

u3a learn, laugh, live

Shepton Mallet

Newsletter

June 2022

sheptonmalletu3a.org.uk



From the Chair

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From the Chair

Hello everyone!

So June is busting out all over and probably as you receive this, the Platinum Jubilee celebrations will be in full swing! Let's hope the sun will shine and Her Majesty will be able to enjoy it all.

Our u3a group continues its reawakening after the long Covid doze. We have 140 members now – it's great to see the numbers steadily increasing! Singing for Pleasure, Bridge and Discussion groups have recently re-started. Why not have a look at the list at the end of this newsletter, and try something new?

Instead of a Speaker Meeting this month, we are holding a **Jubilee-themed quiz-and-coffee morning** on Thursday 9 June, at the Salvation Army Hall from 10 – 12 am. As usual, the cost will be only £2 for members, £3 for guests, to include tea or coffee and a biscuit (or two!) There will be a prize for the winning team of up to 4 people. Do come and join us!

Outings – You will already have received an email about the June outing to Hestercombe House and gardens, near Taunton, on Friday the 17 June. If you would like to come and have not yet contacted me, please email me today for an application form. The total cost is £25 each.

Mid Somerset Show on Sunday 21 August – we are hoping to have a table at the show to advertise ourselves, give out leaflets etc. Please let me know if you could spare an hour or two that day to help staff it.

40th anniversary of u3a in September – we are working on arrangements for this, hoping to provide a celebration to suit everyone whilst attracting plenty of attention to u3a! Offers of help will be gratefully received.

Best wishes,
Janet



What's On

Speaker Meetings start 10.30am

Thursday 9 June	Salvation Army Hall	Coffee Morning and Jubilee Quiz
Thursday 7 July	Salvation Army Hall	The Victorian Kitchen Garden with Francis Burroughs
Thursday 4 August	Meet at the Salvation Army Hall	Provisional: Local History Walk around Shepton with Alan Stone

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

Please contact Jane Morrison if you have any suggestions for a speaker and/or if you can help on the day

Speaker Meeting Suggestions and Help Needed

More ideas from u3a members are welcome – who or what would you like to hear about at the monthly Speaker Meetings? Be like the Spice Girls and tell me what you want, what you really, really want! Please put your hand up if you are willing

and able to help with the refreshment rota for the meetings. The role is to make teas and coffees, open the biscuits and then enjoy the meeting.

If you can boil a kettle, then you are qualified!

If several come forward, then you may only be called upon to assist once a year!

Please let me, Jane Morrison, know if you can help your u3a. Thank you, Jane

Outings

Friday 17 June

Hestercombe Gardens, near Taunton



Mini bus leaving Dobbies at 10am returning by 6pm. Admission and transport total £25. See Janet's 13 May email for full details. Contact Janet Sherwin if you would like more details and an application form.

Is there somewhere you'd like to go? Let Janet know and she might arrange an outing.

Lunch and Skittles

Wednesday 15 June

**Poacher's Pocket,
Chelynch**

Arrive at 12 noon for lunch at 12.15pm followed by skittles.

If you would like to join us, please contact me and I will send you a form. Please fill in the form and return to me with a cheque for £11.00 for the buffet by 6 June. I shall have some forms with me at Solo Coffee Morning on Monday 6 June at the Brasserie, or our usual Dobbies Coffee Morning on Thursdays.

Janet Murray

Members' Corner

June Speaker Meeting: Talk by Chris Copson of Haynes Motor Museum

Mr Copson is a military historian who has been at the museum for three years. It was created in a former sawmill by the firm responsible for the

wildly successful car manuals, and now has about 400 cars from the last 150 years, starting with a replica of an 1886 Benz Motorwagen, through the Model T Ford and the E-type Jag, to the latest Williams F1 cars.

The museum gets around 100,000 visitors per year and is now evolving into a more "hands-on" experience emphasising the STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) aspect of the vehicles. Some especially interesting models are the 1896 Benz actually made in Bath by Horstmann, an East German Trabant, a Russian Gaz used by the KGB and a Stanley steam car.

The motor car changed the world and the one leading the way was the Tin Lizzie, or Model T Ford, first produced in 1908. This was made affordable through the use of a revolutionary (at the time) assembly line system.

The museum has a café and had a revamp during lockdown, so if you went years ago, you may be pleasantly surprised now.

Its website is www.haynesmotormuseum.org.

