

FILEY & DISTRICT U3A

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THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

From your committee

Much though we enjoy all the vibrant spring growth around us as we get out and about, we can at last start to meet up indoors, even if in restricted numbers. See Tony Dawson's update on the groups for the latest news and how you can help get our club going again. At the last committee meeting, it was decided that we need to set a date for our first face to face meeting for 2021....SO.....at the request of many of our members:

COFFEE MORNING

10am Thursday 22nd JULY 2021

METHODIST CHURCH ROOM

This will give us all a chance to catch up with our U3A friends, perhaps make some new ones and exchange news from the last 15 months or more.

We intend having an IT table, manned by Dave Newbury, (many thanks, Dave) who will do his best to solve any of your computer technology problems, or arrange further help if needed. We hope that most of the group leaders will be able to attend so that they are available to answer questions about their activities and future plans.

So put that date in your diaries – it will be so good to see you all again.

RESIDUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

Our Treasurer has calculated that we are able to keep the membership fee at £12 for this financial year. This should still enable us to cover our sundry costs as well as the costs we anticipate for our planned monthly meetings for the remainder of the year. Most of you will have paid an interim fee of £5 (many thanks) but we now need to collect the residual £7 to accomplish this. Thus we will be setting up a table at the July coffee morning where we will be able to take your cheques (preferably) or cash (exact change please) and issue your membership cards. You can also pay by bank transfer if you prefer – just let us know when you send it off so we can update our records.

FROM YOUR GROUP COORDINATOR

Covid permitting, we are less than a month away from being able to restart all of our groups that have been closed throughout the various lockdown restrictions. Group leaders are in the process of contacting their known members to notify them of their plans to restart their activities. Please feel free to contact your leader or any committee member, if you are unsure about the restart of your group. Hopefully you will find your groups as strong and welcoming as you left them, but time and health issues have claimed a few casualties.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

- 1 Sadly for us, Janet and David Pickersgill have moved away and we have been unable to find anyone to take over their **Natural History** group.
- 2 Aileen Newbury will not be able to continue her **Family History** group, so we need a replacement leader.
- 3 The **Music Appreciation** group is reduced to three and would welcome new members to sustain it and help to support its running. They listen to a piece of music and discuss it afterwards. A range of music genres are reviewed.
- 4 Linda Evans has had to retire from leading the **Handicrafts** group and we need to replace her to keep it going.
- 5 Gary Smith cannot continue his **Walking** group. Plans are proposed to have two walking groups, doing the same walks but on different days - probably Friday and Monday. We will update you once we know more.
- 6 The **U3A Singers** have lost their musician leader but are exploring different ways to carry on.
- 7 We are planning on combining two old groups. We feel that a **Theatre and Film** group should appeal to many of you who have an interest in either, or both forms of

entertainment. It could combine regular viewings of classic quality films, streaming of current live theatre, outings to nearby theatres and talks from visiting professionals.

We are very grateful for the efforts of all leaders in running their groups. If you have any interest in the above activities and would like to help in any way, please contact a member of the committee.

It is also vital that we explore the possibility of **creating new activity groups**, so if you have a keen interest in any subject that you would like to pursue with others, please let us know.

When we are certain which groups will be fully active, we will reissue the Members Information Booklet listing them and also show which groups have space to invite new members. In the meantime, you can view the latest updates on our website.

Tony Dawson

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Several of our groups have been keeping in touch during the lockdowns and later restrictions.

The [Spanish Conversation](#) group have continued to meet online to keep their speaking skills alive.

The [Art](#) group have been exploring different methods to achieve good facial feature details in their recent work towards portraiture. We will have to persuade them to give an exhibition once it is possible – their work is always impressive.

The [Bridge](#) group have been playing via an online game site. They are currently exploring new venues for face to face meetings together with other groups, such as [Mah Jong](#) and [Canasta](#), since the Snooker Club venue has become less than ideal.

Members of the [Table Tennis](#) group have continued to take advantage of the outdoor table at Hunmanby Community centre but hope to start playing indoors again soon. A request for outdoor tables for Filey is still being processed with the council. We are keeping our fingers crossed it will go ahead.

Though not ideal, members of the [Ukelele](#) group have been practicing together via Zoom and the like. At least it kept them playing.

Groups that could meet outdoors have been continuing where possible and are looking forward to greater freedoms come the end of June: as are we all!

Having a Go at Something Different

When I was able to retire, a friend told me that I could now try anything I had not done before and it didn't matter if I made a fool of myself doing it. I have followed that advice over the last 20 years, tried lots of new things, and supported the U3A as a good route into new ideas and new ways of thinking. So when Filey Library asked for a volunteer to run a pre-school childrens' reading session a few years ago, I put my hand up. Sometimes there were only two kiddies, which made it cozy; sometimes ten of them, which made it chaos. However, they enjoyed it, I enjoyed it and the grown-ups enjoyed it too. We sang nursery rhymes and told silly stories, complete with animal noises.

When the Covid lockdown came I was asked whether I would record the sessions to put up on the County Library Facebook page. That was when I became a little cautious. No little faces; just a laptop screen in front of me - very odd. I watched some readers on other library pages, most of whom seemed to be confident speakers which I am not. I have never been a schoolteacher but I am a Dad and a Grandad so I tried reading the stories just like that, without any rigid format or plan.

Once I started doing the readings in my garden shed, wearing different hats and accompanied by *Rooaary* the stuffed Lion, it became much easier and the world of the Storyshed took over. The videos proved popular on the library Facebook page and I was persuaded to put them up on YouTube. Things started to take off then. I received compliments from Germany, Turkey, USA, Australia and elsewhere, from viewers saying how much they were enjoying them. I often hear from adults who are watching them without any kids. I suppose we all need a bit of silliness these days.

The Scarborough News did an article, resulting in me being interviewed on BBC Radio York. Then BBC North did a blog about the stories on their pages. When I recently received a phone call from a London-based arts production company I thought I had hit the big time. Unfortunately, they only wanted to come up to Filey to record me singing some sea shanties. Ah well, perhaps I am too old for fame.

Anyway, I have now done well over 30 recordings. I will ease out of doing them now the Library is opening up again properly. In the meantime, if you are interested in a bit of silliness, go on to YouTube (you don't have to have a small child on your knee to watch) and search on '**Storytime with Robert at Filey**'.

Robert Hartley

Robert is our Ramshackle Shantymen group leader

– and now an experienced storyteller!