

u3a

Sarum

NEWSLETTER

August 2026 No 281



Learn



Laugh



Live

with Sarum u3a

New Group

Singles, Sunday suppers

Our first supper, held on 12th July was a very convivial and delicious success. We talked about holding suppers on a monthly basis and the most popular date was the third Sunday of the month. As it so happens on the 3rd Sunday of August I will be at Skegness Butlins with my grandchildren so the next supper will be on the fourth Sunday, 23rd August as above. If you would like to join us at 10 Balmoral road SP1 3PU at 6.30 we would be delighted to meet you.

Please send me an email ange.brown51@gmail.com or phone 07827623176. It would be a great help if you could let me know what you will be bringing.

Looking forward to seeing you

Best wishes Angela Brown

Membership Secretary's Note

We welcome the following new members who have joined in the last month: Alison Pratt, Jacques Desfontaines and Margaret Duval.

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.

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!



Wednesday 19th August 2026
Bob Rogers
The Eagle has landed



This talk features the country's leading Bird of Prey centre and gives an insight into the lives of those who work with some of nature's most charismatic creatures, from eagles to falcons, owls to vultures. See a peregrine falcon stooping at over 200m.p.h. Hear about conservation in action. Learn why vultures are so important and now alas critically endangered



Dates for your diary

September 16th – Richard Rickett – The Honey Isles

Our ever popular “Bee Speaker” returns to tell us more about the charity he supports by selling Honey.

He is editor of BeeCraft, the national beekeeping magazine (established in 1919, and the World's oldest beekeeping journal) and author of Beekeeping for Gardeners (Bloomsbury, 2023). He keeps around 30 hives of his own bees as well as a few more for some high-profile locations and individuals. He is beekeeper at Westonbirt, the National Arboretum, where he also teaches beekeeping courses.

October 21st - Marcus Ward – Fungi in the New Forest

November 18th - Barry Edwards – Brilliant Brunel



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

Proposed New Group

Does anyone out there brew their own beer in any form? It could be from the grain, from a can or extract. Would you be interested in forming a group where you bring a sample of your own beer for everyone in the group to taste and discuss? We would need a minimum of 6 people for a group to be viable with a meeting once a month. The only other cost apart from bringing your own beer would be to bring a snack to clear the palate after each tasting.

Please let me know via email if you are interested, including your contact details, and I will let you know whether the group is able to proceed or not. Please bear in mind that you may need to use a bus or get a lift home!

Alan Fortes alan.fortes@btinternet.com

Sounds Fishy to Me

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

In Dummerstorf, Germany, they have invented a toilet for Cattle. What is it called?

1. Cattle Crapper
2. Moo Loo
3. Cow Pat

In 1769, eccentric trader Timothy Dexter exported what to the Caribbean?

1. Stray cats
2. Bananas
3. Iron ore

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

The Premier Tasters Wine Appreciation group

Our recent meeting was on Thursday 6th August with 9 members present sampling 5 bottles of wine. The theme for the night was "World Cup Semi Final" and was hosted by Mike and Debbie Fiddy.

The first wine was a Kingscote Charmat Brut sparkling white wine from England – 11% costing £10.48 from Tesco. This had an average tasting score of 7.27. We then moved on to Vinas Del Rey Albarino from Spain – 12% - £8.38. This had an average score of 7.00.

We then tasted Barefoot White Zinfandel from the USA – 8% - £4.72, and this had an average tasting score of 7.77.

Onto the reds. Tesco Finest Argentinian Malbec – 12.5% - £6.64. tasting score of 7.33. Our final red was Calvert Prestige Cotes du Rhone Villages from France – 14.5% - £6.29, and this had an average tasting score of 6.66 (there were 2 scores of a 3 and a 4 out of 10!!!).

Another great and enjoyable evening.
Tony Fortes

If you would like to join this group, I have 2 vacancies. We meet on the 1st Thursday evening at 7.30. We are not experts in wine, we just love drinking it! See the attached vacancy programme for more details.



Returning Speaker

Members will be pleased to hear that John Craig, who entertained us so well last month, has been rebooked. John will give us a 'second helping' in February 2028 – talking about Hook Ladder Hilarity, Chimney Fire Chuckles, The Fire Dogs and Nautical Nonsenses.

For those who missed it, John's talk was about "Going to Blazes" as John was in the Fire Service for 37 years leaving as the Chief Fire Officer for Wiltshire. His talk was enthralling, both funny and informative.



Calling Group Leaders

Could group leaders please send me, for inclusion into the newsletter, a couple of sentences about what your 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



Call my Bluff

Answer from last month – **Hirquiticke** is an obsolete, early 17th-century term that means a horny teenager or a sexually awakened youth.

Which of these three is the true definition

Vellichor

It is the strange, wistful feeling you get inside a used bookshop.

The sudden realization that every random stranger is living a life as vivid and complex as your own.

