



SHERWOOD U3A

Learn Laugh Live NEWSLETTER March 2021

Hello to all Sherwood U3A members,

The March edition of the newsletter looks forward to the future and back to the past. The Zoom meeting on 11th March will be asking for participants to recall their most vivid memory of Sherwood U3A from 2008 onwards. The memories would make a good theme for the April newsletter so please have a think, write them down and send to me. There are future interest group plans and "Lost and Found" covers both past and present. Thank you to all members who contributed to this, it makes for an entertaining read. You can also learn about honey bees and how to sew one.

Sue Robb (Editor)

Contributions by Friday 26th March 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

GEOFF SHOOTER

It is with great sadness we heard of the recent death of Geoff Shooter, who with his wife Margaret, was a founder member of Sherwood U3A. He had worked locally in the mining industry as an electrician finishing at Sherwood Colliery and was a member of Mansfield Male Voice Choir for many years.

As a faithful member of Sherwood U3A, originally he joined the Board Games group as well as Family History and with his quiet smile and courteous personality, he was much respected. On Thursday mornings, everyone enjoyed hearing details of his early family life and about his holidays to places of historic significance. Always keen to read Family History magazines and to loan his own books to others, since September he had enjoyed contact with the group via Zoom.

He was a lovely, caring gentleman and will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Vivienne Brown

FUTURE ZOOM MEETINGS Claire Wilkie

To all those who are prepared to use Zoom, the next **Sherwood Meeting is on Thursday 11th March at 10am.** Anyone who has already asked to attend a Meeting need not repeat the request as I will automatically send them the link each time, but if any new participants wish to join us, they should send an e mail to me at either shwdbussec@mail.com or wilkieclaire@yahoo.co.uk and they too will receive the link the day before the meeting. Hopefully more people will feel inclined to join us as time passes.

The dates of other future meetings are:-

8th April, 13th May and 10th June, all assuming that it is still impossible for us to have a normal Turner Hall Meeting.

SHORT FINANCE REPORT FROM YOUR TREASURER Margaret Taylor

I recently attended a zoom meeting of Notts. Network Treasurers with 15 other local U3As - the main topic being membership fees and how the various U3As are moving forward. Some of the younger U3As were experiencing greater problems than us in that they had had no time to build up reserves. Like I said in my previous statement we will be reviewing the situation towards the end of the year.

In the meantime I am in the process of putting together the end of year accounts. These will be in a future newsletter when the accounts have been "examined".

I am also intending to send out invoices for the members who receive the Third Age Magazine. This year the National Office has said that they will not increase the cost of the magazine even though postage has gone up. Therefore the price remains at £3.10p. If any member wishes to receive a copy of this quarterly magazine plus "Sources", who do not usually receive a copy, please let me know as soon as possible.

If anyone does have a financial question that they would like to raise please contact me.

COMMUNITY NEWS

CENSUS 2021, SUNDAY 21st MARCH.

There has been a census in this country every ten years, except in 1941, from 1801 onwards, but 2021 could be the last as there are now so many other ways of garnering information about people.

So far we know the following about this year's census.

- For the first time the Census will be run primarily online, using any device-computer, mobile phone or tablet.
- Data will be handled on systems securely managed to government standards and within the Office for National Statistics' control.
- Support will be available to help completion online, should you wish, by webchat, text message or by calling the Census Contact Centre.
- Call handlers are trained to answer questions or help you complete the questionnaire over the phone.
- Family and friends are allowed to help, Covid conditions permitting.
- While 75% will complete the census online, the remaining 25% will have paper questionnaires on request from the [census.gov.uk](https://www.census.gov.uk) website and Contact Centre helpline. The phone number for this will be on your invitation to complete the Census, which will arrive in early March.
- Local Census Support Centres will offer help in person and offer a paper questionnaire to those who need it, in line with Covid guidelines.
- The information people give will decide how services are planned and funded. It will ensure funds are invested in the emergency services, health care, school places and other vital services.
- For information and advice on answering the questionnaire, visit [census.gov.uk](https://www.census.gov.uk)

