



Shepton Mallet

Newsletter June 2021

sheptonmalletu3a.org.uk



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Chat

"The Times They Are a-Changing" the title of a song written in 1964 and still relevant 57 years later. It was penned (no computers then!) by Bob Dylan who celebrates his 80th birthday this year. You may have heard reference recently to the fact that songs of the 60s and 70s have been with us for 50 or more years and are now closer in time to the end of WW2 than to the present day!

Now, just when we thought it was safe to go inside to eat and drink, to stay away overnight and go on holidays we are being told to continue to very cautious and careful as another variant starts to spread. As I write, there is a chance that the magic date of 21 June might still be in the balance. We all hope that jabs continue apace and are so lucky to have such an effective and efficient vaccination centre here in the centre of Shepton. If you have helped – thank you so much.

National u3a Day is being held on Wednesday 2 June. This was postponed from last year. You may see, read and hear news of this in the media to promote awareness of u3a. If you are visiting Wells market on Wednesday you will see a stall promoting the Wells group. Here in Shepton we have decided to wait until restrictions are lifted and we can raise our profile with a clear and confident view of what we can offer.

In September I have decided to step down as chair after three years in the role because you have probably heard more than enough from me during this time. It will be a good opportunity for a fresh start by the new chair and committee in the wake of the pandemic. Finally, I hope by the time you read this that the weather will have

changed and it really will be flaming June and not still flaming wet,
windy and chilly!
Enjoy the month,

Liz

Reminder concerning Membership

We decided at our April meeting to pencil in September for membership renewals. This means that everyone who is currently listed as a member will have their membership extended until September. We hope that this gives you the benefit of enjoying activities as restrictions lift during the summer. We will announce dates for renewals and details of the AGM as soon as arrangements have been made.

Monthly Meetings

So far, we have had no volunteers for organising speakers to come and talk to us when we get started again in the near future (we hope!). A possible alternative, used by some U3A groups, is to have a short film instead of a live speaker. This would be on a topic of general interest, or comedy - not the sort you get on TV. There are special websites which offer these films free. They would be shown using a laptop and overhead projector.

What do people think of this idea? It would provide a focus for meetings, something to discuss over coffee as well as the general chat. If enough people like the idea we could give it a try. Contact Janet Sherwin with your views.

[Contact any member of the committee if you would like to become the next Speaker Meeting organiser](#)

Members' Corner

Maggie Fowles pretty tree
Bustin' Out All Over



June Quiz set by Maggie Hardy

Answers next month

1. What was June called by the Anglo-Saxons and what did it mean?
2. June is only mentioned in two of Shakespeare's plays. Can you name one of them?
3. June's flowers are symbols of all things relating to love, desire, generosity and affection. What are they?
4. Who landed in Paris on 23 June 1940?
5. The Gregorian calendar was invented in June 1582. Who invented it?
6. Frank Whittle was born on 1 June 1907 – what did he invent?
7. Which planet was discovered in June 1810 and by whom?
8. "June is Bustin' Out All Over" is in which musical and who composed it?
9. Who made their debut on 4 June 1976 at The Lesser Free Trade Hall in Manchester? "The gig that changed the world"
10. What did Nik Wallenda achieve in June 2012 that no-one had done before?

May Quiz Answers

1. Marry in May and rue the day. Why? [It has its origins in Ancient Rome where it was considered unlucky to get married during the animal mating season!](#)
2. Which country suffered seven weeks of civil unrest which started in May 1968? [The country was France and the civil unrest lasted some seven weeks. President De Gaulle secretly fled to Germany at one point](#)
3. Who did Mary Queen of Scots marry in May 1567? [James Hepburn, 4th Earl of Boswell](#)
4. What fish is celebrated on 2 May? [It is World Tuna Day](#)
5. What revolutionised communications on 6 May 1840? [The Penny Black postage stamp came into use](#)
6. Who was defeated at the Battle of Lewes in 1264 and by whom? [King Henry III by the Earl of Leicester \(Simon de Montfort\)](#)
7. What happened on 16 May 1900? [Mafeking was relieved](#)
8. Who lost a libel action and was sentenced to two years hard labour on 25 May 1895? [Oscar Wilde](#)
9. Which is the flower of the month for May? [Lily of the Valley](#)
10. Where and when did the Mayday distress call originate? [It was conceived as a distress call in the early 1920s by Frederick Stanley Mockford, Officer-in-Charge of radio at Croydon Airport.](#)

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.

Return to Normal Service?

Castle Cary held a food and drink festival on May Day. Visitors wore masks and maintained social distancing whilst mingling amongst the stalls.



Free to Good Home

- Microwave to go to a good home. It's in good clean working order, I can deliver to Shepton if needs be.
- Secondly, I've a two wheeled shopping trolley, free to a good home, never used. Again I can deliver to Shepton.

Contact Janet Murray

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.

