

Links 202: June 2021



Bullfinch, photo Peter Bull, see article page 32

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*.

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All news and correspondence to the Editors: email: links@su3a.org.uk

It is that time of year when *Links* is dominated by news of our AGM. This year, due to Covid, we will once again be holding a virtual AGM via Zoom on Tuesday 13th July at 10:30. Full details of how to register can be found later in this issue. Don't forget, it is you, the members who vote for the election of the Executive Committee who run Sheffield u3a, so please join us on Zoom. Those of you who cannot be there on the 13th July will find voting papers in this *Links* magazine.

At the AGM, I will be stepping down as Chair. It has been an interesting two and a half years with two distinct halves – the second dominated by Covid, which brought our group meetings to a halt. However, very quickly our groups found ways to keep in touch with their members and continue at least the social side. Zoom played a big part allowing many indoors groups to continue as normal, whilst outdoor activity groups found other ways to keep the interest going. Quizzes have been very popular.

Other changes have included the monthly e-newsletter which has kept everyone informed of new initiatives, an electronic *Links* magazine and emails to group coordinators whenever new restrictions came into force or were lifted.

As we are gradually released from the current lockdown, groups are already starting their activities and soon should be able to meet indoors again at members' homes or Covid-safe venues.

At the request of the Third Age Trust, we are making some changes in the way groups with financial transactions have to report to our Treasurer. The changes are small but necessary to meet the Trust's request and will enable us to benefit from all the Trust can offer. All the group coordinators are aware and have all agreed to help us make it work. We have appointed five Financial Coordinators to help any group that may find it difficult to start with. Their names can be found on the 'Contact Us' page at the front of *Links*.

I am confident that, with the worst behind us, Sheffield u3a will continue to be a beacon of excellence in providing the help and support to our groups to grow and offer the means for like-minded members to get

together and partake in their chosen activity.

Remember our strapline **learn, laugh, live**.

Learn: With 200 groups, there is something for everyone. Also now is the time to try something new. For example, there are 10 new members who have signed up to play croquet.

Laugh: Sheffield u3a is a social group. Time to enjoy life as you improve your skills, start new projects and meet new friends.

Live: Time to get out and meet people again. But not too close to others and wearing a mask if required.

Finally, a big thank you to all who have made my time as your Chair such a great and rewarding experience, especially to my fellow members of the EC, both past and present.

Best wishes and goodbye for the final time as your Chair.

Brian

U3A SHEFFIELD NOTICE OF THE THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 35th Annual General Meeting of the u3a Sheffield will be held at 10.30am on Tuesday 13th July 2021 via Zoom.

Only current 2021 members may attend and vote at the AGM. The final agenda for the AGM and 2020 minutes are published in this edition of *Links*. Members wishing to raise business under clause 14(ii) of the Constitution (see below) should have notified the Secretary, in writing, by 19th April 2021, as advertised in April *Links*, so that it could have been included in the final agenda.

Clause 14 (ii) reads "Every Annual General Meeting shall be called by the Executive Committee. This formal notice, shall give at least 21 days' notice of the Annual General Meeting to all the members of U3A Sheffield. The notice shall specify that the meeting is the Annual General Meeting and shall set out the business of the meeting, including resolutions to be proposed..."

There will also be the opportunity for informal discussion (see agenda item 9(b)) but no decisions can be made on these items at the AGM.

Anna Harvey - Secretary

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting
3. Chair's Annual Report
4. Review and Approval of the Accounts
5. Approval of Appointment of the Independent Examiner
6. EC Members Stepping Down
7. Approval of Elections to the Committee
8. Re-election to the Committee of existing serving members
9. (a) Any Other Business (formally brought up and previously notified)
 - i. Special Interest Groups or Activity Groups?
 - ii. Legal advice on Compliance for Sheffield u3a(b) Any Other Business (can be brought up informally but no decision can be taken at the meeting)
10. Closing remarks by the Chair

U3A SHEFFIELD Minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting held at 10.15am, on 15 July 2020 via Zoom

Present: 80 members, with Brian Cave in the Chair

1. Apologies for Absence

Mr R Chiba, John Dixon, Ann Grassick, Martin Harvey, Janey Raine.

2. Welcome and Minutes of the 33rd Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Chair welcomed members who had been able to join the AGM online and he thanked Camilla Jordan for setting up the meeting. The Chair confirmed the meeting would be recorded and placed on the U3A Sheffield website for a limited period of time, along with the voting results. He asked members present online not to vote again if they had already tendered a paper vote prior to the AGM, as their online vote would be null and void. The Chair also asked members to use the chat facility if they wished to ask a question.

The minutes of the AGM held on 9 July 2019 (previously circulated) were agreed as a correct record by online voting (no paper votes were tendered). There were 52 votes for, none against and 9 abstentions.

3. Chair's Annual Report

The Annual Report had been published in the June 2020 edition of *Links* and on the website. The Chair said the year had been one of two halves, with Covid-19 resulting in a significant impact on U3A Sheffield activities during the second half. But he was glad that many groups had found ways to continue through using technology.

The Chair reported on the successful introduction of the monthly e-newsletter. He encouraged any members who did not receive it currently, to confirm they were happy to receive online communications on the membership page of the U3A Sheffield website. The Chair said a number of new groups had been established, including walking cricket, and the Third Age Trust's Risk

Assessment and Safeguarding policies had been adopted. The Chair also mentioned important projects linked to local Universities.

In conclusion the Chair thanked, on behalf of members, the Executive Committee for all their work during the last year. He also thanked all volunteers for the vital role they play in making U3A Sheffield so successful. No questions were raised.

