



## We will return!

### *Christmas Message from the Chairman*

It has been an horrendous year in which we have learnt a new way of living. We have endured rules and restraints meaning we have had restricted time with our families and friends

Everyday activities including how we spend our leisure time have also changed.

Our **u3a** is fast becoming 'virtual' with the use of Zoom and other technologies that help us to keep in touch, but this will never replace face to face meetings.

We must not give up hope and trust that medical research will in the near future provide a vaccine against covid which will allow everyone to resume a more normal way of life

I hope the day will soon come when we can meet again in our groups where we can have a chat, smile and just enjoy each others company.

In the meantime, let us try to make the most of the festive season and keep safe and well. I wish you and your family a joyous Christmas and with optimistic hope for a Happy and fulfilling New Year.

**ALAN STARKIE**

Your annual  
subs!  
Where do  
they all go?

- page 2-

We have had a  
're-brand'  
Take a look!

- pages 3,4,5 -

Is 'Zooming'  
here to  
stay?

- page 5,6-

Christmas  
Quiz and an  
amusing  
poem

- page 7-

## What does my U3A do with my annual membership subscription?

November 2020

IT IS reassuring to see that around 80% of members have renewed for the 2020-2021 membership year. Thank you for your commitment to our U3A. It is understandable that you may be asking yourself: 'What I have had for my membership subscription?'

Given below are some insights into payments made since 1st April 2020, during the period when we have been constrained to a 'virtual U3A'. I think it illustrates that many of the financial demands are unimpacted, or only marginally impacted, by suspension of normal activities.

### SPEND SINCE 1st APRIL 2020

WE have had to pay **membership subscriptions to the Third Age Trust (TAT)**. In return, TAT has kept 1,000+ U3As informed through regular online newsletters and website articles of how other U3As have risen to the challenge of lockdown. TAT has also provided training to U3As on how to offer a 'virtual U3A' and has provided the opportunity for members nationwide to participate in online activities.

Given the above, and the fact that TAT has its own overheads, it comes as no surprise that TAT has advised that it is unable to reduce or reschedule the demand for membership subscriptions.

- We have continued to use Beacon to manage membership records and to manage our accounts. We have therefore had to pay the **Beacon licence costs**.
- We have reduced the cost of **producing and distributing magazines** by sending digital copies to those members for whom we have an email address.
- We have purchased no equipment. However, we have had to pay for testing and **certification of our electrical equipment**.

- We have continued to incur the costs associated with the provision of our **website and email** services; means of communication that, in the absence of opportunities for face-to-face communication, have been even more important. In fact, we have extended our computer services to offer all day every day.
- In advance of the AGM, we had to pay for the **inspection of our accounts**.
- The suspension of premises-based activities led to some exceptional payments from received subscriptions. We abandoned courses and cancelled others. As a gesture of goodwill, we made a small **retainer payment to tutors** in April-June. We have a long-standing and mutually beneficial arrangement with the Scouts and Guides. In return for a guaranteed income they provide us with a guarantee of premises. We ceased making payment for hire of the Scouts and Guides headquarters at end March. However, given that the S&G HQ was open for business from July (subject to evolving constraints), we agreed to pay a monthly **retainer payment for the S&G HQ**, effective from September, to ensure ongoing availability of those premises.

So, you can see from the above that, even in the absence of activities, your 2020-2021 membership subscriptions are essential for us to 'keep the show on the road'. In fact, between 1st April 2020 and 31st October 2020, around £16,000 of members subscription receipts have been spent on 'keeping the show on the road'. This is forecast to rise to £19,000 before the end of this financial year. Total receipts from 2020-2021 membership subscriptions were £22,820.

Again, thank you for your continued support.

**DERRICK FEWINGS**, Hon. Treasurer  
20th November, 2020

## A LOGIC PUZZLE FROM DERRICK FEWINGS

While chilling with a glass of wine, Sue reminisced about the highlight of her evening: the pulling of the Christmas crackers.

There were four crackers (blue, green, red, yellow), each with a gift inside.

