

# South Durham u3a

Active in Darlington, Cockerton and surrounding areas

<http://www.sdurhamu3a.org.uk/>

**SPECIAL EDITION 24 – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

I'm happy to continue to assemble newsletters, but they are dependent upon members providing material. Please keep the items coming. **The next edition will be Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021.** As ever please email, post or hand deliver: we shall be pleased to receive everything.  
**Ruth Beckett (29 Staindrop Road) [southdurhamu3a@gmail.com](mailto:southdurhamu3a@gmail.com)**

## **MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIR "HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS"**

Welcome to 2021 which, unfortunately, has begun with us going into full lockdown again! I was beginning to look forward to 2021 as the vaccine is being rolled out but the app gives me the dates of receiving my first injection between mid-March and the end of June. I had hoped we would have been restarting u3a gatherings in May this year, but as some/many of us will not have received their vaccination by then it's unlikely – perhaps we can look to August 2021? We shall just have to monitor the situation month by month. Have any of our senior members already received their vaccination? Please let us know – we like good news!!

Unfortunately, due to restrictions and cold weather the committee has been unable to meet but to be honest we have nothing to report. We do keep in contact with one another (and our members) via email & phone calls.

I have received various speakers offering Zoom meetings to our group (they are probably contacting all the u3a groups in Britain!). The charges are from £50 to £90 per hour. Examples of talks I've been offered are:-

- New Orleans to New York.
- The Golden Age of Radio.
- History of Isambard Kingdom Brunel.
- Bridges of Brunel.
- The Great American Songbook.
- Lowry.
- Hadrian's Wall.
- Marine Biology.
- The King's Tiger Rag.
- Not Father O'Malley.

If any members would be interested in a Zoom 'monthly meeting' with one of these topics please contact Debbie Hardy. [dahardy@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dahardy@hotmail.co.uk) or 01325 482165. Committee will then arrange date and time. We'd obviously need a reasonable number of members to be interested to make it worthwhile.

**u3a day** is Wednesday June 2nd 2021. This has been postponed from June last year and is planned to increase the profile of u3a so that more people know what we do. We had some ideas for last year, but it will need looking at again.

Finally, a reminder that if you change address, email, phone or mobile number please inform Brenda Ellidge Membership Secretary. [Brenellidge50@outlook.com](mailto:Brenellidge50@outlook.com) or 01325 496039

**Carol Boyd** [carolboydu3a@gmail.co.uk](mailto:carolboydu3a@gmail.co.uk) 01325 496153

## **IMPORTANT REMINDER**

If you are sending emails to a number of our members, please remember to enter their names in the 'BCC' line (not where it says 'To:').

That way their email addresses are not visible to other members.

## **WE HAVE BEEN REBRANDED! Have you noticed?**

This is an announcement made by National in September:

*“Over the last year we have embarked on a process of refreshing our **u3a brand** so that it better reflects the vibrancy, connection, and learning that takes place every day in this amazing movement. We’ve spoken to many members and, thanks to your input and support, we are now in a position to launch the new look at this year’s AGM.”*

In October they informed us that *“This updated look was chosen after a wide consultation with members”*.

On the website we recently found this clarification:

*When interacting with internal and external audiences and individuals, using the brand images and logo will provide a consistent visual reference to the U3A movement. It is important to model and potentially influence internal audiences, in the use of branded materials.*

and were advised: *“We are not using University. As soon as it is feasible for you, please remove all references to University of the Third Age.”*

In the most recent newsletter, they clarified:

*“In its publicity items, and references to the movement in articles, the Trust will refer to the movement as u3a in lower case. This is to reflect the fresh and more modern look of our logo. Although the Trust recognises that each u3a is an independent charity administered by its elected committee, it hopes that you will adopt this change in your written items including on your websites where possible.”*

All of this came as a complete surprise to your committee – and some of the jargon being used by National feels like a different language to the one we speak!! I have however changed the heading at the top of this newsletter to the new lower-case logo, and in due course the website will also be changed.

