



New Interest Groups

Well, how unexpected to have hot weather for the May half-term – I have memories of a week on the Isle of Wight with husband and small child, when it rained for half a day every day!

As Chair of Salisbury & District u3a, I was invited to attend Sarum u3a's recent meeting where their Group Leaders displayed the variety of options for their members. It set my mind to thinking about our 'new u3a year' which starts at the beginning of September, and I am hoping that there will be a few members out there keen to start up new interest groups (or re-start lapsed groups such as the gardening group, who had lectures during the winter months and visits in the summer). September is usually the optimum time to recruit members looking for something new.

So, if anyone wants to know more about what's involved, please contact myself or our Treasurer (who also runs the website) and we'll do our best to help you get started.

In the meantime, I am sad to say that Trish Sinclair has stepped down from the Committee, so please think about offering to help us organise events and outings for our members, and any suggestions for places to go and things to do would be welcome. We owe a huge thank you to Trish for her efforts on our behalf while on the Committee.

Watch out for news on the website of a couple of potential visits we're checking out now and hope to offer before too long.

Keep safe during the summer heat, as well as when it turns to flash floods!

Eleanor Allenby, Chair, Salisbury & District u3a

Strimming in Summer

It's time to get out the strimmer. Keep things tidy and trim.
Garden maintenance. Taming nature and the neighbours.
Time was when it took me two hours to do this every weekend.
Now it's more like a short back and sides from the barber.
I have never mastered the art of mowing a lawn, more like
One man went to a meadow. I like to see it grow, the
Natural profusion, watch grass stems heavy with seed gently
Sway. What you might call weeds I dignify as wild flowers.
I like to think the bees appreciate me. The birds watch on
Warily, waiting to pounce, resume control once I'm back
In my book. I look over my patch, the indulgent patron.
Yes, you may think it scruffy; I'd say ecologically friendly.
The invading primroses and wild strawberries delight us, bring
The promise of spring. Another thing – I forgot to attend to the
Bared earth shaded by the spread of leaves. But the buzzing cable
Revealed hundreds of pairs of bright tiny eyes looking up in hope,
Sown by the stems. I can cut now, their work completed, a display
Of daisies to flourish next summer. As I disconnect, wind up the flex,
I stiffen in another storm's murmur, a sudden breeze's chill breath
gives me pause, mowing what I know will keep on growing,
sustain its progress despite me, soon will overshoot me.

Eric Williams



Your Committee



Chair
Eleanor Allenby



Social Secretary
Susan Griffin



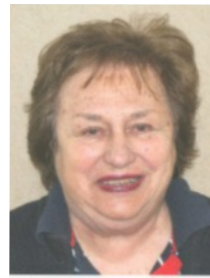
Business Secretary
Terry Baulk



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>

Isobel Rider 1936 - 2026



Isobel was an active member of Salisbury & District u3a for many years. I first met her about twenty five years ago, when we were members of Tom Coombes's Handbell Tune Ringing group. A highlight of our time in the group came in 2005, when the Mayor of Salisbury invited us to accompany him to Saintes, Salisbury's twin town. We rang in a number of locations, including a bandstand and a boat on the river, and enjoyed some wonderful French hospitality.

Isobel and I found we had a lot in common, including a love of music and travel. We very much enjoyed John Ewington's outings and holidays. Both of us were members of Ann Acton's play reading group, which sometimes met in James Mogford's house in St. Ann Street, where we were surrounded by some of the beautiful keyboard instruments he had made. The group performed playlets written by Ivan Raynsford - Smith at anniversary lunches in St. Francis church hall.

Isobel also took part in Village Visits, and helped me organise Sunday lunches.

She was always good company, and will be very much missed by all who knew her.

Barbara Coulson

New Members

A very warm welcome to our new and returning members: Ira Blake, Elaina Harrold, Moyna Lee, Felicity Burnett, Marilyn Riley and Bridget Siddle.

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.



