

University of the Third Age
Newsletter July 2019
sheptonmalletu3a.org.uk



Contents

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Chat from the Chair | 4. U3A Regional and National News |
| 2. What's On
Events, speaker meetings,
coffee mornings, outings, reports | 5. Group News
Monthly activities, featured groups,
contacts |
| 3. Members' Corner
Local interest and activities, articles,
reminiscences, photographs | 6. Committee Members |

1. Chat from the Chair

It was really good news to see Janet back in circulation and at our committee meeting in June, following her spell in hospital. It is now time to fully recover Janet and take life a bit easier by sharing some of your duties and accepting any help when offered because it wasn't the same without you!

Three of our members went back to school in June to help with the Darshill and Bowlsh Heritage Outreach Project at St. Paul's School in Shepton Mallet. All the children involved, together with volunteers Sue Dickerson, Margaret Breese and Jilly Jenkins had a fun and enjoyable day. The project made the front page of the Shepton Journal and there is a report and photos inside this newsletter. If you would like to find out more about this exciting initiative then you must come to the August speaker meeting (8 August) when Ian Keys, the founder and leader, will be our guest.

Once again, we are on the lookout for group leaders - one for Music Appreciation and someone to coordinate the recently formed Bus Pass Trippers, further details in this newsletter. Both old and new faces are welcome to these roles as they bring fresh ideas and new momentum to existing activities.

Well, I'm really looking forward to a bit of global warming in July. June was such a disappointment with far too much rain and too many chilly days, evenings and nights. A typical British summer month some would say, but I do seem to remember it was warmer and sunnier in February and March!

Liz



A Hoot at Secret World
Page 3



Back to School
Page 5

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.

4 July

Richard Pawson: The Great Siege of Malta often referred to as the Last Battle of the Crusades

8th August

Please note this meeting has been rescheduled to the second Thursday in August but still in the Council Chamber

Ian Keys: The Bowlsh Heritage Project: A talk on the current study into the history of Shepton Mallet hamlets Darshill, Ham and Bowlsh

5th September

Ian Keys: Trekking in Machu Picchu, Peru

May Speaker



Pete Norman (right) introduced Jonathan Rendel who gave an interesting and informative talk on the history of the Bishop's Palace, Wells

Outings

September Wednesday 25 National Arboretum, Westonbirt Gloucestershire

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

Outing to Slimbridge by Gillian Wetherall

A group of us enjoyed an outing to Slimbridge Wildfowl and Wetland Trust on 22 May. I took over the organisation due to Janet's admission to hospital. I was very grateful to Derek Hiller for his help. We had beautiful weather and saw many unusual species of wildfowl. We were particularly fascinated by the cranes, many different species of flamingos, and the North American otters which were woken up especially for us, and we listened to a talk about their lives at the centre and in the wild. Photos by Lyn Hook



Outing to Secret World Wildlife Rescue by Lyn Hook

Eleven of us set out from Dobbies for our outing to Secret World. We made a pit stop on the way at Rich's Cider Farm Restaurant for lunch-the carvery looked delicious and I recommend the fish and chips!! (With thanks to Janet for the heads-up!) We arrived at Secret World just after 2.00 pm-with a bit of a detour on the way due to missing a crucial left-hand turn! After a browse around the shop we were greeted by Ellie Wallace, the Learning and Engagement Officer. We went to one of the many out buildings which is set up as an education room, and had a very interesting talk from Ellie about the different aspects of rescue that Secret World is so famous for. At the time of our visit there were approximately 300 'casualties/orphans' being looked after. The public are not allowed to have access to these for obvious reasons and the dedicated volunteers/workers are responsible for feeding them, some every two to three hours, including through the night. We were visited by Star, the resident tawny owl, who Ellie produced from a largish box. Star was quite happy sitting on a thick glove on Ellie's arm and looking around the room; hardly noticing us at all. Gorgeous. We were shown some barn owl pellets and the tiny bones that are the only remains of their meals.



