

## From the Chair

It never fails to amaze me how quickly the year flies by and once again the leaves are falling, the nights are drawing in and winter is around the corner. The conference season was in full swing when I travelled to Nottingham where the National U3A AGM was held at the modern, swish, East Midlands Centre.

It was certainly a packed programme with four professors including Heinz Wolff, who is now Emeritus Professor of Bioengineering at Brunel University. Do you remember him? He always wears flamboyant bow ties, speaks with a pronounced foreign accent and appeared very often on our tellies in the 1960's and 70's. His lecture was entitled "Anybody Want to go to Mars?" and it was a humorous but highly factual thesis that told us the Martian day is twice as long as ours and that there are only two distinct seasons, summer and winter. He concluded that missions to Mars are practical and feasible from the Moon but the journey is only one way with no return ticket for the brave soul that will eventually take it on.

Also present was Baroness Estelle Morris who gave a very eloquent speech reiterating our mantra that we are all teachers, students and learners all our lives. We were told how important organisations like the U3A are because in this specialised age we seem to have lost the links to learning outside of educational institutions. She finished in a pensive mood admitting that "politics moves pieces; education changes lives."

I also went to two seminars: a meeting of the Yorkshire and the Humber Region and the AGM where Ian Searle, U3A's chairman, was voted in for a further year. Currently, there are 820 U3As with just over 272,000 members. Membership has increased by 22,000 (8.6%) since January 2011 and it is anticipated to grow to 300,000 during 2012 and to 500,000 by 2020. Because of demography and the changing of retirement ages, the male/female ratio is likely to change over the next 10 years from 37/63 to 45/55 making it much more evenly balanced than it is at present.

Another keynote speech was that of Eric Midwinter. Eric had, along

with Michael Young and Peter Lazlett, founded the U3A nearly thirty years ago and he had seen it grow from a germ of an idea to the successful organisation it is today. Some of his more memorable observations I have listed below.

- Old age or later life should be a long, beautifully written, last paragraph not a hastily scribbled note.
- Every U3A is different from other U3As and every U3A is the same as other U3As.
- I am an older person not a social casualty and I am forming my own destiny.
- U3A is very good for people for whom U3A is very good.

It was a witty, articulate presentation and I am pleased to say that we have managed to secure Eric to speak on comedy - especially the genius of those two British institutions, Morecambe and Wise - at The Showroom Cinema in April 2012.

One of my most embarrassing moments this year happened at The Showroom. I am sure some of you remember a lecture on the History of Linguistics back in January. People were piling into the auditorium and they kept on coming . . . . and coming. Every seat was taken and members were still queuing outside to get in. We asked the management for the bigger cinema but it was in use as they had put on an extra showing of *The King's Speech* owing to its popularity. Well, we are in the process of engaging Professor Andrew Linn again, along with the bigger cinema, so this time you should all get in. Remember these lectures are free and open to everyone. We have some excellent speakers lined up for 2012 on topics from *A History of the Fairground* to *The Spanish Civil War* so please look in *LINKS* or on the website so you do not miss out. (Keep your eye on September – it may surprise you!!)

We have had many requests to have events on Saturdays and Sundays so "Weekenders" is another new, open Group beginning in January. There will be a dedicated page in *LINKS* and online to keep you informed about what is coming up. Also new next year are two special study days. The first is in February at the Weston Park Museum on China and the second in April at the Millennium Galleries. This will be on "Art and the Family" presented by Barbara Morden in conjunction with the concurrent art exhibition.

Finally, during that brief but magical "Indian summer" we had in late September, I visited Whirlow Brook Park for the Commemorative Garden's open day. The plot by the pond is looking wonderful with much under-planting of bulbs such as hellebores, snowdrops, crocus and cyclamen along with primroses, so it should be quite a sight in the spring. The Lord Mayor of Sheffield, Sylvia Dunkley, came and admired all the hard work the gardening Group had done. She admitted to having a soft spot for this park as she visited it often when her children were small and confessed to their having made dens in the bushes and trees. One of our members, Mary Mac, a talented artist, gave the Lord Mayor a picture she had painted of the lily pond in its heyday to commemorate the visit. Mary has also kindly donated another of her colourful artworks to raffle for funds for the Group. Tickets for this raffle can be purchased at most of our open venues.

The next *LINKS* to land on your doormat will be early in 2012. So, may I thank you all for your support in what has been a splendid and successful Jubilee year, and may I wish you all the warmest of Season's Greetings and good health and happiness for the year ahead.

*Denise West*

## **Obituary**

### **Tony Marsh**

Tony died suddenly early in September. As you can imagine, it was a great shock to his family and those who knew him.

Tony was on the Executive Committee about 10 years ago and was the first webmaster, successfully setting up SU3A's first website.

He had also been in Digital Photography and, as a keen walker, joined F, J and D Groups, the original Dippers and latterly was a keen supporter of G Group.

SU3A and the U3A movement generally provided him with a rich social life and stimulation to go on learning, especially his IT skills in which he was entirely self-taught.

*Vera Dyer*

## **Executive Committee Report**

### **Membership Renewal**

Yes, it is that time of the year again! The subscription remains at £10.00 per person, per year. Also, if you have not yet signed up for Gift Aid, please complete the section at the bottom of the Membership Renewal form which explains how it works ( page 6).

### **Lecture Series**

As mentioned in "From the Chair", there is an exciting programme planned for 2012, with something to interest everyone.

