

## Links 214: June 2024



*Walk and Talk German Group*

# 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*.

## Membership Enquiries:

Su3a Membership Team  
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[members@su3a.org.uk](mailto:members@su3a.org.uk)

## Information about Groups:

Fran Rodway  
07774 142409  
Group Records Team  
Covid and Risk assessments

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***Links* no. 215 October 2024, last date for copy: 30 August 2024**

All news and correspondence to the Editors: email: [links@su3a.org.uk](mailto:links@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. For any queries please contact the author of the article.

## Facebook Group

To join our Facebook Group, please go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sheffieldu3a/> and hit 'Join'. You will be asked to answer 2 questions and will need your Su3a membership number.

*Links* magazine deadlines mean that I'm writing this at the end of April and I'm hoping that by the time you read it, it will finally have stopped raining and all the cancelled walks and other activities will be forgotten. Whilst the rain delayed the Walking Cricketers from moving outdoors for the summer, there have been plenty of indoor activities, including Kurling and badminton, to keep us going. New Rummikub and Play Reading Groups are in the offing but please remember that someone does need to come forward as coordinator for each one.

On a different note, are you aware that Sheffield u3a is considered to be a valuable potential research resource to many organisations such as the two Sheffield Universities and other public and commercial bodies? This is because we are considered to be conscientious, reliable and have the time to spare! For obvious reasons we need to monitor what our members are being asked to commit to and this is done by our Research and Shared Learning group (RSL). The RSL vets each request for help against nationally set ethical standards, in order to safeguard our members. This is why it's vital that if your Su3a group is approached by an outside body you should refer it to RSL. In the past our members have helped with all sorts of research projects, the most recent involving pitting themselves against robots in a number of simple tasks. The RSL webpage can be accessed from the home page on our website. This will have details of both current and upcoming projects. If you would like to become more involved in future projects please contact Gordon Dabinett at [gordondabinett@gmail.com](mailto:gordondabinett@gmail.com)

The agenda and papers for our Annual General Meeting which takes place in July are contained in this issue of *Links*. There will be no postal voting this year as only a handful of people have used it over the past few years. However, you can give your voting instructions to the Chair of the AGM by following the instructions given on page 4 of *Links*. We will again be offering a buffet lunch after the AGM and information on how to book for the lunch is given on page 4. I hope to see you there.

Maureen Cave – Chair

### Sheffield u3a

Notice of the 38th Annual General Meeting of Sheffield u3a

11:00am, Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024,

Central United Reformed Church

Chapel Walk

Coffee will be served from 10.30am. Only current 2024 members may attend and vote at the AGM. The final agenda for the AGM and the 2023 minutes are published in this edition of *Links*.

Brian Barrett - Secretary

Members wishing to raise business under clause 14(ii) of the constitution should have notified the Secretary, in writing, by 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024, as advertised in April *Links*, so that it could have been included in the final agenda. There will be the opportunity for informal discussion (see agenda item 9(b) but no decision can be made on these items at the AGM.

### Invitation to AGM lunch

After the AGM business attendees are invited for a sandwich lunch. To accept this invitation, please log in to our website, <https://su3a.org.uk/>, click on the Calendar tab and the link to the AGM. From there you can register for the AGM lunch. This is essential for catering purposes.

Current members who cannot attend the AGM may give voting instructions to the Chair of the meeting by forwarding them to the Secretary at [secretary@su3a.org.uk](mailto:secretary@su3a.org.uk), or by post to 32 Newington Rd, Sheffield S11 8RZ, no later than Monday 8th July 2024.



## Agenda

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1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 37<sup>th</sup> 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. Election of new members to the Committee
8. Re-election to the Committee of existing serving Officers and other members
9. (a) Any Other Business (formally brought up and previously notified; nothing has been submitted for this item)  
(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 37<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting  
held at 10.30am, on 11 July 2023, in the Central United Reformed Church*

*Present: 92 members, with Mo Cave in the Chair*

Item	
	<p><b>Presentation on Fraud and Cyber-Crime</b></p> <p>Prior to the commencement of business, the Acting Chair introduced Andy Foster, a Fraud Protection Officer with South Yorkshire Police, who gave a short talk about fraud and cyber-crime.</p>
1.	<p><b>Apologies for Absence</b></p> <p>Kay Barrett; Jane Blockeel; Elaine Burtoft; John Dixon; Stephanie Dixon; Suzie Doncaster; Ann Granville; Janet Hartley; Anne Johnson; Susan Kenwood; Diana Lightfoot; Jenny Luckcock; Ben Mackay; Jill Martin; Aline Roberts; John Roberts; John Robertshaw; Patricia Robson; Jonathan Powell-Wiffen; Tina Powell-Wiffen; Pat Ryan; Vicky Seddon; Jean Stephenson; Shirley Taylor; Claire Toplis; Gillian De La Torre; Judith Vernier; Roger Vernon; Carol Walsh; Trevor Walsh; Ann Ward; Denise West; Rachel White; Jill Whymys.</p>
2.	<p><b>Welcome and Minutes of the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM)</b></p> <p>The Acting Chair welcomed members to the AGM and thanked them for attending. She also thanked all those involved in setting up and running the AGM.</p> <p>The Acting Chair confirmed the AGM was quorate and she asked those present not to vote again, during the meeting, if they had already tendered a paper or online vote prior to the AGM.</p> <p><u>There were no comments on the minutes of the 36<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022 (previously circulated in the June 2023 <i>Links</i> magazine), which were agreed as a correct record, with 85 votes for, none against and 7 abstentions.</u></p>
3.	<p><b>Acting Chair's Annual Report for 2022</b></p> <p>The Annual Report had been published in the June 2023 edition of <i>Links</i>, which had been made available on the u3a Sheffield website and in printed form, for some members.</p> <p>The Acting Chair said the pandemic was still affecting u3a Sheffield, which had not yet returned to the membership levels enjoyed pre-pandemic. Although, the membership level had remained stable, at around 2,800, with over 180 interest groups. The Acting Chair highlighted a range of achievements for 2022. These</p>

