

## **SHIPSTON ON STOUR U3A**

### **UPDATE**

**December 2020**

As lockdown draws to a close we find ourselves in Tier Three! Despite this, those Groups operating via Zoom or similar can continue and we will still have the Monthly Speaker online. November's talk was provided by Mirthy, the subject was "Black Cats, New Moons & Ladders – The origins of Superstitions" by Sandy Leong. Feedback to date has been positive so please continue to let the committee know if you enjoyed, or otherwise, these presentations. This month December's talk will again be virtual and will take place on a different day and time (see below for details of this innovation).

In this issue of Update, we also provide: advice on which Groups are active and updates from groups; a further request for volunteers to join the Executive Committee; and some activities we hope will be of interest.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

In the last two issues of UPDATE it was explained that we are looking for a few more volunteers to join our Committee and asked for expressions of interest. Unfortunately, we haven't been swamped with offers! If you have some time to spare it is a great way to get involved with your U3A and make friends along the way. Obviously all our meetings are currently online but we are all looking forward to meeting in person once again, when allowed. If you are interested in sitting in on one of our meetings to see what we do then please contact [chairman@sosau3acommittee.org](mailto:chairman@sosau3acommittee.org) to arrange this and hopefully you will decide you want to join us. Remember that no particular skills or experience are needed, just a willingness to help out in a variety of ways to suit your preferences.

### **WEBSITE UPDATE**

Christine Russel is our website manager ([webmaster@sosau3acommittee.org](mailto:webmaster@sosau3acommittee.org)) and if you haven't visited the website recently take a look, you will be amazed! Christine would welcome suggestions for improvements and specifically to receive updates from Group Leaders.

### **MONTHLY MEETINGS**

**December Monthly Meeting: 7:30 pm on Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> December.**

This will be a virtual meeting via Zoom and hosted by us.

**"Father Christmas – Myths and Mistletoe", a talk by Mike Wabe.**

Learn why the "Jolly Old Elf" feels this way about mistletoe - he's not impressed, I warn you - and find out too why he is known by different names around the world. Discover why we celebrate Christmas when we do, as well as be surprised, and perhaps even amazed, at when and how the traditions we currently associate with Christmas - cards, holly, mistletoe, crackers and turkeys to name but a few - came about. The presentation ends with a reading of Clement Clarke Moore's famous poem, 'A Visit from Saint Nicholas', now universally known as 'Twas the Night Before Christmas.

Talk length about 60 minutes. You will be send an invitation to join the meeting via ZOOM

### **Could you give a talk by Zoom?**

As we're unable to hold physical monthly meetings, we're arranging talks by external speakers using Zoom. But it would be nice if some of us would volunteer to give talks. After all, self-help is a tenet of the U3A. I'm sure that many of you were used to giving presentations during your careers and often used PowerPoint. You wouldn't have to worry about the intricacies of Zoom; we would set it up and 'host' the meeting. The talk needn't be very long; 15 to 20 minutes would be fine. If you're bored with nothing to do due to lockdown or tier 3, then it could be fun to put a talk together. Think about it! If you'd like to do it, please get in touch with [robin.furneaux@gmail.com](mailto:robin.furneaux@gmail.com).

### **THE NATIONAL U3A WEBSITE**

There is a huge amount of information available on <https://u3a.org.uk> that I'm sure you will find of interest. There is information on Learning Opportunities and Talks; tales from individual U3As; activities you can do while at home; plus much, much more. Why not have a browse around the site? If you think browsing is not for you then follow the links below to some areas of particular interest, but there are many more things to be discovered.

Forthcoming events include;

09/12/20 - **the British Library** exploring the effects on the reader of the material features of books and manuscripts.

14/12/20 - **a Festive Cookery Demonstration** presenting a variety of Vegan dishes.

14 or 18/01/21 - **the Role and History of the National Trust**.

27/01/21 - **A Taste of Japan**: a series of short talks.

Winter Watch - share images of your Wintery views and experiences.

<https://u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes>

<https://u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

**Have you signed up for the National Newsletter?** All this information and more can be sent to your inbox monthly. It is easy to sign up, just scroll down the opening page of <https://U3A.org.uk> and fill in a very simple form.

### **UPDATE ON INTEREST GROUPS**

Whilst the Covid-19 restrictions still curtail some Groups, others are still active, as set out below.

- Ancient Greek for Beginners - via Zoom.
- Book Group - via Zoom with the current book being *The Wych Elm* by Tana French, a psychological mystery first published in the UK in 2019.
- Current Affairs - via Zoom.
- Jazz/Blues
- Latin - via Zoom.
- Mindfulness and Meditation - via Zoom.
- Spanish Conversation – via Zoom.
- Walking from Shipston – in person, groups of six. Walks resume on 3<sup>rd</sup> of December.

We would like to encourage members to consider forming new groups. Contact Lynne Richardson ([richardsonlynn@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:richardsonlynn@yahoo.co.uk)) if you have any ideas. Also, if any members are interested in joining a group that is not currently provided get in touch with Lynne. You never know there may be several people with the same idea!

### **IDEAS FOR UPDATE**

I would welcome members' ideas for items for the monthly **UPDATE** which is an important communication document to keep everyone in the picture.

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