

In the bleak mid-winter
But let's hope it isn't
too bleak!



Wishing you a wonderful
festive season with friends
and family

The next Coffee Morning is on Wednesday 6th December at 10.30am

Held in the front room of Westerham Hall, these events provide an excellent opportunity to chat and get to know other members.

In place of the Open Meeting, the Christmas Lunch is on Thursday 7th December

To be held at Westerham Golf Club for members only. You are probably too late to join the celebration this year but contact Tina in case of any cancellations.

Dates for your Diary

January 3rd Wednesday - Coffee Morning

January 11th Thursday – Open Meeting - Bugging the Nazis by Helen Fry

Historian, Helen, has written many books about British Intelligence, espionage and WWII and appears regularly in TV documentaries. She will be talking about the 'secret listeners' who 'bugged' the conversations of German prisoners of war, held in Stately Homes around London, who often spoke unguardedly and gave away Hitler's secrets!

Christmas Tree Festival

This year, as usual, Westerham u3a will have an entry in the [Christmas Tree Festival](#) which will be held at St Mary's Church from 30th November to 12th December. Get into the festive spirit by popping along to admire them **all**.



Outings

Following the overwhelming support for outings this year - Windsor and Coolings 'Behind the Scenes' - we are planning to arrange more trips that aren't restricted to individual interest groups but are open to all U3a members. We would like ideas from you as to where you would like to go, so please put your thinking caps on and let Tony know your ideas.



On May 16th, under the auspices of the architecture group and following on from her lecture on the East India Company earlier this year, Penny is arranging a **coach trip to Brighton**. This will include a guided tour of the Pavilion but also time to explore the Lanes or maybe enjoy a fish & chip lunch on the beach! Costs are still being finalised, but the coach fare is likely to be around £30 plus around £10 for the tour. There should be space on the coach for anyone who would just like to spend a day 'beside the seaside' without the Pavilion visit. Please contact Penny to reserve a place.

Drama for All

Join us for an evening performance of 'The Winslow Boy' by Terence Rattigan on Tuesday, 26th of March at the Miller Centre in Caterham. It is based on the true story of a family fighting to clear their son's name, after he was accused of stealing and subsequently expelled from the Royal Naval College. Tickets are max £14.00 so book your place now.

Another play that has been suggested is 'The Unfriend' starring comedian, Lee Mack, which will certainly put you off wanting to 'keep in touch' with fellow travellers - it can be a big mistake! This will be in late February and tickets are expected to be £45-50. Let Jan know if you are interested.

Tickets for local theatres are much cheaper as illustrated by the Miller Centre above. You may like an evening with 'Blackadder' at Bromley Little Theatre from 8-16th December as an alternative to the pantomime - with tickets at £14 they won't break the bank! Be warned, this is a quirky, homely, converted building and does have some steep steps (there is a lift) but the acting standard is exceptionally high. No group booking for this but I will be there on Monday 11th should you wish to join me. [Book online](#) Please let Jan know what is coming up at your local theatre over the coming months so we can enjoy some good drama together at a reasonable cost.

Sorry, No refunds!

When you book a place for any organised event you make a commitment as usually the price is dependent on the number attending. Once you have paid for your ticket then there can be no refunds. We know there are always justifiable reasons why you cannot attend but it is your responsibility to either find a replacement or forfeit the money, the u3a cannot bear the cost of unsold tickets. This is exactly what would happen if you had bought the ticket direct from the theatre, albeit at an increased price! It is always worth contacting the organiser to see if there is a waiting list and it may be possible to circulate details to the whole u3a membership.

News from the Groups

West End Musicals contact Chris



Plans are taking shape for an exciting 2024 programme with 'The King & I' sold out in February. Decisions are needed but we must be sure there is sufficient demand before bookings can be made. We realise it is difficult without a specific date but if you think you could be interested in Jazz at the Royal Albert Hall in March, 'Sister Act' in April or 'Abba Voyager' in June/July contact Chris at once to ensure you are on the list of potentials.

Later in the year suggested productions include 'Devil Wears Prada', 'Starlight Express', 'Cabaret' and 'Hamilton' so if any of those appeal let Chris know so he can plan his bookings accordingly. He will also be interested to hear of other productions that could be popular with members.

Line Dancing – contact Wendy

There was a swinging start to the Line Dancing season with 16 'youngish' people stomping and kicking with gusto! Gemma led the dancing with easy to follow instructions and we left wanting more! For some it was their first time but soon got into the swing - going wrong is part of the fun! We were delighted to be joined by friends from Edenbridge but there's room for more! To cover the hall hire a fee of £4 is currently charged but if numbers increase this could be reduced, so come along to the next session on 20th November and bring your friends.



Mahjong – contact Hilary



The mahjong players have moved! The new meeting place for their weekly - 10.00am on Thursday morning - sessions is the Westerham Bowls Club, Costells Meadow, Westerham, a cosy room with plenty of free parking and coffee making facilities! The yearly fee of £20 even includes social membership of the Bowls Club as a bonus! New members of any standard are always welcome so contact Hilary for joining details.

You are receiving this as a member of Westerham u3a Charity Number 1178122

Our website: <https://www.westerhamu3a.org>

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