

January 2021 Monthly Newsletter

Why does the new year begin in January? It was Julius Caesar who, in between his military campaigns, decided to rationalise the calendar. He adopted the year according to the Egyptian Ptolemy with January as the first month, named after Janus the god with two faces, one looking forwards and the other backwards. Fixing the date for Easter was of great importance to the Catholic church. Different sects had Easter on alternative dates and this was a problem when King Oswiu of Northumbria and his wife Eanfled celebrated at different times. Bede in Monkwearmouth prepared a calendar which was adopted at the Synod of Whitby in 664. This synchronised the Northumbrian church of Oswiu with others in Europe. Bede introduced the use of Anno Domini (AD) when recording dates.

- 1. The new logo:** Thank you to the members who emailed or posted their votes regarding the new logo. The new logo is b).

u3aNewcastle

When using the logo, please note that the letters are in LOWER CASE with Newcastle to the lower right

- 2. Newcastle u3a A.G.M.:** The committee was planning to hold our AGM on February 10th 2021. However, due to Covid restrictions, it is unlikely that we could hold a face to face meeting and achieve a quorum, therefore, we will postpone the AGM until a later date, possibly May which may be a Zoom meeting, but we will review the situation monthly and keep you informed of what is happening.

- 3. December's Christmas party!**

Thank you to all members who came to our virtual, Christmas, monthly meeting. It was a fun afternoon in good company with the odd mince pie. We shared chats, heard stories and poems, listened to music and we had to finish, of course, with the finale from 'White Christmas'.

January 13th at 2pm.: Margaret Bozic of Cestria u3a will give an interesting talk using Zoom about the local Citizens Advice Bureau in years gone by. This is a recurring meeting so please use the Zoom link sent to you for previous meetings.

- 4. Zoom tutorials:** learn how to Zoom or improve your Zoom skills. Don't miss out on meetings. Give it a try if you have not done so. For further info: newcastleu3a@hotmail.com or use the Contacts page on the Newcastle u3a website.

- 5. Click and save:** The Third Age Trust is offering a click and save scheme available e.g. if you spend £100 on your weekly shop and saved 5% then £5 would be loaded into your savings account. More information soon.

- 6. Third Age Trust:** Choose a talk, sit back and enjoy the learning. The Trust has several good online talks and events about to happen but you'll have to be quick as the places are booked quickly.

January 19th at 2pm: 'Mapping the History of Fairy Tales Partly Through Art' delivered by Catherine. To book <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>. Booking through Eventbrite.

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7. Telephone, text and email Scams:

Beware of fraud where they claim to be from DPD asks you to provide a fee for an undelivered parcel. This is not related to DPD. They will never ask you for money.

If you are concerned about an email, do not open it but forward to report@phishing.org.uk

If you receive a spam phone call or text message, forward it to 7726 and quote the telephone no. from which it has been sent.

There have been reports of people knocking on doors, saying they are from one of the utility services. Do not let them into your home. Always check independently with the company they say they are working for and make sure that you do **not** use a telephone number they provide.

8. You3A Reporter

In future, we are going to produce three magazines a year, in April, August and December so we need lots of contributions! It's easy for any of us to think we don't have anything interesting to say but it's simply not true. So please, have a think about anything you could contribute, whether it's something related to an interest, something that happened in your life or just anything you would like to share with other members. Katie would really love to hear from you. There's a new email address to use for any contributions, you3a.editor@gmail.com. If you don't have access to the internet just send something handwritten into Pink Lane and it'll get to Katie Scott.

9. If you want a u3a diary for 2021 you can still order online at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/> or Tel 020 8466 6139

10. Covid - 19 and keeping safe: on the Newcastle U3A website, <https://u3asites.org.uk/newcastle/home>, 'Covid-19 Hub' at the top of the 'Welcome' page. Continue to follow health advice e.g. hygiene and social distancing. Keep safe and well. **DO NOT FORGET! If you need medical advice ask a medical professional e.g. G.P.s**

11. Newcastle u3a Facebook group: don't miss out on lots of useful information and items to keep the brain active.

12. Got an idea for a Zoom group? e.g. Foodies, best video clips or what about a POP - UP group? E.g. a virtual tour of a town, place or a museum

13. **COMING UP! POP UP groups:**
i) In February for one session only, a virtual tour of Italy produced by Gerald Williams, Italian Culture Group Leader. Sun, sea, food and fun. More information, next month

14. Scams! Be extra careful when receiving texts, emails and phone call. **DO NOT** give out personal information. More info in Newsletter Extra! Issue 9

DEADLINE FOR ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY MAILING : Thu 28 January 2021.
Please email items you want included to Janet, EMAIL: janet.devoy@btinternet.com