

SPIRE u3a



NEWS SHEET 23



Cloister Garth Stillfilms August 2022

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 12 MONTHLY MEETING 10am for 10.30

Harnham Memorial Hall Details p.10

Chairman's Message

HELLO Everyone

Firstly, can I congratulate everyone who contributed to our August monthly meeting. We had a homegrown speaker - thank you, Colin - in the true third age spirit. There was a selection of events to sign up for, the refreshment team were efficient, as ever. Members mucked in with the setting up and putting away. Then, when it was time to disperse I

couldn't help but notice how many of you stood about chatting amiably - that has got to be the sign of a happy organisation.

It was also a pleasure to welcome more new members. That too was a sign that our modest recruitment measures are having an effect. Occasional articles in the Parish News, the feature on the front page of August's *Valley News* and just talking about our own experience of u3a to our friends and neighbours will all help us get back to strength. Soon we will have dedicated flyers for you to hand out to likely members.

Pennie Hardisty has again been active on our behalf, this time linking with the Harnham Community Network to distribute a Spire u3a information leaflet to new residents and liaising with the printers. Thank you, Pennie.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the u3a marquee, in the Guildhall Square, on **Saturday September 17**. Thank you to everyone who has come forward with contributions to displays and offers to help steward.

John Holt

EDITORIAL

HOPE you like our cover pic this month. It is a recent photo taken near the spire rather than of it. I chose it to remind us of our happy get together there as Coffee Companions, in August, and to fit in with the current project of our Practical Photography group taking pictures with mobile phones.

[For the technically minded it is a 3.8MB jpeg, 72 pixels/inch, RGB, display P3: Apple iPhone SE (2nd generation), Back Camera — 28 mm *f*1.8, SO 800, 28 mm, 0.4 ev, *f*1.8, 1/4 s].

We also have several dates for your diary, as usual, and some very important messages from Mary on this page.

Maureen E Frost

FROM THE GROUPS CO-ORDINATOR

To All Group Leaders

THANK you to all Interest Group Leaders who supplied me with all the information that I asked for last month

(where you meet, day and time, who comes, how many on your waiting list etc.)

Peter Read has been labouring to update this information on the website. Please look again and make sure everything is now up to date.

If you believe that a group listed on the website is defunct please let me know.

It is vital that this information is accurate for insurance purposes. We also need to have reliable particulars available for new members.

To All Spire members

THE final planning meeting for the event on **Saturday September 17** will be on Tuesday September 13. If you are helping with a display please be at the Guildhall Square by 7.30am or make arrangements to hand over your items to Stuart or Maureen beforehand.
mfrobson@btinternet.com

Thank you,

Mary Robson

mfrobson@btinternet.com

u3a day

Raising awareness of u3a activities throughout Salisbury and online with those no longer in full-time employment or approaching retirement.

Guildhall Square - near the War Memorial

Saturday September 17

8am to 2.30pm

stuart.robson6@btinternet.com

Come along - on your own or with some friends

THE INTEREST GROUPS

u3a CHOIR

AFTER a break, u3a choir is re-forming.

Open to all U3Aers in the area, the choir will be back in action. Leader David Davies says: "We will meet from **Monday September 12** at 2pm in the Wilton Community Centre. The best thing for anyone interested, or wanting to know more would be for them to ring me on 01722 714440.

David Davies

It's weird being the same age as old people.

OCCASIONAL BOOK CLUB

WE met early this month to review the titles we have been reading over the summer. Over tea and biscuits, we shared our thoughts on novels, travel books and reflective writing on our chosen theme of Africa. Frank had read a book that pre-figured *The African Queen* and Maureen had read one that paved the way for *The English Patient*.

Everyone spoke well of the Number 1 Ladies Detective Agency series. Those of us who had read *we are all birds of uganda* were amazed at the quality of Hafsa Zayyan's first novel. Fortunately, we never got round to *Harlots of the Desert* by Benedicta Ward.

