

University of the Third Age
Newsletter November 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

N is for November and Numbers and I have a few to share with you this month.

At the beginning of October I was invited to a presentation at the Friday Table Tennis group to celebrate the 90th birthday of Bernice O'Neill. It was a lovely afternoon with a good group of players coming along to wish Bernice well and to enjoy tea and cake; you can read more about it on page 5.

It is interesting to note that membership number 405 has just been issued and member number 9 has been enrolled the longest and continues to play an active part in SMU3A. We have 186 members at the moment and although it is not PC or relevant, it is interesting to see that we have a rough 1/3rd (57) male and 2/3rd (129) female membership split and this is fairly reflected with 3 men and 7 women sitting on the committee.

The leaders/coordinators of our 24 interest/activity groups do not follow this pattern with just 6 men taking on this role. So, men our U3A needs you!

I think I am correct in saying that there are no men in the Flower group but Freda tells me she has 2 spaces. The Flower group meets on the first Tuesday of the month in Evercreech at 2pm, please get in touch if you would like to find out more. So, if you remember, remember the 5th November then you can probably calculate that there are only 49 days till 25th December and beyond that into 2020 we need to note that Wednesday, 3rd June has been designated as National U3A day. Enough numbers!

Liz (membership number 259)



Birthday Celebration
Page 5



Levels Walk
Page 6

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.

7 November

Jenny Ross: The Secret Life of Bats. An informative talk on the work of the Bat Conservation Trust in the United Kingdom and how locally based projects and surveys have helped to increase our knowledge of their habitats

5 December

Mr Barry Edwards: Isambard Kingdom Brunel, an alternative look at his life and work

October Speaker Meeting

Forgotten Art of the Picture Postcard 1840s to 1950s

Childhood memories of buying, writing, posting and receiving holiday postcards were recalled by many of us at the SMU3A October meeting. Our guest speaker, Dr. James Taylor is not only a British author, expert on maritime art and former curator of the National Maritime Museum but also an avid collector of over 1,500 postcards.



The growth and development of postcards was stimulated by the spread of the railway network which offered days out and holidays to ordinary Victorian people. This led to the popularity of coastal towns as seaside resorts. At the same time, the use of the postal system was encouraged with the introduction in 1840 of the Uniform Penny Post

and adhesive pre-paid stamps. A booming postcard printing industry was born, with the likes of Bamforth, Blacks, Arthur Dixon and J. Salmon of whom you may be familiar. In 1899 postcards began to be produced in a standard size of 5 ½ x 3 ½ inches and in 1902 the divided back postcard was introduced, which allowed people to write messages on one half of the back of the card and an address on the other half. On the front, would be an illustration or picture. The artistic illustrations and captions brought existing and new talent to prominence.

Artists established in other fields such as Donald McGill, who was originally a draughtsman and young students straight out of Art school like Mabel Lucie Attwell were in great demand. They both produced work in a style which is instantly recognisable. Attwell's cute chubby children based on her daughter Peggy and McGill's saucy humour of well-rounded ladies and cowering men in bathing suits was unique to them. These illustrators added their own humorous, often ironic captions and together with many other talented artists



depicted the fashions and topics of their time, including political comment and references to both wars. One image in particular has become really famous and is still reproduced in the media. The iconic drawing by Alfred Leete of Lord Kitchener with outstretched hand and finger, exhorting you to 'do your bit', is a design classic and has been repeatedly copied. Alfred Ambrose Chew Leete (1882-1933) was a British graphic artist who studied at Kingsholme School and the School of Science and Art (now Weston College in Weston-super-Mare) before moving to London in 1899 and taking a post as an artist with a printer. His career as a paid artist had begun in 1897 when the Daily Graphic accepted one of his drawings; later he contributed regularly to a number of

magazines including Punch, the Strand Magazine, Tatler etc. As a commercial artist he designed numerous posters and advertisements, especially in the 1910s and 1920s, for such brands as Rowntree's chocolates, Guinness and Bovril but the recruiting poster is the one he is best remembered for.

