



Fairford & District Newsletter

Issue 191

January 2013

**Happy New
Year
2013**

**Kiss Chase and Conkers
by Caroline Sanderson**

www.fairfordu3a.org.uk

Registered Charity No 1072658

General Meetings

Palmer Hall, 2.30pm

5 February Munro Bashing
by Stuart and Ellen Thompson

5 March Cotswold Wildlife Park
and Gardens by Anna Fletcher

2 April AGM and the River Lea by
John Higgs

New members

We welcome the following new
members:

David and Janice Mills

Tea Rota

February 5 : Model Group

March 5 : Music Listening

April 2 : Needlework

Today, 8 January

Caroline Sanderson will take us on a trip down memory lane, recalling childhood games, fads and crazes which have entertained children over the centuries, long before PC's were invented.

Munro Bashing involves climbing mountains over 3000 feet in height, and our speaker, who lives in Fairford, will be telling us about some of his experiences mountaineering in Scotland.

In March our speaker is the advertising co-ordinator for the Cotswold Wildlife Park and will be giving us some history of the Park, and describing how they manage its joint provision for the gardens, animals, children's activities and the train.

New Members' Meeting Friday 25th January 2013 at 10.30am

Did you join the U3A in 2012? Would you like to learn more about the U3A? If so, please come along to the Farmor Room at the Fairford Community Centre at 10.30am for a coffee and a chat to find out how we operate, our monthly general meetings, the AGM and our range of activities. The committee look forward to meeting you.

Reg Thoburn
01285 712397

Chairman's update

This month you will receive 2013 membership renewal forms. Please assist Ivor by returning the forms with payment by the 1st February deadline. The cost is £10 per person or 83 pence per month which is a small increase on last year mainly because of increased costs. However, I believe this represents excellent value for money. The bottom of the form contains the section for claiming GIFT AID. This is a vital part of the funding of our U3A and contributed over £520 to our coffers in 2012. If you or your spouse pay income tax on your income, pension, savings, or capital gains tax on investments etc. then please can I urge you to complete this section. This enables us to keep our membership fees as low as possible. For a couple, only one signature is required. May I wish you and your family a happy and prosperous new year.

Reg Thoburn
01285 712397

Membership Renewal Notice

With your Newsletter you will find an envelope containing a renewal form and a Gift Aid declaration. I should be very grateful if you would deal with this as soon as possible and return the addressed envelope to me before or at the February meeting.

Members who look at the Newsletter online will receive the forms by post or delivery.

Your cheques will not be banked before February.

The money we receive from Gift Aid is a very valuable addition to our finances, so please fill in the Declaration if the money you use has been taxed.

If you are not renewing, please let me know so that that I shall be sure of your intention and can amend the membership list.

Please also return the form about your choice of the way you receive your Newsletter.

Ivor Price
Membership Secretary
01285 712417
mr.ivor.price@gmail.com

U3A December

A Christmas Miscellany by U3A members and the Lechlade musical group Chalice provided a delightful end to this year's programme. Phil Trickett compèred, in his inimitable fashion, an entertainment which included several spoken word and musical segments. There was a short dialogue in a pub between Ian Westlake and Ken Miles, a shaggy dog story by Kevin Hannigan and poetry read by members of the two poetry groups. Items ranged from a long narrative piece by John Betjeman to an amusing view of Christmas by U A Fanthorpe. Music from the recorder group, conducted by Jay Mathews, included 'The Coventry Carol' and 'In Dulci Jubilo'. Some Cirencester U3A members augmented the players and their organizer, Peter Stephenson, conducted 'Highland Cathedral'. It is normally a piece for bagpipes but he had arranged it to take advantage of the wide range of recorders.

Chalice, a musical group of vocalists who are accomplished on a variety of instruments, including guitars and percussion, and who compose much of their own music, brought the entertainment to a fine finish. www.chalicemusic.co.uk. There were also interesting displays round the hall by the Postcard, Pétanque and Solos groups.

