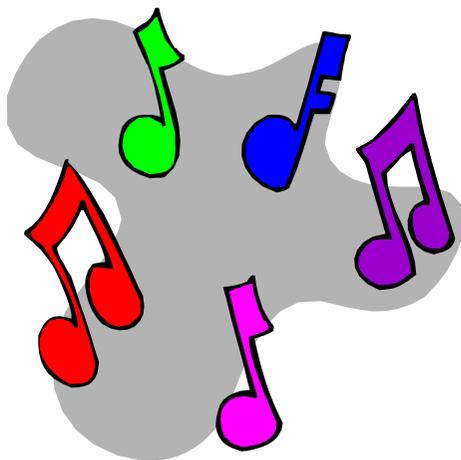




Fairford & District Newsletter

Issue 174

June 2011



Morning Dew - traditional tunes by Mike and Pat Ledbury

www.fairfordu3a.org.uk

Registered Charity No 1072658

General Meetings

Palmer Hall, 2.30pm

7 June

Morning Dew—traditional tunes
by Mike and Pat Ledbury

5 July

Change of speaker.
'The Galapagos Islands, with an
Emphasis on Evolution'
by Ged Cassell

2 August

Fairford open gardens and tea
at the Community Centre

Today, 7 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 Ged Cassell will be giving us
an illustrated talk on 'The Galapagos
Islands, with an Emphasis on
Evolution'. He has kindly stepped in
to take the place of Ellie Targett
who will now be giving her talk in
January 2012.

Tea Rota

July 5 : Biography
September 6 : Book Circle 2
October 4 : Bridge

August Meeting

Several members have kindly
offered to open their gardens to
members on 2nd August. Tea will be
served in the Community Centre at
the end of the afternoon. I should
be most grateful to receive offers of
cakes.

More information and a map will be
included in the July newsletter.

Gaynor Williams
01367 252052

New members

We welcome:
Michael and Jean Sayer

*Walk Me Out in the 'Morning Dew' is a post-apocalyptic folk-rock song
written in 1962 by Canadian singer Bonnie Dobson. The song was inspired
by the film 'On the Beach'. Tim Rose recorded his version in 1966.*

- And

*'The Morning Dew' is also an Irish reel recorded in numerous versions by
numerous artists.*

U3A May

The AGM in May was swiftly executed. This was partly because most committee members had agreed to remain in office and the search for a new chairman had been resolved. Reg Thoburn is being groomed to take over later this year. The accounts had been presented clearly, and ahead of time, which helped the proceedings along; but perhaps the biggest motivator was having Janette Rowlatt on hand to talk about 'Chocolate, a 400 Year Love Affair'.

The occasion was conducted like a wine tasting with the whole audience able to sample the equivalent of half a dozen boutique chocolates with high cocoa butter content. Weaving her talk between the tastings, Janette covered more than 400 years of history, starting with the Mayan Indians who discovered that the drink (bitter water) which they made from cocoa beans was a stimulant. Moving on through the famous meeting of the Spaniard Cortez with Montezuma, she brought the story of chocolate up to the present day. She emphasised that it was originally a drink and was promoted by the famous Quaker families of Cadbury, Rowntree and Fry as an alternative to alcohol. When the process for making chocolate bars was evolving, Lindt, in 1880, developed a process called conching, after the shell shape of the machine. This allowed the ingredients to melt and come together while reducing the size of the molecules; the slower this process was, the smoother the chocolate.

Janette sensed that many people in the audience would not normally have eaten such bitter chocolate but could educate their palates with these superbly crafted, smooth examples.

Sylvia Jones

Newsletter

Just a reminder that there will be no newsletter in August, so arrangements for any group meeting that month will need to go in the July Newsletter, the deadline of which will be **Thursday 23 June**.

Thanks to all our contributors during the year, especially the report writers, and please keep those reports coming in.

Alison Hobson

GROUP EVENTS

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

Biography

Wednesday 3 August

We will meet at 2.30pm 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 21 June

This month we shall visit the RSPB reserve at Nagshead in the Forest of Dean. We shall be looking for pied flycatchers, redstarts and wood warblers in addition to the more common varieties.

Meet at the Fairford car park at 9am as usual. We shall have lunch at a local pub. Nagshead is 50 miles from Fairford.