	<p>included, the establishment of a Publicity Group headed up by u3a Sheffield's Publicity Officer, Shirley Taylor; most interest groups resuming face to face meetings; ongoing links with both Sheffield Universities and members continuing to assist in various research programmes, via the Research and Shared Learning Group. The Acting Chair explained that this group acted as a conduit not only for the Universities but for other external groups seeking to establish links with u3a Sheffield. She added that during 2022 an annual prize had been instituted for undergraduates completing research into age related matters. And the joint winners would be giving a talk to members at a Friday Lecture in October.</p> <p>The Acting Chair said that during 2022, monthly lectures had resumed at the Showroom Cinema and Drop-Ins restarted at the Central United Reformed Church. In both cases attendance was initially low but had grown during the year. Also, the first New Members and Group Coordinators Meetings had taken place post pandemic, with good attendance at both events.</p> <p>The Acting Chair confirmed that Governance had been a priority for the Executive Committee, with both a revised Financial Policy and a Guide for Group Coordinators being approved during the year. She added that a survey of communications with members had been undertaken by the Research and Shared Learning Group and the findings would be reflected in future activities. Also consideration would be given to the results of a survey of the membership by u3a Sheffield's Environmental Groups.</p> <p>The Acting Chair confirmed that during this year u3a Sheffield had lost the valued contributions of two members of the Executive Committee; the Chair, Phil Long, and Helen Brown. She thanked both of them, particularly Phil whose leadership had been forward-looking and inspirational for those who had the pleasure of working with him. She said that Fran Rodway was also stepping down from the Committee this year but, fortunately, she had agreed to carry on as General Coordinator. The Acting Chair thanked Fran for her contribution.</p> <p>In summary, the Acting Chair said that u3a Sheffield continued to uphold the principles of the u3a movement in being run by the members for the members. She emphasised that without the willing body of volunteers who ran groups, arranged meetings, trips and holidays, managed membership arrangements, edited magazines and newsletters and served tea and cakes, u3a Sheffield would not exist let alone prosper. So, she said, the biggest vote of thanks went to all the volunteers, in whatever capacity they contributed, who were essential to the continuation of u3a Sheffield.</p>
4.	<p><b>To receive and approve the Annual Report and Accounts and to review Subscriptions for 2024</b></p> <p>Les Baker, the Treasurer, said he would be covering the 2022 financial results and the expectations for 2023 and beyond. He reminded members that the Balance Sheet at 31 December 2022 and the Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31 December 2022 had both been published in the June 2023 edition of <i>Links</i>. He also thanked a number of volunteers for their excellent support over the</p>

	<p>year. These included, the Membership Team, the Financial Advisors for supporting all Groups, and Camilla Jordan for continuing IT support, and for all the cooperation of Group members during the year.</p> <p>The Treasurer said that following a change in Accounting policy for 2022, as previously agreed, financial results for all Interest Groups had been included for the first time. He confirmed the exercise had been completed successfully and thanked all those involved. The Treasurer clarified that the financial activities and assets of the groups were classified as Restricted Funds, for use by all the Groups for the purposes intended. The activities of the Trustees and the assets in the u3a Sheffield's Central bank account were classified as Unrestricted Funds.</p> <p>The Treasurer reported firstly on the Unrestricted (Central) Funds. He said that 2022 was a year when things mostly returned to normal, which was reflected in the 2022 Accounts. Total income was £33.6k and total expenses £31.8k, giving a surplus of £1.8k, with reserves of £52.5k. He said this compared to a surplus of £8.8k in 2021, with reserves of £50.6k. And the large surplus was entirely due to reduced spending on essential activities during lockdown.</p> <p>The Treasurer explained that the reserves policy was to hold a minimum of 6 months and a maximum of 12 months expenses, in line with the latest Third Age Trust guidelines. So the level for Sheffield at December 2022, represented 18.4 months, which was £18.3k above the 12-month level.</p> <p>The Treasurer then focussed on the Restricted Funds held by u3a Sheffield's 185 Interest Groups, of which there were 65 with finances. And of these 22 were subject to extra independent checks, because they had income in excess of £1,000 in 2022. The Treasurer said he was very grateful for their cooperation and for the extra work this had entailed.</p> <p>The Treasurer confirmed that Interest Group accounts for 2022 comprised income of £70.4, expenses of £74.1k, a loss of £3.7k, and closing reserves of £39.1k. He said an additional £10.9k was held in the central bank account for restricted use, in respect of the Travel Group and Classical Concertgoers, which resulted in a total of £50.0k restricted net assets. This compared to 2021, when income was £44.0k, expenses £49.0k, giving a loss of £5.0k, and reserves £53.8k. He asked members to note that the substantial increase in income from £44.0k in 2021 to £70.4k in 2022 followed the resumption of group activities after Covid lockdowns.</p> <p>The Treasurer then summarised the 2022 results for u3a Sheffield as a whole, with income of £104.0k, expenses of £105.9k and a net loss of £1.9k, which resulted in net funds of £102.5k. He compared the 2022 figures with the 2021 results, including the Interest Groups, for which income was 78.9k, expenses £75.1k and net profit £3.8k, resulting in net funds of £104.4k.</p> <p>Next the Treasurer provided more detail about the Unrestricted (Central) Income and Expenditure Account. He said membership in 2022 was on a par with 2021 and income, at £12.19 per member, came primarily from the £10 per person subscription fee, plus gift aid from some but not all members. He asked members</p>
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	<p>who had not already signed up for gift aid, if they could check whether they were able to do so, as this would boost income further. The Treasurer explained the main expense item was the £5.48 per member paid to Third Age Trust, for national membership and the magazine Third Age Matters. Other expenses included running the membership management system and interest groups, at £2.13 per member, along with producing <i>Links</i> and the website, at £1.54 per member. Central activities, including lectures, and Committee expenses were £2.25 per member. He said the total expenses were £11.51 per member and all the relevant information had been published in June edition of the <i>Links</i> magazine.</p> <p>The Treasurer echoed the Chair in stressing that the various u3a Sheffield activities were run by members for the benefit of all. There were no paid employees and a considerable debt was owed to all those members who volunteered to carry out various jobs, without whom u3a Sheffield would not exist.</p> <p>The Treasurer set out the picture for 2023. He said membership was budgeted at around 2800, with actuals close to this level. Income had been budgeted accordingly, with expenses to match. He confirmed this should produce a small surplus of £0.11 per member, which might be slightly better on the basis of the latest forecast and produce an overall surplus of £0.9k. The Treasurer added that following a review of the 2022 Accounts with the External Examiner, it has been agreed that the limit for Group Income requiring audit should be raised from £1,000 to £1,500 for 2023. This would reduce the number of groups requiring extra checks from 22 to 12 and would reduce the workload.</p> <p>In conclusion, the Treasurer returned to the level of u3a Sheffield's financial reserves. He said that in view of the current level and the need to reduce the reserves from the 18 to 12 months level, the Executive Committee had agreed to propose a reduction in the basic membership fee from £10 to £8 for 2024. He confirmed this would apply for one year and be reviewed at next year's AGM. And members would be asked to vote on the proposal shortly.</p> <p>As there were no questions on the Annual Report, from the Chair, and Accounts, as presented by the Treasurer, the following votes took place (including votes in person at the AGM and prior votes by post or online):</p> <p>a) <u>Members accepted and approved the 2022 Annual Report and Accounts, with 99 voting for, 0 against and 2 abstentions.</u></p> <p>b) <u>Members approved a reduction in the annual subscription for 2024 from the current £10 to £8 per member, for one year only, with 95 voting for, 4 against and 2 abstentions.</u></p>
5.	<p><b>Approval of Appointment of the Independent Examiner</b></p> <p>The Treasurer said the Independent Examiner, Mark Randall of AIMS Accountants, was very thorough and professional and he recommended reappointment. Members voted as follows (including votes in person at the AGM</p>

