



Fairford & District Newsletter

Issue 196

June 2013



Narrowboat Women: their Children and their Crafts

Team from
Gloucester Waterways Museum

www.fairfordu3a.org.uk Registered Charity No 1072658

General Meetings

Palmer Hall, 2.30pm

2 July: Bibury Trout Farm by
Kate Marriott

6 Aug: Outdoor meeting

3 Sept: Tewkesbury
Benedictines by Don Freeman

Tea Rota

2 July: Poetry Circle 1

August: Outdoor meeting

3 September: Poetry Circle 2

1 October: Postcards

Photo Album

Ann Wightman has taken over
the photo album. Please give
any new photos to her.

01285 712723

Sightseeing Day Trip

On 10th September we are
organising a day trip to London
visiting St Paul's Cathedral, Royal
London, lunch on the South Bank
and finishing with a tour of
Buckingham Palace State Rooms
and tea in the garden. Lunch and
tea are not included in the price. A
7am start from Fairford, returning
at 7.30pm.

Cost about £40 per person with a
non-returnable booking fee of
£10. Please see the booking form
for further details.

Today, 4 June

At the **June** meeting, a group of Friends
of the Gloucester Waterways Museum will
be speaking about the Lives of the Narrow
Boat Women Their Children and Their
Crafts from around 1890 – 1920. They will
be dressed in costume and demonstrating
some of their craftwork.

In **July** we shall hear about one of
Britain's oldest and most attractive trout
farms, providing stocks of native brown
trout for local rivers and streams.

It is now a famous visitor attraction,
featuring a 'Catch Your Own' fishery.

August: Outdoor meeting; details to be
advised.

Copying Pre-Published Material

Having digested information from Bromley
about the need for the U3A to purchase
the licence(s) required to allow Group
Leaders to copy material for their Activity
& Study Group meetings, it is the
Committee's strong recommendation that
Group Leaders do NOT copy pre-
published material, (maps, books/
magazines, music etc); rather use
material available on the Internet to
support their activities.

Michael Yorke
Group Co-ordinator
01367 253286

Chairman's Report

On behalf of the Committee I would like to offer my sincere apologies to all members who attended the May general meeting and were disappointed that the booked speaker did not arrive. Despite many attempts by Jean to contact him he did not answer his telephone due, we were informed later, to a family emergency. To put this in perspective, this is the first time this has happened as far as anyone can remember, and I thank you for your understanding and support, but this does highlight the need for a reserve list of members who would be prepared to give a talk at short notice. One or two members did contact me during the meeting to say they could give a talk if required and I am grateful for their offers and I will be contacting them. If you are able to do this and would like to add your name to the reserve list please contact me or any member of the committee.

Reg Thoburn
01285 712397

May Meeting

In addition to Reg's comments above, I would also like to apologise for the disappointment of our members in May; unfortunately the mobile phone signal in this area is not good, and our speaker tried without success to contact Fairford.

When it became apparent that the speaker was not going to arrive, with their usual characteristic initiative, members made a cup of tea and enjoyed a chat.

We look forward to the June meeting and the Waterways team.
(See previous page).

Jean Crowley

U3A Cotswold Link Special Interest Day

This will be held at the Larruperz Centre, Ross on Wye Herefordshire on Wednesday 3rd July from 10.30 – 4pm and will consist of 4 fascinating illustrated talks on the theme of ART & Nature. Cost is £13 and will include coffee/tea and biscuits on arrival, and buffet lunch.

PETANQUE

Membership of the Pétanque Group is closed for this season as we are now using our piste to its full capacity.

During the month of August a friendly match is being arranged with Lechlade and District Lions, our first visitors for this year.

Arrangements are now in progress for our annual Isle of Wight Pétanque weekend in October.

David and Heather Baber

"Sir, that all who are happy, are equally happy, is not true. A peasant and a philosopher may be equally satisfied, but not equally happy. Happiness consists in the multiplicity of agreeable consciousness. A peasant has not the capacity for having equal happiness with a philosopher."

Boswell: Life of Johnson

Autumn visit to Shanklin on the Isle of Wight: places available



The U3A Pétanque Group are taking their annual break at the Shanklin Bay Hotel, on the Isle of Wight from the 4th to the 7th October, 2013. There are some spare places available if you would like to join us. (You will not be required to play Pétanque, just enjoy the weekend.)

