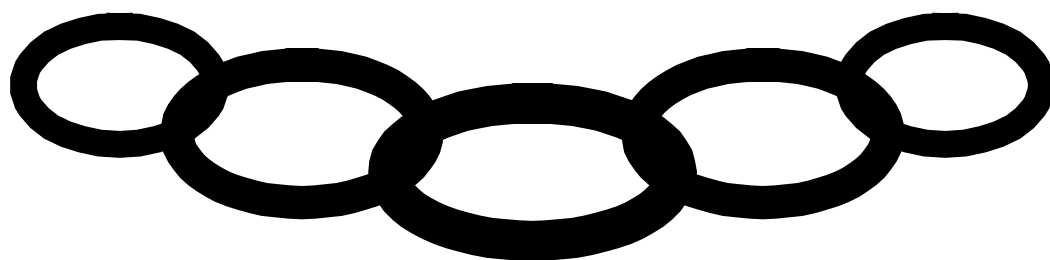




LINKS



Website Version

NEWSLETTER
and
GROUP NEWS

No. 124

August 2006

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

A number of groups will be taking a break in July and August and now is the time to “draw breath” before continuing with another successful year. As you relax in the sun you might have an idea for a new subject group to start up – or even ponder briefly on what it would be like to contribute as a Committee member (we shall need **five** next year).

You will see from the Committee Report later on in this issue that much is happening locally at present. We also have four delegates attending the National Conference at the beginning of September.

At regional level, our new Ridings Chairman is Ann Firth from Doncaster. At the recent meeting, as it was the turn of a member from Northumbria Region, there was unanimous endorsement of John Leiper (Wooler U3A) as nominee for Area Representative. John’s background is in industrial Engineering but he also has organisational development and human resources experience.

Have any of you noticed increased interest in “age” issues in the media and the press, both at local and national levels? To some extent this has been due to the legislation on age in employment which comes into force in October this year. Or is it just my heightened awareness since recently becoming Chairman? Certainly amongst my initial priorities has been to discover as much I could about the Third Age Trust, U3A and its history, and of course Sheffield U3A. It has been absorbing reading all round, particularly “The Story So Far....” the first history of SU3A published in 2002. I am still finding out about the impressive day by day quiet dedication of so many volunteers who have kept - and still keep - the wheels turning. I look forward to the meeting as many of you as I can in the months ahead.

Joan Keogh



Photo: Anne Heesterman

The new Committee: -

Back row: Brian Bezant, David Rance (Vice-Chairman), Peter Digby (General Coordinator), Peter Barclay (Publicity Officer), Barbara Steel (General Secretary), Derek Cave (Treasurer), Shirley Marney (Travel Coordinator).

Front row: Norman Smith (Web Coordinator), Myra Smith (*Links* Editor), Joan Keogh (Chairman), Hilda Wisbey, and Beryl Moore (Minutes Secretary).

COORDINATORS' MEETING

The next Coordinators' Meeting will be held on Tuesday 10 October 2006 at 9.30am for 10.00am at the Quaker Meeting House, St James' Street.

Peter Digby General Coordinator

COMMITTEE REPORT

The most recent meeting was on 7 July when the three new members elected at the AGM - Peter Barclay, Norman Smith and Brian Bezant - joined the Committee.

They have already been busy on Sheffield U3A business, and Norman (Web Coordinator) was able to report that the new website is up and running. Peter (Publicity Officer) brought to the meeting the new, easily portable, publicity board he had purchased. This will enable us, at suitable events, to display information about the wide range of our activities. It has already successfully appeared at the Cuba meeting and will be used at the "Sheffield 50 +" meeting at Ponds Forge on 14 July.

There was further discussion regarding the use of Gift Aid monies. A small group has been set up to consider and approve the much-needed upgrading of the Membership Secretary's computer technology and, following a request from a member at the AMM, the Committee is exploring the purchase of an epidiascope or visualiser, which could be of use to several groups.

The Committee would be pleased to consider any request for a piece of equipment that could be of use to a number of U3A groups, but regretfully we cannot provide equipment specific to one group only (so, please, no requests for new boots for a walking group!).

