

SHEFFIELD



LINKS



No. 132

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www.sheffieldu3a.org.uk

From the Chairman

The real magic of discovery lies not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes.
Marcel Proust (1899)

I came across this quotation recently in another context and it seems to me that we can have it both ways in SU3A – *new horizons*, both literally and metaphorically, and certainly *new eyes*.

This time last year, I was writing about the Committee's plans for the coming year and we have attempted to keep you up to date with what has been happening. You will see from the Committee report later in this issue that we are going forward into 2008 with further developments in hand, whilst continuing to keep members' interests as the core objective. None of this would be possible without the hard work and dedication of Committee members and others involved.

In this issue also are details of a proposed study session of six meetings, a pilot initiative, already likely to be followed by suggestions for a similar type session in mid 2008. The aim of such study sessions is to meet the needs of members who may not be able to commit themselves to longer term Group attendance, whilst providing a more in-depth look at a particular subject. We hope that we might also encourage individual members with specialised knowledge to come forward and share this with others on a short term basis, whereas they might feel unable to take on the more traditional Group Coordinator/Leader role, longer term.

In this issue, too, you will see a preliminary notification of a vacancy for Committee Secretary which I hope will also catch your eye. This has already been announced at the recent Coordinators' meeting. The more formal notification about applications will be in the February *Links*. However, we will be

Cover Picture: From a picture of Brighton Pavilion by Jeanne Maycraft
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very pleased to hear now from any member who might be prepared to volunteer, but would like to know more about the tasks. Needless to say we will be able to help anyone who, for example, might feel they needed their basic computer skills updated to take on the post - you would certainly not be *thrown in at the deep end*.

The application form for new members now asks people to say how they became aware of SU3A so that we can assess the value of the different ways used to attract members. At the end of October our Membership Secretary was bracing herself for the annual flood of membership renewals before the February 2008 deadline but she also reported enrolling a record number of 86 people in the one month since 1 October adding “...*significantly there are more [younger] people joining; that is, from 1946 on.....*”.

Finally, earlier in the year I mentioned the opportunity to look out for what the Open University (OU) now has freely on offer. And if, perhaps, some of you have already done so, we would be pleased to hear about it. Those of you who receive *Sources*¹, published by the Third Age Trust, will already know about the U3A Online Courses advertised on the back page. Tutored Courses are £15 and Untutored Courses are £8. Again we are looking to hear from members who have experience of one or other of the courses on offer. Even if you do not want to submit a full article or be identified as an available source of information, do please send even a few lines to the *Links* Editor for general interest.

With very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Joan Keogh

¹ Courses are available only to U3A members: tutors and writers are unpaid volunteers. U3A members may receive *Sources* at home, free of charge, by completing a subscription form obtainable from the U3A National office and submitting it there. You can also subscribe on line at *u3a.org.uk*.

Sheffield U3A News Update

Committee Report

The last meeting of the Committee was held on 2 November.

At some recent meetings the Secretary had been assisted in the task of minute taking by Janet Gough and she was thanked for her most welcome offer of help with this task.

Peter Barclay reported on recent publicity events, many of which increasingly involved the use of the display unit, especially with the outreach project in the north of the city. It was agreed that a second unit be purchased to reduce the amount of time the existing one was in transit between events. Peter also updated the Committee on arrangements for the SU3A display in the Central Library (see page 27), which would run for the whole of November. The recent New Members' meeting had been very well attended by the general public, but sadly not by Group Coordinators. There was no obvious reason for this, but it was hoped that any future meetings would receive greater support.

The direction of and, indeed, need for future publicity was raised. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Editorial & Publicity Sub-Committee should prepare a wide ranging discussion paper on the future of SU3A. SU3A members who have any thoughts or views on this are encouraged to write to Peter Barclay.

Our Treasurer, Jim Rowland, reported that our finances are healthy, with an anticipated small under-spend against this year's budget. There were currently 2,396 members, compared to 2,314 at the same time last year.

Myra Smith, Deputy Web Coordinator updated members on the website. She repeated a request for photographs of Group activities rather than photographs of Group members - a

challenge to Group Coordinators! She also requested that Group Coordinators keep their pages up-to-date and to provide details of their activities at regular intervals.

In response to an approach to the *Links* Editor, it was agreed that SU3A does not promote events other organisation's events other than through a U3A Group. This arose following a one-off request to publicise and arrange tickets for a local theatre group's forthcoming production. It was felt that this would create a precedent, especially in the light of the recent closure of the Theatre Group.

