

SPIRE u3a



NEWS SHEET 16



EVENING SKYLINE EAST HARNHAM 2020 - Roberta Woodward

Chairman's Message

HELLO Everyone,

With some certainty, I can say that was a much better Christmas season than 2020. And on the whole, I think that as a u3a we also managed to meet more often and achieve much more than we did in the previous year.

Well done Interest Group Leaders & thank you.

What we can never be sure of though is what is to come. When we sent out the last news sheet we invited you to express your views on the nature of the January Monthly Meeting.

Since then we have been keeping a close eye on the detailed local statistics and advice disseminated by Wiltshire County Council for Harnham.

We heard almost nothing from any of you so I guess silence speaks volumes: you are as uncertain and cautious as we are who have to make the decisions.

Sadly, I have to announce that we will not be meeting in the hall as we had hoped. This is not what any of us wished for but we should be proud of any small thing like this we can do to keep one another safe and, above all, to take the pressure off our health service.

Be assured, that the committee and I will soldier on to ensure that Spire u3a thrives in the months to come, in so far as conditions allow. We are not giving up yet.

Wishing you All The Best for 2022.

John.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Editorial

WOW what a great Christmas that was; hope yours was too. How normal it seemed, to be singing carols, eating with friends and celebrating with family. We took the train to Northumberland for the festive season. We enjoyed great hospitality, some lovely winter walks, a New Year concert at The Sage, the Christmas lights-and-lasers of Gateshead and Newcastle, a substantial fall of snow and comfortable trains running on time.

One of my Christmas gifts was a framed black and white aerial photograph taken, of this area, around 1930. Our house looks rather lonely, surrounded by empty space and market gardens. Many of the homes Spire members live in now are not shown because they were not built, indeed many of the residential roads we are used to did not exist at all.

My point is that we live in a time of change. What I cannot decide is whether the substantial changes in lifestyle we have seen in the last two years amount to more than others we lived through in the last century - the effects of two world wars, the emergence of the family car, birth control, antibiotics, the development of telecommunications and computers etc

So now we are home and down with a bump as I contemplate how we are going to navigate omicron and whatever else this winter has in store for us. Yes, we will keep these news sheets coming, make the most of technology available to us, suggest activities that you can get involved with and do whatever we safely can to *Learn, Laugh and Live* together as part of the splendid u3a family.

Wishing you all the best for 2022, Maureen E Frost

*A Pessimist sees a dark tunnel
An Optimist sees light at the end of the tunnel
A Realist sees a freight train
The Train Driver sees three idiots standing on the tracks*

ALL OUR OWN WORK



- by Terry Waldron

Terry writes: "The picture shows a Sundial over a boutique on the path that runs from Bridge St past the west side of the church of St Thomas and St Edmund. The shop and the sign are on the north path around the church that comes out in the Cheese Market."

Maybe like Terry you have passed this hundreds of times but not looked up. Clearly it was put there at the millennium but can any current members tell us more about it?

Replies to Terry or the editor, please.

maureenefrost@icloud.com

The **Walking in the Countryside** Group on a winter walk east of Salisbury, before lunch at the Hatchet Inn, arranged by Colin Seago.



LEARN, LAUGH, LIVE

WOODLAND 2022



As mentioned in the Christmas edition, the 40th Anniversary Woodland project is outlined in *Third Age Matters* and online. Spire has been invited to contribute jointly with other Salisbury u3a's to fund a copse.

Please contact Stuart about how best to make a financial contribution.

stuart.robson6@btinternet.com

Learning Events from TRUST u3a



Spire members can join **Trust U3A** for a special price of £5 per year.

Interest groups in Trust U3A, like all U3As, are run by members for the members.

Trust U3A Group Leaders are all members who have volunteered their experience, skills and time for the mutual benefit of the members in their groups.

- The list of Trust U3A courses is here

<https://u3asites.org.uk/trustu3a/groups>

Trust U3A also meets monthly on Thursday afternoons.

- Details here.....

<https://u3asites.org.uk/trustu3a/home>

Learning Opportunities from u3a



CURRENTLY on offer are FREE sessions about the **World Faiths, Refugee Women, Yoga, Soft Pastels, Igneous Rocks, Geometric Abstraction and Cryptic Crosswords.** You can sign up to these at the link below and subscribe to a monthly update so you never miss anything.

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

Remember when you could refer to your knees as right and left?
Instead of good and bad?
Ah, the good times.

