



SHERWOOD U3A

Learn Laugh Live NEWSLETTER February 2021

Hello to all Sherwood U3A members,

The February edition of the newsletter reflects on what has been going on within Sherwood U3A. There is an overview of the financial situation, reports about the past year from group leaders, including news of future plans, and information about the next Zoom meeting on Thursday 11th February. (If you want to participate contact Claire Wilkie to be added to the list of contacts.) You can also discover how Zoom is taking over her life!

There are member's stories linked to the New Year and winter weather and something for you to make that will help those without warm homes.

Have you a story about something "Lost and Found", mundane or very important, for the March newsletter? New contributors very welcome.

Sue Robb (Editor)

Contributions by Wednesday 24th February please.

If you have any questions about specific things please contact the following who will find out the answers to your concerns and try to come back to you with the answers:

Membership	Rita Foulkes
Groups and Postal Members	Terry Dillon
Welfare	Sandra Rogers
Holidays	Contact the holiday organizer whose contact details are in this newsletter.
Financial/General	Margaret Taylor
Newsletter/General	Sue Robb
Zoom meetings	Claire Wilkie

NOTICES

TECHNOLOGY

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

The U3A National Office would like as many people as possible to subscribe to the National Newsletter. Sent out by e mail monthly, the Newsletter is full, not just of U3A news- e.g. about the second edition of the U3A podcast, but of information about virtual events such as cookery demonstrations, talks about Japan, Winter School Courses and Regional Events.

There is an Advice Section, which this month includes news on a partnership with Independent Age, a Photography section and lots of general information.

All in all, it is very worthwhile!

You can subscribe to the Newsletter by going to the National U3A website at www.u3a.org.uk

Near the bottom of the page is a green section where you can fill in a few details and so subscribe.

DO GIVE IT A GO!!

Claire Wilkie

REPORT FROM MARGARET TAYLOR, SHERWOOD U3A TREASURER

Further to the report that I gave verbally at the general meeting last Thursday, 14th January, I would now like to update all of the membership with details on the financial situation within Sherwood U3A which includes members' comments from the 14th and updated information from the Finance Sub-Committee.

I realise that despite members having paid their subscription of £21 last April, unfortunately we have been unable to support this income during the year in our usual way with fund raising events due to Covid restrictions. The Committee have been aware that a few members have said that they did not feel that they were getting value for their membership subscription and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members for their understanding in that certain expenditure has still had to be paid for out of these subscriptions.

As you are all aware a proportion of your membership fee has to be paid direct to our National Office whether we meet or not. Part of this fee, which has unfortunately been increased to £4 per person, is to cover insurance for activities that we have been able to do e.g. walking as well as them providing us with the many on-line courses, activities and talks that they have organised, and keeping paid staff.

On top of this we had to refund many members for events where tickets had been purchased but the event had to be cancelled. Due to restrictions we had no option but to send cheques via the post which meant that this expenditure also had to be paid for out of the account.

The Committee had also agreed in principal to update the Web Site and this expense on top of the usual annual licences that we have to pay for has increased the Web Site budget. We have also now obtained a "Zoom" licence which costs a small monthly fee. This means that we can keep in touch with our members – the first being the very successful general meeting on the 14th. We are hopeful that as the months go by more members will join us via Zoom. If you do wish to be invited please contact Claire, our Business Secretary or myself.

In addition we have been sending out regular monthly newsletters, usually by email. Unfortunately not all of our members have this technology and therefore 50+ members have printed newsletters which are sent out via post. I personally would like to thank Sue Robb for putting together such a fantastic newsletter every month and Rita Foulkes for receiving the printed newsletters and sending them out.

This brings me to the subject of the next financial year's membership subscriptions. Unfortunately as the Committee does not think that we will be re-opening our doors in April, it has been decided that until such time as a full meeting or small meetings can be restarted the fee will not be charged. However it should be noted that this will not be able to be continued in the long term and is not an open-ended arrangement as obviously our funds will eventually run out. The Finance Sub-Committee will be reviewing the situation in October, and at that time we may have to ask for some contribution even if it is a small retention fee. However if meetings do start part-way through the coming year with effect from April 2021 a proportion of the £21 would be asked for. This is shown in the following example; if the meetings re-started in October (half-way through the financial year) the fee would be £21 less the Affiliation fee of £4 = £17 divided by 2 = £8.50 plus the Affiliation fee of £4 which has to be paid regardless = **£12.50**.

