



SHERWOOD U3A

Learn Laugh Live NEWSLETTER July 2021

Hello to all Sherwood U3A members,

The theme for the June edition of the newsletter is 'MEETING UP'. We look forward to planned events, hear about how groups have been keeping in touch and their first tentative steps to meet in person. There is also information, and a plea, about the present status of interest groups. Please send any news of 'Groups Re-emerging' to me for the July edition. This is open to everyone, not just group leaders, and can include activities within the community that you have missed.

As you can see I'm back editing, thanks again to everyone for their support over the past months.

Sue Robb (Editor)

Contributions by Friday 23rd July 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:

Chairman	Liz Wilson
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
Zoom meetings	Claire Wilkie
(SEE WEBSITE FOR CONTACTS)	

U3A NOTICES



It is with a sad heart I am writing this piece in memory of **Sadie Hurst and Margaret Hammond**, close friends for so long, they have sadly both left this life within a few days of each other.

No trips, holidays or lunch outings will be the same without their happy laughing presence. Peter, who was the driver of our holiday buses, will miss them as he always had lots of laughs with them and named them 'Hinge and Bracket'. For a long time Chris Wain and I have shared a table with them on outings and holidays, when we have had many laughs as we ate our food. I was reminded only yesterday of one hilarious incident when

we visited The Eden Project in Cornwall. After walking around the project we finished up in a cafe where there was an automated mannequin sequence playing out repeatedly in a booth on one wall. It finished with both fully endowed mannequins stark naked.



Both Sadie and Margaret had tears streaming down their faces because they were laughing so hysterically. Margaret said she had never expected to see a nude man again!!! They both loved life and had had a very varied and happy time with both family and friends, travelling to many parts of the world. Sadie possibly had a photographic memory and could recall the smallest detail from years back. Margaret had a wonderful sense of humour and could see the funny side of most things. They will be sadly missed by all who knew them and memories of some of their merrier times will long be remembered.

Eileen Wass

(Sadie's funeral is on Friday 2nd July at 12.15 at Mansfield Crematorium. As some restrictions have been lifted it has been agreed with a family member that members may pay their respects outside the Crematorium. Donations to Marie Curie. No details yet available for Margaret.)



Ian Blackwell was a long-time member of the U3A and had taken an active part in it over the years. He had been an art teacher at Queen Elizabeth's boys school before his retirement. He was a member of several interest groups, playing an active and knowledgeable part in them, in particular with his fund of amusing 'little tales' on most subjects. One of his interests was antique auctions and fairs when he and Pat would usually come away with something that took his eye. As you can imagine he was a member of the Antiques Group and also the Art Group where he was a great help.

Two of his long time passions were golf and cricket being an avid spectator and I believe, in his time, player. He enjoyed most sports, in particular the snooker on television.

In fact it could be said he was 'a good all-rounder' in every way and will be missed.
Marlene Limb



It is with great sadness that I have to inform you of the death of **Janet Jackson** in the early hours of the 18th May.

Janet held many Card Games for the U3A at her home over the years she was a member.

I'm sure she will be missed by all who attended, plus everyone who knew her.
Winifred Dowley

And happy

news..... Congratulations to Veronica Farnsworth and Joe Walker, two postal members, who were married on Saturday 19th June.

We send them best wishes for the future.



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT –Liz Wilson

I can't believe it Sadie, the Matriarch of Sherwood u3a, has died! She will live on in every member's memory as our QUEEN, at our u3a's Queen's Birthday Celebrations for she was the same age as Her Majesty. She will also always live on in my memory for all the fun and good humour that she brought to the holidays. She entered into all the activities and nothing defeated her, whether it was the stairs at Castle Howard (Christmas at Nidd Hall) or the long causeway leading to St. Michael's Mount (Cornwall National Trust holiday). She also often kept us amused, on the bus or in the bar, with her tales and memories hence, she and her "mate" Margaret gained the nick name "Hinge and Bracket" from our regular bus driver (not sure who was which) as they were such good sports and provided us with so many humorous moments.

Not surprising then, that when I heard about Sadie, I wondered about Margaret, for they met at our u3a and became firm friends. They went on all the holidays and day trips together, sat together on the bus, explored together, encouraged each other and shared constant conversations! Hence, I was saddened but not surprised when just over a week later I heard that Margaret had also died! We will all miss them so much! International Dining will not be the same without you Margaret!!

