

SHEFFIELD



LINKS



No. 135

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www.sheffieldu3a.org.uk

From the Chairman

Your Executive Committee starts the 2008/09 year with high hopes of further gradual development of members' interests. Nothing stands still and we would be failing in our duty to maintain the present success of Sheffield U3A if we did not also look to the future.

Whilst losing two stalwart Committee members, Barbara Steel and Shirley Marney; we are fortunate to be joined by Clare Chiba, already the Web Coordinator; Vera Dyer, our new Secretary and Ken Stringfellow, well known in Walking Group circles. Shelagh Woolliscroft replaces David Rance as Vice-Chairman, the latter having been elected Vice-Chairman, Ridings Region. The rest of Committee news will be found elsewhere in this issue.

An item of general interest is the proposal from Mike Long, the Third Age Trust National Education and Development Officer, for a meeting for "very large U3As" (i.e. over 1,000 members). Mike suggests that "*it might well be that in five years time we may have more than 50 U3As with more than 1,000 members.....*"

With 1,000 members regarded as "very large", then SU3A is already gigantic. If there is sufficient interest, the proposed meeting is intended to have two purposes – to provide an opportunity for discussion on issues particular to large U3As and, perhaps more significantly, "*to provide the wider U3A community with the experience and expertise gained in managing a large U3A*".

Finally, you will be aware that it is Sheffield U3A policy to support requests from one or other of the two Universities for volunteers to assist in research programmes related to older people. These are advertised from time to time after corroboration of their academic status. Those of you who were at the 2007 AGM may remember the leaflets and poster about a research study investigating the regions of the brain that control speaking. We were especially pleased recently to receive the following letter from Barbara Rosario (*my emphasis*) -

Cover Picture: Botanical Gardens - a "novel" idea? (see page 20)

“Previously you were kind enough to inform U3A members about our research project. I would be grateful if you would consider printing a thank you from the research group as **we have secured funding of £72,000 based on the initial pilot data and will be purchasing an item of equipment called a brainsite and, possibly, a new transcranial magnetic stimulator as a result.** We have been very grateful to the members that have taken part and still have a few members who we will contact again once the new equipment has been received. Many thanks.”

Those especially interested should know that Dr Rosario has now returned to the Northern General Hospital. Her contact telephone number is (0114) 243 4343 (Northern General Hospital bleep 854).

Enjoy the summer.

Joan Keogh

Sheffield U3A News Update

Executive Committee Report

The last meeting of the Committee was held on 2 May. The first part of the meeting was devoted to the election of Officers for 2008/9. The full membership of the new Executive Committee is listed on the inside cover of this issue of *Links*. The Committee were pleased to note that Ann Barclay was to become Minute Secretary and Doreen Bezant (Joint General Coordinator) was co-opted onto the Committee.

Barbara Steel was also co-opted for two further meetings to assist in the handover to her successor. At the end of the meeting she was warmly congratulated for her many years of invaluable service to SU3A, both in her previous capacity as General Coordinator and her most recent role as Secretary for the last four years. Tribute was also paid to Shirley Marney for her sterling contribution to Committee affairs. The Committee were reassured that Barbara will remain actively involved in other ways for a long time to come and

we are fortunate that Shirley will continue as Travel Group Coordinator.

David Rance stepped down as Vice-Chairman to allow him to devote more time to his new role as recently elected Vice-Chairman of the Ridings Region Committee of U3A. The Ridings Region allows all of the 23 U3A's in Yorkshire to engage in the promotion and sharing of activities, initiatives and events across the Region. The most significant shared event last year was the open day at Askham Bryan. He was thanked and congratulated by Joan on behalf of all members. Shelagh Woolliscoft was elected to replace him and John Lees was elected as his replacement on the Ridings Region Committee. John Richards was also retiring from Ridings Region activities and the Committee will be writing to him to express our thanks for his ten years of service in various capacities across the Region.

It was agreed that a small ad-hoc group be chaired by David Pierce to prepare a response to the consultation document on Informal Adult Learning issued by the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills. It seems that the Government may at last have realised the importance of this area and it is vital that we take this opportunity to set out our views.

The Committee had received three items of correspondence linked to the use of Gift Aid funding. It was noted that most of the points raised had been fully covered and explained in previous issues of *Links*. The points were taken into consideration later in the meeting when further allocations were considered.

