



**China's ancient and modern
wonders
by Ray Sturdy**

General Meetings

Palmer Hall, 2.30pm

6 March

Bletchley Park
by Robert Skelt

3 April

The Cuffley Airship
by John Higgs

1 May

Mary, Queen of Scots, the Young
Queen
by George Eccleston

Tea Rota

March 6 : Family History 2

April 3 : 5 Rhythms Dance

May 1 : French Conversation (I)

Joan Kinnock

Joan, a long serving U3A member, died on 9th January. She will best be remembered for her interest in community affairs and she will be greatly missed. Our condolences to family and friends.

Arthur Brooke

Arthur died in January having had a stroke last year; he had been in hospital ever since. He regularly attended the monthly meetings and walked with some of the walking groups. Our condolences to Sylvia and family.

Today, 7 February

Today we shall hear about an intriguing mixture of traditional and modern life. China has stunning scenery, vast rivers, bustling cities, many ornate royal palaces, and, at Xian, the amazing Terracotta Warriors.

In April 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 how Mary, Queen of Scots dealt with the difficult situations of her reign - a different view of history.

New members

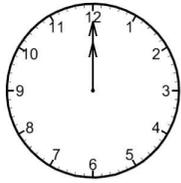
We welcome all new members: a full list will appear next month

Membership Renewal Reminder

Thanks to everyone who has renewed. If you haven't, please get it to me in the next 7 days. I should appreciate a message if you do not intend to renew so that I know not to contact you.

Ivor Price
Membership Secretary
01285 712417

THE CLOCK IS TICKING – THE AGM IS ONLY 56 DAYS AWAY



By the time you are reading this January 2012 will already be behind us and we shall all be looking forward to the promise of longer days and warmer weather. Your U3A committee is working hard to ensure 2012 is as successful a year as 2011. I should like to thank Sarah Basley, who has volunteered to stand as our new Secretary from April.

However we still need more volunteers. **The current committee will be standing down in 56 days time** but we still need a new **Treasurer** (without which we will not be able to function as a U3A after April) and a **Vice Chairman**. This situation is now becoming critical, which leads me to ask just how much do you value your U3A?

We also require a group activity leader for the biography group, otherwise it will fold, also a walk leader for the Strollers walk for June, plus group activity coordinators for the Walk with a Pub Lunch and Strollers activities. None of these roles are strenuous or time consuming so please if you can help contact myself, Michael Yorke or any committee member. This year we shall be holding the AGM on **Tuesday April 3rd** rather than in May, also the monthly meeting for June will be on **Wednesday 6th June** as the Tuesday is a bank holiday for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee – please put these dates in your diary.

Reg Thoburn, Chairman
01285 712397

Newsletter Notification

This is for Members who do not receive a hard copy of the newsletter and receive notification by email.

In order to receive future notification and any attachments, e.g. AGM information, forms for visits, Xmas lunch form, you **MUST** put yourself on the list using the website. The easiest way is to go to the website, move to the Membership page and click on the Newsletter List menu item and input your email address. There is also a link on the Newsletter web page of the website to get to the Membership web page. You will receive an acknowledgement email. **This system will start with the March newsletter.** Any queries please contact editor@fairfordu3a.org.uk or the web-master nickhumphris@f2s.com

Interested in sailing?

Anybody interested in taking up sailing at Bowmoor Sailing Club please contact Ian Westlake on 01285 712329 or idrwestlake@gmail.com

U3A January

Ellie Targett spoke to our members in a beautifully strong, well-articulated voice about her father Sven Somme, a marine biologist, who had been working for the XU (unknown undercover agency) in wartime Norway when he was captured as a spy but managed to escape and walk about 250 miles into Sweden. Born in the Romsdals district she began her talk with idyllic childhood memories of the games they played, the school day and dancing on special occasions such as Norway's national day, 17 May.

