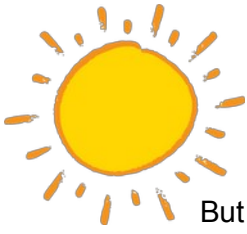


## Stray Bits- April 2021



I hope that everyone has had a very pleasant time over Easter although the weather wasn't very kind to us – being very cold! Just our bad luck – but, at the moment as I write this, the days have been wonderfully sunny – even if there has been quite a frost overnight.

But it will improve hopefully, and the forecast for next week is pretty good. So on with the gardening gloves whilst we can! Meanwhile I expect that our U3A groups are planning to come out of hiding – and it will be great to hear all about your plans for next month's Stray Bits.- **Val Cooke, Editor**



**THE NATURALISTS GROUP** will continue with Zoom meetings until we are able to hold outdoor meetings again. Coming up:

**Tuesday 11th May at 2pm** - 'Wild flowers of the Dolomites' - Chris Beard

**Tuesday 8th June at 2pm** - 'The Fascination of Fungi' - Mervin Nethercoat

We invite any U3A members who are interested to join us for these presentations. Please contact me for an invitation on: [issybeard@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:issybeard@hotmail.co.uk) Isobel Beard

### **New Group - Country Club**

With the current and ongoing Covid restrictions on travel, the opportunity to sample different countries and their cuisines has gone. Maybe, however, you still like the idea of trying Lamingtons from Australia, Hoppers from Sri Lanka, Encocado Sauce from Ecuador or other worldwide treats. If so, this proposed new group should be for you.

The group will be organised by myself and my wife. We are **Frank and Sue Smith**, and we're quite new to U3A, having moved to Harrogate in December 2019. Meetings will take place in members' homes, on a rotational basis. The meetings will be monthly and take the form of 'bring and share' meals, with dishes being prepared in advance by the members of the group. Each month the dishes will be those of a single country, selecting the countries by initial letter and progressing through the alphabet. Costs of the ingredients will be on a shared basis.

The group is intended to be a social one but will also give opportunities to swap culinary tips and to discuss our knowledge of the countries. As we will meet in members' homes, all of which vary, the seating arrangements might have to be a little 'informal' at times! We'd expect a maximum of 12 at any one meeting, but with this number reduced if necessary to fit a particular home. We'd expect the group to have a few more than 12 members as it is unlikely that everyone would be available every time. We would also expect to adopt a rotation system where there's a need to reduce numbers attending a particular meeting. The group would be more suitable for people without too many dietary requirements, as it might be difficult to provide alternative options.

Please email us at [franksuesmith@yahoo.com](mailto:franksuesmith@yahoo.com) if you would you like to join or to know more. We'd hope to have the first meeting in late June and our thought is to meet at lunchtime on Thursdays.



### **Virtual Coffee Morning, Afternoon Tea and Drinks Evening**

Well, over the past few months we've tried all the possibilities for reproducing the Coffee Mornings we used to have at the Crown Hotel. We attracted more members to the Virtual Coffee Morning than to either of the others, so that will be the one we intend to repeat from 10.00 am on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May** (please note change of date). Come along and find others with whom to chat. It's far more manageable than at

Open Meetings as there's only 3 or four in a 'room'. And I make sure everyone moves around every so often – just like you could do at the Crown! **Richard Cyster, Chairman.**

## Closure of Harrogate U3A Exercise & Fitness and Tai Chi Groups. - Val Cooke

These groups have operated for 20 years and to ensure the safety and health of the participants, are taught by paid qualified tutors. The tutors are self-employed, and I insist that they and the venue are insured. The Committee is requesting that I obtain the employment and tax details. I do not feel that I can provide this personal information to the Committee. As a result, the Committee has ruled that these groups can no longer operate as Harrogate u3a groups.

However, providing they are viable I am willing to operate the groups independently under the previous conditions. The costs will remain the same and details are given below.

Thanks to all those colleagues who have given their support over the years.

### Exercise and Fitness.

If all things remain as presently planned, we shall be able to return to Jennyfield Styan Centre on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June. *Hopefully we will all be fully vaccinated and be aware of any lingering Covid regulations at that time.* Meanwhile it would be helpful if members would now contact me to let me know if they are interested in returning. Contact me on: [valerie@cooke989.plus.com](mailto:valerie@cooke989.plus.com) or telephone: 01423 506837.

### Tai Chi

If you are interested in joining or continuing with this group which will continue on Zoom for the time being, please contact me on: [valerie@cooke989.plus.com](mailto:valerie@cooke989.plus.com) or telephone: 01423 506837.

### Tai Chi 2

If all things remain as planned, this group will restart at Jennyfield Styan Hall on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May. There is no half term break and we should be able to have a clear run til the end of term.

I would be grateful if you would now let me know if you are interested in returning to the group. Email me on: [valerie@cooke989.plus.com](mailto:valerie@cooke989.plus.com) or telephone: 01423 506837



**Peter Kearney's Tuesday painting** is continuing weekly on zoom with about 15 followers. Recent topics have included our take on the popular 'Knaresborough Viaduct from the Castle' and 'Breakfast.' With the uncertainty of restarting indoor painting meeting we are considering and looking forward to some outdoor sketching in the springtime sunshine. - **B. Graham**



### Beacon

As you may already know, the Committee are urgently looking to replace Chris Rush, our current website and Beacon officer. Chris has taken responsibility for the website and Beacon for a number of years now but is having to step down due to health problems. We have someone who is willing to take on the website, but we still need a volunteer to manage our Beacon membership system. I don't think the IT skills required are vast and Chris would provide a full handover.

If you'd like to volunteer or wish to know more, contact me at: [chair@harrogateu3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@harrogateu3a.org.uk)

**Richard Cyster.**

### Scams in Circulation. - Ed.

- 1.If you are called by 'a man from the Council' saying that you have been overcharged on Council tax and are entitled to a refund - **Hang up!**
2. If you receive an email, supposedly from someone you know' with the message, 'Do you know these people?' - Do not open the link because it can load malicious software into your computer. **Delete!**
3. If you receive a text from the **Post Office/Hermes** etc saying 'were unable to deliver, **Ignore and delete!**



### COMMUNICATION NETWORK

**Website address** - <https://u3asites.org.uk/harrogate/home>

**Group Leaders** - please give updates to Webmaster, Chris Rush at:  
[webmaster@harrogateu3a.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@harrogateu3a.org.uk)

**Stray Bits** for your immediate notices and information. Copy by 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021 please to:  
Val Cooke, Editor, Stray Bits – Tel. 506837 or: [valerie@cooke989.plus.com](mailto:valerie@cooke989.plus.com)

**Harrogate U3A email address:** [harrogateu3a.mail@gmail.com](mailto:harrogateu3a.mail@gmail.com)  
**Membership Enquiries** - 07389 733164 and leave a contact number.