

u3a news flash

Raising awareness of u3a

There are many people who would benefit from u3a membership, particularly at this time of year, but may be unaware of our existence and what we are about.

[Use this link](#) to see how our website has been updated to raise awareness of what we do, including highlighting the reduced joining fee and giving greater prominence to our programme of talks and free video catch up service. As an existing member, please spread the word to friends and neighbours who may be interested.

As 2021 unfolds, expect to see coverage of our events in local and social media especially once we can start meeting again at group events and drop-in centres.

Lockdown Picture Gallery

Last call for your snaps taken during this most unusual of festive seasons. Email images to [Mary Podesta](#) with a few words of explanation. All will be added to the [existing collection](#) in mid-January. (log in required to view)

Groups with vacancies and currently active

[Use this link](#) to see a list of groups meeting regularly via Zoom and which are currently happy to receive new members. The flexibility of Zoom means that all groups can accept more members than when they meet in person. To add your group to the list, please just reply to this News Flash.

Some groups have used our website to display their members' creative output. Admire their skills here: [Art for Fun](#), and [Craft Workshop](#). If you want space on our website for your own group, reply to this News Flash with an idea of requirements..

Want to get walking?

[Turf, a GPS based game](#) from Sweden has recently launched in Ilkley and Otley. If you have a smart phone, install the app and search your phone map to find local targets. On your walk visit a target, stay for 10 seconds and get points. The u3a members of the Stevens household are hooked. If you would like to join in but you're having trouble getting started, email [Neil Stevens](#).

[Ilkley Civic Society](#) have added a self-guided Artisan Town walk to their website. This replaced their normal Boxing Day walk. Watch out for two talks before Easter by the Civic Society that will take you round Ilkley's Blue Plaque trail.

Staff at [Nell Bank Outdoor Education Centre](#) have been busy hiding QR codes in Middleton Woods. There are twelve in all, which can be scanned with a mobile phone to unlock their secrets.

Visiting [Swinsty Reservoir](#)? Owen Wells advises that the pathway has been diverted due to engineering works which will remain in place for months to come. The diversion would make your walk about ½ a mile longer than usual but, more to the point, it's currently a sea of mud and extremely unpleasant in wet weather.

Our programme of talks and events

During 2020 we have learnt how to adapt to the 'new normal'. Here's a few statistics:

- . We ran 36 virtual Zoom events in six months.
- . Over 30 % of our membership have attended at least one event.
- . There have been nearly 3,000 views of website videos since July.

The programme continues into 2021. [Select here to view more information and to book](#) the following:

10:30 am Thursday 7 January. Lockdowns of the past. This is a presentation by members of Barnsley u3a and comes highly recommended as it's informative and amusing and thought provoking and sad. A good summary of 2020!

10:30 am Thursday 14 January. Who do you think you are? u3a member Mike Bamford discovers some interesting characters in his family tree including one tried for treason at the Old Bailey.

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.

3:30 pm Tuesday 26 January. New Year Nostalgia when u3a members share stories of objects and images that have been in their possession for generations.

3:30 pm Thursday 28 January. Cuban Communist Society. U3a member Tony Dutton gives a brief history covering Castro, Che Guevara and goes on to describe life in Cuba including ownership, control and rations, religion, politics and education.

Full details of these and early February dates are on the website. We are currently planning through to Easter so if you have a talk available or can recommend a talk given by a fellow member of u3a, please just reply to this News Flash to see how we can help.

More updates on the website

The Ilkley History Scrapbook has reached 1958 to 1962. [Select here for a nostalgic look back.](#)

More topical cartoons have been added to the [quirky humour page.](#)

I swear we're fighting two pandemics: Coronavirus and stupidity.

I don't always go the extra mile. But when I do it's because I've missed my exit.

I got myself a seniors' GPS. Not only does it tell me how to get to my destination, it tells me why I wanted to go there.

People who wonder whether the glass is half empty or half full are missing the point. **The glass is refillable.**

Thanks to Bruce Chalmers for sending these pearls of wisdom.

With best wishes for 2021.

John & Christine

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

PS. Thanks to John Mitchell who has provided this link to the local [NHS site that updates on the roll out of the COVID-19 vaccination programme.](#) In short, don't phone us, we'll contact you when it's your turn.

Finally [a short video clip](#) which is doing the rounds of u3a members. A good summary as we say goodbye to 2020 and look forward to a better, more social 2021.