



LINKS



No. 133

February 2008

www.sheffieldu3a.org.uk

From the Chairman

"... it is not so much as where we stand now as where we are going..."
(Oliver Wendell Holmes Snr.)

I am writing this in January, but sufficiently far enough into 2008 to realise that it really is a new year for SU3A. No looking back now, other than to remember what we have managed to achieve (what were your highlights?) and what progress we have made with ongoing plans. Now the Committee has to look ahead, consolidating what is in place and building on that in order to move forward, always with the interests of SU3A in mind. Short, middle and long terms plans will be required to meet the expectations of an ever growing number of members. Our proposed new project *FUTURES 2008-2012* takes our thinking to SU3A's 25th Anniversary.

Have you looked at our publicity leaflet lately? Do you remember what colour it is? Most of you, I hope. The latest print (*EPS 9/07*) is one example of keeping up to date. As well as extolling the advantages of new interests and listing a representative broad sample of SU3A Groups, one of the questions to prospective members is - *Are you willing to take an active part in a self-help educational organisation?*" - and the key words are *active* and *self-help*.

There is a true story on record that in the very early days of SU3A, the well known response to someone enquiring about a particular type Group was "*... there isn't such a Group, but there is now, you have started it....*". That pioneering spirit is not totally dead – two Groups in 2007 were started by new members because *there wasn't one*. Perhaps there is also thought here for Groups unable to take on any more members and having to turn people away.

There is much in this issue to catch your eye. You will notice that the reports of the Committee meetings have been expanded, in the interests of governance and transparency, and I suggest the Gift Aid article is a ***must*** for discussion within all Groups.

And to repeat my plea in the last issue - we shall need a Secretary in April. From more than TWO THOUSAND members - there surely must be ONE!

Joan Keogh

Cover Picture: Lars Tharp, speaker at our AMM/AGM on 25 April 2008

Lunch and Lecture

at the Sheffield Park Hotel, Chesterfield Road South,
Meadowhead, Sheffield S8 8BW

Friday 22 February 2008

Please arrive at 12 for 12.30 pm - Cost £13.50

There is parking and the No.53 Lowedges bus stops at the hotel.

The menu will be roast leg of lamb (*well cooked, not pink*), lemon meringue pie with clotted cream and berry compote, and coffee and mints. The vegetarian option will be roast Mediterranean vegetables served in a buckwheat crepe.

Speakers

The speakers on this occasion will be Connie, Mike and Richard, who comprise *The Lost Penguins*, one of the teams in The Polar Challenge 2008, a 350 mile team race to the Magnetic North Pole. They will be bringing their equipment to show us and will tell of their preparations and expectations.

They are taking part in this event to raise money for *WaterAid* and will be giving their fee for this talk to that Charity.

If you would like to book a place, please fill in the form at the end of this issue, to arrive no later than Monday 4 February 2008.

Barbara Steel Coordinator

Editorial Note

Could I please remind contributors that e-mailed text contributions should be in .rtf or in Word 2003 .doc format; and that photographs should be in unedited .jpeg format. Should you wish items posted to me (pictures, CDs etc.) to be returned, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope with the correct postage.

Sheffield U3A News Update

Executive Committee Report

The last meeting of the Committee was held on 4 January, when the Committee were joined by the other Officers handling SU3A affairs. All stood in memory of Norman Smith, until recently our Web Coordinator and a past Joint Editor of *Links* [see *Obituary on page 12*].

Our Secretary Barbara Steel reported that we had received three requests for assistance with research projects from Sheffield's Universities. A note had been prepared and recently distributed to Group Coordinators in their annual January mailing. Interested members should contact their Group Coordinator for further information. She also reminded members that there were three vacancies on the Executive Committee to be filled at the forthcoming AGM.

Jim Rowland, our Treasurer, updated members with an estimate of the expected financial out-turns for 2007. He reported that our accounts held approximately £25,500; of which £8,000 was in respect of accumulated Gift Aid refunds from HM Revenue and Customs. The final accounts will be presented at the AGM.