Editorial Note

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

The Joint General Coordinators reported that we now had 150 Groups, four of which were open to all members. Brian Bezant was pleased to report that all Group Coordinators had now returned their Green Forms, but that 16 Coordinators had yet to return their Orange Forms, recording details of the members of their Group – ***you know who you are!***

It was agreed that details of which Groups currently had waiting lists (only 13 at present) and which were seeking additional members (92 at present) would be published on our website. Brian tabled some other interesting statistics gleaned from the Green Forms -

- 40 Groups now have their own home page on the SU3A website
- 43 Groups meet in private homes
- 29 Groups meet in rented venues (sports clubs, halls etc)
- 24 Groups meet in free public accommodation (pubs, libraries etc)

Clare Chiba, our Web Coordinator, outlined recent changes to our website to give it a more modern look. She would welcome comments on the new design and suggestions from members on how the website could be further improved.

Peter Barclay, Publicity Coordinator, briefed the Committee on recent activities and proposals for a competition in which members would be asked to design some new SU3A posters for display across the city. It was agreed that a new publicity banner should be purchased for use when participating in outdoor events.

Roy Darlison attended to present a report from the Gift Aid Working Party. He indicated that another University linked lecture was being considered, but at an alternative venue in or near the city centre. In response to the comments recently received it was noted that the Working Party would be thoroughly evaluating the allocations approved from the funding available. A further three applications were approved and three were rejected. It was agreed that no further approvals for the purchase of GPS equipment for use by Walking Groups would be authorised until the use of the three

U3A Diaries 2009

The U3A 2009 diary will be available in July and will cost £1.90 each, including postage. The size is 3.5 x 6 inches with a page marker, perforated page corners and mid blue cover. The week begins on a Monday and each double page spread has seven days to the left and a notes page to the right.

To order individually and in bulk please send a cheque (payable to **The Third Age Trust**) for the appropriate amount. Send your order, *including your return address*, to:

**The Third Age Trust, The Old Municipal Buildings,
19 East Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1WE.**

already purchased had been fully evaluated after they had been in use for a year.

John Lees reported on the recent Annual Members' Meeting and AGM. The attendance of 129 members (5% of the membership) had been a disappointment and there had been a few adverse comments related to the suitability of the venue. His sub-committee was asked to consider options for next year's AMM/AGM.

Members are encouraged to contact John [(0114) 230 4866] with their views on the format of future meetings and how we might encourage more members to attend.

It was agreed that a further "Futures 2008-2012" meeting should be held on 20 June, to consider the outcomes from the initial focus group discussions held in February to develop ideas for the future of Sheffield U3A. ***Members were also encouraged to send their views and ideas to our new Secretary before this date.***

The next Committee meeting will be held on 4 July 2008.

Roger Heesterman

You Missed a Treat...

As advertised in the February and April issues of *Links*, Lars Tharp, ceramics expert and raconteur, entertained our members at the 2008 Annual Members' Meeting and AGM with stories from his experiences in the antique business and from the making of The Antiques Roadshow.

He attracted the second best attendance ever for a Sheffield U3A AMM/AGM, and comments overheard or reported back to the Committee after the event included - "very professional", "memorable speaker", "superb", "broad approach", "non-technical", "top notch", "well chosen slides", "clever use of fades & drives", "held my attention throughout", "capacity as a story teller", "ability to mimic his fellow presenters".

Watch this space for details of the attraction at next year's AMM.

John Lees

Computer Basics for Seniors - A Beginners Introduction to Computers and the Internet

This self-help 192 page course manual is the first product from the EU funded eLearning for Seniors project, in which U3A is a major partner. The book was written by Mike Williams (Bexhill U3A) and Paul Barron (Harrow U3A) and includes an accompanying CD-ROM with additional material. The book aims to provide a basic grounding in word processing, emailing and the use of the Internet.

Our Secretary has a sample copy for inspection if you are interested in viewing it. Copies are available, priced £6 including postage, from the National Office at -

**The Third Age Trust, The Old Municipal Buildings,
19 East Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1QE.**

Our New Secretary - Vera Dyer

Vera moved to Sheffield many years ago and retired from Sheffield Hallam University in May 2007, after 18½ years working in a PA capacity. The majority of that time was supporting the Director and School Manager of the School of Sport & Leisure Management. Her duties during that time were many and varied - never a dull moment! Before moving to Sheffield Hallam, Vera worked part-time for 7½ years at St Luke's Hospice, for the last 4/5 years supporting the Nurse Tutor in what was their burgeoning Education Department. As you can see, Vera has a strong interest in education, believing it is never too late to learn - either gaining a new skill or knowledge.