Postcards were the quickest way to communicate messages in the days before telephones were widely available but with the advent of foreign holidays, the closure of print works and introduction of other technologies their golden age had passed by the end of the 20th century.

We were shown many examples of postcards and the typical British humour provided much laughter, the presentation was essentially visual, so in consequence note taking rather scant and it was a case of 'wish you were here'!

Liz Nash

Outings

December Wednesday 4

Christmas Buffett Lunch and Skittles

Britannia Inn, Bath Road, Wells

Meet at 12.15pm to eat at 12.30pm. Skittles after lunch.

We will be having a raffle, so please bring any suitable items.

Approx £7pp

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

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

November 14, 21, and 28.

2020 U3A Diaries

The 2020 U3A diaries are now on sale, so please place your order for yours soon. You can order them from Maggie Hardy at the next Speakers Meeting on Thursday 7 November.

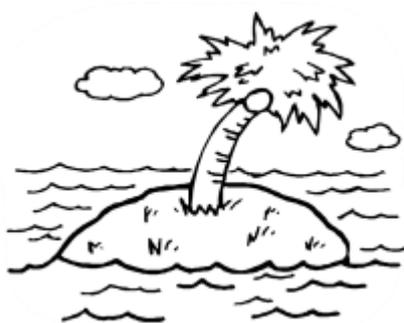
3. Members' Corner

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

Wells Cathedral Oratorio Society performing
John Rutter - Magnificat
Morten Lauridsen - Lux aeterna
Arvo Part - Cantus in Memoriam Benjamin Britten
with the English Chamber Orchestra, Elizabeth Atherton, soprano
and Jeremy Cole, conductor
On Saturday 16 November 7pm
Tickets £14 – £30 available from wcoss.org.uk or
from the Wells Cathedral shop, tel 01749 834483 and at the door

Castaway



Our thanks this month go to Liz Anderton who is a member of the Solos and Collectables groups. As usual, there are always a couple of less well-known choices of music and 'YouTube' is a good place to listen if you able to.

1. Fields of Gold sung by Eva Cassidy
2. Elite Syncopations played by Scott Joplin
3. Duelling Banjos - by anyone who can play it, they are amazing!
4. When you taught me how to Dance sung by Katie Melua
5. Tubular Bells composed and mostly played by Mike Oldfield, who aged 19, released this in May 1973
6. A Winter's Tale sung by David Essex
7. Nutcracker suite - Tchaikovsky

Book choice - 'Out on a Limb' written by Shirley MacLaine, an autobiography written in 1983
Luxury item - a photo album containing photos of my grandchildren, children and my late parents plus my close family and friends. It's going to be huge hope it can be carried from the waves!

4. U3A Regional and National News

Regional See Photographic Competition details below

National No notifications

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 U3A email newsletter.

FLASH!

BANG!

WALLOP!

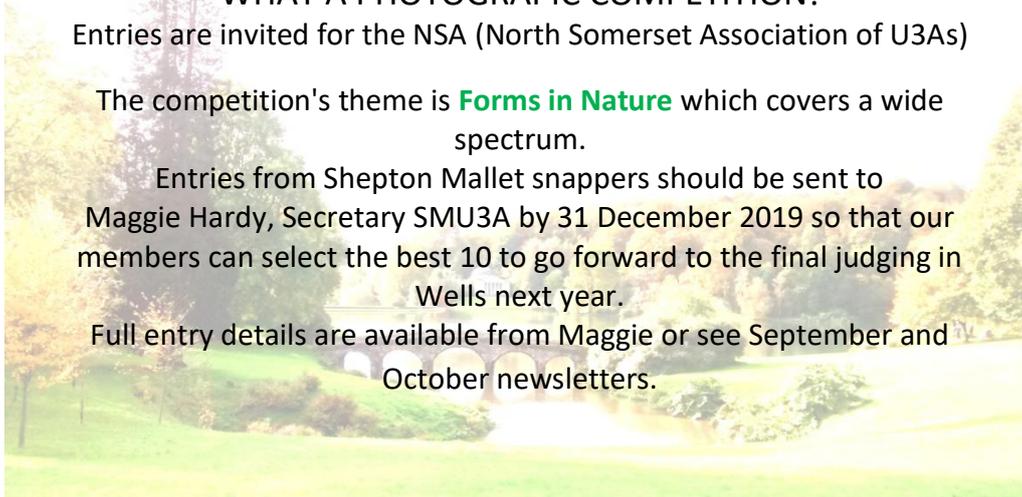
WHAT A PHOTOGRAPIC COMPETITION!