I put all of the above information to the members at the General Meeting and all of them agreed to back a proposal that the members approve this course of action and should put their trust in the Committee. If any member wishes to express an alternative opinion or has a comment, then please do not hesitate to get in touch with myself or our Chairman, Liz Wilson. All will be discussed at future meetings.

Another proposal is that the Committee will endeavour to keep all of the members up-to-date with the financial situation within Sherwood by either a formal statement similar to this one or a general over-view in the Chairman's monthly report in the Newsletter. This will hopefully show that your Committee is confident to do everything to ensure that the financial situation is handled appropriately during this difficult time, in the hope that this dreadful disease will soon be behind us.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT –Liz Wilson

Well we certainly ZOOOOOMED into 2021!! It was great that so many of you joined us and to actually SEE you rather than chat on a phone! The Committee did their bits and then we came to the part that I enjoyed most and when the time just flew by! Every member spoke and told us about their Christmas; who they spent it with, what they did, where they went, what disappointments some had because it was only one day and what wonderful times others had because their loved ones were able to get together. Thanks to all those that logged on and made each other's and the committee's morning. THANKS to Claire, who having typed in all the Sherwood member's emails (no mean feat), then sent out all the invitations to zoom in!

This month there will be the usual Committee line up:

Margaret will be telling you about our finances and membership renewals. Because our fundraising events did so well and brought in extra funds and our Treasurer has been careful with assets, we can manage without asking for subscriptions until next year. However, if we get to meet again and have to pay Hall rental and Speaker fees, subscriptions will be needed. DON'T FORGET what I said in my report last month ----- if you get a Newsletter either by email or post you are still on our list of Sherwood Members!!!

Jenny will be talking about suggested groups.

Jane will be talking about resurrecting the **Heritage Group**. She along with Claire, Denise and me are going to get together and come up with some ideas for future visits!

Denise is going to talk about future **National Trust** visits, for she and I have volunteered to continue Irene's good work!

Rita will be telling us about Covid jobs.

Dave is going to be our PR representative on the Network and hopefully will be able to tell us what this entails and what he needs from us.

Jeremy will be asking for ideas about future Speakers.

Ann will be telling you about a new scheme to links with French U3As and pen pals.

Claire is going to get zoom members to contribute to the Meeting by talking about their BEST memories of last year!! We hear so many moans and groans about being "Locked Down" (I'm dreadful) so let's share the good times!!

This just leaves me to tell you all about and – if Claire and I can get our act together --- to show our new Website!!!!!!!

Sue would like articles about "Lost and Found" for the Newsletter. That reminds me to THANK Sue again for the great job she is doing with the Newsletter!!!

THANKS also to **Sandra** for all the cards she sends out on our behalf and all the telephone calls she has made to members, making sure that they are okay. If you haven't had one, you will!!

Here's to seeing you on ZOOOOOOOOM!!!



ZOOM CAN TAKE OVER YOUR LIFE!!

It is always said that one man's loss is another man's gain, and that has certainly been the case during the Covid pandemic. The majority of people, businesses and countries have suffered severely during lockdowns, but there is one glaring exception-ZOOM!

What would the world have done without it over the last year, from seeing Captain Tom Moore walk his way to raising thirty three million pounds and earn a knighthood, to messages from the Royal Family and multitudes of examples of families making the best of their confinement?

I had not encountered Zoom before the first lockdown, but I suddenly found myself using it for various U3A groups under the auspices of Mapperley U3A., based in Nottingham.

I became part of the Games Group which met on Zoom and played Mexican Train Online. My Italian Group soon followed suit and this meant that every Wednesday was now Zoom Day!

Mapperley's General Meetings started to be held on Zoom for those with online access - about forty people regularly taking advantage of the opportunity to at least see people at a distance.

Eventually, I felt I had to join the movement and so decided to introduce it to my Mapperley Family History Group, keeping the meeting to the free forty minutes. That was in September.

At about the same time, Viv Brown, whose husband Dave already used Zoom, proposed the idea of Sherwood's Family History Group using it and thus joining David Bradley's Wine Group as trail blazers.

By now, I was using Zoom at least eleven times a month, and in November I actually joined a friend in having a cream tea online!!

Once I had started an account we were able to employ it for Sherwood Committee Meetings, the first one in two halves to cater for the forty minute limit, and before long we decided to try a whole Zoom General Meeting to start off 2021.

Although the meeting would obviously be limited, in that those members without the internet couldn't participate, at least there would be the chance for a number of people to take advantage of the opportunity to see others for the first time in almost a year.

To facilitate matters, I took up the option of Zoom Pro, which enables the host to arrange meetings of up to 24 hours in length, not something I really imagined would ever happen, but more convenient than previously.

