



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

**Fairford & District  
Newsletter**

**Issue 263  
July/August  
2019**

## **My Journey to The Weakest Link**



**Linda Dowsett**

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

Registered Charity No 1072658

❖ Read the Newsletter online at [www.fairfordu3a.org.uk](http://www.fairfordu3a.org.uk) ❖

## Main Meeting

Tuesday 2 July  
Palmer Hall at 2.30pm

### My Journey to the Weakest Link

Linda Dowsett will talk about how she came to be on the TV show with Anne Robinson.

## Forthcoming Meetings

### 3 September : Titanic Effort

Paul Barnett will talk about R.M.S. Carpathia's dash to save the stricken liner. Set amongst the frozen ice flows of the North Atlantic, the pride of the Cunard Line waits silently on passage to New York. However, events on that fateful April night and some 58 miles away in the darkness will go down in maritime history for both actions of great bravery and apparent cowardice all in the face of the tragic loss of the White Star liner and over 1,500 souls. The talk seeks to explore both.

### 1 October : Talk on Guy Fawkes

Today the Gunpowder Plot is remembered as festival of fun and fireworks, but as Dr Tim Brain, former chief constable of Gloucestershire, will relate, it was in fact a plot to initiate what, had it succeeded, would have been one of the most deadly acts of terrorism of all time, wiping out the King, the Royal Family, and pretty much all of the establishment of the time.

### 5 November : Meet at Dawn Unarmed

Andrew Hamilton will give his Grandfather's account of the WW1 Christmas Day Truce at St.Yvon, Belgium.

## U3A Annual Lunch

Following the show of hands at the last meeting for a change and time of venue for our Christmas Lunch we are investigating the possibility of a lunch at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester in January 2020.

Watch this space!

Jen Thoburn  
Programme Secretary

## June Meeting

Mike Welsh reminded us of a negative aspect of the world - poverty in Africa - but at the same time provided us with something positive. For schoolchildren in a slum area of Nairobi, Kenya, a small and local charitable organisation can play a major part in helping improve the prospects and quality of their life.

In the 1990s his daughter was on a college trip to Nairobi and happened to come across a primary school whose cramped and insanitary conditions inspired her to write a poem. This led to the involvement of Goddard Park Primary School, where Mike is Head, and a twinning agreement.

Mike explained to us that the governors allowed him several months to travel to Nairobi to find out more about the school. When it was faced with an eviction notice from its premises, it became imperative to find another location. A generous donation from the Desai Memorial Foundation resulted and eventually a new school was built, known as the Desai Memorial Primary School. The design (initial sketches were made in a bar in Nairobi apparently!) would need to keep the rain out and the temperature cool, as well as being secure. It opened in 2001.

Education at the school is free and there is no national funding to pay the teachers. Half of the money to teach over 400 keen-to-learn schoolchildren comes from regular donations of a pound or two each week from UK supporters, the remainder from more general fundraising. In addition there is a campaign to raise £10,000 to build new classrooms. There is always a need for new sponsors and donations, and the associated Charitable Trusts in the UK and Africa make sure every penny raised goes to the school. Anyone who would like to help can use the contact page of <http://desaimemorialschool.co.uk>.

Martin Snell

*On behalf of our Speaker I would like to thank everyone who kindly donated money to the school. Mike tells me it will almost cover the wage of a teacher for a month. Very many thanks for your generosity.*

*Jen Thoburn Programme Secretary*

## Chairman's Report

It has been a thoughtful month.

While playing Table Tennis recently – all of us exerting ourselves to reach and hit the ball— it was noticeable that after a rally of more than ten strokes most of us would forget whose turn it was to serve the ball and what the score was! (Apologies to those who never forget?!) However, physically it is a challenge and more importantly, fun!