Another death that comes as a great blow is that of Ian Blackwell. He had suffered from ill health even before covid but he still supported at Monthly Meetings and came on some outings and holidays. He and his wife, Pat, were two of our original members and, if you remember, cut the cake at our 10th Birthday celebrations. A lovely gentleman who will be missed!

Another member, Janet Jackson died last month.

Love conquers all! Amid all this sadness we have some sunshine with the good news that two of our postal members, Veronica Farnsworth and Joseph Walker have decided to tie the knot and have married!
CONGRATULATIONS.

In spite of the sadness that dominates the above, the themes for the Newsletter over the next two months are optimistic: -

August - Groups Re Emerging

September - Holidays

The next Zoom Monthly Meeting will feature –

Terry – About Groups

Denise - Thursford

Liz – Itinerary for Kent

Rita – Itinerary for Isle of Wight

Denise – Visits

Claire – 1st Heritage visit to the Rock Cemetery

Then, fingers crossed, Trip Down Memory Lane 1915/16.

If technology fails us it will be a fun quiz on the following subjects –

Margaret – Dogs

Terry - TV Doubles/ Who said this?

Jeremy – Geography

Denise – Food

Jane – UK Cities

Ann – UK TV Detectives

Liz – Snoopy

As you can see from my choice of subject it will all be light hearted and you will be marking your own (so you can cheat --- as if you would)!!

I'll finish on that note so that you can all rush away to do your revision on ALL SUBJECTS – if you have a rainy day. Hopefully, soon you will not have time for boring revision because you'll be out enjoying u3a activities!!!

Answers from the Anagrams Quiz in the last newsletter:

1. BEDFORDSHIRE
2. GLOUCESTERSHIRE
3. KENT
4. MIDDLESEX
5. STAFFORDSHIRE
6. WARWICKSHIRE
7. SHROPSHIRE
8. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
9. HAMPSHIRE
10. DERBYSHIRE

GROUP NEWS



We have asked Group Leaders to let us know the status of their groups ready for when we are able to start up again.

Marlene Limb who leads Art Group 1 has reluctantly had to step down as group leader for health reasons.

We now have a number of groups which need new leaders and will not be viable unless a new leader comes forward. These are Art 1, Art 2, Eclectic Music, Scrabble, Strolling, Walking and Current Affairs.

We have also lost Gentle Keep Fit and Harmony Choir as the qualified people leading them are unable to carry on doing so.

We have still to find out the status of the following groups: Antiques and Collectables, Book Group, Guitar, Local History, Ten Pin Bowling and Writing, and we will pass on information as it becomes available.

On a more positive note the following groups will be continuing when meetings become viable: Board Games, Card Games, Craft, Family History, Garden Group, Heritage, International Dining, Latin, Lunch Group, National Trust, Oriental and Continental Dining, Photography, Rambling, Sunday Lunch and Wine Appreciation.

Our Group Leaders are very special people who give up their time to give us a greater choice of interests and activities and we are very grateful to them. However they can't keep doing it forever and there comes a time when, for a variety of reasons, they feel that they can no longer do it. We don't want to lose any groups so would ask members to consider taking on the role of Leader for the groups that we are in danger of losing. It isn't as difficult as you might think and you would get help from other Group Leaders and Jenny and myself as Coordinators.

If you think that you could do this or would like information on what a group leader entails please contact us by phone or email.

Terry Dillon and Jenny Weaver
Group Coordinators

HOLIDAYS



September 20th - 25th Lochs and Glens, Scotland 2 Twins and 1 Double still available! Balance £449 must be paid by the end of July.

November Thursford 4 places left – Balances due by 14th September.

9th – 13th May '22 The Garden of England (Kent) Half Board - £485 National Trust Members/ £535 Non NT Members - £25 Insurance (Optional)

Day One – Depart and travel to Hever Castle, childhood home of Anne Boleyn (entrance included) Then on to Holiday Inn in Rochester.

Day Two – NT Chartwell House and Garden, family home of Winston Churchill (entrance and garden tour included). Then pm NT Emmetts Garden (guided tour included)

Day Three – Scotney Castle (garden tour included). Pm leisure time in Royal Tunbridge Wells.

Day Four – NT Knole House (entrance included). Pm by the sea in charming Broadstairs.

Day Five – Pashley Manor Gardens (entrance included) and then, having made lots of treasured memories, we travel home.