The total cost is £175.00 per person (single supplement may apply) which includes half board accommodation, coach travel to and from Fairford with ferry crossing.

To confirm a booking please contact Dave or Heather

Group Co-Ordinator

After an enjoyable time representing our progressively increasing number of Activity & Study Groups on the Committee, I shall be stepping down at the AGM in April 2014 after 4 years in post, and the Committee would, ideally, like to have a successor identified by September or October so we can work in tandem for a few months to get a good hold on what goes on before he/she takes over.

It is an interesting position, which affords a very good insight as to how the Group operates, and can be influential in the development of the Group going forward; the job would be ideal for someone who enjoys their U3A and would like to play a part in its progress.

I have written a Job Description for the position, as I see it, and will be more than happy to discuss this with any member who is interested.

Don't be shy, your Group needs you!

Michael Yorke



Royal International

Air Tattoo Fairford

20 & 21 July

Your local Lions Club is anxious to recruit some volunteers to help with manning one of the main entrances to the Show and selling programmes, the payment for which forms a major part of their annual Fund Raising effort for their Welfare programme. Volunteers are sought for both days, although one day's help would be appreciated.

Please contact me if you feel you can help, and I will give you full details of what we are required to do, and when.

Michael Yorke
Secretary; Lechlade & District Lions Club
01367 253286

GROUP EVENTS

Please contact the group leaders if you are interested in joining any of the groups or visit www.fairfordu3a.org.uk for further information.

Birdwatching

Tuesday 18 June

Ray (01285 711087) has kindly agreed to lead our visit to the RSPB reserve at Otmoor, near Oxford. This is a wetland area and there should be plenty of birds. The hides are not covered and there is no other shelter on this reserve so let us hope for good weather. There are no facilities on the reserve. We shall have lunch at a local pub before returning home.

Meet at the Fairford car park at 9am as usual. A contribution of £3.50 from passengers would be appreciated.

Richard Morgan
01285 712085

Book Circle 1

Tuesday 11 June

Our meeting will be at Pauline's home where we will discuss 'The Warrior Queens' by Antonia Fraser. Please let me know if you are unable to come.

Denny Rawlinson
01285 711009

Book Circle 2

Tuesday 11 June

We shall meet at Kevin's house at 2.30pm having read 'My Mother's Glory' and 'My Father's Castle' by Marcel Pagnol. Please let either Kevin or me know if you are unable to attend.

Kevin Hannigan
01367 250246
Sarah Basley
01285 712720
t.basley@btinternet.com

Bridge Improvers

The group will continue to meet every Monday afternoon (except Bank Holidays) from 2 to 4 pm in the Heritage room, Fairford Community Centre, for a lesson and friendly practice play.

If you play bridge and would like to improve come and join us, we are a friendly and informal group. Partners and refreshments provided.

Margaret Bishop
01285 713747
email mbishop@talktalk.net

Chess

The group meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

Please contact Mike for details.

Mike Bennett

01367 252379

mish252379@btinternet.com

Computer Group

We meet every week on Tuesday mornings at my home where I aim to help members in the use of computers, the internet and more.

If you are interested in joining, please contact me and you will be welcome.

For those just starting, I have a desktop computer that is available for members to use although it is helpful if you have a laptop to bring along.

If you want to start using email, I can allocate you a personal email address for your sole use.

Nick Humphris

01285 711740

Cycling and Pub Lunch

Wednesday 26 June

Time to tootle out to one of our old favourites this month. We shall start from Southrop and head out towards Eastleach Downs, then on through Holwell, touch on Westwell and breeze through the back of the Wildlife Park, then cruise into Langford.

After a little liquid refreshment (to rehydrate - naturally!) and a nice meal we shall freewheel into Little Faringdon and home. The ride should be quite flat with gentle descents.

Meet at Southrop at 10.30am with your sun hat and sunburn cream.

Paul O'Shaughnessy

01367 850262

paulatsscissor@btinternet.com



Family History 1

Wednesday 19 June

We shall meet at 15 St Mary's Drive at 2.30pm to learn about archery and its influence on family life through the ages.

Please let me know if you are unable to come.

Miriam Scott

01285 713441

Five Rhythms Dance

Wednesday 19 June

We dance regularly at the Palmer Hall on the third Wednesday of the month, at 10am. New members welcome.