The talk was well illustrated with photographs and memorabilia which added poignancy to the tale she told of her father's escape and how she and her sister and a few others came to retrace his steps in 2004. They suffered plenty of hardships too but were able to experience wonderful Norwegian hospitality and meet some of the folks who helped him on his way. One man had insisted on giving Sven his own new walking boots. Ellie got the surprise of her life when the younger sister of this Samaritan produced Sven's most unsuitable office shoes which she had kept ever since the swap. For more details go to <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/1573984/The-shoes-that-survived-a-Nazi-escape.html>

Sven died when Ellie was nine, but by then her father had written his version of events. It has now been published, with a section by Ellie, under the evocative title, Another Man's Shoes.

Sylvia Jones

Swindon Male Voice Choir

presents a concert

in aid of the 'Help Madina Appeal', a Lechlade based Charity that helps children in Sierra Leone.

Guests: A Splash of Red, Fairford Primary School Choir
at 7pm at St. Mary's Church Fairford on Saturday 11th February 2012

Tickets £6.50 each, to include a glass of wine or soft drink

Available from Brian Routledge, 01285 712853, and Fairford Post Office.

GROUP EVENTS

Biography

This Group needs a new leader and some more members. The next meeting is on Friday 3rd February, at Iris Pierce's home in Lechlade and the following meeting will be in April. Michael Yorke
Group Co ordinator
01367 253286

Birdwatching

Tuesday 21 February
This month we shall visit the Cotswold Water Park where we should be able to find a large selection of the water birds which winter here. Smew, merganser and red-crested pochard are all strong possibilities. Meet at the Fairford car park at 9am. Some of the paths can be muddy at this time of year so bring suitable footwear. Richard Morgan
01285 712085

Book Circle 1

Tuesday 14 February
We shall meet at Edna's home in Kempford when we shall discuss 'Guernica' by Dave Boling. Please let Edna know on 01285 810717 if you are unable to attend. Denny Rawlinson
01285 711009

Book Circle 2

Tuesday 14 February
We shall meet at Josephine's house at 2.30pm to discuss The Cellist of Sarajevo by Steven Galloway. 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 meets every Monday afternoon from 2 to 4 pm in the Heritage room, Fairford Community Centre. If you play bridge and would like to improve, come and join us. We are a friendly and informal group, making mistakes and learning together, partners and refreshments provided.

Margaret Bishop
01285 713747
mbishop@talktalk.net

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

Chess

Wednesday 22 February
The next meeting of the Chess Group will be at 3.30pm at Mark's house. Contact details below for more information.

Mike Bennett
01367 252379
mish252379@btinternet.com

Computer Group

We held our first meeting on 12th January when six members came. Some are complete beginners while others have some experience. It was informal and successful with interaction with members giving mutual support to each other. For the time being we are holding meetings at my home starting at 9.30am on Thursdays. If you would like to come along, please contact me.

Nick Humphris
01285 711740

Five Rhythms Dance

Wednesday 15 February
We dance regularly at the Palmer Hall on the third Wednesday of the month, at 10am. New members welcome.

Gillian Bilbrough
01285 712579
Joyce Deane
01285 851408

Family History 1

Wednesday 15 February
We shall again meet at Alison's house and Kay will tell us about a discovery in her family. We shall also look at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk in preparation for a visit to Kew by some of the members.

Miriam Scott
01285 713441
Alison Hobson
01285 711768

Family History 2

Wednesday 15 February
The next meeting will be at my house at 2.30pm. We shall help new members get started with their Family Tree. Members have been asked to bring family memorabilia or heirlooms to the meeting and talk briefly about the family connection.

Michael Johnson
sanaelma@yahoo.co.uk
01285712637

'Not until just before dawn do people sleep best; not until people get old do they become wise.'

Chinese Proverb

French Conversation

Intermediate

Salut les amis!

