

**University of the Third Age**  
**Newsletter April 2019**  
sheptonmalletu3a.org.uk



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**1. Chat from the Chair**

This month I thought I would tell you about our committee meetings.

We meet once a month, at 2pm on a Monday afternoon and at the moment we do not have a fixed venue. Until August of last year we were grateful to be offered the use of the conference room at SM Treatment Centre. However, priorities and arrangements understandably change and we were unable to continue to meet there. Since that time we have found ourselves in various locations, our present venue is SM Scout Hall.

We work to a standard Agenda, which ensures we review finance, communications from National Office, membership, Speaker Meetings, all outings, groups' news, website, publicity and the newsletter. Jane, our Treasurer usually tells us of the latest skirmish she has had with HSBC (it has taken until now to change the signatories to our account). We always have a copy of the current bank statement to hand to ensure funds are as stated and we are made aware of any outstanding accounts.

Of course, there are always extra items to be discussed, which sometimes entail action by one or another of us to find out more information. Our usual port of call is the National Office based in London. They have an ever-growing website which we can all log on to and access help. Every four months, a couple of us volunteer to attend the North Somerset Association of U3As. Maggie Hardy and Derek attended in February so we received a report from them at our March meeting. Inevitably, there are always items under 'Any Other Business' these may be about events in Shepton such as the Mid Somerset Show, or new ideas and suggestions. At the moment we are trying to obtain replacement membership cards, change the format of



**Nick and Carolann**  
Bring medals to  
Collectables  
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**Slave Trail**  
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membership forms, arrange photocopying and making sure there is sufficient help at The Shrubbery on renewal days (27/28 March). In the midst of all the discussion, Maggie is writing as fast as she can taking notes and hoping she can read her own writing over the next couple of days when she will be typing up the minutes. We aim to close the meeting between 3.30 and 4 pm and try to have included a cup of tea in the true tradition of most U3A events.

Some U3A groups meet for committee every two months but we find it is easier to keep abreast of our responsibilities by meeting more frequently.

We always try to do our best and hope you do too!

If you are interested in joining us, please see the nomination information and form included in this Newsletter.

**Liz**

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## 2. What's On

### 2019-2020 Membership Renewal Dates

Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 March

at the **Shrubbery Hotel**

from **10-12**

Annual membership beginning **1 April** is **£12** per person

Please note that membership is terminated if annual membership or other fees are unpaid 3 months after this date

Cheques **ONLY** please (no cash) made payable to: **Shepton Mallet U3A**

Forms available to download from the website under 'Membership'

[sheptonmalletu3a.org.uk](http://sheptonmalletu3a.org.uk) or available at the April Speaker Meeting

If you are a UK taxpayer we would appreciate it if you would also fill in the Gift Aid Declaration

#### How to renew your membership

**By post:** Cheques, completed forms and a stamped addressed envelope for your new membership card should be sent to:

**Maggie Fowle**

**Membership Secretary**

**Shepton Mallet U3A, Ingsdon Farmhouse,**

**Bodden, Shepton Mallet, BA4 4PU**

**By Bank Transfer:** You can renew your membership by bank transfer using the following details:

**Sort Code 40-41-22, Account number 81449354**

Please don't forget to include your name and send a completed form with a stamped addressed envelope for your new membership card to the Membership Secretary

## **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.

### **4 April**

**Mr John Robson:** Techniques of Forensic Dentistry

### **2 May**

**Andrew McElwee:** Working behind the scenes at the National Trust with entertaining and informing anecdotal stories

**Due to local elections the Council Chamber is not available to us in May. The venue for this speaker meeting will be at the Peter Street Rooms, Peter Street, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5BL.** The Peter Street Rooms will be open at 10am and can be accessed, for those who don't know, from Town Street which runs from Market Cross to the steps. There is an alley-way by number 12. As you pass through the alley there is a loading bay on your right and Peter Street is straight ahead. The Peter Street Rooms are in first building on the right.