### **Whirlow Brook Park SU3A Commemorative Garden**

Whilst this was originally set up as a project for the Silver Jubilee, the Group who have been working so hard to make our part of the garden so attractive have decided to continue with its ongoing development and maintenance. So, if you wish, you can always make a donation in memory of someone close to you.

Just contact Alison Cowper for a donation form, either by phone on (0114) 274 6165,

### **New Groups**

As indicated in the last *LINKS*, the centre pages will appear in February, June and October. New Groups will in future be indicated in *italics* and this will also apply on the website.

### **Notice of Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting will take place on the morning of Wednesday 18 April 2012 and a draft agenda will be in the February 2012 *LINKS*. Whilst you have the opportunity to bring up any issues throughout the year via your Executive Committee, the AGM is very important to all members so please make a note in your diary. Our former Regional Trustee, Anne Firth, came to the end of her term of office at the U3A AGM and our thanks go to her for her sterling work on behalf of the Yorkshire and the Humber Region. As we normally invite our Regional Trustee to the AGM, we have invited our new Trustee, David Morton, to come along and introduce himself.

## **Askham Bryan event**

Following a letter sent out to all Coordinators by Jim Walker, just two Groups have indicated they would like to take part in the celebrations in August 2012. With the huge success of the Wortley Hall Silver Jubilee event, surely more of our Groups would like to 'show what they do' at Askham Bryan? So, please, Coordinators think again and encourage your members to take part.

The last event in 2007 was greatly enjoyed by those members who attended.

## **Data Protection**

This subject was brought up at the Coordinators Meeting and again at the Executive Committee. Please be aware of how important this is. There is an Advice Sheet on our website, or you can contact your Secretary for a paper copy. One thing to remember is that when you send out Group emails, please bear in mind that not everyone wants to know everyone else's email address, so it might be wiser to 'BCC' (blind copy, for those who do not know the jargon) rather than 'CC' your contacts to ensure everyone's privacy.

Lastly, the Executive Committee wish all members a very Happy Christmas and a healthy, peaceful 2012.

Date of the next Executive Committee meeting is 6 January 2012.

*Vera Dyer*

## **Your New Membership Number for 2012**

From next year, all those who have provided email addresses will receive their new membership number by email and no longer in the post. Therefore it is vital that you ensure that the email address you have provided is correct and legible. If for any reason you would prefer not receive your number by email, you must let me know.

The main reason for the change is to save both time and money. Also you will get your new number more quickly but, please remember, save it somewhere safe!

*Lorna Baker*

**SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE  
2012 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM**

Regd. Charity No 703147

**Name (1):** (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) .....

Date of birth:(dd/mm/yyyy) \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Email: .....

**Name (2):** (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) .....

Date of birth:(dd/mm/yyyy) \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Email: .....

Address.....

.....

.....

Postcode ..... Tel No: .....

I / We attach a payment of £ ..... for membership at **£10.00 per person.**

If you do **NOT** wish to receive the national U3A News, please tick the box on the right.

**Please note that members not renewing before  
29 February 2012 will be deemed to have resigned.**

**GIFT AID DECLARATION**

If you are a UK taxpayer, Sheffield U3A can claim back tax on your subscription(s), provided that your current annual tax bill is more than the tax reclaimed (£2.50 on an £10 subscription). If so, please complete the declaration below:

I .....(PRINT NAME)  
am a UK taxpayer in accordance with the above and wish Sheffield U3A to treat the above subscription(s) as Gift Aid donations.

Signed: ..... Date: .....

Please make cheques payable to: **Sheffield U3A** and send to:  
Mrs Lorna Baker, 8 Thornsett Gardens, Sheffield S17 3PP.

## Friday Lecture Programme 2012

Venue: Showroom Cinema unless stated. Refreshments from 10 am.  
Lecture from 10.30 to 12 noon. Seats may be reserved on arrival.

Date	Title	Presenter
20 January	<p><b>The International Financial Crisis</b> Prof Warke is an international economist. He will rehearse the background to the current crisis. He will argue that a solution is politically infeasible unless the general public becomes sufficiently informed to give their support.</p>	Prof. Tom Warke
17 February	<p><b>The Anglo-Saxons: Living, Speaking, Healing</b> In this lecture we will explore the world of the Anglo-Saxons. We will look at some artefacts and texts that tell us what kind of people the Anglo-Saxons were and learn to speak some Old English! Finally, we will delve into the mysterious world of Anglo-Saxon magic.</p>	Dr Rebecca Fisher
20 April	<p><b>Comedy – with Particular Reference to Morecombe and Wise</b></p>	Dr Eric Midwinter
18 May	<p><b>Curious Entertainment in Sheffield – a History of the Fairground and the Circus</b></p>	Ian Trowell
15 June	<p><b>Enigma, Bletchley Park and the Battle for the Atlantic</b> Venue: <b>Millennium Galleries Price £3.00</b>. NB Ticket-only event, booking via April <i>LINKS</i></p>	Mark Baldwin
20 July	<p><b>Africa Up Close and Personal!</b></p>	Ken Dunn
21 September	<p><b>An Audience with Mr Speaker</b></p>	John Bercow
16 November	<p><b>The Spanish Civil War</b></p>	Prof. Mary Vincent

## **Study day: Exploring China**

**Weston Park Museum,**

**Thursday 23 February 2012 10 am. – 4 pm**

The study day takes advantage of a new exhibition from the British Museum which delves into China's rich past to tell the story of thousands of years of innovation through priceless, awe-inspiring objects.