£50 deposits will be collected in September (hopefully at our Meeting) and balances by the end of February 2022. Cheques made payable to SKILLS.

23rd – 30th July'22 Isle of Wight of Yesteryear – Half Board = £769 - £35 Insurance (Optional)

Day One – Travel to the Isle of Wight and the Broadway Park Hotel in Sandown

Day Two – Visit Cowes and then on to Carisbrooke Castle (entrance included). On the way back we visit Godshill, the prettiest village on the island.

Day Three – Full day tour to Osbourne House (entrance included)

Day Four – Free day to explore Sandown or do a ramble in the area.

Day Five – Alum Bay (The Needles) and then on to Farringford House and Gardens, home of Alfred Lord Tennyson (entrance and guided tour included).

Day Six – Half Day to Ventnor Botanical Gardens (entrance included).

Day Seven – Half Day to Shanklin Old Village where you can explore the village or take a walk down the Chine or both!

Day Eight – Bid a fond farewell to the Isle and journey home.

£50 deposits will be collected in November and balances by the end of April. Cheques made payable to JUST FOR GROUPS

Rita Foulkes

September 2022 –North Wales here we come! More details next Month! For detailed information on all holidays check our **WEBSITE** – just type in sherwoodu3a-mansfieldwoodhouse.org.uk and go to **VISITS** and then to **HOLIDAYS**,

HERITAGE GROUP

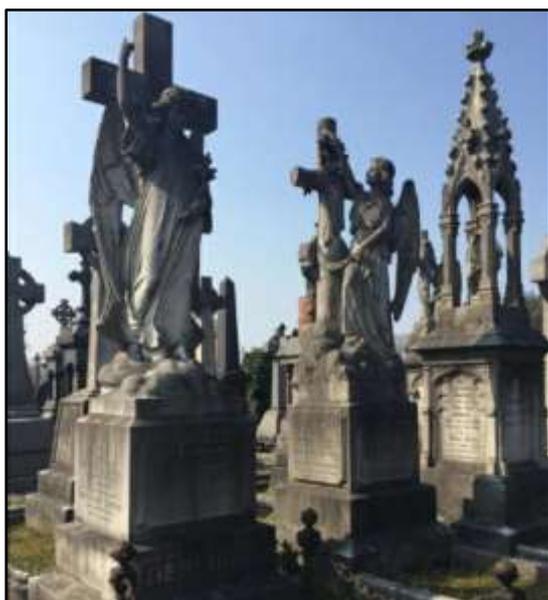
PROPOSED VISIT TO NOTTINGHAM CHURCH (ROCK) CEMETERY, Tuesday 14th September 2021.

Those people who have travelled into Nottingham by car or bus may well have noticed a large cemetery on the right hand side at a cross roads not far from the City Centre.

This is the Rock Cemetery, so called because of its sandstone caves, but it is also the Church Cemetery, originally linked to St. Andrew's Church opposite.

Built in 1851, and first used in 1856, following the Enclosure Act, the Cemetery covers 13 acres and is thought to be the graveyard of up to 14,000 burials.

The graves vary from those of the rich, on the left, to a whole area of paupers' graves in a valley, 20 feet lower.



People buried here include the architect, Watson Fothergill, and the engineer responsible for Trent Bridge and the City sewage system, Marriott Tarbotton.

I organised a tour here two years ago and so can give the following information.

Probable duration of the tour: 2 to 2 and a half hours.

Footwear: Sensible shoes. The ground is uneven in places and is unfit for those with walking difficulties.

Cost: The previous tour of the Cemetery cost £2.50, but this tour is planned with a different organisation and full details are unclear, due to present restrictions.

Transport: The Cemetery is right opposite a bus stop where the Pronto bus stops on its way into the City, but if enough people are interested a Group bus could be organised.

Numbers: 40 members of Mapperley u3a were involved in the other trip, so up to that number could be accommodated this time too, hopefully.

Contact: Anyone interested should contact me.

As previously mentioned, this is only provisional as the organisation in charge has not yet decided on all its tours. Further information will be given as soon as I have it.

Claire Wilkie

MEETING UP –PRESENT AND PAST

ORIENTAL AND CONTINENTAL First night out after lockdown, Tom Browns 28th May 2021

After a couple of trial events last year during the summer we decided to try our first visit of the group for 16 months. We picked Tom Browns because we were aware that if regulations changed we could still go as they had provision for outdoor eating that was well catered for, including heating and good spacing.

