



Weston Turville u3a Newsletter

October 2024

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

General meetings Our September meeting was local u3a member John Wilford's fascinating insight into the rock and roll scene of the 1960s through to the 1990s and what life was like for a "roadie". We also had a well-supported sale of Christmas cards on behalf of Barnado's and afterwards received the following message:

We would like to thank the Chairman and Committee for allowing us the opportunity to sell Barnardo's charity Christmas cards and to all the members for their kind generosity.

We are pleased to announce that you raised an amazing sum of £120

Thank you - Paul & Sue Brown

The next general meeting is on **Thursday 24th October** when Colin Oakes will speak about the criminal and shady aspects of Covent Garden before it turned into the trendy and tourist area it is now. As usual, refreshments and the popular book/magazine/jigsaw swaps will be on hand as will the opportunity to get your tickets for both the Quiz Night and the Christmas Lunch.

The following general meeting is on **Thursday 28th November** and will have a festive theme.

Chairman's Report It was good to see so many people at the monthly meeting, despite the rain – and the car parking difficulties, about which we had been given no notice. Thank you to all who attended – and in particular to those non-members who also joined us.

I am sure everyone enjoyed John Wilford's talk about his Rock n Roll years, which certainly brought back many memories of long-forgotten pop groups of our youth, not least through excerpts of some of their music. John told us in his modest way of many well-known characters he had worked with and gave us a fascinating insight into his life on the road over many years. Our thanks to him. This month, Colin Oakes will tell us about 'The Wicked History of Covent Garden' which in the past was a long way from what the area is now. A reminder that all members are very welcome at our monthly meetings, where not only are you entertained by a variety of speakers but you can find out more about various groups, sign up to trips, swap a book or a jigsaw puzzle – and

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enjoy a cup of tea or coffee! What better way to spend a (perhaps cold) October Thursday afternoon?

Also, as time goes on, not only are we signing on new members but also seeing several new groups being established. Weston Turville u3a is certainly living up to the motto 'learn, laugh, live!' *Simon Evers - Chairman*

Quiz Night This is on **Friday 8th November** at Weston Turville Village Hall. Doors open at 6.30 for a 7pm start. Tables are for 6 or 8 people so you can come as a team or on your own. This year there is no food so bring your own food, snacks and drink. Buy your tickets (£5 each) at a general meeting or via quiznight@wtu3a.org.uk and the closing date is Saturday 2nd November.

Christmas Lunch A reminder that the lunch is on **Friday 13th December** at Weston Turville Golf Club in New Road. The cost is £35 which includes four courses, service and a raffle. Tickets will be on sale at the October general meetings and the last chance to buy yours (if there are any left) will be the November meeting. The menu options have been in the last two newsletters and further details can be had from Sarah Gunn or Rosemary Williams at: xmaslunch@wtu3a.org.uk

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Discussion Group The first meeting of this new group will be on **Friday 18th October**, at 10.30 am in the 5 Bells, Weston Turville. Please bring with you any suggestions for discussion. All are welcome. Further details of the group from Terry Jones at discussion@wtu3a.org.uk

Joint Coffee morning with ACu3a Why not come along for a drink with likeminded u3a members at our joint coffee mornings which are on **Thursdays 17th October** and **21st November** at the Five Bells in Weston Turville. They start at 10.30am and finish around 12. Marie Jones on coffee@wtu3a.org.uk will be happy to provide details, or you can just turn up.

Science and Technology Due to an issue at one of the museums the Basingstoke trip earlier this month had to be cancelled and as this would have been the last visit of the year the group won't meet again until early in 2025. Group leader John Beer would be delighted to hear of any suggestions for speakers or visits so if you have any thoughts please contact John at science@wtu3a.org.uk

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Quiz group The final two quiz afternoons for this year are on **Fridays 25th October** and **22nd November** in the Chapel Room starting at 2.30pm. Either come on your own and bring a team of about four people. Details from Joy Mantell at: quizzing@wtu3a.org.uk

