



Season's Greetings

Over 100 members joined our Christmas Cracker festive celebration on Saturday. Organisers and participants are grateful for the many messages of appreciation that have been received.

On the day, it was quite touching to hear the greetings exchanged as everyone first entered Santa's grotto. So we have produced two versions of the video to watch. [Select here](#) to see a 60 minute version that includes all the various greetings prior to the arrival of Santa. To see a 50 minute version that includes only the various contributions, [select here.](#)

Both versions have been edited to remove any reduction in quality on the videos which may have been experienced through the limitations of using Zoom. So they are worth watching even if you attended the live event.

We are also hoping to copy this event onto DVD for posting out to those members who do not have an internet connection

A festive feel to News Flash

Thanks to Neil Stevens for his clever artwork at the head of this edition.

Select ilkleyu3a.org/ to see how the whole website has been decorated. The theme has also been incorporated in our social media accounts.

Note the new website address. If you have bookmarked the old address please change to this one.

New members joining u3a in the New Year

The subscription to join us will be £7 for the early months of 2021. At roughly 50% of a full subscription, £7 reflects that membership will only be for part of the year through to July 2021 when the annual subscription rate will apply.

If you have friends thinking about u3a, please encourage them to join us to see what they are missing. A decision on the annual subscription rate to be applied in July 2021 will be made once the way forward, post pandemic, is clearer.

For anyone living alone or feeling lonely

The Red Cross gives support in a variety of ways. [Select here](#) for information. [This link gives information on their freephone number.](#) Red Cross are still running a series of workshops via Zoom to help with tackling loneliness. [Booking information here.](#)

Ilkley history scrapbook

This was the most popular link in the last News Flash. The u3a Archiving Group is working with local organisations to create a digital record of the many paper records held throughout the district. One of the most fascinating is a series of scrapbooks kept between 1948 and 2000, filled with items from local newspapers. [Select here to view the first edition.](#)

If you have any material that maybe of interest to this project, [email details to Ann Thake](#) who leads the u3a Archiving Group.

Lockdown photographs

[Remember these?](#) Please [email Mary Podesta](#) with your Christmas and New Year snaps with a short description and we will update the gallery. Include the words "*Christmas Lockdown*" in your email heading so Mary can easily spot them. Thanks.

An update on our talks and events

For more information on any of the following and to book your place, [select here.](#)

2:30 pm Tuesday 15 December. Armchair World Tour which was such a popular event in the last Summer Programme.

10:30 am Thursday 7 January. Lockdowns of the past. This is a presentation by members of Barnsley u3a.

10:30 am Thursday 14 January. Who do you think you are? u3a member Mike Bamford discovers some interesting characters in his family tree.

10:30 am Tuesday 19 January. Join u3a member Bill Jones on a journey of exploration when he looks at our solar system.

10:30 am Saturday 23 January The latest in our series of Saturday talks is by Frances Golland-Smith on Islamic Architecture in Spain.

Friends in WestNet?

Members of Settle, Keighley, Craven or Bradford u3a, can now register their contact details with Ilkley u3a online. Visit ilkleyu3a.org, click on the join us link and then again for WestNet registrations. As they are already members of their local u3a, there is no further subscription to pay. They will receive a regular copy of News Flash and can attend any of our own Zoom events.

.More website links

- [The Quirky Humour collection](#). More content added. Quite a lot with a seasonal theme. Select the link and cheer yourself up.
- [Green tip of the month](#). How Green is *your* Christmas tree?.

[Select here](#) to see the images of Ilkley on our website. Thanks to John Rhodes for his photos. We now need pictures of Menston to feature in January. Send your images to the News Flash email address below.

Many will have read the article in the latest EYE about Steve Weatherley's model railway. If you want to know how this was planned and built, starting with choosing a house with a suitable loft to convert, [select here to see a video](#) of Steve's recent illustrated talk to the Railway Group.

Why did nobody bid for Rudolph and Blitzen on eBay? They were two deer.

Why are Christmas trees so bad at knitting? They always drop their needles.

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations? Tinsillitis

What athlete is warmest in winter? A long jumper

Festive jokes courtesy of Margaret Barrans. Many thanks.

Angie Grain and the trustees send everyone their best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

John and Christine

[Email NewsFlash@ilkleyu3a.org](mailto:EmailNewsFlash@ilkleyu3a.org)

PS. If you need help with the technology to get your group meeting again in the new year just reply to this News Flash and someone will be in touch to help.

Maybe you have an idea for a new group and don't know how to start?. Again, just reply to this News Flash and we will provide help.

PPS. As this year draws to a close, thanks to Steve Crossley-Smith for sharing [this relevant and poignant video](#). Looking forward to u3a getting back to normal at some stage in 2021. Fingers crossed.

