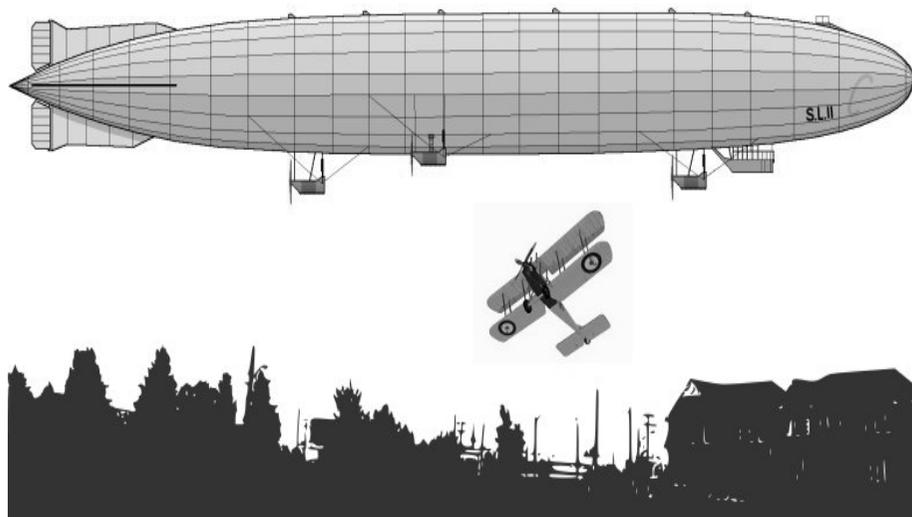




# Fairford & District Newsletter

Issue 183

April 2012



## AGM 2012

followed by

## The Cuffley Airship by John Higgs

### General Meetings

Palmer Hall, 2.30pm

#### 1 May

Mary, Queen of Scots, the Young Queen

by George Eccleston

#### 6 June (Wednesday)

The Solar System and Beyond

by John Fletcher

#### 3 July

Travels in the South American Rain Forest

By Simon Trapnell

### Tea Rota

May 1 : French Conversation (I)

June 6 : French Conversation (A)

July 3 : Geology

### Len Eales

It is with great sadness we announce the death of Len Eales. He had contributed much to all aspects of life in Fairford over the years and will be missed.

Our condolences to Pat and the family.

### Today, 3 April

Today after the AGM, our own U3A member John Higgs will tell us a story from the First World War - we shall hear about the first shooting down of a German airship raider over British soil.

In May we shall learn about Mary, Queen of Scots who was still an infant when she became Queen and found herself in some difficult situations. We hear how she learned to deal with them - a different view of her history.

In June (on the Wednesday) John Fletcher, an amateur astronomer who is well known for his Mount Tuffley Observatory will talk about the Solar System and Beyond.

### New members

We welcome the following new members:

Robert Coltman

Tony Ellam

Alistair Johnson-Todd

Molly Kent

Christopher and Lilian Pooley

Ivor Tully

Diane Waldron

Cover picture: A composite picture representing the B.E.2c flown by William Leefe Robinson attacking the German Schütte-Lanz II airship on 3rd September 1916. He was the first British pilot to shoot down an airship. It was thought to be a Zeppelin at the time. (P Hobson)

[www.fairfordu3a.org.uk](http://www.fairfordu3a.org.uk)

Registered Charity No 1072658

## CUTTING COSTS!

Many of you will be aware that there is a proposal from the Royal Mail to increase the cost of 2nd class postage stamps from 36 pence to 50 pence in April 2012. We post sixty magazines to members at a current cost of £21.60 per month, £237.60 annually. If the price increase goes ahead this will increase to £30.00 per month, £300 annually. For a single member paying £10 annual membership fee (from January 2013 if passed at the AGM), the U3A will be spending more than 50% of that membership fee alone in postage costs.

Whilst I understand that we cannot eliminate posting magazines altogether please could I ask members who currently have their magazine posted to consider alternatives i.e. have a neighbour collect the magazine from the monthly meeting or receive an email notification to print it at home. Cutting costs will keep our membership fees to a minimum and ensure we continue to offer value for money and remain one of the cheapest U3A's in our region.

