

SPIRE u3a



NEWS SHEET FOURTEEN



Visitation of the church
mice

Pic by DAVID
WOODWARD

**Monday 8
November
10am**

**Given the appalling
Covid figures for Wilts,
for your safety,
Monthly Meetings will
remain on zoom for the
time being**

Chairman's Message

HELLO Everyone,

The AGM went off well - thank you for turning up; your support was much appreciated. We have kept General Apathy and Major Crisis well away from Spire u3a. Thanks to Mary Robson, who put in a lot of work as Acting Secretary all went smoothly.

Also thanks to so many Group Leaders who have provided us with a summary of what their Interest Groups have achieved despite everything. It is encouraging to learn that so much is happening.

One of the most difficult tasks I have, as Speaker Secretary, is to identify topics of general interest. It is impossible, I realise, to please all of you all of the time but overall I think we do pretty well. David Ramsden, awarded an MBE by HM Queen Elizabeth II for services to wildlife, is our speaker for November and was recommended to us by Dorchester u3a. If you have any ideas for talks or know a good volunteer speaker please pass on the information to me or one of the new committee. Thank you.



Lastly, it is my pleasure to introduce Pennie Hardisty, our new Secretary. Pennie is resident in Harnham, a mum, a former teacher who likes to get out and about. She is a regular Tipple Timer and contributes to Spire Facebook Group.

Meanwhile, keep clear of that virus if you can: it is not nice, as Irene and I can attest.

John Holt

AGM

THE Annual General Meeting of Spire u3a took place in October. We were unable to have a live meeting in 2020 so it was pleasing to be able to have proper elections this year. Retiring committee members were thanked and new ones found to take on their tasks. Reports from Officers were received and the financial niceties signed off. We adopted the new constitution as recommended by Head Office so we are right up to date with that. The most significant sections limit the length of time that Officers and Committee Members can serve which should ensure a healthy turnover of talent to run

the show in future. It does mean that some of those elected in October 2021 will have to retire in 2024, or before, so if you know a member who would make a good officer please be prepared to put their name forward as early as the 2022 AGM.

**Dad: My daughter has been injured in a peek-a-boo related accident.
Medic: Sorry, Sir, we will need to send her to the I.C.U.**

Editorial

THERE is a very scary moment for speakers who give a talk on zoom. *Will everyone still be there when we stop screensharing? Or will they all have quietly slipped away while I was busy talking?*

You were very kind to me when I presented the talk following the AGM in October; when I stopped sharing it was lovely to see the broad patchwork of your faces on my screen. Thank you.

And then the emails started coming in.

Really enjoyed your talk and thought you very brave spending a month out there, said one. Your Africa talk was nicely put together especially the short videos amongst the other photos, said another.

Maureen Davidson was reminded of a visit to the Cape with Salisbury Community Choir (in 2007?). She said: "An amazing experience. We also had a weekend in Kruger National park."

Your comments were invariably perceptive and delightful:

"The background to Livingstone is good to know - behind every great man is an even greater woman." - Mary.

"Before I met my husband, David, he had been a District Officer in then Tanganyika. So we would go back on holiday and you evoked all sorts of memories. He spoke fluent - I called it Jane Austen - Swahili:

"His language had not moved with the times, but he could communicate, tell people their history and he had an amazing knowledge of places, villages, events and so on." - Ayesha. My point is if I can pull together a talk, using what was essentially a bunch of holiday snaps, perhaps you could too.

This month we see the welcome return of the All Our Own Work section. We cannot promise to use everything submitted and you may have to wait to see your efforts on show but the more you send in the more we have to choose from - thank you.

Maureen E Frost

U3a Diaries.....

.....have arrived, all blue and shiny, if you ordered one please remember to collect it.

The single biggest thing I learned was from an indigenous elder of Cherokee descent, Stan rush worth, who reminded me of the difference between a Western settler mindset of *I have rights* and an indigenous mindset of *I have obligations*. Instead of thinking that I am born with rights, I choose to think that I am born with obligations to serve past, present and future generations and the planet herself.

FACEBOOK

Spire u3a, with Salisbury & District and Wilton u3a's is set up as a Private Group. It is only open to paid up members of Spire, S&D and Wilton.

Spire Facebook carries items of local interest to people like us: reminders about events, last minute notices, links to online talks, newsletters from all three u3a's, topical cartoons, news and comments - all from fellow third-agers. It is the ideal way for us to keep in touch with one another. Posts have to be in accordance with the Rules, which can be summarised as *If you cannot say something nice don't say anything at all*.