Exploring themes such as food and drink, festivals and beliefs, technology and play, China: Journey to the East will shed light on the intricacies of Chinese culture. Visitors will see the forerunner of today's calculator, the Chinese abacus, 1300 year old jam tarts, examples of the first porcelain, 'oracle bones' inscribed with early Chinese writing, and much more.

Museum staff will brief us beforehand on how to make the most of our visit. There will also be workshops on Chinese language and arts and crafts run by the Confucius Institute.

Places are limited. Tickets cost £4.00 and can be obtained via the booking form on page 25. Please note, no tickets will be sent out between 12 December and 11 January.

Queries to Shelagh Woolliscroft on (01246) 416 139

## **SU3A Logo Clothing**

In the last edition we asked for feedback on a range of shirts and sweaters etc with the SU3A logo that the committee were considering making available. As we had only one response, we assume that there is no enthusiasm for the suggestion and will not therefore be pursuing it any further.

*Chris Cave*

## **Charity Quiz**

A Charity Quiz Night has been booked at

**GREENS**

in Napier Street (please note change of venue)

for **17 March 2012**

More details in the February edition of *LINKS*.

*Marion Edmondson*



# weekenders

**WELCOME to SU3A's brand-new OPEN Group:**

## **Weekenders!**

We think our organisation should not just be mainly Monday to Friday, so we are planning exciting and interesting events to enjoy at the WEEKEND. The Group is open so requires no specific membership. Just come along and join us.

**Sunday 22 January 2012: Sunday Lunch,**

Ego Restaurant, Surrey St.

Traditional Sunday lunch, 2 Courses £12.95. 3 Courses £14.95.

Arrive 12.15 pm for a 12.30 pm start.

Choose and pay on the day

**Saturday 25 February 2012: Curry Night**

Viraaj Restaurant, Woodseats.

Arrive 7.15 pm for a 7.30 pm start.

Pay on the night

Also Saturday 17 **March 2012: Charity Quiz** (see page 8)

**AND MUCH, MUCH MORE TO COME !!**

If you wish to come to the Sunday Lunch and/or the Curry Night we need to know the numbers so please complete the form on page 23 and return it to: Dot Sutcliffe, 32 Tipton Crescent Road, Sheffield S10 5DA by Saturday 17 December, enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Please ring me on (0114) 268 5918 if you would like further information.



Centre for Sport  
and Exercise Science

## **Effects Of "Interval Exercise Training" On Fitness And Vascular Function In Post-Menopausal Women**

We are looking for  
**healthy post-menopausal women aged between 55 and 85  
who do not take part in regular vigorous exercise**  
to take part in a research study investigating the effects of "interval  
exercise training" on fitness and vascular function.

If you are interested in finding out more about this study, please  
contact:

**Garry Tew**

at the Centre for Sport and Exercise Science, Sheffield Hallam  
University  
(0114) 225 2358

## **Aging Research**

Ann Macaskill, Professor of Health Psychology at **Sheffield Hallam University**, and researcher Emma Kirkby-Geddes, are looking for help with a study focusing on the well elderly and measuring psychological strengths – such as gratitude, hope, optimism and forgiveness – and their relationship with wellbeing.

Data will come mainly from an anonymous survey. A nationwide sample is preferred.

If you are interested in taking part, contact Emma Kirkby-Geddes on (0114) 225 2219,

## Reading Sheffield

Over 70 and willing to talk about books you read as a young adult in Sheffield in 1945 – 1965?

We especially would like to interview people who live in the North or East of the city.

*Where did you get your books?*

*Did you buy or borrow them?*

*Did you get them as presents?*

*Or as an award from Sunday school?*

*Did any particular book or books change your life?*

**Reading Sheffield** is hoping to discover how reading for pleasure was fostered during this period. The project is run by a group of local people working with **Sheffield Hallam University** and **Sheffield City Libraries**.

If SU3A members would like to be interviewed would they please contact *Mary Grover* on (0114) 263 0691,



## Lunch and Lecture

**Friday 16 March 2012**

Their books were favourites of their day and they lived in Ecclesfield in the nineteenth century. Professor Melvin Jones and his wife Joan have researched widely on the West Riding's own 'Brontë' family. Come and dine with us and listen to this fascinating illustrated talk. You will be amazed at the story of this multi-talented Victorian family.

Details and an application form will be in the February 2012 edition of *Links*.

*Doreen Bezant*

*Coordinator*

*(0114) 236 6596*



## **Run Away With the Circus!**

*Feel like you need to add some excitement to your life?*

*Does it all feel a bit humdrum?*

*Well why not join the circus?*

No really, we mean it.

Greentop Community Circus of Sheffield, one of the UK's longest established circus schools, is looking for volunteers to get involved in its events and shows and **THEY WANT YOU!**

They are looking for people to get involved from all walks of life no matter what your background, age or ability. The roles include: helping with the monthly shows and cabarets, front of house, marketing and promotions, props and set making, bar and café staff, office support, fund raising and business development. Also, if you have worked in variety or theatre, play an instrument, have an act or otherwise perform, then they are keen to get you on board.

Greentop is an inclusive, friendly, animal-free circus space that welcomes everybody. There are already loads of kids, mums, dads, students, performers, musicians and artists involved and they want to welcome you into their circus family as well.

If you want to know more, call (0114) 244 8828 or see the website **[www.greentop.org](http://www.greentop.org)** for further information about Greentop and its services.