Bridge, MahJong, Scrabble and many other games make us use our brains and our more physical groups test our muscles and stamina. Social groups like the two Solos groups provide an outlet for interaction and conversation. The Latin and languages groups also stretch and exercise the mind, helping to keep it sharp. Practical groups such as Models and Recorders help keep our hands and fingers in good shape. A good example exemplifying this was the pianist at the Sheldonian Theatre who was 90 years old and could still play beautifully and without the music.

Rudyard Kipling invited us to 'fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds' worth of distance run'. A very good maxim for us all to keep at the back of our minds while our brains and bodies are working on whatever activities are facing us!

Anyway, enough philosophising. On more practical matters, don't forget the seaside outing on Sunday, 14 July which takes the place of our August outside meeting this year.

As usual there will be no August General Meeting in the Palmer Hall and no August Newsletter.

Have a wonderful summer between the rainstorms!

Marilyn Gibbon  
chairman@fairfordu3a.org.uk  
01285 713928

### Trip to the National Memorial Arboretum

Our next visit will be to the National Memorial Arboretum on Thursday 26 September.

Full details and Booking Form are at the back of this newsletter. I will be at the July afternoon meeting to take your booking.

As we do not have a meeting in August you can also book your place by contacting me directly to ensure you do not miss out on this interesting trip.

Trip Co-ordinator  
01285 851300  
sue.martin@waitrose.com

### Tea Rota

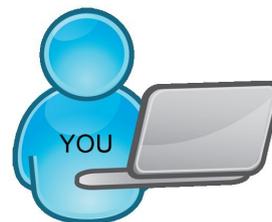
September: Cycling & Dance 5 Rhythms  
October: French 1,2 & 3  
November: Garden Group



### Wanted

Are you able to use MS-Word ?

Would you like to join our team of Duty Editors for this Newsletter ?



Full training on MS-Publisher would be given if necessary. Your duties would be every two or three months and you would have use of a U3A Laptop if required.

Please contact me for more details if you are interested:

Alan Eagle – Editor in Chief  
01285 712515  
alane2004@btinternet.com

## SEASIDE AND STEAM

Sunday 14 July

We have a few places available on the trip to Swanage. The cost is only £10 per person, excluding train fare.

To book your place please contact me as soon as possible, or see me at the July meeting.

Sue Martin Trip Co-ordinator  
01285 851300 sue.martin@waitrose.com

## Message to Group Leaders

Many thanks to you who have responded to my request for details of the members of your Group. This has been most helpful and enabled me to update the records.

I would be pleased to receive the information from the few Groups that have not yet replied.

Sue Jonson - Membership Secretary  
membershipsec@fairfordu3a.org.uk

We were all very saddened at the loss of our dear friend and founder John Higgs, a gentle man of many talents. Through him, with Val at his side, we enjoyed much learning and laughter in our postcard story features. We shall cherish his memory.

It was a pleasure to share thoughts and memories with Val and the family, first of all amid the peaceful surroundings of Kingsdown Crematorium, and later with many U3A members at the Crown of Crucis. John would have loved both these occasions, no doubt with many a merry quip. He was there with us in spirit.

We left the crematorium to the sound of John's choice 'Singing in the Rain'. June has been one of the wettest on record, but on that day the weather was pleasant. In loving memory of John, the poem 'He is Gone' by David Harkins was included in the funeral service. It sums up the way in which John would no doubt like us to remember him:

"You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back  
Or you can do what he would want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on."

Barbara Cobbett



## Welcome to New Members

Elizabeth Breton  
Hermione and Peter De longh  
Fiona Gilroy  
Leslie Muir  
Carole Newsham  
Adrian Young

## Photo Album

If you have any interesting photographs of U3A activities please pass them to Ann Wightman for inclusion in the album.

01285 712723



## Members

Should you change your email address or any other detail will you please let me know so that our records can be kept up to date.

Sue Jonson: Membership Secretary  
MembershipSec@fairfordu3a.org.uk  
0774 392 3089

## GROUP REPORTS

### Anglo Saxon Poetry

Why did King Alfred consider Boethius' book 'The Consolation of Philosophy' one of those 'most needful for men to know'? We tried to answer this question at our May meeting.

