



learn, laugh, live

Newsletter

October 2021

sheptonmalletu3a.org.uk



Chat

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Chat

Hello Everyone

Here we are in October, the tenth month of the year and unfortunately, not really able to celebrate the tenth year since SMu3a was founded in 2011.

Some of you were amongst our very first members, so I am delighted to see that you have just signed up again for another 12 months.

We are teetering on the brink of having 100 members, so all very encouraging and promising.

However, if you or someone you know still hasn't got around to filling in the forms, then please do so as quickly as possible. We have set out the agenda for our AGM and are looking for nominations of keen and helpful members to join us on the committee. Remember, you can only vote at the AGM if you are registered as a current member. All the details to join are on the website, newsletter or contact any of the committee who can help you.

I took part in the Short Walk group this week, which took us into the countryside around Doulting. It was good to see how much everyone enjoyed being out and about and catching up with one another. We had the pleasure of welcoming one of our newest members to take part in her first activity with SMu3a. We hope you enjoyed yourself Janette! We don't always have such lovely homemade cake and hospitality, but both were a real treat at the end of a drizzly and damp morning.

It is the lovely sociability and opportunities provided by our group leaders and kind members described above that make being part of SMu3a so precious and valuable, especially to those on their own. So let's keep supporting each other, making a contribution, finding friends and taking part to make sure we are good for another 10 years.

Best wishes

Liz



Renewals

If you haven't renewed your membership yet please can you do so as soon as possible either on line [here](#) or contact the membership secretary, Maggie Fowle.

Thank you

Notice is hereby given that the

Tenth Annual General Meeting of Shepton Mallet U3A is scheduled for **Thursday 14 October 2021**

This event will be online due to difficulties in finding a venue allowing social distancing and uncertainty as to whether the Chair can attend. All relevant reports and accounts will be available on our website. They will also be emailed directly to members via Beacon.

Members not connected to the internet will receive details by post.

To register agreement and acceptance of Agenda items, members are requested to click and return an electronic voting form that will be sent w/c 11 October.

It is important that members return this voting form to confirm that the committee has complied to the best of its ability to its statutory responsibilities and for the good governance of this AGM.

AGENDA

1. Constitution Amendment

Insertion of additional items to the Constitution of Shepton Mallet u3a under Clause 16 (see below) regarding the legalised use of electronic and/or hybrid means of communication and

voting to conduct General and Annual General Meetings in accordance with The Trust and Charity Commission guidelines. See full details below.

(Your vote needed in marked box plus Proposer and Seconder)

2. Acceptance of the Report of the Minutes of AGM held on Thursday 23 July 2020

See attached

(Your vote needed in marked box plus Proposer and Seconder)

3. Matters Arising from the Report of the Minutes

To be notified in writing or emailed to the Secretary, details below by 7 October

4. Chairman's Report

See attached

5. Treasurer's Report

See attached

6. Group Leader's Report

See attached

7. Nominations to Committee

To be returned to the Secretary by Thursday, 7 October 2021, details below

(If nominations exceed vacancies an election will be held, at a date to be decided)

8. Acceptance of the existing Committee members standing for a further year

(Your vote required plus Proposer and Seconder)

9. Proposals and Questions

Written Proposals and Questions must be received by Thursday 7 October 2021

By email: maggiemaquirehardy@yahoo.com or

By post: The Secretary, SMu3a, 10 Henley Rise, Tadley Acres, Shepton Mallet, BA4 4AW

CLOSE

Constitution amendment

16. Online and hybrid meetings

(i) A general meeting (whether an annual general meeting or a special general meeting) may be held in person or by suitable electronic means agreed by the trustees in which each participant may communicate with all the other participants. Where the trustees determine that a general meeting is to be held by electronic means pursuant to this clause 16(i) such determination shall be set out in the notice of general meeting sent to members, together with details of how a member may participate in such meeting.

(ii) Where the committee determines that a general meeting is to be held by electronic means only such determination shall be set out in the notice of general meeting sent to members, along with an explanation of the exceptional circumstances which require the general meeting to be held by electronic means only.

(iii) For the purposes of this clause "exceptional circumstances" means circumstances which in the reasonable opinion of the committee render it impossible to hold an effective general meeting in person or by a combination of meeting in person and through electronic means.

