



Welcome to our September newsletter

Keeping you connected with the Swindon u3a community

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Swindon u3a News

Vice Chair's Message

As we head into September, I'm always reminded of how it felt to go back to school after the long summer holidays.

An oversized blazer, shiny new shoes and the intention that I would try harder from there on in.

Of course this enthusiasm never lasted after October meaning that any proper learning came later as an adult when I was mature enough to understand its importance. That's the thing about getting older, wisdom makes us open to new things, less worried about learning new skills of our choosing and a real understanding of what makes us happy.

Fast forward to now, and for me the soft sun light in September means my birthday is here, autumn isn't far away and we can look forward to the crunching of leaves underfoot and a feeling of gathering, preparing for the cold months ahead and planning soups and casseroles accordingly.

It's been a cracking summer, if a little too hot at times but we made it to the new term.

Whether you plan to try another group, share your passion, knowledge and skills with others or even if you have shiny new shoes, let's embrace all that September has to offer.

Sue Wigmore-Bond
Vice Chair

Open Day – Saturday 29th August 2026 at the Deanery

An enormous thank you to all you wonderful u3a members who came along to make this year's Open Day a tremendous success.

We had a record number of visitors throughout the day, and our attending groups put on fabulous displays, interesting posters, amazing props and interesting handouts to illustrate to our visitors the fantastic range of activities on offer.

Volunteers gave information and advice, and our hard-working Office Team had queues of members signing up to join and there was a real buzz around the place.



Open Day really does make a difference in more ways than one. We gain new members of course, but we also spread the word about what a fantastic organisation we are – **even to our existing members**. This morning I received an email which summarised this:

“Just to say what a fantastic day! I have been a member now for several years however, having an Open Day really gives one a better idea/understanding of all the potential opportunities”.

And another from a new member:

"It is a brilliant community education programme as shown by the buzz at today's event"



Once again, a big thank you to all who contributed.

NB If you took away a waiting list at the end of the morning, would you please it through to our Group Co-ordinator, Linda Young.

**Gill Brain
Publicity**

Monthly Speakers' Meetings



These are held from **2.00 pm on Mondays at the Ellendune Community Centre, Wroughton**

Monday 14th Sept

Wilts & Berks Canal Trust - a History of the Canal, its restoration and 2050 Vision – by Paul Mumford and Robin Earle

Paul Mumford, a Director of the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust, together with Robin Earle, a Trust Historian, will be giving a presentation on the history of the canal and the work currently being undertaken with regard to its restoration. They will also be sharing the Trust's plans for the future and 2050 vision.

Monday 12th Oct

Going to Blazes! An hilarious glimpse at the Fire and Rescue Service by John Craig, retired Chief Officer of Wiltshire Fire Brigade

John Craig will deliver an anecdotal presentation that is a bit different! As a firefighter for 36 years and the Chief Officer of Wiltshire Fire Brigade for 13 years, he came across many situations that made him laugh. An experienced raconteur, John will share some of these with us to bring some chuckles and cheer to this grim world.

If you plan to attend a Monthly Meeting, please be sure to book a place by either:

1. Going onto the website swindonu3a.org.uk (just log in, click on u3a-wide events and under Swindon u3a events find the event you want to attend)

OR

2. Telephone the office on **07345 162117 or 07823 722812** and leaving a message. When leaving a message, please remember to state your name and membership number and, if possible, not to leave it until Monday morning as the office team cannot always pick up all the messages in time and sometimes names get missed.

If you're a new member of Swindon u3a and you're coming along to your first Monthly Meeting, please do let the people on the welcome desk know, so that you can be introduced to the u3a Volunteers Team.

Group News

Concertgoers Group



Members enjoyed a fine trip in June to Birmingham Symphony Hall to hear the CBSO play Martinu, Prokofiev and Tchaikovsky, with a superb violinist in the Tchaikovsky Concerto. Plus, an 'extra' free lunchtime concert where the Conservatoire Orchestra played Zoltan Kodaly's 'Harry Janos' Suite!

