



## Our New Website - Beacon

Hello everyone, and apologies if you are surprised to receive this Arrow in mid-April, but our wonderful editor has been enjoying a well-deserved holiday. He is kindly putting this newsletter together as quickly as he can and I hope you will look through it to see what members have been up to recently.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

It is with some regret, but no surprise to you, I'm sure, that this u3a's costs are increasing and the Committee has decided that the annual subscription will increase by **£1 to £19** for new members and renewals for the next year, running from 1st September 2026 to 31st August 2027. This still represents good value for money, providing the opportunity to attend 12 monthly meetings a year and to join interest groups of so many types run by the volunteer Group Leaders.

#### MAY'S monthly meeting CHANGE OF SPEAKER

Stephen Carr-Smith is able to join us to present his talk on 'the Battle of Trafalgar' which had to be cancelled earlier in the year. I hope that you will come along to hear more about this significant event in our history – everyone has heard of it, some will know the year it took place (1805) but do you know the complexity of sea battles, especially between ourselves and a combined fleet from France and Spain? Come and hear what Stephen can tell us.

Our **website** has the most up-to-date information on the **speaker calendar**, so do check it regularly to see what's on offer. Remember that this is the open-to-everyone site and not where we handle personal information.

#### Salisbury & District u3a Beacon

I am very pleased to tell you that our Treasurer / Membership Secretary (and currently Web Manager too) has completed the transition to the u3a's secure Beacon system (supported by the national u3a network) and has closed our old website. The Group Leaders have been introduced to the ways they can manage their Group information and will be using it as appropriate to the needs of each Group and Group Leader. The roll-out continues .....

*Eleanor Allenby*

## u3a Choir Spring Concert



This choir is made up from members of any of the local u3as under the leadership of David Davies, a most encouraging and engaging musical director. We meet during the Autumn and Spring terms at Wilton Community Centre on Monday afternoons from 2pm, finishing by 4pm. At the end of each term, we perform for an audience of anyone able to come along and hear us, and we provide a hot drink and a little something to

eat with it at the end! While no charge is made to attend there is always a leaving collection for a local charity, and this term it was for the Salisbury Homes for the Homeless.

Members of the choir pay a termly charge to cover hire of the Hall and any expenses relating to the music, which is provided each term and returned after the concert. The music we sing varies from traditional rounds to Mozart, from Exmoor drinking songs to Elgar, and anything in between – a challenge without it seeming insurmountable – and great fun.

We sing for the enjoyment of it and, I am told, sound rather good thanks to David's guidance.

*Eleanor Allenby, a tenor lady*

# Your Committee



Chair  
**Eleanor Allenby**



Social Secretary  
**Susan Griffin**



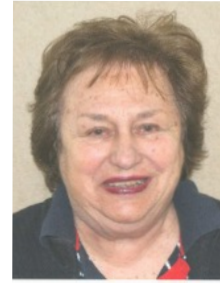
Business Secretary  
**Terry Baulk**



Events/Outings & Safeguarding Organiser  
**Vacancy**



Speaker Secretary & Risk Assessment  
**Ann Underwood**



Group Co-ordinator  
**Sonia Blandy**



Treasurer and Membership Secretary  
**Jane Ward**

To contact any committee member, go to <https://salisburyanddistrict.u3asite.uk/contacts>

## New Members

A very warm welcome to our new and returning members: Pam Cauldwell, David Coombes, Susan Cubitt, Jacques Desfontaines, John Duncalfe, Simon Everett, Rosemary Fletcher, Andrew Greenlees, Cecilia Helliwell, Tony Langridge, Alison Macinnes, Sarah Marks, Andrew Ravenhill, Valerie Ravenhill, James Rowley, Mike Russell, Maureen Simmonds, Murray Sims, Susan Sneddon, Michael Walker and David Willoughby.

## Beacon!



Our new Management System – Beacon – is now live and replaces the members' area and admin system used previously. See further details by clicking on Join/Renew on the top banner on our website – <https://salisburyanddistrict.u3asite.uk>.

## Monthly Meetings

Our monthly meeting is held on the first Wednesday of every month at 10.00 for 10.30am in Salisbury Methodist Church in St Edmund's Church Street, Salisbury SP1 1EF. Parking is available in Salt Lane near the Church. Details of speakers for the coming year can be found on our website; the next few are shown elsewhere in *The Arrow*.


Coffee and biscuits are served and, following announcements concerning u3a business, invited Speakers give a talk. Please bring along a friend to join our u3a.



