

Swindon U3A

What's On

July 2019

LEARN, LAUGH & LIVE!
SWINDON



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

www.swindonu3a.org.uk

Welcome to the monthly What's On information sheet.

Year Book cut-off date - 30th June

What's On cut-off date - 18th July for August What's On

Chair Report June/July/August 2019

Events committee

The events committee has planned several events which we hope you will be able to attend. These include a talk entitled "A is for Arsenic" speaker Kathryn Harkup on Saturday 6th July at Coleview Community Centre 10.30-12.00, a singalong in St Joseph's College on Wednesday 14th August 11.00-12.00 and 1.00-2.00 and a talk on drones on Saturday 16th November in Coleview Community Centre from 10.00-12.30. You can book for these events on the SUCAS website even if you are not registered on SUCAS or you can contact me at avmuirhead@gmail.com for further information. The committee have begun to make preparations for Open Day. If you are a group organiser and wish your group to be represented, please either register your requirements online or contact me direct at the email address above.

Newsletter distribution team

We are very grateful to David and Jackie who have done a sterling job of overseeing the distribution of paper newsletters over the past 8 years. Rightly, they feel they would now like to hand over to someone else. It would be good if we could find two or more people to do this job. If you are willing to volunteer your services for this important job, please contact me at the email address above or else contact David direct at distribution@swindonu3a.org.uk. If you have internet access, and do not already read your copies of the Newsletter and What's On online, please give serious consideration to doing so as it lessens the burden of paper distribution greatly.

Additions to SUCAS facilities

If you are a group organiser you will be aware that our webmaster, Alex, has put a huge amount of work into setting up an online system which will enable much of the information for the Yearbook and Open Day to be sent out automatically. This makes the work of those involved in carrying out tasks related to these events easier and will also be a great support in the future when the responsibilities for these tasks are passed on to new volunteers.

Christmas entertainment

Thank you to the people who have contacted me about taking part in a small light-hearted skit/drama at our Christmas meeting in December. We now have enough people to entertain us at our Christmas Monday meeting. I will keep the names of those of us who will not be involved this time for another occasion.