As you will know, Sherwood's first Zoom General Meeting took place on 14th January and we were able to welcome thirty-six members who braved the process. Everyone seemed to enjoy catching up and we hope many more people will venture to attend in February.

As I write this, the whole of last week was taken up with Zoom and this week will be similar-I have been 'taken over' by the process, so to speak. Various Committee and Sub Committee meetings require hosting and I have my weekly Wednesday double dose.

Having said that, when I spoke to a member from Mapperley yesterday, he told me that last week he had four meetings on one day and another 7 over the week, so I am by no means unique!

So, Zoom can take over your life.....BUT....what will happen when normal life resumes, I wonder?

Will OUR gain be ZOOM's loss?

Claire Wilkie

GROUP NEWS



HOLIDAYS

Friday 2nd July 2021 to Friday 9th July 2021 Isle of Wight

Anyone wishing to go to the Isle of Wight on 3rd to 9th July please let me know, I need the deposits by 19th February 2021.

Rita Foulkes

LOCHS AND GLENS, SCOTLAND - 20th to 25th September 2021 - 6 days £499

Staying at the Claymore Hotel, Arrochar, on the shores of Loch Long (4 nights) and the Tinto Hotel, Symington (1 night)

Excursions included are a circular tour of the Trossachs, Loch Lomond, Callander, Cruise on Loch Katrine, The Falkirk Wheel and Stirling Castle. Glencoe and Oban. A day in Edinburgh.

Deposit £50 - Insurance £30 (this includes cover for Covid 19 related cancellations). Any members who already purchased insurance will be changed to the new cover at no extra cost.

Present availability: 1 single, 1 twin, 3 doubles. Enquiries to Pat Magness -

INTEREST GROUPS

Group leaders have kept in touch with their members during the pandemic by phone, Email and some have used Zoom. They have given challenges and suggested activities to keep their members going. We have had reports and articles for the newsletter which have kept our members amused and entertained. Walking and rambling groups have been out and about and some groups took advantage of the warmer weather to meet up in gardens. I thank you all for all your hard work.

Terry Dillion

OLD GROUPS

At our last committee meeting some members were keen to restart the Heritage and National Trust Groups. I have no further information as yet but am very excited that we will not have lost these groups.

NEW GROUPS

I was talking to two of our newest postal members a while ago and they came up with the ideas of a Flower Arranging Group and a Cycling Group. If anyone is interested in either of these please contact either me or Jenny and we can add them to the list of possible groups.

WINE GROUP We have a zoom meeting every fortnight for some members, occasionally tasting the same wine, followed by everybody asking five questions. Unfortunately, since I am no longer in control, strange things have been happening. Some member's tastes have changed, others have stopped drinking wine, one member has been completely overwhelmed by his wife and is only drinking white wine. The strangest thing though is one member, not satisfied with growing vegetables in her friend's garden, has concreted it all over and is building a house. When we have all had our jabs we will reconvene, not sure what we will drink, may have to be Columbian coffee?

Stay Safe All.

David Bradley

GARDEN GROUP Up to December I wrote an email to the group every first Friday of the month asking for a short report on any activities that members may have been doing. At this time of year we would normally have a group meeting and plan for the year ahead, sorting who would undertake any tasks that need doing, but we cannot do this at the moment. I think we are all keeping warm and safe inside. I will email the members to see what we are planning for our own gardens this year and if they have any ideas for future visits and activities when we are able to meet up again. I think it will be quite a while yet.

Marilyn Dillon

BOARD GAMES In January I sent out to the Board Games Group 32 questions to be answered from the game 'Reminiscing'. In 2021, I am giving tasks from games we haven't played for some time in the hope that the 'little grey cells' are kept working. I also play Mexican Train Online with Vera Walker regularly; as yet no-one else has joined us. Next month's game will be 'Namesake'.

Claire Wilkie

SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP Obviously we have been unable to meet. However I try to keep in touch with members in the hope that things will get better this year.

Pat Magness

WALKING GROUP The year has not started well because of new restrictions. Last year the group were meeting and doing a few socially distanced short walks with no more than six people. Now you can only meet with one other person and stay local. I am sorry to say I have not been in touch with the members since November when I went into hospital for a total left knee replacement. At the moment I can only walk on this for ten minutes but am building on this every day when it's fine.

Once the restrictions are lifted we will have a leaders meeting to plan our walks!!!!

