

U3A

Fairford & District Newsletter

Issue 173

May 2011

AGM 2011

followed by



Chocolate, a 400 Year Love Affair
by Janette Rowlatt

www.fairfordu3a.org.uk

Registered Charity No 1072658

General Meetings

Palmer Hall, 2.30pm

3 May

AGM followed by Chocolate, a
400 Year Love Affair by Janette
Rowlatt

7 June

Morning Dew—traditional tunes
by Mike and Pat Ledbury

5 July

Another man's shoes
by Ellie Targett

Today, 3 May

This year's AGM will be followed by
Janette Rowlatt, acclaimed
Chocolate Gourmet, who will be
telling us about the history of
chocolate. Her talk will include
'tutored tastings'.

In June Mike and Pat Ledbury in
costume will take members on a
journey accompanied by live music,
light-hearted anecdotes and
comments. This is presented by a
retired Headmaster who believed
that learning should be fun.

In July Ellie Targett will tell us about
her father's experiences during
World War II, when he joined the
resistance movement. She
describes his arrest and subsequent
escape, fleeing 200 miles over the
mountains into Sweden. The talk is
very visual with slides, books and
costumes and one or two 'surprises'.

New members

We welcome back:
David and Heather Baber

Tea Rota

June 7 : Birdwatching
July 5 : Biography
September 6 : Book Circle 2

'Chocolate causes certain endocrine glands to secrete hormones that affect your feelings and behavior by making you happy. Therefore, it counteracts depression, in turn reducing the stress of depression. Your stress-free life helps you maintain a youthful disposition, both physically and mentally. So, eat lots of chocolate!'

Elaine Sherman. Book of Divine Indulgences

U3A April

In April Jenny Bartlett, a guide and volunteer trainer, brought her enthusiasm for Westonbirt Arboretum to Fairford. She began her illustrated talk with the story of the Holford family, who owned it before it eventually passed to the Forestry Commission in 1959. She moved on to the colourful, seasonal beauty of this internationally renowned tree collection with slides of the 'historic' trees (i.e. the fattest, tallest, scarcest of their kind) and of the vistas and rides showing the wide range of species it is possible to grow because of a curious geological feature of some slightly acidic patches of soil amongst the Cotswold limestone, which accounts for the profusion of rhododendrons, azaleas and magnolias. The rarest tree in the collection is a Small-leaved Lime *Tilia cordata*, which is almost certainly nearly 2,000 years old.

There was even time to see slides of volunteers at work and to appreciate the skill of the arborists. Last year about 10,000 children came on educational visits. Although grand plans for the future have been victims of the current austerity it is hoped that visitor numbers will be high enough to keep the 600 acres going for some time yet.

For more information visit

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-6XDCU8>

Sylvia Jones

Oxford Walking Tour: Thursday 5th May

There are still a few places for the two-hour guided tour round Oxford city centre to see the sights and enjoy a cup of tea afterwards at The Vaults. Please contact me if you would like to come. We can arrange lifts to the Park and Ride into Oxford.

Highgrove Gardens

Visits are planned for Wednesday 8th June and Tuesday 28th June. There is a waiting list for these, so if you have booked and are not able to come, please me know as soon as possible, so the place may be re-allocated.

Jean Crowley
01285 711775

GROUP EVENTS

Biography Group

Wednesday 18 May

We will meet at 3pm at Iris's house to discuss more biographies of our choice.

New members will be very welcome!

Kevin Hannigan
01367 250246
hannigan100@hotmail.com

Birdwatching

Tuesday 17 May

This month we shall visit Coombe Hill Meadows in the Severn Valley and have lunch nearby. If the ground is too wet (which looks very unlikely as I write this) we will visit our nearest GWT reserve at Whelford Pools instead.

Meet at the Fairford car park at 9am as usual. Coombe Hill is 30 miles from Fairford.