4. Review and Approval of the Accounts

The 2019 Accounts, along with the Independent Examiner's Report, had been published in the June edition of *Links*. Chris Jones, the U3A Treasurer, said the balance sheet at 31 December 2019 was as planned. It showed the reserves for 2019 were lower than for 2018 but this resulted from the decision made previously to reduce the level of reserves held by U3A Sheffield. Chris Jones said the agreed aim was to maintain reserves equal to six months' worth of expenditure and the reserves at the end of 2019 were a little above this amount. He referred to previously agreed expenditure on whisper boxes and a Talk Talk system, with their accounting value having been nearly written off. The Treasurer also explained that the cash in hand could be misleading because it represented the prepaid subscriptions for U3A Sheffield.

Chris Jones emphasised that in line with current accounting policies, U3A Sheffield's groups were treated as special interest groups not involved in charitable activities. As such, in accordance with Charity Commission guidance, their accounts were not included in the income and expenditure accounts for U3A Sheffield.

Chris Jones said the "Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31 December 2019" had been published in the June edition of *Links*. He confirmed the income was as budgeted but less than 2018, because of the agreed lower fee rate for 2019. This had been done to reduce the level of reserves, as already explained. Chris Jones encouraged members who had not signed a gift aid declaration to do so, if they could, as this would generate additional income for U3A Sheffield.

The Treasurer referred to the cost per member of external items, such as the Third Age Trust (TAT) affiliation fee, which he said would increase in 2020 and probably in subsequent years. Chris Jones confirmed that expenditure on central activities represented third party costs only, as the bulk of the work was undertaken by volunteers. He added that the overall cost per member represented very good value for money and that even if the membership fee were to be increased for 2021, they would still be running at a slight loss. Chris Jones explained that TAT had not reduced its membership fee in response to Covid-19. However, there would be savings through being unable to run central activities at the present time, which was likely to result in a small surplus for 2020.

A member asked if U3A Sheffield paid the postage for distributing paper copies of *Links*. Chris Jones explained there was a long-standing relationship with Sheffield Hallam University, who covered the cost of postage. However, there were questions about how long this would continue and, if the situation changed, the feasibility of U3A Sheffield covering the cost.

A member asked if the budget was able to cover the cost of using Zoom. Chris Jones said this was possible, because of the savings from not running central activities, as explained previously.

In response to a request from the Chair, members approved the 2019 Accounts, with 96 voting for, 1 against and 1 abstention (including both paper and online votes).

5. Approval of Appointment of the Independent Examiner

Chris Jones explained a volunteer had fulfilled the role of Independent Examiner until 2018. However, using a retired Accountant had become unrealistic at that point, given the lengthy guidance involved, and Fawthrop Williams had been appointed.

Chris Jones proposed Fawthrop Williams be reappointed as Independent Examiner for the 2020 Accounts. This was approved by members, with 94 voting for, none against and 3 abstentions (including both paper and online votes).

6. Executive Committee Members Stepping Down

The Chair reported that Sarah Williamson had resigned for personal reasons and Richard Cooper was stepping down after several years as an Executive Committee Member. He thanked them both and confirmed they would receive a token of appreciation for their greatly valued service.

7. Elections to the Executive Committee

The Chair said there were four nominees for membership of the U3A Sheffield Executive Committee 2020. He confirmed their applications had been published in the June edition of *Links*, along with the names of their respective Proposers and Seconders. The Chair then asked members to vote for each in turn and the results were as follows (including both paper and online votes):

Philippa Bartlett	For	81	Against	0	Abstentions	10
Elaine Burtoft	For	82	Against	0	Abstentions	1
Maureen Cave	For	83	Against	0	Abstentions	9
Philip Long	For	83	Against	0	Abstentions	2

These four nominees were duly elected to the Executive Committee.

8. Re-election to the Executive Committee of Existing Serving Members

The Chair confirmed the following Members were eligible for re-election and their Proposers and Seconders had been included in the June edition of *Links*. He asked members to vote on each in turn and the results were as follows (Including both paper and online votes):

		For	Against	Abstentions
Maggie Bower	<i>Links</i> Editor	91	1	1
Brian Cave	Chair	93	0	1
Jenny Graaf	Vice Chair	90	1	2
Anna Harvey	Secretary	92	0	1
Chris Jones	Treasurer	91	0	2
Camilla Jordan	IT Member	93	0	1
Barbara Lowe	General Member	89	1	3

These existing Members were duly re-elected to the Executive Committee.

9. Any Other Business (Brought up informally but no decision could be made at the meeting)

The Chair confirmed there had been no items raised prior to the AGM. He asked members present online if they wished to raise any points.

A member asked if there were any plans to redesign U3A following Covid-19. The Chair said it was too early to consider any major changes but, in the shorter term, the Executive Committee would be looking at the best ways for U3A Sheffield to recover from the current situation.

A number of members thanked Camilla Jordan for setting up such a well organised AGM as well as thanking the Executive Committee for all its hard work during very difficult times.

10. Closing Remarks by the Chair

The Chair said Maggie Bower would be stepping back as *Links* Editor and thanked her for turning it into one of the best U3A magazines. He asked any members interested in taking over the Editor's role to contact him.

The Chair added that it was not an easy time for members, particular those who were most vulnerable. But he was very proud of the way groups had responded and found alternative ways to continue their activities. The Chair emphasised the need for groups to continue finding new ways of adapting to changed circumstances, which was likely to be the case until a Covid-19 vaccine could be found. He expressed his confidence in the ability of U3A Sheffield's members to rise to the challenges ahead.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the AGM.

