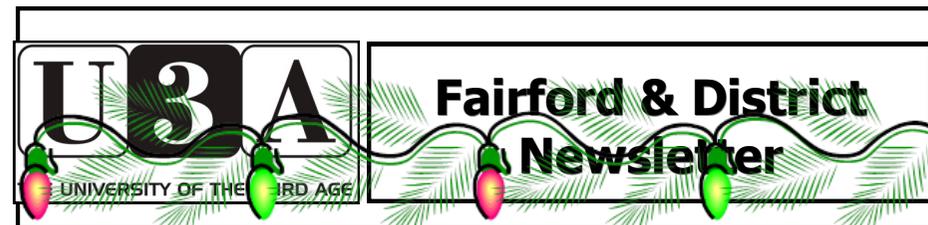


Please send items for the
January issue to
 Don Cobbett
 editor@fairfordu3a.org.uk
 by **11th December**



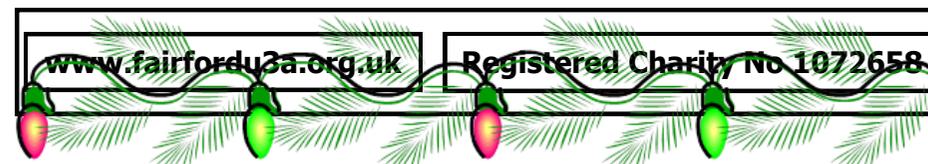
Issue 212

December 2014

Mon	1	Bridge, Adv French, Short Tennis, Yoga
Tues	2	Main Meeting, Computers, Keep Fit, Spanish
Wed	3	Table Tennis, Needlework
Thu	4	Model Making, Scrabble, Traditional Jazz, Latin
Fri	5	Poetry 1 and 2, Strollers & Walking with PL planning mtg
Mon	8	Bridge, Adv French, Short Tennis, Yoga, Solos
Tues	9	Christmas Dinner, Computers, Keep Fit, Spanish, Book Circle 2
Wed	10	Table Tennis, Walk with PL, Geology
Thu	11	Model Making, Rummikub, Striders & Straddlers Leaders mtg
Fri	12	Recorders
Mon	15	Bridge, Adv French, Short Tennis, Solos, Yoga
Tues	16	Computers, Keep Fit, Birdwatching, Postcards, Spanish
Wed	17	Table Tennis, Five Rhythms, Scottish Reels, Needlework
Thu	18	Model Making
Fri	19	Music Listening
Mon	22	Bridge, Adv French, Short Tennis, Yoga
Tues	23	Computers, Keep Fit, Spanish
Wed	24	Table Tennis, Chess
Thu	25	Christmas Day
Fri	26	Boxing Day
Mon	29	Bridge, Adv French, Short Tennis, Yoga
Tues	30	Computers, Keep Fit
Wed	31	Table Tennis, Scottish Reels
January 2015		
Thu	1	New Year's Day
Fri	2	Poetry 1 and 2
Mon	5	Bridge, Adv French, Short Tennis, Solos, Yoga
Tues	6	Main Meeting, Computers, Keep Fit,
Wed	7	Table Tennis



**A Christmas Miscellany
 by
 U3A members**





Today, 2 December
'A Christmas Miscellany'

Entertainment by some of our own U3A members

General Meetings

Palmer Hall, 2.30pm
Forthcoming events

6 January 2015

'Gloucestershire Regiment in the Great War'

by Graham Gordon

3 February

'Confessions of a Pantomime Dame': Behind the scenes in the Dame's dressing room with Richard Westcott.

3 March

'Hypnosis and how it is used': Our speaker, Mark Price, is a hypnotherapist and he provides an insight into hypnotherapy; the myths v facts; the power of the sub-conscious and retraining the brain.

