

## From the Chairman

**Question:** What is so special about 7 August 2009? Read on to find out.....!

Another Wimbledon fortnight has drawn to a climax and the school holidays are on the horizon. The intense heat of late has, like Macbeth, been murdering my already erratic sleep patterns, and today the blistering sun has reminded me of French Augusts some twenty years ago. At least we in the UK are getting our fair share of glorious weather this year - I have acclimatised nicely to temperatures of 30° plus and wall-to-wall sunshine, and can even watch with an indulgent smile as an occasional cloud-full of liquid stair-rods tears my peonies apart.

The last two months as Chair of SU3A have been equally as interesting as the weather. I have gate-crashed four Groups and been made very welcome at each. Thanks to Gardening Aspen I now know more about the Botanical Gardens; and as part of Walk Sheffield I have explored the village of Ecclesfield (the church is well worth a visit and does wonderful home-made cake on Friday mornings). After experiencing a superbly delivered lecture to the Science and Technology Group, I can now see more clearly the issues concerning genetically modified crops; and Aspects of Art have encouraged me to stop and look at pictures that I might otherwise have walked straight past. All this for less than the price of a box of detergent and a bottle of oven-cleaner! This week I have been delving into the possibilities of meeting room space with the City Council; next week I get to meet Sheffield's Principal Librarian and next month I have a summer lunch with members in Stocksbridge to celebrate the first anniversary of several Groups being formed in that area. How much better can retirement get?

We have had a visit from Jean Goodeve, the Chair of the Third Age Trust (TAT - the umbrella body to which U3As are affiliated and from where you receive your *U3A News*). Our submission to the White Paper on Adult Education has led to much closer links with

**Cover Picture: Angel of the North**  
(Derek Shipley : see pages 27 - 30)

Government departments and other agencies. It is clear that adult education has a chronic funding disorder and that the disease may be incurable. People intent on passive engagement in WEA-style courses may be expecting U3As to offer a cheap alternative, which of course we do not!

The new Yorkshire and Humber Regional (YAHR) Body has been duly inaugurated and congratulations go to our own John Richards and David Rance, who have been elected as Chair and Committee member respectively. The main purpose of YAHR is to serve as a conduit between TAT and the steadily growing number of individual U3As - 731 at the last count. It is hoped that it will also forge links with the Open University at regional level. Regional summer schools may become a regular feature.

Your Committee has also been working on ways of encouraging greater member involvement in the running of SU3A; has simplified the way in which it handles proposals for Gift Aid expenditure; and is considering the feasibility of an open lecture series starting in 2010.

The advance planning for the Silver Jubilee in 2011 has started. The first key date for your diary is 30 June – we are hiring the whole of Wortley Hall for an all-day celebration. Coaches will be on hand to ferry members back and forth in comfort. There can be walks, strolls, local history, music, arts and crafts, Scrabble in Latin..... come rain or come shine, the possibilities for Group activities are endless. There will also be plenty of different attractions. Current ideas include an antiques road-show, treasure hunt, wine-tasting and possibly even a little light opera. This is one event that can bring us ALL together in celebration of our great organisation – and SU3A members, their friends and families will all be welcome. And if you would be willing to help with the planning of this big event, I would LOVE to hear from you!

‘You can’t get quicker than a time-machine fitter’ - so sang some tinfoil-clad space-ship mechanics at my grandson’s school summer concert. Oh yes you can! It just takes a few lines in *Links* and within days another new Group is formed. August is one of those months when people take stock and look ahead to the new educational year.

If you are feeling like a new challenge why not look at the centre pages to see where the vacancies are, or phone our General Coordinators about joining others to create a new Group? One of Brian and Doreen's favourite tasks is to help to make something different happen – just like that.

And after ALL, life really is too short to clean the oven!

[**Answer:** Because at 5 minutes and 6 seconds after 4.00 am, it will be: 04:05:06 07-08-09. Tell your grandchildren before they tell you!]

*Shelagh Woolliscroft*

## **Sheffield U3A News Update**

### **Executive Committee Report**

As you will have seen from the Chair's report, Jean Goodeve, National U3A Chairman, paid a flying visit and met with members of the Executive Committee and other key SU3A Officers. The session with Jean was most informative, especially when, during discussion, it was explained that the capitation fees are mostly spent on administration and publication costs – the National Office runs a very lean and cost efficient machine. If you would like to find out more, just contact any Committee member.

