



Sheffield

Learn, Laugh, Live

Links 199
October 2020

Membership
Renewal Issue



Contact Us

Our website is at: <https://su3a.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:

Samina Aslam

(0114) 235 1489 *enquiry at su3a.org.uk or*

Initial Enquiries Officer

sammas1747 at gmail.com

Membership number or renewal:

SU3A Membership Team

(01433) 659864

wa-admin at su3a.org.uk

Information about Groups:

Fran Rodway

07774 142409

Group A General Coordinator

groupsa at su3a.org.uk

Jenny Graaf

07955 679703

Group B General Coordinator

groupsb at su3a.org.uk

Barbara Lowe

(0114) 248 8367

Group C General Coordinator

groupsc at su3a.org.uk

Group Records Team

grouprecords at su3a.org.uk

University and Research Liaison Officer:

Samina Aslam

(0114) 235 1489

sammas1747 at gmail.com

Anything else:

Anna Harvey

07973 771957

Secretary

secretary at su3a.org.uk

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All news and correspondence to the Editor: email: *links at su3a.org.uk*

Remember the contributors' copy code:

Early, Literate, Accurate and Emailed

The *Links* Team is not responsible for the content of any articles. Any queries please contact the author of the article.

Covid-19 still directs our way of life. It will continue to do so for many months to come. We will have to adapt and adopt new ways to return to as near normal as possible, within Government guidelines and practicalities.

To this end, many Groups have returned to their activities both indoors and outdoors. This month we have had over 20 requests for information from Groups wanting to start up again in September.

What is missing is the social aspect that makes SU3A such a vibrant and inclusive organisation. Until there is an increase in the numbers of people allowed to meet, there is little we can do. However, your Executive Committee will be looking at ways to start up some of the social aspects for the future.

If your group has not yet started up their activities, please talk to your Co-ordinator or General Co-ordinator.

YOUR U3A NEEDS YOU !!

We need new members to join the production team for *Links*. *Links* is part of SU3A and plays a major role for our members. It is a way to communicate with everyone, a means for Groups to recruit new members and for the Open Groups to advertise their programme of events and tours. It is well thought of and many members look forward to reading it from cover to cover. It is also well thought of by other U3As.

Links will become an electronic magazine with a few printed copies to send to those members who do not have emails. The team brings together the articles submitted by the Groups and others for publication and work to give a professional publication worthy of the legacy of the printed versions of the past years.

If you are interested, please let me know and I will pass on your details for further information to be given to you.

Late last year, the European Travel group booked a tour of Umbria. In March and April it looked likely that the tour would have to be cancelled. However, 16 members hope to go at the end of October, providing the Government doesn't impose a ban to Italy. A full risk assessment was carried out, and ETG have worked with the Travel Company to ensure the tour is as risk free as possible. Currently, Umbria has only had fewer than 1500 cases of Covid-19 (compared to Lombardy with 94,000) and has an R rate of 0.5. On paper it is safer than staying in the UK. If all goes well, it may be the start of further trips to Europe and the UK.

Please continue to inform us of your activities and how you are adapting your Group's methods to comply with Government advice.

Brian Cave, September 2020

Links is going online!

From now on, you will only receive one issue, as a paper copy, the renewal issue in October. Those members unable to access the internet will normally receive paper copies of all issues.

Research Project Opportunity: The National U3A High Street Project

What will our shopping areas look like and in the long term how will they affect our local communities in Sheffield?

Background:

This summer it has become very clear that the Lockdown due to Covid-19 will lead to profound changes in shopping habits. Will the effects of Covid-19 signal the deaths of our high streets?

This national U3A project is being managed by the Trust's Research Committee and is led by Peter Cox of the U3A Research Committee. The plan is to produce a landmark report for publication by the Trust in 2022, so helping to raise the U3A's profile in our 40th anniversary year. Participation is being asked from as many U3As as possible.

This Autumn:

The Project will begin with a quick survey to give a baseline at the beginning of Lockdown in March 2020, against which changes will be measured.

The aim is to produce a report for the Board by the end of 2020 that describes the pre-Pandemic state of Britain's shopping locations. In early 2022 the aim will be to construct a final report that looks in depth at the impact of the Pandemic, as part of wider research.