Entries are invited for the NSA (North Somerset Association of U3As)

The competition's theme is **Forms in Nature** which covers a wide spectrum.

Entries from Shepton Mallet snappers should be sent to Maggie Hardy, Secretary SMU3A by 31 December 2019 so that our members can select the best 10 to go forward to the final judging in Wells next year.

Full entry details are available from Maggie or see September and October newsletters.



5. Group News

Table Tennis

It was a special day at the table tennis group when we celebrated the 90th birthday of Bernice O'Neill. It was tinged with a little sadness that she has decided to retire from playing. Val Sherring made a delicious cake in the shape of a table tennis table (not full size, unfortunately) and Bernice was presented with flowers and a card signed by group members. It was a delightful occasion and we were also joined by Liz Nash who presented Bernice with a card from the committee. Bernice has always been an



active sportswoman and when she gave up playing golf a few years ago she thought that she would see if she could still play table tennis (In her earlier years she was Frome Ladies Singles Champion more times than she can remember) and she found that she had not lost her touch. She still had it. It was her aim to continue playing beyond her 90th birthday but her ageing joints have forced her into 'early' retirement. Bernice will be greatly missed as she is a very popular member of the group, and an inspiration to us all.



Walking

A dozen walkers took to the Levels for their first walk in October following the River Parrett from Langport to Muchelney calling in at the parish church of St Peter and St Paul to see the



the rare 1600s painted ceiling adorned with bare breasted angels. Outside hunky punks guard the doors. In Langport we found the pump that saved the town from floods and in 1826 it was the birthplace of Walter Bagehot who wrote extensively about literature, government, economic affairs and the constitution. The Halfway House, Pitney was our lunch spot, chosen by Wendy and Julia for its eight draught beers and generous food portions.



Short Tennis

During the winter months this group is playing in the Sports Hall at the Shepton Mallet Leisure Centre.

We play for an hour between 4-5pm on Wednesday afternoons.

Currently, Eric books courts depending on how many people call to say they are coming.

This is working well with the cost of the courts shared between those participating.

Rackets are included in the hire cost, although some members have purchased their own.

Contact details for Eric are on the Groups Contacts page if you are interested in finding out more.

Monthly Activities

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Monday	Walking	Discussion 10.30am Bowls 11am Art 2-4pm	Walking 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	Short Tennis 4-5pm	Music Appreciation 2pm Short Tennis 4-5pm	Short Tennis 4-5pm	Short Tennis 4-5pm
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

Munch Club	Maggie Fowle
Music	Catherine Wylie
Appreciation	Sandra Freeborn
Needlecraft	Di Gommo Liz Weeks
Recorders	Sandra Morris Julie Newman
Scrabble	Di Gommo
Singing for Pleasure	Val Sherring
Shorter Walks	Jenny Wehrfritz
Short Tennis	Eric Wehrfritz
Solos	Janet Murray
Strollers	Lyn Hook
Table Tennis	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 Coordinator	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 goes to Michael Garlick, Explore Churches for the Hunky Punk photograph, licensed under the Creative Commons Licence.

Please send all your items for inclusion in the next newsletter by 20th of the month. Thank you.