*James Harkness*



**Have YOU renewed your membership yet?**

**See page 6**

## **Donations for the SU3A Commemorative Garden**

Some members have asked if they can donate towards a shrub as a Christmas present for a friend. This is possible and if desired we can produce a suitably inscribed Gift Card. Please contact Alison Cowper on (0114) 274 6165.

The Garden continues to develop. By the time you read this the Group should have planted another 20 shrubs/trees and a large inscribed boulder will mark the pond-side entrance to the Garden. Work on tidying the site will continue throughout the winter (weather permitting!).

## **New members will be welcomed**

Contact Shelagh Woolliscroft on (01246) 416 139

## **Calling all Artists!**

We are looking for artists who would be interested in contributing a small botanical illustration to the Book of Donors which is being prepared in connection with the SU3A Commemorative Garden at Whirlow Brook.

Further details from Shelagh Woolliscroft (01246) 416 139, or Alison Cowper (0114) 274 6165)



## **Thinking of Forming a New Group?**

Always contact the General Coordinator to discuss your idea first.

*Jim Walker*  
(0114) 236 9687

## **Group News**

### **A reminder about members' insurance cover**

Every member of SU3A should have a copy of "Insurance Cover for U3A Members". If required, a further copy may be obtained from the General Coordinator or the document may also be seen on the SU3A website.

This is an important document which explains who is covered by the insurance and who is not covered. Please familiarise yourself with the conditions under which visitors are permitted to join a Group, and the consequences, to all members of the Group, of allowing visitors to exceed their permitted number of visits.

The insurance is arranged centrally by the Third Age Trust and any specific enquiries regarding insurance cover should be addressed to the Company Secretary, Lin Jonas, on (0208) 466 6139,

## **New Groups**

### **Racketball**

Racketball is a gentle form of squash played with a short handled racket and a bouncy rubber ball on a squash court. It is a game favoured by players of a certain age, easy to learn and fun to play. Played inside, it is independent of light and weather and provides as much exercise as the participant wishes to expend.

This note is to invite expressions of interest in setting up a racketball Group for U3A members, both beginners and improvers. The location would be Abbeydale Park Rackets and Fitness club (S17 3LJ), where both courts and equipment are available. The suggested time is Monday morning, but this could be varied based on feedback of interest.

To find out more, please contact Peter Keen at (0114) 236 4914

### **Weekenders**

See page 9



## **Other Group News**

### **Advanced German Group**

The Advanced German Group, which meets every second Tuesday afternoon in members' houses, would welcome some new members of at least A Level standard.

We generally have a brief discussion (preferably in German) of topical items, personal stories or a set theme followed by translation into English of a text selected by a member. Texts range from book extracts to media articles. Points of grammar, language and content are discussed as we go along. However, the agenda is very much set by members and hence flexible. Two native speakers are on hand to help.

*Mike Maas*

*Coordinator*

### **German Intermediate**

Our Group has room for some more German language enthusiasts who want to improve their skills.

If you want to discuss this opportunity telephone our Tutor, Robert Wilkinson, on (0114) 236 6624.

### **Monday Bridge Group**

Monday Bridge wish to give U3A members the opportunity to join their club. We have vacancies for bridge players at improvers' stage through to intermediate.

Meetings are weekly on Monday afternoons at Abbeydale Sports Club.

Monday Bridge are a friendly and supportive Group.

If you want further details phone their coordinator Pat Latham, on (01246) 419 106.

*Jim Walker*

**Links 157: the last date for copy is 9 January 2012**

## **Jesus/Christianity Today**

At a SU3A Drop-In some months ago I found several members who expressed interest in having a Group to look at the present post-Christian world and ask if there are new ways in which we might salvage what was good about Jesus, or find new insights from the Gospels.

I have written books called "Secular Christ", "Radical Jesus" and "Discipleship" and would love to share some of this with others. Contact details: John Vincent, (0114) 243 6688, Sustainable Development

"Sustainable Development? What do they do? It does not sound much fun."

Well, judge for yourself from what we have been doing lately.

In October we went to Ryton Gardens, the home of the charity Garden Organic, which has been extolling the benefits of gardening by feeding the soil naturally year after year rather than giving plants a quick chemical fix since the days when it was the height of eccentricity.

Alongside the expected displays of composting and related activities we found the less predictable, such as a garden visualising the ideas behind biodynamic horticulture, which take organic principles a stage further, and an indoor 'Vegetable Kingdom' exhibition area for younger visitors in particular. This was a vivid way of illustrating why vegetables are important to our diet and even what they look like growing in the ground (knowledge that can no longer be taken for granted). The Gardens gave us a pleasant day out in a beautiful setting, with or without the organic messages.

A week or so later we were in the very different setting of Sheffield's Energy Recovery Facility (a.k.a Bernard Road incinerator) seeing how the 'rubbish' from our wheelie bins goes into the National Grid rather than a hole in the ground. We were impressed by the way nothing is wasted if it can possibly be avoided. Heat from burning the rubbish, for example, creates steam to generate electricity; then the steam is condensed back to

water and used again. Metal in the ash is reclaimed for scrap (which could quite possibly be recycled in a car) and the ash itself goes into aggregate (which could become the road the car drives on).

Only the dust filtered from the flue gases fails to find a useful job and is sent for safe disposal. If you have to incinerate - and the current wisdom is that sometimes it is the best way – Sheffield is apparently doing it better than most.

