

Number 58: March/April 2021
The Membership Renewal Edition



Word from the Chair

A happy New Year to you all, this may be a little late but hopefully we will have a happier 2021,

Now that we have the 'road map' outlining the plans for coming out of lockdown. We should all have had our first vaccinations by now making us feel a little safer for the future.

2021 hopefully will be a time to celebrate our 10th year anniversary of the AWAKE

u3a. It was first started on July 14th 2011. Where have the years gone? We have been too busy enjoying ourselves to notice.

It is thanks to a handful of people who got together and decided that the u3a was a good idea for the older and retired people who needed some form of interest in their lives. Judging by the way it has grown I think they were right in their thoughts.

The committee would like to celebrate this date in some way. Offers of help and ideas would be appreciated, so get your thinking caps on and let us know your ideas.

We also have a National u3a day on Wednesday 3rd June, organised primarily to increase awareness of the movement across the Country. We are hoping to use this day to spread the word to others who do not know about the u3a and what we are about.

Let's hope we can try to get together for one or both of these days and to let others see how much enjoyment we get within our variety of groups.

Sue

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The Art Group's first zoom meeting to share & discuss their 'bird' theme project



Barry Mellors, the winner of the Online Newsletter 'Deliberate Mistake' competition

Latest News/Events

Membership Renewal

If you are a current member or a member from 2019/20 please do your best to re-join for 2021/22 using the enclosed renewal form. We are all very aware of the effect of the various Covid lockdown restrictions on u3a activities but with the vaccine programme in full flow it is hoped that we will be able to return to some form of reality during this year.

Launch of Beacon System

On the 1st April we intend to launch a new u3a administration system known as Beacon, this system has been specifically designed by u3a for u3a groups and covers all Membership, Finance, emails etc. the system will be administered by Janet Brown and Chris Watson with Joan Greenley taking over from Chris Coates as Membership Secretary.

Hopefully as members you should not notice a difference but you should feel secure in the knowledge that your information will be stored and held with the up to date data protection. The Committee members and Interest Group leaders will use the new system to input all financial transactions, membership details and details of your groups. The cost of the system is £1/member/year.

We will keep you informed of the progress in the coming months.

Committee changes

We are currently looking for a volunteer to take on the following committee role:

1. Minutes Secretary

Sheila Lines has been our committee meeting minutes Sec. from the inception of AWAKE almost ten years ago and had decided to step down after her sterling work over this period.

Is there a member with the necessary skills to take over this task from Sheila?

2. Speaker Finder

Now that Joan Greenley has taken over the position of Membership Secretary she has decided to give up her role as Speaker Finder, we are pleased to announce that Peter Bristow has agreed to take on this role.

Dates for your Diary

Thursday June 3rd – National u3a Awareness Day (hopefully will involve other local u3a's)

Wednesday July 14th – Awake u3a 10th Anniversary & Re-launch Open Day

Sue McPhee is keen for members to decorate their front gardens with bunting, pom poms etc in u3a colours (Blue & Yellow)

Watch out for further details of both of these major events in the near future.

Win a prize competition

The winner of the deliberate mistake competition in the online Newsletter No. 57 was Barry Mellors who was the first member to identify the 10 deliberate mistakes to win a bottle of wine (see Photo on page 2). Stewart Mawer was a gallant second but was eventually disqualified for spotting far too many mistakes which were not deliberate!

Zoom meetings

It is very heartening to see how many of our members have taken to using Zoom to keep in touch, the Coronavirus pandemic has caused untold problems but it has certainly made us more aware of technology (& how to mute!).

We had around 40 members at the zoom AGM in November, over 50 for the Christmas Singalong, over 70 for the Talk about Butlins and 74 for the Paul Schofield talk on the Parks & Gardens of Hull. If the restrictions continue the Zoom platform will remain the main means of continuing communication within AWAKE for at least the next few months.

The Interest groups currently using Zoom or other online formats for meetings are Art for Everyone, Chess group,

Coffee & Chat, Digital Photography, Flex & Stretch group, French Conversation, Local History, Barely Awake Ukulele Group, Sunshine Strummers Ukulele group, The Main Street Ukes group, WAG1 Wine Group and speakers open to all members.

We have now purchased the Zoom Pro system which has no time constraints, this is available for any of our groups to use (contact Sue McPhee for details of booking its use) It is hoped more groups will take advantage in the coming weeks to use this method of keeping in touch with their members.

