

u3a

Learn Laugh Live

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## SHOTTERY u3a

### NEWSLETTER: January 2024

Tuesday February 6<sup>th</sup> 2024

**'The Tearaway Years'**  
**Miles Scrivens**

#### DESK AND REFRESHMENT ROTA:

##### February Gardening

##### March – Lunch Club

*- 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:

**March 5<sup>th</sup> – 'Wind Instruments' David Wornham**

**April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Interest Groups**

#### National News

Our new film, Meet Marion, showcases Stapleford u3a Art Group and member Marion. This is the final film in our Learn Something Brilliant Today series, which has showcased how u3a opens a door to new learning opportunities – from table tennis to art to Welsh Language. In 2024, we'll be launching our new film series, Share Something Brilliant Today, focussing on the ways that members share experience, knowledge and laughter with each other through their interest groups.

## Places to visit: Home and Abroad

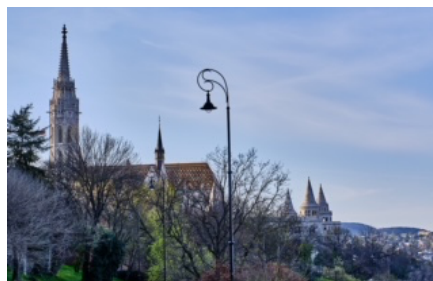
*This is the first in a new series of articles devoted to places to visit for days out and short ( and long)breaks. This month's contributor is Judith Jurics who was brought up in Hungary and knows the country well. Thank you Judith.*

### Budapest

If you are looking for a short city break Budapest is a great city to visit. It is about 2 1/2 hours flight from Birmingham. Jet2 runs two direct flights per week to Budapest on Mondays and Fridays, and also offers city breaks which include flight plus hotel accommodation.

Budapest is the capital city of Hungary. The Danube flows through the city and divides it into two parts: Buda and Pest. The centre of Pest is the heart of the capital. Here you find many restaurants, museums, theatres and much more. A couple of days won't be enough to see all, but certainly will give you a taste of the city. I would suggest to take a hop on – hop off sightseeing tour and then you can decide what you would like to see.

Personally, on the Pest side, I would visit the Parliament , St Stephen Basilica, the Opera house (guided tours are available to book online), travel on Europe's oldest Underground Railway to the City Park and have a soak in the Szechenyi thermal bath. Make sure to have a coffee or tea and a cake in the famous Gerbaud Confectionery in the city centre on Vorosmarty Square directly opposite the old underground (Metro line 1) station.



Buda's special feature, Castle Hill, rises above the Danube. Castle Hill, boasts Matthias Church, Fishermans Bastion and the Sandor Palace, which is the official residence and workplace of the President of Hungary. Nearby is the excavated

remnants of the Royal Palace and also the very impressive Buda Castle, which houses the National Gallery. Wander through the cobbled streets of the district and admire the many Baroque buildings. A coffee and cake at the famous Ruswurm Confectionary in Szentharomsag Street is a must.

Judith Jurics

*Do you have a place that you would encourage others to visit? Could you contribute a short article to the newsletter ( we are happy to edit and proof read ). If so, please send your article to Kate Shilvock at [shotteryu3a@gmail.com](mailto:shotteryu3a@gmail.com)*

## **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

### **Ambling Group**

Amble Group -Tuesday 13 February- Packwood House  
The above Amble starts from the car park at Packwood House (B94 6AT). The walk is three miles with one stile! (recee to establish this)! Walking boots recommended. To meet at 1.45 for 1.30pm start. Any other details to be circulated nearer date.

Looking forward to another year of enjoyable Ambles with everyone. Best wishes,  
Margaret

### **Rambling Group**

The Rambling Group completed a 5 mile walk on hard surfaces near Warwick before Storm Jocelyn built up on Tuesday Jan 23rd. The weather forecast was poor, but on the day most of the rain held off until we were indoors enjoying our lunch. 15 members turned out and enjoyed the day.

February is likely to be an easy walk along the Greenway, south from Milcote. 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 New Year began with an enthusiastic gathering of about half of the group who have now begun to work on how to capture and store aural history. One group member in particular has a wealth of stories to tell about buildings in the centre of town and their use and the people associated with them. So much information about

our past is locked up within us that can be both informative, helpful and possibly inspirational to future generations of historians.

Elsewhere the study of the Guild of the Holy Cross has more or less reached a sensible closing point with the banning of all religious guilds by Edward VI in 1540. Research continues on photographing changes to buildings but the weather has not been kind to those engaged in this activity. The theatre in its various forms from the 16th Century on continues to provide a lot of interesting non-Shakespearian material.

Meetings will continue at Venture House on the second Thursday of the month at 2.15 and I understand the terms of hire remain the same for the forthcoming year. The full list of meeting dates is published on the Group's page or the Shottery U3A website.

Miles Scrivens  
Group Leader.

### **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**

Our January meeting was a social afternoon at Hudson's Café when most of our members could attend some with plus one. We had a good chatty time and it was much enjoyed by all. Our next subject for showing at the February meeting is 'Red'. As we have had two months for this subject, I think some pictures taken at Christmas time may be on display. We will meet at Rickie's at 2.30pm on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February.

Frances Freeman

### **Book Group**

Our January selection was a classic which none of us had read before. Anne Bronte, the least well known of the Bronte sisters, published 'The Tenant of Wildfell Hall' under a male pseudonym following her sisters' example. The book uses her personal experience within her family and deals with addiction (drugs, gambling), domestic abuse and the restrictions placed on women (and their children) who were very much their husband's property. The heroine, Helen, having married for love but not really knowing her husband, flees from her abusive and controlling husband taking her son with her and living under an assumed name in fear of being found. She returns to nurse her husband in his final illness thinking to get him to repent and save his soul. Finally, she finds happiness with a man she has met whilst living under an assumed name. There are many references to religion and the way women were treated under the law. Most of the group did not enjoy the book but it

did provoke a good discussion. The group will hold its New Year Meal at The Dirty Duck on 1<sup>st</sup> February. 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

### **Play Reading**

In January, the group began a new play ‘The Village Fete’ by Peter Tinniswood. Illness depleted numbers but those who were able to attend enjoyed the humour in this, play originally written for radio. We will continue with the play at the next meeting on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

### **Recipe for Hot Wassail as served at the December meeting**

Many members asked for the recipe for the hot, non-alcoholic punch served at the Christmas meeting. Frances Freeman has kindly provided this:

Great to warm you up on a cold day and we have had a few of these recently.

1 litre apple juice	6 cloves
1 tbsp ground cinnamon/or a stick of cinnamon	1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
3 tablespoons honey	4 tablespoons lemon juice

Bring this mixture almost to the boil. Let it stand for a while, heat again, sieve and serve. Ideal for a winter’s evening.

***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)***