The Joint Coordinators, Brian and Doreen Bezant, reported that we now had 147 Groups - of which 114 were general, 28 walking and four open. A further six Groups were in the process of commencing activities in the Ecclesfield / Chapeltown area. Brian reported that a meeting of Walking Group Coordinators had now been fixed for 15 January at the Friends' Meeting House. Amongst a number of items, the meeting would consider safety aspects of walking with SU3A in the light of the unfortunate incident reported in the last issue of *Links*. The Committee was pleased to note that Glyn Davies was making a very good recovery. *[Glyn has forwarded to the Editor copies of the acknowledgement from the West Midlands County Air Ambulance of the donation of £800 raised from the last Quiz Night and the G Group collection and raffle.]*

Publicity Officer Peter Barclay reported on the SU3A exhibition that had been held in the Central Library for most of November. Much of

the material used had now been incorporated into the second publicity stand that had recently been purchased and which would be deployed in branch libraries throughout the city in 2008. Sheffield U3A would again be participating in their pre-retirement courses in 2008. He tabled for members copies of an outline paper discussing options for the future of SU3A in the period 2008-2012. This would be discussed at a special meeting to be convened in early February. In conjunction with this, John Lees was asked to investigate the history related to the current boundaries of SU3A and bring forward proposals to clarify them for future potential members. It was agreed that any changes would not be retrospective.

SU3A boundaries

**it was agreed that
any changes would
NOT be retrospective.**

Clare Chiba was formally confirmed as our new Web Coordinator and she reported that Myra Smith had recently handed over the web site to her. Myra was thanked for her invaluable support in maintaining the web site during Norman's illness. Clare indicated that she was initially concentrating on increasing the number and currency of Group home pages. She was also planning to keep a record of past programmes, which she hoped would be of particular assistance to Walking Groups.

The Editor of *Links* was pleased to report that the last three issues had all been oversubscribed, with some items having to be postponed to a subsequent issue. He outlined possible ways to alleviate this, should this welcome trend continue.

Shirley Marney, Travel Group Coordinator, updated members on progress with the trial and possible purchase of display stands for use at SU3A meetings, such as the forthcoming Travel Group Art Competition. She also reported receipt of a letter of thanks from Bury St Edmunds U3A for the paper knife and calendar presented by those participating in the recent visit.

Roy Darlison was in attendance to present a report on behalf of the Gift Aid Working Group. He highlighted the contribution, on disability issues, of a new paraplegic SU3A member. He outlined

the proposals inviting bids from existing and new Groups for funding to extend / support their activities and the first planned open lecture in collaboration with our two local Universities, both of which are detailed later in this issue.

John Brooke, our Equipment Officer, also attended and presented a report summarising our existing stock of equipment for use by Groups. Approval was given to purchase a second digital projector and to investigate the purchase of a second portable computer and roving microphone and loudspeaker equipment. He raised concerns regarding training in the use of the equipment, which would be addressed with the most frequent users in January.

John Lees updated members on the arrangements made and outstanding for the Annual Members' Meeting and AGM to be held on 25 April [see advert overleaf]. **He again emphasised that those attending *MUST NOT* bring items with them, as our speaker Lars Tharp would not be conducting valuations.**

The next routine meeting will be held on 29 February 2008.

Roger Heesterman

Subscriptions Due by 29 February 2008

The renewal subscription for 2008 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 (No. 133).

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:

Mrs Lorna Baker, 8 Thornsett Gardens, Sheffield S17 3PP.

ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING and SHEFFIELD U3A 22ND AGM

25 April 2008 - 2.00 pm

The Library Theatre, Tudor Square, Sheffield 1

At this year's AMM/AGM *Lars Tharp*, whose photograph is on the front of this issue of *Links*, is coming to speak exclusively to SU3A. A regular contributor to the Antiques Roadshow since 1985, this raconteur, author and lecturer mixes his educative stories concerning the arts and ceramics, with more humorous tales of life behind the cameras and on the road.

Lars WILL NOT be valuing items at this event, so please leave your heirlooms at home.

Members are requested to arrive between 1.15 and 2.00 pm to register, when tea and coffee will be available. The meeting will commence at 2.00 pm. Only current 2008 Members may attend and vote at the AGM.