Gillian Bilbrough

01285 712579

Joyce Deane

01285 851408



Family History 2

We have decided not to meet again until September due to holidays and many other summer activities.

I wish everyone a happy summer with warm sunshine!

Michael Johnson

01285 712637

sanaelma@yahoo.co.uk

French Conversation

Intermediate

I will be in touch about future meetings.

Rosemary Westlake

01285 712329

idrwestlake@gmail.com

Advanced

We start by reading a couple of pages from a magazine published for groups like ours, and then discuss matters arising from that, and anything else that takes our fancy! This is done in two small groups of generally not more than six people. New members are always welcome!

Barbara Cartwright

07989 353726

Garden Group

Thursday 20 June

This month we shall be visiting the beautiful and well documented garden of Stephanie Richards at Eastleach House. The cost of the visit is £10 each which includes a 1½ hour personal tour.

For more information the garden can be found online at www.eastleachhouse.com. We need a minimum of 10 people so I will need to know names as soon as possible. There may be some spare places so we are opening this visit to any U3A garden lover. Suggested fuel donation £1.

We will meet in Fairford car park at 2pm.

Glenda Evans
01285 711448



Geology

Wednesday 12 June

The Geology group meets regularly at the Chapel in Milton Street on the second Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm.

Clive Watson
01285 713003
Brian Routledge
01285 712853

Industrial Heritage

Our group meets at varied intervals. For details of future meetings, please contact Pete Martin, 01285 713908; email: petem91@btinternet.com

Latin

Thursday 6 June

The group meets on the first Thursday of the month at 2.30pm at my house. Please contact me if you are unable to come.

Susan Greig
01285 810274

Music Listening

Friday 21 June

We shall be meeting at 2.30pm in the Tame Room sharing music with a Summer theme.

John and Joyce Dear
01285 653338

Philosophy

Wednesday 19 June

The subject for discussion will be 'Relativism' and will be at 'Ways', Bell Lane, Poulton.

Dan Deane
01285 851408

Model Group

The Model Group meets weekly on Thursday mornings.

Please contact:

Jim Sullivan
01367 252539

Needlework

Wednesdays, 5 and 19 June

We meet at the Fairford Community Centre. This group brings together many different skills under the heading of 'Needlework'; we are a friendly group and enjoy our sessions.

If you would like to know more, please contact

Thelma Hardie
01285 713971

Pétanque

Please see page four of this newsletter.

Poetry Circle 1

Friday 7 June

The group meets on the first Friday of the month.

Barbara Cottam
01285 711054

Poetry Circle 2

Friday 7 June

The June meeting will take place at my house and we shall look at poetry related to America.

Barbara Cobbett
01285 712692

Postcards

Tuesday 18 June

For further details, please contact

John Higgs
01285 712488

Rummikub

Thursday 13 June

The group meets on the second Thursday of each month at our house in Lechlade from 2—4.30 pm for some friendly games of Rummikub.

For further information or explanation, please refer to the Fairford U3A website or telephone me.

Mary Bennett
01367 253287

Short Tennis

This group meets in the Palmer Hall every Monday, starting at 3pm. Please note the earlier starting time.

For further details, please contact

Margaret Trickett
01285 712421

*"I have noticed that the people who are late are often so much jollier than the people who have to wait for them."
(anon)*

Solos

Monday 3 June

Our next meeting will be at Val's house. July's meeting will be on Monday, 1st July.

Contact me for details.

Michael Johnson
01285712637
sanaelma@yahoo.co.uk

Spanish

Tuesdays, 11 and 25 June

The group is for beginners but those with some Spanish are welcome.

Meetings are at my home from 11am to 12 noon.

Frank Hall
01285 712583

Straddlers

Thursday 20 June

We start the walk from the sports field in the middle of Milton-under-Wychwood and proceed via Lyneham Road and the Oxfordshire Way past Brunern Abbey and Foxhole Nature Reserve to Standbow Bridge. We will then return by way of Lyneham, Ascott-under-Wychwood and Shipton-under-Wychwood. It is a flat, easy walk with very few stiles, about ten miles, with lots of interesting views and places along the way.

Please meet at Fairford Car Park at 9.15am or at the Milton-under-Wychwood parking area through the gate beside the sports field in the middle of the village at 10.15 a.m. Suggested contribution to travel £2.50.