Free Online Support

For anyone struggling with Computer/Tablet/Laptop technology (Zoom being a good current example) the Yorkshire u3a have made us aware of the following offer:

Digital inclusion charity, Citizens Online, is offering free one to one support to learners to help them get on line and with other digital tasks and has just expanded their service in Yorkshire. This could be the answer for u3a members who are unable to connect with u3a activities on Zoom or to access newsletters through e mail, support could also help with online shopping and so much more.

To get started members should call the Digital Support Helpline on 0808 196 5883 and leave their name and number on the answer machine. They will then be contacted by Citizens Online and put in touch with a local volunteer Digital Champion who will offer support. Maybe members are already online but struggling with a variety of tasks or not able to fully use their smart phone. Citizens Online is there to help people with most digital tasks and in some cases tablets are available to use.

During lockdown support will be remote but once things get back to some normality the aim is for support where possible to be offered face to face. Please note that all Digital Champions are DBS checked and Citizens online adheres to the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

Citizens Online is also looking for volunteers to train as Digital Champions. These volunteers will have access to tailored learning to support them in their work as well as access to the Digital Champions Network. Anyone interested should email volunteer@citizensonline.org

Future zoom Speakers

March 17th – John Hope – Surviving the 2004 Tsunami in Shri Lanka, zoom meeting number – 5611602647, Passcode 1RiRhp

March 31st – Easter Singalong/Easter Bonnet competition!

The three Ukulele groups will be celebrating Easter with a singalong, if you would like to join us and take part in the Easter Bonnet competition, the zoom meeting number is 89161829329, passcode – 308691

April 21st (In House speakers) –

Denise & Steve Roberts – Children's International Summer Villages

John Agnew – Charity work in the Ukraine & Kazakhstan,

Peter Bristow – Butlins – Part 2

Zoom meeting number – 5611602647, Passcode -1RiRhp

May 19th – Catherine Terry – A life treading the boards

Zoom meeting number – 5611602647, Passcode -1RiRhp

Interest Group News

Unfortunately, Maureen Matthews who was group leader for the Gardening group has decided to give up the position for personnel reasons. If there is anyone who would like to take over from Maureen please get in touch with me.

David Bodecott is also putting his 10 pin bowls away for health reasons. I would like to thank them both for the work they have done for our u3a.

I am sure all our group leaders will be in touch as and when we get the green light for being able to mix.

Please note, information on all of our Interest groups can be found on our website (just put Awake U3A into google, other search engines are available!)

Art for Everyone

Hooray! We have finally got back together albeit by Zoom. We have started our projects and meet once a month to share our pieces. The first session was on 'birds' and the group produced from the fantastical to the plain beautiful pictures (see page 14). Our next

project is 'openings', interpret at will. We will meet on Zoom the third Monday of the month at 1.30
ID 5052383204 – password g2HB1B
Feel free to join us and find out what our next project is to be.
Denise Roberts

Chess Club

The chess club is now underway via the internet (Chess.com)
With 8 members currently actively involved, we hope to extend both our membership and level of activity in the coming weeks prior to (hopefully) starting to play in the same room!
Please contact Steve Roberts 659816 for further information

Coffee Club

Hope everyone is keeping well.
Meeting up at Tea & Bisque-It still looks far away although I have spoken with some of you, at a distance while out on a walk and had a 'phone conversation or two with others which has been nice.
Hope you have an enjoyable Easter and the sun shines.
Take care
Liz 572563

Coffee and Chat (Zoom version) – Sue McPhee

We now meet every Tuesday & Friday at 10.30am on Zoom.
To be able to join us the code is; 561 160 2647 Password 1RiRhp

Coffee & Stroll

Since David Atkin has relinquished the leadership role, a new leader is required.
If you would like to, or you know of anyone else willing to, become the leader, please contact Sue McPhee on 652766.
If no one comes forward, I would be willing to take on the role, subject to members acceptance.
Les McPhee (Les, you know what they say, a volunteer is worth 10 pressed men so I reckon the job is yours! – Editor)

Craft Group

Drawers are tidied and donations for charity are piling up.
It would be nice to know how you are all doing.
I have been watching the Australian tennis on Eurosport while I have been knitting.
I have noticed that my knitting/crochet gets faster the more exciting the matches are.