We rounded off our tour by climbing aboard a refuse collection vehicle (OK, bin lorry – even the professionals call it that) and did we mention we had lunch beforehand? In fact we nearly always have lunch – and tea too, if we can manage it. More fun than you thought, you see. Why not join us and find that out for yourself?

*Rose Tanner/Greta Pearman Coordinators*      (0114) 245 0200  
(0114) 236 3336

## **Literature Network**

**Quaker Meeting House, St. James Street, S1 2EW**

**Thursday 9 February 2012 at 2.00 pm.**

### **"Leonard and Virginia Woolf – as I knew them"**

We are privileged to have as speaker Cecil Woolf, nephew of Leonard and Virginia Woolf, whose personal memories of two of the great scholars and writers of the 20th century should not be missed. A writer and publisher himself, Cecil has written and published works on the First World War poets, John Cowper Powys, Frederick Rolfe (Baron Corvo) and many others, as well as the '*Bloomsbury Heritage Monographs*' whose general editor is his wife, Jean Moorcroft Wilson.

Bookings may be made by sending the completed slip on page 23, together with a cheque payable to **Literature Network of SU3A** for £3.50 per person, to Judith Vernier, 7 Forth Avenue, Dronfield Woodhouse, S18 8ZG, enclosing a small stamped self-addressed envelope.

*Judith Vernier*

*Coordinator*

## **The Scottish Highlands Holiday in September**

The tail-end of a Caribbean hurricane was forecast to interfere with our trip to Scotland so we drove North looking over our shoulders. In the event, we had some rain most days but were told Sheffield suffered more!

The Cairngorms were stunning. Even in the gloom of rain clouds marching overhead their majesty was unforgettable. These mountains are Cambrian and Devonian in origin, formed from ancient granites. Having left Sheffield at sevenish we arrived at our destination in the Spey valley about 5.30 p.m. The Nethybridge Hotel has an ancient 3-passenger cage lift serving three floors each with a gate. If a gate on any floor is not securely closed the mechanism refuses to move and travellers have to call for someone on another floor to check the doors. (A contretemps with the lift lead me one morning to suffer the ignominy of arriving late for the departure of the bus ... the shame of it).

The program was full of interest. Our first day included a visit to the Highland Folk Museum in Newtownmuir. The Folk Museum included a recreation of a 1700 township with turf houses roofed with heather and open peat fires but no chimneys only a hole in the roof. There were spaces for cattle in some of the crofts. Another recreation was a 1930's croft with animals and farm machinery and a 1930's tin-walled school. Whenever I visit such places I am slightly uneasy that my personal recollections are not so very different when it comes to desks and slates and inkwells and maps of Empire ... but then a U3A Group may well be a piece of living history to be visited one day soon.

Nic Bullivant

(

a Ranger step-son of Margaret Bullivant, who urged her to organise this trip) gave some of us lifts to the more distant parts of the Folk Museum (for which our gratitude).

A visit to the 16th century Ballindalloch Castle in the afternoon was a striking contrast to the crofters' village. The Lairds of Ballindalloch, the Macpherson-Grants, have lived in the castle

On Tuesday we had an hour's drive to the Rangers Base where we were met again by Nic Bullivant. He gave an illustrated talk about the Cairngorms and the work of the Rangers who are crucial to environmental protection and to the safety of the thousands of visitors to the National Park. The Cairngorms funicular railway allowed us to ride to the centre near the summit of the mountain. Walking outside around the centre was discouraged due to wind and rain but there were well placed viewing platforms and the views across the mountains were splendid. Our return included, for the more intrepid among us, a walk through the rain to Glenmore Forest Park on the shores of Loch Morlich.

A quick ride to the Caledonian Canal and on into Loch Ness gave us a boat trip to Drumnadrochit, a three hour round trip, time to ponder the order of things and the fate of small people against the canvas of large events.

The final day dawned bright for our visit to the Highland Wildlife Park. One of the Education Officers boarded our coach at the entrance and gave us a commentary about the Park which specializes in Scotland's native species and endangered species from elsewhere in the tundra regions. The Lynx were exciting as were the Amur tigers. For once we were blessed with warm sunshine and could walk about the pedestrian section of the reserve in comfort and sit outside to eat lunch watching the monkeys having theirs.

Our last visit was to Dalwhinnie Distillery. In years past cattle drovers from the West and North would meet here (Dalwhinnie in Gaelic means "the meeting place"). I think the unfamiliar benediction of the Sun is the only explanation for two bottles of the gentle spirit of the glen being found in our luggage on the last night.

The journey back to Sheffield posed problems for our driver Jim. An accident caused a major diversion and Friday night congestion compounded the difficulties. The ever reliable Jim left the Motorway and found rather less congested roads taking us to a pleasant stop at Thirsk. We left Nethybridge at 8 am. and arrived back in Sheffield at about 8.30 pm.

*Alyn Davies*

## **Classical Concertgoers' Concert**

Our first visit in 2012 is to the De Montfort Hall Leicester on Wednesday 14 March for a concert to be given by the Philharmonia Orchestra, directed by the celebrated Finnish conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen with Antti Siirala (piano).

The programme includes Beethoven's Overture "King Stephen", his majestic Symphony No. 3, "Eroica" and Schuman's Piano Concerto.