Janet Sherwin



Chris Copson, Janet Sherwin and SMu3a member Jim Morrison

Complete Maggie's June Quiz

1. Who won the 2012 Grand National and who was the jockey?
2. Under which tree is a set of variations with fugue composed by Jaromir Weinberger set?
3. What has Lumiere been transformed into in Disney's Beauty and the Beast?
4. What did Ezra Warner invent in 1858?
5. Which town in Wales is situated at the southern end of the Rhymney Valley?
6. Which David Bowie song was released in 1983?
7. Which city was the capital of Roman Britain?
8. Which fossil is found in Gough's Cave in Somerset?
9. How is the throne of Japan better known?
10. Which flower is the state flower of Alabama?



Answers next month

Maggie's 'B' a quizzer in May answers

1. Who are the two main protagonists in 'Much Ado About Nothing' called?
[Beatrix and Benedict](#)
2. What is the capital city of Slovakia?
[Bratislava](#)
3. Which football club was founded in 1882 and who won the FA Charity Shield in 1960 and 1973?
[Burnley FC](#)
4. What breed of dog was originally called the Russian Wolfhound?
[Borzoi](#)
5. What food do we get from the Huso Huso Sturgeon?
[Beluga Caviar](#)
6. Which bird is the national bird of the USA?
[Bald Eagle](#)
7. Who composed the Brandenburg Concertos?
[Johann Sebastian Bach](#)
8. Who invented the wind-up radio?
[Trevor Bayliss](#)
9. In which county in England is Cliveden House and who originally owned it?
[Buckinghamshire, the Astor family](#)
10. Which 1968 film directed by Roger Vadim starred Jane Fonda?
[Barbarella.](#)

Benefits of joining u3a

A recent Guardian article, 'A new start after 60' tells the story of Marion Elliot from Kent who joined her local u3a. She already knew of u3a but she had always been too busy to sign up. After her marriage break up, she looked up her branch and through new friendships, joining groups and the committee made a new life for herself. Read the article here ['A new start after 60'](#)

Norma Barker, now of Westbury on Trym

Liz Nash recently received an enquiry from Katharine Barker who is Norma Barker's daughter and, when replying, sent our best wishes to Norma from everyone at SMu3a.

Katharine messaged back with the following:

Mum has now moved from Shepton to a St Monica Trust care home in Westbury on Trym which is closer to my brother and I. Sadly she has dementia following a stroke, but she is well looked after and it's good to be able to see her more often.

I know she was a keen member of U3a and made some good friends through the organisation. She was in Shepton for 20 years and was very fond of the town.

We remember Norma as an attractive, very smart lady with a lovely smile and it is reassuring to know she is cared for and close to family.

Plants for Sale

£1 each

Hardy fuchsias, Geraniums, Verbena for tubs and baskets, Bidens for tubs and baskets

Grown with care by John Lees tel: 01749 880260

All proceeds to boost the Doultong church fund



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

Regional News and u3a National News

Events to mark u3a's 40th anniversary

From mass picnics and science lectures to robot competitions there's lots going on. You can find out more and book events by going to

u3a.org.uk/events/40th-anniversary

Group News

Does the thwack of leather on willow evoke memories?

If so, why don't you join the Cricket Appreciation Group? Meet up in the pub, have a pint and enjoy reminiscing about games you may have watched or seen. Stir your stumps and give Jonathan Fowle a call.

If cricket isn't your bag, perhaps you would like to consider:

Chess - Contact Sue Dunne

Scrabble/Board Games

Short Tennis

Writing for pleasure

Group Leaders are waiting for you, so come on and give it a try!

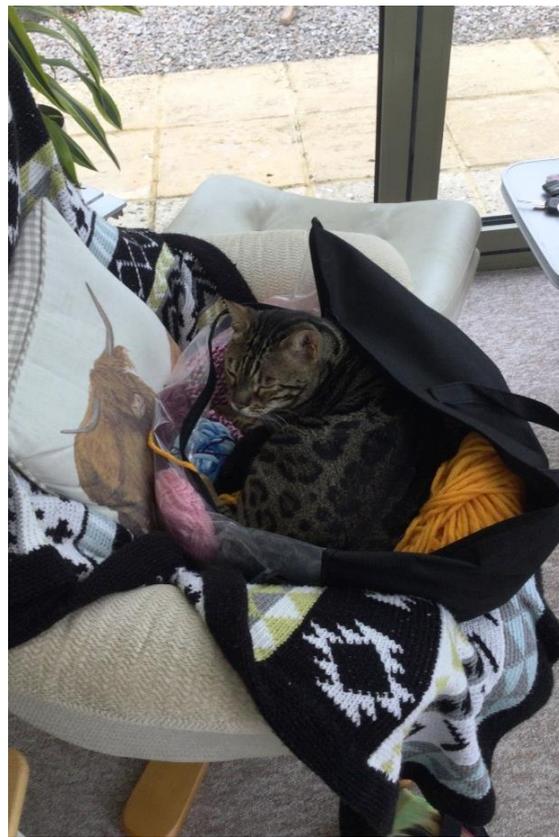
Woolcraft by Pam Mitchell

The Woolcraft group has just had their May meeting and we were a full house for the first time for months, all 7 of us. We thought we might look like a group of "old ladies" gossiping but we actually have very lively discussions which can sometimes get quite heated, and we were wondering whether the Discussion Group should join us to knit and join in?!

