

Watford Central

U3A

Learn

Laugh

Live

Volume 13, Issue 12 : December 2024

www.u3asites.org.uk/watford-



Credit: *Watford Observer*

Watford Central u3a Christmas Party 2024 will be held on
Thursday, 5th December at 2.00pm
at the Ex-Services Club, 12-14 St Albans Road, Watford WD17 1BN

PREPARE YOURSELVES FOR A FUN AFTERNOON

WITH THE NEWKULELE BAND,

FESTIVE MINCE PIES & OTHER TREATS!

We are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible and send our fondest Christmas and New Year wishes to those who cannot be with us



CHAIRMAN'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Hello Everyone,

We've Gone Live!

I am very pleased to say that our new website went live on Friday 22nd November. You can use the email address watfordcentral.u3asite.uk and up it will pop. You can find it on any computer and also on mobile devices. The clever programmers (the bit few of us understand) have made it so that the site looks good on whatever device used.



A mixture of photographs and illustrations have been used to create each page. There are details of all the groups, locations and leaders and as time goes on, the monthly newsletter and other details of meetings and activities will be added as a regular practice. Please keep sending your photographs so there are a variety to choose from.

Lunch Group

The next lunch group will be on Thursday 16th January and at this moment the venue is a mystery. All will be revealed next month when we've had a think about where we would like to go and all the details will be in the January newsletter.

Theatre Visits

After the pantomime finishes the theatre has a few shows which are for just one night. The next production with a matinee will be on Saturday 15th February 2025.

These are the details:

*For the first time in Watford Palace Theatre history, ALGSS proudly presents Offenbach's operetta "**Orpheus in the Underworld**", the comic reimagining of the Orpheus myth. With a libretto by political satirist and comedian Rory Bremner, this production breathes new life into the classic tale.*

Expect a delightful show of satirical humour that critiques society while exploring themes of love, infidelity, and social pressure. The show is brought to life with lively melodies and features the iconic 'Can-can'.

What have Watford Central u3a members been doing in 2024 and what's happening in 2025?



Lunch Club

Our recent visit to West Herts College restaurant was very enjoyable. The service, food and atmosphere were second to none. Everyone left for home with happy hearts and full tummies!

More delicious meals at our favourite (and possibly new) venues will be arranged in 2025.

Out & About Visits was formed recently and so far we have had great success with minibus travel to Church Gardens in Harefield and the British Schools Museum in Hitchin. We are looking forward to more of these trips in 2025, so check our notifications in 2025 for details.



The Victoria & Albert Museum

Interest Days Out have varied this year. Following our London Underground journey last September, we visited the William Morris Gallery - a most interesting experience - and we learned how William Morris began his work designing wallpapers, textiles and carpets, patterns that are still used in textiles.

A Day Out to the V&A in November proved equally successful. The Victoria and Albert Museum in South Kensington is always worth repeating as it is one of our favourite London haunts.

There are ideas in the pipeline for some more trips for the new year, so check out our January 2025 notifications for some more interesting and exciting places to visit.

In the meantime, Happy Christmas and New Year to you all.

Walking Group

Our walkers travel around Watford and the surrounding areas, sometimes starting off with a bus or train ride to their chosen spot. From there a leisurely stroll for about an hour leads to some interesting finds, before enjoying a well earned cup of tea or coffee and heading for home.

This year, the group have been to Abbots Langley, Leavesden Country Park, along the Grand Union Canal and, of course, our own Green Flag Award Cassiobury Park.

New walkers are always welcome to join this friendly group.



These trees grow in Verulamium Park where our walkers will be heading in November.

The itinerary for the walk on the last Friday of January will be notified in December.

Below they are walking In October from Abbots Langley to Leavesden across a field and through woods.



WATFORD CENTRAL u3a CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year we are doing something a little different.

There will definitely be mince pies, there will definitely be mulled wine and definitely tea and coffee. There will definitely be very lovely joyful people who know how to have a good time. I mean, of course, all our lovely u3a members!

In addition, we will have the excellent Newkulele Band, This fantastic group of musicians, ukulele players and singers will be entertaining us with a selection of songs that will be familiar to all of us and they are more than happy for us to sing along with them.

It promises to be a happy and joyous afternoon and your Speaker Secretary can't wait to see all of you there.

Best wishes for Christmas and New Year from your Speaker Secretary

Editor's note: Thinking about 2025 ... we hope you have enjoyed our wide range of Speakers during 2024, arranged by our keen and able Speaker Secretary, who will definitely be looking at some more fantastic speakers for our General meetings next year. We will all definitely be happy about that.

