

SPIRE u3a



NEWS SHEET 32



Cover pic by
Peter Read

**MONDAY
JULY 10
From 10am**

**Harnham
Memorial
Hall
See p. 9**

Chairman's Message

HELLO Everyone,

SINCE my last message we have had a committee meeting, seminars with colleagues in an out-of-the-way village hall somewhere near Marlborough, the Anniversary Picnic and then we hosted a busy coffee morning at St Thomas's. As your Chairman, I have never been so active as this summer but then that should be expected in our 25th year.

Less visibly, a lot has also been done to support these events: forms and risk assessments to be completed, bookings and arrangements to be made, cakes and buns to be baked, washing up and tidying to be done. For this I am grateful to the committee who stepped up to the mark and all those of you who turned up and helped out. That is what u3a is all about; organised by and for the members.

Cheers,

John Holt



DIARY DATES

- Visit to Lower Bemerton (Local History/Literature/Poetry) **Tuesday July 11.** (See below)
- Harnham Harvest Table starts **Sat 15 July** in the parish hall field from 10am when surplus fruit and veg can be picked up, donated or swapped. These arrangements continue till the autumn but see local notices for variations on 12/8 and 29/7.
- u3a Day Wednesday **September 20.**

EDITORIAL

LAST month I was looking forward to seeing the photos of the 25th Anniversary Picnic and now I can share them with you; sunshine and smiles in a great setting.

I have been overwhelmed with lovely photos this month not only of the picnic but from the garden visits and other outdoor activities. Some items have been held over for the next edition and you will find more pictures in a separate Gallery. Hopefully, this wheeze of sending you more than one attachment will get round the issue of having to download at your end.

Crucially, because we all get forgetful, please make a note of the dates given in these pages NOW.

This is the picnic edition, read on,

Maureen E Frost

.....he offers her, in a moment of picnic etiquette, “a gingerbread nut, as if he were a great Spanish gentleman... handing a flower to a lady at a window.” - To The Lighthouse by V Woolf

A NOTE ON PHOTOS

SPIRE u3a now has a stock of pictures of our activities that we can use to illustrate this newssheet, to promote our activities to potential members and to celebrate our achievements in the media. (The aim is not to show how good looking any individual is!) We will, naturally, continue to take pictures to keep our collection up to date. If you have good reason not to be photographed please share it with someone on the committee - and duck out of the way if you see a camera being wielded!

**For the Box Hill outing Mrs Elton planned pigeon pies and cold lamb -
Emma by J Austen**



community transport SOUTH WILTSHIRE

A WORD FROM ENID

"I use CTSW (Community Transport South Wiltshire) a local charity which supports me reaching medical appointments at SDH, opticians and dentists but in particular to attend more u3a events. This service allows me to go to group meetings at individuals' houses, the 'Lunch Bunch' at restaurants in the area and the 'Playhouse' for our Theatre Group; gatherings that enable me to take part without too much walking or juggling buses. The drivers for the CTSW Car Scheme are all volunteers who give up their own personal time to help others get around. To join CTSW there is a small annual fee and members are set up with an account to cover your car bookings which are very competitive compared to taxi services.

Also included in your fee is the Harnham 'Shopper', a weekly two hour trip to Tesco or Waitrose: "Shop, get a coffee and chat!" and you are returned to your own front door.

- For further information about these services call CTSW on 01722 410123 or email ctswsalisbury@outlook.com

Enid McLoughlin

THE INTEREST GROUPS

OBC

CLUB members are asked to ensure that their name is on the list if they intend to join the outing to Lower Bemerton on **Tuesday July 11** at 3.30pm.

We continue our Indian Season until we meet again in September when we will no doubt have much to talk about.

If anyone needs a book with an Indian connection reserved from the Library, please let Maureen know. *The White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga, *The Great Game* by Peter Hopkirk, William Dalrymple's original works based on research and experience and stories by Kipling all fit the bill.