Eileen Trowbridge and Sue Middleton 01285 713914

*"The human brain is a wonderful thing. It starts working the moment you are born, and never stops until you stand up to speak in public."
(anon)*

Striders

Tuesday 25 June

The walk this month begins at the Village Hall at Apperly. The walk is about 6 miles in distance. It follows field paths north from Apperly through the village of Deerhurst. A modest ridge rises to Lowerload and finally turns south to follow the Severn path. Most of the journey is flat walking.

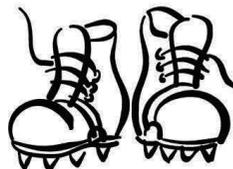
There will be an opportunity to see Odda's Chapel and St Mary's Church at Deerhurst, both of which are the best examples of Saxon Churches in England. Both date back to the 6th century. Odda's Chapel is one of only a handful of wholly Saxon buildings. It was as recent as 1885 during restoration that it was rediscovered.

Please let me know of your intention to walk by Sunday 23rd June. The nearest convenient place to eat is at The Swan at Coombe Hill on the Tewkesbury Road. Their menu is available on www.swanatcoombehill.co.uk. You can ring them on 01242 680227. Again, I would like to know of your choice by no later than 6pm on 23rd June, or you may choose to place your order yourself by telephone having viewed the menu.

It is approximately 30 miles to the start of the walk. Might I suggest a contribution of £2.50 per passenger? If you would like a route map email me on philipgmeaden@btinternet.com.

We will leave the car park at Fairford at 9.00am to arrive at the Village Hall at Apperly for a 10.00am start.

Philip Meaden
01285 713917



Strollers

Friday 28 June

This month we are returning to a favourite haunt, the Coleshill Estate, for a 3 mile walk on largely flat lanes, paths and tracks.



Starting at the popular Radnor Arms, we leave the village via the Church, turn north east and walk through field paths to Fern Copse and on to Brimstone Farm from where we turn south towards Cuckoo Pen Plantation and back to the village.

There are one or two stiles, but nothing of any difficulty. Although, theoretically, we will be in Summer, as I write this copy it is windy, cold and wet, so decisions on footwear etc will need to be made the day before in response to the weather forecast!

This is a two hour walk, so meet at Fairford Car Park at 9.45am or at The Radnor Arms Car Park at 10.15am to order lunch and set out by 10.30am.

We look forward to seeing as many regular walkers as possible and hopefully some first timers for a relaxed and social get-together.

Michael Yorke
01367 253286

Yoga

Mondays

The Yoga group meets weekly on Mondays at the Community Centre at 10am.

Sylvia Jones
01285 712657

Traditional Jazz

Thursday 6 June

We shall meet on 6 June; Bessie Smith, Otilie Patterson, Carol Leigh will feature amongst others.

Ian Bennett
ian@abennettm.gotadsl.co.uk

Walking with a Pub Lunch

Wednesday 12 June

The June walk of 4½ miles has one step-over style, a steep decline and two moderate inclines. From the best pub in Quenington, The Keepers Arms, we set off westwards to Coneygar Cottages, then descend crossing Akeman Street to the beautiful Coln Valley.

We follow the river Coln, re-crossing Akeman Street, to Coln St Aldwyns. Here we climb up to near the church and follow a bit of the Salt Way and then cross The Grandage. After this an inclined track leads back to Quenington and The Keepers Arms.

Meet at Fairford Car Park at 9.30am or The Keepers Arms (GL7 5BL) at 9.45am. Park where possible near the pub. The pub opens late, so I will collect menu choices before we leave. Recommended passenger fee is £1.

Nick Stroude
01285 750646



"Sir, a woman's preaching is like a dog walking on its hinder legs; it is not done well, but you are surprised to find it done at all."

Dr Samuel Johnson

How times have changed since the 1750s! - Ed

Recorders

Fridays, 14 and 28 June

June dates for the recorder group will be Fridays the 14th and 28th, starting with anyone who would like to play the treble (from 2.00pm-2.30pm) and followed by the main group at 2.30pm to finish at 4.30pm, with a break for tea. We should be in the Farmor room on the ground floor of the Fairford Community Centre and will let you know if we have to use another room. As usual, we will be playing a varied selection of music arranged for Descant, Treble, Tenor and Bass with the addition of Great and Contra basses in the occasional piece.

