



Shepton Mallet

Newsletter May 2021

sheptonmalletu3a.org.uk



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Chat

It has been said that there are only two certainties in this world – death and taxes so instead of certainty let's think about likelihoods.

The likelihood is that after the 17 May we shall be able to meet and eat and drink indoors in groups of six and that up to 30 people can gather outside. This will enable walking, strolling, bowling and tennis folk to be active outdoors again much like pre-Covid times. Social distancing will still be in place as will sanitising hands and where necessary mask wearing.

There will also be a requirement on group leaders and all those taking part to be aware of the risks and ensure the paperwork is in place. Please note the clarification of u3a insurance on page 3 in this issue and on the website. Anyone can log on to the National u3a website and see the latest Covid updates and announcements there.

We decided at our April committee meeting to pencil in membership renewals for early September, we hope this will be a combination of face to face at The Shrubbery and online which was very successful last year. This means that everyone who is currently listed as a member will have their membership extended until September. We hope that this will enable us to revive and enjoy activities during the summer months.

Immediately after renewals, when we anticipate that new people will have joined to swell our ranks we can hold the AGM and reinvigorate our committee with fresh blood.

So, if you have new or retired neighbours or know of someone

who is now eligible to join u3a then this will be the time to enthuse them.

In the meantime, continue to be cautious and careful but also begin to think what you like to find and do within u3a – if it's not there, think about how YOU can make it happen.

Liz



Renewal meeting at the Shrubbery
March 2019

Members' Corner

May Quiz set by Maggie Hardy

Answers next month



1. Marry in May and Rue the day. Why?
2. Which country suffered seven weeks of civil unrest which started in May 1968?
3. Who did Mary Queen of Scots marry in May 1567?
4. What fish is celebrated on 2 May ?
5. What revolutionised communications on 6 May 1840?
6. Who was defeated at Lewes in 1264 and by whom?
7. What happened on 16 May 1900?
8. Who lost a libel action and was sentenced to two years hard labour on 25 May 1895?
9. Which is the flower of the month for May?
10. Where and when did the Mayday distress call originate?

