

SPIRE u3a



NEWS SHEET 20

From the Watermeadows
- ANF (LRPS) 2022

**MONDAY
MAY 9
MONTHLY MEETING**

from 10am

DETAILS ON PAGE 10

Chairman's Message

HELLO Everyone

With a marked improvement in both the weather and local covid data we have, as Spire members, much to look forward to this summer.

This news sheet carries details of get-togethers and visits, most of them close to home, which are open to all our members. In true u3a fashion there is an element of *Learn, Laugh, Live* to all of them and I am looking forward to seeing you out and about enjoying them. By the time you read this the coffee-and-cake event at the Rifleman's Table, followed by a guided tour of the adjacent Rifles Berkshire & Wiltshire Museum will all be over but there is plenty more to look forward to. Please, make sure to put your name on

the relevant 'sign up' sheet at the monthly meeting or give your name to the organiser so they know to expect you.

I'd like to say a special thank you to those of you who have come forward with offers to give a talk, or suggestions about who we can invite to speak to us, at our monthly meetings. (If I do not advise you of a likely date in the next few weeks please remind me.)

Lastly, I would like to thank those who keep our finances in order, Stuart Robson our Treasurer and Sue Haddock the Independent Examiner of accounts. The accounts are published below. They will come before the membership at the AGM on June 13.

Best wishes,

John

SPIRE U3A

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022

RECEIPTS	2021	2022
General	£0.00	£40.00
Membership Net	£1,567.50	£1,317.50
Gift Aid Tax Refund	£202.50	TBA
Monthly Meetings	£0.00	£0.00
Events and Socials	£200.00	£39.65
Group Activities	£319.40	£280.50
Donations	£25.00	£20.00
Business Account Interest	£0.77	£0.30
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>£2,315.17</u>	<u>£1,697.95</u>
PAYMENTS		
General	£689.12	£366.25
Capitation Fee £3.50/£3.50	£640.50	£546.00
U3A Magazine, Postage, etc.	£519.01	£434.02
Monthly Meetings	£127.00	£479.93
Events and Socials	£200.00	£50.00
Group Activities	£519.00	£246.00
<u>TOTAL PAYMENTS</u>	<u>£2,694.63</u>	<u>£2,122.20</u>
<u>YEAR END SURPLUS/LOSS</u>	<u>-£379.46</u>	<u>-£424.25</u>
BALANCES AT 31st MARCH		
Lloyds TSB Business Account	£3,000.00	£3,000.00
Lloyds TSB Treasurer's Account	£1,507.70	£1,034.95
Petty Cash	£53.70	£102.20
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	<u>£4,561.40</u>	<u>£4,137.15</u>

Date 20/4/2022

Signed Treasurer Stuart Robson

I have carried out an independent examination of the Spire U3A accounts for the year ending 31st March 2022 and I concur that they are fully in accordance with the books and records thereof.

Date 20/04/2022

Signed Independent Examiner Sue Haddock

Membership Update

Please let our committee know if you have changed your contact details. Your email news sheets provide not only information on our activities but also details of membership fees increases and due dates for payment.

FIGURES

We have 102 fully paid up members.

Welcome to: six new members

Josa Snow, Stella Leigh, Doreen Bryant, Sue Waldron, Polly Strong and Jo West.

5 members have passed away, we will miss them

Roger Ellway, Isabel Lewis, Diana Moore, Jean Penny and Jennifer Plummer.

14 have confirmed they are not renewing this year. We are waiting to receive fees from 5 people and 28 members have not yet responded to their reminders.

Mary Robson

Editorial

A PLEA from me this month to read this edition carefully and act on the detail.

There are at least eight opportunities to get out and about with u3a - open to all our members.

I have moved the Interest Group section forward, on request, to give local news more prominence. We have a lovely selection of photos too this time showing members doing what u3a members do well - actively doing something - and clearly enjoying themselves too.

Your committee and the Interest Group Leaders are trying to make Spire u3a as good as it can possibly be by providing a whole range of activities; some of them are new this season or revivals of old favourites.

As the Chairman says above, a range of our activities this summer are open to all our members but we need you to commit to them.

Let's go for it!

Maureen E Frost

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - Monday June 13 10.15am

Harnham Memorial Hall - [Doors open 10am]

We shall be asking for members to come forward to undertake some small tasks at Monthly Meetings and share the load with our very small committee.

THE INTEREST GROUPS

LUNCH BUNCH

APRIL saw a dozen of us at *Thai Serocha* in New Street enjoying the special lunch time menu.

