



Weston Turville u3a Newsletter

December 2023

Learn, laugh, live, learn, laugh, live, learn, laugh, live, learn, laugh, live, learn, laugh, live, learn, laugh, live, learn, laugh, live, learn.

Joyeux noel

Buon natale

Geseende
Kersfees

Frahe
Weiknachten

Nadolig
Llawen



maligayang
pasko

feliz natal

God Jul

wesolych
swiat

cracium
fericit



Merry Christmas in ten languages – but what are they? Answers next month

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Last meeting At our last meeting Christmas entertainment was provided by the Sun Jesters who gave us a feast of anecdotes on a seasonal theme. We had Christmas songs and heard about how one festive tradition was and still could be illegal. The afternoon was rounded off with mince pies and mulled wine, plus a presentation to Lynn White on her retirement from organising our general meeting refreshments. With no meeting in December the following general meeting will be on **Thursday 25th January**.

Chairman's Report. We recently had our annual Christmas Lunch, held once again at the Chiltern Forest Golf Club. Thanks once again to Carol Williams and her team for organising an excellent event. This was Carol's last lunch as organiser, so we need someone to take over for Christmas 2024! In the meantime, many thanks to Carol for her efforts over the last few years. A reminder, there is no General Meeting in December but we are back to normal next month, **Thursday, 25th January**.

Finally, I'd like to thank you all for your support and enthusiasm over the past year. A special thanks to all of you who run the various interest groups. We are very lucky to have so many prepared to run trips and visits, meetings and events. On behalf of the Committee, I wish all of them and all of you, a Very Happy and Peaceful Christmas & New Year. Chris Bennett – Chairman.

Quiz Night On a cold and gloomy evening members gathered at Weston Turville Village Hall for our second WTU3a Quiz. There was huge support for this event with 104 members competing in 16 teams - a wonderful turn out! A great variety of questions, interspersed with individual 'spot prize' challenges, and a Fish'n'Chips supper made for a very entertaining, social evening. The winners, 'Numb Nuts', took away prizes of bottles of wine and the runners-up, 'Quizzical Quizzers', shortbread selections. The only blip was the unexpected decision by Howe & Co. to plate up all the food causing a freezing for the servers, delay in getting our food to the tables. However, as the food wasn't wrapped it wasn't soggy, and no-one could complain that it wasn't hot as it was very freshly cooked! Apologies to anyone unhappy with the wait and thanks for the additional serving help from Liz Thomas and Yvonne Shaw. Our 'Thank You', of course, goes to Arlene Bocking, and Simon Evers for helping to organise this event; to Paul Fincken and Jane Hobson for setting and hosting the quiz; to Sarah Gunn supported by Ken Shaw, for tracking all the payments. My thanks to the Committee for their kind card and festive plant and wishing everyone a  Merry Christmas  - Jules Whitehead.

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New members' morning At a recent meeting for new members, some interesting suggestions for possible additional groups were made as follows: A group offering help with the operation of your mobile phone (not computer), a group for walking netball, a pottery group and a Tai Chi group.

As is always the case, every group needs a leader! Being a leader need not be particularly onerous and can be very rewarding. There is a useful and informative page on the website about starting and running a new group – see <http://www.wtu3a.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/Running-a-Group-at-Weston-Turville-U3A.pdf>

There would of course be help available from the Committee and in particular from Ken Shaw, who is the Groups Liaison Officer and who can be contacted via email at groups@wtu3a.org.uk If you are interested in starting a new group or would like to discuss this, please contact Ken or me.

Simon Evers - Membership Secretary

Network News The TV Network's first meeting of 2024 is a Zoom talk on "Cheddar Man and the Genetic Prehistory of Britain" by Dr Tom Booth. It is on **Monday 15th January** at 2.30pm and details can be found on our website.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Trips We are planning next year's trips and due to popular demand we are thinking of Hampton Court in spring 2024, the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire in September 2024 and Highgate Cemetery on a date to be decided. I have not yet started to arrange these but will do so after Christmas. So, would you be interested in doing these trips? Have you other suggestions for us to consider? Criteria is not more than 2 hours by coach, accessible by all members and combined price of coach and tour is less than £60 each. Email us on trips@wtu3a.org.uk or speak to me at monthly meeting before February. Thanks. Mandi Simons

Theatre Visits A reminder that Melanie Evans has the following visits lined up at the Waterside Theatre in Aylesbury:

Saturday 9th March 2.30pm The Kite Runners £30

Wednesday 17th April 7.30pm Seven Drunken Nights – the Story of the Dubliners £31.50

Thursday 18th April 7.30pm House of Jo Jo – Johannes Radebe £56

Sunday 28th April 7.30pm Madama Butterfly - Ellen Kent £37.75

Contact Melanie at: theatre@wtu3a.org.uk if you are interested in any of these.

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Gardening The group which started at the end of September has held three meetings to date and has 39 registered members. At the end of November we received a talk from Colin Oakes about John Evelyn "A Gardener's Diary". Evelyn was a diarist of his time between 1640 – 1706 and lived in London. He was a writer, land owner and gardener but best known as a diarist. He had a strong interest in gardening and was a founding fellow of the Royal Society. Our speaker centred on horticulture and botany of past years and explained the sources of woodlands and ancient planting in particular and the influences of that today. With no meeting in December or January, the next one will be on Monday 26th February with a talk on bees and their value in the garden. Details: Jenny Hunt or Rosemary Williams on gardening@wtu3a.org.uk

Science and Technology Our proposed meetings for early 2024 are:

1st February we hope to have another talk in the Chapel. Details to follow:

7th March we plan to visit the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford. The entrance is free as we have not been able to secure a guide. More details to follow of timings etc. A virtual tour is available online if anyone is interested.

11th April we are planning to repeat a visit made in 2016 to The Museum of Water and Steam in Brentford. We hope to travel by own car to keep costs down. Costs and more details to come later.

Other visits we are planning are to the Royal Air Force Museum, Hendon, a combined visit to the Army Medical Museum and The Milestone Museum Basingstoke, which will be a coach trip, and a trip to Wallingford to the Hydrology and Ecology Research centre. Further details will be in the next newsletter or can be had from John Beer at: science@wtu3a.org.uk

Quiz afternoons Although it was hoped to have a quiz afternoon in December, this is now not the case, so the next ones will be on Fridays 26th January and 22nd February. Details from Joy Mantell on quizzing@wtu3a.org.uk

Chess For December only the group will meet in the third Friday (15th) but then its back to the usual second and fourth Friday of each month at 12.30pm at the Chandos. More details of the group from Geoffrey Howell on: chess@wtu3a.org.uk

Coffee morning with ACu3a There will be no meeting in December so the first one for 2024 will be on **Thursday 18th January** from 10.30am at the Five Bells in Weston Turville. The group's contact is Marie Jones on 07733 412295.

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