THE INTEREST GROUPS

MEMBERS meeting indoors are respectfully reminded to follow official guidance and nhs advice to avoid the spread of viruses. Please assure your Group Leader that you are fully vaccinated and have had a recent negative Rapid Lateral Flow test.

IF an Interest Group session has to be cancelled due to bad weather, because someone is infectious, been pinged etc it may be possible to arrange a meeting on Zoom instead. It is usually possible to find something relevant to the topic on YouTube, or a specific website, that can be shared over zoom. Last year one of our groups was able to arrange a special session with the national subject adviser. And if your group has a largely social purpose then zoom is ideal for a chat.

- **To arrange a zoom session at short notice please telephone the Spire License Holder: 01722 330107**

GEOLOGY CHRISTMAS OUTING

The December meeting was led by Steve Hannath, author of *The Buildings of Wiltshire* - an exploration through the earth materials used and *Chalk & Cheese* - Wiltshire's rocks and their impact on the natural and cultural landscapes.



Starting at The Kings House, pictured, the Group looked at the geological evidence as revealed in the built environment of The Close before adjourning to the refectory for lunch.



I can rise and shine just not at the same time.

SOMETHING TO DO - THREE ACTIVITIES OPEN TO ALL SPIRE FOLK PUZZLERS

Here are some of the best cryptic clues that we have spotted recently. Only the first is an anagram. Let us know how you get on so we can compare answers:
townpump@hotmail.co.uk

Ulster is disturbed in consequence (7)
Afternoon meal served on the flight? (4,3)
Getting in touch with custard company to get four Christmas gifts (7,5)
Even though clerical vestment and neckwear item turned up (6)
A route home manager worked out for Carol (4,2,1,6)

CREATIVE WRITING

A challenge for the scribblers among you, and something everyone can have a go at -
Take a look in your wardrobe, at your collection of shirts, shoes, ties, hats and bags. Pick an item with a bit of history (or make it up), something you wore for a special occasion perhaps, or something you cannot bear to throw away. Tell us about it, describe it, relive the occasion when you bought it, where you wore it or why you never did.

Please share what you come up with - say, up to 350 words: townpump@hotmail.co.uk

OCCASIONAL BOOK CLUB

We would have had a choice of books available at the January monthly meeting but as that is not going to happen we will undertake to deliver them in Harnham or central Salisbury. All the titles are short, easy to read works by established writers.
Let us know your address if you would like to try one: townpump@hotmail.co.uk

Interest Group News - please submit items for the next edition ideally before the end of January.



**Diet day 1: Removed all the unhealthy food from the house.
It was delicious.**

DATES for 2022

Monthly Meeting - Monday 10 January at 10am

As explained above, the meeting will be on zoom. Some u3a groups have been experimenting with hybrid meetings but that option is not open to us because there is no wifi at the Memorial Hall.

We will be watching **Michael Rosen**, author of the children's book *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*, reading poems, talking about writing, family history, language and his recovery from Covid.

Expect Moments of delight, sadness, reflection, intelligence and joy.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89280275252?pwd=ejNzd2dFOXl0WnZOSXVicU5tK3Rxdz09>

Meeting ID: 892 8027 5252

Passcode: 992811

Tipple Time - Friday 21 January 6pm - please have a favourite, topical or amusing, verse or poem to hand. And if you can remember one you learnt in your schooldays perhaps you would like to recite it - or just tell us about it.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86725675768?pwd=RjMxRGhvQ0pzYUd4NjhHT1hYNmV6UT09>

Meeting ID: 867 2567 5768

Passcode: 430899

Monthly Meeting - Monday 14 February

This will be in the Memorial Hall if it is possible, safe and sensible to do so. It will take the form of a drop-in coffee morning with information and activities as outlined in the Christmas News Sheet. If we cannot meet in person we will follow the same arrangements as in January, use the same Zoom link and focus on a topic of general interest.

Celebrating u3a Week : September 2022

[u3a Day](#) is an annual event to showcase the activity, learning and fun which takes place across the movement every day. It is a celebration of positive ageing highlighting our members' lived experience.

Across the UK, members hold events and demonstrate what u3a is all about. u3a day is held on the Wednesday of the third week of September every year, along with a week of celebrating what it means to age well.

In 2022, our 40th anniversary, u3a day will be held on 21 September or on a day between 18 and 26 September.

Spire is in touch with neighbouring u3a's so we can celebrate together.

