



## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Monthly meetings are still suspended due to covid-19 restrictions.

## **U3A RADIO**

The u3a Radio Podcast has been created by a talented team of u3a members with radio experience. The latest episode features interviews with u3a members who started a 'Retiring with Attitude' course; a Barnet u3a member who featured on Britain's Got Talent; and a chef from Vegetarian for Life. The u3a Radio Podcast comes out on the 17th of each month from 6am via u3a's [YouTube channel](#).

If you have a story to share, you can email it to: [communications@u3a.org.uk](mailto:communications@u3a.org.uk)

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Total membership is unchanged since last month (328). We have continued to arrange provision of the Third Age Magazine for anyone who was a member at the end of March, with the exception of anyone who has confirmed they are not re-joining or do not wish to receive the magazine.

The next issue will be the last in the current financial year and from 1st April onwards they will only be supplied to those members who have paid their subscriptions.

Membership Secretary Alan Stevenson can be contacted on 01782 395760.

Thank you once again for your patience and understanding in these difficult times.

## **MONTHLY MEETINGS ETC.**

Still the lockdown continues, but there is positive news on the horizon with two vaccines already approved and in use in the UK. Test results have been announced during the past few days on the Moderna vaccine and testing is now being carried out on single dose Novavax.

However, we still need to be cautious and continue to follow the rules to protect everyone. The current restrictions could be in place at least until early March. After that we hope that we will see the start of some outdoor activities and be able to plan ahead with provisional dates for some groups.

Meanwhile we will continue to provide our monthly newsletter, which we hope you enjoy and would like to thank those members who have sent items to Fay for publication.

We were unable to hold the 1920 AGM and will soon need to consider ways to involve members in the decision-making for 1921, particularly in respect of our U3A finances and election of officer and committee members.

Unlike many U3As, we have a considerable number of members who do not use computers or are not particularly confident in using them, therefore we have not pursued the option of providing on-line courses. However, members are welcome to participate in classes or activities provided via the national website.

Last year's U3A Day was cancelled but this year's will go ahead on Wednesday, 2nd June and information can be found on the u3a Day page via the national website.

## A FEW HISTORICAL EVENTS THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN JANUARY

(Listed by the date of occurrence during the month rather than in strict chronological order)

JAN	YEAR	EVENT
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1	1801	An Act of Union added Ireland to Great Britain, thereby creating the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. The merged Parliament met for the first time on 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 1801.
3	1924	Tutankhamen's sarcophagus was discovered by British Egyptologist Howard Carter in the Valley of the Kings near Luxor.
3	1946	Englishman William Joyce, otherwise known as "Lord Haw Haw" was hanged for treason in London after broadcasting Nazi propaganda via radio from Germany to Britain during the second world war.
5	1972	President Richard Nixon approved the spending of \$5.5 billion over six years to build and test the NASA space shuttle.
6	1066	The Earl of Wessex became King Harold II of England following the death of Edward the Confessor. He was England's last Anglo-Saxon king and was killed during the Battle of Hastings in October 1066 by the invading army of William the Conqueror.
10	1863	The Metropolitan line between Paddington and Farringdon opened in London and was the world's first underground railway service.
10	1946	The first meeting of the United Nations General Assembly took place in London with delegates from 51 countries. It superseded the League of Nations, which had commenced on 10 <sup>th</sup> January 1920.
15	1559	Elizabeth Tudor, daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, was crowned Queen Elizabeth I at Westminster Abbey.
17	1942	Boxing legend Cassius Clay, later known as Muhammad Ali, was born in Louisville, Kentucky. He became world heavyweight boxing champion in 1964 when he knocked out Sonny Liston. After converting to the Muslim religion, he became an outspoken conscientious objector to America's involvement in the Vietnam War and when drafted, refused military duty which led to a boxing ban, loss of his title and a jail sentence. After a long legal battle, his conviction was reversed and in a fight now known as "the rumble in the jungle", he defeated George Foreman in 1974 to regain his title.
20	1649	The trial of King Charles I commenced following his defeat by Oliver Cromwell in the English Civil War. He was accused of being "a tyrant, traitor, murderer, and public enemy". He was found guilty and beheaded several days later in front of Whitehall Palace in London.