Stella Longden reported that the Walk Sheffield events had a very disappointing turnout, due in part to poor publicity and bad weather during that week. It is considered that there should be a cost evaluation of the benefits of this event; as its aim is to encourage younger members of the public, especially families, to take up walking.

The new SU3A leaflets have been sent out to all libraries. If you find they are not on display in your local library, please let our Publicity Officer, Marianne Lawson, know. Thanks to much effort being put in by your Web Coordinator, Deputy Web Coordinator and other members, the SU3A website now contains a growing amount of information, which we hope you will find useful and may like to contribute to?

The Group information in the centre pages of *Links* has been revised and now has symbols indicating accessibility to public venues and which Groups have vacancies. Let us know if you find this information useful.

Finally, don't forget the Drop-Ins at Central United Reformed Church on Chapel Walk, first Tuesday of the month, from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon. It has become an increasingly popular morning, so come along and meet other SU3A members and members of the Committee. And, of course, there are free refreshments!

Vera Dyer

## **Literature Network**

**Thursday 8 October 2009**

### **Philip Larkin's Love of Life**

We are fortunate to have as speaker **Jean Hartley** who, together with her husband George, founded the Marvell Press in Hull in the 1950s. They published Philip Larkin's first collection of poems, *The Less Deceived*, in 1956 and got to know him well as he became a friend of the Hartley family. Jean is a founder member of the Larkin Society and has also published an autobiography, *Philip Larkin, the Marvell Press and Me* as well as *Philip Larkin's Hull and East Yorkshire*, a pamphlet describing places and buildings connected with the poet.

The talk will take place at Shirley House, Psalter Lane, Sheffield on Thursday 8 October, 1.30 - 3.30 p.m. Tickets are £3.50 and a booking slip appears at the end of this issue of *Links*.

**Any SU3A member is welcome to attend this event.**

## **Gift Aid Funding**

Since last publicised the following proposals have been supported with funds from Gift Aid income -

- Italian for Holidays: to assist with equipment for the establishment of a new Group - £210
- Art Group 3: DVDs and books to act as a resource library for Group members - £50
- Sustainable Development: a budget for the speaker's expenses and miscellaneous costs for a Gardeners' Question Time forum open to all members - £150
- Modern Greek: CDs - £50
- After Hours Group: scrabble sets - £40.

Proposals or discussion about ideas for future expenditure should be sent to Roy Darlison at 2 Valley View, 715 Manchester Road, Sheffield S10 5PS; telephone (0114) 230 1519.

## **Deputy Editor of Links**

It is time to commence the process of identifying a replacement for Myra Smith, who will be standing down shortly so that a new Deputy Editor (and Editor-Designate) can be appointed. This will allow time for the appointee to shadow the current Editor prior to taking over in due course.

Those interested should be reasonably conversant with the use of the Internet, email and Microsoft Word. Training can be given in the use of Microsoft Publisher (which has many similarities with Word), the software currently used (and provided by SU3A).

If you are interested in hearing more about this post, please contact Roger Heesterman on (0114) 230 7654.

## Group News

### Classical Concertgoers' Group

Our first visit in the 2009-2010 season is to the De Montfort Hall Leicester for the Lord Mayor's Concert, on Friday 18 September 2009. The performance will be given by the Philharmonia Orchestra, directed by their resident conductor Vladimir Ashkenazy, with Sunwook Kim (piano). The popular programme includes Schubert's Overture to Rosamunde, Schumann's Piano Concerto and Tchaikowsky's 4<sup>th</sup> Symphony.

The inclusive cost is £28.50 and reservations may be made using the reply slip at the end of this issue. Please include the names and contact details of all members for whom you are applying and send to Derek Shipley, 40 Wollaton Avenue, Sheffield S17 4LA as soon as possible. The coach will leave the bus parking bay on Ecclesall Road South, near the top of Millhouses Lane, promptly at 5.00 pm.

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

**For your diary:** Tuesday 1 December 2009: Visit to Bridgewater Hall, Manchester - The Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, with Murray Perahai (director/piano). Full information and booking details will be included in the October edition of *Links*.

