

u3a

Sarum

NEWSLETTER

September 2026 No 282



Learn



Laugh



Live

with Sarum u3a

u3a Choir Conductor Wanted

David Davies is looking out for someone to replace him as conductor of the Salisbury U3A choir.

The choir is of around 25 members of the various U3As in and around Salisbury. Repertoire ranges from medieval music to songs from the shows. There are weekly meetings from September to April with two concerts, and the choir meets informally twice in the summer. There is a well-stocked library.

He has directed and accompanied the choir since 2012 but he now has to think about a successor.

Anyone interested could ring David on 01722 714440 for a chat.

Membership Secretary's Note

We welcome the following new members: Anne Groom and Lesley Greasley.

I am unable to attend the monthly meeting in September, but you can contact me about any membership matters via the Contact page on the Sarum u3a website or by phone on 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 16th September 2026

Richard Rickitt The Honey Isles



Sarum u3a is delighted to welcome back Richard Rickitt the 'Bee' speaker who has educated and enthralled us so well over the last few years.

This talk will look at some fascinating historical and contemporary aspects of bees and beekeeping around the UK, from medieval times until the present day with photos from dozens of unusual places Richard has visited including the roof of Manchester Cathedral, the Outer Hebrides and

Richard's visit to Buckingham Palace to look after the late Queen's bees.

Information about the charity 'Bees Abroad', will also feature including Richard's trip to India to see the charity at work over there. Honey will be sold on the day the proceeds of which go entirely to support this charity.



Dates for your diary

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

November 18th - Barry Edwards – Brilliant Brunel

December 16th – Paul Stickler – The Murder of a Salisbury taxi driver Sidney Spicer



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





Sounds Fishy to Me

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

1. In Madagascar, what are pregnant women not allowed to do?
a. Wear a hat b. Show their legs in public c. Wear tight fitting clothes

2. In Fukuoka, Japan, there is a hotel that costs just 65p a night. Why is it so cheap?
a. You share a bed with a person of the same sex b. All the beds are in one big room
c. You are live-streamed on YouTube

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



The Premier Tasters Wine Appreciation group

Our recent meeting was on Thursday 3rd September with 8 members present sampling 6 bottles of wine. The theme for the night was "Waitrose – Buyers Choice" and was hosted by Tony Fortes. All the wine were bought from Waitrose with a 25% discount.

The first white we sampled was Cowrie Bay, Sauvignon Blanc from New Zealand at 12.5% and costing £6.00 and had an average tasting score of 7.68. We then moved onto First Cape Bush Vine, Chenin Blanc from Western Cape South Africa – 12.5% and costing 6.37. This had a tasting score of 6.84. Our third wine was Laurent Miquel Vendanges Nocturnes, Cinsault Syrah Rosé from France at 12%. This cost 7.87 and had a tasting score of 6.43.

Moving onto the reds, our first was Tread Softly, Pinot Noir from South Australia, 10.5% and costing £7.50. It had a tasting score of 7.00. The next red was Paolo Leo Varietali IGT Puglia, Primitivo from Italy – 13%. This cost £7.50 and had an average tasting score of 8.46. Our final red was the best of the evening. Terre Di Faiano Organic, Nero D'Avola from Sicily, Italy – 13.5%. This cost £8.62 and had an impressive tasting score of 9.23. (We had a score from one member of 9.9/10)

Another great and enjoyable evening.
Tony Fortes



Calling Group Leaders

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, so I am trying something different to get more reports into the Newsletter. Each month I will be emailing 4 group leaders asking them to send in a report. This only needs to be a couple of sentences, with or without a photograph. It doesn't have to be the group leader – they can nominate someone from their group to do it. I would appreciate your support for this idea.

Tony Fortes - Newsletter Editor – tony53shins@gmail.com



Call my Bluff

Answer from last month – **Vellichor** - It is the strange, wistful feeling you get inside a used bookshop.

Gardyloo

Which of these three is the true definition

1. A fancy medical term for a rumbling or gurgling noise in your intestines.
2. An old historical warning shout used in Scotland before throwing dirty water out of a high window into the street.
3. A west country 19th century slang word for an outdoor toilet

Answer in next month's Newsletter



4 - 5 miles walk

Meet at Old Sarum car park 9.45. This walk is only 4 miles, with one steep climb and no stiles. Please wear sturdy footwear, it might be slippery. Walking through grassland, a nature reserve, taking a look at the new development at Ashley Road, walking beside the river, and a bit of a climb at Old Sarum and back to the car park.

The Harvester nor the Wheatsheaf could accommodate our group, so I've booked into the Grey Fisher for 1 o'clock, there is no need to pre order.

Please contact Ian Cliff if you would like to walk, and stay for lunch or just the walk or just lunch. 07730617330 or clifftop34@googlemail.com by September 21st.



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.