What will be required:

On behalf of Sheffield U3A, the Shared Learning and Research Project Team are looking for 5-10 volunteers who are willing to participate in the data recording exercise during September.

Participants can choose a small number of shopping streets in your locality. That may mean, for example, a main street, a local parade, and a small centre. You would walk along them, noting down three items of data about each property: street number, name, and type (e.g. 171-5, Budgens, supermarket), and photographing the shop front. The next stage is carried out at home. A list of 'property type' codes will be provided and a simple form on which you will enter the data and the matching code.

We have had sufficient interest registered for the initial start of the project but still need volunteers for the Stocksbridge and East Sheffield areas.

A virtual meeting will be arranged to introduce the project in more detail, to go through the protocols and address any questions volunteers may have.

If you are interested in becoming involved in this very worthwhile and relevant project please contact:

Samina Aslam, *sammamas1747 at gmail.com* SU3A Shared Learning & Research Project Team as soon as possible.

Cover photo: Bainbridge Archimedes Screw Power Generator where the Rivers Ure and Bain meet. The locally-run community power scheme, launched in 2011, generates enough energy to power around 20 homes.

Photo: B. Smith 2020

Autumnal Images from the Commemorative Garden



With a page to fill at the last minute, I took my camera to the peaceful gem that is the Commemorative Garden at Whirlow.

David Jordan, 8 September

It's Membership Renewal Time Again!



Renewals for 2021 start on 1 October 2020 and end on 31 December 2020 with a period of grace until 31 January 2021.

The renewal form is enclosed with this *Links* and there will not be one in the December issue. PLEASE renew NOW. It is essential that you sign the form or it cannot be accepted.

The renewal email from Wild Apricot should be in your inbox by 1 October. If it is not, please check your spam first then email us at: *wa-admin at su3a.org.uk*.

As usual we ask you to renew online if you possibly can. If you cannot then you can still renew by post using the application form enclosed with this copy of *Links*.

Because of the European PSD2 two-factor authentication regulation, we had to change our online bank transfer system last year. You can pay with either Visa or Mastercard credit or debit cards but not with a PayPal account.

Do not worry if you have forgotten your password. Click on the 'Forgot Password' link next to the Login button and a new one will be sent to your email address.

If you have changed your email address during the year or have any other problems with the system please email us at:

wa-admin at su3a.org.uk

and we will do our best to help. During the main renewal period we promise a response within 48 hours; usually it is much less.



The last few months have been grim for many but there has also been the opportunity to reconsider what is important to each of us and re-assess how we choose to spend our time.

How has lockdown changed you? Have you learned new skills? Have you found long-lost family on Ancestry? Is your garden looking amazing? Have you rediscovered the joys of the radio?

Perhaps the changes have been more simple: have you connected with neighbours you only nodded to in the past? Have you explored the local park and listened to the birdsong?

However simple - or drastic - those changes have been please share them with us and we can print a selection in the next issue of *Links* when we might all enjoy any 'upside' of our situation.

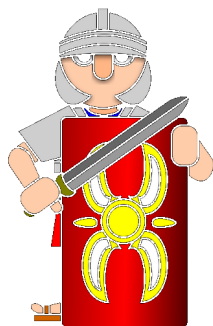
Learn, Laugh, Live

Email your thoughts to the Editor at [links at su3a.org.uk](mailto:links@su3a.org.uk)



Taddington Mere, photo by Mike Pupius (Walking Group R)

Cum omni alio deficiente



21st January. The virus, the virus. . . It was steadily becoming the sole topic of conversation across the world.

No one took it too seriously in the beginning but not long after January the word 'lockdown' soon became the norm. We were to be confined to our homes, allowed out only to shop for food and essentials and exercise for one hour a day in the outdoors. A life changing experience. We had to form orderly queues outside shops, chemists and if we were lucky, the garden centres. We washed our hands to songs and sanitized them till they were sore. It was uncannily like my mother's stories of

queueing with your ration book during the war. However, we U3A stalwarts who were studying Latin for the past three years were panicked. Our place of study was permanently closed. Where were we to go? We couldn't stop now just when we were getting beyond 'the baby stages' and beginning to feel we had made some progress. So, instead of continuously gazing at what Netflix had to offer, we had to explore alternative options.