Outside we looked in the large enclosure where three resident foxes live. Two of them were shy but one was happy to lie out on the 'table-like' structure in the middle to be photographed. We then looked at the resident red deer in another enclosure with her co-lodgers; various ducks and guinea fowl, etc. Off to the other side was an emu on his own, I believe, being not quite so friendly with other animals. There was a very large, shy owl in another enclosure who was trying to make himself invisible but, at the right angle, we were able to get a sneaky peep. The last part of our visit was into a special badger 'shed' where we were able to see the resident badgers in their sleeping quarters through the glass and they have a very large outdoor area out of public view (the oldest one being 12). That was the end of our outing (with another quick visit to the shop to buy various bits) and we all agreed that we had a very enjoyable few hours there.

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 **July 11, 18 and 25.**

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, letters, articles, reminiscences, local history, photographs, events etc to the editor by 20th of the month.

Shepton Mallet Almshouses 400th anniversary year by Pete Norman

Mr Jonathan Rendel, guest speaker at our June meeting donated his fee to United Charities which supports Shepton Mallet Almshouses. This prompted a thank you message from Jeff Curtis, Chairman of Shepton Mallet Almshouses Association, who praised our "wonderful U3A ". Mr Curtis was our guest speaker in December 2018 and gave a talk on the history of our local almshouses. A reply to Mr Curtis expressed how pleased Shepton Mallet U3A were to be associated with fund raising for local almshouses especially towards their forthcoming 400th anniversary year. A good indication of how the profile of our U3A is raised in the local community by being associated with other locally based societies.

Darshill, Bowlish and Ham Heritage Project by Liz Nash

On Tuesday, 11 June, three SMU3A members went back to school to help bring to life the reality of living and working in the woollen industry in the Bowlish area of Shepton Mallet. St Paul's School hosted the day in which Sue Dickerson (all dressed up in her wool worker finery in the photo) together with Margaret Breese and Jilly Jenkin helped with classroom activities along with other members of the heritage project.



These included weaving, dyeing and fulling, experimenting with water wheels and dressing up to act a story showing the processes involved in producing a woollen hat.

All the children and teachers enjoyed and appreciated the various workshop sessions and now have a greater understanding of their Shepton heritage.

The Heritage Project Group also had a stand at Collett Park Day where great interest was shown in artefacts and the research so far completed.



The picture shows Sue standing next to Ian Keys who is our invited Speaker in August. Thanks to Jane Nicklin, Bowlish Heritage Project Committee member for the photographs. Full permission has been given by the school for publication.

4. U3A Regional and National News

Regional No notifications

National 27-29
August

U3A Conference and AGM 2019

**East Midlands Conference Centre, University Park, Nottingham
NG7 2RJ**

Share views, ideas and experience in this year's conference "**Sharing Inspiring Learning**". With workshops focusing on lifelong learning, managing new educational resources, finance for charities, and supporting the growth and development of U3As, there will opportunity to discuss, debate and enjoy the views of colleagues across the movement. There will also be some free time to share interests such as singing, ukulele playing, walking and many other choices. Please join us for the conference and enjoy time with U3A members from across the movement. Residential and non-residential options for conference are available; costs range from £115.00 to £325.00 includes AGM day. Day only tickets are also available.

www.u3a.org.uk/events

11-13 **Summer School Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester**

September 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 or sign up to the email newsletter.

5. Group News

Short/touch tennis

Eric Wehrfritz has been contacted by the organiser of Shepton tennis courts who would be willing to offer a group of U3A members a weekly Short/touch tennis taster session free of charge for one month. If this is successful, it could lead to a new U3A group as the game can be played indoors during winter months.

Short/Touch tennis is a mixed sport especially suitable for complete beginners and individuals with limited mobility. The only requirement is a pair of comfortable shoes or trainers. If you are interested, please contact Eric.

Bus Pass Trippers

After giving the trippers a great start leading the group, Janet has taken a step back. Members will now share the responsibility of organising each Saturday journey. However, if you would like to know more about the group Janet will be your first point of contact.