In early May we sampled French cuisine at Côte Brasserie and are looking forward to a jaunt to the seaside for fish and chips in June.

COFFEE COMPANIONS



OUR May get-together was the best yet. We were well looked after in the *Rifleman's Table*. They had even made an iced lemon cake specially for us.

David and John, our guides, divided us into two groups and led us round the exhibits. We heard some of the stories associated with the medals on display and all the battles won around the world - there have been a lot of them. We learned a little about the development of weapons and army communications, saw a curious collection of items brought back to Britain by the regiments returning home and met Bobbie the regimental dog, a survivor of the disaster of Maiwand in the Second Anglo-Afghan War.

We ended our tour in the extensive garden that backs onto the river. The paths and flower beds are well kept and the old trees are just magnificent.

★ We will meet next on Saturday June 11 at 10.30am joining Coffee + Chat in Harnham Parish Hall, next to St George's. No need to book for this - just turn up. All welcome.

"We all know that mirrors don't lie. I am just grateful that they don't laugh."

Geology for Beginners

APRIL'S meeting featured an outside visit - to Messrs Glover & Smith's pewter works at Wilton. Earlier sessions this year covered Cornish tin mining from prehistoric times to its demise in the 1920s. Since pewter is a metal alloy with over 90% tin content, the visit provided a perfect follow-up to our indoor sessions. We were made most welcome by Ed Glover and his two colleagues, who not only entertained us but provided an insight into their entire business, right from the initial publicity and marketing through production to internet sales.



During our visit we witnessed the actual casting process (of scarf rings) and were able to handle the finished product. In the picture I am holding a pewter ammonite (a demonstration item, not for sale!)

The other picture was produced "in house" for advertising purposes.

A successful morning's visit, providing something of interest for all our members.

★ We meet monthly on the third Tuesday, usually from 10.00 to 12 noon.

Stuart

stuart.robson6@btinternet.com



OCCASIONAL BOOK CLUB

MOST of us have now finished *The Little Wartime Library*, by Kate Thompson, together with a selection of Quick Reads. We found the former hard to put down. It clearly brought back authentic memories of wartime London to some, being based on a great deal of original research into the archives of Bethnal Green. The story sent some of us off at a tangent seeking copies of *Forever Amber*, which is often referenced in the text, and others spent a happy hour researching the history of the London Underground on YouTube. At the same time the Quick Reads have offered us a short introduction to a new author. Our current title is the acclaimed story of *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell, supplied by Wiltshire Library Service, (or another book by the same author). Over the next few months we will be choosing books on a particular theme, not necessarily novels, or by an agreed author.

★ Next Meeting: Tuesday May 10 at 4pm, 3 Burford Avenue.

GARDEN GANG

Isn't it enough to see that a garden is beautiful without having to believe that there are fairies at the bottom of it too? – Douglas Adams (2009) in "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy."

WHETHER you are looking for fairies, or not, we have come up with a programme of visits (no heavy digging required) to provide some joy during the summer months.

All members of Spire u3a are invited but please look out for the sign-up sheets at the monthly meetings or email townpump@hotmail.co.uk

★ **Friday 17 June, 2-4.30pm**

Afternoon Tea in the garden of 12 Chiselbury Grove SP2 8EP by kind permission of the owner.

★ **Friday 24 June, morning**

Tour of conservation areas in Wilton with Maria Lafemina. Maria told us all about these projects at a monthly meeting last year. Now, instead of Maria's slides, we can go and see the wildflowers, butterflies and other wildlife for ourselves. Meet in the Market Square in front of Old St Mary's Church. We will look at the wildflower patch in Astor Meadow first then walk to the main Rec by the roundabout, Castle Meadow, finishing by the Guild side next to the Bowling Club.

Wednesday 6 July, 2-5pm
Manor House, Stratford Tony, SP5 4AT
£6 admission

August - Arundells, The Close
Details to be agreed

Autumn
Terstan, near Stockbridge
Stourhead NT Garden



**"Joseph Bazalgette, the man who designed London's sewers in the 1860's, said :
"Well we are only going to do this once and there's always the unforeseen." He
doubled the pipe diameter but if he had not done it it would have overflowed in the
1960's. Instead it is still in use today.**

ARTS & CRAFTS

OUR April meeting took place on a lovely sunny afternoon. Members were invited to bring along any portable projects they were working on and shared their enthusiasm for making things, over a mug of tea.

