



Shepton Mallet

Happy New Year

Newsletter

January 2022

sheptonmalletu3a.org.uk



SMu3a and the Future

Members' Corner

Group News

u3a National and Regional News

Group Leaders

Committee Members

SMu3a and the Future



New chair, Janet Sherwin

At this time of year, it is a case of out with the old and in with the new as 2021 turns into 2022.

So, I am delighted to tell you that Janet Sherwin has volunteered to take on the role of chair of SMu3a.

I am confident that Janet will prove to be a very capable chair, as she has already shown her organisational skills with her recent successful trip to Salisbury.

In addition, two of our newest members have agreed to join the committee. This is really good news for all of us, as new faces bring fresh ideas and renewed enthusiasm, so we are really pleased to welcome them.

I know everyone will offer their support to help them settle in.

My thanks to all of you for helping me over the past three years. There have been some interesting times, and I have learnt a lot! I hope to continue to contribute in one way or another and support the committee.

We can all feel relieved that the future of SMu3a is secure for the present and despite what the coming weeks may bring in the way

of restrictions, we now know that our groups and activities will be there when the days lengthen and brighten again.

Best wishes,
Liz

Members' Corner

Outing to Salisbury by Janet Sherwin

10 am on 26 November saw 14 of us boarding the Mendip Minibus in Dobbies' car park for our trip to Salisbury. The weather looked a bit dodgy but in fact the morning was fine so we had a good journey and a quick look round before a very nice lunch at the Bell and Crown. Then we dispersed, some to visit the cathedral, others the Close or the many shops. Unfortunately, at about 3 o'clock, there was a sudden violent squall with gusts of wind and rain, and the cathedral was closed! Most of us took refuge in teashops at this point! However, we all returned to the minibus safe and sound, if a bit damp, and knowing a little more about Salisbury than we did before.



The Cathedral font and lunch enjoyed at the Bell and Crown

Dobbies Coffee Mornings

Dobbies Coffee Mornings are 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!

Group News

Shorter Walks

On Thursday 18 November the shorter walks group was led by Sue Dickerson on a 2.5 mile walk around Shepton, Bowlish and Darshill. Starting at the Market Cross we were taken on a tour of the area and of the historic buildings connected to the past wool and silk industry. Sue's commentary gave us many interesting facts from this time. This enjoyable walk was rounded off by coffee and cake at the Cheeky Bean.



December's shorter walk walkers on the bridge over the Wells bypass just before Morrisons. Coffee and cake at the Cathedral cafe before returning to Dulcote



Walking

Last walk of the year led by Sandra, 6+ miles and lots of stiles! A great walk around the area between Ditchheat and Little Pennard.



u3a National News

Have your say on the future strategy of the u3a

u3a is embarking on an ambitious consultation with members to shape its strategy and direction for the future.

Launched on International Day of Older Persons on 1 October nearly 450,000 u3a members across the UK are being asked to share their thoughts and ideas on what will be the priorities for the movement in the coming years.

“We are in the early stages of developing a strategy to guide the future work and priorities of the movement” said Liz Thackray, Chair of the Third Age Trust which supports the u3a movement. “u3a members are vibrant and energetic people who want to make a contribution. This is an opportunity for us to put their voices at the heart of creating a relevant and bold strategy – created by the members for the members.”

Read more about the u3a vision and strategy on the [About Us page](#).

Have your say on the strategy by [taking the survey](#).

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.

Group Contacts

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

Committee Members

An updated committee list will be published after the committee meeting to be held on 10 January, Omicron permitting!

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.