(iv) Where a general meeting is to be held in person, the trustees may if they deem it appropriate set out a procedure in the notice of meeting which allows members to attend electronically if they so wish, and in such circumstances both members physically present in person and members present by electronic means will be considered present in person and will count towards the quorum for the relevant meeting.

(v) If the meeting is to be held solely by electronic means pursuant to clause 16(ii), the place of the meeting shall be deemed to be the charity's registered office address.

(vi) Proceedings at a general meeting held by electronic means pursuant to clause 16(i), or Clause 16. The Trust has developed this wording with the solicitors so that we know it is legal and appropriate and covers all the various nuances which may arise. A physical meeting at which procedures are put in place to allow members to attend electronically pursuant to clause 16(i), will not be invalidated due

to technical issues which prohibit members from joining such meeting electronically, so long as enough of a quorum under clause 17(iv) is able to join the meeting successfully.

The original clause 16 becomes 17.

Original clause 17 Alterations to the Constitution becomes 18.

Original clause 18 Dissolution becomes 19.

Therefore we also need to amend clause 14(v) to read
'to amend the constitution subject to clause 18...'

Nomination Information 2021

Dear Member

Nomination to the Committee 2021/2022

We are requesting nominations from members willing to put themselves forward for election to join SMU3A committee 2021/2022.

A strong committee ensures enthusiasm and good governance, a fresh input of ideas and sufficient experience to ensure succession planning.

At the AGM, all members of the existing committee must stand down.

If necessary, the existing committee will stand for another year (with the approval of the membership). However, it should be noted that more than one has already served the maximum permitted term.

The nomination and election of members of the Executive Committee are governed by the current Constitution and Third Age Trust Standing Orders.

Executive Officer positions (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary) and other roles are agreed by the new committee at the first committee meeting following the AGM, to be held in November 2021.

Nominations must be proposed and seconded by current members of SMU3A **who themselves are not members of the committee.**

The nomination form can be found on the website and at the end of this newsletter.

Nominations to the Secretary by **7 October 2021.**

For further information, you are welcome to contact any committee member.

Our constitution document can be viewed on the SMU3A website and will provide details of our charitable status and the aims of the U3A.

Please do consider standing. You will find the committee helpful and welcoming and ensure that SMu3a continues to thrive and grow for the benefit of us all.

Thank you

Members' Corner

Renewals at the Shrubbery

After last year's renewals which were all done on line or by post it was a pleasure to see so many people eager to renew their u3a membership at the Shrubbery in September. Just like old times!



With forms completed Sandra is ready to hand over her money to Membership Secretary, Maggie at the Shrubbery renewal meeting.

Maggie Hardy, decked out her car in u3a bunting to welcome new and old members.

October Quiz set by Maggie Hardy

1. Where was there a huge fire on the 9 October 1871?
2. What is celebrated in the U.K. on 21 October?
3. What American sports begin their seasons in October?
4. Who was born on 1 October 1207?
5. Which war started on 11 October 1899?
6. Who in October 1863 designated the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day?



7. Siweol is October in which language?
8. Who visited the White House on 2 October 1975?
9. Which country gained its independence from the Netherlands in October 1815?
10. What Celtic Festival is thought to be the origin of Hallowe'en?

Answers next month

Answers to September quiz

1. Which Roman God is associated with September? [Vulcan](#)
2. What did the British Empire skip in September 1752? [11 days between 2 and 14 when changing from Julian to Gregorian calendar. Hard luck if it was your birthday between those dates!](#)
3. Anglo-Saxons called September Gerst Monath – what does this mean? [Barley Month – when it was harvested and made into a popular drinking brew.](#)
4. Why is 1 September 1939 significant? [Hitler invaded Poland](#)
5. September begins on the same day as which other month? [December](#)
6. What happened in London on 2 September 1666? [The Great Fire of London started](#)
7. Who died in a car crash on 30 September 1955? [James Dean](#)
8. Which author was born on 9 September 1828? [Leo Tolstoy](#)
9. Who landed at Pevensey on 28 September 1066? [William, Duke of Normandy](#)
10. Who became Archbishop of Cape Town in September 1986? [Desmond Tutu.](#)

Perfect driving

Friday night, about 11 o'clock and this police patrol car is just about finished for the day when they happen to be following a small car. Not being in any great rush to get anywhere they follow it for a short while and the police driver realises that the small car is being driven perfectly, 29 miles per hour, absolutely correctly positioned, perfect signaling, in other words, absolutely faultlessly. The police driver is quite impressed and decides to compliment the driver so he puts his PLEASE STOP sign on and blips his siren on. The small car sees the sign and with all correct signals etc. he stops. The police driver taps on the driver's door



window which is then opened and the police man says, "No problem sir, in fact I'd just like to compliment you on your excellent driving." The driver's wife in the passenger seat then leans across and says, "Yes, my husband is always very careful when he's been drinking a lot and tonight he's had 12 pints."

