

u3a learn, laugh, live

Shepton Mallet

Newsletter

March 2022

sheptonmalletu3a.org.uk



From the Chair

What's on

Members' Corner

u3a National and Regional News

Group News

Group Leaders

Committee Members

From the
Chair

Hello Everyone!

Apart from the unhelpful weather, things are looking brighter for 2022. Our membership is growing (126 now) and more activity groups are waking up from the Covid hibernation. Your new committee is settling in and we have lots of ideas for the future of Shepton Mallet u3a.

Our first Speaker Meeting of the year is on Thursday 3 March at the Salvation Army Hall, from 10 till 12 am. Bett Partridge, a local herbalist, will be giving an illustrated talk which promises to be very interesting. Many of us grow herbs in our gardens but of course there are many other useful ones to be found in the countryside around us. Tea and coffee will be available, so please do come along and bring a friend if you like. Admission costs £2 for members and £3 for guests. It would be very helpful if you could email Liz Nash (see contact list) if you intend to come. Future Speaker Meetings will be on Thursday 7 April and Thursday 5 May.

STOP PRESS–New Speaker Secretary Jane Morrison, our co-opted committee member, has volunteered to take on this role. Thank you, Jane!

We still have need of someone to look after publicity so if you think you would like to help out please contact me or any committee member.

Unfortunately, the outing to Taunton did not take place owing to lack of support, but we are planning a buffet-and-skittles event at a local pub in March (see What's On below). Please do let us know where **YOU** would like to go on an outing!

This year is the 40th anniversary of the founding of u3a. I was interested to discover that it actually started in France. You can read about it at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/about/history> and also on Wikipedia.

We are thinking about how we could celebrate this in Shepton, so if you have an idea, please let someone on the committee know. It will take place in September so all or part of the event could be outdoors.

Best wishes,
Janet

What's On

Thursday 3 March
10am-12 noon

Speaker Meeting
Salvation Army
Hall

Herbalist, Bett Partridge from Wookey

£2 for members, £3 non-members, free tea or coffee

Due to covid regulations we can only admit 40 to the Salvation Army Hall.

Please let Liz Nash know if you intend to come along

Wednesday 16 March
12.00 noon till
3pm ish

Buffet and Skittles
£10.25

Poachers Pocket, Doultong

Look out for Janet's email for full details

Thursday 7 April

Speaker Meeting

History of Gem Stones by
Rachel Boothroyd

Thursday 5 May

Speaker Meeting

Chris Copson talking about
Sparkford Motor Museum

Members' Corner

Maggie's 'A' quiz for March

1. Who was the Greek Goddess of Love and Beauty?
2. In which state of the USA is the Grand Canyon?
3. What does an Agronomist do?
4. Who was the wife of King Edward VII?

5. By what is the plant Saintpaulia better known?
6. By what other name is Alligator Pear known?
7. Who wrote 'Brave New World'?
8. Who was the original host of 'Have I got News for You'?
9. What is the largest Spanish-speaking country in the world?
10. Who was the first man to reach the South Pole?

Answers next month

Answers to February Quiz

1. What do we call the process of submerging fruit or vegetables in water?
Blanching
2. What is the name of the dish when beef is cooked in pastry? Beef
Wellington
3. Modern carrots are orange in colour but what was their original colour?
Purple
4. Which seafood is known as the "Norwegian Lobster"? **Scampi**
5. Who is the God of food and drink in the ancient Greek myths? **Ambrosia**
6. Which country does Pecorino cheese come from? **Italy**
7. What kind of stew is the French bouillabaisse? **Fish Stew**
8. *Au jus* is a cookery term originating in France. What is it loosely cooked in?
Natural Juices
9. What is a mandolin used for? **To slice thinly**
10. One cup is equivalent to how many teaspoons? **16**

Shepton Library Proposed Shared Reading Group

Would you like to try the Shared Reading Group at Shepton library?

Who is it for? Everyone! Shared reading is a great way to connect with different people and talk about stories and poems in a small, informal group setting.

How does it work? A group of people, one of them a trained reader leader, reads part of a great novel, short story or poem aloud. We stop and to just listen too. The group gets involved with the piece and shares their thoughts, ideas and feelings about what has been read.

When is it? The group will run weekly for one hour on a drop-in basis. The first Taster Session will be on **Friday 25 February at 11am**. (Unfortunately this date was confirmed too late for our last newsletter. Please ask library staff for more details.)

If you would like to contribute to Members' Corner please send your articles, reminiscences, local history, photographs etc to the editor by 20th of the month, thank you.

Puzzling tree

If you go into Collett Park at the bottom gate and take the left fork until you reach the first seat and sit down you then will be facing a large tree. Let your gaze wander up about 20 feet or so and you will see a most unusual horizontal



branch. It is about 2 inches diameter and 3 feet long.

You will note that both ends of this branch are drawing to the major trunks of the tree.

Barry and Barbara think this is most unusual and wonder if any of our members have seen it before?

