



University of the Third Age
Newsletter December 2018
Issue 12
sheptonmalletu3a.org.uk



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1. Chat from the Chair

Welcome to the December issue of the Newsletter. We are very grateful to our Secretary, Maggie Hardy who volunteered to be guest Editor and compile this month's edition. So, even if it is smaller than usual, I think you will agree that in Julia's absence, Maggie has made a sterling effort, for which we all thank her.

I hope you have read and enjoyed the profiles written by your Committee members in the Newsletter over the past months. There are a couple more members that need to be persuaded to write their contributions and they know who they are! Following on from this, I am hoping that some of our Group Leaders may like to submit a paragraph or two about themselves and their group and how they became involved with the SMU3A. Any pictures of you (with or without your group) will be much appreciated.

As we come to the end of November and the festive season begins, the Committee joins with me to say or sing –
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
WE WISH YOU A Merry Christmas
And see you next year!

Liz



Walking Group at Pensford

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Solo Group at Prestleigh

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2. What's On

SPEAKER MEETING

Speaker Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month from 10.00 until 11.45 in the Council Chamber, Mendip District Council Offices.

FREE tea and coffee available at every meeting

Entrance fee £1.50 for U3A members, £2.50 for guests. To avoid delays at the door, please have the correct money ready for collection, thank you.

6 December

Sadly, a wintery talk on Spitsbergen and the High Arctic by Sarah Buttenshaw has been cancelled by the speaker. Instead we have a talk on **Almshouses** by **Jeff Curtis**, Chairman of Shepton Mallet United Charities, which manages the local almshouses.

Thursday Coffee Mornings

Dobbies Restaurant, Shepton Mallet 10.30-12

All members and non-members are welcome every Thursday morning, except on the first Thursday when we have a Speaker Meeting. Join in for a coffee and friendly chat on December 13th, 20th and 27th.

Outings

December

Lunch and Skittles at the Poachers Pocket on December 12th. 1215 for 1230. We will be having a Buffet Lunch at £11.25 per person. Anyone wishing to join us please let Janet Murray have your form and cheque for the Buffet. Closing date is Wednesday 5th December – NO LATER!

The new Saturday Bus Pass Trippers Group will have their first outing on Saturday 8th December to Wells.

For forms and details see Janet's emails. Please contact Janet if you have any ideas for future outings.

Solo Group Meal at Prestleigh Inn by Janet Murray

Solo Group enjoyed an evening meal at The Prestleigh Inn, which is under new management. The service we received was excellent, with friendly and helpful staff, and the food was delicious. We shall certainly be returning there in the New Year.

3. Members' Corner

On Saturday 8th December at 7.00 p.m., Wells Cathedral Oratorio Society will be giving their annual performance of Handel's Messiah. Tickets are going fast but still available from wc.os.org.uk and 01749 834483 or Wells Cathedral Shop 01749 672773 and on the door.

If you would like to contribute to Members@ Corner please send your items of interest, articles, reminiscences, local history, photographs etc. to the editor by the 20th of the month. Thank you.

The Holly and the Ivy

We shall be doing some cutting back/pruning of evergreen shrubs and will bring some into December monthly meeting. There will be holly/laurel/ ivy/conifers/fir cones. Might be useful for table decorations or wreaths, bring bags! - Jenny Wehrfritz

4. U3A Regional and National News

Nothing to report

5. Group News

Walking Group

A beautiful walk around Pensford in beautiful Autumn weather. Lead by Frank – this time with no mud or rain.

Our second walk in November was around the Glastonbury area where the views were enhanced by Autumn sunshine and we finished with a climb up the Tor.



Shorter Walks

Having survived the first walk, we thought we would try it again! Starting at Kilver Court we walked via the S&D viaduct and onto Bodden returning to Kilver Court for coffee and cake. Another enjoyable walk in the autumn sunshine.



Strollers – A Walk In The Park?

Lyn has suggested that some of the Strollers Group might like a stroll during the winter months, if the weather is not too inclement. Perhaps a stroll around Collett Park and a cup of tea at the Brasserie? Please let Lyn know if you would like to be included in an impromptu stroll.

Music Appreciation

For our November meeting the theme was for music with a connection to fireworks.

