



Newsletter



*Coate Water
Photograph courtesy of Dave Garmont*

June 2017

Membership – Annual Subscription

We are sorry to announce that the annual subscription will be increasing from £30 to £32 for the coming year 2017/18. This decision has been arrived at reluctantly and after much discussion but it could not be avoided forever. It is five years since the last increase and in that time many of our costs, such as accommodation, printing and postage have risen considerably. The new subscription is only 62p per week and for that you can join as many groups as you like so we hope that you will not feel too bad about it.

From the Treasurer – June 2017

1 Reserves

The Committee needs to retain a level of Reserves which will guard against unforeseen levels of expenditure which may arise in an emergency situation, such as the sudden enforced closure of Swindon U3A. Depending on the timing of the event, it may be necessary to make refunds of a substantial portion of membership fees, as well as the payment of outstanding accommodation charges and other essential items.

2 Standing Orders

Members who paid their 2016-2017 fees by standing order in the sum of £30 are reminded that they need to contact their banks to revise the amount of the order up to £32 with effect from 1 September 2017 (or any other date upon which they may have instructed their banks to pay).

John Edgerton (Treasurer)

Nominations for the Management Committee

We are coming to the end of the academic year shortly and there will soon be vacancies on the Management Committee. There are many opportunities for members to contribute to the Swindon U3A and this is a worthwhile and satisfying contribution that you can make. It is not a difficult job and does not require hours of work and endless meetings but fresh ideas and enthusiasm is always needed. No one is thrown in at the deep end and all volunteers are eased into their new roles with lots of support and training if required. Do not rely on someone else nominating you, please make the initial enquiries yourself by contacting the secretary by email at secretary@swindonu3a.org.uk or call the office on 01793 614629. We will talk it over with you and then you can decide whether to join us or not.

The Editor reserves the right to amend or abbreviate any entries submitted. We should also like to point out that any views expressed are not necessarily those of the organisation or of the Editor.

Monthly Meetings

The Monthly Meetings are held at the Ellendune Centre, Wroughton beginning at 2.15pm unless otherwise advised.

Monday, 12 June 2017

Industrial Archaeology in your Garage, Shed and Attic

Speaker : Bill King

A light-hearted examination of what the artefacts to be found around the average home can tell us about the Industrial Archaeology of Britain.

Report on April Meeting

Brunel's SS Great Britain

From Launch to Re-launch



Speaker : Ian Caskie.

She is one of the most important historic ships in the world. When she was launched in 1843 she was called 'the greatest experiment since the Creation'. No one had ever designed so vast a ship, nor had the vision to build it of iron. Brunel fitted her with a 1000 hp steam engine, the most powerful yet used at sea. Perhaps most daring of all, Brunel rejected using conventional paddle wheels to drive his ship. Instead, he gave the SS Great Britain a screw propeller. This was the newest invention in maritime technology. By seeing how to combine these key innovations, Brunel created a ship that changed history. Sadly she was trapped in Bristol docks for fifteen months because the lock was not wide enough to get her out to sea!

"Amid the shouts of thousands the Prince broke against the bows a bottle of wine and pronounced as the name by which the ship is after to be known, the words 'Great Britain'". *Illustrated London News, 23 July 1843.*

At the start of her amazing journey through history she did Liverpool to New York in fifteen days. This was part of the great mail trade which companies were competing for. The SS Great Britain enjoyed a long working life from 1845 to 1933 thanks to Brunel's engineering skills. On her fifth sailing they missed the turning at the IOM lighthouse and they sailed on to run aground in Ireland and then thought too costly to repair.