It is a great fuss or disturbance about something very insignificant

Answer in next month's Newsletter



4 - 5 miles walk

On a sunny and warm July morning, 13 of us met at the Hook and Glove for a circular walk of 4.5 miles. This walk had been postponed from the June walk, when it was too hot. July's temperature was cooler. The way took us through Farley and into the outskirts of Bently wood. Most of the paths were shaded by trees which cast dappled sunshine onto the forest floor. We noted many butterflies and insects, including an unidentified caterpillar which was 'rescued' from boots and placed in the foliage - no doubt to become a tasty snack for something! 7 people then enjoyed a good lunch at the pub.

There is no walk in August. The 1st walk of the 'new term' is on Thursday 17th September.
Alison





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: A Botanical Study, A Wall Painting that shows an aspect of your life today, A Piece of Jewellery, Who Lives Under the Sea, and Contemplation amongst many others. 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 Botanical Study



Ann Cross – Summer Solstice at Glastonbury



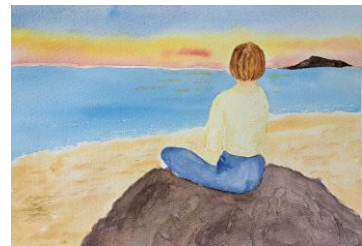
David Whetton – A Piece of Jewellery



Ela Chimachowska – A Blasted Oak



Heather Sheeley – Summer Solstice at Stonehenge



Jackie Lemier - Contemplation



Elaine Evernden – A Lake District Scene (Langdale)



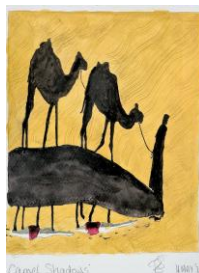
Linda Farrow – A Portrait of a Lynx



Penny Daffurn - Wildlife



James Thompson – A Botanical Study



Peter Smith – Shadows (from above)



Margaret Thomas – Who Lives Under the Sea



Rosalind Rollett –
A Study in Yellow



Rose Wang – A
Botanical Study



Val Manning – A
Botanical Study



Val Manning –
A Dog Portrait



Tuesday Walkers



Here's a photo of the Tuesday Walkers on a "Beat the Heat" venture from Longhedge. Normally we walk 5-6 miles, but with the intense heat we decided to start earlier (9.30) and shorten the walk by a mile, 4 miles rather than 5. We think we succeeded! Nobody suffered from dehydration or sunburn and nobody was exhausted. There was even

talk of an earlier start for our 5.6 miles August walk at Broad Chalke, including a suggestion of 9 o'clock and one of 6 o'clock!

Peter



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.



3-4 Mile walkers

Our walk on 3 September will be approximately 3.5 miles around the village of Winterslow, parking at the recreation ground. Postcode SP5 1QS. Our undulating, varied route (some ups, but also downs!) will be mainly on footpaths. No stiles. Lunch: to be advised

Please let Brenda or Mike know if you will be walking and/or lunching by Weds 26th August email mjtalbot@hotmail.co.uk or phone 07857 679260

Please remember to bring your u3a membership badge (with details completed on the reverse).



From your Groups Organiser

Everyone who applied for groups for the new year ahead starting in September should have received their return slip by now either by email (majority of replies) or in the post.

I am pleased to write that almost everyone got their first choice of group, especially important for those who just applied for one or two groups. There was competition for some places in some of the groups and unfortunately this did mean that some members were placed on a waiting list. This is why the committee always invites members to come forward and run new or additional existing groups. With more spaces available in more groups, it will mean less people being disappointed when they find that their name is on a waiting list.

Groups with places are still available on the attached Programme Vacancies List. As a Sarum u3a member these groups are available to you over and above any you have already chosen. Please apply directly to the Group Leader (not me) if you wish to join. The Vacancies List is also available to view on the Sarum u3a website.

Bev Johnston, Sarum u3a Groups Organiser email b.johnston2015@outlook.com



Boy's Day Out



July's Boys Days Out visit was to the SS Great Britain in Bristol Dockyards. The ship was designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel, and from 1845 to 1853 was the largest passenger ship in the world. As well as being able to visit the ship, with its engine room, restored cabins and kitchen and elegant first-class dining room, there is a wealth of information at the on-site museums about Brunel and his many amazing feats of design and engineering. The whole Dockyards area is well worth a visit.
Stephan



Interesting Facts

A luxury hotel in Mexico provides each guest with a personalised sewing kit whose threads match the clothes they are wearing.

Turkmenistan has a public holiday to celebrate Melons.

Climate change is causing ancient mummies to turn into black slime!

Bin lorries in Taiwan play music to alert residents to bring out their rubbish.

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





Calling for action photos from your groups

Gordon Pardy is requesting group leaders to email him any action photographs (not people standing around looking at the camera!) from their groups for the Sarum u3a website (please make sure that all people in the photograph have given their permission).



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 Pardy gkpardy@hotmail.co.uk



Answers to this months' Sounds Fishy to Me

1. Moo Loo
2. Stray cats



Deadline for the September issue will be Wednesday 9th September. 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