

u3a

Sarum

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026 No 277



Learn



Laugh



Live

with Sarum u3a

Free Prostate Cancer screening

The Lions Club of Salisbury and District in conjunction with The Graham Fulford Charitable Trust has organised a FREE testing day in Salisbury.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men (after skin cancer) and can often be treated successfully.

The free prostate cancer blood test will be held at St Francis Church, Beatrice Road, on Wednesday 20th June, between 11am and 3pm. It is open to all men between the ages of 40 and 85.

Registration and booking are required online at sdhc.mypsatests.org.uk. The test is a simple blood sample taken by professionals, with results usually available online within a few days.

The April Talk

Wednesday 15th April 2026

Roger Browne
The American Song Book

Roger returns to Sarum u3a after his successful presentation in September 2024 on The History of Modern Jazz. Roger presents several talks on various aspects of American popular music from the early part of the twentieth century. In this presentation, he focuses on the history, roots, and influences of "The Great American Songbook", the lives and



fascinating back stories of the composers, lyricists, orchestrators and publishers who created this iconic genre during the first half of the Twentieth Century.

Roger discusses the influence of Jewish Immigrants from Central and Eastern Europe to New York, who went on to form what became known as Tin Pan Alley.

The talk covers the roots such as blues, music hall, ragtime, operetta, variety shows, minstrel music, jazz, classical music. Roger will demonstrate some of technical details of the cross influences between several musical genres. Expect hilarious anecdotes about the characters that created and performed these songs, incredible little-known facts, and superb piano playing.



Dates for your diary

May 20th - Groups Display and Group Leaders Lunch

June 17th - Jim Reid – Chequered History – the naming of the streets in Salisbury

July 15th - John Craig - Going to Blazes – retired Chief Fire Officer



Monthly Meetings

All the monthly meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at St Francis Church, Castle Road. The Church is open from 9:30 where coffee and biscuits will be served from 10:00, before the guest speaker's talk begins at 10:30. Parking is available at the rear of the church or in a car park on the opposite side of the main road from the church.

Thank you to all those members who volunteer to serve refreshments at our monthly meetings.

If you can help with teas & coffees occasionally, please get in touch with Helen Burgess on 01980 629609 or 07989 650085.

Thanks Helen



Recommendations

Have you been to a fantastic restaurant or a nice cosy pub and come away really satisfied with the food and service? Or enjoyed a visit to a museum, a show or an exhibition, or even someone that has done work for you, then please share your experiences with the rest of our members via this newsletter.



Churches & pubs 1



All Saints Church, Middle Woodford

14 members attended the March 2026 visit to All Saints Church, Middle Woodford. This visit was preceded by meeting for coffee at the Riverside Restaurant, Wilton Garden Centre and succeeded by a lunch at The Wheatsheaf, Lower Woodford which was attended by 10 members.

We had an excellent and well-informed guide in Churchwarden, Giles Fletcher. The church dates from the 12th Century, although very little of the original church remains. The church was rebuilt in the thirteenth century and the tower probably added in the fifteenth. All Saints was substantially restored in 1845 by T.H. Wyatt with the work being kept true to the original architecture.

One enters the church through the south door, through a Norman arch with a chevron decoration. In the stones over the door can be seen two Mass Dials.

All Saints has had bells (which are all listed) since the 16th Century, when there were three. A fourth was added in 1613 and in 1899 the original 4 were recast and two more added by T Blackbourn, who was the last of the Salisbury bell founders. It is believed that the bells are the last full ring of Blackbourn's bells in the country.



3-4 Mile walkers

Thursday 7th May

We will be walking a circular route of approximately 3.5 miles from Canada Common near Wellow, nearest post code SO51 6DF.

Take the 3rd exit (Canada Rd) off the A36 Wellow roundabout and park at the car park after a sharp right-hand bend, at the end of the road, **not** The Rockingham Arms car park. Meet at 9.45 for a 10.00 start. It may be quite wet and muddy after wet weather, so stout footwear is advisable. Lunch will be at The Rockingham Arms.

Please let Brenda or Mike know (07857 679260, e mail mjtalbot@hotmail.co.uk), by Monday 4th May, if you will be joining us for the walk and/or eating, Remember to bring details of your emergency contact details.

April report



3-4-mile walkers had a wonderful April walk on Martin Down. The sun shone, there were wonderful 360-degree views to the horizon, skylarks sang their hearts out the whole way and the jewel in the crown, the rangers introduced us to the rare pasque flower.





Sounds Fishy to Me

Only one of these answers to each question is correct. But which one!!

1) In 2007, Kevin Shelley broke 46 what, with his head in a minute?