We shall meet on Mondays 6th and 20th February. Please let me know if you will be able come. New members are welcome to join this group. 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

Geology

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

Clive Watson

01285 713003

German Circle

In order to help all members interested either in learning or speaking German, I have decided to run two classes, 'German for Beginners' and 'Further German'. I believe that this will form a better basis for the variation in ability among members who have attended meetings to date, and will hopefully cater better for any new members who would like to join a German class.

From February onwards, 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.

So February dates will be:

German for Beginners – Tuesday 14th February

Further German – Tuesday 21st February

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

Learning is quite relaxed, no tests, and you will find that knowledge about Germany and German culture will emerge as part of the learning process.

Karin Forman

01367 252675

Garden Group

Thursday 16 February

We shall be meeting in the schoolroom of Fairford United Church for a Willow Workshop with Norah Kennedy. The meeting will start at 12 noon with lunch followed by the workshop, where we will be making two fairly large structures for our gardens. **Please phone me for more details if you would like to come along as there are only 12 places available.** Pre-booking is essential.

Carol Doherty

01285 711473

Keep Fit

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

Eddie Rosser

01367 252504

Latin

Thursday 2 February

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

Music Listening

Friday 17 February

We shall be finding music connected with Transport for this month's meeting at 2.30pm.

Mary Chick

01285 712126

Needlework

The Needlework group will meet on 1st and 15th February, at the Chapel.

For further details please contact:

Thelma Hardie

01285 713971

Philosophy

Wednesday 15 February

The February meeting will be on the at Manus Moran's house at 2.30pm. The subject will be 'Taking Stock of Progress in Science and Technology'.

Dan Deane

8 01285 851408

Poetry Circle 1

The group meets on the first Friday afternoon of the month. The topic in February was 'Love'.

Barbara Cottam
01285 711054

Poetry Circle 2

We shall have shared a selection of the Psalms this month. On March 2nd our theme will be Women Poets at Mary's house.

For enquiries please phone:

Mary Chick
01285 712126

Postcard Group

Tuesday 21 February

The February meeting will be at my house as usual at 2.30pm. We shall be looking at Postcard Production Methods (Part 1) and how 'Real Photographs' were produced. The theme letter is 'H'.

John Higgs
01285 712488

*'If you don't want anyone to know,
don't do it.'*

Chinese Proverb

Recorders

Our next meetings will be Friday afternoons the 10th and 24th February. As usual, we'll be starting with our treble class (everyone welcome) from 2-2.30pm followed by the main group at 2.30 to finish at 4.30 with a break for tea. We'll 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: jay-mathews124@mac.com for further information. Please ask if you need to borrow an instrument or stand.

Rummikub

Thursday 9 February

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

New members will be welcome. For further information or explanation please refer to the Fairford U3A website or telephone me.

Mary Bennett
01367 253287

Short Tennis

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

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

Margaret Trickett
01285 712421

Solo Group

Monday 6 February

The Solo group will meet on the first Monday of the month. The next meeting will be at Valerie Wood's home in Fairford at 10.30am. Please contact me for details. We have eight ladies and two gentlemen. Come on you solo *fellas* help me out I'm outnumbered.

Michael Johnson
01285 712637

Spanish

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

Frank Hall
01285 712583
fkhall@talktalk.net

Straddlers

Thursday 16 February

The February Straddlers walk starts at Barbury Castle Country Park up on the Marlborough Downs. The 8.3 mile walk initially goes south along a well-defined path (walked previously by experienced Straddlers), past the gallops above Rockley before cutting downhill to some cottages in the grounds of Rockley Manor. The walk continues past the disused village church (now a private house) and fantastic Manor House before leaving the village along a rough track towards Wick Bottom Barn and Fort-night Bungalow (possibly the most remote habitable cottage in Wiltshire?). The track then goes gently uphill to join the Ridgeway and returns to the car park via a gentle uphill track over Barbury Castle.

