

IN TOUCH

Bi-monthly Newsletter of Shaftesbury & Gillingham U3A

Dear Everyone

First I must thank all for their continued strong support to Shaftesbury and Gillingham U3A - we have a few less members, alas, but I am sure with the lively group work that is going on and one or two excellent speakers, we will grow! Our new Speakers' Secretary, Libby Hague-Holmes, is being very helpful.

The committee apologises for having to cancel the March meeting at such short notice but then the snow came down rather fast! We are planning to book Jake Moore of the Dorset Police, who we understand is an excellent speaker, at a later date.

The Editor, John Upshall, tells me there have been no comments about the "on line" copies - hooray! But as in February there will be some "hard" copies available for the April edition. He is also hoping to get some colour into the copies in due course.

Have you heard the birds singing their hearts out? I really think Spring is on the way. We are very lucky here and I only wish I could identify some of the bird song. And so on, let us look to warmer weather, good gardening(!) and lighter evenings.

ELIZABETH YOUNG *Chairman*

SPEAKERS PROGRAMME

- April 5th** - The Red Arrows - Colin Van Geffen
May 3rd - Sicily - Colin & Anne Marsh (Members)
June 7th - A Trip down the River Nile - Mike Bolton
July 5th - "Mata Hari, Eye of the Day" - Kathy McNally
August 2nd - NO MEETING THIS MONTH
September 6th - More Tales of a TV Cameraman -
 Richard Edwards
October 4th - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING followed by
 a short talk by Graham Fuller on "Issues surrounding long
 term care"

Meetings are held at the Father`s House in Shaftesbury on the first Thursday of each Month except August when we have no meeting.

Meetings begin at 10.30am with coffee available from 9.45am until 10.15am only. Meetings are usually finished by 12noon.

If you have heard or are aware of a good speaker and you think could be of interest to our Club then please contact -

SPEAKERS SECRETARY - Libby Hague-Holmes

GROUP NEWS

Most Group Leaders have now found alternative cheaper accommodation for their meetings so thank you to all! A number of the Groups are meeting at Rivers Meet in Gillingham and are very pleased with the accommodation whilst another is meeting at the Shaftesbury Band Hall. This all helps to make a major contribution to saving costs and therefore easing the burden on the subscription income.

GERMAN CONVERSATION GROUP

Following the death of Jennifer Anderson the Group has now been taken over by ROBERT LIGHT. (see website)

PAINTING FOR PLEASURE

Unfortunately this Group has now finished but if any Member feels that they would like to take on running this Group then please contact GREER TILBROOK to discuss.

THANKYOU to those Group Members who had an outstanding subscription which they have now paid.

We do from time to time check the names of those attending a Group against the list of paid members so if you have not yet paid your subscription now is the time to do so - Thankyou for your help.

SAFETY STEWARDS. Can you HELP??

The Father`s House has an EMERGENCY PLAN to cater for Fire or other Emergencies whilst we are using their building. They are responsible for ensuring that all necessary actions are taken in the event of an Emergency.

For several years we have had three safety stewards at the monthly meeting to assist the centre. The duties of each of these stewards are not onerous and are simply to seat themselves, within the main room, by one of the exits from the room. They are then positioned to observe and ensure all exit routes are kept clear and in the very unlikely event of an emergency help direct people away from the building.

We are currently requiring a few more volunteers to help, at the moment each person is on duty about 2 to 3 times a year.

No real training is required as I will give full guidance verbally and with notes. If you can help or would like to discuss the matter then please contact me on 01747 863447 or roger46laidler@talktalk.net

Roger Laidler SECRETARY

CAN YOU CAPTURE THE SPIRIT OF THE U3A??

The U3A is looking for great photographs to showcase the movement. National Communications Officer Liz Drury would like pictures of U3A people doing U3A things - whether it`s a shot of our Geology & Landscape Group on an expedition or the Table Tennis Group hard at it!!!.....

Please send your pictures to Liz via Twitter using hashtag **#u3a**, or via sources.u3a.org.uk. Winning submissions will receive a limited edition U3A mug. Please also let this editor know of your entry so that we can show it on our website. **GOOD LUCK!**

Please do not forget that you can view a copy of this NEWSLETTER on our web page at:

u3asites.org.uk/sgu3a

Also available on the web site are details of all Groups and Leaders and past copies of our IN TOUCH magazine

The U3A is organising two national summer schools. The first from Monday 23 to Thursday 26 July at Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire. Courses are Cryptic Crosswords, France, Garden History, Literature, Opera Maths, Recorders, Spanish, History and Ukulele.