Richard Morgan
01285 712085

'Never mind about 1066 William the Conqueror, 1087 William the Second. Such things are not going to affect one's life ... but 1932 the Mars Bar and 1936 Maltesers and 1937 the Kit Kat - these dates are milestones in history and should be seared into the memory of every child in the country.'

Roald Dahl

Book Circle 1

Tuesday 10 May

We next meet at Sheila's home in Kempsford to discuss 'Random Acts of Heroic Love' by Danny Scheinmann. Please let Sheila know if you are unable to come on 01285 810471.

Denny Rawlinson
01285 711009

Book Circle 2

Tuesday 10 May

We will meet at Barbara's house at 2.30pm to discuss 'The Rotters' Club' by Jonathan Coe. Please let Barbara or me know if you will be unable to attend.

Kevin Hannigan 01367 250246
hannigan100@hotmail.com
Barbara Cottam 01285 711054

Bridge Improvers

The group continues to meet on Monday afternoons from 2 to 4 pm in the Heritage room, Fairford Community Centre, for a short lesson and friendly practice play. All bridge players welcome, partners and refreshments provided.

Margaret Bishop
01285 713747

Chess

Wednesday 18 May

The next meeting will be at Mike's house at 3.30pm.

Mike Bennett
mish252379@btinternet.com
01367 252379

'What you see before you, my friend, is the result of a lifetime of chocolate.'

Katherine Hepburn

Cycling and pub lunch

Wednesday 25 May

The Hare and Hounds at Fossebridge is our lunchtime spot for this delightful ride in lovely sunny weather. We shall meet on The Green at Quenington then follow Akeman Street down to the Barnsley Road, cross that then on to North Cerney and Calmsden, cruise past the recycling centre and then re-charge at this welcoming inn. Home will be via Coln Rogers and Bibury then back to our start point. As usual there will be lots of downs and very few ups. Not too far but a lovely ride.

Meet at Fairford car park at 10.30am or Quenington at 10.45am.

Paul O'Shaughnessy
01367 850262

Family History 1

Wednesday 18 May

We will meet at my house.

Please let me know if you are not able to attend.

Miriam Scott
01285 713441

Family History 2

Wednesday 18 May

We shall meet at my house as usual, when we shall help our newest member to start researching her family tree.

Michael Johnson
01285 712637
sanaelma@yahoo.co.uk

Five Rhythms Dance

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

Gillian Bilbrough
01285 712579

Joyce Deane
01285 851408

'The superiority of chocolate, both for health and nourishment, will soon give it the same preference over tea and coffee in America which it has in Spain.'

Thomas Jefferson

French Conversation

Intermediate

For the next two or three months at least, meetings will take place fortnightly in members' homes. Please contact Michael Yorke on 01367 253286 or Tegid Pugh on 01285 712184 for up to date information.

Bon Courage!

Rosemary Westlake
01285 712329

idrwestlake@cotswoldwireless.co.uk

Advanced

New members are always welcome. We usually break into small groups of about five and spend about 45 minutes discussing whatever takes our fancy, and in the last 15 minutes take turns reading aloud from a magazine published for groups like ours.

Kevin Hannigan
01367 250246
hannigan100@hotmail.com

Garden Group

Thursday 19 May

Our original plan for this meeting has had to be altered slightly. However, we are still meeting at my house for the afternoon and I am looking forward to welcoming as many members as are free to come to have a look round my garden and, to perk up our little grey cells, shall be organizing a gardening quiz - please don't let that put you off! Also, if any members have any spare plants and are wondering what to do with them, please bring them along so we can have a plant swap.

I should be very grateful if you could let me know if you are coming by Wednesday 18 May and if you are coming for the first time you will receive instructions as to where my house is. I hope to see you on the 19th.

Penny Phillips
01285 711360

Geology

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

German Circle

Please contact Karin for further details.