Please contact Alison on 01285 711768 or email [editor@fairfordu3a.org.uk](mailto:editor@fairfordu3a.org.uk) if you would like to change your option.

Reg Thoburn

01285 712397

## Fairford & District Choral Society

### is in urgent need of a Treasurer.

Fairford & District Choral Society is a small registered charity (RC No 1118754) based in Fairford. We have around 50 active members, and annual income of approximately £5k from member subscriptions, local sponsors and the two public concerts we perform each year.

The main tasks for the Treasurer include: preparing budgets for our two concerts in April and November; liaising with the Bookkeeper to prepare Management Accounts and Annual Accounts; liaising with the Independent Verifier of the accounts prior to the AGM (January); presenting the Annual Accounts to the members at the AGM.

If anyone would be interested in providing this essential service for our Choir, please get in touch through the Contact Us link on the choir website: [www.fairford.org/choralsociety](http://www.fairford.org/choralsociety)

## U3A March

In March Robert Skelt gave an intriguing talk in which he managed to explain with great clarity how the development of the Enigma machine and work at Bletchley Park helped to defeat Nazi Germany. Benefiting from his computer's ability to display three-dimensional objects like the rotating alphabetical wheels which were integral to the encoding, he knitted together this tale which relied on serendipity, bravery and brilliant decoders. For instance, the fact that the Germans were so anxious to find a packet that had inexplicably ended up in a Polish post office led to suspicion and gave the Poles time to inspect the contents. It was an early Enigma machine. Two design faults helped researchers uncover its methods. First, the machine was designed to be symmetrical; that is, encrypting twice with the same settings recovers the original message, and secondly the Enigma's reflector guaranteed that no letter could be enciphered as itself, so an A could never revert to an A. This helped Polish and, later, British efforts to break the cipher. The bravery involved three crew members of HMS Petard who boarded a sinking U-boat and hurled, into a tiny vessel standing by, invaluable code books containing the keys to the major German U-boat codes, 'Shark' and 'Trito', that Bletchley Park had not been able to decipher. Two of these men died in the effort but understanding U-boat traffic was crucial to saving many lives during the rest of World War II.

Sylvia Jones

<http://www.bletchleypark.org.uk>

A U3A group visit to Bletchley Park is being arranged for September.

Details coming in the next Newsletter.

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*'The high-level intelligence produced at Bletchley Park, codenamed Ultra, provided crucial assistance to the Allied war effort. Sir Harry Hinsley, a Bletchley veteran and the official historian of British Intelligence in World War II, said that Ultra shortened the war by two to four years and that the outcome of the war would have been uncertain without it.'*

Wikipedia

# GROUP EVENTS

Please contact the group leaders if you are interested in joining any of the groups or visit [www.fairfordu3a.org.uk](http://www.fairfordu3a.org.uk) for further information.

## Birdwatching

*Tuesday 17 April*

This month we shall visit Coombe Hill Meadows in the Severn Valley and have lunch nearby. At this time of year the towpath along the canal is usually uneven and muddy and the meadows can be flooded so boots are strongly recommended.

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

Richard Morgan

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## Book Circle 1

*Tuesday 10 April*

We next meet at Eileen Ryan's home to discuss 'War' by Sebastian Junger.

Please let Eileen know if you are unable to attend on 01285 712927.

Denny Rawlinson  
01285 711009

## Book Circle 2

*Tuesday 10 April*

In a change to our original programme we shall meet at Ian's house at 2.30pm to discuss 'Remarkable Creatures' by Tracy Chevalier. Please let Ian or me know if you will be unable to attend.

Kevin Hannigan  
01367 250246  
[hannigan100@hotmail.com](mailto:hannigan100@hotmail.com)

Ian Westlake  
01285 712329

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## Bridge Improvers

The group meets every Monday afternoon from 2-4pm in the Heritage room, Fairford Community Centre. No bridge on Easter Monday April 9th. We are a friendly and informal group. All bridge players welcome, so if you play bridge and would like to improve come and join us. Partners and refreshments provided.

