

FILEY & DISTRICT U3A

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THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

From your editor

Well, here we are in 2021 and enduring another lockdown. Not an auspicious start to the New Year, but as I write this, the rapid vaccine rollout together with Boris's latest announcement brings hope for a return to our U3A activities within sight. Indeed, I hope that many of you have already received your first vaccination and can feel more secure. With the 29th March projection anticipating outdoor activities being the first freedoms we can enjoy, your committee are hoping to get the outdoor groups running again soon after that. Also, by the time that is possible, the weather should be improving, thus encouraging us to emerge and take advantage. On my exercise walks recently, I've been enjoying the snowdrops already in bloom and watching the daffodil shoots pushing into view; always a welcome harbinger of better times just around the corner. So hang in there everyone – the end is in sight, and we WILL be able to meet up again face to face a bit later in the year.

Eleanor Harris

From your committee

As you will have seen, the committee have decided to postpone our AGM until later in the year, mainly hoping that a face to face meeting will be possible. It should also enable us to set full membership fees for the year at an appropriate level. However, if it *has* to run remotely again, it will follow the same format we adopted last September to give everyone the opportunity to participate. We will keep you informed.

Call for new committee members

Have you thought about volunteering to join us on the committee this year? We do strongly urge you to seriously consider this, since losing 2 members of our committee this year, we are looking to replace them. With a return to our normal schedule, even if this does not happen until the latter part of the year, we *always* need fresh ideas and opinions to help make our U3A better than ever. Our questionnaire gave us some insight into your thoughts and we thank everyone who sent in replies, but we *do need* regular support to run the organisation in a way that satisfies our membership. Tony has written a summary of the questionnaire replies in this newsletter. Perhaps it will inspire you to help out with getting our U3A off to a great new start this year whenever that happens? Just contact any committee member; we will be happy to discuss you joining us and answer any of your questions or concerns.

Membership renewals

You should all have received a letter or email about renewing your membership for this financial year by paying an interim fee of £5. We have already received a large number of replies – thank you.

This is just a reminder for those of you who have been busy and intend renewing – please could you send your subscription before 31st March? We will then know our membership numbers for the close of our financial year.

It would help our Treasurer, (Howard, 01723 516342) and myself, (Eleanor, 07807474009, fileyu3a1newsletter@gmail.com) if you could contact either of us if you decide NOT to renew your membership at this time. We fully appreciate that getting back to our U3A activities is still hanging on factors outside our control and that you may wish to wait until things are more settled. Renewing later is a simple matter and can be done at any time – please just let us know.

Questionnaire report

In December, you will remember, we invited members to give us their views about the future activities of our U3A.

We received a total of 49 replies. Most people seemed content to return to our familiar format - what we were enjoying before lockdown closed our activities other than those which could be sustained at a distance.

The only recurring subject for a new group activity that was raised was some aspect of IT education. Your committee are currently looking into what instruction is readily available and the opportunities to pursue this as we return to normal interactions. Mailings have already gone out to those online about the 'Citizens online' support group for those who need immediate assistance. If you missed this, lost the email, or want help getting started with internet connection, then just contact any committee member for details or help. 'Citizens online' can be contacted on 0808 196 5883.

It was clear that monthly meetings with guest speakers are important to most members and there is a distinct preference for speakers on local matters of history, environment and natural history. The committee will do their best to respond to this, including encouraging speakers from within our **own** membership.

Although there does not seem to be a demand for many new activities, we are always alert to opportunities to broaden our base of subjects. That always entails the need for somebody to volunteer to lead the new activity group. So, if you have a subject which you enjoy and would like to share with others or have a subject that you would like to share with an audience at our monthly meetings, please contact any committee member. We are always willing to help.

Some replies to the questionnaire included kind regards to the committee for the work they have maintained in these difficult months. We are grateful for these and are looking forward to being able to start positive planning for our U3A to return to happier times.

Tony Dawson

Group coordinator



U3A CALENDAR SALE!

Peter still has some calendars left so is now selling them at the bargain price of **£3.50!** The photographs themselves are a lovely collection of local scenes and are worth having on their own, but the calendar pages are still useful for the remainder of the year for jotting down those important appointments – such as your second vaccination?

You can order as many copies as you like and delivery is FREE within the Filey area.

To place your order and arrange delivery, please contact Peter Greaves by phone or text on 07930162250 or email petergreaves1947@gmail.com .