



SHERWOOD U3A

Learn Laugh Live NEWS LETTER June 2020

Hello to all Sherwood U3A members.



The 75 year celebrations of VE Day seem more poignant in the present situation and I have received so many contributions for the newsletter the June edition is dedicated to VE Day Then and Now. The wartime spirit seems very much alive, including in Sherwood U3A, and it is time for us to say a big Thank You to all who are working hard to keep our U3A thriving. This includes group leaders, contactors, newsletter contributors and distributors, welfare, committee members and all of you who are keeping in contact with others.

I already have some articles for next month and am really pleased with the response. I have even had material sent through the post (which you have not yet seen). Please have a go and think about contributing, either as an interest group or an individual: Hobbies and Activities old and new or Emotions are ideas you could develop.

Everyone is different and you may feel the easing of lockdown will be difficult. Please consider being a member of the new "Buddy Club". Like any other group it will only work if you are prepared to take the first difficult step....
Sue Robb (Editor)

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
Financial/General	Margaret Taylor
Newsletter/General	Sue Robb

U3A NOTICES

Hello Everyone,

Has this pandemic left you feeling isolated and with less confidence to even step outside your own front door? Well, **Buddy Club** may be the answer for you.

Four of us from Sherwood U3A are floating the idea that perhaps making a new friend is the answer for you. We have always promoted friendliness between our members

In the first instance you need to get in touch with Jenny Weaver, to agree that your details can be circulated to other members who want to join the group. Then it is up to you to decide whether you want to meet up – self-distancing of course – go for a short walk, phone or just be a pen pal via the post or email to start with.

Regular updates will be put into future newsletters and perhaps you can tell Sue Robb, the Editor, of your success with being a "buddy" to promote the benefits of this group to other members.

Don't forget that: **'Friendship is the comfort of knowing that even when you feel alone, YOU AREN'T!'**

AGM

As a result of the Coronavirus pandemic and of course the regulations regarding social distancing, you will be aware of the difficulties in carrying out any of the usual U3A activities.

May should have seen our AGM, but, in common with many other U3As, Sherwood's AGM has had to be deferred.

Charity Commission rules state that an AGM has to be held within fifteen months of the previous one, which, for us, was last June, so we should hold the AGM by September 2020. This date is quite in order with National Office guidelines.

It is also in line with National guidelines for would-be retirees from the Committee, providing they are willing, to remain in post until the next AGM, should there be no people wishing to replace them.

Claire Wilkie (Business Secretary)

**DO YOU have skills you aren't using?
CAN YOU contribute in different ways?
WOULD YOU like to make a difference?**

IF your answer is YES to any of these questions, there are places on the SHERWOOD COMMITTEE available for you!!

Sit in on a Committee Meeting to get the idea.

**YOU CAN DISCUSS THE IDEA with Claire Wilkie, or any other Committee member, by ringing Claire
YOU COULD HELP TAKE SHERWOOD INTO THE POST COVID WORLD!!**

National Newsletter. This is full of ideas and updates. Sign up to it at the national website.

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter>



HOLIDAYS

Kent Holiday Update from Just For Groups

Once the team can return to the office our first priority will be to follow the ABTA guidelines and issue Refund Credit Notes (RCN) for holidays affected.

The RCN will state a validity date by which time if it has not been used on another holiday a full cash refund will be issued.

The RCN will explain all options including your rights to use it or accept a refund.

Isle of Wight Rita Foulkes This holiday has been cancelled for July and their deposit money is safe and can either be put towards a new holiday date or, if they can't make it, be able to have their money back. Hopefully things will be sorted out to everyone's satisfaction when, and if, things get back to normal. Rita Foulkes

Visits organised by Denise Whitsed (Forest Town) Statement from Skills coaches. Our ABTA and British Coach Holidays Bonded memberships ensure bookings and holiday payments are completely safe and secure, so you face no risk either now or in the future.

SOCIAL EVENTS

We are holding monies for the following:

Afternoon Tea with Judith Hibbert at Turner Hall, £10. Should have taken place on 21st March but has been transferred to 14th November.

Bowling at Mansfield Super Bowl, £12. Should have been on 21st April but may be rearranged for later in the year. (Providing the Bowling is still open!)

Coffee Morning with "It's Now or Never" which should have been in May, now in October, may be in a different format!

