



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

SARUM U3A NEWSLETTER

Website: www.salisburyu3a.org.uk

November 2013

Number 219

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Dear Members

I am so pleased to welcome, on your behalf, Judith Copeland, who will be leading up the organisation of Visits. She and her helpers have created a most attractive selection of visits which will begin in April and then through the summer and early autumn. The programme starts with a visit to Tyntesfield on Wednesday April 2nd which I am sure many members would enjoy. We will be inviting Spire members to join us.

A request: our membership secretary has kindly provided each of us with a name badge which is very easy to wear. It would be great if we could all remember to wear them when we get together for the Coffee Mornings.

Best wishes
Jenny

COFFEE MORNINGS

Please note that coffee is served from 10.00am

Wednesday 20th November 2013

Roger Watson, curator of the FoxTalbot Museum Lacock. 'Capturing the Light' a talk on early photography.

SALE OF ART

The two Monday Art Groups will have paintings on sale at the November Coffee Morning.

As you know we have some talented artists among us. Paintings will be no more than £25 and some considerably less. A painting would make a really individual Christmas present for yourself or someone else. Cheques accepted.

Linda Farrow

Wednesday 18th December 2013

Robert Wright, speaking to us on the interesting topic of Canal boat Art.

NEW YEAR PARTY

Coffee Morning 15th January

Tickets for the New Year Party will be on sale at the November Coffee Morning. Alternatively, on receipt of a cheque for £2, made payable SARUM U3A, and a stamped self addressed envelope, I will post tickets out to you.

My address is : 13 Webbs Way, Burbage, Marlborough, SN8 3TF

Viv Johnson

From Maureen Pardy:

As the person who organises the rota for people to help with the coffee at our monthly meetings, I am looking for volunteers. Each month four people assist in the coffee making, I provide the ingredients. So, could you please choose a month in 2014 when you are available to help and talk to me about it. Don't just drink the coffee - help to make it.

Maureen Pardy
01722 504295

BUSINESS SECRETARY

Be sure not to miss the following gems on the notice board at the November Coffee Morning:

1. Information on the Sarum U3A visit to Tyntesfield and Herschel Museum on 2 April 2014.
2. In the Loop – a letter from the National Chairman, Barbara Lewis.
3. A newsletter from Heather Westrup, our national subject adviser for languages.
4. A newsletter from Jean Bishop, our national subject adviser for humour.

5. A list of presentations of over 80 operas which Paul Foss of Bristol U3A has kindly offered to make available to U3A's. Each presentation is of a single opera or the operatic works of the composer, or covers opera history, and all are designed to fit into a 90 minute session. Most also have a handout. If you are interested please email Paul directly at paul-foss123@btinternet.com.

6. On this Day in History 20 November.

7. Minutes of Sarum U3A November committee meeting.

8. A review of last month's speaker's presentation The Magic of Bird Migration.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Our membership is now over 400 and the upper limit will be determined by the ability of St Francis' church to house us comfortably at Coffee Mornings. We will have to limit guests who you wish to invite with a view to membership. Please let me know, in advance, if you intend to invite anybody on a particular day. For safety reasons we need to know the names of all the people attending. Members should always ensure that they are registered on arrival. If you wear your membership badge at all times (preferably not hidden beneath clothes!) you will help the ladies who look after the register.

Attached to this Newsletter are renewal membership forms for next year. Subscription is due by January 10th. Form A is for those members who have email AND a Standing Order in place. Form B is for all the rest who need to give me a cheque in payment.

Tony Munday

1 Downs View Close, Haxton, Salisbury
SP4 9PS

Tel 01980 671069

ajmunday@btinternet.com

SARUM U3A VISITS

Our brand new visits programme for 2014 kicks off with a trip to Tyntesfield in north Somerset, and the Herschel Museum in Bath. Full details and a booking form accompany this Newsletter. Five further exciting visits in 2014 are in planning and will be announced shortly.

Judith Copeland

GROUPS

Striders

The Striders walked from Fritham car park for their November walk, we were fortunate to choose a day when it did not rain or blow a gale, we had a break at Hasely Hill and sat looking over the forest, lovely, then down to Holly Hatch, then up to Fritham plain and back to the car park, we couldn't get into the Royal Oak as it was crowded, so we went to the Landford Poacher which in contrast was empty but we were made a fuss of, the landlord lit the fire in the dining room, plus meal was very good.

Striders December 5th meet at the Bell Inn, Wyllye, to leave at 10 o'clock, this is going to be a walk with a difference, we are not going to walk too far, but we are going to call in to a couple of church's on route, plus other places of interest, we will be walking for about 1 hour 15 minutes.

Anna Taylor is leading this walk, please phone her on 01722 744553, a couple of days before if you would like to walk and stay for a meal.

Any Problems please phone either Anna or Pat 01722710308

Walkers

Thursday November 28th

A scenic walk of about 4 miles around Hoop Side and Punch Bowl. Please meet for a 10 am start at the entrance to Harewarren 2 miles south of Wilton at the top of Bulbridge Hill GD ref. SU01287 OS Explorer 130. Parking in layby or adjacent track.