[Thanks to Barry and Barbara for above and below](#)

Since Youngsters of Today have their Texting Codes (LOL, OMG, TTYL, etc.) the Oldies decided not to be outdone by these kids, and now have developed our own codes too :

ATD - At the Doctor's
BFF - Best Friend's Funeral
BTW - Bring the Wheelchair
BYOT - Bring your own teeth
FWIW - Forgot Where I Was
GGPBL - Gotta Go, Pacemaker Battery Low
GHA - Got Heartburn Again
TFT - Texting From Toilet.

Now share this with some other oldies and make their day 🤔🤔🤔. I know you're not that old but enjoy the laugh even if you're young 😊

Coffee Mornings Resume

Dobbies Coffee Mornings are up and running again and open to any member to join us at 10.30am each Thursday. You'll find us in the conservatory area where there is a reserved table for SMu3a.

Come and join us!

Why would you want to hang a length of drain pipe from your belt?!

One answer was found during lockdown when a brisk 'exercise walk' would be the better for carrying some water without the encumbrance of a backpack. I saw nothing for sale anywhere but then I happened upon the happy discovery that a length of slit drain pipe nicely gripped a 'Smidge' type insulated water bottle and, even better, these bottles are arriving in the UK in large quantities from China and are becoming cheaper especially now that supermarkets stock them. The design of the holster has been developed & tested over a few months – the belt loop at the top is now attached really securely in way that does not obstruct the passage of the bottle & there is a bolt through the bottom to act as a stop. A further alternative undergoing trials is for those who don't wear belts - it's with a karabiner type fastener to attach the holster directly to a belt loop as provided by the trouser maker – obviously the belt loop must be robust enough to have half a kilo of water swinging on it. The Salvation Army are moving away from the traditional door knock fund raising and we are being encouraged to innovate alternative ways for raising money. Therefore I put to you the offer of buying a holster for £2.75. The materials have already been donated so all the sale monies will go to The Salvation Army.

This money will go towards:

- Supporting men, women and families experiencing homelessness
- Offering training and advice to people looking for sustained employment
- Residential care homes and day programmes for older people
- Reuniting families through family tracing
- Providing a place of safety for adult victims of human trafficking

Should you or someone you know actually wish to wear a drainpipe and support The Salvation Army please drop a text to me, **Chris Judson, on 07512500345** so your order may be arranged.

LH picture shows the belt attachment type while the RH picture shows the karabiner type.



Munch Club Resumes

Friday 24 September saw the first meeting of the Munch Club since December 2019! We enjoyed a good lunch at the Thatched Cottage and even better lots of chatter



and laughter.

Next Munch will be at the Natterjack on Friday 22 October at 12.30
Hope to see you there. Contact Maggie Hardy for details.

Look out for our latest leaflet. If you are able to distribute copies to friends and family please let Liz Nash know and she will drop some in to you. Thank you.

u3a Shepton Mallet

**learn,
laugh,
live**

u3a.org.uk

A world of new experiences is open to you at u3a – so what's stopping you?

u3a gives you opportunities to develop your interests, make new friends and have fun.

There are more than 1,000 local u3as – spread right across the UK – and members are making the most of life by continuing their creative, educational or social interests in a friendly and encouraging atmosphere.

From Walking to Talking, Books to Bowls, Needlecraft to Ukulele, Cricket to Flower Arranging – Shepton's small but vibrant u3a offers members a choice of opportunities to "Live, Learn, Laugh." – the choice is endless – and the decision about what to do is made by the members for the members.

sheptonmalletu3a.org.uk

u3a
Shepton Mallet

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Registered Office: u3a National Office
The 1100 Age Trust, 815 Gadsdown Road, London, SE20 2NA

Group News

Outings by Sue Dunne

Janet Murray has sadly decided not to continue leading the Outings Group. Janet started the Outings in 2013 and has done an impressive total of 117 outings some of the memorable ones were to the Houses of Parliament, the Royal Mint, Highgrove and the RNLI headquarters at Poole. Janet, we can't thank you enough for your contribution to SMu3a and all the dedication you have shown even though it must have been like herding cats from time to time!