Finally, we were happy to note that John Richards has agreed to be the voice and voting representative of Sheffield U3A for the Ridings Region for the next twelve months.

Hilda Wisbey

SU3A TREASURER

The present Treasurer, Derek Cave, will come to the end of his four year term of office at the AGM next April. We are, therefore, looking to find a replacement over the next few months, so that the next incumbent can work in parallel for a while, both in the Treasurer's job itself, and in joining in Committee proceedings as a co-opted member. If you wish to put yourself forward for this job, or just find out more information, please contact Derek.

SHEFFIELD U3A WEBSITE

I have now taken over responsibility for the website from pioneer Webmaster Tony Marsh. The new site is up and running and can be found at <http://www.sheffieldu3a.org.uk>. Please do visit. Any feedback on accuracy, navigation, presentation etc would be welcome.

My first aim for the website is to make it easy to find information on Sheffield U3A groups. You can search for a group by category, by day of the week or alphabetically. This search will take you to the standard information on a group. However each group can also have its own page or pages on the website. This page can be used to provide, for example, reports on current and past activities and the group's future programme. It can also include photographs. I hope group coordinators will take up this opportunity.

Please email copy for a group page to me at webcoordinator@sheffieldu3a.org.uk. To make best use of this facility please always include the group coordinator's email address (or that of another person in the group willing to deal with queries by email).

Norman Smith Web Coordinator

LOOP SYSTEM FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED

A Loop System for use in small rooms either meeting rooms with small numbers or private houses has been purchased for the use of groups with members who rely on hearing aids. This can be used to clarify speakers or used with audio equipment to allow hearing impaired members to have sound quality comparable to that of people with good hearing.

This equipment will be held by the newly appointed Equipment Officer John Brooke.

EQUIPMENT OFFICER

The Committee has decided to set up the post of Equipment Officer, this person to hold most of SU3A's equipment to advise the Committee on future purchases and ensure that these are coordinated.

John Brooke has agreed to be the first Equipment Officer and we are fortunate to be able to call on his knowledge and experience.

Just to remind you, the present equipment includes a laptop computer, a projector and scanner (all for use in connection with PowerPoint), loudspeaker and lapel microphones and now also the loop system for the hearing impaired. If you wish to borrow any of these, please ring John.

At present John Richards continues to hold Sheffield U3A's overhead projector, white board and a large screen.

Any proposals for new equipment or changes to the existing equipment should initially be made to the Committee and addressed to the Secretary in the usual way. A proposal for purchasing a type of epidiascope and small screen is already under consideration.

NEW MEMBERS' MEETING

**Wednesday 11 October 2006
at 1.30pm for 2.00pm
at the Quaker Meeting House, St James' Street,
Sheffield S1**

New and prospective members are welcome at these meetings.

Their primary purposes are:

- to welcome new members and help them to feel at home by telling them about U3A in general and Sheffield U3A in particular
- to deal with members on waiting lists and
- to assist in the creation of new groups.

Do come, if you are a new or prospective member, or if you would like advice and help or if you have difficulties over joining a group. We have been very successful up to now in creating new groups, which is the only way we can satisfy an ever-increasing membership. We also welcome coordinators with vacancies in their groups and those who wish to start new ones.

As you stand at the Cathedral tram stop, St James' Street runs west from the top of the steps to the left of the Cathedral and parallel with Church Street. The Meeting House is at the end on the right at the corner with Vicar Lane.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Peter Barclay, Publicity Officer

A Fun Night Out
at the
Great SU3A Charity Quiz

presented
by the one and only

PETER CHATTERTON

at Esporta Leisure Centre, Archer Road, Sheffield
on Saturday 14 October

Open from 7.00pm for quiz to start at 7.30pm

Pea and Pie Supper
or vegetarian option

Tickets £7.00 (includes quiz and supper)

Entry by ticket only
(form at the end of this issue of *Links*)

No more than six in a team, please
Teams can be arranged on the night

Ample parking and bar facilities available

For further information please contact Marion Edmondson

GROUP NEWS

Theatre Group

Thank you to everyone who replied to the questionnaire, and we will endeavour to make use of your comments, for example, to try to arrange visits to theatres other than Sheffield.

