

SHEFFIELD



LINKS



View from a window by Alma Walker (Outdoor Sketching I)

No. 128

April 2007

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

CALLING ALL MEMBERS

This time I am taking advantage of my usual space on the front page for a very different kind of message. You will see the yellow pages of the Chairman's Annual Report inserted further on, along with the other items necessary for the AGM in April. It is all good news - news of growth and new initiatives. We are thriving, by far the largest in the country, etc and yet

THE FUTURE OF SHEFFIELD U3A IS UNDER THREAT

As a registered charity with an approved Constitution, we are in real danger of having to close down all activities carried on in the name of SU3A.

For the past year in every issue of *Links*, by reminding coordinators and by word of mouth enquiries, we have been looking without success for a Treasurer.

NO TREASURER - NO SU3A

In vain we have pointed out that the outgoing Treasurer, Derek Cave, over his four years of office, has taken on much more than usual duties in getting the intricacies of Gift Aid sorted to the extent that it is now routine. He played a vital part in the updating of the Membership Records system (now up and Running) and he also had to cope with new edicts from U3A national office, notably in sorting out questions of insurance and liability. With all that effectively dealt with and behind us, we can safely say with confidence to his successor that it should now be back to "keeping the books", knowing also that, if necessary, we can always call on expertise outside the Committee.

This is therefore the **LAST CALL** to our 2,000 + membership.

Perhaps just one of the 2,000 might be willing to step forward, even someone who might feel they would like a "run in" before

taking over completely. Or perhaps (as once with *Links* and soon to be with the new Group Coordinator's tasks) there are partners or friends who would take on the job jointly? If so, please talk to me - write, email - or I'll meet you somewhere.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT

I hope to see many of you at the AMM/AGM. Come and find out what some of the groups are doing and hopefully hear some more good news of a search successfully ended.

Joan Keogh, Chairman

COMMITTEE REPORT

The Report of the Gift Aid Working Party was received and approved. A summary of the Report was made available at the subsequent Coordinators' Meeting and the matter will be put before the membership at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Publicity Officer Peter Barclay has given a presentation of our activities at a pre-retirement course for hospital workers, and has been invited to do the same for a similar course for South Yorkshire Police, the emphasis being on the physical and mental benefits to be gained by participation in U3A.

We noted that although Sheffield is the largest U3A we have had relatively little exposure in U3A News, so we thought that perhaps we should raise our profile. If your group has an interesting story, event, or photograph, or maybe an opinion worth airing on the Letters page, why not send it in? Copy can be emailed to the editor at cobeck@clara.co.uk (see U3A News page 4).

Meeting members from other U3As, perhaps when on holiday, can be very rewarding, and wearing a U3A badge obviously aids recognition. However, a badge wasn't strictly necessary when your General Coordinator met your *Links* Deputy Editor, quite fortuitously, in the Eva Peron Mausoleum in Buenos Aires while on holiday recently!

Web Coordinator Norman Smith reports good progress in setting up a Virtual U3A. In due course this should prove of great benefit to housebound members and to those unable to attend meetings for other reasons.

John Richards, (ex-Chairman), who has kindly volunteered to be SU3A representative for the Ridings Region for one more year, joined us at our March meeting.

Finally, this was my last meeting, after four years on the committee, years which have been full of interest and spent in good company. I stood for election because I wanted to repay some of the pleasure and interest I have had from being in SU3A and I can thoroughly recommend the 'committee experience' to any of you who feel the same. We still need a few more nominations.

Hilda Wisbey

FROM THE EDITOR

This is my last issue of *Links* as I have come to the end of my four-year term on the Committee. I would like to thank the Committee and Chairman (past and present) for their never failing support during my time as Editor. I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the willing helpers, especially Lorna Baker who produces the address labels, Derek and Maureen Shipley who stick the labels on to the envelopes, Enid Bennett and the late Shirley Haworth who hosted the "stuffing party" for many years and all those people who, when I phoned them to say, "Will you come and help stuff 2000 *Links* magazines into envelopes tomorrow?" replied "Yes, of course I will". Thank you all.

I wish my successor, Roger Heesterman, every success in the future and hope he finds it as much fun as I have.