In 1852 salvation came when gold was found in Australia. Gibbs, Bright and Company purchased the SS Great Britain to use for carrying emigrants and gold seekers to Australia. On the Australia run the ship was to rely more on sail power than on her steam engine – this would save money. The engine and propeller would be used mostly as a back-up when the wind was light or blowing from the wrong direction. An extra upper deck was built, so that the ship could carry up to seven hundred passengers

After thirty years as a passenger ship, she was converted to carry cargo. Between 1882 and 1886 the SS Great Britain carried a variety of exports such as coal and wheat between England and the west coast of America. Due to the extraordinary distance, the ship was confronted by the wildest sea conditions in the world

In 1886, storms off Cape Horn badly damaged the SS Great Britain and forced her Captain, Henry Stap, to seek shelter in the Falkland Islands, the first port of refuge. The ship's owners decided the cost of repairs was far too high and eventually their insurers sold the SS Great Britain to the Falkland Islands Company. She spent the next forty seven years as a floating warehouse. In 1937, after becoming too unsafe even for this, she was towed to Sparrow Cove, a remote bay near Port William, and scuttled in its shallow waters.

And there she might have remained, a sorry sight left to rust and rot, gradually losing her fittings to trophy hunters and visited only by the occasional picnic party or curious penguin. But destiny had a different fate in store for this lucky ship.

Naval architect Ewan Corlett refused to let her fade away and in 1969 helped organise an audacious rescue mission to bring her home to the UK. Perforated with holes, and at risk of breaking in half, urgent work was needed to get her stable enough to be raised and floated onto a giant pontoon *Mulus III*, for the 8,000 mile journey to Bristol. Working against the clock, and in freezing conditions, divers patched up the ruptured hull using a combination of mattresses, donated by Falkland Islanders, and timber.

Falkland Islanders crowded into Port Stanley to see her officially handed over from the British Crown to the SS Great Britain project. They waved her off heading for Montevideo on the first leg of the journey home.

Welcomed 'home' to Bristol. Strong winds did not help progress but after two months the SS Great Britain finally arrived in Avonmouth, near Bristol. At the docks, cracks in her hull were repaired with steel plates and she was floated off the pontoon.

For the final leg of the journey, she was brought up the River Avon on her own hull, with a diving team on hand to patch up leaks and man the pumps. Tugs guided her along the Avon's treacherous banks and famed Horse Shoe Bend, surrounded by a small armada of vessels, and cheered from the shore by many thousands of well wishers. The SS Great Britain was finally welcomed 'home' on 19 July 1970 - back to the dock in which she was built, exactly one hundred and twenty seven years to the day after her launch in 1843. Finally we were told of the new 'Being Brunel' museum, being built alongside SS Great Britain. It was to be a tribute to ALL of Brunel's achievements in his life time. Opening due approximately February 2018.

Les Brian

Report on May Meeting **Operation Drake—Papua New Guinea**

Speaker : Lynda Pearson

For the Queen's Silver Jubilee Year, Prince Charles was asked to spend money on providing opportunities for young people to challenge and stretch themselves. He agreed on the condition that there should be not just a few Servicemen (as had been expected) but two hundred non-military young men and women. Under Prince Charles' patronage, John Bashford-Snell was appointed leader. JBS had led many expeditions as Adventure-Training Officer at Sandhurst, organising trips to the Blue Nile, the Darien Gap and the Zaire River.

As Lynda explained, she read in a local newspaper of a local surgeon who had battled man-eating crocodiles, survived hordes of giant mosquitoes, and spent time as the guest of savage natives!! At the end of the article came an invitation to 17 - 24 year olds to apply to join Operation Drake. Who *would not* want to apply?!

The voyage was to be centred on the brigantine Eye of the Wind, a 150 tonne ship of similar size to Drake's Golden Hind, but with a steel hull and built in 1911. She left Plymouth in October 1978 and returned to London two years later, in December 1980.



Named after Sir Francis Drake, who had circumnavigated the world four hundred years before on the Golden Hind, Operation Drake was divided into nine ocean and one land based phases, each lasting about three months. On each phase, a number of Young Explorers, youngsters aged between seventeen and twenty-four, who were selected from countries all over the world, worked together on serious scientific exploration, research and community projects.

Linda explained that there were two key objectives for her, namely to return safe and sound and with all her 35mm film intact and ready to be made into the slides which we saw.