This months' recommendation is the Horseshoe Inn at Ebbesbourne Wake along the Chalk Valley. All the staff were very welcoming and polite at all times. A splendid pub in all respects and well worth a visit. Limited parking, so early arrival is a good plan and it's best to book a table as it's deservedly busy. The pub has a lovely garden, from which there are beautiful views across the countryside. I had the Sunday roast and as you can see from the photograph it was of a very generous helping and the vegetables and roast potatoes were fresh and everything home-made. My wife had the chicken with a medley of wild mushrooms in a garlic sauce and said it was delicious.





3-4 Mile walkers

Thursday 1st October

We will meet for our October walk in the Farm shop & Museum car park in Breamore. Meeting at 9.45 am ready for a 10.00 o'clock start. Directions: turn right off the A338 towards Breamore House. Continue past the sign for the church and follow the sign to the Farm shop and Cafe. The car park is a turning to the right about 3 quarters of a mile from the A338.

The walk is 4 miles long, with a couple of long but not too steep hills and one stile. We will stop to look at the mizmaze and follow the surrounding footpaths, taking us back to the car park. Lunch will be at the Bat and Ball in Breamore.

Please let me know if you would like to join us for the walk and whether you will be stopping for lunch by Tuesday 29th September. Thank you. Marilyn Beattie.

Mobile: 07721182963. Email: mibt68@gmail.com

Don't forget to bring your U3A membership badge (with details completed on the reverse).

3-4 mile walkers report



Our September walk started from the car park opposite the school in Winterslow. It was a very varied, undulating walk including paths along fields with views over parts of the village and into the distance as well as more enclosed 'secret' paths joining different parts of the village. We crossed open fields and also wandered along woodland paths. We felt the residents of Winterslow lucky to have so many footpaths to enjoy right on their doorsteps and lucky to have so many play parks and village amenities. We ended up with a great lunch at the local pub, The Lord Nelson.



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 Programme Vacancies List which is available to view on the Sarum u3a website. 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.

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



Church and Pubs 1

For various reasons several members have pulled out of my group before we've even started. I now have 3 vacancies. Anyone interested can contact me on 01722 321025.
Ann Smith



Interesting Facts

Barbara Cartland insisted on including the title of every one of her 723 novels in her "Who's Who" entry.

In the 19th Century, the US Supreme Court ruled that tomatoes are vegetables.

Seven per cent of the land in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, is covered in rubbish dumps.

Postage was originally paid by the person receiving the letter, not the sender.

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



Become a volunteer

Link Schemes are community-based, volunteer run charities based in Wiltshire & Swindon which aim to improve the quality of life for disadvantaged, elderly or infirm people by providing transport and provide 'good neighbour' services.

Our schemes are currently on the lookout for new volunteers, who don't necessarily have to be drivers, they can assist with the behind-the-scenes work in administration, become trustee or offer 'good neighbour' services.

Volunteering with a Link Scheme offers a flexible way to give back to the local community, meet new people, and make a meaningful difference to someone's life.

For further information about Link Schemes and local volunteering opportunities, please contact me mrobinson@communityfirst.org.uk or visit our website <https://www.communityfirst.org.uk/transport/link/>



HEALTH AND SAFETY MATTERS

HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2026

Prior to the talk at the October meeting in St Francis, there will be a test of the fire alarm. This is to alert members as to how the alarm sounds should there be a need to evacuate the church during a meeting. The H&S officer for Sarum U3A will be in attendance for the demonstration of the fire alarm and also be on hand at the meeting should anybody wish to re-acquaint themselves with the evacuation procedure.

GROUP MEETINGS CHECK LIST UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2026

With the start of the new groups in September, it is asked that all group leaders re-check their check list forms and ensure that they are up to date and cover the venue or current circumstances for their group. For any leaders who are not familiar with the process of completing a check list or need a copy of the document, please email Malcolm Burrows at mfburrows100@gmail.com for assistance. It is asked that all group leaders keep a record of attendees at each meeting.





Bridge outside the u3a

There are 2 bridge groups looking to increase their numbers - The Sarum Bridge Club meet at Salisbury and South Wilts Sports Club, Wilton Road and the 59 Bridge Club meet at the Baptist Church, Brown St. Please contact Sally or Fiona via the Sarum Bridge website www.bridgewebs.com/sarum and select the "contact us" option for more information on meet times and days.

Ann Norris



Vinyl Appreciation Group

We have 1 vacancy for this group, so if you are interested please contact Mike Fiddy on 07821 568149 or email mikefiddy@hotmail.com. Members take it in turns to select and play any genre of vinyl records from the 60s, 70s and 80s. We meet fortnightly on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday evening at 6.45pm



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 action photographs (not people standing around looking at the camera!) or text to supplement what's already on there (please make sure that all people in the photograph have given their permission).

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

Gordon Parry gkparry@hotmail.co.uk



Answers to this months' Sounds Fishy to Me

1. Wear a hat
2. You are live-streamed on YouTube



Deadline for the October issue will be Wednesday 14th October. 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