

# u3a

## Shepton Mallet News

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July 2023

FROM THE CHAIR

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GROUP NEWS

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u3a members Sue and  
Andy on their Wedding Day  
*photo by Julia Goddard*



*U3a is a UK wide collection of over 1000 charities that provide the opportunity for those no longer in full-time work to come together and learn for fun. Explore new ideas, skills and interests with your local Shepton Mallet u3a.*

## FROM THE CHAIR

Hello everyone,

I hope you have all recovered from the Festival last weekend, either as a paying participant or helpless listener. It's a mixed blessing but good for the local economy, and I was impressed to discover that Mr Eavis has provided some low-cost housing for people from Pilton.

Thanks to all those who have managed to tip some water around our ornamental pear tree. As I write, it's looking good and we've had some rain thank goodness, so we may have saved it! Sadly I can't say the same about other young trees in the park. We really need to move on from the current "sun good, rain bad" attitude prevalent everywhere, including from radio and television weather presenters! Let's all keep an eye on our tree, and do what we can to keep it growing.

Luckily it was fine for Collett Park Day and we had a really successful few hours under Jane and Jim Morrison's super gazebo. We signed up 7 new members and gave out lots of leaflets, so it was definitely worth doing. We were rewarded with some free bread rolls from Denela's at the end of the day! Thanks again to all those who helped.

We now have 160 members – my dream is 200 by Christmas. Just think, if every member could recruit just one new one...! We have sent publicity material to local publications and large local employers, as there are always people about to retire, who may well be looking for something to join. On the other hand, I read in the paper (so it must be true!) that quite a few retired people are going back to work for financial reasons, now that everything is so expensive. Apparently employers are pleased to have us as we are good workers!!

I'm very pleased to be able to tell you that our Secretary, Carole, is recovering well after her hospital treatment and has even managed to play a bit of table tennis! The committee are very grateful to Maggie Hardy for standing in at meetings and doing a grand job with the agendas and minutes. Carole is hoping to be back for the July meeting. It's holiday season, so I hope those who have already been away had a good time, and I wish "Bon voyage!" to everyone planning to go over the next few weeks.

Best wishes,  
Janet Sherwin

## WHAT'S ON

### Shepton Mallet u3a Speaker Meetings

From 10.00am til 12.00 at the Salvation Army Hall. A cuppa, friendly company and an hour or so of discovery. Entrance is £2 members, £3 non-members, includes refreshments. Other Thursdays SMu3a coffee morning – from 10:30am in Dobbies Café.

### July Speaker Meeting

#### **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July – Lottie's Falling with Style Skydiving Stories.**

My dad was a spitfire, hurricane, mustang pilot in WW2 – he passed his love of flying over to me. Unable to learn to fly due to the costs involved, I took the next best route and learned how to fall out of a perfectly serviceable aircraft. I started Skydiving at the age of 31. During the next fifteen years I completed 1200 jumps including record-holding jumps, demos into Airshows, Wembley Stadium and competing at National Level. I offer an in-depth & often amusing overview of my Skydiving Days. Lottie.

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August – Royal National Lifeboat Institution** The RNLI have been saving lives at sea since the charity launched its first lifeboat in 1824 and has saved more than 144,000 lives at sea.

Across the years many things have changed, but the courage and commitment of brave volunteers has continued to the present day, as they work towards their goal of saving everyone.

The story of the RNLI is one of courage and dedication. Across a 200 year history, RNLI lifesavers have answered the call to rescue. Day or night. On calm seas or into ferocious storms. If someone is in peril at sea, the RNLI will do all they can to save them.

2023 Speaker events are:

7 <sup>th</sup> September – S&P Crane Restoration Project	5 <sup>th</sup> October – Darshill and Bowlish Heritage Project
2 <sup>nd</sup> November – Life on the International Space Station	December – Christmas Themed Quiz

Please ask if you need a lift to get to groups and events and any willing driver's please make your offers of lifts known to group leaders and fellow members!

## June Speaker Meeting

In June we heard from Lisa and the East Somerset Railway story. Lisa also mentioned the Café which serves delicious cakes and snacks! You don't need a ticket to visit the Café and you can also wander the platform and engine sheds to see the restorations and work being done to preserve the East Somerset Railway heritage. A very pleasant way to spend a few hours!