Karin Forman
01367 252675

Golf

In April in beautiful sunshine eight would-be golfers attacked the course at Shrivenham Park. As well as a very competitive green fee the cost included coffee and bacon rolls. The course was in excellent condition and the only complaints were that it was too hot and a competitive element would not be popular. However, everyone seemed to enjoy the food and the lovely facility of the new exterior decking.

Further golf days will be advised in the near future.

John Yorke
01367 253596
yorkejohn@live.co.uk

Keep Fit

We meet each Tuesday at 9.15am at Fairford Community Centre.

Eddie Rosser
01367 252504

Latin

Thursday 5 May

The group will meet at 2.30pm at my house. Please contact me if you are unable to come.

Susan Greig
01285 810274

Model Group

The Model group meets each Thursday morning.

For further details please contact:

Jim Sullivan
01367 252539

Music Listening

Friday 20 May

Having thought of some wonderful musical girls' names in February, this month we are being fair and focussing on 'Boys' names'.

We shall be meeting at my house as normal.

Mary Chick
01285 712126

Needlework

The Needlework group will meet on May 11 and 25 at the Chapel.

For further details please contact:

Thelma Hardie
01285 713971

Pétanque

The group meets each Wednesday from 10-12noon in the car park of St Thomas's Catholic Church in Horcott Road, except for the first Wednesday of each month when we shall play at The Red Lion, Castle Eaton.

It is not obligatory to stay for lunch but the pub will provide coffee mid-morning. New members are always welcome.

Dave and Heather Baber
01285 711343

Philosophy

Wednesday 18 May

The next meeting will be at 2.30pm at Verna Reay's house. The topic for discussion will be 'Imagination'.

Dan Deane
01285 851408

Poetry Circle 1

The Poetry Circle meets on the first Friday of the month.

For further information contact:

Keith Cottam
01285 711054

Poetry Circle 2

Friday 6 May

In May shall be sharing poetry by three national poets, all women: Carol Ann Duffy, our UK poet laureate, Gillian Clarke, national poet of Wales and Liz Lochhead, the Scottish Makar. The venue is at Denny's.

For enquiries please phone:

Mary Chick
01285 712126

Recorders

The group meets the 2nd and 4th Fridays afternoons in Fairford Community Centre. For enquiries please phone:

Hilary Bradshaw
01793 720037
or Jay Mathews
01367 253510

Postcard Group

Tuesday 17 May

The next meeting will be held at my house at 2.30pm. I shall give a short illustrated talk on 'Curious postcards', and this will be followed by members' cards (6 maximum) with the letter 'A' as a theme.

John Higgs
01285 712488

'It has been shown as proof positive that carefully prepared chocolate is as healthful a food as it is pleasant; that it is nourishing and easily digested... that it is above all helpful to people who must do a great deal of mental work.'

Anthelme Brillat-Savarin
1755-1826

Rummikub

Thursday 12 May

The group meets on the second Thursday of each month at our house in Lechlade from 2-4.30pm for some friendly games of Rummikub. New members will be welcome.

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

Mary Bennett
01367 253287

Short Tennis

Short Tennis takes place in the Palmer Hall on Mondays, starting at 3.30pm.

If you are interested please contact me or come to a session and find out more.

Margaret Trickett
01285 712421

Spanish

This Spanish group is for beginners, but those with some Spanish are welcome! Meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday mornings, 11-12 noon, at my home.

Frank Hall
01285 712583
fkhall@talktalk.net

Straddlers

Thursday 19 May

The May walk starts from the Market Place in Northleach. We proceed south almost to the school, then south east across fields behind the town, to join and follow the road for a short distance, before picking up the Diamond Way eastwards through Upper End to the A40. We make a dash for the other side and continue northwards to the pretty village of Farmington which might be a convenient coffee stop.

Suitably refreshed we head north east along a minor and very quiet road, with good views across the valley, to Goms Hole where we double back along a second section of the Diamond Way with many good options for our lunch stop. With a sense of déjà vu we arrive back in Farmington but then by a different route back to Northleach. Paradoxically we don't have to run the gauntlet of the A40 on this section.

