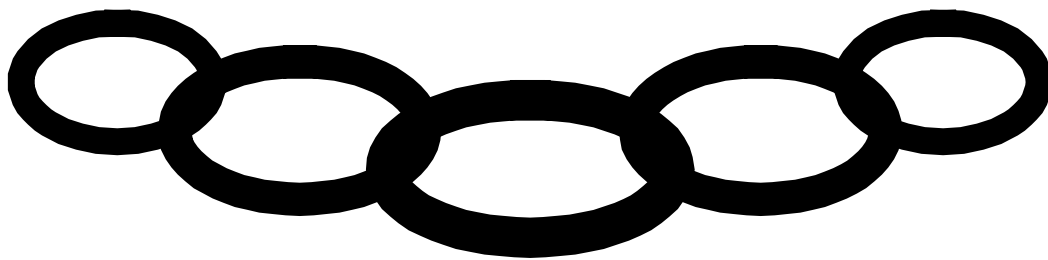


SHEFFIELD



LINKS

(Website version)



NEWSLETTER
and
GROUP NEWS

No. 123

June 2006

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

By the time you read this, the Annual General Meeting/Annual Members' Meeting will have taken place and the Sheffield U3A Committee established for 2006/07. As the incoming Chairman, I must start by paying my own tribute to the sterling work put in by Helen Cowen during her busy term of office. I would also like to thank the retiring members of the Committee, Tony Marsh (Webmaster) for taking on the enormous task of setting up the website from scratch and the time and effort he has put into maintaining it, and Marion Edmondson for her input and innovative ideas. For my part, as a comparative newcomer, I am certain that I will be helped along with support from the dedicated team of Committee members and all the other volunteers who contribute in so many ways to the continued successful expansion of SU3A. The number and variety of groups have increased; our membership is now one of the largest in the UK - and none of this just "happens".

Looking forward, it is too early for me to forecast any further local initiatives and we are already in the forefront of the national office call for more publicity on the benefits of joining U3A.

Finally, I would like to mention a current report, *Opportunity Age*, from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). Section Four of this substantial and interesting research is headed *Ageing and Activity – Work Rest and Play* and reports on what older people do when leaving the workplace. I suggest that no member of SU3A would disagree with the main findings that "*Remaining active in later life can play an important role in reducing isolation, combating depression, and improving physical and mental health*".

Here's hoping for more sunshine than showers over the summer months.

COMMITTEE REPORT

The last meeting of the Committee was on 28 April. We had some very appreciative feedback regarding our 20th anniversary lunch. Liz Jonas, National Administrator, was pleased to meet, in the flesh, members of one of the largest U3As in the country, and Joe Scarborough's talk was very much enjoyed – people found him down to earth and not at all 'arty'.

We settled final arrangements for our imminent AGM/AMM – for the election of three new committee members, for tellers for the voting, and for the display of the craft exhibition and photographic competition.

It seems that the groups recently formed – Dining Out and After Hours – are fulfilling a need for those members who would like some social activity in the evening and at weekends. Are we seniors now 'taking back the streets'?

It was agreed that four committee members will be representing SU3A at the National Conference at Chester University in September. Previous representatives have found interaction and exchange of ideas with other U3As to be very valuable in understanding the whole U3A movement.

We also discussed ways to spend Gift Aid monies, and have decided to invest in a mobile loop system to assist members with hearing loss. This system should be of use at small to medium size meetings. If, after a trial period, the system proves satisfactory it should be possible to buy more.

Finally, of course, we all warmly thanked Helen for her leadership over the last two and a half years. She has proved herself decisive, energetic and industrious, and wholly dedicated to SU3A. We wish her well for the future.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE AGM/AMM

There was another heartening attendance of over 80 members at the AGM/AMM (and some dozen apologies for unavoidable absence) on a sunny afternoon that might otherwise have drawn gardeners and walkers outdoors. The interest shown by members and group coordinators is very much appreciated by the Committee whose duty it is to call the formal meeting.