Shirley Marney again raised the need for some display stands for SU3A exhibitions, such as those organised by the Art and Travel Groups. She was pleased to report that a volunteer had come forward offering to store them while not in use. It was agreed that suitable items should be researched and costed.

Shirley also reported that a number of applications for Travel Group events had been received in large envelopes, but with inadequate postage.

This necessitated a visit to the local sorting office and a need to pay a penalty fee for their delivery. She asked for SU3A members to be reminded that new postal charges have now been in operation for some months and that envelopes above A5 size require a large letter postage stamp.

**envelopes above A5
size require a large
letter postage stamp**

Shelagh Woolliscroft presented a progress report on the outreach project designed to make SU3A more accessible to potential members across a wider area of Sheffield (see page 6). It was agreed that only SU3A funds should be used to promote and support this excellent work. Shelagh and her helpers were congratulated on their efforts and the encouraging outcomes.

A report was received from the Gift Aid Working Party. It was agreed that expenditure of up to £500 each be approved for both universities in Sheffield, towards the organisation and provision of public lectures of interest to SU3A members on health topics. A fund of £2,000 was agreed against which individual Groups could make bids of up to a maximum of £200 to support their activities. Members were also briefed on a recent incident during one Group's weekly walk (see page 15). It was agreed that the question of donations to relevant charities sparked by this incident should be referred to the planned January 2008 meeting of Walking Group Coordinators.

The next meeting is on 4 January 2008.

Roger Heesterman

—— **Subscriptions Are Now Due** ——

The renewal subscription for 2008 is now due and is **£7 per person whether U3A News is taken or not**. Please forward your payment to the Membership Secretary using the renewal form and annual Gift Aid declaration at the end of this issue.

To comply with the Data Protection Act 1998 members are advised that the information given is held by Sheffield U3A on a computer file and on paper within Sheffield to maintain membership records, to distribute information and the newsletter to members, and to administer groups within Sheffield U3A.

Please make cheques payable to **Sheffield U3A**. The completed form and subscription should be sent to the Membership Secretary:

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

SU3A - coming to a place nearer you?

Most people living to the north of the city centre currently suffer the disadvantage of having to travel much further to Group meetings than their friends in the south. The Committee felt it was time to redress the balance and so we have engaged in a programme of outreach work. In October two open meetings were held in Chapeltown and a further meeting is scheduled for November in Parson Cross.

The two Chapeltown events and the associated publicity generated so much interest that seven groups were able to be set up immediately. They cover Bridge for Beginners, Card-making, Discussion, Family History, Gardening, Local History, Strolling (3 miles) and Walking (5-7 miles). So far three Groups have had a first meeting with four more due to meet in November. A further two - IT for Beginners and Discussion / Current Affairs - are at the planning stage. All Groups will meet in the S35/S5 areas. Coordinators are in the process of being confirmed and so for the meantime any enquiries should be addressed to Shelagh Woolliscroft on (01246) 416 139. Those Groups which are safely established will be included in the next edition of *Links*.

We have not yet been able to respond to some requests - especially French, Spanish, German and Italian for Beginners, together with Art - as we have so far failed to identify potential Coordinators or tutors.

If you feel you could fill any of these gaps please contact the General Coordinator, Brian Bezant, on (0114) 236 6596.

Can you help?

Volunteers needed

There are plans for the outreach programme to continue next year in the Hillsborough, Stocksbridge, Firth Park and Darnall areas.

Shelagh Woolliscroft

National U3A Summer Schools 2008

The National Summer Schools to be held next year will be -

28 - 31 July, at Harper Adams University College, Shropshire

11 - 14 August, at the Agricultural College, Cirencester

These are very interesting courses organised by U3A exclusively for U3A members. The last issue of *Links* contained an article by Eileen Coates on the course she attended in Chester last summer on local history.

Any U3A member is eligible to attend either of these Schools. For more details of the venue you are interested in, the subjects they will be covering and appropriate booking forms (when they arrive) please send a stamped addressed letter size envelope (new standard size not exceeding 9 x 6 inches or 240 x 165mm) to the Secretary -

Barbara Steel, 11 Watkinson Gardens, Sheffield S20 7LU.