The trip, under SAS leadership, needed constant adaptation to an environment of spiders, cockroaches, rats and dangerous insects. But life-long friendships were developed through living in close proximity to others for three months, as well as enduring washing up using sand and river water, crudely showering under salt water or rain. Linda steeled herself to help sail the ship and spoke about manning the crow's nest looking for rocks, sharks, dangerous flotsam and jetsam and from time to time spying land. Sailing on eight hundred fathoms meant there was plenty of water but precious fresh water had to be meticulously eked out.

The young people met many local dignitaries at the various stopping points and were also able to visit villages in return to experience at first hand sleeping in huts on raised stilts as well as many other differences between the western world and a group of islands with seven hundred different languages! They sailed in dug-out boats, exchanged for fresh fruit and vegetables, their own overstocks, either of food nobody wanted or items which had been 'over-donated' by sponsors. This all happened whilst at the same time making sure that the ship remained sea-worthy and repainted as and when necessary.

This was a very absorbing account of a world which most of us will never experience.

Martin Preston

Group News

New group

Pilates on Friday.

There are a few spaces available for this Pilates group. Sessions are 9.45 every Friday at the Western Community Centre, Somerset Road. No experience of Pilates is required. Cost per 6 weeks, payment in advance, is £18.00 to cover the cost of a fully qualified Pilates tutor. Please note that a short medical form must be completed before the first session. Please contact the Group Organiser by clicking on her name [Jane Caudwell](#).

Memory—Use it or Lose it

Living Longer, Living Well

The 'Use it or Lose it' course has been running successfully for six years and in its re-vamped, three session format for two sessions.

The next programme is on Wednesday, 4, 11, 18 October. It is at the Monsignor Richard Twomey centre on Queen's Drive by Holy Cross School from 2pm - 4pm. The sessions are linked so participants should be able to attend all three sessions.

The content includes the latest thinking on memory and how it is linked to good health and well being and what science is currently saying about diseases like dementia, including Alzheimer's. It aims to give information on memory and health, reassurance on ageing and practical advice that can help everyone make the best of the Third Age. The evaluations of participants are taken into account each time and the contents reviewed to keep it fresh.

People already on the waiting list will be contacted in September by the new temporary administrator, Nicola Nowak, with an invitation to these workshops. £3 is charged for materials but refreshments are free. Any unspent residue is donated to the Alzheimer's Society. There are further limited spaces on the programme for October.

There will be more information and a sign up sheet at the Fresher's Fair 2017 (2 September) or book a place now with the administrator by clicking here to contact [Nicola Nowak](#)

Intermediate Conversational German Group

The intermediate conversational German group currently has vacant spaces. We meet every Wednesday from 2pm - 4pm at a Group Organiser's home.

You will need conversational German up to a standard by which you can 'converse'.

If you are interested in joining this group you can get in touch by clicking on either of these names:
[Ken Kiley](#) or [Bez Suter](#)

Merribells in Exeter

On the 7 April 2017, four members of Merribells headed for Exeter University to celebrate fifty years of the Handbell Ringers of Great Britain. We had two cars full of bells and chimes. The event was held over the weekend and was attended by around three hundred and thirty ringers from all parts of Britain.

Friday evening started with a BBQ followed by a concert of ringing by the South East Regional Bell Orchestra and the East Anglia Regional Team. Saturday was taken up with various workshops and the AGM. At the AGM there were fifty Anniversary Bears, some were to be given to the regions to pass round and there were some available to purchase. I put my name down for one and was lucky enough to get number 50! The bear, now called Bob by my granddaughters, came with a certificate. Bob will now be the Merribells mascot. In the evening the 50th Anniversary Concert consisted of ringing by several groups from around the country including the Bournemouth Youth Handbell Team. Great to see some youngsters taking part. The concert was excellent and it was amazing to see and hear so many bells and chimes of all sizes.

On Sunday morning Norma took part in the ringing during the Palm Sunday morning service. Afterwards we all assembled on the steps of the Great Hall for a group photograph. This took a while in the cold wind. Then in the Great Hall there was mass ringing by around three hundred people ringing over six hundred bells and chimes. Quite a spine tingling feeling. Also Glenys took part in ringing three pieces for the Golden Oldie Competition that then had to be voted on to choose a winning entry.