**JAN YEAR EVENT**

21 1976 Supersonic jet Concorde began passenger service, with flights from London to Bahrain and Paris to Rio de Janeiro. The jet cruised at twice the speed of sound (Mach 2) at an altitude up to 60,000 feet.

24 1972 Japanese soldier Shoichi Yokoi was discovered on Guam, the most southerly and largest of the Mariana islands in Micronesia. He had been hiding in the jungle for 28 years not knowing World War II had ended!

22 1901 Queen Victoria died after a reign of 64 years, until recently the longest reign in British history. During Victoria’s reign England had become the most powerful empire in the world.

Born Alexandrina Victoria of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1819 at Kensington Palace, Victoria was the daughter of Edward, Duke of Kent and she was just 18 years old when she became Queen. Her coronation was held in June 1838 at Westminster Abbey. She married her cousin, Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha in February 1840 and they had nine children: Victoria, Edward, Alice, Alfred, Helena, Louise, Arthur, Leopold and Beatrice. She never recovered from Albert’s death in December 1861, when she was just 42 years old and continued to mourn, wearing black for the rest of her life.

26 1788 A fleet of 11 British ships led by Captain Arthur Phillip on the HMS Sirius, carried convicts to the proposed penal colony of New South Wales, which effectively founded Australia. Although struggling to overcome starvation with the difficulties of growing food in the strange land, the fledgling colony survived. By 1818 colonists had begun to celebrate the anniversary of this date, with it eventually being commemorated as Australia Day. However, native Aborigines were dispossessed of their lands and many remember this date as “Invasion Day”.

27 1945 The liberation of the Auschwitz death camp, near Krakow in Poland, by the Russian Army. It is estimated that the Nazis murdered around two million people, three-quarters of whom were Jews.

January 2021 is certainly a memorable month due in no small part to circumstances surrounding the American presidential inauguration. **Joe Biden** and **Kamala Harris** were sworn in as President and Vice President respectively. It followed weeks of serious civil unrest culminating in supporters of outgoing 45th President, Donald Trump, storming the Capitol building due to their strong belief that there had been election fraud leading to Trump’s re-election victory being “stolen”.

Kamala Harris is the **first female, first African American and first Asian American** to hold the office of US Vice-President. **Joseph Robinette Biden Jr. is the oldest US President to take oath** at 78 years of age, after being one of the youngest Senators when he was just 29.

**Donald Trump is the first President to be impeached twice** and the first since Nixon to not attend his successor’s inauguration. The ceremony itself was unusual due to the high levels of security, plus social-distancing measures caused by the covid-19 pandemic.

**JANUARY QUIZ** (Answers next month)

1. Who was the first presenter of the X Factor in the UK?
2. What was the name of the tower block where Del Boy and Rodney Trotter lived in Only Fools and Horses?
3. What is the name of the fictional borough of Melbourne where Australian soap Neighbours is set?
4. Who is the longest serving presenter of the BBC children's show Blue Peter?
5. Which 2019 film won the Golden Raspberry Award for Worst Film of the year?
6. Which soft drink is commonly associated with Scotland?
7. Gouda is a popular cheese originating from which country?
8. A screwdriver cocktail is orange juice, ice and which spirit?
9. Which southern Italian city is usually credited as the birthplace of the pizza?
10. Pret a Manger is a popular sandwich chain in the UK, but what does the French name mean in English?
11. What is the capital city of Australia?
12. If you completed the Three Peaks challenge, which three UK mountains would you have climbed?
13. Which UK city is situated further west – Bristol or Edinburgh?
14. What is the capital of Finland?
15. What language is spoken in Brazil?
16. Name the five ingredients demanded by one of Basil Fawlty's guests to make the infamous Waldorf Salad.
17. What was the name of Ronnie Barker's character in Open All Hours?
18. What's the name of the talking snowman in Disney's Frozen?
19. What is taller, an elephant or a giraffe?
20. Who are Harry Potter's two best friends?