	and prior votes by post or online):  <u>To reappoint Mark Randall of AIMS Accountants, with 101 voting for, 0 against and 0 abstentions.</u>
6.	<b>EC Members Stepping Down</b>  The Acting Chair said this item had been covered as part of her Annual Report for 2022.
7.	<b>Election of Officers and new members to the Committee</b>  <b>a) Election of Officers:</b>  The Acting Chair handed over to the Secretary, Brian Barrett, for the election of the Chair. He confirmed one application had been published in the June edition of <i>Links</i> , along with the names of the respective Proposer and Seconder. The Secretary then asked members to vote for the nominee and the result was as follows (including votes in person at the AGM and prior votes by post or online):  <u>Chair:</u> Maureen Cave - For....100 Against....0 Abstentions....1  <u>Maureen Cave was duly elected as Chair</u>  Maureen Cave took over as Chair for the election of the Vice Chair. She confirmed one application had been published in the June edition of <i>Links</i> , along with the names of the respective Proposer and Seconder. The Chair then asked members to vote for the nominee and the result was as follows (including votes in person at the AGM and prior votes by post or online):  <u>Vice Chair:</u> Anna Harvey - For....101 Against....0 Abstentions....0  <u>Anna Harvey was duly elected as Vice Chair</u>  <b>b) Re-election of Officers:</b>  The Chair confirmed the following Officers were eligible for re-election. She asked members to vote on each in turn and the results were as follows (including votes in person at the AGM and prior votes by post or online):  <u>Treasurer:</u> Les Baker - For....101 Against....0 Abstentions....0  <u>Secretary:</u>

	<p>Brian Barrett - For....101 Against....0 Abstentions....0</p> <p><u>Both Officers were duly re-elected to their existing roles.</u></p> <p><b>c) Election of new Committee members:</b></p> <p>The Chair confirmed two applications had been published in the June edition of <i>Links</i>, along with the names of their respective Proposers and Seconders. Both nominees gave short presentations at the AGM. The Chair then asked members to vote for each in turn and the results were as follows (including votes in person at the AGM and prior votes by post or online):</p> <p><u>New Committee Members:</u></p> <p>Jo Beadle - For....101 Against....0 Abstentions....0 Peter Wilson - For.....99 Against....0 Abstentions....2</p> <p><u>Both nominees were duly elected to the Executive Committee.</u></p>																				
8.	<p><b>Re-election to the Committee of existing serving members</b></p> <p>The Chair confirmed the following Members were eligible for re-election. She asked members to vote on each in turn and the results were as follows (including votes in person at the AGM and prior votes by post or online):</p> <table><thead><tr><th></th><th><u>For</u></th><th><u>Against</u></th><th><u>Abstentions</u></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Elaine Burtoft – E-Newsletter</td><td>101</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Clare Chiba – Membership</td><td>101</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Shirley Taylor – Publicity</td><td>101</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Jonathan Powell-Wiffen – Member</td><td>100</td><td>0</td><td>1</td></tr></tbody></table>		<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>	Elaine Burtoft – E-Newsletter	101	0	0	Clare Chiba – Membership	101	0	0	Shirley Taylor – Publicity	101	0	0	Jonathan Powell-Wiffen – Member	100	0	1
	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>																		
Elaine Burtoft – E-Newsletter	101	0	0																		
Clare Chiba – Membership	101	0	0																		
Shirley Taylor – Publicity	101	0	0																		
Jonathan Powell-Wiffen – Member	100	0	1																		
9.	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>a) <b><i>Brought up formally and previously notified:</i></b></p> <p>The Chair confirmed that nothing had been raised.</p> <p>b) <b><i>Brought up informally but no decision could be taken at the meeting:</i></b></p> <p>No items were raised.</p>																				
10.	<p><b>Closing Remarks by the Chair</b></p> <p>The Chair stressed the importance of finding enough volunteers to ensure</p>																				

	<p>Sheffield u3a could continue. She quoted the example of another u3a which had come within a whisker of closing because it had been very challenging to find a Chair and Treasurer, despite several months of advertising and searching. She added that the story did have a happy ending because the roles were eventually filled and this particular u3a managed to continue. The Chair said there were other similar examples and the difficulties in recruiting Committee members was a growing problem.</p> <p>The Chair said u3a was a facilitator of activities and not a service provider. She thanked those who already volunteered in various roles and asked other members if they could consider volunteering. She said anyone who felt they could contribute would be very welcome and should contact her or any member of the Committee.</p> <p>The Chair again thanked everyone for attending and invited everyone to the buffet lunch. She then closed the <u>AGM</u>.</p>
	<b><u>AGM</u> closed at 11.50 pm.</b>

## Chair's Annual Report for the 2024 AGM

This report covers the year 2023.

Sheffield u3a (Su3a) continues to uphold the principles of the Third Age Trust i.e. the advancement, education, health and well-being of people no longer in full-time employment.

During 2023 our membership level showed an increase with circa 2,900 members towards the end of the year. The trustees accept that each year will see a loss of members at year-end, so recruitment of new members is a priority, and the aim is for a slow but sustained increase in membership particularly amongst those who have recently retired. In order to achieve this Su3a organised a number of promotional activities in the year including taking a stall at Sheffield Market and supporting/promoting singing groups performing at the Cathedral and in the town centre.

Our IT team developed and implemented a new website which is more accessible both for our members and for the public. Su3a has also engaged with social media and in May a private Facebook Group was set up for the membership. The aim is also to set up a public-facing Facebook page which will hopefully help with recruitment.

We held two meetings for new members during the year and our General Coordinator used the information gleaned from both new and existing

members to proactively encourage the start-up of new groups.

In addition to maintaining all its group and other activities and its relationship with the two Sheffield Universities Su3a has strengthened its governance model.

A Strategic Risk Assessment was completed during the year which demonstrates how all foreseeable risks to Su3a have been mitigated and Emergency & Succession Planning was highlighted as the sole remaining area to be addressed. Work has been started on this area and will be completed during 2024.

Environmental Guidelines have been adopted and were discussed at the Group Coordinators Annual Meeting. How the guidelines are to be monitored will be considered during 2024.

Position statements were agreed and publicised on Promotion of Other Organisations, Diversity within Su3a and Social Prescribing.

During 2023 two new members, Jo Beadle and Peter Wilson, were elected to the Executive Committee. Unfortunately, Peter had a serious accident whilst on holiday and died before he was able to take up the position.

With the help of our volunteers, the Executive Committee hopes to continue the steady growth in membership, the establishment of new activity groups which needs to go with that growth and to secure strong governance for our organisation.