The exhibition of group work maintained last year's high standard - with space to move around for better appreciation of everything on show. Representatives from Sheffield LIONS were on hand in the hall to give away their "Message in a Bottle" to interested enquirers about this simple Emergency Data Link. The 76 entries for the photographic competition were highly praised by the judges as "professional" with little to choose between them, making the choice of winners a difficult task.

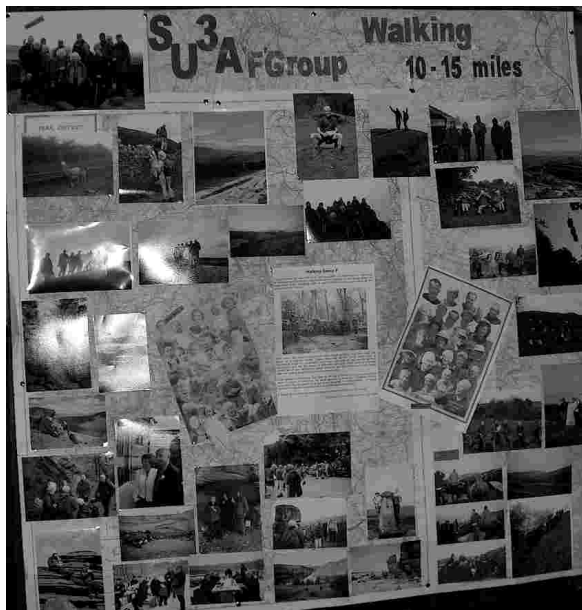
The Chairman thanked the retiring members of the Committee; Tony Marsh for his pioneering efforts and hours of hard work in setting up and maintaining the SU3A website, and Marion Edmondson for her sterling work on the Committee. She also thanked the members of the Committee and the behind-the-scenes workers for their support .

The Treasurer drew attention to the Committee's current search for ideas from members on how to use the money received from Gift Aid, in particular for propositions that would benefit SU3A Groups generally. John Brookes gave a demonstration of how last year's Gift Aid purchase of Power-Point equipment could be used by groups in a variety of ways.

Three new members were elected to the Committee: Peter Barclay (formerly co-opted), Brian Bezant and Norman Smith. The Chairman was not allowed to close the proceedings with thanks to everyone before Peter Digby seized the opportunity to thank Helen publicly for the years she had devoted to

Committee work culminating in her much appreciated, longer than usual term in the Chair.

And your roving reporter noticed that after it was all over so successfully there was still work being done by Committee volunteers and others – including hauling back all the stands etc. into a van and general tidying up of the exhibition room. So thanks as always to the “boys (and girls) in the backroom”.



Walking Group F' s display



Seascapes in the photographic competition



Dressmaking



“Message in a Bottle”

Photos: Norman Smith

DIARY 2007

It may be midsummer but the 2007 U3A diaries are available at a cost of £1.85. The cover colour is dark navy. The week begins on Monday and each double page spread has seven days to the left hand page and a notes page on the right. The page marker, perforated page corners etc. remain the same, as does the diary size 3 ¼ x 6 inches.

If you are ordering individually please send a suitably sized **self addressed envelope with a 37p stamp** and a cheque for **£1.85** made out to **Sheffield U3A**. If you are a coordinator ordering several for your group please send one cheque and the diaries will be delivered to you.

Please send in your order no later than 15 July 2006 to the Secretary.

CUBA U3A

Teresa Orosa Fraiz, who is a professor of U3A in Cuba, is visiting Sheffield. The U3A in Cuba is run very differently from ours in the UK. They take exams and work towards degrees. They have combined university status with voluntary activity. Previously there was no opportunity for learning in the Third Age. Dr. Steve Ludlum of Sheffield University has invited our members to meet her on Monday 26 June 2006 at 2.00pm at the Elmfield Building, Northumberland Road. Members of the Committee will be there and would be pleased if other members could attend and help us to give her insight into our U3A.

If you wish to come along please contact the Secretary.