Traditional mulled wine and mince pies followed. Special thanks must go to the chairman, Reg Thoburn, who kept smiling even when delving under the stage for reserve seating and to Jean Crowley who organized this occasion and has produced fascinating speakers for each monthly meeting.

Sylvia Jones

Photo Album

In 2013, I'm hoping to increase the number of photos in our U3A album and would ask the following groups to let me have one or two pictures in the next month or so.

Book Circle 1
Five Rhythms Dance
Keep Fit
Philosophy
Short Tennis

Please email photos - no larger than 1MB, please - to idrwestlake@gmail.com. I look forward to a full Inbox!
Rosemary Westlake
01285 712329

Third Age Trust News

U3A Explores Science at the RI

Monday 25th March 2013 (1.30 - 4.55pm) at the Royal Institution of Great Britain, 21 Albemarle Street, London W1. £18

Programme: David Smith: Life saving chemistry - medicine beyond the molecule. Daniel Bor: The brain and consciousness. Helen Scales: Are there really plenty more fishes in the sea?

Please apply in writing to Third Age Trust, 19 East Street, Bromley BR1 1QE, enclosing a 2nd class stamp for up to four tickets or a large-letter stamp if you require more. Cheque payable to the Third Age Trust.

Summer School 1

Harper Adams University College Newport, nr Telford, 15-18th July 2013
There are nine courses to choose from ranging from Art of the 20th Century, Cinema History, Current Affairs: political and social studies, Design principles in Art, France – regards sur la France actuelle, Geology – The Legacy of the Ice Age on the Cheshire/Shropshire Plain, History: the golden age of Rome, Poetry: Henry Vaughan (1622-1695) and Thomas Traherne (1636-1674), Recorder Ensemble playing.

Summer School 2

Royal Agriculture College, Cirencester, 19-22nd August 2013. Again, there are nine courses to choose from and these range from Architecture - Palladian Architecture in 17th and 18th century Britain, Digital Photography, Drama – Argumentative and Passionate, History - Fiction and Reality, Literature - Jane Austen, Music - Shakespeare and music, Short and Sweet Singing for Pleasure, Theatre History.

The costs for the complete school, which includes a welcome reception on the first day, are: full board residential delegate in en suite accommodation £315.00 per person and non-residential day delegate, including lunches but excluding dinners, £118.00 per person. Please contact Third Age Trust, 19 East Street, Bromley BR1 1QE.

The editor has a copy of course details and application form if you are interested or see www.fairfordu3a.org.uk. Follow link or click on Notices.

Alison Hobson
01285 711768

GROUP EVENTS

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

Birdwatching

Tuesday 15 January

Happy New Year to all our readers! Our first visit this year will be to Slimbridge to see the wintering geese and swans and, hopefully, a repeat of last year's superb views of a bittern.

Meet at Fairford car park at 9am. As usual we shall have lunch in their restaurant. There is an entrance fee for non WWT members. The suggested passenger contribution is £3.

Richard Morgan
01285 712085

Book Circle 1

Tuesday 15 January

Our first meeting in the new year will be at Pauline's home, when we shall discuss 'The Informers' by Juan Gabriel Vasquez.

Please let me know if you are unable to come.

Denny Rawlinson
01285 711009

Book Circle 2

Tuesday 15 January

We shall meet at Anthea's house at 2.30pm, having read any Hemingway book. Please note that this is a week later than usual! Please let Anthea or me know if you will not be able to attend.

Kevin Hannigan
01367 250246
hannigan100@hotmail.com
Anthea Wordley
01285 713545

Bridge Improvers

The group will continue to meet every Monday afternoon (except Bank Holidays) from 2 to 4pm in the Heritage room, Fairford Community Centre, for a lesson and friendly practice play.

If you play bridge and would like to improve, come and join us; we are a friendly and informal group. Partners and refreshments provided.

Margaret Bishop
01285 713747
mbishop@talktalk.net

Chess

Wednesday 23 January

The January meeting will be at 2pm, at Mike's House. Please note the earlier start time.

