

**u3a**

Learn Laugh Live

Registered Charity No. 288007  
<https://u3asites.org.uk/shottery/home>  
[www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

## **SHOTTERY u3a**

### **NEWSLETTER: August 2023**

**Tuesday September 5th 2023**

**The Story of Tin Pan Alley**

**Roger Browne**

#### **DESK AND REFRESHMENT ROTA:**

##### **September - Ambling**

*Duties include checking members in at the entrance desk and serving tea and coffee and washing up afterwards ( dishwasher available). Generally 4 members are required. Where groups have difficulty in raising the necessary 4 members, please get in touch with Jan Grant– Group Coordinator. (01789 417721)*

#### **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:**

**October 3<sup>rd</sup> – ‘That’s the Way To Do It’, Nigel Metcalfe**

**November 7<sup>th</sup> – AGM. ‘The Journey of a Paralympic’, Jamie Harris**

#### **NATIONAL NEWS**

**u3a Week is 16 -24 September.** You can find out about events on the national web site. These include some online events such as the one detailed here:

##### **Do we need a commissioner for older people? Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September.**

This online event hosted by u3a Future Lives will give members the chance to hear from Helena Herklots CBE, Older People’s Commissioner for Wales. You will hear about the work of a commissioner and can ask questions and share what issues you would like a commissioner to be addressing.

## Getting to Know Members

This is the second instalment from Joan Newton, leader of the Lunch Group, in our 'getting to know members' series. As always, it is edited by Lauri Scrivens.

Last month you heard about the first part of Joan's life and now we give you Part Two:

'My eldest son is married but doesn't have any children. My youngest son went to London University studying Art but he is now a qualified climbing instructor. He married an Indian girl, Langeda Ahuja. She speaks six languages perfectly and works for the British Embassy. She has had postings in Turkey, Portugal, and Washington. So, of course, I have been 'out there' several times and travelled while out. I found Turkey the most interesting and my favourite. I have also slept in the white rocks in Turkey and seen the underground pools there. It is a very interesting country.

I have travelled a lot in England and Scotland, but not so much on the east coast. My youngest also played rugby, and I won a good prize in a raffle. It was enough to take us to Italy and to the Isle of Capri, where Rolf was shot down during the war. He had wanted to take me there so the money went towards it. Unfortunately, he had died before we could go. So Ian and I went! It seemed odd without him. Such is life. I have a favourite saying.

'I played tennis till I dropped, then golf, then bowls. I was good at putting, maybe because I have a photo of me at three putting on the lawn at Grandpa Walkers! I still am when I have the chance.'

So we say, many thanks to Joan for sharing her very interesting life with us.

## INTEREST GROUPS

We are always interested in expanding the number and range of interest groups that are on offer. If you would be interested in developing a new group, please get in touch with the Secretary via the website group <https://u3asites.org.uk/shottery/home>.

## Group Reports

### Gardening Group

If you are interested in this group please contact Jan Grant

### Rambling Group

Future Ramble dates are;

22nd August          26th September          24th October          and          28th November

If you wish to join the group, please write to Martin Young at [xh558@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:xh558@yahoo.co.uk).

### **Local History Group**

The History Group have now settled into their new accommodation in Venture House although we are still working out how to get the best out of the technology.

We have settled into a comfortable pattern of working which has one or another of the topic leaders opening with an update on what they have discovered since their last report. That is followed by an open ended discussion based on the topic. Others with matters of interest or questions which the group as a whole might have thoughts or information about have a slot later in the meeting.

The next meeting will be on the 14th of September. At the following meeting 12 October we hope to welcome Val Horton, author of "It's Not About Shakespeare" to the Group.

### **Ambling Group**

Amble - Combroke - Compton Verney - 8 August

After taking a democratic vote 16 of us did the amble in the rain and drizzle! The amble took us 3.5 miles through fields and muddy woodland, around the perimeter of Compton Verney Estate. Some of the walk was undulating but the views were worth the effort, taking in the two lakes and Compton Verney House. Even though it was raining everyone enjoyed the walk and it has been put in the diary for next June/July to see the wild meadow flowers in bloom.

The field that has the wild flowers is called Old Town Meadow and was the site of the medieval village of Compton Murdak. The village was abandoned in the Tudor period and by the time 'Capability' Brown came to Compton Verney in the 1760's no trace of it remained. The meadow is home to a number of birds, skylarks, kestrels and buzzards. Goldfinches can also be spotted feeding on the knapweed seeds.

Refreshments at Charlecote Nursery were greatly enjoyed. An interesting walk even if the weather was against us. September Amble to be circulated later. Margaret

### **Keep Fit**

The Shottery and Heart of England Keep Fit Group meets on Thursday mornings, 10am to 11am at St. Andrew's Church Hall. There is a waiting list so if interested in being added to the list, please contact Robyn Nicoll.

please contact Robyn Nicoll via the web site or the shottery email

([shotteryu3a@gmail.com](mailto:shotteryu3a@gmail.com))

### **Lunch Club**

Lunch club on 2nd Thursday after Tuesday U3A meeting at 1pm. at different venues. Signing-up lists are put on the table at the Tuesday monthly meeting.

Contact Joan Newton for more details.

### **Digital Photography**

The August Meeting was not well attended, so as a result we will carry over the subject of Transport for the September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. The meeting will be held at Rickie's, and she has again agreed to do the refreshments. We now have spaces for 2 new members if they would like to contact Frances. Frances Freeman

### **Play Reading**

The group didn't meet in August due to holidays etc.. We will be meeting in September when we will be starting a new play. Chris Buchanan.

### **Book Group**

In August, 4 members of the group met to discuss the book 'Three Hours' by Rosamund Lipton. Those members who could not be present, sent their comments. The book's action is set over the course of three hours, hence the title. It deals with contemporary topics: a school shooting and terrorist attack but set in England rather than the USA as we are used to hearing. The start of the book is extremely dramatic and tense with students and teachers hiding in classrooms and the school theatre from gunmen and there are some superb images such as children piling books against the library door to prevent entry. This is every parent's, teacher's and students' nightmare but the book goes deeper into issues that are pertinent and relevant to our times: terrorism, radicalisation, refugees and their integration. Could any of our children be radicalised online? The characters are well drawn. The book provoked a lot of discussion and despite its serious subject matter was enjoyed by the group. The group is currently full, but if anyone would like to start a second group, advice on how to do this is available – Contact Kate Shilvock

***Please send items for inclusion in the newsletter to Kate Shilvock or enquiries regarding interest groups or membership leaders via the email***

***[shotteryu3a@gmail.com](mailto:shotteryu3a@gmail.com)***