No. 44 The Arrow
Organ of the Salisbury & District
October 2026
https://salisburyanddistrict.u3asite.uk

Chair's report



Welcome to Autumn! Such a relief to have stopped watering my plants, but I'm still trying to be careful with water use to avoid wastage. I hope you like the Christmas menu which the White Hart has put together for us to follow our monthly meeting on **Wednesday 2nd December**. We have a choice between a two- or three-course meal for those with smaller or larger appetites with choices for each course. Also included is a cup of tea or coffee and a mince pie afterwards to round it off. Details on choices, costs and booking arrangements are elsewhere in this newsletter.

The AGM will be held during the November monthly meeting and I hope you will all support, and some of you join the Committee, or volunteer to help with the series of events we are attending over the next few months. AGM documentation will be available to read online, with paper copies being sent to those members without email. Please note – we are significantly changing the format of the AGM meeting, so watch out for details shortly.

Finally, a stall for the **Men Matters** event has been booked at the City Hall on Saturday 10th October, followed by the **Christmas Tree Festival** at St Thomas's Church, setting up on Monday 30th November, open to the public from 1st to 6th December, and taking down on morning of Monday 7th.

With the announcement of the celebrations next year for the 800th anniversary of the city's Charter, we are teaming up with both Spire and Sarum u3as to take part in the **Grand Parade** on the morning of Sunday 25th July 2027 as a walking group.
If you would like to be involved with us in any of these events, we'd love to have you and your input. Please contact me at salisburyu3achair2@gmail.com or any other Committee member.

Eleanor Allenby, Chair, Salisbury & District u3a

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 4th November 2026

The AGM forms part of our monthly meeting each November and the design of the meeting will be different this year and will include an interesting speaker. A separate message with timings will be sent out nearer the time so, please, just make a diary note to come along and see what's happening.
This link should take you to the minutes of the last AGM: Minutes of the 2025 AGM. or you can find then yourself on our website.

A new-style nomination form is included on Page 8 to encourage members to think about what you can each offer the u3a – we are a self-help organisation with no paid volunteers at local level. Many of our older members have done marvellous work in the past but replacement, renewal and bright ideas are always welcomed – so please help if and when you can.

Vacancies at this AGM include a new Speaker Secretary, an outings organiser and general roles helping provide the varied sessions we offer.

The Committee members are happy to talk to anyone who would like to know more.

Rail Riders



Following our September trip to the British Museum I am retiring as Group Leader of Rail Riders. So far none of the group members have come forward to take over (understandable in case of some who have only recently joined the group). But someone whether an existing member or possibly even someone not yet in the group (there is a vacancy in it) is required as soon as possible to organise or at least circulate details of future trips from October onwards. I hope to stay on as an ordinary member of the group so happy to give a bit of guidance to whoever takes over.
Harvey Baird

Your Committee



Chair
Eleanor Allenby



Social Secretary
Susan Griffin



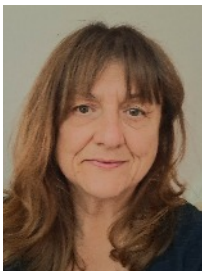
Business Secretary
Terry Baulk



Events/Outings & Safeguarding Organiser
Vacancy



Speaker Secretary & Risk Assessment
Ann Underwood



Group Co-ordinator
Rosetta Ferrari



Treasurer and Membership Secretary
Jane Ward

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

Speaker Reporter



For some time now, Mike Crow has been providing excellent write-ups for *The Arrow* on the Speakers who come to give their talks at our monthly meetings. Is there someone who is willing take his place, please?

New Members

A very warm welcome to our new and returning members: Cori Savage, Cath Burrows, Charles Burrows, Charlotte Man, Janice Hicks, Jennifer West, Jimmy Walker, Keith Harrold, Louise Vandyck, Marylee Toay, Penny Warren, Bob Blackham, Sheila Stokes White, Sheila Greene & Suze Conduct.

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.

Wiltshire age UK

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



The Arrow

The next issue will be December. Copy date November 25th. Please send all your news and pictures to Peter Green by email: u3aSalisbury@gmail.com

Despite a membership well in excess of 400, I can count on the fingers of one hand how many contributions have been received this month. A few more offerings would be greatly appreciated.

