

SPIRE u3a



NEWS SHEET THIRTEEN



SPOT the STEEPLEJACK

Pic by Alan N Frost LRPS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 11 October 10am

From Oxford Reference (edited):

A meeting of the members of an association, at which the officers report on the last year's activities, and accounts are submitted for approval. AGMs normally elect the chief officers and committee members of associations. Companies are required by law to hold AGMs, and associations are usually required to do so by their constitutions.

Chairman's Report 2020-2021

MY fifth year as your chairman has been the most difficult. The continued COVID-19 pandemic has been devastating for our meetings and group sessions, and looks to go on into 2022. We have however been able to enjoy monthly meetings on Zoom with various speakers and Tipple Time events hosted by Maureen Frost. I am glad to hear positive news too that an increasing number of Spire Interest Groups are functioning well.

Your committee have also been able to meet on Zoom and have been very active on your behalf, keeping up communications, linking to the new Harnham Community Network, distributing news sheets, books and so on.

I need to explain to you some of the decisions that we have made recently concerning our meetings in person at the Memorial Hall. Due to the steep rise in COVID infections in Wiltshire and conditions imposed on us it was the committee's unanimous decision to cancel all in-person meetings at the hall until further notice. We will continue to hold events on Zoom throughout this time. Please support the Zoom talks and especially the AGM as we have matters to discuss that will affect us all.

My thanks to all members of the committee for their continued support throughout these unprecedented times.

Stay safe,
John Holt

AGM

THE Annual General Meeting of Spire u3a will be held on zoom on **Monday October 11 at 10am.**

Please make every effort to be there.

Meeting papers are mostly being distributed by email; please read them beforehand.

The Chairman's Report is above.

The Approved Accounts together with the Treasurer's Report were distributed as part of News Sheet 12.

Why did the scarecrow get an award? Because he was out standing in his field.

Editorial

I need not have worried. The difficulties that I anticipated trying to open zoom sessions, while I was away from home on holiday, did not materialise - thank you to Group Leaders and others who made it so easy. Like it or not, online meetings are now as much a part of daily life as cleaning our teeth or boiling the kettle.

The Universities of the Third Age are democratic, self-funding, organisations that provide all types of educational and leisure activities for retired or semi-retired people at minimum cost, by making use of the knowledge and skills of their members. The main emphasis is on participation. (You can start by submitting some better jokes than I could find this month for our next edition.)

Most societies and associations are visited from time to time by those two famous military gentlemen, General Apathy and Major Crisis. We can all help to keep them well away from Spire u3a simply by participating in the AGM. Please do your best to attend.

Maureen E Frost

U3a Diaries.....

.....deadline has passed but if you ordered one please don't forget to collect it and pay **£3-40** for it.

Two guys walked into a bar. The third guy ducked.

LEARN, LAUGH, LIVE

THE September monthly meeting was very well received, so much so that 10 minutes discussion time in Breakout rooms afterwards was not really long enough.

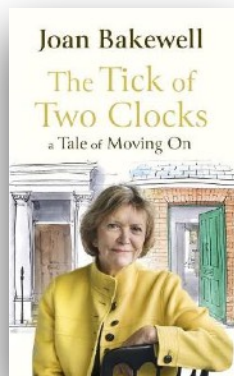
Mark Wilson has kindly summarised it for us:

"Our September u3a meeting was a great success when we all settled in to listen to Joan Bakewell tell us in a very amusing, clear and interesting manner of a story that she had written about moving home. It was so deeply interesting that we were almost spell bound listening to her every word and gesture. The basis of the story was her colourful description of the large home and contents that she was having to leave and the small new home that she had to settle for, in short a very inspiring presentation and almost as one voice we asked if we could get a copy of her book to recommend to friends and relatives and to read again ourselves, you may love it. Ideally it makes us all think about planning for our final years and eventual departure as an important forthcoming stage of life which should be planned and enjoyed."

Joan Bakewell's book is called 'The Tick of Two Clocks,' £16-99.

And, if you want to hear the talk again, together with questions from the audience in Edinburgh, you can find it here

<https://www.edbookfest.co.uk/the-festival/whats-on/joan-bakewell-with-richard-holloway-moving-on>



The zoom link for our October meeting can be found on the last page.

Coffee and Chat-organised by Harnham Community Network, of which Spire u3a is a member.

Parish Hall Field, Lower St

Every Saturday

10 am - 12 noon

Learning Events from u3a



<https://u3acommunities.org>

This section is run by volunteers who share an interest in the use of technology to enhance the U3A experience. The regular programme currently includes, Art History, Books, Climate Crisis, Current Affairs, Dickens, History, Rocket Science and Technology. [If you participate in any of these events please let us know about your experience. Thank you, MEF.]

FOR THE ZOOM SHY.....

For advice on how to join a Zoom meeting click

<https://www.dorchesteru3a.org.uk/how-to-zoom.html>

- Works well on a device with a camera such as an iPad
- The bigger the screen the better the experience
- Works fine without a camera; you can see us although we cannot see you
- You cannot break it

Join the practice session for Zoom Novices - so you are ready for the AGM - on Friday October 8 at 4pm by clicking this link

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

I was stood behind a customer at a cash machine and he turned around and said, "Could you help me check my balance?" - so I pushed him. His balance was not that great.

THE INTEREST GROUPS

u3a CHOIR

The Choir will resume on Monday 11 October at 2pm at Wilton Community Centre - with appropriate Covid precautions.

If you are not already a member but would like to know more please make contact David Davies beforehand.

davidracheld@gmail.com

Phone 01722 714440

SELF HELP WATERCOLOUR

"We are now a group of only six. In the last 18 months, we have kept going by painting in our own homes and sharing and discussing our paintings over the internet. We have now decided not to meet weekly in the church hall in the future because of the risks but we will still have a monthly topic and will then meet at my house once a month to discuss our paintings and methods etc."