Shows we have lined up for you this month, include the ever popular *Christmas Cavalcade* on 10 December. Performances are at 2.00pm and 7.15 pm. The usual favourite performers will be there to give us the diverse programme we are accustomed to. Keith Roe apologises for increased prices, but the cost of hiring the City Hall has doubled.

The other show is Harold Pinter's *The Caretaker* on 18 October at the Crucible Theatre at 7.30 p.m. Nigel Harman, recently seen on the West End stage in *Guys and Dolls*,

is the "caretaker" not only of the house but also of the brothers' daydreams of palaces, exotic places and a better life.

"daydreams of palaces,
exotic places and a
better life"

Harold Pinter masterfully explores the borderline between fantasy and reality in a story that is part situation comedy, part tragedy, and all absorbing.

Michael Cowen *Coordinator*

Classical Concertgoers' Group

Our first concert in the 2006-07 season is to the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, on Wednesday 18 October for a concert given by the Hallé Orchestra, conducted by Mark Elder with Martin Sturfält (piano). The programme includes *The First Day Witch* by Dvorak, Mendelssohn's 2nd Piano Concerto, Vaughan Williams' *Norfolk Rhapsody No 1* and Beethoven's 2nd Symphony.

The coach will leave the bus bay on Ecclesall Road South, near the top of Millhouses Lane promptly at 4.30pm. The inclusive cost of the visit is £27.00 per person. Bookings may be made using the slip at the end of this issue. Please send applications and an SAE to Derek Shipley,, to arrive not later than Thursday 30 August. Please include the names, addresses and contact numbers of all members for whom you are applying.

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

Derek Shipley Coordinator

Handwork and Craft II

Due to ill health our coordinator, Janet Swannack, has decided that she is unable to be involved any longer with the group. However, we would like to carry on, but as we are a very small group we would like new members, especially those with ideas and skills.

Jean Davis Coordinator

Bridge (Monday)

We have moved! Pat Latham's Monday afternoon bridge is now held at the Abbeydale Sports Club, Abbeydale Road South weekly on Mondays. Bridge commences at 1.00pm and finishes at 4.00pm.

New members welcome.

For further information please telephone Pat Latham.

Bridge (Thursday)

Members are invited to apply for membership. The group meets on Thursday afternoons from 1.00pm to 4.00pm at Abbeydale Sports Club, Abbeydale Road South. We play **duplicate** bridge to a reasonable club standard and can cater for players without a partner. An annual subscription of £32 covers 50 meetings at this popular, pleasant venue.

Applications to/information from coordinator - David Jones.

Wealth and Poverty

There are now vacancies in this group which meets monthly. We meet in each others' houses and discuss issues related to these two main themes both on a global basis and nearer to home. A lead-in is given by a member of the group.

For further information please contact:

Jeanne Rogers Coordinator

Italian for Holidays Group

Have you taken a holiday in Italy this year and enjoyed it so much that you must return? Or perhaps you plan to go for the first time next year? Just think how much more you would gain from your trip if you could speak a little Italian - you really only need a few words!

Why not come along and join our friendly little group? We would like to start a new group of beginners this autumn, and will be restarting on 15 September after the summer break.

Give it a try! As well as being interesting, useful and fun, a little mental exercise is good for you. Please book your place early as numbers are limited.

Mick Hague Coordinator

Enjoying Literature I

Meeting on the first and third Thursday mornings 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.

LUNCH AND LECTURE

You are invited to lunch at the Sheffield Park Hotel,
Chesterfield Road South, Meadowhead, Sheffield S8 8BW
Friday 15 September 2006. Please arrive at 12 for 12.30pm.

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

MENU

Roast lamb with mint sauce

Lemon tart with cream

Vegetarian option – aubergine and tomato moussaka with
mozzarella and basil

**The speaker on this occasion will be the wild life artist and
adventurer**

Pollyanna Pickering

Pollyanna's subject will be 'On Top of the World'. In 1992
Pollyanna, accompanied by her daughter Anna Louise,
undertook the toughest of her expeditions – a journey into the
high Arctic in search of polar bears. Travelling across the
frozen Arctic Ocean by husky dog sledge, and camping in tents
and igloos they endured temperatures as low as -40°C.
Although they swore never to return, this new talk includes
slides and paintings from their second expedition, searching for
migrating females and cubs.

