



Newsletter for December 2020

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What a year this has been! Let us hope that 2021 will be a vast improvement. Although we were released from Lockdown 2 on 2 December, we are very restricted in Tier 2 and none of our interest groups can meet indoors. Up to six people can meet outdoors with social distancing. However, the good news about vaccines does open up the possibility of a more normal u3a in the not too distant future. Meanwhile patience is needed - and more use of virtual meetings.

Despite all the restrictions most of our interest groups are managing to keep in touch with members and some are continuing to pursue their particular subject. u3a is all about learning something new and I hope, like me, you will have managed to achieve this goal during the past few months. Finally, can I thank you for your continued support and wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Best wishes,

Jan

**Hands
Face
Space**

Message from u3a Office to all members



Wishing you the very best for the Seasonal Holiday 2020



Stay Safe, Stay in Touch



Get Safe Online
Free expert advice

<https://www.getsafeonline.org/>

Illustrated Talk on Tithe Records

Jill's talk on Tithe Records was attended by 26 members – excellent. After an introductory talk Jill demonstrated how you can see the records and maps on the website www.thegenealogist.co.uk. This was a live demonstration covering parts of Dorset and Ringmer. Very many thanks Jill for such an interesting and informative talk.

u3a Wordsearch – Familiar words of 2020 November Answers

This month's theme contains words that have become familiar during 2020. The words can all be found in the grid – running forwards, backwards, up, down and diagonally.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|------------------|
| F | | H | G | U | O | L | R | U | F | | 8 | <i>Pandemic</i> |
| I | E | L | B | B | U | B | U | B | L | | 4 | <i>Tier</i> |
| R | B | C | T | I | E | Z | R | S | R | | 9 | <i>Shielding</i> |
| E | G | N | I | D | L | E | I | H | S | | 4 | <i>Sage</i> |
| S | A | G | E | M | A | T | D | Y | A | | 8 | <i>Lockdown</i> |
| K | A | E | R | B | E | R | I | F | G | | 7 | <i>Tracing</i> |
| M | Z | L | O | C | K | D | O | W | N | | 6 | <i>Bubble</i> |
| A | O | T | R | A | C | I | N | G | Q | | 9 | <i>Firebreak</i> |
| G | M | O | I | O | O | P | T | A | O | | 4 | <i>Zoom</i> |
| P | X | L | Z | F | U | R | L | O | P | | 8 | <i>Furlough</i> |

Anagram – What your u3a needs

1. Unprecedented / centre ended up
2. Restrictions / strict senior

Have you run out of jigsaws to do? Why not try an online jigsaw at www.jigsawexplorer.com.



**** It's Party & Quiz Time ****

Tuesday 15 December at 2 pm

We plan to hold a **Christmas Quiz** (on Zoom) on Tuesday 15 December starting at 2 pm. We want this to be a festive party occasion so we are asking you to wear **festive attire** and put **Christmas decorations** in your backdrop. No computer generated images as backgrounds please – we want to see your home decorations! You will need to have a pencil and paper ready for the quiz and we have a prize for the winner. You will also be asked to vote (using the Zoom "chat" facility) for the best turned out festive member/backdrop. You cannot vote for yourself!

Do please try and join us for this party and why not have a drink and a mince pie whilst you do the quiz. The link will be sent out the day before (14 Dec). At the end the link will remain open for a while so you can chat. This is your chance if you have never Zoomed before. It will all be very informal.



Stay Safe, Stay in Touch

Our Interest Groups

All our interest groups are doing their level best to keep in touch with their members. Several have managed to hold Zoom meetings, although there is a reluctance amongst some members to join such events. They really are such fun and so easy to join. You will be sent a link which you just click on. As you will be expecting that link it is quite safe.

Both **Garden** groups have held Zoom meetings and are planning more. They, like the **Out & About** Group, like to arrange group visits. Whilst this is not possible at present it will hopefully soon be time to start planning for such visits. Some groups produce a regular newsletter and **Family History** is one such group. It has produced a regular newsletter for some years now and in November it arranged a Zoom meeting to which other u3a members were invited. We are also looking for a Convenor to take over from Bob next summer.

