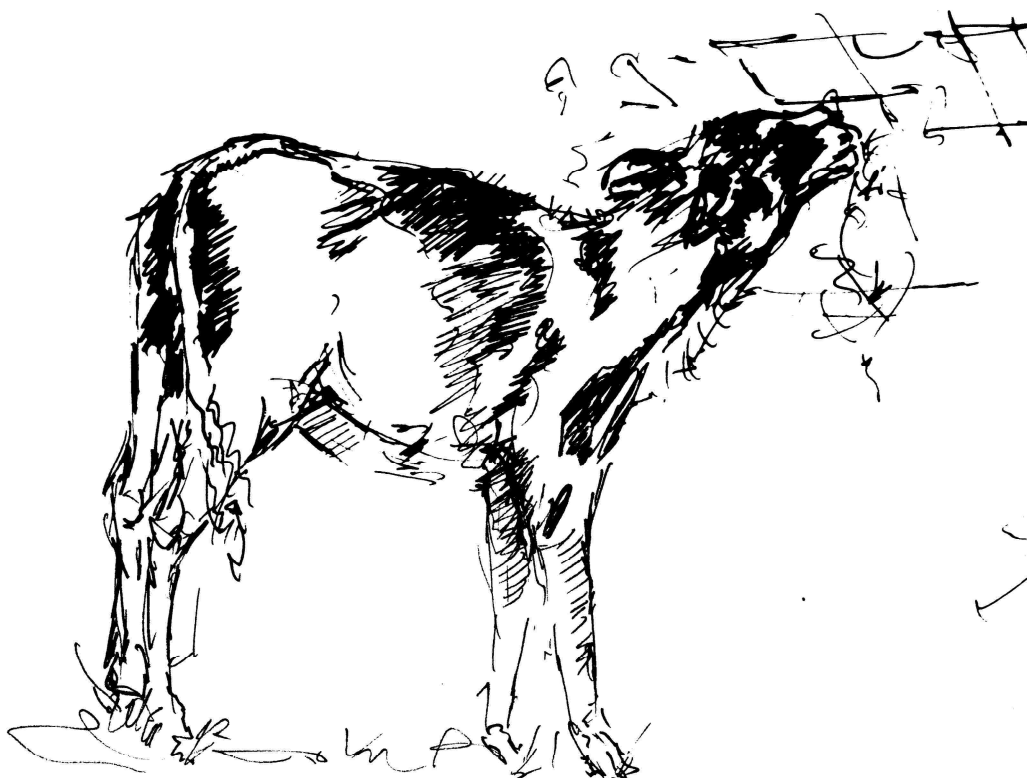




# LINKS



**No. 126**

**December 2006**

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

“Where has the year gone?” (again) is probably echoed by many as another year speeds towards us. SU3A members will at least be able to look back on the enjoyment of shared knowledge, skills, interests and experience, thanks as ever to the band of volunteers who continue to keep everything going.

Please spare a special thought just now for our Membership Secretary who will be processing over 2,000 membership renewals before the end of January. This is a formidable task at any time and there has been some behind the scenes activity to test the capability of an overdue more sophisticated system, now in place. For the first time ever we shall be able to produce a membership “profile” which we hope will not only be of general interest, but will help us to plan ahead. Your Committee already has its sights set on 2007, with a number of ideas for the AMM in hand and proposals for participation in a regional event in August on the agenda. Meanwhile numbers continue to increase with further new groups set up.

And to end on a general note -

Now that the much publicised legislation on age discrimination is enforceable, those engaged in “education and training” have realised that the new law doesn’t relate solely to employment but also has wider implications for learning establishments. For the Universities of the Third Age in the UK (U3As) the word “*university*” is used in its original sense of *people coming together to share and use learning in all its forms*. From a lay point of view, therefore, although some might query how “Third Age” can be defined, it seems highly unlikely that any legal challenge could be made on the grounds of any U3A’s present membership criteria.

With Seasonal Greetings and very best wishes for Christmas.

*Joan Keogh*

**Cover Picture:** Calf by Graham Frolish (Art Group I)

## COMMITTEE REPORT

Sheffield's response to the proposed restructuring of the Third Age Trust was discussed at length. We expect to comment further when more detailed proposals become available. Meanwhile our initial reply is careful to protect our operational independence.

