

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Links 172: August 2014



A lone piper plays at the Memorial Service at Whirlow Brook Gardens

Contact Us

Our website is at: www.sheffieldu3a.org.uk

Here you will find all the latest news and information about SU3A - including items that do not appear in *Links*

Joining SU3A or to find out more:	
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Links no. 173 October 2014

the last date for copy is September 1

All news and correspondence to the Editor:

Jenny Emby email: links sheffieldu3a.org.uk (0114) 281 3159

Remember the contributors' copy code: Early, Literate, Accurate and Emailed - to which we must add LEGAL. Please do not submit images 'off the internet' unless you have permission to use them. This is theft.

From the Chair

I am very pleased to report that our Annual General Meeting was a great success this year as we tried a new format. We were entertained by several of our Groups who danced, sang and strummed for us. We will try to repeat it next year and hopefully get more members to come and participate.

Later in this edition you will see a notice telling you about our new Meeting Room in the Victoria Hall. This is a room for ALL SU3A members and we hope that you will use it. We have taken it initially for a year to see if it works for us.

The summer of trips, outings and holidays is passing very quickly. There is an enormous amount of variety out there for members to share, ranging from local afternoon outings with special interest groups to holidays both overseas and nearer home with the Travel Groups. There are Weekenders and Classical Concertgoer trips so never say that we do not cover all tastes.

The production of *Links* has been made much easier by taking advantage of new technology and the results speak for themselves. Work is now progressing with a proposed new membership management system which will support many of the activities your Committee and Coordinators undertake and make the task of running such a large organisation easier. We had considered engaging consultants to help us but, when we investigated the expertise that we have among our membership, we were able to obtain help from some of the best technical brains in Sheffield. Just because we are retired does not mean that we cannot be useful and use all the knowledge that we gained over the years in our working lives.

It is hoped that new features such as a members-only area on the website will reassure those with concerns over privacy and security of personal information. We hope to provide online booking for events, easy payment of subscriptions and quick access to news and updates. Of course great care will be taken to ensure that members who do not use computers are not disadvantaged. We hope the system will be introduced at the end of the year and more information will follow.

Unfortunately our last Showroom lecture had to be cancelled. Roy Hattersley found at the last minute that he had double-booked us with a trip to Europe. Thank you to the members of the Lecture Group who rang and emailed everyone with tickets to let them know. I recently attended the Memorial Service held in the SU3A Commemorative garden at Whirlow Brook Park. It was a very moving ceremony when we all remembered those that we had lost. We had a chance to see and admire the work done by the Gardening Group to turn an overgrown, neglected corner of the gardens into a much admired and very beautiful area. If you have not visited it please do as it is such a wonderful achievement. Another wonderful surprise on the day was when Mary Mac presented us with a copy of her painting of the Garden which we will hang in our new room, mentioned above.

We have been lucky in finding a new Deputy Editor to help produce *Links*. Jo Darley has agreed to join the team and we are very grateful to her and welcome her aboard.

Our magazine is the envy of many other U3As in the region. It is so full of information about the Groups and all the special events that take place. I know that the Editor often has to be brutal with her decisions on what to include as the space is limited by the cost of the postage and only a set number of pages can be included. There is usually more information about the topics to be found on the website.

We now have a new team of four General Coordinators working on our behalf. They will have let Group Leaders know which one of them is responsible for each Group (see page 16). They will report back to the Executive Committee and be responsible for new Groups, waiting lists etc. There is a lot to learn, so be kind to them and assist them if they ask for your help.

When planning to write this report I looked back at what had been said last July and one of the items was the possibility of a new European Travel Group starting up. This has happened and they are planning a range of holidays for us to choose. The cost of all overseas travel has escalated and if sometimes prices for holidays and trips organised by U3A seem high it is because they are well organised, using good quality travel companies and they include an amazing array of extras from local buses to overseas guides and entry to all the local sights. I know that the Travel Groups work constantly to compare companies and give value for money. They negotiate the best possible prices for us. Thank you.

I hope that you manage to enjoy your summer whether it be at home or away. U3A does not stop but goes a little quieter over the next couple of months. It is merely resting, gathering its strength for the autumn when everything begins anew.

Jean Stevenson



Remembrance Service in the Commemorative Garden at Whirlow Brook Park

On June 11th the first Memorial Service was held in the SU3A Commemorative Garden in Whirlow Brook Park. The plan is for this to be an annual event. The principal organiser of the event was Patsy Gibbon.

On a fine day the Garden was looking splendid. The

event was a fitting culmination of three-and-a-half years of gardening work, which had involved close co-operation with Parks Dept. staff and been supported by £3,000 worth of donations.

On display was the Book of Remembrance, beautifully illustrated by SU3A's Art groups. Visitors had the chance to look through it in detail.

A beautiful painting of the garden was very kindly donated by Mary Mac, to hang permanently in SU3A's newly-acquired HQ in the centre of town.



Frank Abel conducted the moving service, which was very well attended, and accompanied by a lone piper. The celebrants then enjoyed refreshments, and explored details of the planting. They also reflected on what had been achieved by the Project: consolation for bereaved members, a place of pilgimage, the 25th anniversary memorial, publicity for SU3A, and a pleasant experience for all park visitors in years to come.



A visitor from Surrey commented: "It was a happy event and I really enjoyed meeting the great team of people that have worked so hard to reclaim such a lovely peaceful garden. I will look forward to going back there soon!"

STOP PRESS : New SU3A Meeting Room

Room 50 : Victoria Hall : Chapel Walk : Sheffield



Photo courtesy of Mick Knapton

We have now moved in to our new room. This is a facility for ALL MEMBERS.

There is an availability diary on the SU3A website and to book the room contact the Treasurer, Chris Cave, by phone (0114) 236 4648 or email at *treasurer sheffieldu3a.org.uk*

The room can be booked on either a one-off basis or regularly on a weekly or monthly basis.

The sessions will be: morning (9.00 to 13.00) and afternoon (13.00 to 17.00), Monday to Friday only. The cost will be £10.00 per session.

There are tea and coffee facilities in the room to make your own. You will need to provide your own coffee, tea, sugar and milk - and take them home afterwards!. There is also a coffee lounge in the building.

