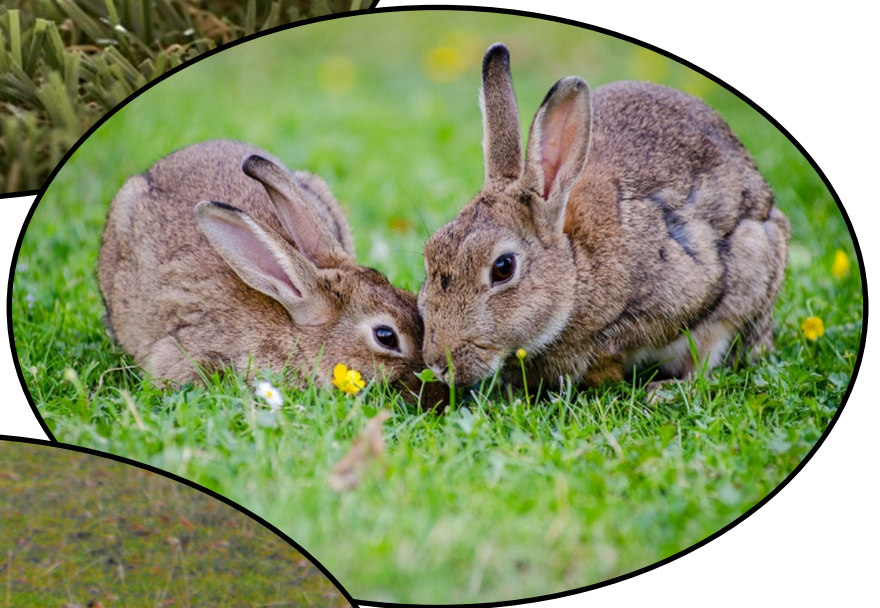
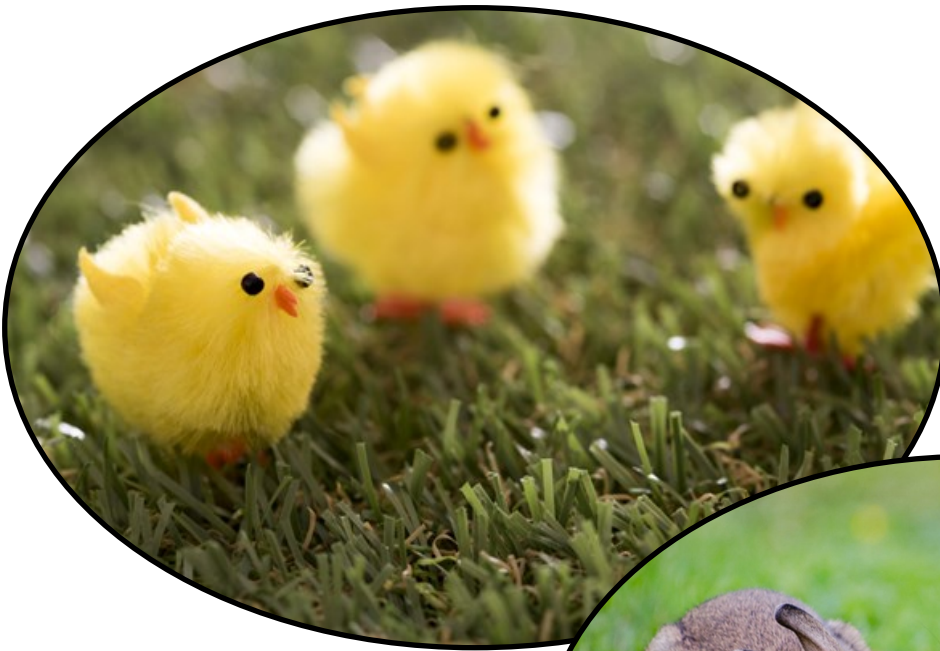


Newsletter
April 2022



Chair's "Hello"

I am writing this on the day of the Spring Equinox, and with the recent sunny weather we can be pretty sure that Spring has sprung. Unfortunately, although nature continues her annual cycle regardless of us, the news on the human front is less positive and I fear that the consequences will be long-lasting. Nevertheless, I am comforted by the resilience of the human spirit and the wonderful acts of kindness, understanding, generosity and unselfishness in response to others in need. I know from my interactions with you that these are also traits found in so many of our Swindon u3a members and will help to see us through the difficult times.

As you will now know, the Committee has made the final decisions about the future strategic direction and development of our u3a. We thank all of you who have commented, shared your ideas and given your feedback either verbally or in writing. I assure you that these have been taken into account in our decision making and have influenced our decision to take a stepped approach to the changes we need to make. Unfortunately, there is no way of avoiding the fact that many members will have to contribute more financially to their activities. I do wish there was a magic wand to make this financial imperative just go away, but there isn't. I hope that most members will understand and work with us to restore a sustainable balance to our future.