THE MERCURE WHITE HART

FESTIVE MENU

APPETISER

ROASTED PUMPKIN & BUTTERNUT SQUASH SOUP, TOASTED PUMPKIN SEEDS

SALMON & DILL FISHCAKE, GARLIC MAYO, LEMON

DUCK & ORANGE PATE, CRANBERRY SAUCE, CROSTINI

DORSET BLUE VINNY, PEAR AND WALNUT SALAD, SHERRY AND MAPLE SYRUP VINAIGRETTE

MAINS

TRADITIONAL TURKEY BREAST, STUFFING, PIGS IN BLANKET, GRAVY

BRAISED BLADE OF BEEF, RICH TOMATO AND ONION SAUCE

FILLET OF HAKE WITH BEETROOT AND CARROT PUREE, BASIL PESTO

VEGETABLE ROULADE, TOMATO AND PEPPER SAUCE

DESSERTS

CHRISTMAS PUDDING, BRANDY SAUCE

LEMON TART, BERRY COMPOTE

CHOCOLATE AND MARSHMALLOW CHEESECAKE, CRUSHED RASPBERRIES

POACHED PEAR, COCONUT YOGHURT, RED WINE REDUCTION

TO FINISH

COFFEE AND MINCE PIES

ST JOHN STREET, SALISBURY, WILTSHIRE, SP1 2SD

TEL: 01722 327476 OPT 2

EMAIL: SARAH.ARCHER@ACCOR.COM

MERCURE

HOTELS

THE WHITE HART SALISBURY

See Page 5 for Booking details

Coastal Scene

The headlands are aligned in symmetrical formation, stretch down to sip at the water's edge, a seaside 'silenced sequestered dell''* gathering a murmuration of cloud particles to trace their shadow across the stilled ripple of netted light harboured in relaxed radiance.

Eric Williams



Coastal Scene (detail)Theo van Ryssellberghe in *Radical Harmony* exhibition at National Gallery London

*J.T. Smith in *Remarks on Rural Scenery*(1808) which urged art students to 'go into the inmost recesses of forests…the silent sequestered dell' where they might find the richest treasures of picturesque Nature' (quoted from *Turner & Constable Rivals & Originals'* (Tate Britain 2025)

If 'murmuration' puzzles you, it's a collective noun normally applied to the spectacular sight of a flight of starlings

Stamps for Naomi House



For the benefit of new members and those who missed it last month, would you please save all used stamps, British and foreign, for the Naomi House Hospice for Sick Children. They get £40 for a big bag of stamps. I have taken in 5 shopping bags full since January. Evry little bit helps. Please cut round each stamp leaving half inch border. Thank you. *Moira Dickson.*

learn, laugh, live u3amatters

Look what the tide brought in!

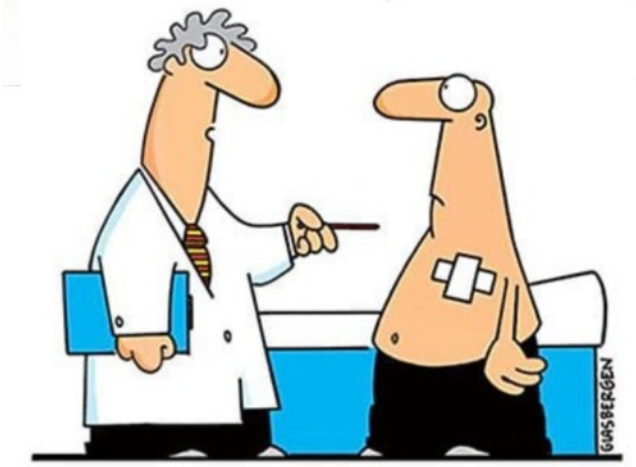
Members were fascinated by **Paul Gilmore's** account of his voyage to Australia in 1969 - and how a young boy found his message in a bottle decades later (Summer 2026 edition)

When my dear school friend Anna was 16 in 1965, her father announced that the family was emigrating under the £10 scheme to Perth, Australia. His wife protested, as did her mother and sister. Anna's brother had just started a promising new relationship, as had Anna! Nevertheless, they all eventually agreed to give it a try – and were never to return to the UK. However, the respective girlfriend and boyfriend followed and both couples got married!

Several of our friends also emigrated to Perth; I went to Australia House and completed all the paperwork to do the same, but met a man there who was to became my husband. We never quite made it to Perth, unfortunately...

Everyone lived happily ever after, I'm pleased to say!

Marilyn Barnard, Salisbury & District u3a and Wilton & District u3a



"It's a pacemaker for your heart. Plus, you can download apps for your liver, kidneys, lungs, and pancreas!"

