



# SHERWOOD U3A

## *Learn Laugh Live* NEWSLETTER May 2021

*Hello to all Sherwood U3A members,*

*Terry Dillon and I do hope that you are enjoying your newsletters and have not been too disappointed by the quality not being quite up to Sue's usual standard. Next month's theme is "What have you done now that Lockdown is easing" - have you booked holidays, had a catch up with friends and family, been to your favourite pub for that pint?*

*Please send these articles to be featured in June's edition to Terry or me – details below by. Please let us have your contributions by **MONDAY 24<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021.** Thank you Terry Dillon and Margaret Taylor.*

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:

Groups and Postal Members  
Membership  
Financial/General  
Web Site

Terry Dillon  
Rita Foulkes  
Margaret Taylor  
Liz Wilson  
Robert Watts  
Marilyn Dillon

Zoom meetings  
Newsletter/General  
Welfare  
Holidays

Claire Wilkie  
Sue Robb  
Sandra Rogers  
Contact the holiday organizer whose contact details are in this newsletter.

### **FUTURE ZOOM MEETINGS**

To all those who are prepared to use Zoom, the next **Sherwood Meeting is on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 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 email to me and they will receive the link the day before the meeting.

**Claire Wilkie**

### **Information from National Office – Free Learning Events**

Don't forget to look at the online events that are being delivered via the Zoom video conferencing/webinar platform. If you wish to receive this information from National Office direct you can register to receive a regular news-letter, which gives the latest news on U3As nationally and locally. Simply go to the site of the National Office, Third Age Trust and register your details.

**SHERWOOD u3a WEB SITE**

**And please don't forget to look at our new Web Site. Just go to Sherwood u3a and then press the tabs that you want to look at. So easy. If you wish to add any information or photographs of your Group etc. then please send the information to Marilyn Dillon, Robert Watts and Liz Wilson.**

# **SPRING HAS ARRIVED!**

## **What Does Spring Mean to You!**



### **SPRING**

A time to look forward to sunshine and warmer weather, flowers and blossom and new life. This year, after lockdown and sanctions, we are looking forward to getting out and about, meeting friends and family again and resuming social activities.

I think that my photo says it all. The daffodils bravely weathering the April snow makes me think of how we have weathered the Covid storm and are bravely putting our heads above the parapet!

*Terry Dillon*

**As Usual our Photography Group have down us proud and here are just a sample of what Spring Time means to them.**



"Colours of Spring" - Dave Clarke



"Spring Flowers" - Trevor Hughes



"Just a Little Spring" - Dave Stamford



"New Life" - Jim & Cindy Bentley



"Baby Bunny" Roger Wood



## **SPRING – By A. Lamb**

The first thing often thought about in Spring is a little white Lamb frolicking in the fields with his friends. A **lamb** -- cunning, capricious, soft and cuddly -- is so much like a human in actions. There is a well-known Nursery Rhyme – “Mary had a Little Lamb” which I am sure the readers will remember from their childhood.



Surprisingly, this nursery rhyme is of American origin and based on a true story. Mary Sawyer was a schoolgirl in Sterling, Massachusetts, who took her pet lamb with her to school. The event caused some consternation and the story was picked up by a Sarah Hale, put into verse and published in 1830 (Hale’s authorship is disputed by some).

Mary Sawyer’s house survived until 2007 when it was destroyed by arson but there is a statue to Mary and her little lamb in Sterling’s town centre.

The poem is also famous for being the first words to be recorded by Thomas Edison on his newly invented phonograph in 1876.

It is also believed the nursery rhyme **had** a hidden **religious** meaning. It is thought that the **lamb** is based on Jesus. In John, Jesus is referred to as the “**lamb**” who takes away the sins of the world and his fleece, which white as snow, symbolizes the purity of Jesus and “**Mary**” refers to the Virgin **Mary**.



**And, Of course there are some who eat me and my friends!**

### **What does Spring mean to Wendy Sterland?**

Spring is the time when winter recedes gradually with lengthening days and sunny skies but still showing its teeth with



frosty nights. It’s a time when green and brown vistas get more and more colourful with snowdrops then multi-coloured crocuses appearing. Pretty clouds of blossom ice the countryside and gardens. Then swathes of beautiful daffodils brighten gardens, roadsides and hedgerows. I think they are my favourite flower as they brighten many a spot after winter’s drabness. Our native daffodils are very hardy and flower for many months over the whole of Britain. They are harvested as early as February in the south and flower well into May in the north. The attached picture was taken at Alnwick Castle in Northumberland on 16<sup>th</sup> May when daffodils were still in full bloom. Spring sees everything refreshed and renewed not only flora. Who is

not delighted at the sight of new-born lambs in the fields? There are courtship rituals aplenty to observe among birds and other wildlife all in tune with Spring’s call to renew and replenish. It is definitely my favourite time of year. Of course Easter with chocolate eggs and Simnel cake is an added bonus!

