on their own inspiring, creative projects.



French Conversation

- Anna Messik
- 3rd Wednesday monthly 10.30

During the summer meetings are often held at The Three Horseshoes in Chapmanslade where the manager is French. In winter we revert to meeting in members' homes. The group consists of some who are fluent in French and others who are maintaining their school French.

Garden Group

- Keith Melford
- 4th Thursday monthly 2.00 at various locations

Members needed to join the April visit please

Mah-Jong

- Jenny Ashen
- 1st & 3rd Saturdays monthly 2.00

Desperately needs new members!

Natural History

- John Osborne
- Now meets 2nd Thursday monthly

Three of us enjoyed Slimbridge in January; huge numbers of wetland birds winter there and we saw wheeling flocks of Golden Plover and Lapwing and Bewick's Swans (see photo). Our February meeting was at Smallbrook Meadows when Carol and Mike Peacock led 12 of us. There were signs of Spring with Lesser Celandine, and birdsong from several species. In the treetops Siskins were spotted. In warmer weather, we will turn to finding flowers and insects, particularly butterflies.



Strollers

- Tuesdays 10.00 Please wear comfy walking footwear, and bring Next of Kin contact details

We meet at the following locations:

Week 1: Leigh Park Community Centre carpark

Week 2: High Street rotunda

Week 3: Fairfield Dilton

Week 4: Leighton Rec

New walkers are very welcome and we can vary the walk to suit the abilities of new members. Contact Barbara Osborne via the website for more information.

Silver Screen

- Jen Faulks
- Wednesday or Thursday am or pm; not yet restarted

Something Snappy Photography

- Eileen Taylor
- 4th Wednesday mornings at Pre-planned locations

The first meeting was held in February in Westbury. Each meeting has two parts - part 1 being a photo scavenger hunt using camera phones to find photos for each of the ten words on that month's list, and part 2 being a get-together in a cafe or pub to share our photos with the group.



Rain held off and the 4 of us hunted for photos in the town centre, in different directions. The words for this were: number, communication, many, beginning with A, line, grows, looking up, red, light and repetition. We had an hour, after which we met back in Aimi's cafe to share our photos.

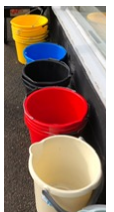
I think everyone enjoyed themselves and feedback was positive. Erica commented "This group ticks all of the u3a boxes; learning, living and lots of laughter", and Sarah Winsome said "This group is right up my street as I love taking photos and sometimes paint pictures from them. A lovely way to spend an hour hunting out ideas prepared by Eileen". What I

love best about these hunts is seeing the different ones for each word and the discussions afterwards. Most of the photos are self-explanatory but to explain 'many': this grave represents the burial place of *many* Quakers.

Table Tennis

- Wednesdays weekly 2.00-4.00

Members enjoy the one and a half hour sessions and the standard of play continues to improve.



Monthly Meetings

- 2nd Tuesday monthly 2.00 Westbury URC Hall, Warminster Rd, Westbury BA13 3PJ
- Park at rear, off The Butts via Hospital Road. Please ignore the Car Park Closed sign.
- £2 payable on entry unless otherwise stated.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Speakers	
April	Lily Munday: The Glove Industry
May	Brian Freeland: George Bernard Shaw
June	Liz Argent: Westbury's Shops in Bygone Days
July	Chris O'Grady: Fakes & Fortunes, Art & Antiques, Forgers & Dealers
August	Summer Lunch
September	Wiltshire Air Ambulance
October	Roger Browne: History of Jazz Piano

Refreshments Rota for Monthly Meetings

Please make every effort to help as otherwise it is unfair on others

April	Book Clubs
May	Canasta
June	Computer Group
July	Creative Textiles
August	Creative Yarn
September	French Conversation
October	Garden Group