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 August. Copy date July 28th. Please send all your news and pictures to Peter Green by email: u3aSalisbury@gmail.com



For those of you who like to plan ahead, we have plenty to look forward to in June & July, including a number of new gardens including Manor Farm House in Bowerchalke near Salisbury, 2 Naish House in Spirhill, near Calne and Shell Cottage near Marlborough.

Check out all of our June & July gardens here:

JUNE <https://ngs.org.uk/wiltshire-gardens-in-june/>

JULY <https://ngs.org.uk/wiltshire-gardens-in-july/>

Also don't forget you can arrange a personalised visit with your club or a group of friends at a number of gorgeous gardens across the county.

Check them out here, including details of how to book:
BY ARRANGEMENT: <https://ngs.org.uk/wiltshire-by-arrangement>
Sarah Culley

National Garden Scheme: ngs.org.uk 07980 687832
Instagram @wiltshireengs Facebook @WiltshireNGS

Rummikub



Can you play RUMMIKUB? Would you like to learn to play RUMMIKUB?

I will be holding some beginner sessions in August for learners and our group sessions will be starting in September. We play twice a month on Wednesday afternoons at St Nicholas Church Hall Porton SP4 0LB. If so please contact Andrina on drinarees@icloud.com

Mah Jong



We are offering beginner / tester Mahjong sessions to a small number of interested members in August. The sessions will be either in Amesbury or Porton depending on numbers. They will be on Wednesday mornings from 10.30 until 12noon.

Please note if you then wish to join our established Mahjong group the sessions are on Wednesday afternoons in St Nicholas Church Hall, Porton, SP4 0LB. Please email me to apply drinarees@icloud.com
Andrina Rees

Literary Reading Group

We have a vacancy in this group, which usually meets on the fourth Monday in the month in the afternoon. If you are interested, please apply via the u3a website in the normal way. If you would like further information, please email your phone number to me, and I will happily call you to talk about the books we have planned and how we operate. *Jill Tomalin*, group leader (tomalinmandj@hotmail.com)

Sarum Bridge Club

We play duplicate bridge at the Cricket Club on the Wilton Road on Wednesday evenings at 7pm and Thursday afternoons at 3pm.

Beginners can go on Thursday afternoon, but perhaps will need a bit of practice for Wednesday evening.
Sonia Blandy

Poppies in June

Still summer afternoon –
till a breeze thrills the meadow flowers.
Standing tall on willow stems
a cluster of poppies stirs, whispers,
eager, ardent, stretching to reach the sun's gaze,
their red satin sheen shimmering through quivering grass
heavy and ripe with seed, bowing under its weight, ready to fall,
to wait, to rise again; while the sky's ocean opens
to receive the sailing clouds freighted with rain.

Eric Williams



Singles Table Tennis Tournament

15th April 2026 Harnham Village Hall



Brian Heward being presented with the winner's trophy by me.

Head to head the combat was both intense and unrelenting. For three hours a little white ball was served, returned, spun, even smashed. Backwards and forwards the balls flashed over the tables, mostly over the net, sometimes into the net, sometimes ballooning into empty space. 3 tables in action, one player at each end. 11 competitors playing 10 matches each. A challenge of endurance. Who would be there at the finish?

This was the Salisbury U3A singles tournament which took place on 15th April at Harnham Village Hall.

There are 3 table tennis sessions each week at Harnham Village Hall, under the auspices of Salisbury U3A. In the main these provide opportunities to play doubles.

With Paul and Tina Warran's invaluable input, I was able to organise a singles tournament to give 11 players the opportunity to participate in singles match play.

The worthy and outstanding winner was Brian Heward. He was unbeaten, winning all his ten matches to take home for keeps, the winner's unique engraved table tennis trophy. Second was Tina Warran who only dropped one match and third was Keith Turner who won 7 out of ten matches. Both 2nd and third players thoroughly deserving their places on the podium. All the players who joined in the competition are to be congratulated for giving it their all: many excellent matches were played.



Tina Warran and above Keith Turner each being presented with a bottle of "fine" wine for 2nd and 3rd places

There was a great atmosphere of friendship and rivalry throughout the morning and more singles tournaments will be organised. The next in one is to be in August with more competitors and possibly over 2 days. See Salisbury U3A Table Tennis for updates.

