



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

SARUM U3A NEWSLETTER

Website: www.salisburyu3a.org.uk

January 2014

Number 221

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Dear Members

First of all, a very important point:

Our **February Monthly Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday 26 February** and **NOT** on our usual 3rd Wednesday.

The reason for this is that the long wished for blinds in St Francis Church are to be installed during the week of the normal timing of our Monthly Meeting.

A very worthwhile reason for changing our date.

Our AGM is coming up in March which brings with it elections of officers and members of the Committee. Our Meetings and the organisation of group and other activities could not happen without the work done by your Committee. Volunteers are VITAL in the running of Sarum U3A. So do please consider joining the group of people who make Sarum U3A the active and worthwhile organisation we all enjoy being part of.

May I end by wishing everyone an enjoyable 2014.

Best wishes

Jenny

NOTICES

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

1. We need a small number of people who are willing to become knowledgeable about the setting up of the audio system for our Monthly Meeting. VITAL to all of us to hear what our speakers are saying. An initial briefing will be held at 9.30am before our next meeting on Wednesday.

2. Frank Doran has for the past 2 years been the Editor of our Newsletter. He would now like to be able to pass on this worthwhile and smooth running activity and would be pleased to give initial handover help to someone offering to keep members informed by coordinating our newsletter.

COFFEE MORNINGS

Please not that coffee is served from 10.00am

Wednesday February 26th

The Hawk Conservancy

Kim Kirkbride of the Hawk Conservancy will speak to us today.

We will hear about the work , conservation and demonstrations at the Trust.

BUSINESS SECRETARY

A copy of the Sarum U3A constitution will be on the Notice Board at the January Coffee Morning for you to familiarise yourself with its contents.

If you feel that any alterations need to be made for raising at the AGM in March, would you please let me have your suggestions in writing before 5 February 2014.

Gordon Pardy

01722 504295

gkpardy@hotmail.co.uk

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

The membership renewal process has shown that several members have changed their e mail address and not told me earlier. When this happens you may no longer be receiving the Newsletter. The best way to tell me is by e mail since I can then copy and paste the address which makes the process error free. The worst way is to write it on a Renewal Form because it is not always easy to write or read it with total accuracy. We are fortunate that, out of over 414members, we have only 89 who do not use e mail. What a clever forward-looking lot we are!!

All changes in personal details of any sort should be sent to me in the first instance. I will then get the information to all who may require to know it.

Happy New Year and thanks for reading the boring stuff.

Tony Munday

U3A Sarum Membership Secretary

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GROUPS

Striders Thursday 6th February

A varied 5 mile walk starting at The Ginger Piggery, Boyton, BA12OSS, (Map ref ST952396) and returning via Sherrington. Turn off the A36 at the signpost for Corton and Boyton. There is one steep uphill stretch and only 2 stiles. Walking poles would be a good idea as although not unduly muddy there are some slippery patches on the chalk. Park in the Ginger Piggery car park and make your lunch choice before starting the walk. (Vegetarian soup and quiche, non vegetarian sandwiches and hot meals available). Please let Janet know by Tuesday 4th if you wish to join the walk and stay for lunch. Shopping opportunities available after lunch in the farm shop, craft barn and studio shops!

jedeath@hotmail.com, 01722 333064, 0776 6617 042.

Pat Cliffe has an up to date list of group members' tel and email numbers. Contact her on 01722 710308 for details.

Walkers Thursday January 30th

Stonehenge – Avenue and Cursus

This is a leisurely 4.5 mile walk to start the year and is adaptable as I can shorten it in bad weather and there are two opportunities to lengthen it for those wanting to walk further/faster. Please meet with as few cars as possible at EX 130 SU 138 434 which is street parking in Larkhill, by the bus stop at Strangeways sub-station. Heading north out of Salisbury along the A345, cross the A303 at Countess roundabout and turn left at the sign to Woodhenge. Drive through the car park there and continue on Fargo Road to Larkhill and Strangeways where there is a triangular patch on the left, suitable for parking. Afterwards we shall have lunch at the George Hotel, High Street, Amesbury where there is also a small aviation museum.

To book your place for the walk/lunch, please phone Irene and Alan on 01722 322289 on Tuesday, 28 January.

Rummikub

Rummikub will resume on Wednesday 5th February in Alderbury Village Hall.