Boethius, a Roman consul, wrote this book when he was in prison awaiting execution in AD524. He was suspected of being part of a plot against Theodoric. The book was a best-seller for centuries. Its philosophy was found comfortable by Christians for there was an absence of hellfire and punishment and an emphasis on happiness. It was translated not only by Alfred but also by Chaucer and Queen Elizabeth.

Miriam Scott

### Book Circle 2

We met a week later than usual in May to discuss 'Days Without End' by Sebastian Barry, a writer new to all of us. He is an Irish poet, prize winning novelist and playwright, now in his 60s and has produced a vast amount of work.

'Days Without End' is set in North America at the time of the Indian Wars and Civil War. The story is told by Thomas McNulty, a young Irishman who emigrated to Canada at the time of the Irish Famine. He joined the American army and spent most of his life as a soldier, travelling vast distances, on horseback and on foot, enduring conditions which seem unimaginable today. Throughout he was in the company of John Cole, whom he met soon after his arrival in America. These two young men were in a gay relationship, delicately handled by Barry and based on the experience of his son, who had come out as gay very recently.

When this novel was published, in 2016, it won the Costa award. The judges described it as "a miracle of a book, both epic and intimate". Our group would agree with this. It was at times a harrowing read, with vivid description of battles and their bloody aftermath, but Barry's descriptions of relationships - between soldiers and their comrades, officers and enemies - are beautifully written. Barry was a poet first, and his use of imagery constantly surprises and delights, in his description of landscape and weather for example.

This brief review cannot do justice to an amazing book. Do read and enjoy it for yourself !

Rosemary Westlake

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In June we read 'A Gentleman in Moscow' by Amor Towles.

The book opens in 1922 when Count Alexander Rostov is escorted out of the Kremlin, across Red Square and through the elegant revolving doors of the Hotel Metropol.

Instead of being taken to his usual suite he is led to an attic room with a window the size of a chessboard. Deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal, the Count has been sentenced to house arrest indefinitely.

While Russia undergoes decades of tumultuous upheaval, the Count, stripped of the trappings that defined his life, is forced to question what makes us who we are. With the assistance of a glamorous actress, a cantankerous chef and a very serious child, Rostov unexpectedly discovers a new understanding of both pleasure and purpose.

The novel was universally enjoyed by the assembled group. They admired Towles' craft as a writer, his wit, the character portrayal and the light touch he employs to cover a momentous and frequently murderous period in Russian history following the Bolshevik revolution.

Sue Jonson

### **Cycling with NO Pub Lunch**

Tradition has it that we visit a pub during our rides, but our trip in May took us to Chedworth Farm Shop for lunch. Five of us met up at Quenington and we made our way along the Roman Road. After crossing the B4425 we took a gentle climb towards the Fosse Way. Pressing on to the pretty village of Calmsden and then through the quiet lanes to Chedworth for our lunch stop.

Tom had been telling us about his struggle to get below a magical weight; we all noted the size of his cake and realised why.

Refreshed, we took the steep declines toward the Fosse Way when Paul succumbed to a puncture (rear tyre of course) on his maiden voyage on a Road Bike. We all enjoyed Tom working up a sweat pumping Paul's tyre in a quest to get rid of that cake.

The best part of the ride was through Coln St Dennis, Coln Rogers, Winson and on to Ablington and Bibury.

We waved farewell to Beth at Coln St Aldwyns and Tom and Paul at Hatherop, before Alan and I headed back to Lechlade and Fyfield via Eastleach. We agreed it was a great ride, all of us would have notched 30+ miles and felt better for it.

Pete McHugh

### **Pétanque**

Both groups have had to cope with poor weather conditions over the past few weeks. Some morning play has had to be cut short by the rain, and once or twice play did not even start.