Discussion Group Vacancies

There are currently two spaces vacant in the Discussion Group, a lively group that meets on the second Monday morning in the month. Recent topics for discussion have included Mental Health and No Win, No Fee Personal Injury Claims-is this morally questionable? If you would like a taster session please contact Malcolm Weeks.

Music Appreciation

Derek Hiller will be hanging up his conductor's baton as leader of the Music Appreciation Group at the end of July. His encyclopaedic knowledge of music from Mozart to Freddy Mercury will take some beating!

Derek has been leading the group since 2016 and will be sorely missed, and it is hoped that this popular group will continue with other members of the group taking over the reins.

A huge thank you to Derek for all his hard work over the past few years.

Music Appreciation by Derek Hiller

For our June meeting the theme was for music associated with the letter **J** for June and we listened to the following pieces of music:

Job's Dance of the Comforters from Ralph Vaughan Williams' one act ballet, Job: A Masque for Dancing, performed by the London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Vernon Handley.

The suite for Jazz orchestra No 2 by Dmitri Shostakovich performed by the Russian State Symphony Orchestra conducted by Dmitry Yablonsky.

Jelly Roll Blues, written by Jelly Roll Morton and performed by Louis Armstrong with Fats Waller on piano.

Guitarist, John Williams playing an arrangement of Gabriel Faure's Pavane.

Jason Donovan, as Joseph, singing Close Every Door to Me from the 1991 production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat.

The John Dunbar theme from the film Dances with Wolves, composed by John Barry and played by the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

Benedictus from Karl Jenkins composition The Armed Man performed by the London Philharmonic Orchestra with the National Youth Choir of Great Britain conducted by Sir Karl Jenkins.

Jalousie, (Jealousy) by Danish composer Jacob Gade; the only truly memorable song by the composer performed and performed by violinist Katish Benji.

The popular song What Would I do Without my Music arranged by Alwyn Humphreys and performed by the Castle Cary Choir.

Jess Conrad singing Any Dream Will Do from Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat.

The main theme from the film Jurassic Park by American composer John Williams, performed by the City of Prague Symphony Orchestra conducted by Nic Raine.

Crown Imperial March, composed by Sir William Walton, performed by Eastman Wind Ensemble and conducted by Frederick Fennell, performed at many Royal ceremonies including the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II on 2 June 1953.

The next Music Appreciation group meeting is at 2.00pm on Wednesday 10 July when we will have music with a connection to **A** for **Anything** as we have just had **J** and there is no meeting in August.

Walking in June



Nine of us enjoyed an 8.8 mile walk around Wellow. The weather stayed fair for us and we stopped at the 5 mile mark for a picnic. A walk of beautiful views with great company.



Considering what awful weather we've had this June we were lucky to have another dry walk when Jane led us from Mells along the Collier's Way to the Wadbury Valley where we explored the Fussell's Ironworks remains. After calling in at the church in Mells walkers enjoyed an excellent lunch at the Talbot Inn. Thank you, Jane for organising an interesting walk.

A break on the Collier's Way



Memorial in Mells church by Edward Byrne-Jones to Laura Lyttleton who died in childbirth.

The Peacock is a symbol of resurrection.

Monthly Activities

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Monday	Walking French Intermediate 2-3pm Beginner s 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	Bridge 2pm Table Tennis 2pm	Family History 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	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 or contact the individual group leader below.

Group Contacts

Art	Gill Davies
Books	Sue Dunne
Bowls	Frank Booth
Bridge	Graham McCartney
Bus Pass Trippers	Janet Murray
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	Di Gommo Liz Weeks
Recorders	Sandra Morris Julie Newman
Scrabble	Di Gommo
Singing for Pleasure	Val Sherring
Shorter Walks	Jenny Wehrfritz
Solos	Janet Murray
Strollers	Lyn Hook
Table Tennis 1 and 2	Peter Howell
Walking	Liz Weeks
Woolcraft	Pam Mitchell
Writing for Pleasure	Catherine Wylie

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

Thanks you to all our contributors this month. Please send all your items for inclusion in the next newsletter by 20th of the month. Thank you.