As yet, we do not know where the Local Support Centres will be.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT –Liz Wilson

I was saddened to hear of the death of Geoff Shooter. I first met him early in the life of Sherwood U3A, when I ran a Drama group and we did a pantomime, Cinderella. Margaret, Geoff's wife played a very formidable but amusing stepmother to poor Cinders. Recently, I have been on the same holidays and visits as he and Margaret. He was a lovely gentleman and my sincere commiserations go to Margaret.

On a lighter but nevertheless sincere note, I have been touched (don't say a word)!!! While walking around the Carrs in Church Warsop with Gladys, I met Margaret Philips, she seemed so pleased to see me and said how much she missed the U3A and all the activities. Not only did she tell me but then wrote it all in a card and posted it to me. The following are her words: When I saw you at the Carrs, I just wanted to run up and hug you. I have missed you so much. I think we all took for granted that we would have a wonderful retirement, meeting people, lots of activities, laughs and cream scones and every day fully booked throughout the weeks and months. Then came along Covid, March 2020 and that way of life was no longer available. I miss you all and all the U3A activities so much. However we survive, carry on and we look forward to more good things to come. As Captain Tom said, "Tomorrow will be a good day!"

The next day I got a note from Christine Cawthorne. A note that she had obviously painted and created herself (see photograph). Again below are her words: To Sherwood U3A Committee members, Thank you for all the hard work you have done in these difficult times for our U3A. Looking forward to when we can all meet up again.

As I said at the Zoom meeting in February, we won't need a speaker because the hall will be buzzing. We will all be so glad to be together again, it'll be like a great family reunion and it is one that I am proud, grateful and delighted to be part of!! Roll on the day!!!

The Programme for the Zoom Monthly Meeting this time, again includes your favourite artistes (the Committee) strutting their stuff and you joining in as Sherwood Members always do.

Rita – Holidays (see Holiday Update in this Newsletter)

Claire – Census

Jane – Heritage (see Heritage Report in this Newsletter)

Denise- National Trust (see National Trust Report in this Newsletter)

Liz – Do you remember when, at the Christmas Meetings I did a recap of the year called “Who’s Been Framed This Year?” Well I’m doing some of the early ones that date back to Sherwood’s infant years. When I was looking through them it was wonderful to see members that are no longer with us laughing and having a great time. Hopefully, it will bring back some happy memories for you too.

Then over to you the members ---- Tell us about your most vivid memory of Sherwood U3A. It can be anything, a talk, an event, a meeting, an interest group occasion, a coffee morning, anything that you remember and want to share. I’ve told the committee to get theirs prepared because I will be picking on them first!! Look forward to zooming with you and sharing your memories!



GROUP NEWS

HERITAGE GROUP

Before starting to tell you about the future Heritage plans, I would like to thank and pay tribute to Sue Robb, who arranged the Heritage Group before us. Do you realise that she was the leader for TEN YEARS? Sue started in 2008 with a visit to Home Pierrepont Hall and finished in 2018 with a visit to Nottingham Playhouse (behind the scenes). All in all she arranged, organised and took members on SIXTY SIX visits. When we were going to restart the group, I asked Sue for a list of those that she had done. Needless to say, she immediately emailed a full list of visits with dates, costs and contact numbers. I am sure that these will be invaluable to us for our future reference and plans. THANK YOU SUE for the information AND for the TEN YEARS of inspired visits!!

Notes from Heritage Zoom Meeting 1st February 2021

Present: Jane Lowe, Claire Wilkie, Denise Whitsed and Liz Wilson. Thanks to Claire for enabling the Zoom Meeting.