Thursday 19th November is the date for our next trip and **we've managed to bag 40 seats** to hear **Welsh National Opera** perform Puccini's 'La Bohème', at the **New Theatre Oxford**.

Details: Concert starts at 7:30pm and we plan to arrive there at 6:30pm.

Pick-up points: Ashington Way West Swindon, Downsview Road, and Highworth Brewery St Car Park.

Approximate times around 4:45pm - 5:15pm TBC.

Maximum cost for 30 people coming £63.50 including Circle seats, coach and driver's gratuity, but if 40 people come, the cost is only about £59, and you will get approx £4.50 refund pp cash on the coach.

HOW TO BOOK:

Please book soonest, but very latest by 15th September.

To book, send to Anne Nolan (afnolan@yahoo.com, Tel **07742 834457**), an email with the following information: (NB – it's vital that we have your mobile phone no and desired pickup point):

- Name(s)
- Address
- **Mobile Phone No**
- Email address
- No of tickets
- Amount paid (£63-50 pp) and method of payment
- **Pickup Point desired**

HOW TO PAY:

Please pay by BACS Bank Transfer (preferred) to **Swindon u3a Trips account**.

Sort code **40-52-40**

Account no **00022106**

Please use reference 'Your name Concert' eg 'Smith Concert'.

Alternatively, you can post a cheque made out to **Swindon u3a** to Anne Nolan, 7 Tenby Close, Swindon SN3 1LN

Any questions? Please contact one of the following people:

- Anne Nolan (afnolan@yahoo.com)
- Rosemary Stanbury (briro@talktalk.net)
- Robin Clegg (RESClegg@aol.com)

Travel Group J



Thursday 15th October 2026 – Visit to Exeter

Departure times and pick up points:

8.15am	The Crown, Royal Wootton Bassett
8.30am	Ellendune Community Centre Wroughton
8.45am	Coate Water (By Coate Water Petrol Station).
4pm	Depart Exeter for Swindon

Many places of interest including:

- Exeter Cathedral
- Royal Albert Memorial Museum and Art Gallery
- Underground Passages
- Exeter Quayside – one of the most attractive areas of the city

Cost - £32.00 per person which includes coach fare and driver's gratuity.

Contact Jackie Theobald 01793 815262 or Email M.Theobald1@sky.com

Aviation Group

Friday 16th October 2026 – Visit to Tangmere Military & Aviation Museum, Chichester

Nestled on a corner of the historic former RAF Tangmere airfield, Tangmere Military Aviation Museum stands on one of Britain's most famous fighter station sites. From its opening in 1918 until RAF Fighter Command departed in 1958, RAF Tangmere played a pivotal role in defending the nation through two World Wars and the early years of the Cold War.

Established in 1982 by a dedicated group of aviation enthusiasts, the Museum exists to preserve and share the remarkable story of Britain's military aviation heritage.

Today, Tangmere Military Aviation Museum is regarded as one of the UK's leading military aviation museums. Our extensive collection includes historic aircraft, engines, uniforms, medals, personal artefacts and thousands of photographs and documents, telling the story of military aviation from the First World War through to the Cold War.

Visitors can also enjoy a wide range of interactive exhibits, climb into authentic aircraft cockpits and experience our popular flight simulators, bringing aviation history vividly to life.

Departure Times and Pick up points:

8.00am	Ellendune Centre Wroughton
8.15am	Downs View / Marlborough Road
8.30am	Coate Water
4.00pm	Depart for Swindon

Cost £40.00 per person to include entry to museum, coach and driver's gratuities.