Please note that the Harlaxton College Summer School also reported in the last issue of *Links* is not a nationally run course. Those interested should apply directly to www.Harlaxton.co.uk

Committee Vacancies from April 2008

There will be two vacancies on the Committee at the next AGM. The Committee meets bi-monthly, usually on the first Friday of the month.

One of the positions becoming vacant is that of **Honorary Secretary**. Full details will be formally advertised in the February 2008 issue of *Links*. Any member who is interested in this post and would like to know more about it, should contact the present Secretary who will be happy to chat with you about the work involved. It is only necessary to be familiar with basic Microsoft Word and e-mailing.

Barbara Steel secretary@sheffieldu3a.org.uk

Recent Sheffield U3A Events

Christmas Musical Cavalcade

A big thank you to everyone who bought tickets for this year's Christmas Musical Cavalcade. We had 13 free or complimentary tickets, the £156 value of which has been donated to Keith Roe's charities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Betty Ward for the hard work she has put in this time and over the years as Sheffield U3A's link with the Musical Cavalcades.

Unfortunately there has been no interest in taking over the Theatre Group, so we will shortly be finalising the accounts and giving the surplus money to charity.

Michael Cowen

Literature Network - 25 October 2007

Brush up your Shakespeare - Cole Porter's exhortation would have had an enthusiastic response from attendees at the recent Literature Network event, when Professor Lisa Hopkins from Hallam University talked on *Marriage in Shakespeare: A Community Affair*. This was the theme of one of her many publications, which include studies of Marlowe and other Renaissance dramatists.

In the 16th century, union of a man and woman was thought to have many consequences significant for wider society. These included -

- the point at which a young man abandoned sowing his wild oats and settled down to his responsibilities in the community
- the merging of the partners' wealth and lands, which

- would be secured by the birth of sons to inherit
- the broadening of social networks, so that the brides' and grooms' siblings, parents, uncles, cousins etc formed a wider web of mutual support and enhanced status.

Professor Hopkins argued that these priorities were stated pretty baldly in Thomas

Heywood's play *A Woman*

Killed with Kindness. That play made it clear that on marriage, the female partner became a cipher whose role, after

contributing goods and useful family contacts, was to bear male children. By contrast, Shakespeare's depiction of women was more subtle and complex. They could take an active part in the success of the marriage, exerting a

calming influence and bequeathing gentler qualities to their children. However, by being wilful, ruled by sexual passion or ambition, women could turn a liaison or marriage into a threat to their whole community.



In response to Professor Hopkins' engrossing talk, the questions that followed revealed a considerable familiarity with Shakespearean drama among the audience, together with some interesting comparisons with marriage conventions current in our own and other societies.

Another stimulating Literature Network event can be expected in Spring 2008!

Yvonne Rowland

(photograph by Peter Barclay)

Showing Off!

“Interesting and inspiring” “High quality work” “Such talent”

These were some of the kind remarks made by the many people who came to see the third annual Art Exhibition held by Art Group I, held in Banner Cross Methodist Church Hall on 26 and 27 October.

We meet here every Wednesday when David Allott, our inspiring tutor, challenges us with new ideas. These are often initially greeted with a groan until we discover their exciting possibilities. This exhibition showed some of our attempts! There were 95 exhibits in total from 20 exhibitors.

From delicate leaf paintings to striking industrial chimneys; to work in charcoal, pastels, painting with palette knives; people, abstracts, landscapes, water colours, oils and acrylics



- all had their place - and our pride in them.

The attractive displays of the Patch and Quilt and Quilting Hive Groups, with their creativity and meticulous work was a delight to the eye.

Our thanks to everyone, especially our Coordinator Ann Ritchie, the stalwart men who manhandled the huge display boards (on loan from Dore Art Club), the unique floral display of a painting palette set around with all the paint colours, the helpers and coffee makers and all the people who came to see the exhibition, attracted by our brand new gold and blue U3A banner displayed outside.

Thanks to the generosity of our visitors we raised over £76, which has been donated to PACT, a local charity for families of children with cancer. Thank you all.

Don't miss our exhibition next year - IT WILL BE A TREAT !

Alma Walker

Group News

Classical Concertgoers' Group

The first visit in 2008 is to the Symphony Hall in Birmingham, on Thursday 14 February for a concert given by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Vassily Sinaisky, with Alexander Kobrin (piano). Being Valentine's Day, the programme has an appropriate theme -Tchaikowsky's *Romeo and Juliet* Overture, Rachmaninov's 2nd Piano Concerto *Brief Encounter* and Brahms' 3rd Symphony, inspired in part by his unrequited affection for Clara Schumann.