At the end, there were four gifts on the table (a comb, a spinning top, a tape measure and a metal puzzle).

From these clues, establish which gift came from which cracker and the sequence in which they were pulled.

1. The blue cracker had a metal puzzle inside.
2. The cracker with a tape measure was pulled immediately before the red cracker.
3. The yellow cracker was pulled earlier than the cracker with a metal puzzle.
4. The cracker with the gift comb was pulled two places after the red cracker.

**Answer on page 8**

## Email addresses

If you have received this newsletter in the post it means that we don't hold an email address for you. Perhaps you do have an email but haven't shared it with us yet? Maybe you live in a household where there is another email that you can use? If we can communicate with you by email it would be a huge help. Please email us at:

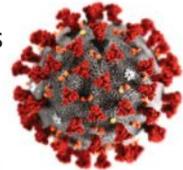
**[membership@aughton-ormskirk-u3a.co.uk](mailto:membership@aughton-ormskirk-u3a.co.uk)**

## Your membership extended until October 2021

AS you are all aware, we cannot be certain when **u3a** activities will return to normal. Given that we have been unable to offer premises-based activities since mid-March and the picture is not likely to be clear until into the New Year, the Management Committee feel it would be unfair to ask members to renew in April. To compensate for loss of activities this year, we will not ask for your next subscription until 1st October 2021. It is hoped that, by then, we will all have a far clearer understanding of what our **u3a** can offer in the way of activities and what constraints may apply. The annual membership subscription will remain at £15. Future membership years will run 1st October - 30th September.

## Covid-19 Keep safe!

Government experts have said that the spread of Coronavirus is based on two factors:



1. How dense the population is
2. How dense the population is

# Our U3A has been re-branded!

## Third Age Trust and U3A (or should it now be **u3a**)

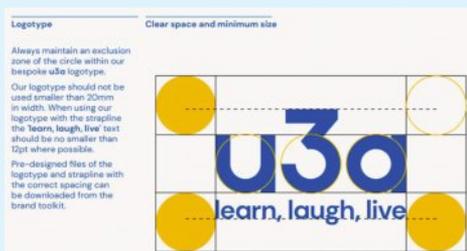
THE first University of the Third Age began in France during the early 1970s when it was closely allied with the university network. In the UK a different model was adopted based entirely on self-help learning in small groups. The founders of this movement perceived a need in the retired population for an affordable means of sharing the wealth of experience and knowledge gained during working lives and so the UK **u3a** was born in 1981.

From small beginnings there are now well over 1,000 independently managed organisations bearing the title **u3a**, with over 450,000 members nationwide.

Every U3A belongs to a region (*we are North West of course*). We are all affiliated to the Third Age Trust (TAT), a related body that gives us advice, guidance, insurance, training and a national profile. Each Region elects a representative to serve as a Trustee on the Third Age Trust for a three year period.

Last September a neighbouring **u3a**, Upholland & District, proposed one of its own members, Neil Stevenson, to be that representative and he was duly elected.

We pay an annual fee to TAT, based on our membership numbers. You will see this listed in our Treasurer's explanation of how your subs are spent each year.



## Time for a change! U3A becomes **u3a**

THE familiar blue and yellow logo of U3A and the expanded title ~ University of the Third Age ~ have recently been altered to present a more modern and inclusive organisation. Many other well established bodies such as the WI and WRVS have taken a similar step forward.

The main reason for the change is the fall in recruitment of younger, retired people. The average age of a **u3a** member is now 73 and rising year on year.

In an attempt to make **u3a** more appealing to a younger audience it was decided that the entire image needed an update. The new logo is clean and modern with an emphasis on white space and internal shapes. (*See the image above*).

The words 'University' and 'Third Age' have been dropped (*except to explain the origins of the movement*) and a strap line of **learn, laugh, live** substituted. We are now encouraged to use direct, simple language to explain our purpose ~ enjoyment and learning something new.

All national and regional advertising will carry the new image and we are

being encouraged to adopt it too, along with the new philosophy. Brand recognition is a powerful tool in advertising as we know so well and the new **u3a** brand needs a consistent approach down to the local level so that the message can be read and understood.