Toilet seats tea pots internal doors

2) What did some Victorians believe was a side-effect of riding on a train?

Double vision Madness Bottom sores

**** *Answers are at the end of this Newsletter* ****



Call my Bluff

Answer from last month – A quoin is a device used to lock printing type in a metal frame in letter press printing.

Which of these three is the true definition

Jaro - (Taken from Call my Bluff in 1973)

In Northern Thailand around Chiang Mai there lives a barking bird similar to the magpie called a jaro.

There is a Japanese wooden block game called Jaro. The blocks are decorated with fish and plants and take a lot of skill to play.

He had a right Jaro from his wife for not tidying up after himself, is a phrase you hear a lot in New Zealand. Jaro means a “telling off”.

Answer in next month’s Newsletter



The Premier Tasters Wine Appreciation group

Our recent meeting was on Thursday 2nd April with 11 members present sampling 5 bottles of wine. The theme for the night was “A few of my Southern Hemisphere Favourite flavours”

First the whites. 1) Whale Caller Sauvignon Blanc/Colombard from S.Africa, costing £6.00 from Waitrose with an average tasting score of 7.27. Wine 2) Tiki Ridge Chardonnay from New Zealand costing £10 from Waitrose and had an average tasting score of 7.54. Wine 3) Queen Bee Voignier from S. Africa - £10.99 from Laithwaites with an average tasting score of 7.86.

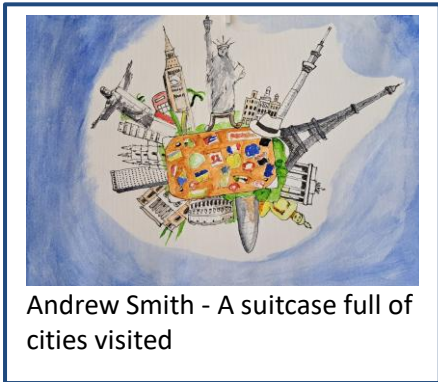
Then onto the reds. 4) Black stamp Durif/Shiraz from Australian costing £8.99 from Laithwaites. Tasting score was 8.54. 5) Norton Coleccion Malbec from Argentina costing £8.50 from Waitrose, with an average tasting score of 8.09.

Another great evening tasting great wines with great company.

Tony Fortes

Painting For Pleasure

The Monday Morning Painting for Pleasure art group has had another interesting, and at times challenging, term of weekly topics. Topics included New Year Resolutions, A Winter Scene, Keeping Warm, A Valentine Card In the style of Modigliani and the usual Animal Portrait, Spring Flowers and A Country House. As usual it's the variety and invention of people's work that adds so much to the enjoyment of our sessions. We hope you can get as much pleasure from seeing this small selection of our efforts, one from each member, as we all have had throughout the term. David & Linda Whetton.



