



*Newsletter No 90*

*January 2014*



Dog Paddle Elizabeth Gardens Jan 2014

Les Hankinson

[www.salisburyu3a.org/spire](http://www.salisburyu3a.org/spire)

From the Editors Desk....

Following on from the soggy autumn, so far a very soggy winter, hence several of the photos in this issue!

However, we hope that you have had a good Christmas and a good start to the New Year and are not in the way of the surplus of water around at present. It must be a horrendous experience to be inundated with water and Mud and no electric. The Christmas Party was enjoyed by about 80 members and the food up to the usual good standard thanks to Pats' efforts. The entertainment by the U3A Choir was enjoyed with a good range of songs interlaced with some humour, and I think most of us caught up with some gossip with friends.

The programme for 2014 also looks appetizing, again thanks to Pat Crossland, with this month's talk on T.E.Lawrence by Peter Preen and next months' Insight into the work of a County Court Judge by John Hook.

March of course brings the ever popular (not) AGM. This is your opportunity to elect members to the Committee. If you have a burning ambition to be amongst the committee as Chairman, Secretary or whatever, or you know someone whom you think would be good in this role, please speak up. After all this is your Group and we would like things to happen as you would like.

The various Groups will be putting on their presentations to entice you to join them or even to start something completely different.

We look forward to hearing your suggestions.

Zelah Bysouth  
[zjbp@btinternet.com](mailto:zjbp@btinternet.com)

## A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

I hope you all had a very Happy Christmas and wish you all the best for 2014. The Christmas Party was a successful last event in 2013 with a very good performance by the members of the U3A Choir, followed by a buffet, which gave everyone an opportunity to talk to each other. And, of course, there were the quizzes, which are such fun. All of this was arranged by Pat Crossland – a big thank you to her.

This is a momentous year as it is the centenary of the 1914 World War and we have been asked to do a project on the names of the people listed on the boards in the Memorial Hall. Any contributions will be hugely appreciated. Maureen Parry of Sarum U3A is delighted that several people from Spire have opted to visit Tyntesfield House and Herschel Museum, Bath on Wednesday 2 April.

Sarum have several more visits planned and we will let you know as soon as the dates are confirmed.

They are planning a six day wine holiday in the Loire Valley from 2 September. I attach a flyer.  
I again would like to thank all the members who make such valuable contributions to the Spire U3A in so many different capacities.

Ayesha Nickol  
Chairman



The U3A Choir Led by David Davies

Peter Read



Members of Spire U3A singing at the party

Peter Read

**Dear Future Learner,**

Happy New Year!

We hope you had a great end of 2013 and are looking forward to an even better 2014. There are now [36 courses](#) available on FutureLearn.com, in a wide variety of topics for you to choose from. These include literature, history, social sciences, computing & IT, environment & sustainability, marketing, psychology and physical science, to name just a few.

You can still sign up for any of the year's first courses starting in January:

- [Sustainability, society and you](#) by the University of Nottingham
- [Introduction to forensic science](#) by the University of Strathclyde
- [Critical listening for studio production](#) by Queen's University Belfast
- [Climate change: challenges and solutions](#) by the University of Exeter
- [Shakespeare's Hamlet: text, performance, and culture](#) by the University of Birmingham
- [Inside cancer: how genes influence cancer development](#) by the University of Bath
- [Preparing for uni](#) by the University of East Anglia
- [Corpus linguistics: method, analysis, interpretation](#) by Lancaster University
- [Good brain, bad brain: basics](#) by the University of Birmingham
- It's more fun to learn with someone you know. Why not invite your friends to join in and learn with you this year?

We will be adding more courses later this month and beyond so watch this space - we will keep you posted on all course announcements as we release them.

Lastly, we've been receiving lots of great learner stories via [yourstories@futurelearn.com](mailto:yourstories@futurelearn.com). We are really enjoying reading them all so thank you for sharing.

91-year-old [Normax](#) was one of our earliest supporters, and [Jacqui](#) has recently shared her inspiring story with us. You can read these and other stories on our [blog](#). If you haven't written to us already, we look forward to hearing from you too.

Best wishes The Future Learn Team

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

HARD

January Sudoku Hard

Many people have not learned that the aim of life is to enjoy it! **Samuel Butler**



*Continental Travel*  
*Loire Valley*

*Wessex*

**SEPTEMBER 14<sup>th</sup> 2014**

**Sunday** The coach will pick us up in Salisbury. We catch the 2245 Brittany Ferries sailing from Portsmouth to Caen. A cabin is provided. **Monday** On arrival in France we head leisurely southwards towards Angers with a break en-route. We have lunch in Bouchemain at Restaurant La Pointe on the riverbank. In the afternoon we make a stop at the troglodyte caves at Montsoreau to visit the Champignonnerie du Saut aux Loups. The final leg of the journey is to Saumur and the Hotel Adagio. We arrive in the late afternoon and check in for three nights. The rest of the evening is free.