Thanks to you both for spotting this unusual tree and sending it in. They have circled the branch in red.

Regional News and u3a National News

Online Learning

Janet would like to draw everyone's attention to the brilliant programme of online talks which are available through the u3a National Website which is:

www.u3a.org.uk

Some examples of titles: Toulouse-Lautrec and the Cabarets of Paris; Ancient Civilisations of the Americas; UK marine wildlife; Exploring World Faiths and many more.

These talks are presented by experts and last about 90 minutes. You need to register if you wish to "attend" one. You will need to have Zoom installed on your computer (easy to download).

Group News

Classic car appreciation

I thought members might like to know that **Cars on the Green** event will take place at **Downside Abbey, Sunday 20 March, 10 till 4.**

It is for classic and high performance vehicles.

Entry £5 per car, payable in advance contact Meilleur Mode events@meilleurmode.co.uk

It is being organised by Project Auto who have a repair shop, showroom and cafe at Waterlip Business Park.

Contact Jonathan if you would like to join his classic car group.



Walking

Photos of a circular walk around Priddy at the beginning of the month.





Shorter Walks

We enjoyed wonderful views to Glastonbury, Wells Cathedral and Brean Down on a Liz and Pete walk from Wookey Hole to Wells and back. Some 4 miles in all it was an interesting walk along part of the West Mendip Way and through the beautiful Milton Lodge estate. Coffee and cake at the pub in Wookey was very welcome.



What do these have in common?



They are examples of groups that have now got going again...after the restrictions of the last two years...

Table Tennis: every Tuesday and Friday afternoon

Art: Monday afternoon, 2nd and 4th Mondays

Bridge: every Tuesday afternoon.

Many others are up and running, walking, strolling, munching, sewing... if interested in joining any activity, contact the group organiser below.

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	Sylvia Ingham
French	Jane Burman
Conversation Munch Club	Maggie Hardy
Music	Leader and venue required
Appreciation 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	Mike Burr
1 and 2	
Walking	Liz Weeks
Woolcraft	Pam Mitchell
Writing for Pleasure	Kevin Hoole

Committee Members



From left Janet Sherwin, Janet Murray, Jane Morrison, Keith Taylor, Sue Dunne, Julia Goddard, Maggie Fowle, Liz Nash, Carole Mullender, Jane Burman and Hovis

We thought it would be a good idea to let you know a little more about us and what we do on the committee. Following on from last month's committee members, here's **Maggie Fowle, Membership Secretary, vice chair Jeanette Marsh, Carole Mullender cooptee member and Treasurer, Jane Burman**

[Maggie Fowle](#)

As Membership Secretary I process your application forms and update changes on our database. At our renewal days other committee members help me to write new cards and check forms. The most enjoyable part of my role is when I sign members in at our speaker meetings, putting faces to names.

[Jeanette Marsh](#)

I am vice-chair of the Shepton Mallet u3a. I have been fortunate in having Liz Nash as chair and she has been supportive of my role. Now we are lucky to have

Janet Sherwin as chair and I will be able to deputise for her when necessary and be part of the dynamic u3a committee. All sorts of ideas are being discussed to bring our u3a out of the Covid doldrums and into a new and vibrant future. I look forward to being part of this.

Carole Mullender

I've recently been coopted onto the u3a committee. I have lived in Shepton for the past six years and in the area for the past 23 years although I originated from West London. I retired and waited until the pandemic eased before joining u3a last September in the hope of enjoying life more with regular activities that there had never seemed enough time for in the past with family and work. I am now a regular at the table tennis group and am sure it does me good; I certainly enjoy the company and banter we all enjoy there. My background is quite varied but I am an ex English secondary teacher, an ex recruitment manager, an ex typesetter at the local newspaper, an ex secretary. I have a keen interest in all things language based. I hope that as part of the committee my background experience will help in some way. I look forward to meeting those of you I have not yet met.

Jane Burman

I am the 'monies' person! You will see me at Speaker Meetings collecting entry fees, to pay for the hall hire, speaker expenses and 'free' tea and coffee. I am also responsible for receiving money from group leaders to pay for venue hire (for those groups who meet in a larger hall and not in somebody's home), transport hire (Outings group) and of course collect members' subscriptions! There are also payments due to the Third Age Trust as our u3a is affiliated to the Trust (eg to cover group insurance, support for the administrative Beacon system, copyright licence, payment for the TAM magazine etc). I keep records of all in and out payments to our bank account and produce an Income and Expenditure Account at the end of the year, required by the Charities Commission.

Chair	Janet Sherwin
Vice Chair	Jeanette Marsh
Secretary	Liz Nash (to be shadowed by Jane Morrison for 3 months)
Treasurer	Jane Burman
Groups Coordinator	Sue Dunne
Membership Secretary	Maggie Fowle
Newsletter	Julia Goddard
Outings	Janet Sherwin
Publicity	<i>Vacant</i>
Speaker Secretary	Jane Morrison
Website	Keith Taylor
Member	Janet Murray
Coopted Member	Carole Mullender

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.