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

*'Winter finds out what summer
lays up.'*

Proverb

Family History 1

Wednesday 16 January

This will be held at Alison's house at 2.30pm, the topic to be decided.

Please let Alison or me know if you will not be able to attend.

Miriam Scott

01285 713441

Alison Hobson

01285 711768

Family History 2

Wednesday 16 January

This will be held at my house at 2.30pm. The aim of this meeting will be to help new members with their family search, and to discuss what we want to do during 2013.

Michael Johnson

sanaelma@yahoo.co.uk

01285 712637

Five Rhythms Dance

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

French Conversation

Intermediate

Bonne Année a tous! Please contact me if you are interested in joining this group. You will be very welcome. I shall be able to give you our dates for January.

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!

Barbara Cartwright

07989 353726

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

Brian Routledge

01285 712853

Garden Group

Hopefully, we shall have a meeting in January to plan for the year ahead. Unfortunately, due to a number of commitments next year I shall be unable to run the Garden group so am hoping that one of the existing members will be happy to take over in order that the group continues to meet. I am quite happy for the January planning meeting to be held at my house. Anyone interested in taking over please let me know. We also need some new ideas for our meetings, so please have a good think over the dormant period. We need new ideas and new members!

Penny Phillips

01285 711360

pennyrphillips@gmail.com

German Circle

Please contact me for further details.

Karin Forman

01367 252675

*'As the day lengthens the cold
strengthens.'*

Proverb

Industrial Heritage

Thursday 17 January

John Higgs will give an illustrated and animated talk, 'Traction Engines Large and Small', in the Community Centre at 7pm.

As we are investigating the town gasworks, we should very much like to hear from anybody who has memories, anecdotes, photos, or archive material about this aspect of the town's industrial heritage.

Pete Martin
01285 713908
petem91@btinternet.com

Keep Fit

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

Eddie Rosser
01367 252504

Latin

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 weekly on Thursday mornings.
Please contact:

Jim Sullivan
01367 252539

Music Listening

Friday 18 January

The group is now settled in its new permanent home, the Tame Room at Fairford Community Centre, with meetings starting at 2.30pm.

This is a relaxed friendly group; it is fascinating listening to the members' interpretation of each month's theme and the afternoon ends with tea, coffee and biscuits. New members will be very welcome, and we are confident that by the time the February Newsletter is published, we shall be able to announce our new Group Leader.

Members will be advised on the January topic.

Michael Yorke
Group Co-ordinator
01367 253286

'Winter's thunder makes summer's wonder.'

Proverb

Needlework

This month the Needlework group will meet at Fairford Community Centre on 2nd, 16th and 30th January.

For further details please contact:

Thelma Hardie
01285 713971

Pétanque

The season has now ended for the Pétanque Group and we should like to take this opportunity of wishing all of our members a Happy New Year.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our New Year lunch in late January, 2013 (date and venue yet to be chosen).

David and Heather Baber
01285 711343

Philosophy

Wednesday 16 January

Our next meeting will be at Francis's house. The subject will be 'Error has no Rights'.

Dan Deane
01285 851408
Francis Anyamene
01285 711274

Poetry Circle 1

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

Barbara Cottam
01285 711054

Poetry Circle 2

Friday 4 January

We shall meet at Denny's home to look at John Donne and his poetry. Please let Denny know on 01285 711009 if you are unable to come.

Looking forward to February, we shall be at Gillian's home on the first of the month. We hope to find poems on the theme of 'February'. Gillian's number is 01285 712579.

With all good wishes to everyone for the New Year.

Barbara Cobbett
01285 712692

Postcard Group

Tuesday 15 January

This, our first meeting of 2013, as usual will be at my house at 2.30pm. Heather will be talking to us about PHQ cards, and our theme letter is 'N'.