Our membership has now reached 2,311, comprising 136 groups. Of course nothing is static- some earlier groups fold, new ones take their place. Latin I has closed after a run of 14 years (sic transit ....) and literary groups continue to expand. A question was raised at the Coordinators' Meeting about the low representation of male readers - is there a place for a "gentlemen's reading group"? Also we hear that Walking Group M, having been a 6 to 8 mile group for some time, has promoted itself to be a 7 to 9 mile group following an Improvement in the fitness of its members. An example to us all!

Fifty eight groups were represented at the Coordinators' Meeting in October, and once again attendees expressed their enjoyment of the event. If you are a coordinator and haven't been to a Coordinators' Meeting, do try to come next time. It is **the** event at which you, and your group, can keep in touch with what's new in SU3A.

Our website is flourishing and sixteen groups now have their own home page. Succession planning and help with inputting was discussed and the purchase of the necessary software authorised.

A sub-committee has been set up to plan our next AGM/AMM in April 2007. It has also been agreed that Sheffield should be represented at the Ridings Region Open Day at Askham Bryan, near York, next August. This deserves our support - the last Open Day was a very good event.

The recent issue of U3A NEWS (page 5) carries a reference to “*A Conference on the Ocean Waves*”.

Whilst, of course, individual SU3A members may chose to take advantage of the advertised attractive short cruise next year, it has been the unanimous decision of the SU3A Committee not to fund delegates to this style of Conference.

However, Sheffield will certainly be properly represented at the 2007 national AGM.

*Hilda Wisbey*

## **Guidelines for Social Trips**

A new leaflet has been produced to assist coordinators when organising social outings. The leaflet will be sent to all coordinators with the mailing in January 2007; but if anyone would like one earlier please contact the General Coordinator direct and I will send one.

*Pete Digby ..... General Coordinator*

## **National Network Coordinators**

A complete list of National Network Coordinators has been revised and a copy is with the General Coordinator. Any coordinator who wants their National Coordinator's details please contact the General Coordinator

*Pete Digby ..... General Coordinator*

## **Correction**

The number of members of SU3A was given in the last issue as 2,162, when it should have been 2,299 at that time. Since then we have gained more members and the membership at the end of September 2006 had risen to 2,311.

## **Sheffield U3A Website**

The website is steadily becoming an established method of communication within Sheffield U3A. Please go to [www.sheffieldu3a.org.uk](http://www.sheffieldu3a.org.uk) if you have not yet visited.

The presentation to the recent Group Coordinators' meeting was well received and sixteen groups now have their own home page. These pages allow groups to make information available to members and potential members. This information could be, for example, the future programme, photographs and accounts of past activities. Please email me ([webcoordinator@sheffieldu3a.org.uk](mailto:webcoordinator@sheffieldu3a.org.uk)) or telephone if you would like to start a home page for your group.

I will shortly need help with the website. This help could take various forms depending on the helper. Please get in touch if you are interested. Clearly computer literacy and interest are essential, but not necessarily previous experience with the particular software used.

*Norman Smith ..... Web Coordinator*

## **SU3A Treasurer**

The present Treasurer, Derek Cave, will come to the end of his four year term of office at the AGM next April. We are, therefore, looking to find a replacement in the near future so that the next incumbent can work in parallel for a while, both in the treasurer's job itself and in joining in committee proceedings as a co-opted member.

If you wish to put yourself forward for this job, or just find out more information, please contact Derek .

## **Subscriptions Are Now Due**

The renewal subscription for 2007 is now due and is **£7 per person whether U3A News is taken or not**. Please forward your payment to the Membership Secretary using the renewal form and annual Gift Aid declaration at the end of this issue.

To comply with the Data Protection Act 1998 members are advised that the information given is held by Sheffield U3A on a computer file and on paper within Sheffield to maintain membership records, to distribute information and the newsletter to members, and to administer groups within Sheffield U3A.

Please make cheques payable to “**Sheffield U3A**”. The completed form and subscription should be sent to the Membership Secretary:

## **Charity Quiz Night**

U3A members recently enjoyed a quiz night at Esporta organised by Marion Edmondson. Esporta provided a comfortable venue for the evening which was a great success. The questions, devised and compèred by Peter Chatterton, were stimulating and good fun. Luckily Peter's choice of music and pop tunes pertained to the 50s and 60s and were “in tune” with the competitors' ages! Other questions, all of which were well received, covered local knowledge and events past and present.

The winning team included Mike Lavelle and friends, but it was a close run thing with other teams scoring very highly too.

Together with donations from Esporta and a raffle, a total of over £350 was raised for the Sheffield Support Group of the

charity EveryChild who are helping desperately poor families in Romania at the present time. In the recent past the group built an orphanage called "Sheffield House" and the group continues to support the houseparents there, who care for orphaned siblings.

