

18/10/20

All initiatives are available at: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes>. Initiatives are intentionally released on a stagger to keep people's interest and participation over the winter. Events which require members to book are at: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>. The website will be updated regularly so members should be encouraged to keep checking these pages.

1. **National poetry competition.** Nationwide search to find the best poem penned by a u3a member. **Launched 12th October.** 20th November deadline, then judging. Winner announced January 2021.
2. **Programme of free talks** delivered by members (currently being sourced). Talks are released on a stagger so people don't bulk book. Talks confirmed to date:
 - Mayan civilization,
 - How to write your living history
 - Yoga (booking not yet released)
 - Bridge tutorials for beginners and improvers (booking not yet released)
 - Crown green bowling (booking not yet released)
 - Philosophy (booking not yet released)
 - Cryptic crosswords (booking not yet released)
 - Japan (booking not yet released)
 - Other TBC.
3. **Made it! Make it! gets a Christmas update** – people will be encouraged to send in pictures and explanations of how they have made decorations/items for Christmas and the festive season. This will use the same pages with updated wording and a push on social media. **From 12th October, regular weekly updating.**
4. **Poetry reading.** Encouraging members to read their poems aloud. Led by a u3a member. First session **14th October, 2:30pm.** Second session TBC. Booking at: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>
5. **Winter Watch.** Members send it pictures of winter gardens, scenes, animals etc. **Launching 20th October, regular weekly updating.**
6. **Battle of Britain and the Blitz.** Members are encouraged to send in their stories of their experiences/ those of their families and friends. Stories will go up on the website. **Launch date by 23rd October.**

7. **Paint or Draw (POD) - The monthly art challenge.** Similar to u3a Eye. Members send in pictures of their original artwork on a monthly theme. Up to 15 images are chosen for the online gallery. No prizes, just prestige. **Launch date: 26th October.**

8. **U3A Maths Week (“Don’t retire from maths – count yourself in!”).** Three events planned (publicity released 8th Oct including a prize draw) and booking at:
<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>:
 - **Monday 9 November 2020, 2pm to 3.30pm** Online talk by Rob Eastaway, “Maths on the Back of an Envelope.”
 - **Wednesday 11 November 2020, 2pm to 3pm** Maths problems and puzzles workshop.
 - **Friday 13 November 2020, 2pm to 3pm** Maths activities and games.

9. **U3A Radio Podcast** – Second programme to be released **17th November.**

10. **Friday watercolour painters** - A series of five workshops led by a u3a member where participants are shown how to produce a finished piece of artwork at the end. Pictures of the final artworks to go up on a online gallery. **Starts 20th November. Advertised at:**
<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

11. **Programme of ‘external’ talks.** Includes to date:
 - National Gallery – Life and paintings of Artemisia (£5) on 24th November
 - Guildhall Art Gallery – Prerecorded talk about the Romans. Date TBC
 - National Trust – History of the National Trust (free). Date TBC
 - British Library – Christmas literature (free). Date TBC
 - Southwark Cathedral – TBC
 - National Army Museum - TBC

12. **Christmas Choir** – Group carol singing led by the U3A member who led the previous choir sessions. **10th December.** A new weekly choir initiative, working towards a recorded song to start in January 2021.

13. **Ongoing initiatives at:** <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes>
 - U3A Eye – Fortnightly photograph challenge on a different theme each time.
 - Maths challenge – weekly
 - Quiz – weekly
 - Birdwatch – Continuous with weekly updating
 - Creative Covid Collaboration – Members create ‘squares’ to form a digital patchwork. Continuous
 - Ideas to keep learning – weekly
 - Diary – now closed, submissions for each week to the end of July available to read
 - Creative Writing Competition 2020. Winners announced. The 13 regional winners’ stories are available to read

14. **January** - A series of Winter Schools are planned for 11th Jan – end of Feb 2021.