What we actually do in our **u3a** will remain the same of course but who knows, we may see some new, younger faces when we relaunch next year.

**SUE WATKINSON**

*on behalf of the  
Communications subcommittee*

## MY EXPERIENCE WITH RE-BRANDINGS!

RE-BRANDING is something that businesses do occasionally to change their marketing strategy or to 'boost' their corporate image.



Barclays recently re-branded the Barclaycard: is the new identity and rebrand worth £1.5million? This is a new identity designed by Brand Union. The logo cost £600,000 which was part of an overall £1.5m identity makeover.

I doubt that our national **u3a** spent £600,000 ~ but one or two of your 'Communications Committee' think it must have taken at least 15 minutes to re-design the new logo. Our old logo is printed here.



Your editor now has to follow the precise guidelines on page 4, as to how to position the new logo.

Please check the front page of this 'mini-magazine'. If I've done it in correctly then I expect punishment from our HQ in London.

**BILL EVANS**

*Editor, u3a magazine*

# ZOOMING IN!

## Drama Group

SOME members of the Drama Group have carried on during both lock-down reading plays via Zoom twice every week. We have had really good fun and a lot of laughs as we never know which character we are until we start reading the play.



Also some plays surprise us by totally changing the characters during reading and someone who starts out in a meek and mild role suddenly turns into a manic murderer, or even worse!

The Group also connect with each other via 'What's App' and this keeps most of us in touch with one another. We have also set up a 'Not the Drama Group' Zoom play reading group for any **u3a** member who would like to have a go.

The Drama Group is a great way of escaping the present and being a different person from another time just for a couple of hours.

It does entail much laughing and sometimes terrible accents but it never ceases to be fun. Meeting on Zoom throughout these long months have kept our Group in

**Megan Tomlinson**

## Creative Writing

FROM the outset we writers were keen to keep in touch and indeed have missed none of our monthly meetings. Our first Zoom effort was an absolute fiasco; people appearing and disappearing, helpful texts and phone calls zinging back and forth and finally, being

cut off in mid flow, but we persevered.

Once it became available we transferred to the **u3a** setup, very appreciative of the extra time it enables. In the interim we have also kept in touch with a chatty WhatsApp group and a second one, which grew from it, by which we have entertained ourselves writing group stories.

Something of a challenge.

Technology has enabled us to carry on laughing and learning together, learn more about each other and develop deeper relationships in what has always been a very supportive group. It is just a pity that the added benefits are the result of something as terrible as Covid-19. **Joan Potter**

## CHRISTMAS CARD GALLERY

**By Joyce Nolan**

AT a recent Zoom meeting of the Communications Subcommittee, a suggestion came up of publishing a **u3a Christmas Card gallery** on the website. If that idea appeals to you, please do get



creative and produce a card using your painting, drawing, cartooning skills.

or hand-made card

For practical and technical reasons, there have to be a **few guidelines**:

- It should be your own work, or you'll need to check that included photos, clipart etc, are free of copyright
- It should be a single page
- Send in your digital 'card' as an attachment in an email to [webteam@aughton-ormskirk-u3a.co.uk](mailto:webteam@aughton-ormskirk-u3a.co.uk) if you already have it stored electronically (*or take a photo, or scan it and send that file*)
- Greetings text can be included in the image on the page and / or on the gallery 'caption' area which will appear below the card in the gallery.
- Include your caption in the email

message when you send in your card file attachment

- The recipient(s) of the greetings should not be personal or individual, though the sender(s), ie the card maker(s), can name or identify themselves as they wish

To further explain this last point . . .

We are looking only for u3a-related greetings to recipients at the Group, Committee or **u3a** friends level.