If there are any more recorder players who would like to join a friendly, non-judgemental group you would be very welcome - please contact: Hilary Bradshaw 01367 860030: hilary@burytown15.co.uk or Jay Mathews 01367 860869: jaymathews124@mac.com for further information. We have some spare instruments and stands, please ask if you would like to borrow one.

"My parents - both of whom came from impoverished backgrounds and neither of whom had been to college, took the view that my overactive imagination was an amusing quirk that would never pay a mortgage or secure a pension."

J. K. Rowling



GROUP REVIEWS

Family History 2

We spent a fascinating afternoon looking and searching the various websites found in the U3A Family History Newsletter which we find a very interesting and helpful publication. The first website we visited was www.gravestonephotos.com/index.php where we found you can look for photos of inscriptions on grave stones from this country and abroad. It's a bit hit or miss but it's easier than combing church yards yourself. We then looked at a website indexing the marriages for the parishes of Bedfordshire 1837 to 1901 <http://www.sgibbs1.freemove.co.uk/ParishRegistersPage.htm> and Val Higgs found details of a marriage she had been looking for, for some considerable time. We finished up looking at a website we had visited before called 'Britain from Above' which presents the unique Aerofilms collection of aerial photographs from 1919-1953; <http://www.britainfromabove.org.uk/>. We looked at places we knew in our youth, and saw how much everything has changed. It's a very interesting site for anyone to visit. Just have a look when you have a moment.

Michael Johnson

Philosophy

The subject for discussion was 'Fate'. The idea that there is some power or principle by which the future course of events is predetermined, or 'mapped out' in advance, has exercised a lasting hold on human imagination. Often personified as some kind of divine or supernatural agency, fate or destiny is usually seen as an inexorable and inevitable force, "Fate leads the willing, but drags the unwilling", according to the Greek Stoic philosopher Cleanthes. It was mentioned that the advent of science and the idea of a mechanistic universe brought about the concept of determinism in which every event has a prior cause. This tends to negate the idea of free will. We discussed the position of faith with particular attention to theological writings. The discussion ranged from the attitudes of the established religions to the implications of the Greek myths.

Dan Deane

Book Circle 1

'The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry', by Rachel Joyce

Harold Fry, recently retired, receives a letter from a former friend and colleague, Queenie, informing him that she is dying from cancer. She is in a hospice in Berwick-upon-Tweed. Harold sets out from his Devon home one April morning intending to post a letter to her but feels impelled to go past the post box and continue walking, somehow believing that his journey will inspire her to live. He has no map or compass and his feet are clad only in his yachting shoes. Some of us thought that this was a foolhardy thing to do (especially the eminently unsuitable yachting shoes!), others considered it added to the charm of the book; there are people who just walk away from their lives.



Throughout the journey Harold reflects on his life and missed opportunities. He is wracked with guilt about the way he has fared as a husband, a father, a son and a friend. He keeps in touch with the hospice and his wife, Maureen, by telephone and postcard. Their marriage has become rather humdrum and it is a delight to follow their changing relationship as they gradually realise what they mean to each other. Their story is emotive, often heart-rending, with the odd touch of humour. Harold meets many compassionate people on the way and becomes a national celebrity when the media learn of his mission. His mood swings from positive serenity to one of unrelenting desperation. The events following his arrival at the hospice proved too harsh for the sensibilities of some readers.

Rachel Joyce is a new voice in fiction, and this is her debut novel. It began as a play for BBC Radio 4 which she wrote for her father when he was dying of cancer. She said that the book had her heart in it – and it shows.

Barbara Cobbett

Book Circle 2

'Orlando' by Virginia Woolf

This is a work of modernist fiction which met with extremely mixed reactions; some found it almost unreadable, others wondered what Woolf had been imbibing at the time of writing and a few loved it. However, most expressed an appreciation of the sheer quality of the writing. This is a real flying carpet of a novel, dedicated to Vita Sackville-West (Orlando) which covers five centuries, two continents and two sexes.

Orlando, the central character, starts life as a wealthy English aristocrat at the court of Queen Elizabeth 1, then glides, glacially ageing, into the next century where he experiences heartbreak, the frost fairs on the Thames and their destruction with the thaw; the description of this event is one of the highlights of the book. From here the tale shifts to Constantinople and the eighteenth century from whence (after many adventures and a change of sex) Orlando returns to England.