John Higgs
01285 712488

Recorders

January dates for the recorder group will be Fridays the 11th and 25th, starting with anyone who would like to play the treble (please come and have a go) from 2-2.30pm followed by the main group at 2.30 to finish at 4.30pm, with a break for tea. We should be in the Farmor room on the ground floor of the Fairford Community Centre and will let you know if we have to use another room.

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

'Winter weather and women's thoughts change oft.'

15th Century Proverb

Rummikub

Thursday 10 January

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.

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

Mary Bennett
01367 253287

Scottish Reels

The group meets at Poulton Village Hall from 8-10pm with a short break for refreshments on alternate Wednesday evenings.

There is a charge of £3 per person per session to cover the hire of the hall and the refreshments.

We welcome both beginners and those with experience. You can come alone or with your spouse, partner or friend. You do not need any ballroom dancing skills. Our teaching is very informal. We try to dance 6 to 8 reels in an evening.

Please contact Richard for January dates.

Richard Thompson
01285 712123
richard@richardandcarol.net

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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

Solos

Monday 7 January

The January meeting will be at Val's house at 2.30pm. Hopefully, if we don't get too distracted we can discuss future plans.

Two possible suggestions are a coach holiday and a Turkey and Tinsel. Please think about this; the sooner we have numbers the more likely we are to get the dates and trips we would like.

Michael Johnson
01285 712637
sanaelma@yahoo.co.uk

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

Striders and Straddlers

There will be no walks in January. See **page 14** for the report of the planning meeting.

Striders
Phil Trickett
01285 712421
Straddlers
John Burrows
01367 253056

Strollers

Friday 25 January

This walk will start at The Keepers Pub in Quenington. Depending on the weather and condition under foot we plan to walk towards Coln, then across the fields coming back via Donkeywell Farm, the exact route to be decided nearer the time. This short winter walk will be about 1 hour 30 minutes.

Meet at Fairford car park at 10.15am or at the pub at 10.30am. We shall order lunch on our return. Suggested passenger fee is £1.

Judith Butler
01285 712600

*'If the grass grow in Janiveer,
It grows the worse for t'all the
year.'*

Proverb

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Table Tennis

It's amazing how quickly old skills return when you play table tennis again. The group now has a base of 10 or 12 members who play when the sessions do not clash with other interests. We turn up on Wednesdays at 2.30pm, sometimes after the walk, and meet in the Keble Room at the Community Centre.

Michael Yorke has found a second table, so we may get some singles games in when this becomes available in January. Our first session in 2013 is booked for Wednesday, 9th January, then every following Wednesday until further notice.

New players are most welcome. Do just turn up when you can for some gentle exercise - but mostly good fun, bats and balls provided.

Nick Stroude 01285 750646

Traditional Jazz

Thursday 3 January

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

At our next meeting we shall again enjoy a variety of jazz with an emphasis on Ragtime.

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

Walking and Pub Lunch

Wednesday 9 January

Meet at 9.45am at Fairford car park or 10.15am at The Eagle Tavern, Little Coxwell, Faringdon SN7 7LW. This is a varied walk through fields and wooded areas with lovely views of White Horse Hill on the walk into Fernham. The walk is described as easy but with some gates to climb over. The total distance is 5 miles. Suitable clothing and equipment, please allowing for the time of year, normal weather etc.

I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

If you have any questions or queries, particularly if you require transport from Fairford car park please contact me.

Reg Thoburn
01285 712397

Yoga

The Yoga group meets weekly on Mondays at the Community Centre at 10am.

If you have asked to be on the waiting list, please check with Sylvia that your name is recorded.