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

### Friday I Bridge Group

A few new members would be welcome to play duplicate bridge in a friendly atmosphere. We meet weekly on Friday afternoons at Abbeydale Sports Club. If you would like to know more details, please ring Audrey Lupson.

*Audrey Lupson ..... Coordinator ..... (0114) 235 1618*

## Discussion Group II

Discussion Group II has room for more members. Why not join us on the second Tuesday morning each month and stir those little grey cells?

We are a friendly Group with differing opinions on all kinds of subjects. At a recent meeting we discussed "The Importance of Language" and, more recently, we asked "Is there a God?" Other topics have included marriage, immigration, the right to life, humour as therapy, freedom of speech and Men are from Mars - Women are from Venus!

Come and try us out. You don't know what you are missing!

*Mary Alexander ..... Coordinator ..... (0114) 255 6385*

## Practical Dressmaking

I have offered practical help with all kinds of sewing, on an informal basis, for over ten very enjoyable years; but with a dwindling membership, I feel it is time to hang up my shears! This is an appeal for an enthusiastic sewer or sewers to take over this Group or to form a new one that the remaining members of Practical Dressmaking could join.

We have been lucky in having the use of a sewing room, rent free, at Mount Pleasant Centre, Sharrow Lane, on Thursday afternoons from 2.00 to 4.00 pm. I would hope that my successor would also be able to have use of the room. The Group could be run just self-help, without any form of tuition. I hope someone will feel able to take on the challenge as, otherwise, I am afraid we must close.

I have enjoyed working with them all and thank all the members over the years for supporting the Group, especially Roslyn Bailey, our Coordinator until recently.

*Audrey Morris ..... Coordinator ..... (0114) 236 3619*

## **Lunch and Lecture**

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

**Friday 9 October 2009**

**Please arrive at 12.00 for 12.30 pm - Cost £15**

There is ample parking and the No.53 bus from Bay A3 at the Bus Station and No 75 bus from High Street run every 10 minutes and stop outside the hotel.

The menu will be roast loin of pork, apple stuffing, apple sauce; baked mascarpone and fresh berry cheesecake; coffee and mints. The vegetarian option will be pasta parcels filled with ricotta cheese, tomato and basil sauce, garnished with parmesan cheese.

### **Speaker:**

### **Jennie Storr - Travels with the Colonel**

Jennie's sense of humour comes from the unique combination of having Anglo/American parents. She lived and was educated all round the world, thanks to her father's army commitments, and attended university in Alabama, USA.

After marrying an Englishman, Jennie moved permanently to the UK and was happy to become a wife and mother to a son and daughter. She helped her husband with his business and (quite by accident) became a Cub Scout uniformed helper, Secretary of the PTA and public speaker. She now runs a Speakers' Agency.

Jennie takes you on a journey of fun and laughter with the odd poignant moment. She is naturally observant and has amassed a vast collection of humorous anecdotes from her childhood to the present time.

If you would like to book a place please fill in the form at the back of this issue of *Links*, to arrive no later than Friday 18 September 2009.

*Barbara Steel ..... Coordinator..... (0114) 247 4696*



## **Spanish Intermediate I**

Our Group was sad to lose our long serving tutor Graham at the end of last term. We meet at Mount Pleasant, Sharrow Lane every Thursday morning from 10.00 to 11.00 am and are keen to carry on studying Spanish. We would like to know if there is a qualified teacher of Spanish who would be willing to take over leading our friendly informal Group to improve our conversational and other linguistic skills.

We are due to resume our weekly meetings on Thursday 24 September. If you are able to help us, please contact either Hilda Wisbey by phone or Bryan and Brenda Vimpany on (0114) 235 0004

*Hilda Wisbey ..... Coordinator ..... (0114) 262 1730*

## **Developments in German**

Those who started German for Beginners last September have made such good progress that the Group is changing its name to German Intermediate. With effect from 7 September 2009 it will meet in the Community Room at Ecclesall Library, on Monday mornings from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. There will be a few places available, so if you have the rudiments of German grammar, a little basic vocabulary and would like to extend your knowledge, this might be the Group for you.

You can find out more about the teaching by phoning our tutor, Robert Wilkinson, on (0114) 236 6624. Please telephone the Coordinator, John Carr, on (0114) 247 8769 to enquire about membership vacancies.