Ideas for future visits:

- Cresswell Crags
- Newark Castle
- National Civil War Museum
- Magpie Mines near Bakewell
- Lincoln Medieval Bishop’s Palace
- Crich Tramway Museum
- Hodsock Priory
- Woolaton Hall
- Wentworth Castle and Gardens
- Wingfield Manor
- Mining Museum near Wakefield
- Denby Pottery
- Museum of Timekeeping, Upton
- Gold Star and Blue Badge Guides do tours such as Sculptures and Carvings in Nottingham and Nottingham Booklovers Walk
- Bolsover Castle
- Papplewick Pumping Station
- Nottingham Industrial Museum
- Tuxford Windmill
- Pheasantry Brewery Tour
- Chesterfield Canal and Boat Trip
- Newark Air Museum
- Southwell Minster and Bishop’s Palace
- Nottingham Cemetery
- Nottingham Castle
- Nottingham Caves
- William Booth Birthplace

Visits decided: 2021

September – Nottingham Cemetery – Claire
October – Denby Pottery – Jane
November – Museum of Time Keeping - Liz

Visits decided: 2022

February – Hodsock Priory – Denise
March – Pheasantry Brewery Tour – Jane

April = William Booth Birthplace – Liz
May – Nottingham Castle – Claire
June – Chesterfield Canal and Boat Trip – Denise
July – Gold Star Guided Tour - Liz
September - ????
October = ??????
November ?????
Next planning meeting: 29th March 2021 ZOOM

NATIONAL TRUST

Irene Berridge has retired from being National Trust Group Leader with all that entails. She, together with Julie Stapleton (her trusty Deputy), had run the National Trust Trips since 2016. She had arranged and taken TWENTY TWO trips, starting with Eyam, Stainsby Mill and Hardwick in March 2016 through to East Riddleston Hall in October 2019. She even had four trips planned for 2020 starting in April BUT we all know what happened in March 2020 which prevented them from happening!!

Her plans were as follows:

April - Moseley Old Hall and Wightwick Manor
June – West Wycombe Park and village
September – The Firs (Edward Elgar) Greyfriars House and Worcester
October – Anglesey Abbey and Lode Mill

Denise and I are planning to get the September and October visits arranged for this year and the April and June ones for 2022. We are open to suggestions (polite ones!) for the rest of 2022 or we may just pick from Irene's previous visits. We are also hoping to choose an area with several National Trust properties and fit in several of them with an overnight stay.

Liz Wilson



HOLIDAYS

May 2021 **Kent Holiday**, hopefully will be moved to May 2022. The deposit cheques have not been able to be sent to Just For Groups as Harold, who was in charge, has taken early retirement and the other staff are on furlough, hence no one in the office. Most of them are now out dated because I had them in September 2020 (foolishly optimistic). I intend to save on postage and return them to you at our first Monthly Meeting, at the same time as taking your deposits for 2022!!!

June 2021 **Potters Holiday** has also been cancelled and Denise will do the same as stated above.

July 2021 **Isle of Wight Holiday** has also been cancelled again because of the uncertainty of holidaying and when the staff at Just For Groups will be manning the office. As with Kent we hope to offer this holiday in 2022.

September 2021 **Lochs and Glens Holiday** in Scotland will hopefully be happening but more from Pat next month.

November/December 2021 **Thursford 2 Night Break** will hopefully be happening and again Denise will give you more details when they are open for bookings.

Let's hope 2022 will be ---- YES! YES! YES! GO! GO! GO!

LOST AND FOUND

Our first Camping Holiday with our 6 week old baby!

New mum and dad, we went to Anglesey with our new baby and friends. They had a three month old baby as well. The scene is set.

We had borrowed a VW camper van and we filled it with everything, including the kitchen sink. It was a very hot August in 1978 and the journey to Anglesey took forever.

We eventually reached our campsite and began our never to be forgotten holiday. Between us we managed to go to the beaches, visit the castles and go on the trains in between feeding two babies and changing nappies!

It was really very cramped in our camper van, with the usual baby paraphernalia on top of our camping things. After a particularly hectic day, our son woke up in the night for a feed and nappy change. All went well. Back to sleep and a well- earned extra few hours in bed.