Vera has been a member of the Bradway Community Association for many years and, since retiring, has joined not only SU3A but also the Sheffield Hallam Retired Staff Association and the Bradway Agewell Leisure Club. She is also a member of the National Trust. Since retiring, Vera has taken up ten pin bowling and plays in the Senior League, based at Firth Park. Her interests include, in no particular order - reading, walking, gardening, genealogy, archaeology (she is a great fan of Time Team) and natural history.

Sheffield U3A Boundary Change

At the Executive Committee meeting on 29 February 2008, it was decided to replace the old "S" postcode boundary for membership of SU3A, with a new boundary defined by a circle of 15 miles radius centred on Sheffield Town Hall. The revised area includes most of the Hope Valley and the towns of Bakewell, Rotherham and Barnsley. The new boundary takes effect immediately.

It is known that there have been some difficulties recently, with applicants wishing to join SU3A Groups, but being disqualified from doing so because they lived outside the SU3A postcode area. It is anticipated that the new boundary should overcome those problems. If you know of anyone who has been refused membership on these grounds, please inform them that they may now re-apply.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR EVERY MEMBER

U3A Insurance Cover

It has recently been brought to the attention of the Sheffield U3A Executive Committee that some Groups have been allowing non-SU3A members to join their Group activities. This practice runs counter to the requirements of the U3A nationally arranged insurance policy for members, and has serious consequences for individual members' insurance cover.

Visitors **are** permitted to join in a SU3A activity, but **only** on the following basis -

1. A friend or relative of a member, joining a Group activity on an ad hoc / occasional basis.
2. A grandchild of a member joining, for example, a walk or a field trip, on an ad hoc / occasional basis.
3. *A prospective SU3A member, sampling a Group activity, **on no more than two occasions**, to decide whether or not they wish to join SU3A and the Group.*

In all cases, it is important that your Group Coordinator is kept fully informed of visitors' names and dates of attendance, so that he/she can keep a suitable record.

You should especially note that if these conditions are exceeded in your Group, then **all** the Group's members lose vital aspects of their insurance cover. It is, therefore, in your own interest to ensure that visitors are not permitted to outstay their welcome.

Your Group Coordinators have been informed of the above visitor conditions, and the consequences to your individual insurance cover if the conditions are exceeded. They will be able to explain these to you on request.

Gift Aid Report

The first round of Gift Aid awards was agreed at the Executive Committee meeting on 29 February 2008. Seventeen applications or preliminary enquiries had been received and ten grants were agreed, totalling approximately £1250 (see below).

The framework of decisions developed by the Working Group advising the Committee is as follows -

- What does it add to the activities of the Group?
- How many people will benefit?
- Is it for capital or revenue?
- Does it have updating or upgrading implications?
- How much use will it get?
- How long will it last?
- Is there a training implication?
- How will that be resourced?
- How will capital items be kept and cared for?
- How much money is sought?
- Does it represent value for money?

The framework was further developed by discussion and it was agreed that no bid less than £5 would even “appear on the radar”. It was emphasised that all items purchased would remain the property of Sheffield U3A. Several Global Positioning Systems were agreed for walking groups, but the point was made that support was contingent on training for users and real need.

**... the next
closing date
for applications
is 9 June 2008.**

It was agreed that a rolling programme would be entered into geared to the dates of future Executive Committee meetings. Thus the next closing date for applications is 9 June 2008.

Roy Darlison

Gift Aid Allocations

The first round of Gift Aid proposals was 16 in number. Two ideas were not worked up to the point where they could be considered. The following proposals were supported -

- Walking Group H - group membership of YHA to be made available to all SU3A Groups - £25.50
- Scrabble – new boards to replace those purchased at the Group's founding - £50
- French Intermediate – portable CD player - £25
- Walking Group H and Natural History II - GPS and laminated maps, including GPS training - £150
- Enjoying Opera Groups I and II - DVDs of important productions (to be made available across SU3A) - £300
- Walking Group J - safety equipment - £30
- Birdwatching II - bird identification DVDs (available to other similar Groups) - £75
- Crown Green Bowling - set of woods for use by new/possible members - £60
- Walking Group F - safety equipment including GPS and training - £150
- Music Appreciation - small hi-fi centre - £120
- Walk Sheffield - contribution from SU3A towards cost of publicising city-wide event involving SU3A members - £250

A proposal for £250 of matched funding for a fund-raising project for Edale Mountain Rescue was delayed for further consideration. Two proposals totalling £103 were not supported.