Barbury Castle Country Park is about 23 miles from Fairford. Please meet at Fairford at 9.15am or at the car park at Barbury Castle ready to walk at 10am. Bring coffee and lunch as normal and do wear walking boots, please. 'Old hands' will know the paths are exposed, but give superb long distance views, so do dress appropriately.

John Burrows
01367 253056

Striders

Tuesday 28 February

Our February walk starts at the Rose and Crown in Shilton (OX1B 4AB, 267085). We head northwards, initially on road, then follow an easy bridleway to the A40. We cross and descend to Widford, then east, across fields to Swinbrook (coffee stop at St Mary's Church?) and Ast-hall. The route then goes south west on the line of Akeman Street. We cross the A40 and head south to map ref 277087, where we take a sharp right back to Shilton.

The walk is 6.2 miles with 317ft of ascent. It is an easy walk along foot-paths and bridleways, with short sections on roads. There are three stiles and we pass two pubs. There are two hazards (other than the pubs): walking a short distance on the grassy verge alongside a busy minor road, and crossing the A40. Under-foot should be easy but it is February, so be prepared for some mud.

We leave Fairford car park at 9.15am or meet at the Rose and Crown at 9.45am. We shall order lunch before we walk. I can email menus to those who request it. The food is good. Suggested passenger fee is £2.

Ian and Rosemary Westlake
01285 712329

idrwestlake@gmail.com

Strollers

Friday 24 February

Leaving The Eliot Arms, we shall walk through the village of South Cerney. We shall follow the path to Red Bridge, passing the sailing club and The Watermark. We will walk along Spine Road and pass Gateway Centre. There we shall join the Thames and Severn Canal towpath. There are three disused locks. The lower Wildmoorway Lock is unfenced with steep sides. Passing Humpback Lock and Boxwell Spring Lock, we shall then walk along the gravel path to Bow-Wow and end at the pub. There are no stiles and the walk is 3.5 miles. The canal path can be muddy and is uneven in places, so stout shoes are necessary. You may also want to bring a walking pole.

We shall meet at the Fairford car park at 9.40am or at The Eliot Arms in South Cerney at 10am. We shall order our lunches before we set out on our walk. There is a varied menu, and an offer of two meals for £10. Suggested passenger fare is £1.50.

Peggy Vagasky
01285 712997
pvagasky@btinternet.com

'A book is like a garden carried in the pocket.'

Chinese Proverb

Traditional Jazz

Thursday 2 February

The group usually meets on the first Thursday of each month at our house in Lechlade from 2-4.30pm. Once again we have had our meeting before the General Meeting. In January ten members enjoyed the sounds of New Orleans street bands and in February we heard the smaller New Orleans groups of the late 1950s. Please note that next month we shall again meet before the General Meeting on 1st March to listen to larger bands such as those of Duke Ellington, Fletcher Henderson and Chick Webb.

All U3A members are welcome.

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

Walking and Pub Lunch

Wednesday 8 February

This month we start and finish at The Plough Inn, Kelmscott, GL7 3HG. We walk back as if leaving the village then head west over fields to Paradise Farm, where we go west along the lane until we reach Leaze Farm, where we turn south, through the farm and on until we reach Buscot Lock and Weir. Here we can take a short footpath west to the picturesque Buscot Church, where

John Burrows, in his capacity as Churchwarden, has kindly offered to welcome us for a brief tour.

We then return to Buscot Lock and follow the Thames Path as far as Kelmscott Manor for the final short walk through the village to the Pub.

A two-hour trip, with a few stiles, but all in good condition, so should not present a problem, particularly as we will hopefully have some good chivalrous men in the party. No hills, all flat!

The Plough has no car park and, we shall have to park in the lane; it is a cul-de-sac, so no through traffic problem. However, it's best to group up in cars as much as possible.

I suggest we leave Fairford Car Park at 9.45am and meet at Kelmscott by 10.15am so that we can order lunch and depart by 10.30am. Boots essential, and sticks for the cautious. Suggested passenger fee £1.