Chair's Annual Report for the 2021 AGM

This report covers the year 2020. Throughout the year, everything was dominated by Covid. Three full lockdowns, social distancing, masks, deaths, all made it difficult for u3a groups across the country to function. But function we did. We continue to uphold the principles of the Third Age Trust by supporting our members and bringing like-minded members together to form groups to participate in their chosen activity. Online meetings became the norm, with most groups meeting regularly via Zoom or other platforms, outside activities still occurred when allowed, but restricted to groups of six, socially distanced and wearing masks. Your EC was able to give regular updates and advice on group activities and members responded to requests from the Universities for volunteers to help in their research projects (Covid-safe).

Our membership has dropped by c500 and our groups number c190. This still makes us the largest u3a in the UK and I expect our numbers to gradually return to 2019 figures as restrictions are lifted, especially after mid-June.

Links continues to be our mainstay for communicating with members, although we have had to change to an electronic version. This has been well received and members who do not have access to the internet still receive a printed copy. This is supplemented by a monthly e-newsletter which provides information and links to time-sensitive material.

Our monthly lectures at the Showroom were replaced by weekly lectures on Zoom. These have proved highly popular with regular attendances of over 200. These were recorded and some are still available to view on our website. It is hoped to return to our regular monthly showroom lecture, but we are looking to have a monthly online lecture as well.

Of course, during this year there have been no trips organised, but again as restrictions are lifted, there may be a day trip or two later this year and longer trips to Europe starting in 2022.

We still have room 50 in the Victoria Methodist Hall, which will once again become available to groups to use once we are allowed too. Our monthly Drop-Ins had to stop, but again we hope to restart as the group number of 6 is lifted. But in all cases, we will conform to Government advice on numbers and protocols.

Sheffield u3a is in a strong position to bounce back. We have plans to work closely with the Third Age Trust on various projects and will continue to be a voice at YAHR (Yorkshire & Humberside Region) as well as playing our part on joint ventures with other local u3a groups. I am grateful for the dedication, help and support of my fellow EC members, without which none of the above would have been possible.

Brian Cave
Chair
May 2021



Saturday Strollers
Poolsbrook Country Park in June 2019

SHEFFIELD U3A
Registered Charity 703147
BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER

	2020 £	2019 £
<u>Fixed assets</u>		
Cost	7,079	10,457
Accumulated depreciation	6,515	9,719
Net book value	564	738
<u>Current assets</u>		
Debtors & prepayments	6,029	6,884
Cash on deposit	27,973	27,832
Cash in hand & at bank	27,882	25,880
	61,884	60,596
<u>Current liabilities</u>		
Creditors and accruals	20,621	28,139
<u>Net current assets</u>	41,263	32,457
<u>Total net assets</u>	41,827	33,195
<u>Represented by</u>		
Accumulated funds at 1 January	33,195	45,701
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	8,632	(12,506)
	41,827	33,195

Accounting policies

1. The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention and on an accruals basis.
2. Fixed assets are written off in equal instalments over their expected useful life.
3. Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.
4. The Committee consider that individual groups are special interest groups not undertaking charitable activities and as a consequence, in accordance with the Charity Commission's guidelines, their accounts are not included in these accounts.

Brian Cave
Chair

Chris Jones
Treasurer

20th February 2021

SHEFFIELD U3A
Registered charity 703147
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER

2020				2019		2021	
Actual		Budget		Actual		Budget	
£	Per member	£	Per member	£	Per member	£	Per member

INCOME

Subscriptions	33,432	9.71	34,000	10.00	27,400	7.96	27,500	10.00
Gift aid	5,910	1.72	5,525	1.63	4,495	1.31	4,500	1.64
Interest	140	0.04	150	0.04	277	0.08	50	0.02
Room 50 lets	297	0.09	1,240	0.36	1,242	0.36	600	0.22
Donations & sundry	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-
Total	39,779	11.56	40,915	12.03	33,422	9.71	32,650	11.87

EXPENDITURE

External

National Affiliation fee	11,935	3.47	12,075	3.55	11,640	3.38	12,075	4.39
U3A news	5,926	1.72	7,100	2.09	5,934	1.72	7,100	2.58
National AGM	-	-	750	0.22	686	0.20	750	0.27
Regional meetings	-	-	180	0.05	-	0	90	0.03
YAHR event	-	-	-	-	33	0.01	-	-
	17,861	5.19	20,105	5.91	18,293	5.31	20,015	7.28

Membership

New members	-	-	200	0.06	-	-	200	0.07
Membership renewal	3,857	1.12	4,700	1.38	4,017	1.17	3,850	1.40
	3,857	1.12	4,900	1.44	4,017	1.17	4,050	1.47

Communication

Links magazine
Website

3,997	1.16	12,250	3.60
-	-	450	0.13
3,997	1.16	12,700	3.74

11,404	3.31
364	0.11
11,768	3.42

4,465	1.62
450	0.16
4,915	1.79

Groups

Coordinators meetings
Start up support
Insurance

-	-	1,350	0.40
-	-	200	0.06
-	-	100	0.03
-	-	1,650	0.49

1,280	0.37
118	0.03
-	-
1,398	0.41

-	-
200	0.07
100	0.04
300	0.11

Committee & administration

Administration expenses
Room hire
SU3A AGM & IE Fee
Sundries

154	0.04	550	0.16
20	0.01	95	0.03
368	0.11	450	0.13
223	0.06	250	0.07
765	0.22	1,345	0.40