Margaret Bishop  
01285 713747  
[mbishop@talktalk.net](mailto:mbishop@talktalk.net)

## Chess

*Wednesday 25 April*

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

Contact details below for more information.

Mike Bennett  
01367 252379  
[mish252379@btinternet.com](mailto:mish252379@btinternet.com)

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## Computer Group

We have had a short break between meetings as I've been away. Things are now back to normal. We are now planning to meet every week at my home. If you are interested in joining, please contact me and you will be welcome.

Nick Humphris  
01285 711740

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## Family History 1

*Wednesday 18 April*

A change in venue: we shall meet at Alison's house to hear about Madeline's family discoveries. Please contact Alison on 01285 711768 if you are unable to come.

Miriam Scott  
01285 713441

## Cycling with a pub lunch

*Wednesday 25 April*

Time to oil the wheels and check the tyres once again. Spring is here so let us get out and enjoy it. As it is the first ride we shall have a gentle cruise around the Lakes and hopefully end up at The Bakers Arms at Somerford Keynes. No stiles/mud or wandering animals. Be sure to bring your sunglasses and cream for a warm day.

Meet at Fairford at 10.30am, for a very enjoyable day's cycling.

Paul O'Shaughnessy  
01367 850262

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## Family History 2

*Wednesday 18 April*

We shall meet at Fairford Library at 2.30pm as part follow up of our trip to the National Archives.

Michael Johnson  
[sanaelma@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sanaelma@yahoo.co.uk)  
01285 712637

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## 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

## Five Rhythms Dance

*Wednesday 18 April*

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

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## French Conversation

### *Intermediate*

We shall meet on Mondays 2nd and 30th April at my home, at 11am as usual.

New members are welcome to join us; please contact me for more information.

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!

Kevin Hannigan  
01367 250246  
hannigan100@hotmail.com

## Garden Group

*Thursday 19 April*

I am sorry to say that our planned outing to TWIGS has had to be postponed due to the fact that they are having their Open Day on April 22 and all the members and volunteers will be very busy getting ready for it. Having had a good hard think about alternatives and had a chat to Margaret I should like to suggest that we go to Westonbirt Arboretum which I know a number of you will have visited before but, bearing in mind that herbaceous borders can still be waking up and not always that exciting in April, the prospect of visiting somewhere with rhododendrons, azaleas and magnolias in flower, as well as wildflowers and, hopefully, bluebells seems very appealing. I hope you will agree. I have been looking into costs and if we are a group of 10 or more entry will be £5 per head - less and it will be £7 (these are concession prices). Any RHS member with an asterisk on their ticket will get in free of charge. This should be a lovely outing with a lot to see, so maybe we should leave at 1.30pm from the car park (closing is not till 8 pm so we have plenty of time!). Please let me know whether you are coming so we don't go without you!

Penny Phillips  
01285 711360  
7 pennyrphillips@gmail.com

## German Circle

All meetings will be at my home at 2pm. 'German for Beginners' will be on the 2nd Tuesday and 'Further German' will be on the 3rd Tuesday.

I shall look forward to seeing you – do please let me know if you are unable to come on the relevant meeting date.

Karin Forman  
01367 252675

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## Keep Fit

The Keep Fit class meets at the Palmer Hall weekly on Tuesdays at 9.15am.

Eddie Rosser  
01367 252504

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## Latin

*Thursday 5 April*

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

## Model Group

The Model group meets each Thursday morning.

For further details please contact:

Jim Sullivan  
01367 252539

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## Music Listening

*Friday 20 April*

Our theme this month is the letter 'Q'. We shall meet at 2.30pm.

Mary Chick  
01285 712126

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## Needlework

The Needlework group will meet on 11th and 25th April, at the Chapel.

For further details please contact:

Thelma Hardie  
01285 713971

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## Philosophy

*Wednesday 18 April*

Our next meeting will be at my house, in Poulton. The subject will be 'With the Diamond Jubilee'. Have we seen progress or decline in the past 60 years?

Dan Deane  
01285 851408

## Pétanque

We were sad to hear of the passing of Len. As one of the founder members of the Pétanque group he will be greatly missed by us all. We offer our condolences to Pat and her family.