Roy Darlison

YHA Group Card

A YHA Group Card has recently been purchased, from the Gift Aid funds, for the benefit of the whole of Sheffield U3A. The way the card works is that if a group of five or more people stay at a hostel and this card is produced, then each person does not have to pay the non-members fee of £3 per person per night. Not only does the

group gain, but the YHA gains as well, as the card encourages more people to use their hostels.

Many hostels are situated in stunning locations and are ideal for so many activities. Certainly, walking and birdwatching groups use the hostels, but they would also be ideal for many other groups - sketching and art groups, play-reading, geology etc... Many hostels are open during the day and have rooms that could be used if so desired. If anyone would like to use this card for a very cheap few days away with their group then please contact me.

Marion Edmondson

Letters to the Editor - Tell him what you think!

Previous Editors tell me they used to receive occasional letters from members; and that there were sometimes follow-up responses. But it is a long time since one was received - those were the days! I get the occasional mild grumble or comment while I am out walking, but that's about it. Sadly, most of these relate to items that have actually appeared in *Links*, but which members deny having seen! Does anybody read any of the articles other than the details of trips and holidays?

Only 129 out of over 2,400 members (5%) attended the recent AGM, despite the hiring of Lars Tharp, a nationally known speaker. Despite our ever increasing membership, it appears that galloping apathy may have set in.

**Do you have any views on the content or style of *Links*?
Or on the boundary changes?**

**Do you have any suggestions about the format or venue
of future Annual Members Meetings?**

Or on the future direction for SU3A?

If so, why not put pen to paper, or hands on your keyboard, and let your Committee and me know.

Roger Heesterman

Group News

Classical Concertgoers' Group

Our next excursion is on Saturday 5 July 2008 to the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, for the **Hallé Summer Classical Extravaganza** - a concert of light classical favourites, including the *William Tell* Overture of Rossini, the *1812 Overture* and *Waltz of the Flowers* by Tchaikovsky, *Clair de Lune* by Debussy, the *Hebrides Overture* of Mendelssohn, the *Thunder and Lightning Polka* of Strauss - and more. The conductor is John Wilson, who directed a very enjoyable concert of light 20th century music at the City Hall a few weeks ago.

The coach will leave the bus bay on Ecclesall Road South, near the top of Millhouses Lane, promptly at 5.00 pm. The inclusive cost is £28.75 per person. Bookings may be made using the booking form at the end of this issue. Please send applications to Derek Shipley, 40 Wollaton Avenue, Bradway, Sheffield S17 4LA as soon as possible, including a stamped addressed envelope and the names and contact numbers of all members for whom you are applying.

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

Derek Shipley

Greenfingers Gardening Group

To all past, present and future members of the above Group, this is to remind everyone that we are still in business and to let you know what we are up to. In May we had a guided tour of Wortley Hall Gardens. On Wednesday 11 June (please note change of date) we are off to Felley Priory, near Hucknall, Nottinghamshire for the day. The Priory has a walled and hedged garden with a topiary. On Tuesday 8 July we are visiting a garden in Meadowhead Avenue belonging to Mr and Mrs Littlewood.

If any SU3A member is interested in joining us on either of the above outings, please contact either Jean Griffiths on (0114) 255 2385 or Jane Gregory on (0114) 274 9246 for further details on costs and departure times etc. We would love to hear from you and look forward to seeing you soon.

Jean Griffiths

Walk Sheffield

SU3A Walking Groups and walkers will be taking leading roles in **Walk Sheffield** - the City's coming walking festival. The aim is to encourage more walking - bringing health, environmental and recreational benefits to more people. **Walk Sheffield** starts on Friday 30 May and runs for 10 days. All SU3A members and the wider public are invited to take part.

On 30 May the Lord Mayor will perform the opening ceremony outside the Town Hall at 9.45 am. Our Chairman, Joan Keogh, will be there. The ceremony will be followed by a short half-hour walk, led by The Ramblers' Association, round historic city centre locations.