Photographic Competition at AGM/AMM



Best in Show

Houses in Monsaraz
Margaret Roberts

Buildings

- 1st Houses in Monsaraz
Margaret Roberts
- 2nd Columns Remaining
Gordon Young
- 3rd Barker's Pool
Barbara West



Seascapes

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1 st Waves | Gordon Young |
| 2 nd After the Storm | John Williams |
| 3 rd Sunset - Hartland Point | Mike West |



Still Life

1 st	Tea Time	K J Roos
2 nd	Silent Cogs	K J Roos
3 rd	Door Handle	Michael Miller



Pets

1 st	Puss Close	Mr & Mrs Maas
2 nd	Top Cat	Maureen Hessell
3 rd	(Not awarded)	

New Guidelines for Coordinators

A new updated *Guidelines for Coordinators* has been produced. If any member who is contemplating becoming a coordinator or wants to know what their duties are please contact the General Coordinator Peter Digby.

Continuing Increase in Membership

At the present time we have more than 200 new members registered for 2006. This may present problems with groups when new people wish to find a group with space to accept them. Could all coordinators please inform the General Coordinator when their groups are full and are unable to

“please inform the
General Coordinator when
your group is full”

accommodate new members
so that new groups can be
formed and no one is left
without a group to join.

Peter Digby

Donation to Edale Mountain Rescue

A Strollers group decided to collect amongst themselves a donation to the Edale Mountain Rescue Team. If any other group feel that they also would like to do the same I am sure that the Team would only be too happy to receive donations from SU3A groups. Any of the walking groups may need to call on their services in the course of their group walks.

Peter Digby

GROUP NEWS

Enjoying Opera and Classical Concertgoers' Groups

Georges Bizet: *The Fair Maid of Perth* - Buxton Festival Monday 17 July

As promised in the April issue of *Links*, we have arranged a joint visit to the Buxton Festival on Monday 17 July for a performance in English of *The Fair Maid of Perth* by Georges Bizet. The opera is based on a novel by Sir Walter Scott and first appeared in 1867. It is not often performed today, yet was one of the most popular of his works during his lifetime. We have a limited number of seats available and an early booking is recommended. The inclusive cost is £30.00 per person. The coach will leave the bus bay on Ecclesall Road South, near the top of Millhouses Lane, promptly at 5.30pm.

“one of the most popular
of his works during his
lifetime”

IMPORTANT

Bookings may be made using the slip at the end of this issue as follows:

- a. All applications sent on or before 12 June to Nigel Sandford.
- b. All applications sent after 12 June to Derek Shipley..

This visit is open to all Sheffield U3A members.

Nigel Sandford
Derek Shipley

Theatre Group

Good and bad news this time. I must thank everyone for their support for *Summer Musical Cavalcade* as we were able to donate £110 to Keith Roe for the local charities this event supports. I would also like to thank Betty Ward for once again doing all the hard work in sorting the money and tickets.

The bad news is that we had to cancel *Strangers on a Train* as we only had three applications for tickets. There are no plans for future shows for this month, as Sheffield Theatres have no new shows.

I have appended a questionnaire on page 27 of this issue of *Links*, which I would like SU3A members who are interested in the continuation of the Theatre Group to fill in. Would members be prepared to visit other theatres such as Buxton, which has a programme up to the end of December?

Professional shows include Noel Coward, Alan Ayckbourn, Ray Cooney, and a Gilbert and Sullivan festival.

To enable better communication between issues of *Links* would those interested be prepared to pay a nominal yearly fee of £2 to cover postage? Would members be interested if more use was made of the website? I would appreciate any feedback to help us to continue with this group.

Michael Cowen

Gardening Group D

Barnsdale and Belvoir Castle on Tuesday 13 June

There are still a few seats available on this visit. Cost is £21.50 which covers entry fees and guided tours of both Belvoir Castle and its gardens. Departure from either Sheffield Interchange at 8.15 am or Wagon and Horses, Millhouses at 8.30 a.m, returning approx 7.00pm. For further details or to book a seat please phone Shelagh Woolliscroft

Gardening Greenfingers

The Gardening Greenfingers Group has arranged two outings for the summer months and would be pleased to welcome any other SU3A members who are interested in visiting gardens.

The first outing is on Tuesday 13 June to two private gardens near Kirk Ireton in Derbyshire. Kirk Ireton was mentioned in the Domesday Book. We shall visit the gardens at Riddings Farm and Field Farm, which are both in the Yellow Book (private gardens which open occasionally for charity). Cost including coach and entrance is £18.00.

