

## From the Chair

Being elected Chairman in the middle of Jubilee Year has made for very interesting times. I was born and bred in this city and I thought I knew it so well. Yet, in mid May, I joined an afternoon cruise down the Sheffield Canal and saw very familiar sights from a completely new angle. We climbed aboard in Victoria Quay and it was a leisurely journey made more enjoyable by banks of red valerian, mallard ducks sunning themselves in the dappled light and a new and welcome sight to the canal this season - a pair of swans nesting.

Another cruise is booked for September and I wait to hear with interest if they spot the cygnets.

If you have a spare hour or two over the summer I urge you to take a walk into the Woodland Garden in Whirlow Brook Park. The transformation by SU3A's Gardening Group from a totally overgrown mesh of brambles and neglected shrubs to an eye pleasing garden is truly remarkable in such a short time and through such a harsh winter. This commemorative site sits so comfortably in the landscape, yet is only in its infancy, with partial planting of rhododendrons, camellias and other ericaceous soil loving shrubs. There is still much to do and it is not too late to get involved by either donating in memory of a loved one or by doing some spade work.

If you can help in any way please contact Alison Cowper on (0114) 274 6165,

Do you remember Harry Patch? He was known as "The Last Fighting Tommy" when he died on 25 July 2009 aged 111 years. With his death came the realisation that he was the last of those veterans who had served in the trenches of the Western Front.

He was a shy and reticent man who over his long life had said little about his war experiences, but towards the end he was persuaded to recount his memories for those who came after him. This was the trigger for a small group in SU3A to realise that *our* members

<b>Cover: Taking the Croquet Challenge at Wortley Hall Photo Mike Ford</b>
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may have their own stories to tell about the Second World War - and that has indeed proved to be true. A book entitled '*Lest We Forget*' has now been published and it is full of vivid, interesting and varied recollections.

If you have contributed to the book a free copy awaits you or you can purchase a copy by contacting Dot Sutcliffe on (0114) 268 5918,

With two years of planning over, our Jubilee celebration day dawned at last. The weather was kind to us, and it was with great pride that I wandered around with the Lord Mayor of Sheffield and Mayor of Barnsley, Ian Searle the Chairman of U3A, and representatives from YAHR (Yorkshire and Humberside Region) looking at the colourful displays and ingenious show of skills that we had on offer. Eventually, after lunch, we all spilled outside into the gardens where Ian McMillan officially opened our festival and his spirited address was delivered in a style that summed up the day: warm, at times nostalgic, friendly and full of fun.

We sat around in the sun laughing and chatting with old friends or new, played croquet on the lawn, listened to harmonious singing, watched dancing and plays, ate ice-creams and scones and jam, and drank tea or Pimms.

None of this would have happened without the help and cooperation of the exhibitors or the willingness of the volunteers but most of all the Jubilee Committee (and their spouses and partners) who worked long and tirelessly to make the event the success it was. No one could fail to be impressed by the energy and enthusiasm of those who took part. It is amazing that so many dedicated people have for so many years devoted so much of their time to the continuing success and development of our organisation. This is a small tribute to you all.

Have a lovely summer.

*Denise West*

# **Executive Committee Report**

## **A Grand Day Out!**

“Picture this: a lovely, warm June day. The walkers are walking, the sketchers are sketching in beautiful surroundings at an historic country house, Wortley Hall, former home of the Earl of Wharncliffe.”

These were the words of our former Chair, Shelagh Woolliscroft, speaking to a Group Coordinators' Meeting in October 2009. It has proved to be prophetic in that the Silver Jubilee Celebrations main event on 30 June 2011 was just like that. We hope that those who attended had an enjoyable day and would like to thank all the members involved in its organisation for their tremendously hard work in making it such a memorable event – from the planning group to the exhibitors.

## **Silver Jubilee programme of events**

Do keep checking in your *Links* for forthcoming events in our Silver Jubilee Year.

## **2012 AGM**

The date for the 2012 AGM has been set for Wednesday 18 April 2012. Notice of the date should help in planning any trips/visits.

## **Accident/Incident Report reminder**

We are aware that there have been some accidents/incidents that have not been reported. Would Group Coordinators please ensure that a report is sent to the Secretary should there be an unfortunate accident/incident. This is important for SU3A insurance cover.

## **Website**

Our website is an important way of keeping our members informed. If you have access to the internet, do use this facility. Or, if you wish to pass on important information to the members, our website is a good way to do it.

Date of the next Executive Committee meeting is Friday 2 September 2011.

*Vera Dyer*

## **SU3A Commemorative Garden**

### **Whirlow Brook - a Progress Report**

After six months' hard work the land by the upper pond and rock garden at Whirlow Brook Park has been cleared for the SU3A Silver Jubilee Commemorative Garden. The first 50 shrubs were planted at the end of March. This was, you will recall, followed by the driest April on record! The stream dried up and the pond became a bog-garden, so the intrepid diggers fetched water daily from a tap 300 metres away in order to keep the plants healthy.

Then we started to tidy the surrounding area. Steffon removed a sycamore tree from the pond with his own bare hands! Huge piles of rubbish were taken away on a tractor. The Parks staff supplied mulch for the beds and bark chippings for the paths. The Ranger service, helped by volunteers from HSBC, constructed a handrail to help visitors negotiate the steps up from the drive. There is also a 'back entrance' which is a fairly level woodland path.

On Monday 16th May all donors were invited to view the results. I think you can judge their feelings from the happy faces!

We still need as many plants again for the remaining area, so please think about donating the cost of a shrub. Phone Alison Cowper on (0114) 274 6165 and she will send you a form. You complete this and send it with your cheque to our Treasurer and the Whirlow Brook Team will do the rest. When the planting is complete a plaque will be put up at the entrance and a record of donations will be produced.

Meanwhile the group is dedicated to keeping the site looking good. We have really enjoyed getting this far and we shall continue to work at the Park twice a month. Come and have a look and bring your friends and family - the rhododendrons are now past their best but there is a good café in the Hall.