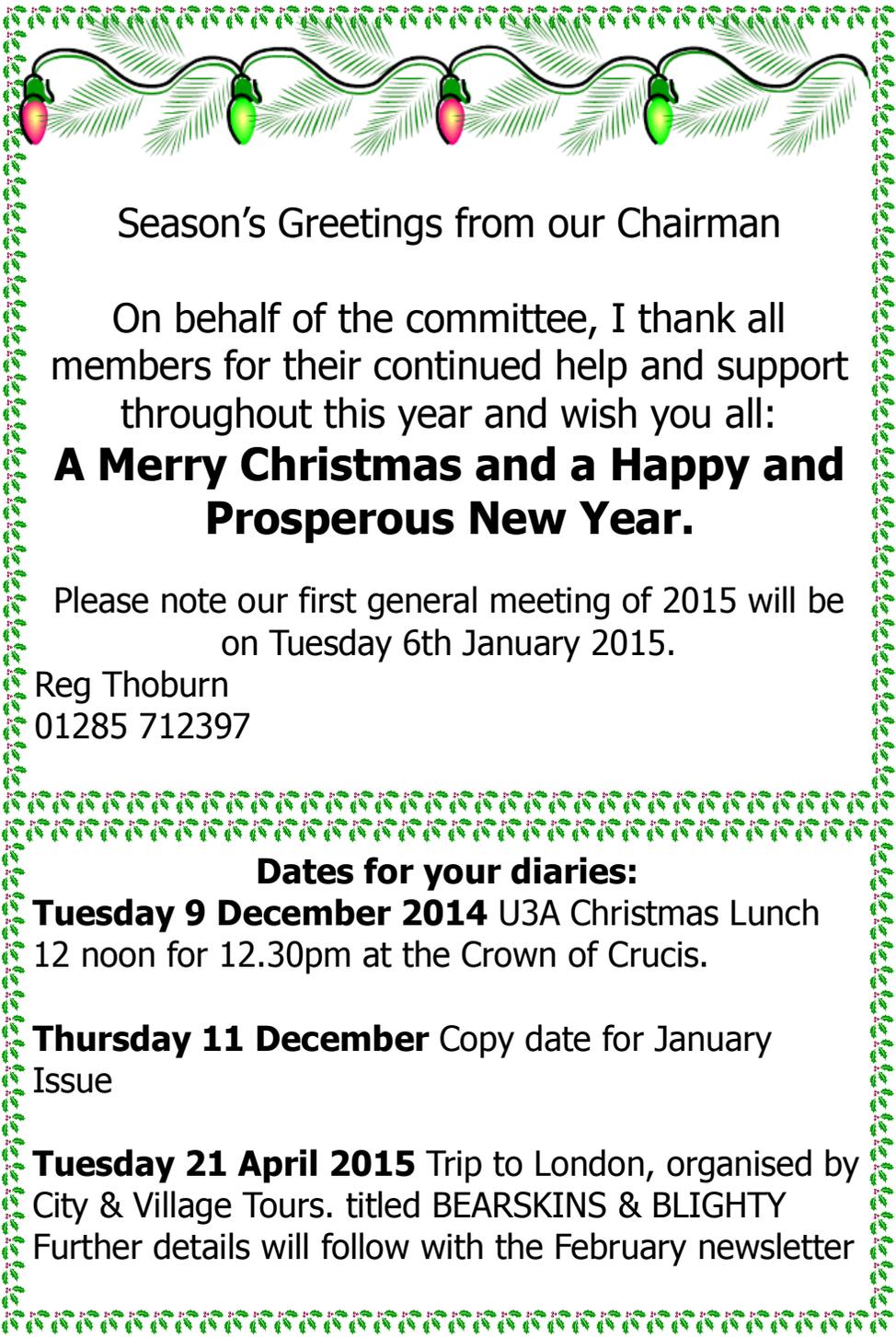
Tea Rota

6 January: Scrabble

3 February: Walking with PL

3 March : Yoga

Editor this month:
Sarah Bottomley



Season's Greetings from our Chairman

On behalf of the committee, I thank all members for their continued help and support throughout this year and wish you all:

A Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Please note our first general meeting of 2015 will be on Tuesday 6th January 2015.

Reg Thoburn
01285 712397

Dates for your diaries:

Tuesday 9 December 2014 U3A Christmas Lunch
12 noon for 12.30pm at the Crown of Crucis.

Thursday 11 December Copy date for January Issue

Tuesday 21 April 2015 Trip to London, organised by City & Village Tours. titled BEARSKINS & BLIGHTY
Further details will follow with the February newsletter

Fairford U3A November 2014

Nadine Carr arrived in Fairford under the guise of Beatrice de Brassey and described the Edwardian experiences of ladies, who came to be called Suffragettes, as they fought for voting rights for women. She sketched briefly the long lead time that saw the equality of the Celtic period lost with the coming of Christianity when a woman became to be seen as a man's chattel. Later the Vikings allowed more equality but it was lost again when William conquered England. Mary Wollstonecraft's 'The Vindication of Women's Rights', published in 1792, is an example of the continued struggle and later Florence Nightingale wrote but never had published 'Cassandra', which grew out of frustration at having her ambition to become a nurse thwarted by her family. Queen Victoria did not help the women's cause but talked of 'the protection which man was intended to give the weaker sex.'

Emmeline Pankhurst provided the real momentum between 1912 and 1914. 'Beatrice' vividly described the indignities she and other followers suffered as they engaged in window smashing, arson and hunger strikes. The government resorted to violent force-feeding and this led to the 1913 'Cat and Mouse' Act whereby hunger striking prisoners were released until they grew strong again, and then re-arrested. This period of militancy ended abruptly on the outbreak of war in 1914 but it was not until 1918 that women of 30 plus years got the right to vote and only in 1928 was the age reduced to 21, the same as for men.