The cost is £28.00 per person and bookings may be made using the reply slip on page 25. Please include the full names and contact numbers of all members for whom you are applying and send as soon as possible, with a small stamped addressed envelope, to Derek Shipley, 40 Wollaton Avenue, Sheffield, S17 4LA. The coach will leave the bus parking bay on Ecclesall Road South, near the top of Millhouses Lane, promptly at 4.45 pm

Our visits are open to all SU3A members. No special Group membership is required.

**For Your Diary:** Saturday 2 June 2012: Concert of Handel's Royal Music, to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of H.M. the Queen, at the Symphony Hall Birmingham, with The Academy of Ancient Music and Choir, directed by Richard Egarr.

*Derek Shipley*

*Coordinator*

*(0114) 236 6257*

## **Travel News and Excursions**

### **Sheffield U3A Travel - AGM**

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 8 March 2012, from 1.30 - 4.00 pm. at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Grove Road, Millhouses.

Come and discuss the past year's activities, our programme for 2012 and plans for the future. We look forward to seeing you.

*Barbara Robertshaw*

*Coordinator*

*(0114) 236 9102*

## Travel Organising Committee

Barbara Robertshaw,	Coordinator	(0114) 236 9102
Barry De Roek,	Treasurer	(0114) 236 9169
Derek Shipley,	Secretary	(0114) 236 6257
Margaret Bullivant		(0114) 296 2256
Val Wiley		(0114) 236 0726
Margaret Langrish		(0114) 296 2251

**Only members of Sheffield U3A are eligible to take part in our activities.**

**Insurance** - for short breaks and holidays in the UK and overseas (but **not** day visits) travel companies require that all participating members have personal travel insurance cover.

**Illness / Medical Conditions / Disabilities** - when applying you must inform the Visit Organiser of any problem or pre-existing medical condition. Please remember that all visits will involve some walking. Access to sites and places of interest frequently involves steep slopes, steps and uneven or slippery surfaces. Always wear comfortable suitable footwear.

**Agreed Pick-up Point** - if you wish to make a change, you must notify the Visit Organiser **in advance**.

**Reply Envelopes** - please remember to include a suitable **stamped addressed envelope** with your application. For day visits any small envelope; for short breaks and holidays a *LINKS*-sized envelope.

**In case of problems or emergencies** - first try to contact the Visit Organiser or, if they are not available, any member of the Travel Committee.

***Links 157: the last date for copy is 9 January 2012***

# **Royal Air Force Museum Cosford and Moseley Old Hall, Wolverhampton**

**Wednesday 21 March 2012**

Set in scenic Shropshire, the Royal Air Force Museum invites visitors to explore the history of the RAF from its beginnings up to its present day role. There are displays of over 70 aircraft ranging from the earliest Spitfire and other wartime planes, including Allied and enemy ones, up to the modern missile and air transport machines. There is also a special display on the significant part played by the RAF during the Cold War. You will also be able to have fun with various "hands on" activities.

In short there is plenty for everyone to enjoy.

We will have lunch in the Refuel Restaurant. It will be a 2-course meal of Steak and Ale Pie, Rhubarb Crumble and Tea or Coffee. The vegetarian option is Vegetable Lasagne. Please tick your choice on the booking slip on page 27.

In the afternoon we will visit nearby Moseley Old Hall (National Trust). Its story is one of the most exciting and romantic in English history.

The house is famous for sheltering the young King Charles II after the disastrous defeat at the battle of Worcester in 1651. We can follow the story of the King's dramatic escape from Cromwell's troops and find out about 17th century domestic life.

The garden has varieties of plants in keeping with the period and has a striking knot garden and a walled garden.

The cost of the day is £18.00 for N.T. members and £24.00 for non-members. This includes travel, gratuities, admissions and lunch.

To reserve a place, please complete the booking slip on page 27 (remember to tick the lunch option!) and send it with a cheque and a small stamped addressed envelope as soon as possible to Barbara Robertshaw, 20 Whinfell Court, Sheffield S11 9QA.



# weekenders

## 22 January and 25 February

Full Name(s) ..... SU3A No(s).....

.....

Address ..... Tel: .....

.....

..... Postcode.....

Please reserve ..... place(s) for Sunday Lunch on 22 January.

Please reserve ..... place(s) for The Curry Night on 25 February.

Send to Dot Sutcliffe, 32 Tapton Crescent Road, S10 5DA

enclosing a **small stamped addressed envelope**.

✂ \_\_\_\_\_

## Literature Network : Leonard and Virginia

### Woolf as I knew them

**Thursday 9 February 2012 at 2.00 pm.**

**Quaker Meeting House, St. James Street, Sheffield S1 2EW**

Name(s) ..... SU3A No(s) .....

.....

Address ..... Tel: .....

.....

..... Postcode .....

Please reserve ..... place(s) for me (**£3.50** per person). I enclose a cheque for £ ..... payable to **Literature Network of SU3A** and a **small stamped addressed envelope**

Forms should be sent to: Judith Vernier, 7 Forth Avenue, Dronfield Woodhouse, S18 8ZG.

## **Lancaster**

### **17 - 21 September 2012**

The short break in September next year will be based in Lancaster on the River Lune and near to seaside resorts and the southern Lake District.

We will break our journey from Sheffield with a visit to Rufford Old Hall, near Ormskirk. This is one of Lancashire's finest Tudor buildings where a young William Shakespeare once performed for Sir Thomas Hesketh and his guests. The Hall has a fine collection of furniture, tapestries, arms and armour. There is a woodland walk by the canal and topiary and sculpture in the gardens.