The second outing is on Tuesday 11 July to Brodsworth Hall near Doncaster to see both the house and the gardens. Cost including coach and entrance is £16.00.

Both outings will leave at 10.00am from the Abbey pub, at the junction of Abbey Lane and Chesterfield Road. Please contact either Georgina Eyre or Jean Griffiths for further details and to book a place.

Jean Griffiths

Aspects of Art I

Lincoln on 28 September 2006

Aspects of Art I is organising a trip to Lincoln on 28 September. Edward Mayor, art historian, will accompany us to both the Cathedral, where we shall see the Duncan Grant murals, and to the Usher Gallery which is set in beautiful grounds and where there is a display of a wide range of fine and decorative art and crafts. The art collection features paintings from the 16th century to the present day.

Cafes are available at both sites and the cost (including entrance fees) is £15.00 per person. If you would like to join us please complete the booking slip at the end of this issue.

Elizabeth Dawson

Science and Technology

Burton Bass Museum and Brewery

The summer outing of the Sheffield Science and Technology Group takes place on **Wednesday, 12 July 2006**. The visit to the (formerly) Bass brewery in Burton on Trent includes a guided tour of the brewery after which there will be time to look around the Museum, Visitors' Centre and shop. A café and bar will be open. We shall meet up for lunch in the licensed restaurant (a menu is available). *(Please note: The brewery has many steps/stairways.)*

The coach leaves from the top of Millhouses Lane at 9.00am, and will leave for the return journey at about 4.15pm. The cost of the outing is £15 per person which includes the coach, guided tour and Visitors' Centre. To this must be added the cost of meals you have chosen beforehand.

If you would like to join us please contact the Coordinator, Rosemary Harper.

NEW GROUPS

Music Group

As a new member I would like to join or form a musical group. I play piano and would like to contact another pianist, violinist, flautist etc to make up a duo, trio or quartet. My preference is for classical music but I also like Gershwin, Cole Porter etc. The group would meet initially on a monthly basis but hopefully increasing to weekly or fortnightly as we progress. Ideally the members should of be intermediate+ standard and preferably in the S6 area.

If you are interested please contact me:

Kath Helliwell

Sheffield U3A's 20th Anniversary Lunch in pictures



Joe Scarborough, Lin Jonas (U3A National Administrator), Helen Cowen (Chairman), and Barbara Steel (Secretary)



Joe Scarborough, well-known Sheffield painter (our speaker)



Helen Cowen, Chairman of Sheffield U3A



Some of the many guests



Shirley Haworth, Sheffield U3A's first Secretary

Photos by Michael Cowen

LETTERS

20th Anniversary Lunch

- It is a rare event when the Chairperson invites the total membership to celebrate an anniversary. Sheffield U3A had such a privilege. Mrs Cowen and her excellent Committee organising the event welcomed us like VIPs. It must have been a daunting task to find a venue which could accommodate the many guests. The hosts at every table, a glass of wine, a pleasantly presented meal - all contributed to lively conversations around the table. Joe Scarborough entertained us in an easy manner.

Furthermore, it was an opportunity to thank people for their commitment over the years from which we all benefit so generously. What a wonderful way to celebrate twenty years of U3A in Sheffield and thanks again to the lady chairman and her support team.

Alan and Annelene Furness

- As fairly new members of U3A we decided to attend the event at the Grosvenor Hotel on 30 March.

It was good to be in the company of so many friendly people. The meal was very good value. The talk given by Joe Scarborough was entertaining, humorous and interesting. We thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon.

Thank you to all involved in organising.

David and Judith Bullard

Getting the Pictures

- What is thinking, what is remembering? How well do we use our brains as we get older? Recently I visited a Sheffield University researcher investigating this problem.

Drew Tarmey works in the Department of Psychology on Western Bank. He contacted SU3A some weeks ago asking for help. The main test procedures involve the volunteer touching computer screens. The tasks are fairly simple, but the highly sophisticated computers provide a range of measurements related to various parts of the human brain.