Myra Smith, Editor

ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING AND SHEFFIELD U3A 21st AGM

**27 April 2007
2.00pm**

**The Masonic Hall, Tapton Hall, Shore Lane,
Sheffield S10 3BU**

The Annual Members Meeting this year will consist of selected groups who have agreed to put on a display and practical demonstrations.

We are obliged to have an AGM and this will be our twenty first. We try to make it as short as possible aiming for approximately 20 minutes for the formal part.

The Agenda, 2006 Minutes and supporting information are in this issue of *Links*.

There will be **FIVE** vacancies on the Committee. Nominations for election to the Committee should be made on the form at the back of this issue of *Links* and should be in the hands of the Secretary by Thursday 12 April 2007.

LOST YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER?

Have you lost or forgotten your SU3A membership number? If you look at the envelope your copy of *Links* came in you will see that your membership number appears on the address label.

GROUP ACCOUNTS

Groups are reminded that the amended *Guidelines for Treasurers* issued in February 2006 included new rules for the running of group accounts under the heading "Financial Matters". Would all groups that are required to submit a copy of their accounts to the Treasurer under paragraph 4 of Financial Matters, and have not already done so, please submit them as soon as possible.

(It is assumed that most, if not all, groups run their accounts for the calendar year, similar to Sheffield U3A accounts).

Derek Cave, Treasurer

LITERATURE CHARITY QUIZ

How well do you know your Bronte from your Browning, or your Shelley from your Shakespeare? Do you know who wrote:

“A horse, a horse, my kingdom for a horse ...”

Was it Terry Pratchett, Dan Brown, Shakespeare or the Bible?

To find out, and for a fun evening out, come along to the Charity Quiz presented by Margaret Walton on **Saturday 21 April 2007** at Greens Leisure Centre, Napier Street, Sheffield.

Open from 7.00pm for quiz to start at 7.30pm

Pea and Pie Supper or vegetarian option

Tickets £7.00 (includes quiz and supper)

Entry by ticket only

(form at the end of this issue of *Links*)

No more than six in a team, please

Teams can be arranged on the night

Ample parking and bar facilities available

All proceeds to the Friends of the Children's Hospital

For further information please contact Marion Edmondson

GROUP NEWS

Classical Concertgoers' Group

The first of our summer visits is to the Buxton Festival on Wednesday 18 July for a performance of Jacques Offenbach's comic opera *Bluebeard*. Forget the grim legend of dreadful deeds and mass murder. This is

“Forget the grim legend of dreadful deeds and mass murder”

Offenbach and in his hands it becomes a comedy, a satire of marriage and deceit – with a happy ending of course! It is a Buxton Festival production, in English, with the Festival Chorus and Northern Chamber Orchestra conducted by Win Davies. We have included an optional pre-concert talk, given by the conductor.

The inclusive cost is £30.00 and bookings may be made using the slip at the end of this issue. Please send applications to Derek Shipley, 40 Wollaton Avenue, Sheffield S17 4LA, to arrive not later than Monday 30 April. Please include the names and contact numbers of all members for whom you are applying - and a stamped addressed envelope.

The coach will leave the bus bay on Ecclesall Road South, near the top of Millhouses Lane promptly at 5.00pm. Our visits are open to all SU3A members. No special group membership is necessary.

Derek Shipley , Coordinator

Italian for Holidays

Have you planned a trip to Italy this year? Would you like to speak a little Italian when you go? You've just got time if you act now! We plan to start a new group of beginners in May, so book your place now. It's not as difficult as you may think and actually it's quite fun.

At the moment we would also be pleased to welcome any new

member who already speaks some Italian. If you fancy learning a little more, just refreshing your memory or showing off your fluency, why not come along and join our friendly group?

Over the last two years, a number of people have left the group without returning books or tapes borrowed from other members. We would be most grateful if any of these borrowed items or any books, tapes or CDs which are no longer used could be returned to us for use by new beginners.

Mick Hague , Coordinator

Theatre Group

I would like to thank you all for your support once again for the *Musical Cavalcade* which enables us to give £108 to Keith Roe's charities. Also, thank you for your support for our first visit outside Sheffield to see *42nd Street* at Bradford Alhambra. This month we are looking to book for the Tudor Players *The Darling Buds of May* on Wednesday 16 May at the Library Theatre. This is a comedy by H E Bates about the lovable, irrepressible Larkin family which most of you will be familiar with from the TV production.