There is lift access to the room.

We are awaiting a decision from the Church Authorities to allow a key box to be sited on the wall outside the room. Members will then be given the code when booking the room. There are cupboards and shelving so small items may be left there.

We are looking into providing broadband in the room. Hopefully, this will be very soon.

For more information contact: *Tricia Pulfrey, Secretary*

(0114) 247 3741 secretary sheffieldu3a.org.uk

Volunteering

We get many requests from outside organisations for helpers and, although these are not official U3A activities nor endorsed by SU3A, we feel that members may be interested in hearing about them.

Could You Support Children's Reading in a Primary School?



Become an ESCAL Volunteer

Every Sheffield Child Articulate and Literate (by the age of 11)

Helping Sheffield school pupils with reading and communication

With the beginning of the 2014/2015 school year, the ESCAL Volunteering programme is again hoping to recruit SU3A members to work one-to-one with pupils. These children need extra practice to build their confidence in reading, listening and understanding and making their own contribution to individual and class discussion.

A minimum of an hour a week for 10 weeks is the commitment requested (more if you can!), enough to give a boost to the pupil's ability to get full benefit from time at school and ultimately to enhance their job prospects.

SU3A members have supported ESCAL Volunteering since 2009, being consistently nearly a third of its volunteer total, and are very much valued. Help is needed across a wide range of ages in every area of the city. You can be matched with a school in the location you prefer, and teaching experience is not a requirement as training and learning materials are provided.

If you are interested, please contact ESCAL Volunteering:

Email: escalvolunteering sheffield.gov.uk, telephone: (0114) 250 6853

Oxfam

Could you spare four hours a week to help in an Oxfam shop near you?

The people of Sheffield are very generous with their donations to Oxfam and we raise a lot of money but all the donations have to be sorted, priced and sold on line or in the shops. Oxfam prides itself on finding a job that suits each volunteer. We urgently need more volunteers. Please call at your local shop and offer your services.





Healthy Volunteers Needed for Nutrition Research

Effect of beetroot juice on Muscle Function and Physical Performance

Sheffield Hallam University, Sheffield University and Newcastle University are working together to investigate the effects of beetroot juice on muscle function, blood pressure and oxygen consumption during exercise in nonobese older adults.

We are looking to recruit healthy, non-smoking volunteers aged 60-75 years. If you fit the following criteria then we would like to hear from you:

- Aged 60-75 years
- Non-smoker
- Body mass index between 18.5 to 29.9 kg/m2 (normal weight and overweight)

Volunteers will be required to attend the Faculty of Health & Wellbeing, Sheffield Hallam University, Collegiate Crescent on occasions where a series of health assessments and exercise tests will be performed. Each visit will last 3-4 hours and the visits will be approximately 7 days apart. Volunteers will be asked to consume a beetroot juice drink twice daily for 2 weeks.

In recognition of your time commitment, you will receive £100 in high street vouchers at the end of the study and reasonable travel expenses will also be reimbursed.

If you would like more information about the study please contact:

Clara or Sneha on 07775 198 557 or email *sbjain1* sheffield.ac.uk or ctlei1 sheffield.ac.uk

Please note that certain medications and medical conditions are part of the exclusion criteria for this study and this might mean that you will not be able to take part in the study.

The study has been ethically approved by the NHS Research Ethics Committee Ref: 14/NS/0061.

Please pass on this message to friends and family who you think may be interested. Thank you!

Events

YAHR Study Day Programme

Northern College near Barnsley, 5 August 2014

There are a few places left on the following topics:

- Heraldry (full day)
- The History of Champagne (half day)
- World War One From Out of a Clear Blue Sky (half day)
- Quilting (half or full day)
- Improving your Memory
- Getting to Grips with the iPad (half day)
- Guided tour of Wentworth Castle Gardens (half day)

For further information see YAHR website www.yahru3a co.uk

To book a place please phone:

Hazel Ward (Swanland U3A) on (01482) 849 168.

First come, first served!



A Research Student writes . . .

I would like to thank University of the Third Age, Sheffield, for all the support they gave me with my data collection for my project.

My sincere thanks to all the members for being so helpful in advertising about my research and helping me in some way or the other when I visited the Drop-In session and willingly participating in my research.

I hope to meet you all sometime.

Ramya Maitryee

Postgraduate Research Student Department of Human Communication Sciences University of Sheffield



Dylan Thomas Study Day : places still available

Friday 3 October 2014

Showroom Creative Lounge

There has been an encouraging response to this event but places are still available at **£5.00** per person. The programme for the day is outlined below.

Statue of Dylan Thomas in Swansea. Photo courtesy of Tony of Devon

10.00 **Lecture 1**:

An introductory lecture to Dylan Thomas by **Professor Chris Wigginton**, followed by questions.

11.15-11.30 Break for refreshments. Tea/coffee/biscuits

11.30 **Film:**

Showing of *Dylan Thomas: Return Journey* starring Bob Kingdom (an interpretation of Thomas's legendary lectures in America). It features the poems *Fern Hill, Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night, A Poem in October, And Death Shall Have No Dominion, Return Journey,* and a story (*The Outing*). Anthony Hopkins directs.

12.30 - 14.00 Lunch (own arrangements)

14.00 **Lecture 2**:

Dylan Thomas and his Circle by **Dr Charles Mundye**. 'As Thomas's circle included many curious and eccentric people the lecture should be entertaining as well as educational' (Professor Chris Hopkins).

Following questions, the day will end at approximately 15.00 - 15.15.

Both speakers are experts on Dylan Thomas.

To apply complete the form on page 34.



Memories and Medicine

Saturday 4 October 2014

Look in your wardrobe, drawers or kitchen cupboard and most people will find at least one item (and probably many more!) from Marks and Spencer.

This iconic British company started life as a Penny Bazaar stall in Leeds Kirkgate market in 1884. To celebrate its 100th anniversary the company created a permanent archive which is now open to the public. Based in Leeds, the Marks and Spencer Archive celebrates the role that M&S has played in many of our lives and contains photographs, films, clothing, toys, household goods and food packaging from its early days to the present.

Join us for a trip to this unique exhibition on Saturday 4 October 2014 to see what memories it brings back.