523	0.15
95	0.03
511	0.15
309	0.09
1,438	0.42

400	0.15
50	0.02
360	0.13
25	0.01
835	0.30

Central activities

Drop ins
Lectures
Room 50 costs
Volunteers
Projects (60's & Learning)
Depreciation

225	0.07	1,260	0.37
1,153	0.33	2,700	0.79
2,250	0.65	2,650	0.78
-	-	100	0.03
20	0.01	80	0.02
1,019	0.30	738	0.22
4,667	1.36	7,528	2.21

1,042	0.30
2,731	0.79
2,400	0.70
-	-
768	0.22
2,073	0.60
9,014	2.62

630	0.23
2,930	1.07
2,300	0.84
100	0.04
-	-
-	-
5,960	2.17

Total

31,147	9.05	48,228	14.18
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45,928	13.34
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36,075	13.12
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SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)

8,632	2.51	(7,313)	(2.15)
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(12,506)	(3.63)
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(3,425)	(1.25)
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Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of The Sheffield University of the Third Age

I have reviewed the income and expenditure account for the year ended 31st December 2020 and the balance sheet as at that date and report as follows :-

Respective Responsibilities of the Executive Committee and the Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect, the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or the accounts did not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a “ true and fair “ view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.
2. which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: Fawthrop Williams

26th February 2021

Sheffield

Candidates for Office

Chair

Candidate – Philip Long

**Proposer: Samina Aslam
Seconded: Wendy Woodhouse**

I would be honoured to serve as Chair of the Executive Committee of Sheffield u3a and would appreciate your support. Sheffield u3a performs a hugely important role. Its self-supporting groups offer a tremendous range of social activities and learning opportunities that contribute enormously to the health and wellbeing of our members. It is an excellent organisation, and as Chair, I would be committed to supporting our existing activities and encouraging the development of new opportunities and external relationships. Since retiring from a full-time academic career in 2017, I have contributed to Sheffield u3a activities through my regular participation in the monthly Drop-Ins at the Central United Reform Church pre-lockdown and online. I have also secured speakers for the lecture programme that has attracted up to 300 attendees for weekly Zoom talks throughout lockdown. In partnership

with current u3a members I have developed strong shared learning and research relationships with both universities in Sheffield, including the University of Sheffield's Healthy Lifespan Institute. Also, I have good links with the arts and culture sector through my committee work with Sheffield Theatres and the Heritage Sheffield Strategy Group. These connections have potential for u3a in providing opportunities for member engagement and participation in the civic and cultural life of our city. Inter-generational dialogue through shared learning and research projects continues to be important to me. Also, I look forward to the day when our excellent travel and walking groups, the monthly member Drop-In and the Showroom lecture programme can reconvene. I would bring to the role of Chair a strong background and ethos of partnership and collaborative working with the education, arts and cultural sectors. Before entering an academic career, I worked for 12 years in the private sector tourism industry, so also have experience of the business and commercial world.

Treasurer

Candidate – Les Baker

**Proposer: Nigel Thomas
Seconder: Dave Longson**

Grew up in Hillsborough, educated at Marlcliffe and King Edward VII school, married to Marlene with two grown up children and six grandchildren. Lived in Ecclesall, and now in Dore.

Qualified Management accountant / director who has worked in local steel / engineering businesses (Firth Vickers Foundry, James Neill, Stanley Tools) - retired in 2000.

Since then have been involved in various charities, mainly as a trustee / treasurer, mostly local: The Archer Project, Sheffield Crossroads, Johnnie Johnson Housing Ltd. Voluntary Action Sheffield. Currently a volunteer for Healthwatch. Keenly interested in health and social matters.

Personal interests: music, theatre, walks.

Involvement with U3A – a member for 3 years - currently involved with U3A Blues Ensemble (keyboards)

Candidates for the Executive Committee

Candidate – Clare Chiba

Proposer: Richard Cooper

Seconders: David Jordan

I joined SU3A in the year 2000 and was co-opted onto the Executive Committee in 2006. In 2007 I became the Web Coordinator and managed the website until 2013. I then had a short break before re-joining the Committee from 2015 to 2018, having been lured back by the decision to move the Membership system online. I was a member of the team which set up the system on Wild Apricot and have been on both the Online and Postal Membership Teams from the beginning. As there is not now a Membership Team member on the Committee, it was suggested that I might like to apply re-join again and I am very happy to do so.

Candidate – Jonathan Powell-Wiffin

Proposer: Peter Reed

Seconders: Colleen Thomas

I arrived in Sheffield almost 50 years ago, having worked for 3 years with GKN in Birmingham. It was here that I met Tina whom I brought up to Sheffield in January 1972, immediately after our honeymoon. My new job was in electroplating and I still remember at the interview, my new boss saying how wonderful Sheffield was, and in particular, that the city had two teams in the first division! Sheffield is still wonderful, but sadly its footballing success has withered!

After a few years with my new firm, I set up my own electroplating company which has weathered several boom and bust periods and is still going strong today, albeit under the works manager to whom I sold the business on retiring. I still go in once a week to advise if required and to do all the accounting work.

Tina and I have two sons, true Yorkshiremen, one an engineer and the other a hospital manager. My interests are travelling and country pursuits and, when I was younger and fitter, I played a lot of hockey and tennis. Now the U3A Croquet Club is the extent of my sporting life. I am very grateful for all the U3A does for its members and if I can help in any way, I will be pleased to do so.



READING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

For over a decade, Sheffield U3A members have worked in partnership with ESCAL - the city wide literacy strategy. Now part of the Virtual School for Sheffield Children Looked After, our Reading Volunteers provide vital one-to-one reading support to some of our most vulnerable children and young people in Sheffield.