Sylvia Jones

Gloucestershire Hard of Hearing Seminar

On Thursday 13th November twenty five members assembled in the Community Centre to listen to Samantha Quinson give a talk on the services provided by Gloucestershire Hard of Hearing, which is based at Barnwood. Samantha outlined the range of equipment which they sell for the hard of hearing such as telephones, TV sound enhancers, door bells etc and then continued with the maintenance of hearing aids, her advice being that the tubes should be replaced every 6 months, which is a service they provide for a nominal fee of £2.50 at one of their clinics in the area. Although there is currently no Gloucestershire Hard of Hearing clinic in Fairford, the nearest being Cirencester, this is something they would like to get started so watch this space. Finally Samantha finished with different ways of communicating with the hard of hearing before answering questions from the audience.

Reg Thoburn
01285 712397



Reminder

Should you change your email address, will you please let the Membership Secretary know, so that our records can be up to date.

Jilly Salvat
jillyarna@hotmail.com

Photo Album

If you have any interesting photographs of U3A activities, please pass them to Ann Wightman (01285 12723) for inclusion in the album

GROUP MEETINGS

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

Ballroom Dancing

This is a recently formed group and we meet fortnightly in the Palmer Hall, Fairford on Friday from 7.00pm to 8.00pm. There will be no meetings in December. The first meeting of 2015 will be on 9th January and members need to be there at 6.45pm for a 7.00pm start.

Jo Williams
01285 713341
Lilian Pooley
01367 250346
lilian.pooley@gmail.com



Birdwatching

Tuesday 16 December

It is time to plan for 2015 so we shall meet at Fairlie, Horcott Road at 2.30 pm to discuss our programme, aided by some mulled wine and mince pies.

We are always on the lookout for new venues so bring some ideas with you.

If you think you might be interested in joining the group do come along and join us.

Richard Morgan
01285 712085



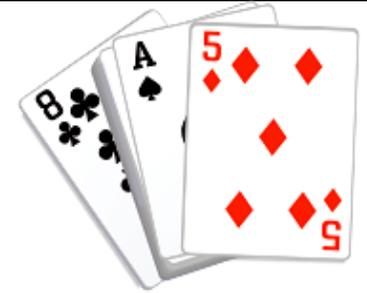
Bridge Improvers

Bridge is a fascinating and absorbing game which offers challenge and excitement and keeps the mind alert and active without being physically demanding. The group is not suitable for beginners, but for anyone with some knowledge of the game who wants to improve.

We usually have a lesson, based on the Standard English (Acol) system, followed by practice play and friendly discussion. We expect to make lots of mistakes but hope to learn from them. We meet in the Heritage room at Fairford Community Centre, every Monday afternoon from 2.00pm to 4.00pm, and the cost is £1 per session which includes tea/coffee and biscuits.

All players welcome, partners provided.

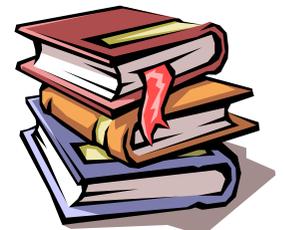
Margaret Bishop 01285 713747
mbishop1@timetalk.co.uk



Book Circle 1

There will be no meeting in December. The next one will be at Pauline's on Tuesday 13 January, when we will discuss 'This Boy' by Alan Johnson. Please let me know if you are unable to come. There is a waiting list for this group.

Denny Rawlinson
01285 711009



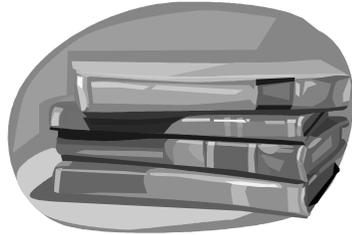
Book Circle 2

Tuesday 9 December

The group meets for discussion on the second Tuesday of every month at 2.30pm in members' homes.

Books are chosen in December for the following year and every effort is made to ensure that they are also available as audiobooks. Anyone interested in joining us would be most welcome.

Sarah Basley
01285 712720
t.basley@btinternet.com



Chess

Do you know how to play chess? If not, have you ever thought about learning? Why not join us and give it a try? We play for fun and don't take it too seriously whether we win or lose, and it is a good way to keep the grey matter ticking over.

We meet once a month, usually on a Wednesday afternoon, start with a chat over tea and biscuits, and play for a maximum of about an hour-and-a-half.

