



Shepton Mallet

learn, laugh, live

Newsletter  
November 2021

sheptonmalletu3a.org.uk



Chat

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Committee Members

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## Chat

PHEW! Did you hear the collective sigh of relief from your committee?

In the past few weeks, we have accomplished our membership renewals and our AGM and I have been fortunate enough to have two new eyes as well – courtesy of SM Treatment Centre.

Thank you to everyone for taking part and voting in the AGM. If you have still not cast your vote, there is time and every one counts and is needed. Find the [electronic voting slip](#) here or use the [print and post voting slip](#) version to be returned by 31 October 2021.

This month we invite you to a **Coffee Morning on Thursday, 4 November 10.30–12.00 at the Bowls Clubhouse**. We hope you will feel able to come along and join us, just for half an hour, if you are still feeling cautious about meeting up. This is an opportunity to welcome our new members and could become a regular feature if it proves popular. This is a central Shepton location, just a few steps from Collett Park and with car access and limited parking from Charlton Road. We are unable to use the Council Chamber at MDC and so have had to consider our options for venues to accommodate large groups. For this reason, we have to restrict numbers, so if you wish to come along you will need to pre-book, more details on page 4.

Looking ahead, we will hold our first committee meeting of

the new subscription year on Monday, 8 November. Unfortunately, we did not have any nominations to join us on the committee and this is going to cause difficulties both immediately and in the future. Quite simply, we do not have enough willing people to take on the responsibilities and commitment required to run our u3a locally or to keep us legal within the national framework. If you have any ideas or can help, please contact any of the committee.

With half term upon us and the clocks going back one hour, we all know it is only a matter of weeks until it is that time of year again – so if you have a useful Christmas tip or could share a festive memory, we would love to include it in our December issue.

Best wishes,

Liz

## Membership 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

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## 2022 u3a diaries

Maggie Hardy is now taking orders for next year's diaries. Please contact her if you are interested.

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## Members' Corner

### November Quiz set by Maggie Hardy

1. Which building burned down on 30 November 1936?
2. Approximately how many viewers tuned in to the BBC's first broadcast on 2 November 1936
3. Who was hanged at Pentonville Prison on 23 November 1910?
4. Who was Britain's first woman MP elected on 28 November 1919?
5. Who was born on 4 November 1650?
6. Which Saint's day is on 30 November? And of which countries is he patron saint?
7. Who on 18 November shot an arrow at his son's head?
8. Who discovered the x-ray on 8 November 1895?



9. Who first appeared in the press in November 1920?
10. When is stir-up Sunday and what is it?
11. Who declared a national Thanksgiving Day in 1863?

### Answers next month

#### Answers to October quiz

1. Where was there a huge fire on the 9 October 1871? [Chicago, Illinois.](#)
2. What is celebrated in the U.K. on 21 October? [It is Apple Day.](#)
3. What American sports begin their seasons in October? [NBA \(Basketball\), NHL\(Hockey\) and The World Series.](#)
4. Who was born on 1 October 1207? [Henry III.](#)
5. Which war started on 11 October 1899? [Anglo-Boer War.](#)
6. Who in October 1863 designated the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day? [Abraham Lincoln. \(Oops wrong month!.](#)
7. Siweol is October in which language? [Korean.](#)
8. Who visited the White House on 2 October 1975? [Emperor Hirohito.](#)
9. Which country gained its independence from the Netherlands in October 1815? [Belgium.](#)
10. What Celtic Festival is thought to be the origin of Hallowe'en? [Samhain, the first and most important in the Gaelic calendar.](#)

