



Christmas Tree Lights by Marion, Newquay u3a

– from one of our u3a learning initiatives: [u3a eye](#)

See this and more when you sign up to the [u3a national newsletter](#) keeping you up to date with the u3a movement for 2023



Dear Members,

Many thanks for all your positive feedback from our first issue. This is our festive special edition, sharing pictures from members, some music recommendations from the Exploring Classical Music group and a short quiz for your enjoyment.

As well as the groups showcased in this news extra, I wanted to give a shout out to some of the other dynamic groups you could join as part of Interest Groups Online. If you love a good crime novel why not join our group Crime Corner, which is just getting off the ground. The More Fun with Maths group is on the lookout for new members and the Countdown to COP group are looking forward to welcoming more members for their meeting on 27 January. There's more detail on how to join groups on the [Interest Groups Online website](#).

Have a great Festive season and see you in the New Year.

Helen, Editor

Group News

Do any of these groups interest you? You can join any of these groups by following the instructions on [the Interest Groups Online website](#).

Quiz Zoomers

Our quiz takes place every Monday evening at 7pm and lasts about an hour. Some players are regulars, others sporadic competitors. The way we tend to do it is matches of two teams of four, with players being assigned to a team each week. Please join us, we'd love more competitors.

Here's a sample question to whet your appetite:

The actor who played Churchill in a 2017 film of that name shares his name with a scientist from Manchester University who presents TV documentaries. What is that name?

Group Leader, Phil



Find the answer on the [Interest Groups Online page](#) of the u3a website.



Psychology

Our group is a great place to discuss and share ideas on psychology. Each monthly meeting covers a "stand alone" topic. Our group is open to all and prior knowledge of psychology is not required. Members are encouraged to suggest topics for 2023 and to lead meetings.

At our recent meeting, we discussed fact or fiction and the debate on whether Hypnosis is an altered state of consciousness or a response to social influence. The group shared their own views and experiences, including one member who herself has practiced hypnotherapy. Next month, we'll be discussing faith and superstition.

Group leader, Brenda

Words, Rhythm and Rhyme

Can you play an instrument, sing, recite or write poetry? If you would enjoy performing a poem, tune or song in an encouraging friendly group we would love to see you. All styles of poetry and music – original works or covers – are welcome.

Group Leaders, Anne and Hilary

Poetry Patch group

I wanted to share a poem that we've been enjoying recently – Silver by Walter de la Mare. The first four lines are below. What's your favourite poem? Why not come and discuss it with us?

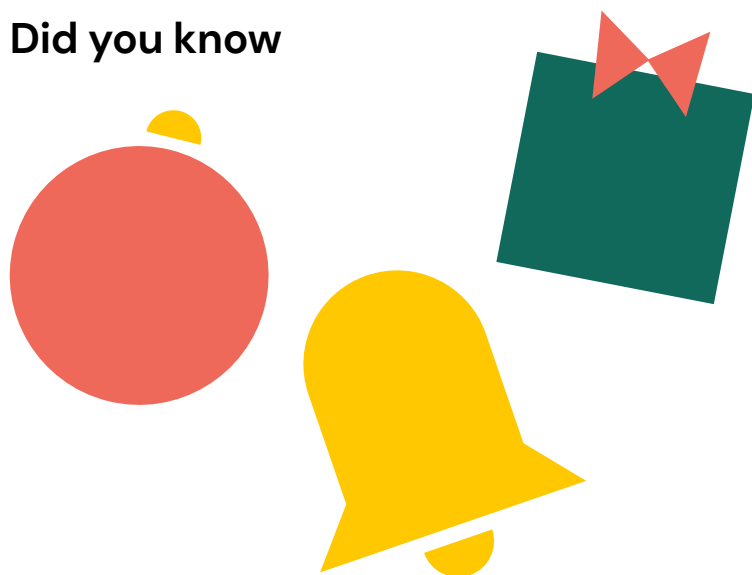
Slowly, silently, now the moon
Walks the night in her silver shoon;
This way, and that, she peers, and sees
Silver fruit upon silver trees.

Group leader, Pat



Photo: Interest Groups Online Member Nicola

Did you know



The Military History Groups are giving presentations in January

- 18 January – member Harry will give a presentation on The U Boat 1939-45
- 25 January – member Keith will give a presentation on Margaret Beaufort 1443-1509, followed by a presentation by member Mike about WW1 artist Fergus MacKain

To attend these presentations, join the group by following the instructions on [the Interest Groups Online](#) website.

There's a meeting for all Interest Groups Online group leaders on Thursday 19 January. If you're a group leader, [reserve your spot now](#).

Our Festive Quiz

Question 1 Which carol did Christina Rossetti write in 1872?	Question 2 Which carol has a city in the midlands for a name?	Question 3 Stille Nacht was first translated into English in 1859. By what name do we know it?	Question 4 Rector Phillip Brooks was inspired to write which carol whilst looking over Bethlehem from the Palestine Hills?	Question 5 What is the more usual name for the carol Tidings of Comfort and Joy?
--	---	--	--	--

Find the answers on our [Interest Groups Online page](#) on the u3a website.

Christmas & New Year Music from the Exploring Classical Music group



Photo: Interest Groups Online Member Helen

Thanks to Tomy, our classic music group leader, for their group recommendations of what to listen to over the festive period.

Debbie Wiseman: A Lustre to This Day

This short piece premiered during the darkest days of the COVID lockdown and is a beautiful example of hope.

Antonio Vivaldi, Winter from the Four Seasons, Voices of Music and Cynthia Miller Freivogel

I am sure that you heard Vivaldi's Four Seasons. But this rendition played on baroque instruments surely is unique in its freshness.

Victor Hely-Hutchinson, Carol Symphony

Listen to this piece very carefully. How many Christmas carols can you hear? The way Hely-Hutchinson organized them is really mind-boggling!

Tomy – Exploring Classical Music group leader

Read the full list of music recommendations on the [Interest Groups Online page](#) of the u3a website.

Why I love Interest Groups Online

I like my local u3a, its great for the community. But I also love Interest Groups Online, it's where I meet friends with common interests all over the UK....

**–Tomy, Trust Volunteer in the Interest Groups Online team
(he helps with all things regarding websites)**

Why do you love Interest Groups Online?
Get in touch by emailing interestgroupsonline@u3a.org.uk



Photos: Interest Groups Online members Dianne and Margaret