



Salisbury Cathedral and Mares Tales

Peter Read

Newsletter No 80 May 2012 Jubilee Edition

www.salisburyu3a.org.uk

Chairman's Report

I would like to reiterate Sandra Barrett's thanks to all the people who contributed to the success of Spire U3A during the last year.

We appreciate all that Sandra contributed in her role as Chairman and we are grateful too, to Andy Poole and Joanna Woodd as they retire from the Committee.

It is a pleasure to report that we again have a very good Committee and to welcome three new members: Charles Rolfe, Zelah Bysouth who is our new Publicity Secretary and will issue our Newsletters and Margaret Raymont who is our new Safety Officer.

This is an important year. Not only are we celebrating The Jubilee and holding The Olympics, but it is also the 30th Anniversary of the U3A Movement in the UK.

We do hope as many of you as possible are able to come to the Spire U3A Jubilee Picnic.

Ayesha Nickol

April 2012

From the Membership Secretary

As the longest serving committee member of Spire U3A I would like to record a big THANK YOU to the members of the Spire Committee standing down at the AGM 2012.

Chairman Sandra Barrett, Vice Chairman Andy Poole and Publicity Officer Joanna Woodd.

Thank you for your sterling work. The committee is so grateful to you all for your input and wish you well in your retirement.

Welcome to the new Chairman Ayesha Nickol, Vice Chairman Pat Crossland, Publicity Officer Zelah Bysouth and committee members Margaret Raymont and Charles Rolfe.

We would like to welcome new members

Mrs Susan Ede, Mrs Thelma Cooper, Mr Jay and Mrs Twen Hall, Mr Ronald Sharp and Mrs Irene Voaden.
Jackie Mundy

From the Publicity Office.....

I don't know about you, but I am finding that everything seems to be being printed in ever decreasing small grey or coloured print, so that you have to get out the magnifying glass to read it! Have you looked at the new BT phonebook? With this in mind I have decided to print the newsletter in larger letters than previously. If you would like it even larger, please let me know. If you would like a very large print if you have bad eyesight I can do that for you especially, if you let me know.

Being new to the job I would be grateful for feedback from you if you have any gripes or things that you would like to see included. It would also be interesting to hear from you if you have a story to tell or would like to tell us about your work in the past. There must be a good story about places you have been or things that you have done.

U3A seems to be all about sharing experiences and skills so if you have anything to add or would like to form a new group for something not already done please let me know.

Zelah Bysouth (zjbp@btinternet.com)

JUBILEE PICNIC

We hope as many of you as possible will be able to come to our Jubilee Picnic at

Whitcroft, Bouverie Close, Salisbury, SP2 8DY,

From 12.00 noon to 3.00 pm

on Monday 16 July 2012

Telephone: 01722 334547

Email: ayesha.nickol@dsl.pipex.com

It is just a bit of fun to celebrate the occasion.

Should it rain, I have booked the Memorial Hall as a backup!

Bouverie Close is at the top of the hill, where the road turns left and becomes Bouverie Avenue South.

Balloons and a flagpole flying the Union Flag will show where it is!

You need to **bring your own picnic and a chair or a rug**, but the Committee will provide soft drinks, water and a Jubilee Cake!

If you cannot bring a chair, please would you indicate on the list on the Notice Board at the back of the Hall, writing down your telephone number.

Parking: please would you share transport where possible.

The nearest bus is the **R1 Salisbury District Hospital Bus**, which leaves Blue Boar Row every 10 minutes.

The bus goes up New Bridge Road, across two sets of traffic lights, into the Coombe Road (A354).

You need to get off when it approaches a small roundabout and turns left into the Odstock Road, just before the Ambulance Station and at Ridings Mead.

The entrance to Bouverie Avenue is opposite the Odstock Road. **If you need a lift up the long, steep Bouverie Avenue hill**, please would you **indicate on the list** on the Notice Board and stay at the bus stop, so that we can pick you up.

Let us hope it is a hot summer's day and we can all have a really good time!