If you would like to book a place please fill in the form at the
back of this issue. The cost will be £13.00, and the closing
date for booking is 28 August 2006.

Coordinator.....Barbara Steel

NEW GROUPS

Book Group II

The current Book Group is full to overflowing and a new group is being formed. A book is discussed each month in one of the local pubs, followed by a pub lunch. The book could either be one of the new best sellers or one that has stood the test of time. So, if you enjoy talking about everything under the sun, in good company, with a pint or a cup of tea in your hand then please give me a phone call.

Marion Edmondson

ICT Group

I taught ICT (many of you know it as IT) from the early 1980s until I retired in 2000. Since then I have taught a small number of Adult Education ICT classes. I am now hoping to start a U3A group for anyone interested in improving their computer skills.

Total beginners would be very welcome, as would people who are self taught or made limited use of IT at work and would like to learn more. The emphasis of this group would be on word processing, use of the internet and email and spreadsheets but I would hope to follow up any ideas or suggestions coming from group members.

The group would run from 4pm to 6pm on Tuesdays, starting on 12 September. Hallam City Learning Centre, based at Notre Dame High School, have been so very kind as to offer us the use of an IT Room free of charge, for which I am more than grateful. The school asks that anyone attending the group parks on Riverdale Road or on the opposite side of Fulwood Road, as parking on the school premises is limited.

If you are interested in joining this group please contact me:

Clare Chiba

LETTERS

Travel with SU3A

- We had the golden opportunity to join the recent trip to Corsica and Sardinia offered by SU3A. It has always been a most rewarding experience to participate in the excursions organised by the Sheffield or national travel group, but this time it was extra special because of a few difficulties beyond the influence of the organisers. We were afforded such generous care and attention that we did not even appreciate what was happening in the background. The show just carried on in a very smooth manner. We owe the travel team a very big thank you for all the work they undertake for our benefit and enjoyment. Most of it is carried out quietly and goes unnoticed. That is the reason why we feel we should remind ourselves of such “labour of love” and express our grateful thanks.

Alan and Annelene Furness

News from New Zealand

- On a recent visit to New Zealand, I contacted the Hibiscus Coast U3A and asked to attend one of their meetings, having had picked up their leaflet in the local library.

I was offered the choice of three that week: General Discussion, Ancient History and French Conversation. I chose to go to the General Discussion Group which was held in the Community Room of the Hibiscus Coast Retirement Village on the Whangaparoa Peninsula, North of Auckland. Apparently the Group has a membership of about 200 and interests include Anthropology Plus, Famous and Infamous People, Humour, Jazz and Writing for Grandchildren as well as the more usual topics.

The Discussion Group met at 10.00am and were very welcoming. A cup of tea or coffee was available at the beginning of the meeting. About 18 members were present and we sat in a circle and introduced ourselves. I was of the impression that most, if not all, were originally from the UK and some had also lived in other countries. The subject was 'Cultural Differences'. To stimulate discussion, a teacher of English as a Foreign Language spoke first and told the group of misunderstandings and embarrassments that had occurred in her classes as a result of cultural differences. The rest of the group joined in with their views and experiences. After an hour we 'walked round our chairs' for exercise and then the Chairman invited each member to make their personal contribution to the discussion. Most did, and I was interested to hear that some members felt that New Zealand is able to have a unique culture because of its isolation from the rest of the world.

At the end of the meeting the Chairman asked for suggestions for a topic for the next meeting. One member told the group that the local radio station had asked for listeners to vote for the 20 things most important to New Zealand. After some discussion it was agreed that each member should bring one such item.

I left, after thanking the group for their hospitality and had a look around the retirement village which consisted of brick-built bungalows and one-storey communal buildings. The residents were having lunch and there was a very pleasant feeling to the place. This was just one more happy experience of my stay in New Zealand where everyone seems so relaxed and friendly!