From there we will go to the White Rose Centre where there will be an opportunity to buy lunch in the Food Court or indulge in some retail therapy.

In the afternoon we will travel further back in time with a visit to the **Thackray Medical Museum** where you will be transported to the streets of Leeds in 1842, complete with the sights, sounds and smells of the time.

Here you can also find out how your body works in the interactive Life Zone; learn how developments have made surgery and childbirth safer and discover how war has led to medical advances.

The cost of the trip is £19.50 which includes the coach, the visit to the M&S Archive, entrance to the Thackray museum and the driver's gratuity.

Places are limited so, if you would like to join us, please complete the form on page 26 and return it to Jane Whitehead to arrive as soon as possible.

Please ring Jane Whitehead on (0114) 230 9312 for further information.

There are also a few places left on the Upper Peak canal trip on Sunday 21 September 2014. This includes a boat trip on the canal with lunch and a short visit to Buxton. The cost is £29.00.

Please ring Dot Sutcliffe on (0114) 268 5918 for more information. website: www.sheffieldu3a.org.uk

Classical Concertgoers

Daytime concert in Birmingham

Wednesday 29 October 2014

Andris Nelsons conducts the City of Birmingham Orchestra

Soloists :	Eduardo Vassollo, Cello	
	Christopher Yates, Viola	
Programme:	Strauss, Don Quixote	

Brahms Symphony No 1

Battling windmills, flying horses and a very angry herd of sheep. . . Richard Strauss' warm-hearted take on the tale of Don Quixote is one of music's all-time comic masterpieces.

Brahms' First Symphony is made of sterner stuff but it still tells an epic story of tragedy and hope, crowned by one of the noblest tunes ever written.

This is an afternoon concert, starting at 14.15, with the option of attending a free talk by broadcaster and author Stephen Johnson at 13.00 when he will introduce Strauss' symphonic poem.

We will leave Knowle Lane/Ecclesall Road bus stop at 09.15 so that we reach Birmingham in time for coffee and a light lunch.

We will alight close to the Symphony Hall. The new Central Library building is nearby and the Art Gallery and Museum a five minutes' walk away. Café facilities are in all three buildings with a further choice of restaurants on the canalside.

We will be back in Sheffield at around 19.00.

The cost of ticket, coach travel and driver's gratuity remains at the 2013 price of **£32.00** and the booking form is on page 26.

An early booking during August would be much appreciated. After that please check with me before sending in your booking form.

Pamela Sandford

Coordinator

(0114) 236 1815



Lunch and Lecture

Friday 24 October 2014, 12.00 for 12.30

Moira Cameron – Tales of Intrigue and Power

You are invited to lunch at the Doubletree by Hilton Sheffield Park Hotel, Chesterfield Road South, Meadowhead, Sheffield, S8 8BW.

In July 2007 Moira was the first, and so far only, female to be appointed as a Yeoman Warder or Beefeater at the Tower of London but did not get to wear her uniform until 3 September 2007. To apply for the job, applicants have to be aged between 40 and 55, have completed at least 22 years service in either the Army, Royal Air Force or Royal Marines, reaching the rank of Warrant Officer or Senior Non-Commissioned Officer, and have been awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

Moira will be telling us about the Tower's dark tales of murder and intrigue, the theft of the Crown Jewels and much more.

Please arrive at 12.00 for a 12.30 start. The cost is £15.50.

There is ample parking and the number 53 bus from bay A1 at the Sheffield Interchange stops outside the hotel. The number 75 bus from Ecclesfield via High Street stops near the hotel at Meadowhead.

The menu will be a choice from:

- (a) White fish in a parsley sauce
- (b) Roast turkey
- (c) Vegetarian ravioli with a cheese sauce

The dessert is: Sticky toffee pudding

Should you have a special dietary request, please contact Dot or Vera, details below.

Please ensure you fill in your choice(s) on the booking form.

To apply, please fill in the form on page 34 and send it with a cheque made payable to *Sheffield U3A Lunch and Lecture* to arrive no later than **Friday 10 October 2014**.

Dot Sutcliffe/Vera Dyer

The Literature Network: What is 'middlebrow'? The inter-war Battle of the Brows.

Wednesday 29 October 2014 at 14.00

Quaker Meeting House, 10 St. James Street, S1 2EW.

The term 'middlebrow' appeared first in *Punch* in 1925. Virginia Woolf famously denigrated middlebrow literature and culture, although she was subsequently criticised for being a cultural snob.

This talk will identify which writers of the inter-war years were regarded as middlebrow and why, what that label meant, and how it persists today as a term of disparagement.

Dr Erica Brown, our speaker, is a Research Fellow in English at Sheffield Hallam University. Her research focuses on middlebrow fiction and cultural hierarchies in the first half of the 20th century and she is particularly interested in women writers. Erica also works with members of the public to read and research novels held in Hallam's collection of popular fiction published between 1900 and 1950.

This promises to be a fascinating lecture on a thorny subject.

Tickets are **£3.00** each, including refreshments, from Ann Barclay. Kindly **book well in advance** to avoid disappointment using the form on page 38.

Belinda Barber

Coordinator

(0114) 230 4717



500 Beacons: The U3A Story by Eric Midwinter.

This was first published in 2004 when the number of U3As had reached 500 but it has now been updated to 2014 and is available on Kindle at **£5.14**

Lest We forget

This is a wonderful memoir of SU3A members' lives during WWII. The last few copies are being sold at a bargain price of **£2.00**.

Irene Davy

(0114) 266 4605

Friday Lecture Programme 2014

Venue: Showroom Cinema 4 (unless stated). Free (unless stated) with refreshments from 09.30. Lecture from 10.30 to 12 noon. Half-price parking at Q-Park with a voucher from the Box Office.

15* August **Experiences of Lesotho and South Africa**

Back in 2012 Ken Dunn of Africa's Gift gave an inspiring talk to SU3A about the work being undertaken in a mountain village in Lesotho, under the auspices of the Malealea Development Trust.

In November 2013 a group of SU3A members set off to undertake voluntary work in the same village. En route they also experienced something of the history and beauty of South Africa (See Links 169).