The Group is monitored by Admins from each of the three u3a's. The Admins have the wherewithal to delete posts that contravene the rules, suspend offenders and even ban them. (But we have never had to and don't expect to.) If you are thinking of joining you will be very welcome.

ALL OUR OWN WORK

The following is a piece by **Maureen Davidson** who made good use of her time in lockdown by writing her autobiography. She says: I thought I would share this experience as I have heard the cold virus could be an early predecessor of the COVID19.

COLD VIRUS RESEARCH

At the beginning of 1966 my friend Pat persuaded me to join her on a ten day trial at the Common Cold Research station, Salisbury at Easter. This area is now Havard Heights. I was living in Essex at that time. Unfortunately Pat caught a cold just before the trial began and was advised not to come. I decided to continue and shared a Nissen Hut with another student I did not know but luckily we got on well.

Full board and lodging was provided but no mixing was allowed with anyone else in the other huts nearby (about 6?). Each hut was 30 feet from each other and had an entrance hall, lounge, medical room, bathroom, kitchen and three single bedrooms. Meals came pre-cooked in large metal containers and were left in a wooden box outside the front door. The doorbell was rung on arrival by a member of staff and watched until the next hut was reached, then we could collect our food. After we had eaten the meal we had to wash the container and leave this outside in the box for collection.

Each day we were called, by phone, to ask if we wanted any extras i.e. milk, bread, butter, coffee, tea etc. These items would be delivered with the food. We could also order books and jigsaws from a list provided and had a radio (no TV!). As we were both students we used some of our time to prepare for our exams.

The doctor and nurse visited us each morning to check our health and take nose swabs. After three days we were given nose drops (we were not told if this was a cold virus or not), and had to take dissolvable tablets once a day. We luckily did not catch a cold or knew if the tablets helped!

We were paid 7/6 a day (old money), could have a newspaper of our choice delivered each day and a bottle of beer, squash or cider daily. We chose the latter and I remember putting the bottle in the small covering of snow under the hut to keep it cool (we did have a fridge). Our return fares from our homes were also paid.

Walks were allowed off site but we were asked to avoid any contact with anyone else (thirty feet distance?). Interesting rules when you think of the current situation.

The day before we left we could meet the other participants, visit the labs where the some of the research was explained, and have an evening meal together. We were also brought

into Salisbury that day and I vaguely recall visiting the Cathedral, never knowing I would one day live in the town and make it my home from 1977.

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

Lovely and varied work produced by the Watercolour Group during September. The group meets monthly to discuss their paintings and plan the theme for the following month.



FROM TERRY WALDRON

A relatively new Website has been launched for Salisbury, EXPERIENCE SALISBURY <https://www.experiencesalisbury.co.uk/>

There is much on there and I anticipate it will expand over time.

The What's On is far better than the Wiltshire and Salisbury Council Websites. This

could be of great use to many in Spire U3A.

Further to that an App was launched last year called SALISBURY TRAILS, this covers 3 walks around the city and tells of the history of many places that you may not be aware of. This is to be expanded to add a further 3 trails, the date I heard was 18 October for launch of additional trails, but that is dependant on the time it is going to take in finalising the text to go onto the app.

App available for Android and Ios.

[You can see some of Terry's photographs on the website.]

LEARN, LAUGH, LIVE

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

Learning Events from u3a

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

.....Sedimentary rocks, The numbers we eat, the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior, Maths games, Ancient Civilisations of the Americas, Crochet workshop, Astronomy, the Armada - all Free but you need to book a place.



<https://u3acommunities.org>

This section is run by volunteers. The communities diary features four events this month. The regular programme currently includes, where Art and History meet, Books - childhood favourites, Climate Crisis, Current Affairs, Dickens, History, Rocket Science and Technology.

[If you participate in any of these events please let us know what you learnt. Thank you, MEF.]



The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away
- Pablo Picasso.