Ayesha never ceases to amaze us with volumes that she finds on her bookshelf. We heard something of her late husband's time in Africa and her much more recent experience of having a south sudanese Bishop and his wife to stay with her for a few days in Harnham. From Uganda and Kenya to Sudan, Botswana to Cairo and Cape Town to Tanganyika we went in the course of a couple of hours - it was fascinating.

We plan to meet next on **Tuesday 11 October** at 4pm - usual venue. Then we will discuss something completely different: books we have read by Ian Rankin.

The best thing about being over 50?

We did all our stupid stuff before the invention of the internet, so there's no proof.



LUNCH BUNCH

- - pictured here at The Old Beams, Ibsley.



WE encountered no difficulties with the transport, the facilities, service or the food; all good.

The only problem was crossing the road to the rather neglected bus stop in order to come home.....we nearly left one on the wrong side of the carriageway!

Next venue will be in the other direction at Wilton.

Email Judy to join the waiting list for this group.

judyfiveoaks@outlook.com

The older I get, the more I have in common with computers. We both start out with lots of memory and drive, then we become outdated, crash unexpectedly, and eventually have to have our parts replaced!

CREATIVE WRITING

THE writing group will meet for the first time in Harnham on **Monday 17th October** 10.30 to 12.30

Contact Rosemary if you would like to have a go.

01722 500289,

rosemary.duffy7@ntlworld.com

Meanwhile, there is a 90 minute online creative writing session for u3a members, on

Thursday September 29 at 10am. Book a place here

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/your-unique-creative-writing-tickets-399062024257>



GEOLOGY for BEGINNERS

Visiting Ham Hill August 2022

- pics by Peter Read and Alan Crooks



HAM Hill is a SSSI and a Local Geological Site (LGS). The hill comprises a local nature reserve (LNS) and country park, a scheduled ancient monument, an iron age hill fort and signs that the Romans were here.

This Group is led by Stuart Robson.
stuart.robson6@btinternet.com



COFFEE COMPANIONS

Saturday September 10th - St Thomas's church for coffee, cake and warm cheese scones.

Meet at 10.30am. There is plenty of room and a large selection of secondhand paperbacks for sale to choose from.

Noise was a bit of a problem when we first arrived at The Refectory in August but after a while the machinery ceased so we were able to sit in the cloisters and enjoy one another's company.

It was lovely to see some new faces joining us - we look forward to seeing them again - but especially anticipate the return of Enid, our organiser, who spent too much of the summer in SDH.

- The October meeting on Tuesday 4th will again be in a central location; our most colourful venue yet - tbc.



GARDEN GANG



IT was the best of times it was the worst of times but at least the rain in August is warm rain. It was the best because we were warmly welcomed for our visit to the garden of **Arundells**, and were kindly treated at the till. It was the worst because we had to find shelter for our picnic, and, as everywhere, the plants were suffering from lack of water. But did we

complain? Not at all. The brownness of the lawn was appropriately reminiscent of the '76 drought which occurred exactly half way through Edward Heath's 50 year term as an MP. Conversation flowed as we ate lunch and closer inspection of the garden showed that most plants are coping, the golden rod will soon flourish and the trees - some of them very grand - will survive another year. The low cloud made for a murky view of the cathedral spire but looking across the clear waters of the river to an almost deserted Queen Elizabeth Gardens made up for it.

Arundells was originally a medieval canonry. The current name comes from James Everard Arundell. He married Ann, daughter of John Wyndham who took on the tenancy in 1718 and undertook much rebuilding work.

Having been used as a boarding school, a Red Cross library and a wool depot Arundells fell into disrepair and required extensive refurbishment in the 1960's.

The next Garden visit will be to Terstan on **Sunday 18th September**.

The garden will be open from 2-5pm.

The picturesque garden at **Terstan** is set in water meadows by the River Test with views to Stockbridge Down, and has been created over 40 years by Penny Burnfield, from bramble and weed infested rough ground: "We rescued a small, damp cottage from near dereliction and have made a garden where none existed. The setting was peaceful and secluded and I could see the potential in the house and the acre of land that came with it." Today the garden extends gently out from the house with seven loosely linked garden 'rooms' that have individual character, but with common motifs of circles and ovals to give a sense of harmonious continuity.