**There will be a short AGM (see below) to precede the speaker at 10.20**

### **6 June**

**Jonathan Rendel:** History of the Bishop's Palace, Wells to be held in the Council Chamber

Notice is hereby given that the  
**Eighth Annual General Meeting of Shepton Mallet U3A**  
will take place in

**Peter Street Rooms, Shepton Mallet on Thursday 2 May 2019 at 10.20am**

#### **Agenda**

1. Apologies
2. Acceptance of Minutes of AGM held on Thursday 7 June 2018
3. Matters Arising from Minutes
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Group Leader's Report
7. Motions\*
8. Election of new committee members from Nominations received
9. AOB

\*Formal, written proposals must be received by Monday 22 April 2019

**Nomination to the Committee 2019/2020**

We are requesting nominations from members willing to put themselves forward for election to join SMU3A Committee 2019/2020. A strong committee will deliver good governance, fresh ideas and sufficient experience to ensure succession planning.

At the AGM all members of the existing committee must stand down. It should be noted that the length of service permitted for serving on the committee is being reached (and in one instance already exceeded). If necessary, the existing committee will agree to stand for another year should no nominations be received. This would need to be agreed at the AGM. The nomination and election of members of the Executive Committee are governed by the current Constitution and Third Age Trust Standing Orders. Executive officer positions (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary) and other roles are agreed by the new committee at the first committee meeting following the AGM. Nominations must be proposed and seconded by current members of SMU3A **who are not themselves members of the committee.**

The nomination form can be found on the website and below. Nominations must be received by the Secretary by **22 April 2019.**

For further information, you are welcome to contact any committee member.

Our constitution document can be viewed on the SMU3A website and will provide details of our charitable status and the aims of the U3A. SMU3A has adequate funds to operate and having no property will never be allowed to become insolvent.

We have just over 180 members, who enjoy the many and various groups, activities and outings that are available throughout the year. Please do consider standing. You will find the committee to be helpful and welcoming and will also ensure that SMU3A continues to thrive and grow for the benefit of us all. Thank you.

**Form for Nomination to the Committee May 2019/2020**

<b>Name of nominee</b>	<b>Signed</b>
<b>Membership number</b>	
<b>I, the above named consent to my name being put forward for ballot to SMU3A Committee 2019/20</b>	

<b>Print name of Proposer</b>	<b>Signature of Proposer</b>	<b>Membership number</b>
<b>Print name of Seconder</b>	<b>Signature of Seconder</b>	<b>Membership number</b>

Please print and fill out this form and hand to the Secretary or to any committee member by 22 April, 2019 at the very latest.

## Outings

<b>April</b>	<b>Wednesday 3</b>	<b>Wincanton Races</b> Car sharing from Dobbies at 11.30. Racing starts at 2pm Tickets £12pp
	<b>Wednesday 24</b>	<b>Lunch and Fun Skittles</b> Britannia Inn at 12.15pm ready to eat at 12.30pm
<b>May</b>	<b>Wednesday 8</b>	<b>Lydney Park Estate Gardens Gloucestershire.</b> Entrance and minibus cost £13.50
<b>June</b>	<b>Tuesday 25</b>	<b>Glastonbury Festival Site</b> 10am coach tour

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

### Bath Aqua Glass by Janet Murray



Another successful outing! 15 members travelled by minibus for our visit to Bath Aqua Glass, in Walcott Street. We have to thank Wendy for her knowledge of Bath, and for directing the driver to our destination. We firstly had lunch in Waitrose, which was just down the road from the glass workshop, a nice leisurely snack, followed by a stroll to the workshop. We had a chance to wander around the glass shop before we were shown to our seats and the demonstration began. It was all very interestingly described to us and some members of the public had chosen to blow a bauble. Our transport home arrived at 3.30pm and we arrived back in Shepton on time.



## 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 **April 11, 18, and 25.**

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### March Speaker Meeting by Derek Hiller

A capacity audience attended the April speaker meeting of Shepton Mallet U3A and were pleased to welcome Barry Edwards with a talk about the history of Penguin books.

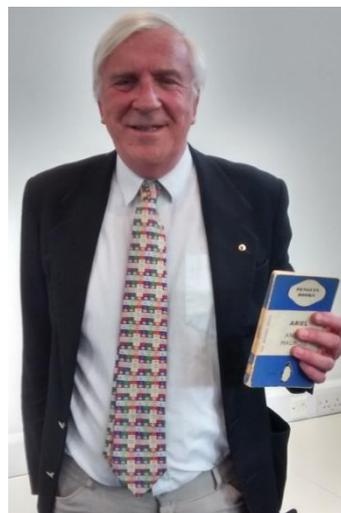
Barry, who lives in the Mendip area, spent much of his working life in education, working abroad and as a tour guide with the travel company Great Rail Journeys.