The next morning, we heard a knock on our door. There stood our very friendly and helpful farmer who ran the small site where we were staying. We said hello and, in the course of our conversation, he asked if I had lost anything? I said I did not think so. He gave me a small parcel and a smile.

Inside the parcel were my glasses!

The farmer had been emptying the bins ready to burn the contents when my glasses fell out! When I was changing our son during the night, my glasses must have fallen off into one very pooey disposable nappy (we were giving them a try as we were camping). I leave the rest to your imagination. I did not realise that I had lost them as I normally wear contact lenses. Our lovely farmer had even washed the glasses for me.

I have no excuses apart from the fact that it was dark, cramped and I was really tired.

I rest my case.

Pat Collins



Picture the scene....I was following my family off Eastbourne beach after spending another long hot day roasting, throwing pebbles at an old baked bean can, and drying off after another ducking in the freezing sea by my Grandpa.



"Hurry up Roger, you will be late for your sister's birthday party." Walking slowly past the band stand I noticed a beauty contest being held there, "That's interesting" I thought, only wanting a peep. Past the old fruit and veg stalls I saw a brand new shiny wheelchair, "That's interesting" I thought, it would make a fantastic go cart, I only wanted a peep. When I could not see my Grandpa carrying his deck chairs and Granny in her floppy hat and beach bag, I knew I was LOST! I ambled over a very busy road into the 5 star Grand Hotel, watching elderly people exercising, interesting, I made my way to the cloakroom and ladies toilets, I was making my way across the room, when an old lady stopped me and said "You can't use our lavatories, are you lost boy? "

They were interesting, I only wanted a peep. I was taken to a Police Station, where a Dixon of Dock Green man asked me questions. He wasn't going to get anything out of me, I was told not to talk to strangers! I found it all very interesting. After an hour looking in the cells and at his cheese and pickle sandwiches, my Mum and sister came in. I "Have I missed your birthday ?" I said "No we have all the cake and trifle left" she replied. Now that WAS interesting, I thought.

Roger Wood



When the suggestion for a Lost and Found challenge was put forward I didn't have any comments to make. However, that same morning I was in the garden digging up what once had been a small attractive plant but one which had spread its tentacles to cover everything within sight. To my surprise when I lifted the clump out came a small putty knife which I had lost two years ago, and had given up all hope of seeing again. Just a small tool but very handy for easing moss off stonework and cleaning the underside of the lawn mower. A reward for a lot of hard work. Now I must find something suitable to fill the space.

Molly Wright



THE CASE OF THE MISSING WEDDING RING

All names have been either removed or changed to protect the living, dead or innocent. A young married couple had recently moved into their first home. Times were difficult and the mortgage rate stood at 15%. So proud of their situation friends were invited to dinner in a celebration of their good fortune. A very pleasant evening came and went and the couple were very pleased with themselves. The following morning everything changed very quickly when the wife was found in a bit of a panic crying to herself repeatedly saying to herself, "Where is it, where can it be?" "Where's what?" asked the husband. "My wedding ring, it's gone." For the next few weeks the search continued until it was decided that the only option left was to replace the ring. A claim was duly sent to the home insurance company. Even after the claim was made the search continued, but to no avail. In the meantime the wife's Grandmother made a visit to inspect the new house. Now the grandmother in her younger days had been a cook in a large house and was not use to having her tea made in a mug. She expected a teapot with cups and saucers. So the young wife was in the kitchen setting out the tea tray when there was an almighty scream from the kitchen, "I've found it," she cried. "Found what?" was the question everyone asked. "My wedding ring, it was inside the handle of one of the cups." So it just goes to show, always be positive and never give up. Anon



LOST AND FOUND.....and lost and found and lost and found and lost and found ...

Yes, it's the travels of a pair of reading glasses.

