



Ebbw Vale U3A



Keeping In Touch December 2020

Dear Members

Welcome to the fifth edition of our Keeping In Touch Newsletter

Regrettably we are still unable to meet up and enjoy our group and monthly meetings.

Gary Denyer's weekly chats commenced in November. These chats take place from 10:30am to 11:30am every Tuesday and Thursday.

I joined the Coffee with Gary & Rufus group on November 17th and chatted with some of our members. The information below is used for each weekly meeting. I hope you are able to join Gary on some of these calls.

Tuesday - Zoom Meeting details

Just follow the link by clicking on it or copy and paste it into your browser and launch.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3539328564?pwd=ZFA5YmVac0kxZE1JVHYyQ0o4TnNVZz09>

Or directly on zoom by entering - **ID: 353 932 8564** and Password: **555**.

Or by telephone on: **0203 051 2874** and follow the prompts.

Thursday - Conference Call Details

Just dial the following number - **0330 606 0408** then enter the Access Code: **5643326** then hash/square (normally just below 9 key)

As costs vary, please check the cost with your telephone provider prior to making a call.

Mary Jones intends to set up an online Rummikub, further information to follow. Mary has also compiled the enclosed informal newsletter.

Members can join the EVu3a Keeping In Touch and Photography Group Facebook pages along with the National u3a Keeping In Touch page which has approximately 4,700 members. You can access the u3a National Website at: <https://www.u3a.org.uk>

Here you can sign up to receive the u3a National Newsletter and find news of learning opportunities, competitions, radio podcasts, online events etc.

If you have any ideas that you think could benefit other members, please get in touch via our email - ebbwvale.u3a.pon@outlook.com or telephone 07549304852 to chat about your ideas.

2020 Wales Region - Short Story Competition

I had the pleasure of joining our very own Anne Beese along with 9 other shortlisted u3a members on a zoom meeting to hear the results of the SEREN Cymru Wales Region Story Competition. The 10 short listed stories will be uploaded on to the U3A Wales Website; including Anne's entry 'The Guardian of Cadair Idris'. The overall Welsh winner was a member of Flintshire U3A.

In September Anne won first prize in the adult short story competition which was created by PinC breast cancer charity in conjunction with Aneurin Leisure's library service.

On behalf of the committee and all members I take this opportunity to congratulate Anne on her achievements.

Janice Andrews

Christmas Traditions – Old and Strange

Here we are with just a few weeks to Christmas. This year seems to have flown despite it being an Annus Horribilis. So for curiosity's sake I have been looking for some old and sometimes weird Yuletide customs around the world.

Putting up decorations began in the 15th Century, it was recorded in London that all houses and parish churches be "decked with holly, ivy, bays and whatever the season afforded to be green." In 1843 the first commercial Christmas card was produced by Sir Henry Cole in London.

In America a common tradition is to "Find a pickle". A pickle shaped ornament is hidden in the Xmas tree, the person who finds it gets an extra present.

In Iceland people often exchange books on Christmas Eve then spend the night reading them while eating chocolate. This tradition is part of a season called "Jolabokaflo" (The Christmas Book Flood).

In Sweden every year at 3.00pm on Christmas Eve, the 1958 Walt Disney special "Kalle Anka och hans vänner önskar God Jul" (Donald Duck and His Friends Wish You a Merry Christmas), airs on television. It is said that 40 percent of the country tune in to watch it.

Christmas is not a religious occasion in Japan, but they have a tradition of eating KFC from the 23rd to the 25th December. Often placing their order two months in advance to secure their holiday dinner. So as far as Christmas traditions are concerned ours are fairly straight forward!

Patricia O'Neill





Christmas Quiz

1. In the poem 'The Night Before Christmas', visions of what danced in children's heads?
2. The American states of Georgia, Arizona, and Indiana all have towns that share which same Christmassy name?
3. Popular in Victorian England at Christmas and also appearing in the Dickens' story *A Christmas Carol*, what is 'Smoking Bishop'?
4. Which novelty Christmas song was written in 1944 by New York music teacher Donald Yetter Gardner?
5. Which Christmas carol based on a poem by English poet Christina Rossetti has been set to music many times, the most famous by Gustav Holst?
6. *My Brother and I* and *Turkey Dinner* were two Christmas Specials of which classic series?
7. On Boxing Day 1991, what was formally dissolved?
8. Who wrote the first ever King's Christmas message - it was for George V in 1932?
9. According to (UK) tradition, Christmas decorations should come down on which date in January?
10. St. Knut's Day marks the end of Christmas and the holiday season in which European country?
11. What was created by Robert May in a 1939 booklet?
12. Which famous playwright was frightened of Christmas?

Answers will be printed in the January Keeping In Touch Newsletter.

Christmas Wordsearch Puzzle

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

Angels	Bells	Blitzen	Bow	Candles	Candy Canes	Cards
Carols	Cheer	Chestnuts	Chimney	Christmas Dinner	Christmas Lights	Christmas Tree
Church	Comet	Cookies	Cupid	Dancer	Dasher	Donner
Elves	Family	Festive	Fireplace	Frosty	Garland	Gingerbread Man
Holidays	Holly	Ivy	Jack Frost	Jesus	Jingle Bells	Jolly
Joy	Manger	Merry	Mistletoe	Nativity	Noel	North Pole
Nutcracker	Ornaments	Peace	Prancer	Presents	Reindeer	Ribbon
Rudolph	Santa Claus	Scrooge	Season	Sled	Sleigh	Snowflake
Snowman	Spirit	Stockings	Three Wise Men	Tinsel	Toys	Vixen
Winter	Wreath	Yuletide				