As this is an afternoon performance (2.15 pm), the coach will leave the bus parking bay on Ecclesall Road South, near the top of Millhouses Lane, promptly at 9.00 am, allowing time to explore the centre of Birmingham before the concert.

The inclusive cost of the visit is £28.50 per person and bookings may be made using the reply slip at the end of this issue. Please send to Derek Shipley, 40 Wollaton Avenue, Sheffield S17 4LA, with a SAE, **to arrive no later than Wednesday 31 December 2007**. Please include the names and contact numbers of all members for whom you are applying.

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

Derek Shipley, Coordinator

Lunch and Lecture

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

Friday 22 February 2008

Please arrive at 12 for 12.30 pm

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

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

Cost £13.50

Speakers

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

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

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

Barbara Steel, Coordinator

New Groups

Novel into Film

I am hoping to start a short course study Group in the new year. The Group will meet fortnightly on Friday mornings for six meetings, commencing on either 4 or 11 January and concluding on either 14 or 21 March.

The sessions will be based on the theme *Britons Abroad*, focussing on the films *The Quiet American* (Graham Greene) and *The Painted Veil* (W. Somerset Maugham). We shall study the processes and problems associated with translating the printed novel into the medium of film.

Please ring me for further details.

Tony Allwright, Coordinator

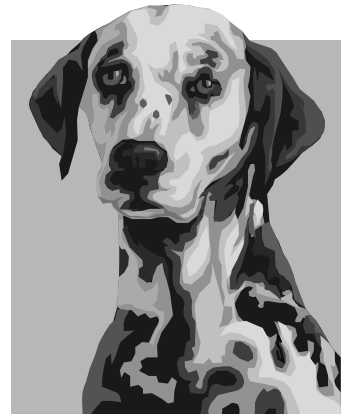
Dog Friendly Walking Group

On the 27 December 2007 the inaugural walk of a newly formed Dog Friendly Walking Group will take place. Any SU3A member who is a dog lover, whether they have a dog or not, is welcome to join us for this six mile walk up the Rivelin Valley to the Old Post Office and back.

We shall meet at 11.00 am on Rivelin Park Road opposite the Holly Bush Inn, which is on Hollins Lane. It is advisable to bring a packed lunch. Future walks will be on Thursdays at 11.00 am once a month with the possibility of increasing this to twice a month as the membership grows.

Anyone wishing to join must be prepared to help with the organisation of walks. Any inquiries, please ring the Coordinator, Martin Young on his mobile.

Martin Young, Coordinator



Writing through Pictures

Writing - all that Confucius stuff about one word being worth.....

Not entirely that, but sort of. The photos we take, maybe the paintings we create, memories from way back. They are all kinds of pictures to play about with in words.

Our first meeting will be called in January 2008 to explore these ideas. Hopefully a new Group programme will emerge in the spring. An invitation to go out and explore the world around us as the days lengthen. Some meetings may take place in the city centre, whilst others would be held in the comfort of our homes, with shared hospitality - the usual SU3A thing. Each month members will be expected to write a piece of prose following an agreed topic, but discussions and friendships are also important. The intention is to hold meetings in the morning with Tuesday or Wednesday as the preferred option, though I am open to other ideas.

If writing about autobiography, travel and possibly short stories appeals to you, e-mail me at barclay@waitrose.com or give me a call. Bring a camera if you wish, or just tell us about yourself. It's bound to be interesting.

Peter Barclay, Coordinator

Italian for Holidays

Are you planning a holiday in Italy next year? Why not be prepared and learn a little of the language before you go? It will certainly add another dimension to your holiday and you will be sure to enjoy it so much more.

We hope to be able to start a new group of beginners in January, so why not come along and join our friendly little Group. Not only is it fun, but a little light mental exercise is good for you!

Why not give it a try? Even if you're going to Spain or Greece, it is still fun to learn Italian !!

Mick Hague, Coordinator

Members' Contributions

An experience not to be repeated!

It all happened so fast.