Barry is a member of the Penguin Collectors Society and has been an avid collector for eighteen years or so. He has a target of finding 1500 copies of some of the earlier titles and has a list of another sixty he has yet to find to reach his target.

We heard that Penguin books was founded in 1934 by Bristol born Allen Lane, now Sir Allen Lane, and brothers Richard and John as part of publishers The Bodley Head. The title Penguin was suggested by Allen Lane's secretary, she felt that penguins were "dignified and flippanant".

The introduction of paperback books became something of a revolution in publishing circles selling in various high street stores, including Woolworth, for sixpence each and produced in different colours for each subject matter. This new concept in reading took the world by storm as earlier attempts had failed due to poor quality of manufacture.

In 1934, following a visit to meet Agatha Christie in Devon, Allen Lane was on Exeter train station and found that there was no light/cheap reading material available. This prompted him to go into production with a run of twenty thousand copies of the first ten Penguin books of different genres including classic, biographies, crime novels and travel books, each with numbered spines all for sixpence each. The first book published by Penguin was Ariel by Andre Maurois with number one on the spine.



Barry Edwards with his copy of Ariel, the first book published by Penguin



We were shown examples of the different coloured books and their titles – yellow for crosswords and puzzles and a book of nonsense verse by Edward Lear and fittingly, perhaps, grey for politics. The sale of Penguin books was so successful that in one thirteen month period they had sold a staggering three million copies.

Apart from outlets like Woolworth, mentioned earlier, the most likely other place you would find Penguin books was on a railway station which in turn linked Penguin books to W.H. Smith. New companies were founded by two of Allen Lane's brothers in Canada and Australia and later new companies were established in other countries including

Egypt. By the 1950's, books were being produced with more eye-catching colours with sketches on the front cover and pictures of the author on the back cover.

Barry spoke about the infamous D.H. Lawrence novel; *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, published in 1960 and, although extremely controversial, managed to sell over three million copies in the first year. Penguin books went on to gain a reputation of being daring and challenging by publishing books like Salman Rushdie's *Satanic Verses* and *Spycatcher* written by former MI5 officer Peter Wright.

In the 1970s, Penguin books was acquired by Pearsons, the international media group. Barry ended his talk with a piece of Allen Lane philosophy, "there is a unity in all this Penguin diversity. The dominant motive in the firms endeavour is to provide good reading for people who have acquired a taste for books. For those who lack an habitual appetite for reading, Penguins have nothing to offer. They do not deal in those products which aim to excite and contaminate the mind with sensation and which could be more aptly listed in a register of poisons than in a library catalogue. But, for every civilised and balanced person, there are Penguins to suit each need and purpose".

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### 3. Members' Corner

#### Welcome to all new members.

If this is your first newsletter we hope you enjoy reading it and find it informative and useful. Your ideas for future editions are always welcome. 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 20th of the month.

#### The Darshill, Ham and Bowlsh Heritage Project

If you are interested in finding out more information on this interesting local project that was featured in the March newsletter please visit their website: <https://dbhp.org/> The project is particularly interested in relevant old documents, photographs, maps, drawings and tales of our ancestors who lived there-the older the better!

#### A Turbulent Priest

##### Parish Church

**Friday 12 April at 7.30pm**

From the creators of *The God Particle* and *A Monk's Tale* the parish church is hosting James Cary's latest show, *A Turbulent Priest*. 850 years ago Thomas Becket was famously murdered by four knights in Canterbury Cathedral. *A Turbulent Priest* follows the extraordinary story of Thomas and King Henry II, their 'bromance', bust-up and betrayals in short, plenty to sing about. With jokes and songs, obviously! Tickets on the door: £7 or phone 01749 342163



#### 4. U3A Regional and National News

##### Regional

No notifications

##### National

11-13 September

**Summer School Royal Agricultural University,  
Cirencester, GL7 6JS**

Tuesday 10 September to Friday 13 September  
2019. [See U3A website](#) for courses and booking

Full listings and details of all national events see What's On in Third Age Matters magazine, visit the website [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk) or sign up to the email newsletter.

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#### 5. Group News

##### Bowls

It's that time of year again.

U3A bowls will start on 22 April. Frank says all are welcome to give it a try. Members play on Shepton Mallet bowls green, Frithfield Walk, BA4 5LY on the second and third Monday from 11 to 12 o'clock. Contact Frank for more information.

