

SPIRE u3a



NEWSLETTER 44



Salisbury-Sudan Link
Artwork by Keith Whittock

NEXT MEETING MONDAY
August 12 from 10am
The Memorial Hall
Harnham
See P.9

Chairman's Message

HELLO Everyone,
WHAT a great morning that was. I think we can honestly say our Coffee Morning in St Thomas's Church was well worth

the effort. We achieved our aims - raised the profile of our u3a, improved our balance sheet and had a fun time. So to those of you who came and supported the event, baked cakes, served customers, made drinks, shifted furniture, checked the toilet, washed up, cleared up and talked to those around you about u3a - Thank you!

After a few weeks to recover we will be looking for volunteers to help again at our next social occasion, the u3a Week Lunch on **Saturday September 21**. Let's make it another memorable one.

John Holt has already agreed to run the raffle and will be pleased to receive offers of prizes.

As ever, Maureen

GALLERY



EDITORIAL

I WRITE this in 28°C of heat, with the prospect of more to come this afternoon, plus I see weather warnings for thunderstorms tomorrow So I have to ask, has summer arrived for you, and do you like it? I expect some of you will be away or otherwise occupied and as usual a plea from me to send information for the newsletter as early as you are able. I missed the July meeting and will miss the August one so you see I am totally dependant on what I am sent by you good people.

Frank

*In winter I get up at night
And dress by yellow candle-light.
In summer, quite the other way,
I have to go to bed by day.
- Robert Louis Stevenson*

JULY MEETING

OUR speaker for July, David Chilton, introduced himself by explaining that after a long serving career in the Army, he took up the post of Curator at the Wardrobe Museum in Salisbury Close.

One day, he was contacted by a Dutch Army Captain in the Netherlands, who was leader of a small group, tasked with the job of attempting to identify remains of soldiers which were unearthed in various battlefield sites in the Netherlands. Could David help?

And this was the start of identifying by various means, including DNA, these "lost" soldiers, enabling their family members to know at last what had happened to their relation.

David picked out just a few examples of his work for us. For instance, there was Tom Venn of the Wiltshire Regiment who was killed in action in Arnhem in 1944. When his remains were found, with them was a brooch with 'Tom' engraved on it. His family was traced, including his sister, who remembered that she had given her brother this brooch as a gift. Tom's relations were able to attend his military funeral in the Netherlands to say their last goodbyes.

As recognition for his work, David was awarded the Dutch Order of Merit.

Irene Holt

*Sumer is i-cumin in—
Lhude sing, cuccu!
Groweth sed and bloweth med
And springth the wude nu.
Sing, cuccu! - Anon*

CELEBRATING u3a WEEK

Spire u3a Lunch

Saturday September 21

St George's Parish Hall, Harnham

Open to all members and partners

Look forward to a main course and trimmings, a choice of puddings and something to drink. We expect the cost to be £15 per head.

(We hope to offer Cottage Pie, Fish Pie or Vegetable Lasagne and will ask for your preference nearer the time.)

To secure a place, if you have not already put your name on the clipboard, contact Mary Robson:

Options to pay -

- Cheques payable to Spire u3a in an envelope with your name on.
- Cash in an envelope with your name on, or
- BACs followed by an email to let Mary know you have paid

THE INTEREST GROUPS

GROUP LEADERS -

PLEASE keep the editors advised of the details of your meetings - date/time/place. This is especially important during August/September when some sessions are cancelled and new Interest Groups (IG) are launched.

NEW GROUPS

You don't have to be an expert to start an IG and you don't have to commit to it forever.

There is a lot of wisdom, ideas and advice available from u3a's Subject Advisers.

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/subjects>

There are also some Subject Networks which can be helpful too.

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/subject-networks>

Hilary Glyde, Groups co-ordinator, is here to support Group Leaders along with the committee.

COFFEE COMPANIONS

6th August at Arman's in the Maltings at 10.30am. Please keep in touch with me for confirmation of the venue in September which is provisionally the Playhouse on the 3rd.

Enid

LANGUAGES

Learning a Language is Good for the Mind

SO says Sandra, a u3a Subject Adviser: *"I fully intended to make the best of my retirement years. I bought a boat and joined a sailing club, I went regularly to the gym; in fact I started to do many things I'd not had the time for while I was at work. Having witnessed the steady decline of several members of my own or my partner's family, I was determined to do everything that I could to keep my mind active.*

I'd had a frenetic working life research pointed to the need to continue to 'exercise the mind.' - I felt that learning a language would be a good plan.

SPANISH - Why Spanish?

Spanish is the third most widely spoken language in the world after Chinese and English. You'll come across Spanish speakers on every continent. I've used it in North and South America, Europe, Africa and Asia. The largest population of Spanish speakers is in the United States where about 40% of the population speak the language. The most unusual place I used my Spanish was on a cruise down the Bosphorus when I visited Istanbul. You don't need an expert to lead a group.

u3a offers various resources to help new groups get started.

- To enquire about the emerging Spanish Group in Spire please contact Dave Chapell -

FRENCH Conversation is due to re-launch in the autumn with a healthy mix of fluent and less fluent members.

- For details of the next meeting contact

OBC

AUTOBIOGRAPHY and Biography has proved to be an eye-opener for some of us and surprisingly popular.

Malcolm has been looking at Nigel Slater's *Toast* and shared a number of parallels he had discovered with his own upbringing and subsequent experience.

Rosemary introduced us to *Plot 29* a memoir by Allan Jenkins: a blend of childhood trauma and the solace of cultivating his London Allotment. She had also read *Blue-Eyed Son*, the story of an adoption and the broadcaster's search for his birth parents.