**Answers to Last Month's Nut Quiz**

- |                |              |             |              |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. Cashew      | 2. Walnut    | 3. Pecan    | 4. Almonds   |
| 5. Pine Nut    | 6. Brazil    | 7. Chestnut | 8. Macadamia |
| 9. Filbert     | 10. Peanut   | 11. Hickory | 12. Hazel    |
| 13. Pistachios | 14. Palm Nut | 15. Coconut |              |

**Answers to Last Month's Musical Quiz:**

1. Christmas Alphabet – Dickie Valentine
2. Mary's Boy Child – Harry Belafonte
3. What do You Want to Make Those Eyes at Me For – Emile Ford & The Checkmates
4. Moon River – Andy Williams (apologies, the artist's initials should have been AW)
5. Return to Sender – Elvis Presley
6. I Want to Hold Your Hand – The Beatles
7. Green Green Grass of Home – Tom Jones
8. Lily The Pink – The Scaffold
9. Two Little Boys – Rolf Harris
10. Ernie – The Fastest Milkman in the West – Benny Hill
11. Long Haired Lover From Liverpool – Little Jimmy Osmond
12. Merry Christmas Everyone – Slade
13. Lonely This Christmas – Mud
14. Bohemian Rhapsody – Queen
15. When a Child is Born – Johnny Matthis
16. Mary's Boy Child – Boney M
17. There's No-one Quite Like Grandma – St Winifred's School Choir
18. Do They Know It's Christmas – Band Aid
19. Merry Christmas Everyone – Shakin Stevens
20. Reet Petite – Jackie Wilson
21. Mistletoe and Wine – Cliff Richard
22. Do They Know It's Christmas – Band Aid Two
23. Saviour's Day – Cliff Richard
24. Mr Blobby – Mr Blobby
25. Something Stupid – Robbie Williams & Nicole Kidman

**ENGLAND & WALES 10 YEAR CENSUS / FAMILY HISTORY**

The next census is due to take place on Sunday 21st March 2021, to be run by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The results are used to help planning appropriate facilities and services to meet the needs of the public, e.g. schools, doctors' surgeries, etc.

For Data Protection reasons, survey results are not made available to the public until 100 years have elapsed. Later this year the 1921 census should be published, which could be very useful for members researching family history.

Some members of the Family History group subscribe to Find My Past and it's interesting to see that among the newspaper items added to the site this week are publications of "Potteries Examiner". Also added this week is a video on "**Felonious forebears**" with advice on how to discover their stories.

Let us know if you have any interesting stories to tell about black sheep in your family's past. Alternatively, your family may have been affected by the scandalous deeds of people outside the immediate family.

You might have heroes rather than villains among your ancestors. We would love to hear if you have any interesting stories to share with fellow members.



## A LITTLE LIGHT HUMOUR

That will be £100. Chasing birds is not a reasonable excuse to be outside



## LOCAL HISTORY

Phil Rowley has sent this article which may be of interest to members :-

<https://www.playingpasts.co.uk/articles/general/when-buffalo-bill-and-the-american-wild-west-came-to-the-potteries-in-1891>

The "Made in Great Britain" series covering the pottery industry has been repeated on BBC2 and is worth a look: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0bsrq28>

### **LINKS TO SOME NORDIK MUSIC VIDEOS**

The Nordic Morning Routine - Ice bath: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nyuRRWC5GY8>

Nordic/Viking Music - Lady of the Dawn: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABn1vPwpwug>

Vikings Soundtrack (If I Had a Heart): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5rQdSRdH-EA>

SKÁLD – Flúga: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HugzyoCY6Us>

VIKINGS SONG - The Path to Valhalla: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nK-fhA25j3A>

