

Culm Valley

Edition: Fourteen – January/February 2021

UPDATE Editor: Sue Hooper-Lawrie

Email: cvu3aupdate@gmail.com



A belated Happy New Year to you all from the CVu3a Executive Committee.

And so another year arrives, and with it a real and palpable hope.

A hope that the various vaccines, developed recently, will be the answer to the much needed management of the Coronavirus that has plagued us since March last year.

Let's hope it's not be too much longer before Culm Valley u3a can meet together again.

The Cvu3a Executive Committee continues to meet, and keep an eye on what has and is going on with regards to the medium to long term future. Now the vaccine is beginning to be rolled out, we dare to believe that it might not be too long before we can think about meeting together again.

With this in mind Kevin Woodward (Cvu3a Treasurer) has created a plan which we hope to start implementing in the very near future!

So please read on

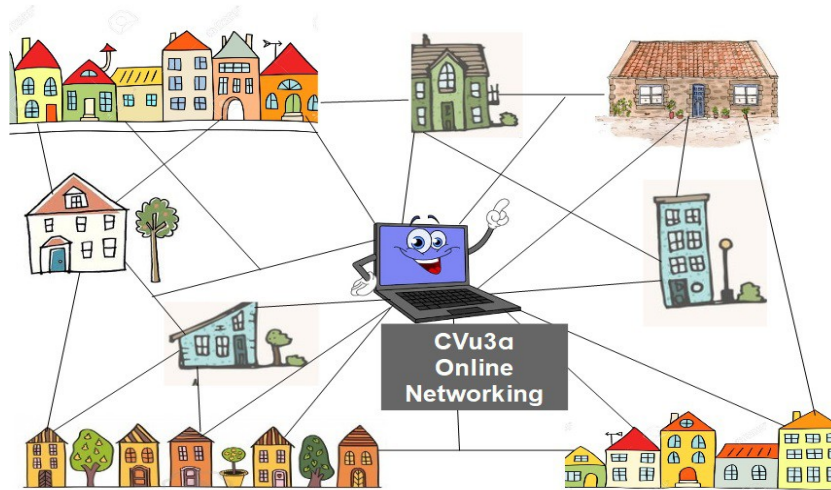


About Kevin ...

Hi there, my name is Kevin, I moved to Devon in 2002 starting a new life after having worked on the Slough Trading Estate for over 30 years. I was made redundant – the third time by the same company – and I had the offer of a good payout or move to Houston, TX to carry on doing the same job. I had done that once before (I was single then) and as I was settled into a life with my wife & two inherited children, it was time to move on.

I was brought up in Dorset (born in Windsor), my wife from North Yorkshire, and we felt that Devon was neutral territory to start over. A lifelong ambition to own a house in the country with a bit of land was about to come true. We bought a house in North Devon that had 2 acres of land, a big sturdy outbuilding, a ready made vegetable plot & it came with chickens. Our new life started... more of that to come later for those who are interested, from breeding llamas & pygmy goats, to running my own business.., there are plenty of stories to talk about.

However, I am here to talk about [online networking](#).



Definition of Networking: the action or process of interacting with others to exchange information and develop professional or social contacts.

Well, as I move towards retirement I am more focussed on the social side rather than the professional side, and that is where Culm Valley u3a comes in.

I used to run business networking in North Devon and at times they were very successful, with over 30+ people turning out for the dreaded early morning breakfast. I also helped run an online business group for North Devon using a site called Ecademy, it started around the same time as Facebook, but UK centric and focussed on business networking. I also ran a gardening group on the same site that was also very popular.

So, I have a little experience in running these sorts of things. I am a big fan of Facebook Groups, and as you know we have a small group for CVu3a that Sue H-L moderates, and of course we had our AGM on Zoom. Meeting using Zoom, and other online tools, has become such a great way of keeping in touch with family and friends during the various lockdowns that have been imposed on us.

So, I have a question –

Is it time for CVu3a to start up some groups online using Zoom?