After years of sterling service, our Speaker Secretary has decided to stand down from her role – thank you Ann for your efficiency and dedication. We need one or two people jointly to step up and take over the task if we are to continue with our monthly talks. Will you help? Come and join the team, shadow the current Speaker Secretary for a while, meet new people, expand your horizons! Lots of support available if you need it. Contact the [Chair](#) or [Membership Secretary](#) or find a Committee Member at one of our monthly talks at Salisbury Methodist Church.




Age UK have a stand at our monthly meetings with loads of literature and the ever helpful Sally Fairall to assist you.



The next issue will be June. Copy date May 25th. Please send all your news and pictures to Peter Green by email: [u3aSalisbury@gmail.com](mailto:u3aSalisbury@gmail.com)

# The Maltings 23 March 2022

*Snip snip snip*

- Lovely day
- Yes. Like yesterday. We thought we'd walk through the Close and –
- Where's that then?
- It's a street of lovely houses looking over a green to the Cathedral. Very pretty. Some say the loveliest place in England.
- Never heard of it.
- Well it's a good place to enjoy the sunshine. You should go there sometime. Only not yesterday morning.
- Why's that then?
- There were blokes with walkie talkies stopping people walking there, 3 others firing smoke guns to make the sky all misty.
- Oh yeah. They're filming. A techie came here last week.
- We couldn't see much, because of the fog made by the smoke guns drifting over the field, just a horse and two men in brown greatcoats and big hats like in Victorian times walking slowly.....
- Tom Hardy's in it.
- Can't be. He died nearly 100 years ago.
- Can't have. Saw him last week on Netflix.
- Must be another Thomas Hardy. I'm talking about the writer whose sister went to the teacher training college in the Close.
- Still there is she? Do you know her too?
- No. Nor her brother Tom. The novelist I mean.
- Yeah. The guy from the film crew told us it's a novel.
- Not by Thomas Hardy . No, Charles Dickens.
- Who's he then ? Another of your mates?
- No he died even longer ago. Famous for his novels though.

*Snip snip snip*

- Yeah. I think I did hear of him somewhere.

- This one's called Great Expectations. They can't be filming the whole story here, because it's set in Kent, on the marshes by the sea, and London . I suppose Salisbury's standing in for Rochester.
- Where?
- The other side of London. The field they were filming the horse and men in is in front of a big gloomy house in the Close....
- They aren't doing it in the Cathedral then?
- No, it's just like Satis House in the novel, where Miss Havisham, an old crazed woman, has lived like a hermit for years , ever since her wedding day when the bridegroom didn't turn up, the wedding feast still on the table, spiders and cobwebs everywhere. The main character is an orphan boy brought up to be an apprentice to a blacksmith –
- A what?
- A blacksmith. Heats a piece of iron in a furnace to make it red hot, to fit shoes to horses –
- Does it hurt them?
- No, the iron shoe is plunged in a bucket of water first....

*Snip snip snip*

....anyway,Pip, the boy in the story, he's made to feel common and coarse by Miss Havisham and a proud girl he meets there, who looks down on him, makes him feel ashamed, thinks he'll never be a gentleman, good enough for her.

- Yeah.
- It's a great story. Many say his best. You ought to read it.
- I don't read books. Never have. Can't settle down to it. Not like my sister. She can lie on the beach reading all day, says it takes her mind off things. Not me though. Too many things going on in my head. Shall I do your eyebrows?
- It's very popular. They make a film of it for TV every ten years or so.
- What's it called again ? Expecting something?
- Expectations. Great Expectations.

*Snip snip snip....*

*Eric Williams*

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## National Gardens Scheme



The Wiltshire section of this country-wide organisation raises money by co-ordinating local gardeners prepared to open their gardens for us to enjoy and in aid of a range of charities. They raised more than £3.8 million over the years.

To find Wiltshire gardens that are open over the next 28 days, go to: [www.ngs.org.uk/wiltshire](http://www.ngs.org.uk/wiltshire) and substitute Dorset or Hampshire to see others in the south.

# Pandemics from History

**We need to move rapidly to the future leaving behind the Black Death and the 1520s Small Pox outbreak (although both have re-occurred). This article will focus upon two Pandemics of relatively modern dating.**

The most frightening Pandemic outbreak that occurred just over the one hundred years ago was **Spanish Flu 1918 -1920**. Not realistically within any living memory, but its comparison with a Pandemic that most people will recall (**Covid 19**) is the subject matter for this piece.