We shall start the season by playing for a few weeks in the grounds of the Catholic Church on 11th April, and look forward to the move to our permanent site sometime at the end of April/beginning of May. Games will be played every Wednesday from 10am to 12 noon (ish) but there will now be opportunities to have exchange games with other groups at weekends.

It looks like an exciting future lies ahead for us all.

David and Heather Baber  
01285 711343

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## Poetry Circle 1

The group meets on the first Friday afternoon of the month. There will be no meeting in April.

Barbara Cottam  
01285 711054

## Poetry Circle 2

There will be no meeting in April.

Mary Chick  
01285 712126

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## Postcard Group

*Tuesday 17 April*

The meeting, as usual, will be at my house at 2.30pm. Colin will be giving a presentation on railways, his main interest. The theme letter will be 'I' (maximum six cards).

John Higgs  
01285 712488

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## Recorders

Our next meetings will be Friday afternoons the 13th and 27th April. As usual, we'll be starting with our treble class (everyone welcome) from 2pm followed by the main group at 2.30 to finish at 4.30 with a break for tea. We shall be in 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, non-judgemental group please contact: Hilary Bradshaw 01793 720037: hilary@burytown15.co.uk or Jay Mathews 01367 253510: jaymathews124@mac.com for further information. Please ask if you need to borrow an instrument or stand.

## Rummikub

*Thursday 12 April*

The group always 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.

There will be NO Meeting in May.

Mary Bennett  
01367 253287

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## 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

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*'First a howling blizzard woke us,  
Then the rain came down to soak us,  
And now before the eye can focus -  
Crocus.'*

Lilja Rogers

## Solo Group

The Solo Group will meet on the first Monday of the month. For the date of the next meeting please contact:

Michael Johnson  
01285 712637  
sanaelma@yahoo.co.uk

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## Spanish

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

Frank Hall  
01285 712583  
fkhall@talktalk.net

## Straddlers

*Thursday 19 April*

The walk is about 8¾ miles, starting from Chipping Campden Parish Church at 10am. We proceed near the Sports Centre and School along the Heart of England Way to Mickleton Hills Farm where we cross the railway and join up with the Diamond Way; onwards then through Ebrington and south east to Marfurlong Farm. Here we turn sharp right to journey southwest to the village of Paxford. From here we veer right and westward, back across the railway line passing a trig point and then on north to Broad Campden. From there we pick up the Monarch's Way and return to Chipping Campden. The route is undulating with a stiff climb up to Broad Campden.

Meet at Fairford car park at 9am, or at Chipping Campden Parish Church for 10am. Suggested passenger fee is £3. Please bring tea/coffee and a packed lunch. Walking boots essential.

Clive Watson  
01285 713003

## Striders

There will be no Striders walk this month as it is the date for visiting the Olympic sites.

Group Leader  
Phil Trickett  
01285 712421

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## Strollers

*Friday 27 April*

This month's walk will commence at The Victoria Inn at Eastleach, where we shall order our lunch before we start.

The walk is a bit more challenging than the flatter walks we have done recently but it is mainly on grassy tracks and it is really beautiful country. There are no stiles but there are some stepping stones and two short steep hills, which we shall all take at our own pace.

Meet at Fairford car park at 9.45am or 10am at The Victoria.

Val Higgs  
01285 712488

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*'April hath put a spirit of youth in everything.'*

William Shakespeare

## Traditional Jazz

*Thursday 5 April*

The group usually meets on the first Thursday of each month at our house in Lechlade from 2-4.30pm. Our April meeting will include comparisons of how the bands of Duke Ellington and Chris Barber played the same tunes. All USA members are welcome. The group will **not** meet in May.

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

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## Yoga

The Yoga group meets weekly on Mondays at the Community Centre at 10.15am.