I’d be interested to know what any of our members think about this. Your views can be published next month.

**Ruth Beckett**

## **IN CASE YOU MISSED THEM – CHRISTMAS CRACKER JOKES**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. What is Dominic Cummings favourite Christmas song?<br>“Driving Home for Christmas”              | 6. Why is it better to think of 2020 as a panto?<br>Because it’s behind you!  |
| 2. Why was production down at Santa’s workshop?<br>Because many of his workers had to elf isolate! | 7. Why couldn’t Mary and Joseph join their work conference call?<br>Because there was no Zoom at the Inn!                           |
| 3. Why didn’t Mary and Joseph make it to Bethlehem?<br>Because all Virgin flights were cancelled!  | 8. Why can’t Boris Johnson make his Christmas cake until the last minute?<br>Because he doesn’t know how many tiers it should have! |
| 4. Why are Santa’s reindeer allowed to travel at Christmas?<br>Because they have herd immunity!    | 9. What do the Trumps do for Christmas?<br>Put on a super spread!   |
| 5. Why did the pirates have to go into lockdown?<br>Because the “Arrrr” rate had risen!            | 10. Which Christmas film was 30 years ahead of its time?<br>Home Alone!   |

**Thanks to Jackie Roberts for these**

## **GOODBYE 2020**

Goodbye 2020, it's not been nice to know you.  
You frightened everybody as Covid came and grew.  
You stuffed us into lockdown and we hadn't done a crime.  
You cut us off from friends, like we were doing time.  
You sliced us into tiers, and tears were what you got.  
I couldn't see my grandsons, you didn't care a jot.

But now your time is over, so Go and don't come back!  
With 2021 we are on a different track.  
The future's very bright, and spring is very near,  
So I wish one and all a Happy New Year! **Kate Brown**



## **NEW YEAR THOUGHTS FROM NO. 3A**

Has anyone else lost an earring by tearing off a mask on exit from a shop? I've now gone for the Bill Sikes robber bandana look, rather hot round the neck...



Answer to last month's quiz question (see pic). This is Witton Hall, commissioned in 18th century style by our very own George Reynolds. Full marks to the architect, who had me fooled until I googled. It was on sale at the time for several million pounds and includes a number of must-haves like a lodge, cinema and pool...

Talking of pools, S and I had taken to weekly swims at the Dolphin before we were put into Tier 4 and pools closed. Last time I amused myself by classifying styles - tea clipper, wallower, thrasher. My own can best be described as "stately galleon". Why on earth do some folks bring water bottles? I seem to swallow gallons. One week, S forgot her towel and had the gall to demand first dibs at mine as I'd be too slow! This didn't wash (or wipe) with me...

Broompark Picnic Area - a great base for winter walks. Go north on the A167, left on the A690 at Neville's Cross and right at a small roundabout onto the B6302, after which you'll soon see a sign off to the left. Just south of the car park is the confluence of 3 railway paths, relatively mudfree; parking can get crowded in the afternoons...

Pointless January quiz (see pic, Cumbria this October): never mind me on my high horse but can you guess what breed my mount is, how many hands and for extra marks, her name?



Malapropism of the year, uttered at Christmas lunch - "This photo's going to go virile"... **LINDA CHADD**

**I ASKED MY GRANDPA, "AFTER 65 YEARS, YOU STILL CALL GRANDMA DARLING, BEAUTIFUL, AND HONEY. WHAT'S THE SECRET?" HE SAID, "I FORGOT HER NAME 5 YEARS AGO AND I'M SCARED TO ASK HER."**

Therapist: Your wife says you never buy her flowers is that true?  
Him: To be honest, I never knew she sold flowers.

## **CHRISTMAS MOONBEAM TOURS**

Ladies and gentlemen, ladies and gentlemen, your attention please. Thank you.

If I could have a few moments of your precious time. My name is Euridyce and I am your personal cabin hostess for this Christmas Moonbeam trip.