At our first meeting, you will be asked if you wish to transfer your money to the new date or whether you want it refunded. If you have any queries about the Holidays or Social Events please call me on my mobile 07837710386 as land line in new house not working yet!! Liz Wilson



HEARTS APPEAL

To all of our members who are busy making hearts whether they are knitted, crocheted or sewn.

We are hopeful that we can send all U3A donations at the beginning of August so if you have hearts ready to be included in our donation **by the end of July**, can you please contact Terry Dillon on 01623 610790 or tdillon2205@gmail.com so we can arrange to get them to a central point.

Can we also remind you that the hearts need to be made in identical pairs, put into bags e.g. freezer bags and should be roughly about 6.5cm each. If you miss our deadline and/or still wish to continue with making your hearts, you can go on line and look at the Appeal information on where you can send them after August.

As you begin to venture out you may need a mask. This pattern has been used for masks to supply a local home:-



DIY Surgical Mask Pattern

Materials

- 100% cotton fabric (with a tight weave)
- 1/8" flat elastic for ear loops, or 4 fabric ties (you can use the same cotton fabric to make strips, use pre-made bias binding, or strips of cotton jersey)
- fabric scissors, ruler, pins or clips, sewing machine and thread

Instructions

1. **Cut the fabric.** For an adult size mask, cut 1 fabric rectangle 16" long and 8.5" wide. Cut 2 pieces of elastic, each 7" long. Or, cut 4 fabric ties 18" long.
For a child-size mask, cut 1 fabric rectangle 14" long and 6.5" wide. Then, cut 2 pieces of elastic, each 6" long.
2. **Sew the top side, with a pocket opening.** Fold the fabric in half, with the right sides facing. Sew along the 8.5" width edge, using a 5/8" seam allowance. Leave a 3" opening in the center of this seam to create an opening for the filter pocket, and to allow the mask to be turned right side out after sewing. Press the seam open. Topstitch/zig-zag stitch along both sides of the seam for a neater edge.
3. **Pin Elastic or Fabric Ties.** Pin one piece of elastic to each side of the mask, one end to the top corner and one end to the bottom corner. If using fabric ties, pin one tie to each corner, with the rest of the tie sandwiched inside the two layers of fabric.
4. **Sew the Sides.** Sew the sides of the facemask. Backstitch over the elastic or fabric ties to secure them. Clip the corners, turn the mask right side out, and press with an iron.
5. **Sew the Pleats.** Create three evenly spaced 1/2" pleats. Pin the folds in place, making sure all pleats are facing the same direction. Sew down each side to secure the pleats.
Note: When the mask is worn, the pleats should open downwards to prevent any particles from collecting in the fold pockets.

For more details see <https://sarahmaker.com/how-to-sew-a-surgical-face-mask-for-hospitals-free-pattern/>

There is currently a national U3A Creative Writing competition. Further details and competition rules are at: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/creative-writing-2020>. The theme of the piece, which must be 1500 words or less, is "time". The submission portal opens on Monday 18th May and the deadline is 12 noon on 19th June.

What you Chair has been doing in lock down.....

Hi to one and all. It seems ages ago since our last Meeting – in fact a world away! I have been in telephone contact with several of you and met up with others in parks and gardens --- socially distanced of course!

I think some of my Rambling Group has missed the leg stretching because they have had few trips!! Gladys tripped over the duvet (don't ask) and hurt her shoulder. Stephen tripped down the back door steps and hurt his knee and shoulder. Carolyn fell in the garden and cracked her rib. Denise tripped over a grate and made a real mess of her face. And me --- I had plants soaking in a water tub and after I had planted them I tripped over the spade and went splat into the water tub head first!! I wasn't hurt but I was very, very wet! Don't comment!!!

I hope the rest of you are safe and well so we can meet up and party when all this is over and life, as we knew and enjoyed it, starts again.

I managed to move into my house in Forest Town just as Lock Down happened though it was a last minute rush before everything stopped. Hence I spent the first month getting sorted out in the house --- now everything is put away but not sure where it has been put. Yesterday, Steve who has been working in my garden asked if I had any string. Oh yes, lots, but not sure where it is as I put away a month ago!! I had to give him garden twine as I had used that more recently and knew exactly where it was. Still haven't found the string!!

My back garden is more or less finished but my front garden still looks like a building site as any of you who have passed will have seen. Still it gives me something to do while locked down!! Will send pictures of the before and after if I can work out how to get photographs onto my laptop as my main PC is not yet connected up --- I'm waiting for the man!!!