Maureen Cave

## Papers for Review and Approval of the Accounts

### Accounts

**SHEFFIELD U3A**  
**Registered Charity 703147**  
**BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER**

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Cost	7,079	7,079
Accumulated depreciation	7,079	7,079
<b>Net book value</b>	-	-
<b>Current assets</b>		
Debtors & prepayments	11,132	10,415
Cash on deposit	60,422	56,329
Cash in hand & at bank	8,362	11,325
	<b>79,916</b>	<b>78,068</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Creditors and accruals	21,459	25,608
<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>58,457</b>	<b>52,461</b>
<b>Total net assets - unrestricted</b>	<b>58,457</b>	<b>52,461</b>
<b>Restricted assets - bank &amp; cash</b>		
In central U3A bank account	10,931	10,931
In Group bank and cash	40,090	39,109
<b>Total net assets - restricted</b>	<b>51,020</b>	<b>50,040</b>
<b>TOTAL - Net Assets</b>	<b>109,478</b>	<b>102,500</b>
<b>Represented by</b>		
Accumulated funds at 1 January - unrestricted	52,461	50,636
Surplus for the year - unrestricted	5,997	1,825
Restricted funds in Group accounts	50,040	53,762
Restricted Funds surplus for the year	981	- 3,722
	<b>109,478</b>	<b>102,500</b>

#### Accounting policies

- The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention and on an accruals basis.
- Fixed assets are written off in equal instalments over their expected useful life.
- Funds held by individual interest groups are included in the consolidated financial results of the charity as restricted funds

M Cave  
Chair

JTL Baker  
Treasurer

Date:  
17/04/2024



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

	2023		2022	
	£	Per member	£	Per member
<b>Unrestricted INCOME</b>				
Subscriptions	28297	10.22	28361	10.28
Gift aid	5111	1.85	5059	1.83
Third Age Matters magazine	549	0.20		
Printed Links magazine	566	0.20		
Interest	1098	0.40	151	0.05
Donations & sundry	951	0.34	60	0.02
<b>Total</b>	<b>36571</b>	<b>13.21</b>	<b>33631</b>	<b>12.19</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
<b>External</b>				
National Affiliation fee	11064	4.00	10713	3.88
Third Age Matters magazine	740	0.27	4352	1.58
Regional meetings	38	0.01	64	0.02
	11841	4.28	15129	5.48
<b>Membership</b>				
New members meetings	163	0.06	77	0.03
Membership renewal	4684	1.69	4126	1.50
Zoom costs	185	0.07	317	0.11
	5032	1.82	4520	1.64
<b>Communication</b>				
Links magazine	4394	1.59	3929	1.42
Publicity	1014	0.37	147	0.05
Website	323	0.12	178	0.06
	5732	2.07	4254	1.54
<b>Groups</b>				
Coordinators meetings	1348	0.49	1198	0.43
Start up support	102	0.04	427	0.15
Licences	64	0.02	60	
Insurance & sundry	-		-	
	1515	0.55	1685	0.59
<b>Committee &amp; administration</b>				
Administration expenses	20	0.01	88	0.03
Bank charges	24	0.01	24	0.01

Committee meetings	
AGM & IE Fee	
Software - accounting	
Sundries	
<b>Central activities</b>	
Drop ins	
Lectures	
Room 50 costs	
Storage - archives, equipment	
Volunteers	
Projects - IT	
Shared Learning	
Depreciation	

**Total****SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) - unrestricted****Restricted****Restricted income**

Central	
Groups	

**Restricted expenses**

Central	
Groups	

**SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) - restricted****TOTAL SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)**

2023	
£	Per member
272	0.10
1058	0.38
194	0.07
-	
1568	0.57

703	0.25
2695	0.97
-	
1118	0.40
-	
122	0.04
250	0.09
0	-
4887	1.77

**30575 11.05****5997 2.17**

0	
78079	
78079	

0	
77098	
77098	

**981****6977**

2022	
£	Per member
165	0.06
480	0.17
125	0.05
144	0.05
1026	0.37

773	0.28
1547	0.56
1650	0.60
77	0.03
416	0.15
0	-
447	0.16
282	0.10
5193	1.88

**31806 11.51****1825 0.68**

0	
70371	
70371	

0	
74093	
74093	

**-3722****-1898**



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees of	Sheffield University of the Third Age		
On accounts for the year ended	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2023	Charity no (if any)	703147
Set out on pages	1 to 45		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**.

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.


Independent  
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination 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 applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in 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.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:		Date:	18 April 2024
Name:	AIMS Accountants for Business		

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):

Chartered Accountants
-----------------------

Address:	Studio 21, SUM Studios, 1 Hartley Street, Sheffield, England S2 3AQ

## Candidates for Election to the Committee with Supporting Statements

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**David Longson:** Proposed by Alan Anderson, Seconded by Ruth Clifford

I would like to become a member of the Su3a committee once again. I was previously a committee member in my capacity as web coordinator, until I reached the end of my three-year term of office. I currently manage the group pages on the Su3a website. I am Group Coordinator for A Capella Singers and a member of E Bikes group.

I spent 2 years working in HR, then 36 years as a teacher and senior leader in Sheffield schools. I would hope to help represent the web team and to be involved in environmental issues as committee member.

## Existing serving members of the committee standing for re-election

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Maureen Cave	Chair
Les Baker	Treasurer
Brian Barrett	Secretary
Clare Chiba	Membership Secretary
Elaine Burtoft	Website Editor/IT
Shirley Taylor	Publicity Officer
Jonathan Powell Wiffen	Member
Jo Beadle	Member

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## Forthcoming lectures

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**June 21:** The Prizewinners: Ameli Vidanearachichi, Jessica Callister. Ameli and Jessica, joint winners of the 2023 Su3a/Sheffield University Prize for best undergraduate dissertation, will give a talk on their research into Intergenerational Co-Living and the Social Experience of Video Games for Aging Policy.

**July 19:** A Radioactive Walk In & Around Sheffield, Dr Bianca Sala. Naturally occurring radioactivity is all around us as Dr Sala of Sheffield University's Department of Physics and Astronomy will demonstrate.

**September 20:** The Impact of Climate Change on Designed Gardens & Landscapes, Prof. Ross Cameron. Professor Cameron is a landscape horticulturalist at Sheffield University's

Department of Landscape Architecture. His talk will be of interest to gardeners, plant lovers and environmentalists alike.



## Research and Shared Learning (RSL)

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RSL continue to receive requests for our members to participate in interesting and beneficial research projects from our two universities.