Drew showed a set of squiggly patterns, blanked out the screen and then asked me to remember any patterns that reappeared a few minutes later. Sometimes I had to match patterns, try to do the same thing with lists of words, unscrew a jam jar lid, do some hand to eye co-ordinations. It became fun as he noted down results and fed them into his data bank.

Over mugs of coffee we chatted about U3A activities, the problems of ageing and the threat of Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases amongst the general population.

“Sometimes I had to match squiggly patterns, lists of words, unscrew a jam jar lid”

This is a major University study involving a large sample of people throughout South Yorkshire. The main age range is between fifty and ninety years of age so U3A members would be ideal. Conditions are pleasant and tests take less than two hours to complete. If you are interested in helping please contact me by phone or send an email to me.

Peter Barclay

Hearing Difficulties

- At the recent Coordinators' Meeting, one of the issues raised was related to problems of some members with hearing difficulties, not uncommon in the "third age". This reminded me that some time ago I was involved in some courses intended mainly for training managers. As part of their learning about the legislation on disability we also had a discussion on the practical issues of delivering lectures etc.

I have unearthed the "handout" which was intended specifically for the student training managers but which we later gave to all our outside speakers, as well as the course tutors. It may be of interest to SU3A house groups in particular but probably carries a message to us all.

Joan K. (Today's World Discussion Group)

CAN THEY ALL HEAR WHAT I SAY

Some Facts

- One in ten people have some hearing loss
- Older people are more likely to have some hearing loss
- Young people, including students also may have hearing loss
- In any group or audience there are likely to be some people with hearing loss
- Poor hearing = loss of clear hearing
- People with poor hearing are likely to lip read to help them see what a speaker is saying
- People with hearing loss need to see the speaker's face, especially the mouth
- Exaggerated mouth movements and shouting are counter-productive
- People with hearing loss take a little longer to assimilate what is said to them
- People with hearing loss find it more difficult to hear against a background of noise.

Some Suggestions

- Speak clearly and steadily
- Speak a little more slowly than in one-to-one talking
- Pause at the end of a sentence
- Look at your audience while you are speaking
- Project voice to the back row and sides
- Don't drop your voice on the last few words of a sentence
- Don't look down while you are speaking
- Don't look away from your audience while you are speaker
- Don't cover your mouth while you are speaking
- Don't "um" or "er".

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Paris in the Spring

Paris in the Spring! What an exciting concept and so it was. My first major trip to France and Paris in particular was a very enjoyable one if rather tiring at times. The places that I had only seen in books and on television became real, the Arc de Triomphe, the Champs Elysees, the Place de la Concorde and the rest were everything I thought they would be. Paris by night was buzzing if not entirely lit up as we travelled before it was quite dark. But when the Eiffel Tower erupted with what seemed like a million twinkling stars Paris was suddenly magical. The boat trip on the Seine, peaceful in the sunshine, with a commentary set to appropriate music was excellent. History was brought to life at Versailles. The sheer grandeur of the house and gardens, explained in detail by Olivier our guide, was a fitting backdrop to the music and the working fountains. Although the trip to Monet's garden was on our journey home it was an experience I am glad I did not miss.

Thanks to those people who were considerate of my slow walking and those whose kind words helped me keep going. Well done Shirley and team, Paris in the spring will be a memory I shall treasure for a long time.

Christine Stanley

Land of the Pharaohs

“Saga”! The dulcet tones of Ashraf summoning his flock to follow him as he waved the Saga folder above his head. And follow him we did, from Cairo to Aswan to the Presidential Nile Cruise S to Luxor and back to Cairo.



As the ‘new kid on the block’ I only knew a couple of people in the group as we set off but by the end of our “educational” trip I had made many firm friends. Unfortunately some did not escape the Middle East attack on the tummy, while others made easy pickings for the sneaky little biting insects.

I was a little apprehensive about the potential dangers of travelling to Egypt. I needn’t have worried. A few of us set out into the Cairo night to walk to the river Nile with the only threat to our lives coming as we ‘diced with death’ crossing the road. We didn’t feel threatened at all by the small groups of young Egyptians who were meeting up with their friends. We smiled and greeted them and their reply was always “Welcome”. Another reassuring sight were the armed guards at every twist and turn of the way. An armed guard who was possibly surplus

to requirements accompanied each of our coach trips but yet perhaps if it wasn't for their visual presence things might have got difficult. The many bazaars we visited made us experts at "running the gauntlet". The calls of "no hassle, no hassle" was the biggest joke of the trip.