All members and friends' welcome

Contact: **Ken Ivie on 01793 845483** or email: kenivie@uwclub.net

Local News and Information

Cine Seniors



Sometimes there is nothing like seeing a film on the big screen. Cineworld at Shaw Ridge show regular films for 'Seniors' on Wednesday mornings. **Tickets are only £4.50** and **free tea, coffee and biscuits** are available just beforehand in the foyer. **Performances begin at about 11.30am.**

Here's what's coming in SEPTEMBER:

9 th September	The Christophers
16 th September	Disclosure Day
23 rd September	Michael
30 th September	The Devil Wears Prada 2

Free to a good home...

Following a recent clear out of the office storage - we have a small number of items **GOING FREE - on a first come - first served basis**



3 x folding wooden easels - approx 1.80 high



2 x folding projector stands



1 x roll up projector screen with stand



A Brother A3 MFC-J5335DW inkjet printer comes with a few spare cartridges

Let's get quizzical

Please email itsupport@swindonu3a.org.uk for more information on these items OR to arrange collection.



Take a moment with our quiz. Answers at the end of the newsletter – *no cheating!*

Mental Maths

Follow the instructions to find the answer

32	-23	+47	÷8	×13	+9	25% of it	Square root of it	+159	÷4	=
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Anagrams

Unscramble the words to find Wallace and Gromit characters. To help, we've included the films in which they appeared:

- Not Rob (Vengeance Most Fowl)
- Snooper today (Vengeance Most Fowl)
- Needle now (A Close Shave)
- Far gems watcher (The Wrong Trousers and Vengeance Most Fowl)

And Now for Something Completely Different!....

Which of the following long running radio shows featured future members of both Monty Python's Flying Circus and The Goodies?

Just a minute	I'm sorry, I'll read that again	Round the Horne
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What was a Norwegian blue which featured in a famous sketch?

Smelly cheese	A cat	A dead parrot
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Which of the following member of Monty Python's Flying Circus went on to direct the films Brazil and The Fisher King?

Terry Gilliam	John Cleese	Michael Palin
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Which of the following Monty Python films features a Latin grammar lesson?

Monty Python and The Holy Grail	The Life of Brian	The Meaning of Life
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What fictitious band featured in Eric Idle's mockumentary film?

Spinal Tap	The Soggy Bottom Boys	The Rutles
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Missing Vowels

Find the missing vowels to reveal a school themed book, film and song:

- Book: TMBRW NSS CH LDYS
- Film: TSRW THLV
- Song: NT HRBR CKNT HWLL

Who Said It?

Get out your pens/keyboards and be inspired to write with advice from these authors; but who said what?

“The road to hell is paved with adverbs.”

Stephen King	Edgar Allen Poe	Mary Shelley
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“The first draft is just telling yourself the story.”

Charles Dickens	Terry Pratchett	Ray Bradbury
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“There are three rules for writing a novel. Unfortunately, no one knows what they are.”

Doris Lessing	W. Somerset Maugham	Agatha Christie
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Word of the Month

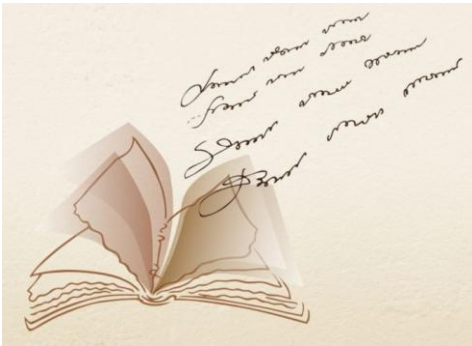
Gongoozle – to idle, observe, do nothing in particular while watching a river, canal or sea.



If you see an unusual word, please do share it and its meaning with us and we will feature it.

Did you know?...

Life in a poem (submitted by Lesley Basu)



No doubt many of you are familiar with Roger McGough...?

Born in Litherland, Merseyside in 1937, of Irish ancestry and raised a Roman Catholic, McGough: an English poet, broadcaster, children's author and playwright, presents Poetry Please on BBC radio 4 as well as performing his own poetry.