The University of Sheffield is looking for participants to assess the fall risk using a smart insole. Falls are the leading cause of injuries among older adults. Measuring and detecting risk factors that contribute to increased falling is imperative to providing timely and effective interventions. The current assessment requires a patient to attend a gait laboratory and recreate activities of daily living. However, wearable technology is capable of measuring aspects of human movement outside of a laboratory. The primary outcome of this study is to compare the measurements pertaining to stability from the instrumented insoles to 3-dimensional motion capture. The researchers aim to develop algorithms from the data to prevent falls and examine how vibration to the bottom of the foot influences fall risk. Participation involves a short questionnaire, followed by seven normal day-to-day activities which will take place at the university.

Sheffield Hallam University is undertaking research with the aim to improve the design of digital information and internet services for those aged 65 and above. The aim is to ensure that services such as internet shopping, booking sites and online banking, etc. are easier to use. Participation is online and will take no longer than 5 minutes.

A substantial number of our members participated in the big plastic count and the results of this survey have now been published showing that a staggering 1.7 billion pieces of plastic are thrown away every week. For more information and details about these and other projects, please visit our web page <https://su3a.org.uk/home/research-projects/>

Martin Harvey

Activities of Open Groups, such as the European Travel Group, Weekenders, UK Travel Group and Lunch and Lecture, are open to all members of Sheffield u3a.

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**u3a** Sheffield **Weekenders**

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**weekenders** **Whitby Regatta and Whitby Abbey, Saturday 17th August 2024**

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The Weekenders team invite you to join the celebrations taking place at the historical Whitby Regatta on Saturday 17th August. The Regatta began as a small competition between the fishing community and is now the oldest sea regatta in England spanning 173 years.



Photo by Sean P on Unsplash



Photo by David Hawkes on Unsplash

The Regatta switched to rowing races in about 1872. Many rowing clubs in the original competitions are still around today. There are also raft races where competitors are allowed missiles as long as they are flour or soot bags to shoot their rivals! On arrival we will visit Whitby Abbey. The Abbey is fully accessible for all. The tour is via audio packs and interactive displays. I would suggest taking head/earphones with a jack plug to enable clearer listening. The new museum is very informative and on one level. The shop is accessed on a lower level with a lift available. The

café is run by the YHA. (The cakes are very good!) Don't forget Whitby has many tea rooms and restaurants/fish and chip restaurants.

After the visit the coach will take those unable to walk the 199 steps into the town.



Photo by Don Lodge on Unsplash

We will give you a list of events for the Regatta for the day. To make the most of the day moderate mobility is required.

In Whitby there is the opportunity to purchase an optional audio tour which will take in almost all the major monuments at your own pace. This will take approximately one and a half hours. This is available via a download to your Smartphone. This is loaded onto your phone and will be there forever. This would be at an additional cost of £7. Please indicate in the form on page 18 if you would like the audio tour as it needs to be booked separately.

For those who are willing to accept an email acknowledgment you do not have to send an sae. In the case of insufficient interest and cancellation of the trip your applications and cheques will be destroyed. If you would like a postal acknowledgement, you must send an sae with your application.

## Whitby Regatta and Whitby Abbey, Saturday 17th August 2024

Please complete the Booking Form in Block Capitals.

NAME 1 ..... Su3a No .....

NAME 2 ..... Su3a No .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

POSTCODE ..... TELEPHONE .....

MOBILE ..... EMAIL .....

I/We enclose a cheque made payable to **Su3a Weekenders** in payment for .....place(s) at £32 per person.

Please tick your preferred pick-up point below:

Bus Stop Knowle Lane/Ecclesall Rd South at 8.00am ..... ( )

Pond Hill (Penny Black Pub) at 8.20am ..... ( )

Emergency contact details:

Name: .....

Tel: .....

Please return this completed form together with your cheque to Julia Daine, 27 Gaunt Close, Killamarsh, Sheffield S21 1SW (with a small sae if postal acknowledgement is required) by no later than June 20th.

Please indicate if you wish to book an optional audio tour of Whitby cost £7 per Smartphone. Just tick here ( ). Please add the additional £7 to the cost of the visit.







**weekenders** **York City and Cruise with Fish & Chip Lunch, Saturday**  
**28th September 2024**

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Enjoy a cruise on the River Ouse through the heart of the City of York. A commentary is provided on our private hire boat, explaining the sights and history of this historic river. Whilst being enthralled with what you hear and see, you will be enjoying a fish & chip lunch washed down with a cuppa. The cruise takes us from the City Centre and returns us after 1.5 hours. You then have 3.5 hours to visit the many places of interest in and around the City Centre.



During this free time, you could walk around the City walls experiencing the gardens and roads from your lofty position. You could visit the UK's largest Minster, walk down the medieval Shambles, have a cream tea at Bettys, look at Kirkgate, the oldest street scene from the 1890's in the Castle museum, experience what

Viking village life was like at the Jorvik Viking Centre or immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of trains at the National Railway Museum.

As you can see, there is something for everyone. If you would like to go on this trip, please complete the form on page 20.

The price is £51 per person and includes return coach to/from Sheffield, the river cruise, fish & chip lunch and all gratuities.

**York City and Cruise with Fish & Chip Lunch, Saturday 28th September 2024**

Please complete the Booking Form in Block Capitals.

NAME 1 ..... Su3a No .....

NAME 2 ..... Su3a No .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

POSTCODE ..... TELEPHONE .....

MOBILE ..... EMAIL .....

I/WE enclose a cheque made payable to **Su3a Weekenders** in payment for .....place(s) at £51 per person.

Please tick your preferred pick-up point below:

Bus Stop Knowle Lane/Ecclesall Rd South at 8.10am ..... ( )

Sheffield Interchange, Platform E5/6 at 8.30am ..... ( )

Emergency contact details:

Name: .....

Tel: .....

Please return this completed form together with your cheque to Brian Cave, 73 Highcliffe Road, Sheffield, S11 7LP to arrive no later than 20th June 2024. Acknowledgement will be by email.

If you cannot print out the form, please send the details requested on a separate piece of paper to the address shown, together with your cheque. If you no longer have a cheque book, please contact Brian Cave at [bpcave@hotmail.com](mailto:bpcave@hotmail.com)



After yet another week of driving rain, northerly winds, sleet and hail, 43 of us set off on 20 April for a visit to Beamish Living Museum in County Durham. The clouds and our spirits rose the nearer we got to Beamish and by early afternoon, the sun had appeared, staying with us for the rest of the day.

Beamish Museum is spread over approximately 350 acres in a wide steep-sided valley. The original idea in the early 1960s was to create an outdoor museum to 'make the history of the region live' by illustrating the way of life of ordinary people in the late Victorian/early Edwardian periods. Today, restored trams and a bus take visitors on a circular route around the whole site with stops at all the different areas. Original buildings, artefacts, furniture, papers, equipment were all donated by people, companies, organisations in the wider north east of the country, as well as other parts of the north, e.g. the bus from Sheffield. Buildings were restored, relocated and rebuilt on site in Beamish and whole streets were reconstructed.

