



Newsletter November 2020

sheptonmalletu3a.org.uk



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Chat

Spot the Difference

A couple of weeks ago the National AGM was held online, with electronic voting and all related papers available to read beforehand, it mirrored the process of our own AGM in July.

Part of the proceedings included the presentation of a new, more relevant rebranding of the entire u3a.

Yes, we have now gone lower case, as you see at the top of the newsletter and web page (many thanks to Julia and Keith). The previous badge shape U3A logo was felt to be old fashioned, too formal and did not reflect how the u3a wished to be seen in the future.

I quote from the presentation:
"It is hoped that his new look will appeal more widely and to position u3a as a voice for older people in the media and to influence change.

It will reinforce u3a's "market position" and its mission. This will help to gain appropriate publicity: the press will associate u3a with "positive ageing", older people having fun and helping each other, keeping themselves physically and mentally alert. New websites are being created for the central u3a and local groups, so web editors give us the opportunity to give a consistent description of u3a. Messaging is a part of the new brand. The decision has been made to move to u3a



and not continue to call ourselves University of the Third Age. Because of that, it seems logical NOT to use the terms University or Third Age in future as it simply reminds people of the past.

The colours of blue and yellow remain the same and the new look allows for more fluidity in the presentation which is intended to promote a more modern and younger image!"

Do you agree, why not
let us know?
See below

We hope that 2021 will offer the opportunity for Shepton Mallet u3a to renew, relaunch and grow using the new publicity materials as they become available.

Meanwhile, returning to the present and our monthly newsletter. It is a case of "use it or lose it". We seriously have to consider the possibility of moving to a bi-monthly issue as we receive so little content from you, our members in these inactive times. We are fortunate to have regular contributors, who take the time to send Julia an item, a joke or a photo for publication which all help to fill the pages.

It would be lovely to receive more.

How about an old photo for others to identify or to guess when it was taken, a book review or just your thoughts on any topic (the rebranding?) and yes – we do want another castaway for our desert island!

Take care and do keep in touch,

Liz

Members' Corner

Not only have we incorporated the new branding but also our newsletter is a bit different from our usual one as our activities have been curtailed by coronavirus. I hope you still feel the newsletter is worthwhile and interesting to read and keeps you in touch with your friends. My goodness we need that now. During the pandemic there have been fewer opportunities to generate content – no monthly meetings, no outings and fewer groups meeting.

I can only reiterate what Liz has said in her Chat above, we really have to have more to fill the newsletter. Please send in more contributions to keep it going. Send me in anything you think members would enjoy reading; your

reminiscences, jokes, recipes, local history, photographs. What about letting everyone know what you have been doing instead of your usual activities?

If there isn't enough for a monthly issue, I am sorry to say, the newsletter will go to once every two months. This would be a shame. So please get photographing, writing, creating and send it in to me by the 20th of the month. I look forward to hearing from you. Julia

Enough ranting, here's
something to make you laugh...

Covid by Barry Holmes

Just where would we be without Covid?
Come on now admit it, it's fun
Trying to decipher the Government's rules
Which have all chopped and changed since day one

I think at the moment six people
Can all meet at one person's home
Unless it's a Monday or is it a Sunday
Or Scotland or Wales or perhaps Rome

This rule about homeworking people
Has led to odd things I am sure
Our son is a miner and he's eighteen feet down
Through a hole in the living room floor

I digress, I wonder, I'm not really clear
As to who I can meet and how "offen"
If I go to a funeral "it's thirty no more"
Excluding the one in the "coffen"

Whereas, at a wedding, the last that I heard, was
"No more than fifteen in one room"
I'm sure that some weddings had guest lists so long
There was no room for the Bride or the Groom

The virus, it seems, is a bright little thing
It can count and it knows what the time is
Else why have a limit to folks in a group
And "last orders" at nine forty five-ish

The rules keep on changing; it's hard to keep up
With "BUBBLES" and "ONE" or "TWO" metres

And schools that were opened then had to be closed
But we won't let this Covid defeat us

The Government "think tanks" have tried everything
Their options remaining are lean
Perhaps we should let someone else have a go
BLETCHLEY PARK and the ENIGMA machine.

And where would we be without Barry's humorous contributions?



**These unusual gates can be found in
a village very close to Shepton Mallet.
Do you know where?**

Photography

Bob Piper from Radstock u3a has been occupying his time trying to think of ways his group can maintain an interest in photography even if they can't get together in person. He thought that he would also share this with others in other u3a groups in case it is of any interest to them.

I find the internet a constant source of interest, and I find myself researching the combined topics of Art and Photography for sources of inspiration, and when the resulting research also contains uplifting stories as well, then I thought this may

be something good to share.

So, I was also researching topics to do with the National Trust for another project related to our Art Appreciation Group and I came across the following webpage

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/explore-our-125-portraits-online-exhibition>

There are 125 portraits here of people and their stories as staff and volunteers in the National Trust. Even though portraits are not really my thing, I did find all of them intriguing and their stories were even more so. The pictures are all “black and white” and this is a medium that I am quite keen on, and in this case the results are nothing short of brilliant.

If you navigate to the bottom of the webpage you will find a link to a short video Called “Go behind the Scenes” and this is all about how the project was conceived and how it was produced. I hope you find this interesting.



Shepton Mallet u3a photography group, run by John Law, meets regularly on line. Contact him if you are interested in joining his group. See Group Contacts.

Group News

Books

Lucky book group members have met in



Jane's lovely garden in June and her conservatory in September.



Send in your photos of your group meeting...coffee shops, back gardens, pub gardens, airy conservatories, windy hills? Talking of which...

Walking

This was taken on the Yeo Valley Estate above Chew Valley Lake on our circular walk from Charterhouse along lanes and into the hills, through mixed woodland on grassy tracks and back to Velvet Bottom to the



Blackmore Reserve. Despite three days of rain it was remarkably mud-free and we had some welcome sunshine too. Liz Weeks



u3a National News

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.

National AGM News

Jill Nicholls, our South West regional Trustee stood down at the end of her term of office and in an uncontested election was replaced by Susan Parker. Susan has been a U3A member for 10 years and a previous secretary of Tamar u3a in Cornwall.

The proposal to increase the 'capitation' charge levied by National Office from £3.50 to £4 on 1 April 2022 on every member of every u3a was carried despite the good efforts of the 'dissenters' group which included us. Suffice to say, it has sent a clear message of grass root u3a feeling and the worry many smaller u3as have of reduced membership and finances to the point of survival in consequence of Covid restrictions.

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 and venue required</i> |
| Singing for | Val Sherring |
| Pleasure | |
| 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 | Catherine Wylie |
| Pleasure | |

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. Acknowledgements to National Trust for portrait extract. 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.