Janet Sherwin has kindly agreed to take over the group but would like another U3A member as back-up please.

Group coordinator, Sue tells us that we now have three groups with no members. Some members have volunteered to get groups up and running again and one is a new group. Please would you give some thought to joining them.

Classic Car Appreciation (a new group)

Please contact Jonathan Fowle on 01749 344961 or jonathanfowle@hotmail.com

Scrabble (a new leader)

Please contact Joan Bennett on 01749 836673 if you would like to join Scrabble.

Writing for Pleasure (a new leader)

Kevin Hoole has volunteered to lead this group. Kevin retired early to write screenplays and is a candidate member of the Writers Guild of Great Britain. His main area of knowledge is storytelling and feels the main thing is for people to write without fear of being judged - fact, fiction or a blend of both.

Please contact Kevin Hoole on 07337 651332 or kevin.hoole@yahoo.co.uk

Table Tennis

Table Tennis Group is resuming on Friday 17 September

New members are welcome and should contact Mike Burr or just come along on the day.

"We meet at the Paul Street Community Centre from 2pm until 4pm every Tuesday and Friday and ask members to pay £3 per session to cover the cost of room hire."

Covid guidelines are in place

Shorter Walks

See Liz's Chat for the shorter walk around Doulting, 23 September



Walking



Frank's walk at the end of August started from Chew Valley Lake (Herriotts Bridge) into the high land between Bishop Sutton and Hinton Blewett. The circle took in a hillfort before descending White Hill to enjoy views of the lake and valley before having a good lunch at the New Manor Farm Shop Cafe at the end of the walk.



Nine of us had a glorious day to explore the Isle of Wedmore on the first walk in September. There was a misty haze at the start which was burnt back to reveal the big skies and the open pasture before we continued up to Westham and had views back across the Levels to Glastonbury before ascending gradually to Castle Lane and Madwoman Lane. The shade was welcome as we walked back to the start and we completed our day with a very relaxing lunch in the shade of a rowan tree at the Pumpkin Café in Wedmore. Liz and Malcolm.





September's second walk saw the largest group this year with 16 persons walking and lovely weather to boot!

The photo shows a Teddy bear's picnic stop - becoming more common as eating establishments become rarer to access in these covid times.

u3a National News and u3a Regional 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.

Group Contacts

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Art | Gill Davies |
| Books | Sue Dunne |
| Bowls | Frank Booth |
| Bridge | Graham McCartney |
| Classic Car Appreciation | Jonathan Fowle |
| Collectables | Liz Nash |
| Cricket Appreciation | Jonathan Fowle |
| Discussion | Malcolm Weeks |
| Flowers | Freda Briars |
| French | Jane Burman |
| Conversation Munch Club | Maggie Hardy |
| Music Appreciation | Leader and venue required |
| Needlecraft | Di Gommo Liz Weeks |

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Outings | Janet Sherwin |
| Photography | John Law |
| Scrabble | |
| Singing for Pleasure | Val Sherring |
| Scrabble | Joan Bennett |
| Shorter Walks | Jenny Wehrfritz |
| Short Tennis | Eric Wehrfritz |
| Solos | Janet Murray |
| Strollers | Lyn Hook |
| Table Tennis 1 and 2 | Mike Burr |
| Ukulele | Ray Smith |
| Walking | Liz Weeks |
| Woolcraft | Pam Mitchell |
| Writing for Pleasure | Kevin Hoole |

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.

Form for the Nomination to Committee October 2021

This nomination form must be signed by the **person wishing to stand, their Proposer and Seconder and must include their membership numbers if known.**

| | | |
|---|-----------------------|----------------|
| Name of Nominee | | Membership no: |
| I, the above-named consent to my name being put forward for ballot to SMU3A Committee 2021/2022 Signed | | |
| Print name of Proposer | Signature of Proposer | Membership no: |
| Print name of Seconder | Signature of Seconder | Membership no: |

Please email, post or hand to the Secretary by **Thursday 7 October 2021**

maggiemaquirehardy@yahoo.com

Maggie Hardy Secretary SMU3A,

10 Henley Rise,

Tadley Acres, Shepton Mallet

BA4 4AW