



New Happy Year

LEICESTER



NEWS SHEET

Friday 8th January 2021 Edition Number 37

Welcome to 2021, and Edition Number 37 of Leicester u3a's Newsheet. We will continue to list formal announcements and online activities, all with the appropriate links and contact details. Holding our meetings face to face is delayed but we can still follow up our interests, existing or new. Thank you so much for all your responses, and do keep on sending your suggestions to newsheet@leicesteru3a.org.uk

[Neighbourhood Watch alert@neighbourhoodalert.co.uk](mailto:alert@neighbourhoodalert.co.uk) Leicester Police and Leicestershire Police <https://www.leics.police.uk> warn us of fake Covid19 Vaccine Text Messages. These claim to be from the NHS informing us that we are eligible for the vaccine in attempt to gather our bank details. The Police urge us to delete these messages and not to visit the websites. Also, an important fraud video from the Metropolitan Police: one picture is worth a thousand words. It applies to anyone who uses cash and credit cards www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJsPO_Yzl7M

Action Fraud is www.actionfraud.police.uk 0300 123 2040 and the Citizen's Advice Consumer Helpline is 0808 223 1133. The Covid Fraud Hotline is www.covidfraudhotline.org

Independent Age Provides regular support and phone calls to people who are lonely, and free downloadable advice guides. Say the codeword “U3A” when calling or emailing and you will be put directly through to an advisor. Receive quick access to their free and confidential advice line: Call freephone to 0800 319 67889 or www.advice@independentage.org

Apology To Ivy Carr and the French Intermediate Conversation group for missing them off the list of Languages groups at the start of the Christmas edition of Friday 18th December. “Many’s the mistake between cup and lip” ...and finger and keyboard!! The French Intermediate Conversation group has continued throughout Coronavirus online, as many of our groups have. As I’ve suggested since last March do try out Zoom, WhatsApp, Flickr, and the rest; set up email conversations and blogs; and just keep in touch.

Christmas Leftovers Quiz In the harsh new dawn of the third lock down and the new year, let’s try to remember a little of Christmas with these questions: 1. In which country did Christmas pudding originate? 2. If you sat down for Christmas dinner on Christmas day at 14.00 in London, what time would it be if you were on Christmas Island? 3. For good luck, which direction should you stir mincemeat? Answers at the bottom.

u3a High Street Project members of Leicester u3a have been taking a huge part in this national initiative. Convenor Veronica Matthew and the Leicester U3A Architecture and Design group have surveyed Clarendon Park Road and Evington Road for it. Maggy Simms of the national U3A High Street Steering group announces a Workshop for u3a groups and members 10.30am to 12.30 Tuesday 26th January as part of the project, Develop your local High Street Project <https://forms.gle/SwVYrt43eJoXQ8e6> The purpose is to share and discuss ideas and leave with plans of action. There will be a brief update on facts, figures from the data already collected by 500+ members who have participated in the 2020 High Street survey, and there are also four discussion groups: High Street Related Projects, such as surveys and language learning; Change, Planning and Future Visions; The Living History of the High Street, capturing reminiscences; and Walking Trails, using street names, working life notable people and landmarks. The intention is to repeat this workshop up to Easter, and I will keep a look out for new dates.

u3a Eye is our national photography challenge with monthly themes Look through the u3a eye page www.u3a.org.uk

The u3a Radio Podcast is available on the u3a YouTube channel www.youtube.com/user/theu3a A new programme is released each month on the 17th of each month at 6.00am.

Architecture and Design The group has been meeting continuously and successfully throughout the virus on Zoom and online. Veronica Matthew has sent me details of meetings open to all members of the Leicester U3A. They are monthly and I will announce them in advance of each date. First is on Wednesday 13th January 2.30pm, a presentation by Martin Field on Creative Community led and Self Build Homes. Please contact Veronica if you wish to join, architecture3@leicesteru3a.org.co.uk and she will send the Zoom link.

u3a Winter Learning Programme <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes> continues, with items released over the weeks and months into January and beyond. Ongoing initiatives are u3a Eye, a fortnightly Photographic Challenge; Quiz, weekly; Birdwatch, with weekly updating; Creative Covid Collaboration; and Ideas to keep Learning, weekly. Events which require members to book are at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events> All are free online via Zoom. Tuesdays for 4 weeks in January: Pre-War Blues 10.00am; various dates The Role and History of the National Trust, presented in partnership with the National Trust; Monday 11th January 2.00pm Rock Cut Tombs in the Valley of the Kings, presented by U3A Subject Advisor for Egyptology Neil Stevenson; and Friday Watercolour Painters, interactive tutorials, from Friday 15th January at 2.00pm. In the Winter School there is Various Garden Talks, five different talks: “never look at plant the same way again” led by Marion Dale, a Summer Schools tutor, each of 45 minutes with a question-and-answer session. First is Wicked Plants – which one is hiding in your garden?” on Tuesday 12th January, followed on Tuesday 19th January An Introduction to Arts and Crafts in the Edwardian Garden.

Creative Classes Greysnet www.greysnet.com “The Voice of Older People Online” – alongside the u3a - announce free online creative classes for older people starting this January. Also view their Creative Writing course; Five Haunted House Stories; and Grey’s Anatomy – about our anatomy.

Free Online Talks Mirthy <https://mirthy.co.uk/talks/> the online broadcaster of free educational and entertaining online talks by public speakers for U3As, “covering everything from Gardening to Travel to History”, has 19th Century Poisons for Medicine, a “darkly humorous” description of the development from medieval alchemy to chemical medicine in Victorian times. Thursday 14th January 2.00pm.

And finally, On 11th January 1935 Amelia Earhart departed Hawaii on a solo flight to North America; on 13th January 1610 Galileo Galilei discovered Callisto, the fourth satellite of Jupiter; on 14th January 1997 Greek archaeologists discovered The Lyceum in Athens; and on the 16th January last year Cairo turned orange – it was engulfed by a sandstorm.

Leftovers Christmas Quiz answers 1. England; 2. 21.00 (they are seven hours ahead of London); 3. Clockwise.

Do scroll up and down to try something out, and of course all the links, from the first Newsheet to 36 and onwards will be available to use in your groups when we are able to meet again. Thank you as always for all your suggestions and do keep sending them to me at newsheet@leicester.org.uk

Take Care!

Neil Taylor Newsheet Editor