Ayesha Nickol



Waiting for their Queen

P. Read

Using your Camera

1. We had a large variety of cameras and I asked members whether they would recommend their camera to someone who wanted to buy one. All said they would except for one...
2. I then asked members if they would recommend any particular place to purchase a camera. In general it was agreed that a local shop was better than using, say Ebay. This is because shop keepers are willing to guide you through the choosing process.
3. The shop in Salisbury most favoured seemed to be Castle Cameras
4. but we were not sure that you would get the best deal
5. We recommended that members buy a **second battery** for their cameras to prevent the problem of running out of juice when out for a days' shooting - as we shall be later. Batteries are best bought over the internet where prices for non-generic batteries are about a tenth of the manufacturer's prices. Just insert the battery part number into Google. Click on the Shopping link on the left side. This can arrange the prices in ascending value. Check for delivery costs - this can be zero.
6. I asked everyone to take a photograph of someone opposite them using their normal approach [probably on Auto?]. We looked at the results later. This brought up some problems such as when photographing against the light the faces was dark.
7. This brought us to **Exposure Compensation**. Now every camera had this facility but it was hard to find on some models. One reason for not buying such a camera maybe. For the problem above the Exposure Compensation has to be set to plus 1 or in severe cases to 2. In normal use the Exposure Compensation can be set to read minus 2/3 or -1 so that details in bright areas is not lost.
8. **Image Size**. The next control that we discussed was Image Size. Many of the cameras present had 12 MPixels. For most people this is far larger than needed. To make prints of A4 size 5Mpixels is sufficient but 8 Mpixels will give you some headroom if you need to crop.
9. **Image Quality**. We did not say much about this. Suffice it to say that it is best left on the best quality. Gordon's camera had settings labelled SQhigh and SQnormal [or similar]. He had examined this and both settings had the same pixel dimensions so what was the difference. The answer is that for the SQhigh setting the camera compresses the file less thus achieving a higher quality image.
10. **Downloading Images**. We recommended that the programs that manufacturers give with the camera are NOT used. Windows will do this for you.
11. **Composition**. We handed out some ideas about the best way to organise your image in the viewfinder giving various rules. These included the Thirds Rule, the Triangle, the L shape and the S curve.
12. In order for members to remember these rules they went out into our garden to take 15 pictures in 15 minutes. They took with them a small frame to practice what the composition would look like.
13. We discussed where the group would like to venture to when we go on our Photo Forays in the next 4 months. Have you any preferences knowing that there will be only three sessions available?
14. The next session will be a Photographic Treasure Hunt. We will walk from our house to do this.

Try your hand (or brain) at Sudoku.
 This one is relatively easy for beginners.
 You need to get each square and line to have figures 1-9 with no duplicates
 Solution on last page

				3			2	4
1	8			9	4	5	6	
9		2		6		8		
	5	9				4		1
8								5
7		4				3	8	
		1		8		7		2
	9	7	4	1			5	8
5	3			7				

Extract from Saga Magazine April 2012

Learning Curve

I thoroughly enjoyed *Educating Rita and Bob too*. (February Saga Mag)

Feeling low at the start of 2011, I knew I was in danger of spiraling downwards and had to do something to bring myself out of it. I considered voluntary work, but then an entry for U3A in a local directory caught my eye. Before long both my husband and I both enrolled; him for art appreciation, science and technology and painting; me for creative writing (a life long interest that had stagnated), digital photography and intermediate computing.

It has changed my life. I have occupied my mind with old and new interests, stretched my brain- sometimes beyond my comfort zone- and best of all, met many lovely new friends. I really can't recommend it highly enough.

Christine Bridson-Jones, Wareham. Dorset

A friend with whom I worked with for many years recommended me to join U3A, when I retired.

At that time having just given up work, my husband dying after a long illness and having moved house, to say nothing of a series of illnesses that had between them knocked the stuffing out of me, I was determined not to 'waste' my retirement and was introduced to U3A.

I have met and rekindled friendships with many people from the past as well as meeting new people and finding new challenges.

Now I am in danger of getting back to the stage that leaves you little time! This time though, it is doing the things that I want to do and enjoying them. How can anyone be bored when they retire? Have they never heard of U3A? I seem to have a new lease of life and got back to the handcrafts that I love sewing, knitting and having a go at anything that takes my fancy, to say nothing of gardening, do-it-yourself, photography, playing with the computer, making cards, reading and more.

My family complains that I am never in, or if I am usually busy with something, but the important thing is that I am really enjoying myself and dearly hope never to become a burden to them.

May Sudoku solution

6	7	5	1	3	8	9	2	4
1	8	3	2	9	4	5	6	7
9	4	2	7	6	5	8	1	3
3	5	9	8	2	6	4	7	1
8	1	6	3	4	7	2	9	5
7	2	4	9	5	1	3	8	6
4	6	1	5	8	9	7	3	2
2	9	7	4	1	3	6	5	8
5	3	8	6	7	2	1	4	9



My short-term memory is not as sharp as it used to be.
Also, my short-term memory's not as sharp as it used to be.