In response to the pandemic, the Virtual School will be recruiting volunteers to support children and young people once again from September. As you can imagine, there is already a huge demand for one-to-one support from our schools to really make a difference to our children in care. Prior to the pandemic, over 70 young people in care benefitted from the support of an ESCAL Reading Volunteer, as well as building extremely positive relationships and developing speech and language skills.

We cannot wait to work with U3A members again, so if you feel that you could support, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please register your interest by emailing faye.jeffrey@sheffield.gov.uk at the Virtual School or visit

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/schools-childcare/reading-volunteers> for more information.

Commemorative Garden

Come and See the Garden! The commemorative garden always looks good in June. The pond is usually still full and the bogbean is in flower. You may see dragonflies skimming the water. There are iris, late rhododendrons and azaleas, and of course the famous candelabra primulas. This year we will be able to sit in the new shelter. This has been bought with member donations and the generosity of our SU3A Travel Group plus a grant from the Town Trust. We will let it settle in and then redesign the planting around it. The garden is now ten years old. Many of the group are the original members and others have joined over the years.

website: <https://su3a.wildapricot.org/> 20

We meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays (except in December and January) and always welcome new members.



Of course we only look after a small part of the Park. The rest of it is looking very neglected. So SU3A has kick-started a Friends Group which will be launched later this month, at the same time as the opening of the shelter. Brian Cave will officiate, the Lord Mayor will thank SU3A for members' generosity and Sir Jamie Benton Jones, great grandson of Lady Madge and Sir Walter Benton Jones who designed the garden 100 years ago, will cut the ribbon on the shelter and launch the Friends' Group.

To join the group, phone Shelagh on 255 8948 To make a donation in memory of a loved one: phone Alison on 274 6165 or download a form from the Group page (<https://su3a.org.uk/homepages/gardening/gardening-at-whirlow-brook/>) on the SU3A website. To join Friends of Whirlow Brook Park send a message to friendsofwhirlowbrookpark@gmail.com



Sheffield U3A Shared Learning & Research Projects (SLRP)



Nationally u3a is keen to promote 'Slow Ways', a project that aims to create a national network of walking routes and assess their quality and viability.

Sheffield is of course the 'outdoor city' and our u3a has many walking groups. It would be great if we could contribute to this excellent and worthwhile initiative. Please visit and register on this site <https://beta.slowways.org/>



U3a launched a national audit to record the types of local shops that our members encounter around the country, in order to get an idea of how the economic climate is affecting them. Twenty four members participated in auditing the city centre, London Road and Abbeydale Road, Woodseats, Mosborough, Stannington, Nether Edge, Nether

Green, Bents Green, Ecclesall Road, Hillsborough, Broomhill, Stocksbridge, Woodhouse, Woodseats, Fulwood and Darnall. It will be fascinating to see how our local survey areas may change in the coming months and years. The national interim report can be found at <https://sites.google.com/view/u3ahsp/home>. Several projects that members participated in have now closed.



We assisted Kirstie Lamb, Master of Medical Science MMedSc, Sheffield Hallam University Department of Tourism, Hospitality, Events and Food in her study looking at the effect of tart cherry juice on the risk of gout attacks. She has emailed to say “Thank you very much for supporting our study this past year”. Her report can be found at https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Kirstie_Lamb



Liwen Zhang PhD student from the Department of Landscape Architecture at Sheffield University, <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/landscape>, requested assistance to help with her research on the relationship between functionality and plant community diversity. She noted that “the number of participants for my survey has been increased by around 100” and that “feedback from members was really beneficial”. When her research is completed, she will notify us of her conclusions.

For more information about SLRP activities have a look at our web page <https://su3a.org.uk/home/noticeboard/research-projects/> For further information and any questions email Phil Long at pelong54@gmail.com



Lunch and Lecture

Barbara Hutton, Sue Connelly and Martin Harvey invite you to their first Lunch and Lecture at the Doubletree by Hilton Sheffield Park Hotel, Chesterfield Road South, Meadowhead, SHEFFIELD S8 8BW on Friday, 19 November 2021.

Please arrive at 12 noon for a 1230 start. Cost £20.00.

Speaker: Ron Clayton (<https://sheffieldhistorytours.com/about-ron>), a local historian, will give a lively and stimulating talk on the subject of

Sheffield Castle, arguably the most enigmatic castle in England.

In 1270 a stone castle was erected to replace the 'motte and bailey' structure which burnt down in 1266. Sheffield Castle, in its heyday, was possibly as large as Warwick Castle and was demolished, circa 1649, after it held out against Parliamentary Forces in August 1644.



If you would like to book a place, please complete the form below/overleaf, together with menu choices, and send it with your cheque made payable to: Sheffield U3A Lunch and Lecture, to arrive no later than Friday, 29 October 2021. Bookings received after the closing date will not be accepted.

Barbara Hutton (01144384412, 07873202996) barbara_hutton@hotmail.com

Sue Connolly (01246418251, 07890522014) ksueconnolly@hotmail.com

There is ample parking at the hotel and (pre-Covid) the numbers 24, 43 and 44 buses from the city centre stop outside the hotel. The number 75 bus from Shiregreen via High Street stops near the hotel at Meadowhead. (An update on the public transport situation will be issued in the October *Links*.)

Menu choices:

A Lemon Thyme Marinated Chicken Breast (GF), served with parsley mash, buttered vegetables and roasted shallot gravy

B Butter Roasted Salmon Fillet served with parsley crushed potatoes, green beans and tarragon cream

C Ricotta and Spinach Filo Parcel served with roast potatoes and seasonal vegetables

D Seasonal Fruit Crumble served with custard

E Seasonal Fruit Salad served with vanilla ice cream

Should you have a special dietary request, please include in your application.

