



Wandsworth

Newsletter



Have no fear

U3A Christmas is not cancelled!

As I write, elves across Wandsworth are scurrying around, putting together a programme for our annual Christmas “do”. So, what entertainment are we commissioning? Well, of course, no Christmas social would be complete without some carols. The wizardry of Zoom will allow us to beam seasonal songs into your living room – the old favourites, I guess. And you will be able to sing along – even if the Fat Controller puts us all on Mute to save our cats’ ears. We might have an instrumental solo and there might be a little poetry recital.

And, needless to say, a Quiz. But not just one quiz! On the day – 21 December – if technology allows, we will break into groups for the standard team competition. The prize: a place on the Wandsworth u3a honour board. And this Newsletter will give you a second chance to test your brain and knowledge: when next week – our last edition of 2020 – we give you Andy’s Yuletide headscratchers. Enter and you could be the lucky owner of a £10 Marks and Spencer voucher. The winner will be announced in the newsletter in early January. More details next week.

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U3A’S GOT TALENT

In the meantime, do you have a favourite seasonal poem you could recite or a jolly tune you play on your recorder? All efforts are welcome. If you would like to volunteer to perform over Zoom, please get in touch with us here at the newsletter – email address on the back page. Thanks!

Why is it getting so hard to buy Advent calendars?
Their days are numbered!

What did Adam say the day before Christmas?
“It’s Christmas, Eve.”

GROUP NEWS: BIRDING AND WILDLIFE
There will be a meeting of the Birding and Wildlife group on Tuesday 15th December. We meet in the courtyard at Barnes inside the entrance at 11am. You will need to book a place online. The winter birds are definitely settled in now and a gentle stroll round the site should reveal a fair few of the smaller birds now that there are few leaves on the trees.



Not oven ready – like our trade deal

Group News 1: LGBTQ

This is really a London-wide group but for official purposes it has to be run from a local U3A. And as I created the group, it's run from Wandsworth. It has about forty members and in normal times we would meet up in central London at a café, with about a dozen members turning up. We visit museums and galleries to view anything to do with lgbtq history; and other times just meet to chat and offer support. The older lgbtq person tends to be more isolated and often estranged from their family. So this group can be a lifeline for some.

Since the start of the pandemic we haven't met in central London for obvious reasons, so instead just members from in and around Wandsworth meet up for a chat and a coffee. Six of us get together, always on outdoor seating at cafes. Members frequently say how important this regular gathering is to them. All live alone and only one member is open about their sexuality in their respective U3As so our regular (fortnightly) meetings are a vital lifeline to them.

Maggie

Group News 2: Walking

The brave souls of the Long Walks Group weathered last week's thundersnow to bring us this picture of Walking in a Winter Wonderland. With restrictions lifted, their fortnightly walks have resumed, 17 members heading off for a ramble by the river. However, as this photo was apparently taken in Battersea, I guess the walk was not as long as might be believed. Just warming up? But, whatever, they do seem to be enjoying themselves, don't they?



Lockdown is Boring!

Last week we suggested that 2020 was the most challenging year experienced by those born after 1945. But what of our members who went through WWII?

Margaret tells us that "the war was never boring; lockdown is!"

"In fact, I guess children like my brother and myself found having to take refuge in an air-raid shelter rather exciting. And my mother was certainly more frightened of possible mice when no air-raid shelter was available and we had to be as close to under the stairs as possible when on holidays from boarding school, first just outside Plymouth and later not far from Portsmouth. We certainly always felt that the bombs had someone else's name on them - especially the V-1s, which came over while I was doing my School Certificate exams. I guess they were aimed at Windsor Castle which was only six miles away. Fortunately, they never got anywhere near the Castle."

Last Joke of 2020

A retired history professor and a retired professor of psychology had been persuaded by their wives to take a week's holidays on Spain's Costa del Sol. As they sat in their shorts on the hotel balcony one balmy evening sipping glasses of wine, the history professor turned to the psychology professor and said, 'have you read Marx?'

'Yes', answered the professor of psychology, 'I think it must be these wicker chairs'.



THE NEWSLETTER TEAM
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Season's Greetings

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