*Shelagh Woolliscroft*



## **SU3A Commemorative Garden – Working Day and Afternoon Tea**

Our "Gardening at Whirlow Brook Park" Group will continue to work throughout the summer holidays on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. New members will be very welcome.

On Wednesday 28 September 2011 we will be at Whirlow Brook Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for a special "Working Day". In the morning we will be tidying the site and planting bulbs; in the afternoon, the Lord Mayor of Sheffield, Sylvia Dunkley, is to view progress and join us for afternoon tea from 2.30 to 3.30.

**All** members are warmly invited to join in. If you want to lend a hand, phone Greta Pearman on (0114) 236 3336. If you would like to come for afternoon tea phone Alison Cowper on (0114) 274 6165.

Help! We need more donations to enable us to complete the planting in March 2012. If you would like to commemorate a loved one, please phone Alison for a donation form.

*Shelagh Woolliscroft..... Coordinator.....(01246) 416 139*



# Jubilee Celebrations

## An SU3A member writes:

A very big thank you to all who worked so very hard to make our Jubilee day such a resounding success. Each display was as interesting and exciting as the next, and as I strolled round I felt humbled by the knowledge that I belong to an organisation where there is so much enthusiasm and talent.

*Audrey Heeley*

## Our "Grand Day Out"

What a wonderful celebration of 25 years of Sheffield U3A we had on Thursday in the beautiful setting of Wortley Hall. Over 600 of us were joined by local and national guests as we discovered the huge range of educational, creative and leisure opportunities shared by our members. Seeing so many different activities in one place made us proud, if we were not already, to be part of this wonderful organisation.

Our guests were equally impressed. They included the Lord Mayor of Sheffield, Sylvia Dunkley, and her consort, John Dunkley; the Mayor of Barnsley, Karen Dyson, and her consort, Martin Dyson; Ian Searle, Chair, National U3A Trust; Derrick Franks, Chair, YAHR (Yorkshire and Humberside Region U3A); Anne Firth, Regional Trustee, YAHR; Alan Swann, Chair, Barnsley U3A; John Carter, Chair, Rotherham U3A and Ian McMillan, local poet, the Bard of



Barnsley, who gave the official "welcome" to us all. This was one of the many highlights of the day. He had us all in stitches!

Smiles all round!

Around 50 different Groups put in enormous effort and ingenuity to share their considerable expertise and obvious joy in their activities. Both inside and outside the hall was a buzz of activity. There are too many Groups to mention them all here but you know who you are.

The Science and Technology Group let us try our hand at pedal power.

The range of arts and handicrafts in the ballroom was a delight to the eye. Well done to all those members who managed the “orienteering challenge” to find their way there.

Members of Art Group 1 showed a beautiful group painting to celebrate our Jubilee.





Some of us tried our hand at handbell ringing. It took some concentration but the outcomes were very satisfying.



The Singing for Pleasure Group entertained us in the lounge both morning and afternoon as well as the French Group and we even had singing in Sanskrit!

The comic opera shown by the Enjoying Opera Group was so popular we had to find extra chairs.

The range of languages represented was impressive: as well as French and Sanskrit there was Classical Greek, Latin, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish. There was a variety of card and board games to try – even an interactive bridge game which proved a challenge to those trying out the bidding.

The Oral History Group treated us to a scene from the life of Bess of Hardwick and the 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Shrewsbury from the history of Manor Castle and what a setting they had - the steps and terrace of Wortley Hall!

The fine weather was a boon to the many outside activities. Our neighbours from Barnsley Line Dancing Group entertained us. A few brave souls joined in.



Board games on the grass, bowling and croquet were all popular and the five different walks were a huge success.



One of the most popular displays was a collection of World War II photos and memorabilia belonging to SU3A members.

Like all of us there, Ian McMillan was moved by the story of Otto Jakubovic.

In the photo Otto is telling Ian about how he was “liberated” from Auschwitz-Birkenau and showing him the jacket with the label “Leufer” he wore as a runner for an SS officer.

This role probably saved his life.



Otto's story is written in our new publication, 'Lest We forget'. Rita Brent and Don Kelly, whose stories also appear in the book, were presented with complimentary copies by Ian as was Otto. Altogether about 50 members' stories are included.

If you would like a copy (price £5.00 plus £1.30 postage per copy) they will be available at the monthly Drop -In or you can order from Dot Sutcliffe (contact details in the front of Links).

### **What a day!**

The sun, gardens and Hall all provided the perfect back drop for OUR GRAND DAY OUT. The most important ingredient, however, was the great mix of activities and members who made this such a memorable day.

*Pat Battams*

## **Dear Wortley Hall Exhibitor**

### **SU3A Jubilee Celebration, Wortley Hall, 30 June 2011**

#### **UNFORGETTABLE**

Wortley Hall and its estate is a very grand venue, but how much grander did you, the SU3A exhibitors and your teams, make it on 30 June 2011.

The event confirmed what powers of collaboration, inventiveness, resourcefulness, resilience, adaptability, creativity and sheer professionalism exist in the Sheffield U3A. Many of our 600 guests who attended have called to express their delight and admiration for the activities they saw and participated in, and often their sadness that they could not get round all of them.

You, the exhibitors, did a SPECTACULAR JOB. You made a summer-day outing to a country estate something really special and memorable for all those 600 visitors. You did it on strange territory (some of you had never set foot in your allotted "spot" before), you had to cooperate and share, and, in sum, the air of enthusiasm and joint good-natured teamwork was palpable. The massive amount of skill and industry was clearly evident.

We are acutely aware that the astonishingly high quality of the day was in the hands of all of you, the volunteer activity Groups. We hope that you got out of your visit as much enjoyment, interest and instruction as you gave to our 600 visitors.

Many, many thanks for your contribution.