Richard Morgan
01285 712085

Book Circle 1

Tuesday 14 June

At our next meeting at Eileen Harlow's house we will discuss 'The Warden' by Trollope. Please let Eileen know if you are unable to come on 01285 711814

Denny Rawlinson
01285 711009

Book Circle 2

Tuesday 14 June

We will meet at Josephine's house at 2.30pm to discuss 'The Dark Room' by Rachel Seiffert. Please let Josephine or me know if you will be unable to attend.

Kevin Hannigan 01367 250246
hannigan100@hotmail.com
Josephine Toomer 01367 252465

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
mbishop@talktalk.net

Family History 1 & 2

Wednesday 15 June

This month there will be a joint meeting of the two groups which will take place in the Heritage Room at the Community Centre at 2.30pm. We are delighted to welcome Fanny Hugill who will talk to us on her involvement in WW2 and the D-day landings and life in the WRNS.

There will be a charge of 70p to cover the cost of the room hire and refreshments. Please contact Alison on 01285 711768 or Michael if you are unable to come.

Michael Johnson
sanaelma@yahoo.co.uk
01285712637
FH1 Group Leader
Miriam Scott
01285 713441

Chess

Wednesday 22 June

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

Mike Bennett
mish252379@btinternet.com
01367 252379

Cycling and pub lunch

Wednesday 22 June

Time for a gentle potter out towards the Lakes this month. Meysey Hampton, Cerney Wick and Ashton Keynes is the route, unless we take a different one. Either way, lunch will probably be taken at The Bakers Arms. Home will probably be via Down Ampney. A gentle cruise on nice quiet lanes, achieved with very little effort, all in glorious sunshine.

Meet at Fairford car park at 10.30am.

Paul O'Shaughnessy
01367 850262

'The Cuckoo comes in April'

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

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 16 June

This month we are off to visit Woolstone Mill House, Woolstone which, from the treehouse, has views to the White Horse! This was a garden we visited later in the summer last year and it was beautiful then, so we are, no doubt, in for another treat with many different plants in flower, particularly the roses of which I seem to remember there were quite a few. Mrs Spink also gave us a wonderful tea - another very good reason for going!

We will meet in the Fairford car park no later than 2pm so that we have plenty of time for exploring the garden and enjoying the afternoon. I will bring full details of where we are going and a mileage costing for passengers.

I should be grateful if you could let me know the week before whether you are able to go so that I can give Mrs Spink the final number. The costs are £5 entry fee and £3 for tea.

Penny Phillips
01285 711360

German Circle

Please contact Karin for further details.

Karin Forman
01367 252675

Golf

Unfortunately John Yorke is unable to continue the leadership of this group. Are there any keen U3A golfers who would like to take on the role of group leader...? It could be a joint effort to ease the load.

Please contact Michael Yorke if you are interested.

01367 253286
yorkey7@hotmail.co.uk

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

'She sings her song in May'

Keep Fit

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

Eddie Rosser
01367 252504

Latin

Thursday 2 June

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 17 June

We shall be sharing music relating to the four elements: earth, water, fire and air.

Mary Chick
01285 712126

Needlework

The Needlework group will meet on June 8 and 22 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. Because of our growing numbers the hostelry has offered to extend their piste for us, for which we shall be very grateful!

This month we've welcomed two new members, which brings our membership now up to 22.

The Ampney Crucis Pétanque team have invited us to play them at St. Michael's Park in Cirencester sometime in the near future. (The date has yet to be confirmed.)

New members are always welcome.

Heather Baber
01285 711343

Philosophy

Wednesday 15 June

The next meeting will be on Wednesday at Manus Moran's house in Marston Meysey. The subject will be a quote from Mohammed 'The ink of the scholar is worth more than the blood of the martyr'.

Manus Moran
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 3 June

In June we shall be looking at 2nd World War Poetry. On 1st July our theme is 'Celebrations'. We should be happy to welcome other members to this friendly group.

For enquiries please phone:

Mary Chick
01285 712126

*'She changes her tune
In the month of June'*

Postcard Group

Tuesday 21 June

The next meeting will be held at my house at 2.30pm. Following the alphabetical topic of the May meeting, members are asked to bring their cards (6 maximum) with the letter 'B' as a theme.

John Higgs
01285 712488

Recorders

Our dates for June are the 10th (when, because of holidays, we'll need a volunteer leader) and the 24th and we shall be starting with Monica's treble class from 2-2.30pm for those who would like to add another string to their bow (so to speak). The main group will follow on at 2.30 and finish at 4.30pm. Please come to the Farmor room on the ground floor of the Fairford Community Centre.