**Jane Morrison** is the Speaker Secretary.

## Collett Park Day



Saturday, June 10 was a great opportunity to publicise Shepton Mallet u3a. The day proved both enjoyable and fruitful, with new member enquiries and networking contacts made.

## GROUP ACTIVITIES

The table below represents the usual meeting dates for groups. The actual dates may vary. Coffee mornings every Thursday at Dobbies, except when there is a Speaker Meeting on the first Thursday of the month.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
<b>Monday</b>	Walking	Discussion 10.30am Art 2-4pm	Walking Woolcraft 2pm	Art 2-4pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	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
<b>Wednesday</b>	French conversation 10am Short Tennis 4-5pm	Play-reading 10.00am  Short Tennis 4-5pm	French conversation 10am Short Tennis 4-5pm	Short Tennis 4-5pm
<b>Thursday</b>	Speaker Meeting 10.30am	Coffee 10.30am Scrabble 2pm	Shorter Walks Coffee 10.30am Strollers 1.30pm	Coffee 10.30am Scrabble 2pm
<b>Friday</b>	Table Tennis 2pm	Table Tennis 2pm	Munch Club Table Tennis 2pm	Singing for Pleasure 10.30-12 Table Tennis 2pm

### Insurance reminder

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.

**Contact group leaders** below for more information and confirmation of dates.

<b>Art</b>	Jane Burman Graham Cooper
<b>Book group</b>	Janis Thomson, Liz Nash
<b>Bridge</b>	Joan Bennett
<b>Classic Car Appreciation</b>	Jonathan Fowle
<b>Collectables</b>	Liz Nash
<b>Cricket</b>	Jonathan
<b>Appreciation</b>	Fowle
<b>Discussion</b>	Harry Thomson
<b>French</b>	Jane
<b>Conversation</b>	Burman
<b>Munch Club</b>	Maggie Hardy
<b>Needlecraft</b>	Liz Weeks
<b>Outings</b>	Janet Sherwin
<b>Photography</b>	John Law
<b>Play-reading</b>	Janet Sherwin
<b>Scrabble, Cards/Board Games</b>	Joan Bennett
<b>Singing for Pleasure</b>	Val Sherring Jane Burman
<b>Shorter Walks</b>	Jenny Wehrfritz
<b>Short Tennis</b>	Eric Wehrfritz
<b>Solos</b>	Janet Murray
<b>Strollers</b>	Josh Hartley
<b>Table Tennis</b>	Mike Burr
<b>1 and 2</b>	
<b>Walking</b>	Liz Weeks
<b>Woolcraft</b>	Pam Mitchell



## GROUP NEWS

### The Walking Group



Walking Group – Leigh on Mendip June 5



Walking can be thirsty work



## June 5 Walking Group

### Leigh on Mendip

On a gorgeous Summer's day, fifteen of us enjoyed a lovely walk of just over five miles through wild flower meadows, woodland and along the Mells stream in the Leigh upon Mendip area. We skirted Vobster and Coleford, returning to Leigh upon Mendip, multiple stiles and a steady uphill climb later. Eight of us went to The Bell Inn in the village for refreshment and a well-earned lunch.

Thanks for joining us,

Gill and Pete



Walking Group visit Maesbury June 19



Our mid June walk circled across fields, lanes and tracks through undulating Somerset countryside from Rocky Mountain and back up to Masbury Castle. We discovered flower filled marshes and forgotten quarries as well as a WW2 ammunition dump near the old Masbury Station, the highest on the Somerset and Dorset Railway line. The uphill bits were rewarded with wonderful, far reaching, views across Somerset and beyond.

The early morning rain had lowered the temperature from scorching to pleasantly warm for which we were all thankful and lunch at Rocky Mountain rounded off the morning and is highly recommended!



The Walking Group make photographer's job difficult

### Shorter Walks Group

South Cadbury was June's sunny destination.



How to pose for a group photo

## Creative Writing Group

We're a bit short on news this week, so you've only yourselves to blame if you don't like this contribution.

