

## Winter Learning Programme 18/10/20

All initiatives are available at: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes>. Initiatives are intentionally released on a stagger to keep people's interest and participation over the winter. Events which require members to book are at: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>. The website will be updated regularly so members should be encouraged to keep checking these pages.

1. **National poetry competition.** Nationwide search to find the best poem penned by a u3a member. **Launched 12<sup>th</sup> October.** 20<sup>th</sup> November deadline, then judging. Winner announced January 2021.
2. **Programme of free talks** delivered by members (currently being sourced). Talks are released on a stagger so people don't bulk book. Talks confirmed to date:
  - Mayan civilization,
  - How to write your living history
  - Yoga (booking not yet released)
  - Bridge tutorials for beginners and improvers (booking not yet released)
  - Crown green bowling (booking not yet released)
  - Philosophy (booking not yet released)
  - Cryptic crosswords (booking not yet released)
  - Japan (booking not yet released)
  - Other TBC.
3. **Made it! Make it! gets a Christmas update** – people will be encouraged to send in pictures and explanations of how they have made decorations/items for Christmas and the festive season. This will use the same pages with updated wording and a push on social media. **From 12<sup>th</sup> October, regular weekly updating.**
4. **Poetry reading.** Encouraging members to read their poems aloud. Led by a u3a member. First session **14<sup>th</sup> October, 2:30pm.** Second session TBC. Booking at: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>
5. **Winter Watch.** Members send in pictures of winter gardens, scenes, animals etc. **Launching 20<sup>th</sup> October, regular weekly updating.**
6. **Battle of Britain and the Blitz.** Members are encouraged to send in their stories of their experiences/ those of their families and friends. Stories will go up on the website. **Launch date by 23<sup>rd</sup> October.**
7. **Paint or Draw (POD) - The monthly art challenge.** Similar to u3a Eye. Members send in pictures of their original artwork on a monthly theme. Up to 15 images are chosen for the online gallery. No prizes, just prestige. **Launch date: 26<sup>th</sup> October.**
8. **U3A Maths Week ("Don't retire from maths – count yourself in!").** Three events planned (publicity released 8<sup>th</sup> Oct including a prize draw) and booking at: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>:
  - **Monday 9 November 2020, 2pm to 3.30pm** Online talk by Rob Eastaway, "Maths on the Back of an Envelope."
  - **Wednesday 11 November 2020, 2pm to 3pm** Maths problems and puzzles workshop.

- **Friday 13 November 2020, 2pm to 3pm** Maths activities and games.
9. **U3A Radio Podcast** – Second programme to be released **17<sup>th</sup> November**.
  10. **Friday watercolour painters** - A series of five workshops led by a u3a member where participants are shown how to produce a to produce a finished piece of artwork at the end. Pictures of the final artworks to go up on a online gallery. **Starts 20<sup>th</sup> November. Advertised at:**  
<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>
  11. **Programme of ‘external’ talks.** Includes to date:
    - National Gallery – Life and paintings of Artemisia (£5) on 24<sup>th</sup> November
    - Guildhall Art Gallery – Prerecorded talk about the Romans. Date TBC
    - National Trust – History of the National Trust (free). Date TBC
    - British Library – Christmas literature (free). Date TBC
    - Southwark Cathedral – TBC
    - National Army Museum - TBC
  12. **Christmas Choir** – Group carol singing led by the U3A member who led the previous choir sessions. **10<sup>th</sup> December.** A new weekly choir initiative, working towards a recorded song to start in January 2021.
  13. **Ongoing initiatives at:** <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes>
    - U3A Eye – Fortnightly photograph challenge on a different theme each time.
    - Maths challenge – weekly
    - Quiz – weekly
    - Birdwatch – Continuous with weekly updating
    - Creative Covid Collaboration – Members create ‘squares’ to form a digital patchwork. Continuous
    - Ideas to keep learning – weekly
    - Diary – now closed, submissions for each week to the end of July available to read
    - Creative Writing Competition 2020. Winners announced. The 13 regional winners’ stories are available to read
  14. **January** - A series of Winter Schools are planned for 11<sup>th</sup> Jan – end of Feb 2021.