Liz Wilson

VE DAY 1945..... memories

I can remember hiding under the stairs when German bombers flew over, returning from Derby, and their distinctive sound. We lived at Watnall where there was an R.A.F. station and underground radar room. We had a Squadron Leader billeted on us and one morning when my mother found a radio receiver in our coal house, Squadron Leader Gough said it must be from a spy!

I used to knock on neighbours' doors asking if they had any sweet coupons spare. And at school I remember the teacher changing the date on the blackboard with a flourish from 1944 to 1945.

The V.E. day celebrations were held in the nearby avenue. An airman stood on the roof of an air raid shelter and took our photos, then, one of the little boys and another of the girls. My mother had the boys' photo but not the girls. Some years ago when doing my family history I managed to find someone who had the girls' photo and she sent me a copy. I now know why mother didn't get one. I am sitting next to a red headed girl called Theresa Green



and boy did she smell! So I am turned away from her with an awful sneer on my face. After V.E. day mother and her friend went into Nottingham to join in the celebrations in the square- must have been a riot of happiness, dancing and smiling and hugging. At the end of the war my mother had to go to hospital and an aunt was in the kitchen washing up. I had just returned from school. "There's a soldier coming up the path" I said. "Mmmm... it's your dad". He had left the army from Italy and

come home and had apparently been to meet me from school but missed me. So many more memories!!!

Josie Earnshaw

Memories-----

May

1945

There was a Railway Station at the end of the street. We would stand on a bridge to get covered in steam, you could travel on the train straight to Derby County F.C., Derby won the F. A. Cup that year. Just a quick word about what happened at the place where I lived. Parties, parties. Everywhere people shouting, people lying all over the place. Very often fights broke out, I'd get a clout for watching. I lived a few yards away from the Nags Head pub, East Kirkby, across the road from the Regent Cinema. We went to lots of street parties, jam tarts, jelly and custard, all brilliant, this carried on for days. Then we had children only street parties, more jam tarts etc. We then went to a massive bonfire on Kingsway Park, there must have been thousands of people there singing and dancing, what a day! We were escorted home that day. I was 4 years old.

Geoff Shooter

..and stories



I was only a baby when it was VE day 1945 so don't remember anything about it. I do remember ration cards and identity cards. My husband, Jim, was almost 7 on VE day but didn't experience the street parties that many remember as he lived on a farm and was quite isolated. He remembers the bombers flying over to bomb Sheffield. Silver paper was strewn across their fields in an attempt to fool the German pilots into thinking it was a water course and hopefully misdirect them away from Sheffield. However, Jim and his twin brother thought it would be great to collect the silver paper

to play with so plan foiled!

I remember playing with a gas mask. This one belongs to Dorothy Bradford. It was very uncomfortable! Everyone carried one around with them in a cardboard box during the war.





This is a picture of Ruth who was evacuated to my Grandma's house early in the war from her Sheffield home. She was then just 2 years old and stayed for a long time, until after starting school at Welbeck village school. She rang me after VE day this year and said the recent celebrations had triggered many memories. Apparently on VE day itself she was in hospital in Sheffield with pneumonia and remembers the nurses dancing around and cheering and being told that the war had ended. She also remembered a big bonfire when she was home on which was placed an effigy of Hitler sitting on a commode with a "jerry" on his head! I never knew why chamber pots were called jerries until I saw one recently with a picture of Hitler in the bottom, ready to be defaced!

Wendy Sterland

On VE Day, my son rang to ask if I knew where my Dad had been when WWII finished. I know I've bored you all before about how he'd joined up with other Sheffield Wednesday team-members in 1939, been evacuated from Dunkirk, before being sent to North Africa under Montgomery's command, to fight against Rommel. Afterwards his battalion worked its way across Sicily, up Southern Italy and after changing regiments, he finished in Rome.