Stella Longden

ACTIVITY REPORTS

In the Footsteps of a Queen

On a beautiful June morning, 18 members of the Oral History Group gathered at Sheffield Manor Lodge. We were greeted by the Chairman of the Friends of Manor Lodge David Templeman as the Lord Chancellor and his wife Anne as a lady of the court, both resplendent in their Tudor robes of velvet and brocade.



We enjoyed coffee and biscuits sitting in the sun outside the Turret House, served by Anna Jones of Green Estates which now administers the site. Then we made our way across the deer park to the ruins of the old Manor

House. This was built to house Mary Queen of Scots and her retinue of 30 to 40 servants and courtiers during her captivity in



the charge of the 6th Earl of Shrewsbury, fourth husband of Bess of Hardwick.

Mary was imprisoned here for 14 years from 1570 on the orders of Queen Elizabeth I who saw her as a threat to the throne.

Photos: Vera Wibberley

The Manor House was originally an immense and imposing building brought to life in our imagination in a fascinating insight by David into its history. Cardinal Wolsey also visited Sheffield Manor on his final journey to London and we could visualise Wolsey and Shrewsbury sitting in the Long Gallery mulling over the issues of the day over a glass of wine.



Photo: Anna Jones

Then a pleasant stroll back to the Turret House, where the more intrepid among us tackled the narrow winding staircases to the upper floors. (How did she ever get up those stairs in those voluminous dresses?)

The story of Mary Queen of Scots is a fascinating one and the time she spent in Sheffield was an important part of her life – thank you David for bringing it to life so vividly for us!

Anne Templeman said to me jokingly as we left, "Sometimes I feel as if there are three people living in our house, David and me and Mary Queen of Scots, and it gets a bit crowded!"

Vera Wibberley Coordinator Oral History

CUBA U3A

On Monday 26 June I went to Sheffield University to attend a meeting arranged by Dr Steve Ludlam, to meet Señora Teresa Orosa Fraiz, the very lively Professor of U3A in Cuba.

Señora Fraiz, a professor at the University of Havana, together with her smiling husband as interpreter, provided an energentic, interesting and informative experience into the working of U3A in Cuba.

Although she could not speak English, Señora Fraiz took charge of the meeting and the agenda arranged by our U3A “went out of the window”. Aided by overhead projections full of information, she told us about and showed us photographs of happy, smiling and contented Cuban senior citizens, all of whom were taking part in the varied basic courses provided by U3A Cuba.

The venture is supported by the island universities, trade unions and government sponsored organisations. The people of Cuba value education, so there is no shortage of students. The



Señora Teresa Orosa Fraiz and
Joan Keogh



venues vary from the University of Havana to the back gardens of participating students. Everyone studies a basic course with leisure, lifestyle and self-enhancing elements. A certificate is given on graduation. Students can continue with work on computing and other educational activities.



Photos: Dr Steve Ludlam

To end the meeting our chairman Joan Keogh gave a short resume of the activities of Sheffield U3A. Many commemorative photographs were taken.

A very worthwhile joint venture between two different U3A organisations, each fulfilling the needs of their members.

Pat SmithCoordinator Spanish Intermediate III

U3A NATIONAL TRAVEL GROUP

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

Yvonne Gutsell,, email: Gutsellfravon@aol.com

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

<http://db.u3a.org.uk/travel/> and U3A members can ask to be informed when a new travel list is posted on the national U3A website (five times a year) by sending a request to:
u3atravel@internet.com.uk

PONDS FORGE 50+ DAY



Lord Mayor Jackie Drayton and Peter Barclay, Publicity Officer

Following a suggestion from BBC Radio Sheffield, we purchased a new Publicity Display Unit this spring. It shows our diverse activities and recent illustrations.

We were invited by Sheffield 50+ to contribute to their large exhibition event at Ponds Forge on 14 July. The display unit was our central feature, with supporting contributions from groups. Our team of SU3A members were active at the stand, providing free booklets and the ever-popular library leaflets. Many people had little idea of what U3A stood for, and were amazed at our low costs and wide international connections. Copies of *Links* went rapidly, even Sheffield Lord Mayor Jackie Drayton took a copy, and chatted for some time about her interest in our activities and their extent across the city. My thanks to all SU3A members who contributed. We'll be back another day.