Michael Yorke 01367 253286
yorkey7@hotmail.co.uk

Yoga

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

Sylvia Jones
01285 712657

GROUP REVIEWS

Birdwatching

You can't guarantee much when birdwatching but a winter visit to the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust site at Slimbridge will always produce a wide variety of wintering birds and often a rarity or two. Our visit this year was no exception. Yes, it was cold, very cold and a lot of the water was frozen over and the waders we normally see had gone elsewhere for softer mud to feed on. It is amazing that if there are enough birds on a lake they will keep it completely free from ice. The only heated hide overlooks just such a lake which was teeming with a wide variety of ducks and, of course, the famous Bewick's swans, many very close to the hide. However, to find the bird we really wanted to see we had to wait for ages in the bitter cold for one of the wintering bitterns to appear from its hiding place in the reeds. It eventually emerged and gave us a really good show as it strolled from one patch of reeds to another, posing for photographs from time to time. Whilst waiting most of us caught a glimpse of an elusive water rail – another highly desirable sighting. We all agreed it was well worth the cold toes and frozen joints.

Richard Morgan

Philosophy

The subject for the January discussion was 'Progress'. Of course progress is not the same as change and we started the discussion with Heraclitus and his belief in universal change. The search for something more permanent is endemic in much of philosophy. Religion also seeks permanence in God and immortality. Though, according to Bertrand Russell, during the nineteenth century and the introduction of Liberal Theology, there was a change in the view of heavenly progress.

Liberalism was strengthened by the Theory of Evolution, and it was thought that evolution influenced Karl Marx in his theory of the inevitable rise of Socialism and progress for a better life for the masses. Material progress has produced many benefits such as a longer lifespan, pain control and reduction of labour, but has still not managed to ease social friction. The way to make progress that is not just change was considered by the group to be best effected by education. Various means of education were discussed that might produce positive progress, but no absolute method was agreed.

Dan Deane

Book Circle 1

Our first book of the new year was 'Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire' by Amanda Foreman. This is the biography of a daughter of the house of Spencer born at Althorp in 1757, who became Duchess of Devonshire in 1774 and proceeded to become England's most influential hostess and undisputed queen of fashionable society.

Despite her beauty and unique personality, her marriage to the reserved and aloof Duke, ten years her senior, was loveless. He already had a mistress and required only a legitimate male heir from his wife. It took sixteen years, many miscarriages and two daughters for this to happen.

She surrounded herself with friends and family in her great houses in Derbyshire and London, and developed a lifelong passion for politics, supporting the Whigs with many fund-raising events and canvassing on their behalf. Her incisive and clever mind and wise counsel put her at the centre of much that went on at Westminster in the notable times of Fox and Pitt.

She had access to great wealth, yet was always in debt because of her addiction to gambling, most probably caused by the restrictions her position and gender forced upon her. A devoted mother and generous friend, she loved deeply and was said to have the sweetest charitable nature.

Amanda Foreman gives us all the detail we need – a little too repetitively we felt – but she has done much serious archival research on this fascinating book to reveal an icon of her time.

Denny Rawlinson

Book Circle 2

'A Week in December' by Sebastian Faulks.

Sebastian Faulks has written many good books 'The Girl at the Lion d'Or', 'Birdsong', 'Engleby' and so on, but this one we thought was well below par. A story of today with good research into each character but only a thin thread connecting them, a list of characters with a happy ending. What about a twist to the ending! It would have been more interesting. Unanimous decision: no more Sebastian Faulks.