##### Family History

From April our current two Family History groups will merge into one, meeting on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Shrubbery Hotel, 10:30 to 12 noon. Contact Keith Taylor for more information.

##### Collectables by Liz Nash

We were delighted to welcome Nick and Carolann Carter to our March meeting.

Nick and Carolann shared their specialist knowledge of Military and Civilian medals and brought along First and Second World War examples as well as Police Long Service medals, photos and other documents.

It was evident that the stories behind the awards were the driving force behind their collection and it was both revealing and humbling to hear the true story behind the RAF uniform jacket and scarf. Nick emphasised the real value of medals lies in their provenance especially if they are engraved with the recipient's name and if you have photos, citations and other evidence to link the medal with a person and their social history then please keep it all together as it adds to their monetary value. It was also fascinating to hear how the coloured ribbons originated that attach medals to their pins. It was a brief insight into this specialist area and as usual, we went home thinking we had learnt something new but well aware that there was an enormous amount still to discover.



**Darts** by Janet Murray

An enjoyable couple of hours spent at the Prestleigh Inn on the dart board. We are all getting better, even sometimes hitting the board now! We have spare darts if anyone would like to join us to give darts a try, and have a laugh! Just get in touch and we'll look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on Thursday 4 April. Contact Janet for more information.

**Music Appreciation Group** by Derek Hiller

For our March meeting the theme was for music associated with the letter **M**.

No surprises that several works by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart were chosen for this meeting. The very varied selection of music choices started with the beautiful theme music from the 1986 film *The Mission*, composed by Ennio Morricone, and followed by baritone Charles Mott singing *My Old Tunes are Rather Broken*, from the children's play by Violet Peam with songs and music written by Sir Edward Elgar. We then heard the first movement of the symphony No 40 by Mozart followed by the Irish folk song *The Mountains of Mourne* sung by Finbar Furey. We then listened to two more Mozart compositions, the second movement of Mozart's piano concerto No. 1 and the first movement of the clarinet concerto. The next choice was Don Maclean singing his composition of *Vincent* written as a tribute to Vincent van Gogh and then *Memory*, the well-known song from the Andrew Lloyd Webber hit musical *Cats*. We were then treated to a rousing arrangement of the Schubert composition *Marche Militaire* played by The Royal Marines Band.

The last three pieces were, *Pictures at an Exhibition*, a suite of ten pieces composed for piano by Russian composer Modest Mussorgsky-*The Land of the Mountain and the Flood*, a concert overture for orchestra, composed by Hamish MacCunn and finally, *Nocturne* composed by Felix Mendelssohn for William Shakespeare's play *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

**Saturday Bus Pass Trippers** by Janet Murray

We met at the Cenotaph on Saturday 2 March at 10.20am ready to catch the 10.28am to Bath. A good journey shared with good friends. We started our visit to Bath by going into Marks and Spencer, then back into Debenhams where all of us had agreed to meet up for lunch.

We had arranged to catch the 2.35pm bus back to Shepton, and we arrived back safely about 3.30pm. The weather was good, and we all enjoyed our trip!

If anyone would like to join us, please get in touch, so that I can let you know where we are heading on our next trip on Saturday 6th April. Contact Janet if you are interested in joining in.

**Singing for Pleasure** by Derek Hiller



Here's a picture of the Singing for Pleasure Group at Alison Howells last group meeting in March together with Catherine Wylie who is also taking a break from helping Alison. They were each presented with a bouquet and a gift voucher.

The group will now continue with one meeting each month.  
The next meeting is on Friday 26 April at 10.30am in the Salvation Army Hall as usual.

### Walking by Malcolm Weeks

The Slave Trail around Central Bristol 4 March

Thirteen of us met on a fairly blustery day but for the most part the showers held off although we did get caught in one downpour which led to the luxury of a convenient coffee stop. We started the walk by the replica of the Matthew, John and Sebastian Cabot's ship which sailed from Bristol in 1497 discovering Newfoundland and the mainland of North America –which in turn led to England's involvement with that continent. The walk took us along the harbour the site of shipyards where slaving ships were built, into Redcliffe and the homes of slave ship captains. Crossing Redcliffe Bridge into Queens Square and the site of the first American Consulate in Britain, the Customs House and out to Merchant