SU3A's contribution begins on Sunday 1 June when the Sunday Walking Group leads off from Meadowhall Interchange on the first leg of the Sheffield Country Walk. This 54 mile route goes round the perimeter of the City. It has been split into eight consecutive daily sections finishing back at Meadowhall on the following Sunday. Some sections are urban in nature; others follow country lanes and footpaths crossing farmland, woods and moors. All are linear with start and finishing points accessed by public transport. Each will be led by one or two of our walking groups.



To honour our involvement, our Woodworking Group has carved a memorial baton which will be passed from Group to Group to travel the whole way round the City. Joan Keogh will hand over the baton to Stella Longden, the leader of the first leg, at the start.

The walks will be joined by some members of The Ramblers' Association and are open to the public. SU3A members not in the leading Groups will be most welcome too; anyone wishing to take part is asked to notify the section's leader(s) beforehand.

The sections, leading groups and leaders are -

Day/Date	Section	Distance (miles)	Group	Leader(s)
Sun 1 June	Meadowhall - Treeton	5½	Sunday Walkers	Stella Longden 0114 269 4698
Mon 2 June	Treeton - Eckington	8½	Dippers Too	Ron Little 0114 249 2886
Tues 3 June	Eckington - Coal Aston	6	Walking Group A	Jack Wearing 01246 413 613
			Walking Group S E	Ken Stringfellow 0114 230 4063
Wed 4 June	Coal Aston - Fox House	8½	Walking Group D	Gordon Wilson 0114 201 0733
Thurs 5 June	Fox House - Moscar	6¾	Walking Group L	Barbara Cassidy 0114 262 0699
			Walking Group P	Di Curtis 01433 620 724
Fri 6 June	Moscar - High Bradfield	5	Walking Group M	Howard Smith 0114 258 8054
Sat 7 June	High Bradfield - Greno Woods	8¼	Walking Group F	Peter Cocker 0114 233 4211
Sun 8 June	Greno Woods - Meadowhall	6¼	Sunday Walkers	Stella Longden 0114 269 4698

In addition, on Tuesday 3 June, F and J Groups [contact Bill Barraclough on (0114) 258 1294] are jointly leading a more challenging walk to the highest points within the Sheffield city boundary - High Stones and Margery Hill. This 11½+ mile walk will start from Fairholmes and includes stretches of rough moorland. Be warned!

Full details of the SU3A and all other festival walks can be found in the **Walk Sheffield** brochure distributed to all Walking Group

Coordinators as well as to doctors' surgeries, libraries and City Council Information Centres.

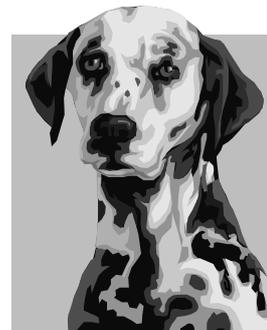
Julian Oakley

Members can purchase a sweatshirt with the Sheffield U3A Walkers logo from IBEX Designs in Broomhill shopping centre (by the traffic lights) and it is hoped as many participants as possible will do so. They cost approximately £15.

Dog Friendly Walking Group

This Group is now meeting regularly once a month, on a Thursday, and would welcome more dog friendly walkers with or without a dog. It is not essential to have a dog in order to join us and enjoy our walks.

The Group's walking programme is now displayed on the SU3A website. The next walk begins at 11.00 am on Thursday 26 June 2008. We will meet near Potter Hill, at the top of Springwood Lane S35, and the walk leader will be Martin. Anyone interested should contact him.



Martin Young

Donation to Edale Mountain Rescue

Thanks to the splendid efforts of Walking Group H Coordinator Marion Edmondson and quiz master John Woolston, the recent Globetrotting Charity Quiz held at Esporta on 12 April raised £250. This was donated to Edale Mountain Rescue. Many thanks to everyone who attended.

Helen Marsh

P.S. At it's meeting on 2 May the Executive Committee approved a recommendation from the Gift Aid Working Party to increase the amount raised with a further donation of £250.

Calling All Group Coordinators

40 of you have Home Pages on our web site.

That means 110 of you do not!

Have you thought of how these Home Pages could work for you and your members?

- Anyone mislaying their programme can get a replacement printed off the site
- In time a history of your activities would build up which could be useful in future planning
- Book Groups might well be interested in what other Book Groups are reading. The same would be true of Play Reading and Novel Reading Groups
- Discussion Groups might find one another's topics stimulate their own ideas
- Walkers might find a good new (to them) walk in another Group's programme.