One cold Thursday in September Glyn (our Coordinator) had a heart attack as G Group walked near Bretton Clough. There was no prior warning, and within five minutes we knew he needed help. Luckily, Tony was carrying a GTN spray that Glyn gratefully sprayed under his tongue. Pat took charge of the casualty and used a mobile phone to call 999 and gave details of the problem to the operator. Brian supplied a survival bag to keep Glyn warm. Tony used an OS map, a compass and GPS to give an accurate fix on our position. Almost immediately we were told that an ambulance was on its way; and then that a helicopter Air Ambulance had been scrambled and would be with us soon.

West Midlands Air Ambulance came from their base at East Midlands Airport and was overhead in less than 20 minutes. The pilot put the helicopter down on rough, sloping moorland covered in heather and bilberry bushes, in what seemed like an impossible position to land. Two paramedics were quickly on the scene and, as one administered oxygen, the other

inserted a cannula and injected statin; the first then placed electrodes and took an electrocardiograph of the patient.

The paramedics decided to fly Glyn to Chesterfield Royal Hospital. Several members





of G Group helped the paramedics to carry the stretcher over the rough ground to the helicopter, which soon took off. Glyn said that the flight took less than five minutes and he was soon in the A&E department and being treated.

We are convinced that the speed of the response made a significant difference to the severity of the heart damage sustained. Glyn was out of hospital in five days and, within a week, was taking gentle walks around the garden and then the neighbourhood.

Thank you to the Group members for the calm and efficient way that they responded to the sudden, drastic change to their walk, which helped me not to panic.

Our fund-raising for the Air Ambulance has been very successful, raising almost £700. Walking Group G ran a raffle at our AGM that raised almost £200. Thank you to all our friends in G Group for their support. The Quiz Night at Esporta raised £200 and a table collection raised a further £88. We are indebted to Esporta for the smooth running of the evening, for

providing the good food and for donating the bottles of wine as prizes. Our grateful thanks go to Marion Edmondson for organising the event and to Peter Chatterton for his peerless performance as MC and Quizmaster. It was a very entertaining evening.

We have learned some very important lessons for walkers who are walking in remote areas -

- Always carry a mobile phone (you may have to climb the nearest hill to get a signal)
- Always carry an OS map and compass, even if you are very familiar with the walk
- A grid reference will fix your position for the emergency services - ideally at least one member should carry a GPS
- Always carry a survival bag or blanket - they retain body heat and are also very visible to helicopter crews. The pilot told us that there were other walkers nearby, but he pinpointed our group because he spotted the shiny blanket. They cost about £2 and are only the size and weight of a folded handkerchief.
- If possible, have an experienced nurse or doctor with you on your walk! Many, many thanks, Pat.

Hazel Davies

(photographs by Tony Marsh)

The Benefits of Being a Coordinator

A free holiday in Austria for SU3A Coordinators! Must be a wind-up. This is what some of us thought when all the walking Coordinators of SU3A were offered a free holiday in Austria - to include flights, half board in a four star hotel, transfers and two guides. Some of us decided to take up this offer and had a wonderful holiday.

For me the holiday started when we landed at Salzburg airport, surrounded by mountains on a warm, sunny September afternoon. We were taken by minibus to the ski resort of

Filzmoos. The views from my balcony were wonderful and it was all I could do to stop myself singing *The hills are alive....*

We had two wonderful days walking in the mountains, led by our guides Koen and Martin. They had such a well developed sense of humour and kept us entertained. On the walks we saw alpine choughs, a marmot, a black adder and a variety of Alpine flowers. The sun shone and we felt we were having the summer denied to us back in England. There were optional excursions, which most of us took up. The visits were to Salzburg and a trip down a salt mine. The salt mine was such fun as it included a trip down a 42 metre chute, which we went down screaming. We did not feel like OAPs at all!

All in all the six days' inspection holiday was wonderful and I can recommend this holiday to anyone who loves walking. There are definitely some benefits of being a Coordinator!

Marion Edmondson

Memories of Notre Dame High School's Oakbrook Site

Notre Dame High School is renovating the Oakbrook House and developing the pond and woodland area for conservation and education. They would like to collect more of the oral history of this historic part of the school site.

Did you play in the woods as a child? Do you remember the kitchen gardens or any other features of the old house? Can you pass on old family stories going back to the site's use before the nuns and school came?