#### Barry and Barbara's joke

##### The country pub at midnight

Imagine the scene, a country pub set in the middle of almost nowhere but up in the hills of Yorkshire. The weather that Saturday had been glorious. The time is two hours after midnight and the landlord has just finished clearing up and tidying up and washing all the glasses after a hectic and very busy day. He is shattered. A quick wash and clean his teeth and he is into his pyjamas and into bed alongside his wife. Just snuggling down when he hears something at the window. He listens and hears the definite sound of gravel being thrown against the bedroom window. Cursing as only a very irate Yorkshire landlord can do he stomps out of bed and goes to the window and opens it to see a man stood there." What is it?" he calls angrily. The man says "I'm sorry to trouble you, but I can't get going, could you possibly give me a push?" The landlord almost explodes but his wife says, "Now Jack, that poor chap might have a car full of children and stuck miles from home, the least you can do is to help him." Jack, the landlord finally calms down a bit, puts a dressing gown and some shoes on, goes to the window and says, "Where are you?"



"I'm on the swing in your children's play area," came the reply.

## COFFEE MORNING

Thursday, 4 November 2021

at

Shepton Mallet Bowls Clubhouse

10.30am – 12 midday

### PLEASE NOTE

You must reserve your seat by

[Registering via News on the website,](#)

email: [info@sheptonmalletu3a.org.uk,](mailto:info@sheptonmalletu3a.org.uk)

or leave a message on 01749 345914

**Fire, Health and Safety, and Covid regulations restrict  
numbers to 40 members.**

**So please do book your seat as soon as possible.**

We will be making a charge of £1 per person for a drink and by paying this you agree to adhere to our Covid guidelines displayed on our Covid page and available on entry. In addition, we ask that you use the hand sanitiser provided and respect the rules of the Bowls Club, including not walking on the bowls playing area.

We hope everyone will appreciate that this is a new event and we are looking forward to finding out if this is something we can continue in the coming months.

## Coffee Mornings at Dobbies

Dobbies Coffee Mornings are up and running again and open to any member 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!

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## Group News

Update by coordinator, Sue Dunne

### Flowers

Freda Briars has sadly stepped down as leader of the Flower Group. Freda has run the group for over ten years, which must make her the leader of one of the first groups in Shepton u3a. Freda, we can't thank you enough for all that you have done and your great contribution to u3a. Your group display at a Speaker Meeting four years ago was just amazing and showed 'the power of a flower' and the group's talent.

Happy retirement!



### Scrabble, Board Games and Cards

Joan Bennett has added Board Games and Cards to the group. Please contact her for more information.

### Strollers

Four of us, Keith, Barry, Tia and I, did a circuit of Collett Park. First one for a long time and the weather was perfect. Made our way to the Brasserie and met up with Janet and Alan. He and Tia are new to the group. Teas, coffee and cakes all round and a chat for a good hour. Lyn Hook



### Walking

A party of 11 enjoyed a lovely walk in autumn sunshine around the North Wootton and Pilton area. The scrumpy apples were ripe and ready to fall, so we took advantage of the glorious colours to create a backdrop for this snap!



Photo of Monday 18 October's walk from Wookey Hole climbing up to the top of Ebbor Gorge through mist and drizzle with occasional cloud clearance to open the view.



### **Munch Club**

The Munch Club enjoying a meal at The Natterjack. If you enjoy good food and even better company, why not join us? There are a couple of spaces left, and we'd love to see you! Maggie