Sylvia Jones  
01285 712657

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*'Spring is not the best of seasons.  
Cold and flu are two good reasons;  
wind and rain and other sorrow,  
warm today and cold tomorrow.'*

Author Unknown

## Walking and Pub Lunch

*Wednesday 11 April*

Starting from the Radnor Arms (SN67PR) at Coleshill we shall walk with care along the road until we turn left onto the d'Arcy Dalton Way. Very soon we shall come across glorious views stretching out before us, and with luck we may see bluebells in the woods. We continue across the fields until we pick up a quiet lane; we follow the lane and carefully cross the road into Colleymore Farm. Passing the farm we bear left down a bridleway leading into Puddleduck Lane, then into Great Coxwell, where if time permits we can visit the Great Barn. The walk then takes us on through the village and an alley across a field back to Coleshill—about four and a half miles.

The walk is quite easy with little mud and the views and open country are wonderful. Stout shoes or boots recommended. Unfortunately there are a number of stiles to negotiate. Still, we can't have everything.

Meet at Fairford car park to leave at 9.30am or at the Radnor Arms at 10am. They will take our lunch orders before we leave. The suggested driver donation is £1.

Michael Johnson  
01285 712637

# GROUP REVIEWS

## Birdwatching

Our day started well with two buzzards soaring overhead before we reached Cirencester and a red kite flying over a little later. Water levels are always critical for seeing birds in the Severn Valley – too low and there are no birds, too high and you can't get there. This year we were lucky with both the water levels and the weather. Sharp eyes and ears along the banks of the old canal found most of the native birds one would expect but none of the spring migrants had arrived. High above us a skylark was doing its best to tell us it was spring. Nearly all of the wintering water birds had left the two pools but we had good views of lapwings displaying and more than a dozen curlews. It was also nice to watch a brown hare running around close to the hide. After lunch we called at the hide overlooking the water at Ashleworth Ham and found that most of the ducks that wintered there had already moved on.

Richard Morgan

## Chess

I was asked the other day why there was never a chess report in the Newsletter. My answer was that for those who were not interested in chess it was only a little bit more entertaining than watching paint dry.

I hosted the last chess session. People parked in front of my house – one did a Knight's move to the garage while the other car did a Bishop's Fianchetto to get diagonal control to the exit. Mark Whittering made his way from home on foot like a well supported Pawn.

The surprise of the afternoon was David Cox's win over our best player Mike Bennett. Mike was busy forking and pinning David's King defences and did not notice David sneakily pushing a Pawn forward, to gain an extra Queen. With this extra fire power at David's disposal, Mike resigned.

The other board was like the Battle of Barnet in the Wars of the Roses. The centre board was clogged up – men on your own side getting in the way. It was not the thick fog that caused the confusion that decided the outcome but the tea and cake arriving just at the wrong time for Mark. This enabled me to be an Edward IV and clinch an unlikely win.

We finished the afternoon off by drinking my Schnapps.

Ian Westlake

## Book Circle 1

This month we read 'The Sleeping Beauty' by Elizabeth Taylor. Elizabeth Taylor's novels were written in the mid-twentieth century from 1945 to 1972. All are now being reissued by Virago Modern Classics. Most of her married life was lived in Penn, Buckinghamshire - she died there of cancer at the age of 63.

The novels are a careful and irreverent documentation of middle-class life as she lived it. I think she writes beautifully about relationships, with wit and humour, but this is my personal view as not many of our group agreed with me and all had various criticisms.

This is basically a love story. Vincent Tumulty is a man who is always ready to comfort the bereaved. He comes ready to do this for his friend, Isabella, whose husband has died tragically and he is looking forward to a few days of tears and consolation. On the evening of his arrival, he catches sight of a mysterious romantic figure walking by the shore. Before the weekend is over Vincent has fallen in love, completely and utterly, for the first time in his life. But Emily is a sleeping beauty and her secluded life hides a bitter secret from the past - how can the spell be broken?

Elizabeth Taylor wrote to The Times what I thought was a good illustration of middle-class women's lives of the time: "the lack of purpose and function - entertainment however pleasant - is no substitute for daily purpose - if only one could have a job that contributes to the running of the community."