Ken Dunn, group leader and John Williams, group member

The EU and how it works **19 September**

A non-political account of how decisions are taken at EU level and the role of the MEP.

Elisabeth Sweeney, European Parliament Outreach Service

17 October Topic to be Determined

t.b.a.

WWI: Uncovering the Past at Redmires 21 November Helen Ullathorpe

* note that this date was incorrectly given as 14 August in the last Links

Enquiries, offers and suggestions to Shelagh Woolliscroft (01246) 416 139



Lesotho (*i/li su:tu:/ li-SOO-too*), officially the Kingdom of Lesotho, is a land-locked country and enclave, completely surrounded by its only neighbouring country, South Africa. It is just over 30,000 km2 (11,583 sq mi) in size and has a population slightly over two million. Its capital and largest city is Maseru. Lesotho is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations. The name Lesotho translates roughly into

the land of the people who speak Sesotho. About 40% of the population live below the international poverty line of US \$1.25 a day. From Wikipedia

Group News

Support for Group Coordinators

Following on from Jim Walker's stepping down from his role as General Coordinator it quickly became apparent that the role has become too large for one person. Jim has thus been succeeded by a team of four General Coordinators. After considerable discussion as to how best to split the responsibilities of coordinating all our Groups, we decided the best approach was a simple division into four sets of roughly equal size:

Group A: Coordinator Clare Chiba, contains the walking, birdwatching history and memory Groups.

Group B: Coordinator Ann Granville, contains the language, literature, drama and lunch and lecture Groups.

Group C: Coordinator Roy Pilkington, contains the music, discussion, cards and board games, science and technology and Weekenders Groups.

Group D: Coordinator Pat Ryan, contains the art, arts and crafts, physical, social, gardening and travel Groups.

Camilla Jordan continues with responsibility for the complex task of maintaining Group membership records.

There will always be one or more of us at each Drop-In, New Members' and Coordinators' meetings and at the AGM. Do contact us if you need any help in connection with a Group or Groups, whether it be forming a new Group, trying to find one that fits what you are looking for or simply needing answers to queries about running a Group.

Although it may be quicker if you contact the appropriate Coordinator, do not worry too much. We are working as a team and will happily pass queries on to each other. The fact that Jim's job now requires a team of four indicates by how much we have to thank him!

Contact details:

Group A: Clare Chiba	groupsa sheffieldu3a.org.uk	(01433) 659864
Group B: Ann Granville	groupsb sheffieldu3a.org.uk	(0114) 230 9754
Group C: Roy Pilkington	groupsc sheffieldu3a.org.uk	(01246) 416 139
Group D: Pat Ryan	groupsd sheffieldu3a.org.uk	(0114) 236 8749
Camilla Jordan	grouprolls sheffieldu3a.org.uk	

New Groups

English Language

Sheffield U3A boasts many foreign language Groups but are you interested in our own language?

Are you fascinated by the power of words? Do you want to explore how language shapes our identity, our attitudes and our culture? Did you know that men and women use language differently? Is the textspeak of the young destroying or enhancing our language? Why is 'bad' language bad?

In monthly meetings we will look at different aspects of language usage, e.g. the language of advertising, language and social class, accents and dialects and English as a world language.

After an introductory meeting, sessions will take place in members' homes on the first Tuesday of the month. This is not a 'taught' course but participatory. We are all experts because, after all, we have been using this language for many years now.

If you are interested contact me, Maggie Lyons, preferably by email at *maglang10 outlook.com* or telephone (0114) 236 6195.

Afternoon Tea

Interested in forming an Afternoon Tea Group?

I am hoping that we can form an Afternoon Tea Group. Group members would take afternoon tea at different venues on one afternoon a month. We will decide which day of the week when we first meet. It is hoped that members will take it in turns to select a venue and arrange the visit.

The cost is likely to be between **£10.00 - £20.00**, with venues being in and around Sheffield.

Group members will make their own way to the venue and, as there will be a restriction on numbers at each venue, participation will be on a first come basis.

If you would be interested in joining such a group for afternoon tea and good conversation please contact me:

June Jackson

mj.jackson virgin.net

(0114) 236 4474

New Members

Thursday Art Group

The Thursday Art Group is keen to encourage some new people to join us. It is an excellent time to begin, as the Group is making a fresh start with a new leader, Roy Ridsdale, who is a well-established local artist and art teacher. You can see his work on the internet at *www.royridsdale.com*



The initial emphasis is on drawing as the basis of any subsequent art practice.

The group meets weekly on Thursday afternoons from 14.00 – 16.00 in the Parish Rooms at Ecclesall Church, Ringinglow Road, S11 7PP.

If you would like to discuss it further please contact Ruth Lamb on (0114) 236 2807, or come along and see if it

is for you. You can have two 'taster sessions' before making any commitment.

Wealth and Poverty

We have decided to make some changes to the Wealth and Poverty Group: we are now **Discussion Group 3** and would welcome new members.

Our aim is to offer a forum for discussion of topics of interest relevant to the UK and internationally. Of late we have looked at the EU, The Baby Boomer Generation and housing. We range widely over politics, society, economics and more. We do this by collecting articles from newspapers, TV, internet resources etc and bringing these where possible to meetings as a contribution to the discussion. Anyone wishing to take a wider look at a topic and making a presentation will not be discouraged but this is not mandatory! We meet up in each other's houses by agreement and in a friendly, informal atmosphere.

For more information contact Helen Davies on (0114) 266 3276.

Attention all German Speakers !



Intermediate German

We are a friendly bunch and always make new members welcome.

We do not expect fluency and, although we are listed as 'Intermediate', range from beginners upwards. We thoroughly enjoy our class and have a lot of fun. None of us is perfect: we are just trying to improve and help each other towards that.

We meet at Ecclesall Library on Mondays, 10.00 to 12 noon.

If you are interested in joining us please contact me, Katharine Brown, on (0114) 265 6477.

Advanced German

We are looking to recruit new members.

We meet on alternate Tuesday afternoons at members' homes in S17, S10 and S11.

A typical meeting consists of a period of unprepared conversation amongst members followed by a translation of a text from either German or English which members are expected to prepare. Texts cover a wide variety of subjects – current affairs, science, literature, art and general interest.