Woolf tracks Orlando through the centuries, through love, marriage and childbirth; through meetings with various men of letters; through reflections on memory, writing, truth, literature and the nature of sexuality - and always with an exuberant, playful wit. It is worth reading the book for her evocation of place, of landscape alone. But then I am an admirer. Others would more readily recommend 'Mrs Dalloway' or 'To the Lighthouse' as an introduction to Woolf's oeuvre; indeed, had they read 'Orlando' first they might never have gone on to read those other novels.

Sarah Basley (a fan)

Industrial Heritage

As 2013 sees the 150th anniversary of the London Underground, it was fitting that Pete Martin should tell us, at our April meeting, about the pioneers of tube travel, from an attempt by Marc and his son Isambard Kingdom Brunel to tunnel under the Thames in the early 1800s to pioneer the earliest underground railways.

Later two entrepreneurs, Barlow and Greathead, successfully drove twin tunnels under the Thames near the Tower. Using them as a stepping stone, Greathead went on to lay the foundation of today's deep tube travel by constructing circular iron tunnels from the City to Stockwell in South London – which became the City and South London Railway. Originally the carriages were drawn by cable but this was later changed to electric traction, becoming the first railway in the world to use this means of propulsion. Opened in 1890, the standard fare was tuppence and passengers sat or stood in small carriages known as 'padded cells' as they had no windows and little ventilation.

The original tunnels were too small to accommodate the later underground trains; eventually they were enlarged and are now incorporated in the modern Northern Line. During the building and running of the C. & S.L. Railway, many financial and management disasters occurred and profits became non-existent.

One wonders how many of today's passengers realise that they are passing through history!

John Higgs

Strollers

Eighteen members met up at the Victoria Inn, Eastleach for the April Strollers' walk. The weather was warm and sunny and the countryside green and fresh, looking grateful for the change in weather, as indeed were we. We made our way through woodland footpaths and field tracks and arrived back at the Victoria where we enjoyed a good lunch. We are certainly very fortunate to have such wonderful countryside on our doorstep and our thanks go to John and Val Higgs for leading us on this lovely walk.

Jen Thoburn

Poetry Circle 1

For the May meeting members were asked to find a poem that most accurately reflected their current attitude to any subject they chose.

Two of us described our heightened sense of joy at the glories of the natural world through the poems, 'Pied Beauty' by G M Hopkins and 'Leisure' and 'A Great Time,' by W H Davies. Another's hobby and pleasure was for book collecting, described in 'Books' by Reg Jeoram, a poet new to us all.

There was amusement when one of us declared that he felt like the lone goat amongst "friendly sheep" in the poem, 'The Wildy One,' by Robert Service.

Sadness and puzzlement probably best describes the rest of the contributions. One confessed to an inability to know which way to go and linked it to Vernon Scannell's 'No Sense of Direction'.

There was bewilderment at failing abilities in the moving 'Two Sisters,' by Ian Westlake and questioning in 'Answers,' by Elizabeth Jennings, who found that she had no answers to the biggest questions of all. The last reading, by one who regretted the loss of a youthful fiery will to action was, 'My Back Pages' by Bob Dylan, whose mournful refrain spoke for us all

"I was so much older then; I'm younger than that now."

Any poetry lovers who think they might like to join us would be welcome to come to our next meeting when the subject will be 'Waterways'. Phone Barbara Cottam for details on 01285 711054.

Joyce Deane



Solos

In April we enjoyed a lovely day out at Burford Wild Life Park. Seven of us met on this cold and blustery day, hot chocolates being our first call. Then off to see some of the animals, who felt the cold just as much as we did and stayed indoors. Five of the other not so wild animals set off briskly, the other two sedately wandered off, arranging to meet elsewhere later. I think their Sat Nav must have been on the blink.

The meerkats were surprised to see us at least five times, and the penguins were equally perturbed about these two strangers waddling around just like them. Nevertheless, our hero, Mike the Knight, came and rescued us. Feeding time for the lesser wild animals was enjoyed by us all. Exhausted, we called it a day; hot chocolates once again.

Although it was cold and not many animals turned out, it was a great day. What else do you expect with such good company. Roll on the next one!