Jean Moulden

Family History 1

Alison told us the interesting and fascinating story of her great uncle, Thomas Alfred Jackson (1879-1955). Thomas Alfred was short-sighted and became a voracious reader. Following school Thomas went into the printing trade like his father but, because of his reputation as a troublemaker, was unable to get a job when his apprenticeship ended. He then became a journalist, lecturer, political agitator and would speak on the street corners. Thomas was a founder member of the Socialist Party of Great Britain. He was active in the Social Democratic Federation and a speaker for the Independent Labour Party. He became a lecturer in Leeds. Later, following a change of job, he moved his family to Whitley Bay from where he lectured all over north-east England but there was little income for his wife to try and manage. In 1921 he became a founder member of the Communist Party of Great Britain. His second wife installed him a country cottage where he was able to write books, covering various subjects including socialism, the Irish struggle for national freedom and independence, Dickens and articles on other classic novelists. He also wrote articles for the Daily Worker and Communist Party. A collection of his work is in the Workers' Movement Library in Salford. When he died in 1955 his obituary appeared in The Times.

Many thanks, Alison, for such an entertaining afternoon and for hosting the meeting.

Madeline Phillips

Postcard Group

At our January meeting Alison gave us a very interesting and informative presentation about Henry Taunt (1842-1922), an Oxford artist, photographer, author and postcard publisher. The talk was well supported by examples of his work including his illustrated book on the whole of the River Thames, and John passed round several early 20th century Taunt postcards of Fairford.

At each meeting members are invited to bring up to six postcards with a theme letter; this month it was 'G'. Thanks to U3A chairman Reg Thoburn, who is a group member, we were able to enjoy everybody's cards by projecting them on to the television screen by using his 'Visualiser', which is a purpose-built digital camera mounted on a stand. A full discussion on each card was enjoyed by all.

The group is now full as our lounge is only just big enough!

John Higgs

Family History 2

Glenda kindly invited the group to Rose Cottage for a talk about the history of her home. She discussed implications for Grade II listed cottages and referred us to the English Heritage site.

In 1881 Thomas Rose was living in the cottage and it is likely that he named the cottage 'Rose' after himself. He and his family were machine makers and were involved in the Swing Riots of 1830. The 1891 Census shows Emma Giles at Rose Cottage. She was still there in 1901, although the name had become 'Rose Villa'. Emma's father was a shoemaker and she worked as a shoe dealer, as well as starting an employment agency for servants in Fairford. The Gillett sisters were living in The Manse, Milton Street, in the 1901 Census, but by 1911 they had moved to Rose 'Villa'. Prior to their death they wrote wills from Rose 'Cottage'. At some stage the cottage became two and in 1968 it was altered back to one by Ellis and Terry Hoult. Freddy Hignell occupied a small cottage in the corner of the garden. A further five cottages stood along the back, known as Rose Villa Gardens. Some of these later burnt down.

The cottage has seen many changes over the years, all now carefully documented by Glenda. Paving in her back garden came from Platform 2 of Swindon's old railway station and wood was taken from Banbury church for rafters and beams. The cottage has known many tenants but no ghosts!

Elizabeth Berry

Solo Group

The first meeting was held at Mike Johnson's house. The purpose of the group is to exchange information on all sorts of topics which are particularly relevant to people living on their own. It's also a good excuse to get out of the house and enjoy a good chat over a cup of coffee getting to know other people who may need support, whether moral or practical!

The group discussed exchanging services; for example hanging a picture in exchange for a Sunday dinner. Other advantages were also talked about, such as travelling and sharing holiday accommodation where single people on their own are often charged an extra sum.

Nine members attended and subsequent meetings are to be held on the first Monday of each month.

The ladies were disappointed that there was only one gentleman in the group - come on, fellows, don't be shy!

Marilyn Gibbon

Poetry Circle 1

In January we met at the Westlakes' to share our choices of 'Americana', a subject suggested by Rosemary. We had a 'full house' and were delighted to welcome Ken, who has moved back to live in Fairford.