“the lovable,
irrepressible Larkin family”

Michael Cowen , Coordinator

Tuesday Bridge Group

The above group has a number of vacancies. Applications are therefore invited for membership. We meet at the Polish Ex-Servicemen's Club, Dover Road. (just off Ecclesall Road), Sheffield 11, on Tuesday mornings from 9.45am to 12.45pm. We play Duplicate Bridge in a friendly atmosphere and cover a wide range of abilities. Singleton players are catered for. The current annual subscription is £23.00.

To apply or request further information, please ring Mike Brumby on (0114) 2365676.

Try Something New



Florence Ames

Would you like to try your hand
At drawing sheep that never stand
In one place – for very long?
Perhaps you'd rather paint things growing
Trees, some flowers, the river flowing
And try to get reflections!

Maybe a cottage you could draw
With crooked chimneys, open door
And black cat in the garden.
You could blame a wobbly line
On to the ravages of time,
And no one any wiser!

It's very good to share a car
Because we sometimes travel far
To draw and paint our picture.
Friday is the day we meet,
Every month it is a treat
To share our art together.

To join our group, pick up the phone
Outdoor Sketching will be at home.
In *Links* you'll find the number.
We will be glad to welcome you,
Delighted in your interest too,

Coordinators , Florence Ames and Alma Walker

LETTERS

Dear Editor,

I am taking this great opportunity to write to you for a very special reason on a very special occasion.

On Friday 26 January the Writing for Pleasure Group had a celebration lunch at the Granville College for the retirement of Shirley Moore our founder. She was a well respected active member as well as the leader.

We have had many years of fun and laughter and have listened, written and exchanged our educational knowledge without criticism but with help and encouragement.

We will miss her dearly and most of all the meeting and socialising of the members. We were a great group.

I personally will miss the happy times we had together.

Agnes Alexander

OBITUARY

Margaret Mitchell

Margaret died on 30 January 2007, suddenly without warning in Hathersage almost at the end of the walk she was co-leading.

A retired sports teacher, latterly at Brantwood, Margaret was an active, friendly member of Walking Group B and treasurer for over four years. She was also a member of a U3A Local History Group.

She was a loving, caring and thoughtful wife, mother and grandmother and our thoughts are with Peter and family. Sadly missed by so many friends.

Sue Hepworth

TRAVEL NEWS

Travel Organising Committee

Shirley Marney, Coordinator

Ken Parkin,

Derek Shipley, Minutes Secretary

Margaret Bullivant

Peter Frost

Barbara Robertshaw

Holiday Insurance - In no circumstances will Sheffield U3A 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.

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

Disabilities - The policy of Sheffield U3A with regard to taking members on trips is to be as fully inclusive as possible. However, our trips and tours contain a full range of activities and need to be considered carefully by individual applicants. The organiser must, therefore, be advised of any health issues or disabilities at the time of booking. This enables the organiser to discuss with the Tour Operator/Travel Agent or the place of interest on a day trip, as applicable, to assess the suitability of the trip for the member, who can then make an informed decision.

Whilst every effort will be made to accommodate a disabled person on all social trips, if there is a conflict of opinion for Short Breaks and Holidays the Tour Operator/Travel Agent will make the final decision.

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, with the new correct postage for its size.

Winter Warmer, at Puerto Pollensa, Majorca 23 March 2008

Flying from East Midlands Airport, and staying two weeks at the 3* Pollensa Park Hotel, with half board. There will be no leader. The Winter Warmer is a holiday that you organise yourself. Lots of places of interest in the surrounding area, or travel by the efficient local bus to other parts of the island. Puerto Pollensa is very flat, so suitable for members with disabilities. The hotel does have lifts.

The cost is £555 per person and the single supplement is £70. This includes coach to the airport, and gratuities for the driver but not the hotel staff. Deposit of £75 per person required.

Please complete the booking slip at the end of this issue including SU3A number and send **before 6 April**.