Then to our amazement along came 'Zoom'.

We were anxious at first. Another new skill to master on the computer. Could we do it? Our ever-patient tutor and my ever-patient husband talked me and the class through the basics and very soon after many hiccups we were up and running. We were back translating old myths and stories, starting to attempt past GCSE papers and generally greatly enjoying our fortnightly 2 hours together. We are now fast approaching September and still there is no word on our venue opening and I am beginning to think that even if it does and we go back, we will miss even more our fantastic 'Zoom' sessions.

Sue Knighton, 18 August 2020

A New Tutor?

Art Group II, which meets weekly on Thursday afternoons, is looking for someone who would be willing to come and work with us and help us improve. We are a lively and friendly group of around a dozen, with varying levels of experience and ability, but a shared enthusiasm for art. For the last few years we have had an inspirational tutor, (who, sadly, died earlier in the year), and as we come slowly out of lockdown we need fresh ideas and guidance to help get us going again. For further information or a chat please email me on: *pauline at mm1728pm.plus.com*; phone (0114) 229 5734.

Pauline Miller, Group Coordinator



Croquet during lockdown that's how you do social distancing

SU3A Executive Committee

Chair	Brian Cave	(0114) 230 5312 <i>chair at su3a.org.uk</i>
Secretary	Anna Harvey	07973 771957 <i>secretary at su3a.org.uk</i>
Treasurer	Chris Jones	07753 829771 <i>treasurer at su3a.org.uk</i>
Vice Chair	Jenny Graaf	07955 679703 <i>graafjenny at hotmail.com</i>
Members	Philippa Bartlett	07841 487304 <i>philippa1 at btinternet.com</i>
	Maggie Bower	07796 085306 <i>maggibower181 at gmail.com</i>
	Mo Cave	07831 353243 <i>mocave at btinternet.com</i>
	Philip Long	(0114) 221 4540 <i>pelong54 at gmail.com</i>
	Barbara Lowe	(0114) 248 8367 <i>barbaralowe152 at gmail.com</i>
Web Coordinator	Elaine Burtoft	07803 130021 <i>web at su3a.org.uk</i>
IT Member	Camilla Jordan	(0114) 268 5355 <i>su3ait at su3a.org.uk</i>
Minutes Secretary	Michael Clift	
Membership Team	Clare Chiba	(01433) 659864 <i>members at su3a.org.uk</i> Ranmora, Ranmoor Lane, Hathersage S32 1BW
Drop-In Organiser	Samina Aslam	(0114) 235 1489 <i>dropin at su3a.org.uk</i>
Links Editors	Camilla Jordan	(0114) 268 5355
	David Jordan	<i>links at su3a.org.uk</i>
Equipment Officer	Roger Vernon	07769 696909 <i>roger.vernon at btinternet.com</i>
Home Pages Manager	Stuart Barlow	<i>homepages at su3a.org.uk</i>

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

October 14 –19 - European Travel Group Tour *Discovering Hidden Umbria*

Showroom Lectures via Zoom:

October 16 at 11:00am – Using a Comprehensive Active Ageing Approach in Social Policy – Liam Foster, Senior Lecturer in Social Policy and Social Work, University of Sheffield.
Registration opens on October 13.

November 20 at 11:00am – The Life & Works of Anne Lister ('Gentleman Jack') – Anna Hawthorne, School of English, University of Sheffield.
Registration opens on November 17.

December 18 at 11:00am – How Sheffield became a Cosmopolitan City – David Price
Registration opens on December 15.

Previous Zoom lectures are available to view on the SU3A website. Reviews and recommendations will be welcome for publication.

Many Groups have used Zoom to share lectures and talks. If these talks have been recorded, and Groups are prepared to share them with other SU3A members, then please send the details to the Editor at [links at su3a.org.uk](mailto:links@su3a.org.uk) for inclusion in the next *Links*. (Recordings will only be viewable by SU3A members.)

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Copy Deadline: 23 October 2020

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