Thanks again Marion and Peter for arranging this very successful evening, which was very popular and oversubscribed. If members wish to go to next year's quiz, they need to apply for tickets as soon as they are announced to save disappointment.

*Stan and Enid Hirst*

## **Classical Concertgoers' Group**

Our first visit in 2007 is to the Symphony Hall Birmingham on Wednesday 14 March for a performance given by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, conducted by their resident conductor Sakari Oramo. He conducts a concert of "Russian Classics", with Simon Trpceski (piano). The programme consists of Tchaikowsky's famous *Romeo and Juliet* Overture, Rachmaninov's dynamic 1<sup>st</sup> Piano Concerto and concludes with Prokofiev's 5<sup>th</sup> Symphony - his response to Russia's victory over Nazi Germany.

The coach will leave the bus bay on Ecclesall Road South, near the top of Millhouses Lane, promptly at 4.30pm. The inclusive cost is £29.90 per person. Bookings may be made using the slip at the end of this issue. Please send applications to Derek Shipley, 40 Wollaton Avenue, Bradway, Sheffield S17 4LA, to arrive not later than 31 December. Please include the names and contact numbers of all members for whom you are booking - and a stamped addressed envelope.

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

*Derek Shipley ..... Coordinator*

## **Lunch and Lecture**

**Friday 9 March 2007**

Please make a note in your diaries as we are to have a return of the "Hautbois" Rick and Helen Heavisides.

Last time they entertained us with their medieval music depicting St Edmonds Day. I have had many requests from members to have them return.

Rick and Helen have suggested that this time they will bring us to the close of the 17<sup>th</sup> century with the title -

### **BAWDY BALLADS AND RELIGIOUS WRANGLING!**

William and Mary bring the 17<sup>th</sup> century to a close and with characters such as Henry Purcell, Inigo Jones and Playford we discover the joy of bawdy humour in music from this episode of history offset against the worries of the religious wrangling.

Helen and Rick will again use reconstructed instruments of that era, including a recently acquired six foot high triple harp and cello. They also bring costume and humour to their performance.

I hope those of you who enjoyed them last time will encourage members to come along, as we need a good number to attend.

Further details along with the booking form will be in the February edition of *Links*.

*Barbara Steel*..... *Coordinator*



## Theatre Group

Thank you to everyone who supported Christmas Cavalcade. We were able to donate £150 to Keith Roe's charities, £25 more than last year.

The next show is *Don't Look Now* at the Lyceum Theatre on Wednesday 7 March at 7.45 pm, prior to its transfer to London. The performance is an Audio Described Performance and a Talk Back Performance, where you get the chance to talk to members of the cast at the end of the show.

It is based on the novel by Daphne du Maurier. Following the death of their young daughter, John and Laura visit Venice to escape their pain. They meet two sisters, one of whom claims to be psychic and has visions of the dead girl. Tension mounts as John and Laura are led through a maze of canals and alleyways towards a terrifying climax. Mysterious, moving and gripping; it is a classic supernatural thriller.

Do not forget the Theatre Group is open to all paid up Sheffield U3A members.

*Michael Cowen ..... Coordinator*

### **Summer Schools**

National Summer School North will be held at Chester  
from 9 - 12 July 2007.

National Summer School South will be held at Cirencester  
from 20 - 23 August 2007.

Any U3A member is eligible to attend either of these Schools and more information will be given nearer the time. Anyone interested in receiving this information should send a Stamped Addressed Letter Size Envelope (new standard size not exceeding 9x6 inches or 240x165mm) to the Secretary .

# **GROUP NEWS**

## **An Autumn Outing**

On 26 September Walking Group B visited the village of Laxton, just beyond Ollerton on the Tuxford road. One of our members Ruth, being a local lass, knew the existence of this special village and kindly organised the day for us. The weather was absolutely marvellous, just what we needed for a good day out.

So what did we go to Laxton for? This village is one of the few places where the medieval three field strip system of farming can still be found. A well laid out Visitor Centre provided all the information by way of maps and photographs and a half hour video sets the scene for your visit. Ruth organised a real live farmer to complement this.

He accompanied us on a walk (around two miles) showing us the area of the original beginnings of the village - a motte and bailey castle. We walked ancient lanes to a vantage point where the strips could clearly be seen. This system was to ensure that each farmer got a fair share of good, not so good and poor land. The three large “fields” have the crops rotated leaving one fallow each year, just as you would do in your vegetable garden or allotment. Annually a small elected group of farmers walk these three areas to check that no boundaries have been trespassed by another farmer. Fines are imposed if this has happened and all participants are called to an annual “Court”, which seemed to be a good old chin wag and a drink or two, but kept in order by an official.