Valerie Bevington-Wood

Table Tennis

April and May Updates

Two good pieces of news for the Group:

The Reverend Andrew Kirk has kindly loaned us another table; our thanks go to him and also to Michael Yorke and Mike Johnson for transporting it from Lechlade. It will be kept in the Keble Room. The redundant chairs stored there have now been removed. Thanks go to Reg Thoburn for his help with this and removing 90 odd plastic plugs and 120 screws to release the backs and seats the scrap dealer would not take.

Attendance in April and May has needed some sessions extending to 1½ hours. So far in May the main challenge has been the heat, but we have found how to open the windows! Any new members looking for some gentle exercise are most welcome to join us.

Nick Stroude

Walking and Pub Lunch

Before the day of our walk, it was the hottest day of the year. The forecast for the next day however was for the end of a fine spell returning to wet, cold and windy conditions. Nevertheless, 16 optimistic members met at Somerford Keynes to enjoy the 4½ – 5 mile circular walk of the upper Thames region. Having selected our lunch choices, we set off with glimpses of the sun, under surprising ideal walking conditions which lasted throughout. Following the meandering and narrowing of the River Thames through differing farmland which included walking through a field of sheep with spring lambs, we eventually reached Ewen, where we passed the well-known ex Peter Scott hostelry (The Wild Duck). We continued out of the village for the return track paths (and hurdles) back to our destination. Our lunch venue (set for 17 including Phillip – Jenny`s husband) was very welcoming and no doubt appreciated by all concerned. With good food, excellent company and kind weather, I am sure the walk was enjoyed by all.

Bert Sampson

Fairford & District U3A Calendar June 2013

	June	
Mon	3	French, Yoga, Bridge, Solos, Short Tennis
Tue	4	Main Meeting, Keep Fit, Computers
Wed	5	Pétanque, Table Tennis, Needlework
Thu	6	Model Boats, Latin, Traditional Jazz
Fri	7	Poetry Circles 1 and 2
Mon	10	French, Yoga, Bridge, Short Tennis
Tue	11	Keep Fit, Computers, Spanish, Book Circles 1 and 2
Wed	12	Pétanque, Walking and Pub Lunch, Table Tennis, Geology
Thu	13	Model Making, Rummikub
Fri	14	Recorders
Mon	17	French, Yoga, Bridge, Short Tennis
Tue	18	Keep Fit, Computers, Birdwatching, Postcards
Wed	19	Pétanque, 5 Rhythms, Table Tennis, Philosophy, Family History 1 & 2, Needlework
Thu	20	Model Boats, Straddlers, Garden
Fri	21	Music Listening
Mon	24	French, Yoga, Bridge, Short Tennis
Tue	25	Keep Fit, Computers, Spanish, Striders
Wed	26	Pétanque, Cycling and Pub Lunch, Table Tennis, Chess
Thu	27	Model Boats
Fri	28	Strollers, Recorders

Please send items for the
July/August*
 issue to email:
 editor@fairfordu3a.org.uk by
Monday 17 June

***Contributors are reminded that August events should be included as there is not an issue in August.**

Timetable of Group Activities

Needlework Group meets Wednesday afternoons fortnightly. Pétanque and Cycling & Pub Lunch meet April to October; Industrial Heritage at varied intervals.

		Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Mon	am	French Yoga	French Yoga	French Yoga	French Yoga
	pm	Bridge Short Tennis Solos	Bridge Short Tennis	Bridge Short Tennis	Bridge Short Tennis
Tues	am	Keep Fit Computers	Keep Fit Computers Spanish	Keep Fit Computers Birdwatching	Keep Fit Computers Spanish Striders
	pm	MAIN MEETING	Book Circle 1 Book Circle 2	Postcards	
Wed	am	Pétanque	Pétanque Walking and PL	Pétanque Five Rhythms	Pétanque Cycling and PL
	pm	Table Tennis	Table Tennis Geology	Table Tennis Philosophy Family Hist 1 Family Hist 2	Table Tennis Chess
Thurs	am	Model Boats	Model Making	Model Boats Straddlers	Model Boats
	pm	Latin Traditional Jazz	Rummikub	Garden Straddlers	
Fri	am				Strollers
	pm	Poetry Circle 1 Poetry Circle 2	Recorders	Music Listening	Recorders