The oldest area of the museum is the 1900s pit village, next to the colliery and first opened to the public in 1972 with the re-located pit station, colliery railway and winding wheel. The drift mine was also opened up to visitors – some of us ventured into the mine, only 4ft high in places. Tied miners' cottages provided by colliery owners and the miners' institute have also been reconstructed here as well as stables for the pit ponies.

The pit village was enlarged in the 1990s with the board school and the chapel. Davy's fish and chip shop using traditional dripping for frying, rather than the oil used today, is on the edge of the 1900s village.

Further up the hill from the pit village is the 1940s farm with a small orchard and where some rare breeds, including a piggery, are kept. A large amount of early 20c farming equipment, working vehicles and machinery is stored in extensive sheds. It is easy to romanticise such places now, but life must have been extremely hard, especially in winter time.

The 1900s town across the valley from the pit village seems more familiar to the modern visitor with a large Co-op store, a hardware shop, a bakery, sweet shop, chemist, a motor garage and many others. All have been restored and display goods that were available in the early 1900s. Ravensworth Terrace, a row of restored, handsome terrace houses reconstructed opposite the park with its bandstand, has more middle-class occupiers, viz a dentist and a singing and musical instruments teacher.

The most recent addition to Beamish Living Museum is the current reconstruction of a 1950s street. A large cinema is nearing completion and the main street already has a tram waiting room, hairdressers and an ice cream parlour.

We thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Beamish and would like to thank Brian and Samina for organising it, not least for arranging for the weather to be warm, sunny and wind free.

Deborah Beetham

### Steel City Wanderers

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The Steel City Wanderers will be active again - through the 'summer months' in 2024. To date three walks are planned, one of which should have already happened in May. In June, Dave Pickersgill will lead *Sheffield Pub Heritage Walk #3 – The University Arms to Fagans* and, in July, I will lead on *Sheffield Music Heritage*.

To make life easy for myself, I intend to take booking for each one in turn! The dates, and full details, will (hopefully) be on the Sheffield u3a Online Notice Board in good time. I hope to see those of you who have 'wandered' with us in the past and maybe some new peripatetic adventurers too! All we need now is some good weather!

Brian Clark

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## News from Groups

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Where Groups are encouraging potential new members to make contact, details of coordinators may be found either in the Centre Pages of the hard copy of *Links* or online at

<https://su3a.org.uk/grouppages/interest-and-activity-groups/groups-a-z/>.



### Polish Culture and Heritage u3a Group

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POLISH  
HERITAGE  
DAY



**Sheffield Polish Culture and Heritage u3a group  
celebrate their family histories in this year of remembrance.**

The Polish Culture and Heritage u3a Group was set up in Sheffield in 2018 by Krys Chandler, Co-ordinator (2018-2023). Following the death of her mother, Krys knew she had lost the last of the Polish wartime generation in her family and was concerned that her Polish heritage and identity was slipping away. This led to the creation of the u3a Group to connect members who share a common identity as post-war children of a generation who suffered immeasurably to survive the brutality of WWII. The Group now numbers twelve and has explored diverse topics including Polish music, history, film, and literature as well as sharing family histories and personal Polish traditions and cultures.

This year our focus is on raising the profile of the vital role the Poles played in WWII as we share the 80-year commemorations being organised nationally on May 18th to remember the battle at Monte Cassino, the Warsaw Uprising, the role of the Polish Airforce and the plight of those who were forced by the Russians from their homes in Poland and deported to labour camps in Siberia.

Most of our members have parents who were involved in these events and whose lives have been shaped by the impact of them upon their families and are keen to ensure their history is remembered and celebrated in this important year.

## **The Battle of Monte Cassino**

*'For our freedom and yours, we soldiers of Poland, gave our souls to God, our life to the soil of Italy, our hearts to Poland'*

These are the words on the gate of the Polish war cemetery at Monte Cassino, Italy. The Allied victory at Monte Cassino remains a huge source of pride for Poles and a symbol of their bravery, suffering and sacrifice in WWII. For second generation Poles like us whose parents came to the UK in 1947, it is common to ask, "was your father at Monte Cassino?" The answer invariably is 'yes'. Most of us in the Sheffield u3a group have a father or other family member who fought in the momentous battle. Many too, have visited or been part of commemorative celebrations over the years.

The majority of the Polish soldiers who fought alongside the Allied troops came from the east of Poland which had been occupied by the Soviet Union in 1939 at the start of the war as part of the Russian/ German Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact to secretly partition Poland between the two nations. It is estimated up to 2 million Poles were deported to Siberia and other far-flung parts of the Soviet Union in what is known today as 'ethnic cleansing'. Those who survived the inhuman conditions of forced labour, disease and starvation were, in 1941, given a disputed "amnesty" by the Soviets after the Polish Prime Minister in Exile in the UK, Władysław Sikorski, negotiated their release. Weak and desperate they made their way to the Middle East where they re-grouped, regained their health, and formed the 2nd Polish Corps under General Anders as part of the British 8th Army.

The battle of Monte Cassino was fought over five months from January to May 1944 as a combined Allied attack from seven countries to breach the Gustav line and open the way for the Allies to retake Rome from the Germans. It is generally accepted that it was the bravery of the Poles, under their charismatic leader General Władysław Anders, that led to the Allied success. In the fourth and final push to take the monastery, the bravery and sacrifice of the Polish troops is part of the folklore of the battle. The Poles were fighting to avenge the destruction of their country at the hands of the Germans, still seeing the battle as part of their route back to their homeland. With brutal, often hand-to-hand, combat akin to

trench warfare, the Poles prevailed and at 10am on May 18th the red and white flag of Poland was raised by the Polish soldiers above the ruins of the conquered monastery.



May 18, 2014, 70th commemoration  
Anna Kuciewicz accompanying Donald Tusk  
in laying the Polish government's wreath  
*copyright Ryszard Szydło, RSImages*



Polish flag fluttering above  
the monastery ruins

The flag fluttering above the ruins, has become an iconic image of Polish resistance and determination ever since. Victory, however, came at a huge price as the total number of troops dead or wounded from all the armies over the four battles was nearly 200,000. The town of Cassino and the monastery were totally destroyed and two weeks later Rome fell to the Allies.

### **The Polish Resettlement Corps**

However, for the Poles, who were widely celebrated for their heroics at Monte Cassino and the bravery of their pilots during the Battle for Britain, there was little to celebrate at the end of WWII. At the Yalta conference in 1945, Churchill and Roosevelt acceded to Stalin's pursuit of Eastern Europe and control of post-war Poland was given to the Soviet Union - a devastating and terrifying prospect for the Polish soldiers who had suffered so cruelly at the hands of the Soviets.

Some returned to a Poland with very different borders to the one they had left but the vast majority refused. Those soldiers who had come from Eastern Poland, the Kresy, found that their homes were now part of



the Communist Soviet Union.

