



LEICESTER

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laugh,
live

NEWS SHEET

Saturday 11th December 2021 Edition Number 71

*Joyeux Noel et Bonne Annee Nollaig Shona
Felices Navitatis Diem Feliz Navidad
Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda!!*

Welcome and a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year in the Languages of Leicester u3a to this the 71st, edition of the Leicester u3a Newsheet...the Christmas Edition!!

A glass of hot punch to all the members of French Advanced 1 and 2, French Intermediate, Irish Language, Polish Up Your Rusty Latin, Spanish Beginners and Spanish Conversation and Welsh Improvers! Take your coat off, and sit down next to the fire with your glass of Punch to relax for a couple of moments! Click on the links and do keep sending your suggestions to newsheet@leicesteru3a.org.uk

As Christina Rossetti said, "But give me holly, bold and jolly/Honest ,prickly, shining holly;/Pluck me holly leaf and berry/For the day when I make merry"

MESSAGE FROM THE LEICESTER U3A CHAIR AND COMMITTEE

The Chair and Committee of Leicester u3a extend to all members a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We will continue, Government announcements allowing, to hold our group meetings and activities. We look forward to 2022, and the virus being a much more manageable part of our lives.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL


Tuesday 14th December at Christchurch from 2.30pm – Come along and meet up with other members for tea, coffee, biscuits and mince pies! Bring your Christmas Spirit with you! No alcohol is allowed at Christchurch, so it is cheerfulness we want, not hip flasks!

Due to the new Government advice, please wear a face covering unless you are medically exempt. You can remove this when having your refreshments seated . Please keep it on at all other times. Stay safe and well – we have your safety at heart.

You'll be very pleased to learn that the various heating repairs at Christchurch have been done and all areas can be heated. Ten of the hall radiators are now working, so, as Leonard Sachs might have said, "Come along for a Christmassy chat - the speakers are chiefly..."Ourselves!!"

Pantomime Go to the Victoria and Albert Museum www.vam.ac.uk for the Story of Pantomime, its origins in 16th Century Commedia dell 'Arte, its use of dance, music tumbling acrobatics to tell stories of Harlequin and Columbine; Actor Manager John Rich as Harlequin in 1753; and Lottie Collins, in Dick Whittington in 1850s Music hall singing Ta-ra-ra-boom-de-ay.

Movies You May Have Missed Let Him Go, starring Kevin Costner, attempting to bring home his grandson from a very strange family, led by Lesley Manville in a tour de force contrast to her performance in Mum; Queen of Spades on Talking Pictures, and based on the Pushkin novel, features Anton Walbrook, Edith Evans, with Miles Malleon, Michael Medwin, and Ronald Howard.



[The National u3a www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk) and go to [Online Events](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk) for Yoga, Maths, Cuisines of The World and Kindertransport Memories All is free to book through Eventbrite www.eventbrite.co.uk In *Learning News* book for a Live Cookery Demonstration, Vegetarian Christmas Special Monday 13th December; and Thursday 15th December Staying Safe Online both at 2.00pm; Christians, Jews and the Holocaust a talk by Tim Locke of Generation2 Generation, Thursday 16th December at 2.00pm; and Catherine Stevenson on Why the Spanish Armada Failed Tuesday 21st December 10.00pm

[Account of a Visit from St Nicholas by Henry Livingston](#) *"Twas the night before Christmas when all through the house/Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse/The stockings were hung by the chimney with care/In the hopes that St Nicholas soon would be there"*

[The Royal Voluntary Service www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk](http://www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk) Hold a variety of regular events under the title First Time For Everything. Also, got to the Virtual Village Hall for a programme of free online activities to enjoy at home, led by RVS Co-ordinators

[The British Museum www.britishmuseum.org.uk](http://www.britishmuseum.org.uk) contacts us about a series of free 90 minute History webinars they are running on Zoom. These courses are free and available to all adult learners across the UK. For further information about each online seminar and to enrol follow the link <https://www.webenrol.com/camden/Default.asp?page=courses&cat=5> On 13th December 2021, 11.00 - 12.30 Collections and Collectors at the British Museum; and on 20th December 2021 11.00 -12.30 Gift Giving at the British Museum.

[Leicester www.christmasinleicester.co.uk](http://www.christmasinleicester.co.uk) for Santa in the Square, to 23rd December; also the Jubilee Square Ice Rink and the Christmas Grotto in Green Dragon Square At Newarke House newarke-houses@leicester.gov.uk see The Snowman and the Snow Dog: free, drop in admission, and no need to pre-book; see Dynasty, Death and Discovery At the King Richard III Visitor Centre www.museums@leicester.gov.uk and visit Sethmose and Isinofret, a 3000 year old Egyptian Statue newly acquired at Leicester Museum and Art Gallery, New Walk. This was initially presented by Thomas' son John Mason Cook in the 1890s.

