



u3a Shepton Mallet Festive News Christmas 2024

Ho Ho Ho Merry Christmas

Intro

A short u3a festive news release to wish all u3a members and their families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and to keep you up to date before the next full newsletter release in January.



By T. K.

Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.

From the Chair

Here's a little something to be going on with - not a sausage roll or a chocolate finger, but a mini-newsletter, only online, just for our members (nearly 170 now!).



Many thanks to Barry Holmes for his quartet of amusing poems. His Aunt Nelly sounds wonderful!



From Waffles and me.

Plenty to look forward to this month—a musical meeting on 5th December, Festive Afternoon Tea on the 13th, Christmas Lunch on the 18th plus all the group activities. However will we fit in the Christmas shopping?

I wish you all a happy and peaceful time and look forward to another super year for our u3a in 2025.

Very best wishes,

Janet Sherwin

What's the difference between roast beef and pea soup? - Anyone can roast beef.

U3a Eye

Nationally the u3a are running a rolling photography project to encourage members to take and submit pictures of their surroundings. On the national u3a website they post a different theme every two months and invite you to submit your photo on that topic. These are a couple of the photos I submitted for the Oct - Nov 'Orange' theme. The Dec - Jan theme is 'Illumination'.

www.u3a.org.uk/learning/learning-activities/u3a-eye

Janet Sherwin



On a string of Chinese-made Christmas lights: For indoor or outdoor use only.

Taxi Text Trauma – a True Tale of 21st century life!

The other day I needed to book a taxi, so scrolled through my contacts list and texted a local firm to book the trip. To my slight surprise the response was that they were very busy with family problems. I asked if they would be less busy next week, but the response was similar. Bristling a bit, I then asked if they really wanted my custom, and got an even more off-putting reply. I almost left it at that but, feeling quite annoyed, I then texted "Better stop advertising then!" and it's lucky I did, because at that point the phone rang. It was a neighbour, with the same first name as the taxi driver, whom I had been texting by mistake!

If I had not provoked the neighbour into calling me, they would have probably stopped speaking to me, and I would have given up on the taxi firm!

Then I texted the right person and booked the trip straight away.

Moral: Check before you text!

Janet Sherwin

The most effective way to remember your wife's birthday is to forget it once.

Christmas in Shepton Mallet

St Peter and St Pauls Church

Sunday	22nd December	Carol Service	6pm
Tuesday	24th December	Nativity	4pm and 6pm
Tuesday	24th December	Midnight Communion	11.30pm
Wednesday	25th December	Family Communion	10.30am

Rock Farm, Forum Lane - Saturday 7th December 10am-7pm a Christmas Special market at Rock Farm, A day of festive activities; hot drinks, local musicians, workshops, gifts, food and cozy fireside antics!

The Lantern Festival- Saturday 21st December at 5pm, a parade starting at the Collet Park Bandstand.

www.sheptonlanternfestival.org.uk

Out of my mind. Back in five minutes.

A Personal View

Well, here it is, Merry Christmas, and I hope you're having fun. I expect your halls are decked and the jingle bells are well and truly ringing. I know I should be empathising with the homeless and the poor and lonely, and of course I am. But I am currently thinking of the role of us ladies at Christmas.

Who made Christmas the responsibility of women? From choosing, buying, wrapping and posting all the presents, the choosing, buying, writing and posting the Christmas cards to the herculean labours of the day itself. Don't forget the tree, the decorations and the Christmas boxes for the dustbin men.

You might be lucky and have the vegetables peeled but the organisation and the planning? The miracle of the coordination of ending up with Christmas dinner hot and ready all at the same time? The setting of the table, remembering the crackers, the sitting on the uncomfortable spare bedroom chair, the hot and sweaty ruin of your Christmas hairdo. I could go on (and in my head, I am!).

Men's responsibilities? Going up in the loft to find the decorations and hopefully, the washing up. Now, I know this is not the case in every household but my advice to the ladies out there - delegate or go out. Grab a bottle of Prosecco and maintain complete control of the remote control.

Merry Christmas.

Tina King

On Maternity Room door: "Push, Push, Push."

Do you think sheep know when you're pulling the wool over their eyes?

Barry's Poems

Poems kindly submitted by Barbara and Barry Holmes.
Has anyone else got any poems for the next newsletter?

I'm going round to Auntie Nells
For my Christmas dinner
I know that when I come away
I won't be any slimmer.