The Agenda for the AGM and 2007 minutes will be published in the April issue of *Links*. Members wishing to raise business under clause 13(viii) of the Constitution should notify the Secretary in writing ***by Friday 29 February 2008*** so that it can be included in the Agenda.

There will be three vacancies on the Committee. The Committee meets bi-monthly, usually on the first Friday of the month. Nominations for election to the Committee should be made on the form at the back of this issue of *Links* and should reach the Secretary no later than Friday 11 April 2008.

Barbara Steel Secretary

SU3A Gift Aid Working Group

The Executive Committee has agreed that funds, initially up to £3,000 from the Gift Aid monies recovered from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, should be spent on directly supporting the activities of individual Groups or to support the establishment of new Groups.

The purpose of this note is to invite bids, set out the parameters and invite Groups to discuss their ideas with members of the Working Group (listed below).

We consider that to be too prescriptive is to discourage people from thinking laterally. However, in outline, bids can be for revenue or capital spending (i.e. running costs or equipment), should reflect the purposes of the Group and take them forward. Collaboration with other Groups is acceptable; as is matched funding, with the Group proposing to raise funds to be matched from Gift Aid monies; and long term or short term projects. The successful bids will be those that make their case most effectively.

Any capital items will be owned by SU3A and, as it will show on the organisation's insurance policy, proposals for their care and control must be included as part of the bid.

Although the fund is limited initially and the Working Group will need to make judgements about relative merits, we will be happy to go back to the Executive Committee with recommendations for additional monies to be made available.

Applications from Group Coordinators, at least in outline, should reach me no later than 28 February 2008.

*Roy Darlison randbdarlison@waitrose.com
2 Valley View, 715 Manchester Road, Sheffield S10 5PS*

Rosemary Harper

R.h.harper@sheffield.ac.uk

Enid Hirst

stanenidhirst@tiscali.co.uk

David Rance

drancemail@yahoo.co.uk

Shelagh Woolliscroft

shelagh.woolliscroft@googlemail.com

New Secretary for SU3A

One of the positions becoming vacant at the AGM is that of **Honorary Secretary**. Any member who is interested in this post and would like to know more about it, should contact the present Secretary, who will be happy to chat with you about the work involved. It is only necessary to be familiar with basic Microsoft Word and e-mailing.

Barbara Steel secretary@sheffieldu3a.org.uk

Group News

Classical Concertgoers' Group

We invite you to join us on our visit to the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, on Friday 16 May 2008 for a concert given by the world famous Choir of King's College, Cambridge, directed by Stephen Cleobury and accompanied by the equally acclaimed Academy of Ancient Music. The programme comprises *Zadok the Priest* and the *Ode to the Birthday of Queen Anne* of Handel; the motet *Lobet den Herrn* of Bach; *Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem* of Purcell and *Gloria* of Vivaldi.

The coach will leave the bus-bay on Ecclesall Road South, near the top of Millhouses Lane, promptly at 4.45 pm. The inclusive cost is £29.75 per person. Bookings may be made using the reply slip at the end of this issue. Please send applications to Derek Shipley, 40 Wollaton Avenue, Sheffield S17 4LA as soon as possible, but not later than 28 February 2008. Please include the names and contact numbers for all members for whom you are applying, together with a stamped addressed envelope.

Our visits are open to all current SU3A members and no special Group membership is required.

Derek Shipley Coordinator

For your diary - the next visit will be a joint venture with the Enjoying Opera Group, on Wednesday 18 June, to the Birmingham Hippodrome and will be given by the Welsh National Opera.

Gardening S.E.

What is in a name? Historically we were named S.E. when we were formed during Sheffield U3A's extension into the Crystal Peaks area. In reality we have members from a wide area, including Dronfield, Gleadless, Hackenthorpe, Waterthorpe and Woodhouse.

We are a friendly group meeting fortnightly - in the winter in members' homes with speakers, quizzes, videos etc. In the summer we have an assortment of visits, including private gardens which are inspirational in the work that has gone into them.

We have vacancies for new members, so now that your thoughts will soon be turning to gardening why not contact us for more information.

