

**University of the Third Age**  
**Newsletter May 2019**  
[sheptonmalletu3a.org.uk](http://sheptonmalletu3a.org.uk)



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**1. Chat from the Chair**

"Some old-fashioned things like fresh air and sunshine are hard to beat," writes Laura Ingalls Wilder.

Enjoy the coming month of May, it is an opportunity to be out and about and having celebrated the Easter holiday in April, we now have two Bank holidays to look forward to. It really feels like Spring has arrived at last.

Thank you to everyone who came along to the renewal days in March. We have 182 members at present but if you have not yet renewed your membership and wish to do so, please complete your forms as soon as possible and send or give to Maggie Fowle with your cheque or bank details. This will ensure that all our records for the Third Age Trust, insurance and for us are up to date and correct. Amongst all the boxes to be ticked and completed on renewal day was one asking 'what new activity would you like to see?' Dancing, board games and exercise were listed, if this was you and you would like to come along to a coffee morning with a view to progressing these then please get in touch with me or anyone on the committee.

Our next event is the Speaker Meeting on Thursday 2 May, which, due to local elections will be held in the Peter Street Rooms. This will be preceded by our AGM at 10.20am. If you have just joined our U3A this will a good opportunity to meet other members. Our monthly Speaker Meetings have been really successful of late, informative and much enjoyed due to the wide range of topics selected. We thank Pete for all the arrangements and making sure all goes smoothly on the day. If you are unable to come along there is a report in the newsletter, which is submitted to the Shepton Journal also - many thanks to Derek who does an excellent job with his reports. Now sunshine and fresh air beckons me outside...

**Liz**



**Racing Success**  
Wincanton Races Outing  
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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.

**\*Due to local elections the Council Chamber is not available to us in May. The venue for this speaker meeting will be at Peter Street Rooms, Peter Street, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5BL.**

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. Peter Street Rooms are in first building on the right.

**There will be a short AGM to precede the speaker at 10.20**

### 2 May

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

### 6 June

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

### April Speaker Meeting by Derek Hiller

The speaker for our April meeting was forensic odontologist Doctor John Robson.

John began his professional career in general dental practice, later specialising in orthodontics. Having obtained a Forensic Odontology diploma, he acted as consultant for a funeral company specialising in disaster management. He now works for police, coroners, lawyers and other agencies.



John has recently returned from Ethiopia where he had been working on the Boeing 737 Max 8 air crash.

Over recent years, his work has taken him to some of the world's most significant disasters including the 2001 - 9/11 attack on the Pentagon Building in Virginia USA, the Indian Ocean Tsunami on Boxing Day 2004, the M5 crash near Taunton in November 2007, the Malaysian airways MH17 shot down in 2014 over Ukraine, the Shoreham Air Show plane crash in 2015 and more recently the Grenfell Tower disaster in 2017.

John spoke of the various methods used to identify the victims of these disasters, including dental records, tattoos, records of medical implants and physical deformities, fingerprints and use of DNA matching.

John is a qualified pilot and enjoys his leisure time flying a Cessna aircraft and he also plays keyboards for The Grey Dogs Jazz Band.

### Renewal Coffee Morning in March



Members enjoyed a coffee and chat whilst renewing their membership at the Shrubbery.



Form filling with Maggie Fowle, Membership Secretary and Bernice O'Neill.

### Have you renewed your membership?

Annual membership is **£12** per person from 1 April 2019. 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 are available to download from the website under 'Membership' [sheptonmalletu3a.org.uk/membership](http://sheptonmalletu3a.org.uk/membership) or available at the May 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

## Outings

May	Wednesday 8	<b>Lydney Park Estate Gardens, Gloucestershire.</b> Entrance and minibus cost £13.50
	Wednesday 22	<b>Slimbridge Wetland Centre, Gloucestershire</b> £20 minibus and entrance. Restaurant at centre. Closing date 2 May
June	Wednesday 5	<b>Secret World Wildlife Rescue, East Huntspill</b> £3 plus mileage. Closing date 3 May
	Tuesday 25	<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.

## A Day At The Races!



Eleven of us braved the cold for a very enjoyable day at Wincanton Races. It was a real eye opener! Having never been to the races before, we didn't quite know our way around, but it soon became clear. We all enjoyed some lunch and then went off to find a seat in the stand. Even the stand wasn't enough to shield us from the bitterly cold wind. As you can see!



We all put a small bet on and all won a few pounds. We will be arranging another day At The Races-watch this space. Janet Murray

## 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 **May 9, 16, and 23 and 30.**

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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, events etc to the editor by 20th of the month.

#### **A School for Scandal by Richard Sheridan**

Monday 6 May 7.45pm at the Swan Theatre, Yeovil

Tickets £13 seniors £11 students

To order your ticket contact Ian Williamson on 07478  
672185

In aid of St Margaret's Hospice  
Ian Williamson will be our speaker in September this year

#### No longer with us.



R.I.P. Eileen Brine and Nina Fudge, stalwarts of our coffee morning at Dobbies, and friends since they were teens.

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### 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](http://www.u3a.org.uk) 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

### Group Leaders Meeting

The Group Leaders held their annual Business Meeting in early April where we discussed the high and low points of the year. We did identify some groups that have vacancies as follows:

- Art Group
- Flower Club
- Family History
- Bridge
- Singing for Pleasure
- Collectables
- Shorter Walks
- Solo Group

If you are interested in joining any of the above groups, please contact the Group Leader whose details appear on the back pages of the Newsletter.

### Darts

Due to lack of members being interested in playing darts, I have decided to cancel future meetings. I will look at it again in late autumn. So sorry to disappoint those of you who have been enjoying our Thursday afternoon laughs! Janet Murray

### Shorter Walks

Could you be a 'shorter walker'? No, not some strange U3A requirement, but a group set up in October to sit between the existing Strollers and longer Walking Groups. We meet monthly on the 3rd Thursday and have so far visited Castle Cary, Oakhill, Wells, Shepton and Chewton Mendip. Distance is between 2-3 miles, group taking it in turns to lead a walk. We have had a mixture of countryside and towns with many points of interest along the way. Walk is normally rounded off by a visit to a cafe, telling ourselves we need the cake after all the exercise! If you think this might appeal to you, we would love to have you join us.

Contact Jenny Wehrfritz

## Strollers



Eight strollers met in April to walk around Cheddar Reservoir, an artificial reservoir operated by Bristol Water. Dating from the 1930s it has a capacity of 135 million gallons. The reservoir is supplied with water taken from the Cheddar Yeo River in Cheddar Gorge. We took the circular walk of about two miles right around the reservoir taking in the views across the Somerset countryside to Cheddar Gorge and Crook Peak. After strolling we made our way to the Wyevale Garden Centre for well-deserved tea and cake. Our thanks go to Keith for organising this stroll.



### Walking in the Woods

We have been blessed with glorious weather for most of our walks this year, the first one in April being no exception. Pet and John led us from Horrington alongside Stoberry Park returning via Biddle Combe and Beryl Wood where the first bluebells have been tempted out in the warm sunshine. Good pub grub was had by all at the Britannia Inn.



Janet and Sue led our second walk of the month on a sunny Spring morning in Harridge Woods by streams, waterfalls and pretty primroses, wild violets, celandines, wood anemones and bluebells. At the end there was a pub lunch at the Oakhill Inn or the option of therapy for any in need!





## 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	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>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 Gomme Liz Weeks
<b>Recorders</b>	Sandra Morris Julie Newman
<b>Scrabble</b>	Di Gomme

<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. Please send all your items for inclusion in the next newsletter by 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.