Please contact me if you are interested or would like more information

Mike Bennett 01367 252379
mish252379@btinternet.com



Computer Group

We meet every week on Tuesday mornings at my home where I aim to help members in the use of computers, the internet and more. If you are interested in joining, please contact me and you will be welcome.

For those just starting, I have a desktop computer that is available for members to use, although it is helpful if you have a laptop to bring along. If you want to start using email, I can allocate you a personal email address for your sole use.

Nick Humphris
01285 711740



Dance to Five Rhythms

Wednesday 17 December

We dance regularly at the Palmer Hall on the third Wednesday of the month, at 10.00am.

New members welcome.

Gillian Bilbrough
01285 712579

Joyce Deane
01285 851408



Family History 1 and 2

There will be no meeting in December.

Miriam Scott
01285 713441

French Conversation

Intermediate

We meet on Mondays at 11am at my home; deciding dates from meeting to meeting.

Our sessions are great fun and new members are very welcome. Please call me for more information

Rosemary Westlake
01285 712329



Advanced

Every Monday

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

Barbara Cartwright
07989 353726

Garden Group

For details of this month's meeting please contact:

Beth and Geoff Dennis
01285 712195

Geology

For details of this month's meeting please contact:

Clive Watson
01285 713003

Latin

Thursday 4 December

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



Industrial Heritage

This group will meet once a month on the third Thursday commencing 15 January 2015 in the Bull Hotel, Fairford unless otherwise advertised, at 2.30pm. Any trips booked will be advertised in the Newsletter when time permits. For further details please contact:

Pete Evans
01285 713069
pete.whooper@hotmail.co.uk

Keep Fit

The Keep Fit class meets in the Palmer Hall on Tuesday each week at 9.15am.

Eddie Rosser
01367 252504

Model Group

The Model Group meets each week on Thursday mornings. Please contact:

Jim Sullivan
01367 252539

Music Listening

Friday 19 December

We meet at Rosemary and Ian Westlake's home starting at 2.30pm. The theme to be explored is 'Nature in Music'.

John and Joyce Dear
01285 238537



Needlework

Wednesdays 3, 17 December

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

Thelma Hardie
01285 713971



Pétanque

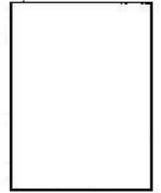
A date for Pétanque players diaries. Our New Year's lunch will be on Thursday 22 January, at 12noon for 12.30pm in The Bull at Fairford.

Dave and Heather Baber
01285 711343



POSTCARDS

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE



There will be no meeting in December but we shall resume on 20 January – usual time and place. The next anagram challenge will be "Flower Names".

John Higgs
01285 712488



Photography

There will be no meeting of the Photographic Group in December - the next meeting will be on Thursday 22 January, held as usual in the Community Centre.

Anyone interested please contact
Gordon Hart
01285 238641
gordonghart@tiscali.co.uk

Philosophy

We agreed that there would be no meeting in December. The next meeting will be at Pam Davey's house on Wednesday 14 January and the subject will be, 'To Rule is Easy, to Govern is Difficult'. Should there be problems with flooding we will meet at Manus's house.

Dan Deane
01285 851408

Poetry Circle 1

Fridays 5 December, 2 January

The group usually meets on the first Friday of the month at 2.30pm when we read and enjoy poetry and verse of all kinds. Anyone interested in joining us would be most welcome.

Barbara Cottam
01285 711054

Poetry Circle 2

Fridays 5 December, 2 January

In December we meet at Helen's house (01285 713431) to look at the poetry of Edward Lear and Lewis Carroll. Our January meeting will be at my house and we shall read poems by Charles Causley.

Please let Helen or me know if you are unable to come.

Barbara Cobbett
01285 712692

Recorders

Friday 12 December



We start with anyone who would like to play the treble (from 2.00 to 2.30pm) followed by the main group at 2.30pm to finish at 4.30pm, with a break for tea.

We will be in the Heritage Room on the ground floor of the Fairford Community Centre and will let you know if we have to use another room. As usual, we will be playing a varied selection of music arranged for Descant, Treble, Tenor and Bass with the addition of Great and Contra basses in the occasional piece.

If there are any more recorder players (no matter how rusty) who would like to join a friendly, non-judgemental group you would be very welcome - please contact:

Hilary Bradshaw

01367 860030:

hilary@burytown15.co.uk

Jay Mathews

01367 860869:

jaymathews124@mac.com



We have some spare instruments and stands; please ask if you would like to borrow one.

Rummikub

Thursday 11 December

The group meets on the second Thursday of each month at our house in Lechlade from 2.00pm - 4.30pm for some friendly games of Rummikub.

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

Mary Bennett

01367 253287

Scottish Reels

Wednesdays 17 December, 31 December

The Scottish Reels Group will meet evenings at Poulton Village Hall, from 8.00pm to 10.00pm as usual including of course New Year's Eve. Cost £3 per person per evening.