Yours truly

*Jim Walker*

On behalf of Wortley Hall Planning Group: *Pat Battams, Brian and Doreen Bezant, Dave Caborn, Vera Dyer, Stella Longden, Shirley Marney, Dot Sutcliffe, Rose Tanner, Denise West and Shelagh Woolliscroft.*

PS:-Our SU3A website will publish photographs taken on the day. If you have any, especially of your exhibits, please send them to Clare Chiba who manages our website. Her electronic and bricks-and-mortar addresses can be found inside the front cover of *Links*.

## **Lest We Forget**

As part of SU3A's Jubilee celebrations the World War II project team has produced a book of SU3A members' memories of the Second World War. Entitled '*Lest We Forget*', it contains stories which cover a wide range of experiences: from being an evacuee to being a prisoner in a concentration camp; from serving in the Forces to surviving the Sheffield Blitz; from rationing and make-do-and-mend at home, to living in an enemy country.

They are all stories from ordinary people who lived through extraordinary times. The book is available from the Drop-In or from Dot Sutcliffe on (0114) 268 5918, or Irene Davy on (0114) 266 4605, .

The price is £5.00 plus post and packing of £1.30 per copy.

*Dot Sutcliffe*

**SU3A PROUDLY PRESENTS**  
**A**  
**Celebration Jubilee Event**  
**By Yorkshire's Favourite Storyteller**  
**GERVASE PHINN**

*"You can always tell a Yorkshireman, but you can't tell him much"*

At The Reception Rooms, Town Hall, Sheffield.

On WEDNESDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2011

Open 1.30 p.m. for a 2.00 p.m. start.

Refreshments at 3.30 p.m.

To apply for tickets see the booking form at the end of *Links*



**Jubilee Tea at the  
Cutlers' Hall is  
Confirmed!**

As the **final event** in the year of Silver Jubilee celebrations, you are invited to Afternoon Tea at the Cutlers' Hall on Friday 2 December 2011, 2.00 - 4.00 p.m.

The cost is £7.75 per head, for which you will get tea/coffee and a range of sandwiches (including vegetarian choices) and cakes. We are pleased to let you know that the deposit has been paid and contract returned. However, as we have an upper limit of 200 and now have just over 100 bookings, please complete the form at the end of *Links* and return it as soon as possible in order to avoid disappointment.



## **Picnic in Chatsworth Park**

**Tuesday 16 August 2011**

Continuing SU3A's Jubilee Celebrations, I am organising a picnic in the grounds of Chatsworth House.

Come and join us for a fun day with an organised programme on Tuesday 16 August 2011 starting at 12 noon. Cars to be parked in the normal car park at a cost of £2 00. The 214 bus starts from the Interchange and stops at Chatsworth House. Please check the timetable. The area chosen for the event will be well signposted from the car park.

Please bring your own picnic, drinks and chairs.

Family and friends are invited.

For more details ring Shirley Marney (0114) 235 0801

(No form required)

## **Last Words from Ian McMillan**



**“I know you are all anxious to get to your naked fretwork class!”**

## **Lectures for All**

Sheffield U3A invites you to the next lecture in the 2011 series. This event will take place at The Showroom Cinema 3, Paternoster Row, Sheffield, S1 2BX.

Take advantage of the FREEBEE Bus – it stops right outside.

Coffee and biscuits can be purchased from 10.00 a.m. prior to the lecture which begins at 10.30 a.m. until 12 noon.

The lecture is FREE and all are welcome.

Seats may be reserved on arrival. Lunch is available in the café afterwards.

**Friday 16 September 2011**

### **Recycling in Context: What happens to the stuff we put out for recycling?**

Speaker: **Liz Dixon Smith**, Chief Economist and Head of Market Knowledge, WRAP (Waste and Recycling Action Programme)

*How much "stuff" do we in the UK consume per year?*

*How much of this ends up in the waste stream, and then what happens to it?*

*What happens to the stuff that we put out for recycling?*

*Why can we not recycle our yoghurt pots?*

*Is recycling really better for the environment?*

*Is it counterproductive to send things to China for recycling?*

*Why does it all matter anyway?*

Liz Dixon Smith will help us understand the markets for the materials that we collect for recycling - and untangle all these questions.

WRAP's vision is a world without waste, where resources are used sustainably. They work with businesses and individuals to help them reap the benefits of reducing waste, develop sustainable products and use resources efficiently.

## Factors which Sustain Wellbeing in Later Life

Dr. Alex McMinn, MBE, is a remarkable man. After an eminent international medical career which won him the rare Medal of the Council of Europe, he turned his energies to U3A, becoming North West representative on the National Committee and Chairman of



the UK Research Committee. He is also a highly entertaining speaker, as he proved at the Showroom on 20 May. He was Founder-Chairman of Aughton and Ormskirk U3A. Starting 8 years ago A and O has grown dramatically and has won the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. They have a subscription of £15, regular use of a scout hut, and weekly and monthly meetings open to the whole group. Dr. McMinn has applied his vast

experience to trying to prevent mental decay in the ageing brain. He worked with Baroness Susan Greenfield on the MindGym project. Professor. Greenfield gave a lecture to A and O, which you can find on their website ([aughton-ormskirk-u3a.co.uk](http://aughton-ormskirk-u3a.co.uk) – follow Horizons > Monthly Meetings). This shows how, in rats which have the gene that will develop Huntington's Disease, the progress of the disease is very dramatically reduced if they are kept in a stimulating environment.

His message could be summed up as: "Life-long learning wards off things like depression, and evidence already shows that U3A membership produces much happier people." He also strongly endorses the importance of social and physical activities for brain health and stimulation. So we have the right balance of groups in Sheffield! To create a fulfilled Third Age, he would also stress the value of voluntary work, sensible diet, and meditation. And remember – younger generations are entitled to expect us to do something towards taking care of ourselves.