The different farms actually make up a large part of the village, unlike other places where the farms are outlying. The “short” side of the farm buildings adjoined the road and then receding in a line were the dairy, the barn, the stables etc; many with different roof levels, all in all making a fine picture.

The local brick is a warm red and the village glowed in the autumn sunshine. Not what you would call a chocolate box village, but most attractive and being off the beaten track retaining a feel of history.

After lunch on the village green (but it could have been in the hostelry), we ambled about some more, seeing birds of prey sitting on their perches quite content to let us appreciate them. We visited the ancient church that had more history and some memorial statues, one of which was made of wood and seriously infected by worm or rot or both. We then had a choice to fill the afternoon. Laxton also has a Holocaust Centre and not that far away are Rufford Country Park and Clumber Park. I think most of our group opted for tea at Rufford and a stroll around the gardens, statues and lake.

A memorable day out. As well as walking groups, Laxton may also be of interest to art or history groups.

*Sue Hepworth ..... Coordinator Walking Group B*

## **The ICT Group**

When I placed my proposal for this group in the August edition of *Links* I was not sure what response I would get. I had even worried whether I would get enough people to justify the use of the wonderful computer room at Notre Dame School.





Learning's a serious business!  
(but what's under the desk?)

The first phone call expressing interest in the group came at 10 am of the day *Links* came out. By lunch time the group was full! I now have seventeen people in the group and a waiting list of fifty six. This was a response that I had not dreamt of!

We have thirty computers in the training room at Notre Dame. Restricting the group to seventeen is necessary because I cannot split myself in two! If there is anyone else in Sheffield U3A who has taught ICT in their working life and would be interested in helping, we would be able to increase the size of the group. If any such person exists I would be delighted to hear from them. My email address is [clarechiba@vodafone.net](mailto:clarechiba@vodafone.net)

In the eight sessions so far we have covered basic word processing, handling pictures in a word processed document and file management.

"I was not sure what response I would get"

We will be moving on to using the Internet both as a source of information and a way of shopping for everything from food to a holiday in this country or overseas. Email, complete with

attachments comes next and then people will be able to decide whether they want to cover more advanced word processing, spreadsheets, desk top publishing or any other area which interests them.

People are serious about what they are learning, but they are also great fun and very appreciative. I thoroughly enjoy running the group.

*Clare Chiba ..... Coordinator ..... ICT Group*

*Photographs: John Ould*

## **Archaeology Group's 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary 2007**

This is an open invitation to any member to join in this special year's activities on one or more occasion. A friendly welcome and no digging are guaranteed.

The first item on next year's programme will be a talk by John Brooke entitled "Who are we, British or Anglo-Saxon?". This will take place at Carmel Court, 1 Wilson Road, (off Ecclesall Road, near Hunter's Bar) at 2.00pm on 16 January 2007.

"A friendly welcome and no digging are guaranteed."

Further events planned include a guided tour of the refurbished Weston Park Museum and a visit to Bishop House Museum, Meersbrook Park.

A printed programme should be available from 16 January and the coordinator can be contacted for further details. The full programme will also be available on the SU3A website.

*Kathleen Head ..... Coordinator*

## Art Group I Exhibition

“Great show”, “such variety”, “very impressive”. These were some of the comments written in our visitors’ book during the show.



The exhibition (our second) was staged in order to show the variety and standard of all our paintings. There were pictures in all media - oil, acrylic, watercolour and pastel and they included landscape, portraiture, animals, abstracts and still life.

Our tutor, David Allott, was pleased with the result - and he takes some pleasing! It is because of his enthusiasm and encouragement that we have been able to produce so many different subjects and styles.

Apologies for not publicising it in *Links* beforehand. We had a break in September and when we returned were just too late to catch the October issue. We’ll do better next year. Many thanks to Barbara Cassidy [see right] from Patch and Quilt for including her exquisite wall-hangings and to the many people who came to view.