The photograph is of Woodpecker Cottage garden, visited in 2007.



Mike Cowen Coordinator

Archaeology Group

The programme of talks and visits is now available from the Coordinator.

Fred Coupland will present a talk on *Archaeology from the Air* on Friday 15 February at 2.00 pm, at Carmel Court, 1 Wilson Road, Sheffield (near Hunter's Bar). New members welcome.

Kathleen Head Coordinator

GIFT AID LECTURE

999 It could be you! 999

**Find out about local
Emergency Services and A & E
from people who know**

Members of Sheffield University's School of Health and Related Research (SchARR) have agreed to present findings from recent research into the operation of emergency services and proposals for the future of A & E in the locality. There will be ample opportunity to ask questions.

**Library Theatre
Friday 7 March 2008 at 2.30 pm**

The event is open to Sheffield U3A members and friends.

There is no charge for admission and free coffee, tea and biscuits will be provided.

Places are limited to around 260, with only two or three wheelchair places available.

If you are interested in attending please contact Roy Darlison or Enid Hirst

In any event, an early response would help us to know what detailed arrangements will need to be put in place.

New Groups and Short Courses

Pen Friends Group

Is anyone interested in having a pen friend, either in Sheffield U3A or in another region of U3A? If so, please contact Margaret Barlow giving some idea of hobbies and interests.

Margaret Barlow . Coordinator . 502 Loxley Road, Sheffield S6 6RT

Music Appreciation

Are you interested in joining a new Group to be based in the Hillsborough or Chapeltown area? Are you keen not only to listen to good music, but also to get inside the heads of the composers, learn about their lives and the context in which their works were written?

We are proposing a short course, to start some time in the spring. The day, time and exact venue are yet to be agreed. The tutor would be David Andrews, who is passionate about the subject, and has studied composers and their music for many years. David currently writes the programme notes for Sheffield Hallam Sinfonia.

To express interest, please contact Shelagh Woolliscroft

Spanish for Beginners

A Group could be formed in the S5/S6/S35 area if there is sufficient interest. Please contact Shelagh Woolliscroft

Holiday French for Beginners

This new Group will begin to meet from the week commencing 7 April. The day and time are yet to be decided. It is hoped that the members of the Group will learn conversational French led by a native speaker.

Anyone interested in joining this new Group should contact Usher Fitch

ICT Group Course

During the first three weeks of March I would like to offer a course for anyone with a basic knowledge of spreadsheets. This is an opportunity to bring along your personal spreadsheet problems and questions. The course will also include absolute cell references, naming cells and the use of some logical functions. The course will run on the 4, 11 and 18 March from 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm at Notre Dame School.

If you are interested, please email clare.chiba@btinternet.com

Details of the next ICT Beginners' course will be in the April edition of *Links*.

Clare Chiba Coordinator

Obituary

Norman Smith 1933 - 2007

Norman was an enthusiastic member of U3A. After a long career in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, serving in Indonesia, Korea and Japan (where he was the British Consul in Osaka) Norman joined Kingston U3A on his retirement. Here he found good company and interesting friends with whom he enjoyed discussions, philosophical and otherwise. He studied Scottish Gaelic and Spanish, and took a course learning to teach adults; later working at Kingston University teaching Japanese.

In 2001 he moved to Sheffield and immediately joined a number of local organisations, including SU3A, in whose Philosophy and Discussion Groups he actively participated. He was Joint Editor of *Links* with Myra and more recently assisted with the development of the national Virtual U3A. He had been involved with the creation of a number of websites for other organisations and put his skills and experience to excellent effect when he became our Web Coordinator and redesigned the SU3A website.

Our condolences go to Myra and her family.

Travel around Britain
and the World
at the

SU3A Globetrotting Charity Quiz

presented
by the inestimable

JOHN WOOLSTON

at Esporta Leisure Centre, Archer Road, Sheffield
on Saturday 12 April 2008

Open from 7.00 pm for quiz to start at 7.30 pm

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*)

All proceeds to Edale Mountain Rescue
(who will be in attendance with a display of
their equipment)

Ample parking and bar facilities available

For further information please contact
Marion Edmondson

Members' Contributions

The Munroist

Arguably the hardest quest in British walking is to reach the summits of all 284 Scottish mountains above 3,000 feet (The Munros). A walker who climbs all 284 is entitled to be called a Munroist.