Mowgli Mitchell (the cat) likes to join in too, although not necessarily helpfully, but he eventually got tired of the talking and retired into Val's wool bag, had a wash and went to sleep. Fortunately, she noticed he was there before she left!



What are we knitting?
Blankets for older children for Project Linus.



Shorter Walks

A walk around Pilton in May took in footpaths and fields of this pretty village now gearing up for its famous festival. The imposing church with hunky punks to ward off evil spirits, the largest tithe barn in the area, stunning houses and beautiful gardens were enjoyed by 13 walkers. The New Coffee Shop, Top Street, has superb views over the village as well as excellent coffee and cake, well worth a visit.



Air-guitar at the Pyramid stage



The New Coffee Shop with views across Pilton

Bridge



Are there any more bridge players out there? We play 2pm every Tuesday afternoon in Doultling Village Hall. Friendly and supportive with excellent biscuits at tea break...

Probably not suitable for absolute beginners but 'lapsed' or 'returners' would be more than welcome!

Contact through the website or phone Joan Bennett.

Singing for Pleasure

The Singing for Pleasure group has now restarted after a 2 year break due to COVID-19. It is held on the 4th Friday of the month at The Salvation Army Hall at 10.30 am to 11.30 am followed by tea or coffee, biscuits and a chat. As Alison, the previous Group Leader stressed.....it is not a choir, we don't perform publicly and the ability to read music is not necessary. It is purely for relaxation and enjoyment. If you feel you want to 'give it a go' or just come along to see what it's all about, please get in touch with Val Sherring.

Possible new group

Are there any keen chess players out there? Or would you like to learn to play? Contact Sue Dunne if you are interested in starting up or joining a chess group.



Monthly Activities

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Monday	Walking	Discussion 10.30am Bowls 11am Art 2-4pm	Walking Woolcraft 2pm	Bowls 11am Art 2-4pm
Tuesday	Book Group 10.30am Photography 2pm Bridge 2pm Table Tennis 2pm	Collectables 10.30am Table Tennis 2pm Bridge 2pm Needlecraft 2pm	Bridge 2pm Table Tennis 2pm	Table Tennis 2pm Bridge 2pm Needlecraft 2pm
Wednesday	French conversation 10am Short Tennis 4-5pm	Short Tennis 4-5pm	French conversation 10am Short Tennis 4-5pm	Short Tennis 4-5pm
Thursday	Speaker Meeting 10.30am	Coffee 10.30am Scrabble 2pm	Shorter Walks Coffee 10.30am Strollers 1.30pm	Coffee 10.30am Scrabble 2pm
Friday	Table Tennis 2pm	Table Tennis 2pm	Munch Club Table Tennis 2pm	Singing for Pleasure 10.30-12 Table Tennis 2pm

The table above represents the usual meeting dates for groups. The actual dates may vary. Writing for Pleasure meets fortnightly at 2pm on a Thursday and Scrabble/Board Games day and venue are fluid. Coffee mornings meet every Thursday at Dobbies except when there is a Speaker Meeting on the first Thursday of the month. You should contact group leaders for confirmation of dates. For more information on any of our groups visit the website www.sheptonmalletu3a.org.uk or contact the individual group leader below.

Group Contacts

- Art** Jane Burman
- Graham Cooper
- Books** Sue Dunne
- Bowls** John Smith
- Bridge** Joan Bennett
- Classic Car Appreciation** Jonathan Fowle
- Collectables** Liz Nash
- Cricket** Jonathan Fowle
- Discussion** Malcolm Weeks
- French Conversation** Jane Burman
- Munch Club** Maggie Hardy
- Needlecraft** Liz Weeks
- Outings** Janet Sherwin
- Photography** John Law

Scrabble, Cards/Board Games	Joan Bennett
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

Chair	Janet Sherwin
Vice Chair	Jeanette Marsh
Secretary	Carole Mullender
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/Beacon	Keith Taylor
Committee Member	Janet Murray
Committee Member	Liz Nash

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.