In 2008, A and O launched a brain-training initiative. They purchased multiple copies of the "Mindfit" computer program, and by October 2010, 120 members had been trained. *(Incidentally, underlining the relevance of a "holistic" approach, it has been shown that performance improves after meditation).*

A and O are very happy to share their experiences with other U3As.

## **Lunch and Lecture**

You are invited to lunch at the Sheffield Park Hotel, Chesterfield Road South, Meadowhead, Sheffield S8 8BW on:

**Friday 14 October 2011**

**Speaker: Louise Page**

### ***Coming Clean: A life in Soap Opera - People I have murdered!***

Louise lives in North Derbyshire and is a playwright, novelist, and journalist. She writes for both television and radio and worked for ten years as a script writer for BBC Radio Four's 'The Archers'. Her talk looks at the history of soap opera; what it is like to write for a long running series and how soap opera is being used as a developmental tool in many emerging countries.

If you would like to book a place, please fill in the form at the back of this issue of *Links*, to arrive **no later than Friday 23 September 2011**.

Please arrive at 12.00 for 12.30 p.m. – cost £15.50

There is ample parking and the number 53 bus from bay A3 at the Sheffield Interchange stops outside the Hotel. The number 75 bus from Ecclesfield via High Street stops near the Hotel at Meadowhead.

**The menu** will be:

*Fresh salmon oven baked and served with creamed white wine and dill sauce, garnished with a julienne of fresh leek & carrots, (jugs of extra sauce to be on the table); followed by seasonal fresh fruit topped with crumble and served with custard; freshly brewed coffee, and mints.*

*The **vegetarian** option is: spinach and feta filo parcel served with cream cheese sauce.*

*Doreen Bezant.....Coordinator.....(0114) 236 6596*



## **Classical Concertgoers' Group**

Our Autumn concert will take place at the Bridgewater Hall Manchester on Wednesday 19 October 2011. It will be given by the Hallé Orchestra, directed by Cristian Mandeal, with John Lill (piano). The programme includes Schubert's Overture "In the Italian Style", Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5 "Emperor" and Dvorak's Symphony No. 8.

The cost is £30.00 per person and reservations may be made using the reply slip at the end of this issue. Remember to enter the full names and contact numbers of all members for whom you are applying. Please send applications as soon as possible, with a small stamped addressed envelope, to Derek Shipley, 40 Wollaton Avenue, Sheffield, S17 4LA. The coach will leave the bus parking bay on Ecclesall Road South, near the top of Millhouses Lane, promptly at 4.30 p.m.

Our visits are open to all SU3A members. No special Group membership is required.

*Derek Shipley.....Coordinator.....(0114) 236 6257*

## **Advance Notice**

### **York Mystery Plays - August 2012**

The medieval cycle of York Mystery Plays has been told by the People of York for hundreds of years and is deeply embedded in the City's cultural heritage. The plays are presented once every four years and the demand for tickets is great - hence this early warning! I hope to get tickets for a matinee performance on the first or second Saturday in August 2012.

A 1400 seat bespoke theatre is being built around the ancient walls of St. Mary's Abbey to house this International event, which celebrates the York 800 City Charter and the Olympic Year.

There will be more information and a booking form in the October issue of *Links*.

*Margaret Bullivant*

# **John Martin: Painter of Apocalypse**

## **YAHR Regional Study Day**

**Tuesday 23 August 2011 10.30 a.m.—3.30 p.m.**

Refreshments available from 10.00 a.m.

### **The Arundel Room, Millennium Galleries, Sheffield**

The dramatic, Biblically inspired work of John Martin, the painter born in Haydon Bridge, Northumberland, in 1789 is being given proper recognition once again.

A new exhibition, which brings together the largest collection of Martin's work ever to be assembled, opened in Newcastle in early March 2011, is currently in Sheffield and transfers to Tate Britain in October 2011 as the major London winter exhibition.

In his lifetime Martin, painter and engraver of the 'apocalyptic sublime', was, like Dickens, adept in capturing the emotions and appetite for sensation in the general population. In the later 19<sup>th</sup> Century his reputation was high throughout Europe and, in America where his Judgement pictures toured in the 1850s, the tropes and images of Martin contributed to the concept of the 'American sublime', influenced early cinema, and went on to shape digital media and film in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Yet, in Britain, unlike his friend and rival painter Turner, for over a century the name and work of John Martin was forgotten or reduced to a footnote.

The Study Day, which is being organised with the kind assistance of Museums Sheffield, will be led by **Dr Barbara Morden**, author of a new book on John Martin, *'Apocalypse Now!'*

Barbara's illustrated talk will help us to understand Martin the man and the context of his paintings of Biblical catastrophe and visions of Paradise. This will prepare us for our visit to the exhibition, after which there will be an opportunity for questions and discussion. Copies of Barbara's book (which she will gladly sign for you) will be on sale in the Galleries shop or on-line from Amazon.

<p><a href="http://www.museums-sheffield.org.uk/museums/millennium-gallery/exhibitions/current/john-martin-painting-the-apocalypse">http://www.museums-sheffield.org.uk/museums/millennium-gallery/exhibitions/current/john-martin-painting-the-apocalypse</a></p>
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**Tickets (which include tea or coffee from 10.00 a.m.) cost £6.00.**

You are invited to make your own arrangements for lunch – the choice of local cafés is wide or you may wish to bring a picnic.

This is a unique opportunity to explore the work of a major British artist with one of the UK's foremost authorities and to see the biggest collection of his paintings in our lifetime.

**Places are limited** so do book early using the form at the end of *Links*. Your ticket(s), and any further information will then be sent to you. Please note, no tickets will be sent between 1 August and 12 August as I shall be out of the country.

Queries to *Shelagh Woolliscroft* (01246) 416 139

## **Group News**

### **Report from General Coordinator, 4 July 2011**

Our Wortley Hall jamboree may be over and all, if not the Earth, has gone flat again it seems.

But ... look at the back page! Our Jubilee events continue. Have a look!