Eileen Harlow

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*'First published in 1953, this is one of Elizabeth Taylor's most romantic novels, a love story, and typical too of her great talents in its quiet observation and delicate, ironic perception.'*

<http://users.ox.ac.uk/~worc0337/authors/elizabeth.taylor.html>

## Book Circle 2

This month we met to discuss 'Nothing to Envy' by Barbara Demick. The author, an American, moved to Seoul in 2001 as a newspaper correspondent. She was to cover both Koreas but it was very difficult indeed to cross the border into North Korea. Over a period of years in Seoul she interviewed and got to know a number of refugees from the North. These people were all from the same city, Chongjin. By sticking to one place she was able to cross-check facts and build up a picture of life in that area.

In the book the author has woven together the stories of six people to paint a horrifying picture of life in Chongjin. Amongst others she wrote about a doctor, a teacher, a student and Mrs Song. The latter appealed especially to most of us. First we knew her as a fervent supporter of the Workers Party responsible for reporting anti-party behaviour in her neighbourhood, working very long hours for a pittance and coping with a starving family. Later, having been carried across a swollen river into China and then journeyed on to Seoul, we saw her as a fashionable middle-aged woman with a good job and enjoying beauty treatments, restaurants and travel.

It wasn't an easy read, at times it was grim, covering as it did cruelty, repression and famine. In fact some of us felt that it might have benefited by being a little shorter! Nevertheless, most of us were glad that we had read the book giving as it did a vivid portrayal of life in North Korea about which we had formerly known very little.

Anthea Wordley

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*'She [Barbara Demick] shows us "a bleak and dark country where millions have died of starvation [but where] there is also love." For her effort, she recently won the Samuel Johnson prize and deservedly so. The book reads with the emotional intensity of fiction, yet it rigorously trails the realities of ordinary people from their love lives (and outdoor sex) to disillusioned defectors.'*

<http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/reviews/>

## Family History 1

Last month we discussed the trip which several members had made earlier in the month to the National Archives at Kew. This had been an interesting visit. The Archives have a vast range of documents and records and it was agreed that we would learn more about the accessibility of these to assist with further visits. Miriam then helped us to decipher some of the writing we would find in Wills of the nineteenth century, including the Latin codicils which appeared in the eighteenth century.

Madeline Phillips

## Family History 2

At the March meeting four of us discussed at length our recent joint visit to the National Archives at Kew. We were all of the view that it was a worthwhile experience despite the fact that some of us were unable to obtain all the information we would have liked.

The large number of computer points enabled all to get to work directly and the staff at the centre proved extremely helpful. Inexpensive transport from Cirencester and good company made it a worthwhile day out. Again we enjoyed Mike Johnson's hospitality for our meeting.

Philip Meaden

## Garden Group

Our first outing of the year was to visit the gardens of Kingston Bagpuize House near Abingdon. The present house was remodelled during the reign of George I and is a most attractive property sitting in beautiful parkland with many unusual and beautiful trees. At this time of year, sadly, most of them are only just waking up - the magnolia soulangiana growing in the 160 foot herbaceous border was covered in buds and with the present warm weather should, by now, be a wonderful sight! Passing through the 18th century wrought iron gates brought us to the woodland garden which had a good number of bulbs, hellebores and primroses giving colour and interest. The sun kept trying to come out but never quite made it so we were all pleased to warm up in the tea room. This is a garden which some of us definitely thought worth revisiting a bit later in the year when these wonderful trees are in leaf or flower. The handkerchief tree alone would be worth it.

Penny Phillips

## **Pétanque**

Our pre-season meeting was held at The Bull on Friday, 9th March. It was practically a 'full house' of members and we were delighted to welcome three new ones. David opened the meeting on the serious note of the siting of our proposed piste in Fairford.

Unfortunately, despite many phone calls, letters and meetings with Fairford Town Council representatives, we were unable to secure a site in the Walnut Tree field. In the light of this we began, once again, to look for alternative options. One of these was an area in the grounds of Farmor's School. The Head Teacher and Staff could not have been more welcoming. They were delighted at the prospect of our group working with their pupils and within two weeks our proposal had been accepted, subject to our members' approval. This was unanimously given at our meeting and we are pleased to announce that the work can begin in the Easter holidays.

David and Heather Baber

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## **Philosophy**

The subject for our meeting in March was 'Risk and Hazard' Bulah introduced the subject and led discussion on the following points.