The possibilities for the cross fertilisation of ideas and conveying of information is vast if enough Groups participate and get used to using the web site in this way.

Some of you protest that your Groups are full and a Home Page might attract more members. Your page can state, as some already do, that there are no vacancies at present.

“But I can't use email and attachments!” or “I don't have a computer” need not stop you. I am very happy to receive contributions which are hand written and photographs which I would scan in and return. Just send them to me at Ranmora, Ranmoor Lane, Hathersage, S32 1BW. Alternatively, why not delegate to another member of your Group and share the workload!

Please, think about this very seriously!

Clare Chiba, Web Coordinator
Email: webcoordinator@sheffieldu3a.org.uk

Vacancy - Equipment Officer

After many years of invaluable service, John Brooke has decided that it is time for him to hand over his duties to another member during the next 12 months. John was thanked for his role at the last Executive Committee meeting.

The role involves the storing of a small amount of equipment (computers and digital projectors etc) and arranging for its loan out to and return from SU3A Groups (with the Groups arranging for collection and return). If you are interested in taking over from John, please ring him for further details. This is a role that might also be shared by two members.

New Groups and Short Courses

Making Music

If any members would care to form a music-making Group I would be willing to coordinate it. It could encompass instruments, voices, traditional music, setting poetry to music - whatever the Group wishes. A location would be found in or near the city centre with a piano in situ. Please telephone me on (0114) 275 9627 if you are interested.

David Hill

New Walking Group Q

There's a new walking group keen to discover walks north of the city. We walk on alternate Tuesdays, from 5 - 7 miles, taking refreshments with us. We would welcome new members. Please contact Rose Tanner for further details.

Rose Tanner

Going on holiday and need to brush-up your language skills? Want to learn a new language? Here's your chance -

Holiday French for Beginners

This new Group which began meeting in April was oversubscribed as soon as it was announced in the February edition of *Links*. We are appealing for anyone with a knowledge of conversational French to tutor another Beginners' Group. The Group will not necessarily meet all year round. Anyone who feels they are able to help to meet this demand, please contact one of the Joint General Coordinators.

Doreen & Brian Bezant, Joint General Coordinators

German for Absolute Beginners

My German is pretty rusty, but I'm going to Berlin this summer to help drag it out of my memory. I would be happy to get a small Group off the ground in the autumn if anyone is interested. Please telephone me on (01246) 416 139.

Shelagh Woolliscroft

Russian

Now here is something different. We have had an offer to coordinate a self help Russian language learning Group. The volunteer spent her childhood in Russia. The Group would welcome complete beginners and those with some knowledge of speaking Russian. Anyone interested should contact one of the Joint General Coordinators.

Doreen & Brian Bezant, Joint General Coordinators

Spanish for Beginners

There has been a good response and we expect to start this new Group in September, probably meeting at Burngreave Library. The tutor will be David Andrews and Monday mornings seem to suit most people to date. For further information, please phone Shelagh Woolliscroft.

Shelagh Woolliscroft

Tai Chi - the gentle art of keeping fit

A free taster session in Yang style Tai Chi will be held at the *PACES* Centre (formerly High Green Secondary School), Packhorse Lane, High Green on Monday 9 June from 10.30 am to 12 noon. This is with a view to forming regular group sessions, which will cost around £3 per session.

Tai Chi does not use apparatus and is not physically demanding. All you need is loose clothing.



PACES is on the 76, 77 and 88 bus routes, with buses every ten minutes; alternatively there is safe and easy parking at the Centre. If we have not already been in touch and you would like to attend, please telephone me on (01246) 416 139.

Shelagh Woolliscroft

Writers' Taster Morning

The Botanical Gardens on Tuesday 24 June offers a Sheffield U3A morning with a difference. To start with we'll be using picture cards as a basis for discussion and then wander the gardens with a friend.

Members are free to explore the parkland and glass houses as they wish, but please study the restaurant menu and tell us what you think!

Later we'll return indoors, exchange observations and ideas and then find a moment to briefly write something. It's going to be a fun morning ideally suited to beginners.



[photograph by Peter Barclay]

If you are interested, please contact one of us to book a place.

Peter Barclay or Denise West

FOUND AT THE TRAVEL GROUP AGM - A PAIR OF MEN'S BLUE BERGHAUS GLOVES

A pair of royal men's blue Berghaus gloves were left behind after the Travel Group AGM. If they are not claimed by the end of June, they will be donated to charity. If you think you know who they may belong to, please contact Shirley Marney.