The total distance is about 9 miles. The going is undulating almost all the way but there are no very steep or very long inclines. Recommended passenger contribution is £2.50.

Meet at the car park in Fairford at 9.15am, or in the Market Place in Northleach for a 10am start. Don't forget to bring lunch!

Mike Bennett
01367 252379
mish252379@btinternet.com

Strollers

Friday 27 May

A bank holiday on Friday 27 May has not yet been announced, so we will walk around Bibury. Meet at Fairford car park at 9.30am, or at The Catherine Wheel in Bibury at 10am. Walk not yet finalised, but contact me if you need to know nearer the time.

Don Cobbett
01285 712692
dbcobbett@tiscali.co.uk

'The divine drink [chocolate] which builds up resistance and fights fatigue. A cup of this precious drink permits man to walk for a whole day without food.'

Hernando Cortés. 1519

Striders

Tuesday 24 May

This walk was planned last year as it was to coincide with the glorious display of bluebells usually seen on Badbury hill fort around this date. Unfortunately, according to the experts, the flowers are three weeks early this year! Nevertheless we are sure there will still be some there when we get there.

We start off from Coleshill (off the Lechlade to Faringdon road) stroll across the meadows to Gt Coxwell, then amble up to the fort. Head down meandering paths through lovely woodland to Brimstone Farm then gradually make our way back to the start point, all in glorious sunshine with gentle breezes.

Meet at Fairford car park at 9.30am or opposite The Radnor Arms at Coleshill at 9.50am for a 10am start.

We can order our lunch before the commencement of the walk. Suggested fare from Fairford £2 per person.

Paul O'Shaughnessy
01367850262

Traditional Jazz

Thursday 5 May

The group meets on the first Thursday of each month at our house in Lechlade from 2.00 to 4.30pm.

This month we shall go back to classic jazz. We shall start with the earliest recordings of the 1920s in New Orleans and then follow 'King' Oliver, Louis Armstrong, Johnny Dodds, Kid Ory and others who took their music north to Chicago where entertainment was controlled by such as Al Capone, who encouraged the music to bring the public into their dance and drinking halls. Here Louis Armstrong formed his 'Hot Five' which set a style that influenced the future of the music and inspired both black and white jazzmen including such as Red Nichols, Miff Mole and Bix Beiderbecke.

Come and join us!

Ian Bennett
01367 253287

'All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt.'

Lucy van Pelt in Peanuts
by Charles M. Schulz

Walking & Pub Lunch

Wednesday 11 May

With your help we now have walks organised until December. Many thanks to all those who have volunteered to lead.

Ann Wightman and Mike Johnson will lead Geoff's walk this month. We will meet at The Radnor Arms, Coleshill, for a 4.5 mile walk over fields with lovely views, a few stiles and one incline.

Please meet at Fairford car park at 9.30am or at The Radnor Arms at 10am, to order lunch before we start.

Please contact Ann or Mike for any extra information.

Ann Wightman
01285 712723
Mike Johnson
01285 712637

Yoga

The Yoga group meets each Monday in the Community Centre at 10.15am.

After the Easter break we meet again on 16 May and will continue until 4 July.

Gillian Bilbrough
01285 712579

GROUP REVIEWS

Birdwatching

It is hard to believe it but the GWT nature reserve at Woogreen in the middle of the Forest of Dean was a massive open cast coal mining site as recently as the 1980s. Now the lake is surrounded by woodland and well worth exploring, although it can get muddy near the lake.

For our April visit we were blessed with perfect weather, a dry path and plenty of birds. After the lake we walked up the gentle rise to Crabtree Hill before returning to our cars enjoying the great variety and size of trees and vegetation. There were clear signs of wild boar activity and one may even have been seen. Spring birds and butterflies were seen and weren't too hidden by the early spring growth. We were, of course, too early for the dragonflies which are a speciality of the reserve.