Colin Rolle

FAMILY HISTORY The first Thursday of each month finds around seven members of the Family History Group joining up via Zoom to share new topics, suggest lines of enquiry for individual research and to have a chat. The sessions have been of particular help in making us all more skilful and confident with the technology. Once we are finally on the screen together.....not always the simplest thing to get right each time.....the smiling faces lift everyone's spirits as we hear what's been happening. To have a laugh, to commiserate and to extend sympathy cements existing friendships in these strange times and those who aren't able to join in the actual sessions sometimes share details by email of their latest discovery, especially if they have received news of new DNA links. Occasionally, it's just to say they have been too busy to do any Ancestry at all! So do consider if you could help organise your interest group to have a Zoom meeting. The camaraderie and sharing of ideas will mean the forty minutes soon whizz by; you might even need to press the link again for more time!
Vivienne Brown

PHOTOGRAPHY In photography we managed one garden meeting with six of us meeting for coffee and a chat. We have tried to stick to our dates when we would meet. We still have our monthly competition based on various themes. Between us we try to have an extra challenge per month loosely based on taking photographs. Different members have sent quizzes, photo vignettes, additional photography ideas as well as passing different anecdotes between each other. So in general, the group is going strong. New members are always welcome.
Pat Collins

ECLECTIC MUSIC Although small in number we more than make it up in enthusiasm. We have to pick between 3/5 versions of music to represent various themes, next month is Food. I always add a question e.g. what is your favourite meal/food and what is it that you absolutely hate? Everyone emails me and I then send out the whole list of responses to the members. We have a couple of members who do not actively take part but still like to receive the emails and look at our choices. We have also been very lucky this year in that we have had several quizzes run by Claire W. However I know that all of the members are looking forward to when we can get together again and listen to each other's choices in "real life".
Margaret Taylor

2021

“WHO STOLE THE SNOWMAN’S NOSE?”

It's the Christmas holidays, Santa's been and gone, no turkey left, tied down by the Covid restrictions, another day to get by much the same as we have had for the last ten months. It seems like every day is melting into one with very little to separate them and no memories being created. Eventually the children crawl out of bed, still tired and hungry, come downstairs, still in their respective onesies, and look out the kitchen window. It seems a lot lighter than normal and they realise that overnight it has snowed.

Breakfast over, "So what are we going to do today?"
"Let's build a Snowman" came the reply. "Good idea."

So for the next hour or so a large Snowman was constructed and dressed. He looked true to form with dark stones for eyes, no coal available, and a large carrot for his nose. Job done, fresh air taken, time to go inside and get warm and dry and perhaps enjoy a mug of sweet hot chocolate. Later, whilst sat in the conservatory looking and admiring their work, they noticed something wrong with their Snowman, his nose was gone. Wellies back on and a search made of the garden, no sign of the nose, so back to the kitchen for another carrot. Once in the kitchen they found the offender and the last of the nose, for there lying in his bed, was their young Terrier pup just about to finish the last of "The Snowman's Nose." This really did happen, I hope it made you smile.
Dave Stanford



THE NEW ME

I appear to have ended 2020, and started 2021 with a new personality! 2020 ended with my brother's Birthday, on the 31st December. He lives in Spain. This year, his neighbours rallied round, and made him a cake. He was really tearful, but pleased. Sadly, two years earlier, it was the day his wife died. My brother decided to stay in Spain, because the caring community he was part of, didn't exist in UK. I hadn't really expected anything else. He has many friends, and, of course, the weather is a big plus.

We regularly exchange gossip, advice, and my knowledge of vitamins and their properties has suddenly come into its own. Not easily available where my brother lives, I have advised him, and some of his widowed friends, to eat more fruit and veg. None of my brother's friends appear to cook! You, of course, must make your own mind up, but we should all strive to stay fit. Age is not an excuse for sofa surfing, and TV channel- hopping is not a hobby.

I enjoy writing. Recently, I sent my brother a war story I had just finished editing. It was about a bomber pilot, and the girl that waited for his return. He read it, complimented me on the story, and then passed it around his British neighbours. It landed on an RAF guy's computer. He apparently, loved it. So, I feel encouraged to venture out of my normal comfort zone! I appear to have found some 'fame,' where I'd least expected! In fact, I feel quite connected to Granada. Perhaps I could blend a mix that would appeal to the other writer's, who would normally comment on my work?!