Jenny Whitmore

A wise person once said, 'The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you.'

LUNCH BUNCH

This group is thriving: to find out more contact Judy Jeffrey on 01425 652124 or judyfiveoaks@outlook.com

GARDEN GANG

For garden visits, sharing knowledge and maybe some practical work - commencing in the Spring Term. With members already signed up this group is a goer. To register an interest contact the Groups Co-ordinator - mfrobson@btinternet.com

ARTS&CRAFTS

First meeting coming up; East Harnham. Bring your knitting, crochet, mending, cross-stitch, patchwork etc and we will plan future meetings over a cuppa.

Details maureenefrost@icloud.com

Or call 01722 330107

OBC

The Occasional Book Club will meet soon hopefully. The first [short] book will be provided. Then we will decide between us what to read next. Please contact the Groups Co-ordinator to register your interest - mfrobson@btinternet.com

**What did the pirate say on his eightieth birthday?
"Aye Matey!"**

PUZZLERS

Code words, Crosswords Quick & Crosswords Cryptic, Sudoku and maybe some Scrabble. We can share insights and help one another solve those obstinate clues.

If you want to join in contact the Groups Co-ordinator asap
mfrobson@btinternet.com

POETRY READING

Contact Beryl for details, you may have to join the waiting list
beryl.paton@outlook.com

**What do you call a zombie who cooks stir fries?
Dead man wok-ing.**

WALKING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE



Colin Seago writes:

"September's walk was in the New Forest, starting and finishing at Bramshaw Telegraph, in the New Forest. This is the highest point in the Forest and was the site of a semaphore telegraph, one of a chain which passed messages from London to Plymouth. The object of the walk was to find some World War II relics, as that area was used as a practice bombing range. The first to be found was the observers hut, which has a descriptive panel explaining what went on."



Next was the 'Submarine Pen,' as it is known to locals. This is a large and very thick concrete box at which 10+ bombs were aimed to see if they would break the 'U' boat pens in France. A large crater nearby shows a near miss. Today it is covered in grass and shrubs and is marked on the O.S. maps as a tumulus! Finally a large circular area, once covered in concrete, now removed - I have no idea what that was for.

The weather was fine, and a longer than usual walk was enjoyed by all."

cojo@freeuk.com

Pictures by Mary Robson

SCI-TECH

Planning a Programme of activities for the Spring Term is underway. To register an interest, or contribute your ideas, please email bluerram@gmail.com
Or call 01722 501218

GEOLOGY FOR BEGINNERS

Having discussed what we want to do, over the next term or two, at the September meeting we are all ready to go this month (Tuesday 19th) with a practical session on minerals, followed by a presentation of the history of the Cornish tin mining industry.
Stuart Robson

FRIDAY MORNINGS

For details see the website:

<http://www.salisburyu3a.org.uk/SPIRE/SpireDIPhotoTimetable.html>

Sometimes we go out taking photographs, sometimes we just talk about them, or something techie in the news - and sometimes we go on to have lunch out.



RECORDER PLAYING for FUN & IMPROVEMENT!

Our next session falls on Wednesday October 20th, from 14.00. We will attempt a "hybrid" session again i.e. operating the usual Zoom meeting (where I "broadcast" the tunes to play along to) and at the same time running a face-to-face group of up to say 4 of us, here at No. 20. New members welcome to join in the fun - either via Zoom or "live" at St. Clair Road.

Stuart Robson

ADVICE to old people:
Do not sit on the floor without a plan to get up

DRAWING AS A LANGUAGE

Christopher Browne writes:

"We are in many ways rather a wild-card group, but do continue to function monthly and have attenders both from Spire and from other Salisbury u3as. We meet at the home of a group-member who has a large screen, which is used to summon up images of various works of art (mainly but not only paintings) which come into the discussion of the day. The other main resource for our work is my own personal and accurate visual memory of art-works, through having been an art-history teacher for many years, including at Salisbury College of Art when it was in New Street many years ago.

A loose description of a session: the business starts with Homework, set at the end of the previous session. Each person in turn shows what they brought (often more than one piece, sometimes many). But there is no judgment of the quality or talent of the drawings, and no competition for praise. It is all a matter of what ideas the (very different) homework contributions bring to the discussion of the homework theme they were done in response to.

So, recent homework was to draw, in whatever medium or style, a visual theme to be suitable for a really big chalk-drawing on a hillside to be carried out in the manner of the Wiltshire White Horses, or the Cerne Giant in Dorset. The results were very varied and interesting, and led us on to further discussion of iconic qualities in art works, and the importance of offering clear memory-impressions with the image, rather than realistic representation of a subject. And how iconic imagery works not only for Greek orthodox church screens, but for computer screen desk-top icons.

You see, our thoughts range quite widely: good exercise for the surviving grey cells."
 (01722 331972)

Someone glued my pack of cards together - I don't know how to deal with it.

ZOOM LINKS

TIPPLE TIME

Tipple Time - the sociable way to end the week - open to all.

Friday October 15 at 6pm

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

Meeting ID: 867 2567 5768

Passcode: 430899

Our topic for conversation this time will be **Our passions! - What we are really interested in.....**our hobbies, good bread, a cupboard full of designer shoes or toy hippos (yes, I do know someone who collects them), journeys under steam, cowboy films, cryptic crosswords, growing gladioli, apostrophes, - you'll think of something.

MONTHLY MEETING

Monday October 11 from 10am

AGM followed by 'Africa in a Truck.'

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

Meeting ID: 892 8027 5252

Passcode: 992811



AND FINALLY

