



## Wandsworth



Combine  
Harvesters  
And you'll have  
a really big  
restaurant.

*Bah Humbug!*

## Should we shed a tier for Christmas?

So, Christmas is not cancelled. Mince pies, crackers, parsnips, Christmas pudding, turkey (- and nut roast) are all on the agenda. But could festive cheer lead to New Year heartache?

Should we say **No!** to Christmas? What's the point of indulging for a few days if it means a massive rise in Covid cases come 2021?

The prospect of a vaccine (and we could be near the front of the queue) makes next year look a lot less bleak but are we in danger of giving the greenlight to those who want to party for five days come what may? U3A members are surely amongst those who will study the regulations and count the bubbles and households and be sensible. But after Christmas we will be in the same supermarkets and shops as though who consider they have been given licence to throw caution to the wind.

Being in Tier 2 means we can shop for seasonal fayre and gifts, but we will doubtless be amongst those who have mixed with the infected. As ever, your Newsletter wants you to tell us how you are going to approach this extraordinary dilemma. Heads down or head for the pub and Primarks?

There will be no three kings turning up at the stable with the gift of a vaccine.

And NHS staff – what sort of Christmas will they have?

**NO**

**ë L**

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Christmas
- The Dewey System
- Help with modern technology
- Latin x 2
- Rainbow x 2
- Socks x 2
- A smile x 2

### NEWSLETTER TEAM

Don Brind and Peter Martin are keen to hear from you.

Please email us at

u3anewswands@gmail.com

PM: 020 8672 8150  
DB: 020 8673 1116

**YOUR BOOKSHELF** Libraries have remained open during this Lockdown Lite but beware .... you might not find that book you want on the right shelf. They've moved things around a bit. Travel has gone to the Fantasy section. Politics is in Sci-fi and Epidemiology is in Self-Help. Good luck!

## ill IT eracy

Earlier this month we reminded readers of the formation of a WhatsApp group that keeps members in touch on a social basis but is also a go-to resource for help during these troubled times. But, of course, not everybody has a smartphone or knows how to benefit from its wizardry. The same goes for Zoom – which has kept our u3a running during closedown but requires a device with camera and microphone. So, who can help us silver surfers to join the brave new world of gadgetry?

First, our Maggie, who has championed the WhatsApp group, is always happy to try to help others. At this very moment, face-to-face meetings – the best tutoring scenario – in homes or cafes with wifi or down the library are off the agenda. But Maggie is willing to listen and see what can be done: you can reach her via this newsletter.

There is also an organisation called AbilityNet which “supports people of any age, living with any disability or impairment to use technology to achieve their goals at home, at work and in education. We do this by providing specialist advice services, free information resources and by helping to build a more accessible digital world.” Its leaflet specifically promises “Help for older and disabled people”. CALL FREE: 0800048 7642

A double rainbow over  
Streatham and Tooting  
Bec earlier this month



## In Defence of Latin (2)

Howard writes to support John Hazel’s defence of Latin. “Western civilisation largely derives from the cultures of Ancient Greece and Latin - and Arabic mathematics. Our languages, laws, and ways of life have evolved from theirs. The clue is in the title ‘University of the Third Age’ which makes the study of our roots available to all of us if we take the time and effort to study them.

Classicists don’t live in the past: you will find John distributing PPE to local hospital workers in between distributing his profound and extensive understanding of Greek and Latin to anyone prepared to study them. I have written before that I think COVID has divided society into two groups: those who uphold civilised standards and those who ignore or undermine them. I hope the U3A is firmly in the first group.”

## The Latin Mass

Eunice points out that a correspondent in a recent newsletter had his facts wrong about the Mass. Catholics throughout the world worshipped in Latin until Vatican II: Ecumenical Council October 1962 to December 1965 when the Church was granted permission to celebrate Mass in other languages. Mass was changed to be in the vernacular, no longer in Latin. The English translation was published in the early 1970s and modified in 1985, she tells us.

## Odd Socks for Anti-Bullying

Putney MP Fleur Anderson tweeted:  
Odd socks for anti-bullying! In support of all the #Putney schoolchildren saying no to teasing and bullying.

🧦🧦 It’s ok to be different! ❤️  
#OddSocksDay #AntiBullyingWeek

