



Newsletter No 81

July 2012



Salisbury Festival Premier Performance P Read

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Welcome to the July edition of the Spire Newsletter.

Well here we are halfway through the summer with very little to show for it except somewhat soggy gardens and many cancelled outdoor events.

However let's hope that the better weather this week is a harbinger of things to come. In my far off Met Office days, many of the forecasters used to take their holidays in June saying it was the best month.

We are hoping for a fine day on 16th July for our own, somewhat belated Jubilee Celebrations at the home of Ayesha Nickol - or if wet in the Harnham Hall. I do hope you will be able to come and enjoy this social event.

There was a bit of a panic about the Opera group but thankfully someone has come forward to start another group, so there will be more opportunities for opera buffs to indulge their passion.

The Tea Dance Group are short of men! If there is anyone who enjoys tripping the light fantastic, the group dances twice a month in the Harnham Hall.

For more information or to volunteer to help out with this plea, please ring Eileen Forder (01722 333405) or she can be found in the kitchen at the meeting!

If you have any items to submit for publication I would be very grateful if you could e-mail me, or if not a computer user, drop me a line to 23 Greenwood Avenue, Laverstock, Salisbury SP1 1PD. I am busy with some DIY at the moment, so phone calls can find me up a ladder or with paint all over me.

Zelah Bysouth, Publicity Secretary.

Are Cold Callers the bane of your life?

There's, nowt wrong with knocks on the door to sell things. Unless that is, you've a sign telling 'em not to. 'No cold callers' signs usually work, but some still ignore them, like the three worst firms for that in our recent poll: Betterbuy, Kleeneze & Anglian Windows. So here's what you need to know.

1. Free more powerful 'No Cold Callers' sign. To stop knockers (you may not if it gets you good deals) print our redesigned, Trading Standards-approved free 'No Cold Callers' sign and put it on a door or window.

2. Why 'more powerful'? Because knocking's a CRIMINAL offence. Guidance we've recently received from Trading Standards says ignoring a sign may be a criminal offence under the Consumer Trading Regulations 2008 (it's untested, but it's a QC's opinion). We've added this to our sign, so if they knock when they shouldn't, there's no argument they didn't know.

3. Don't want charities or religious groups knocking either? 42% in our poll said charities think no-cold caller signs don't apply to them, and 39% religious groups. If you don't want 'em either, we've MSE No Cold Callers signs that include charities, religious groups and both. If they knock and you open the door, just point at that bit of the sign before politely closing it.

4. What if they keep knocking? As it may be a criminal offence for traders (not charities/religious) to ignore such notices, the new sign should help. If they persist, complain to the company and Trading Standards.

5. Special rules mean energy salespeople shouldn't knock. The EnergySure Code of Practice states energy salespeople must obey no cold calling signs, if not, you should get compensation. Complain to the company and if that doesn't work, the Ombudsman. NEVER switch via a door knocker anyway, always Compare & Switch Gas & Elec to find your cheapest provider.

6. Buy on the doorstep and you've a RIGHT to change your mind. Unlike store-bought goods, the Doorstep Selling Regulations mean you've a seven-day cooling-off period on all goods & services over £35. So change your mind and you can get money back. There are some exceptions, including food and immovable property, eg, patios. With insurance and credit agreements you get 14 days.

7. Stop spam texts. If it's from a legit firm with clear sender details, you may've opted-in without meaning to, so reply STOP. Yet for rea span such as PPI claims firms, or ambulance chasers, don't text back, as it may confirm that you are real. Instead get full help in our Stop Spam Texts guide. PS. don't pay to reclaim PPI see Reclaim PPI for free

8. Stop spam calls. Sign up your home phone AND mobile to the Telephone Preference Service (TPS) (takes about 28 days). It's then illegal for UK firms to call (unless you opt in on their marketing). Plus try the free Silent Call-gard service. Full help in Stop Spam Calls.

9. Stop spam calls from overseas. It's not easy, as calls from outside the EU aren't regulated. Yet read our forumites' Cheeky overseas spam call beaters for ideas (eg, play 'em at their own game, or just say random things).

10. Stop annoying junk and direct mail. Sign up to the Mail Preference Service (takes up to 4mths to be active) though unlike for calls, it's not illegal if they still send. To stop unaddressed leaflets, email optout@royalmail.com.

Martin's Money Page

News from the Groups.

Family History Group - Help and Discussion

The group meets on the second Monday of the month and usually starts with a short talk on a relative subject of family history (FH). This is followed by discussion on group member's research or a general FH topic.

Most members hold their data on computer usually via specialised software like 'Family Tree Maker'. We hold basic discussions on using the software and help in solving problems. Using the computer makes holding large amounts of family data easier to retrieve or modify.

Some members also scan in family photos or images of family items like War time Identity cards, Military Service records Old Postcards, Newspaper cuttings Parish Records and Birth, Marriage and Death certificates. As long as a backup of the data is held at a different location such as another family relative then descendants will be fascinated by the digital treasure trove.

The recent freedom of information act has meant that government departments have been digitising their huge archives of information and making it available on the internet to the general public for a small fee. The private sector is also digitising their data in order to make money from their own archive.

This avalanche of information enables Family History to be searched from your computer screen. Some internet FH websites can be accessed for free at the local library.

From one website we found a military photograph of one member's relative who did not have any photos of that individual. Another past member was very pleased to be shown where her ancestors once lived .and worked with the aid of Google Street View website. The most promising is the British Library attempt to put 200 years of Newspaper archive on line and includes small local papers. This may give access to family ancestors involved in accidents, inquests, Court cases, local events or those who had a dodgy past and were "transported" to Australia!

The discussions are varied and can range from the terminology used on Parish registers to where we can find certain records. We've had interesting discussions on surnames which can be fun to find which part of the country had the highest concentration members name in the 1881 census and can indicate the most likely area where their ancestors originated.

Understanding occupations like the most common one "Ag Lab" and learning what our ancestor's way of life was like can be included in writing the history of the family tree in the form of a booklet which is taking the family photo album a stage further.

The next group meeting will be in September.

Past Occupations:-

Ag. Lab - Agricultural Labourer.

Horse Capper - A dealer in worthless horses.

Gaulter - Digger of marl at chalk quarry.

Jim Crow - A Street Actor.

Science and Technology Group Visit Blashford Lakes



Les Hankinson

Digital Imaging Fun

L Hankinson



C Edwards (Sarum)



July Sudoku

Medium Difficult

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

Sudoku Solution

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

Cheeky end note!

P Read