I was never a soppy or emotional person. Cats, however, bring out the best in me. My cat died when she was 19. I've never taken on another, because, over the years, we have moved around a lot. But yesterday, as I was just about to go indoors, my neighbour's car pulled up, and she got out looking very distressed. She had taken her cat to the vet to be put to sleep. Words of sympathy poured from my mouth. Not usually my 'thing.' But I knew she'd worshipped her moggy. My neighbour seemed cheered, which made me feel good. Hubby commented that it was an Oscar winning performance, and quite unlike the 'old' me!

Perhaps it's the restrictions of the situation that have changed me? Recently, a relative asked my advice about a very private matter. She had never previously discussed such a personal issue with me. Did I look like a vicar? Do I come across as dependable? I was certainly flattered, and listened, doing my best to advise where asked to do so.

Have I missed my vocation? One of my cousins is married to a psychologist. Maybe I should ask him why people are suddenly confiding in me! Yes! 2021 has started off differently. I'm still here, trying to keep busy. Like most people, I am wondering what 2021 will bring, but whatever comes along, somehow I feel better equipped to deal with it. We all react differently to stressful situations. I need time to myself when the winter blues kick in. I'm best left alone to 'get over it.' I write a list of 'positive' happenings; that works for me. So does watching the birds that come into the garden. I spoil them. I can't do anything about 'lockdown,' but it won't dampen my enthusiasm for life. This is *not* a rehearsal!

I'm not making New Year's resolutions. I drink too much coffee. I don't always make good food choices, and I see no point in depriving myself of what makes life bearable. Once vaccinated, we will hopefully regain our freedom. Then, I will never be out of the coffee shops, and TUI shares will go up!
Mary Lou Windsor

A NEW YEAR PROJECT.....



I have finished my project to complete knitting 10 premature baby cardigans. I've now moved on to make fingerless gloves for the homeless. I have copied the pattern if you would like to do the same. Janet Jackson

<https://www.lovecrafts.com/en-gb/p/simple-mitts-knitting-pattern-by-amanda-berry>

MITTENS

A pair of 3.75mm straight knitting needles

Double knitting wool. less 50g of two colours

Make 2. Cast on 40 sts in dark grey on straight 3.75mm needles.

Start at the cuff.

Work rows 1 to 16 in dark grey.

Row 1 (WS): [k1, p1] to the end of the row (40 sts)

Rows 2 to 15: rep row 1 fourteen

times (40 sts)

Row 16 (RS): k5, [m1, k10] x 3, m1, k5 (44 sts)

Work rows 17 to 42 in light grey and dark grey stripes.

Row 17: in light grey p (44 sts)

Row 18: in light grey k (44 sts)

Row 19: in dark grey p (44 sts)

Row 20: in dark grey k20, m1, k4,

m1, k20 (46 sts)

Row 21: in light grey p (46 sts)

Row 22: in light grey k20, m1, k6,

Making up

Sew the side edges of the mitten together. Sew the side edges of the thumb together. Weave in the yarn tails to finish.

m1, k20 (48 sts)

Row 23: in dark grey p (48 sts)

Row 24: in dark grey k20, m1, k8,

m1, k20 (50 sts)

Row 25: in light grey p (50 sts)

Row 26: in light grey k20, m1, k10,

m1, k20 (52 sts)

Row 27: in dark grey p (52 sts)

Row 28: in dark grey k20, m1, k12,

m1, k20 (54 sts)

Row 29: in light grey p (54 sts)

Row 30: in light grey k20, m1, k14,

m1, k20 (56 sts)

Row 31: in dark grey p (56 sts)

Row 32: in dark grey k20, m1, k16,

m1, k20 (58 sts)

Row 33: in light grey p (58 sts)

Row 34: in light grey k (58 sts)

Row 35: in dark grey p (58 sts)

Row 36: in dark grey k21, slip the

next 16 sts onto a stitch holder for

the thumb, k21 (42 sts)

Row 37: in light grey p (42 sts)

Row 38: in light grey k (42 sts)

Row 39: in dark grey p (42 sts)

Row 40: in dark grey k (42 sts)

Row 41: in light grey p (42 sts)

Row 42: in light grey k (42 sts)

Work rows 43 to 47 in dark grey.

Row 43: p (42 sts)

Row 44: [k1, p1] to the end of the

row (42 sts)

Rows 45 to 47: rep row 44 three

times (42 sts)

Cast off these 42 sts in dark grey.

THUMB

Place the held 16 sts for the thumb

onto the knitting needle, with the

RS facing you.

Work rows 1 to 4 in dark grey.

Row 1 (RS): [k1, p1] to the end of

the row (16 sts)

Rows 2 to 4: rep row 1 three

times

(16 sts)

Cast off these 16 sts in dark

grey.