Anyone who has no German at all, but who would like to learn some over the coming year, is invited to phone Shelagh Woolliscroft on (01246) 416139.

# **Sustainable Development Group**

## **Gardeners' Question Time**

The *Gardeners' Question Time* event mentioned in the June issue of *Links* will take place on the afternoon of **Thursday 10 September** 2009 at the Quaker Meeting House. The session will start promptly at 1.30 pm and end at 4.30 pm. Light refreshments will be provided.

There will be a panel of local experts to answer your questions on gardening for the future. The members of the panel will be -

Darryl Marryon	Head Gardener, Wortley Hall Walled Garden
Julian Brandram	Agricultural botanist and fruit grower
Sue Kholer	Chairman, The Friends of the Botanical Gardens
Hilary Hutson	Botanist
Neil Grant	Radio Sheffield's very own gardening expert.

In addition, there will be a presentation from Gavin Faulston, of Veolia (Sheffield), on the city's objective of reducing the carbon footprint by increasing recycling and reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill - a concern of us all.

The event is free of charge. In order to manage the seating arrangements, admission will be by numbered ticket only. Please reserve place(s) by completing the reply slip at the end of this issue. **Tickets will be allocated strictly by order of application.**

*June Pollard* ..... (0114) 231 4039

## **Visit to Torrs Hydro Electric Scheme**

The Sustainable Development Group has arranged a visit to Torrs Hydro Electric scheme on **Sunday 25 October 2009**, departing central Sheffield at 9.30 am. We have hired a minibus and the cost will be £10 per head.

The hydro electric scheme is at Torr Weir on the River Goyt in New Mills in the High Peak. It is run as an Industrial and Provident Society and was registered specifically so that the community could own the scheme. The founding directors of this, the first community funded hydro electric scheme in the UK, are all local people.

Our interest is in understanding the process, as something similar is being proposed for Sheffield. *Sheffield Renewables* is a social enterprise formed by a group of local volunteers who are working to develop renewable energy projects across the city, for the benefit of the city and those living and working here. Their first hydro power scheme is likely to be located on one of the historic sites which have been used to power Sheffield in the past, e.g. Kelham Island.

To book a place on the Torrs Hydro visit contact either Rose Tanner on (0114) 245 0200 ; or Greta Pearman by telephone (0114) 236 3336.

## **Aspects of Art II**

### **Visit to the Wallace Collection, London**

Aspects of Art II has arranged an outing to view the Wallace Collection in London on **Thursday 17 September 2009**. The coach will leave the bus parking bay on Ecclesall Road South at 7.00 am. We hope to arrive in London before midday and there will be a brief stop en route.

You will be free to visit the Wallace Collection, which is close to Oxford Street, or any other gallery; as long as you are back at the pick up point by 4.30 pm for the journey home. The cost for the outing will be £20. This includes gratuities, but does not include food or drinks. To reserve places, please complete the reply slip at the end of this issue of *Links*.

Val Wiley ..... Coordinator ..... (0114) 236 0726

## Enjoying Literature I

Meeting on the first Thursday morning of each month, the Group chooses a topic from any branch of literature – novels, poetry, drama, biography and so on. Each member introduces and reads a suitable extract from his or her chosen source and the Group then discusses it. Besides being interesting in itself, this procedure introduces new books or stimulates re-reading of books read long ago, but now neglected. We now have one or two vacancies - anyone interested should speak to the Coordinator.

*Jack Holland ..... Coordinator ..... (0114) 236 5060*

## Croquet Group

The Croquet Group has got off to a good start with 31 members already joined up. The standard of play is most encouraging and even previous beginners are developing good skills in both tactics and playing ability. We play a version of croquet called Golf Croquet and, with attendances usually in the low 20s, we find most people are able to play most of the time.

There is still space to join the Group this year, so whether you have played before or are a complete beginner, you are welcome to come along to Nether Edge Bowling Club on a Thursday afternoon. A taster session with instruction is provided every third Thursday of the month. Croquet is not a difficult game to play (badly!) and improving your skill and appreciation of tactics is usually rapid.

