

Newsletter

Spire U3A Salisbury

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Issue 158



King Edward VI by Peter Read

From The Editors Desk

This Newsletter is produced by Peter Read this month since Zelah is indisposed. I have produced a copy before so I know what to do. But it would be brilliant if someone in Spire U3A could take over this task. I have quite a lot to do already I think.

Now the editor usually tells you the sort of weather you have just experienced. I will not bother with that. Instead I will strive to add content and squeeze it all in. And I hope the content will be of interest to you.

My sister also belongs to Saxmundham U3A and one of her groups is short story writing. So I have included two of her interesting stories. How she does this is beyond me. She has always been enigmatic. She now has an OU Degree even.

Chairman's Report.

In my last report to the AGM in June, I was talking about an ease in the lockdown. How wrong I was! It now seems we are in for a long hard winter, trying to cope with Covid 19 and all the other illnesses that we expect in the winter months. However, I do hope you are all keeping safe and well in these difficult times.

I cannot at this moment say when we will be able to meet again and I know that you will all be missing the contact we have together at our meetings. Although we cannot meet together, we can join in a virtual meeting on Zoom which is facilitated by Maureen and is appropriately called Tipple time because you can bring your drink along. Maureen schedules the meetings for the third Friday of each month, so log in and enjoy.

In my position as speakers secretary I have advised the speakers we had booked up until the end of the year that we no longer need their services and can't say when we will be able to use their services in the future. Your Committee continue to meet on Zoom every month and I thank them for all the work they do for SpireU3A.

I was able to take part in the Third Age Trust AGM in September which proved very interesting, more details in my next report. Take Care and Keep Safe.
John.

Change.

ONWARD group is my small attempt to hold the tendency to stay with what we already know. We shall be actively searching for Change. Looking for something different and novel.

There are many tools to help us on the Internet and we will make full use of these.

The technicalities of modern life is daunting to many of us and this also something I want to tackle.

Peter Read 501218

Subject Adviser - My Role

Hello Peter

I am a member of the Daventry U3A photography group which has run out of steam and fallen into merely showing each other photos based on a monthly theme.

We have had some outings but obviously not met during lockdown.

One or two of us are trying to find ways to inject a bit of new life into the group with occasional presentations on aspects of photography such as monochrome, depth of field, critique etc, but very few other members want to contribute anything.

The majority of us use compact cameras with a few bridge cameras and even fewer DSLR's.

I am pretty sure no-one wants the group to fold so I am really trying to support the group leader and find new ways of injecting some life and getting more input from more people.

Is there a list of ideas from other groups which we could consider and adapt?

Any thoughts will be appreciated.

Thank you

Damien

Dear Damien,

However, I am still the subject adviser and I can help you.

I have recently been running Zoom sessions for 3 classes. One of these is my Practical Photography group.

I have taken to considering topics that make my members think **hard** to get a handle on what I want from them.

So I set them **Visual Metaphors** as a idea. This actually brought out some quite ingenious photos. Very pleasing to me and my members.

The current topic is **Juxtaposition Photography** which I believe has been a challenge. I shall see in due time.

On a different tack earlier I got my members to make AVs or Photo Biographies about famous and well known photographers.

I got them to use the Internet to do their research and the results were very well worth watching. The idea was to get members to look at photography from a broader perspective. It should give

Subject Adviser - My Role

them styles of work that they can emulate later on [I hope].

Herbert Ponting was one such man and a member made a really good AV about him. Ponting also had a connection with Salisbury where we reside.

I have also taken them to a nearby museum that has photographic exhibitions from time to time. Again this broadens members ideas of photography And I learn a lot too. Juno Calypso is one such modern photographer that comes to mind. I have attached a number of these peoples work here for you.

I urge you to delve into my web site <http://salisburyu3a.org.uk/U3ADI/index.html> for more ideas.

From here there is a link to my videos One such is JOSÉ ORTIZ ECHAGÜE is an interesting character you may like to take further. See <https://tinyurl.com/y2hvezqjn>

I hope this gives you enough fresh ideas to keep going.

Look at the links to other U3A Photo groups. Note the Chiltern Group is now under <https://www.chiltern-u3a.org.uk/Groups>

All the best.

Peter

My Goings On in Covid times

1. Running a class online via Zoom.

I ran a class for my Practical Photography group on the 10th of April and another for Onward on the 17th of April. These were quite interesting to run and I reckon were a success. There were a few people unable to connect for some reason. In general, if a Windows computer was used it was most likely a switch that needed clicking on in the Settings to ensure the camera will work.

I show a snap taken during the 10th of April session showing how my class appeared to me on my computer. Can you name the members? Too easy.

2. Facebook.

This is something I have shunned for years but I recently took the plunge to have a presence. I was given help by my daughter on the Facebook settings to give away as

little as necessary. So I feel a bit happier now.

One thing I did was make a closed group for Practical Photography. My screenshot shows this and the current Homework for members e.g Food Pattern Photographs. I took these pictures on the kitchen workbench whilst cooking dinner. So there were a few mange tout peas that I spread out. I await with interest to see what my group members produce for this.

So there seem to be enough safeguards in Facebook now for me to feel it worthwhile.

I also joined a new U3A Facebook initiative U3A: Keeping In Touch. I was able to post a notice of my Zoom lesson. I invited other U3A members - no one took up my offer!

3. U3A Eye

I was also invited by Fran Walton and Alison May to assist with Jeff Carter to judge this Photo project.