In 1947 the Polish Resettlement Act came into force and the Polish Resettlement Corps was established by the British government to provide a home in Britain for those unable to return to Poland. Arrangements were made to bring the soldiers' immediate relatives and dependents to Britain, including families who had been given refuge around the British colonies and protectorates such as India and Central and East Africa, and also those who made it through to the British Zone in Germany following the liberation of the Nazi camps.

South Yorkshire played a prominent part amongst others and there was a large resettlement camp at Cannon Hall. An excellent and permanent exhibition of the camp can be seen at the nearby Cawthorne village museum. In Sheffield, most Poles came from the camps in Malin Bridge, Chapeltown and Hardwick Hall and found work in the local coal and steel industries. Ex-servicemen's clubs and Polish Catholic clubs soon sprang up throughout the UK, such as the club that existed on Ecclesall Road in Sheffield. Many Poles married English partners and naturalised to become British citizens but ensured their Polish traditions endured into the next generation.

As the second generation children of these amazing survivors we are proud to protect their legacy, proclaim their history and bear witness to the struggles they made to integrate into British society and to preserve their original prewar Polish culture in a changing world. The Polish heart beats strongly and never forgets its roots.

<https://history.companyofheroes.com/monte-cassino/polish-soldiers-monte-cassino-1944/>

[Cawthorne Victoria Jubilee Museum](#)

*The Polish Culture and Heritage Group is giving a Showroom lecture on Friday 18th October entitled 'Our families' long road to sanctuary and freedom in Great Britain'. Please come along and meet our Group.*



## Military History

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We would welcome new members to our group which meets on the last Thursday of every month (except August and December) from 2pm to 3pm. So, if you are interested in any aspect of military history, e.g. famous battles, campaigns, personalities, uniforms, intelligence, etc., then please come along. Our next two meetings will be discussing the Sheffield Blitz and some Ancient Persian wars! We also make occasional visits to museum sites.

Andrew Beard



## Wednesday Cycling

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Blue skies and sunshine all the way to Winscar reservoir and back :- ) The Magic Wood cafe on the TPT was open and provided delicious hot sandwiches and drinks, plus sheltered benches to sit on. The ride and lunch stop thoroughly enjoyed by all!



Sandie Andrews

## DO YOU ENJOY SINGING?

Hi everyone. Exciting News. Vintage Voices now has a new Musical Director and we have moved from Victoria Hall to The Walker Hall above the Scouts and Guide shop on Trippet Lane. The room can hold up to 100 people so we are now looking to enhance our membership. We are a very friendly group of people who like to sing and perform at luncheon clubs, care homes and other community events and also occasionally meet socially for a meal and to visit the Sheffield Theatres.

We meet on Monday mornings from 10:15 until 12:15 and are looking for new members to join us. We are a mixed-voice choir who sing in 4-part harmony; all are welcome, especially Altos, Bass and Tenors, but we have vacancies in all parts. There are no auditions, but some experience of choral singing is desirable, as is the ability to read music at some level. We have a mixed musical collection of songs including *Les Misérables*, Simon and Garfunkel, *The Lord is My Shepherd*, *A handful of Songs*, *You Raise Me Up* and many other similar songs.

If you would like to join us or book the choir for an event or a performance please contact Jackie Hall.

## WHY NOT GIVE IT A TRY?

Jackie Hall ([jackie-hall3@sky.com](mailto:jackie-hall3@sky.com), 07770 332155)

Sheffield u3a's Walk and Talk German Group celebrated its 10th anniversary this spring. The group, co-ordinated by Antje Barker, did its first walk in early May 2014, and some of the original members are still among the regular walkers (and German talkers!) now. The celebrations saw all available members getting together for a short walk (see front cover) and eating lunch and cake at a favourite local hostelry while reminiscing. Here's to the next 10 years!

Carolyn Longson



On Monday 15/04/24, we had the author John Drinkwater to visit us with his collection of ancient coins.

David Preece



### Short break at Llandudno, 15th–19th April 2024

Twelve members of the group went on the holiday - leaving Sheffield in snow showers , but arriving in Llandudno in sunshine but very strong winds. We did a short walk on the Great Orme on the Monday afternoon - about 5.5 miles - visiting St Tudno's Church which is on the north coast of the Orme.

The second day was a linear walk starting in Conwy and finishing in Llanfairfechan - about 10 miles - and catching a bus back to Llandudno.

The walk took in Conwy Mountain, the North Wales Path and the Wales Coast Path.



St Tudno's Church



Near Summit Great Orme

The third day started at the summit of the Sychnant Pass and went to the summit of Tal y Fan - 610 m and 9 miles- although a there and back route we managed to use different paths most of the time.



Group near Pond



Group by Standing Stone - Maen Penddu

On the third day some of the group did other things - three went to the National Trust Bodnant Garden which is close by and two went to the Copper Mines on the Great Orme which date back 3500 years.

H Group has vacancies and would welcome new members - we walk every Monday 9-11 miles and usually have a short holiday each year. We normally stay in B&Bs and have a meal out in the evening. In the past we have also used HF Holidays for our accommodation.

Ray Goulding - Group Coordinator



Here are a few choice photos from recent walks. The first one is a slosh thru Dronfield to Woodhouse. It was well attended and it took a long time to dry out from that one!



The other two are in the Derbyshire Dales near Youlgreave. Alan, framed in the derelict cottage where we had our lunch stop, is our senior member and has been walking with Walking Group A for nearly two decades!

We are still accepting new members and had 15 on our walk in April in the Moss Valley, admiring the Bluebells!

Sarah McCauley, Group Coordinator

website: <https://su3a.org.uk/>





## SE Strollers

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SE Strollers enjoyed a lovely walk in late April walking through Old Spring Wood near Thorpe Salvin going down towards the Chesterfield Canal. The bluebells mixed with the white flowers of the wild garlic gave a magnificent display. The green of the trees just coming into leaf gave a beautiful backdrop and we just saw a glimmer of the sun from time to time!



Stephanie Dixon



## Story Writers

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Sheffield u3a story writers are proud to announce the publication of *textitGirl with Fan*, a book of twenty short stories by Phil Parker, our group co-ordinator. Inspired by a random set of titles chosen each month by story group members Phil pens his masterpieces for a small audience at our meetings. Now he has revisited, revived and revised twenty tales and published them for the world to enjoy. The title story is related to the picture by Renoir, *Girl with Fan* giving an imagined back story as told from the perspective of Alphonsine Fournaise, the sitter. The stories are all different and they explore a wide range of themes from identity, memory, shame, gender conflict, creativity, faith and the inescapable force, both for good and ill, of love. While the whole group are pleased to

website: <https://su3a.org.uk/>

be associated with this stellar project as title suggesters and even get our names in the back of the book as sources, the real credit goes to Phil's mastery of his craft. Each story is unique and incredibly readable. So we invite you to find a device for online ordering (ISBN 978-1-8032-996-2) or mosey along to a real bookshop to order yourself a copy and give yourself the pleasure of dipping into *Girl with Fan* by Phil Parker, one of our own.