John Whiteman, a stalwart member of Sheffield U3A Walking Group F, became a Munroist on Sunday 28 October 2007 after he had climbed Schiehallion in Perthshire. The picture below shows



John (third from left), his wife, son and some of the nine walking friends from F Group who accompanied him up his last Munro. John is the sixth SU3A walker to have his name included in the Scottish Mountaineering Club's role of honour. At the summit other walkers were amazed to see champagne and cake liberally consumed; it made the descent more carefree! Afterwards the

celebrations continued with a meal in an up-market restaurant in Pitlochry.

John's interest in Scottish hills started as a schoolboy in 1955. At the time he joined U3A in 1997 he had about 100 Munros under his belt. He there met Geoff and Lesley Chapman who were about to complete their last Munro. Geoff offered John his help and the quest was on. John also received sterling support from his long-suffering son Mark and individual members of F Group. Anyone who meets John on the hills cannot forget the regular beat of his walking poles, whatever the gradient, and which sound like a metronome, together with the focused determination which carries him forward in all except the foulest weather conditions.

It might be of interest to give some indication of the scale of the effort required. John spent 178 days on the hills, walked over 1,900 miles and covered more than 650,000 feet of ascent /descent in the process. His longest day was 16 hours and the greatest distance was 30 miles. He wore out several pairs of boots, his son and several friends!

John's advice for other potential Munroists is "beware - it becomes addictive after about 100 and life threatening after 200".

Other members of Sheffield U3A walking groups are also *bagging* Munros: more names could, therefore, be added to the role of honour.

Clive Keech

Committee Vacancies from April 2008

There will be three vacancies on the Committee at the next AGM. The Committee meets bi-monthly, usually on the first Friday of the month. If you are interested, please contact Barbara Steel for further information. Nomination forms (*see page 25*) should be returned to her by Friday 11 April 2008.

Barbara Steel ... secretary@sheffieldu3a.org.uk ...

Travel News

Travel Organising Committee

Shirley Marney, Coordinator
Ken Parkin, Treasurer
Derek Shipley, Minutes Secretary
Peter Frost
Barbara Robertshaw
Margaret Bullivant

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

Holiday Insurance - All members travelling have full responsibility for arranging their own Travel 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 member **MUST** insure themselves against such risks.

Disabilities - When sending an application slip for a holiday or day trip, please inform the organiser of any disabilities. Whilst every effort will be made to accommodate a disabled person on all social trips, if there is a conflict of opinion the Tour Operator / Travel Agent or day trip venue will make the final decision.

Cancellations - In the case of a cancellation please contact the organiser or another member of the Travel Group Committee as soon as possible. **Refunds** cannot be given for cancellations unless a replacement can be found.

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

Envelopes - Please ensure that you attach the correct postage when sending applications. Envelopes larger than 240 x 165 x 5 mm (approx 9.4 x 6.5 x 0.2 in) require a large letter stamp. When sending a **stamped addressed envelope** it should be no less than 210 x 150 mm (8.2 x 5.9 in), with the correct postage for its size.

Please do not park in front of the doctor's surgery on Millhouses Lane.

**SHEFFIELD U3A TRAVEL GROUP
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AND ART COMPETITION**

THURSDAY 21 February 2008

1.30 pm to 4.00 pm

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 2007 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 1.00 pm 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.

Please send or deliver paintings to Shirley Marney at
21 Everard Avenue, Bradway, Sheffield S17 4LY

Travel Excursion and Holidays

The Anderton Boat Lift, Northwich, and Dunham Massey, Altrincham, Cheshire

Wednesday 9 April 2008

This boat lift, built in 1875 and located near Northwich, Cheshire, was designed by Edwin Clark. It was the first of its kind in the world. It operated to speed up the transport of cargo between the River Weaver and the Trent and Mersey Canal. In 1998, with the help of the Heritage Lottery Fund, it was restored and it has been working again since 2002. We will have a guided trip through the Lift in the morning and be able to visit the Operations Centre, with a variety of interactive exhibits.