Members' Contribution

Drinking a Hostel Dry!

Recently eight members of Walking Group H went for a mid-week break to Swaledale in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. We used the YHA Group Card, which saved the Group £48, and we also tried out our new GPS (also courtesy of Gift Aid). We stayed at Grinton Lodge Youth Hostel, which was built in Victorian times as a hunting lodge, and which stands in an imposing position on high ground overlooking the villages of Grinton and Reeth.

The hostel has had a complete refurbishment and is very comfortable. There had been talk of us walking into Reeth for a pub meal, but as soon as we saw the steepness of the road up to the hostel we all decided to eat 'in house'. A wise choice as the food was good, likewise the organic wines. In fact by the end of our visit the hostel had run out of red wine!

We had one full day's walk of 12 miles and two half day walks of 7/8 miles each. Among the highlights of the trip were seeing the spectacular Aysgarth Falls, with the river in full spate, and on the second day our antics in trying to get through a large area of bog and reeds. It provided amusement for the ones who reached the other side first! Our drinks afterwards in the King's Arms at Reeth were well deserved! The third highlight has to be the variety and sheer number of birds we saw and heard - such as curlews, oyster catchers, dippers, sand martins, redshanks, yellow wagtails and golden plovers. It really felt as though Spring had arrived at last.

We saw very few people while we were walking, which added to the enjoyment. The Dales scenery has been described as being different from anywhere else. Part of this is because of its limestone landscape which contours with meadows, heather clad moors and ancient woodland. We had a very relaxing few days and can recommend youth hostelling to any group wanting a few days away.

Delya Bond

Travel News

Travel Organising Committee

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

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

Holiday Insurance - All members travelling have full responsibility for arranging their own Travel Insurance. In no circumstances will Sheffield U3A be responsible for covering claims for loss of life, personal injury, medical expenses, accidents, loss or damage of luggage or personal property, cancellations or loss of deposits. Each member **MUST** insure themselves against such risks.

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

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

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

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

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

Travel Excursions

Cruise on the Leeds/Liverpool Canal Wednesday 16 July 2008

Enjoy a three-hour return trip westwards from the historic town of Skipton to Holmebridge, aboard the *Dalesman*, a modern and luxurious canal boat.

An excellent buffet lunch will be served during this picturesque journey, whilst listening to an interesting commentary by the skipper. After leaving the boat at 2.30 pm you can enjoy a one and three quarter to two hour stay in Skipton, where it is market day on a Wednesday - an added attraction in this interesting Yorkshire town. The coach will then return you back to Sheffield.

The total cost including boat trip and buffet lunch is £34 per person. To reserve a place, please complete the booking form at the end of this issue – including your SU3A number – and send with a cheque payable to Sheffield U3A Travel and a stamped addressed envelope to Peter Frost.

Port Sunlight Thursday 21 August 2008

This visit takes us back to the late 19th century and a site of great social impact. At a time when most industrial workers lived in grinding poverty and squalor, William Hesketh Lever founded a model village for his soap factory workers on the Wirral. We shall see and learn of the vision and ideals of this great man and what he did to revolutionise the lives of his employees. On arrival, we see a short film and spend time in the Sunlight Vision Museum, followed by lunch at the Lady Lever Art Gallery. Afterwards, we have a guided coach tour of the village and explore the renowned Art Gallery. There will be time to explore the village on foot, see the workers houses, the church, the Lever and War Memorials, the village tea rooms, the Bridge Inn and the Garden Centre, before

returning to Sheffield. You will also receive a complementary tablet of Sunlight soap to commemorate your visit!

The inclusive cost – travel, gratuities, admission, lunch and conducted tour - is £25 per person. Bookings may be made using the slip at the end of this issue. Please send to Derek Shipley, 40 Wollaton Avenue, Sheffield S17 4LA, with a cheque made out to Sheffield U3A Travel and including a stamped addressed envelope.

SHEFFIELD U3A TRAVEL

PLEASE NOTE THAT
ONLY POSTAL APPLICATIONS
WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR HOLIDAYS AND DAY TRIPS
PLEASE ENSURE YOU USE THE CORRECT POSTAGE

Golden Wedding Anniversary with a Difference

Barbara and Paddy Cassidy with Walking Group L, celebrating their golden wedding anniversary two days early, on 20 March 2008.