Around Watford this Festive Season

Watford Phoenix Choir Christmas Concert will be at St Mary's Church

Church Street, Watford WD18 0EG

Saturday 7th December 2024, 5:30 pm 8:00 pm

- A fabulous, festive fundraising concert on Saturday 7th December at St Mary's Parish Church, Watford!
- The Watford Phoenix Choir will be performing a wonderful selection of songs at this Christmas concert with all money raised being donated to New Hope.
- Seasonal refreshments will be available - yes, that means mince pies!
- It is sure to be a lovely evening and a great opportunity to raise some money for those experiencing homelessness.

8th December

Watford Sunday Market (off the High Street by the flyover)

The market will have a festive twist, as it hosts a special Christmas market. Still serving up its produce and street food, there will be some extra touches to make it festive, like more food stalls and stands selling Christmas goods.

Visit Lanchester Primary School's Christmas Fair with festive fun for all the family.

Lanchester Primary School,
Hempstead Road, Watford.

Monday, 9th December
at 12:00PM - 3:00PM .

Santa and his elves will be there in his grotto checking his nice list with a gift for every child. Win some amazing prizes in our raffle, take part in lots of other festive games and enjoy hot foods and cakes.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER
2.00PM TO 4.00PM

STALLS | TOMBOLA | PHOTOS
REFRESHMENTS | GAMES

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

ST MARY'S CHURCH
WATFORD WD18 0EG

THE WATFORD BAND

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS 2024



We will be playing at various venues throughout Christmas.
Come and join in the festivities.

Carols at Tesco Extra

Lower High Street

Thursday, 19th December

6.30 - 8.30pm

Saturday, 21st December

10.00 am - 4.00 pm

Sunday, 22nd December

11.00 am - 3.00 pm

Tuesday, 24th December

11.00 am - 3.00 pm



For other festive activities in Watford and surrounding areas, check the Watford Observer, parish magazines and notice boards, plus Facebook etc.

Be mindful of slippery leaves even when there is no ice around **AND BE EXTRA CAREFUL IF THE TEMPERATURE DROPS BELOW ZERO.**

Stay warm when at home and wrap up well when going out.

Be wary also of scams and pick-pockets around this time of year. There are always unscrupulous people looking out for ways to find extra cash, especially in December and January.





& QUIZES

JOKES

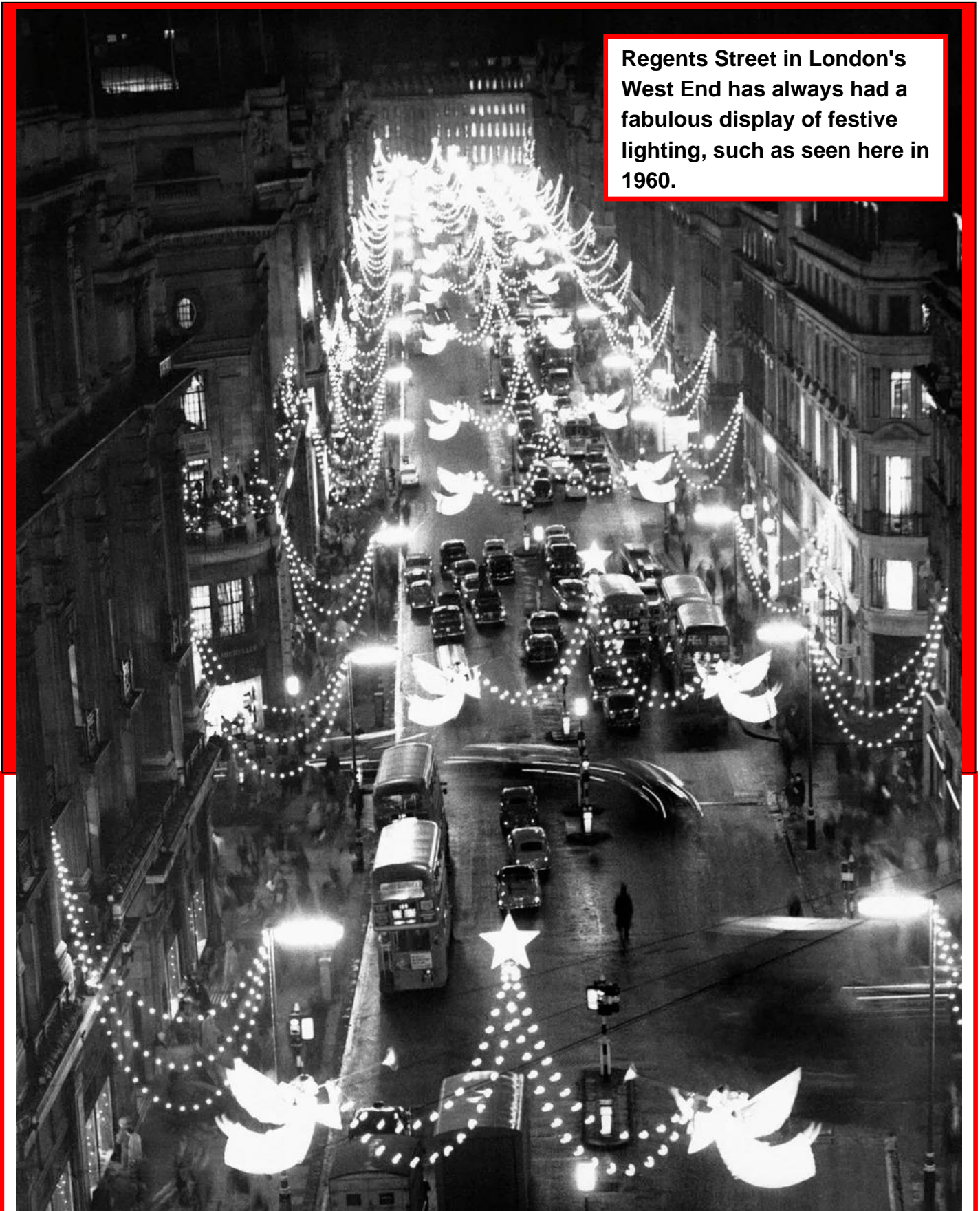
Since beginning the editing of your Newsletter, I have shied away from using quizzes to keep you amused. Your previous editor was a Wiz Kid (or should that be Quiz Kid) at this sort of thing and I certainly will never be able to compete. Anyway, here are a few festive ones I came across:

1. Why would you invite a mushroom to a Christmas party?
2. Who hides in the bakery at Christmas?
3. What's white and goes up?
4. On which side do chickens have the most feathers?
5. What happened to the man who stole an Advent Calendar?
6. Why does Santa have three gardens? *(Answers on back page)*

NOTABLE EVENTS IN 2024...

AND THESE WERE JUST IN JANUARY

1. Electronics brand LG unveils their Signature OLED T, the world's first wireless TV with a transparent screen at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.
2. US Army veteran Henry "Robby" Robinson (98) is awarded France's Medal of Honor for his service in WWII by French Ambassador to the US in a ceremony in Las Vegas, Nevada; Robinson worked as a scout behind enemy lines, fought in the Battle of the Bulge, participated in the liberation of the Mauthausen and Gusen concentration camps, and served as a guard during the Nuremberg Trials
3. Huge ancient city is discovered in the Amazon, in Upano area of eastern Ecuador, capable of supporting 10,000 people with sophisticated roads and canals.
4. New study finds largest great ape, Gigantopithecus blacki at 10 feet tall (3 meters), from southern China, went extinct because of climate change between 215,000 and 295,000 years ago.
5. "Wokery", "safe word", "forever chemical" and "swear box" added to the latest edition of the Oxford English Dictionary.
6. Christopher Marsh and Angela McShane launch website 100Ballads.org detailing top-selling broadside ballads of 17th century England, including images of original lyric sheets, and new musical recordings of the very old pop songs



Regents Street in London's West End has always had a fabulous display of festive lighting, such as seen here in 1960.

combined with a darkening of public opinion – meant that London went largely without Christmas lights for several years. During the late 1970s and early 1980s, the tradition returned once again, an initiative of local traders' associations.

(City Monitor)



A footnote from your editor

Let's consider our good fortune of still being around, following that awful pandemic which gripped the nation a few years back.

We should all make sure, if eligible, to take advantage of the free vaccines available via our precious NHS. We do not wish to see any of our members suffering from COVID, influenza or other respiratory conditions that could be avoided by vaccination.

A message from our Interest Group Leaders & Committee Members

We all wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and look forward to seeing members and new joiners at meetings in the Ex-Services Club, Bedford Almshouses and various venues in Watford next year.

Let's make 2025 a fantastic year for Watford Central u3a!



Answers to questions on Page 7

1. *He's a fun guy to be with*
2. *A mince spy*
3. *A confused snowflake*
4. *The outside*
5. *He got 25 days!*
6. *So he can 'ho ho ho'!*