Peter Barclay



Eiffel Tower

**Paris photo album:
the recent Travel
Group trip.**

Photos: John Sheasby



Sacré Coeur



Notre Dame



Les Invalides

Corsica and Sardinia



Citadel at Corte, Corsica



Porto, Corsica



Cap Corse, Corsica

A holiday of contrasts. Corsica's jagged mountains of pink and grey granite dominate the island. A light covering of snow emphasised their beauty. Lower down, the slopes were covered in the dense shrubs of the maquis sparkling everywhere with the white flowers of various types of cistus. Steep winding roads gave us an ever changing scene as we travelled the length of the island.

A highlight was the drive through Les Calanches, incredibly shaped and spectacular pink rocks, leading to the beautiful Golfe de Porto where a boat trip allowed even more views of the scenery. Settlements on the coast often had delightful little harbours where pleasure yachts abounded.

Everywhere we were reminded of Corsica's most famous son, Napoleon Bonaparte.

Sardinia's more gentle landscape held different charms. Although there are mountains in the centre of the island much of the land is lower with flocks of sheep, goats, and cattle and groves of cork oak. Sardinia's towns have a wealth of elegant historic buildings and its silver beaches frame seas of deep greens and blues. We were shown the incredibly beautiful north east coast where many famous people have homes, by a mini train, and were guided around three very different archaeological sites dating from prehistoric to Roman times.

One could go on and on describing these fascinating islands but you need to visit them for yourself. It is a pity you will not be able to go with the super U3A group that we did.

Thanks to Shirley, who worked so hard for us solving problems and making sure we were all enjoying ourselves, and to the group who made us, the newcomers to U3A holidays, so welcome, we are already planning our next trip.

Denise Marsden.



Calvi, Corsica



Menhir in Corsica

Photos: Myra Kirkpatrick

TRAVEL NEWS

Travel Organising Committee

Shirley Marney, Coordinator

Ken Parkin, Treasurer

Derek Shipley, Minutes Secretary

Peter Frost

Barbara Robertshaw

Margaret Bullivant

Holiday Insurance

In no circumstances will the Sheffield University of the Third Age be responsible for covering claims for loss of life, personal injury, medical expenses, accidents, loss or damage of luggage or personal property, cancellations or loss of deposits. Each person must themselves insure against these risks.

Group Insurance

All medical history must be declared to the group insurers each time it is requested. No responsibility will be taken by Sheffield U3A Travel if you fail to do so. In case of an emergency it would help the Organiser if the information were also stated on U3A Travel booking forms.

Credit Card Insurance – read the small print carefully.

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

Difficulties

Our trips and tours contain a full range of activities and need to be considered carefully by individual applicants. Some people have difficulty getting on and off coaches, and our excursions demand a degree of active involvement and physical independence. Organisers, fellow passengers, and drivers cannot be responsible if such issues have not been considered. If in any doubt, please consult the Organiser before applying.

Refunds cannot be given for cancellations unless a replacement can be found.

In the case of a cancellation please contact the day trip or holiday organiser or another member of the Travel Group Committee as soon as possible.

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

Please do not park in front of the doctor's surgery on Millhouses Lane. When sending a **stamped addressed envelope** it should be no less than 4 x 8 inches.

SHEFFIELD U3A TRAVEL

***N.B.** An organiser will not send out a receipt, until the number of applications required for the daytrip/holiday have been received.*

Jewels of Turkey (Saga Holiday) - 2 October 2006

After the cancellation of the proposed holiday to China, it was decided to replace it with this holiday to Turkey in October 2006. 14 nights/15days. Full board in 4* hotels. Free bar from 11am -11pm. Free insurance (refund if you have your own annual insurance). No single supplement. All excursions included. Three nights in Kusadasi visiting Ephesus, Kusadasi, Didyma and Miletus, four nights near Gulluk visiting Gulluk, Bodrum, Boat trip along the coast, and a free day at this resort village. Seven nights in Cesme visiting Cesme, Izmir, Sirince, Chios and Pergamum, one day and two afternoons free. Cost is £980 including tips for the guide and driver but **not** the coach to the airport. Please complete the slip at the end of this issue and send with a cheque for the full amount and a stamped addressed envelope to Shirley Marney.