Recognition
On Reading Melvyn Bragg's Memoir, *Back In The Day*

"One of the most lasting memory pictures I have is of ….that smile,… which showed the man he was, contented in his own thoughts….
It said – we can make something of this life, we are all in this together; the way is to see it through together; it was recognition." Melvyn Bragg on his father in *Back In The Day**

There are times when time seems to be suspended
Like a silver thread held up for the sun's inspection,
A weightless wire connecting memories and dreams -
Supple, steady to ride the rise and fall of each breath.

Death may be like this minus the sensation of loss,
That nothing can be held without its passing into
Something out of reach you fear you cannot catch
As you watch the light trace its lingering farewell.

Pictures build and mass like cumulating clouds into
Recollection. Reading your childhood translates mine:
Parents, brother, grandmother, neighbours, friends
Slide and merge in flimsy images, fleeting glimpses

Of incidents uncompleted, wisps of stories that might
Have been, fitful snatches of hope and disappointment
Wrapping over each other like yesterday's newspaper
Interleaved with the day's before. Your memoir my mentor,

Mirroring the smiles and mouthings of our dead, flitting
Through your lines and page-breaks, almost touching in
Voiceless echo. Dust stirred into dancing flecks of light,
Shards of memory splintered into momentary alignment.

It is good to celebrate our loved-ones' contentment, their
Communal belonging their passing preserves in silenced
Recall. A disparate throng of ghosts brought together into
Recognition, discovered in backs of drawers like home-

Movies unspooling birthdays, weddings and christenings,
Parties in paper hats, a prize catch, sandcastles before the tide
Returns, our dog braced to chase after the thrown ball, an
Uncle sculling us across a lake, Mum a shrieking teenager

Perched behind him on his motorbike, holding on tight,
Dad and his workmate grinning through the firm's van
Window, hand on the steering wheel, foot on the brake:
Paused before they all slip out of focus, flicker out of

Life. We knew what happiness meant then, snatched
Out of the daily drudge and drizzling grey, our well-
Being glowing cheeks and pulsing veins, willed to
Remain and reassure, as now while the clouds dissolve.

* Melvyn Bragg's vivid memoir, *Back In The Day*. The quotation refers to his father, a self-made publican, standing at his bar in the early evening ready to welcome his regulars, as his son goes out to play with his friends. As I have been reading, memories and images of my childhood have been released and mingled with the author's accounts of his. 'Reading your childhood translates mine.' *Eric Williams*

Bookings for Salisbury & District u3a Christmas Lunch
Wednesday, 2 December 2026, 12.30 for 1pm

Please make your **selection** for each one of the two or three courses you are booking from the list provided and, if necessary, note any dietary requirements so that we can make the hotel aware of them.
Your list of choices should be sent to salisburyu3achair2@gmail.com unless you are paying at a monthly meeting, when we will record your choices as you pay.

Payment of **£34** for two-courses, or **£38** for three-courses can be made either of the methods below:

Bank Transfer:

Account Name	Salisbury & District U3A Charity Number 1041321
Sort Code	30-97-41
Account Number	266526
Reference	*Your surname and membership number*

In Person using Cash or Credit/Debit Card
If you wish to pay in person, using cash or credit/debit card, then you will need to come to the Methodist Church before the monthly talk on either 7 October or 4 November with your menu choices.

Forthcoming events

7 October **The Creativity of Gertrude Jekyll**
Jane Glennie is an actress and historian with 30 years experience in bringing history to life in museums, theatres and heritage sites. She is also a recognised speaker for the WI and has been presenting popular and entertaining theatrical talks for the past 12 years in Hampshire.

4 November **Talk on 'Chinese Gordon' followed by AGM**
Robert Gordon will talk to us about a soldier whose fame, if not fortune, in suppressing a major Chinese rebellion (hence his nickname of 'Chinese Gordon'); his late career in Sudan and tragic death in Khartoum was to shock Victorian Britain and led to the fall of Gladstone's government. The AGM will take place immediately after the talk.

2 December **The Making of Casablanca**
A fascinating glimpse behind the scenes at one of the world's most romantic films. Sit back and enjoy the story of this back-lot B movie which became a classic from the golden age of Hollywood, forever remembered for its incredible cast of Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman, Peter Lorre, Sydney Greenstreet, and of course, the song…'As Time Goes By'.