Both were viral respiratory Pandemics, but they differed significantly in their mortality rates and the Age Groups they affected. Firstly, although the horror and catastrophic upset caused by Covid 19 is so close to present times horror pales when compared to the massive death rate of the Spanish Flu Pandemic. We must however quickly rid ourselves of the misnomer **Spanish Flu**. Why?? Because it was first recorded in Kansas USA. Then the UK. Then Germany, then France and in other parts of Europe. **World War one** was so close that any reporting of bad news by the above countries would not have been allowed. However Spain as a neutral country had no such restriction and thus published it's records of the pandemic quite freely and so the pandemic became known as Spanish Flu. This is a Photo from 1919. The quixotic contemporaneous rhyme was: *I had a little bird it's name was Enza. I opened the Window and In-Flu-Enza*

More seriously within 2 years, one third of the Worlds population was said to be affected by the Pandemic. Some 500 million. Eventual total deaths are the subject of much speculation as poverty and related problems blur reporting and fact. However estimates settle at a figure in excess of 30 million.



The picture shows the 1919 version of a Vaccination Hall Please contrast this rather austere image with the Innovative and certainly unusual view in the picture shown below which is taken from above in the South Transept of Salisbury Cathedral. This location was used a number of times and added much interest to the ongoing medical procedures.

Covid19 for all it's frightening upset never approached the stupendous figures of 1919/20. Statistics classified Covid19 as mild albeit only in relation to the epidemic of 1918/20. Use of the word mild in that statement is of course of little value or comfort to anyone who suffered or lost loved ones over the Covid 19 period. Statistics again. "Spanish Flu" was caused by H1N1 influenza virus and resulted in a disproportionately high death rate in young adults while Covid19 was caused by SARS-COV-2 Coronavirus which primarily threatened older people and those with underlying health conditions. Covid deaths World Wide are recorded as circa 7.5 Million. This is manifestly not a "battle of figures" but simply a comparative exercise from known records.  
*Roy Woodward*

# Harnham Table Tennis u3a Groups

## Table Tennis Training Group – Group Leader Paul Warran

The Spring 2026 S&D u3a Training Group wrapped up the season with a round robin competition to provide the group the chance to show off their new found skills. Ensuring everyone had a fair chance, every player was handicapped. All members played their seven matches, and Gerry Hooper took home the best player award, with Jill Coldwell gaining second place for R/Up. The coach, Paul Warran, wants to give a special shout-out for everyone who participated, especially Nigel King, Pat Barretto, Diane Davies, Liz Davis, Tina Warran and special guest Tobias Warran, who all finished their playing schedules. Paul expressed his thanks to everyone including Isabel Escobar and Marie Powell for their support.

The Training Group is back for another season, starting on 5th May 2026 lasting for eight weeks. The group will be meeting at Harnham Parish Hall on Tuesdays at 12:15 for the two-hour sessions. Paul Warran, the qualified coach, has put together some great programmes that include multi-ball and robot exercises. They are all designed to help improve the playing experience, techniques and performance.



## Table Tennis Bat N Chat – Group Leader Tina Warran

The Salisbury & District u3a Table Tennis Bat N Chat is Table Tennis the u3a way. The group meets every Wednesday at Harnham Parish Hall. It's still full, with 24 members and about 21 showing up each week! This Table Tennis group has players of all skill levels, including some from the Andover and Salisbury winter table tennis leagues.

Throughout the season our group, (split into seven teams), play in a doubles league, where teams play each other three times. With now just two weeks left in this spring season, 'Chop Sticks'—made up of Pat Barretto, Marisa Perkins and Paul Warran—who are leading the way, followed by 'You've Been Served' with Tim Dunsford, Debbie Gibbs and Julian Bowerman. Pat Barretto and Tim Dunsford have been doing exceptionally well individually in the league so far. However, there are still 12 matches to go before the season wraps up, so things could change!

The Bat N Chat isn't just about playing; we also enjoy each other's company. We're planning an end-of-season Afternoon Tea at a local hotel on 8th April, where we'll get together and maybe celebrate the end of a great season and toast the winners of the Doubles League.

Summer Season Bat N Chat begins Wednesday 6th May 2026 at 0930. If you are interested in Table Tennis the u3a way, contact Tina or Paul on 07918 125356.



## Table Tennis Competition Group – Group Leader Julian Bowerman

Julian has temporarily taken over the Harnham u3a Table Tennis Competition Group to host a one-off event during the Bat N Chat stand down period. He has planned, and will run the event on the morning of the 15th April, for a round robin competition involving eleven players. There are fifty-five matches to be played during the four hours of competition, which is taking place at the Harnham Parish Hall. A report on the event will be placed in the June issue of the Arrow  
*Paul Warran*

