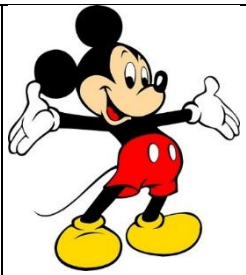
Westerham Newsletter November 2026

	9th November 1989 After 28 years of dividing East and West Germany, the gates were thrown open. East and West Berliners climbed onto the wall, one of the most joyous geopolitical moments of the 20th century.		**Fascinating Facts!** **18 November 1928** *Steamboat Willie*, the first cartoon with synchronized sound! Mickey Mouse was an instant global star and it built the foundation of the Disney empire

Next Coffee Morning is Wednesday 4th November at 10.30am in the Hall Front Room

At our coffee mornings there is a chance to meet new friends, often newly joined members who are a bit nervous about not knowing anyone. Don't forget there is no such thing as a stranger – they are just friends you have yet to meet - so come along and meet them on Wednesday!

Open Meeting on Thursday 12th November at 2pm in Westerham Hall

'Our Christmas Traditions – A Box of Christmas Delights'! by Gilly Halcrow
She will examine the derivation of Yuletide traditions, from mistletoe and carols to mince pies and cards, also including the first Royal Christmas broadcasts.

Dates for your Diary

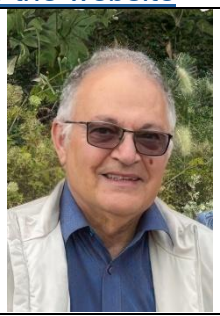
Wednesday 3rd December – Coffee Morning
Wednesday 18th November – Note: Rescheduled date for our Annual Quiz
Thursday 10th December - Christmas Lunch + Quiz, Westerham Golf Club
If you haven't yet booked your place, please contact Anita as soon as possible.

AGM 2026

The business agenda was completed very quickly but, due to a variety of reasons, we had 4 new committee members to elect. Our sincere thanks go to Stuart, Anita, Hilary and Brenda for working so hard during their term of office.

Our Groups Coordinator and Vice Chairman, Stuart, has been in the post since 2013 so felt that it was time to step down. Initially the term of office was 3 years but in the absence of volunteers, the constitution was changed so the tenure became 13! Chairman Chris described him as 'a legend' as over the years he has had ideas for - and set up - new groups, produced all the artwork for the notice board and supported the group contacts.

Our new Committee members were formally elected at the 2026 AGM.
For further details see the website

			
John Stewart Vice Chairman & Groups Co-ordinator	Felicity Armitage Treasurer From December 2026	Alex Psaila Secretary	Caroline Tatchell Membership Secretary

You are receiving this as a member of Westerham u3a Charity Number 1178122
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Holidays 2027
The holiday to Cheshire, Liverpool & Manchester in May is now fully subscribed. Check the details
If you wish to join the waiting list in case of cancellations, please contact Gary

You may be too late for the May trip but another treat is on the horizon! 'The History & Chateaux of the Loire Valley' holiday departs on October 3rd and includes coach travel, via the Eurotunnel, and half board accommodation for £1299 (+ £149 for a single room). For full details and booking form Check out the details

Bayeux Tapestry Exhibition British Museum

I was lucky enough to get tickets for the Bayeux Tapestry! What an experience! You stare in admiration at a work of art created almost 1000 years ago yet the colours are still striking. It is certain to have been worked on by English nuns and wealthy widows, either in England or taken to France by their Norman conquerors! In pictures you see William and Henry's struggle for the crown as you walk slowly past. Don't be put off by the media reports of queues, yes, there were some but they are gradually improving the flow and it is all forgotten when you stand in front of it, listening to the App. It is an emotional experience not to be missed so book tickets if you can!

Report by Jan Chart

News from the Groups

complete reports may appear on the website

Possible new Group? 'More About London' contact Linda westerhamu3a@hotmail.co.uk
Linda is still trying to get this new group off the ground so is holding a meeting of anyone interested in getting to know our capital better, maybe by visiting places less well known. The idea is to meet each other, have a chat and try to organise some walks/visits ready for 2027.
Please do come. Any suggestions will be welcome!

Art Appreciation contact Peter westerhamu3a@hotmail.co.uk

We enjoyed a pleasant visit to Watts Gallery near Guildford in October. For most it was a first visit but an excellent gallery tour introduced us to the works of G F Watts. He was a remarkably successful Victorian painter doing portraiture for the rich and famous and later completing more allegorical painting, clearly part of the Symbolist movement. He also was a sculptor and particularly interesting was the mould for 'Physical Energy'. His wife, Mary, commissioned Limnerslease, an impressive Arts and Crafts house, and involved local people in decorating the cemetery chapel with experimental wall paintings. It would be well worth taking time to visit again.

Paris French Group contact Penny westerhamu3a@hotmail.co.uk

8 members of the Paris conversation group met to read a lesser-known Molière play called 'l'Ecole des Femmes' – the theme revolves around the idea that a naïve and uneducated woman will make an obedient and faithful wife! The reading was of a very high standard and there was much amusement at the plot, originally written in 1662. New, fluent speakers are welcome to join us, contact Penny for information.

Report by Sarah Darby

London Explorers contact Liz westerhamu3a@hotmail.co.uk

We walked through Marylebone with our guide, John, who kept us enthralled with stories that have shaped the area since the 18th century. The River Tyburn still flows under the streets and was the border for the landowners, including Edward Harley, Earl of Oxford (hence Oxford St and Harley St). We passed Wimpole Mews where Stephen Ward had his osteopath practice and saw Octavia Hill's first refurbishment of slum housing. Nearby was the 'The Grotto - Ragged and Industrial School' - of which Dr Barnardo was a supporter. We managed to walk past the enticing shops in Marylebone High Street, even La Fromagerie, but many stayed on for refreshments at Wetherspoons!

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