Andrew Smith - A suitcase full of cities visited



Elaine Evernden – Oxford's Dreaming Spires



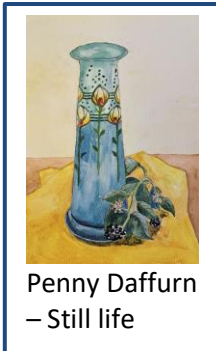
Heather Sheeley – A winter scene



Ann Cross – Spring flowers 2



David Whetton – A Valentines card, in the style of Modigliani



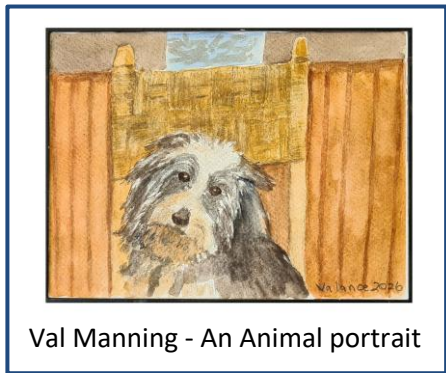
Penny Daffurn – Still life



Linda Whetton – An animal portrait



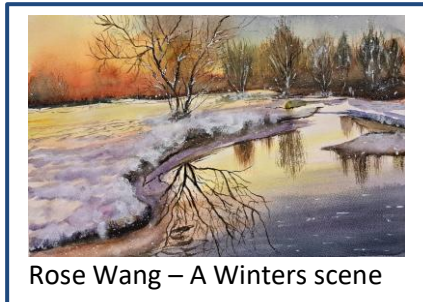
Emma Cimachowska – An animal portrait 2



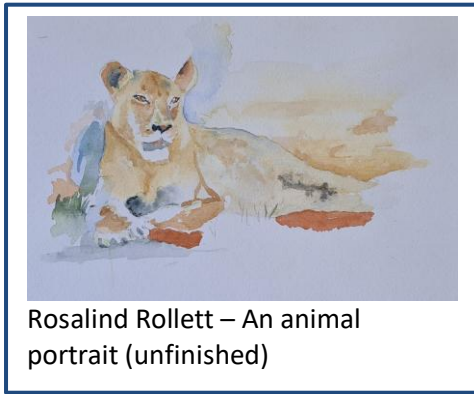
Val Manning - An Animal portrait



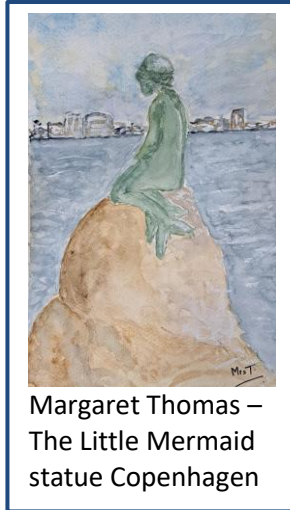
James Thompsom – Keeping warm



Rose Wang – A Winters scene



Rosalind Rollett – An animal portrait (unfinished)



Margaret Thomas – The Little Mermaid statue Copenhagen



Peter Smith – A walk on the sand (Sandling)



Jackie Lemiere – Still life



Membership Secretary's Note

We welcome the following new members who have joined in the last month: Michael Gammage and Christine Kimber, Michael Young, David and Sue Lawford.

This month we shall be holding one of our twice-yearly meetings for New Members, after the talk on the 15th. It will be in the Chapter Room of St Francis's Church. If you joined during the last 6 months you should already have received an invitation by email, but if you missed the last one in October, please feel free to come along. It's a good chance to meet other new members and some of the Committee, hear a bit more about the u3a movement as a whole and to make sure you're up to speed on joining groups, with annual exhibition coming up in May. It usually lasts 30 to 40 minutes, so we should be done by 12.15pm. I look forward to seeing there. In the meantime, you can contact me as always about any membership matters via the Contact page on the Sarum u3a website or by phone to 07887 350032.



Grand Cru Wine Appreciation Group

At our last meeting we were set the challenge of identifying which country the wine made from a particular grape came from. We tasted three white wines made from viognier grapes and three red wines made from malbec grapes. To make things a little easier we were told the wines came from either France, Australia or Argentina. The question we were asked was "Can you tell the country of origin? Some of the group, were very good at answering this question and got four out of six answers correct. Several of us clearly need more practice at tasting and managed only one out of six.

The wines tasted were: Flores Blancas Santa Julia from Argentina, Secret de Famille from France and Yalumba Organic Viognier from Australia, Touraine Malbec, Domaine Guenault from France, On Point Malbec from Australia and Trivento Golden Reserve Malbec from Argentina.

Jenny Brown



4 - 5 miles walk

The walk this month will be on Thursday 23rd April, starting in Hamptworth and including Langley Wood National Nature Reserve. We'll meet at 09:45 for a 10am start, in the car parking space opposite the Cuckoo Inn. SatNav co-ords 50.97543 -1.65377 Grid reference: SU 24386 19613 what3words: outfit.mills.cardinal You can drive there via the A36 or via Downton. Please park at the east end of the parking space, near the red telephone kiosk and post-box.

The route starts on a quiet road, and soon we will walk on a track through woods and rhododendrons. After the half-way point, we will enter Langley Wood, a Site of Special Scientific Interest with a variety of trees, birds, and lichens. Celandines were flowering at the end of March and bluebells will follow in April. After walking through the Wood, we will return via farm tracks, crossing a bridge over the River Blackwater. The route is mainly good underfoot, however parts are likely to be muddy, and walking boots are required. The walk is 5 miles, and there are some gentle inclines and one low stile.

Lunch will be at the Lamb Inn, Nomansland . <https://www.thelambnomansland.co.uk/>
Please let me know if you are coming on the walk on 23rd April, and your menu choice if you are staying for lunch at the Lamb Inn.

Email alan.ruddell@btinternet.com or text 07742 878473

For those interested, there will be another walk this month on Thursday 7th May – a bus trip to the seaside for a short walk from Boscombe to Bournemouth. We'll meet at Stand N on Blue Boar Row at 09:55 and catch the X3 bus at 10:10, getting off at Boscombe Chine Gardens at 11:22. (you could catch the same X3 bus at the Railway Station at 10:00 if more convenient).