If you think you may be interested please telephone Peter Jones

*Peter Jones ..... Coordinator ..... (0114) 230 5987*



## **New Groups**

### **Film Group**

Among the 2,000-plus members of SU3A, there must be scores of us who are movie enthusiasts. Why isn't there a Film Group?

A number of us have been thinking about this and the form it could take. Group meetings could be linked to current programmes at the Showroom or Odeon. Alternatively, or as well as this, there could be more formal discussion - for instance on the work of an individual director, or films featuring a particular period in time, such as the Spanish Civil War.



If you might be interested, please contact Lesley Dixon on (0114) 268 5881. If sufficient people come forward, a meeting will be arranged to discuss proposals.

### **Spanish Beginners**

I would love to learn Spanish. Is there anyone else who would like to join me and form a Spanish Beginners' Group? And, importantly, is there anyone who would be willing to help us learn please?

Please contact Greta Pearman on (0114) 236 3336.

### **Keep Fit over the Winter!**

Do you hate gyms but like the idea of improving your balance and posture, strengthening your muscles, loosening your joints and generally feeling better during the winter? A fitness centre in Dronfield would be happy to teach us: no weights or apparatus – just gentle Tai Chi style exercise geared to the needs of people like us.

Please telephone Shelagh Woolliscroft on (01246) 416139 if you are interested.

## ICT Short Course

I am hoping to run a three week course at Notre Dame School on Tuesday 25 August from 3.00 to 5.00 pm and on Thursday 3 September and Tuesday 8 September from 4.10 to 6.00 pm.

The theme will be incorporating images, including your own Photographs, into Word documents. This would include creating greetings cards, putting pictures into brochures or letters and using images as watermarks. It would also cover re-sizing and cropping images and using the facilities within Word for changing brightness and contrast.

Would anyone interested please telephone me on

*Clare Chiba ..... Coordinator ..... (01433) 659 864*

## Live Music Gigs Group



I love going to listen to live music (especially that which takes me back to my youth) and would really appreciate the company of like-minded enthusiasts.

Examples of concerts I have enjoyed in the past are Peggy Seeger, James Burton (Elvis's guitarist), Joe Brown and even Arlo Guthrie.

My idea is for an informal Group whose members could contact me if they see something they would enjoy and I could coordinate. If you think this is a good idea, please contact me.

*Leslie Dixon ..... (0114) 268 5881*

## Beginners' Bridge Group

We are inviting people who may be absolute beginners in this game to a taster session of bridge on Friday 18 September 2009, from 10.30am until 12.30 pm at the Sheffield Bridge Club, 8 Thornsett Road, Nether Edge.

We are keen that you find out what the game is about and whether it is to your taste. This taster session will give you a good sense of whether it is for you. If you enjoy it, then we can discuss when and how to set up an absolute beginners' Group for learning the game of bridge.

If you are interested and want to participate in this taster session (or if you cannot make this initial meeting, but would like to hear more), then please telephone either Ann Wall on (0114) 234 7863 or Jean Rodgers on (01433) 630 216.

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## Reply Envelopes

Some members have been confused by the instruction in some adverts in *Links* that require small or large stamped addressed envelopes. What size is small? How large is large? Over the next few issues it is the intention to standardise the descriptions using the International (ISO) standard sizes. It is expected that one of the following four common sizes will be the most requested -

The required size will be designated by its code - e.g. **C5**. Contributors are requested to keep a note of these sizes for future reference.

<b>C4</b>	229 x 324 mm	9 x 12.75 in	for a flat A4 sheet size
<b>C5</b>	162 x 229 mm	3.37 x 9 in	for a flat A5 sheet or A4 sheet folded in half
<b>C6</b>	114 x 162 mm	4.5 x 6.37 in	For A5 sheet folded in half
<b>DL</b>	110 x 220 mm	4.32 x 8.69 in	For A4 sheet folded in thirds or A5 sheet folded in half

# Travel News

## Travel Organising Committee

Shirley Marney, Coordinator (0114) 235 0801  
Barry De Roek, Treasurer (0114) 236 9169  
Derek Shipley, Minutes Secretary (0114) 236 6257  
Margaret Bullivant (0114) 296 2256  
Barbara Robertshaw (0114) 236 9102  
Val Wiley (0114) 236 0726

**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 DL size - 220 x 110 mm (8.6 x 4.3 in), with the correct postage for its size.