Richard Morgan

Cycling and pub lunch

For our April ride we had to resort to Plan B, as the Quenington to Lechlade road was being relaid. This gave Phil and me an interesting ride to Lechlade as the choice was therefore a lot of loose chippings or the main road. We both chose the latter. At the meeting point we picked up Alan, Mary and Dennis and then made the ride up as we went along, (the original plan was via the relaid road). Out to Southrop, up on to the Burford road, alongside the busy Wildlife Park, then a delightful cruise down into Broadwell.

A very enjoyable lunch was had at Langford, then off to Little Faringdon and back to Southrop where we split up into three different directions. A warm sunny day, with a mainly very flat, delightful ride for the first of the season.

Paul O'Shaughnessy

Book Circle 1

Set in the American Deep South of the 1930s, when segregation between the white community and Negroes was the way of life, our April book, Harper Lee's 'To Kill a Mockingbird', was a huge success from the moment it was published in 1960.

The book can be said to be multi-faceted, presenting an all-round comprehensive view of the attitudes of the time towards racism, poverty and rape. Because it is written in the first person through the eyes of a child, Jean Louise Finch, known as 'Scout', it is sometimes classed as a children's book, but it has a much wider appeal. It can also be said to be autobiographical – Scout is the image of the author: they were both tomboys and hated school, both fought in the playground and talked back to their teachers.

Scout's father, Atticus, was a lawyer, as was the author's father who once defended two Negroes, father and son, accused of murder – they were both found guilty and hanged. In the book, Atticus is appointed to defend Tom Robinson, a Negro accused of rape. Quite clearly he is not guilty of any offence, but the jury nevertheless convicts him.

Through the conversation of the children, over a formative period of three years, we gain an impression of how the children learn and develop as they are growing up and of their interaction with friends, neighbours and family. Atticus feels inadequate as a father, but he has a wonderful relationship with his children - Scout has a brother, Jem, four years her senior - and they clearly have a great love and respect for each other. The children do not have an adult attitude towards racism. When Jem learns of Tom Robinson's conviction, he declares with vigour, "It's not fair!" Their Negro cook, Calpurnia, is regarded as a member of the family and is greatly respected.

We all, without exception, enjoyed and were moved by this much-acclaimed, Pulitzer Prize winning book. It was the only book which Harper Lee wrote. She remarked, "I said what I had to say, why say more?" Why indeed - she said it all.

Barbara Cobbett

Book Circle 2

Alice Ferney, nom de plume of Cécile Brossollet, was born in Paris in 1967. She is a professor of economics at the University of Orleans and has written six novels, two of them prizewinners.

'Angelina's Children' was published 1997 and its original title 'Grace et De-nuement' (roughly translated as Blessing and Destitution) emphasises the social and cultural opposites clearly laid bare in the book, but the English title pinpoints the central character Angelina, whose influence overshadows everything this gypsy family do. It is a story with little prolonged drama or suspense, but a day to day account of a certain grim type of gypsy life.

The widowed gypsy matriarch, Angelina, her five sons, their wives and children take up residence in an abandoned vegetable garden on the edge of a French town. A librarian, Esther Duvaux, decides she must take books and read them aloud to the children, and over a long period of time she wins not only Angelina's consent to this, but also a semblance of friendship. There are memorable descriptions of the camp site, broken glass, broken vehicles, shortage of clean water, the stinking camp fire, the lack of privacy and lack of verbal communication. There is complete breakdown of contact between this gypsy group and the 'gadje' society around them - the neglect and unfriendliness at the hospital; the family's refusal to contact any of 'the authorities' when the boy is killed by hit and run; Esther's efforts to get the town to allow the oldest grandchild into school and the struggle to keep her in once she's there. Here, Esther is pushing on both fronts – only one or two gypsies see any reason for the schooling. Too proud to make any concessions, even though these would be of advantage to her family, Angelina leads them all into a cul-de-sac which is only able to open up gradually after her death.