The Hall is a National Trust property so entry is free to NT card holders and non-members will pay £6.30 on the day.

On our second day we will have a Blue Badge Guide for a tour of the City, by coach and on foot. In the afternoon we will take tea in Morecambe at the splendidly refurbished Art Deco Midland Hotel with its stylish Eric Gill art work.

Day three takes us to "Blackwell" - the most important and the largest surviving early example of work by the architect Mackay Hugh Bailey Scott. This 1890's Arts and Crafts House has fine examples of the decorative arts of the period. After lunch we take the boat from Bowness across Windermere to Lakeside for a visit to Stott Park Bobbin Mill - built in 1835 to produce the wooden bobbins vital to the Lancashire spinning and weaving industries.

On the penultimate day of this holiday we may have a "Brief Encounter" at Carnforth Station, followed by a visit to Leighton Hall - home of the famous furniture-making Gillow dynasty. After our early evening meal a coach will take us to see the famous Blackpool Illuminations.

On our homeward journey we will visit the Queen Street Mill Textile Museum near Burnley. This is the world's last nineteenth century steam-powered weaving mill and is highly commended by the Association for Industrial Archaeology. *Continued on page 26...*

# Study Day 'Exploring China'

**Thursday 23 February 2012**

Name(s) ..... SU3A No(s) .....  
.....

Address .....  
..... Tel.....  
..... Postcode.....

Please reserve ..... place(s) for me (**£4.00** per person). I enclose a cheque for £..... payable to **Sheffield U3A** and a **Links sized stamped addressed envelope**.

Please send this form, cheque and SAE to: Shelagh Woolliscroft, 2 Leabrook Road, Dronfield Woodhouse, S18 8YS

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# Classical Concertgoers' Group

**Visit to the De Montfort Hall Leicester**

**Wednesday 14 March 2012**

Name(s) ..... SU3A No(s) .....  
.....

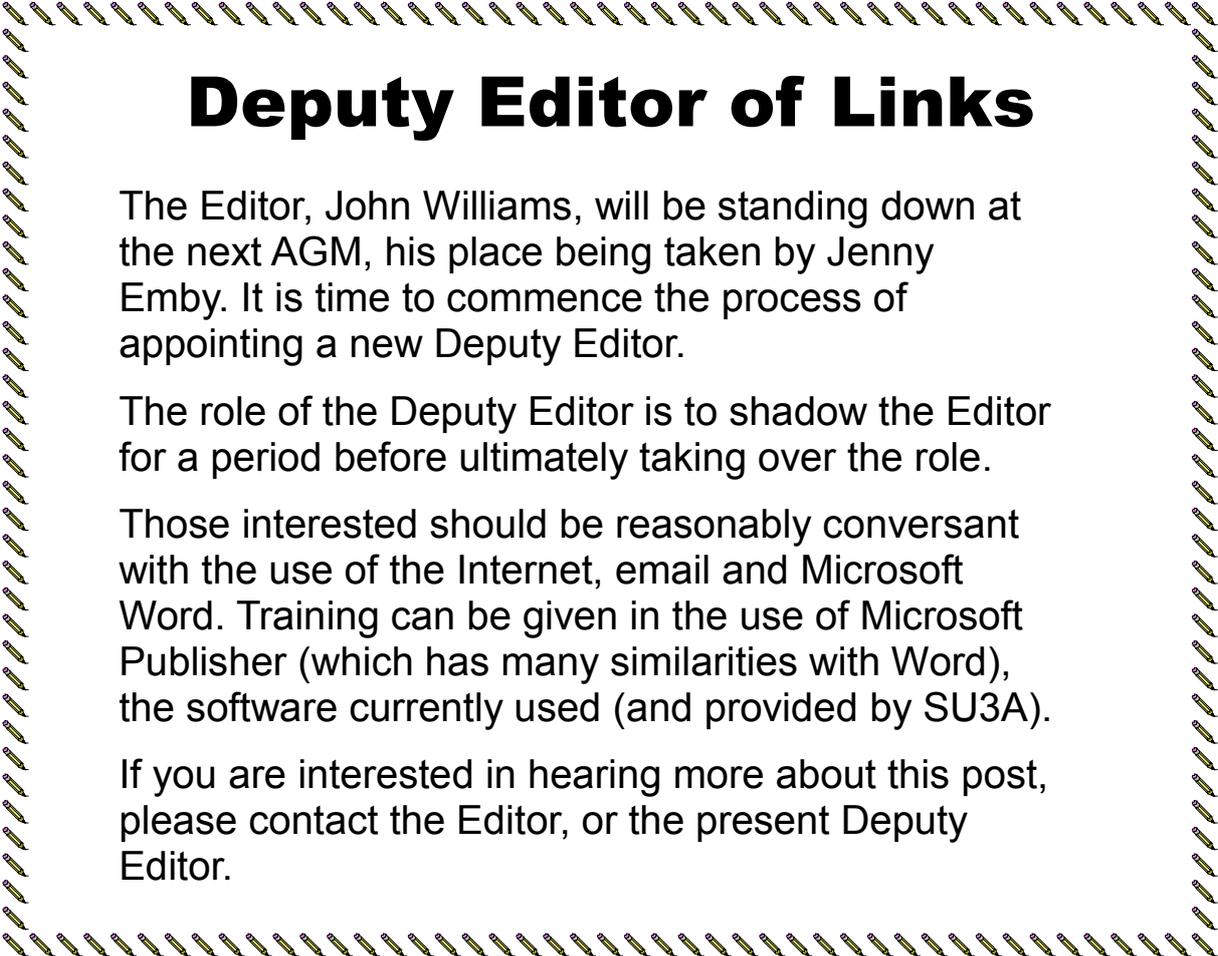
Address ..... Tel: .....  
.....  
..... Postcode .....