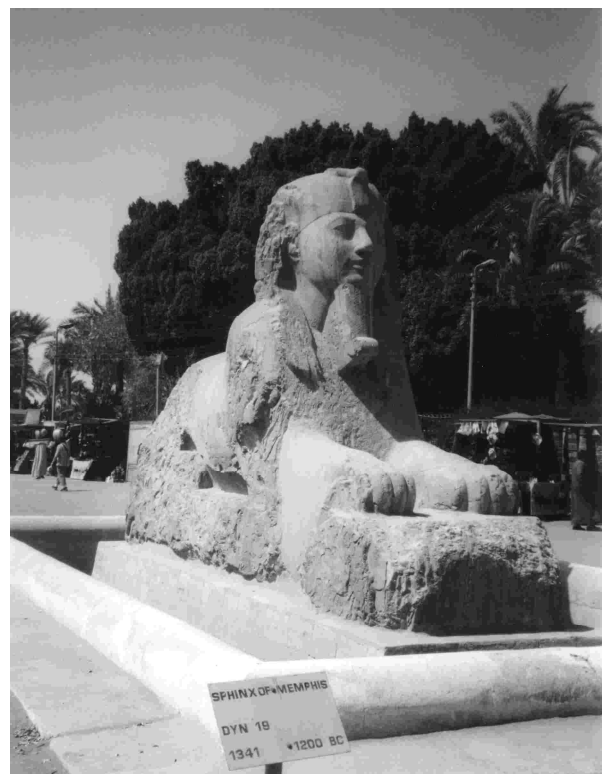
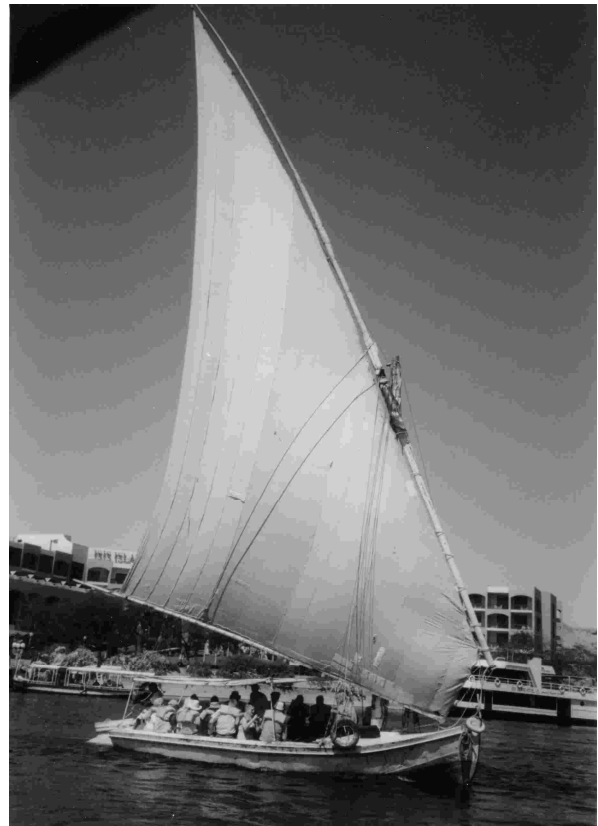
The tombs, pyramids, statues and colourful carvings were just awesome and so difficult to comprehend the enormity of it all. The sarcophagus with the mummy of Tutankhamen was one of the many highlights.

Our tour guide Michael certainly knew his stuff, from ancient Egyptology to the needs and problems of Egypt today.

This trip was particularly poignant for me as my husband was there during the Suez crisis of 1956. How my three sons groaned when their Dad began, "When I was in Egypt

To end on a funny note. I washed my holiday clothes and as I folded them from the clothes line I found an Egyptian pound note in a pocket, bringing a whole new concept to money laundering!!