PLEASE NOTE that this is a set menu and once you have made your menu choices you cannot change your mind.

LUNCH AND LECTURE – SHEFFIELD CASTLE

Friday, 19 November 2021 - 12 Noon for 1230 start

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

NAME SU3A No(s)

ADDRESS

.....

POSTCODE TELEPHONE

Email address

MENU CHOICES – please tick one main and one dessert per person

A	B	C	D	E
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Special dietary request:

Please reserve place(s) for me at £20.00 per person.

I enclose a small stamped addressed envelope and a cheque for £
payable to Sheffield U3A Lunch and Lecture.

Forms should be sent to arrive no later than Friday, 29 October 2021, to
Barbara Hutton, 57 Bradway Road, SHEFFIELD S17 4QR

NB If you have the E-Links, not a paper copy, please print out the form or
write out the required information clearly to send with your cheque.



Feminist Social and Discussion Group



We are a Feminist Social and Discussion Group which aims to provide friendship, community and support to our members. We have been meeting for five years in City Centre venues until the pandemic, since which we have been meeting on Zoom.



We meet weekly, with two morning social groups and a morning Discussion Group every month. Members volunteer to host the socials, e.g. to welcome new members. The Discussion Group, which is the most popular meeting, has a set topic which is voted on every month by the membership. Examples of topics range from climate change to our relationship to food, from the main feminist influences on our lives to how we are coping with lockdown. Our numbers are such that we split randomly into smaller groups for the main part of the meeting.

When meeting in person, many go for lunch together afterwards. We have almost 70 Sheffield U3A members in our group and before the pandemic 30 - 40 would attend the Discussion Group. We have attracted those needing to find new friends such as people who are newly retired or have just moved to the area, but also those who simply want a place where they can meet up with likeminded people. New members are always most welcome.

Maggie McCarthy

Celtic Language Groups



I put a couple of flags on a table at a SU3A event off Chapel Walk in autumn, 2010 and waited. They were a St Andrews Cross and a Red Dragon. An hour later and we had the first two Celtic language groups for the SU3A. At the moment we have a second Scottish Gaelic Group and four Welsh Groups!

SU3A WELSH IMPROVERS

MIS MAWRTH DYW FIL DAU DDEG UN

Amserlin Adeiladau Sheffield ac Ardal

1) Arbor Low, nid nepell o Monyash

Cylch cerrig mawr neu *henge* yw Arbor Low. Adeiladwyd Arbor Low yn ystod Oes Newydd y Cerrig, neu'r Neolithig, tua phedair mil, pum cant o flynyddoedd yn ôl.



2) Y Nine Ladies, Stanton Moor.

Adeiladwyd y cerrrig cylch bach hwn yn ystod Oes yr Efydd, sef, rhwng pedair a thair o flynyddoedd yn ôl.

3) Caer Mam Tor, Castleton

Enw Celtaidd yw Mam Tor, yn ôl yr arbenigwyr. Claddwyd y cloddiau dwbwl mawr rhwng Oes yr Efydd ac Oes yr Haearn, felly, o gwmpas tair mil o flynyddoedd yn ôl. Roedd carnau Oes Yr Efydd ar gopa Mam Tor yn y chwedegau, ond dinistriwyd nhw gan y torfeydd o ymwelwyr ers hynny.

The Welsh Groups cover Beginner, Improvers, Intermediate and Conversation levels. There has never been a better moment to explore our most ancient living native languages. Welsh is now the most rapidly growing language in the UK, and Scottish Gaelic had the fastest uptake of any language on the worldwide Duolingo internet learning platform. Welsh learners are reported to be the most diligent in the world! Across the globe, from Germany to Japan, there is growing interest in the Celtic languages.



6) Croes Eingl-Sacsonaidd, Eyam

Cerfiwyd y groes hyfryd hon yn ystod yr wythfed ganrif, felly, tua mil, trid deg o flynyddoedd yn ôl. Darganfuwyd croes debyg yng nghanol Sheffield, ond dygwyd hi i Lundain.

7) Eglwys St James the Great, Norton, Sheffield

Mae'r eglwys hon yn dyddio o'r cyfnodau Normanaidd, Canoloesol a Thuduraidd. Felly, sefydlwyd hi yn yr unfed ganrif ar ddeg, o gwmpas naw

During the Covid pandemic we doubled our commitment, meeting weekly on Zoom. If you want to learn some Welsh or Gaelic in a friendly and supportive environment, contact me via the U3A website, or directly by email stevejohn39rd@gmail.com

English - an evolving language



Our group has been running for over 6 years now and we are still discovering new linguistic topics to keep us engaged.

At the beginning of the pandemic we put the group on hold, resisting the idea of going online fearing that delivery of our topics online would lead to the meeting becoming more like a lecture than a participatory discussion. We value the interactive and social aspect of our meetings as much as the intellectual stimulus it provides. However, with no end in sight to restrictions we have finally embraced Zoom and even attracted some new members whom we have never yet met in person.

Over the years we have researched and discussed a wide range of topics pertinent to the English Language such as how the language has changed over time, why English spelling is so inconsistent, how children learn language, English as a global language, the language of new technologies, taboo language, the language of Shakespeare and much more.

Our next topic will be 'Conversation, how does it work?' We would welcome new members to join us initially on Zoom and hopefully before too long, at our monthly meetings in Beauchief.

Maggie Lyons

Bus Pass Explorers

Not surprisingly, The Bus Pass Explorers haven't been able to venture out with our Bus Passes since March 2020 but things are beginning to look hopeful.

