



Weston Turville u3a Newsletter

January 2025

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

A Happy New Year to you all

Next meeting We meet up again on **Thursday 23rd January** – 2.30pm at the Rugby Club. We have Jeff Evans talking to us on “The questionable history of the TV Quiz Show.” Jeff’s illustrated and entertaining talk covers the whole colourful history of the TV quiz from the 1930s until today, showing how the format developed, celebrating the good, the bad and the ugly as well as some very dodgy dealing along the way.

As usual, teas and coffees will be available (don’t forget to bring your own cup) and the book swap and group tables will also take place. The date for the following general meeting is **Thursday 27th February**.

Chairman’s Report Firstly, a happy and successful 2025 to all members. There will be much to look forward to with confidence in 2025 with our customary meetings and events – and doubtless one or two new ones as well. This is a good moment for me to pay a **proper tribute to all our group leaders**, who work so hard on behalf of us all. We would not survive - and thrive - without them and so I say a sincere thank you to them all on your behalf.

You will see a note on the next page about **Paying for u3a Group trips**. It is self-explanatory. I hope you will agree that it will make the business easier and clearer in future for all concerned, not least our group leaders.

As a person who enjoys for instance ‘Quiz Monday’ on BBC2 (not that I can answer more than the very occasional question each week) I am looking forward to hearing Jeff Evans’ talk about the history of TV quiz shows at our first general meeting next week – see you there! *Simon Evers - Chairman*

“January is full of potential, filled with chances to make today better than yesterday.”

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.

Paying for U3a Group trips As you will know, a number of group leaders kindly arrange trips for members of their groups. Recently, some group leaders have had considerable problems with members who have expressed an interest in going on a trip but have subsequently withdrawn, thereby causing difficulties where, in particular, transport is by coach.

Your Committee met recently and discussed this situation and have consequently decided unanimously that:

1. In future, if a member books for a trip, he or she will be asked to pay the full cost of the trip up front by a particular date in advance.
2. If he or she is subsequently unable to attend (for whatever reason) no refund will be given.

I am sure you will appreciate the reason for this decision and will understand that this move will make things a great deal easier for our hard-working group leaders and for our Treasurer.

I sincerely hope this move will not deter you from booking a group trip in future.

Simon Evers (Chairman)

Dates for your diary Now you probably have a new diary or calendar for 2025 you may like to enter the dates of our general meetings. They are all on the fourth Thursday of the month at Aylesbury Rugby Club in Brook End, Weston Turville and will normally start at 2.30pm.

23rd January	27th February	27th March
24th April	22nd May (AGM)	26th June
24th July (social)	28th August	25th September
23rd October	27th November (Christmas entertainment)	

There is no meeting in December.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Quiz group Quizzes restart on **Friday 24th January** at 2.30 in the Weston Turville Chapel Hall which, as usual, will be nice and warm. 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, as a couple or as a team. The following two quiz afternoons are on **Fridays 28th February** and **28th March**. Your £2 entrance also covers tea and biscuits. Details from Joy Mantell at: quizzing@wtu3a.org.uk

“January is the month to stop making excuses and start making progress.”

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Rummikub The group resumes on **Tuesday 21st January** at 2pm in the Five Bells in the village and thereafter on the third Tuesday of each month. Details from Deborah Brown on: rummikub@wtu3a.org.uk

Discussion Group There was a lively discussion at our first meeting on 2025 when heating our homes was one of the subjects talked about. The next meeting of the group will take place at 10.30 am on **Friday 7th February** at the Five Bells, Weston Turville. Further details of the group are available from Terry Jones at discussion@wtu3a.org.uk

Joint Coffee morning with ACu3a Our first coffee morning is on **Thursday 16th January** at the Five Bells in Weston Turville starting at 10.30am. All other get togethers are on the third Thursday of each month (same time, same place) so for your diary they are on: **20th February, 20th March, 17th April, 15th May, 19th June, 17th July, 21st August, 18th September, 16th October and 20th November.** Marie Jones on coffee@wtu3a.org.uk will let you have further details.

Theatre visits On **Thursday 13th February** at 2.30pm at the Waterside in Aylesbury there is a play “Bird Song” (tickets £30.50) which is the story of love and courage based on Sebastian Faulk’s bestselling novel. Over to Milton Keynes Theatre and 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.

Card making This new group meets on the second Thursday of each month from 10am in the Chapel Room (next one on **13th February**). More information from Lindsey Beer on cardmaking@wtu3a.org.uk

Mahjong Also on the second Thursday of each month, but in the afternoon – 2pm to 4pm – in the Chapel Room is the Mahjong group. 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

Chess With the group meeting on the second and fourth Fridays of each month, the next ones are on **24th January** and **14th February**. You don’t have to play chess as you can come along, watch and partake of the Chandos’ lovely fish and chips. 12.30pm is the start time. More information from Geoffrey Howell at: chess@wtu3a.org.uk

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Gardening The gardeners are back on **Monday 27th January** at 2pm in the Chapel Hall in School Lane. The first meeting of the year will be a social occasion and will include a fairly easy gardening quiz (so bring along a writing implement). Meetings for the rest of the year are on the fourth Monday of each month, except May, August and December which are Bank Holidays. Meetings will include speakers and during the summer months hopefully visits to group members' gardens. Jenny Hunt on: gardening@wtu3a.org.uk can let you have further details.

Garden Visits **Tuesday 18th February** is the date for group's for visit of the year when they are going to 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. The group is still looking for a new leader so if you are interested please contact either Heather Marshall on gardens@wtu3a.org.uk or our Chairman Simon Evers.

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

Patchwork & Quilting The group were back in action very early in the new year and the next session is on **Tuesday 21st January**. Meetings are on the first and third Tuesday of each month 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.

Art & Culture With the trip to the Royal Opera House being full, don't miss out on their next visit which will be in April to 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 to follow shortly. Group contacts are John Masters and Chris Bennett on: culture@wtu3a.org.uk.

"If I had my way, I would remove January from the calendar altogether and have an extra July instead." — Roald Dahl

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