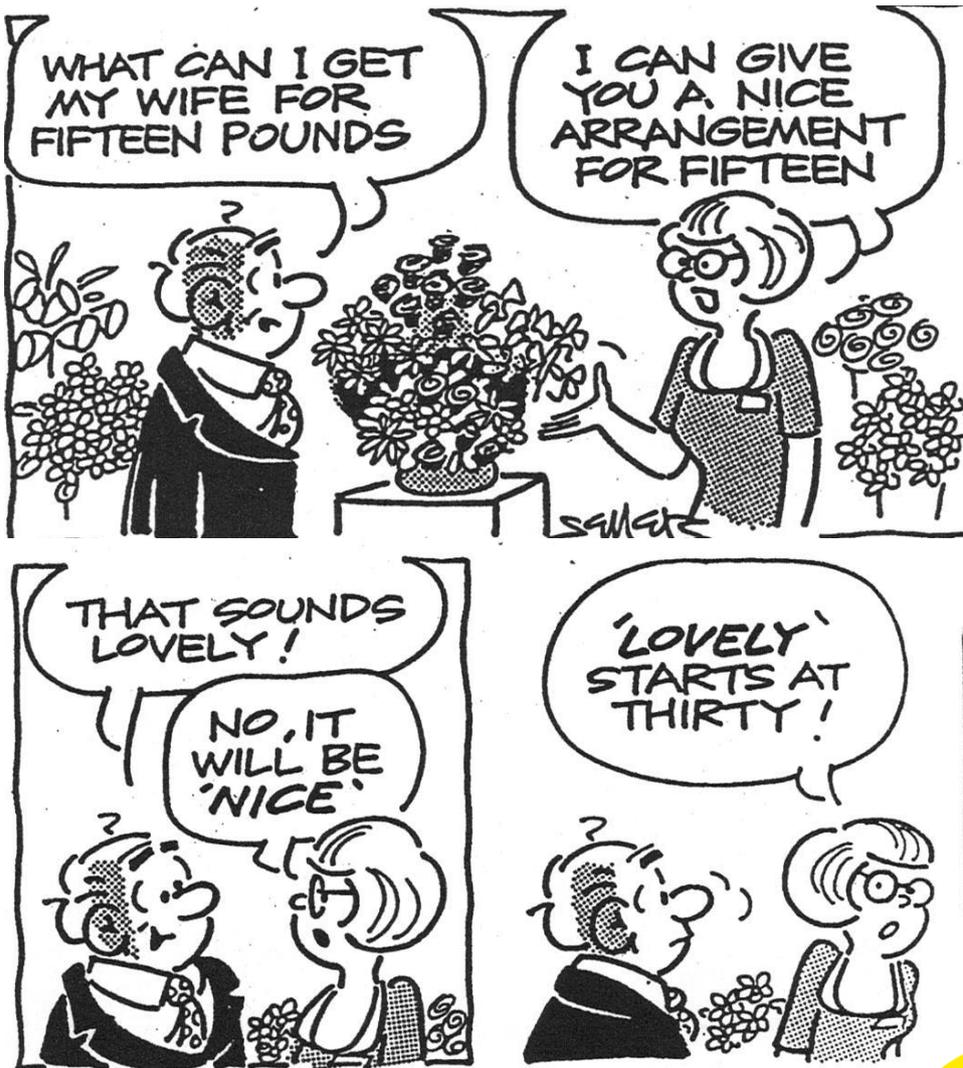
Answers to last month's quiz

1. April usually means Easter like this year, but how is the exact date determined? [Several methods have been used to calculate the date of Easter since early Christian times. In Western Christianity, Easter Sunday must always follow the first full moon after the Spring Equinox](#)
2. "April showers may come your way..." Which musical does this song come from? And who was the star? [The 1921 Broadway Musical 'Bombo'. It was performed by Al Jolson](#)
3. Which other famous singer recorded this song? [Frank Sinatra](#)
4. What is April's birthstone? [Diamond](#)
5. Which saint born in Cartagena, Spain in 590 whose Saint's Day is the 4 April, is the patron saint of the internet? [St. Isidore of Seville named by John Paul II in 1997](#)
6. When was the Royal Society of London founded and which King was on the throne? [28 November 1660. Charles II](#)
7. "April is the cruelest month." Which poem is this from and who wrote it? [The Waste Land by T.S. Eliot](#)
8. Which Greek goddess is April named after? [Aphrodite](#)
9. April is derived from the Latin word "aperit"- what does it mean? [It means 'open'](#)
10. Who was assassinated on 15 April 1865? [President Abraham Lincoln by John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theatre in Washington.](#)

Insurance

Members of Shepton Mallet u3a are reminded that the Trust arranges Third Party Liability and Product Liability Insurance on behalf of the affiliated u3as. The cost of this is included in the annual subscription fee that SMu3a pays to the Trust. It should be noted that there is no personal accident insurance included in this arrangement. Members of SMu3a join in activities at their own risk and, should they feel they wish to be covered for personal accidents or personal property, it is necessary for them to make their own private arrangements.

Nice Flowers, thanks Freda



Three teenagers were out for a little walk somewhere in Wales, and their path took them through a graveyard by the local chapel. They were well behaved and only straying from the pathway to read the occasional old gravestone. The first lad said, "My goodness, people lived to a good old age in the olden days, look at this one" and he read out, "David Griffiths from Pontypool - 103 years old." The second lad said, "Here's one a bit older. Dai Jones from Tywyn, he was 105 years old." The third lad, rooting about in the oldest part of the cemetery, near the edge, shouted, "Here's one to beat your two by a long way, 240. Wow!" The first lad said, "Who the devil lived to be 240?" The third lad bent to get a better look at the stone and said, "It's someone called Miles from London."

Thanks Barry and Barbara

Mystery Photos



Last month we asked you to identify the village where this headstone can be found, where the remains of these cottages are and name the hedgerow flower.

Janet says the village is "It's salt 'n' BINEGAR!"



The old cottages are in **Dean** and the plant is **coltsfoot**.



Tell Us Your Story

Why not tell us your story? Tell us about any part of your life, perhaps you had an interesting career, tell us why you moved to Shepton or perhaps you have lived here a long time, what changes have you seen? Do you have a passion for collecting like our Wendy and Jonathan last contributors? Have you had an exciting experience you can share, met the Queen or danced along to Queen? Is Bohemian Rhapsody one of your Desert Island discs, or would you choose to waltz in the sand to the Blue Danube?

Send your story, your photos, your Desert Island discs into the newsletter.