Whilst we can't yet go out as a group on buses, our April jaunt was actually four "Group of Six" walks exploring The Porter Brook from Sheffield Station, where The Porter joins The Sheaf under Platform 5. The Porter is quite shy in places as it keeps disappearing into culverts

including the little-known Bramall Lane Bridge. It snakes its way by the sites of old industries and a variety of new apartments and offices before passing The General Cemetery on its way to Hunters Bar where we found an excellent choice of cafes for our lunch. A variety of maps from 1832 onwards showed the many changes on this stretch of river (and on the 1855 map, The Leadmill was actually a lead mill). Luckily the sun was co-operating on each of the four days.



Our May jaunt will be four more “Group of Six” walks from Shalesmoor Tram Stop exploring the many changes in The Kelham Island Area before going up to Parkwood Springs to admire the wonderful views over The City before returning via Wardsend Cemetery.

Fingers crossed that “The Rules” may let us wave our Bus Passes with pride once again in June.

David Hague

Book Group III-Lockdown activities and Update



The members of Book Group III have continued to meet monthly via Zoom, reading some important and powerful books, enjoyed and intensely debated throughout the difficult Covid lockdowns of 2020-21. As Covid restrictions are relaxed we are making plans to return to warm weather garden meetings from July, hoping then to relaunch Book Group III as our regular convivial gathering for lunchtime discussion and pub grub sustenance in Whirlow in the Autumn. Unfortunately the difficulties

website: <https://su3a.wildapricot.org/> 28

of coronavirus experiences have diminished our group numbers a little, but we are hoping to invite new members to join us then, when we will be reading “Hamnet” by Maggie O’Farrell, “The Testaments” by Margaret Atwood and Emma Donoghue’s “The Pull of the Stars”. Recent books discussed have included “On Chapel Sands” by Laura Cumming, “Wilding” by Isabella Tree and “Girl, Woman, Other”, by Bernadine Evaristo. And yes! we have read books by men and we have had men joining the group!

Wendy Jenrick, Book Group III Co-ordinator

Learning Old English



A new course is being offered, ‘Learning Old English’, to give interested members the chance to learn to read Old English literature in the original. Old English was the first European vernacular to have a fully developed literature, and its deliberate mix of Germanic heroic traditions and Latin Christian ones makes for a very distinctive and different literary experience. We would use Bruce Mitchell and Fred C. Robinson’s ‘A Guide to Old English’ (copies are readily available) as our course text, and might supplement it with S.A.J. Bradley’s Everyman’s Classics translation of Anglo-Saxon Poetry. Meetings would be of 2 hours’ duration, starting in September, on Zoom, at a day and time to be agreed by members, weekly or fortnightly (subject to the group’s preferences). Eventually we may hope to meet in one another’s houses. I anticipate no costs beyond that of purchasing the course text book. Interested members can contact me at roger@appleinter.net.

Roger Ellis

Lecture Reviews

Zooming through the online talks programme – reflections and prospects

The recordings of the talks that are available on Wild Apricot reminds us that we have had a fascinating and diverse range of topics and excellent

speakers on most weeks throughout lockdown.

Several themes may be discerned that reflect the virtual journeys that our speakers have taken us on. Here's an attempt to summarise these (with apologies for any omissions!).

We have had some **intrepid travels** reported by u3a members including Camilla and David Jordan to the Galapagos and Machu Picchu, the islands of the Caribbean by David Hague, walking the Camino di Santiago by Anne Adams and, closer to home, a beautifully illustrated excursion to his garden and nearby Peak District countryside by Peter Bull.

Aspects of **Sheffield history** have included Sylvia Dunkley's presentation on the fascinating story of Sheffield's links with Bapaume dating from the First World War and also on the artistry in stone portrayed in the work of Frank Tory and Sons. Robin Hughes gave us a knowledgeable account of the history of Pinstone Street and David Price outlined Sheffield's history of migrations to the city. Mili Rajic of Wessex Archaeology spoke to us about steel making and Hollis Croft.

Other **histories** included Marek Szablewski's powerful account of the Warsaw Ghetto and the heroism of his parents who subsequently settled in Sheffield. The tale of 'Gentleman Jack' aka Anne Lister of Shibden Hall was recounted by PhD student Anna Hawthorne. We also heard about the French Resistance from Professor Matthew Cobb. Our member Barbara Beard gave us two very well researched talks. The first on a 'forgotten Antarctic explorer' and recently on the tragic sinking of the 'Empress of India' in 1914. Alan Zinober gave us a personal account and historical analysis of Apartheid South Africa. Stephanie and John Dixon recounted the story of the Chernobyl disaster and the role that families in Sheffield played in hosting young people from the Pripyat area on much needed holidays here.

Talks with a focus on **arts and culture** included Sarah Williamson on creating a quilt for the Bronte Museum in Haworth, Robert Webb on the composer William Sterndale Bennett, Jo Towler of Music in the Round on horns of various shapes and sizes and Robert Hastie of Sheffield Theatres on stage design. Jo Wingate told us about the Sensoria Festival and best-selling local author Danuta Kot discussed her book 'Life Ruins'. Duncan Light of Bournemouth University spoke about the mythical literary landscapes of Transylvania in connection with Bram Stoker's

'Dracula'. Bringing us back home, Rony Robinson and Sally Goldsmith told of their artistic and literary relationship.