Julian Bowerman

The Cabin

Penelope worked her way along the rail of designer clothes, trying to decide what would be appropriate for the evening's ball. It was so easy for men: they just had to wear black tie. Should she wear YSL, Dolce & Gabbana, Prada or Armani? This was, after all, her first voyage, so she didn't know what to expect. She decided to start with something simple and to try the little, black dress: the ever-reliable LBD. Yes, a possibility. She placed it on the king-size bed. *That's one thing about travelling first class, she thought, you certainly get plenty of room; even the balcony was luxurious.*

Penelope continued her way through the various labels, made her decision and then chose an appropriate pair of shoes. She looked again at the luxury king-size bed. She was travelling alone, having left her violent, two-timing, alcoholic husband when he had gone away on a 'golfing' long weekend. She could now sleep alone, without the threats that had begun to affect her self-esteem. She was starting a new life and making a new circle of friends. This new life would start with this voyage. So here she was, in a first-class cabin, surrounded by so much opulence.

Penelope looked at her watch and suddenly realised she was falling behind schedule. She still had three more first class cabins to clean before moving on to her allotted dining area. All this had to be done before the passengers returned from their trip ashore. She noticed the luggage tag and thought this Maria just doesn't know how lucky she is.

Maria finished her cocktail and decided to make her way back to the coach which would return her and the other passengers to the ship. Although she was travelling alone, she did not feel lonely. She was just glad to be away from her womanising, gambling, domineering, millionaire husband, who wouldn't have a clue where she was. He would read her 'goodbye' note when he returned from one of his many 'business trips'. She need never see him again. Her solicitor would take care of the settlement.

She afforded herself a wry smile.

Terry Baulk Writing for Pleasure Group

Croquet for u3a Members at Hamptworth Croquet Club

Would you enjoy some gentle outdoor exercise coupled with some friendly competition? Then croquet might be the sport for you.

Hamptworth Croquet Club has agreed to host a series of six Monday morning sessions for u3a members starting on the 15th June.

No experience is necessary, all equipment will be provided (mallets, balls and hoops). Members need to dress in comfortable clothing (not too long or loose as this may get in the way of swinging a mallet). Ladies note the normal stance is to stand with ones legs slightly apart and swing the mallet between the legs, so slacks or shorts are preferable to skirts. Flat bottom shoes such as trainers are needed so as not to damage lawns. A rain jacket is also useful to continue play in light showers.

For those entirely new to croquet some instruction and practice will be given on mallet grip striking balls, how to run a hoop and elementary rules of Golf Croquet. The idea being to get everyone playing as quickly as possible.

Hamptworth Croquet Club is set in the Hamptworth Golf and Country Club at Hamptworth Road, SP5 2DU. This is easily reached in a car by driving about 5 miles down the A36 south of Salisbury towards Southampton, taking a turning to the right where a brown sign indicates "Country Club".

Then into Landford Village and take another turning to the right indicated by a further brown "Country Club" sign. Continue for about a mile on the Hamptworth Road, past the "Cuckoo Inn" and the Club is on the right hand side of the road. There is parking available and a club house. Tea coffee, snacks and drinks can be purchased in the Club House, using a credit card (no cash).

There are also changing facilities.

There are five well-kept croquet lawns and a small pavilion 50 yards down a small hill next to the car park. The area is surrounded by woodland and has a feeling of spaciousness.

The activity will be aimed for up to 12 participants.



Sessions will run from 10.00 to 12.30 hours on Mondays for 6 sessions starting 15th June. After the u3a session, participants would be welcome to hang around until 14.00 hours and watch Club members play their Monday afternoon regular mix ins, observe finer points of the game played by experienced players and the general ambience of the Club.