Free to Good Home

Barbara and Barry Holmes – we have a BROTHER DCP195C printer surplus to our needs. It is in good working order except that, due to non-use for a long time the printer head for the black ink has dried up although the other colours appear to be O.K. An unblocking kit is available from at least AMAZON at a cost of about £10 or £11 I believe. The actual cleaning would appear to be fairly easy if you are at all practical, although I wouldn't recommend doing it on the dining room table as it might well be a bit messy. Also have several ink cartridges for it. It is free to a good home but would need collecting. If interested, please contact Barry or Barbara.

Have you any items you want to shift? Why not send in the details along with your name and contact information to the newsletter. If we have a good response, we could make Free to Good Home a regular Members' Corner feature.

Group News

Cricket Appreciation by Sue Dunne, Group Coordinator

What a hugely disappointing first meeting with only two members in Jonathan Fowle's new group.

I know we don't have much enthusiasm for anything at the moment but come on u3a, stir your stumps, waggle your wickets and get on the ball. From 17 May, six of you can meet in pubs and matches can have a limited number of fans attending. On 21 June, it could be any number of fans attending matches.

Jonathan is holding the next meeting on **Wednesday 5 May at 11am by Zoom** (hopefully for the last time). Please contact Jonathan.

Breaking News!

French conversation

I have found somebody within our u3a who is a fluent French speaker and could be willing to start up another group.

Please send me details if you would be interested. My email details are on the back page.



Table tennis

Peter Howell is surrendering his bat to Mike Burr after having been group leader since 2018, although he will still be involved with the finance and accounting of the group. Thank you, Peter so much for leading the group and all the support you have given me.

Sue Dunne

Bowls

Bowls will start on **Monday 10 May, 11am- 1pm**

All welcome to have a try at

3 Frithfield Walk, Shepton Mallet

For more details, contact Frank Booth.



Walking

Walkers have been out in force enjoying a remarkably dry April.



Janis was straight out of the Covid Lockdown Trap with a super sunny walk from Pensford across the fields to Stanton Drew and Stanton Wick and back to Pensford.



The next day Wendy, Jenny, Eric, Janet, Victor and Julia enjoyed a beautiful spring walk from North Wootton to Pilton where they met some musical locals.



On 12 April Mary, John, Janis, Harry, Chris and Margaret took a circular walk of just over 5 miles from Doultong consisting of tracks, woods, fields and lanes. Unknown parts were discovered by most, together with criss-crossing sections familiar to some. They were pleased to have a dry warm day on which they were able to complete the walk mud free.



This pretty church at Alford, near Castle Cary was a great place to stop for a snack on a spring walk for Jenny, Eric, Wendy, Julia and Andrew, led by Janet.

Frank led a group on 5 April from Chewton Mendip Church on an initially cold morning on a beautiful walk round the Waldegrave Estate west of our starting point. We welcomed a hot coffee to warm up before climbing higher for this lovely view and returning through deciduous woodland and sunshine. It was noted by all that there was no mud to be seen! (a rare event on a Frank walk)



Online bridge

See u3a National and Local News below.

Zoom meetings for groups

Would some groups like to take advantage of the Shepton Zoompro package? So far we have used this for committee meetings but the new ukulele group is meeting via Zoom as well. I know some people have their own Zoom account but the free time is limited to 40 minutes for this. With Zoompro sessions can go on for longer!

It is easy to set up a meeting and share ideas and pictures though possibly worth a little practice before actually hosting a meeting. If you want to host you would need to download the Zoom app and then log in to this with the Shepton account details. You do not need to have downloaded the app if you just want to participate in a meeting. The host sends out an invitation by email to join the

meeting at a certain date and time. On this invitation is a link to click which takes you straight to the meeting. It is really good for small group discussion or conversation.

We could have a coffee and chat morning? BYO coffee, Book group? Discussion group? And with a 'screen share' you can show pictures/objects to the others. Collectables? Flower Club?

We also thought we could have a Shepton Zoom Quiz?

Please contact me Jane Burman if you would like to chat about this/more info/help setting up a meeting etc.

u3a National and Local 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.

u3a gives members local and national opportunities to learn a wide range of things at low cost. You can share your skills with others, take up something new and develop your interests in a friendly atmosphere. There's a monthly podcast to listen to; this month it's Battle of Britain and the Blitz. Over 40,000 u3a interest groups used to meet in the UK every week, face to face but now more recently, online e.g. [ONLINE BRIDGE](#). During lockdown several u3a groups in the east of the country formed [The East Norfolk Bridge Club](#) and are now inviting other u3as to join them. Online Bridge is an excellent opportunity for those u3a'ers who are missing their bridge to 'team up' with other bridge players across the UK.