### **Groups Review**

Since my last report in the June issue of *Links* there has been a change in the number of activity Groups in SU3A, i.e. there are 32 walking Groups, 5 "open" Groups, 136 general Groups, 173 in all.

Dining Out II has ceased, because Roy Morris is leaving Sheffield and his Group cannot find a successor.

History II, another of Roy's Groups, will continue despite Roy's departure because Angela Jakubovic, (0114) 236 3858, has agreed to organise the Group in the meantime.

Thursday Bridge has a new coordinator taking over from David Jones. He is David Buckle, (0114) 236 7893.

We wish Roy and his wife Jean a happy move from Sheffield, thankful for the contribution he has made to SU3A by coordinating

his Groups, and similarly wish David Jones relief from pressure as he retires from coordinating his Bridge Group.

One formative Group is “in the wings”:

**Organic Gardening:** Susan Bell has already launched this Group but is only just filling in the famous “Green Form”. By its nature this Group may exist only for the summer and autumn months, Susan says. Her telephone number is (0114) 250 8941.

### **Recordkeeping, Orange Forms, Emails**

One of the items in my Job Description is maintaining the database. The conduit for this information is the GREEN and the ORANGE FORMS. So, periodically, I check through to see if I have 173 Orange forms. I do not. I have 123. Therefore nearly 50 are “missing”. I say “nearly” because some Groups can not list a fixed Group because of the nature of their activity.

### **Wortley Hall ... morphs into ... Askham Bryan**

Wortley Hall has happened. Enough is printed elsewhere about the event, though I must give you two snippets about it:

(i) First Aiders were on hand all day. The only injury they had to deal with was a nettled foot. What a strong and healthy lot we are!

(ii) for the record, I wore a pedometer at the Hall. It read 5.86 miles at the end of the day. How much further did the really energetic people walk, trot or run?

But I must alert you to a related event:

Next year, Wednesday 15 August 2012, our region’s U3As intend to celebrate at Askham Bryan.

Are you still seeking to relive the adrenalising experience of Wortley Hall? Then you might think of preserving your Wortley displays and volunteering for Askham Bryan next year. We have no details to give you yet apart from date and venue. But think about it. So many compliments have been voiced about the awesome quality of the exhibits at Wortley Hall that they deserve exposure to the region, do they not?

*Jim Walker.....General Coordinator*





Jim Walker General Coordinator and Shelagh Woolliscroft  
Past Chairman contemplating a job well done.

## **Coordinators' Autumn Meeting**

Morning of Wednesday 12 October 2011. Details will follow by letter. It is not too early to submit issues for inclusion in the programme of that meeting. Simply send in your concerns or suggestions by post, telephone or email and I will place them on the Agenda.

*Jim Walker .....General Coordinator*

## **New Groups**

### **Personal Finance**

This new Group will meet each month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday afternoon, starting at 2 p.m. from 19 September at Shirley House, Psalter Lane. The topics planned for the Autumn Term will include a "Question Time" session, Wills and planning, Share selection and Green energy.

Please contact: *Helen Marsh (0114) 230 1622*

## **Sanskrit: an introduction**

Sanskrit is a beautiful language, the source of many sounds, roots and words in English and other European languages. It has been called “the elder sister of Greek”.

This 10 week non-academic course is open to all who are interested. No qualifications are required. We will focus on learning the sound and alphabet of Sanskrit and building up a simple vocabulary to enable us to speak, read and write simple words and sentences. The links between Sanskrit and English will also be explored.

The course will run from 10 a.m-12 noon starting on Thursday 22 September

If you are interested, please phone Roger Linstead.

*Roger Linstead.....Coordinator.....(0114) 236 3640*

## **Other Group News**

### **Philosophy Topics Group Has Vacancies**

The Group welcomes new members. It meets on the third Monday of the month (10 a.m. to noon) at the Barn Room of the De La Salle Association Club, Beauchief Drive, S8 7BA.

The Club is in the delightful setting of the grounds of Beauchief Hall and is accessed from Abbey Lane.

Coming from the direction of the Beauchief Hotel (Abbey Lane/ Abbeydale Road South traffic lights junction) take the right turning after about ¼ mile (Beauchief Abbey Lane) and continue straight up past the Abbey towards the Hall for about ½ mile.

The Group discusses a variety of topics of Philosophical interest. For further information please contact

*Janet Haigh on (0114) 230 3070.*

## **A Different Kind of Walk**

On Thursday 2 June, 'G' Walking Group met at Manor Lodge car park for a walk on the Heritage Trail led by David Templeman.

The Heritage Trail started at Manor Lodge which once housed Mary, Queen of Scots. The Trail took in City Road cemetery and its history. The first people to be killed in a local motor accident were buried there. David told us about the first interments and the opening of the crematorium at City Road.

Norfolk Heritage Park was the next stop. Norfolk Park was once at the centre of the great Sheffield Deer Park, and was completed in 1848 by the 13<sup>th</sup> Duke of Norfolk for the residents of Park Hill "New Town". It was hoped that the Park would attract the richer Sheffield folk to build in the area. It seemed to work because grand Victorian houses were soon built on Norfolk Road.

Then on to the Cholera Monument, which was erected in memory of those who died in the Sheffield epidemic of July-November 1832, of whom 339 were buried in the grounds. The monument was constructed of stone from Rivelin Quarry and was completed in 1835.

Other features of the walk included the Shrewsbury Hospital, the old Sweet Factory, Park Hill flats, the old Queen's Head pub, the remains of Sheffield Castle walls in the basement of Castle Market and the Shrewsbury Chapel in Sheffield Cathedral. We returned to Manor Lodge by tram to City Road and a brisk walk by-passing the cemetery. At Manor Lodge we were given a talk and a tour of the grounds and the Turret House.

Our thanks for an absorbing day go to David Templeman for the walk, Peter Machan for the talk and tour and Norma Barnsley for arranging the day. We are sure that this guided walk would be of interest to other SU3A walking Groups or any Groups simply wanting a fascinating day out in the local area. A guide is essential to ensure all the Trail is covered.