*Ann Ritchie* ..... *Coordinator* ..... *Art Group I*



**More pictures  
from the  
Art Group I  
Exhibition**

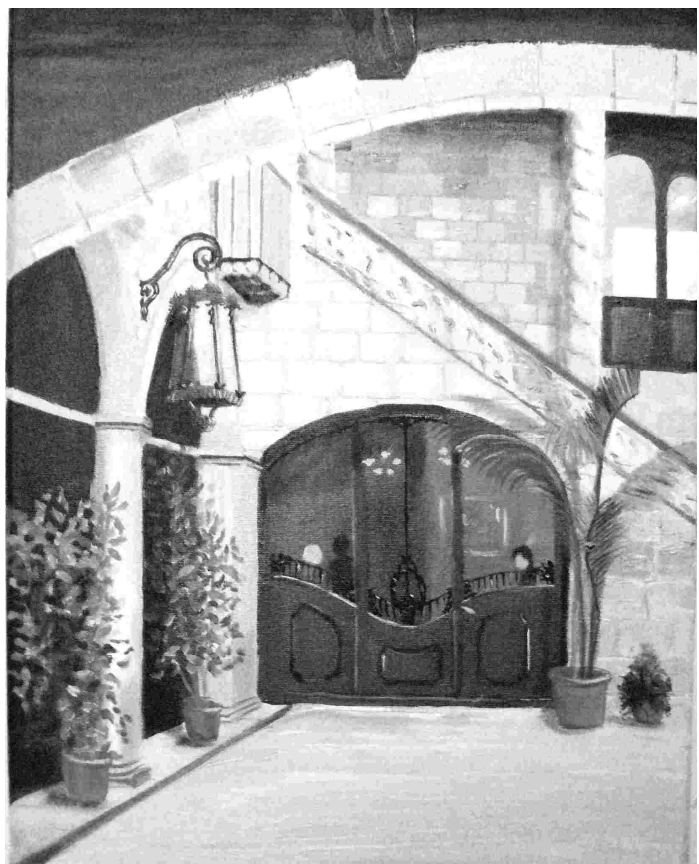
Two Men on a  
Bench

*by Irene Wells*

Barcelona

*by Margaret Briddon*

More photographs  
may be seen on the  
SU3A website.



## **French (Intermediate I)**

We had a discussion led by our tutor Graham on the theme *What makes you happy?* Usually we write in prose but on this occasion first one member produced a piece in verse and then this was followed by other members. Some of the poems are reproduced below.

*Josephine Hall ..... Coordinator ..... French (Intermediate I)*

### **Ce que me rend heureuse**

Le soleil brille  
J'habite une belle ville.  
Si j'écoute la musique  
C'est magnifique.  
Quand ma famille vient chez moi  
C'est meme mieux, je crois.  
Un bon repas avec mes amis,  
La santé pendant toute la vie,  
Dormir bien et manger bien.  
J'espère que je n'ai oublié rien.  
Ces sont les choses qui me rendent heureuse.  
Ne croyez pas que je suis menteuse!

*Inga Joseph*

### **Un poème français**

Quelques choses que je préfère  
Au bord de la mer:  
Le coucher du soleil en rouge et orange,  
Magnifique chef-d'oeuvre de Dieu et les anges,  
Le son des vagues, mouvement de l'eau,  
Les vols et chansons des jolies oiseaux.  
Les navires blancs  
D'un dessin luisant,  
La poésie de la mer,  
C'est une joie entière.

*R Bragg*



## **Birdwatching I**

After a visit to Potteric Carr Nature Reserve, Doncaster on 11 September, members of Birdwatching I had good reason to feel pleased when the following appeared on the Potteric website:

“Thanks to a visit by Sheffield U3A Birders, a Potteric Carr record was set today. This came with the late morning discovery of three curlew sandpipers on Huxter Well Marsh, providing the 146th species of bird to be recorded on the reserve this year. Potteric Carr's previous best species total in a calendar year was 145, in 1997. The same panache waders gave further cause for celebration, being the 25th wader species seen at Potteric Carr in 2006, and ending an absence of curlew sandpiper records for 16 years, with the previous most recent occurrence in July 1990.”

It was a particularly difficult “spot” as the birds were among a flock of other waders, looking into the sun and some good way off.

*Lesley Churton ..... Coordinator ..... Birdwatching 1*

## **NEW GROUPS**

### **Dining Out III**

The existing Dining Out groups are full and a new group is being formed. Monthly meetings will be held in different local restaurants or pubs, aiming to sample a variety of cuisines. I think Tuesday might be a good day to meet. I hope this is OK; if not, please let me know.

If you enjoy good food and good company, and want some good nights out, please call.

*Chris Darling*

## **Discussion Group**

Several people have enquired about the above Group, which unfortunately is full at present. If enough people were interested we could start a second group. If you are interested, please phone Peter Digby, the General Coordinator. ( He is willing to collect names and help a new group to establish.