The day itself was lovely so a lot of the group, 10 in all on two tables, decided to meet at the side of the Trent early to take advantage of the good weather and had a stroll for about 40 minutes before going into the restaurant for a meal. It was lovely to catch up with people we hadn't seen for a while and also a new postal member. The layout in the restaurant was well spaced with clear adherence to the Covid situation, we all felt safe and well provided for with sanitiser and clear procedures. It was lovely to go to a restaurant again and get all the buzz of a lively dining out experience. Everyone fully enjoyed the meal and the evening to such an extent that I forgot to take the photograph of the occasion. The food was lovely and certainly everyone appeared to enjoy themselves. Will try to do better on our next trip, which is to Katmandoo at Clay Cross on 26th June.

Looking forward to many more exciting meals out.

WINE APPRECIATION in a gazebo

So here we are in June 2021, some 17 months since I collected individual member's wine choices, which were due to be tasted in March and April, not this year but last. I have stored them carefully, at no extra cost, until now, resisting the temptation for early sampling. We meet on June 23rd, the first time since February 2020. The venue will be my new gazebo, which may be somewhat cramped if it rains, but it will be great to be back together, enjoying a glass or so of our favourite wines.

A very wide variety of wines have been chosen by our members, which may suggest a failure to discriminate, which may reflect inadequate training, for which I can only chastise myself. The wines chosen range from single grape varieties from the Mosel, Romania and Italy to three grape blends of reds from South Africa, France and Portugal, from a variety of sources including Aldi, Tesco, Asda, Sainsbury and Majestic. Prices range from 5 to 10 pounds, so we may prove yet again that price is not necessarily a good guide to enjoyment.

It will be interesting to see how the scoring goes and reflects our individual tastes (or prejudices). I still fail to appreciate the merits of rosé, while others never understand my preference for a very tannic full-bodied Bordeaux. Will 18 months extra maturity improve the wines, or the members' capacity for appreciation?

We look forward to the resumption of normal service, and hope next time to meet with total freedom.

David Bradley



RAMBLING Rambling Around the Vale!

We usually do this local walk during winter months so it was amazing to see it in June with fields of cow parsley, green wheat and poppies! There were 20 of us as we set off from the Carrs and we were all in catch up mode! By the end of the walk we had all settled back into our group and agreed it was as though we had never been through the last year apart. Our new member, Janet (Little Liz's sister), joined the gang and Peter, who is joining us on the next walk, came and introduced himself when we were meeting in Morrison's car park.

We agreed that instead of one person being charged with doing a write up we would all put our penneth in --- so here are our comments: -

U3A Rambles are back! Great to meet up with everyone again. Think Colin enjoyed talking to someone else other than me!



Great to be back with the Rambling Group and talking with everyone. My hip survived!

A lovely, warm day with great company! Wonderful to be back together again!

Great walk! Lovely to see everyone again --- thank you!

My first walk for ages! Really enjoyed seeing everyone again on a lovely, pleasant walk.

What a lovely day! A pleasure to meet up again with all the friends in the Rambling Group, lots to catch up with. Looking forward to all the future walks.

Great walk! Great weather! Great to see everyone!

Great to see everyone again. Lovely ramble – trees, flowers, fields full of poppies!

My first walk with the u3A. Lovely friendly company, great walk and enjoyed seeing the poppy fields.

Great to be out seeing people again. Hope it's not long before the next one!

Poppy fields, sad memories of our soldiers – we will remember them!

Lovely to meet everyone at last and in such beautiful weather – weren't we lucky!

Thanks to Ann and Anne who added to my photos of the Ramblers doing what they do best, walking, talking, smiling and eating! In other words – back to normal! Lock down? What Lock down.

Liz Wilson

Sole Mate Problems!

It was a beautiful, warm summer's day and I was eagerly anticipating the start up of the Rambling Group and the walk around Warsop Vale. Arrangements had been made for lifts and eating venues, (very important with the Ramblers) but ----- my foot decided it wasn't to be! Vital blood resources were passed (it started to bleed) as it retaliated in its reaction to over usage (perhaps because the skin had been worn away). I had to ease off my walking long distances and become a tortoise, "No pressure there then!" said my sole/soul mate attachment.

However I do hope to join the Ramblers again, albeit in my limited fashion. If only to meet up with some friends again after the "COVID" gap!