Terstan is on the Longstock Road, less than a mile north of Stockbridge. From A30 turn N at the bridge in Stockbridge. The garden is on the R after three quarters of a mile - SO20 6DW
Admission £5
Refreshments :
Home-made Teas.



nb: further news for garden fans on p.9

If you boil a funny bone it becomes a laughing stock.....That's *humerus*.

PHOTOGRAPHY

TERRY Waldron had a photograph accepted by *The Journal* in August. It was taken in his garden at Stapleford. Congratulations, Terry.

Details of Digital Imaging and Practical Photography sessions can be found on Spire u3a website.

Locally based members - not the ones in London and Australia who attend Peter's DI sessions on zoom - are currently busy working on our display for the Guildhall Square on September 17.



ARTS & CRAFTS

NEXT meeting: **Tuesday September 20 at 3pm** nb later time than usual.
3 Burford Avenue.

We shall be taking a first look at paper crafts and origami with a view to decorating a Spire u3a tree for this year's Christmas Tree Festival at St Thomas's.

Please also bring anything you have been working on.

SCRABBLE

SCRABBLE is thriving with up to six boards in use. Due to a potential clash with another group in October the meeting is likely to be brought forward from Thursday to **Wednesday 5th October**.

Our scrabble players will also be representing us on September 17th by playing games in the u3a marquee in the Guildhall Square. It will all help to showcase the range of activities that Spire members get involved in - both physical and cerebral - all good fun.

DRAWING AS A LANGUAGE

“Creative discussion of visual arts, involving practical participation.”

ABLY led by Christopher Browne, this group meets monthly for a couple of hours from 2pm. The venue, not far from St Mark's church, has the benefit of projection equipment so everyone can see the artwork under scrutiny. Tea and biscuits are also on offer. There are currently eight members but there is room for a few more this term. Contact Christopher - 01722 331972 or email christopherbr@waitrose.com

LEARN, LAUGH, LIVE



Learning Events

S&D u3a has some vacancies in their **Gardening Group** which meets in St Francis Church Hall in Beatrice Road, Salisbury SP1 3PN at 2pm on the second Monday of the month from **October 10th** until March 13th 2023.

“We have talks and demonstrations, and in the summer we visit two or more gardens in coaches. Please give your name, telephone number or email address, and your U3A number to me, Moira Dickson.”

Tel. 01722 330179, or email moiradickson36@gmail.com

MATHS & GAMES

Join u3a Maths and Stats Subject Adviser David Martin for a fun session of interactive games and puzzles.

Try out your maths and numerical ability and share your solutions with others.

(The workshop starts at 2pm, however sign in at 1.45pm for 15 minutes of informal conversation prior to the workshop.)

This event includes different puzzles to previous sessions, for which there was some excellent feedback.

Thursday September 29 at 1:45 pm – 3 pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/maths-activities-and-games-workshop-tickets-386930147487>

Charity Ref: 1080479

MANY other online learning events are already arranged for the autumn - Climate change, yoga, carnival, yiddish theatre, magdalen laundries, science surgery, tai chi, meditation, Marc Chagall, Jim Al Khalili, diwali, the brain, Japanese art, cryptic crosswords: details here

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

u3a CHESS CLUB

THIS is a club within Chess.com. It makes it easy to challenge other u3a members to an online game.

Here's how to join

<https://u3achessnetwork.org.uk/index.php/chess-online/>

DATES

Monthly Meeting

Harnham Memorial Hall - **September 12**, doors open at **10am**

Mike Read - Rocky Mountain Magic

Tipple Time - Friday 16 September 6pm

Catching up with one another after the summer break. All welcome.

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 867 2567 5768

Passcode: 430899

**“What do you want for supper? Savoury Beef, Mouthwatering Salmon
or Luscious chicken?”**

“I’ll have the Mouthwatering Salmon, please.”

“I was talking to the dog.”