Jan Henry

## Friday lecture 15 March 2024, Dr Alessandro di Nuovo

Dr Alessandro di Nuovo, Professor of Machine Intelligence at Sheffield Hallam University gave an inspiring talk on the collaborative research project in AI and robotics, funded publicly, privately and by charities, including Sheffield Children's Hospital. This has two areas: neuro-developmental robotics and socially assistive robotics. The first focuses on how machines can learn by simulating child-like 'brains' embodied into humanoid robotics and then develop skills as children do. The second area concerns robots using AI to support health and social workers in the care of children, older adults and the disabled.

Dr di Nuovo described and illustrated the wide range of robotics using AI in fields as varied as helping autistic children to communicate and interact, combatting loneliness and physical problems in older people, robotic pets, teaching, helping stroke patients and many more. The range of potential uses was impressive.

One of the aims of the research is to reduce health inequalities, so helping and improving people's lives is at the core of the work. Focus groups to identify specific needs, particularly with older people, are very valuable in determining their priorities. For example, when asked, most older people said that falling was a major concern. Su3a members have been invited to participate in such groups.

Technological changes have always met with resistance, so issues of privacy, IP, security, control, ownership, cost and the impact on jobs must



all be addressed. Dr di Nuovo acknowledged that some job losses are inevitable but suggested that many more will be created, once the full impact and benefits of AI are realised. Whilst some concerns were raised, mostly triggered by exaggerated press comment, Dr di Nuovo did allay some fears and encouraged a more positive approach to what, in fact, is already here.

Deborah Beetham

## Friday Lecture 19 April 2024, Meersbrook Hall - Ken Dash

The first buildings on the site of Meersbrook Hall were a barn and farm house. The hall was built in 1759, incorporating the original farm buildings, by Benjamin Roebuck when he bought the estate. Roebuck was a steel supplier to scythe smithies and then became a banker. At this time, the surrounding area was entirely rural and the town itself had a population of only 12,000. Roebuck had to sell the estate in 1778 when the bank collapsed.

The new owner was Samuel Shore, also a banker, who further extended the hall in 1819, adding the arched entrance. Samuel Shore died in 1823, leaving the Meersbrook estate to his three daughters. A regular visitor to the hall to see her distant cousins was Florence Nightingale whose family, the Shore Nightingales, had a summer home at Lea Hurst, near Matlock. After the deaths of the sisters and the collapse of the Shore bank in 1843, the hall was rented to a lawyer before being eventually sold to Sheffield Corporation in 1886.

Until 1950, the Hall was the home of the John Ruskin museum, set up originally in Walkley in 1871 as the Museum of St George, moving to Meersbrook in 1890. The full collection is now a permanent display in the Millenium Galleries. During WWII, the hall was used by the forces as billeting accommodation. It was taken over by the council in 1960.

Today, Meersbrook Hall, a Grade II listed building, still very handsome and imposing in a stunning location (painted from Derbyshire Lane by Turner in 1790), requires considerable investment to prevent further deterioration of the physical structure. Given the current financial situation, sadly, this seems increasingly unlikely.

Deborah Beetham

## **Su3a Executive Committee**

Chair	Maureen Cave	07831 353243 <a href="mailto:mocave@btinternet.com">mocave@btinternet.com</a>
Secretary	Brian Barrett	07950 943738 <a href="mailto:secretary@su3a.org.uk">secretary@su3a.org.uk</a>
Treasurer	Les Baker	07847 383636 <a href="mailto:treasurer@su3a.org.uk">treasurer@su3a.org.uk</a>
Vice Chair	Anna Harvey	07973 771957 <a href="mailto:annaharvey1954@gmail.com">annaharvey1954@gmail.com</a>
Publicity	Shirley Taylor	07949 537807 <a href="mailto:shirley@shirleytaylor.com">shirley@shirleytaylor.com</a>
Member	Jo Beadle	07889 595313 <a href="mailto:jojbeadle@yahoo.co.uk">jojbeadle@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Member	Clare Chiba	01433 659864 <a href="mailto:data@su3a.org.uk">data@su3a.org.uk</a>
Member	Jonathan Powell-Wiffen	07502 165184 <a href="mailto:jwpw@su3a.org.uk">jwpw@su3a.org.uk</a>
Web Coordinator	Elaine Burtoft	07803 130021 <a href="mailto:web@su3a.org.uk">web@su3a.org.uk</a>
Minutes Secretary	Michael Clift	
Membership Team	Clare Chiba	01433 659864 <a href="mailto:members@su3a.org.uk">members@su3a.org.uk</a> Ranmora, Ranmoor Lane, Hathersage S32 1BW 07774 142409 <a href="mailto:groupsa@su3a.org.uk">groupsa@su3a.org.uk</a>
General Coordinator for Groups	Fran Rodway	07941 188340 or 0114 698 9887 <a href="mailto:barbara.31@btinternet.com">barbara.31@btinternet.com</a>
Drop-In Organiser	Barbara Doyle	0114 2685355 <a href="mailto:links@su3a.org.uk">links@su3a.org.uk</a>
<i>Links</i> Editors	Camilla Jordan David Jordan	<a href="mailto:homepages@su3a.org.uk">homepages@su3a.org.uk</a>
Home Pages Manager	David Longson	<a href="mailto:bpcave@hotmail.com">bpcave@hotmail.com</a>
Asset Grant Manager	Brian Cave	

*Links 215: October 2024*  
**Copy Deadline: 30 August 2024**

**Regd. Charity No 703147**

As always, this is subject to change. See Page 14 for lecture titles.

June 4	Drop-In	<b>CANCELLED</b>
June 5	Travel Group	Anderton boat lift
June 13 – 17	Travel Group	The History & Heritage of Hampshire
June 21	Lecture, The Prizewinners Ameli Vidanearachichi Jessica Callister	11:00am, Showroom
June 25	Travel Group	The World of James Herriot and Burnby Hall Gardens
July 2	Drop-In	10:00am-12:00 noon, CURC*
July 10	Su3a AGM	11:00am, CURC*
July 14	Weekenders	Port Sunlight & Liverpool Bay Cruise
July 18 – 20	Third age Trust	1 <sup>st</sup> Festival
July 19	Lecture, Dr Bianca Sala	11:00am, Showroom
July 22 – 25	YAHR**	Summer School
August 24	Weekenders	Stamford and Open Air Theatre
September 3	Drop-In	10:00am-12:00 noon, CURC*
September 20	Lecture: Prof. Ross Cameron	11:00am, Showroom

\* CURC: Central United Reformed Church

\*\* YAHR: Yorkshire and Humberside Region