I have a few ideas for Zoom meetings including:-

Members life history – from school through work to hobbies now – a 20 minute presentation followed by Q&A

Historical buildings – where have you visited, the highlights & why you would recommend it – general discussion

Posh gardens – where have you visited, the highlights & why you would recommend it – general discussion

Did you play sport – what standard, was it fun, your highlight – general discussion

Memorable story – I was told that people will better remember who you are if they can relate to a story about you – tell us your memorable story to help us to get to know you.

Favourite walks – I walk my dog for around 3 miles about 10 times a week, often around the lanes surrounding Uffculme, quiet lanes where there is plenty of wildlife and scenery to see. Where is your favourite local walk, how long is it, and what can we see?

Quizzes – 20 questions – pick a topic, winner sets the questions for the following week. (Sue H-L is willing to start!)

Any one got an IT problem? Ask away and let's see if we have someone who can help sort it – remotely of course?

Photography – monthly competition – send me your photo's, I'll organise a display during the Zoom session – time to vote – winner declared the following week (photo's could be displayed on the Cvu3a Facebook page (all by me & anon for privacy reasons) and Facebook votes will be added together with Zoom votes (sent via email to me) – no prizes – just fun.

So, if you would like to join in with any of these ideas, or indeed have ideas of your own, please let Sue H-L know by simply replying to this email. Let Sue know which ideas you are interested in and give her any ideas you may have too.

To make each group worthwhile we need around six participants, that'll be me, your host, & 4/5 others.

If we get no takers I'll go back to my day job.

Thanks for listening (reading).
Kevin.



I am sure you can tell that Kevin has given this a lot of thought, so we do hope that some members will feel able to join in. It would be great to use this opportunity to get to know one another a bit better ready for when we are able to meet together again.

News from National u3a

Recently u3a have...

rebranded and changed the logo.

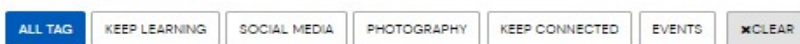
started podcasts:

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/about/news-archive/212-latest-news/974-u3a-radio-episode-4>


expanded its social media by turning its "In My Own Write" page into an interactive Facebook group for members - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/137742514769904>

expanded its learning resources

Learning News




Birdwatch Update 9
04 Dec 2020
Winter can be an excellent time of year to see birds visiting the garden for food, water and shelter. It also provides an exciting opportunity to see some species which are only here during the winter ...




Ideas to Keep Learning - 21
03 Dec 2020
Continuing our series which shares great ideas and suggestions to help you keep active, keep connected and keep learning. Mirthy Talks Mirthy Talks offer a paid for service for online talks on a var ...




#u3aphotoart
18 Nov 2020
u3a members have been using social media to share their photo art with each other. Members interested in digitally altering photos have been using the hashtag #u3aphotoart in our u3a Keeping in Touch ...



u3a members get festive
12 Nov 2020
Two of our learning initiatives, Made it Make it and Winter Watch, have had u3a members embracing the festive season. Our craft challenge, Made it Make it, has had a festive makeover. u3a members are ...



Ideas to Keep Learning 20
29 Oct 2020
Continuing our series which shares great ideas and suggestions to help you keep active, keep connected and keep learning. Wine quiz Denis O'Shea of Broxbourne U3A Wine Appreciation Group curre ...



Artemisia Gentileschi: Exciting Online Event with National Gallery
19 Oct 2020
Join us for an event with the National Gallery exploring the art of Artemisia Gentileschi. In this exclusive event on 24 November, u3a members will discover the artwork and life of

To find out more visit the u3a website - <https://www.u3a.org.uk/>

And finally a little something to get your brain going...

A lift is on the ground floor. There are four people in the lift including me. When the lift reaches first floor, one person gets out and three people get in.

The lift goes up to the second floor, 2 people get out 6 people get in.

It then goes up to the next floor up, no-one gets out but 12 people get in. Halfway up to the next floor up the lift cable snaps, it crashes to the floor.

Everyone else dies in the lift. How did I survive?

Email me your answer or email me for the answer!!