The heating is being turned on before we get there, so it should be warmer.

Other games are available.

Everyone is welcome.

Maureen Pardy

Churches and Pubs, Second group

Norah Ash arranged our first visit in October to Amesbury Abbey Church, also known as St Mary

and St Melor. Believed to stand on the site of a Benedictine Abbey founded in the year 979, the present church displays evidence of many changes. However we learned that the Norman nave survives, if only in part. An extensive restoration programme took place in the mid 19 century undertaken by William Butterfield but the most recent addition came in 1983, when the organ from the redundant Church of St Edmunds in Salisbury was installed.

St Andrews Church in Great Durnford can only be described as a 'little gem'. Beautiful examples of Norman architecture can be seen in the tympanum over the north and south doorways, the chancel arch and the font. The wall paintings survive from the 13C and the carved pulpit is dated 1619. Well worth a visit if you are in the Woodford Valley.

November saw us at the church of St John the Baptist in Frome. Our guide was Parish Priest the Reverend Alsbury. His devotion to his church and its history was absorbing and the amount of information he shared with us was too much to take in, in one visit. This Church is most definitely on the revisit list.

On a dank and foggy morning in December, we met at St Peters Church in Britford. Verger Daphne Scammell gave us a warm welcome, which helped dispel the chill from outside. We gathered in the 9th century nave and were guided around the many changes that might be expected in a building of this age. Perhaps of more local interest was the tomb of Henry Stafford, 2nd Duke of Buckingham, beheaded in Blue Boar courtyard in 1483. There is no proof his body lies in the Church, although we do have the blue plaque outside Debenhams to authenticate his death. Norah later gave us details of the events which lead to his execution, it made fascinating reading.

Oh! I almost forgot, pub lunches were jolly good too! Kate Shepherd.

Fine Dining

The Fine Dining Group gave The Peat Spade at Longstock, near Stockbridge, a go on Friday 13th. If you like to be ignored for long periods, enjoy slow service, and are allergic to Christmas Decorations (apart from the odd bit of shrivelled holly) then this is the IN place! The food had some interesting choices, especially the Starters which I think everyone enjoyed, but the quality of the main course was very varied (marks out of 10 ranged from 2 to 9) and the majority of our discerning Group of 11 were disappointed, or very disappointed, by their selections. In fact the average score of 16/30 was about the lowest achieved to date with low scores for service, value for money and ambience (although to be fair this is a Village Pub with no pretensions). There were no set menus (due I think to the Christmas period and need to pre-order seasonal fare) and 2

choices from the A La Carte averaged around £22/23pp (we ran out of time for the Sweet Menu!). A problem for the establishment I think was coping with 11 meals all at once as most food was at best only warm.

A pity we had an unfortunate outing as I personally have previously had some great meals here but on this occasion it was disappointing. However the mushrooms with bread-crumbed poached egg on toast followed by braised beef is certain to please.

Bryan Griffiths

U3A Choir

The Choir, which meets every Monday afternoon at the Wilton Community Centre from 2 - 4 pm, is looking for more sopranos and tenors. If you are interested, and would like further information, please contact Tom Coombes, of Salisbury U3A, on 01722 322583.

Peter Tee.

Science and Technology Group (Joint)

The group meets on an informal basis on the last Monday of the month at the Harnham Memorial Hall, Watersmeet Lane, East Harham, at 10.00am. There is a small charge of £1 to cover the cost of hall hire. Just turn up!

Monday January 27th.

Farming Technology, by Roger Kent, former farm manager on the Longford Estate.

Café Scientifique.

A forum for debating science issues, meets at Salisbury Rugby Club. Again just a small donation requested.

Tuesday February 4th at 7.30pm

Why the World needs a renaissance of small farming, by Colin Tudge, an expert in this field.

CONTRIBUTIONS

As the next Coffee Morning is now the 26th of February, can all contributions for the February Newsletter reach me by midday on **Tuesday 18th February** at the latest.

Can I reiterate Chairman Jenny's encouragement for as many members as possible to consider standing for positions on the Committee. All places are for re-election on a periodic basis. It is your U3A so see how you can help it to run. I have been Editor for two years and so I think it is fair that someone else should now think of running the Newsletter, or any other position, to share out the task of running the organisation.

Frank Doran,
Editor.