We will walk down the Chine to Boscombe Pier, then along Undercliff Drive to Bournemouth Pier. Then up and along West Cliff Promenade to Durley Chine, returning along the Undercliff Promenade to Bournemouth Pier. The total distance is less than 3.5 miles. It's quite steep getting up West Cliff Promenade, and steep down to the Undercliff, but you don't have to do that part. That will be the end of the organised walk, lunch and the bus return time are up to you! And there are lots of possibilities.

For example, there is Harry Ramsdens (possibly the World's largest fish & chip restaurant), alternatively there are very nice small coffee shops in Waterstones or Café Nero. We could get on the X3 bus at Westover Road at 14:20 arriving Salisbury New Canal at 15:46 or Salisbury Railway Station at 15:51 (the bus is every 30 minutes at 20 and 50 minutes past the hour)

Please let me know if you'd like to come on the seaside walk on 7th May, and where you would catch the bus. email alan.ruddell@btinternet.com or text 07742 878473

March Report



Our March walk took us from Great Wishford into Grovely Wood on a lovely sunny morning. The tracks had dried out and were a pleasure to walk on! We all felt spring had arrived as we heard sky larks singing their hearts out and listened to a chorus of other bird song. Primroses were in full bloom and a few early bluebells were also in flower. A good lunch was enjoyed at The Greyhound, Wilton.





Important information

If you change your address, phone number or email address, please let the Membership Secretary know immediately. (sarumu3amembers@gmail.com) In the case of an email change please also let Tony Fortes know (Newsletter Editor – tony53shins@gmail.com). If I have an old email address, I cannot send you the latest newsletter!



Calling Group Leaders

Could group leaders please send me, for inclusion into the newsletter, a couple of sentences about what their group has been doing during the month. I think it would be a good idea to let other members know what is going on in the various groups that we have in the Sarum branch.

Tony Fortes - Newsletter Editor – tony53shins@gmail.com



Proposed new Group

Vinyl Appreciation

The group will meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 6.45 to 9pm. Open to all musical genres during the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. Each evening several 7in or 12in vinyl record will be played, and then discuss what we liked or disliked about the record choices, the bands and then reminisce any concerts attended. Each member will be invited to host an evening and would be preferable to have a record player/turtable, but not imperative as they could host in another members' home. The group size would be 10.

If you would be interested in joining this group or would like more information, then please contact Mike Fiddy on 07821568149



Calling for action photos from your groups

Gordon Parly is requesting group leaders to email him any action photographs from their groups for the Sarum u3a website (please make sure that all people in the photograph have given their permission).



Interesting Facts

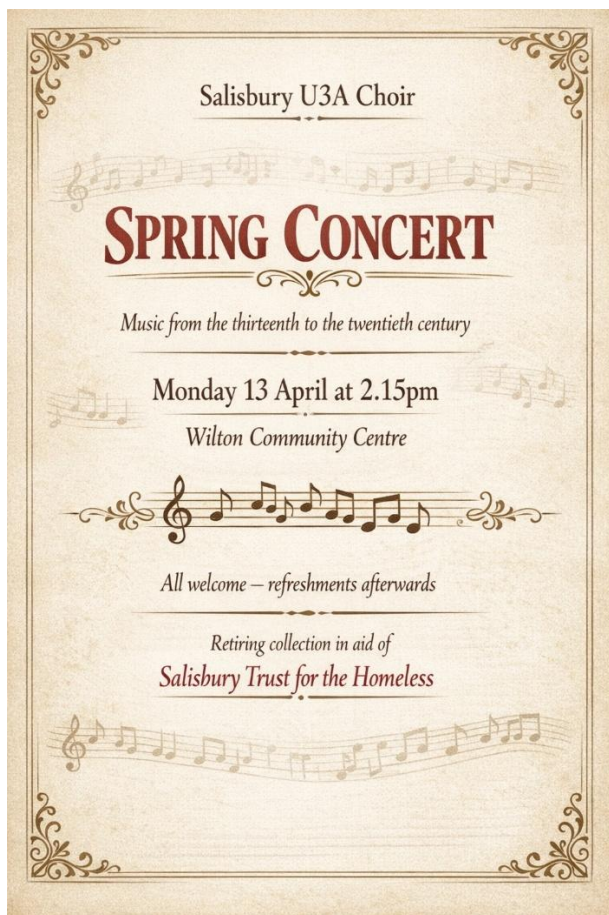
A mother Panda is 800 times larger than her newborn.

The word "kleptomania" was coined in the 1860's because words like "robbery" "theft" and "larceny" were considered inappropriate for the upper classes.

The Mayor of Bogata hired 420 mime artists to shame traffic violators into driving better.