Matt was hoping for a few more details, so we fetched out two old suitcases from the loft and started to sift through all the dusty photos and newspaper cuttings to see what we might find. Carefully opening the yellowing papers, suddenly we came across a news article showing details of a football match in Rome between an Army XI and my Dad's Central Mediterranean Forces Team for today, May 12th 1945. I knew Dad had been captain and had played in games at the end of the war to entertain the troops, but one of these photos showed Matt Busby and goal-keeper Frank Swift shaking hands with the British Ambassador and another with Dad introducing Army top brass to his team. Looking more closely through the photos, we realised that some were official War Office ones. It was very exciting but.... on the back of one, my dad had written 'Incident at the Game' ! Oh dear, had he punched someone, or been sent off.... we had no idea? Matt was very excited by all this news because he had really admired his grandad and wanted to put all this on the web. When I said he should wait until we'd found out what the incident might have been, he told me to get real, it was a long time ago and surely far worse things had happened during the war. Anyway, over the weekend, we have been trawling through websites about football during the war trying to find out more details. It would seem that some famous internationals had not seen 'active' service abroad and played games in Britain as morale boosters. However, the spectator soldiers who'd risked their lives, were not always polite with their comments while watching the games. Who knows if this might have been the 'incident' to which Dad was referring?

Well, we have contacted the Imperial War Museum to see if these photos are part of a collection, but that could take months. So, by the time we all meet again, there may be an answer to what the 'Incident' was! But in the big scheme of things, I guess it doesn't really matter now.

Vivienne Brown



My dad was in the RAF. Towards the end of the war he was stationed in Naples. My Italian mum was working in the N.A.A.F.I. sewing silk parachutes. They met, fell in love and got married, this was near the end of the war.

When mum came to England to start her new life it was in Newcastle.

The biggest shock for mum was tea. She could not cope with the smell of it, and of course there was no coffee.

Angelina Taylor

... one week later

A Sherwood member was Born. Guess who?

Answer next month



VE DAY 2020 ...before



Son - **Don't suppose you have any Union Jack material do you?**

Mum - **Not sure. I might.**

Son - **Don't suppose you could make Reggie (the dog) a coat for the VE Day anniversary could you?**

Mum - **Not sure. I might.**

Son - **Go on Mum. You can do it, I know you can.**

Mum - **Not sure. So I did.**

Eileen Reavill

... on the day

It is Wednesday, 6th May, and it is becoming very noticeable that the forthcoming VE Day Anniversary is becoming as big a piece of news on the television as the Coronavirus. Marjorie and I started discussions about what should we do, given the current circumstances, to celebrate the occasion.

We live on a quiet cul-de-sac of just 6 houses, 2 on our side of the road and 4 on the other. Therefore, we decided to ask our neighbours, Deb and Andy, if they fancied a very public drink and natter on the drive. Immediately, they agreed and a time of 3pm on the Friday was agreed. To mark the occasion, we decided that I would make a Lemon Drizzle cake as this is definitely one of Andy's favourites.

Also, it was decided to make some bunting and flags but how. After much searching some plain paper is found and much drawing commences which is going to take some colouring until we remember that the Grandkids have some poster paints somewhere in the



garage, but where? Eventually, they are found and much furious painting follows against the tight timetable – it is a good job I have nothing else to do. Of course, now came the agonising decision as to whether we should ask the others on the Close. Would they be interested or indeed might they be working? On the Thursday evening the matter is resolved. We were just on the way out for our daily exercise when we see Tara from the third house across the way and straight away she and Chris are up for it. Now urgent discussions accompany the walk as we need more than just the one cake and how and when are we going to ask the others?

On the cake front it was decided that we would include a Beetroot and Chocolate Cake as well as making some plain buns, icing them with a '75',

and some chocolate-chip muffins, only to realise we have no Plain Flour so will have to do plain buns instead and add some chocolate chips. In addition, Marjorie says she will do a chocolate Fridge Cake.

Baking starts in earnest early on Friday only for the buns to come out of the oven to be accompanied with a power-cut and alarms start ringing everywhere and people pour out into the close – the perfect opportunity to ask about the event. All bar one house agree, because they have other plans, and smugness sets in only to realise as to where are we going to hold it to enhance the current social distancing rules. The top of our drive is agreed which means that we can sit on our drive but the neighbours will have to sit on the road.

3pm comes and all are assembled including the kids from the first house, except they are in their early 20's, who inform us it is their Mum's Birthday so she walks out to rendition of 'Happy Birthday' and the tone is set. A superb afternoon of some 5.5 hours is to follow which hopefully will long live in the memory of all who were there and did much to restore the spirit within the close. We even managed to get Alexa to play suitable War-time music in the background

Dave Clarke

Well we did it again on Wensleydale Close. VE day was a hit. The whole street had balloons, bunting, flags and loud music and, later on, Barbies. From twelve o'clock the picnic and booze came out. The children skating and biking up and down the street, rugs on lawns and general chitchat shouted up and down the drives.