Member Link

Earlier this year, the Trust launched Member Link, a new initiative to support u3as. Member Link collates in one place advice, tips and resources to keep us all connected. Member link is about the whole u3a community, trustees, members – online and offline – staff and u3as coming together to help and support each other to keep connecting, learning and laughing. A leaflet has been produced that has advice, links, tips and resources to help keep us all connected, active and learning together. [Member Link web page here.](#)



Save the Date

What will you be doing on u3a day?

The very first national u3a day will take place on **Wednesday 2 June 2021**. We had hoped that we could celebrate u3a day in 2020 but the continued uncertainty in lockdown as to whether activities could be undertaken led to a re-think. Online and face to face events will be held across the country to raise the profile of the movement and celebrate the impact u3as have on members' lives and their communities. [Watch this space](#)

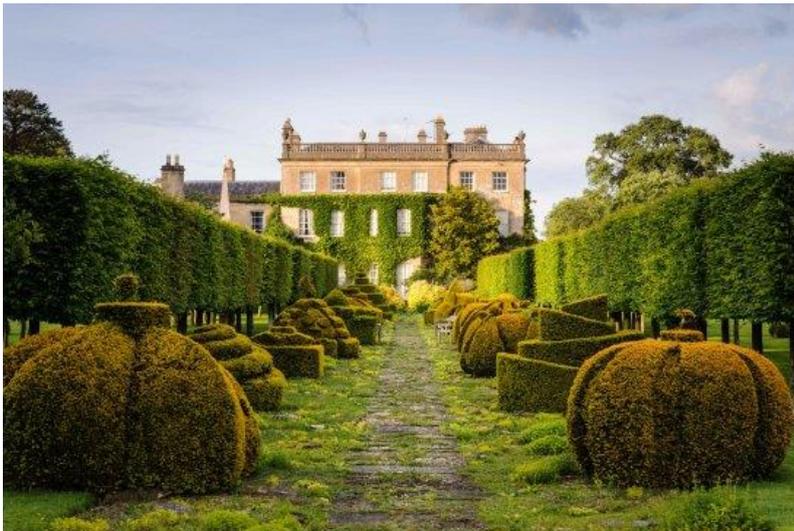
Group Contacts

Art	Gill Davies
Books	Sue Dunne
Bowls	Frank Booth
Bridge	Graham McCartney
Collectables	Liz Nash
Cricket appreciation	Jonathan Fowle
Discussion	Malcolm Weeks
Family History	Keith Taylor
Flowers	Freda Briars
French conversation	Contact Sue Dunne
Munch Club	Maggie Fowle
Music Appreciation	Catherine Wylie Sandra Freeborn
Needlecraft	Di Gommo Liz Weeks
Photography	John Law
Recorders	Sandra Morris Julie Newman
Scrabble	
Singing for Pleasure	Val Sherring
Shorter Walks	Jenny Wehrfritz
Short Tennis	Eric Wehrfritz
Solos	Janet Murray
Strollers	Lyn Hook
Table Tennis 1 and 2	Peter Howell
Ukulele	Ray Smith
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

An outing remembered **Highgrove House, May 2018 organised by Janet Murray** Pouring rain and cold winds didn't put us off going to Highgrove Gardens, near Tetbury, the home of HRH Prince Charles. We started our tour with a much needed coffee, followed by a video explaining the garden's history and how it's become such a beautiful attraction and HRH's home. We had a very knowledgeable guide for our two hour tour of the gardens. Although the paths were rather treacherous, just mud in places and puddles in others, we had all put on suitable footwear and coats plus umbrellas, so apart from having to take extra care, we survived! The gardens, like the Botanical Gardens in Bristol, were about a month behind and should have been showing more colour than we saw. It was



still a sight to see. The hedges and topiary surrounding the different areas of the gardens were spectacular. The meadows were partially covered in a beautiful blue flower similar to a bluebell, but about three times as high called camassia, and can also be seen at Lytes Cary. Janet Murray

Thank you to all our contributors this month. Please send your items for the newsletter by 20th of the month to Julia Goddard, Editor.