



## HELP! - WILL YOU COME TO THE RESCUE OF YOUR U3A

On becoming chairman it immediately became apparent that the most pressing need was to find volunteers to act as auditor, vice-chairman, minute secretary, group co-ordinator, secretary, and treasurer - a formidable task!

By way of personal contact with members, writing in our newsletter, and at our monthly meetings I have tried to persuade members to come forward. We have been able to find members willing to fill the first three vacancies and somebody has also agreed to take over as treasurer from Shirley Reeves who, like some other executive members, has kindly carried on pending finding a replacement.

However, nobody has come forward to fill the critical posts of group co-ordinator and secretary - to which needs to be added speaker's secretary as Pat Crossland wishes to stand down after three years in this position.

I would be failing in my duty as chairman if I did not draw your attention to the seriousness of the situation. Simply, it means that Spire U3A will cease to function effectively after March next year unless members come forward to fill these vital posts.

The founder executive members did great work in establishing Spire U3A and since then others have continued the good work. Now the time has come for others to take over. None of these tasks is particularly onerous but they are essential to the well being of our organisation.

If you value your membership I implore you to think again about contributing to the running of our U3A. Just give me a ring on 01722 339868.

## Christmas Events

There are still a few tickets left for the combined Salisbury U3A's Christmas dinner on December 17 at the Salisbury golf Club. Tickets are £18 a head. This is a good evening and a chance to meet members of the other Salisbury U3A's

Our own Christmas Party will, as usual, take the place of our regular monthly meeting on December 8. The cost is just £3 per member but we do need you to add your name to the list by the November meeting so that we know how many to cater for - it is not fair to turn up on the day and expect food and drink to be provided if you have not let us know you are coming.

Anne Gould, Chairman.

## NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

It's amazing whom you meet when you join Spire U3A. When the Local History No.1 Group visited Martin Green's Museum at Down Farm, near Sixpenny Handley, (remember his talk to us some time ago on Monday morning?) who should be there but Julian Richards of 'Meet the Ancestors'. He was preparing a 'dig' for some school children. He was very interested to talk to us and didn't seem to mind having his photo taken with a group of wrinkles - indeed he was keen to know how U3A worked not because he is anywhere near retiring but because he would like to prepare an Internet learning package about archaeology. So we may get a chance to virtually sit at the master's feet.



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**The Garden Visits Group** enjoyed a sunny day at Stourhead on October 15th, the trees were just starting to change to their autumn colours, not yet good enough for the photographers amongst them but still a lovely day.

When the group has next year's programme arranged the list will be posted on the board and in the newsletter. This group is open to anyone who would like to visit with friends and share cars. Watch this space.

There was only one response to the article referring to sharing car expenses in the last newsletter. It was that a donation towards the driver's expenses, given without prompting, by those who do not have their own car and can therefore not return the complement. Ramblers suggest £2 per our driving could be used to calculate a sum. Apparently every one is satisfied with the arrangement they have now. Or apathy prevails!

# U3A CHOIR

Musical Director Barbara Butler

## Wilton Community Centre

Every Monday 2pm-4pm

There is an initial fee of £10 to cover the cost of hiring the hall and music. This fee is waived from time to time if there is enough money in the kitty.

Reading music is not a priority but it helps.

Ladies and Gentlemen, you have lovely voices; if you can talk you can sing.

All members are welcome. Come and enjoy a pleasant afternoon. Tea and biscuits at 3.45pm.

**Contact number: Betty Dunne 01722 333588**

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### Welcome to New members

Anne and John Conlam, Mary and Barry Conway, Helen Harrison, Mary Nunn, Iris Throp, Jennifer Barrett and Beryl Toyne-Holmes.

Pat Crossland hosted another New Members Coffee Morning last month and again we found it a great help to hear any comments or queries from our new members. We were able to iron out any problems and we got the impression every one enjoyed the morning.

If you are new to Spire U3A and have not as yet had an invitation, do not think you have been forgotten, we will be holding another coffee morning as soon as we have a reasonable number. Meanwhile, a warm welcome to you all to Spire U3A.

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Aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at an Elingsh uinervtisy, it deosn't mttair in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoetnt tihng is taht frist and lsat ltteer is at the rghit pclae. The rset can be a toatl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae we do not raed ervey lteter by it slef but the wrod as a wlohe.

*You may be interested to see the letter below, which tells how your generous donations were used.*

The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund (Wiltshire Group)  
Saving gorillas in the mist

September 2003.

Dear Mrs. Crossland,

Thank you so much for making me so welcome at the Spire USA meeting on Monday 8th September, and thanks also to your members for their generous donations to the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, with my fee and the donations from the tin I was today able to bank a total of £75.77p into the funds account, every penny that your members gave goes into the fund as I never take any money for expenses.

Money goes a very long way in Africa: £10.00 would buy enough saplings to reforest one acre of desecrated parkland; £25.00 would pay for a starter kit of tools and seeds so that a whole family could live sustainable outside the parks boundaries; £45.00 would enable us to recruit, train, and equip one anti-poaching ranger. So you can see that the money your members have given will make quite a difference to the people and gorillas in central Africa. Please feel free to pass my contact details on to any other clubs etc. that may be interested in hearing about "Gorillas in the midst of conflict", thanks again.

Ian Perry

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An article by Joan Bakewell in the Guardian last month, asked where our society would be without the old. Having reached her 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday she went on to say, and I quote, "Who would have the time to sit on boards and parish councils, to champion causes, support campaigns, raise funds, encourage the young, comfort the old and even fill bags in Tesco" She pointed out the elderly were "available and willing"

**This article prompted a letter in the Guardian wandering if Joan Bakewell knew about**

the U3A and the splendid job it did, 'keeping active the little grey cells of thousands of us'

*My thanks go to Hugh Thomas for sending me this article. Not often do we find mention of the U3A in the press. I am sure you would agree with the above if you are an active member of the U3A.*

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*Articles for issue 32 please, by January 1<sup>st</sup> 2003*

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**NEW ..... e-mail: s.read.frps@ntlworld.com**