Meanwhile, Mary Mitchell writes: "I finished *Victory City* and was going to read short stories by Kipling, but son Three suggested I read *Israel Rank* by Roy Horniman written in

1907. [It was the basis of the film *Kind Hearts and Coronets*. I just couldn't put it down. It was fantastic and to describe the main character as a lovable rogue, is an understatement. It was made more powerful, by being as though autobiographical, with a cliff hanger even on the last page.]

"I found *Victory City* a bit unusual to get stuck into, but once I did I had to keep going right through. It certainly displayed Rushdie's ingenuity and sharp mind and was laced with Indian references. However, after reading it, I wondered what the point of it all was. Was it his version of *Brave New World* or was he declaring that however man comes about, the result will be chaos and annihilation."

WALKING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE



Pic by Mary Robson
A splendid scenic walk in June combining sun and shade.

Spire u3a Walking Group has experienced a mix of weather conditions for our monthly walk dates so far this year, with one or two even having to be cancelled. For June, the sun was shining and it was almost too hot, so we were looking for some shade. We found it in Groveley Wood, with a short distance in the open between the woods and our parked cars.

As usual, it was a sociable morning and we look forward to July - details available in due course. The start point or bus details will be announced at the beginning of the monthly meeting..... or contact me - cojo@freeuk.com

Colin

COFFEE COMPANIONS

NEXT meeting - **Tuesday 1 August** at **The Bell Tower**, in The Close **10.30am** (tbc).
All Welcome - just turn up.

Enid McLoughlin

Mozzarella, olives, mixed salad and focaccia. The wine is a 1987 Daumas Gassac – opened but never enjoyed because of what is to eclipse the picnic forever. - *Enduring Love* by Ian McEwan

GARDEN GANG

MAWARDEN Court, Stratford sub Castle, the garden we highlighted for June turned out to be a gem. If you missed it, you missed a treat. The blooms around the old house [it has a blue plaque], a trail down to the river, honey, cider, plants to take away, tea in the pavilion and luxurious 'facilities' made for a lovely afternoon.



More pictures can be found in The Gallery or on our Facebook Group. The report on the July garden visit is held over for the next edition.

•Sunday **13 August** 2-5pm
Bleak Hill Nursery & Garden, Harbridge
BH24 3PX £4

LUNCH BUNCH

THE BIG secret is who went into the Gents by mistake at Harry Ramsdens, Bournemouth, in June - we are not going to reveal it here.

The arrangements for ordering and service were not as expected but the food was certainly delivered promptly.

Full of tasty fish, chips and pudding we ventured out for walks along the prom and a refreshing paddle in the water, before catching the X3 back to Salisbury and Fordingbridge. This month we shall be nearer home.

Judy

“the fish soup was ready by now. They were ladling it out by platefuls and eating it with the religious solemnity with which this is only done at picnics.” they lose bread and spill salt and wine everywhere.

- *The Duel* by A Chekhov

ARTS & CRAFTS

THE June meeting was as laid back as the May one; we sat in the garden to show and tell and drink tea.

We also made multi-coloured cords from oddments of yarn



using pencils and scissors as our only tools. The group will be taking a break now until the autumn. Look out for a sign-up sheet if you would like to join/rejoin.

GEOLOGY GROUP

TWO additional places (car seats) left for the visit to Harveystone working quarry at Ham Hill - **July 18**.

Offer open to any Spire member.

Contact Stuart to book then meet at 20 St Clare Road 9am.

MICROSCOPY

I am planning an 11 month microscopy course to commence on **Tuesday September 19** 2023. Same venue and time as Geology - third Tuesdays from 10.00 to 12 noon. No equipment nor prior knowledge required but participants will be encouraged to bring specimens to each session for examination. If interested please contact me for further details.

Group numbers limited to 10 maximum.

Stuart

stuart.robson6@btinternet.com

WEDNESDAY READING GROUP

WITH new members of Spire signing up this group is expanding.

We meet next, in The Lounge at the Library on Wednesday **July 12** to discuss what we have been reading then we will embark on *Northanger Abbey* by Jane Austen.

