

# INTOUCH

## Bi-monthly Newsletter of Shaftesbury & Gillingham U3A

### FROM the CHAIRMAN

Hello everyone,

How do you like it? Our Editor has spent considerable time working at the format and I very much hope, as one gets used to it, it is fun. If you have any helpful ideas, do let John Upshall know. It will certainly cost a great deal less than the coloured magazine but we did get to our 100th Issue!! Well done to John and all contributors.

You can read this new "on line IN TOUCH" at [u3asites.org.uk/sgu3a](http://u3asites.org.uk/sgu3a) but I guess you will have found this out already.

John has also produced some hard copies for anyone without the use of a computer.

We send our very good wishes for a full recovery to Paul Robinson who looks after our Publicity matters. He was having heart surgery and we hope very much that all has gone well.

I wish you all well for the New Year and we look forward to Spring. My daffodils and tulips are growing very fast!!!

Elizabeth Young

### SPEAKERS PROGRAMME

**February 1st** - Living in Cairo - Janet Diamond

**March 1st** - Cyber Crime Prevention -

Jake Moore - Dorset Police

**April 15th** - 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*

### COFFEE HELPERS

Please DO NOT forget that we rely on Members to help with the coffee service at our monthly meetings.

If you have not done this before or for a while, then please think about adding your name to the list, which is on the counter, to help at future meetings.

We do rely on Members to help with this job....

### HELPFUL COMMENTS PLEASE.....

If you have any helpful comments or suggestions on how you would like the new format IN TOUCH Newsletter to look then please contact the Editor, details are at the foot of the page over.

### GROUP NEWS

Most Group Leaders have now found alternative cheaper accommodation for their meetings.

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 is all making a major contribution to saving costs and therefore easing the burden on the subscription income.

**BEFORE ADAM Group** - Unfortunately this Group now has a waiting list. Please contact the Group Leader DENISE SIMS to add your name to the waiting list.

#### **AUGUST MEETING**

The Committee have decided that we shall have no meeting in August 2018. This meeting has usually been held at the Olive Bowl in Gillingham as the Father`s House were unable to accommodate us at this time but at considerable additional cost. In addition the attendance at this meeting was often quite lower than other meetings because of holidays etc and so we have decided to cancel this meeting.

#### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - October 2018**

It has been decided that the AGM meeting will last longer to give members ample time for discussion and the speaker who follows will be limited to no more than 30minutes. This follows a number of complaints received asking for a longer discussion time for the AGM

### **JOHN BALDOCK**

### **RON LENTZ**

We were all saddened to lose two of our Members during December 2017.

JOHN BALDOCK who was aged 74years, was the very enthusiastic and knowledgeable leader of the Art Appreciation Group and will be greatly missed by everyone.

RON LENTZ who was aged 91years, had handled the finances of the Day Trips Group and will be missed by everyone who enjoyed his wit, humour and stories.

We shall all miss them and send our thoughts and prayers to their families at this time.

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

**[u3asites.org.uk/sgu3a](http://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

## HOLIDAYS

Did you know that you could use a Travel Agent called **RIVIERA TRAVEL** to book your next holiday and our U3A Club could benefit.....

RIVIERA TRAVEL operate a scheme whereby they would pass on to SHAFTESBURY & GILLINGHAM U3A the commission which they would potentially pay a travel agent for booking one of their holidays. The only rule is that you must mention the name of our U3A at the point you make the booking. Then, the month after you travel, Riviera Travel will email you with the amount due and ask that you pass the email to our Club Treasurer to raise an invoice for the appropriate amount for them to pay us. RIVIERA TRAVEL have already paid over £48,000 in commission to U3A Clubs during 2017 and a total so far of over £147,000 since U3A was included in 2014. DORCHESTER U3A recently received over £2000 for a holiday taken by several members.

For more details contact RIVIERA TRAVEL on -  
GROUP BOOKING: 01283 742322  
RESERVATIONS: 01283 742300  
BROCHURE: 01283 744326  
WEB PAGE: [www.utariviera.co.uk](http://www.utariviera.co.uk)

## THANKYOU

A thankyou to all those who took the trouble to return the tear off strip from our October IN TOUCH requesting a copy of the new Newsletter to be sent them. As a matter of interest the response was as follows:  
REQUEST FOR COPY BY POST - 23 requests  
REQUEST FOR COPY BY EMAIL - 43 requests  
Loose copies will also be available for members to pick up at the meeting nearest the publication date.

## GARDEN INTEREST GROUP

**Monday 12th February** - VISIT TO SUE HAZELDEAN'S HOUSE, Peace Cottage, GILLINGHAM SP8 4QF - Parking is limited so please car share if possible  
COST: £2 per person TIME: 10.30am

**Monday 12th March** - MEETING at RIVERSMEET, GILLINGHAM. A talk on the Restoration of Hestercombe Gardens by David Usher.

COST: £3.00 per person TIME: 10 for 10.30am

**Wednesday 13th June** - Visit to the BISHOPS PALACE in WELLS, Somerset.

COST: £20 - £23 depending upon numbers and the entrance includes a guided tour of the palace and/or grounds. Wednesday is also market day in Wells with many interesting stalls and plenty of venues for refreshments.

Group Leader LIZ HIDE 01747 830422

Although this trip is open to all SGU3A Members the Garden Interest Group members will take priority.

INTOUCH is published by: SHAFTESBURY & GILLINGHAM U3A

Registered Charity Number: 1078452

DEADLINE for the APRIL issue is

FRIDAY 16th March 2018

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

## DAYS OUT in 2018

Greer and her Team have already started to put together a Programme of Days Out to be enjoyed throughout 2018. As space is a little limited in this sheet we will be including more details on the display panels at our meetings so do please check there for more details.

**April 12th - Snowhill Manor & Garden - Bourton-on-the-Water** - This is 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 is a trip being organised by the Garden Interest Group (see details in December 2017 IN TOUCH)

Sign up sheets available at a meeting.

**July (date to be agreed) - Barrington Court and Montecute House**. This is a National Trust property based in Somerset.

Organiser - Steve Hale

Full details available shortly.

**Low Cost Holiday** - Greer Tilbrook is hoping to arrange a short break holiday to the Iron Bridge Gorge in Telford, Shropshire and surrounding area for some time in September- full details available shortly.

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

## PHOTO COMPETITION 2017

We are pleased to announce the overall results for the PHOTO COMPETITION held throughout 2017.

You will recall we showed you the winners for the SGU3A SUBJECT and the GENERAL SUBJECT for the months of May, August, October and December 2017 and now our Judge has selected the winner from each of the two categories and they are:

**SGU3A SUBJECT** The winner is the photograph of SS Great Britain submitted by **CHRISTINE ALEXANDER** and shown in the December 2017 IN TOUCH - Judge comment: "Good clean simple lines, nice angle showing prow and masts clearly, uncluttered background, top of masts not cut off - all in all a very pleasing picture"

**GENERAL SUBJECT** The winner is the photograph taken from the air of the Needles, Isle of Wight, taken by **TRYPHENA ORCHARD** and shown in the December 2017 IN TOUCH - Judge comment "Good strong diagonal composition, plain green sea contrasting with the white of chalk with the bonus of the red lighthouse at the end of the diagonal"

Each of the two above winners will receive FREE MEMBERSHIP for one year from the renewal date in August 2018.

WELL DONE and THANKYOU to everyone who has taken part in this competition over the years.