Theatre visits Group Leader Melanie Evans has already planned some events for 2025 and we start with “Calamity Jane – the Musical” at the Waterside in Aylesbury on **Wednesday 15th January** at 7.30pm with tickets being £37.50. Also at the Waterside we have, on **Thursday 13th February** at 2.30pm a play “Bird Song” which is a mesmerising story of love and courage based on Sebastian Faulk’s bestselling novel. £30.50 will get you a ticket. The Trotters are back in town, well Milton Keynes actually, with the “Only Fools and Horses Musical” at 2.30pm on **Wednesday 19th March** with tickets being £45.50. If you are interested in going to any of these performances and want more details contact Melanie at theatre@wtu3a.org.uk.

Chess Chess, chat and chips are available on the second and fourth Friday of each month at the Chandos in the village from 12.30pm so the next ones will be on **18th October** as well as **8th** and **22nd November**. You don’t have to play chess or eat fish and chips, but the chat will make it a convivial occasion. More information from Geoffrey Howell at: chess@wtu3a.org.uk

Card Making Although there are several members taking part in the group and some of their lovely cards were on display at the last general meeting, there is still space for anyone else who wants to come along. They meet on the second Thursday of each month, so the next one is on **14th November** from 10am until 12.00 in the Chapel Room. Contact Lindsey Beer at: cardmaking@wtu3a.org.uk

Rummikub This a game that is loosely based on rummy and provides a couple of hours of great enjoyment. They meet on the third Tuesday of each month at the Five Bells in the village from 2pm so the next ones are on **15th October** and **19th November**. Deborah Brown will gladly fill you in with more details at rummikub@wtu3a.org.uk

Handbell Ringing This group meets on Friday mornings at 10am at John Beer’s house in the village and at present some Christmas carols are being practised. New and prospective members are welcome and musical knowledge is not necessary. For more information contact John at handbells@wtu3a.org.uk

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Walking Group Due to the recent bad weather, the intended October walk had to be changed, so the intrepid walkers had a flat, but muddy trip round Ashridge. The next walk will be on **Tuesday 12th November** and will use the route planned for October which is based at the Cock & Rabbit at The Lee. As always more details from Sylv Elliott at walkers@wtu3a.org.uk

Art & Culture Tate Britain visit on **19th November**. We have over 20 of us visiting Tate Britain in November for a guided tour. The response has been excellent and we are afraid the trip is now full.

Our next visit is to the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and a behind the scenes tour of this iconic theatre, the home of Royal Opera and Royal Ballet. The guided tour exclusive to WTU3a, will explore spaces that are normally off limits to the public. Rehearsal Studios, Costume and Production Workshops, we'll hear tales of the many stars who have performed there!

The tour will be next February and we expect the cost to be £17 per person. There is a limit on numbers, 20 maximum, but we think the visit will prove to be popular, so hopefully and depending on final numbers, we will arrange two separate groups for the same day. Details and the actual date will follow next month.

John Masters and Chris Bennett culture@wtu3a.org.uk

Gardening At the September meeting the Gardening Group enjoyed a 'social' meeting recapping on the previous year of visiting speakers and visits to the gardens of colleagues. This was followed by a quiz presented by Rosemary Williams and won by Angela Williams (no relation) who was presented with a bottle of wine. Our next meeting will be on **Monday 28th October** with a presentation from Lindengate Wendover [see August newsletter] and our final meeting of the year is on **Monday 25th November** when u3a member Gaynor Edwards will be demonstrating the making of a Christmas Wreath. All our meetings start at 2pm in the Chapel Room in Weston Turville. If you are interested in joining the Group for hands on gardeners or require more details contact Jenny Hunt at: gardening@wtu3a.org.uk.

Finally #1 A couple of our members have asked whether we know of anyone who could help them learn to play the guitar. If you know of anyone who might be interested please let our Membership Secretary, Mike Munday know on: membership@wtu3a.org.uk

Finally #2 Don't forget the craft, cake and plant sale at the Chapel Room on **Saturday 26th October** from 10am. Refreshments will be also be available.

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