The man across the road dashed across, keeping social distance of course, and filled up my wine glass. Cakes were offered and donated up and down the street by different neighbours. At three o'clock there was a toast and we all sang the famous song "We'll Meet Again."

Lola one of my dogs sat patiently by my side and was offered a squashed cake, Pat who made them, had fallen and squashed some cakes, so offered one to Lola which she downed in one.

The celebrations carried on and were still ongoing when we went to bed.

I walked my other dog Daisy at nine o'clock the next morning and not a soul moved, every curtain was closed.

At lunchtime I was cleaning my car in the drive when a neighbour with a lurcher walked past, I shouted to him "Have you got a good headache?" and he said, "Yes I have, but wasn't it a good day?"

Need I say any more?

Judy Openshaw



We had a street party on VE day an afternoon tea that lasted several hours. We all took our garden chairs to the top and side of our close, spaced out of course. The children on the close had made bunting and lots of flags were produced as well as a model of a Mosquito, made by Jim, and a gas mask! One lady who works at a bakery in Warsop made scones for everyone with fresh cream and fresh strawberries. Lots of wine appeared to be consumed. We had all chosen music the day before which our resident DJ was in charge of, an eclectic mix. We even stood to sing the national anthem. We played bingo and the children had games and sports day type fun races in the parking area at the top of the close, all spaced and everything sanitised! It was a lovely event and an opportunity to speak to neighbours we see little of.

Wendy Sterland



It's not easy to arrange a street party when living on a very long road but two neighbours posted an invitation through every door. Our neighbour and her family set about making bunting for houses close by and played appropriate music on the day. Others provided their own decorations and at the allocated time we all sat near the pavement wearing red, white and blue. Each section of the street made socially distanced hubs and

provided their own refreshments. We had tea in china cups placed on a 1940's embroidered tablecloth (both courtesy of my mother). Even teddy, at present residing in the porch for the benefit of passing children, made a socially distanced appearance outside.

It wouldn't have happened in any other year and made for a welcome distraction for all those who enjoyed a lovely afternoon.

For our evening meal I made a Woolton Pie, a nourishing wartime recipe using home grown veg, which we eat with cabbage from the allotment followed by stewed rhubarb!

Lord Woolton Pie

- 1lb cauliflower
- 1lb parsnips
- carrots
- potatoes
- bunch spring onions
- teasp. marmite (or stock cube)
- Tablespoon of rolled oats
- and pepper to taste once cooked.
- Parsley (fresh or dried)

Method

Chop up the vegetables into chunks with those that take longest to cook smaller pieces.

Place in pot and bring to simmer with just enough water to reach 3/4 of the way up the veg in the pot.

Add in Marmite and rolled oats, salt and pepper and cook until tender and most of the water has been absorbed.

Place mixture in deep pie dish and sprinkle with fresh parsley (or add dry parsley to mixture and mix in)

Make the pastry by mixing the flour with the baking powder and salt and then rubbing in the margarine.

Mix the mashed potato in to form a dough and knead (add a little water to the mixture if too dry)

Roll out to form pie crust and place on top and decorate then brush with milk.

Place in oven at 200C for 30 minutes or so until top is firm and browned. Serves 8

NB. I used half quantity of veg, enough for two meals.

Sue Robb



flour
1lb
1lb

2
Salt

into



Phil Wright enjoying tea/beer at his socially distanced VE Day street party.

●●● and later

Once upon a time, when it was V.E. day, someone was asked by their other half to climb onto a wall, lean over into the hedge and trail the required bunting along the hedge as it was out of reach for their other half. All went well until it was time to remove the bunting at the end of the day. As the said other half still could not reach into the hedge to retrieve the bunting, the earlier "willing" volunteer was asked to remove the bunting as it was getting late. The "willing" volunteer explained that a shower was actually next on the cards, hence a lack of suitable outdoor clothing. This did not deter the other half from continuing to demand that the bunting be removed. So after deciding that it was fairly quiet and getting late, as well as for the sake of peace and quiet, the "willing" volunteer went outside, climbed onto the wall and was in the process of gathering up the offending bunting when who should pass by but the local police officer in his police car who must have found it very amusing to see our "willing" volunteer stood on a wall in just their underwear! **Anon**

This is not FAKE news. It happened to a member of the photography group. Who do you think it was ??????