The event was closed by a carvery lunch. We then had to load all the bells and chimes into the two cars before making our way back to Swindon. A very enjoyable weekend.

Sheila Walker



Glenys, Sheila, Ruth & Norma



Sheila and Ruth with 'Bob'

Embroidery Group

St. Timothy's church at Liden celebrated their 40th anniversary on 18th and 19th March with a floral display in the church. Groups meeting in the church hall were asked to contribute to the display.

The U3A embroidery group put on a display of their work along with the WI, the Brownies and Rainbows, the Chalet School and members of the church. There were many visitors over the two days and many favourable comments about our needlework.

Tea, coffee and delicious cakes were available and thoroughly enjoyed. Donations were sent to the Brighter Futures Charity.

Sheila White (Leader)



New Administrator Needed for *"Memory—Use it or Lose it" course*

Gill McKinnon, who has been with the programme from the start has stepped back due to pressure from her other U3A duties. We appreciate all she has done for the course and wish her well. She will be replaced in the October programme by Adele Merrison, former University lecturer.

Sue Durrant the administrator has to step back for family reasons but has not yet been replaced. Nicola Nowak one of the presenters, will cover for the October programme but an administrator is needed from then on.

The role includes booking people on the course, sending out reminders, printing evaluation forms and general administration, all by email. The majority of work can be done at home and there are templates available. There are only two programmes a year. Any interested person can shadow Nicola on the October programme to know what is entailed.

If you would like to join this friendly team or find out more information contact the current administrator by clicking on her name here [Nicola Nowak](#)

Archery Easter BBQ

The BBQ was held on Good Friday and attended by twenty one archers. It was great to see some of our newer members at the BBQ. Sue made an amazing Easter cake covered in mini eggs. The food was expertly cooked by Peter E and Norman.

As I was the only one with 'bunny ears' and as no one else dressed up, there was no prize awarded. Also no one managed to get the 'centre' of the Easter targets!! There were several close but again no winner. I think more practice is needed guys.

The weather once again held out and although a bit chilly it was dry.

As from the 1 May, after three years, I will be passing on the Group Organising to [Terry Horton](#), who can be contacted by clicking on his name.

Looking forward to the summer.

Sheila Walker

Flamenco Group

The Flamenco group held two taster dance sessions in April.

Wendy Whelan and Mary Newell 'Wiggled 'n' Giggled' in the belly dance class to a song by Shakira and the colourful hip scarves jingled as we danced. The ladies said 'It was good fun'.

Mike Whelan and Mike Ide stamped and tapped in the 'Tapa Tapas' Flamenco class to a traditional male solo dance. Our choreography included hats and some fast footwork. The gentlemen later said 'It was fab'.

Lin Craig



Sevington Victorian School

Sevington Victorian School is a perfectly preserved Victorian school room and teacher's house set in a model village outside Chippenham.

The trustees would like to offer a special project next summer, 2018, aimed at creative people. Called '*Sevington: through the eyes of an artist*', we are inviting groups and individuals to visit the school and offer a personal response through painting, writing, photography, or just singing in our beautiful schoolroom.

At the moment we are trying to gauge what kind of interest there might be in a project of this sort so if you think you might like to take part, please talk to your group leader, or contact Dinah Starkey, Trustee on starkeyd3@aol.com or 01225 755713.

And of course, Sevington also welcomes other groups, be they walkers, historians, travellers or follow any of the wide interests that make up the U3A. You can find more details on our website sevingtonvictorianschool.co.uk

Visits and Outings

Travel Group J Holiday to Northumberland

It was early on Thursday, a grey and cold but dry morning that forty nine intrepid voyagers embarked on a journey to the north east.

Our route to our hotel at Whickham was broken at Beningbrough Hall in North Yorkshire. During WWII the house was commandeered for use by the RAF and the RCAF. When it was returned to the owner, the Lady was not amused as her wonderful staircase had been damaged partly due to motorbikes and a horse being ridden down it!