The Committee is already putting in place a good deal of support to help members and Group Organisers through this transition. In particular, I want to thank all those who have recently volunteered to help both on the Committee and as volunteers in our supportive activities. We now have three Group Assistants specifically to support GOs, and valuable additional volunteers joining our Treasury, Office, Administrative and IT teams. We feel confident that during the coming year we can, working together, develop back-up systems to ensure members and groups are supported at the same time as enabling us to return to financial viability. Once again, a huge thank you to all our volunteers, new and old, who are offering their time and skills to help our u3a.

There is some other positive news. We held a very successful New Members meeting at last, and thanks must go to our Membership Secretary, Jill Kelly, for organising this and introducing some fun activities, and to the Events Team in ensuring everything ran smoothly. In June we are hoping to hold a Swindon u3a event for the Queen's Jubilee. Do send in any ideas you may have to help this go with a swing. We also hope soon to re-start some of our monthly social events. I hope to meet more of you in person in the coming months.

Warm regards [Gill Brain](#)

Dear Concert Goers

It is hard to believe that the last Swindon u3a concert was back in October, 2019! But now we are back and have provisionally reserved 30 tickets for the Anvil, Basingstoke on the evening of Wednesday, June 8th. We have decided to restrict the numbers to 30 so that we can spread out a bit more in the coach.

Concerto Budapest Symphony Orchestra will be performing:

Bartok: Concerto for Orchestra

Mozart: Piano Concerto no 23

Beethoven: Symphony no 5

See <https://www.anvilarts.org.uk/whats-on/event/concerto-budapest-symphony-orchestra> for further details.

The cost will be £48 per person to include concert ticket, return coach travel from 3 locations in Swindon, and the coach driver's gratuity. We will be leaving Swindon at 4.30pm as there is a free pre concert talk at 6.30pm. We should be back in Swindon by 10.30 - 11pm.

If you would like to come, the cost is £48 per person, payable by cheque made out to Swindon u3a. The coach picks up from Downs View Crescent, The Bus Station or Ashington Way.

Please contact [Cindy Matthews](#) or [Nina Stimson](#) by clicking or tapping on one of the names. You will then be given more details about how to pay and book.



Perhaps the composer's most approachable work, **Bartok's** Concerto for Orchestra is filled with musical colour and bursting with ideas, building steadily through its five movements to an exultant conclusion. **Mozart's** piano concerto was one of three he composed while working on *The Marriage of Figaro*. Its limpid scoring and deeply poetic slow movement, which takes the lilting form of a *siciliana*, give it an atmosphere unique among his many concertos. **Beethoven's** fifth symphony, from the most famous opening in music, builds steadily through its four movements from dramatic struggle to a blazing, triumphant conclusion.

Singing Group

At our recent Singing Group session we had the Whole World in our Hands. We were bound for South Australia, we visited Jamaica singing three calypsos and walked the Liverpool docks with Johnny Todd. We went Round the Mountain many times and Marched with the Saints wearing a Coat of Many Colours under smiling Blue Skies.



We meet fortnightly on Monday mornings at Gorse Hill Community Centre from 10.00 to 12.00. If you want to sing just for fun then why not join us? Please contact the organiser by clicking or tapping on his name below.

[Ken Stimson](#)

New Tai Chi Class

This will be held weekly on Tuesdays from 10am to 11am at Liden Community Centre. The first day is Tuesday 26th April.

Developed in 13th-century China, Tai chi combines deep breathing and relaxation with flowing movements. This health-promoting exercise has been proven to reduce stress, improve posture, balance and general mobility, and increase muscle strength in the legs.

Beginners welcome.

If you are interested, please click or tap on the organiser's name below to register your interest.



[Judith Cranswick](#)

Life in a Poem - submitted by Lesley Basu

John Agard FRSL, is a British playwright, poet and children's writer living in East Sussex. Of Afro-Guyanese heritage, he writes for both adults and children and has won many awards including the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 2012 and more recently, in November 2021, the Book Trust's Lifetime Achievement Award. His wife, Grace Nichols is also a well known poet.



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.

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(entry is by middle door on right hand side of building)

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Charity Number 298853

Copy Dates

Items for the May Newsletter must be received by

29th April

Items for the June Newsletter must be received by

3rd June

All contributions must be sent to the Editor using the Newsletter contributions e-mail address:

newsletter@swindonu3a.org.uk

Geoff Bryan

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.