



learn, laugh, live

Newsletter September 2021

sheptonmalletu3a.org.uk



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Chat

It's **September**, when we can enjoy (we hope) some warm and pleasant days safe in the knowledge that everyone else is either back at work, college or school leaving us free to do just as we please once again!

The committee held a real live 'in person' meeting recently, the first since last August and we had much to discuss – see details below on **Membership Renewals**. Once again, we are offering a yearly reduced membership at **just £10**, most of which goes straight to National Office.

Much more valuable to our u3a is your time, interest and a commitment in leading or supporting our activities. **YOU** are the person we need to ensure that there is a successful and fulfilling year ahead - this is something the committee cannot guarantee or provide because the ethos of u3a has always been that members form their own groups covering as wide a range of activities as possible and that this is organised by members for the members.

We can always find some **good news** though and it is that another new group has been proposed and that two new leaders have volunteered for existing groups allowing them to continue. Read more about this under Group News.

Well done to all our group leaders.

We can never say '**thank you**' to them enough and their much appreciated participation and enthusiasm exemplifies exactly what is needed to keep our u3a going. Ditto the willing volunteers who serve on the committee, we need some replacements and additions!

We are also exploring ways to restart a variation of a Speaker Meeting – though probably not until later in the year and depending on venue, this may have to be pre-booked to ensure it is managed safely.

Our **AGM** is planned (but not confirmed) for **Thursday 14 October** and will be held on line and by post just as last year. Venues for large gatherings are not easy to secure at present.

Look out for our new publicity leaflets which will be coming soon - you will recognise the smiley faces on the front! These will be available at the renewal days for anyone to give to new neighbours or acquaintances to encourage them to find out more about us. In addition, we plan to publicise ourselves in the local media to increase membership. So as always, lots to do!

Best wishes,

Liz

**Advance notice of Renewal/New membership
You can renew on line or in person
at the Shrubbery Hotel
on either**

**Wednesday 15 September 2.30pm – 4.30pm or
Thursday 16 September 10.00am – 12 midday
Reminders and further details to follow**

Please stay safe and remember Hands, Face, Space

Members' Corner

September Quiz set by Maggie Hardy

1. Which Roman God is associated with September?
2. What did the British Empire skip in September 1752?
3. Anglo-Saxons called September Gerst Monath – what does this mean?
4. Why is 1 September 1939 significant?
5. September begins on the same day as which other month?
6. What happened in London on 2 September 1666?
7. Who died in a car crash on 30 September 1955?
8. Which author was born on 9 September 1828?
9. Who landed at Pevensey on 28 September 1066?
10. Who became Archbishop of Cape Town in September 1986?



Answers next month

Answers to August quiz

1. What was stolen in France on 21 August 1911? **The Mona Lisa**
2. Why was the original Roman name Sextilis changed to August in 8BC? **To honour Augustus Caesar, the first Roman Emperor**
3. Which star signs are represented in August? **Leo and Virgo**
4. Which day is traditionally celebrated as the first day of harvest? Who ended the tradition of bread made from the harvest being given to the church to celebrate the harvest? **Lammas Day. Henry VIII**

5. On which day in August did Martin Luther King Jr. give his famous 'I have a dream' speech? [28 August 1963](#)
6. What happened on 24 August 79AD? [Vesuvius erupted destroying Pompeii](#)
7. When did the Edinburgh Festival first begin? [August 1947](#)
8. What other festivals are celebrated in August? One in Wales and another in London. [The Eisteddfod](#). [Notting Hill Carnival](#)
9. Who discovered oxygen in August 1774? [Joseph Priestly at Bowood House in Wiltshire](#)
10. Who left Plymouth on 27 August 1966? [Sir Francis Chichester in Gypsy Moth IV.](#)

[A welcome back to Barry and Barbara-we've missed your jokes!](#)

Secret of happy long marriage

This couple had been married for 70 years and were celebrating the occasion. The local paper had sent along a reporter and he asked the husband of 70 years what the secret of a long happy marriage was. The husband replied that the secret was that it was a bit of give and take. For instance, the couple had agreed that the wife would make all the small decisions but the husband would make all the major and important decisions and this had worked for them. The reporter was impressed and then he asked the husband if he could give him an example of a major decision, to which the husband replied that he couldn't as it didn't appear that there had been any major decisions yet.



Sue Dickerson is reminding you to sign the petition to help make Shepton a **Walkers are Welcome** town. More details can be found in last month's newsletter or online here [more information and benefits](#)



[SIGN THE PETITION](#)
[HERE!](#)

Group News

Farewell

Sadly, we are saying 'Goodbye' to Catherine Wylie who has led Writing for Pleasure and Music Appreciation groups for many years. Catherine has been an integral part of the U3A in running both groups and we will miss her greatly. Huge thanks again Catherine for all you have done and happy 'second retirement'.

Breaking news

Classic Car Appreciation

Jonathan Fowle would be happy to lead a group of classic car enthusiasts. Classic cars are not essentially vintage but modern classics such as Bentley, Jaguar, Ferrari and Mini etc. If you would be interested, please contact Jonathan.

Scrabble

Joan Bennett has indicated that she would be happy to lead a Scrabble Group. Please contact Sue Dunne in the first instance if you would be interested in joining.

Munch Club

Maggie Hardy has said she would be happy to lead this group with help from Maggie Fowle. Excellent news that an 'endangered' group will be continuing, many thanks Maggie.

Music Appreciation and Writing for Pleasure

Catherine Wylie has stood down from both groups having run them for many years. Please let us know if you would be interested in taking over the running of either of these popular groups.

Walking

On second of August, 11 walkers set off for a walk of about five miles on and around the White Sheet Hill area. We were fortunate to have a bright, clear and pleasantly warm day to enjoy plenty of stunning, far-reaching views. At times there were carpets of wild flowers and the variety of butterflies was much enjoyed by some of the group particularly when there were Red Admirals and Peacocks on the same shrub. We saw Red Kites in the distance several times on the walk but the bonus for the six who finished the walk with a picnic was the Red Kite circling for several minutes in the field just below.



Top of White Sheet hill looking towards Stourhead



Shorter Walks

A photo for you all from shorter walks most recent visit to Bruton. The seat and sculpture are on the riverside walk at the back of the town.

Perhaps he will turn up for membership day!



u3a National News

u3a Regional News No notifications this month

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.

Group Contacts

Art	Gill Davies
Books	Sue Dunne
Bowls	Frank Booth
Bridge	Graham McCartney
Collectables	Liz Nash
Cricket	Jonathan Fowle
Appreciation	
Discussion	Malcolm Weeks
Flowers	Freda Briars
French	Jane Burman
Conversation	
Munch Club	Maggie Hardy
Music	Leader and venue required
Appreciation	
Needlecraft	Di Gommo Liz Weeks
Photography	John Law
Scrabble	Leader and venue required
Singing for	Val Sherring
Pleasure	
Scrabble	Sue Dunne
Shorter Walks	Jenny Wehrfritz
Short Tennis	Eric Wehrfritz
Solos	Janet Murray
Strollers	Lyn Hook
Table Tennis	Mike Burr
1 and 2	
Walking	Liz Weeks
Woolcraft	Pam Mitchell
Writing for	Leader and venue required
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. Please send your items for the newsletter by 20th of the month to Julia Goddard, Editor.

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.