Our Discussion Group meets fortnightly for two hours in members' homes to talk about anything and everything. One member introduces a subject of their choice and talks for no more than 15 minutes, then general discussion follows. We usually have a Chairman, so everyone has a chance to contribute, and we break for tea and biscuits after an hour.

We meet in all our homes and take it in turns to introduce a subject. We make no charge at the meetings but contribute a very small sum annually to cover postage, paper etc. for the programme, which is done by mutual consent three times a year.

Obviously another group can organise itself in any way it chooses. So, if you are interested in a little mental stimulation, phone Peter and get a group started. Our group is willing to help if required.

*Jenny Pennell ..... Group Coordinator ..... Discussion Group*

## **Geology**

Would you like to help a new geology group get off the ground? I would be willing to coordinate such a group, but we would need somebody with knowledge of geology to help run the group. We could meet weekly or monthly, possibly in S10.

If you are interested, please phone Dan Higbid

# TRAVEL NEWS

## Travel Organising Committee

Shirley Marney, Coordinator Ken Parkin, Treasurer

Derek Shipley, Minutes 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

From January 2007 **NO** Group Insurance will be arranged by SU3A Travel organisers. Each individual member will be responsible for arranging their own fully comprehensive Insurance.

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

## Disabilities

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.

## **TRAVEL**

### **Rome, Sorrento & Amalfi Coast**

21 March - 1 April 2007

There are three twin rooms available on this holiday. See last *Links* for full details or contact Shirley Marney, 21 Everard Avenue, Bradway S17 4LY or (0114) 235 0801.

### **North Wales and Snowdonia**

21 - 25 May 2007

There are places available on this holiday. See last *Links* for full details or contact Margaret Bullivant, 14 Kingsley Park Grove, Sheffield S11 8HL or (0114) 296 2256.

### **Tour of St. Petersburg and Moscow**

June 2007 (date to be advised)

Flying from Manchester airport and staying at a 3 star hotel in St. Petersburg for six nights. It is bed and breakfast and you can dine in one of the many restaurants in the hotel.

With our tour manager, we will visit the church of St Nicholas, St Isaacs Cathedral and the Church of the Spilled Blood with its beautiful multicoloured domes. A full day at Pushkin and Alexander Palace, dating back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. A full day in the Hermitage, morning tour, and afternoon free. Tour of Russia Museum with its fine display of artefacts and some of Russia's greatest works of art. Half day at Peter and Paul Fortress on Hare Island. On the last full day we leave the splendour and pomp of St Petersburg to visit a bit of old Russia in Novgorod which has had much restoration over the past few years.

We leave St Petersburg after a visit to the Summer Palace to

travel overnight by train to Moscow. We will travel in first-class sleeper cabins (twins). Supplement for a single cabin is £99.

We will be staying two nights half board in our hotel in central Moscow and we arrive there for breakfast. Afterwards we will do a tour of the city, Red Square, St Basil's Cathedral, the Olympic stadium and much more. The second day we tour the Kremlin and have a free afternoon with suggestions where to go if you wish.

There will be an optional visit to the opera or ballet. The programme is available one month before departure.

The cost is £1350 (single supplement is £279) and includes flights and taxes, hotels, coach throughout, tour manager, entrance fees and visas. Bed and breakfast and two lunches in St Petersburg and half board in Moscow.

Full comprehensive insurance must be arranged by each individual.

Please complete the slip at the end of this issue and send a SAE with a deposit of £135 to Shirley Marney.

### **U3A NATIONAL TRAVEL**

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

Yvonne Gutsell, email: [Gutsellfravon@aol.com](mailto:Gutsellfravon@aol.com)

Details of these tours appear regularly in U3A News. They are also available on the national U3A website at:

<http://db.u3a.org.uk/travel/> and 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](mailto:u3atravel@internet.com.uk)

## **Tour of Dorset - September 2006**

A party of 40 left for Dorset in the safe hands of driver Mike. We stopped en route at Kingston Lacy, where we admired wonderful wood carving and art works in the house and the Japanese garden. Continuing on to Bournemouth, we arrived at the Britannia Hotel.

On day two we sailed to Brownsea Island, which is one of the few places in England where red squirrels still survive (one of our group spotted one). We had a guided walking tour informing us of the wildlife and history of the island, then free time to wander around before catching the ferry to Poole.