(Distance: 3.5 miles. Cost: £3.50 per person in aid of Manor Lodge. David Templeman is a member of SU3A and a very knowledgeable guide. He can be contacted on (01246) 415 497.

*Glyn Davies.....Coordinator*

## "R" Walking Group

We are quite a new group being just over a year old. At present we have ten members and walk every Monday for seven to nine miles.



The pace is not too fast and we take food and drink and have a mid-morning drink stop and a lunch stop.

We travel to the walk start by sharing cars (occasionally by public transport). Walks usually start at 10.00 a.m. Group members take it in turn to plan and lead walks. New members not familiar with the Peak District, where we usually walk, would be helped and advised with this.

There are vacancies for new members to join what we feel is a pleasant and sociable Group. After walks we usually have a drink in a convenient café or pub before returning home.

If this group interests you then please contact

*John Woolston .....Coordinator.....(0114) 235 2181*



## **North Wales Holiday 12-16 June 2011**

The birthday of the Duke celebrated and the Colours successfully trooped, we left Sheffield on a sunny Whitsun morning and made our way first to Llangollen. Torrential rain soon succeeded the sunshine and it was in such conditions that we paddled to the canal boat in which we cruised along the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct - I assume you can cruise in straight lines. We survived without incident even though a few of us walked the last few yards or so back to the coach and our journey on to Llandudno.

Llandudno has changed little. There were still more union flags than red dragons and while the written Welsh language was all around us it was hard to come across its being spoken. The Ambassador Hotel was suitably welcoming and adequate for our needs - it would have been interesting to have had Michael Winner with us.

Monday greeted us with warm sunshine and off we went to Edward I's Castle on Anglesey, undisturbed by enemy aggression but preserved for and by English Heritage for tourists like us to swell the coffers of Beaumaris, as we sought coffee at the "Spinning Wheel"; the coffee which is a permanent feature of all U3A ventures. Like Eliot's Prufrock, we add another coffee spoon to affirm our longevity.

From the warlike visage of Beaumaris Castle we passed to the soft romanticism of Plas Newydd, site of Rex Whistler's unrequited love before his untimely death in battle and, before that, the seat of the Marquis of Anglesey, who fathered eight legitimate and ten illegitimate children. We never established whether this was the same Marquis who lost a leg at the battle of Waterloo.

On Tuesday morning the sun was hot and our faces reddened, not only with wine, and a number of us ascended the Great Orme. Others lingered on the pier, found a coffee shop and mused. In the afternoon it was Bodnant Garden where the botanically knowledgeable identified all that grew while the rest of us wallowed in the natural and cultivated beauty of the gardens.

Wednesday was to be the climax of our venture forth, a descent to the underworld - if not Blake's satanic mills - and then perhaps the ecstasy of Wordsworth's vision of Snowdon. Regrettably the weather worsened. We made our way to the Electric Mountain and learned a little of how the slate quarries of the twentieth century had been transformed by modern technology to provide electricity. I think we just about understood the basic process enough to wonder why the technology, having been mastered, was not more widely used.

After a brief interlude at the Slate Museum to reflect on harsher lives than ours - and to refuel - we assaulted the misty grandeur of Snowdon. Not for us Wordsworth's:

"There I beheld the emblem of a mind

That feeds upon infinity...."

But a more prosaic affirmation of mission accomplished: no one lost and Barbara doubtless relieved, while those of us who contribute little to the success of U3A Travel acknowledged our particular debt to Barbara - and to John - that the intricate arrangements they had made had been splendidly fulfilled. Such trips as this do not just happen and we, the beneficiaries, recognise with gratitude the time and effort spent in planning such excursions.

On Thursday, the weather was uncertain as we quitted the Welsh seagulls, which had not always been welcoming, and headed for Sheffield via Conwy, another magnificent castle, more coffee and for some of us the gem of a Welsh merchant's Elizabethan house, Plas Mawr, a splendid way to conclude. Then Gordon, our excellent driver, drove us back to Sheffield in spite of some faulty door hydraulics.

*George Wiley*

## Travel Organising Committee

Barbara Robertshaw, Coordinator	(0114) 236 9102
Barry De Roek, Treasurer	(0114) 236 9169
Derek Shipley, Secretary	(0114) 236 6257
Margaret Bullivant	(0114) 296 2256
Val Wiley	(0114) 236 0726
Margaret Langrish	(0114) 296 2251

**Only members of Sheffield U3A are eligible to take part in our activities.**

**Insurance** - for short breaks and holidays in the UK and overseas (but **not** day visits) travel companies require that all participating members have personal travel insurance cover.

**Illness / Medical Conditions / Disabilities** - when applying you must inform the visit organiser of any problem or pre-existing medical condition. Please remember that all visits will involve some walking. Access to sites and places of interest frequently involves steep slopes, steps and uneven or slippery surfaces. Always wear comfortable suitable footwear.

**Agreed Pick-up Point** - if you wish to make a change, you must notify the visit organiser **in advance**.

**Reply Envelopes** - please remember to include a suitable **stamped addressed envelope** with your application. For day visits - any small envelope; for short breaks and holidays a *Links*-sized envelope.

**In case of problems or emergencies** - first try to contact the visit organiser or, if they are not available, any member of the Travel Committee.

## **Travel News and Excursions**

### **Leather Museum, Walsall and Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton**

**Wednesday 12 October 2011**

At Walsall Leather Museum you will gain a fascinating insight into the story of leatherworking and find out why Walsall's craftsmen and women are so proud of their skills and reputation. For 200 years some of the finest saddlery and leather goods have been made there. Today, the town's 80 or so leather companies continue this celebrated tradition.

On our guided tour of the workshops we will be able to watch skilled leatherworkers at their trade. After a buffet lunch, including coffee/tea, at the Museum, we will travel the short distance to Wightwick Manor (a National Trust property), Wolverhampton.

