



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

# Jottings

**The Newsletter of Church Stretton U3A**

**June 2019**

## **MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:**

Sadly I am no longer Chair of Church Stretton U3A. I have thoroughly enjoyed the last two years but needs must when the Devil drives so I have had to resign the Chair in order to take up the role of Treasurer. I have broken my sacred vow not to take on any more roles involving accountancy after fifty-nine years doing nothing else.

I wish my successor, Lesley Dench, well in her new role. **Grahame Hurst**

## **VERY URGENT VACANCIES**

### **GENERAL MEETINGS ORGANISER**

### **GROUPS COODINATOR**

We are looking for replacements to take on these roles. Anyone interested please contact the Chair, [lmdench@googlemail.com](mailto:lmdench@googlemail.com) in the first instance for further information.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

**2019**

### **June General Meeting**

Wednesday, 26 June 2019, 2pm at United Reformed Church Hall, on the High Street.

### **'Travels with a Penguin' by Pen Turner**

The story of a lady who, in her fifties, decided to get off the merry-go-round and work on her wish list.

### **July and August 2019 – No meeting**

### **September General Meeting**

Wednesday, 25 September 2019, 2pm at United Reformed Church Hall, on the High Street.

### **Cuan Wildlife Rescue**

Shropshire's only 24/7 wildlife rescue centre

## **PREVIOUS MEETINGS:**

### **March General Meeting**

### **Tax, Care and Toy Boys Updated by Glyn Williams**

Glyn started his talk with the question "Is there any point in making a will?" That certainly got my attention! Most of us, I suspect, are keen to leave our assets to our families. We can, however, only pass on what is left of our estate at the time of our death. Glyn described how our assets, if we are not careful, are eaten away by tax and care fees.

The topics Glyn touched on were:

Inheritance tax      Care fees      Wills      Trusts      Powers of Attorney      Funeral Plans

“Sideways Disinheritance”

These are all issues that are worth researching or talking to a Solicitor about.

It was good to be reminded that estate planning should be revisited from time to time. Glyn answered many questions from the audience which indicated that I was not the only one to think that.

Did you know that money left to Political Parties is not included in your estate for Inheritance tax purposes!! **Lesley Brown**

## **April General Meeting**

### **Captain Flora Sandes by Mike Watkins & Wilma Hayes**

We were given a very informative and interesting outline of the life of Captain Flora Sandes.

Flora was born in 1876 and was 38 years old when she signed up, only 8 days after war was declared. She was the only British woman to serve in WW1 in active service although, due to British regulations, she served in the Serbian army. She went from nurse to soldier in Serbia.

Growing up Flora was not interested in doing “women chores” but preferred shooting, driving cars, etc. A very unlikely lady. She had once said herself that she had always wished she had been born a man.

Flora commenced her army career as a Private and gained promotion through the years to end her army career as a Captain. During her career she was awarded many medals and was held in very high esteem by all those she came in contact with.

Flora did marry in 1927 but unfortunately her husband, Yuri died in 1941 during their time in Belgrade. While in Belgrade at that time Flora was imprisoned for a short while by the Gestapo but eventually freed.

We were shown some very impressive photographs showing Flora in her uniform and then in her later years when Flora returned to Suffolk. She died in 1956 aged 80.

She had been described as a fine brother! **Julia Felton**

## **May (AGM) General Meeting**

34 Members and 1 guest were greeted with wine and nibbles before the AGM. The Chair kept the meeting short with his report, then going through the accounts and finishing with the Election of the Committee. Disappointingly no one besides people already on the committee came forward to take up vacant positions.



## Your Elected Committee:

Chair - Lesley Dench  
Vice Chair - Colin Carson  
Treasurer - Grahame Hurst  
Business Secretary - Jennifer O'Shea  
Membership Secretary - Lesley Brown (01694 724330)  
Groups Coordinator – Vacant  
General Meetings Organiser - Vacant  
Newsletter Editor - Julia Felton  
Webmaster – Sylvia Davidson

The meeting then continued with the very interesting talk given by Nigel Hopkins.