6 January **The Chindits in Burma - 'Lions of the Jungle'**
Robert Gordon spoke to us recently at the AGM and returns to talk to us about the Chindits. Robert will draw on the unpublished diaries of his father Cyril Gordon, who won two MC's in the Burma Campaign and took part in the Second Chindit Expedition.

3 February 2027 **Eric Ravilious (1903-1942: Ordinary Things, Extraordinary Vision)**

James Taylor explores the life and work of Eric Ravilious, one of the most distinctive and enduring British artists of the twentieth century. Painter, printmaker, muralist, illustrator and designer, Ravilious transformed everyday English subjects into images of remarkable beauty, atmosphere and emotional resonance. From chalk figures on rolling hills and railway carriages to farm machinery, greenhouses, garden tools and shopfronts, he possessed an extraordinary ability to reveal the poetry and mystery hidden within ordinary life.

3 March 2027 **The Early History of the Bristol 'Old Vic'**

Sara Gray is a retired school teacher with a lifelong interest in drama. She has acquired performance qualifications over the years including the LAMDA Acting Diploma and also taught speech and drama privately. She still loves performing and now this takes the form of giving theatre related talks to organisations such as U3A which enables her to support a number of charities.

7 April **'In and Out at the Top'**
Neil Hanson is a successful author with 70 published books to his name. This talk is about his time running Britain's highest inn back in the 1980's. His account of with tight fisted farmers, eccentric characters, bizarre local customs, naturist weekends, police raids, rats in the attic, close encounters with magistrates and planners and the shooting of a famous double glazing commercial will prove to be very entertaining.

Current Affairs Group

Salisbury Methodist Church MR2 Mondays, Fortnightly See Website.



Graham Williams, Rosemary Fletcher, Tom Mccutcheon, James Rowley, Jim Hunt.

Somebody referred to this group recently as eruditus; I say the group is kindly, supportive, very knowledgeable and intelligent when considering the world today.

The u3a group has had some extensive discussions over coffee in recent weeks, across a range of local, national and international topics, always finishing with a smile. This week, the topics for discussion were:

- The use of statistics to highlight aircraft air pollution when compared to car air pollution.
- Piddington's referendum and the bid for in-dependence.
- Liberal Democrats – how effective are they?
- Healthy School Lunches and the report that says they are effective in boosting academic performance.
- What on earth is the "Greenland Agreement"?
- The oceans are getting cleaner! The single-use plastic bag tariff is working.
- Cycling around Salisbury – Is it safe?

The group has one vacancy, for the rest if this term. Contact Paul on 07918 125356 *Paul Warran*

Harnham Table Tennis u3a Groups

Harnham Parish Hall

Bat N Chat - Wednesday 0930 – 1230

This happy and well supported u3a group resumed its play on the 9th September, with fully subscribed membership. Tina Warran, the Group Leader has said she is "humbled by the level of support" from the group members.
The Autumn season continues with excellent attendance and is further energised by group activities; currently in the form of a 'team's competition', to keep it interesting.



The group expects to have vacancies for the Spring Term commencing on 6th January 2027. Contact Tina via the website.

Training Group – Tuesday 1215 – 1415 (8 Weeks Course). See Website.

The Training Group is now well underway with Forehand and Backhand Topspin and Push completed. This week saw the robot in-use, providing backspin shots for the students to return with top or chop. Focussing on fun and footwork are the main key drivers to this autumn's course, where improved play is the target.

Next week is the first of the season's challenges, where students will be invited to "beat the coach" (Tina and Paul), where the most points accumulated becomes the winner. Further training in the coming weeks will include loops and flicks, with more advance work on weight transfer and serve returns. The season finishes with a round-robin challenge.

The Beginners and Intermediate TT Training Group has one vacancy for the remaining term. Next is the coming Spring Term, starting 11 January 2027, for 8 weeks. Contact Coach Paul Warran on 07918 125356.

Paul Warran



u3a
Salisbury & District

Nomination Form

Nominate yourself or another member to join the Committee.

Nominations for current members to join the Committee should be signed by the nominee and two other members to be valid.

The completed form should be submitted to the Business Secretary or any Committee Member no later than 21 October 2026. Email: salisburyu3achair2@gmail.com

Nominee PRINT and sign name	Proposer PRINT and sign name	Seconder PRINT and sign name

Volunteering

Could you offer support or assistance to the Committee, whether for specific projects or general help, e.g. setting out or clearing the tables and chairs or helping serve the teas and coffees at the monthly meetings? Please enter your name below.

NAME(S)	TYPE OF SUPPORT OFFERED