If so, please contact Paul Haigh at Notre Dame High School, Fulwood Road, Sheffield S10 3BT or phaigh@notredame-high.co.uk

Obstacle Course

Hathersage to Bamford - 8 August 2007

Bums and tums and hips and thighses
Strollers are all shapes and sizes.
It never seemed of consequence
That some were small and some immense.
Not really true, just seemed that way
As we met our Waterloo today.
Two upright stones, small gap between,
Foiling the fatties, fitting the lean
Who passed betwixt the two with ease,
Whilst Bessie Bunters tried to squeeze
Into a space they would not fit.
Were they defeated? Not one bit!
With many a hoik and heave and ho!
Fence, under, over up in the air,
Dignity gone, they didn't care.
Even the weakest did not fail
To get feet back upon the trail.

Pat Parkin

Editorial Note

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

Travel News

Travel Organising Committee

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

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

Holiday Insurance - All members travelling have full responsibility for arranging their own Travel Insurance.

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

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

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

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

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

Travel Excursion and Holidays

Thackray Museum and Oakwell Hall

Tuesday 4 March

Our first day trip of the new year will be to Leeds and Batley. An old workhouse next to St James's Hospital is now home to displays telling the story of 150 years of medicine. The museum was recently awarded "England's Small Visitor Attraction of the Year". Find out how far we have progressed since Victorian times in public health, medicine and healthcare.

The second venue is Oakwell Hall, near Batley. This is a Grade One Listed Elizabethan manor house set in 100 acres of Country Park. The Hall was built in 1583, but is now set out as it would have been in the 1690's. In the 19th century Charlotte Bronte often visited friends at the Hall and was so impressed that she featured it as *Fieldhead* - home of the heroine in her novel *Shirley*.

The cost of the day visit is £26 per person. This includes coach fare and driver's tip, entry to both venues, guided tour of Oakwell Hall, coffee on arrival at the Thackray Museum, soup and sandwich lunch and tea and biscuits at Oakwell Hall. Bookings may be made using the slip at the end of this issue. Please send with a stamped addressed envelope to Margaret Bullivant, **to arrive no later than Thursday 14 February.**

SHEFFIELD U3A TRAVEL

PLEASE NOTE THAT

ONLY POSTAL APPLICATIONS

WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR HOLIDAYS AND DAY TRIPS

PLEASE ENSURE YOU USE THE CORRECT POSTAGE

Bavaria's Romantic Road

2 - 13 June 2008

We fly from Manchester to Frankfurt. The first stop is Wurzburg. We then journey south along the Romantic Road to nearby Weikersheim, visiting one of the finest Renaissance palaces surrounded by magnificent gardens in Versailles style. We visit the beautiful medieval town of Rottingen and go on to the 14th century town of Rothenburg.

Our next stop is Augsburg, then Fussen at the foot of the Alps and Neuschwanstein. What may be the highlight of the holiday is the visit to the fairytale Neuschwanstein Castle. Our last two days will be spent in Heidelberg.

Full details can be found in the last issue of *Links*. The cost per person is £1,170 (single supplement £199). To book a place on this holiday, please complete the booking slip at the end of this issue and send a deposit of £150 per person (cheque made payable to Sheffield U3A Travel) with a stamped addressed envelope (9 x 6½ in - 22.5 x 16 cm) to Shirley Marney, **as soon as possible**.

Liverpool and the Tall Ships

18 - 20 July 2008

A second coach has been provisionally booked for this popular trip, as the first one is now full. Full details can be found in the last issue of *Links*. The cost per person is £190 (single supplement £54).

To book a place on this short break, please complete the booking slip at the end of this issue and send a deposit of £40 per person (cheque made payable to Sheffield U3A Travel) with a stamped addressed envelope to Shirley Marney, **as soon as possible**.

Holiday Reviews

Highlights of Hampshire

Our first visit, on the journey to Chichester, was to Upton House - set in attractive gardens which dipped dramatically from terraces to stream and water garden. Though built in the 17th century, much of the interior reflects the 1920's and 30's taste of the founder of the Shell company, Viscount Bearstead. However, it is most renowned for his collection of paintings, tapestries and porcelain. The figures in the Chelsea collection are a joy and bring the mid 18th century to life with character and individuality. Stubbs's *The Labourers* hanging at eye level gave us the unusual pleasure of seeing every detail, while seated comfortably in a small sitting room.

The following morning was spent in Winchester Cathedral, its impressive length adding dignity to the Gothic architecture. With its soaring pillars and Lierne vaulting, it seemed destined to last for eternity. It is hard to imagine how vulnerable the ground is beneath its foundation. Mercifully and largely owing to the skill and indefatigable work of the diver William Walker, in a situation where it was hard to breathe and even see, it was saved. We saw the epitaph over the grave of Jane Austen and though it is recorded the *remarkable powers of her mind*, she was not to be remembered as a novelist, we were told, as that would have demoted her to the status of a working woman!