See

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/u3a-eye> to get more information. It is run every 2 weeks with a different theme each time. The first two runs have now been finished and the results will be all over the main U3A web site www.u3a.org.uk. So check this out.

Judging over 400 images for the first run was a challenge for a few reasons. First the sheer numbers. Second, the way Jeff and I were expected to view judge and select was not fully worked out. Even on the second run, it has been tricky to get the strange software [Microsoft] to get to work. To confuse me more they had a second method of seeing the images that gave a different angle on things. On this WoFoo site, we only had the entrants name and U3A with a description and a computer file name. So this has to be clicked to see the image every time. It has been a challenge to find the time to check all these pictures now that I have a poorly wife to attend to.

ELEPHANT

It's not good to paint your
elephant pink
This will just make people think
That they are MAD
And that is BAD

And if you paint your **elephant green**
That's silly because they won't be seen
When the grass is as high
As the elephants eye.

It's a bad idea painting your
elephant red
Because it will be said
That you wanted a Ferrari
To take on safari.

When you paint your **elephant yellow**
Folk will say what an odd fellow
And not really very nice
To give his pet jaundice.

To paint your **elephant blue**
Is really quite the wrong hue
It will make him depressed
And very stressed.

But to paint your **elephant purple**
Is surely quite hurtful
For he is not royal
Just very loyal.

By far the best choice for elephant colour
To touch up a case of pallor
Is a nice thick coat of **grey**
Guaranteed to make his day.

I wish to complain

I wish to complain
About the rain,
That pours and pours.
You can't go out of doors
It makes puddles and mud
Washing away ground in a flood.

I wish to have a grumble
As the thunder starts to rumble.
The lightning flashes
The thunder crashes
And the rain comes plummeting down
I just hope I won't drown.

I wish to have a moan
The rain is rising to a cyclone.
The wind is blowing at gale force
Each wave on the sea has a white horse.
With the tide so high we expect a surge
When the sea and the rain converge.

I wish to strongly object
The ships at sea are all wrecked.
The fishermen lost and drowned
Weeping and wailing is the sound
Rising above the thunder and rain
As the widows raise voices to complain.

All items on this page by
Sue Thompson



Chaffinch

A Tale of A Riley by Alan Haddock

The one and half litre Riley registration number DBX 425 was registered in Carmarthenshire in 1947, the year I was born. My father purchased this vehicle second-hand in approximately 1953 from a Riley Dealer called Rex Neate in Botley Hampshire. We understood that the first owner was a Doctor from Carmarthen. This car was to replace a Riley 9 Monaco which Dad was really proud of.

The picture below was taken in approximately 1955 at the mainland end of Telford's lovely bridge spanning the Menai Straits. We were nearing the end of our touring holiday around North Wales, hence the Riley is very dirty, which was rare as my father always strived to keep the car immaculate.

I am the young lad standing by the fence and my Mother is standing by the side of the car. We had stopped here to have a look at the bridge and also H.M.S Conway a large cadet training sailing ship that

had gone aground on the 14th April 1953 close to the bridge on The Platters rocks in the Swellies in the Menai Strait.

I always remember the Riley having a lovely lightish green leather interior, it also had, of course, the round instruments.

Looking back, I do remember the car did not have a heater, so some trips in winter could be cold. Dad re-built the engine after a couple of years to re white metal the bearings etc.

I do remember mother not being too pleased to have a Riley engine under the kitchen table before being fitted back into the car, whilst awaiting for some spare parts to arrive !!

Sadly, when the Suez crisis arose in 1956 with petrol subject to rationing, Dad thought it wise to sell the Riley and purchase something more economical. This was a mixed blessing, because we ended up with a lovely Morris Minor and with the luxury of a heater! My father always intended to purchase another Riley but sadly fate did not let this happen. I wonder if this car still exists?



Hatcheston Village Hall 28th June 2011

Framlingham Flower Club

celebrated their 40th Anniversary today with an Open Meeting at Hatcheston's new Village Hall.

More than 100 guests and members watched flower arranger Irene Bowkett, who has been arranging flowers for 53 years. Irene themed her demonstration on the Old Time Music Hall.

Irene appeared dressed as a Victorian woman; she introduced us to her assistant Pam who was dressed as a maid. Irene then serenaded us with the song "My old man said follow the van" this song was made famous by the Music Hall artiste Marie Lloyd and while entertaining us with Marie's life story as a milliner and singer, produced a stunning display using Palm Leaves, orchids, fatsia, pink roses and carnations and her final touch, cerise gerberas. The end result was almost 3 foot wide and bore an uncanny resemblance to one of the hats Marie Lloyd may have made.

Irene's second song was "Wouldn't it be wonderful" from My Fair Lady. She skilfully arranged a basket of lilac stocks, yellow carnations, pink spray roses, alchemilla mollis and sweat peas, all the time entertaining us with stories of Eliza Doolittle, the flower seller.

Her third display was set in a huge basket she used foxgloves seed heads, prize winning delphiniums, carrots, a cauliflower and sunflowers. The song was "Barrow Boy" and Irene dressed as a barrow boy.

Next appearing dressed as a bride, Irene sang a medley of "Why am I always the bridesmaid?", "There I was waiting at the church" and "I'm getting married in the morning". She ended by throwing her bouquet into the audience. Then went on to produce an exquisite display using long branches of dark green soft ruscus, Singapore orchids, white roses and longiform lilies.



Wall on Footpath
from Godolphin
School to Milford
Manor