

Newsletter October 2020

sheptonmalletu3a.org.uk



Contents

Chat

Members' Corner

Group News

U3A National News

Group Leaders and Committee Members

Chat

One thing is certain, it is now autumn. Nature carries on regardless, but much else is not so predictable. The merry go round of U3A activities, of family occasions and the annual round of events which punctuate our year are not certainties at the moment.

The committee cancelled its September meeting as the new 'rule of 6' restriction came in on the day it

was scheduled and we were uncertain as to the exact details. We continue to follow the official guidance issued by the Trust.

We hope that **you** will take the opportunity to join or more importantly organise a small, socially distanced group of people for a walk, stroll, coffee or chat whether they are U3A members or not.

We all need to make the most of every chance to go out and about within the government restrictions and to make the most of these early autumn days. None of us has reached this stage in our lives without taking into account the risks to ourselves and others of our actions and are unlikely to do so now.

If you have lost contact with some of your U3A acquaintances during the past months contact one of the committee and perhaps we can help put you back in touch.

Stay safe and well

Liz



Obeying the 'rule of 6' in the River Otter near Ottery St. Mary

Members' Corner

If this is your first newsletter we hope you enjoy reading it and find it informative, entertaining and useful. It's a bit different from our usual newsletter as our activities have been curtailed by coronavirus. But please don't let that stop you sending in any contributions you think members would enjoy reading; your reminiscences, jokes, recipes, local history, photographs. Let us know what you been doing instead of your usual U3A activities. Send any items you have in to the editor by the 20th of the month. I look forward to hearing from you. Julia Goddard, Editor

Needlecraft member, Liz Weeks has been busy during lockdown making a wonderful quilt:

Malcolm and I had a wonderful trip to Mexico in 2016 and whilst there I was smitten by the fabulous fabric designs ancient and modern and the vibrant primary colours wherever we went. I decided I would like to make a quilt but could not find fabric there that was of a quality that would wash and wear. We flew on to Houston before returning to the UK and as Texas borders Mexico there is a Mexican influence there which meant there were several fabrics that I liked and purchased at Tea Time Quilters, a favourite shop of mine near our son's home. The bundle has sat in my stash for 4 years until Lockdown gave me the time and enthusiasm to get going using a pattern that arrived on my doormat about 3 months ago. This quilt is the result of that and it will be going on a bed as soon as I have layered, quilted and bound it, which will occupy my time for another few weeks!



Photo Quiz

Janet Sherwin's answers to last month's photo quiz:



Croscombe Mill



House at the bottom of
Waterloo Road



Its knocker

Corny Corner courtesy of Barry and Barbara

(...and just when you thought things couldn't get any worse, sorry folks!)

- Q Why did the one armed man cross the road?
A He went to the second hand shop
- Q Why did the one-eyed chicken cross the road?
A He went to the bird's eye shop
- Q Where does Mr Plod the policeman live?
A Letsby Avenue
- Q What do you call lady with one leg shorter than the other?
A Eileen
- Q What do you call lady with both legs same length?
A Noleen
- Q What you call a Chinese lady with food mixer on head?
A Blenda
- Q What do you call a deer with no eyes?
A No idea
- Q What do you call a fish with no eyes?
A A fsh
- Q Why do French men have only one egg for breakfast?
A Because one egg is un oeuf



Ear Ear

A man goes to the doctors (before the coronavirus). The doctor says to him, 'good morning, and what can I do for you Mr Thomas?' Mr Thomas replies, 'well doctor, I've not been feeling too grand in myself just lately and I wondered if you could give me a quick look over.' The doctor said, 'Well, where shall I start, I mean, where is the problem?' Mr Thomas says, 'I just don't feel too grand, can you have a look at my ears?' The doctor gets his little torch thing and looks into his left ear and says, 'my goodness, I'm not surprised that you are not feeling too grand, you have got something stuck in your ear,' and he gets a pair of tweezers and pulls a twenty pound note from his ear, and then another and another and a fifty pound note and more and more until there is quite a pile of paper money on the table. 'There we are,' he says, 'all done.' 'Oh thanks doctor' the fellow says, 'would you mind counting it.' The doctor counts it and says, 'my goodness, there is one thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine pounds.' Chap says, 'there you are, thought I wasn't feeling two grand.'

Ooops!