If there are any more recorder players who would like to join a friendly, mostly non-judgemental group with nice biscuits please contact Hilary or Jay for further information. We have some spare instruments we could lend you.

Hilary Bradshaw
01793 720037
hilary@burytown15.co.uk
Jay Mathews
01367 253510
jaymathews124@mac.com

Rummikub

Thursday 9 June

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.

THE GROUP WILL NOT MEET IN JULY. We will meet on 11th August.

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

'And July she flies away.'

Traditional

Spanish

There will be no meetings until September as there are so many holiday arrangements in the interim.

Future dates will be announced in the Newsletter.

Frank Hall
01285 712583
fkhall@talktalk.net

Straddlers

Thursday 16 June

The walk begins at the National Trust car park at White Horse Hill, Uffington. The 8.5 mile route, mainly on rough tracks, takes in Weathercock Hill, Ashdown House and Wayland's Smithy and concludes with an ascent of White Horse Hill itself. Some sections of the route have little or no shade or shelter so please take waterproofs or sun cream (hopefully the latter!). There are two notable ascents and a steep descent on a grass bank but nothing of any inconvenience to a Straddler!

Leave Fairford car park at 9.20am or meet at the N.T. car park at 10am. Car passenger fee £3.

Phil and Margaret Trickett
01285 712421

Group Leader: John Burrows

Striders

Tuesday 28 June

The June Striders walk is an old favourite of ours and starts at the Seven Tuns in Chedworth village.

The route takes us up to the old airfield and crosses the end of the old runway to the east before going downhill through woodland to the Roman Villa. We'll then walk the path that runs towards Yanworth Mill before going back uphill through woodland, cross a minor road and descend to Listercombe Bottom. From there we go past Greenhills Farm and Hill Farm before going very slowly uphill past some of Chedworth's quietly situated and expensive houses to join the Monarch's Way for a short distance, prior to returning to the village from the north.

The walk is about 6 miles long and has a full mix of open country, woodland walks and country tracks around Chedworth.

Meet at the Fairford car park at 9.15am or at the pub around 9.50, where we'll leave our lunch choices before we depart. The recommended passenger fare is £1.50.

John Burrows
01367 253056
Group Leader: Phil Trickett

Strollers

Friday 24 June

This month our walk will be in the Buscot area. Meet at Fairford car Park at 9.45am, or at The Trout at St John's Lock, Lechlade (same pub as February – but not the same walk!) 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

Traditional Jazz

Thursday 2 June

The group meets on the first Thursday of each month at our house in Lechlade from 2-4.30pm.

This month we shall continue with the classic jazz of the 1920s, casting our net a little wider so as to include a few of the musicians who are now not often remembered.

THE GROUP WILL NOT MEET IN JULY. We will meet on 4th August.

Ian Bennett
01367 253287
ian@bennettm.gotadsl.co.uk

Walking & Pub Lunch

Wednesday 8 June

Starting from The Sherborne Arms, Market Place, Northleach, GL54 3EE we head out of town, cross the A429 via the old prison and across fields to Hampnett. Visit St George's Church – Norman dating from 1125 with additions in C15 and painting of internal stonework in C19 – photo-op? Across more fields on to Monarch's Way to the reservoir. Cut back across the A429 again past Winterwell Barn to Helen's Ditch and back into Northleach. An easy two-hour 4-mile stroll across mixed terrain so walking boots strongly advised. Largely flat with some undulation. Good pub grub, but parking not easy so look out for spots in the lanes behind the pub and church. I parked in Church Walk.

Meet in the Fairford car park as usual at 9.35am – passenger fee £1.50. I'll meet you in Northleach and plan to set off at 10.15am

Kevin Hannigan
01367 250246

Yoga

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

Gillian Bilbrough
01285 712579

GROUP REVIEWS

The Oxford City Walking Tour – 5th May

Fifteen of us met at 'The Martyrs' Memorial' in St Giles and were soon joined by our tour leader, Alastair Lack, a recent speaker at one of our U3A General Meetings, when he entertained us with anecdotes about his work with the BBC World Service.