Cost will be £20 for 6 sessions, which includes a green fee and hire of mallet. If a member has their own mallet they are welcome to bring it. Members are expected to pay at the start of the first session, either by cash or a crossed cheque made payable to Hamptworth Croquet Club. The Croquet Club is keen to welcome new members. If after their u3a croquet experience, participants are interested in joining the Club to play croquet all day, all the year round, the Club would discount any annual membership fee by the amount paid for participation in u3a sessions.

If you want to get swinging (with a mallet), you can go through the group activities or contact Eric Crowter at Email: ericcrowter63@gmail.com.

More information about Hamptworth Croquet Club can be found at <https://croquet-websites.org.uk/hamptworth>

See also Page 7 for free taster afternoon on Sunday 14th June,



Harnham Table Tennis u3a Groups

False Friends

Beginners and Intermediate Table Tennis Training Group. This group was set up by Paul Warran nearly five years ago, to help like-minded players to understand and improve game skills, with the intention of having more fun and satisfaction playing Table Tennis; i.e. Learn with the U3A to Live and Laugh.

To become a Licenced Table Tennis England (TTE) Coach, Paul had overcome the hoops and hurdles required to develop the skill level necessary to gain the Coach Award. It is a continuous process that requires passing: exams, interviews and assessments, as well as providing written progress reports on self-analysis and student progress, for approval. There were also Coach Assessment Workshops to attend (in Brighton or St Austell). Ongoing Continuous Professional Development (CPD) forms part of the TTE licencing scheme helping to keep up to date with typical topics: 'Fundamentals of Movement', 'Speed or Accuracy?' and 'Tactical Gameplay'.

On top of this are the legal requirements, with Annual TTE Licencing, regular Safeguarding Exams and Enhanced DBS checking. All are required in order to operate as a TTE coach and notably it is self-driven and self-funded. Paul is also a fully qualified Table Tennis Umpire



Despite knowing nothing about the game and not interested in the slightest, I ended up watching a football match with some friends a few years ago. I felt I should show some enthusiasm and after a goal was scored I confidently exclaimed "oh, the porter's useless". When the euphoria died down a little, someone asked me who I meant when I referred to a porter. I then realised what I had done and I felt my cheeks blushing with embarrassment. Having just returned to London after 13 years in Italy, my English had got a little rusty and my brain immediately went for "porter" which is similar to the Italian "portiere" meaning "goalkeeper".

A false friend when referring to languages, is a word that sounds as though it should mean the same thing in another language but actually has a completely different meaning.

Here are a few examples of Italian/English false friends that can easily lead to confusion:

- Morbido – Soft (not Morbid)
- Parente – Relative (not Parent)
- Annoiare – To bore (not To annoy)
- Fattoria – Farm (not Factory)
- Libreria – Bookshop (not Library)
- Fabbrica – Factory (not Fabric)
- Camera – Bedroom (not Camera)

Portiere is not strictly a false friend as it can mean porter as well as goalkeeper but obviously I had used the wrong translation here. I kept very quiet for the rest of the match. *Rosetta Ferrari*
Group Leader for Italian Conversation



The current Summer Training Group, led by Paul, is well underway, meeting Tuesday afternoons at the Harnham Parish Hall. The group is currently going through the table tennis basics with 'table-work' and 'footwork'; both key to being balanced in the right position at the right time. This week saw the guest robot being used to support topspin (in-out) Loops and Blocks; next week it's competition time, with the first Top Table Competition of the season.

This popular group is currently full. Should you wish to join the Salisbury and District u3a Table Tennis Training Group, the Autumn Season will be announced during August. If you have a question about the group or table tennis in general, please ask Paul on 07918 125356 or email warranp@gmail.com or follow the [link](#).

Paul Warran

Have you noticed... whenever clowns get divorced there is always a custardy battle!
Bruce Harris

• WHACK IT • SMACK IT •
• SWING IT • HOOP IT • TAP IT •
• MISS IT • JUMP IT • HIT IT •
• GET IT • LOVE IT •

THAT'S CROQUET!

Come and see for yourself at
Hamptworth Croquet Club
— SP5 2DU —

Sunday 14 June (2.00pm - 4.00pm)

FREE!



Age 15+
welcome.
Wear flat-
soled shoes.