SKÁLD – Rún: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s9NIBZfVBW4>

AC Valhalla - Valhalla Calling Me (Nordic/Viking song) [GMV] By Miracle of Sound:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4NB6XzCZ4aw>

### **LINKS TO MOVIES FOR FANS OF HELENA BONHAM CARTER & JEREMY IRONS**

The Wings of the Dove (Helena Bonham Carter - full movie)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7iXOGQHxe9w>

The Mission Full movie (Jeremy Irons - full movie)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_R\\_qJgBX8XI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_R_qJgBX8XI)

### **LINKS TO OBOE MUSIC**

Morricone - The Mission (Gabriel's Oboe) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7w-leNR9ko>

Albinoni - Oboe Concerto in D minor op 9 no 2 (2nd Movement)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9xfJDftEUA>

Tchaikovsky - Oboe solo in Swan Lake. (Alexander Koreshkov)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nxfu1NkyE2M>

Moon River, Oboe & Guitar cover

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qFITzP\\_IVk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qFITzP_IVk)

### **BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH**

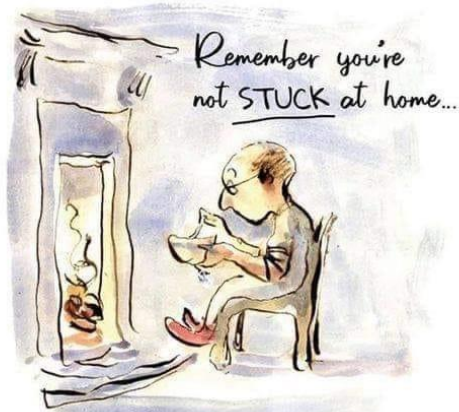
There's still time to take part in the RSPB survey which takes place between 29th and 31st January. You just need to observe the number of each type of bird in your garden for one hour at a time to suit yourself and results can be submitted until 19th Feb. Further details, including bird ID ad submission forms are available on the RSPB website at: <https://www.rspb.org.uk>

There's already plenty of activity in Fay's garden with lots of birds, including Nuthatches and Blackcaps, and one or two hedgehogs have been coming out to feed.

### **HELP TO SHAPE POLICING**

Staffordshire Police would like local people to share their views on crime and policing locally. This will help the force to get a better understanding of the issues which matter most to local communities and ensure that services are delivered to address people's concerns and improve levels of confidence. The survey is anonymous and consists of 32 questions, taking under 10 minutes to complete. [Please click here to take part or for more information.](#)





You're SAFE at home

*Please try to stay in touch with fellow members, perhaps to meet one person outdoors weather permitting, but even a phone call can lift the spirits of someone who is feeling isolated. If any of your friends don't have access to the internet, it would be very helpful if you could let them have sight of this newsletter.*

## Making plans for the weekend?

Use this simple calculation to help you work out the ideal place or activity for you!

? Choose a number between 1 and 9

X Multiply it by 3

+ Add 3

X Multiply by 3 again

+ Add the two digit number you get together

The number you get is where you will be going!

- |                     |                         |                          |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Pub              | 7. Out for dinner       | 13. Football in the park |
| 2. Cinema           | 8. Meet up with friends | 14. The Zoo              |
| 3. BBQ in the park  | 9. Stay at home         | 15. Shopping spree       |
| 4. Birthday party   | 10. Round of golf       | 16. Swimming             |
| 5. Day at the beach | 11. Gym                 | 17. Road trip to Ireland |
| 6. Playground       | 12. Long weekend away   | 18. Theatre              |

If you haven't already signed up on the national website at <https://u3asites.org.uk> to receive the National Monthly Newsletter by email, you could be missing out. It's worth a look and it might give you some interesting ideas to keep you entertained until we get back to normal.

There are some lovely photographs which have been submitted by members for the competitions which are continuing to be run.

**Items for publication in the next newsletter will need to reach Fay Howell by Friday, 19th February, 2021. Tel: 01782 658659 or email: [hfhowell@live.co.uk](mailto:hfhowell@live.co.uk).**