## Photography

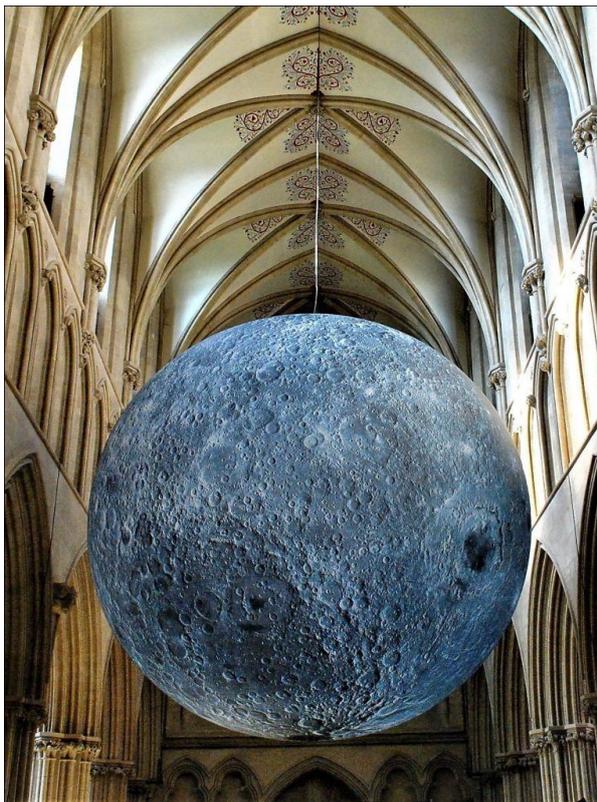
The photography group continues to meet via Zoom, but we have also recently been able to meet in the fresh air in Wells for a photoshoot. Members of the group met in Wells on Thursday 14 October to take photographs around the city. The group was also able to visit the Festival of the Moon 2021 exhibit in the cathedral and to take photographs in the cathedral. A great time was had by all. I have attached some images taken by members of the photography group on the day.

At our next meeting in **November, Tuesday 9 November at 2.00pm** the group has a guest speaker, Rose Atkinson LRPS, who will speak to the group about intentional camera movement (ICM) photography. Rose is the chair of Mid-Somerset Camera Club and an accomplished local photographer. ICM is where the photographer moves the camera during the exposure creating movement or blur that can result in stunning effects. I have attached an image I took in Wells cathedral that demonstrates the technique.

The photography group provides a forum for people who would like to improve their photography in a friendly, fun atmosphere. If you are interested in photography, whether you use a mobile phone or a sophisticated DSLR camera, why not come and join us? You will be made very welcome. See group contacts below for my details. John Law

Group photo – Denise Bailey, Cathedral ICM – John Law, Cathedral through arch – Richard Wimbrush, Moon shot – Bob Piper , Cathedral and moat – Tia Edwards





## 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 giving 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.

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### Group Contacts

<b>Art</b>	Gill Davies
<b>Books</b>	Sue Dunne
<b>Bowls</b>	Frank Booth
<b>Bridge</b>	Graham McCartney
<b>Classic Car Appreciation</b>	Jonathan Fowle
<b>Collectables</b>	Liz Nash
<b>Cricket Appreciation</b>	Jonathan Fowle
<b>Discussion</b>	Malcolm Weeks
<b>Flowers</b>	Leader and venue required
<b>French</b>	Jane Burman
<b>Conversation Munch Club</b>	Maggie Hardy
<b>Music Appreciation</b>	Leader and venue required
<b>Needlecraft</b>	Liz Weeks
<b>Outings</b>	Janet Sherwin
<b>Photography</b>	John Law
<b>Scrabble</b>	Joan Bennett
<b>Cards/Board Games</b>	
<b>Singing for Pleasure</b>	Val Sherring Sandra Freeborn
<b>Shorter Walks</b>	Jenny Wehrfritz
<b>Short Tennis</b>	Eric Wehrfritz
<b>Solos</b>	Janet Murray
<b>Strollers</b>	Lyn Hook
<b>Table Tennis 1 and 2</b>	Mike Burr

<b>Walking</b>	Liz Weeks
<b>Woolcraft</b>	Pam Mitchell
<b>Writing for Pleasure</b>	Kevin Hoole

## Committee Members

<b>Chair</b>	Liz Nash ( <b>Interim</b> )
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Jeanette Marsh
<b>Secretary</b>	Maggie Hardy ( <b>Interim</b> )
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jane Burman
<b>Groups Coordinator</b>	Sue Dunne
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Maggie Fowle
<b>Newsletter</b>	Julia Goddard
<b>Outings</b>	Janet Murray
<b>Publicity</b>	<i>Vacant</i>
<b>Speakers</b>	<i>Vacant</i>
<b>Website</b>	Keith Taylor
<b>Co-opted Member</b>	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.**