This group is suitable for those who already have an extensive knowledge beyond 'A' level and wish to expand that knowledge.

For more information contact Peter Gill (0114) 263 0640, email *pagill53 yahoo.co.uk*

German Walk 'n' Talk

This newly formed Group is now in full swing and welcomes new members.

We meet every other Friday and walk for 3 - 4 hours normally in the Peak District. All conversation takes place in German which has proved a little easier than some of us expected. Included in the Group are native speakers, members of the Advanced German Group as well as experienced German speakers.

For more information contact:

Antje Barker, Coordinator, on (0114) 268 3912, antje.barker.gmail.com



Members of German Walk'n'talk at Forge Dam

Gardening Group C

We meet on the second Monday morning of each month, visiting gardens in and around the Sheffield area in the summer and invite speakers to members' homes during the winter.

Susan Fielding

(0114) 230 3987 fieldings41 gmail.com

Memory Course

We have had more applications than we can accommodate for the Memory Courses this year so please do not send any more applications in for the time being.

We will confirm places for the November course before too long. After that we may look at running another course next spring and those people on the waiting list will have priority for this. We will be in touch with them in due course.

Stephanie Dixon

stephanie.m.dixon btinternet.com



Focus on - Gardening Group (South East)

This well-established Group has been running for about 15 years and its membership is drawn predominantly from the South-East of the city.

No practical gardening is done, but the Group concentrates on visits and talks. Visits to private and public gardens and to garden centres take place in the spring and summer months and take in places such as Hodsock Priory, Wentworth Castle Gardens, Meersbrook Park and of course Chatsworth Gardens. In the winter months the Group continues to meet in members' homes where quizzes, talks and gardening videos are shown.



The Group meets throughout the year on Tuesday mornings on a fortnightly basis. Social events include a summer supper and a Christmas dinner, and the Group of course has a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. Trips out to places of interest often depend on shared journeys in members' cars, and those

willing to share in the task of driving are particularly welcome as members.

At the moment the Group has about 15 members with most of them attending on a regular basis. The Group would welcome additional members and of course it is open to all our membership, not just to those living in South-East Sheffield.

Carol Wright is the Group Coordinator and she can be contacted on (0114) 251 0140 or at *frank primefinancial-services.co.uk*

If you would like us to FOCUS ON your Group please contact John Evans on (0114) 230 1173 or email *publicity sheffieldu3a.org.uk*

Out and About with SU3A . . .

Appreciating Architecture trip : The Delights of Tuscany

On May 9 thirty-four of us gathered at Manchester Airport to travel to Pisa for our tour of Tuscany. We were met by our very efficient and friendly courier, Ludo, who soon whisked us away to Chianciano Terme. We stopped en route at Lucca, a former Roman Colony founded in 180 BC.

The next day found us in Perugia with its 13th century fountain and Assisi with its stunning Basilica.

Our guide, Pricilla, was an English lady who, while attending a short course there fifty years ago, fell in love with a local boy and married him. Over the following three days we visited Florence with all its many attractions, Siena with the famous Piazza del Campo, and then the delightful village of San Gimignano with its thirteen medieval towers.

On our final day we stopped briefly at Pienza, a very pretty town where we walked round the walls to enjoy the wonderful views. Our finale was to Pisa to see the Duomo, Baptistry and leaning Tower, whose 296 steps some of us climbed.

Our journeys between the towns were outstanding with views of the undulating countryside, expanses of olive groves and vineyards, as well as the pencil cypress giving interest to the general panorama.

On behalf of our fellow travellers we would like to thank Shirley Marney for organizing such a wonderful time in Tuscany.

This was her swansong for Sheffield U3A as she has now moved to London and has joined a new group in Southgate where she already has plans to take groups on holiday.

We wish her all the best and, after nineteen years with Sheffield U3A, she will be sorely missed.

Robert and Judy Burdall

Literature Network: George Orwell: from Realism to Dystopia

On April 30 Professor Chris Hopkins of Sheffield Hallam University gave the Literature Network a talk on George Orwell at the Quaker Meeting House. Orwell is generally seen as an iconic writer of the mid-20th century, indeed the term 'Orwellian' has entered the English Language. He was from a middle-class background and was born in India. His father worked in the Opium Department of the Indian Civil Service.

Orwell gained a scholarship to Eton but did not go to university. Instead he joined the Imperial Indian Police Service in Burma. He always had a strong sense of social justice and this is reflected in his writing.

Initially an essayist, his early documentary works (including *Down and Out in Paris and London, The Road to Wigan Pier,* and *Coming up for Air*) describe the conditions under which many ordinary people lived.

However, Orwell always stressed the importance of finding a kind of writing which was able to be wholly truthful; without this the writing was simply propaganda.

Although firmly of the political left, Orwell always retained a strong affection for English tradition. Unlike many of his political comrades he saw clearly the evils of Stalinism and the Soviet dictatorship, and this led him to write his two best-known works, *Animal Farm* and *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. He died of TB soon after the latter was published.

The lecture was well attended and was followed by 15 minutes of informed questions and discussion. Chris Hopkins' talk was highly appreciated by the audience.

David Barber

Liberal: a power worshipper without power.

At fifty everyone has the face he deserves.

Report on Documentary Video Group

Documentary Video Group-Wow What a Year!

The following advert appeared in *Links* in February 2013:

'I would like to hear from other SU3A members who would be interested in forming a small Video Production Group. Initially we could meet to discuss the practicalities of equipment, working space, transport, time etc. and how to cater for individual needs and ambitions. I worked in media production until I reached the third age and could offer instruction and guidance in planning, scripting, videograghy, sound recording, editing and post-production techniques with the aim for the Group to undertake modest, factual video films.'

Since then the Group has been meeting every Tuesday morning as well as completing a number of projects.

It has been an evolving Group and now has a core of 7 members. We have agreed to limit the size of the group to 10 so we still have some capacity.

We have worked with Green City Action, producing videos linked to their tool bank. We have also worked with Assist, producing a film to encourage volunteers to man their Night Shelter. Alongside all this we have completed a short film showing the work of the U3A group working in Whirlow Brook Park, and filmed a concert performed by a choir in the run up to Christmas.

