

FILEY & DISTRICT U3A

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THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

From your Chairman

Dear Members,

It's a pleasure to kick off this issue of the Filey U3A newsletter after our abrupt halt in late March as lockdown was called. I hope you have been managing without too many problems, but if you have had a difficult time, I hope things are improving for you.

With the government starting to ease the restrictions on what we can do, we are now able to think about continuing our U3A activities and you will find details about our groups later in this newsletter as well as on our Filey U3A website (see above).

We are also planning to re-start our monthly coffee and talk meetings at Filey Methodist Church as soon as the regulations enable us to do so. We hope that will not be delayed too long and we will let you have further details as soon as we are able.

I'm also pleased to confirm that the committee has been able to extend everyone's membership from April this year to 1st April 2021 without further charge; the cost of any branch meetings and any other items payable in this period will be met by our reserve funds.

Our Annual General Meeting, due at the end of March, was one of the first casualties of the shutdown. As we do need to hold such a meeting and so that you can be involved in the running of the club, (for example by standing for the committee) we are now planning to hold it online on 10th September. You will be sent full details of the meeting and how to join in nearer the time.

Finally, we know that Filey U3A is valued by our members and we will do our best to get back to all our activities, plus any new ones you may have dreamt up during lockdown, as soon as we can.

Graham Tillotson

From your editor, Eleanor

Yes! Momentous events since March and our last newsletter. I think we have all been a little shocked and it has taken us time to adjust to restricted living conditions. I am sure many of you have been very busy, as I have, of finding ways to live under lockdown, how to get the shopping in and overcome the long hours being indoors. However, I suspect many of you are now thinking beyond the household and are looking for ways in which to interact with your former group members in the U3A. You will have seen from the bulletins David Smith has been sending out, some groups have been able to meet online (thank goodness for modern technology!) and some of the outdoor groups are starting to plan meetings; keeping within government guidelines to ensure everyone's safety, of course.

The committee, meeting online last month, are very aware that we have a small group of members who do not have access to the internet. Thus this newsletter will be sent out as the usual hardcopy to ensure they are kept up to date, though we know that some have been getting regular information from friends in the U3A anyway.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

As Graham mentioned above, the committee need to hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) and are proposing to hold this online on 10th September, provided the arrangements can be finalised by that time. If this date becomes unworkable, it will be delayed until October. Everyone will be invited to join in and details of how to do this will be posted as soon as possible. Those unable to join us electronically will be given the chance to vote and voice their opinions, by post. All information normally covered at an AGM (ie agenda, financial statement, any proposals for constitution changes, minutes of the last AGM) will be sent out to members. The committee encourage you to take part online if you are able, as we will still need a quorum of members to pass the minutes and vote on any proposals. Postal votes will also count, of course.

News from the groups

The **POETRY** group have been keeping in touch online by emailing monthly to share their literary output. They have been setting a common theme for the members to write about but additional creations on any subject have also been shared and enjoyed. The group are still going to publish a booklet of their work as mentioned earlier in the year. This has been delayed by lockdown unfortunately, but work is ongoing and it will be advertised once it is available for purchase (at cost price).

Some of the **UKELELE** group, who play by finger plucking rather than strumming chords, have been able to practice together using Zoom conferencing. It is not ideal, but has kept them in touch and playing their instruments.



The **BRIDGE** group have been playing via an online Bridge game facility which enables someone to set up a game and invite other participants. Chris Place runs this group and has been helping members to interact for some good games.

The **SPANISH CONVERSATION** group has been able to continue by using Zoom conferencing. Indeed, one of their members is currently trapped in Spain, but has been able to join in on Zoom and so keep in touch and still feel part of the group.

The **DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY** group are still planning to publish a calendar for 2021.



They are currently working to get it completed and will advertise it as soon as it is available. The cost is estimated to be around £5 again. Once available, Peter Greaves will announce how you can obtain a copy.

David and Janet Pickersgill, who run the **NATURAL HISTORY** group, have been reporting any wildlife encounters during their isolation walks under lockdown. The group have been treated to some lovely photos, some of which are included in this newsletter to brighten it up a little. (Thank you Janet!) They have now restarted taking small groups out (maximum 6) under the new government guidelines. Members are contacted by email and asked to claim a place on the dates that David and Janet have advertised, thus they are getting the group out and about again so as not to miss enjoying the abundance of wildlife and flora of summer. Indeed, the smaller groups seem to be working better than the previous larger ones, so ONE benefit from the new arrangements is emerging.



The **9 HOLE GOLF** group are starting to meet and 2 of the **WALKING** groups are currently planning to start again before long, probably in September. They are working out the details and will let their members know as soon as they are ready to go. Numbers will be restricted, of course, until government guidelines change.



WALKING GROUP 3 has been re-started by Roy Foster. He is aiming to do walks which encompass shorter and longer routes within the same walk in order to accommodate the abilities of a range of members. The 'lucky 5' can decide on the day the extent of the route they each wish to attempt. Keep an eye out for his emails.

The **HANDICRAFTS** group will not continue with Linda Evans as co-ordinator. Due to health issues she will no longer be able to lead the group but is happy to lend her aid via the phone or email. We wish to thank her for running the group and wish her all the best for her future health.

Do you have a craft or hobby you enjoy and would like to share with other U3A members? Would you consider taking over organising the group once it is possible to meet face to face again? You would not have to *teach* the group, only organise meet ups to share expertise. Please give it some thought.

Another suggestion – why not explore playing games online with your U3A friends? Chris Place found the online Bridge games facility but there must be counterparts for other games which can be shared online. Even if you communicate via Skype, Zoom or WhatsApp it must still be possible to play games together or indeed, share hobbies, interests, gardening tips, recipes???? Perhaps, even when we are able to meet again, face to face, it could still be an option to communicate electronically. There is no substitute for enjoying a face to face communal meet up, but social interaction is very important for mental health, so we really ought to explore the boundaries of electronic communication and exploit it to the full.



Contact any member of the committee with your ideas – we welcome your suggestions and will help anyway we can to explore ways of keeping the groups running.