More members are warmly welcomed.

Esme Hopkinson

*"Reading old favourites can be a great way to fall in love with reading again.
They can be easy to get through and comforting - a perfect summer read!"*

POETRY GROUP

We meet next on Thursday **July 20**, 2pm at Malcolm's house (2, Upper Street, West Harnham SP2 8LT to read and discuss poems which mention "Food and Drink".

Hope to see you all there,

Beryl

- Poetry, Book Club and Reading Group members are particularly invited to join the little outing to Lower Bemerton on **July 11**(see below). Names to Maureen, please, asap.

FRIDAY MORNINGS

These sessions, led by Peter Read, offer both zoom and in-person access. Members are not all local some join in from Bournemouth, Mill Hill and Australia.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88192422036?pwd=aGJDNnc1UzFGVCtkbVdwWWQrTzVydz09>

Meeting ID: 881 9242 2036

Passcode: 785226

Date	Group Name	Activity
30 June 2023	No Class	-
7 July 2023	Onward	10am
14 July 2023	DI Plus	10am
21 July 2023	Practical Photography	10am
28 July 2023	Onward	10am
4 Aug 2023	DI Plus	10am
11 Aug 2023	No Class	-
18 Aug 2023	Practical Photography	10am
25 Aug 2023	Onward	10am
1 Sept 2023	DI Plus	10am
8 Sept 2023	No Class	-
15 Sept 2023	Practical Photography	10am
22 Sept 2023	Onward	10am
29 Sept 2023	DI Plus	10am

**“Cold chicken, cold tongue, cold ham, cold beef, pickled gherkins, salad, French rolls, cress sandwiches, potted meat, ginger beer, lemonade, soda water...” all in Ratty’s picnic basket
-The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame**

LEARN-LAUGH-LIVE

Places to go & things to do

A PLEASANT AFTERNOON....

OUTING Tuesday **July 11** at 3.30pm

St. John's Place, Lower Road, Lower Bemerton, SP2 9NP

ST JOHN’S PLACE is a splendid Victorian church re-purposed as a modern community facility at Lower Bemerton. The George Herbert in Bemerton Group has booked it for us that afternoon. They will give us a short talk on Herbert (who died at Bemerton in 1633) show us the George Herbert Library collection, answer questions and provide us with a cup of tea.

Herbert was a poet, writer, collector of proverbs, herbalist, dietician, priest and orator. Much of his work has been set to music by various notable composers and will be familiar to many of us from chapel or our schooldays. Ronald Blythe, a nature writer who died last year, said that despite his intellectual background and fine clothes we get from Herbert, *as true and perceptive an account of ordinary country folk as they tilled the land as can be found at that period, accurate vignettes of them which go straight to the heart.*

The talk is open to members of both book clubs, the poetry group and other interested members. There will be no charge but please be prepared to contribute to a donation. Overall it should be a very pleasant afternoon with a local history connection.

Buses run nearby, there is parking opposite, bicycle racks, toilets and wheelchair access.

- Call or email NOW to book your place Maureen Frost

u3a Online Events July

This month - discover more about Vincent Van Gogh, Expedition Cruising, Maths games, a talk by Subject Adviser Shri on Philosophy & Travel etc

Browse & book here

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

Monthly Meeting

Harnham Memorial Hall - **Monday July 10** doors open for refreshments at **10am**

Colin van Geffen will tell us all about **Nelson and HMS Victory**

Tipple Time

No TT this month. We are taking a break for the summer and will resume our chats in the autumn.

GALLERY

Pics by Mary and Peter & others.... Picnics, Walkers, Mawarden Court garden
More pics in special Gallery attachment



“The Royal meeting at Ascot is the picnic Olympics. For this is a blue-riband and blue-blooded affair and one cannot start preparations too early..... Suitable vehicles such as Rolls-Royces and Range Rovers are simply the practical choice to transport food and friends, although a vintage Bentley passes muster.” - The Field’s guide to the picnic season by S Fitzpatrick