**And finally who can resist a Spring Wedding? Not Pat & Des Collins  
who celebrated their son's wedding in April.**



**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT –Liz Wilson**

Well, what a month April proved to be!! We had snow, hail and the lowest sub-zero temperatures in the last ten years. As gardeners will know, it was disastrous for many plants even in greenhouses! It was the first time (again for gardeners) I had ventured into the realms of plug plants. They had just arrived and I'd lovingly planted them in small pots, put them in the greenhouse and the temperatures plummeted, taking my plugs with them!! Likewise, I bought and planted several Hydrangeas last year but they won't be blooming and colourful this year --- brown, shrivelled and very poorly looking is a better description!

More seriously, I watched two funerals of men who were well respected, charismatic and who will be sadly missed by many – Chris Robb and the Duke of Edinburgh. Ironically, though I knew Chris personally and the Duke only through media coverage, I learnt so much more about them both at their funerals. Two very different men and two very different funerals but both so poignant and having an all pervading sense of great loss – the Duke for the Queen, his family and the nation and Chris for Sue, his family and our U3A. Rest in Peace both of you!

Luckily life goes on for some of us and at the next Zoom Monthly Meeting the entertainment from the Committee also goes on!

Margaret will be slapping our wrists about Newsletter Articles.

Terry will be updating us on Group Activities and Covid restrictions.

Denise will be telling us about Thursford

I will be telling you about Kent and Scotland

Rita will be updating you on the Isle of Wight

I will then be taking you down Memory Lane (see following article re the lanes that we will be re exploring). We keep doing this because it saves us from the expense of having a speaker and when we aren't asking for subs, money is limited,

You, of course, will be part of the cast for we did not get round to everyone's Amazing Holidays --- I have a list of those who didn't share last month!! Don't think you have got away with it!!!!

Let's hope my next report will be about the excitement of our first, in the flesh, face to face, Monthly Meeting!!!

And of course, Liz will once again be visiting “*What’s Down Memory Lane*” at the May Zoom Meeting. ***Don’t miss it! Come and join us down Memory Lane and remind yourselves of how you looked when you were eight years younger!!***

Christmas 2013 – Harmony sang and Margaret slept!  
Art Work on show – But whose was it?  
Christmas Meal at Portland – Fur coats and fancy frocks!  
Thoresby – No snow but plenty going on!  
Wine Group – Drinking or appreciating!  
Photography Group – Out and about shooting!  
Wine Festival in France – Wine group drinking!  
Coffee Morning – Chatting and chilling!  
Family History – Investigating the skeletons in the cupboard!  
“B” Night – X rated fun and frolics!  
Walking Group – Posing not walking!  
Rambling Group – Posing not Rambling!  
The Big Lunch at Berry Hill – Only Sherwood there to represent U3As in Mansfield!  
Days Out Group – Various!  
Wine Group Summer Party – X rated drinking and appreciating!  
Holiday in Portugal – Who went and what was it like?  
Haylin Island Holiday – We had a brilliant time!!  
Craft Group – What are they making?  
International Dining – What are they eating?  
Gardening Group – What are they doing?  
National Trust – Dunham Massey!  
Quiz Night – What’s the answer to Fish and chips –eat them!  
National Trust – Upton Hall and Gardens!  
Afternoon Tea – Free at the Hostess!  
Heritage Group – Various visits – anyone tell us about them??  
Evening Out – Elvis – And Why Not??  
Thursford – Even more magical than last show!

## **GROUP NEWS**

As we are gently coming out of lockdown there is a desire for some groups to tentatively start meeting. From 12<sup>th</sup> April groups of up to 6 are allowed to meet in private gardens socially distanced, and groups of 6 can already meet to go for walks.

From 17<sup>th</sup> May restrictions for meeting outdoors in groups of up to 30 will be lifted and 6 people or 2 households can meet indoors. This would permit small groups to be run from member’s homes. From 21<sup>st</sup> June all legal limits on social contact to be removed but must comply with Hands Face Space. This guidance is provisional and depends on government review at each stage.