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



# **Travel Excursion and Holiday**

## **Holidays**

Unfortunately the proposed New Zealand and Tenerife holidays have had to be cancelled due to lack of support.

## **Short Break to London - April 2010**

Please note that a short break holiday (two nights / three days) will be advertised in the next issue of *Links*. The details cannot be finalised at this early stage, as it is hoped to include a tour of the Houses of Parliament - but these can only be booked a maximum of six months in advance.

## **Wengen and Zermatt, Switzerland**

### **11 - 25 June 2010**

Come and join us and see some of the most spectacular scenery in the world. We shall spend seven days in each of a two centre holiday, staying at a 3 star and 4 star hotel, on half board basis.

Wengen lies below the Jungfrau, Mönch, and Eiger mountains and has spectacular views across the Lauterbrunnen valley. Zermatt is surrounded by some of Europe's highest mountains - the Dom, Matterhorn and Monte Rosa. Both villages are almost traffic free, and have a network of cable cars and mountain trains to travel around the area. The surrounding area of both villages is wonderful for walking

The cost is £1,255 (single supplement £190) including coach to the airport and gratuities for the driver. Please complete the booking form at the end of this issue and send, with a deposit cheque for £150 and a C6 stamped addressed envelope, to Shirley Marney.

<b>Links 143: the last date for copy is MONDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2009</b>
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# **Saltaire and the Bradford Industrial Museum**

**Thursday 8 October 2009**

Our October visit takes us to one of the best known industrial sites in Yorkshire, the model village of Saltaire. This was built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by Sir Titus Salt, a wealthy mill owner and public benefactor, to house his workers in conditions far ahead of the times. Today, Saltaire is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. His Woollen Mill now contains an art gallery, dedicated to one of the country's largest collections of paintings by the local artist David Hockney, together with shops and restaurants.

We have organised morning coffee in the historic United Reformed Church and a walking tour of the village, led by local guides in Victorian costume. There will be time to explore the village further, see the mill and visit the Victorian Hall with its Museum of Reed Organs and Harmoniums. Lunch is not included, but there is an excellent restaurant in the Mill, with a full range of snacks and meals. In the afternoon we have arranged a visit to the Bradford Industrial Museum, where we have included tea and biscuits before our return to Sheffield.

The inclusive cost is £18.50 per person. To reserve places, please use the reply slip at the end of this issue and send, with a small C6 stamped addressed envelope to Derek Shipley. Please remember to include the names of all members for whom you are applying.

## **Booking Forms and Reply Slips**

For those of you who do not wish to cut up your copy of *Links* to send back booking forms and reply slips, it is suggested you either copy the form using a copier or scanner, or download the form from the SU3A website. However, ***please note that a copy of the actual form MUST be returned as directed - hand written copies will NOT be accepted.***

# Holiday Review

## Spring in Northumberland

Our five day holiday started on a rather wet note. The first two hours en route to visit to the Hartlepool Maritime experience was in the rain, but the rest of the holiday was spent under clear skies and glorious sunshine.

For our sightseeing for the next four days we enjoyed the services of Tom Keating, an exceptionally knowledgeable blue badge guide. Under his guidance we spent the morning on the enchanting Holy Island, and the afternoon visiting Bamburgh (below) and several



coastal villages. On day two we toured Newcastle (p 30) by coach, where we admired the architecture both old and new; then on to Hexham Abbey and Craigside, the former home of the Geordie Genius Lord William Armstrong, now a National Trust property. A full day was spent at Alnwick Castle and garden (Grand Cascade - p28) The garden, considered to be the most exciting contemporary garden on earth, is the result of the bold vision of the Duchess of Northumberland, who wished to create a beautiful garden for families to enjoy. The result is a truly wonderful public space.



Our journey home was broken by an impromptu visit to the Angel of the North (front cover), followed with a break in Durham to visit the Cathedral and the University's Oriental Museum.

As always, SU3A fellow members are good conversationalists and evenings were spent in social conviviality. The beauty of the Northumberland countryside, its coastline and colourful history leaves one with the desire to return.

The smooth running of a holiday such as this does not take place without a great deal of preparation and attention to detail, and for this we thanked our charming and patient leader, Barbara Robertshaw, not forgetting her stalwart assistant, husband John.