On the Friday Beamish Open Air Museum beckoned. Although Beamish is spread over a large area, transport around the site was by tram or omnibus or if preferred by shanks' pony. This was followed by Durham and a walking tour giving wonderful views of the cathedral. Its interior was being used by a film crew and so was out of bounds. The day was rounded off with a cruise on the River Wear which included a barbeque.

Alnwick Castle was the next day's destination which was the abode of the Percy family, followed by Cragside the home built by William Armstrong and his wife. He was an industrialist and inventor and his home was the first house to be lit using electricity (hydroelectricity).

Sunday's highlight was a visit to Lindisfarne Island on a very cold day, where we discovered St Aidan (a statue), heard about St Cuthbert, the invading Vikings and walked through the ruins of the Priory. Timing was essential here to gain access along a dry causeway and also to exit before the tide came in!

Bamburgh was an excellent alternative to the Farne Islands as the swell meant landing on the island was not safe. Bamburgh has a castle in private hands with another link to Armstrong and also Grace Darling's resting place in the Village Churchyard and a museum devoted to her.



The homeward journey was broken in Leeds at the Armouries, where it was pleasing to note that the Littlecote House Armoury had been acquired in its entirety by this museum.

Thanks must go to Ken and Ann for the wonderful organisation of such a large group with many opportunities to lose people, for providing dry weather and some excellent Blue Badge Guides. The happy band returned home intact well satisfied with our excursions into the north east.



Oakham Treasures and Clevedon Court

On 6 April, a lovely sunny day, a full coachload of people enjoyed Travel Group J's trip to Oakham Treasures and Clevedon Court. Oakham Treasures, situated not far from the Easton in Gordano exit of the M5, was the first stop. I have to admit I had never heard of it before, and probably for that reason I assumed it would be a rather small place, but I couldn't have been more wrong. It was enormous! The leaflet they give you at the entrance informs you that 'you are about to enter one of the largest privately owned museums of retail and farming history in the UK'. The map on the leaflet was very necessary to find your way around!

The exhibits ranged from large tractors and other farm machinery, lorries, cars and model aeroplanes, to the smallest of everyday household items. An unusual feature was the large collection of tractor seats which were brightly painted in various patterns and designs. Some of the other exhibits were displayed as if in shops – clothes, wedding dresses, hats, toys, books, toiletries, housekeeping products, ornaments, just about anything you would find in the average home from around 1900 to 1950.

People were frequently seen pointing out an item and saying that when they were children their parents or grandparents had one of those. It was really fascinating. One of the visitor comments quoted in the leaflet stated 'Travelled 175 miles to get here. Well worth the journey'. Our journey was much shorter, but I agree. Before leaving, a good lunch could be obtained in the café.

To reach Clevedon Court we returned to the M5 and left it again at the next exit. Here we really appreciated the sunny weather. The gardens were beautiful, terraced at different levels, and full of flowers. A focal point was a very large magnolia tree covered in pale pink blooms. Nearby was another, much smaller but still a good size, with darker pink blooms. Many birds and butterflies were also in evidence. The house dates back to the 14th century and so was architecturally interesting.

It contains the usual rooms with historical pictures and furniture, a little chapel, and also a collection of pottery made by Sir Edmund Harry Elton, who inherited Clevedon Court in 1883 and was a famous potter.

An earlier Lord of the Manor, Sir Charles Elton, was a writer and a contemporary of literary figures such as Coleridge, Tennyson and Thackeray, who were known to visit.

This was a very interesting and enjoyable day out to two places well worth visiting.

Kathleen Wyatt

Cut off Dates

Just a reminder that the cut-off dates for the August What's On is Friday, 16 June (there is no July What's On). There will be no August newsletter. This is when the Yearbook is produced. The cut off for the September What's On is 4 August and October What's On and Newsletter is Friday, 1 September. This issue of the Newsletter carries an insert with membership renewal details for 2018 for existing members and new members alike.

Please remember the date of the Fresher's Fair is Saturday, 2 September. It is being held at St Joseph's Catholic College, Ocotol Way, Swindon, SN3 3LR. It is open from 10am to 12.30pm. Please come along and support the Fair.