In the afternoon we will visit Dunham Massey (National Trust). It is an early Georgian house built around a Tudor core and was comprehensively reworked early in the 20th century. Its sumptuous interior contains exceptional collections of 18th century walnut furniture, paintings and Huguenot silver, as well as extensive servants' quarters. The gardens have richly planted borders and majestic trees. The ancient deer park has a series of beautiful avenues, ponds and a Tudor corn-grinding mill, which has been refitted as a working sawmill.

**the gardens have
richly planted
borders and
majestic trees**

The cost of the day is £26 (National Trust members pay £19) and includes coach travel, admission and guided tour of the Boat Lift, admission to Dunham Massey and all gratuities. Tea/coffee and light snacks are available at the Boat Lift Visitors Centre and the restaurant at Dunham Massey provides hot or cold food.

If you would like to join us, please complete the slip at the end of this issue and send with a stamped addressed envelope to Barbara Robertshaw as soon as possible.

Suffolk

7 - 11 September 2008

For this short five day break we will be staying at the Holiday Inn, Ipswich, for four nights' half board. During our time in Suffolk we will be visiting Constable Country and Flatford Bridge cottage, as well as Gainsborough's house in Sudbury. In Aldeburgh we will have a tour of Benjamin Britten's home, The Red House, and the Britten-Pears library.

Visits to Sutton Hoo burial ground of Anglo-Saxon Kings, The National Stud, Beth Chatto Gardens, Lavenham Guildhall and a cruise on the River Orwell are included. On our journey to Ipswich, we will visit Tattershall Castle and on the way home to Sheffield at the end of the holiday our stop will be at Woolsthorpe Manor, home of Sir Isaac Newton.

Price per person is £350.00 (single supplement £105). The cost includes coach, hotel accommodation, tips for the driver and hotel staff, and entrance to some of the places we will visit. There are also five National Trust properties on our itinerary, so non-members will have to pay admission to these places. The costs of the lunches are not included.

To reserve a place on this short break, please complete the booking slip at the end of this issue and send a deposit of £70 per person, (cheque made payable to Sheffield U3A Travel) with a stamped addressed envelope (9 x 6 1/2 inches / 22.5 x 16cm) to Margaret Bullivant, **to arrive no later than Monday 31 March 2008.**

Highlights of Turkey

5 – 18 October 2008

Come and join us on a very varied tour of Turkey; half board, 14 days / 13 nights, staying in 4 star Hotels, flying from Manchester airport. Hotel stays of 3, 1, 3, 2, 1, 2 and 1 night.

We stay three nights in Istanbul, seeing the Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace, and much more, including a cruise on the Bosphorus. On to Ankara, then Cappadocia seeing Yazilikaya the rock sanctuary depicting the Hittite divinities. We tour the Goreme valley, stroll through the underground galleries of Ozkonak, visit Soganh village, Perge and Aspendos, whose theatre is the best preserved Roman theatre in Asia Minor.

We visit Antalya, then cross the Taurus Mountains to Aphrodisias, the ancient city dedicated to Aphrodite. Ephesus is a must, one of the most fascinating complete cities of antiquity in the entire world. The Pergamum and the Acropolis are included in the tour on our way to the legendary city of Troy, whose history covers a period of about 3,400 years. We complete our return to Istanbul by ferry crossing the Strait of the Dardanelles.

The cost is £1,170 (single supplement £199) and includes flights, taxes, hotels, half board, coach throughout, tour manager, entrance fees, tips for drivers and the tour manager, but NOT the hotels.

Full comprehensive insurance **MUST** be arranged by each member.

To reserve a place on this holiday, please complete the slip at the end of this issue and send a deposit of £150 (cheque made out to Sheffield U3A Travel) with a stamped addressed envelope (9 x 6 1/2 inches / 22.5 x 16cm) to Shirley Marney **as soon as possible**.