Peter Carl Faberge made 50 exquisite Faberge eggs and one Faberge potato.

*** Try to incorporate at least one of the facts into conversation ****



Croquet

The croquet season is about to start again. We play every Wednesday afternoon between 1:30pm and 3:30pm at the Salisbury & South Wilts Sports Club on Wilton Road, immediately next to the hockey pitches. The season will begin on Wednesday 6th of May and continue until the last Wednesday in September. Lots of fresh air and, hopefully, sunshine!

There is an initial fee of £15.00 fee for membership to the Sports Club and a weekly fee of £1.00 thereafter.

Would all those who would like to take part please e-mail us to let us know (then we will also have your contact details). Our details are: - Tony Gill

– tonyhomeqs@ymail.com (01722325462; mobile 07833901228)

Zena Gill

– zenashojaei@yahoo.co.uk (01722325462; mobile 07732 129013)



Table tennis group

We are looking for new members for our table tennis group which runs Monday afternoon at 2pm to 4:30pm in St Georges Hall, Lower Road, Harnham. We are part of Salisbury & District U3A but open to all U3A members. The first session is free, so anyone can come and try to see if they like it.

If anyone is interested, please contact Nick Morrison morrisonn@gmail.com 07957 686505.

Also, the Table Tennis Training Group will be meeting on Tuesday Lunchtimes at the Harnham Parish Hall 1215-1415. Contact me the Coach, Paul Warran on 07918 125356.



The new Sarum u3a Website

We have a new website! It complements the Newsletter and is packed with everything you need to know about what's happening in Sarum u3a.

There's a Welcome page explaining who we are, what we do, what it costs, where we meet and how to join us. (But you know that already, being members.) There are pages on Groups, Monthly Meetings, Visits, Members of the Committee, and some useful Links. It is, of course, your website, so I'd be delighted to receive images or text to supplement what's already on there.

So, please take a look. Type into your search engine Sarum u3a.

Gordon Parry gkparry@hotmail.co.uk





News from the Creative Writing Group.

This was a new group which began in October last year. The group meets once a month for a couple of hours. We begin each session by reading out our pieces which were set as a homework task and then we set about completing one or two writing exercises for fun. Once each task is completed, we again share our work with one another to gain insight and ideas to improve or develop it. We have been exploring writing through looking at ourselves and what we know. We began by writing an introductory piece about ourselves and why we wanted to join this group. Moving on we worked on writing a letter to our sixteen year old self, offering thoughts and insight gained through our life experiences. Next, we looked at emotions and how to convey them, how to describe them without actually naming them. I have been using *The Bloomsbury Introduction to Creative Writing* by Tara Mokhtari as a source book for ideas and information.

We also touched briefly on poetry and looked at haiku poems. A haiku is a traditional Japanese three-line poem with a 5-7-5 syllable structure, often focusing on nature and specific moments in time. Characterized by brevity and simplicity, it frequently uses a "cutting word" for contrast and a seasonal reference. It captures fleeting, sensory moments.

Here are a few examples written by group members back in that seemingly long and endless winter and at the start of a much welcome early spring.

Incessant, dense rain
Seeping dark in sodden ground
So gloomy - like me!

Hot embers burning
Logs crackling and decaying
Heat from death, so strange

A task is given
The page is blank and empty
No inspiration!

Wind blows, leaves flutter
Falling to the ground below
A carpet to behold.

Will spring ever come
And chase away the darkness
Morning and evening?

Prettily he sings,
His song filling the air
My robin redbreast

Swooping in they sit
On branches of the ash tree,
One for sorrow, two for.....

Warm spring winds
Heat cold winter soil
Growing crops where farmers toil.

I hope these brought some vivid pictures to your mind and left you pondering and thinking for just a moment or two. Have a go at writing some yourself, they get easier the more you try.

Elaine Evernden, Creative Writing Group Leader



NOTICE

The annual Sarum u3a Groups Exhibition will be held on Wednesday 20th May from 10.00am at St Francis Church. Group displays and talks by some of our group leaders will show you and inform you about what they get up to and help you in choosing your interest groups for next year. Do come along to find out more. Coffee will be served from 10.00am as usual.



Answers to this months' Sounds Fishy to Me

1. Toilet seats
2. Madness



Deadline for the May issue will be Tuesday 12th May. I will welcome any reports from our Groups illustrating what they are doing. Also, any pictures on ongoing activities will be welcome. But could senders ensure that all people appearing in pictures are agreeable for their image to appear in the Newsletter.

Tony Fortes - Sarum u3a Newsletter Editor 07890672105 tony53shins@gmail.com