First, I would like to thank you for travelling with Space Tours Holidays. It is the very best. No expense has been spared to make your first visit the one you will always remember. The Moonbeam Tour – Two for the Price of One for the Festive season has been very popular this year, especially with our wonderful senior citizens. We warmly welcome members from U3A, who know a good bargain when they see one.

I must congratulate you on your management of weightlessness in the cabin. Although we had one or two slight mishaps during our lunch. It can be rather daunting for first-timers in space.

I hope you all enjoyed your Festive Lunch. The menu of Star-Spark Asparagus Soup, followed by sautéed potatoes and roast turkey with all the trimmings in our new see-through hand-held tubes, and to follow a concoction of festive berries liquidised to spray to the back of the throat. I was pleased to see that most of our travellers became efficient with the squeeze and suck action of the space world so quickly. Our vegetarian menu, green cheese omelette, blended with pea and bean coulis was well received.

Now to mention those slight mishaps I mentioned earlier. There are four sets of dentures waiting to be collected from our space hostess, Marisma. I hope you all read the small print in your insurance, the paragraph referring to labelling all your moving parts. Good! Splendid!

The management do realise that some aspects of space travel can be slightly off-putting. The most distasteful being the space debris which can be seen passing your portholes from time to time. It is especially disconcerting to see the figure of an old astronaut from the 20<sup>th</sup> Century suddenly appearing. Also, the terrible commercial craze of burials in space established by Branson 4<sup>th</sup> was an abomination. The less said about that the better. The clearing of space debris has become a major issue with all space tour operators.

But much more for your delight as we gaze into infinity you will see the first part of your adventure. Father Christmas will circle our ship several times on his super powered rocket reindeer.

Moving on now to one or two points for your safety on landing. Yes, it is very exciting. I get a thrill each time we land on the moon.

Please wait until the craft has come to a complete stop before you move. Collect your hand luggage and any small items which may have strayed away during your flight. Most importantly make sure your identity card is firmly attached to the front of your suit. Identification is a serious business, although Space Tours have never lost a passenger, I have heard of other operators going home with less than a full cabin.

May I remind you of the laws of gravity. Keep this in mind the whole time. Any sudden movement – a cough or sneeze from a traveller can have a knock-on effect and make our little group less than stable. Cannoning into each other is not the best way to start a holiday friendship. Last trip we had an unfortunate gentleman who suffered dreadfully from flatulence and found himself 50 feet above the surface. It took the engineers two hours to get him down.

Remember your moon-code, think before you move.

Thank you for your attention. On behalf of Moonbeam Christmas tours may I wish you a wonderful First Space Holiday.

***Margaret Rule***



Wonderful flower to cheer up lock down. I still have plants to spare and would deliver if anyone is interested.

**Liz Kay**

01325359921

**MALE OR FEMALE?** Useful(?) information provided by **Sue Clark**

You might not have known this, but a lot of non-living objects are actually either male or female. Here are some examples:



**SPONGES:**  
These are female, because they are soft, squeezable, and retain water.



**FREEZER BAGS:**  
They are male, because they hold everything in, but you can see right through them.



**TRAINS:**  
Definitely male, because they always use the same old lines for picking up people.



**TYRES:**  
Tyres are male, because they go bald easily and are often over inflated



**HOT AIR BALLOONS:**  
Also a male object, because to get them to go anywhere, you have to light a fire under their butt.



**EGG TIMERS:**  
Egg timers are female because, over time, all the weight shifts to the bottom.



### HAMMERS:

Male, because in the last 5000 years, they've hardly changed at all, and are occasionally handy to have around.



### THE REMOTE CONTROL:

Female. Ha! You probably thought it would be male, but consider this: It easily gives a man pleasure, he'd be lost without it, and while he doesn't always know which buttons to push, he just keeps trying

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

I'm aware that a lot of the recipes I have put in the Newsletters have been calorific so this month's is a lighter version of an old favourite.