Astronomy have arranged several meetings where images from a telescope are shared through Zoom. In January they are planning a talk on the contribution of women to the development of Astronomy. They now have vacancies. If you are interested in joining this group contact Brian Wignal. The **Walking** group are just meeting as friends and looking forward to the day when they can hold a proper group walk.

Keeping in touch is vital as the day will come when normal service will be resumed – and we must be ready. **Knit One Chat One, Spanish, French and What the Papers Say** all keep in touch with their members by email and phone. The **Photography** and **Computer** groups are more active and hold Zoom meetings. The Photography group is even holding a Photographic Competition and puts photographs on our website ([Ringmer: A Foot of Plastic \(u3asites.org.uk\)](http://Ringmer: A Foot of Plastic (u3asites.org.uk)))

Our website is always kept up to date and you can find out more there. It is also the best way to contact a committee member or Convenor.

From Your Committee



Wakehurst in Autumn by Jenny West

Your committee is currently meeting every few weeks on Zoom. We have recently purchased a Zoom licence which is managed by Jill. This will enable sessions longer than 40 minutes to be held. Details are being given to Convenors. We are also looking for new committee members. If you are interested in joining the committee then please do contact Ian to discuss how you might help us. We all need to play our part.

Stay Safe, Stay in Touch



December Update from SUN

Free Third Age Trust Events on the u3a website

Free Zoom Talk **The Bayeux Tapestry** – its Hidden Messages with Catherine Stevenson at 10am. 15/12

Free Zoom Talk **Cryptic Crosswords**– their history, how they work, who does them and why, with Henry Howarth at 2pm. 15/12

Free Zoom Talks **Garden Talks** – weekly with Marion Dale at 2pm 12/1 – 9/2.

Winter School. There are now a variety of courses available from the Third Age Trust. They are presented over 4 or 6 week, so please ensure you can commit to regular attendance. Booking and further details are available via the HHD events webpage.

Free Zoom Course. **Creative Writing** weekly from Tuesday 5/1 to Weds 3/2

Free Zoom Course. **An Introduction to Philosophy** weekly from Thursday 7/1 to 4/2.

Free Zoom Course. **Law For Fun** weekly from Monday 11/1 to 1/2.

Free Zoom Course. **Latin Remembered** weekly from Wednesday 13/1 to 17/2.

Free Zoom Course. **Recorder Ensemble** weekly from Monday 18/1 to 15/2.

Free Zoom Course. **Winter and Spring in English Poetry** weekly from Tuesday 19/1 to 23/2.

Free Zoom Course. **Cryptic Crosswords for Beginners** weekly from Monday 25/1 to 26/2

The national u3a web page for events can be found here:

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>



**Your Committee wish you a
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**



u3a Wordsearch – Christmas Words

This month's theme contains words that are associated with Christmas. The words can all be found in the grid – running forwards, backwards, up, down and diagonally. One 5-letter word appears twice.

S R E K C A R C L S
Y E K R U T T R V M
T I O E W P R N E I
H N A T U R S H A S
R D P R E S E N T S
R E H O L L Y B O L
Y E U O H Y T A O E
M R R T L E S S A N
M A E X Y L E A I Y
C B E T G H Y S R M

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 9 | <i>Mi</i> |
| 6 | <i>T</i> |
| 6 | <i>C</i> |
| 9 | <i>Be</i> |
| 8 | <i>Pr</i> |
| 8 | <i>Cr</i> |
| 5 | <i>S</i> |
| 5 | <i>H</i> |
| 5 | <i>My</i> |
| 8 | <i>Re</i> |

u3a Anagram – 2020 Words

1. Ask fencer inn (12)
2. Rag Men (6)

The answers will appear in the January 2021 Newsletter.

National u3a Monthly Newsletter

Go to their website at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter> and fill in your details to receive u3a updates, both regional and national, direct to your email inbox.

January 2021 Newsletter: I would like to get the next Newsletter out by 10 January 2021. Please let me have any items by 3 January 2021. Thank you.

Stay Safe, Stay in Touch