



Weston Turville u3a Newsletter

November 2024

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

Last meeting Those of you not at the last meeting missed a real treat with our speaker Colin Oakes giving us an hour's amusement and entertainment with his talk on the shady and sordid history of Covent Garden, and all done without notes. And it certainly was sordid! This was one of the best talks we have had in 2024 so congratulations to Speaker Secretary Carol Johnson for arranging it.

Next meeting **Thursday 28th November** is the date for our last general meeting of the year and it will be highlighted by singer Richard Stark who will get us into the festive spirit. As it is the Christmas meeting mulled wine and mince pies will be available, but if you are imbibing you will need to bring your cup or glass.

Chairman's Report Colin Oakes' talk at the October general meeting on the past history of Covent Garden pulled no punches: the Friday night behaviour in city centres which we hear about these days is nothing in comparison! He was a fund of amazing facts and kept everybody wrapt for an hour.

We were joined by over 80 members for our Quiz Evening on 8th November and it seemed to be a real success, thanks to Paul Fincken and Jane Hobson, our quizmaster and quizmistress. With a wide variety of questions and some spot prizes our brains were well stretched! Many thanks also to Polly Wilkinson, who dealt with all the bookings. This looks set to be an annual event in our calendar.

It was good to see a number of members joining the large gathering at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday where I laid a wreath on behalf of us all.

Richard Stark's Christmas Swing and Carol Concert at the meeting on the 28th promises to help put us in the Christmas spirit and we will also be serving mulled wine and mince pies. A reminder that there is no meeting in December – the next is on **23rd January**. However, quite a few groups are getting together for Festive lunches in the next few weeks and of course there is our main Christmas lunch on 13th December. In case I don't see you beforehand I hope you and your families have a really good Christmas and thank you for your support during 2024. *Simon Evers - Chairman*

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.

Christmas Lunch Tickets are now sold out for our lunch on **Friday 13th December** at Weston Turville Golf Club in New Road.

u3a Diaries As mentioned earlier, we are not getting a bulk order of u3a diaries this year but if you want one you can buy it directly from u3a headquarters. They are available from the new u3a 'Brand Shop'. The cost for a 2025 diary is £9.72 including postage and packing. The link to order on-line is <https://u3a-shop.co.uk>.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Discussion Group The first meeting of this new group was held recently and there was a good turn out with some lively discussion for the first gathering. From now on the group will meet on the first **Friday** of each month at the Five Bells in the village so the next ones will be on **6th December** and **3rd January**. Please bring with you any suggestions for discussion and further details of the group are available 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** with the last one for the year being on **21st November** at the Five Bells in Weston Turville. It will 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.

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

Quiz group Our last quiz for this year is on **Friday 22nd November** 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

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 **22nd November and 13th December**. 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

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Gardening At the October meeting eighteen members of the Gardening Group welcomed Brian Brady from the Lindengate Charity which provides support and therapeutic gardening activities for people who may be affected by mental health issues including those who may be socially isolated or suffering from depression. Brian told us that Lindengate is a six acre garden sited adjacent to Dobbies Nurseries on the Wendover Road in Weston Turville and has large poly-tunnels, heritage orchard, kitchen garden, sensory garden, wildflower nursery lawns and ponds and woodworking shed all maintained by some 200 volunteers [volunteer@lindengate.org.uk]. The garden is open to the public Wednesdays to Fridays 11am – 4pm and Saturdays 1– 4pm and relies on donations and grants in order to meet running costs.

Our next meeting is on **Monday 25th November** in the Chapel Room. On this occasion we have Gaynor Edwards demonstrating how to make a Christmas door wreath. However she asks if we could help by providing a variety of evergreen foliage for her to use which would be really helpful for the demonstration as she does not have a large garden. Just a few small pieces of the following would be useful: skimmia which is similar to holly but with smooth leaves with red berries at this time of the year, cupresses; [conifer], pine, yew, spruce, eucalyptus or anything with red berries. If possible could you also bring for your own use a couple of pine cones as Gaynor will show us how to attach these to a decoration. If you are interested in joining the group for hands on gardeners or want more details contact Jenny Hunt at: gardening@wtu3a.org.uk.

Theatre visits Coming up in early 2025 we have: “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” (tickets £30.50) which is a mesmerising story of love and courage based on Sebastian Faulk’s bestselling novel. The Trotters are at Milton Keynes Theatre with the “Only Fools and Horses Musical” at 2.30pm on **Wednesday 19th March**. Tickets are £45.50. If you are interested in going to any of these performances and want more details contact Melanie Evans at theatre@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

“In November you begin to know how long the winter will be” Martha Gellhorn

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Art & Culture Just imagine walking in the steps of Callas & Pavarotti, Nureyev & Fonteyn, well you can! Our behind-the-scenes tour of the Royal Opera House has created a lot of interest, the list of those wishing to go is growing! We can now confirm the date for this tour, **Tuesday 18th February**. John and Chris will be at the next general meeting taking names and answering questions. Cost very much down to numbers but between £16 and £22. More news from John Masters and Chris Bennett on: culture@wtu3a.org.uk.

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. We have group member Doreen Day to thank for the suggestion and for contacting Sandra on our behalf. Sadly this will be the final garden visit I am able to arrange as my house is on the market and I expect the process of moving home will keep me quite busy. I do hope that one or two of our current group might be interested in continuing with planning and arranging future garden visits. If you can help please contact either Heather on gardens@wtu3a.org.uk or our Chairman Simon Evers.

Patchwork & Quilting The group normally meets 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.

Network News The Thames Valley u3a Network has another one of its Zoom meeting coming up on **Thursday 21st November** at 10.30am with Sue Doran talking about her new book "From Tudors to Stuarts". The fee for this event is £2.00 and places can be booked using their website www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk They also have a Winter Quiz on Zoom at 2.30pm on **Friday 6th December**. Although it is free you have to book at least two days beforehand on their website.

Local u3a news The Wendover branch is running a trip to Southern Scotland between 9th and 15th June and there are some places available. The cost will be around £995. More details on their website or from Belinda Horn at 01296 624200.

"Fallen leaves lying on the grass in the November sun bring more happiness than the daffodils" Cyril Connolly

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