I'm including this with the kind permission of Val Sherring

Sue emailed the group leaders to ascertain how the groups were operating (or not) during the pandemic and got this lovely reply:

SWINGING FOR PLEASURE - NOTHING HAPPENING AT THE MOMENT!...now, where did I leave my keys!



Remember this?



Our desert island has been without your music for a couple of months. Do you have a list of seven pieces of music if you were castaway, a favourite book and a luxury item? Share them with us - bring music back to the island.



Late summer at Kilver Court

Group News

Group update from Sue Dunne, Group Coordinator

Just a quick note to update you on what our groups are doing. This has been written with Rule of Six in place at the moment but might well have changed by the time you read it! The following are groups who are either meeting inside the U3A umbrella or just as friends:

- **Short Walks - thinking about restarting but under the current guidance**
- **Short Tennis - have been meeting but now have concerns about playing inside as the weather gets colder**
- **Collectables - thinking of meeting and chatting in rotating groups of 6**
- **Needlecraft - thinking of outings to sewing shops etc as friends**
- **Walking - trying to proceed in 4 groups of 6 under U3A regulations that require paperwork**
- **Woolcraft - looking at small group meetings, probably independently of U3A**
- **Writing for Pleasure - have had a trial meeting of 3 but no expansion of the group arranged.**
- **Photography - meeting online throughout the Pandemic**
- **Books - have had a trial meeting of 4 people in 2 houses, will continue probably independent of U3A**

Walking

Good news the walking group is back on the road...and hills and valleys. After much emailing to and fro discussing the various options how the group could restart, leader Liz has

organised everyone into four groups of six. Each group of six organises its own walk, advertising any spaces that might occur with the other groups.

Wendy and I led the first walk from Ubley around Blagdon Lake. Unfortunately Jenny and Eric couldn't come but Janet and Andrew joined us on our beautiful walk. Owned by Bristol Water Blagdon Lake is one of the area's main reservoirs and was formed by damming the River Yeo in 1901 although it now looks like a natural lake. A designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) it is famous for its fly fishing. Passing through Blagdon village we stopped at the church where we were invited to have a quick look around by a church official. Behind the altar is Oswald Moser's painting of the Last Supper, not the familiar view but painted as if from behind Christ. Augustus Toplady, a curate in the 1760s wrote the hymn Rock of Ages. It is believed that he was inspired to write the lyrics while sheltering from a storm under a rock in nearby Burrington Combe. We, however, were blessed with glorious late summer weather on our walk.

Jenny and Eric joined us for lunch outside at the Castle Of Comfort inn where we planned dates for our next walk.

It was great to be back walking with friends from U3A and hope it won't be long before restrictions on numbers are lifted and we can walk together in larger numbers.

Julia



U3A National News

[Link to sign up to the National Newsletter](#)

Sign up to the U3A National Newsletter to keep informed on the latest government advice concerning the coronavirus. It is also filled with information, stories and advice from across the U3A movement on how to keep safe and occupied during this difficult time.

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	Beatrice Thayer
conversation	
Munch Club	Maggie Fowle
Music	Catherine Wylie
Appreciation	Sandra Freeborn
Needlecraft	Di Gommo Liz Weeks
Photography	John Law
Recorders	Sandra Morris Julie Newman
Scrabble	<i>New leader & venue required</i>
Singing for Pleasure	Val Sherring
Shorter Walks	Jenny Wehrfritz
Short Tennis	Eric Wehrfritz
Solos	Janet Murray
Strollers	Lyn Hook
Table Tennis	Peter Howell
1 and 2	
Walking	Liz Weeks
Woolcraft	Pam Mitchell
Writing for Pleasure	Catherine Wylie

Committee Members

Chair	Liz Nash (Interim)
Vice Chair	Jeanette Marsh
Secretary	Maggie Hardy (Interim)
Treasurer	Jane Burman
Groups Coordinator	Sue Dunne
Membership Secretary	Maggie Fowle
Newsletter	Julia Goddard
Outings	Janet Murray
Publicity	<i>Vacant</i>
Speakers	<i>Vacant</i>
Website	Keith Taylor
Co-opted Member	Janet Sherwin

Thank you to all our contributors this month. Please send your items for the newsletter by 20th of the month to Julia Goddard, Editor. Coronavirus restrictions may have changed by the time this newsletter is published.