

NEWS

JANUARY 2021

Monthly Meetings

Turn out for the November & December Monthly Meetings via Zoom was excellent. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and included useful ideas for future meetings. Typical comments:

- Enjoyed! Excellent!
- Zoom was far easier than first thought – spread the word!
- Brilliant choice of speaker – very informative and entertaining
- Uplifting and reassuring to see people again
- Extend the use of the breakout rooms – good to have a bit of a chat
- More of the same please!
- Ask members to present, for example in “show & tell” sessions
- Continue with a range of activities including quizzes and the raffle

DIARY ALERT: Until conditions change, we will continue to hold monthly Zoom meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

January Monthly Meeting

In response to your feedback suggesting local speakers and charity speakers...

- Vicky Thomson is CEO of Wellingore-based charity, **Every-One**, which supports carers and the people that are cared for through person-centred approaches.
- “Who Cares?” Vicky will share her thoughts about being in control of our own wellbeing, caring for others and her work with health and social care services in Lincolnshire. Powered by her experiences with her Mum and Dad, Vicky will share her passion and hopes for how we can all do our bit to help services, each other and ourselves.
- Meeting starts at 10:15 Wednesday 13th January (Zoom in from 10 am)

The Zoom joining details will be emailed nearer the time. Remember: it's easy!

Wed 10th February – Member Spotlight

Again, in response to your suggestions, we plan to showcase our own home-grown talent. We have lined up a series of your fellow u3a members who will each take 10 minutes in the spotlight to share their interests, hobbies, experiences and passions. Fascinating!

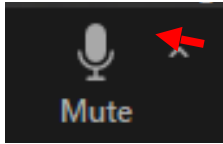
Wed 10th March – Butlin's

Stephen Wells, sometime Butlin's Redcoat and member of the Magic Circle, will speak about “The Story of Butlin's Holiday Camps”. Discover the real 'Hi-Di-Hi' with great stories about stars, such as Cliff Richard, Bob Monkhouse, Jimmy Tarbuck, Des O'Connor, Ringo Starr, Laurel & Hardy, Max Miller, Les Dennis and many more.

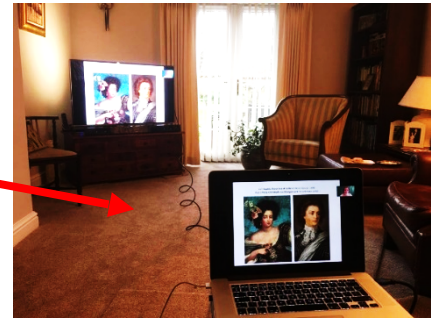


Seeing the Bigger Picture

At the next Zoom meeting, if you want a larger image than your PC or laptop, try using your TV as an external monitor. You will need an HDMI cable to connect the HDMI port on your computer to the HDMI port on your TV.



Within Zoom, click on the audio control up-arrow and select your TV as the speaker.



Members' Corner

An original short story by u3a member, Katy Holderness:

ANYTHING GOES

Suzy gasped in the bitter cold night air, the tears that streamed down her face turning to tiny icicles as she climbed up the rickety metal staircase leading to the roof of the Palace Theatre, in one hand a bottle of ruby red wine. With the wind whistling noisily around her, Suzy slowly and unsteadily reached her destination, crawling on all fours across the roof top until she reached the brightly lit sign of the Palace, its lights shining brightly out across the freezing December evening, where passers-by below were scurrying home wrapped in warm overcoats; hats and scarves pulled tightly over them to keep out the cold.

Suzy took a gulp from the wine bottle in her hand as she stood shivering leaning precariously with her back against the sign. Still in her Fairy God Mother costume, she gazed sadly at the scene before her and began to howl herself, in competition with the wind.

Meanwhile, inside the theatre, mayhem prevailed, the afternoon matinee performance of Cinderella had finished but with only ninety minutes before the next show everything was in a state of turmoil, one of the Babes being sick, and Buttons and the Fairy God Mother both doing a vanishing trick, the rest of the cast were on high alert.

This was beside the worries of the Front of House Manager, who was having his staff calling in with excuses of illness and travel problems, everyone's nerves were in shreds, it was a full house again tonight and the show must go on.