The afternoon was spent in Christchurch where some of their U3A members took great delight in showing us their historic town. The Mayor, herself a U3A member, gave a talk while we enjoyed tea and home made cakes. It has been suggested a small gift be sent to thank the Christchurch U3A for their hospitality. *[see next page]*

On day three Penny Rose, our guide, showed us every aspect of the New Forest. The day ended at Stonehenge in lashing wind and horizontal rain, which made it very atmospheric.

We visited the charming and historic village of Corfe and its castle on day four. From there we took a nostalgic trip on the Swanage railway.

On the journey home on day five we spent some time at Longleat to see many of the attractions in the safari park, house and gardens.

The whole group made us newcomers to U3A holidays very welcome and, with Shirley's great organisation, much good conversation and a lot of laughter, it was a very enjoyable trip.

*Margaret Greig*

I sent a Thank You card to the Chairman of Christchurch U3A with a letter opener (made in Sheffield of course) for their U3A office, and a calendar for her for organising the visit. Her reply is printed below.

*Shirley Marney*



Shirley Marney and Beryl Mellish

Dear Shirley,

Thankyou so much for your gifts to us. The letter opener is beautiful and will be much treasured in our office. The lovely photographs of the Peak District will make me wistful throughout the year.

Our CD is not quite ready to send to you but will arrive in due course.

We all enjoyed meeting with your party and I shall recount the visit of Sheffield U3A when I speak at our AGM tomorrow.



With every good wish from Christchurch to Sheffield.

*Beryl Mellish*

*Photos:  
Derek  
Shipley*

## The Jewels of Turkey - October 2006

Nine members of Sheffield U3A left home one cold October morning and awoke next day in Kusadasi on Turkey's Aegean coast to blue sky and glorious sunshine. Here we met the rest of the Saga tour.

The legacies of the Greeks, Romans, Ottomans and other civilisations have made Turkey a vast outdoor museum and our excellent guide, a Turkish man called George, had enormous knowledge of the ancient sites. George accompanied us throughout our journey, first to Ephesus where he guided us through the mosaics, baths, fountains and chariot worn streets which led to the spectacular Library of Celsus. *[below]*



Next we visited the Temple of Apollo, where several Ionic columns stand. The columns are so massive and white against the blue sky and it's easy to imagine the Oracle standing there



proclaiming the will of the gods to the people thousands of years ago.

Then to Pergamum [right] - which is one of the finest archaeological sites in Turkey. A breathtaking hill top site with extensive ruins, including Greek and Roman temples and a theatre which could seat 10,000



people, together with a medical library which was once the largest in the ancient world. When we reached the edge of the site and looked down at the huge theatre on the hillside - we were all speechless at the sheer beauty and expanse of the whole setting.

This sounds like a tour guide - so I must also tell you that we had such fun - we ate delicious food, huge juicy tomatoes, figs, pomegranates, beautifully cooked sea bass and sea bream, and we drank the odd gin and tonic and glass of wine! We bought gorgeous pashminas, genuine fake watches, colourful jewellery and Turkish Delight in the bazaars where the people were friendly and welcoming.

The armed soldiers we met whilst walking the coastline were also very friendly and didn't arrest us for inadvertently trespassing on a military site - fortunately they believed us when we flapped our arms up and down and told them that the binoculars were for looking at birds!

So much more to tell - silkworms, carpets, pottery, House of the Virgin Mary, Bodrum castle, beaches, spices, fragrant



flowers, colourful  
vegetable  
markets ....

A remarkable,  
unforgettable  
holiday - thank  
you Shirley.

*Andrea Buxton*

*Photos: Andrea  
Buxton*

*[Left - Temple of  
Didyma]*

## **Day Trips for 2007 - not yet advertised**

March 13	Ripley Castle / Black Sheep Brewery
April 29	Spalding Flower Festival
May	Canal Trip Foulridge Lancashire
June 12	Manchester Baths / Arley Gardens
July	Burnaby Gardens & Sledmere House
August	Black Country Museum
September	Ironbridge
October	Stockport Hat Museum / Bramhall Hall Cheshire.
November	Lichfield
December	York

## **Short Breaks for 2007 - not yet advertised**

September    West Sussex / Chichester

## **Holidays and Short Breaks for 2007**

Mar 21- Apr 1    Rome, Sorrento & Amalfi

May 21 - 25    North Wales & Snowdonia

June                St Petersburg & Moscow

Could members please write, to show their interest in either Vietnam and Cambodia or China in October 2007, to Shirley Marney, 21 Everard Avenue. Bradway, Sheffield S17 4LY ; or phone (0114) 235 0801.