It's nice to get a short walk in too.
The fresh air and gardens seem to make one feel better.
Don't hesitate to phone if you need supplies or advice.
Hope to see all of your projects soon.
Brenda 654830

Digital Photography Group

We have had our second Zoom meeting with 16 members taking part. Peter Richardson gave a presentation on photograph composition, we are now meeting on the first Tuesday in the month at 10am (zoom meeting No. – 9047867933, Passcode – 01482) and are hoping we will soon be going out on field trips again.
Stewart Mawer

French Conversation Group

We have continued to meet weekly – latterly on Zoom – and I have been able to show videos (well usually anyway!) We are pleased that Mary Moore, who used to run the group before moving to Norfolk, has now been able to join us. Of the three ladies who were initially reluctant to try Zoom, two are managing very well, and the third is getting there. We have plenty of banter, and have been able to do an in-depth study of the ceiling in one member's room. One of the biggest difficulties is that some people join without audio – do other groups find this? We get there in the end, but there is room for improvement.
Michael Ebeling

Local History Group

Despite not having been able to meet for a year and missing many interesting talks at our monthly meetings, a growing number of articles on aspects of our local history can now be accessed on the AWAKE u3a website. These can be accessed at <https://u3asites.org.uk/awake/page/22001>. Since the last Newsletter in December, a further chapter (Part 7) in the story of South Ella has been added. This traces the life of the final resident of South Ella Hall, Thomas Burns Moyes and his wife, Florence. Born in Calcutta, India, in 1892, Thomas Moyes eventually became the District Medical Officer for Hull and was responsible for carrying out a number of fascinating autopsies. The final chapter about South Ella, "Decay and Demolition", will be out soon. In the meantime, do read the story of "The Mystery Letter". Also, read, "A Link between West Ella and Devon", an epic tale, including stories of betrayal, bigamy and suicide! A big thank you to all those who have helped in

the preparation of these stories.

As there is still uncertainty about the time when we shall be able to meet again, a formal programme of talks for 2021 is not yet available. However, as soon as we get the green light to restart, a programme will quickly materialise. All last year's speakers are lined up and ready to go! Until then, please feel free to contact me at any time with any queries or comments about the local history of our area. I would love to hear from you. You can reach me at francisvdavies@live.co.uk or on 01482 650449.

Francis

Play Reading 2

As with most groups, our meetings ceased during the past year. Apart from social distancing, there was the difficulty of sourcing plays. However, one of our members, Michael, noticed a source on line, written by, and available from a member of another U3A. For a very small fee, I obtained three plays which were forwarded to the five members who have access to Zoom app.

We were ready to give our first reading in February. This wasn't quite as straightforward as I hoped because the plays had to be downloaded, unless one had the luxury of two screens. This involved a lot of printing for some but we were undaunted.

The play, *Five Wives and a Funeral*, by Jeremy North, had a manageable number in the cast, and we congratulated ourselves for getting through with few technical difficulties. Such was our enthusiasm to try something new in these times, that we are attempting another play, *Somebody*, by Liz Wainwright. A set of six books of radio plays, was passed to me by our dear friend and leader, Geoff Annis. Until now, they haven't been used as we need more copies in our normal meetings. We shall use them in our March session and hope to do justice to them and enjoy ourselves in the process. Hopefully we shall be able to meet safely as a group in the near future.

Pauline Park

Stately Homes Group

Hi Everybody. As most of you will know by now I've claimed all of our deposits back from Acklams and I should have popped to see you to return the money. If I haven't got to you yet don't worry, I'm on my way. It was really nice to see everybody, albeit on the doorstep (or in some cases at the garden gate!) and with the sunny weather things felt a bit more positive. My intention at the moment is to possibly look at a trip in September but I'm

going to just watch what happens generally and make sure everything would be safe. It was encouraging to hear people asking to be put on the list for whenever we can go but don't worry, I'll get round everybody once I've got any information. Take care and stay positive – the END is in sight!!

(chrisbaz@chrisbaz.karoo.co.uk or on 659773)

Chris Watson

Tai Chi

HELLO AGAIN FOLKS! Mike has a message for you all and for others who might be interested in joining us. No news of any possible return for us yet, when we do begin again our Group 3 which was meeting in October will have the remaining 3 sessions of the 8 week programme before we revert to "normal". It was great to hear from Mike and here is his message.....Chris

My name is Mike. I teach 2 U3A Tai Chi classes.