## Shrewsbury Drapers Company 1462-2017 by Nigel Hinton

Nigel Hinton gave a very informative talk in regard to the origin of the Shrewsbury Drapers who were known as wool traders or merchants in the 12th century. Shrewsbury Drapers Company is a long-established Guild which was granted a royal charter in 1462. The Guild has been running almshouses continuously since 1444. There were separate guilds for all the numerous trades and there was a fee to join the town guild. As the population grew some of the important commodities were wool, food, gold and silver. Shropshire was the main source of wool until the 16th century. Many would travel to Shrewsbury to sell or buy wool and with the building of monasteries there was a big increase in wool production.

St Mary's Alms Housing belonged to the Draper Company from 1444 to 1820 and was situated in front of St Mary's church on the road where the bus stop is now.



Nigel explained the procedure of wood stretching and marketing and showed pictures of various traders properties in Shrewsbury, a few of which are still in existence and have been refurbished by companies such as Prêt A Manger and Costa coffee. The Drapers Hall, which was built in 1575, is by St Mary's and is now a restaurant but still has some of the original furniture. He highlighted some of the wealthy drapers, Rowley, Bowdlers, Coram, and Millington etc.

The Flaxmill, now being renovated, located in St Michaels Street, Shrewsbury would have been in competition with the wool traders. He told the story of an 11 year old apprentice with a 10 year indenture who if she married during that time then she would be sacked!

Today the Drapers hold an Annual Textile Design Competition at St Mary's Church and the various Alms Houses which are run by Drapers, which is now a charity organisation, for those over 55 around Shrewsbury.

A very interesting insight into the past trading in Shrewsbury. **Julia Felton**

## NEWS FROM THE GROUPS:

### Singing for Pleasure

Singing for Pleasure resumes 3 September after the summer break.

Then 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month in the Parish Centre from 2:15pm to 4:15pm as usual. Please just come along, new members are always welcome.

### New Groups

Interest has been shown in starting a **Cribbage** Group, **Photography** Group and a **Spanish** Group. If you are interested in any of these groups, please contact the Groups Coordinator.

If anyone would like to join or start a new group please contact the Groups Coordinator via the website [u3asites.org.uk/churchstretton/contact](http://u3asites.org.uk/churchstretton/contact) for further details.

Contact a coordinator through the Church Stretton U3A website via the website link [u3asites.org.uk/churchstretton/groups](http://u3asites.org.uk/churchstretton/groups), then select the group page.

Select the link next to the text send a message and complete the form. This information will only be seen by your choice of message receiver.

If you do not have an email address you can still get in touch by typing none@none.com in the email line and some contact details in the message section.

If anyone would like to join or start a new group please contact the Groups Coordinator via the website [u3asites.org.uk/churchstretton/contact](http://u3asites.org.uk/churchstretton/contact) for further details.

<b>Group</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>
Art – drawing and painting	Daphne and Stewart Rankine
Art History	Sue Toghill
Book Group	Susan Lees
Book Group 2	Margaret Haynes
Bridge	Eric Brown
Classical Music	Ian Templeton
Family & Social History	Peter Thorpe
Hill Walking	Pat Holbourn-Williams
Landscape Archaeology	Ian Dormor
Philosophy	Bryan Pryce
Popular Music	Trevor Halsey
Scottish Country Dancing	Alison Bradley
Singing for Pleasure	Margaret Sinden
Writers' Group	Lesley Dench
Writers' Group 2	Jenny O'Shea

## **Itinerary of Assets held by U3A**

ViewSonic Projector

Junior Desktop Presenter

Boomblaster B100 plus accessories

Sony MHCV11 Black - High Power Audio System with Bluetooth & CD Player

## **Jottings**

Updates and news from groups and comments on recent events from members are always welcome, and should be returned to me, **Julia Felton**, via the website [u3asites.org.uk/churchstretton/contact](http://u3asites.org.uk/churchstretton/contact). Your input will be appreciated. The next Jottings is scheduled for September.

Keep up to date with what's going on in Church Stretton U3A by checking the website at:

[u3asites.org.uk/churchstretton](http://u3asites.org.uk/churchstretton)

## **National Events:**

Please go to [u3a.org.uk](http://u3a.org.uk) for more details of National Events (You will have to create a login account to access pages for members) or the magazine Third Age Matters. If you have no access to the internet you may contact a committee member to help you.