Sylvia Jones
01285 712657

GROUP REVIEWS

Striders and Straddlers Walk Leaders' meeting

We had a good turnout at our annual meeting in December and decided to make a few changes to the way we organise our walks; the changes have been summarised below:

- Walk leaders should plan a walk of about 6-6.5 miles for Striders from their nominated pub. For Straddlers the walk should be between 8 and 10 miles (shorter in winter and a little longer in summer).
- Walkers are requested to email the walk leader about two days before each walk to let him/her know if you intend to join the walk. For Striders walks this information will be relayed to the pub to help their management planning. If walkers subsequently change their plans they are asked to email or phone the walk leader so that he/she knows who will turn up. In addition, it is very useful for the walk leader to know if you plan to go to the Fairford meeting point or directly to the walk start. This is common practice with other U3As.
- Walk leaders should invariably go to the walk meeting point in Fairford or delegate the task to someone who does plan to go to the meeting point. This will help ensure that everyone who wants to walk, but who doesn't drive, can obtain a lift to the walk start point. A standard agreed charge to help defer the fuel costs will be levied on passengers.

If regular walkers who couldn't attend the December meeting want details of walk leaders' email addresses, please contact me (john@burrows44.plus.com).

John Burrows
Phil Trickett

*'If the ice will bear a man before Christmas, it
will not bear a goose after.'*

Proverb

Recorders

December was quite a busy month for our group as we joined forces with Peter and Marion Stephenson's Cirencester recorder players to perform at each other's Christmas concerts. This worked out very well and it was great fun joining the groups together. Hopefully, we'll have the chance to do it again next year.

Our Christmas get-together had the odd element of farce when we discovered that our normal room was already occupied by a rival group of oldies having their seasonal tea and entertainment. However, having disentangled the recorder players (this took some doing as the food looked particularly nice and they had a lady playing the organ); refused invitations to play to the gathering and found ourselves a spare room (unfortunately, we couldn't heat up our mulled wine as the kitchen didn't run to a cooker so we had to drink it cold – didn't affect the sherry, though) we had a bit of a play-through of music we hadn't had to practise for the last two months and, as a final sop to those of us with absolutely no taste whatsoever, had a bash at 'Frosty the Snowman'. I really can't see why no-one else likes it!

We are ever hopeful that someone may have listened to our performances and be so impressed that they'd like to come and join us - so far no-one has come forward but I'm sure it's only a matter of time.

Happy New Year!

Hilary Bradshaw

Postcard Group

When I showed a display board of postcards to the group a few months ago, a lot of interest and discussion took place. However, when I suggested that we should each produce a board for display at the U3A Christmas meeting, doubts set in! Over the next meetings enthusiasm grew and eventually all members of the group produced a display. These were duly shown at the December meeting and, judging by comments, were appreciated by the gathering. The boards showed various collections on differing subjects: WW2 aircraft, royalty, early 20th century transport, members' travels, the artist Margaret Tarrant, local views, Christmas greetings, cards by the photographer Louis Levy, and comic cards. After much initial apprehension, everybody enjoyed the challenge of displaying their own particular interest.

John Higgs

Timetable of Group Activities

Needlework and Recorders meet twice monthly. Pétanque and Cycling April-October only. Scottish Reels on alternate Wednesday evenings. Industrial Heritage monthly.

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Monday am	French, Yoga,	French Yoga	French Yoga	French Yoga
	Bridge, Solos Short tennis	Bridge Short Tennis	Bridge Short Tennis	Bridge Short Tennis
Tuesday am	Keep Fit Computers	Keep Fit Spanish Computers	Keep Fit Birdwatching Computers	Keep Fit Spanish Striders Computers
	Main meeting	Book Circle 1 Book Circle 2 German Beg	Further German Postcards	
Wednesday am	Pétanque	Walking & PL Pétanque	Five Rhythms Pétanque	Cycling & PL Pétanque
	Table Tennis	Geology Table Tennis	Family Hist 1 & 2 Philosophy Table Tennis	Chess Table Tennis
Thursday am	Model Boats	Model making	Model Boats Straddlers	Model Boats
	Latin Traditional Jazz	Rummikub	Garden	
Friday am				Strollers
	Poetry Circle 1 Poetry Circle 2	Recorders	Music	Recorders

Please send items for the
February
 issue to Alison Hobson
 01285 711768 email:
 editor@fairfordu3a.org.uk by
Friday January 25th