Richard and Carol Thompson

01285 712123

Richard@RichardAndCarol.net



S, C, R, A, B, B, L, E,

Thursday 4 December

Scrabble as usual in December. Please let me know if you're not able to come.

Kathleen Price

01285 712417

What other Religious Festivals

Buddhist Festival: Bodhi Day 8 December

Bodhi Day is the Buddhist holiday that commemorates the day that the historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama (Shakyamuni), experienced enlightenment also known as *Bodhi* in Sanskrit and Pali. According to tradition, Siddhartha had recently forsaken years of extreme ascetic practices and resolved to sit under a peepal tree and simply meditate until he found the root of suffering, and how to liberate oneself from it. Services and traditions vary amongst Buddhist sects, but all such services commemorate the Buddha's achievement of Nirvana, and what this means for Buddhism today. Individuals may choose to commemorate the event through additional meditation-study of the Dharma, chanting of Buddhist texts (sutras), or performing kind acts towards other beings. Some Buddhists celebrate with a traditional meal of tea, cake, and readings

Hindu Festival: Pancha Ganapati: 21–25 December

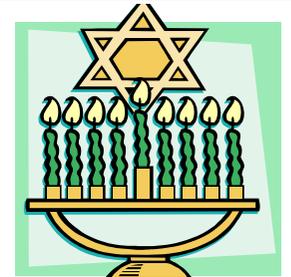
A modern five-day festival in honour of Lord Ganesha, celebrated by Hindus in USA. During each of the five days of Pancha Ganapati, the entire family focus on a special spiritual discipline, or, *sadhana*. Because of the festival's importance as a new beginning and mending of all past mistakes, a shrine is created in the main living room of the home and decorated in the spirit of this festive occasion. At the centre is placed a large wooden or bronze five-faced statue of Lord Pancha Ganapati. If this is not available, any large picture or statue of Lord Ganesha will do. Lord Ganesha is often depicted as coming from the forest; therefore, pine boughs (or banana leaves) may be used. Flashing lights, tinsel and colourful hanging ornaments may also be added. Each morning the children dress or decorate Ganesha in a different colour: golden yellow on December 21, then royal blue, ruby red, emerald green and finally brilliant orange. These are the colours of His five powers, or *shaktis*.

are celebrated in December?

Jewish Festival: Hanukkah

16 December 2014

Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, is an eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple (the Second Temple) in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt of the 2nd century BCE.



Hanukkah is observed for eight nights and days, starting on the 25th day of Kislev according to the Hebrew calendar, which may occur at any time from late November to late December in the Gregorian calendar. The festival is observed by the kindling of the lights of a unique candelabrum, the nine-branched *menorah* or *hanukiah*, one additional light on each night of the holiday, progressing to eight on the final night. Other Hanukkah festivities include playing dreidel and eating oil based foods such as doughnuts and latkes.



Shinto festival: Oshogatsu - New Year

The end of the old year and the beginning of the New Year are very important times in Japan. Towards the end of the old year, people gather for bonenkai, year-end parties at which the irritations and frustrations and any misfortunes of the past year are symbolically washed away and forgotten in the sake drunk on these occasions. After the new year has been ceremonially ushered in, people hold shinenkai or new year parties, toasting the new year, expressing their hopes and expectations for the year to come, wishing each other well, and anticipating the good things to be.

Short Tennis

We meet in the Palmer Hall every Monday from 3.00pm until 5.00pm. As we only have one court we often cannot accommodate any more players, so if interested please speak to me first.

Margaret Trickett
01285 712421

Spanish

Tuesdays 2 and 16 December

We are a continuation group now, reading selected articles and commenting on what we have read.

Meetings are at my home from 11.00am to 12 noon.

Frank Hall
01285 712583
fkhall@talktalk.net



Solos

Monday 8 December

Next meeting will be on 8 December from 2.30pm at Valerie's to celebrate her 21st. We think she is suffering from amnesia!!!

Valerie Wood
01285 711888

Table Tennis

The Group meets every Wednesday afternoon at 2.30pm in the Keble Room, first floor of Fairford Community Centre. New members of any ability always welcome – just come along.

Nick Stroude
01608 238715



Traditional Jazz

Thursday 4 December

The group meets on the first Thursday of each month at our house in Lechlade from 2.00pm - 4.30pm. This month our programme will feature a wide range of recordings from early jazz, and 1940 revival to British Traditional. The latter will again include the music of Acker Bilk who died on 2nd November.

We will not meet on New Year's Day.