Despite it having won a literary prize, many of the group were unimpressed with this book, wondering why there is no hint of what we think of – rather vaguely – as 'Romany tradition' in this account. However, we found it does open up a world unfamiliar to most of us, and we went on to discuss the very great social and cultural differences existing here, as in France, between gypsies and 'gadjes'. Gypsy children here who come into mainstream school life have a difficult time of it, as do their teachers! They cannot or will not easily slot into the education system which could give them some advantages in a mainstream world. And our ways of camping are certainly not theirs! Mutual distrust abounds.

Family History 1

For our March meeting John Dear gave us a fascinating insight into his family tree. Most of his research was very time consuming as he began at a young age before the advent of computers in family history research. So many hours were spent in Somerset House and at various churches around the country. During his research he found that he had an illegitimate older brother who had been adopted at the age of 4 years and finally sent to Australia at the age of 10 years.

John gave us an insight into the difficulties of tracing an adopted relative. The request for contact to be made must come from the adoptee which finally happened for John and after many years he met his brother for the first time.

A totalling absorbing and informative story and many thanks to John for sharing it with us.

In April we were pleased to return to Miriam's home, who with her usual expertise explained probate administrations to us—not an easy topic. Administrations are a grant giving the right to administer an estate of a person who died intestate. The claimants had to prove their legal title to the property of the deceased. Miriam explained the process of finding the lists and how to use them.

Madeline Phillips

Pétanque

True to form April gave us changeable weather conditions, with rain stopping play during our first game of the season, and the following week we were basking in hot sun! A new member joined the group and was made very welcome, as were we when we returned to Fairford last month after a year away in Wales.

It was lovely to discover that Pétanque was still up and running and a big thank you must be given to Phil Trickett who stepped in and kept everything going. Thanks also to John and Val Higgs who hosted the 'beginning of the season' get together at their home.

During May/June we shall be visiting the new purpose built piste in St. Michael's Park, Cirencester with a view to playing a friendly match against the Cirencester's U3A Pétanque group later in the year.

Family History 2

Philip, having discovered that his Great, Great Grandmother was in the Westbury Union Workhouse for four years before dying in 1883, volunteered to talk to the Group about his findings regarding English Workhouses.

To begin, we were shown an image illustrating the grim Victorian era of Dickens' 'Oliver Twist', when poverty was rife and people were desperate.

Philip told us about the various Poor Laws and subsequent Amendments, made with the aim of standardizing poor relief across the country. Back in the sixteenth century, monastic houses provided assistance to those in need. The deserving poor, who were out of work due to bad harvests, were given food and clothing, whereas the undeserving poor, who preferred to resort to begging, were treated far more severely and found themselves whipped or in the village stocks.

By 1597 every Parish had an overseer; a parish official or constable who raised money for the poor and collected the Poor Tax. Failure to pay the rate would have resulted in a summons to appear before a Justice of the Peace who could impose a fine, seize property or deliver a prison sentence.

Those in receipt of poor relief were required to wear a badge in red or blue cloth on their shoulder, the letter "P" preceded by the initial letter of their parish. This practice was later discontinued.

People went to a workhouse if they were too poor, old or ill to support themselves, due to lack of work or high unemployment, or not having a family willing or able to support them. Unmarried pregnant women were often disowned and the workhouse was the only place they could go. Families were separated into male, female and infant sections, and were seldom allowed contact with each other, although they were free to leave.

In Andover, workhouse conditions were so harsh in 1845 that inmates resorted to scavenging for decaying meat from bones they had been set to crush.

By 1913, the term 'workhouse' was replaced by 'Poor law institution' and during the First World War workhouse premises were assigned for military use, mostly as hospitals but also for accommodating military personnel and prisoners of war.