Avril

	Monthly Meeting: There is no meeting this month.
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Saturday 6th July	Lecture by Dr Kathryn Harkup 'A' is for Arsenic. <p>This lecture is at the Coleview Community Centre starting at 10:30 and lasting for 1 hour with time for questions afterwards, tea & coffee from 10:00.</p> <p>Agatha Christie used poison to kill her characters more often than any other crime fiction writer. Poison was a central part of the novel, and her choice of deadly substances was far from random. The characteristics of each poison provide vital clues to the discovery of the murderer. Christie gained her extensive chemical knowledge from working in pharmacies during both world wars.</p> <p>Please sign up on www.swindonu3a.org.uk as numbers are limited.</p> <p>If you do not have access to the website please contact: Bob Carvey on 01793 526746 bob@carvey.org or Sandie Mulcahy on 07795 355115 sandiemulcahy@gmail.com</p>
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<p>Tuesday 9th July</p>	<p>An afternoon of music with the North Swindon Big Band</p> <p>At Royal Wootton Bassett Memorial Hall from 2pm to 4pm. Toe tapping tunes and space to get up and dance. Tea and cake! There is no charge but there will be a collection basket for donations. This event is part of "Celebrating Age, bringing live music to your local community". In partnership with the Wiltshire Music Centre.</p> <p>Further details from: Nina Stimson by clicking on her name.</p>
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<p>Wednesday 14th August</p>	<p>2019 Summer Singalong at St Joseph's College from 10:00am to 2pm. Last August many of us enjoyed a fun day singing along down Memory Lane, enjoying a great selection of popular songs from the 60's onwards.</p> <p>The format will be different in that we shall sing together, Karaoke Style, following musical backing and lead vocals, with lyrics displayed on the big screen.</p> <p>There will be a Social break for 40/45 minutes around lunch time, when tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. Why not bring your own packed lunch along with your favourite tittle - soft drinks, wine, beer, cider etc.</p> <p>During the morning session and lunch break there will be the opportunity to put in requests for the second session.</p> <p>Space is not unlimited so to confirm your place, please contact either:</p> <p>Martin Preston or Gill McKinnon by clicking on one of the names.</p>
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<p>Monday 16th September</p>	<p>The Arts Society Kennet & Swindon at the Ellendune Centre, Wroughton. Coffee from 10.00am followed by a talk on "Silver Ancient Egyptian Art - 3000 Years of Treasures" by Eileen Goulding at 11.00am.</p> <p>All welcome, but you must be a member or guest (cost £7) of a member to attend. For further information please</p>
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<p>Saturday 31st August</p>	<p>Swindon U3A Open Day at St Joseph's College, SN3 3LR from 10am –12:30pm.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to come along and see what Swindon U3A is all about and to find out what groups are available for members to join.</p> <p>It is also an opportunity for members current and new to offer help in starting up and running new groups.</p>
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<p>Monday 9th September</p>	<p>Buckler's Hard With River Cruise</p> <p>Visit the Maritime Museum and Buckler's Hard Story to follow the development of this fascinating village, the story of its ships, and the residents who lived and worked here. Learn about activity on the river during WWII, including the important role Buckler's Hard played in the D-Day landings. Plus watch a film presentation to discover the story of Buckler's Hard at war.</p> <p>After lunch we will take a tranquil river cruise on the privately owned Beaulieu river. Originally granted to the monks of Beaulieu Abbey by King John in 1204, the rights and responsibilities of caring for the Beaulieu River later passed to the Montagu family. Their careful ownership has created a largely unspoilt and river which is a haven for wildlife. An engaging commentary will reveal the fascinating history of this unique river as well as the creatures that inhabit its riverbanks.</p> <p>Departure times and pick-up points:-</p> <table data-bbox="375 1489 1484 1758"> <tr> <td>8.30am</td> <td>Royal Wootton Bassett, Borough Fields car park, behind Sainsbury's</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8.40am</td> <td>Ashington Way, West Swindon</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8.50am</td> <td>Matalan, Greenbridge</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.00pm</td> <td>Depart for Swindon</td> </tr> </table> <p>Cost £22pp includes: coach, driver's gratuity, entry to Buckler's Hard and river cruise.</p> <p>All members welcome</p> <p>Contact Susan Grice</p>	8.30am	Royal Wootton Bassett, Borough Fields car park, behind Sainsbury's	8.40am	Ashington Way, West Swindon	8.50am	Matalan, Greenbridge	4.00pm	Depart for Swindon
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<p>Monday 9th September</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting at the Ellendune Centre, Barrett Way, Wroughton SN4 9LW, 2.15pm to 3.30pm.</p> <p>“Marlborough Castle” by David Du-Croz. Nothing today remains of Marlborough Castle, but there is plenty of evidence to suggest that in the 12th and 13th centuries it was a significant royal building playing a key part in the military and political affairs of the kingdom.</p>
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<p>Sunday 6th October</p>	<p>U3A Concert Goers invite you to a 3pm performance at The Royal Albert Hall to hear the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Bach Choir conducted by David Hill perform Beethoven’s 9th Symphony (The Choral) with its climatic ‘Ode to Joy’, and Beethoven’s well-known Piano Concerto No. 5 (The Emperor) played by Alexander Romanovsky. Don’t miss this opportunity to hear awe-inspiring music in a magnificent setting!</p> <p>The coach will be leaving Swindon at about 11am. Cost is £50 based on 30 people attending (rebate if more people sign up).</p> <p>More details from:</p> <p>Nina Stimson or Cindy Matthews by clicking on one of the names.</p> <p>Please book as soon as possible and by end of July at the latest.</p>
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<p>Monday 14th October</p>	<p>AGM and Monthly Meeting at the Ellendune Centre, Barrett Way, Wroughton SN4 9LW, 2.15pm to 3.30pm.</p> <p>“Safe and Well” by Bob Tabel, Safe and Well Advisor, Swindon North, Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Service.</p>
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<p>Saturday 26th October</p>	<p>New Members Meeting at the Lawn Community Centre SN3 1LA, 10.00am to 12.00 noon.</p> <p>New Members - come along and meet other new members and find out how you can get the most out of your U3A</p> <p>Meeting begins at 10 am, hot drinks served from 9.30</p>
<p>Wednesday 6th, 13th and 20th November</p>	<p>Use It Or Lose It – Living Longer, Living Well</p> <p>Next Course: Wednesdays 6th, 13th, 20th November 2019</p> <p>Western Community Centre, 14.00 – 16.00</p> <p>This 3-week course includes the latest thinking about memory and how it is linked to good health and well-being.</p> <p>To register your interest please contact Marla Carroll by clicking on her name.</p>
<p>Monday 11th November</p>	<p>Monthly Meeting at the Ellendune Centre, Barrett Way, Wroughton SN4 9LW, 2.15pm to 3.30pm.</p> <p>“Medical Detection Dogs” by David Bradley OBE.</p> <p>An introduction to how Medical Detection Dogs are used and their capabilities, including current trials and case studies.</p>
<p>Saturday 16th November</p>	<p>Drones</p> <p>Following requests from members, an Information morning about drones has been arranged which will take place from 10.30-12.30 at the Coleview Community Centre. Refreshments will be served from 10.00.</p> <p>Speakers will be Philip from the Halo Drone Company based in Bradford upon Avon and Isla from Oxford University Drone Society.</p> <p>We look forward to seeing you at this interesting and informative event.</p> <p>Book a place on the SUCAS website or contact Avril directly at avmuirhead@gmail.com</p>