Please reserve ..... place(s) for me (**£28.00** per person). I enclose a cheque for £ ..... payable to **SU3A Concertgoers'** and a **small stamped addressed envelope**. If possible, I would like to sit with ..... at the concert. Forms should be sent to arrive **as soon as possible** to Derek Shipley, 40 Wollaton Avenue, Bradway, Sheffield S17 4LA

For this five days/four nights break we will be staying at The Holiday Inn Lancaster on half-board (room, breakfast and dinner). All rooms are en-suite with the usual facilities. Hotel, coaching throughout by Walter Martin Coaches, the cost of visits (except NT Property) and guides where applicable and all remunerations and donations are included in the price quoted. The cost of lunches, snacks or any other refreshments is not included.

The cost of this holiday per person sharing a double or twin room is **£290.00**. An added supplement for single room occupancy is **£60.00**. Places on this short break are on offer only to members of Sheffield U3A. Members must arrange their own travel insurance and send a copy to the organiser when requested.

To apply for a place please complete the form on page 27 and send it with a deposit of £60.00 per person, cheque made payable to **Sheffield U3A Travel**, together with a *LINKS*-sized stamped addressed envelope to the holiday organiser - Margaret Bullivant, 14 Kingsley Park Grove, Sheffield S11 9HL



## Deputy Editor of Links

The Editor, John Williams, will be standing down at the next AGM, his place being taken by Jenny Emby. It is time to commence the process of appointing a new Deputy Editor.

The role of the Deputy Editor is to shadow the Editor for a period before ultimately taking over the role.

Those interested should be reasonably conversant with the use of the Internet, email and Microsoft Word. Training can be given in the use of Microsoft Publisher (which has many similarities with Word), the software currently used (and provided by SU3A).

If you are interested in hearing more about this post, please contact the Editor, or the present Deputy Editor.

**Air Force Museum Cosford and Moseley Old Hall,  
Wolverhampton**

**Wednesday 21 March 2012**

Full Name(s) ..... SU3A No(s).....

Address ..... Tel: .....

..... Postcode.....

Please reserve ..... place(s). I enclose a cheque for £.....(£18.00 per person, if a N.T. member or £24.00 per person for non members), payable to **Sheffield U3A Travel**. Please return the completed slip, with a **small stamped addressed envelope**, as soon as possible to: Barbara Robertshaw, 20 Whinfell Court, Sheffield S11 9QA

Please tick the box if you wish to have a vegetarian lunch.

Please also tick your preferred pick-up point below:

Sheffield Interchange, Platform E5 07.45 am. ( )

Bus Bay Knowle Lane/Ecclesall Road South 08.00 am. ( )

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**Lancaster Holiday**

**17 - 21 September 2012**

Full Name(s) ..... SU3A No(s).....

Address ..... Tel: .....

..... Postcode.....

Please reserve .....place(s) (£60.00 deposit per person)

Room: Single/Twin/Double

I enclose a cheque for £..... payable to **Sheffield U3A Travel** and a **Links sized stamped addressed envelope**.

Forms should be sent as soon as possible to : Margaret Bullivant, 14 Kingsley Park Grove, Sheffield S11 9HL

On a recent U3A day trip, we visited the splendid Swaledale Museum in Reeth, Yorkshire. The Curator read us a 'Proposal of Marriage' letter written in 1866 which delighted us all. I am most grateful to her for permission to publish it. I hope you enjoy it.

*Editor*

### **A Proposal of Marriage 1866**

My Dere Miss,

I now take hup my pen tow rite yow open feelines will find yow well as it leaves me at present. Yow will praps be supprised that I should maik soa bolde as tow rite to yow who is sutch a ladi and I hop that yow will not bee vex at mee for it. I hardly dare say wat I want I ham so timid about ladis and mi and trimmels like a lespin lefe. I am a farmar in a small wai and mi age is rayther more than 40 year and mi mother lives with me and keeps mi ouse and shee as been very pourley laitley and cannot stur about mutch and I think I shud be comfutable with a wife. I have had mi I on yow a long time and I think that yow are a very nice young wumman and one that wud make me appi if only yow think soa. We ave a nice parlor down stares with a blu carpet and a huven on one side of the fire plaice and the old woman on the uther smoaking. The golden 'rules claimed up on the walls abuv the long settle and yow cud sit awl the day in the ezy chare and nit and mend my kirtles and leggings and yow cud maik the tee reddy again I cum in.

So I hop to hear from yow as I am in desprit and yurnist and will marrie yow at mai day or if my mother dees afore Ise want yow afore if only yow will except of mi. And mi dere we cud be vein appi to gedder and I oap you will let me now yowr mind by return of poast and iff yow are faverable I wil cum up to the scratch. Soa noa moor at preasant from your well wisher and tru luvve.

Pea hes. I hop yow will sai nothing about this if yow will not except of mi as I have anuther very nice wumman in mind and I think I shall marrie her if you do no except of mi but I thought you wud suite mi mother better — the same venerable specimen of the female biped (excuse me but this is our skule masters remark and hes a clever man) being very crusty at times, so I tell yow before yow cum She will be maister.