Elizabeth Berry

Garden Group

Val Bevington Wood very kindly hosted our meeting this month and, as the sun was shining brightly, we had the wonderful tea she had prepared sitting in the quiet and very peaceful setting of her garden, which was just as well as there were 15 of us for her to cater for - 16 with her included, so a very good turnout. Although she has not been well recently, she was determined to go ahead as planned and we tucked into cheese scones, plain scones with cream, butter and jam, chocolate cake and lemon drizzle cake, meringues and fruit loaf - what a banquet, and a feast for the eyes too.

We all enjoyed a little wander round her garden, which although small is very pretty with new Spring growth and the moss phlox was beautiful as was the aubrietia. One of our members who has visited before, went to visit a beautiful clematis, only to find that it had sadly perished due to our very prolonged, cold winter. Our lack of rain is the new problem now at this rather critical time when plants are actively growing - our April showers seem to have disappeared this year and next week we may even get some frost so we need to keep an active eye on the weather reports.

As a thank you to Val for her hospitality and wonderful efforts, we presented her with a garden voucher which she was delighted with and I am sure she will be off soon to make some new purchases for her garden!

Something for your diary is the Barnsley Village Garden Festival which is on Saturday, 14 May from 10.30 - 5pm. There are some lovely gardens to visit including Barnsley House, tea in the village hall, maypole dancing, plant sales etc. The passport price is £6 - buy on arrival and parking is free!

Penny Phillips

'Never mind about 1066 William the Conqueror, 1087 William the Second. Such things are not going to affect one's life ... but 1932 the Mars Bar and 1936 Maltesers and 1937 the Kit Kat - these dates are milestones in history and should be seared into the memory of every child in the country.'

Roald Dahl

Postcard Group

At the first meeting of the Group, John talked about his postcard collections and how he had come to acquire them. He showed us the different ways of arranging postcards and examples of the literature about deltiology.

Each member then showed their own postcards and described how and why they started collecting them. Nostalgia for places of the past was a favourite theme.

As it was such a beautiful Spring afternoon we then adjourned to John and Val's lovely garden for refreshment and discussed forthcoming topics for our next meetings.

Alison Hobson

Ode to Chocolate

*Liquid delectable, I love thy brown
Deep-glimmering color like a wood-nymph's tress;
Potent and swift to urge on Love's excess,
Thou wert most loved in the fair Aztec town*

*Where Cortes, battling for Iberia's crown,
First found thee, and with rough and soldier guess,
Pronounced thy virtues of rare worthiness
And fit by Madrid's dames to gain renown.*

*When tasting of thy sweets, fond memories
Of bygone days in Versailles will arise;
Before the King, reclining at his ease
I see Dubarry in rich toilet stand,
A gleam of passion in her lustrous eyes,
A Sevres cup held in her jeweled hand!*

Francis Saltus Saltus 1849-1889

Timetable of Group Activities

Monthly: Golf, Chess on a Wednesday. Needlework and Recorders meet twice monthly. Pétanque and Cycling April-October only.

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Monday am	French Yoga	French Yoga	French Yoga	French Yoga
pm	Bridge Short tennis	Bridge Short Tennis	Bridge Short Tennis	Bridge Short Tennis
Tuesday am	Keep Fit	Keep Fit Spanish	Keep Fit Bird watching	Keep Fit Spanish Striders
pm	Main meeting	Book Circle 1 Book Circle 2	Postcards	
Wednesday am	Pétanque	Walking & PL Pétanque	Five Rhythms Pétanque	Cycling & PL Pétanque
pm		Geology	Family History 1 Family History 2 Philosophy	Chess
Thursday am	Model Boats	Model making	Model Boats Straddlers	Model Boats
pm	Latin Traditional Jazz	Rummikub	Garden	
Friday am				Strollers
pm	Poetry Circle Poetry Two	Recorders	Music	Recorders

Please send items for the June issue to Alison Hobson email: alisonmhobson@googlemail.com
01285 711768
no later than

**Wednesday
25th May**