Tai Chi is very slow, relaxing movements that help to ease and release tension from your muscles and joints. Each lesson is taught in a very calm relaxedatmosphere.

I came into Tai Chi in a real sorry state with myself. My upper body was slightly twisted, posture stooped. I was stiff, tired and very run down. I knew after my first lesson I was onto a real winner...that first lesson was a real eyeopener and it really did expose the thirty hard-working years of the building trade, bad diet, late nights and too much alcohol!

I always felt so relaxed and refreshed after each lesson.

The most important thing after each Tai Chi lesson is that gentle calmness, for that one hour you learn to let go and enjoy some quality Me time. Life can sometimes become an ongoing habit of rushing around and over-thinking and becoming too tired and unable to let go of the physical and mental tensions life has a habit of regularly throwing at us.

So I am looking forward to seeing you all again. You may feel you have forgotten more than you knew, but together we shall get you there. It is a real pleasure working with both groups. The wonderful calm atmosphere is a real measure of the progress you have all made!

See you all soon

Mike

Ukulele Groups

The Main Street Ukes

We continue to meet on a fortnightly basis using Zoom, keeping in contact and learning new songs.

Steve Clarkson & Dave Fisher

Sunshine Strummers

The Sunshine Strummers have been Zooming ever since last March and are now on to their 45th Monday Ukulele session. Each member is currently choosing a theme and the set list is made up of six of their choices plus requests from the rest of the band.

Themes have included My Happy Place, Creatures in Songs or Band Name, Parts of the Body in Song Titles, Songs with the Times of Day in the Title, Music Over the Decades, Songs with Love in the Title and Feel-Good Songs with 'B' in the Title.

The Sunshine Strummers also recorded a secret online concert as a surprise for member Jeanne Fenton, for her special birthday family celebration.

With virtually all members now having had their first jab, hopefully it will not be too long before we can meet again and to perform again in public, which we have missed so much.

Tribute to Keith Dobbs

Very sadly Keith, a long standing and valued member of the band passed away on 5th February. Keith was a truly wonderful gentleman, and always played the ukulele with a smile on his face. He had an amazing collection of ukulele songs, some of which he selected and led on 30th November.

He battled bravely against illness and operations to play with the band but sadly the illness returned. We send our best wishes and condolences to Keith's wife, Doreen, who has joined us at concerts, and the rest of his family. Garry & Hazel Hughes

Barely Awake

We continue with our fortnightly Zoom sessions and as most of us have now had our vaccinations we are looking to the time when we can start to meet together again and to that end I am hoping to organise a number of outdoor Park Bandstand appearances.

Pearson Park has a brand new Bandstand, Pickering Park has an old one and we would like to finish with a cliff top appearance at Filey, it would be great to organise a mass sing song in such places with lots of our u3a friends in support, watch this space for details if Boris allows! Steve Roberts

Wine Groups - WAG-1

The Group continued its season of Zoom virtual meetings on Monday 15th February. We "tasted" four wines. Sheila Lines tried a 187 ml bottle of McGuigan's Black Label sauvignon blanc from S.E.Australia, probably 2020. It was 12.5% abv, purchased from Morrisons on a 3 for £5 deal. The wine had flavours of passion fruit and peach with a zesty finish. Sheila thought it was very acceptable. Chris Watson was again drinking a 187 ml bottle (it must be a new trend) of a Banrock Station Colombard chardonnay blend from S. Australia. It was 12.5% abv and cost £3 at Waitrose. It had a pleasant citrus and passion fruit tang and a crisp finish.

Bob and Maggie Charlton had purchased a bottle of Diablo Dark Red from Asda at £8. The wine is made from a mix of Shiraz and Syrah and comes from the Maule Valley in southern Chile. At 13.5% abv it was a smooth wine with a good bouquet and a taste of dark berries. The both recommend it. Alan and Enid Townshend enjoyed a half-bottle (375 ml) of Chateau Doisy Vedrines sauternes from Bordeaux, given to them a few years ago. This was a 13.5%, 2010 wine sold by Berry Bros and Rudd in London (you would enjoy a visit to their store in St. James' Street), and made mainly from semillon grapes after they had been attacked by the "noble rot" fungus. This extracts water from the grapes thus concentrating their sugar so that the wine produced is sweet but not cloying. It probably cost about £15 and was, as it said on the label, "perfectly poised golden lusciousness"

Margaret Charlton

Alan Townshend

Poems

(Sue McPhee's latest topical poem)

The invite came we've got the call,

It's as good as an invite to a ball.