SHEFFIELD U3A TRAVEL

PLEASE NOTE THAT
ONLY POSTAL APPLICATIONS
WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR HOLIDAYS AND DAY TRIPS
PLEASE ENSURE YOU USE THE CORRECT POSTAGE

Holiday Reviews

New England and Canada

We arrived in New York, with temperatures in the 80's, and were taken on a tour of downtown Manhattan (below). We walked



through Little Italy and Chinatown, and we saw the Statue of Liberty. From the Winter Gardens we viewed the powerfully moving and thought provoking image of Ground Zero.

We then boarded *The Norwegian Dawn*, were shown to our cabins and tried to adjust to our enormous floating holiday home as we sailed away from Manhattan in a northerly direction.

Our first port of call was Boston where, after a tour round, we were dropped off in the centre to follow the well marked Freedom Trail Walk, which highlighted the history of this elegant city.

Our ship anchored offshore at Bar Harbour Maine, once the

playground of American tycoons. A slightly eccentric local man became our guide and took us to the Arcadia National Park, where the trees were just beginning to turn. We stopped by Eagle Lake and walked on the granite dome of Cadillac Mountain.

Halifax, Nova Scotia was our next stop. We travelled on a Hop-on Hop-off old red double-decker bus. We visited the Citadel, an old fort once the principle British naval station in the area, which overlooked the harbour and the city. We saw the old maritime centre, had lunch on the waterfront and walked back to the ship on the boardwalk in the hot sun.

In Quebec we visited the wonderful Cathedral of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré; then to an impressive waterfall, Chute Montmorency (right), before being driven around the city. We were then dropped off to explore the bustling streets of this attractive old French City.



La Baie is situated on the Saguenay River. We travelled to the National Park for a glimpse of the Fall, where we journeyed through steep tree-lined hills. We walked to an extremely picturesque lake where huge tree carvings stood, flanked by trees just beginning to turn to bright reds and yellows.

Corner Brook, Newfoundland, saw us once again searching for the Fall leaves in the Gros Morne National Park, which was a vast area of spectacular wilderness that stretched as far as the eye could see. Sidney, Nova Scotia, was our last destination before turning back to New York. We visited the Fortress of Louisburg on the shore of

Cape Breton Island. The fort was founded by the French settlers in 1713 and was twice besieged by the British and its fortifications were destroyed. Now it stands proud, a national, carefully reconstructed site.

Back in New York, we said farewell to our ship where we had enjoyed excellent food, service and entertainment, all of which made our holiday a memorable one. Many thanks to Shirley, without her organizational ability and know-how we wouldn't have seen so much of the areas on our short visits ashore. She booked taxis for the group of 20 when we docked, so that we were able to organise our own local tours.

A short walk in Central Park in the warm sunshine was one of our last memories to be stored away of New York, along with all the other varied destinations on the holiday.

Myra Kirkpatrick

(Photographs by Irene Cooke & Myra Kirkpatrick)

Visit to Thursford

Shirley's well planned trip took a coachful of eager travellers braving the chilly winds, to Suffolk. Our first stop was Lavenham, a Tudor delight, where we had a very informative tour. This year it was the 750th anniversary of the granting of a market charter on this, then important, wool cloth town. The narrow streets where time and weather have fashioned the now crooked timber framed houses intermingled with tiny cottages, some painted *Suffolk Pink*. We were entertained by the bell ringers, attempting a full peal, as we approached the church, reputed to have tallest tower in East Anglia. This was a fine example of perpendicular architecture of around 1500.

By contrast the next day we visited Cambridge, that seat of learning, where the group were split, those walking and those choosing to go on the coach. We were guided through the old town streets, to see the town houses, the colleges, the Cavendish Laboratory, the pubs and the gardens. From Erasmus to Stephen Hawking, many of our famous writers, scientists, mathematicians

and other academics have spent time in this beautiful town. Our tour included St John's College, a real treat, founded by Lady Margaret Beaufort, the Mother of Henry V11. The coach tour was taken to the American cemetery, where they observed the two minute silence. The afternoon was free; most of the group went to admire the splendid interior of King's College Chapel.