Following government guide lines groups will only resume when the group leader feels that it is safe to do so and they have sufficient members who are happy to return.

Advice for resuming group activities

1. Inform your committee of your plans to resume
2. Use the relevant risk assessment
3. Inform your members of what to expect and how to prepare for returning
4. Ask members to complete a personal risk assessment before returning
5. Keep a register of participants
6. Ensure that you are following current government guidance on social distancing and maintaining Covid – secure requirements at all times.

The personal risk assessment is for members to consider their own and others' health circumstances before taking part and to consider to themselves and anyone in their household.

Do not take part in any activity if you or someone from your household have Covid 19 symptoms – these include a high temperature, a new continuous cough and the loss, or a change to your sense of smell or taste.

Extra information: car sharing is only allowed in an emergency until the end of May. **Terry Dillon, Groups' Co-ordinator**

**All Members including Postal Members are reminded that they can join any group, within Sherwood U3A or the North Notts. Neighbourhood and go on any of the trips etc. mentioned, providing there is room available.**

### **INFORMATION ON 2 J's TRIPS OUT - ALL MEMBERS WELCOME**

Jean Baker and Jean Jones have now been booked the following dates into the 2022 Calendar but because of Covid restrictions information on the trips will be confirmed nearer the dates:-

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022, Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022 and Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

### **CONTINENTAL AND ORIENTAL DINING GROUP**

**All Enquiries to Jenny Weaver**



#### **HOLIDAYS**

20<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> September 2021 **Lochs and Glens, Scotland.** £499. Staying for 4 nights at the Claymore Hotel, Arrochar and 1 night at the Tinto Hotel, Symington. Excursions include a circulate tour of the Trossachs, Loch Lomond, Callander, a cruise on Loch Katrine, the Falkirk Wheel and Stirling Castle, Glencoe, Oban and Edinburgh. Deposit £50. Insurance £30 (which includes cover for any Covid 19 related cancellations).

Availability 1 single, 2 twins, 1 double. (Pat Magness, Sherwood Holiday Group)

16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021. **Thursford.** 2 Night Break with half board staying at Hotel Caley Hall, Hunstanton. Price APPROX. £285. Places available from 9am 9<sup>th</sup> April.

Day 1 – Travel to Thursford arriving approx. 12 pm – optional lunch and extravaganza tour, show at 2pm.

Day 2 – Visit to Norwich

Day 3 – Return home via Holt (where Camilla does her Christmas shopping for Charles).

As we are unable to meet at present please contact Denise for availability and type of room – single, twin or double. When a place is confirmed a £50 deposit cheque payable to **Skills Holidays** should be sent to Denise at 28 Farmcroft Road, Mansfield Woodhouse, Notts. NG19 8QT. Please state who you will be sharing with, telephone and email address. Once booked monies are non-refundable unless a replacement is found.

(Denise Whitsed 07791941502 Monday-Friday or email deewhits@aol.com. Sherwood Holiday Group)

**Potters Holiday** - hopefully will be moved to **June 2022.** Date and further information to be confirmed.

(Denise Whitsed 07791941502 Monday-Friday or email deewhits@aol.com. Sherwood Holiday Group)

**Kent Holiday** - hopefully will be moved to **May 2022.** Cheques for 2021 holiday will be returned at our first Monthly Meeting when deposits for 2022 will be taken. (Rita Foulkes, Sherwood Holiday Group)

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July to Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2022. Isle of Wight Holiday Update** – Walking and/or Sightseeing – 7 nights, 8 days. £769 per person. We will be staying at The Broadway Park Hotel, Sandown, which is a Victorian Mansion House in 4 acres of grounds and has a lounge, snooker room and excellent entertainment and is less than half a mile from the seafront. There are sandy beaches and attractions nearby including the chairlift from which you can enjoy views of the Needles, Tapnell Farm Park and incredible walking routes. There is no single supplement and I have 11 singles, 10 twins and 9 double rooms available. I am taking bookings and will let you know when I will be requiring deposits – cheques payable to Just for Groups.

(Rita Foulkes - Sherwood Holiday Group)

**Llandudno** – Date and further information to be confirmed. (Rita Foulkes, Sherwood Holiday Group)

**A recent project for the Photography Group was to tell other members a little about their past lives before u3a. This is Roger's contribution.**

I was born in the late 1950s in the coal mining town of Mansfield. I remember those days as dark and smelly, I must have been about 10 when I realised all my Liquorice Allsorts weren't all black. Yes these were sorry times. I recall miners knocking on our front door asking for donations toward their new Sherwood Baths, I gave them a glass of water.