Alastair first gave us a general overview of the buildings in Oxford city centre, pointing out several styles of architecture from different periods of history. He then led us round to look at examples, telling us not only about the architecture and purpose of the buildings, but also many little anecdotes based on his own knowledge and familiarity with the Oxford 'scene'.

He had booked for us a tour of Queens College, and we saw the classic layout of two quadrangles, separated by the college chapel with its beautiful stained glass windows, and the magnificent dining room, still used at student mealtimes. We ventured part way along one of the corridors surrounding the quadrangle, with student rooms all facing inwards to the lawns. It brought back memories of our own student days!

Our return route included the Bodleian Library and the Radcliffe Camera, and we finished in 'The Vaults', a delightful café beneath the church of St Mary the Virgin. With vaulted ceilings, it is a beautiful setting for cream teas, and these were a fitting end to a most enjoyable afternoon.

Jean Crowley

'He who enters the city, as Mr Green did, from the Woodstock Road, and rolls down the shady avenue of St Giles', between St John's College and the Taylor Buildings, and past the graceful Martyrs' Memorial, will receive impressions such as probably no other city in the world could convey.'

From The Adventures of Mr Verdant Green by Cuthbert Bede, 1853

Biography Group

We met in May to discuss the choices of our members. 'Laurie Lee: the well loved stranger' by Valerie Grove introduces him as being born in 1914 into a poor family, and then propelled into life with the intelligentsia after the publication of his poems. Well liked by all despite (because of?) his bizarre personal life and attitudes towards women, 'Cider with Rosie' made him wealthy and he lived out a simple lifestyle until his death in 1999. A very well researched and easy to read book.

'So much to tell', once again by Valerie Grove, tells the story of Kay Webb who was the founder in the 1960s of Puffin Books. Her professional success was sadly not matched by her home life where, after divorce from her first husband, she married Ronald Searle who was recently returned from a period in a POW camp. They had twins and then he left her to marry another and live in Paris. He had not been interested in their children and she was very demanding - perhaps a combination doomed to fail. This was another very well-written book by a biographer who has also written a life of John Mortimer, in addition to writing for The Times.

'Leading from the front', the Lord Dannatt autobiography – the recent head of the Army has written a fascinating book. Struck by a nearly fatal stroke at only 26 he went on to have a very successful army career, and in recent years to be an outspoken supporter of the armed services, and almost by definition therefore critic of governments. His criticisms of Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and Des Browne have been heard from others too, and he refers to the Treasury of GB as displaying "myopic dysfunction". Worryingly he fears we may have returned to what he describes as 1930's ignorance and complacency on the politico/military front. Could he be right?

Kevin Hannigan

'In my business, asking people to risk their lives is part of the job, but doing so without giving them the chance to understand that there is a life after death is something of a betrayal, and I think there is very much an obligation on ...a Christian leader to include a spiritual dimension into his people's preparations for operations, and the general conduct of their lives.'

Lord Richard Dannatt

Book Circle 1

In May we met to discuss 'Random Acts of Heroic Love', a debut novel by Danny Scheinmann which weaves two parallel stories to an intriguing, if predictable, conclusion.

Scheinmann paints two different portraits of human suffering with some insight. The first is that of Moritz Daniecki as he escapes from a Russian POW camp in 1917, and walks the breadth of the continent to be re-united with his first love Lotte. The author describes the tragedy of fighting for an ill defined cause, badly equipped against a stronger enemy, in the privation of cold and bitter winters. But Moritz has deep rooted faith that Lotte will be waiting, and his sheer determination takes him on a seemingly impossible journey back home, and to a future with her.

The second thread is set in the 1990s, and explores the relationship of young Leo and Eleni, backpacking in South America, deeply in love and secure in their plans for a shared future. Eleni is suddenly and tragically killed in a road accident, for which Leo blames himself. Leo's grief is melodramatically described, but he does eventually find a new purpose in life with an old friend Hannah.

This is a good story concept, but told in a way we found overly long and repetitive. The bereavement, hope, hardship and fortitude Scheinmann aims to depict become sensational and sentimentalised.

Denny Rawlinson

Birdwatching

Coombe Hill meadows were looking very colourful with spring flowers. The scrape and long pool had more water than expected after the long dry spell but not a very wide variety of birds; we did get good views of a curlew, three little egrets and many lapwings. Most of our sightings were in the bushes along the canal tow path where, despite a stiff breeze, we saw most of the small birds expected and heard many more. Whitethroats and reed buntings were showing nicely. We also watched a pair of great spotted woodpeckers visiting their nest hole with food for their noisy nestlings. The path itself which is usually wet and muddy at this time of year, was rock hard and rutted. Having frequently heard its distinctive call during our walk, our best sighting of the day was a cuckoo flying by.