Ian Bennett
01367 253287
ianbbennett51@gmail.com



Yoga

Mondays

The Yoga Group meets weekly on Mondays at the Community Centre at 10.00am. There is a waiting list

Sylvia Jones
01285 712657

Striders And Straddlers Annual Walk Leaders' Meeting

Thursday 11 December

This year's meeting will take place as usual in the visitors' lounge of the Bull Hotel in Fairford on 11 December at 10.30am. All walkers are invited to attend; in particular we are very keen to find new walkers for both groups.

This year has been a year of mixed fortunes for these groups. Although we found walk leaders for most months, the average attendance on both walks has been considerably lower than in previous years. Of course, there are many understandable reasons for this: increased child minding responsibilities, perhaps coupled with more holidays and other interests to name a few. The passage of time must also be a factor!

If you have any thoughts as to the future of these groups, we would love to hear from you prior to the meeting. Without more interest next year, it will be difficult to maintain our current walk structure. If you feel strongly about what we do now: walk distances, pub meals (yes/no) or any other aspect, we can start with a clean sheet of paper and perhaps design a single walk group that satisfies most interests. Please do get in touch soon – and we hope to see you at December's meeting.

Phil Trickett: Striders Group Leader
01285 712421
philtrickett@aol.com

John Burrows: Straddlers Group Leader
01367 253056
john@burrows44.plus.com



Strollers and Pub Lunch Walking Groups 2015 Planning Meeting

Friday 5 December

This meeting will be held on Friday 5 December at 10.30am at The Bull Hotel, Fairford, and we look forward to seeing members who have led, or would like to lead, a walk in 2015. Maps, guides etc. are available for those who would like to volunteer for the first time.

If you are uncertain, do join us at the meeting; walks are fun for leaders as well as walkers, so hopefully we can convince you.

Reg Thoburn (Chairman)
01285 712397

Walking with a Pub Lunch

Wednesday 10 December

What an excellent start to the festive season with a gentle walk around a lovely village in autumn sunshine! Not too far, but just far enough, around three to four miles. Mainly kissing gates, with very few stiles. Through woods and across cultivated fields, which of course have footpaths. Lots of declines, hardly any inclines. The colours are still turning so it should be a lovely stroll. Meet at Fairford at 9.40am or The Victoria Inn at Eastleach at 10.00am. We should be able to book our meal before the walk but that will depend on the numbers.

Please email or phone before the day.

Suggested travel cost is £1.

Paul O'Shaughnessy
01367 253286



GROUP REVIEWS

WESTONBIRT HOUSE TRIP

Despite the poor weather 44 members visited Westonbirt House on Tuesday 14th October. Although we had to kill 45 minutes as we were too early, we were all booked in and ready to start our visit on schedule at 2pm. Our guide explained the current house is the third to stand on the site which belonged to the Holford family from 1665-1926. The first house was an Elizabethan Manor House, this was replaced with a Georgian House, and then Robert Stayner Holford, who inherited Westonbirt in 1839, built the current house between 1863 and 1870. The house was converted to a girls' school in 1928, the house and land sold in 1927 for the princely sum of £30,000. After the tour of the house we all enjoyed a cream tea, before spending the final hour of the trip exploring the gardens before our return to Fairford around 5pm.

Reg Thoburn

Ballroom Dancing

The group met on 14 November and unfortunately due to other commitments or illness, only four members were able to attend. The problems we had been experiencing with our music were resolved and we look forward to a better turn-out for future meetings.

Any other U3A members interested in joining this group are welcome to come along on the 9th and 23rd January.

Jo Williams and Lilian Pooley

Book Circle 2

Behind The Beautiful Forevers:
LIFE, DEATH AND HOPE IN A MUMBAI SLUM
(winner of 4 literary awards for non-fiction)
Katherine Boo: 2012

'How do you get out of poverty?' Katherine Boo is obsessed with the question: reporting first on poverty in her own U.S.A, then after her marriage turning to her husband's country, India. I thought it would be useful to follow the inhabitants of a single unexceptional slum over the course of several years to see who got ahead and who didn't (author). So she lived alongside the people in a Mumbai slum for three years and we understand that all the episodes described in this book are true, although not necessarily personally witnessed by the author. The episodes described are so dramatic and sometimes horrific that our group likened the book to a soap opera, except that here it is never-ending fact.

Here are people in a constant struggle to survive, but some have aspirations to better themselves, and are therefore pursuing local opportunities: garbage management, thieving, prostitution, joining the endemic corruption which runs top to bottom in society. Perhaps this is the 'hope' in the title. It is bleak.

Written by an investigative reporter with a strong instinct for social justice, this work of non-fiction is easy plain reading, often in the style of a newspaper report, succinct with every word important, sometimes with a wry humour, sometimes electrifyingly descriptive.