We plan to share our skill and expertise with one another at future meetings but also to work to promote u3a in general by making yellow and blue bunting that can be used on u3a Day and decorating a tree for the Christmas Tree Festival 2022.

★ The group will meet next on Tuesday 24 May at 2pm at 3 Burford Avenue.



LEARN, LAUGH, LIVE

Trip to Bristol

AEROSPACE Museum - travel by private car - details from John Holt.
holtjohn813@gmail.com

Picnic in the Park - All Members

WE hoped that this would be a joint event with other local u3a's at lunchtime on **June 1** in the Queen Elizabeth Gardens. We are still hoping this will go ahead as it is a nationwide celebration of u3a. Please diarise the date and we will forward the details when they are agreed.

Learning Events

JOIN a free workshop between now and the end of June.

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

Blues Music, Yoga, Cryptic crosswords, the Willow Pattern, reducing energy bills, Vegetarian cooking, the Picts, Japan, Buddhism, Chess and Climate Change.

Another useless item from the internet: Charles Darwin was the first to put wheels on an office chair. He liked being able to roll around so he could study different specimens more quickly.

Outing

Kingston Lacy on Thursday 12 May

IF you are interested in this visit, but have not booked yet, contact Patricia Hendy for the remaining few places.

Cost of coach £10.

If you are a National Trust Member entrance is free but for non National Trust Members* the entrance fee is £15 (group rate) to be paid on the day and covers house and garden.

Coach meeting point: London Road Park & Ride (you may park there for free)

Timings: 9.20am prompt but please arrive no later than 9.10am

Leaving Kingston Lacy at 4pm

Any enquiries to Patricia Hendy Tel: 01722 336970 email triciahendy@aol.com

“If you feel pain you are alive: if you feel other people’s pain, you are a human being.” - Leo Tolstoy

MEMBERS meeting indoors are respectfully reminded to follow public health guidance to avoid the spread of viruses.

Please assure your Group Leader that you are a fully paid-up member of u3a.

If you are meeting in a private home please remember that each person should contribute 50p, or more, every time they attend. Hosts are encouraged to deduct the costs for refreshments and periodically pass on any excess to the Treasurer. Any member of the interest group can manage this; it does not have to be the Group Leader.

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

Interest Group Leaders - the Picnic in the Park event in June and the September 40th Anniversary present us with a chance to meet outdoors, to promote what we do or to recruit new members.

SOMETHING TO DO

Jot & Tittle

THE latest illustrated edition, No 88, reveals a lot of local history as usual. Places mentioned include St Nicolas' Hospital, Durrington and Harnham. If you are one of those who like to learn something new each day, however obscure, the final article on diaeresis, digraphs and diacritics could be for you.

Find it at <https://www.jot-and-tittle.com>

Your best Wiltshire Wildlife Photos!



The **#WiltshireWildSnap** Competition runs on Instagram from the 7th May - 6th June 2022

Winners will be announced by 17th June.

To enter:

1. Follow us on Instagram @wiltswildlife
2. Tag us in your photo
3. Use the hashtag **#WiltshireWildSnap** in your post

Please note - Winners and runners up must be able to submit a high resolution file. This is for amateurs only.

Prizes include:

1st Prize - your photo will be the next front cover of our Members' Magazine

2nd and 3rd Prize - Photos will be featured within the body of the magazine.

Terms & conditions

<https://www.wiltshirewildlife.org/terms-and-conditions1>

CITIZEN SCIENCE

WANTED: Your sightings of insects!

Insect populations are in decline and we want to hear about your sightings! If you see a beetle, bee, butterfly or any other insect, please record your sightings via [iRecord](#).



DATES

Monthly Meeting - Harnham Memorial Hall - doors open at 10am.

FREE to all members; there is no longer a fee payable on the door.

This means that you can join everyone for a tea or coffee, read the noticeboards and sign up for trips and days out.

All Spire u3a members are encouraged to attend every meeting in order to stay in touch, even if you cannot stay for the whole morning.

★ The £1-50 entrance fee has been abolished.

Monday 9 May: Robin Miller, speaking about the Royal British Legion.
(Masks advised)

Monday 6 June: AGM & Local Speaker

Tipple Time - Friday 20 May 6pm

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

Meeting ID: 867 2567 5768

Passcode: 430899

Our theme this month is 'On the Move'- journeys, travels and holidays; anything from Sunday School Outings and hitch hiking to long haul flights and luxury cruises.

★ Everyone is welcome in this 'pub'.

“This Spring I’m cleaning out everything. So, yes, I will be taking a decongestant and a laxative.”