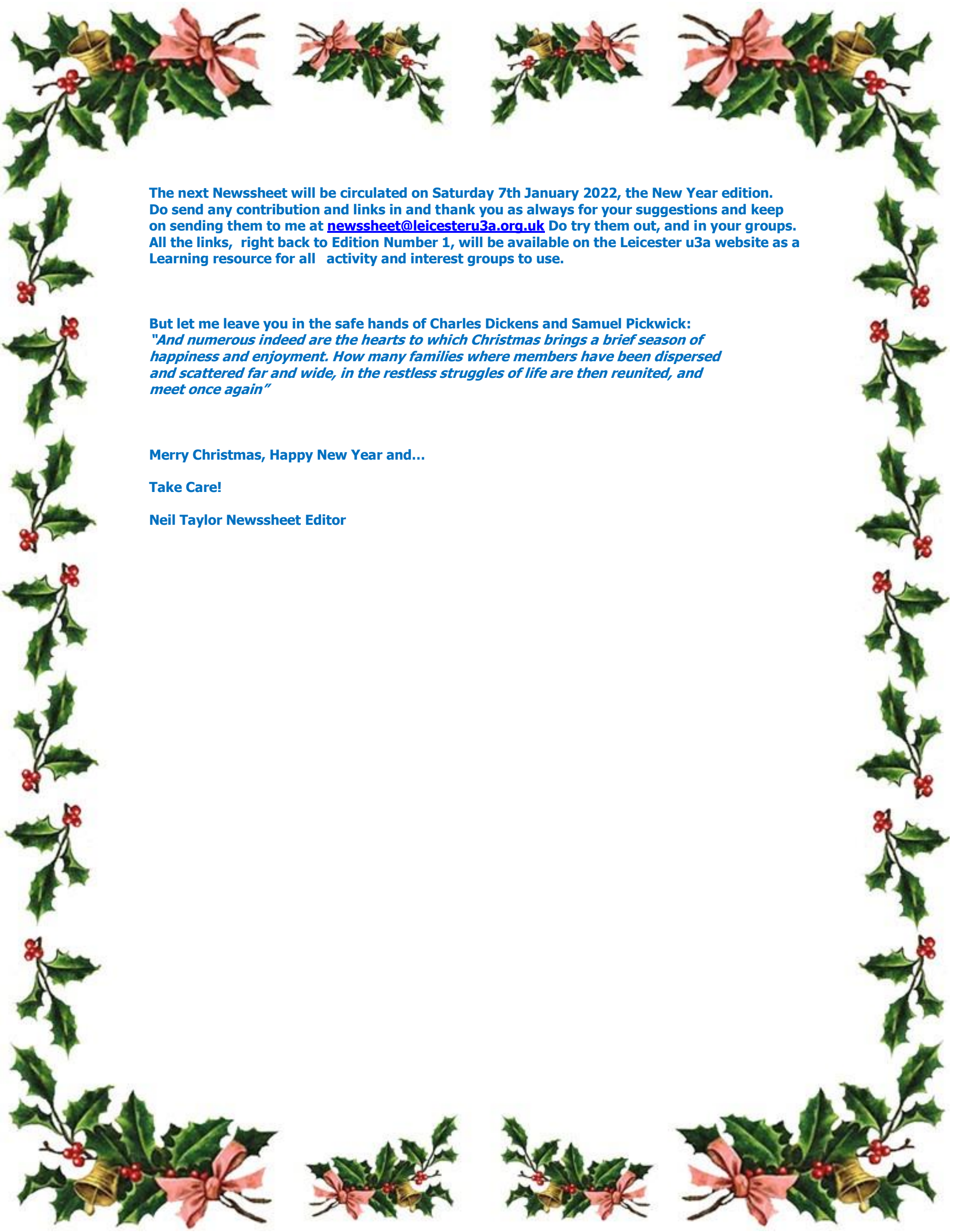
[William Wordsworth: "The Minstrels played their Christmas tune / Tonight beneath my cottage eaves; /...And who but listened? / The greeting given, the music played / In honour of each household name duly pronounced with lusty call / And a Merry Christmas wish to all](#)

[Community Safety Partnership and E-Scooters](#) It's a Christmas Miracle! E-Scooters are banned! Anyone who has received a stream of abuse from one the owners of these scooters careering around will overjoyed that it is against the law to ride E-Scooters on a public road or pavement. Will that stop them...

[Scamnesty](#) Is a scam mail amnesty encouraging everyone to send any nuisance mail to the National Trading Standards Team Investigators free of charge go to www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk to find out where to send this unwanted paper mail.

[Useful Numbers and Links](#) [Suspicious Text Messages](#) Phone providers allow you to report suspicious text messages for free using 7726. Call the *National Domestic Abuse* Helpline for free and get confidential advice, 24 hours a day 0808 2000 247. [Fraud](#): Check on the Financial Conduct Authority website www.fca.org.uk or phone 0800 111 6768. The Covid Fraud Hotline: www.covidfraudhotline.org [Phishing](#): Go to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service, SERS report@phishing.gov.uk [Make a report online https://www.leics.police.uk](https://www.leics.police.uk). [Neighbourhood Alert alert@neighbourhoodalert.co.uk](mailto:alert@neighbourhoodalert.co.uk) The Citizen's Advice Consumer Helpline: 0808 223 1133. www.actionfraud.police.uk 0300 123 20

[To Mrs K On Her Sending Me and English Christmas Plum Cake at Paris by Helena Marie Williams in the late 1700s](#) *"What crowding thoughts around me wake/What marvels in a Christmas Cake.../A Cake that tells of vanished bliss/A cake that conjures up to view/The early scenes when life was new/When memory knew no sorrows past/ And hope believed in joys that last!...And whose dear friendships can impart/A Christmas banquet for the heart!"*



The next Newsheet will be circulated on Saturday 7th January 2022, the New Year edition. Do send any contribution and links in and thank you as always for your suggestions and keep on sending them to me at newsheet@leicesteru3a.org.uk Do try them out, and in your groups. All the links, right back to Edition Number 1, will be available on the Leicester u3a website as a Learning resource for all activity and interest groups to use.

But let me leave you in the safe hands of Charles Dickens and Samuel Pickwick:
"And numerous indeed are the hearts to which Christmas brings a brief season of happiness and enjoyment. How many families where members have been dispersed and scattered far and wide, in the restless struggles of life are then reunited, and meet once again"

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and...

Take Care!

Neil Taylor Newsheet Editor