Richard Morgan

Book Circle 2

The book for our May meeting was 'The Rotters' Club' by Jonathan Coe. Set in Birmingham during the turbulent years of the 1970s it recounts the memoirs of a quartet of sixth form boys and their families during this turbulent era. It is a comic novel and many of the incidents of life at the prestigious boys' grammar school are 'laugh out loud' amusing. But the more sombre events of the time and their consequences are also described – the racism, the devastating industrial disputes, the bombing of the city centre. We reminisced about life in the 70s - the flock wallpaper, the black forest gateaux, although Jane confessed that for her the time had gone by in a blur of nappies. No one admitted to being a fan of punk rock!

The novel was on the whole enjoyed but there was some concern about the format which varied from narrative to diaries, pamphlets, letters, and many time changes, which some found distracting. There was, however, enthusiasm for reading the sequel novel 'The Closed Circle' which moves the story on 30 years and solves many of the mysteries left unresolved in 'The Rotters' Club'.

Barbara Cottam

Cycling with a pub lunch

We always have a very nice lunch at The Hare and Hounds at Fossebridge and this was no exception. We sat outside in the sun with a slight wind blowing and put the world to rights.

The three of us had set out from Quenington into a gentle headwind, and given the state of the road one of us had a puncture before half a mile was covered. A rapid repair and we were off again. There was very little traffic as we cruised down to the Bibury road then across the Stowe busy highway. The recycling site was very quiet as was the pub. Home was downhill all the way via Bibury, then back onto Akeman Street, Phil left us in Quenington and Dennis and I tootled back via the Lechlade road.

A very enjoyable day's cycling, with close on thirty miles covered - but given the conditions it seemed a lot less.

Paul O'Shaughnessy

Family History 1

Philip Meaden gave us a fascinating and well researched insight into the progression of poor relief from the 16th century until Lloyd George's reforms in 1911. This talk followed the early poor relief in 1552, the beginning of the workhouses in 1723 through to their decline in the mid 19th century.

As the majority of our group had ancestors who had spent time in a workhouse, whether as children or adults, it was interesting to hear of the hardships and also to realise that although there was always a stigma attached to the workhouse, life was never as bad inside as it was for the poor living outside. Thank you, Philip, for a most interesting and informative afternoon.

Madeline Phillips

Family History 2

The group met at Michael's house, as planned, to help Ann start her family history journey into the past. Michael had kindly scanned some of Ann's photos for her. There was a colour picture postcard of her mother as well as photos showing her parents and grandparents.

The next step was to undertake a little research using 'Find My Past'. Ann successfully searched the 1911 Census for her grandparents. Here she found her grandfather, grandmother, mother, aunt and uncle. In addition, she found that her maternal great grandfather was living with them, alongside two males with different surnames from each other and from the family name. However, it was thought that they were more likely to be lodgers than family members.

Ann then endeavoured to trace her great grandfather whom she now knew came from County Wexford. Unfortunately, many Irish records were destroyed by fire, with the 1901 Irish census being the first to survive intact. Ann discovered that 'Find My Past Ireland' is now searchable online. It has an extensive collection of land records, as well as records for directories, wills, obituaries, gravestone inscriptions and marriages. Finally, a search for Ann's uncle, a professional footballer, was carried out but regrettably this did not produce any results.

The rest of Ann's journey will no doubt be exciting, fascinating, engrossing, time-consuming and, at times, frustrating.

Elizabeth Berry

Garden Group

Ten of us spent a happy May afternoon in Penny's delightful garden in Fairford. We were impressed by the changes she had made after just three years at that address. The clever use of hard landscaping and the interesting layout was complemented by the quality and variety of the planting. The shrubs and well-pruned small trees which hid the fences were a backcloth for a wide variety of remarkably healthy perennials in full borders. We especially admired the fat buds on some unusual clematis, the massed white pom-poms on two deutzias and, thriving in the gravel garden, a number of succulent hepaticas with vivid blue flowers.

