



Issue 21-23 (1st December 2021)

## u3a news flash

### **u3a Christmas Cracker 10 am Saturday 18th December Clarke Foley**

[Select here](#) to book your place and enjoy some festive entertainment at the annual Christmas Cracker. No charge. Meeting Father Christmas and eating a mince pie are optional.

We know that some still don't feel comfortable mixing with other people so we hope to make a short highlights video of the Christmas Cracker, which will be available in the New Year. If you've ever taken a video of a family event on your smart phone (or something even more sophisticated) and would like to help on this project, please email Neil Stevens ([neil@nebstone.co.uk](mailto:neil@nebstone.co.uk)) who will be pleased to hear from you.

### **A festive feel to our website**

[Select here](#) to try our festive songs quiz with thanks to Neil Stevens. Click on the picture to check your answers and to watch our Singing for Pleasure group perform The First Noel. A real treat.

### **A New Year resolution to try something new?**

**Singing for Pleasure.** The group welcomes new members. They meet at St John's Church Hall in Ben Rhydding on Tuesday mornings from 10.00 till 12.00. Email Robin Morley for more information ([sfpmp3@gmail.com](mailto:sfpmp3@gmail.com)).

[Select here](#) to see their information page on the website just updated with new pictures.

**Creative writing.** This group meets for coffee, and a chat about what they're working on, each month at The Wheatley Arms in Ben Rhydding. They also meet via Zoom each Friday from 09.30 am until 11.30 am. Members learn from each other about style and technique in a very friendly way. New faces are always welcome. For more information [use this link to the website](#) or email Tony Armstrong at [tonyarmstrong68@gmail.com](mailto:tonyarmstrong68@gmail.com).

**Play the ukulele.** A new beginners group will start in January at 11:45 am each Tuesday at the Lower Hall, Christ Church on the Grove. After 10 weeks, you may join the intermediate group if you want. All you need is a ukulele, an electronic tuner

and a ring binder. The group will be small and you don't have to be able to read music. If you're interested, email Hugh Bevington ([hbevington@gmail.com](mailto:hbevington@gmail.com))

**Play backgammon.** Join this new group each Wednesday from 2pm to 4 pm in Bar T'at on Cunliffe Rd, Ilkley almost opposite Clarke Foley. Beginners are welcome and can progress at their own pace. Email Caroline Leverton-Blue at [legaltypeblue@icloud.com](mailto:legaltypeblue@icloud.com) for details.

**Non-fiction book group.** Come and discuss any genre from popular science to history and technology, but no weighty tomes or difficult-to-acquire items. The group meets at the Bar T'at on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 2pm to 4pm starting 16th December. Contact Elaine Toms [on this website link](#).

**Nordic walking.** This group meets weekly on Thursdays starting at 10am for Nordic walking in the Ilkley area. There's still some room, but you'll need your own Nordic walking (not trekking) poles. Contact Elaine Toms on [this website link](#)

**Art for Fun.** This group meets in Otley each Tuesday morning. [More details on this link](#). Contact Linda Drummond [lynda.drummond@hotmail.com](mailto:lynda.drummond@hotmail.com).

### **Quirky Humour and Scrapbook updates**

You can find the latest humour additions [here](#). More are added every time a News Flash is issued. It's interesting to look back on some of the early pandemic humour.

The latest scrapbook edition has cuttings from 1979 including requests for the council to install a bottle bank. There seemed to be more emphasis on the financial savings than saving the planet. [Read more on this link](#).

### **Ilkley Art Studio exhibition**

Kwan Bevan who leads our Portrait Drawing Group has an exhibition of mixed media from 17th to 19th December. [See this flyer for details](#). There is more to learn about the Ilkley Art Studio, a recently established charity [on this link](#)

### **Do you have an accountancy or numerate background?**

Our friends at Ilkley and District Good Neighbours are looking for a volunteer treasurer. It's anticipated this might take up to 7 hours a week, guiding the financial direction of the charity and preparing reports for the trustees at their six-weekly meetings. For an initial chat, email [info@goodneighboursilkley.org.uk](mailto:info@goodneighboursilkley.org.uk). To read more about the charity and the valuable work they undertake in the community, [visit their website](#).

[Select here](#) to read an article in the Gazette about the retirement of the existing treasurer.

***Attending any u3a Christmas parties? Vote for the best cracker joke on your table sending text to News Flash. In the meantime:***

What's the opposite of a croissant? **A happy uncle.**

Visitor to the library: Do you have books on paranoia? **Librarian in a whisper: They're right behind you.**

They say every piece of chocolate you eat shortens your life by two minutes. **I've done the maths and I died in 1537.**

## *Seasons Greetings*

### *John and Christine*

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

**PS.AGM update.** [Select here to read the report](#) submitted to the local media. This received good coverage helping to increase awareness of u3a throughout the district. Many thanks to everyone who voted for the resolutions. The total number of votes cast exceeded the minimum requirements, which was a relief as the attendance at the event was down on recent years for obvious and understandable reasons. [Select here](#) to put a face to the name of all our new trustees and to read how the various responsibilities have been shared amongst the group.

**Castles Study Day** A new date has been fixed for Wednesday 16th March 2022 at the Ilkley Playhouse. This will give us an increased capacity to meet anticipated demand. Further details nearer the time.

**From the Third Age Trust** Read the u3a newsletter [here](#) and listen to the radio podcast [here](#). TAT continues to provide lectures and events by zoom. Some fascinating topics in the next few days. Worth a look. [Select here](#)

**Drop-in sessions** Discuss anything relating to u3a. The next one is on **Friday 3rd December** at Clarke Foley from 10:30 am to 12 noon. Those on duty will be happy to take your bookings for the Christmas Cracker if you're not comfortable doing this on line.

**The EYE** has been mailed to those requesting a copy. Pick up your own copy of this high quality eight-page newspaper from the display racks at Clarke Foley. It's also available to read online [here](#).

Finally if any member has a full version of Adobe Acrobat software, we have a favour to ask. Just reply to this News Flash. Thanks.