**the ... remarkable
powers of her mind**

For the afternoon, we were transported to the open air Museum of the Weald and Downland to explore centuries of rural life from mediaeval flint to Victorian timber framed cottages and farmhouses with all their appurtenances.

Wednesday took us to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard where the Victory and Warrior (below) could be boarded and the cramped quarters of Nelson's sailors, even their sleeping



beside their guns, could be experienced. The Museum of the Mary Rose brought her vividly to life, where we could handle some of the salvaged relics and see the model of what she once was.

Brighton Pavilion could not have been a greater contrast. The stately pleasure dome of the Prince Regent's extravaganza, built to gratify a royal whim, set the seal on its subsequent history of entertainment and fashion, remote from the hardship and endurance of naval life.

Fishbourne took us seventeen hundred years earlier to the palace built by Cogidubnus, King of the Regnenses. Its sheer extent is breathtaking, and its artefacts and remains of mosaic paving in precise geometric patterns bespeak the wealth that brought materials and craftsmen from distant parts of the

Continued on page 26



Roman Empire. Doubtless it gratified the client king, but it equally shows the power of Rome to transform the society of its provinces, rather than merely holding them in subjugation to military might.

We had our last visit to Chartwell (above) on our homeward journey. Churchill designed the gardens and restored the derelict house to be the family home. To those of us who had lived through World War II, it was a moving experience to trace his life and hear recordings from his speeches in those times.

We came back to remember and reflect afresh upon our history, so many periods of which had been unfolded before us. We owe very warm thanks to Margaret Bullivant, whose planning and organisation of the tour, based on her knowledge of the area, gave us such a variety of enjoyment. Through her care and enthusiasm our fun and fellowship grew and, in a literal sense, were nourished by a very good and comfortable hotel.

Eileen Stamper

(photographs by Jeanne Maycraft)

SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

2008 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

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Please note that members not renewing before 29 February 2008 will be deemed to have resigned.

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Make a note in your diary and come and support us.

**SHEFFIELD U3A TRAVEL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AND ART COMPETITION
THURSDAY 21 February 2008**

1.30 pm to 4.00 pm

at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Millhouses

Come and discuss previous visits, future plans and ideas for future programmes.

We do appreciate your opinions and ideas on Sheffield U3A travel.

Come and have a sociable afternoon with us!

ART COMPETITION

The 2007 Art Competition was again a success, hopefully this one will be as successful. So take out your paint and paint brushes and show what wonderful talent we have in SU3A. There will be three judges, who will judge the pictures before the meeting, and all the paintings will be on display from 1.00 pm for all to admire.

Categories: (Not necessarily connected with travel)

- 1 Animals
- 2 Seascapes / landscapes
- 3 Still life
- 4 Townscape

Minimum size 7" x 5" (13cm x 18cm) mounted on suitable card or framed. No more than four paintings per person, one in each category. All paintings will be returned.

Details of where to send or deliver the paintings will be in the February issue of *Links*.

Sheffield U3A Calendar

2007

December 9	Theatre Group - <i>Xmas Cavalcade</i> , City Hall
December 11	Christmas at Castle Howard
December 12	Classical Concertgoers', Bridgewater Hall

2008

February 14	Classical Concertgoers', Birmingham
February 21	Travel Group AGM & Art Competition
February 22	Lunch & Lecture, Sheffield Park Hotel
March 4	Thackray Museum & Oakwell Hall
Mar 25 - Apr 8	Winter Warmer, Puerto Pollensa, Majorca
April	Anderton Boat Lift & Dunham Massey
April 25	AMM / AGM, with presentation by Lars Tharp
May	Trent River Cruise
May 18 - 22	Berlin (Short Break)
June	Quarry Bank Mill & Styal Park
June 2 -13	Germany's Romantic Road, Bavaria
July	Pickering & Whitby
July 18 - 20	Liverpool and the Tall Ships (Short Break)
August	Port Sunlight
Aug/Sept	Suffolk (Short Break)
September	Leeds & Liverpool Canal
October	Shibden Hall & Halifax Piece Hall
October 5 -18	Highlights of Turkey
November	Settle to Carlisle Railway
December	Stratford or Leamington