We will return to Wilton for lunch at the Greyhound Pub. If you would like to join us and have lunch please contact Marilyn Howard on 01722743486 by Tues 26th.

Strollers

Thursday November 21st

Please meet at the Salisbury end of Britford Lane at 10.30am for a walk to and around Britford. There is free parking in Britford Lane for 2 hours, also a bus stop by the corner in Newbridge Road. We hope to have lunch afterwards at the Yew Tree, Odstock.

Please ring Vivien Spencer on 01725 512133 before Wednesday 20th. if you will be joining us.

Fine Dining

This first item was held over from last month. Editor.

The "Fine Diners" have awakened from their summer hibernation, and with an urgent requirement to replace all those lost calories, ventured forth to Winchester on Friday 13th. Our target - The Chesil Rectory, a fine half-timbered medieval house dating back to 1450 when the population were obviously much shorter than today, judging by the ducking and weaving one had to do to get in and move around. Their was a reasonable a la carte menu but the majority went for the set menu (2 courses £15.95; 3 courses £19.95). The Pork Confit was a favourite, and excellent it was too. Also available were Fish Cake and Roasted Squash (vegetarian option), so only a relatively limited choice. We enjoyed the main dishes but the starters were rather indifferent, apart from the Courgette Soup. The sweet course did meet with approval with the more underfed members who mainly chose a Chocolate and Almond Brownie with Ganache.

In conclusion, a very pleasant and historically interesting venue, although a bit on the dark side (it was medieval!), with excellent service and attention to detail. The food was of mixed quality so menu choice was important, but overall a fine start to our new dining season.

Bryan Griffiths.

And here is Bryan's next helping.

Fine Dining in Dorchester

The Sienna restaurant features in the Telegraph top 500 UK restaurants plus it has a Michelin Star and 3 AA Rosettes - impressive! However first impressions before our visit were rather negative in that we had to pre-order a week ahead (which I find irritating as who knows how one will feel on the day) and there were only 3 choices for each course anyway! They also required a huge deposit. Second impressions on arrival were also negative - it looked dowdy and unpretentious from the outside and a bit like a cafe inside (plastic and Formica furnishing style). It is a very small restaurant as besides the 8 of us it only had room for another 6 people - so booking is essential. Now for the positives - the food in all 3 courses was excellent living up to its awards and reputation, service slightly slow (fine for relaxed dining) and uneven but attentive. Costs were £25.50 for the 2-course and £28.50 for the 3-course menu which was satisfactory VFM. It is difficult to give an overall rating and recommendation as the food was excellent (if limited in choice to Pork, Cod and a Vegetarian option) but the ambience was disappointing.

Bryan Griffiths

Music Appreciation

"A very pleasant way to spend a Monday morning" one of the group remarked. That's not surprising if you love music and have the opportunity to listen to a varied programme every month with fellow U3A members.

The group was started by John Winders in the winter of 1994/5 at the very beginning of Sarum U3A and he ran it for the first five years. Naturally the dozen or so members have their likes and dislikes, and we hope to cater accordingly. The first meeting in October is a "members' choice" morning, which gives us a guide to musical preferences. Other meetings, some of them presented by individual members, may concentrate on a particular composer or theme, ie "the concerto", or a certain period, or indeed it could be a random selection.. we do hope to please everyone!

All in all it is a very sociable morning with coffee, music, and good company. In fact it is "a very pleasant way to spend a Monday morning".

Peter Tee.

Science and Technology

This meets informally on the last Monday of the month at Harnham Memorial Hall, Watersmeet Lane, at 10.00am. There is a small charge of £1 to cover hall hire, etc.

Just turn up!

Monday November 25th

The Design and Construction of Lifeboats.

With a speaker from the RNLI.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions for the December Newsletter should reach me no later than midday on **Tuesday December 10th**.

Will group leaders please note that other members are interested in the activities of their groups, so how about submitting an item about your group, for everyone's interest and enjoyment?

Frank Doran

Editor

01722 710124

frank.doran7@gmail.com

TYNTESFIELD HOUSE AND HERSCHEL MUSEUM, BATH

After lunch we travel to Bath to the Herschel Museum which is a delightful and unique example of a fully restored modest Georgian town-house once home to the 18thC astronomer and musician William Herschel and his sister Caroline. Features include Herschel's workshop, his music room and a charming 18thC formal garden where, with a telescope of his own construction, Herschel discovered the planet Uranus in 1781. In the Star Vault an award winning film, narrated by the late Sir Patrick Moore, former Museum Patron, takes you on a voyage of discovery through the universe and brings the history of the house to life.

To include coach travel, driver gratuity and entry fee. Remember to bring your NT card!

No cash. Please write visit destination on back of cheque.

Return London Road Park & Ride 6.00 pm approx

Name(s):

email:

Telephone:

Mobile:

Please write visit destination on back of cheque.

Tear off booking form and send with cheque to:

Judith Copeland, Field End, Hackthorn Corner, Durrington SP4 8AD

Enquiries: Phone Judith on 01980 655665 or Maureen Pardy on 01722 504295