

Hybrid meetings help u3a members get back to normality

Not much good has come from the pandemic but the way the nation has embraced video conferencing (especially using Zoom) to stay in touch with friends and family is one of the few positives.

Ilkley & District u3a report that nearly 40% of its membership attended at least one large u3a online event in the past year and even more have joined the many smaller activity group meetings, also held using Zoom video conferencing. These have included French conversation, Railways, Science and Art Appreciation to name just a few.

Peter Mate of u3a acknowledges that, although nothing beats meeting face to face with other people who share your interests, not everyone feels comfortable meeting indoors, even if social distancing is observed and the room is properly ventilated.

“Some of our members are recently retired and very active but others have been told not to mix unnecessarily. So Ilkley & District u3a is starting to experiment with hybrid meetings which look to combine our traditional face to face meetings with video conferencing. These allow those at home to join in the fellowship of u3a, albeit remotely”.

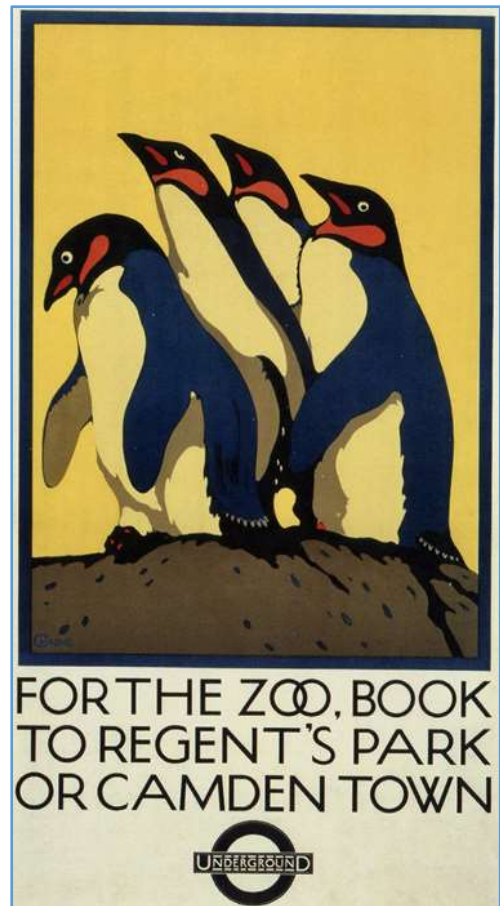
The largest hybrid meeting so far was on Tuesday 19th October when 40 people attended a socially distanced talk looking at Art on the London Underground in the Clarke Foley Centre, with another 20 participating remotely from home.***. Encouraged by the response, u3a will look to run similar events in the future.



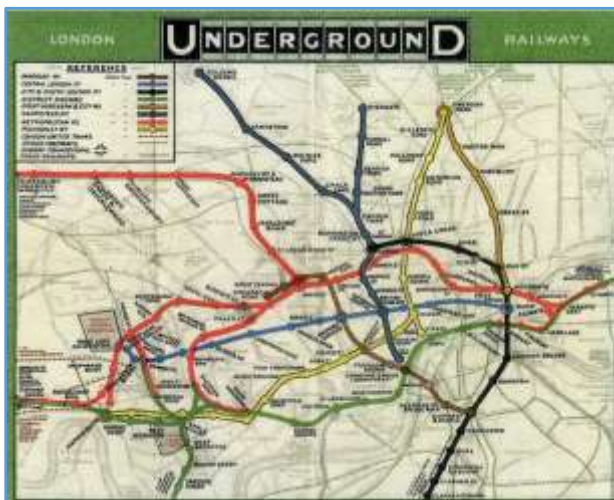
Robin Leleux welcomes u3a members at the Clarke Foley and to those joining on the big screen from home via Zoom.



Inter war poster promoting commuting from the suburbs



Inter war poster with directions to London Zoo



Early Underground map



A pattern in tiles suitable for the station

For those who want to discover more about what the u3a has to offer, there are regular Drop-in sessions in the Clarke Foley Centre from 10.30am to 12noon. You can also find us at ilkleyu3a.org or on Twitter and Facebook.