Jean Moffitt

FAMILY HISTORY Meeting Up On Zoom

The Pandemic lockdowns have caused many changes in our lives, but one pleasing outcome has been to still be able to maintain contact with some of our U3A Sherwood Family History Group through Zoom.

At the beginning, the first Thursday morning of each month would find me sitting in front of my iPad anxiously waiting to see if the connections would work and if a few smiling faces would magically appear on the screen. Really I was very much a novice, but fortunately I have a savvy husband on hand (and his golf was banned that morning) who could talk people through any issues for the first couple of times, until we became more proficient. Now at least six of us meet up to share not only our ancestry findings, but also to laugh or commiserate about everyday life. Each month a different topic is chosen like 'Unusual Surnames in Your Family Tree' and so the next time everyone can take a few minutes to share any findings, or lack of them. Delving into historical records on the internet can be absorbing, if at times frustrating, so the input of ideas during our chats gives fresh impetus for new lines of enquiry. Claire Wilkie now manages the hosting as she has accessed some interesting free YouTube talks about Census records, which we are watching in stages, before finishing our session together about 11am.

Not all members of the Family History Group are fans of Zoom, so we are looking forward to catching up with everyone, hopefully in September, when we can meet, Covid restrictions permitting, back at Park Road Resource Centre.

We have always been a caring, friendly community, so if you think you'd like to delve back into "Who Do You Think You Are", drop an email to Claire or myself to find out how to join us.

Vivienne Brown

PHOTOGRAPHY at Carr Bank Park

After seventeen months, the Photography Group had its first meeting outdoors on Wednesday, 16th June at Carr Bank Park. Ten of us met on a lovely sunny morning, had tea or coffee and a wonderful catch up with each other. I don't think we even discussed photographs in 2 hours! Some of us had breakfast. Others just enjoyed laughing and sharing the past seventeen months.

We all agreed that we will meet every month if Mr. Johnson does not change the rules. Tables have been booked for our July meeting at 10 am.

One or two members were unable to join us so we are all looking forward to seeing each other soon.

No words can describe how we felt being together again after all this time.

Pat Collins (group leader)

NATIONAL U3A DAY

Did anybody remember our National U3A Day on June 2nd? Mansfield U3A did, and they put on a special coffee morning at St Philip Neri's church. I was welcomed by their sashed meet and greeters, who took me through the bunting and U3A balloons towards all the fun of fair. I told them I was already a U3A member with the "Wood'us lot", they laughed and encouraged me to be a member of two groups, especially when I told them I was a walk leader. They showed me all the usual stalls, Tombola, Raffle, Cake and coffee etc. and the different groups displaying their wares. One in particular stood out for me, Soft Tennis, I would love to give that a try. I told them I would love to set up a Croquet group, but I had three things holding me back, I had nobody to help me, I did not have a Croquet set and did not know any of the rules!! They all said what a great idea that was, and wished me well with it.

I always thought we were the poor relations of Mansfield U3A, they waved me off with a copy of their March 2020 Newsletter to read, inside was our triumphant Sherwood Quiz team, "The Magnificent 8", winning their annual Quiz Night, maybe not our poor relations after all!!

Roger Wood

MEETING UP AT AN EDWARDIAN WEDDING



I found this photograph of a family wedding in Monaghan when I cleared out my family home. With the aid of a book by Jane Shrimpton, a dress historian, I realised that it was a wedding photo (1900-10) despite the older couple at the centre. Often the bride didn't wear anything much to differentiate her from the other ladies as formal wedding dresses weren't worn at this time. It is clear in the colour enhanced photograph that her dress was a creamy white and her ruffles, tucks and lace were definitely more elaborate than those of the other ladies.

Dresses at this time favoured hour glass silhouettes - small waists and skirts that flowed outwards to sweeping hemline. Bodices and blouses were highly embellished with layers of lace, ruffles and ribbons.

The old lady and gentleman are Vincent and Jane Stuart. I recognise Vincent's photograph and he is very like his brother Thomas, my great grandfather. Vincent did not die until 1915 but his wife Jane died in July 1906. They only had two sons surviving to adulthood and neither married until after their mother's death. Vincent and Jane had two daughters who married, Mary Jane in 1908 and Eliza Jane in February 1906. I am guessing the latter is the bride who married George Barnes. Both these daughters were to die from TB. Eliza died in 1910 having had two children, one of whom also died from TB. I don't know who the four children are in the photo, but surmise they were relatives on the groom's side or the bride's maternal family.

Sandra Cross