It soon became very clear that using our own individual equipment caused lots of incompatibility issues, so we decided to put together a lottery bid to fund equipment which would actually speak to each other! We were successful in our bid and are now in the process of buying equipment.

The bid is linked to a project around tackling food poverty, and we are doing this in conjunction with GCA. This will provide the opportunity to learn how to use the equipment, talk about the aesthetics of production, and how to go through all the pre- and post- production steps.

Besides this we have also completed and shared short exercises helping us to practise skills. It has been exciting, fun (sometimes scary!) but has allowed us to produce some worthwhile films.

Wendy Hamilton

Croquet Group First International Tour



Peter presents the SU3A croquet pennant to the hosts - who were excellent players.

The club was situated next to the marina with its openair swimming pool and restaurants. Eight intrepid members of the Croquet Group (and one spouse) spent a week in Corfu playing croquet with the local Club. International relations flourished and the delights of Corfu were fully investigated.

A fabulous time was had by all and the next trip is already being planned.

Peter Jones, the Coordinator, takes strike - having 'gone native' in bare feet.





The group making the difficult decision about which taverna to visit that evening.

Thanks to Brian Cave (2nd left) who organised the trip and to Judith Jones for the photos.



M&S Archive and Thackray

weekenders Museum

Saturday 4 October 2014

Name(s)	
Address	Tel:

Please reserve......place(s). I enclose a cheque for £ (£19.50 per person) payable to *Sheffield U3A Weekenders*. Please send to Jane Whitehead, 21 Bingham Court, Graham Road, Sheffield S10 3DZ with a small SAE to arrive as soon as possible.

Please indicate your preferred pick up point:

Old Mother Redcap	08.10 ()
Ecclesall Road South/ Knowle Lane	08.25 ()
Pond Hill (Penny Black pub)	08.40 ()

×____

Classical Concertgoers: Birmingham

Wednesday 29 October 2014

Name(s)	
Address	Tel:
	_ / .

Please reserve place(s) for me ($\pounds 32.00$ per person). I enclose a cheque for \pounds payable to **SU3A Concertgoers** and a small stamped addressed envelope. If possible I would like to sit with:

.....

Completed forms should be sent to Pamela Sandford, 289 Abbey Lane, Sheffield S8 0DA to arrive as soon as possible.

AGM Goes with a Swing

SU3A held its Annual General Meeting on Thursday 15 May at the Central United Reformed Church.



Attendance at the AGM numbered 139, the highest figure for several years, and the innovation of entertainment almost certainly accounted for this much improved attendance.

The business meeting was preceded by a lively hour of music and dance provided exclusively by our own Group members.

First on stage was the Belly Dancing Group based in Stocksbridge. In a colourful and skilled demonstration of this art, the Group soon involved the audience in their routines and got the morning off to an enjoyable start.

They were followed by the Ukulele Group who entertained us with a variety of songs.



No fewer than three choral groups performed for us.



The A Cappella Singers produced a wonderfully rich tone from relatively few voices and were followed by the Performance Choir and Singing for Pleasure Group (*left*), finishing off with community singing. Music has always been a strong activity within Sheffield U3A, and it is pleasing to see the enthusiasm and talent of so many of our current members. In the business part of the meeting, chair Jean Stevenson was able to report on another successful year for SU3A.

Our membership not only breached the 3,000 barrier (the first U3A in the country to reach this number), but has remained comfortably above this figure. Most importantly, Group activity has continued to thrive as well as our usual range of courses, lectures and outings.

Congratulations and thanks to all who have contributed.

All members of the present Executive Committee remain in post, while Dave Longson was elected to the post of Web Coordinator and Samina Aslam joins the Committee as Vice-Chair.

John Evans

Publicity Coordinator

Thanks to John, our Publicity Coordinator, we were able to spread the word about Sheffield U3A in Corfu . . .



Travel Group: Winchester Holiday

21 - 25 April

I have been on a number of visits with SU3A, but this was my first holiday. I have now heartily recommended it to all my friends. The holiday was well planned with clear instructions given and helpful maps supplied. There were various activities offered to suit all tastes, but I am an inveterate sightseer and enjoyed everything. The fact that some people would often have liked more time indicated the popularity of the attractions on the itinerary. Our coach driver, Ray, was a model of efficiency and good humour.

En route to the Winchester Holiday Inn we had a worthwhile stop in Banbury, recalling our childhood memories of nursery rhyme, *Ride a Cock Horse to Banbury Cross*. We enjoyed viewing the church, the museum and the town, and some of us got lost in the enormous shopping centre! The sun shone in Banbury and later in Exbury Gardens, but otherwise we had a quite a bit of cloud and rain. It did not prevent our enjoyment of the beautiful old cities of Salisbury and Winchester with their marvellous cathedrals, or our admiration of Mottisfont Abbey and Garden.

Our visit to Stonehenge was the greatest attraction of the holiday for me. I liked the new arrangements there, the land train to the Stones, the café and museum in the Visitor Centre, and the stone-age village in process of construction. A grey sky and a cutting wind made Stonehenge itself all the more eerie and atmospheric, but one needed a good warm fleece! I think that Beaulieu took the prize for the variety of experiences on offer. Where else would you find a motor museum, a monorail, monastic ruins, a stately home and Victorian Gardens all in one location? It was a blessing that we had warm sunshine at Exbury, because the large park was a delight for serious walkers and the gardens were awash with the brilliant colours of azaleas, rhododendrons and camellias.

On the way home we visited Whitchurch Silk Mill in a near monsoon! It was interesting to see the early 19th century machinery and to learn about the working conditions in those days.

We were all exceedingly grateful to Margaret Bullivant for planning and leading such a rewarding holiday. I particularly appreciated the judicious mixture of guided tours and free time because I love to take photographs.

Shirley Ellins



Travel Group Events

Only members of Sheffield U3A are eligible to take part in our activities.

Insurance

All members are responsible for arranging their own travel insurance. Sheffield U3A cannot be responsible for any claims.

We strongly recommend that members be insured.