Street site of an inn where the slavers recruited their crew. Bristol slave ships not only had a poor record with the 'cargo' dying they also had the highest mortality rate amongst the crew. In King Street we passed almshouses; the site of the hall of the Merchant Venturers who initiated Bristol's role in the slave trade and the Theatre Royal, Britain's oldest continuously running theatre financed by merchants who made their fortune in the trade. After Bristol Bridge we visited the market, the Corn Exchange with its famous nails and the beautiful frieze inside with acknowledgment to the trade with Africa, Asia and the Americas. Corn Street, the site of several coffee houses where deals were struck and banks where the trade was financed. Looking up we saw many attractive friezes and statues on the exterior of buildings including Britannia counting her money. Walking down Broad Street we passed the Guildhall and went into one of Bristol's hidden corners – Tailors Court and the home of



William Miller a founding member of the Company of Merchants trading with Africa. He died a multi-millionaire by today's standards. Before lunch we walked through The Centre and saw the statues of Edmund Burke, a Bristol MP and an abolitionist and the controversial Edward Colston who as well as being involved in the slave trade was a great benefactor to the city giving much to almshouses, schools, hospitals and churches. His

name is found all over the city and there has been strong feeling over the renaming of Bristol's premier music venue, the Colston Hall. It was generally felt, by the group, that times and values were different and that Bristol should have some sort of memorial acknowledging its role rather than wiping names from history. After a very welcome lunch and the warmth of The Stable we continued over Pero's Bridge (named after a slave) to the SS Great Britain and the metro bus back to the park and ride.

Our second March walk was led by Mary and John starting from the picturesque village of Newton St Loe, near Bath. It was interesting to see the lovely Bath Spa University campus and surrounding countryside. We finished with an excellent lunch at the popular village farm shop, highly recommended by all.



### Monthly Activities

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
<b>Monday</b>	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
<b>Tuesday</b>	Book Group 10.15am Bridge 2pm Table Tennis 2pm Flower Club 2pm	Collectables 11am Table Tennis 2pm Bridge 2pm Needlecraft 2pm Recorder Playing 2pm	Bridge 2pm Table Tennis 2pm	Family History 10.30 Table Tennis 2pm Bridge 2pm Needlecraft 2pm Recorder Playing 2pm
<b>Wednesday</b>		Music Appreciation 2pm		
<b>Thursday</b>	Speaker Meeting 10.30am Darts 2.30	Coffee 10.30am Scrabble 2pm	Shorter Walks Coffee 10.30am Strollers 1.30pm	Coffee 10.30am Scrabble 2pm
<b>Friday</b>	Table Tennis 2pm	Table Tennis 2pm	Munch Club Table Tennis 2pm	Singing for Pleasure 10.30-12 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. Bus Pass Trippers travel on Saturdays. You should contact group leaders for confirmation of dates. For more

information on any of our groups visit the website [www.sheptonmalletu3a.org.uk](http://www.sheptonmalletu3a.org.uk) or contact the individual group leader below.

### Group Contacts

<b>Art</b>	Gill Davies
<b>Books</b>	Sue Dunne
<b>Bowls</b>	Frank Booth
<b>Bridge</b>	Graham McCartney
<b>Bus Pass Trippers</b>	Janet Murray
<b>Collectables</b>	Liz Nash
<b>Darts</b>	Janet Murray
<b>Discussion</b>	Malcolm Weeks
<b>Family History</b>	Keith Taylor
<b>Flowers</b>	Freda Briars
<b>French</b>	Valerie Delaittre-Smith
<b>Munch Club</b>	Maggie Fowle
<b>Music</b>	Derek Hiller
<b>Appreciation</b>	
<b>Needlecraft</b>	Di Gommo Liz Weeks
<b>Recorders</b>	Sandra Morris Julie Newman
<b>Scrabble</b>	Di Gommo
<b>Singing for Pleasure</b>	Val Sherring
<b>Shorter Walks</b>	Jenny Wehrfritz
<b>Solos</b>	Janet Murray
<b>Strollers</b>	Lyn Hook
<b>Table Tennis</b>	Pam Mitchell
<b>1 and 2</b>	Peter Howell
<b>Walking</b>	Liz Weeks
<b>Woolcraft</b>	Pam Mitchell
<b>Writing for Pleasure</b>	Catherine Wylie

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### 6. Committee Members

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

Thanks you to all our contributors this month. Image acknowledgements: Wikipedia and Shepton Mallet Benefice Churches. Please send all your items for inclusion in the next newsletter by 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. Thank you.