The second from Tuesday 11 to Friday 14 September, is at Royal Agricultural University. Courses are Art History, Creative Writing, Classic Albums of 50s & 60s, Drama, Poetry, Language, Latin, Musicals, Singing and the French Revolution.

For further details, and to book, visit:

summer-schools.u3a.org.uk

NEW MEMBERS JOINING FEE

The Membership Fee for **new** Members joining after 1st March 2018 will be £10 for the remainder of the year until the new year commences on 1st August 2018 when the appropriate annual membership fee will become due.

DISTRIBUTION of our NEWSLETTER

We now have a total of 365 Members of which 240 (66%) of these have given their email address. It therefore makes sense, and to further reduce cost, to send the Newsletter to these members by email which we will arrange to do with effect from this April 2018 issue.

This does not mean that we shall not have a few printed copies available at our meetings but it will enable us to considerably reduce the number that we get printed. We hope that all of you who have a facility to print will print your own copy.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

Editor

GARDEN INTEREST GROUP

Monday 9th April OUR FIRST OUTSIDE VISIT this year will be to IVY HOUSE, PIDDLTRENTIDE DT2 7QF. We have been before in 2012 but only a few people due to the weather. This garden is full of tulips and spring flowers but it is on a slope, sorry, but well worth a visit. Refreshments were outstanding—there is cover.
COST: £8 to include entrance and refreshments.
TIME: 10 for 10.30am

Monday 14th May PLANT SWAP at PEACE COTTAGE, PEACEMARSH, GILLINGHAM SP8 4QF.

Hostess Sue Hazeldene.

COST: £2 per person for refreshments and donations for plants etc. (CAKE provided by Committee Members)

TIME: 10.30am

Wednesday 13th June Visit to BISHOPS PALACE, Wells, Somerset.

COST: £20 - £23 dependant upon numbers.

This trip is open to all G&SU3A Members but Gardening Interest Group Members will have priority booking.

FULL DETAILS about this trip are on our website and available at one of our regular monthly meetings.

GROUP LEADER Liz Hide 01747 830422

Greer and Team have started to put together a Programme for Days Out during 2018. You will find more details on our website under EVENTS and also TRAVEL-HOLIDAYS. Information will also be on display at our meetings so do please check there for more details.

April 12th - Snowhill Manor & Garden - Bourton-on-the-Water - A National Trust property in the Cotswolds. Anticipated cost in region of £14 per person plus NT Entrance Fee if not a member.

Organiser - Janet & Bill McIntyre

If you would like to go on this trip please sign up at a meeting.

June 13th - Bishop of Wells Gardens - This trip is being organised by the Garden Interest Group.

Sign up sheets available at a meeting.

July 10th - Montacute House and Barrington Court.

These are National Trust properties based in Somerset. Provisional cost depending on numbers £14 per person NT Members entrance free.

Organiser - Steve Hale

Full details available at our meetings OR on our website.

Sunday 9th to Thursday 13th September - LOW

COST Holiday to Peak District - Greer Tilbrook has arranged this five day holiday to the Peak District -

FULL DETAILS and cost are available on our website or at one of our meetings.

IMPORTANT REQUEST We do urgently require additional helpers on the Day Trips Group - **more helpers mean more trips** so please contact Greer if you can help with this, it is not an onerous job.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!!

We would like to arrange a CHRISTMAS LUNCH to take the place of our 6th December meeting, for all to attend - BUT it does depend on how many of you would support this event. We are thinking of holding it at either The Royal Chase Hotel in Shaftesbury, OR at The Olive Bowl in Gillingham.

Davina Belcher is making preliminary enquiries at both establishments but we would like an indication from as many members as possible who would be prepared to support such an event. We anticipate the cost to be in the region of £20-£25 per head exclusive of drinks.

Would you please email the EDITOR at:

john.upshall@btinternet.com as soon as you can with an indication on how you feel about this.

INTOUCH is published by: SHAFTESBURY & GILLINGHAM U3A

Registered Charity Number: 1078452

DEADLINE for the JUNE issue is

FRIDAY 18th May 2018

Please email copy to the EDITOR at: john.upshall@btinternet.com, or post to John Upshall, Brachers Cottage, Newbury, GILLINGHAM, Dorset SP8 4QJ