Suzy was now sitting down on the roof with her sequin encrusted dress hitched up behind her with her sparkly tighted legs dangling over the parapets, chanting, "he loves me, he loves me not. He loves me, he loves me not" as she pulled the petals off the artificial flowers that had been pinned in her hair and watched them swirl and swerve their way across the darkening night skies How could she have been so naïve, so trusting, so gullible, but she loved her Marty and he adored her didn't he? Why, they had known each other for years, college, drama school and at times even working together on the same shows as this one, yes it was true they could be away from each other for several weeks or months but they always found time to ring or text one another. It was a dream come true when they finally tied the knot, only a small affair, Marty said. "No need to tell all and sundry." It'll just be their day, a register office, a couple of witnesses, a quiet meal, a few days away in-between their various acting commitments and she had agreed, they rented a flat in the City and a meet up whenever they could, she had her work and he had his.

They had agreed no children, well not until later, that suited them both, their careers were the most important things on the horizon, and Suzy never questioned when the time would be right, yet ironically, because of the parts she played she was the surrogate mother to hundreds of children who came to watch her perform. They loved her and she adored them, but today Suzy's world came tumbling down and even the Fairy God Mother's magic could not change it.

Wiping away the tears and as if memorising her lines, she replayed the last scene in her mind, one she would never forget.

She had just come off stage for a quick costume change before the finale, the Royal Wedding, when there had been a frantic knocking at the Green Room door. Being the only one there she had opened it and came face to face with a rather shabbily dressed, distraught lady, asking to see her husband, Marty Greenwood who was playing Buttons in the pantomime.

Sobbing and stammering Mrs. Greenwood had said it was very urgent, as one of their six children, three year old Suzanne, had been seriously injured in a car accident and was in hospital in ICU, there was a taxi waiting outside and he must go immediately.

She had frozen at the devastating news, but adrenalin took over and she had somehow mustered up enough courage to take charge of the unfortunate situation. Fleeing from the Green Room to prompt corner where Buttons was waiting to make his stage entrance she quickly explained the serious circumstances. Colour had drained from Marty's face, realizing his misdemeanours had finally caught up with him he had made a hasty retreat and she had somehow ad libbed the final scene much to the surprise of the rest of the pantomime cast.

The stars now seemed to shine more brightly in the darkening December sky and below on the cold damp pavements the sound of children's joyful laughter, and carol singers in union loudly proclaiming the birth of their Saviour in "Silent Night". Suzy wiped away the last of her tears, carefully putting the wine bottle to one side before, rather unsteadily but carefully, making her way back down the rickety metal staircase.

"The show must go on"

Katy Holderness.

Thank you Katy for your engaging contribution. It would be wonderful to have more ideas about keeping occupied during the covid restrictions. It does not have to be lengthy - quizzes, hobbies, interests, random thoughts, short stories, poems - **all are very welcome.**

Interest Group News

Most groups continue to be back on hold for the time being. Below is information on what is still taking place at the moment. For contact details please see Group leaders list below.

Book Reading Group

Leader: Helen Gibb

The group continues to hold informal Zoom sessions on Thursday afternoons and Saturday mornings.

Walking Groups

Leader: Brian Houghton

As most people will already know, Brian Houghton will be retiring from leading the Ramblers Group after more than 10 years. Many thanks, Brian, for all your hard work with map, compass and pub guide! Note that Brian will still continue to lead the Legstretchers.

Meanwhile, we are very pleased to announce that **Barbara Hollis** will be convening the Ramblers group **from March 2021** when there will be exciting new arrangements. More information to follow in the next newsletter.

Ramble

Due to the present increase in Lincolnshire of Covid 19 case, the January ramble is postponed until February.

Legstretcher

If it can be arranged and matters improve there will be a legstretcher on 27th January. This will start in Bassingham and incorporate Carlton le Moorland. This is a non-muddy walk as such a real new year treat. It can be done in trainers. More information to follow

Both Diana and I wish you all a healthy New Year.

And a happy New Year to all our members. Let's hope 2021 brings better times!