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News Flash editorial changes

Mike Fourie has decided to step down as the Editor of New Flash. Stuart Campbell, trustee with responsibility for communications, writes: *"This newsletter, which Mike pioneered so successfully, has provided our U3A with relevant news and information for the best part of three years and is widely admired by other U3A's. His contribution as part of the Communications Team will certainly be missed".*

We are now looking for Mike's replacement who will become an integral part of the Communications team. They will have close liaison with those involved with website & Facebook pages, publication of the EYE and promoting U3A to the wider community.

You will receive full support to get established in the role. So if you can rephrase contributions into a short readable format, and have the capability to use a newsletter software package, then this is a great opportunity to see just how the wider U3A operates and is adapting to meet the challenges of the new decade.

If interested, please [email John Hancock](#) who will explain more about what the role entails, probably over a cup of coffee! For details of other opportunities to contribute to the running of our U3A, select [Volunteering Opportunities](#) to read about how you can get involved.

U3A joins Facebook

Social media plays an important part in today's world of instant communication. Folk looking for activities in retirement will increasingly turn to Facebook as a first point of contact. Read about this initiative using this link to an article on our website: [All about U3A on Facebook](#)

If you are one of our members with a Facebook account, visit us via this link: [Ilkley U3A Facebook Page](#). Whilst there, *like our page*. Also use the message facility and tell us how you feel we can do better to communicate via Facebook, website, News Flash or the EYE.

Even if you do not have a Facebook account, use the above link to visit the new page anyway. It is open for anyone to view.

Seen a pantomime this month?

Learn more about this seasonal entertainment. Select this link: [>> Just For Fun <<](#)

Recruitment of Walkers to help NHS

Would you be interested in leading walks from the Doctor's Surgery, supporting people to live happier, healthier lives through short group walks? Select this link to find out more: [Walking for health.pdf](#)

Updates on new groups

Circle Dance in Otley: A gentle and excellent way to keep fit. The steps are quite easy. Beginners especially welcome. The group starts early February on Thursday mornings from 10.30 until 12 noon at Otley Scout Hut. For more information, use this link to [Email Jan Ellan Bows](#)

Peace group: Select this link: [Peacemaking Group](#) for more information. If you are interested in being involved at the start of this new group, use this link to [email Richard Thackrah](#)

Have you voted on the future of News Flash jokes?

We have not included a joke for the past few months to see if anyone noticed. Some found the jokes amusing, others irritating. There is still time to vote on whether or not to bring them back. [Select this link to express your view.](#)

Lobbying of other members to express their opinion is welcome and encouraged but the system ensures there is only one vote per member. Full results published in the first News Flash of February. The poll closes Friday 31st January.

Drop In sessions

Over 30 people took advantage of the Otley Drop in last Friday. The six members of our U3A were kept on their toes throughout the whole of two hours. Select the following link to see pictures and report on our [Facebook page postings](#)

Next Drop in is Friday 17th January at Clarke Foley. Group Leaders may like to note that the group management team will be attending on 7th February to discuss any matters to do with Groups or Group Finance.

Forthcoming Events

There have been some significant additions to the list in recent days. Select here: [>> Forthcoming Events <<](#). for full details and application forms.

- Being safer on line 7th February at Clarke Foley. Add your name to the waiting list for this fully subscribed event.
- J M W Turner study day in Harrogate on 10th March.
- WestNet quiz in Gargrave on Wednesday evening 27th March
- Captain Cook study days 23rd to 25th June in Whitby
- Regional Summer School 27th to 30th July 2020 at Easingwold.

And do not forget our next Saturday talk on 18th January.

Finally: Please use this new email link: [News Flash editors](#) for messages requiring publication in News Flash.

Regards, John