My Grandpa was a pit surveyor at Sherwood, and he wanted me to follow him there, but I told him it was beneath me. I attended Manor Comprehensive and excelled at Physical Education, to my horror this school only played Rugby. My team talk before every game was, under no circumstances to pass the ball to me. I was quite happy running up and down the wing signing autographs for the girls.

I eventually managed to find a girlfriend, I told her she was fat and she wanted a second opinion, so I also said she was ugly. I once passed her a Pritt Stick instead of her lipstick, **she still isn't talking to me.**

I did find work at the Shoe Co. It was only going to be a stepping stone to greater things, but lasted 25 years! You might think this is all a load of cobblers, but it is all true.



**Answers from April's 25 questions.**

1	1948	14	4
2	Gwyneth Paltrow	15	Ringo
3	True	16	Good Friday
4	7 times	17	Commandment
5	True	18	Nails, hands and feet
6	Daisies	19	Chile
7	True	20	True
8	Rome	21	40
9	Wild animals	22	True
10	Another Day Older	23	Fat Tuesday
11	Christmas	24	Miriam Margolyes
12	On the roof	25	6
13	Stride		

Continuing on from last month's quiz from David Rose of Hucknall u3a here is Part 2. The answers will be in the June newsletters.

1	Which of these continents is the largest?	Asia North America	Africa South America
2	Which of these countries is landlocked?	China Laos	Thailand Japan
3	What is the capital city of Indonesia	Jakarta Bandbung	Bali Surabaya

4	The flag of which US state beards the Union Jack?	Hawaii Alaska	Nebraska Virginia
5	Glasgow is Scotland's second largest city	True or False	
6	The Everglades are in which US state?	Georgia Nevada	Florida Arizona
7	Which country is Amman the capital of?	Jordan Ukraine	Syria Israel
8	Kalamazoo is a real city in the USA?	True or False	
9	What nationality was writer Bram Stoker?	English Welsh	Scottish Irish
10	Which was his best known novel	Frankenstein Hound of the Baskervilles	Dracula The House of Usher
11	Which place in the UK is he most associated with?	London Whitby	Edinburgh Bristol
12	Where is Beethoven interred?	Vienna Bonn	Berlin Terplitz
13	In Dolly Parton's song, what colour is Jolene's hair?	Auburn Blond	Brunette Jet Black
14	Dolly Rebecca Parton was born January 19, 1946, in a one-room cabin on the banks of the Little Pigeon River Pittman Tennessee	True or False	
15	Dolly Parton is the fourth of ten children born to Avid Lee Caroline (nee Owens: 1923-2003) and Robert Lee Parton Sr. (1921 – 2000)	True or False	
16	Who first used the term "Iron Curtain" in connection with the USSR?	Winston Church Harry S. Truman	Nikita Krushchev Dwight Eisenhower
17	What was Napoleon's last word?	Death Josephine	Love France
18	Anne Frank spent more than 2 years hiding in the secret annex?	True or False	
19	In which city was Anne Frank hiding	Bruges Rotterdam	Ghent Amsterdam
20	When asked whether he had used marijuana, which US president claimed he "didn't inhale"?	Donald Trump George W. Bush	Barack Obama Bill Clinton

21	What does an ecdysiast do for a living?	Gymnast Antique dealer	Striptease Tree conservation
22	Which of these means someone's special right or privilege?	Prerogative	Perogative
23	Something with a pungent odour...	Wreaks Reaks	Reeks
24	Someone deeply disappointed might say they are	Gutter Guffawed	Guttered
25	How many sides does a tetradecagon (plural tetradecagons) have?	13 23	14 24

### **And FINALLY.....A Message from Sue Robb**

*I would like to thank all those members of Sherwood U3A who have shown their appreciation of Chris in so many ways.*

*I have received so many cards from you containing memories, thoughts and messages of support as well as practical help. Thanks also to those who came, or contacted me, to see the hearse leave the house before the funeral. It is lovely to know how well thought of he was.*

*He would have been pleased to know that £750 (including gift aid) has been given by you in Sherwood, in his memory, to Anthony Nolan Trust to continue to help those needing transplants for leukaemia.*

*Thank you all for everything. Sue*