Unsurprisingly, some well-known names appeared and we enjoyed the variety of mood resulting from our random order of reading. Alison read Dorothy Parker's Ballad at 35, which was followed by Kay's contrasting choice of Robert Frost's Birches. Next, Ogden Nash's Voluble Wheelchair, chosen by Ken, delighted everyone. Walt Whitman came later when Celia read extracts from Some of Myself. Donald chose Robert Lowell's Home after Three Months.

Popular songs, whose lyrics are undoubtedly poetic, were the choice of Joyce and Barbara. Paul Simon's The Dangling Conversation and Donald Mclean's American Pie took us back to the 60s. A different kind of music was the subject of Marie's choice, Langston Hughes' Jazzonia. Small town American was represented by Elizabeth Bishop's Filling Station; John read from a book of Cowboy Poetry, Back to Arizona; Ian provided his own slant on coping with arrival in the US today in Flying to see the grandchildren.

To conclude a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon, we listened to 'American Pie' as we drank our tea!

Rosemary Westlake

*'Bye, bye Miss American Pie
Drove my Chevy to the levee but the levee was dry
Them good ole boys were drinking whiskey in Rye
Singin' this'll be the day that I die
This'll be the day that I die'*

American Pie Chorus

Visit to SAGA Photoshoot by the Model Making Group

SAGA magazine are preparing an article about the U3A, and asked if five people from the modelling group would attend a studio in London so that a photographer could take pictures for possible inclusion with the article. We were asked to take boats, so we took three, including Denbigh's fine scale model of HMS Cossack, a WW2 Tribal Class destroyer.

Five of us travelled by minibus to London, arriving at the studio on the appointed day and were cordially greeted by Sue Strange (Executive Picture Editor at Saga Publishing Ltd).

There were other U3A groups there, a group of ladies dressed as French onion sellers, another group of ladies who made quilts, and a drama group from Wales.

When our turn came to be photographed, we were expertly arranged with our boats and, after a little attention from the make-up lady, pictures were taken. The studio camera was linked to a computer, so we were able to see the results immediately.

At lunch, we met Francis Beckett of the U3A and we were able to tell him all about our modelling interests. We were constantly referred to as "the boat people", so I explained to him that our interests were not confined to boats but also included model railways and model aircraft, both indoor and outdoor, and model engineering in general.

We all enjoyed the trip and had a great time, and a good lunch.

Jim Sullivan

The Model Makers
See also U3A News p15



Recorders

The first meeting after the excesses of Christmas and New Year always has some of us puffing a bit, but we had a large and enthusiastic turnout who tackled some new pieces very successfully. One would almost suspect there had been some practising going on over the holiday. Monica's treble class was particularly impressive with six of us reaching the end of Book 1 – I think we may have missed out a few pages, but it doesn't show too much. Unfortunately, John Pitts doesn't seem to have put together a second book for the treble; however, we have plenty of music and will probably play some baroque duets for the rest of the term.

A couple of the new pieces we tried were Ann Marshall's lovely arrangement of 'The Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond' and Steve Marshall's version of 'Never Weatherbeaten Sail' by the Renaissance lyricist and composer Thomas Campion. This was probably published in 1613 in one of Campion's books of 'airs', and he wrote both words and music. It's a beautiful melody and works very well with a recorder ensemble. It always seems a pity that we can't sing and play at the same time (although I think some people try to) as the words are lovely:

Two Bookes of Ayres, The First Booke, XI
by Thomas Campion 1567-1620

Neuer weather-beaten Saile more willing bent to shore,
Neuer tyred Pilgrims limbs affected slumber more,
Than my wearied spright now longs to flye out of my troubled
brest :
O come quickly, sweetest Lord, and take my soule to rest.

Euer-blooming are the ioyes of Heau'ns high paradice,
Cold age deafes not there our eares, nor vapour dims our eyes :
Glory there the Sun outshines, whose beames the blessed
onely see ;
O come quickly, glorious Lord, and raise my spright to thee

Hilary Bradshaw

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



Please send items for the
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no later than
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