**SU3A TRAVEL**  
PLEASE NOTE THAT  
**ONLY POSTAL APPLICATIONS**  
WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR HOLIDAYS AND DAY TRIPS

Make a note in your diary and come and support us.

**SHEFFIELD U3A TRAVEL  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
AND ART COMPETITION  
THURSDAY 1 MARCH 2007**

**1.30pm to 4.00pm**

**at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Millhouses**

Come and discuss previous visits, future plans and ideas for future programmes.

We do appreciate your opinions and ideas on Sheffield U3A travel.

Come and have a sociable afternoon with us!

**ART COMPETITION**

The 2005 Art Competition was again a success, hopefully this one will be as successful. So take out your paint and paint brushes and show what wonderful talent we have in SU3A. There will be three judges, who will judge the pictures before the meeting, and all the paintings will be on display from 1.30pm for all to admire.

**Categories:** (Not necessarily connected with travel)

- 1 Animals
- 2 Seascapes / landscapes
- 3 Still life
- 4 Townscape

Minimum size 7" x 5" (13cm x 18cm) mounted on suitable card or framed. No more than four paintings per person, one in each category. All paintings will be returned.

Details of where to send or deliver the paintings will be in the February *Links*.

# **MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS**

## **The Weston Park Museum Project**

The renewed and revitalised City Museum and Mappin Art Gallery is quite simply stunning. I was fortunate to be invited to the opening of the new Weston Park Museum and was bowled over by the quality, ingenuity and visual excitement of the new modern display areas. The architects, curators and staff have used the three and a half years of closure to wonderful effect and conjured up a Sheffield asset and national treasure of which we can be very proud.

'The Mappin' has been at the cultural heart of Sheffield for over a hundred and thirty years, educating and entertaining visitors since 1875. In recent years however, the building was in desperate need of repairs and the displays had become outdated and put at risk by the deterioration. In March 2003, £15.1 million was obtained from the Heritage Lottery fund and Sheffield City Council. With further help from a number of other Trusts, the £19 million project was born.

The collections are now displayed in seven new exhibition spaces, all with state of the art environmental controls. The Sheffield Life and Times space tells the story of the City's development with a series of brilliant displays and audio-visuals. Other highlights include Guy the gorilla, still looking scary, Snowy the polar bear in Arctic World, What on Earth, Treasures, About Art and ..... I'm sorry I've run out of space and superlatives, you will just have to go and see for yourself.

Weston Park Museum is free admission and open seven days - 10am to 5 pm (Sunday 11am to 5pm).

*Derek McQueen*

## Sheffield U3A Calendar

### 2006

Dec 5	Derby and Crown Derby Factory
Dec 7	Concertgoers - De Montfort Hall, Leicester
Dec 10	Theatre Group - <i>Christmas Cavalcade</i> , City Hall

### 2007

Jan 17	Theatre Group - <i>Fiddler on the Roof</i> , Crucible
March 1	SU3A Travel AGM
March 7	Theatre Group - <i>Don't Look Now</i> , Lyceum
March 9	Lunch and Lecture
March 13	Ripley Castle / Black Sheep Brewery
March 14	Concertgoers - Symphony Hall, Birmingham
Mar 21 - Apr 1	Rome, Sorrento and Amalfi Coast
April 27	AGM and Annual Members' Meeting
April 29	Spalding Flower Festival
May	Canal Trip Foulridge Lancashire
May 21 - 25	Short Break - North Wales and Snowdonia
June	St Petersburg and Moscow
June 12	Manchester Baths / Arley House
July	Burnaby Gardens & Sledmere House
August	Black Country Museum
September	Ironbridge
September	Short Break - West Sussex / Chichester
October	Stockport Hat Museum / Bramall Hall
November	Lichfield

**SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE**  
**2007 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM**

Regd. Charity No 703147

**Name** (1): (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) .....

date of birth:(dd/mm/yyyy) \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

**Name** (2): (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) .....

date of birth:(dd/mm/yyyy) \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Address: .....

.....

Postcode: ..... Tel No: .....

I / We attach a payment of £ ..... for membership at £7.00 per person.

If you do NOT wish to receive U3A News tick here:

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**Please note that members not renewing before 28 February 2007 will be deemed to have resigned.**

**GIFT AID DECLARATION**

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I .....(PRINT NAME)

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Signed: .....Date: .....

Please make cheques payable to: "Sheffield U3A" and send to:  
Mrs Lorna Baker, 8 Thornsett Gardens, Sheffield S17 3PP.