**Tuesday** We leave after breakfast and drive westwards towards Angers and the small village of Thouarcé for a tasting at the renowned Chateau des Fesles. From here we travel back to Saumur and have our next visit at Gratien-Meyer to taste their sparkling wines and have a light lunch on the terrace overlooking the river. Our final visit of the day is at Cave de Saumur. We return to the hotel and the rest of the evening is now free.

**Wednesday** Today we are off to Domaine des Vallettes at St Nicolas de Bourgeuil where we have a tour and a tasting of their red wines made from

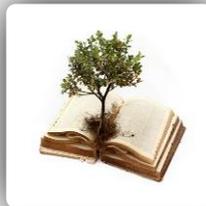
Cabernet Franc. We now continue into the centre of Chinon for sightseeing and lunch at leisure. In the early afternoon we visit Chateau de la Grille for a tasting. On the drive back to the hotel we will stop at Fontevraud Abbey, the final resting place of the Plantagenet Kings and Queens of England. Dinner will be at the hotel this evening.

**Thursday** This morning we travel into Saumur to visit the prestigious French Army Cavalry School, the "Cadre Noir". We have a tour of the establishment. From Cadre Noir we drive to Savennieres just outside Angers for a visit to Domaine du Closel. Here you'll be welcomed by Mme de Jessey or her daughter the Vicomtesse de Pontbriand and will be taken for a stroll up the hills through a wood to view the valley. Back at the Chateau you will sample the golden Chenin Blanc and the ruby Anjou-Village wines and then have lunch in the chateau. Afterwards we set off for St Georges sur Layon and a visit and tasting at Domaine Guichoux. We then settle back for the journey to Ouistreham. On arrival there should be time to stroll around the little port and maybe have a glass of something or a snack before we board the ferry for the 2200 sailing to Portsmouth. Again a cabin is provided.

**Friday** We reach England early in the morning. The coach will return us to Salisbury.

Extra charge for 4 berth cabin: Inside - £40, Outside - £60 Cost £625 approx. Single supplement £145

Contact MAUREEN PARDY 01722 504295



### **HOOKED ON FAMILY HISTORY**

**TALK BY LEN RUFFELL IN THE HARNHAM MEMORIAL HALL  
COMMENCING AT 2PM ON WEDNESDAY 15TH JANUARY 2014**

**ALL WELCOME**

**COST £1 ONLY**

**LEN IS A VERY EXPERIENCE GENEALOGIST. HE WAS CHAIRMAN OF  
THE HAMPSHIRE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY.**

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

January Sudoku Solution

Apologies to the person who rang me about an entry. I am sorry that with being away and with illness I mislaid the message.



Harnham January 2014

Peter Read

## **Spire U3A Groups Report, January 2014.**

At present we have 27 groups on offer to members, covering a range of subjects, under such headings as :- Foreign Languages, Music, Art and Craft, Arts Appreciation, etc. etc.

A few group-leaders have contacted me to advise of vacancies, namely, Canasta (led by Christine Hill) and Playing Chamber Music (led by Alison Dawson). Whilst Mervyn Scammell's Art Appreciation group ceased at the end of 2013, a new Art group headed by Christopher Browne has emerged for 2014. Also Ian Hobday is offering to set up a study group to do with Computers and Computing. (Sorry I don't have full details as yet). Do please contact the afore-mentioned and indeed any other of the group leaders for further details of their activities and whether they currently have any vacancies.

The Recorder group which I run could squeeze in a few more players/learners, particularly gentlemen, to take up the larger instruments. Do please come along to the "Group Displays" meeting scheduled for our March 2014 meeting in the Memorial Hall. As well as being able to meet the group-leaders face to face and to gain an insight into their activities, I intend to display a notice board with ideas for subjects, which, at this moment in time, are lacking from our repertoire! A few suggestions are :- Archaeology, Astronomy, Geology, Microscopy, Picture Framing, Metalwork, Woodwork, etc. etc. Have a look at the subjects on offer by neighbouring U3As and let me know if you come across a subject of personal interest but not offered by Spire (or one of the other Salisbury based U3As).

And finally :- Group leaders - do please let me know of vacancies as they arise, also if you are starting up a new group. Details can then be publicised at the monthly meetings and via the web-site. News from your group would also be appreciated (with photo if possible) for inclusion in the "Spire" newsletter.

Here's to a successful 2014!

Stuart Robson - Spire U3A Group Co-ordinator.