Mary had opted for Peter Frankopan's *The Silk Roads*, Maureen for Rory Stewart's *Politics on the Edge* and Frank for Richard Mabey's life of Flora Thompson.

The ensuing conversation was, as usual diverse and wide ranging with references to Plantain, Steven Fry, diabetes, Jo Brand, The Archers, East Enders and our political culture.

- BOOK Club meets next on **Tuesday August 13** 3.30pm at Burford Avenue.

LUNCH BUNCH

WILTON is our destination for July, making good use of our bus passes.

Anyone wishing to be added to the waiting list please contact me, as you may well be lucky sooner than you think!

Judy

SECOND LUNCH BUNCH

WE ARE floating the idea of a 2nd Lunch Bunch. Provisionally set for the fourth Friday of the month with the first at 12 for 12:30 on **Friday 23 August** at The Fox and Goose at Coombe Bissett. Please contact Margaret to confirm.

SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP

MARGARET has picked some really good venues since this group began. During the holiday season when some of the regulars are away there may be a space for you at the table.

Provisionally, **Sunday August 18**, September 15 and October 20.

Enquire.



CHEERS! Anticipating lunch at The Royal Oak, Swallowcliffe - Alan N Frost

ARTS and CRAFTS

The group met on Tuesday 23 July on a lovely sunny afternoon, so we were able to sit out in Maureen's garden. The theme for the Christmas tree was discussed and thoughts are that we will create the Nativity figures in cross stitch. This will definitely comply with the ethos of U3a in that we will learn something new. It is quite a complicated skill so we are really hoping our group members will have a go! Our ladies brought along projects they are currently working on which include knitting and crochet. The next meeting will take place on **August 27**, 1400hrs at Janet Pengelly's house.

Doreen

LEARN LAUGH LIVE

- If you sign up/take part in any of the activities mentioned in this LEARN-LAUGH-LIVE section please let us know how you get on. Thank you.

DIG IN

Wessex Archaeology's Community Cafe 10.30am for 11.

Meeting once a month in *The Playhouse*

No entry fee - 15 minute talks + discussion

The next Dig In will take place on the **25 September**.

Then Weds 30 October and Weds 27 November.

Online Events in Summer (free)

u3a Online Learning

Choose a topic and reserve a place here.... <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events> seven sessions to choose from.

U3A COMMUNITIES

<https://u3acommunities.org/>

August 27

3.00 pm 4.30 pm

Nerve Tissue Engineering & Regenerative Medicine

September 30

3.00 pm - 4.30 pm

NASA SWOT Surface water and Ocean Topography Mission

GRESHAM COLLEGE

For the love of Learning since 1597 - Gresham College provides free educational videos and lectures at university level.

Coming up in **September** subjects include

Astronomy, Science, Physics, Music, Culture, Maths, Biology, Religion, History, Rights, Law, Governance, Computing and Philosophy by a range of professors. You can watch on line or at the London venue.

<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/>

COMMUNICATIONS

PROGRESS REPORT

SPIRE Comms Team can report that we are nearing the top of a very long list of u3as and have begun training with u3a Siteworks. When the task is completed later this year we should have a new presence on the web that is consistent with most other u3as.

u3a Siteworks is a Wordpress based system that is much easier to update than older systems. Each Interest Group Leader will have the chance to update their own sections (or appoint someone else in the IG to do it for them) without causing delay or making work for the webmaster. Access and full instructions will be given when the time comes.

Our experience of it so far suggests that it is an instinctive process and easy to learn. The original Spire website has been archived.

The interim website kindly looked after by our webwallah, Arthi in Hyderabad, was not visible for a while but can be found at <https://worldu3a.org/myu3a/spire/index.htm> We suggest that you make a note of this link as newsletters will continue to be posted there until the migration to Siteworks is complete.

BEACON, the communications system provided by u3a HQ, remains on our to-do list.

Beacon is an on line management system designed by u3as, for u3as. It provides a simple interface for managing members, groups and finances. Once we can get to grips with it, emails from Officers to members and Group leaders to their members will be so much easier. It should also make compliance with GDPR regulations simpler.

Our Treasurer and Secretary will be the main users of Beacon but if there is anyone who would like to join them in setting it up it should be a nice little job for anyone with recent experience of computers in the workplace.

There is a video and full instructions under the Support for u3as tab in the Members Area of the website.

u3a.org.uk

If you could help with that largely one-off task please speak to Mary R or Pauline O.

NOT working - spire@myu3a.org - Please do not use this email address

MICROSCOPY

THIS 'course' run by Stuart Robson is now finished and for my part I would like to record my appreciation for the work put in and hospitality from Stuart. One thing that I took away from the series was that so much can be done with modest magnifications. - Frank

SALISBURY U3A CHOIR

THE CHOIR, which is open to members of all U3As in the Salisbury Area meets weekly on Monday afternoons at Wilton Community Centre. It covers a wide range of music from medieval to modern and gives two concerts – one at Christmas and one in the Spring. It is back in action on **Monday 9 September** and welcomes new members – no audition!

If you have any questions, by all means ring David Davies, the conductor.

Monthly Meeting

HARNHAM Memorial Hall

Monday August 12 doors open for refreshments at 10am

Speaker **Alastair Greener** Sixteen years at sea on cruise ships and an entertainment Director with Cunard. He was also part of the set-up teams with their newest liners, Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth. He is now a TV presenter and key note conference speaker.

Along the Burma Road -You may have heard of the 'Plimsoll Line' on maritime ships but learn about the fascinating fact of the 'Burma Road'. Alastair will enlighten you on an important road that is crucial and enjoyable for your cruising.

- Our topic on Monday September 9 will be Sue Ryder

Tipple Time

TIPPLE TIME is taking a break for the summer