We started with a YouTube video of a firework display from the USA with Whitney Houston singing *I Will Always Love You*, written by American singer/songwriter Dolly Parton. The next choice was *Tritsch-Tratsch Polka*, written in 1858 by Johann Strauss II and chosen as it had been played at one of the member's family firework parties. This was followed by the *Ritual Fire Dance* written by the Spanish composer Manuel de Falla, from the ballet *The Bewitched Love*, and performed by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra. We then listened to *Fire Burning in Snow*, a composition for mezzo-soprano solo and chamber ensemble by the British composer Charlotte Bray and were then treated to the *Music for Royal Fireworks*, a suite for wind instruments composed by George Frideric Handel and performed by the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. The tempo changed completely as we listened to *Rocket Man (I Think It's Going To Be a Long, Long Time)* a song composed by Elton John and Bernie Taupin, performed by Elton John and recorded live at Madison Square Gardens, New York. We continued the rock theme with an orchestral classic rock version of *I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For* written by Irish rock band U2. The mood changed again as we listened to two orchestral pieces often used in firework displays – *The William Tell Overture* composed by Gioachino Rossini, played by the London Symphony Orchestra and *Finlandia*, the tone poem by Finnish composer Jean Sibelius and performed by Andre Rieu and The Johann Strauss Orchestra. Our next piece was *Flourish with Fireworks*, written by Oliver Knussen, performed by The London Symphony Orchestra and conducted by the composer.

We concluded a most enjoyable session of very mixed choices of music with the song *Stars*, from the musical *Les Miserables*, sung by Philip Quast as Javert. Performed at a 10th Anniversary concert in London's Royal Albert Hall in 1995.

The next Music Appreciation group is at 2.00 pm on Wednesday 12th December when we will have music with a Christmas theme.

Monthly Activities

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Monday	Walking French Intermediate 2-3pm Beginners 3-4pm	Discussion 10.30am Bowls 11am Art 2-4pm	Walking French Intermediate 2-3pm Beginners 3-4pm Woolcraft 2.30pm	Bowls 11am Art 2-4pm
Tuesday	Book Group 10.15am Bridge 2pm Table Tennis 2pm Flower Club 2pm	Collectables 11am Table Tennis 2pm Bridge 2pm Needlecraft 2pm Recorder Playing 2pm	Family History 1 10.30am Bridge 2pm Table Tennis 2pm	Family History 2 10.30am Table Tennis 2pm Bridge 2pm Needlecraft 2pm Recorder Playing 2pm
Wednesday		Music Appreciation 2pm		
Thursday	Speaker Meeting 10.30am	Coffee 10.30am Scrabble 2pm	Shorter Walks Coffee 10.30am Strollers 1.30pm	Coffee 10.30am Scrabble 2pm
Friday	Table Tennis 2pm	Singing 10.30am Table Tennis 2pm	Munch Club Table Tennis 2pm	Singing 10.30am Table Tennis 2pm

The table above represents the usual meeting dates for groups. The actual dates may vary. Writing for Pleasure meets fortnightly at 2pm on a Thursday. They do not appear on the above chart. You should contact group leaders for confirmation of dates. For more information on any of our groups visit the website www.sheptonmalletu3a.org.uk or contact the individual group leader below.

Group Contacts

Art	Gill Davies
Books	Sue Dunne
Bowls	Frank Booth
Bridge	Graham McCartney
Collectables	Liz Nash
Discussion	Malcolm Weeks
Family History	Keith Taylor
Flowers	Freda Briars
French	Valerie Delaittre-Smith
Munch Club	Maggie Fowle

Music	Derek Hiller
Appreciation	
Needlecraft	Pat Howell
Recorders	Sandra Morris Julie Newman
Scrabble	Di Gommo
Singing for	Alison Howells
Pleasure	Catherine Wylie
Shorter Walks	Jenny Wehrfritz
Solos	Janet Murray
Strollers	Lyn Hook
Table Tennis	Pam Mitchell
1 and 2	Peter Howell
Walking	Liz Weeks
Woolcraft	Pam Mitchell
Writing for	Catherine Wylie
Pleasure	

6. Committee Members

Chair	Liz Nash
Vice Chair and Publicity	Derek Hiller
Secretary	Maggie Hardy
Treasurer	Jane Burman
Groups Co-ordinator	Sue Dunne
Membership Secretary	Maggie Fowle
Newsletter	Julia Goddard
Outings	Janet Murray
Speakers	Pete Norman
Website	Keith Taylor

Thank you to all our contributors this month. Acknowledgement: to Cliparts.co for Christmas art. Please send your items for the newsletter by 20th of the month Julia Goddard, Editor.
Website: www.sheptonmalletu3a.org.uk