



FROM YOUR CHAIR

Please give serious consideration to joining the committee. This could initially just be as a watching brief before taking on one of the more prominent roles.

Our local constitution can be found on the Branch website.

Some of our groups could use extra members so please ask around the Group Leaders. You could also consider starting up a new group. Contact the Groups Co-Ordinator if you have an interesting idea. At least three new groups have started up this year.

If you have any ideas for organising a local event that can provide some publicity for our club, please contact Chris Crosby.

The national u3a is looking at changing the governance so that members' ideas are more quickly undertaken by the organisation. If you are interested in joining this "Fit for the Future" debate, then please contact me.

The national u3a will be holding a festival at the University of York on the 18th – 20th July.

Keith Melford

Chair Westbury & District u3a

YOUR COMMITTEE

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

Chair Keith Melford	Membership Jen Faulks	Publicity/Newsletter Chris Crosby	Social Secretaries Maggie Skyrme, Joy Hancock, Caroline Murray, Julie Vince
Vice Chair Erica Watson	Treasurer Steve Crosby	Speakers Secretary Pauline Medhurst	
Secretary Faith Dyson	Groups Coordinator Maggie Skyrme	Member John Osborne	

WEBSITE - PLEASE CHECK REGULARLY FOR UPDATES, TRIPS, ETC

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 Just click on this link to be taken straight there!

GROUPS

Archaeology & History

- Richard Woodroffe
- Various Fridays monthly

The group had a thoroughly interesting talk from Julian Richards. the celebrated archaeologist. Julian, a self-confessed 'potaholic', used pottery to illustrate the social and economic changes over 6,000 years of our history. Julian brought with him for examination by members pieces of pottery from across the ages.

This was the last of the 2023-24 season of indoor talks. Over the coming months the group will have visits before resuming indoor events in the autumn. Information about forthcoming events will be emailed to group members [with membership of the group being open to all u3a members] and on the u3a web site.

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 at either Barbara's home or exhibition venues

In recent months members have presented women artists. In December a member hosted a special meeting where we each presented a piece of art that had special meaning for us. This was very popular and may be repeated next year.

January saw us visiting the Gwen John exhibition at the Holborne. We came away with mixed views of this exhibition. Some felt it lacked excitement, showed an unhappy life or was not very cheerful. In February we are having a meeting to plan a set of topics and visits for this year.

Bird Watching

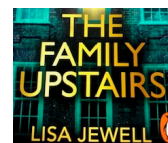
- Chris Johnson
- 3rd Thursday monthly, usually all day, sometimes morning only

In the last few months, the Birding Group has visited Studland in Dorset, Fonthill Lake, Westbury Mead and the STW (it is a good place to see interesting species in winter) and most recently, Blashford Lakes reserve in Hampshire. For the Studland trip, three of us stayed overnight while others joined us for the day and we were lucky enough to get a sighting of a White-tailed Eagle. It was one of the most exciting sightings we have had! We currently have 26 members on the mailing list so are not looking for new members at present. However, we usually only have about 6-8 members attending each time.

Book Club

- Erica Watson, Jean Hine
- 2nd Monday monthly 2.15-4.00 at Barbara & John Osbornes' annexe.

In recent months we have enjoyed several very different books – Elizabeth of York, The last White Rose by Alison Weir – a weighty tome but an excellent historical read. The Family Upstairs by Lisa Jewell is the 2nd story of a somewhat bohemian family and we recommend the fast pace of this saga. Something to Hide by Elizabeth George, again an excellent and very topical read though a disturbing story. The Ocean at the End of the Lane by Neil Gaiman was a story involving witchcraft and fantasy.



Book Club 2 Bookworms

- Judy Semple.
- 4th Monday monthly 2.30 Library at Chantry Court, Chantry Lane, Westbury, BA13 3FE

Members who are residents find it convenient and those of us visiting enjoy the surroundings and easy parking.

We are reading a wide a range of books as possible, particularly enjoying some renowned non-British authors. Our discussions after we have read each book are very wide ranging and most enjoyable. 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

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 The Weavers at Dilton Marsh **Please Note New Venue!**

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

Creative Textiles

- Barbara Osborne
- 2nd Wednesday monthly 10.00-12.00 at Barbara's annexe

Meets on the second Wednesday of the month.