He studied French and Geography at the University of Hull and became one of the leading members of the **Liverpool Poets** influenced by the popular music and culture of 1960s Liverpool.

He is an honorary fellow of John Moores University, a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and President of the Poetry Society.

Returning to Merseyside in the early 1960s, he worked as a French teacher before meeting Mike McGear. Together they formed the trio: **The Scaffold**. They worked the Edinburgh Fringe Festival until they were signed to Parlophone records in 1966, performing a mixture of comic songs, and poetry. In 1968, they reached number one in the UK singles chart with their version of "Lily the Pink".

I recently heard McGough reading one of his poems on the radio. Also, as it's the start of a new year of u3a activities so, some amongst you might just need a little motivational, McGough style nudge..?



I WILL NOT BE A WIMP

I will not be a wimp
Neither stagger nor limp,
complain of back pain or fog on the brain.
I will accept what's on offer,
be it flu jabs or pills,
Take up painting, gardening,
acquiring new skills.

I will jog in the rain,
do press-ups on benches,
dream of adventures
with imaginary wenches.
And impressive for a man well into his eighties,
I'll continue with yoga, aerobics,
pilay.. pilar.. Pilates.

(Apologies for the occasional sloppy rhyme
But so many words, so little time...)

I will not be a moaner,
A perpetual groaner,
No bleak self-obsessing,
I will count every blessing.

Mercy O lord on we poor sinners,
condemned to a life of statins and blood thinners!

Swindon u3a Contacts



Chair
Vice Chair
General Secretary
Treasurer
Membership Liaison
Group Coordinator
Payment Manager
Speaker organiser
IT Support
Publicity Lead
Newsletter
Venues
Asset Manager
Office General Enquiries

Pete Cook
Sue Wigmore-Bond
Jan Showler
Eric Hewitt
Rose Clarke
Linda Young
Linda Young
Sue Cook
Dave Todd
Gill Brain
Philip Baylay
Mike Clarke
Tom Cliffe

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systems@swindonu3a.org.uk
speaker.organiser@swindonu3a.org.uk
itsupport@swindonu3a.org.uk
publicity@swindonu3a.org.uk
newsletter@swindonu3a.org.uk
accommodation@swindonu3a.org.uk
assets@swindonu3a.org.uk
office@swindonu3a.org.uk

Office

Swindon u3a Office, Gorse Hill Community Centre, Chapel Street, Swindon, SN2 8DA
(entry is by the middle door on the right-hand side of the building)

The u3a office is currently open on Monday 10am to 12pm.

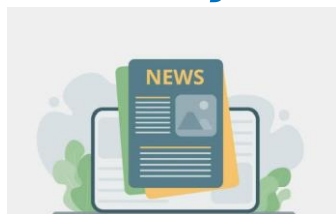
Tel: 07823 722812 or 07345 162117. Out of office hours there is an answering machine. Our Office Managers and volunteers will endeavour to answer your questions or point you in the direction of someone who can help.

Email: office@swindonu3a.org.uk

Web: www.swindonu3a.org.uk

Swindon u3a Charity Number 298853

Send us your news and more:



We would love to hear from you. Share your news and photos from your groups.

Send submissions to: newsletter@swindonu3a.org.uk - **deadline for the October newsletter is 19th September.**

QUIZ ANSWERS



Mental maths

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Anagrams:

- Norbot (Vengeance Most Fowl)
- Onya Doorstep (Vengeance Most Fowl)
- Wendolene (A Close Shave)
- Feathers McGraw (The Wrong Trousers and Vengeance Most Fowl)

And Now For Something Completely Different:

- I'm sorry, I'll read that again
- A dead parrot
- Terry Gilliam
- The Life of Brian
- The Rutles

Missing Vowels

- Book: TOM BROWNS SCHOOL DAYS
- Film: TO SIR WITH LOVE
- Song: ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL

Who Said it?

- Stephen King
- Terry Pratchett
- W. Somerset Maugham