Other things regularly disappear, such as socks and pens, but my reading glasses definitely lead a life of their own. I have three pairs and those in my handbag and the bedroom are pretty well behaved, but the pair in the desk are determined to escape. Even this year when I've hardly been outside, I still spend a remarkable amount of time hunting the glasses.

So if I'm wearing them to do a bit of paperwork and need to take something into another room, I manage to lose them within ten yards. They hide beneath papers and cushions, which I've definitely not moved, and regularly decide to sit on book shelves. They love to visit the kitchen and I don't know how they manage to get wrapped in the tea towel.



I finally managed to lose them completely for 3 weeks, and nearly decided I would have to replace them. However, I was dusting the 'family room' where our daughter and family stay, and glanced in the toy cupboard. This had not been used for months because of shielding, but there were the glasses on the shelf. I don't think I believe in poltergeists but ...

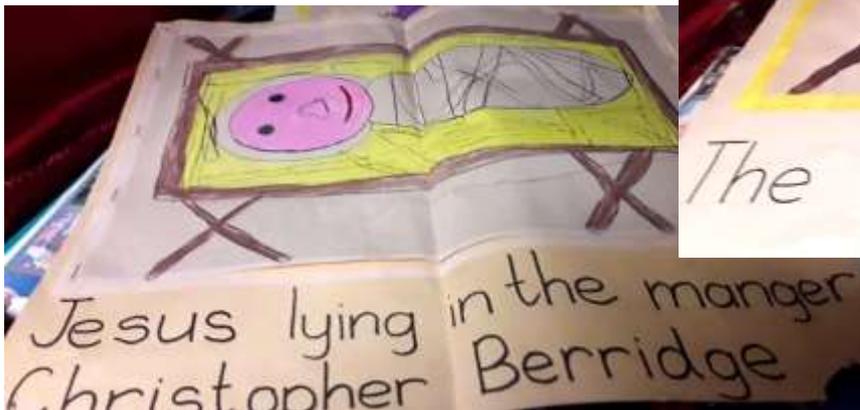
Angela Bradley



After nearly 30 years I downsized 12 years ago. It was my first Christmas here when I realised my box of Christmas Decorations hadn't moved with me. All the old 'treasures' and (now grown up) children's creations, especially two Nativity paintings by my son Christopher when aged 4 or 5, were lost. What a lump in the throat resulted!

Looking for jobs during Lockdown the garage was attacked. There was still a box labelled 'photographs' in there which kept me occupied for hours of memories both happy and sad. At the bottom was an old vanity case which I thought was long gone. No Christmas Decorations but more photos, homemade cards and poems and, amongst them, no Old but my Young Masters. The paintings were found. Such Joy!

Now in his 40's Chris can't understand why I was so pleased and excited to find them but perhaps some of you can.



Irene Berridge



.... AND FOUND

I was sorting some washing out and there was a pair of black trousers. Being cautious, I always check the pockets. Very good job I did as there was £30 in one of them??? QUESTION NOW where did it come from, I can't remember. So I found before I knew I had lost it.

Eileen Wass



HONEY BEES IN WINTER

Many people think that bees hibernate through the winter. This is true for bumble bees and wasps but not for the Honey Bee. Winter preparation for the Honey Bee starts after the last honey extraction from the middle of August, early September.



During August, if necessary, we treat the colony against the Vera mite. This is a parasite which attaches itself to the honey bee and sucks its fluid, it can also cause the spread of deformities. This occurs during the development of the bee and prevents the wings from forming correctly so they emerge with under developed wings and are unable to fly. After the treatment, because we have removed the honey, you replace the food source they will need for the winter. Honey bees require up 50lbs