Travel Organising Committee

Barbara Robertshaw	Coordinator	(0114) 236 9102
Barry De Roeck	Treasurer	(0114) 236 9169
Derek Shipley	Secretary	(0114) 236 6257
Margaret Bullivant		(0114) 296 2256
Margaret Langrish		(0114) 296 2251
Val Wiley		(0114) 236 0726

Advance Notice: Travel Group Visits for 2014/5

Day Visits for 2014

29 November Capesthorne Hall at Christmas10 December Birmingham Jewellery Museum and German

Christmas Market

Both trips will be advertised in the next Links

Short Breaks for 2015

- 30 April 5 May Isle of Man
 - June Cardiff/South Wales
 - September Oxford and the Cotswolds

SHEFFIELD
U3A
TRAVELTravel Group Visit to Gainsborough OldHall and Lincoln

Tuesday 7* October 2014

This magnificent medieval Manor House is one of the best in the country and is an evocative reminder of days gone by. Both Richard III and Henry VIII were guests of the de Burgh family, who originally built this house in



the late 15th century.

It has an impressive kitchen with an enormous fireplace, a noble great hall with a splendid arched wooden roof and an imposing lodgings tower.

There is also an exhibition tracing the Hall's later links with the Pilgrim Fathers.

Photo by kind permission of English Heritage

We will have tea or coffee and biscuits on arrival and then a costumed guide will lead our tour. A light lunch of soup and sandwiches will then be served.

After lunch we will travel to Lincoln where you are free to visit one of the many attractions, such as the Cathedral, the Castle, the Bishop's Palace or the Jew's House.

The cost of the day is **£21.50**. This includes travel, gratuities, coffee on arrival, guided tour and lunch at Gainsborough Old Hall.

To reserve a place, please complete the booking form on page 32 and send it with a cheque and a small stamped addressed envelope as soon as possible to:

Margaret Langrish, 19 Almshill Road, Sheffield S11 9RR

* please note the change of date from October 6



Full Name(s)	
Address	Tel:

Please indicate your choice of sandwiches:	Cheese () Ham ()
Please indicate your preferred pick up point:	

Bus bay Knowle Lane/Ecclesall Road South	08.00 ()
Sheffield Interchange, Platform E5	08.20 ()



Monreale, Sicily



Our trips are open to all SU3A members

Committee:

Samina Aslam	Coordinator	(0114) 235 1489	sammas1747 gmail.com
Julie Edworthy	Secretary	(0114) 201 5847	
Brian Cave	Treasurer	(0114) 230 5312	

Travel Insurance:

All members are responsible for arranging their own insurance to cover the costs of cancellation (whether the deposit or total amount) through sickness, personal injury, any change of personal circumstances, accidents and loss of or damage to luggage or personal property. Sheffield U3A cannot be responsible for any such claims.

Cancellations:

In case of cancellation please note that refunds for deposits or for full payments can only be made if a replacement (who must be a Sheffield U3A member) can be found by the organiser. All refunds are subject to an administration charge of £10.00.

2014/15 Calendar

2014

4-9	Sept	Dordogne and Lot
7-11	Dec	Valkenburg, Aachen and Antwerp
2015		
20 - 2	26 April	A Classical Sicilian Adventure
28 June - 2 July		Ireland: Killarney and the Ring of Kerry
8 - 18	8 Sept	La Rioja and the Pilgrims Trail, Spain
Nov/Dec		European City break

Lunch and Lecture: Moira Cameron

Friday 24 October 2014, 12.00 for 12.30

Doubletree by Hilton Sheffield Park Hotel, Chesterfield Road South, Meadowhead, S8 8BW

Full Name(s)	SU3A No(s)
Address	
Menu choice(s) (please indicate): (a) (Postcode

Please reserve place(s) for me ($\pounds 15.50$ per person). I enclose a small stamped addressed envelope and a cheque for \pounds payable to *Sheffield U3A Lunch and Lecture*

Forms should be sent to arrive no later than **Friday 10 October 2014** to Dot Sutcliffe, 32 Tapton Crescent Road, S10 5DA.

⊁_____

Study Day On Dylan Thomas

Friday 3 October 2014 at 10.00

Showroom Creative Lounge

Full Name(s)	SU3A No(s)
Address	Tel:
	Postcode

Please reserve place(s) for me. I enclose a cheque for £ (£5.00 per person) payable to **Sheffield U3A** and a small stamped addressed envelope. Completed forms should be sent to:

Denise West, 18 Periwood Grove, Millhouse Green, Sheffield S8 0HX. Tel: (0114) 274 6797



Advance Notice: Killarney and the Ring of Kerry

28 June - 2 July 2015

We are planning a trip to the West Coast of Ireland for the summer of 2015, based in Killarney. On this 5 day / 4 night trip we will travel from Manchester Airport to Cork. En route to Killarney we will visit Blarney Castle, one of Ireland's most historic castles, and nearby Blarney Woollen Mills for some excellent shopping.

We will explore the town of Killarney with an option to take a horse-drawn jaunting car into the beautiful surrounding scenery and enjoy a tour of the spectacular Dingle Peninsula (where David Lean's film Ryan's Daughter was made) with free time in Dingle village and a visit to the Blasket Centre, a fascinating heritage centre dedicated to the unique community which lived on the Blasket Islands until their evacuation in 1953.

We will tour the Ring of Kerry on the Iveragh Peninsula, taking in historic and picturesque towns and villages such as Kenmare and Caherciveen (from where the tiny rocky Skellig islands can be glimpsed 11 km out at sea, home of early Christian monks and of the second largest colony of gannets in the world). We will also see Moll's Gap, a dramatic mountain pass with views of the Macgillycuddy Reeks, Ireland's highest mountains.

A visit to Muckross House, located on the shores of one of Killarney's lakes and within the Killarney National Park is a must. This was the home for almost 200 years of the Herbert family which included the 19th century watercolourist Mary Balfour Herbert. We will drive to the scenic village of Glengariff, with the option to take a boat trip to Garinish Island and its gardens. On the way back to the airport we visit Cobh and the Queenstown Story visitors' centre, telling the story of this main Irish emigration centre to the USA.

The cost of this trip, half board in en-suite rooms at the Holiday Inn, Killarney will be approx. £730.00 with a single supplement of £89.00. This includes all entrance fees (except the optional jaunting cars) and gratuities.