North Yorkshire Moors Railway Trip from Whitby to Pickering - Sunday 8 October 2006

Enjoy an afternoon trip on a steam hauled train travelling through the spectacular autumn scenery around the North Yorkshire Moors. Mid morning coffee/tea has been arranged in the village of Bishopscourt near York en route to Whitby where lunch will be arranged at Trenchers famous fish restaurant.

The cost (excluding lunch) is £29 per member and includes refreshment stop, coach, and train journey.

Please complete the slip at the end of this issue and send with a cheque and a stamped addressed envelope to Peter Frost.

Southwell Minster and the Workhouse - Monday 11 September 2006

The Minster was founded in Saxon times and nearby is the site of a Roman villa. It is rich in historical and architectural interest and has fine examples of five main styles of architecture, especially Norman and early English. The 13th century Chapter House is one of the Minster's most glorious features with some of the finest examples of naturalistic carvings in the country – look for the “Green Man” and artwork including Jonathan Clarke's “Stations of the Cross” sculptures cast in aluminium. We will see an introductory video followed by guided tours of the Minster.

The refectory offers a good selection of meals and light refreshments or you may wish to take a packed lunch to eat in the Minster grounds.

At 1.30pm we leave the Minster for our next venue – the award winning Workhouse. This is a National Trust property so will NT members please have your cards with you. As we enter the best surviving workhouse in existence our guide will tell us about the daily life here in the 19th century for paupers and staff. The founder, Reverend Belcher, influenced the New Poor Law Act and shaped the future of workhouses across the country. Our tour ends with a question and answer session and tea and biscuits with our guide,

The cost is £19 per person. This includes charges at both venues but no other meals or drinks. The driver's tip is included.

To reserve a place please complete the slip at the end of this issue and send with a cheque and a stamped addressed envelope to Margaret Bullivant no later than 26 August.

Tour of Dorset 31 August - 4 September 2006 and Thursford Spectacular Norfolk 27 - 29 November 2006

There are two twin rooms available on both of above short breaks. Please send £30 deposit as soon as possible or telephone Shirley Marney.

DAY TRIPS FOR 2006 - (Not yet advertised)

November	Nottingham Courts of Justice
December	Derby/Crown Derby Factory

HOLIDAYS FOR 2006

All 2006 holidays have been advertised in previous issues of *Links*, and are now fully booked except for Dorset 31 August-4 September and the Thursford Spectacular in Norfolk 27-29 November (see box at top of page).

PLANS FOR 2007

March	Rome and the Amalfi coast
May	Short Break - North Wales
June	St. Petersburg/ Moscow
September	Short Break - Hampshire
Oct. ?	Short Break - 40's weekend in Pickering

SU3A TRAVEL

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

MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS

Starlight in the Dales

A crunch of grit below my feet, starlight across the hills as I tramped towards the first youth hostel. Well, not exactly my first - I'd hostelled once when I was a National Serviceman - now I was truly free.

Friends told me of the kindly reception I'd meet in the Yorkshire Dales hostels. I was about to try it out. 'Come in, let's have your membership card, supper's almost ready.' I had an appetite in those days and two years in the Air Force had sharpened it. We sat by the spluttering fire, just me and the two wardens. They yarned about some well known hostellers, places I could visit next week, life amongst the fells. After National Service it felt like kingdom come.

Two days I walked alone crossing the peaks of Ingleborough and Wernside in the late autumn sun. Third day I dipped into secret Dentdale, its steep sides enclosing a rambling old house, now a hostel packed with weekend visitors. I remember the comradeship of a noisy dining room lit by oil lamps, candles on the landings, there was little sense of health and safety in those days.

From Dent I crossed to Garsdale Head, hoping to meet legendary Jack Lonsdale, warden of a remote hostel perched on top of the hill. As I entered through the kitchen door there was a scream. A terrified farmer's wife was minding the place for Jack and never expected a young man to arrive through the wrong door. She calmed down and we became good friends later in the evening, telling me about her own adventures youth hostelling with a horse.

