

## Newsletter for January 2021

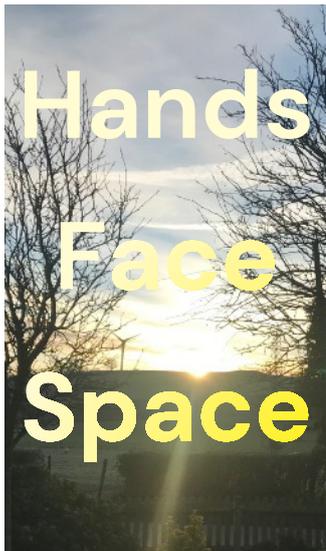
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### Headlines

[Click here to visit our Website](#)

- 2. DNA for Family History
- 2. TAT National Survey
- 3. Talk - "A Tudor Feast"
- 4. Wordsearch

New Year's Eve drew to an end a very strange and somewhat frightening year. No doubt many more New Year Resolutions were made this time. Perhaps, like me, you often make them and then totally forget about them in no time at all. I really hope that I can keep mine this year. I plan to continue to keep safe, do my best to stay mentally and physically fit, stay positive and regularly count my blessings.



By the time you receive this some members will have received the vaccine which is great news. Age doesn't bring many privileges, but it does when it comes to the rollout of the vaccine. Of course we are all now stuck in Tier 4 restrictions, but at least there is a very bright light at the end of the tunnel. Soon we can start to plan for the day when our members can meet face to face. All group meetings need a bit of preparation and now is a good time to start to think about what we might do.

Meanwhile we should continue to make use of Zoom where that is appropriate. Every Zoom session I have joined has been great fun - even our committee meetings!

Best wishes, *Jan*



A new dawn in Ringmer. Happy New Year

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# Stay Safe, Stay in Touch



## Tracing your ancestors through DNA



Many members have already taken a DNA test to help them trace their ancestors. It will not solve everything, but it can be useful. If you would like to know more about tracing your ancestry using DNA then Ian is planning to hold an **introductory session** on Zoom. If you are interested then send him an email and he will arrange a date and time to suit you and other interested members. Please contact him by 17 January to sign up. If you are not sure then have a chat with him.

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### TAT National Survey

In December u3a office asked all u3a Groups to complete a survey in order to assess what activity was going on. In completing our return we collected some data from Interest Group Convenors. Hopefully, the national result will appear in the next TAT magazine. Meanwhile you might be interested in what we are up to.

Last March we had 17 interest groups and 175 members. After enrolment in August 2020 our membership dropped to 142 – a fall of 33 members or 19%. This was to be expected and hopefully some of those members will return once we are fully open again. During the last nine months 11 of our groups have managed to hold some meetings – either face to face or virtual. It may interest you to know that only two of our members are not on the web. Nine of our groups held virtual meetings, mostly using Zoom. However, only one group managed to get a 100% attendance. Others ranged from 25% to 80% attendance. Some small groups did manage a face to face meeting when restrictions allowed.

It is many years since we were able to organise a monthly meeting that any member could attend. However, we have managed to hold a virtual meeting for several months now. Some of these have been meetings organised by one of our groups that has been opened up to any member. You will have seen reports on these in previous newsletters. They have attracted some 26 members each time – 18% of our membership. You will also recall that we conducted our Annual General Meeting by email and Zoom. Eighty eight members voted (62% of membership) and 20 members joined the Zoom meeting. It is difficult to estimate how many members have participated in a Zoom meeting, but it would appear to be between 40% to 60% of our membership.

Our constitution requires that the committee meets four times a year and that is normally sufficient to conduct business. However, we are generally holding a Zoom committee meeting every month now as there is always some business to discuss or decisions to be made. Finally, we have been publishing a monthly newsletter throughout this period rather than the normal three newsletters per year.

It will be interesting to see how other u3as have fared, but I think we can be satisfied that we have done all we can to keep interests alive. As ever our Convenors are the mainstay of the organisation and they have done a sterling job. We thank them for their efforts.

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## Stay Safe, Stay in Touch

## A Tudor Feast



Jill has kindly arranged for Eileen Hall from Burgess Hill u3a to give us an illustrated talk this month. The talk will start at **2 pm on Tuesday 12 January 2021**. It will last about 40 minutes. Eileen will tell us what the Tudors ate and drank and the differences in diet between the rich and the poor, followed by a look at how our ancestors

celebrated Christmas during the sixteenth century. This is a fascinating talk.

Please join the meeting from 1.50 pm so we can start roughly on time. Each month we are trying to arrange at least one talk for all members. Please do let us know if you have any suggested speakers.

The Zoom link for this talk will be sent to members the day before (Monday 11 January).



### Answers for December 2020

#### U3a Wordsearch – Christmas Words

This month's theme contains words that are associated with Christmas. The words can all be found in the grid – running forwards, backwards, up, down and diagonally. One word appears twice.

S	R	E	K	C	A	R	C	L	S	9	Mistletoe
Y	E	K	R	U	T	T	R	V	M	6	Turkey
T	I	O	E	W	P		N	E	I	6	Carols
H	N	A	T	U	R	S	H	A	S	9	Bethlehem
R	D	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	S	8	Presents
R	E	H	O	L	L	Y	B	O	L	8	Crackers
Y	E	U	O	H	Y	T	A	O	E	5	Santa
M	R	R	T	L	E	S	S	A	N	5	Holly (2)
M	A	E	X	Y	L	E	A	I	Y	5	Myrrh
C	B	E	T	G	H	Y	S	R	M	8	Reindeer

#### U3a Anagram – 2020 Words

1. Ask fencer inn (12) Frankincense
2. Rag Men (6) Manger

## Christmas Quiz

Our Quiz Party in December was well attended with 26 members participating. Sylvia had kindly put together a festive quiz which managed to tax the brains of all taking part. The winner of the quiz was Pat Salmon. Members had dressed in various festive attire and had Christmas trees, etc in the background. A vote took place on the best turned-out and most festive. The clear winners were Phil and Hillary Smith.

It was a most enjoyable event with a lot of banter and exchanges of Christmas greetings.

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## u3a Wordsearch – Looking Forward

This month's theme covers what we can look forward to this year. The words can all be found in the grid – running forwards, backwards, up, down and diagonally.

D A F F O D I L S E  
D I G N I P P O H S  
E G N I R P S V O V  
S G N I T E E M A Y  
B P L C N D Y C T A  
U E R E E G C D S D  
P U C I V I O H B I  
V A R T N A M U V L  
V X N E W G R R T O  
Y N A P M O C T C H

6	<i>Sp</i>
9	<i>Da</i>
7	<i>Va</i>
7	<i>Ho</i>
4	<i>Pu</i>
6 3	<i>Di O</i>
8	<i>Sho</i>
6	<i>Tr</i>
8	<i>Mee</i>
7	<i>Com</i>

## u3a Anagram – 2020 Words

1. Traipes (7)
2. Gusto in (7)

The answers will appear in the February 2021 Newsletter.

### National u3a Monthly Newsletter

Go to their website at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter> and fill in your details to receive u3a updates, both regional and national, direct to your email inbox. You can see the [December 2020 newsletter](#) - [just click here](#).

**February 2021 Newsletter:** I would like to get the next Newsletter out by 6 February 2021. Please let me have any items by 1 February 2021. Thank you.

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