Jean Thorpe



Photos: Shirley Marney

TRAVEL NEWS

Travel Organising Committee

Shirley Marney, Coordinator

Ken Parkin, Treasurer

Derek Shipley, Minute Secretary

Peter Frost

Barbara Robertshaw

Margaret Bullivant

Holiday Insurance

In no circumstances will the Sheffield University of the Third Age be responsible for covering claims for loss of life, personal injury, medical expenses, accidents, loss or damage of luggage or personal property, cancellations or loss of deposits. Each person must themselves insure against these risks.

Group Insurance

All medical history must be declared to the group insurers each time it is requested. No responsibility will be taken by Sheffield U3A Travel if you fail to do so. In case of an emergency it would help the Organiser if the information were also stated on U3A Travel booking forms.

Credit Card Insurance – read the small print carefully.

Only members of Sheffield U3A can join the tours/day trips.

Difficulties

Our trips and tours contain a full range of activities and need to be considered carefully by individual applicants. Some people have difficulty getting on and off coaches, and our excursions demand a degree of active involvement and physical independence. Organisers, fellow passengers, and drivers cannot be responsible if such issues have not been considered. If in any doubt, please consult the Organiser before applying.

Refunds cannot be given for cancellations unless a replacement can be found.

In the case of a cancellation please contact the day trip or holiday organiser or another member of the Travel Group Committee as soon as possible.

Please contact the Organiser if you are unable to be at your pick-up point, or want to change it.

Please do not park in front of the doctor's surgery on Millhouses Lane. When sending a **stamped addressed envelope** it should be no less than 4 x 8 inches.

SHEFFIELD U3A TRAVEL

***N.B.** An organiser will not send out a receipt, until the number of applications required for the daytrip/holiday has been received.*

Cruise from Skipton on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and a Journey on the Embsay and Bolton Abbey Steam Railway - Tuesday 4 July 2006

Enjoy a three hour trip westwards to Holmebridge and back aboard the *Dalesman*, a modern and luxuriously fitted out boat. An excellent choice buffet lunch will be served during the trip, and a commentary about the history and wildlife of the canal will also be presented.

After leaving the boat at 2.30pm, we take the short coach trip to join the steam hauled train at Embsay station at 3.00pm for the one hour return journey to Bolton Abbey, prior to our return to Sheffield.

The total cost including buffet lunch, boat trip, and steam railway journey and the coach is £37 per person. Please complete the slip at the end of this issue and send with a cheque and a stamped addressed envelope to Peter Frost.

SU3A TRAVEL

PLEASE NOTE THAT **ONLY POSTAL APPLICATIONS** WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR HOLIDAYS AND DAY TRIPS

Raby Castle and High Force

Tuesday 22 August 2006

Come with us to one of the most interesting castles in the north of England. Raby Castle, near Darlington, is steeped in our national history with links back to the Norman invasion, mediaeval battles with the Scots, the Catholic rising against Queen Elizabeth I and the Civil War. Throughout its history, only two families have owned the property - the Nevills, who built the original castle in the 14th century and the Barnards, the present owners since 1626. The castle is set in 250 acres of parkland with a herd of deer and a five-acre formal garden. We end the day with a visit to the nearby High Force – the highest waterfall in England.

The inclusive cost – coach travel, gratuities, admission to the castle/grounds and High Force is £23 per person. Please reserve places using the slip at the end of this issue and send to Derek Shipley, to arrive not later than Saturday 1 July.

Winter Warmer in Tenerife

6 - 20 February 2007

Staying half board at the 4* Tenerife Player Hotel in Puerto de la Cruz, and flying from East Midlands airport. A Winter Warmer does **not** have a leader, but is booked with a tour operator which has representatives at the hotel. You will be able to see some of Tenerife's famous festivals.

The cost per person is £650 without a balcony, with a supplement of £98 each for a room with a balcony. Single supplement is £186. The cost includes coach to the airport and drivers' gratuities. Group insurance is under 65 years old £34, over 65 years old £77.50. Deposit required per person is £130 plus group insurance if required.

Please complete the slip at the end of this issue and return with deposit to Shirley Marney no later than **5 June 2006**.

