



Weston Turville u3a Newsletter

January 2024

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

Next meeting Our first general meeting of the new year will be on **Thursday 25th January** at Aylesbury Rugby Club starting at 2.30pm. As well as the usual book swaps, group tables and refreshments (don't forget to bring your cup if you are having tea or coffee), there will be a presentation by Pete Allen on "The History of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane". This is his personal journey through the history of this famous theatre with tales of being the body double for the man who wrote "My Fair Lady" and almost being shot by the Queen Mother's security guard and all because of Ken Dodd!. The following meeting is on **Thursday 22nd February**.

Chairman's Report. Hello everyone, a very Happy New Year to you all, I hope everyone had an excellent Christmas.

Just a brief note from me this month. First, to draw your attention to the Defibrillator/CPR session on **Thursday 8th February**. You will read about this elsewhere but I hear this is an excellent session that concentrates on what to do in those first important moments of a medical emergency.

Secondly, to remind you that our next monthly meeting is on **Thursday 25th January**. Our speaker, Pete Allen will tell us about The Theatre Royal, a theatre where he has worked and knows well. I look forward to seeing you all on the 25th. *Chris Bennett – Chairman.*

Defibrillator training Members will have already received this information, but as a reminder the salient points are: **Thursday 8th February**, from 2pm at Weston Turville Village Hall. The session consists of using defibrillators properly and some basic First Response first aid. There is no charge for this and all members are welcome to attend. However, in order to know how many members are intending to come it is essential that you register at: defib@wtu3a.org.uk If the session is oversubscribed, we will run another one in the next few months.

"January is the perfect time to reflect on the past year and set intentions for the year ahead." – Oprah Winfrey

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.

2024 General Meetings For those of you sorting out their diaries for the new year our general meetings are scheduled for the following dates:

25th January, 22nd February, 28th March, 25th April, 23rd May (AGM), 27th June, 25th July, 22nd August, 26th September, 24th October and 28th November with no meeting in December

They are all on Thursday afternoons at Aylesbury Rugby Club in the village and normally start at 2.30pm with a finish soon after 4pm.

National news The u3a movement is having its first ever festival between **18th and 20th July** where members will be running a wide variety of activities including talks, sporting activities, musical entertainment and workshops. It is at the University of York's exhibition centre and accommodation is available on the campus. Rooms are £61.80pp and include breakfast. Tickets for the three days will cost a very reasonable £35. Further details are available on the national website: www.u3a.org.uk

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Trips The 2024 programme is being planned and the likely visits are to Hampton Court in the spring, the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire in September and Highgate Cemetery on a date to be decided. If you are interested in any of these trips, or have any other suggestions for possible visits, please let Mandi Simons know as soon as possible on trips@wtu3a.org.uk The criteria is destinations are not more than two hours by coach, accessible by all members and combined price of coach and tour is less than £60 each.

Theatre Visits Coming up soon are the following performances at the Waterside in Aylesbury: Contact Melanie Evans at: theatre@wtu3a.org.uk if you are interested in any of these.

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

“Welcome January - January is a time of quiet and new beginnings - is the perfect time to reflect on how you want to live your life. January is the perfect time to refocus on your priorities and to set goals.” Unknown

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Gardening There is no meeting in January so the group's next get together will be on **Monday 26th February** at the Chapel Room in Weston Turville with a talk on bees and their value in the garden. Details: Jenny Hunt or Rosemary Williams on gardening@wtu3a.org.uk

Wine Group 2 The December meeting ended up with members being spoilt with champagne, fine wines, canapes, mince pies and cheese straws. These, together with a quiz and raffle, ended a successful year for the group. Unfortunately the group is now full so could a third wine group be on the cards especially as there are so many oenophiles in our membership?

Science and Technology The meeting on **Thursday 1st February** will be in the Chapel Room at 2pm when there will be a talk on, subject to confirmation by the provider, getting the best out of your mobile phone. The alternative will be a presentation on materials, ceramics and composites.

After that we are out on visits and these will be: **Thursday 7th March** a visit to the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford. The entrance is free as we have not been able to secure a guide. A virtual tour is available online if anyone is interested.

Thursday 11th April a repeat of the 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 follow.

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

Quiz afternoons The next quiz afternoons will be on **Fridays 26th January and 23rd February**. The start time is 2.30pm in the Chapel Room. Individuals and couples are welcome so you don't need to have a complete team to take part. Details from Joy Mantell at: quizzing@wtu3a.org.uk

Petanque Weather permitting, the group meets between 2pm and 4pm every Monday. It takes place on the petanque court behind the village hall in Weston Turville. Equipment isn't necessary as some can be provided. Details from Ken Shaw on: petanque@wtu3a.org.uk

"January brings the snow – makes our feet and fingers glow" Sara Coleridge

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Chess Chess, chat and chips form the basis of the Chess Group meetings and all are optional. You can come and play or watch chess, no experience is necessary, have a chat about chess or anything else you fancy talking about, and the chips (together with excellent fish) are available for anyone who wants to have a superb lunch. The meetings are on the second and fourth Friday of each month at 12.30pm, with the next one being on **26th January**, at the Chandos in Weston Turville. More details of the group from Geoffrey Howell on: chess@wtu3a.org.uk

Coffee morning with ACu3a The first meetings for 2024 will be on **Thursday 18th January** and then **Thursday 15th February** from 10.30am at the Five Bells in Weston Turville. The group's contact is Marie Jones on coffee@wtu3a.org.uk

Garden Visits To begin our New Year of garden visiting we have the opportunity to visit a garden in Great Missenden which is opening for the first time by arrangement with the National Garden Scheme to showcase Katharine Hersee's collection of snowdrops. Touchwood, Grimms Hill, Great Missenden is a 2 acre garden containing drifts of common snowdrops as well as a few unusual ones. Strong structure is provided by terracing, walls and topiarised yew hedging. The visit starts with a short illustrated talk about snowdrop varieties before we explore the snowdrops lining the paths and rockery. The visit will end with a hot drink and a slice of cake. It takes place on **Tuesday 20th February** from 2pm and the cost will be £10 as a cash donation to the NGS. Numbers are limited to a maximum of 25 and we would plan to meet about 1pm in the car park of the Five Bells in Weston Turville in order to arrange car-sharing for those who do not drive. If you are interested please contact Heather Marshall on gardens@wtu3a.org.uk and include a phone number with your message.

Walking Group The next walk is on **Tuesday 13th February** and features some 4½ miles of woodland, with just one stile, based at the Half Moon in Cholesbury. Lunch is available there for those wanting it and there is also plenty of parking there. Meeting time is from 10am, although transport can be provided for those needing it. Details from Sylv Elliott at: walkers@wtu3a.org.uk The previous outing was supported by 19 members who enjoyed a walk round Wigginton on a crisp but sunny morning.

“January was a two-faced month, jangling like jester’s bells, crackling like snow crust, pure as any beginning, grim as an old man, mysteriously familiar yet unknown, like a word one can almost but not quite define.”- Patricia Highsmith

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