[photograph by Stella Longden]

Travel Group AGM Art Competition - More Winning Entries

Landscape / Seascape - 1st Prize - Landscape by R Lamb



Still Life - 1st Prize - Autumn Fruit Bowl by M Powell



(N.B. All the winning entries can be seen in full colour on our website)

Sheffield Hallam University Research - Ethics Lay Members

As part of Sheffield Hallam University's Research Ethics strategy and action plan we are looking to appoint members of the public as lay representatives to the various Research Ethics Committees. These committees have been recently formed to advise and support the University, its staff and students on ethical issues relating to the conduct of research.

We are looking for somebody who has a broad interest in ethical issues and who will be able to provide a balanced view of the proposed research study from a lay perspective. Clinical qualifications or experience of research are not required, but good team working is important for this innovative and challenging appointment.

Applicants would be required to attend regular meetings during the working day. Typically there are between four and six committee meetings in an academic year. Although the post is voluntary, reasonable related travel expenses will be paid and training and support will be provided. In addition, you will be invited to attend some of the University Guest Lecture Series and other activities as appropriate.

If you would like to apply for these posts then please send an expression of interest, providing your name and contact details, by 30 June 2008 to -

Brian Littlejohn
Research Support Team
Enterprise Centre
Sheffield Hallam University, Science Park, Unit 6
Howard Street, Sheffield, S1 1WB
or electronically to *b.littlejohn@shu.ac.uk*

Further information regarding Research Ethics at Sheffield Hallam University, including the research ethics policy and procedures, can be obtained at *<http://www.shu.ac.uk/research/>* whilst any enquiries regarding these posts should be directed to Brian Littlejohn, Sheffield Hallam University Ethics Committee Secretary, on (0114) 225 4050 or email *b.littlejohn@shu.ac.uk* .

Sheffield U3A Calendar

2008

May 30 - June 8	Walk Sheffield Walking Festival
June 2 - 13	Germany's Romantic Road, Bavaria
June 18	Classical Concertgoers' & Enjoying Opera, Hippodrome Theatre, Birmingham
June 30	Quarry Bank Mill & Styal Park
July 5	Classical Concertgoers', Bridgewater Hall, Manchester
July 16	Leeds & Liverpool Canal, cruise and lunch
July 19 - 21	Liverpool and the Tall Ships (Short Break)
August 21	Port Sunlight
Sept 7 - 11	Suffolk (Short Break)
September 17	Tatton Park and Gardens
October 5 - 18	Highlights of Turkey
October 8	The Colour Museum, Bradford, and Temple Newsam House, Leeds
November	Charles Rennie Mackintosh House and Shoe Museum, Northamptonshire
December	Stratford on Avon

2009

June	Austria - two centre in Vienna and Salzburg
August	Edinburgh Tattoo (Short Break)
November	Thursford Spectacular (Short Break)
November	New Zealand

Time for T

Ah, what has happened to the “T”?
From speech it’s disappearing.
It surely wasn’t meant to be
Quite absent from our hearing.

My cherished favourite consonant,
That crisp, explosive Teeee.
A tintinnabulation of
Good English-speak, you see.

Do I detect the cause of blame
From our friends across the “warrer”?
No matter, it now pervades our tongue
Like wha’ i’ didn’ ough’er!

And so I sigh for “be”er” times.
We formed our words when speaking.
Now I pedantically practice T’s
True orthoepy seeking.

(as in)

“It’s really not quite right to light night-lights
With their slight light on a light night
Like tonight.”

B Johnson

Production and Distribution of *Links*

A number of people are involved in ensuring that, despite the occasional best efforts of Royal Mail, you receive *Links* every other month (provided you have renewed your subscription!).

Lorna Baker prints out the labels and arranges for them to go to Derek and Maureen Shipley, who stick them onto the envelopes. They transport boxes of envelopes to your Editor who arranges one of his regular “stuffing parties” (no, you shouldn’t ask - just invite yourself along if you really want to know!). In the last year those participating have included Pat and Trevor Hall, Sheila Harris, Peter Mallender, Margaret Oates, Teresa Taylor and Mike Young. I have the names of other volunteers whom I hope to contact during the next year (if I can find them at home - they are typical SU3A’ers and are always out enjoying life to the full!). Not forgetting Deputy Editor Myra Smith, who ensures your Editor maintains the high standards she set when Editor.

Thank you all very much.

Roger Heesterman, Editor