Cruise - New England and Canada in the Fall 22 September 2007

Flying from Manchester, with an overnight stay in New York. Board the Norwegian Dawn and cruise to Boston, Maine, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Saguenay River, and Newfoundland. 14 days.

Cost £1299 for inside twin cabin, other cabins available. Deposit £100. Please ring Shirley Marney for more details regarding cabins .

Please complete the booking slip at the end of this issue including SU3A number and send **before 1 April**.

<p style="text-align: center;">SHEFFIELD U3A TRAVEL PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY POSTAL APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR HOLIDAYS AND DAY TRIPS</p>

Cruise from Skipton on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal - Tuesday 8 May 2007

Enjoy a three hour trip eastward to Farnhill Woods and back aboard the "Dalesman", a modern and luxurious canal boat. A buffet lunch will be served during the trip. A commentary about the history and wildlife of the canal will be presented.

After leaving the boat at 2.30pm, you can enjoy a one and three quarter hour stay in the historic market town of Skipton, prior to our return to Sheffield.

The total cost including buffet lunch and dessert is £34 per person.

Please complete the booking slip (including your U3A membership number) at the end of this issue.

Thursford Christmas Spectacular 10 - 12 November 2007

Come and join us to see this most spectacular show. We will be staying 3* half board in Bury St. Edmunds. On the way to the hotel we will visit Lavenham village. The full day will be spent in Cambridge, with a tour in the morning. On the final day we will have a free morning in Bury St. Edmunds, and see the matinee show on the way home.

Cost is £185, including gratuities for the driver and hotel. Single supplement £52. Please send £40 deposit.

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

Victoria Baths, Manchester & Arley Hall, Northwich - Tuesday 19 June 2007

You may remember the BBC2 Restoration programme last year. The public chose Victoria Baths as a winner and as a result it has started its long awaited restoration work (Phase 1 this year) with the £3.5million award money. So you will have a unique opportunity to see restoration in action. On our tour we shall see how the original concept of a prestigious baths establishment, which had separate baths for first and second class bathing for both sexes, has deteriorated and how it is being restored.

In the afternoon we shall visit Arley Hall and Gardens. Viscount Ashbrook's family has owned Arley Hall for thirteen generations. Piers Warburton built the original hall in 1469 and the outstanding Grade 1 cruck barn is of the same period. The present hall and chapel were built between 1832 and 1845 in the Victorian-Jacobean style. There is fine plasterwork and panelling as well as historic family furniture, pictures and porcelain.

The award winning gardens, recently voted in the top fifty in Europe and in Britain's top ten, are a gardener's paradise and are celebrated for perhaps the oldest double herbaceous borders in the country.

The cost for the day is £25 per person and includes coffee and biscuits at the Baths, admission to both venues, the guided tour at the Baths, and all gratuities. The Tudor Barn Restaurant at Arley offers lunches and afternoon teas. You might prefer to bring a packed lunch as we will not arrive at Arley until 1.30pm. To reserve a place, please complete the slip at the end of this issue.

Programme for 2007

March 13	Black Sheep Brewery and Ripley Castle
March 21	Rome and the Amalfi coast
April	No day trip in April
May 5	Spalding Flower Festival
May 8	Cruise from Skipton on Leeds Liverpool Canal
June 1-10	St Petersburg and Moscow
June 19	Manchester Baths and Arley Gardens
July 10	Burnby Hall Gardens & Sledmere House
August 9	Black Country Museum
August 23	Askham Bryan - Ridings Region Open Day (free coach)
Sept 20	Ironbridge
October 10	Stockport Hat Museum and Bramhall Hall
November	Lichfield
Nov 10 -12	Thursford, Norfolk
Nov 14	South Africa
December	York

Some ideas for holidays for 2008

March 23	Majorca
April	Turkey
May	UK short break
June ?	Two centre holiday in Austria
July	Tall Ships Liverpool
September	Berlin (short break)
November	Canal cruise in Europe

**NOMINATION FORM FOR ELECTION TO
SHEFFIELD U3A COMMITTEE**

To be returned by **Friday 13 April 2007** to the Secretary,
Barbara Steel, 11 Watkinson Gardens, Sheffield S20 7LU.

Name of person nominated

Address

.....