DAY TRIPS FOR 2006

September	Southall Minster/Workhouse
October	North Yorkshire Railway (Whitby to Pickering)
November	Nottingham Courts of Justice
December	Derby/Crown Derby Factory.

HOLIDAYS FOR 2006 all previously advertised

PLANS FOR 2007

Feb/March	Winter Warmer - Tenerife
March	Rome and the Amalfi coast
May	Short break - North Wales
June	St. Petersburg/ Moscow
September	Short break - Hampshire
October	Short break - 40's weekend in Pickering

U3A NATIONAL TRAVEL GROUP

Information about all “**U3A National Travel Group**” tours can be obtained from:

Yvonne Gutsell,

Details of these tours appear regularly in U3A News and are also available on the National U3A website at:

<http://db.u3a.org.uk/travel/>

U3A members can ask to be informed when a new travel list is posted on the national U3A website (five times a year) by sending a request to: u3atravel@internet.com.uk

Sheffield U3A Calendar

June 13	Gardening D - Barnsdale and Belvoir Castle
June 13	Gardening Greenfingers - Kirk Ireton
June 20	Castle Howard
June 21	Concertgoers' Group - Symphony Hall, Birmingham
June 26	Visit by Professor Teresa Orosa Fraiz from Cuba
July 4	Skipton: Leeds/Liverpool canal, Embsay/Bolton Abbey railway
July 7	Theatre Group - <i>Dirty Dusting</i> , Lyceum
July 11	Gardening Greenfingers - Brodsworth Hall
July 12	Science & Technology - Burton Bass Brewery
July 17	Concertgoers & Enjoying Opera - <i>Fair Maid of Perth</i>
August 22	Raby Castle and High Force waterfall
31 Aug-4 Sept	Dorset
Sept	Southall Minster and Workhouse
Sept 28	Art Group I - Lincoln
October	North Yorkshire Railway (Pickering to Whitby)
Nov 27-29	Thursford, Norfolk - three days
November	Nottingham Courts of Justice
December	Derby and Crown Derby Factory

2007

Feb 6 - 20	Winter Warmer - Tenerife
March	Rome and Amalfi Coast
May	Short break - North Wales
June	St Petersburg and Moscow
September	Short break - Hampshire
October	Short break - 40s weekend in Pickering
Oct/Nov	Borneo/Vietnam

MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS

A Very Short Biography of William Shakespeare

In fifteen hundred and sixty four
A babe came knocking at the door.
“My name is Will,” he gently said.
“My mum’s just had me in the bed.”

At school his work was very weak,
A little Latin still less Greek.
In adolescence he was bad
He stole some deer and sent girls mad.

At eighteen years he had to marry
Anne Hathaway – she could not tarry.
Susanna was born just five months later,
Then came the twins who called him pater.

There followed the seven silent years
When nothing’s known of joys or tears.
But then he wrote some thirty seven plays
Illuminating all our days.

“Not for an age,” his friend Ben Jonson wrote
“But for all time.”
And here I’ll end my very transient rhyme.

John Pemberton
(*Shakespeare for Pleasure*)

Keeping Fit for the Over 50s

(with apologies to Lewis Carroll)

“You are old, Father William,” the young man said,
“Yet you persist in climbing that ladder.
What will you say if you fall on your head?
You’ll be somewhat the wiser but sadder.”

“I’m as old as I feel,” responded his dad
“You don’t have to be fit to survive.
When I was your age, young fellow-me-lad,
I was vigorous, tough and could jive.”

“But now you’re quite old, you have to relax
Not think you’re a mere sixty-two.
You really do wear most ridiculous slacks;
Silver earrings were not meant for you.”

“When I ride my bike I have to take care
I could easily wobble and fall.
I’d look quite daft with both feet in the air
And my carcass sprawled over a wall!
So don’t just stand talking – give me a push.
Cycling beats walking – I’m off in a rush.”

John Percival

(If you do not see your contribution in this issue, it is because I have an embarrassment of poems, stories and articles awaiting publication. Please keep sending them in, but you may have to wait a while to see them in print! *Editor*)