Monday the local U3A guided us around the town of Bury St. Edmunds, the shrine of Kings. St. Edmund was a martyred King of East Anglia. Cunabula Legis, the cradle of the Law, is part of the town motto and refers to 1214 when twenty five local barons met around the abbey alter to swear on oath forcing King John to sign the Magna Carta. The streets still follow the grid set out by the abbots making it simple to explore on foot. The Cathedral with its newly built tower, 140 feet high in gothic style, the

church of St. Mary, the Georgian Theatre and the Athenaeum all historical buildings worthy of a visit. It was interesting to hear that the Bury St. Edmunds U3A take a much more academic approach and operate from a



central rented office in town which is convenient for booking events and holidays.

Now to the Thursford Christmas Spectacular. A blend of glorious entertainment, with songs, carols, dancers and a kaleidoscope of beautiful costumes from a professional cast of over a hundred. All this set amongst glittering decorations and a fairground carousel providing a pageant of colour and sound. The music seamlessly passes from up-beat dance routines from different parts of the world to a choral rendition of Christmas carols sung by a

magnificent choir, accompanied by expert musicians and the Wurlitzer organ - brilliant. This has no doubt left poignant memories for all those who attended.

A special thank you to Tony, the coach driver, and particularly to Shirley for a well executed trip.

Wendy Beal

(photograph Derek Shipley)

Experiment Investigating Perception - Volunteers Wanted

I am a PhD student at the Department of Human Communication Sciences, University of Sheffield, working under the supervision of Professor Rosemary Varley.

My project focuses on different aspects of perception in healthy people and people with disorders following stroke. It is early, fundamental research, which helps understand some of the disorders following stroke. One day it might lead to diagnosis and / or intervention methods for stroke patients. At this phase we are looking for healthy participants who are 50 or older. The project needs people from that age range to compare their data with the data from the patients, which makes our results more powerful.

The experiment is computerised and does not involve any invasive procedures or drugs. It has full University ethical approval and takes about 30 minutes. I will provide tea, cookies and crackers for the sessions.

Vitor C. Zimmerer, MA
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The University of Sheffield
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SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
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NOMINATION FORM FOR ELECTION TO SHEFFIELD U3A COMMITTEE 2008

To be returned **by Friday 11 April 2008** to the Secretary,
Barbara Steel, 11 Watkinson Gardens, Sheffield S20 7LU

Name of person nominated:

Address

.....

Postcode Tel No

Email:

2008 SU3A membership number:

Groups to which Nominee belongs:

.....

.....

Name of Proposer:

2008 SU3A membership number:

Signature of Proposer:

Name of Seconder:

2008 SU3A membership number:

Signature of Seconder:

I am a member of Sheffield U3A and agree to be nominated as a
candidate for election to the Executive Committee of Sheffield
U3A at the Annual General Meeting on Friday 25 April 2008.

Signature of Nominee:

Date:

Sheffield U3A Calendar

2008

February 14	Classical Concertgoers', Birmingham
February 21	Travel Group AGM & Art Competition
February 22	Lunch & Lecture, Sheffield Park Hotel
March 4	Thackray Museum & Oakwell Hall
March 7	Gift Aid Lecture 999 - <i>Emergency Services</i> , Library Theatre
Mar 25 - Apr 8	Winter Warmer, Puerto Pollensa, Majorca
April 9	Anderton Boat Lift & Dunham Massey
April 12	Globetrotting Charity Quiz, Esporta
April 25	AMM / AGM, with presentation by Lars Tharp
May 14	Settle to Carlisle Railway
May 16	Classical Concertgoers' & Enjoying Opera, Birmingham
May 18 - 22	Berlin (Short Break)
June	Quarry Bank Mill & Styal Park
June 2 -13	Germany's Romantic Road, Bavaria
July 16	Leeds & Liverpool Canal
July 18 - 20	Liverpool and the Tall Ships (Short Break)
August	Port Sunlight
Sept 7 - 11	Suffolk (Short Break)
September	North York Moors Railway to Whitby
October	Shibden Hall & Halifax Piece Hall
October 5 -18	Highlights of Turkey
November	To be confirmed
December	Stratford or Leamington