Two nights later I came to Aysgarth with its series of waterfalls along the river Ure. I was welcomed by Mr. and Mrs. Gummerson, renowned for their Yorkshire hospitality and fire-side entertainments. Rationing was still in force, but Mrs.

(Continued from page 29)

Gummerson had accumulated a stock of food points during the previous summer season and now had ample stocks in her larder. I remember feasting on meat and potato pies made in saucers and a hearty pudding to follow. And in those days I never put on weight. Later I enjoyed a rare hostel treat - sitting in the wardens' private lounge with the famous Jack Lonsdale who I had missed previously. I was warned that sometimes he rarely spoke a word, but tonight he was in good company and chatted amiably. Star turn was the Gummersons' two collie dogs who played dominoes with one another on the hearth rug and were famous for beating dozy hostellers at parlour games.

As autumn turned to wintry conditions I headed for Kettlewell and its notorious warden and then lastly to the modern charms of Malham youth hostel. So my first week of hostelling came to a close. On the last morning I tramped towards Skipton for a bus home to Manchester. The week had proved a welcome escape from service life and ultimately led to a change in career and personal fortunes.

Peter Barclay

The Streaker

Brrr! It's cold 2000ft up at Bleaklow Stones in February even when there is no lying snow. And it was mighty cold the day that Alan, Dennis, Vivian and I huddled behind the rocks to gain a little shelter from a piercing boreal wind. Apart from the mountain hares, their white fur making them oddly conspicuous in the snowless heather, we had the well named spot totally to ourselves. Or so we thought. Alan spotted him first. A lone figure some 50 yards away clad only in his birthday suit apart from a pair of boots. He took no notice of us, continuing his steady lope towards the Pennine Way.

How prescient of the ladies not to have walked that day!

Friar Tuck

Oops! Sorry!

I now confess my blame
Regarding your intention.
I should have known you'd drive straight on
Despite your **left-hand** indicator shone.
Had I not braked you'd be dead and gone!
I think this worth a mention.

I confess a further shame
Misreading your position.
It should be plain when you swung left
To let me through; in fact, alas,
A sharp **right turn** was your next pass.
Had my foot been hard down on the gas
You'd be a corpse, a battered vision.

And here's my further blame.
I gently nudged your bumper. Oops!
Of course one makes a panic stop
For walkers opposite who've still got
Some twenty yards to reach the spot
Where the Pelican "green man" waits for groups.
Courtesy costs nothing, I hear you claim?

Again I am to blame
For snapping into temper.
One car parked **across** the drive.
Two score of others trapped inside
Until "precious" emerges fresh from school.
Can't let him walk ten yards, the rule.
I raged, "You inconsiderate fool!"
I really must attend "Anger Management"

I have confessed my blame
For expecting sanity
In **everyone** who drives a car,
For hoping I stay popular,
For wishing I could drive as far
As Greenhill, without the sight
Of buses thundering through red lights.
Denied again my "give way" rights!
Oops! Sorry for the apology.

Bernard Johnson

Sheffield U3A Calendar

August 22	Raby Castle and High Force waterfall
31 Aug-4 Sept	Dorset
Sept 11	Southwell Minster and Workhouse
Sept 15	Lunch and Lecture, Sheffield Park Hotel
Sept 28	Art Group I - Lincoln
Oct 2	Turkey
Oct 8	North Yorks Moors Railway
Oct 10	Coordinators' Meeting
Oct 11	New Members' Meeting
Oct 14	Great Sheffield U3A Quiz, Esporta
Oct 18	Concertgoers - Bridgewater Hall, Manchester
Oct 18	Theatre Group - <i>The Caretaker</i> , Crucible
October	North Yorks Railway (Pickering to Whitby)
Nov 27-29	Thursford Spectacular, Norfolk
November	Nottingham Courts of Justice
December	Derby and Crown Derby Factory
Dec 10	Theatre Group - <i>Christmas Cavalcade</i> , City Hall

2007

Feb 6 - 20	Winter Warmer - Tenerife
March	Rome and Amalfi Coast
May	Short break - North Wales
June	St Petersburg and Moscow
September	Short break - Hampshire
October	Short break - 40s weekend in Pickering