Wightwick is a stunning Victorian manor house built in the old English style by Theodore Mander, a local paint manufacturer. With interiors inspired by the ideals of the Arts and Crafts Movement, Wightwick provides an appropriate setting for a superb collection of William Morris textiles, wallpapers and furniture, William de Morgan ceramics, Charles Kempe stained glass and many Pre-Raphaelite paintings and drawings.

We will have a guided tour of the house which involves changes in levels and stairs. If you feel that this is not suitable for you, Wightwick can offer a slightly shorter tour of the ground floor only. Please indicate your choice on the booking slip.

The cost of the day is £20.00 for N.T. members and £27.00 for non members. This includes travel, gratuities and a buffet lunch, as well as tea and biscuits in the afternoon before we set off for home.

To reserve a place, please complete the booking slip at the end of this issue of *Links* and send it with a cheque and a small stamped addressed envelope as soon as possible.

*Barbara Robertshaw.*

## John Martin: YAHR Regional Study Day

**The Arundel Room, Millennium Galleries, Sheffield**

**Tuesday 23 August 2011**

Name(s) ..... SU3A No(s).....

.....

Address ..... Tel: .....

.....

.....Postcode .....

Please reserve ..... place(s) for me (**£6.00** per person). I enclose a cheque for £ ..... payable to **YAHR** and a **small stamped addressed envelope**.

Forms should be sent to: *Shelagh Woolliscroft*, 2 Leabrook Road, Dronfield Woodhouse, S18 8YS to arrive **as soon as possible**.

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## Visit to Leather Museum

**Wednesday 12 October 2011**

Name(s) .....SU3A No(s) .....

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Address .....Tel: .....

.....Postcode .....

Please reserve ..... place(s) for me at £20.00 per person (if a N.T. member) or £27.00 per person (for non N.T. members). I enclose a cheque for £ ..... payable to **Sheffield U3A Travel** and a **small stamped addressed envelope**. Forms should be sent to:

Barbara Robertshaw, 20 Whinfell Court Sheffield S11 9QA to arrive as soon as possible.

Please indicate whether you would like the short tour: Yes / No

My preferred pick-up point is - ***please tick one***

Sheffield Bus Interchange - Platform E5 7.45 am ( )

Bus Bay Knowle Lane / Ecclesall Road South 8.00 am ( )



## Visit to Liverpool

**Wednesday 2 November 2011**

Our visit to this vibrant city begins with a guided tour of the Anglican Cathedral, the largest Cathedral in Britain. It was described by John Betjeman as “one of the great buildings of the World”. Designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott it has the highest, widest Gothic arches and the largest organ in Britain.

We will have a Liverpool Speciality for lunch at the Cathedral (vegetarian option available). Lunch is included in the price.

After lunch we will visit the new, innovative and magnificent landmark at the Pierhead. This is the Museum of Liverpool which opens in July. It is the largest newly built national museum for over a century. You will be free to wander round at your own pace.

The cost for the day is £23.00 per person. This includes travel, gratuities, guided tour of the Cathedral and lunch.

To reserve a place please complete the booking slip at the end of this issue.

*Margaret Langrish .....(0114) 296 2251*



### **Thinking of Forming a New Group?**

Always contact the General Coordinator to discuss your idea first.

*Jim Walker*  
(0114) 236 9687

## **Lunch and Lecture: Louise Page**

**Friday 14 October 2011**

Name(s) .....SU3A No(s) .....

.....

Address ..... Tel: .....

.....

..... Postcode.....

Please reserve ..... place(s) for me (**£15.50** per person). I enclose a cheque for £ ..... payable to **Sheffield U3A. Lunch and Lecture** and a **small stamped addressed envelope**.

I would like to request ..... vegetarian meal(s).

Forms should be sent to Mrs Doreen Bezant, 52, Chatsworth Road, Sheffield S17 3QH to arrive **before Friday 23 September**.

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## **Classical Concertgoers' Group**

**Visit to the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester**

**Wednesday 19 October 2011**

Name(s) ..... SU3A No(s) .....

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Address ..... Tel: .....

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.....Postcode .....

Please reserve ..... place(s) for me (**£30.00** per person). I enclose a cheque for £ ..... payable to **SU3A Concertgoers'** and a **small stamped addressed envelope**. If possible, I would like to sit with ..... at the concert. Forms should be sent to arrive **as soon as possible** to Derek Shipley, 40, Wollaton Avenue, Bradway, Sheffield S17 4LA

## **Springtime in Kent**

### **Sunday 22-Thursday 26 April 2012**

The "Garden of England" has such a wealth and variety of attractive venues it has been quite difficult to decide what to leave out!

Travelling south from Sheffield we will visit Audley End House - an English Heritage property near Cambridge. Henry VIII's Lord Chancellor, Sir Thomas Audley, adapted the extensive buildings of Walden Abbey as his mansion and his grandson Thomas Howard rebuilt the house on a massive scale. As well as seeing the house and gardens there will be time for lunch before moving on to our hotel in Rochester.

A day in Canterbury is an absolute must. The Cathedral, the atmospheric ruins of St. Augustine's Abbey, and St. Martin's Church - the oldest church in England - together form a breathtaking UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Dover Castle, "The Key to England" for over nine hundred years, commands the shortest sea crossing between England and the continent. The Castle boasts a long and immensely eventful history from Iron Age hill fort right up World War II. From the experience of the Secret Wartime Tunnels to the richly furnished chambers of the Great Tower and the great views from Admiralty Lookout this should be a really good day.

The third main venue is to be the Historic Dockyards at Chatham. Housed in Georgian and Victorian buildings, the dockyard complex brings four hundred years of naval history to life. See historic ships, the Victorian ropery, galleries and exhibitions - and then enjoy a river trip on a steam-powered paddle boat.

