



Weston Turville u3a Newsletter

December 2024

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

**Merry
Christmas
and a Happy
New Year
to all
members and**



friends of Weston Turville u3a

Remember to check the website www.wtu3a.org.uk for more up to date information and for any old newsletters and articles. Use the Search box or tag words on the right of the page. WTU3A has its own Facebook page with lots of photos on. Search for it, ask to join and within no time at all you could be viewing the albums.

Last meeting Our final general meeting of the year was a real cracker with Richard Stark giving a great performance of festive songs and together with the mulled wine and Christmas fare it was a most enjoyable afternoon.

With no December meeting, we are back at the Rugby Club on **Thursday 23rd January** with a talk "The Questionable History of the TV Quiz".

Chairman's Report I was not able to attend the recent First Aid training course, which was mainly for group leaders. Despite hiccups, I understand the course was very good and we will likely look to repeating it in 2025 for more members.

I was however present at the main meeting on 28th November, when Richard Stark took us through a wide variety of Christmas songs and carols. Mulled wine and mince pies added to the occasion and certainly helped to put us all in the Christmas spirit.

The Christmas lunch on 13th December was an excellent occasion. We were at Weston Turville Golf Club, a new venue for many, where the service, the food and in fact everything was excellent in every way. We had a quiz and a raffle and altogether the occasion was a very happy and successful one. Many thanks for this go to Chris Bennett (for organising the raffle) and in particular to the chief organisers Sarah Gunn, our hardworking Treasurer (who was actually away enjoying a cruise up the coast of Norway) and Rosemary Williams. The event was a sell out and I am sure we will repeat it next year.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our next meeting on **Thursday 23rd January**, when our speaker will be Jeff Evans on 'The questionable history of the TV Quiz Show'. Meanwhile, I hope everyone has a really happy Christmas and a prosperous 2025! *Simon Evers - Chairman*

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Discussion Group The next meeting of the discussion group will take place at 10.30 am on **Friday 3rd January** at the Five Bells, Weston Turville. Tea and coffee will be available. At the last meeting we discussed assisted dying, rainbow laces for footballers and whether there are too many cars on the road. Come and give your opinions on these and other range of subjects. Further details of the group are available from Terry Jones at discussion@wtu3a.org.uk

Did you know that in the UK an area the equivalent of 3240 football pitches is covered with Brussels sprouts?

Remember to check the website www.wtu3a.org.uk for more up to date information and for any old newsletters and articles. Use the Search box or tag words on the right of the page. WTU3A has its own Facebook page with lots of photos on. Search for it, ask to join and within no time at all you could be viewing the albums.

Mahjong The group will restart on **Thursday 9th January** and will be on the second Thursday of each month from 2pm to 4pm in the Chapel Room. New members are welcome and Joy Williamson will be delighted to hear from any prospective new players. She can be contacted at mahjong@wtu3a.org.uk

Gardening Unfortunately the meeting in November on Christmas wreath making was cancelled due to illness. The next meeting is on **27th January** and continues to take place on the fourth Monday of the month at 2pm in the Chapel Hall, School Lane, Weston Turville except for the months of May, August and December. With our gardens currently being in an inactive state for a few months our January meeting will be a social occasion with a gardening quiz. Any suggestions for our 2025 activities would be much appreciated. Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas with good health and happiness in the new year. Jenny Hunt & Rosemary Williams Group Convenors: gardening@wtu3a.org.uk.

Theatre visits Early outings in 2025 include: “Calamity Jane – the Musical” at the Waterside in Aylesbury on **Wednesday 15th January** (7.30pm) with tickets being £37.50. Also at the Waterside we have, on **Thursday 13th February** at 2.30pm a play “Bird Song” (tickets £30.50) which is the story of love and courage based on Sebastian Faulk’s bestselling novel. In the wonderful Milton Keynes Theatre we have the “Only Fools and Horses Musical” at 2.30pm on **Wednesday 19th March**. Tickets are £45.50. For more details contact Melanie Evans at theatre@wtu3a.org.uk.

Art & Culture A message from Chris Bennett: Our behind-the-scenes tour of the Royal Opera House is now full. I’m pleased to say that this includes everyone who has already registered for this visit together with those who spoke to me at the November’s General Meeting. John will be contacting you all regarding payment. In April next year we plan to visit the MK Gallery in Milton Keynes. Part of their 25th Anniversary celebrations is a major Andy Warhol Exhibition, with over 130 of his iconic artworks. We will be accompanied by one of their Curators who will talk about Warhol, the exhibits and Pop Art. More details will follow in the new year. Group contacts are John Masters and Chris Bennett on: culture@wtu3a.org.uk.

Handbell Ringing This group meets on Friday mornings at 10am at John Beer’s house in the village and no musical expertise is necessary. New members are welcome. For more information contact John at handbells@wtu3a.org.uk

It’s not what’s under the Christmas tree that matters; it’s who is around it.” - Anonymous

Remember to check the website www.wtu3a.org.uk for more up to date information and for any old newsletters and articles. Use the Search box or tag words on the right of the page. WTU3A has its own Facebook page with lots of photos on. Search for it, ask to join and within no time at all you could be viewing the albums.

Card making Once again, there were some lovely examples of their work at the last general meeting and new members are welcome. The group meets on the second Thursday of each month from 10am in the Chapel Room (next one on **9th January**). More information from Lindsey Beer on cardmaking@wtu3a.org.uk

Patchwork & Quilting The group's final meeting of the year was their usual festive event with a variety of refreshments to accompany the making of some beautiful coasters. The first meetings of 2025 are on **Tuesdays 7th and 21st January** at Stoke Mandeville Community Centre with sessions from 10am to midday and from 2pm to 4pm. There is some room at both sessions so contact Maureen Reeves on quilting@wtu3a.org.uk if you need more details.

Garden Visits We have a garden visit to look forward to early in the new year as on **Tuesday 18th February** we are invited to visit the garden of Sandra Wetherall at Hollydyke House, Little Missenden HP7 ORD where we hope there will be a good display of snowdrops for us to see. This will be a morning visit starting at 11am and the cost will be £8.50 to include a warming drink or soup. Sadly this will be the final garden visit Heather Marshall is able to arrange so hopefully one or two of the current group might be interested in continuing with planning and arranging future visits. If you can help please contact either Heather on gardens@wtu3a.org.uk or our Chairman Simon Evers.

Chess The Chess group meets on the second and fourth Friday of each month (the next ones are on **10th and 24th January**) at 12.30pm in the Chandos. More information from Geoffrey Howell at: chess@wtu3a.org.uk Is there any truth in the rumour that at the last meeting they were standing by the entrance discussing their recent tournament victories. After a while the landlord came and asked them to leave. "Why?" they asked. "Because if there's one thing I can't stand it's chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!"

Joint Coffee morning with ACu3a Our first coffee morning is on **Thursday 16th January** at the Five Bells in Weston Turville. It will start at 10.30am. Marie Jones on coffee@wtu3a.org.uk will let you have further details.

Quiz group Quizzes restart on **Friday 24th January** at 2.30 in the Weston Turville Chapel Hall. If you haven't been before come along and give it a try. Questions are suited to all abilities and you can come on your own or as a couple. Details from Joy Mantell at: quizzing@wtu3a.org.uk

"Three phrases that sum up Christmas are: peace on earth, goodwill to men, and batteries not included." - Unknown

Remember to check the website www.wtu3a.org.uk for more up to date information and for any old newsletters and articles. Use the Search box or tag words on the right of the page. WTU3A has its own Facebook page with lots of photos on. Search for it, ask to join and within no time at all you could be viewing the albums.