Early humans must have led a very stressful life when they were forced by hunger to leave shelter to gather food to eat. Risk in the primitive environment was part of survival. Though we live in less stressful times risk of one kind or another is still with us. In fact our risks are now many, e.g. financial, health, personal relationships, environmental, as well as those we deliberately seek for pleasure such as gambling and extreme sports. We concluded that life itself is a risk with many of the aspects of risk unquantifiable. The point was made that attitude to risk is conditioned by experience, religion, ambition, age and social status.

Hazard is a single element of risk, which can sometimes be foreseen, but can be in many guises.

Dan Deane

## **Poetry Circle 1**

Our theme for the afternoon's poetry was 'Holidays'.

John kicked off with 'I do like to be beside the seaside' which was the chorus of an old Music Hall song written by the poet John A Glover Kind, followed by his three-verse poem. Then, Ken took us on 'Thornfield Village Outing' by Bonny Sartin. Don took us back to Ireland with Yeats' 'Lake Isle of Innisfree', after which we went on two cycling holidays described in verse by our local poet Ian. Joyce presented Larkin's 'Country Show' – a very good description of what could become a declining event. John Betjeman's love of Cornwall was described by Kay reading 'Trebetherack' and finally by John reading 'Delectable Duchy'.

John Rose

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## **Recorders**

We are extremely grateful to Peter Stephenson who has stepped into the breach and very successfully taken two sessions recently, thanks to the gadding-about of the usual organisers. The trebles, in particular, much enjoyed playing the pieces he arranged especially for them. Many thanks, also, to Jack Brothwell for introducing us to some of his arrangements of traditional folk music which he plans to use when he conducts the South Cotswold branch of the Society of Recorder Players in Lechlade on June 9th. He's hoping that giving people the chance to practise some of the music beforehand will encourage our members to go along and try the SRP, as the prospect of the usual whole afternoon's sight-reading can be a bit daunting.

We are very lucky to have Ann Marshall coming to us for two visits this term - 25th May and 22nd June. As most people know, she composes and arranges music for all combinations of recorders and standards of players and conducts groups throughout the country - so please come along for what, I'm sure, will be a couple of very enjoyable afternoons.

## Solo Group

With the sun gods on our side six group members met at The Victoria Inn, Eastleach, for a jovial lunch on Monday, 19th March. The Landlord was jovial when we paid the bill. Conversation was also jovial and varied, although us chaps were totally outnumbered by the ladies of the group.

After lunch we remembered that we had come to view the daffodils as Mike Johnson had already reported that they would be at their peak. The flowers that is, not Mike. We then took a gentle walk along the waterside and met numerous other people and pets undertaking the same walk. We picked up quite a bit of local knowledge, particularly how Macaroni Woods came to be so called, and also that above Eastleach used to be a horse race track. Questions for a quiz in the future, maybe.

We finally returned to the pub and all enjoyed a cup of tea before making our way home.

Before closing, let me say that all new members will be welcome to join us, and I can tell you "You never know who you will meet".

John Yorke

## Walking and Pub Lunch - March

After some friendly banter with a local as we parked outside her shop, the poor (as opposed to dear) leader then spent some time looking for the thirteenth walker, only to find that whilst there were eleven for lunch plus two not lunching only twelve were walking!

On a hazy day we set off from Northleach to Hampnett, and then across the fields back to Northleach for an excellent and very good value lunch at the Sherborne Arms.

Well! The conversation at my table started innocently enough, but then one lady who wishes to remain anonymous said she thought men were better at parking cars than women. That took us on to men's urinals (as you might expect) to Mars and Venus, multi-tasking, male and female brains.....you've got the message!

We departed, to the probable relief of the locals in the bar, with the men agreeing that of course we do not understand women (the more sensible of us don't try!) and wondering how on earth we managed to have a conversation that ranged over such subjects. It's called friendship!

Kevin Hannigan

## Timetable of Group Activities

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

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

Please send items for the  
**May**  
 issue to Alison Hobson email:  
**editor@fairfordu3a.org.uk**  
 01285 711768  
 no later than  
**Thursday April 19th**