*Brenda McDermott.*

*[photographs: Derek Shipley]*

## **SHEFFIELD U3A TRAVEL**

PLEASE NOTE THAT

**ONLY POSTAL APPLICATIONS**

WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR HOLIDAYS AND DAY TRIPS

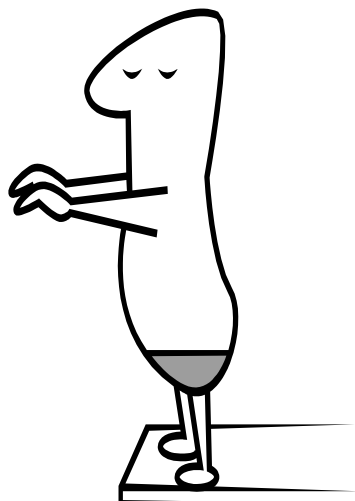
***PLEASE ENSURE YOU USE THE CORRECT POSTAGE  
and include the SAE envelope size requested***

## DROP-IN SESSIONS

The sessions are held on the first Tuesday of every month, from 10.00 am - 12.00 noon, at The Central United Reformed Church (opposite the Crucible Theatre).

Don't hesitate - join us!

Free refreshments.



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### Sustainable Development Group

### Gardeners' Question Time

### Quaker Meeting House

**Thursday 10 September 2009 at 1.30 pm**

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

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

..... Postcode .....

I would like to apply for ..... free tickets. Application slips should be sent with a **DL size stamped addressed envelope** to June Pollard, 44 Adkins Road, Southey Green, Sheffield S5 8TF.

**Tickets will be allocated strictly by order of application.**



***And ..... In case you missed it the first time round .....***

## **Deputy Editor of Links**

It is time to commence the process of identifying a replacement for Myra Smith, who will be standing down shortly so that a new Deputy Editor (and Editor-Designate) can be appointed. This will allow time for the appointee to shadow the current Editor prior to taking over in due course.

Those interested should be reasonably conversant with the use of the Internet, email and Microsoft Word. Training can be given in the use of Microsoft Publisher (which has many similarities with Word), the software currently used (and provided by SU3A).

If you are interested in hearing more about this post, please contact Roger Heesterman on (0114) 230 7654.

## Aspects of Art

### The Wallace Collection, London

**Thursday 17 September 2009**

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

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

..... Postcode .....

Please reserve ..... place(s) for me (£20 per person). I enclose a cheque for £ ..... payable to **Aspects of Art II** and a **DL size stamped addressed envelope**. Forms should be sent by **21 August 2009** to Val Wiley, 112 Button Hill, Sheffield S11 9HJ.



## Classical Concertgoers' Group

### Visit to the De Montfort Hall, Leicester

**Friday 18 September 2009**

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

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

..... Postcode .....

Please reserve ..... place(s) for me (£28.50 each). I enclose a cheque for £ ..... payable to **SU3A Concertgoers'** and a **C6 size stamped addressed envelope**. If possible, I would like to sit with ..... at the concert. Forms should be sent to arrive **as soon as possible** to Derek Shipley, 40 Wollaton Avenue, Bradway, Sheffield S17 4LA .

## Members' Contributions

### New Bathrooms for Old

Lab4Living is a research team at Sheffield Hallam University. For several years SU3A has enjoyed a connection with designers at their premises at Psalter Lane and now continues to help at their Furnival Building in the city centre. Earlier in 2009 many of you agreed to help with the Future Bathroom project, which continues for another two years. Already some have been visited at home; and a group gathered one winter morning at the Lab4Living centre to discuss problems encountered in the bathroom caused by aging and increasing disabilities.

More recently, a follow up meeting was held at the Furnival Building to assess progress made in the last few months. There were various user groups, as well as people from industry. Denise West and I represented SU3A. The researchers provided a presentation explaining some of the concepts involved in designing a Future Bathroom. The bathroom remains a vital part of our home, it affects everyone's lives. It may be a pleasurable place to dream and relax the hours away until the water is cold, or it may be a dreaded experience involving climbing, banging and groping around or, worse still, total imprisonment.