"The poor don't unite. They blame other poor people. The poor take down one another and the world's great unequal cities soldier on in relative peace." Katherine Boo

Jane Pugh

Family History 1

September's meeting : This was the story of a Belgian called Louis Raemaekers. He was a cartoonist who worked mainly for the Amsterdam "Telegraaf" newspaper at the time. Raemaekers was born of a German mother in 1869 and he died in 1956. He was a brilliant illustrator and throughout the First World War he illustrated the cruelty of the German and Austrian forces, picking up on their violent acts against the inhabitants of Holland, Belgium and France. His fame spread and his work appeared in newspapers around the world, so much so, that at one time 300 million people could see his work.

The Germans put a price of 12000 marks on his head and so he had to flee to England half way through the war. Such was the German concern or hatred about him that when Germany and Belgium were preparing a peace treaty in 1918 the Germans insisted that a special clause be written in that Raemaekers be handed over to them, presumably to be imprisoned or killed. This was not done of course.

Raemaekers' work is extensively shown on the internet. His work was bound in two very large Albums in England in 1916 and at the end of the war, each containing about 100 cartoons. The books were limited to 1000 copies each plus some cartoons printed singly, and they are extensively sought today.

Raemaekers' work shows how powerful propaganda can be, but was even stronger by being illustrated in cartoons shown in newspapers all over the world. As we know, America did not come into WW1 until very late in the war, and it is reckoned that Raemaekers' cartoons, showing the German brutality played a great part in persuading the Americans to mobilise and come in to the war.

Ray Russell

Family History 1

At October's meeting Sue Middleton told the group about her grandmother's family who had the terrible misfortune to lose three members of her family between July 1917 and February 1918 in World War 1. Georgina married Wilfred Dennis who was in the Royal Garrison Artillery and died 19 October 1917 in Flanders. Arthur, one of Georgina's brothers, was in the RFC and was an Air Mechanic at Farnborough and unfortunately was hit by a propeller and died 1 July 1917. Another of Georgina's brothers, Lt Sidney R Pinder, RFC, 80 Squadron, was shot down in a Sopwith Camel on 19 February 1918 and is buried at Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez. There has been a member of the RAF in every subsequent generation of Sue's family, including her son and she has three grandsons who might follow in their footsteps.

Georgina married a second time to Edwin Ryan who was seriously injured in the War and was invalided out in May 1917. Curiously he had lost an arm and Sue's great grandfather had also lost an arm in a firework accident, so it was a family joke that they had a complete pair of arms between them!

Sue is lucky enough to have the death plaques, many photographs and the medals of her family's war service, including the Second World War heroes.

Margaret told us about her recent visit to the Somerset Archives in Taunton where she solved the problem of her relative Richard Stark's move from Devon to Somerset by consulting Settlement records. Richard had been an apprentice and moved with his farmer employer. This was a really enjoyable and interesting meeting; thank you to Miriam for her hospitality.

Alison Hobson

Industrial Heritage

The group met at 2.30pm in the Bull Hotel, Fairford on 6th November. It was decided to meet on the third Thursday of each month commencing 15th January at 2.30pm in the Bull Hotel. This will be in addition to any trips booked. Various members put forward suggestions of suitable places to visit. The group agreed that the research on times, costs and availability of venues would be undertaken by the individual members and reported to the group leader.

Pete Evans

Philosophy

November: The subject for discussion was 'Liberty'. A concept recognised as far back as the Persian Empire and later by the Greeks and then becoming a key word in the American War of Independence and the French Revolution. A problem which we rapidly reached in the discussion was how the words liberty and freedom were frequently interchanged. Isaiah Berlin, in a lecture in 1958 entitled 'Two Concepts of Liberty', identified negative and positive freedoms. Negative freedom is a freedom from external influences while positive freedom is usually characterised as a form of empowerment to achieve certain ends. This leads to liberty as proclaimed in the US Declaration of Independence which is now an unquestioned part of Western Democracy.

One wonders now with the increase in technology that allows governments to 'snoop' on their citizens, whether our liberty will be curtailed in new ways.

I think the general consensus was that definitions of liberty and freedom are difficult to determine.