Creative Yarners and Creative Textilers got together to decorate a tree for the festival at All Saints Church. Earlier in the year we did wet felting at a member's home and enjoyed a tour of her lovely garden. We also refined our needle felting. We had a trip to Salisbury Cathedral to see Jackie Parkinson's stunning tapestries. Some members worked on 12 by 12's for the exhibition at Midsomer Quilting and for our December meeting we visited the exhibition and enjoyed lunch at the Holy Cow.

Creative Yarn

- Jane Dyer
- 1st Wednesday monthly 10.00-12.00 Barbara & John Osbornes' annexe

Members have, during the sessions, supported and helped each other when needed, learning new skills and sharing finished projects. E.g: cushions, trauma teddy bears, cardigans, blankets, soft toy animals and more.

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. Full complement of members currently.

Garden Group

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

Marie's Pilates

- Marie
 - Every Thursday 2.00-3.00 United Reformed Church Hall Westbury
- Please bring a stretch band and yoga mat. Cost £7 each session

Natural History

- Carol & Mike Peacock
- Now meets 2nd Thursday monthly

The group meets in various locations throughout the year, to enjoy the company of like-minded people and to appreciate, and get a better understanding of, our surroundings. We looked at orchids, moths, butterflies, dragonflies, fungi - and we can never resist doing a spot of bird-watching too. We always welcome new members!

Something Snappy Photography

- Eileen Taylor
- Monday mornings at pre-planned locations

The group meets for a photographic scavenger hunt to find photos for each of the ten words on that month's list. An hour is allowed to find all the photos and then we meet in a café to share our photos with the rest of the group. The group photo was taken during our February session in Warminster.



Strollers

- Barbara Osborne
- Tuesdays 10.00 Please wear comfy walking footwear, and bring Next of Kin contact details. Please see website for starting places

Our group grows in numbers and at times we have a dozen walkers. We have tried out some new venues for our ad hoc walk when we have five weeks in the month. In January we started at Edington Priory and strolled to the farm shop. I managed to leave two walkers behind as we set off to return to the cars but they had their wits about them and managed to catch us up! It might be time to set up a second group if anyone is interested? Possibly a striders group of longer walks at a faster pace?

Table Tennis

- Wednesdays weekly 2.00-3.30

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

The group continues to play weekly and is an enjoyable form of exercise. We have 13 members but not everyone turns up each week and we have had low numbers some weeks since January. Therefore we could accept one or two new members. We are a mixed ability group but as we only have two tables it is not really suitable for complete beginners but fine for people who have played in the past even if many years ago.

Travel Buddies

Ideas for any future trips welcome

Yoga Standing and Sitting

- Yara
 - Every Wednesday 10.00-11.00 United Reformed Church Hall Westbury
- No equipment to bring, just wear comfy clothing. Cost is £6 per session

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.
- **NB:** Now £3 payable on entry unless otherwise stated.
- DO PLEASE BRING ALONG A FRIEND WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN JOINING!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Refreshments Rota for Monthly Meetings Please make every effort to help as otherwise it is unfair on others	
14 May	Table Tennis
11 June	Archaeology & History
9 July	Art - Painting for Pleasure
13 August	Summer Social
10 September	Art Appreciation
8 October	Bird Watching
12 November	Book Club
10 December	Christmas Meal
2025 14 January	Bookworms
11 February	Canasta
11 March	Computer Group

Speakers	
14 May	David Bailey (Not that one!): Good Hare Days
11 June	Q&A with Police Inspector Kevin Harmsworth. Bring questions!
9 July	Richard Rickett: Bee Talk
13 August	Summer Social
10 September	Chris O'Grady: Possibly his walking trip to Rome
8 October	Roger Browne: Talk to be decided
12 November	Barry Edwards: Early History of Penguin Books
10 December	Christmas Meal
2025 14 January	Peter Gill: Talk to be decided
11 February	Martin Lloyd: Passports, Assassins, Traitors & Spies
11 March	Robin Coles: Something Victorian/Edwardian