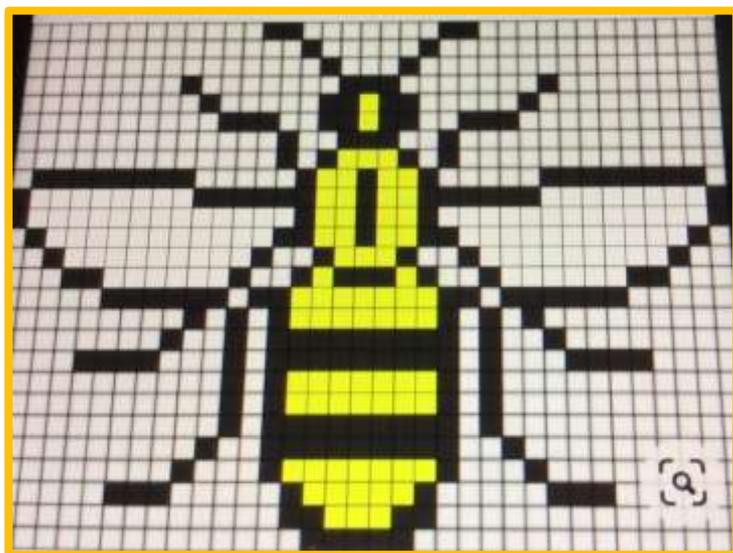


of food per colony to survive the winter as they don't hibernate. They cluster together to keep warm and occasionally on warmer days will leave the hive on a cleansing flight. During the last of the warmer days we feed them a solution of sugar and water at a ratio of two parts sugar to one part water. They take this down into the hive, evaporating the water down to less than 20%, so it will not ferment, then store the solution in the brood cells for use at a later stage. When the weather gets colder and the bees are not able raise the temperature inside the hive so as to drive off the excess water we start to feed a fondant, this is similar to the icing which you get on cakes. You can get fondant which has all sorts of additives mixed in which can be as much as £40 for a 12kg box. You can start to see where the price of natural untouched honey is coming from.

As winter progresses you have to keep a close eye on the state of the bees with regard to food. An experienced beekeeper will lift one corner of the hive to check the weight of the hive. This will give an indication as to how much food is or isn't in the hive. We also place an empty box under the roof so that we can continue to feed fondant as and when required. So far this winter my bees, I have nine colonies, have consumed 70kgs of sugar and I am on my third 12.5kg. box of baker's fondant. As we move towards spring the colonies which have survived the winter, because not all do, will start to leave the hive searching for new food. It's at this time that we start to help them with a feed of sugar, again this time at a 1 to 1 ratio. This helps to stop the colony from starving and encourages the Queen to start laying again producing new bees as the inter bees start to die off. Normally worker Honey bees live on average for six weeks due to their non-stop efforts to help the colony survive. One last thing to note is that, at any time, one of the most important flowers for the Honey Bee is the dandelion because it contains the highest percentage of protein in their pollen. Well that is the shortened version of winter beekeeping but what I haven't spoken about is all the other things that need doing like cleaning, repairing and preparing all the other equipment. There are also the other things you can do like candle making.

Dave Stanford

MAKE A BEE



The grid gives the colour pattern for a cross stitch bee. One cross for each square. Good for beginners. Have a go and think of the summer! Sue Robb

FINALLY.....

SERIOUS LOCK DOWN ADVICE

Everyone PLEASE be careful because people are going crazy from being locked down at home! I was just talking about this with the microwave and the toaster while drinking my tea, and we all agreed that things are getting bad.

I didn't mention any of this to the washing machine, because she puts a different spin on EVERYTHING!! Certainly couldn't share with the fridge, because he's been acting cold and distant! In the end, the iron straightened me out! She said the situation isn't all that pressing and all the wrinkles will soon get ironed out!

The vacuum, however, was very unsympathetic...told me to just suck it up! But the fan was VERY optimistic and gave me hope that it will all blow over soon! The toilet looked a bit flushed but didn't say anything when I asked its opinion, but the front door said I was becoming unhinged and the doorknob told me to get a grip!!

You can just about guess what the curtains told me: they told me to "pull myself together!" Then I looked at the clock. Do you think I've got too much time on my hands?

We will survive.