### Gino DaCampo's Lighter Lemon Cake.

#### **Ingredients**

- 1.) 1 large unwaxed lemon zest & juice
- 2.) 150g caster sugar
- 3.) 160ml low fat natural yoghurt
- 4.) 150ml sunflower oil
- 5.) 270 g self raising flour
- 6.) 2 large eggs



#### **Method**

- 1.) Preheat the oven to gas 3/160°C.
- 2.) Grease a 20cm(8") round or square cake tin with sunflower oil & line the base with baking parchment.
- 3.) Pour the lemon juice into a small bowl & mix it with a tablespoon of the sugar. Set aside.
- 4.) Place the lemon zest in a large bowl & add the remaining sugar with the yoghurt, oil, eggs & sieved flour. Use a wooden spoon to mix everything together for 1 minute.
- 5.) Pour the mixture into the prepared cake tin & transfer to the middle of the oven & bake for 55 minutes or until risen & springy when touched.
- 6.) Remove the cake from the oven & stand the tin on a cooling rack. Slowly spoon the lemon juice over the hot cake.
- 7.) Allow it to cool down completely in the tin before turning out.

This cake keeps well as it is moist because of the yoghurt & oil. It is nice without being particularly naughty!

***Stella Barnes.***

### **DECEMBER QUIZ answers (courtesy of Dunelm u3a)**

1. Winston Smith. 2. Latvia. 3. Abraham Lincoln [1865], James A Garfield [1881], William McKinley [1901] and John F Kennedy [1963]. 4. HyperText Transfer Protocol. 5. [a] "Silver Machine" [reached no. 3], [b] "Hi Ho Silver" [no. 5], [c] "Silver Star" [no. 3], [d] "Silver Dream Machine" [no. 4] and [e] "Silver Lady" [no.1]. 6. The Duke of Windsor. 7. Fish. 8. Guernica. 9. 1897 10. In which towns do the following Scottish football teams play their home matches, [a] Edinburgh, [b]Perth, [c]Dumfries, [d]Coatbridge and [e] Paisley. 11. A Leveret. 12. Churchill Downs. 13. Ernest Rutherford. 14. Bosnia & Herzegovina, Hungary, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia. 15. "Congratulations" [2nd in 1968] and "Power to all our Friends" [3rd in 1973]. 16. The White Rabbit. 17. [a] Baseball, [b] Bowling, [c] Boxing, [d] Golf and [e] Rugby League. 18. The Aztecs. 19. [a] Vauxhall, [b] Wolsey, [c] Morris, [d] Lotus and [e] DeLorean. 20. They were Star Trek IV, V & VI respectively

### **JANUARY QUANTAGORY QUIZ (courtesy of Dunelm u3a)**

Example: 7 D of the W = 7 Days of the Week

- 1) 26 L of the A \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) 100 Y in a C \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) 90 D in a RA \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) 200 P for PG in M \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) 3 BM (SHTR) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) 24 H in a D \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) 88 K on a P \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) 9 R pull SS \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) 22 B on a ST \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) 5 GR (from the 12 D of C) \_\_\_\_\_
- 11) 39 B of the OT \_\_\_\_\_
- 12) 8 L on a S \_\_\_\_\_
- 13) 14 L in a S \_\_\_\_\_
- 14) 7 W of the AW \_\_\_\_\_
- 15) 57 HV \_\_\_\_\_
- 16) 32 DF at which WF \_\_\_\_\_
- 17) 3 WM \_\_\_\_\_
- 18) 64 S on a CB \_\_\_\_\_
- 19) 1001 AN \_\_\_\_\_
- 20) 10 GB (H on the W) \_\_\_\_\_

Click here to see a message from the Chair and CEO of the u3a which came out on Tuesday this week.  
[Message from u3a Sam Mauger CEO and Ian McCannah Chair - YouTube](#)

**REMINDER; NEXT EDITION FRIDAY 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021**  
**WE NEED YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS, HOWEVER SMALL, TO FILL THE NEWSLETTER!**