The Future Bathroom project involves users telling researchers their problems, in a way becoming researchers themselves. Changing your bathroom can be an expensive experience, but if we purchase knowing that needs change as we age, flexibility in choice is a key to wise planning. There are major outlets such as B&Q, or maybe Asda, who may help us to choose fresh makeovers; or we may prefer to consult a shop specialising in items for the disabled. One of the ideas we explored at Lab4Living was a bathroom in which furnishings could be moved around - the mobile loo, the detachable hand basin, the movable bath. Another thought was the use of handsets, not to switch on the television, but to turn on and off the bathwater. Technical problems, we were assured, could be overcome by skilful engineering. What was paramount were the needs of the user. And things needed to be fun and affordable.

*[continued on page 34]*



## Lunch and Lecture

**Speaker: Jennie Storr**

**Sheffield Park Hotel, Meadowhead, Sheffield S8 8BW**

**Friday 9 October 2009 at 12.00 for 12.30 pm**

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

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

..... Postcode .....

Please reserve ..... place(s) for me (**£15** per person). I enclose a **DL size stamped addressed envelope** and a cheque for £ ..... payable to **Sheffield U3A Lunch and Lecture**. I would like to request ..... vegetarian meal(s).

Forms should be sent to arrive **no later than Friday 18 September** to Mrs Barbara Steel, 11 Watkinson Gardens, Sheffield S20 7LU.



## Literature Network

**Speaker: Jean Hartley**

**Shirley House, Psalter Lane, Sheffield 11**

**Thursday 8 October 2009 at 1.30 pm**

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

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

..... Postcode .....

I would like to apply for ..... place(s) at a cost of **£3.50** per person. I enclose a cheque for £ ..... payable to **Sheffield U3A Literature Network** and a **DL size stamped addressed envelope**. Forms should be sent to arrive **as soon as possible** to Yvonne Rowland, 19A Whiteways Road, Sheffield S4 8FJ.

The day ended with a review of the main points from the discussion groups. We considered the possibilities of refitting older properties and an idea for portable bathrooms whilst folk are unable to use normal bathroom facilities. There was the idea of a mirror that monitored blood pressure and other health readings and conveyed them to your GP. Finally there were sustainability issues such as water conservation and environmental change.

During the next few months prototype designs will emerge at Furnival House. We look forward to the products that may appear with delight - and some trepidation! Your interest and opinions remain vital to the success of this project.

*Peter Barclay*

## **Literature Network Meeting Report**

Sheffield Literature Network held its Spring Lecture on 9 April when Dr Shirley Foster, who lectures at the University of Sheffield, spoke on American and British women writers of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Dr Foster included some well known and some lesser known writers in her talk; among them Elisabeth Gaskell, about whom she has written a literary biography; Frances Trollope (the mother of Anthony Trollope) and Geraldine Jewsbury.

She spoke of the influence upon public opinion which Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* had and the important part it played in the success of the anti-slavery campaign, leading to the eventual abolition of slavery.

Dr Foster's lecture explored the changing social and educational opportunities for women, which allowed them to become writers.

**... the changing  
social and  
educational  
opportunities  
for women ...**

It was an excellent lecture and a successful event.

*Rita Brent*

## **Obituary - Freda Hunt 1940 - 2009**

It is with sadness that we report the sudden death of Freda Hunt, Coordinator of Strollers I & II using Public Transport.

Freda joined Sheffield U3A in January 1997 when there was a meeting in the south east of Sheffield promoting U3A. She soon became the Coordinator of a Strolling Group using public transport. This was an innovation, as previously members required the use of a car to get to the start of walks. A great deal of work was required, as not only did walks need to be planned, but bus/train times had also to be worked out and venues booked for lunch. Freda did all the planning and leading herself. She soon had too many for one Group and started a second. We understand she was also a great help to the Coordinator when a third Group was formed.

Freda also became involved with Walking Group A when her husband John drove the coach that provided transport for their holidays. She was also involved with Local History, Oral History, Family History and Bowls.

It was obvious how popular Freda was by the number of SU3A members, along with family and friends, that attended her funeral. During the service we learned that she had been a Wren, had married an Airman and had brought up her two children, David and Sally, in many different locations. She was noted for her plain speaking, her wonderful sense of humour and her cheerful persona.

Freda will be a hard act to follow and will be sadly missed by many, particularly her strollers.

*Christine Stanley & Barbara Steel*