THE INTEREST GROUPS

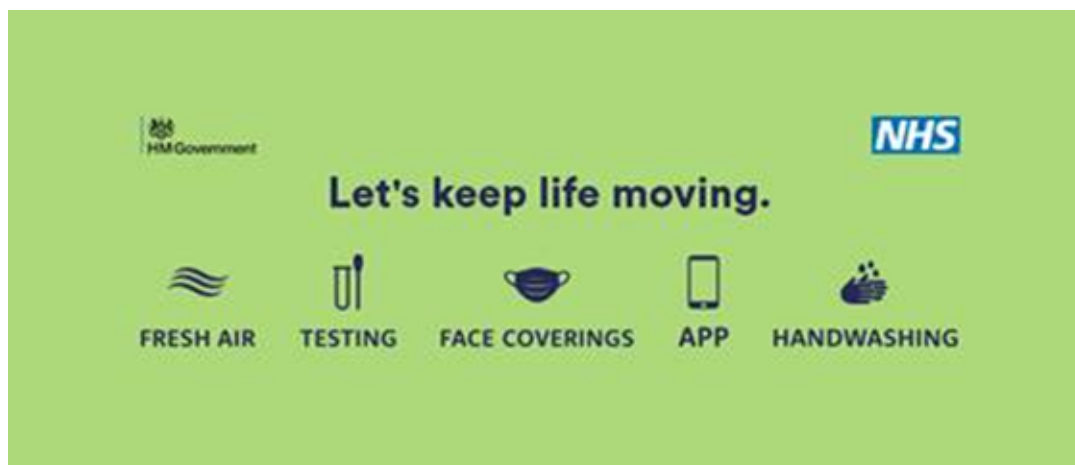
MEMBERS meeting in private homes are respectfully reminded to follow government guidance and nhs advice to avoid the spread of viruses.

In addition **Group Leaders** must ensure that a risk assessment is undertaken before commencing any u3a group activity and should share this with the committee. Additionally, all members are encouraged to self assess for symptoms of Coronavirus before attending a group.

There is more detail here

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/advice/running-your-u3a-covid-and-beyond/england-activities-advice>

- Interest Groups that want to revert to Zoom meetings during the winter months, or use zoom for the first time, are invited to contact the License holder for Spire u3a maureenefrost@icloud.com



LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch continues to meet monthly. September saw us at *The Green Dragon* in Alderbury and, in October, *The Ship* in Fordingbridge.

Due to asking for new members we are now up to 14 with 12 definites so far for October. That is the maximum for the moment, so I will now be starting a waiting list.

[Too many members does limit us trying smaller cafes and restaurants.]

- To join the waiting list 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 [delayed due to high incidences of Covid] will be in 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

PUZZLERS

Sometimes the tiles are challenging!



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, or just try it once, contact the Groups Co-ordinator asap mfrobson@btinternet.com

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 and how to proceed. Please contact the Groups Co-ordinator to register your interest - mfrobson@btinternet.com

POETRY READING

“We know the land
is disappearing beneath
the sea, islands swallowed
like prehistoric fish.
We know we are doomed,
done for, damned, and still
the light reaches us, falls
on our shoulders even now,” - from *Evening* by Dorianne Laux

- Meetings are on the third Thursday afternoon of the month.
Contact Beryl for details, you may have to join the waiting list beryl.paton@outlook.com

WALKING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

A summary of recent activities of the walking group.....
We resumed walking, in time (almost) for the bluebells in Radnall Wood near Breamore. Most members are not yet wanting to travel by bus, as was done in normal times, and so walks have been out and back to where cars had been parked. This is a bit restricting, but we have managed, with more walks in the Breamore area and one in the New Forest, which is really only accessible by car.
Numbers of members are down a bit and, with Winter approaching, probably will not improve very much. Let's hope 2022 is better in all ways.

Colin Seago
cojo@freeuk.com

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

November 16 at 10am: The topic this month is "**Cornwall's geology, and past industries arising therefrom**". Contact Stuart for details
stuart.robson6@btinternet.com 01722 334310

Just been told that the clocks go back this month. I'm bu*g*red if I can remember where I got mine from.

FRIDAY MORNINGS

Picture by Terry Waldron - Taking photos and enjoying lunch at Britford last month.



Peter Read [01722 501218] reports:

I ran another class recently looking at the homework from last month on Borders around photos. Then I went on to talk about various editors to add **Text** to photos. The best is still Photoshop. The Elements version is very good and there is a lot to learn on all the possible variations available. But **Text** can be added using many other editors such as **iPiccy** and **Gimp**. Examples of the use of most of these were shown during the class. **Homework** is to label one or more of your own pictures using different typefaces, fonts and glyphs and using several editors to achieve this.

I hope that this topic will be of use to us later on when we make books of our own adventures with a camera.

RECORDER PLAYING for FUN & IMPROVEMENT!

Our next session falls on Wednesday November 17th, from 14.00. We will offer 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: 01722 334310.

Stuart Robson



ZOOM LINKS

TIPPLE TIME

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

Friday November 19 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 **Family Traditions**.....for bonfire night, life events, moving house, coming-of-age; you'll think of something.

MONTHLY MEETING

Monday November 8 from 10am

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

Meeting ID: 892 8027 5252

Passcode: 992811

David Ramsden, will be talking about **Climate and Ecological Crisis - What's All the Fuss?**

AND FINALLY