2007 SU3A membership number

Tel No:

Groups to which nominee belongs:

.....

Name of Proposer SU3A No

Signature of Proposer

Name of Seconder SU3A No

Signature of Seconder

I am a member of Sheffield U3A and agree to be nominated
as a candidate for election to the Committee of Sheffield U3A
at the Annual General Meeting on Friday 27 April 2007.

Signature of Nominee

Date

MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS

Latin Group III

Arrius and his Aitches

Chommoda dicebat, si quando commode vellet
Dicere, et insidias Arrius hinsidias,
Et tum mirifice sperebat se esse locutum
Cum quantum poterat dixerat hinsidias
Credo, sic mater, sic Liber avunculus eius,
Sic maternus avus dixerat atque avia.
Hoc misso in Syriam requierant omnibus aures;
Audient eadem leniter et leviter,
Nec sibi postilla metuebant talia verba;
Cum subito affertur nuntius horribilis:
Ionios fluctus, postquam illuc Arrius isset,
Iam non Ionios esse, sed Hionios.

Catullus

Arrius and his Aitches

H'alas poor Arrius was sure to get it wrong,
He had no way with words, no silver tongue;
All unawares he let his language rip
But over aitches he was sure to trip.
H'onoured and H'obliged to make a speech,
Correct pronunciation was beyond his reach.
Wishing to be admired and praised,
He H'oft left listeners amazed.
Had he but lived in present day,
With plenty still he wished to say,
Prescott and he in parliamentary pact
Could H'enrich our language with a double H'act.

Pat Parkin

Just to show we can have lighter moments in our Latin group.
As a beginner I was unable to do a correct word for word
translation so wrote this verse in the spirit of the original.

GROUP REPORTS

Country Dancing

In December dancers from the SU3A Country Dancing Group made their way to Rotherham for a morning of dance as the guests of the Rotherham U3A Country Dance Group. The Sheffield people were warmly welcomed by the Rotherham Group and both groups danced a varied programme provided by Jack and Jean, the two Groups' callers.

Afterwards, everyone enjoyed an excellent buffet lunch produced by the host group which was very much appreciated. Our thanks go to the two callers and the two coordinators Marjorie and Marjorie.

Ann Barclay



Photograph by Muriel Burke

PEOPLE



Peter and Jackie Digby, Ann and Roger Heesterman

Fancy meeting you here!

Where would you expect to meet a fellow Committee member from Sheffield U3A? Fargate? Meadowhall? Pete Digby (General Coordinator) and Roger Heesterman (*Links* Deputy Editor) went a lot further afield and met quite by chance at Eva Peron's mausoleum in a cemetery in Buenos Aires!

U3A NATIONAL TRAVEL

Information about all "U3A National Travel" tours can be obtained from:

Yvonne Gutsell, email: 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 SU3A members can ask to be informed when a new travel list is posted on the national U3A website by sending a request to: u3atravel@internet.com.uk

Sheffield U3A Calendar 2007

April 21	Literature Charity Quiz
April 27	AGM and Annual Members' Meeting
April 29	Theatre Group - <i>April Musical Cavalcade</i>
May 3	Concertgoers' - De Montfort Hall, Leicester
May 5	Spalding Flower Festival
May 8	Cruise on Leeds Liverpool Canal
May 16	Theatre Group - <i>Darling Buds of May</i>
May 21 - 25	Short Break - North Wales and Snowdonia
June 1 - 10	St Petersburg and Moscow
June 19	Manchester Baths / Arley House
July 10	Burnby Hall Gardens & Sledmere House
July 12	Theatre Group - <i>42nd Street</i> , Alhambra Bradford
July 18	Concertgoers - Buxton Festival <i>Bluebeard</i>
August 9	Black Country Museum
August 23	Askham Bryan - Ridings Region Open Day
September 20	Ironbridge
September	Short Break - West Sussex / Chichester
September 22	Cruise - New England and Canada
October 10	Stockport Hat Museum / Bramall Hall
Oct 23 - Nov 6	Vietnam and Cambodia Discovery
November	Lichfield
Nov 10-12	Thursford, Norfolk
November 14	South Africa
December	York

2008

March 23 Majorca