Military History visit to
The Regimental Museum of the Royal Welsh (Brecon)
Monday, 12 June 2017

Pick up points and departure times

8.30am Highworth (Brewery Street) - opposite toilets
9.00am Ellendune Centre, Wroughton
9.10am Downs View Road (Old Town)
Comfort stop on journey at discretion of driver.
4.00pm Depart Brecon

We arrive in Brecon Town Centre for lunch at selected pubs /restaurants. We then make our way to The Barracks for The Museum for 2pm prompt tour with a guide. The museum contains The Zulu War Room; other displays cover The South Wales Borders, Welsh Regiment and Monmouthshire Regiment in two World Wars, Development of weaponry and Medal Room.

Cost £24 includes coach, museum fee, guide fee and driver's gratuity. Lunch, teas and coffees not included in cost.

Contact by clicking on the name [Malcolm Alexander](#)



Travel Group G
Visit to
Isle of Wight

Four days from Friday, 23 June to Monday, 26 June 2017

Based at The Channel View Hotel, Shanklin for
three nights bed, breakfast and evening meal

*We plan to visit Osborne House (entrance not included)
and various places of interest on the island*

Cost: £289 (single room supplement £75)
Insurance if needed £22 approximately (to be confirmed)

All members welcome

For enquiries about this trip please contact [Sue York](#) by clicking on her name



Theatregoers visit to the
Watermill Theatre, Bagnor, Newbury
Saturday, 1 July 2017 (Matinee performance)
Garden by Alan Ayckbourn

The play will be staged in the Watermill's garden, seating being on covered staging. In the unique setting of the Watermill's beautiful gardens, 'Garden' is being performed at the same time and by the same cast as 'House' in the Theatre. One character's entrance to the House is another's exit from the Garden.

Pick-ups will be

Asda Orbital 10.45am : Ashington Way 11.00am : Bus Station 11.15am.

Price will be £26 per person with payment by cheque. Payment required as soon as possible. Please contact either [Pam Poole](#) or [Cherry Warr](#) for more information. Click on the name.

NOTE: the restaurant is fully booked so you may want to bring a snack.

Gardening Group visit to
RHS Garden, Wisley
Tuesday, 4 July 2017

Departure times and pick-up points:

8.30am Ellendune Centre, Wroughton
8.45am Ashington Way, West Swindon
9.00am Downs View Road/Marlborough Road
9.10am Bus Station

Time to enjoy the world-renowned gardens, plant centre, restaurant, picnic areas and shop

4.30pm Depart for Swindon

Cost £15pp includes admission (Gardening Group has Affiliated Membership), coach and driver's gratuity.

Contact [Kathleen Elliott](#) by clicking on her name

All members are welcome

Travel Study Group C and G visit to

The Savill Garden

Monday, 17 July 2017

The Savill Garden, Windsor Great Park, is a tranquil place to discover rare plants from around the world arranged in stunning seasonal displays.

Departure times and pick-up points :

9.00am Ashington Way, West Swindon

9.20am Ellendune Centre, Wroughton

9.40am Matalan

Guided tour of the gardens followed by free time for the remainder of the afternoon.

5.00pm (approximately) Depart for Swindon

Cost £24 pp which includes coach, entry fee, guided tour and driver's gratuity. All members welcome.

Refunds are not made after 48 prior to the trip.

To contact the organiser please click on his name [Bill Mead](#)

Travel Group C

Summer Holiday

Tuesday, 22 August to Saturday, 26 August 2017 (Five days and Four nights holiday)

Edinburgh and the Tattoo, The Trossachs, Falkirk Wheel and Kelpies

We will be based at the Best Western Queens Hotel in Perth.

Cost £449 per person (single room supplement £60).

This includes bed, breakfast and three evening meals (meal not included on the Tattoo evening), ticket for the Tattoo and coach travel throughout.

Open to all U3A members.

Anyone interested in this trip should contact the organisers by clicking on one of the names below

[Mary Morgan](#) or [Sylvia Blacklock](#)

for more information and to request a booking form.