Dan Deane

Poetry Circle 1

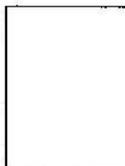
Our theme for November was 'Time' chosen by Kay. This produced a mixed variety of poems some serious: 'You wake me up in the morning' by Arnold Bennett, 'Time' by Mary Ursula Bethell, 'Going going gone' by Philip Larkin, and 'The times they are a changing' by Bob Dylan. Some were more flippant but with darker undertones: 'Let me die a young man's death' by Roger McGough and 'We don't need to leave you yet do we? or yes we do' by Ogden Nash. Ian read his own poem 'Old Lady' with its theme of loss whilst Ken surprised us all with a moving poem 'Time and Tide', his own work. Kay also read an inscription she had seen some years ago in Chester Cathedral:

When as a child I laughed and wept, Time crept
When I became a man, Time ran
And later as I older grew, Time flew
Soon I shall find while travelling on, time gone
Will Christ have saved my soul by then? Amen

Barbara Cottam

POSTCARDS

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE



Eddie's selection of amusing postcards, mostly Edwardian, from his large collection caused much laughter at the beginning of our October meeting, putting us in the right frame of mind for tackling John's anagram challenge on the subject of 'Transport'. The clues to our chosen form of transport were found in the captions on the cards we had brought along, presented to us in anagram form. You would be surprised at how many different forms of transport you can think of if you really put your mind to it. Liz had invited her grandchildren to play the game at home and they came up with over a hundred. If you'd like to have a go, here is our selection:

STRIAN LBEYCCI OTEROCS HYCTA AEMTND ICBTAA
TARCOHI WESGAY BONSUMI

Answers on page 30

Barbara Cobbett

Solos

October 24th. Seven of us ventured forth to Bourton on the Water. Weather was quite bright at the beginning, but soon turned into a soggy downpour. Our destination was Birdland, not the best place to be when raining, most of the birds were huddled together looking very dejected, the human beings were more cheerful than they were. We all stood and sang 'Kookaburra sits in the old gum tree' - they didn't seem at all impressed. I think they would have liked to escape back to Australia. If we go again it will be in better weather. We then decided to go for coffee, then another walk round. The best part was watching the penguins perform, they were very happy in the rain. Off to lunch, this really made the day. We managed to get a table that enabled us to all sit together, and a fantastic lunch was had by all, so the day ended on a very high note.

Valerie Bevington-Wood

On November 3rd we met at Val's house. We welcomed two possible new members: Eileen and Marion - we hope they enjoyed themselves. We started the meeting with our Soup lunch: Broccoli and Stilton, Leek and Potato, Tomato or Mushroom, plus cheese and biscuits, celery and grapes, drinks of your choice, followed by delicious sweet, trifle and choc brownies, coffee or tea. Our thanks go to Val who puts in so much effort for us all to enjoy. Mike Johnson is progressing well. Keep it up Mike.

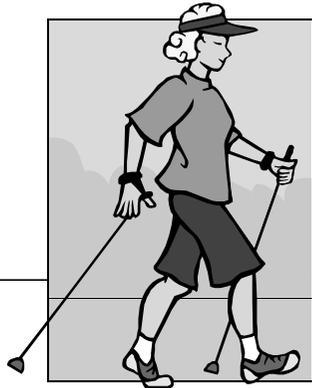
John Woodard

Striders

Tuesday 28 October

The Black Horse at Naunton was all locked and silent when we arrived, despite us phoning to confirm the night before. Hammering on the door brought no result, but a phone call did. Joanna was most apologetic, and provided a very nice meal on our return. Nice buzzing pub. Eleven of us (where were you?) set off in glorious sunshine. During the stroll the temperature reached nineteen degrees, definitely shorts and t shirt weather. The leaves were just turning, and as we had some height, (even though the walk was all downhill) the Cotswolds were revealed in all their splendour. Gold and yellow covered paths all along the route, an absolute delight. Thanks, fellow Striders, for joining us on a very pleasant day.

Paul O'Shaughnessy



Answers to 'transport' anagrams on page 28

TRAINS BICYCLE SCOOTER YACHT TANDEM TAXICAB
CHARIOT SEGWAY OMNIBUS

Straddlers

On a beautiful sunny day - Thursday 16 October saw thirteen hardy souls gather at our meeting point in the Barbary Castle Car Park, high up on the Marlborough Downs. Straddling down the Old Coach Road past the Four Mile Clump of trees, was full of puddles as a result of the previous few days of rain. The terrain however is hard chalk as against top soil, so we only gathered a light white chalk pasting on our boots rather than heavy mud! Despite the puddles, the open views across the Downs and past the gallops were well worth the effort. Surprisingly, with miles of green turf in view set up as race courses and show jumping facilities, not one of our four legged friends was to be seen!

Stopping for coffee, the remains of the remote barn recently gutted by fire marked our deviation from the Coach Road through farmland to the church at Ogbourne St Andrew from where our path continued through woods to Ogbourne St George at the foot of Smeathe`s Ridgeway where we stopped for our lunch break.

The return to Barbury Castle followed the path along the top of the Ridgeway, with its outstanding views, back to base. Notwithstanding the puddles met on the first section of the walk, the conditions remained good underfoot. With friendly company it was a most pleasurable day enjoyed by all.

Bert Sampson