The big day will be on a Thursday,

We'll be on our way before 4-30.

Which one we'll get we don't care,

We will find out when we get there.

The Pfizer jab is the one that we get,

Roll up your sleeves, it's all done, pet!

Go and sit for a while, to see if you're OK,

No tea and biscuits I'm afraid today.

Wait to see if you have any reaction,

Hopefully not, no need for action

Your time is up, please follow the flow,

Come back and see us for a second go,
All these clever people need a great big cheer,
Without their knowledge it could be worse I fear.

IN MY OWN WRITE

Write an article for *AWAKEN* and win £20. Your article will appear under the title 'IN MY OWN WRITE.' What we are looking for is a reflective, interesting, amusing or opinion piece rather than a purely informative article. The content can be lighthearted or serious but it must be suitable for the *AWAKEN* readership. Your article must be approx. 450 words long (one side of A5). Avoid religion, politics and too many exclamation marks!!! Include your Name and Membership no.

Contributions should be sent to Steve Roberts, preferably email sadrob@outlook.com or on paper copy to 18, Ellerker Rise, Well Lane, Willerby HU10 6EY

Joan Greenley's Trials & Tribulations of Lockdown Home Schooling

During lock-down I have had the privilege of home schooling my grandchildren. Did you realise you have just read an example of a fronted adverbial? No, I'd never heard that phrase either until I started helping my 8 year old granddaughter construct sentences as part of an English lesson. How come I've got to this great age and never heard it? Did Dickens use fronted adverbials, or Jane Austin? No. According to the Oxford Library of English Usage, they would have used adverbs of time, place and frequency. After a certain amount of Googling I found what I was looking for. The reason I had not come across this before is because the phrase was coined by an academic who decided greater emphasis should be put on traditional grammar in primary schools. Quite right. This happened during Michael Gove's stint as Education Secretary sometime between 2010 and 2014, and is all to do with Sats tests. Fronted adverbials! I have had a real insight into what my grandchildren are learning. I have been reacquainted with Julius Caesar's invasion of Britain, and Queen Boudica. (Or Boadicea in my day) I'm learning about the destruction of the rain forests, and why we should be avoiding palm oil. I'm even re-familiarising myself with algebra, and learning about bar charts and pictographs. I'm also reading their set books with them. The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas, prompts lots discussion with my 11 year old grandson, and Planet Omar, Accidental Trouble Magnet, the story of a young Muslim boy who has to move house and school, and how he deals with a school bully and prejudice. Plenty to talk about with an 8 year old. My daughter has worked

from home since last March so I have felt really lucky to spend a lot of time with my grandchildren, but school really is the place they should be.

Joan Greenley

Holmes & Watson Answers (from Online Newsletter 57)

Phone Lines

Jenny -Ext. 594

Denise – Ext. 548

Lynda – Ext. 256

Shirley – Ext. 438

Next AWAKEN

Following our recent appeals, many members have agreed to receive their Newsletters by email thus saving on paper, delivery & stamps.

If you would be happy to receive your newsletter in this way please indicate on the enclosed Membership form.

Hopefully we will continue to produce the Online Newsletter, keep checking the AWAKE website for this and keep sending articles, stories & photos for inclusion. The deadline for the next Newsletter is Friday 7th May 2021

Registered Charity Number 1150988 ANLABY WILLERBY AND KIRK ELLA U3A the website may be found at <http://u3asites.org.uk/>

Final Thoughts from the Editor

If you're not supposed to eat at night, why is there a light bulb in the refrigerator?

I've always had an irrational fear of speed bumps but I'm slowly getting over it.

Intelligence is like underwear. It is important that you have it, but not necessary that you show it off.

Whatever you do, always give 100%--unless you're donating blood.



This is an example of the 'home' digital photography produced by Phil & Jean Atkin during Lockdown.
Pretty impressive photography but who cleans up afterwards, Phil or Jean?



The French conversation group INCLUDING our old friend, Mary Moore from Norfolk!



No social distancing in Kirk Ella (thanks to Ian Jones)



Art from Mary Randell - Fantastical birds.