Therefore suitable greetings appearing on card or caption or between both might be along the lines of:



*"Happy Christmas to members of the Such-and-Such Group from Josephine Bloggs"*

*"Joe Bloggs sends Best Wishes to all his u3a Friends"*

*"Christmas Greetings from the Web Team to our Website Visitors"*

Contact us if not sure what to do at:  
email:

[webteam@aughton-ormskirk-u3a.co.uk](mailto:webteam@aughton-ormskirk-u3a.co.uk)

## JAZZ APPRECIATION GROUP

# CHRISTMAS QUIZ

from 2009 - revised for 2020

- Q1 Dashing through the snow in what?
- Q2 In the 12 Days of Christmas, what was given on the seventh day?
- Q3 Which Saint is celebrated on 26 December?
- Q4 In which College is held the Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols?
- Q5 What traditional dish is associated with Stir Up Sunday?
- Q6 In the poem by Stanley Holloway, with what was Sam's Christmas pudding confused?
- Q7 There is an edible version of Buche de Noel. What is its predominant flavour?
- Q8 In the carol about the Ilex and the Hedera, which one wore the crown?
- Q9 By what common name do we know Euphorbia Pulcherrima?
- Q10 What is the parasite we bring into our homes at Christmas? (be serious!)
- Q11 What was different about Rudolph?
- Q12 Which film first featured 'White Christmas'?
- Q13 Are you old enough to know your Christmas Alphabet?  
"C is for the candles trimmed around the Christmas Tree,  
H is for the ....."
- Q14 The 3 Kings brought gold, and frankincense and what else? Correct spelling please.
- Q15 What is the chemical symbol for gold?
- Q16 What herbs bedecked the boar's head in the carol of that name?
- Q17 What came on a Midnight Clear? ('It' is not an answer)

- Q18 Who wrote A Child's Christmas in Wales?
- Q19 In which book did field mice sing the carol 'Villagers all this frosty tide'?
- Q20 Which poet wrote this line 'The tortoise stove is lit again'?

*Answers on next page*

## Covid Lockdown Poem

I won't arise and go now, and go to  
Innesfree,  
I'll sanitise the door knob and  
make a cup of tea.

I won't go down to the sea again;  
I won't go out at all,  
I'll wander lonely as a cloud from  
the kitchen to the hall.

There's a one-eyed yellow idol to  
the north of Katmandu,  
but I shan't be seeing it just yet and  
nor, I think, will you.

While the dawn comes up like  
thunder on the road to Mandalay,  
I'll make my bit of supper and  
eat it off a tray.

I shall not speed my bonnie boat  
across the sea to Skye,  
or take the rolling English road  
from Birmingham to Rye.  
About the woodland, just right  
now, I am not free to go  
to see the 'Keep Out' posters or the  
cherry hung with snow.

And no, I won't be travelling much,  
within the realms of gold,  
or get me to Milford Haven . . .  
all that's been put on hold.  
"Give me your hands", I shan't  
request,  
albeit we are friends,  
nor come within a mile of you,  
until this virus ends.

*- Anon -*

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**John Tomlinson**

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**Megan Tomlinson**

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**Pamela Ball**

**MINUTE SECRETARY:**

**Les Rippon**

**Other committee members**

**Ian Grant**

**Pamela Green**

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**Lorna McDade**

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**JAZZ GROUP  
CHRISTMAS QUIZ ANSWERS**

- Q1 A one horse open sleigh
- Q2 7 swans a swimming
- Q3 Saint Stephen
- Q4 Kings
- Q5 Christmas Pudding
- Q6 A cannon ball
- Q7 Chocolate
- Q8 Ilex
- Q9 Poinsettia

- Q10 Mistletoe
- Q11 He had a very shiny nose
- Q12 Holiday Inn
- Q13 the happiness (of all the family)
- Q14 Myrrh
- Q14 Au
- Q15 Bays and rosemary
- Q16 That glorious song of old
- Q18 Dylan Thomas
- Q19 Wind in the Willows
- Q20 John Betjeman

**LOGIC PUZZLE ANSWER**

- |     |        |              |
|-----|--------|--------------|
| 1st | Yellow | Tape measure |
| 2nd | Red    | Spinning top |
| 3rd | Blue   | Metal puzzle |
| 4th | Green  | Comb         |

*Happy Christmas  
to all our members*