Professor Margot Gosney

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3 March 2017

Dear Friend,

This communication has been forwarded to you by the Group that you were associated with e.g. U3A, W.I or others. At the University of Reading we undertake a variety of research projects to improve the care of people in later life. With this in mind we have a Healthy Volunteer database that is made up of a number of men and women over the age of 60 who help us with a variety of research projects. For some people this may involve coming to the University and tasting food or drinks and for some it is simply about filling in a questionnaire and returning it to the University. I do hope that you would consider joining the database. All projects are considered by Research and Ethics Committees before being allowed to proceed. My contact details are 0118 3225474 or m.a.gosney@reading.ac.uk.

Yours sincerely

Professor Margot Gosney
Professor of Elderly Care Medicine



Poem of the Month

John Agard is a well known poet, playwright and children's writer. He grew up in British Guyana where he learned his love of language through listening to the cricket commentary on the radio! He now lives in Sussex with his partner Grace Nichols, another well known poet. In 2012, he was selected for the Queen's Gold Medal.

Lesley Basu

A Date With Spring by John Agard

Got a date with spring got to look me best.
Of all the trees I'll be the smartest dressed.

Perfumed breeze behind me ear.
Pollen accessories all in place.

Raindrop moisturizer for me face.
Sunlight tints to spruce up the hair.

What's the good of being a tree
if you can't flaunt your beauty?

Winter, I was naked exposed as can be.
Me wardrobe took off with the wind.

Life was a frosty slumber. Now, spring, here I come.
Can't wait to slip in to me little green number.



Football News

"Rovers aiming for the top"

Robert Hinton reports from the Rovers training ground.

After a disappointing season, Rovers are training hard for the campaign to come.

"Relegation is always a hard blow," said manager Piet Underarm. "We've had a lot of bad luck but we'll bounce back."

Out on the pitch were new signings 'Tricky' Ricchi Taccadimicchi on loan from Billericay and Ramon Rodabot, bought for £6.25 from Atletico Pozzoprofondo.

"Ramon is a utility player with a good pair of feet and Ricchi is a midfield dynamo. These two players will give us depth in the middle," said Mr Underarm. "That way, we can release the fire power of striker Harold Scargill, who had a great season even if he didn't get his name onto the score sheet."

Asked what spending limits the directors had set, Mr Underarm said he had £10 to spend before the window closed, so that left £3.75 that he had got in hand.

"I think we've got a squad now that can take us back where we belong," he said. "Receipts at the turnstile were well down last season but the directors have promised to repair the barbed wire fence and that should help. Also we've improved the design of the programme, so the fans will be able to see who we're playing against at any one time, and that will help too. I've got every confidence in the players and the fans. We're aiming for the top."





SWINDON LIONS CLUB (Charity #1160202)

'WE SERVE': IN SWINDON SINCE 1965

You can be sure of a very warm welcome in the Swindon Lions Club.

We are a group of twenty individuals, both male and female united in a common desire to help those less fortunate than ourselves. During our 52 years of serving the community in Swindon we have collected over £500,000 most of which has been spent locally but we have also donated nationally and internationally to help in times of crisis such as floods, earthquakes and tsunamis.

We are a member of the world's largest service organisation with members in clubs throughout the world but we are entirely responsible for raising and spending our money.

In Swindon every year we organise the best Firework display in Wiltshire and you could be a part of this. We also enjoy a variety of social activities.

So if you are seeking a new challenge, an opportunity to use the skills and knowledge you have gained over your life, a chance to meet new people and forge friendships, the opportunity to put something back into the community and to help those less fortunate why not consider joining the Swindon Lions Club? Give me a call on 01793 642898, email me at ajmitch88@yahoo.co.uk or simply turn up to one of our meetings which are held at the Village Urban Resort at Shaw Ridge on the first and third Mondays of the month (except for Bank Holidays when we meet on Tuesdays) at 8pm. We can't always promise a scintillating evening but we are friendly!

Why not try us; what have you to lose?

Alan Mitchell
President Swindon Lions Club
01793 642898
ajmitch88@yahoo.co.uk



The End