On the way home to Sheffield I hope we may visit Flag Fen Archaeology Park and Bronze Age Centre near Peterborough. The cost per person sharing a twin/double room for this five day//four night holiday is £300.00 and the supplement for a single room occupancy is £60.00.

Hotel room, breakfast and dinner at the Holiday Inn, Rochester, coaching throughout by Walter Martin, the cost of visits and guides

## Visit to Liverpool

**Wednesday 2 November 2011**

Name(s) ..... SU3A No(s) .....

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Address ..... Tel: .....

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..... Postcode .....

Please reserve ..... place(s) for me (£23.00 per person). I enclose a

cheque for £ ..... payable to **Sheffield U3A Travel** and a **small**

**stamped addressed envelope**. Forms should be sent to:

Margaret Langrish, 19 Almshill Road, Sheffield S11 9RR to arrive **as soon as possible**.

My preferred pick-up point is - ***please tick one***

Bus Bay Knowle Lane / Ecclesall Road South 8.30 a.m (    )

Sheffield Bus Interchange - Platform E5/6 8.45 a.m (    )



## Gervase Phinn Lecture

**Reception Rooms, Sheffield Town Hall, Sheffield**

**Wednesday 16 November 2011**

Name (s) .....SU3A No (s).....

Address.....Tel:.....

.....

.....Postcode.....

Please reserve ..... place(s) for me at £3.50 per person

I enclose a **small stamped addressed envelope and a cheque**  
for £.....payable to **Sheffield U3A**.

Forms should arrive **no later than Tuesday 1 November 2011** to:

Denise West, 18 Periwood Grove, Sheffield S8 0HX

where applicable (English Heritage properties are free to pre-booked U3A groups) and all remunerations and donations are included in the price. The cost of lunches, snacks or any other refreshments is not included.

Places on this holiday are on offer only to members of Sheffield U3A. Members must arrange their own travel insurance and send a photocopy to the holiday organiser when requested.

To apply for a place please complete the form at the end of this issue and send it with a deposit of £60.00 per person, cheque made payable to **SU3A Travel, together with a stamped addressed, *Links* size, envelope** to the holiday organiser.

*Margaret Bullivant*

## **Answers to the Italian Quiz**

in the Henry Collins Room at Wortley Hall on 30 June 2011:

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| 1 Colosseum, Rome    | 11 Taormina from Giardini Naxos, Sicily |
| 2 Galileo            | 12 Nero                                 |
| 3 Duomo, Florence    | 13 Ponte Vecchio, Florence              |
| 4 Frank Sinatra      | 14 Gina Lollobrigida                    |
| 5 Catania, Sicily    | 15 St Peter's, Rome                     |
| 6 Leonardo da Vinci  | 16 Lucretia Borgia                      |
| 7 Herculaneum        | 17 Bridge of Sighs, Venice              |
| 8 Silvio Berlusconi  | 18 Cristoforo Colombo                   |
| 9 Mount Etna, Sicily | 19 Trevi Fountain, Rome                 |
| 10 Garibaldi         | 20 Sophia Loren                         |

No prizes, just a little fun!

*Rosalind Rogerson..... Coordinator.....Italian*

## **Wortley Hall Croquet Challenge**

The Croquet competition was won by Sue Graves with a score that beat the croquet Group coordinator! Most taking the challenge also beat the target of getting round in fewer strokes than  $\frac{1}{3}$  of their age; so all round a very commendable performance.

*Peter Jones.....Coordinator.....Croquet*



## Afternoon Tea at the Cutlers' Hall

**Friday 2 December 2011**

Name(s) ..... SU3A No(s) .....

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Address ..... Tel: .....

.....

..... Postcode.....

Please reserve ..... place(s) for me (**£7.75** per person). I enclose a cheque for £ ..... payable to **Sheffield U3A** and a **small stamped addressed envelope**.

Forms should be sent to Vera Dyer, 202 Westwick Road,  
Sheffield S8 7BZ to arrive **as soon as possible**.

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## Springtime in Kent

**22 - 26 April 2012**

Name (s) .....SU3A No (s).....

.....

Address.....Tel:.....

.....Postcode.....

Please reserve.....place(s) (£60.00 deposit each)

Room: Twin / Single / Double

I enclose a cheque for £..... payable to **Sheffield U3A Travel** and a **Links-sized stamped addressed envelope**.

Forms should be sent to **as soon as possible** to:

Margaret Bullivant, 14 Kingsley Park Grove, S11 9HL

## **Could You Support Children's Reading in Primary School?**

### **Become an ESCAL Volunteer...**

Since Spring 2009, SU3A volunteers have taken part in an initiative now called ESCAL (***Every Sheffield Child Articulate and Literate*** by the age of 11) to help primary school pupils needing to raise their level of reading attainment to benefit fully from their approaching move to secondary school.

The basic volunteer commitment is 1 hour a week for 10 weeks working one-to-one with 2 pupils for half an hour each.

2011 began with a total of 142 volunteers providing reading support in primary schools across the city. SU3A members currently represent more than 25% of this team and some have continued since their recruitment to the project in early 2009.

One-to-one support can achieve dramatic progress in pupils' reading skills and ESCAL development workers have come to count on and very much value the enthusiastic contribution of SU3A members.

Demand for the help of volunteers throughout the city never declines.-  
***We have a large number of schools across the city requiring additional volunteers ready for the new term in September 2011.***

For more information on the ESCAL Volunteering Programme, contact : Faye Jeffrey (0114) 250 6853, to offer your help.

Any other queries Yvonne Rowland who acts as SU3A Liaison with ESCAL on (0114) 242 5201).

*Yvonne Rowland*

### **Walking Group L**

Walking Group L raised £355.00 for Edale Mountain Rescue when we held our annual shared picnic and a quilt exhibition on 26 May, after we did our usual walk in the morning.

Thank you to everyone who donated and supported the event.

*Barbara Cassidy.....Coordinator*