Our speakers have also been invited to talk about **social issues**. We do not invite party political platforms, nor can we fundraise directly for other charities. However, it is important that we consider and reflect on important social matters such as homelessness as presented by Tim Renshaw BEM of the Archer Project, social policy relating to active ageing by Liam Foster and the sexual health of older adults from Sharron Hinchcliffe, both of the University of Sheffield.

We also heard from the Yorkshire Air Ambulance and Guide Dogs Association about their important work in society. Councillor Abtisam Mohamed told us about her life in education and personal journey to elected office.

Sciences have also been covered including David Jordan on cryptography and presentations covering, variously, bananas, landslides and volcanoes. Organising these talks to take place weekly has been challenging! The lecture team has resisted inviting 'off the shelf' speakers who approach us wanting payment for their generic talks. We have instead identified and corresponded with potential guest speakers who are likely to be of interest for our members in Sheffield. We are also pleased to provide opportunities for members to present their talks.

Thanks must go to Elaine Burtoft and Camilla Jordan for accomplished Zoom hosting and to lecture programme team members Gill Atkins, Stephanie Dixon, Cliff Ellis. Thanks also to reviewers Sue Knighton, Deborah Beetham and Elizabeth Birks.

Whether we will return to the Showroom in the autumn remains uncertain at the time of writing. It is likely that we will continue with Zoom lectures for a while, though providing this weekly is not sustainable. We will be moving to an approximately monthly programme from June.

Philip Long

A Garden in Lockdown - Peter Bull

Mr Peter Bull, retired ENT surgeon, gave a fascinating lecture on his observations of his garden's and surrounding areas' flora, fauna, bird, insect and animal life from lockdown in March 2020 to March 2021.

"If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need." Cicero

The damson tree at the bottom of his garden was teeming with birds and insects. He decided to record this beginning of Spring in what has become the strangest and most isolating of times. Using his camera he demonstrated that the garden in all its life and forms is unchanged from Cicero's time.



Starting in March 2020 when we were first confined to our houses and gardens, he guided us through the season with pictures and audible birdsong, giving gentle details of the photographs and shots of the surrounding Peak District countryside. The season opened with primroses - personal favourites of his family - which are originally from Pembrokeshire. Pictures

of daffodils, crocus and some stunning lichen on a stone wall are next. The snowdrops are finishing but the English bluebell is popping up. The first sound of a bumble bee can be heard. Goldcrests (above), the smallest British bird, can be seen at any time of year. Birdsong from robins, dunnocks and the willow warbler with its orange/pink legs comes in. A beautiful jay buries acorns whilst the blue tits are preparing their nests for spring. Peter spots a March Hare with his ears pricked for danger.

Starting with the blossom which is bursting forth and the peacock butterfly (below), whose lovely colours are a deterrent to predators, he describes other butterflies such as the speckled wood, small tortoiseshell, green-veined white, and orange tip. Hawthorn blossom scent fills the air.

Around the pond, toads, frogs, newts, lizards and hoverflies arrive. He captures a shot of the female southern hawker dragonfly and for him the inhabitants of the pond become a wonderfully colourful mixture of greens, reds and purple from the 'Witches Brew' of Macbeth.



As the season moves towards summer, the noisy chattering of house sparrows and chaffinches singing is heard. The greenfinches with their charismatic and recognisable song, uttered most typically between March and July, are heard. Slowly summer flowers are beginning to show and as the season warms up the white tailed bumble bee is heard, the male whitethroat arrives from Sub-Saharan Africa in April. It can be spotted on grassland and scrub.

"Life is the flower for which love is the honey." Victor Hugo

The Meconopsis, an extraordinary blue poppy, the opium poppy and many other English garden flowers now appear. Barn owls' screeching is heard at night. Honeysuckle, mallow and acanthus attract honey bees. House martins, nuthatches and wrens can also be seen.



Autumn comes in slowly with the heather on Higger Tor. Sunflowers, harebells and roses wane. Fruit is picked from apple and pear trees. Overhead buzzards chase hares on the moorland. Robins still cheekily bob

up in every season. November brings fungi, acorns and hazelnuts. Leaves

drop from the trees. The viburnum comes into its own as its winter flowers appear.

The bullfinch, see cover picture, can be seen in England throughout the year. The male bullfinch is unmistakable with his bright pinkish-red breast and cheeks, grey back, black cap and tail, and bright white rump. His powerful beak cracks seeds open.

December brings the fieldfares, large, colourful thrushes, much like a mistle thrush in size, shape and behaviour. They are social birds, spending the winter in flocks of anything from a dozen to several hundred. It's the last full moon of the year and again we are locked down. Christmas 2020 is a sad lonely time for many people but nature carries on astounding us with its cold, frosty, quiet beauty.



January 2021 brings snowflakes, cold, the mistle thrush and the common redpoll which is a small finch, but larger and paler than the very similar lesser redpoll. It doesn't breed in the UK, but is a winter visitor, particularly to the east coast.

Sadly I am unable to fill this account with the many other pictures and sounds that Peter recorded. However this picture of a

ring ouzel which he is very proud of came last week to finish off a wonderful year in the garden.

And so another season begins . . . when a siskin makes its appearance.



Sue Knighton May 2021

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During this time of physical distancing we are arranging for lectures to be delivered online. The ones we have lined up, so far, are shown below. Zoom has a limit on attendance so you need to register on the Wild Apricot site for each lecture. As always, this programme is subject to change.

June	18	Jason Leman	The Equality Trust How inequality impacts everyone
July	13	AGM on Zoom	Registration details will be emailed a few days before
July	16	Dr Andrew Aldoori-Moore	What is a Documentary? Blurred Boundaries and the Art of Non-Fiction Film

Links 203: October 2021
Copy Deadline: 27 August 2021

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