Singing Group

I'd like to start a new informal Singing Group for the U3A in September 2019. This would be a group suitable for people who enjoy singing already, and also suitable for people who do not believe they have a singing voice but would like to sing with others.

No formal musical training is needed for this Group.

If you would be interested in this, please contact me **Margaret Boyd** by clicking on my name.

Listen & Enjoy!

It is with great sadness that I have to report that one of our longest running groups, the Classical Music group, rechristened a few years ago "Listen & Enjoy!" has had to fold due to lack of members. It seems that our new U3A members appear not to enjoy the wonderful tunes and rhythms that classical music has to offer. Our present members are getting older and less mobile and no newer members are coming forward to take their place. As a consequence the membership has dropped to two or three.

It seems odd that in this day when classical music is getting more popular with, for example the growth of new radio stations like Classic FM and Scala, the older generation seem not to want any of this. I wonder why?

With many thanks to those who have supported us in the past.
Norman Lambert and Gillian Bromhead

Anyone interested in trying outdoor Lawn Bowls??

Stratton Churchway Bowls Club, based next to the Grange Leisure Centre off Grange Drive is offering an opportunity to play outdoor bowls. Play would take place either on a weekday morning (after 10.30) or afternoon with each session lasting about 2 hours.

The day and timing will be determined depending on the interest shown. Iain Riach (a national level coach) is willing to act as Group Organiser to co-ordinate & give advice etc.

No previous experience or skills needed. Equipment will be provided but you must wear flat soled shoes. Refreshments would be available.

If you are interested in joining a new group please contact Iain directly as below

Iain Riach - 01793 828809, iain.riach@outlook.com

or

Chris Ockwell (U3A) by clicking on his name.

U3A Portable Appliance testing 2019

The actual appliance testing is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 31st July 2019.

As in previous years if items are brought in on the testing days it may not be possible to test them while people wait.

Therefore items should be brought in during the following times:-

Monday 29th July 09:00 to 12:30 and **Tuesday 30th July 13:00 to 16:30**

PLEASE NOTE – This year items for testing should not be brought in via the usual office access but through the main Gorse Hill Community Centre door on Chapel Street. The same will apply for collecting test items. There will be direction signs in the centre.

Collection times – **Thursday 1st August 09:00 to 13:00** and **Friday 2nd August 11:00 to 15:00**

What items do I need to bring? Any item with a 230v mains connection but if it is a small power supply for a lap top or similar then check the date on the label (picture below) which will show if it needs to be tested this year.



“Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication.”

Leonardo da Vinci