New Shepton Mallet u3a member **Una McKillen** is nurturing a writing group. There are no rules, and no experience is necessary. Just enjoyment of having a go at writing. So far (two meetings in) lively, fun discussion is the group's trademark. And Una's biscuits.

To get the ball rolling, I have volunteered to explain my area of interest – scriptwriting. I have two main projects, both of which are resolute failures. But it's the trying that counts (really?) Rather than reproduce the full 4 x 60 minute scripts, I thought I'd share with you the main ideas which underpin our dark comedy drama. I co-wrote the scripts with Madeleine Harris, who you may know for portraying Judy Brown in the 2014 and 2017 Paddington films.

### Sale s pitch (Logline)

For a young cafe worker, death and a flat tyre are life changing events.

### The Idea

What if a young, isolated woman, trapped in a life of just about managing, gets a lucky break?

### Story

Maddie Harris works in a cafe in Cheddar – a small Somerset town between limestone rocks and peaty meadows. A low rent bedsit is a 'perk' of the job. Maddie has a quick wit which disguises insecurity and sadness.

It's Winter, and she's at her lowest. She has thoughts of suicide. Maybe jumping from Cheddar Gorge. But at least she's not on the streets.

Her one day off is going from bad to worse when a chance meeting with a Aster Byron – a Bentley driving enigma – leads, eventually, to an opportunity. Aster offers her a job, with accommodation provided. A bedroom in a very high end barn conversion near Chew Valley lake.

And the job? To be Aster's end of life companion. But why ask Maddie, when a woman with Aster's obvious wealth could afford the best and most experienced doula?

It's the answer to this question which drives the drama forward. In a contest between power, wealth and self-belief, no punch is too low.

*So there we have it.*

*Kevin Hoole*



## Maggie's Quiz

1. Which Russian composer wrote the opera "Pictures at an Exhibition"?
2. What is the capital city of Liberia?
3. What did Roger Bannister complete in 4 minutes in 1952
4. Which cocktail consists of gin, light rum, vodka, peach schnapps, triple sec, sour mx, cranberry juice and lime soda?
5. Who was Prime Minister of the United Kingdom in 1924 and from 1929–31, 1931–35?

*(Answers on page 12 )*

## Come and join us

No longer working full-time? Children grown up? Join your local **u3a** to meet new people and explore a wide variety of interests. Make the most of life for annual membership of only £12.

Contact **Janet Sherwin** 01749 344627

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

or just come along to this month's Speaker Meeting (see What's On section).

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<b>Chair</b>	Janet Sherwin
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Sue Dickerson
<b>Secretary</b>	Carole Mullender
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jane Burman
<b>Groups Coordinator</b>	Jeannette Marsh
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Keith Taylor
<b>News Editor</b>	Kevin Hoole
<b>Outings</b>	Janet Sherwin
<b>Publicity</b>	<i>Vacant</i>
<b>Speaker Secretary</b>	Jane Morrison
<b>Website/Beacon</b>	Keith Taylor
<b>Committee Member</b>	Janet Murray
<b>Committee Member</b>	Liz Nash

## NATIONAL AND REGIONAL NEWS

Please see the National u3a Newsletter.

## USEFUL LINKS

[www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

Shepton Mallet u3a local website

[www.sheptonmalletu3a.org.uk](http://www.sheptonmalletu3a.org.uk)

### **Answers to Maggie's Quiz**

1. Petrovich Mussorgsky.
2. Monrovia.
3. A mile.
4. Miami Iced Tea- hic!
5. Ramsay MacDonald

### **Interested in u3a?**

If you think that u3a might be for you, please contact *Janet Sherwin* on 01749 344627, [sherwinj@outlook.com](mailto:sherwinj@outlook.com), or just come along to our monthly speaker meeting at the Salvation Army hall, Shepton Mallet.

*Thank you to all our contributors this month. Please send items for the next u3a News (by 20th) to the editor,*

[kevin.hoole@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kevin.hoole@yahoo.co.uk)

*Our congratulations go out to Shepton Mallet u3a members **Sue and Andy** who were married in May. We're proud to feature a photo of the day on the front cover.*