Penny had arranged a plant swap to which enough of us had contributed for most guests to find something they were delighted to take home with them. Then we were offered a tricky cryptic plant quiz which we puzzled over while we basked in the sunlight. To end a most enjoyable afternoon we were treated to a tea of home-made scones and tea bread. Penny you spoiled us, but we like it!

Joyce Deane

Philosophy

The meeting in May was held at Verna Reay's house and the subject for discussion was 'Imagination'.

While imagination was generally agreed to be the basis of much of the literature and arts of the Western World several other aspects of the subject were discussed. We touched on imagination and its effect on memory, and Manus described the use of hypnosis on the imagination. Imagination can effect change in physical performance, because imagining an action can enhance the actual act of doing it.

We considered imagination and myth and their difference from belief. We concluded, with Bertrand Russell, that while science may set limits to knowledge we should not try to set limits to the imagination.

Dan Deane

Poetry Group One

'Beginnings' seemed an appropriate title for early May on a day so hot that we thought summer had come. Our choices ranged through many types of beginnings. A new love, a new day and two about new babies, the second of them being Barbara's moving 'Welcome Bonnie Brid' by Henry Laycock, the tender words of a father welcoming his newborn into his impoverished family. Two others, by A.A. Milne and Henry Newbolt, were the poems that had awakened John's schoolboy interest in poetry. Celia's choice by Don Marquis was about the beginning of the universe as seen through the mind of warty bliggins the toad, (Marquis doesn't use capitals), who knew that the universe had been created for him to be its centre.

Alison surprised us all by reading a poem by Kipling which none of us had met before, 'The River's Tale' about the River Thames and the beginning of history, we all agreed, not typically Kipling. Ian gave us his own, whimsical poem about the end of teacher segregation in 'Staff Rooms'. Our last piece, by the luck of the draw, was Keith's choice of lines from T.S.Eliot's 'East Coker' - a perfect way to conclude the meeting with its powerful oxymorons, 'In my beginning is my end', and the final sentence, 'In my end is my beginning'.

Joyce Deane

Striders

There were gentle breezes, there was glorious sunshine, but where had all the bluebells gone? Badbury Hill usually has great swathes this time of the year. Unfortunately this year they appeared four weeks ago, and there was hardly a sign of any when we walked through.

Nevertheless, there was still a riot of colour in the fields and hedges which was enjoyed by the eleven of us. Deer and pheasants were about as was a red kite (that is a bird to non-birders). A very nice lunch and excellent refreshment was taken at The Radnor Arms, all in all a very enjoyable morning's walk. Must be booked for April next year.

Paul O'Shaughnessy

Recorders

There were still quite a few people on holiday or otherwise engaged at the first meeting of May and, though they were much missed, of course, we managed to get by! Aply led by Jack, to whom many thanks, we started with Ann Marshall's arrangement of 'Out from the Deep', a Thomas Tallis piece which involves a lot of concentration and counting but, because there are several passages which repeat themselves, it's not too hard to find your place if you get lost. We had another play-through of Vaughan Williams' 'Linden Lea' which is a lovely melody but it does have some tricky entries which need a bit more polishing-up.

We then tackled the Air from J.S. Bach's Suite in D which will for evermore be known as the tune from the Hamlet cigar advertisement. Nevertheless, it's very beautiful. The arranger, the aptly-named Alex Ayre, published all his music in handwritten form and stipulated that, after his death, nothing was to be transcribed into printed form for three years. There's now a project afoot to input all his music onto 'Sibelius' (the music programme) and volunteers are being sought to take part. It will probably take some time but, for those who find reading hand-written music difficult – which is most of us – it will be well worth it as he was a prolific and brilliant arranger.

We are very fortunate that Ann Marshall has found time in her busy schedule to fit in another afternoon's conducting with us. Please put Friday 22nd July in your diaries as I'm sure it will be every bit as enjoyable as the last time. Ann and Steve are organising another U3A playing in November at May Hill – some of us have been to the previous couple and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of playing in an 'orchestra'. The music is no more difficult than we're used to and we can arrange lifts for anyone who needs transport.

Hilary Bradshaw

*'And brown leaved fruit is turning red,
In cloudless sunshine overhead,
With root for me the apple tree
Do lean down low, in Linden Lea.'*

From Linden Lea: words: William Barnes

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
July/August
issue to Alison Hobson email:
alisonmhobson@googlemail.com
01285 711768
no later than
Thursday
23rd June