The Turkey which you're bound to get
Is just cooked to perfection
With potatoes roasted in goose fat
And veg -- a large selection

And when you think you've had enough
and your tummy's beginning to swell
Then you've got to try the Christmas Pud
When you're dining with Auntie Nell

A glass of Port is very nice
When taken with some cheese
Oh! the chocolate box is coming round
"OVER HERE DEAR IF YOU PLEASE"

Now it's warm mince pies with Brandy sauce
And James Bond on the telly
And HAPPY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE
All thanks to Auntie Nelly.

By Barry Holmes

From my Auntie Nelly's dinner
Folks don't normally leave thinner
For six or seven of her pies
Will surely give you big plump thighs

If rich cream cake is to your taste
I dread to think about your waist
For it will grow before your eyes
And end up an enormous size.

Clothes which fitted when you came
Will shrink in size, oh what a shame
Size twelves your size--- for years has been
But when you leave you're size sixteen

Another cake? oh please don't force it
Or you'll end up in a corset
With half the buttons left undone
Another cake—ah well, just one

Aunty Nelly's meals are fine
If you are only eight or nine
But when you are a little older
Just give that cake the big cold shoulder.

By Barry Holmes

THE POOR POTATO.

The potato has a lonely life
got no husband, got no wife
Its end is by the kitchen knife
the poor potato

It may end up as chips or mash
you can do those in a flash
It takes longer though for Dauphinoise
the poor potato

Although I'm not the one to boast
but my spuds when done as a roast
in goose fat then they will beat most
the great potato

It doesn't ask for much, the spud
and on the whole that is quite good
and there I rest my case, M,LUD
for poor potato.

By Barry Holmes

JANUARY BLUES

With Christmas and the new year gone
They both are now 'Old news'
But you've still to meet the next big treat
It's The January Blues

Yes the January Blues are here
But if it's pleasure that you seeks
You can take heart 'cos once they start
They only last six weeks

New Years Eve can be quite nice
A party with some friends
But then comes January first
And the jollity soon ends

Gone are the days of Christmas Fayre
It's dieting from now
With lettuce leaves and not much else
I'll lose that weight somehow

For you've just caught the latest thing--
Not Covid or the 'flu
It's something that's far worse than those
It's the January Blues.

By Barry Holmes

Whose cruel idea was it for the word "lisp" to have an "s" in it?

U3a Speaker Meetings

First Thursday of each month at the Salvation Army Hall, Shepton Mallet.
10 til 12noon.
£2 members and £3 non members



5th December - u3a Carols and Christmas songs.

Well it is now more of a Singing Meeting because it's nearly Christmas! Join in with some carols and Christmas songs, eat mince pies, drink coffee, eat more mince pies and then listen to our special guest, the sublime Amy Carson, international soprano, sing pieces from Handel's Messiah.

The Salvation Army would be delighted if you bring along something to add to the Christmas Food Bank.

For instance UHT Milk, Fruit Juices, tinned fruit and veg, chocolate biscuits, Christmas treats.

Looking forward to seeing you.



2nd January 2025– Creating Memories

As it is the first day after the holidays it has been difficult to find a speaker so therefore we are going to have a craft session to design and create a pennant to decorate the church pillars for the Snowdrop Festival. The theme is treasures of nature and we will be using fabrics, wool, and drawing. All resources provided, but if you can bring a pair of scissors that would be helpful.

Come along, bring your ideas and together we will create a lasting u3a pennant which will be used throughout the year.



6th February - Goats of the Gorge.

An Award winning family run business nestled in the heart of the Mendips, Somerset. You may have seen them on Dragon's Den and now they will be with us to tell us about caring for their goats and how their skincare business started.



6th March - Avon and Somerset Cyber Crime Advice.

How to recognise online scams and what to do to protect yourself.

"We work to raise awareness of cybercrime, how it may be presented to you, and how you can protect yourself from it. Also, through presentations and workshops we de-bunk the myths associated with cybercrime and empower people with the knowledge they need to protect themselves."



3rd April - James Webb Space Telescope.

For this talk we welcome back Jo Richardson who will talk on the amazing James Webb Space Telescope which is literally taking the Astronomical world by storm. We will delve into how it was engineered, delivered to Space, 1 million miles from Earth, how it works and what secrets of the Universe it is likely to unlock to help us in our constant desire to understand the Universe in which we live.

If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.