Now...

Wells Museum is hosting an important new exhibition

The Asylum for the Lunatic Poor

Opening Saturday 5 June 2021

Through an exceptional series of photographs and artefacts this new exhibition tells the story of the asylum established in Horrington during the 1840s. The asylum's patients' lives are vividly recreated in previously unseen photographs. They were referred there from the workhouse, the police courts and desperate families, were paupers and they were 'lunatics' – the most deprived members of society. This exhibition tells a fascinating story of compassion, deep respect for each individual and ground-breaking medical and psychiatric care.

...and Then

On a glorious, warm and sunny day in April 2018 Stollers visited the Mendip Hospital Cemetery in Horrington where Friend of Mendip Hospital Cemetery, Peter Jaggard guided us through its fascinating history, showed us around the site and its beautiful chapel. The land contains the graves of 2,900 persons who had been patients or staff of the old lunatic asylum founded in 1873. The last burial took place in 1963 and the graveyard was saved from development in 2000.



Group News

Sue Dunne, group coordinator, outlines the current state of play of some of our groups (do not read if you're feeling depressed!)

Recorder Group

Sandra Morris and Julie Newman have decided to 'Park their Pipes' and stand down from leading the Recorder Group after more years than I can count. Many, many thanks to both of you from all of us at U3A for all that you have done. Sadly, this is a small group and none of the members feel like continuing the group but if anyone is interested in leading, please let me know.

French Conversation

Sadly, only two members have come forward to join this new group so currently it is not a viable proposition. However, if any more members would like to join, please let me know.

Cricket Appreciation

Currently, only two members so more needed. Hopefully the next meeting will be at a pub which might help swell the numbers? If interested, please contact Jonathan Fowle.

Bridge – possibility of new leader being required

Family History – new leader required

Munch Club – new leader required

Scrabble – new leader and venue required

Discussion – new venue required

**IF NO NEW LEADERS ARE FOUND A THIRD OF OUR
GROUPS WILL CLOSE. CONTACT SUE IF YOU CAN
HELP IN ANY WAY TO KEEP THESE MUCH LOVED
ACTIVITIES GOING**

Walking

This was taken on our walk from Westcombe, perfect April walking weather. Mary and John, Chris and Margaret along with Jancis and Harry are looking forward to returning to the full group walk next month.



A recent 6 mile walk around Wellow started at the old station area. Now closed this was used for transporting Fullers Earth which was processed locally. We dropped down into the Wellow valley walking alongside the Wellow Brook. The old railway line is now the Colliers Way Cycle route which leads into Midford. We then followed the route of the old Somerset Coal Canal. Climbing up beyond Twinhoe, we reached open fields with lovely views down to Wellow. We heard and then saw a skylark, a great backdrop to the countryside setting. We descended to Wellow Village at the back of St Julians Church. Jenny Eric, Wendy and Malcolm had a generally easy walk with beautiful scenery.





On 10 May Liz, Malcolm, John, Mary, Chris and Margaret did a relatively easy walk of about 5 ½ miles from the Alfred Tower car park. The walk was mainly on forest tracks and paths but did include areas with far reaching views. Although we started out expecting showers we were happy to complete the walk in the dry and for our boots to remain mud free.



Another group of six set off in May sunshine from Croscombe but were soon drenched by a heavy downpour near Friar's Oven. Sadly Jenny, Eric, Victor, Alison, Andrew and Julia were all too wet for a much anticipated, post lockdown lunch at the George.



These were taken amongst the bluebells on Priors Hill woods (north of Wells) and at Beryl woods (also North of Wells). A cracking six mile walk in pleasant sunny weather and the bonus of fantastic bluebell and wild garlic displays! This walk on 17 May was led by John and Pet and enjoyed by Liz, Malcolm, Sandra and Frank.



Shorter Walks

Shorter Walks restarted recently with a lovely walk amongst the bluebells of Ham Woods, Crocombe. We managed to avoid the showers and shall look forward to more explorations in the coming months. Thanks to Janet for leading the walk.



u3a National and Local News

Sign up to the [u3a National Newsletter](#) to keep informed on the latest news from the Trust. 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.

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. 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.](#)



Group Contacts

Art	Gill Davies
Books	Sue Dunne
Bowls	Frank Booth
Bridge	Graham McCartney
Collectables	Liz Nash
Cricket	Jonathan Fowle
appreciation	
Discussion	Malcolm Weeks
Family History	Keith Taylor
Flowers	Freda Briars
French	Contact
conversation	Sue Dunne
Munch Club	Maggie Fowle
Music	Catherine Wylie
Appreciation	Sandra Freeborn
Needlecraft	Di Gommo Liz Weeks
Photography	John Law
Recorders	Sandra Morris Julie Newman
Scrabble	New leader and venue required contact Sue Dunne
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

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



Rhododendron and azaleas at Heaven's Gate, Longleat