To register your interest please respond by email or post to:

Julie Edworthy, 41 Struan Road, Carterknowle, Sheffield S7 2EJ, email julieedworthy gmail.com

Please note that registering your interest is not an application for this trip and, should the trip proceed, will be no guarantee of a successful appliçation.



ETG : A Classical Sicilian Adventure

20 - 26 April 2015

We will depart from Manchester Airport, arrive back at Luton Airport and stay in 4* hotels with all rooms having ensuite, TV and telephone facilities.

We will be staying at the Garibaldi in Palermo, Best Western Dioscuri Bay Palace in Agrigento and the Caesar Palace in Giardini Naxos.

We have a full day guided tour of Palermo and Monreale and will see architecture ranging from Arabic to Norman. The visit will take in sights such as the 12th Century La Marorano Church, the Church of San Cataldo and the magnificent Monreale Cathedral which is adorned with Sicilian and Byzantine mosaics. In the evening there is a chance to eat at a local restaurant of your own choice.

On day 3, following a guided visit to the Valley of the Temples and an included open air lunch at the ancient gardens of Kolymbetra, we continue to Agrigento where we have a one night stay.

The next day we proceed to Giardini Naxos near Taormina, stopping en route for a guided tour of some of the finest surviving Roman mosaics depicting scenes from daily life at the Piazza Armerina and the Villa Romana del Casale.

The following day we visit Taormina with a guided tour taking in sights such as the Santa Maria del Gesia Convent, the Palazzo Corvaia, the Duomo and the 4th century BC Greek amphitheatre. The afternoon will be at leisure or you may choose to join an optional scenic excursion to Mount Etna.

On day 6 we will enjoy a guided tour of Siracusa, home to the Temple of Apollo, the Parco Archeologico featuring the spectacular Teatro Greco and then on to the catacombs of San Giovanni Evangelista dating back to 360-316 BC. The next day we will travel to Catania Airport for our flight back to Luton.

The cost of this 7 day / 6 night stay, half board (except for day 2 which is on B&B basis only) at 4* hotels will be **£1090.00** with a single supplement of **£119.00**.

The cost includes pick up and drop off by executive coach from designated points to and from the airport and all gratuities.

Please note at the time of publication that whilst we are not expecting any major changes the **following are subject to change:**

Airlines have not finalised their 2015 timetable. Flights can only be booked once airlines are in receipt of names and deposit payments and are then subject to availability at the original price we have been quoted.

Entrance fees: Most state run museums are free for the over 65s, except for churches. However Italy, as some other countries, is experiencing some economic difficulties and there is no guarantee that this will remain the same. Based on our existing itinerary and excluding the trip to Mount Etna, if you are over 65 the current entrance fees for the trip will cost an additional €20 per person. If you are under 65 the total would be approx €85 per person.

To apply for this holiday please complete the form on page 38 and send it with a deposit of **£150.00** per person, **by Monday 18 August 2014** together with a *Links*-size stamped addressed envelope to:

Samina Aslam, 342 Abbey Lane, Sheffield S8 0BY.

Syracuse, Sicily

Literature Network: What is 'middlebrow'?

29 October 2014 at 14.00

Quaker Meeting House, 10 St. James Street, S1 2EW

Full Name(s)	
Address	Tel:

Please reserve place(s) for me. I enclose a cheque for \pounds (\pounds 3.00 per person) payable to *Literature Network of SU3A* and a small stamped addressed envelope. Completed forms should be sent to:

Ann Barclay, 14 Clarendon Court, Carr Bank Lane, Sheffield, S11 7FN

≫_ **ETG : A Classical Sicilian Adventure** 20 - 26 April 2015 Postcode Please reserve place(s) for me. Room type: Double/twin share/single I enclose a cheque for £ (£150.00 deposit per person), payable to Sheffield U3A ETG and a Links-size stamped addressed envelope. Applications should be sent to: Samina Aslam, 342 Abbey Lane, Sheffield S8 0BY to arrive no later than 18 August 2014. Please indicate your preferred pick up point: Sheffield Interchange (....) Knowle Lane/Ecclesall Road South (....) Before submitting your application please read the European Travel Group notice on page 33 about travel insurance and cancellation policy. website: www.sheffieldu3a.org.uk 38

SU3A Executive Committee

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For queries about membership, joining SU3A, information on Groups etc. see the contacts list inside the front cover

Calendar

2014

August	3 5 5 13 15	C'Concertgoers: HMS Pinafore: Harrogate: Day Trip Drop-In Session + iPad/web support: 10.00-12.00: CURC Travel Group: Visit to Wensleydale: Day Trip YAHR Study Day: Northern College Travel Group: Repeat visit: <i>War Horse</i> at Salford: Day Trip Showroom Lecture: Lesotho and South Africa: 10.30
September	r 2 3 4-9 19 21 25 28-2	Drop-In Session + iPad/web support: 10.00-12.00: CURC Travel Group: Repeat visit: Three Churches: Day Trip European TG: Dordogne and Lot by train: Short Break Showroom Lecture: The EU and how it works: 10.30 Weekenders: Upper Peak Canal and Buxton: Day Trip Travel Group: Anderton Boat Lift: Day Trip Travel Group: Chichester: Short Break
October	3 4 7 24 29 29	Study Day: Dylan Thomas: Showroom: 10.00 Weekenders: Marks and Spencer Archive, Leeds: Day Trip Travel Group: Gainsborough Old Hall and Lincoln: Day Trip Drop-In Session + iPad/web support: 10.00-12.00: CURC Lunch and Lecture: Moira Cameron: DoubleTree: 12.00 C'Concertgoers: Don Quixote: Birmingham: Day Trip Lit. Network: What is 'middlebrow'?: Quaker MH: 14.00
November	21 29	Showroom Lecture: WW1 - The past at Redmires: 10.30 Travel Group: Capesthorne Hall at Christmas: Day Trip
December	7-11 10	ETG: Valkenburg, Aachen and Antwerp: Short Break Travel Group: Christmas Market: Birmingham: Day Trip
2015		
April 2 June	20-26 28-2	ETG: A Classical Sicilian Adventure: Short Break ETG: Killarney and the Ring of Kerry: Short Break

The Drop-Ins now include free sessions on how to use your iPad to access SU3A resources