However, on Monday 17 June a small group of Tuesday players were fortunate enough to have a fine morning when we visited Churchdown U3A Pétanque group. This is a newly formed group of between 6-8 players and their piste was in the overflow car park of the Community Centre. The terrain was very challenging to our players who were attempting to use their boules on very stony ground. The result was one game each and a very long coffee break in the new Community Centre.

It was a very sociable morning and we are looking forward to Churchdown visiting us in September, although we cannot compete with very salubrious surroundings.

More visits are planned over the next couple of months to various Pétanque groups and in August we shall be holding our annual Melee and picnic.

Heather and Dave Baber

### **Poetry Circle 1**

Our theme for June, Narrative Poetry, forecast an entertaining afternoon and we were not disappointed.

There were love stories, 'Lochinvar' by Sir Walter Scott and 'The Song of Hiawatha' by Longfellow. 'Flannan Isle' by W.W. Gibson, and 'Bishop Hatto' by Robert Southey were a chilling addition, whilst 'Wooden Ode' by Sharon Olds was a moving and thoughtful poem. Amusing and at times 'laugh out loud' were 'Sad Story of a Motor Fan' by Henry Knibbs, 'Six and Out' by G.D Martineau, 'Mulga Bill's Bicycle' by Banjo Paterson, and 'The Diverting History of John Gilpin' by William Cowper. We enjoyed every one.

Barbara Cottam

## Solos

On Sunday 12 May we had a splendid Sunday Lunch at 'Teatro Restaurant' in Cirencester. The beef was cooked to perfection with proper roast potatoes and homemade Yorkshire pudding. Others of the group had pork, chicken and sea bass. The starters and desserts were also a delightful variety. It was a lovely sunny day and all twelve of us had a great day. I think we will be making another visit to Teatro in the future.

Elaine Tucker

22 May saw thirteen of us at 'Jennies Kitchen' near Ashton Keynes for our midday meal. The weather was perfect, sunshine and warm. We all sat out in the beautiful garden for our food which was served, freshly cooked, by friendly staff. It was nice to relax and talk in the garden. After lunch we were introduced to the Alpacas by the owner who tempted them with carrots. Unfortunately one of them took a dislike to me and spat in my face. But hey ho you can't win them all and I lived to tell the tale.

Mike Johnson

On 29 May a group of ten Solos, numbers reduced by illness, made the long journey to the 'New Inn' at Lechlade for an evening meal. We had a really good time, the food was excellent, from starters to desserts, except for one who was very disappointed with her choice. However, the staff dealt well with this and were very attentive on a busy evening. We will certainly be returning again soon.

Gill Compton

## Favourite Recipes

### MACKEREL WITH APRICOTS

1 lb Mackerel fillets	2 tablespoons chopped fresh dill
4 oz fresh or dried ready-to-eat apricots	1 tablespoon runny honey
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice	Handfull of chopped parsley

Roughly chop fresh or dried apricots and cook in a saucepan with 2-3 tablespoons of water for 3 minutes. Place mackerel fillets on foil and sprinkle the lemon juice over. Cook under a hot grill or barbeque for about 5 minutes. Drizzle with honey and spoon the apricots and dill over the fillets. Cook for a further 3-4 minutes.

Serve with buttered new potatoes and green beans or salad.

Serves 4

## Straddlers & Striders—August

There are no scheduled Straddlers & Striders walks for August due to holidays and grandparenting duties. We agreed at our planning meeting that 'impromptu' walks could be arranged for those available as follows: Straddlers Thursday 15 August, Striders Tuesday 27 August.

If anyone would like to suggest a walk, which could be a favourite from previous years or even a "reverse" of a recent walk, please contact the Group Leaders below so we can circulate the details.

Pete & Meriel McHugh      peteandmeriel@btinternet.com      01367 850041 or 07775 100917

## GROUP MEETINGS

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

### Anglo-Saxon Poetry

*Thursdays 25 July, 22 August*

We shall meet at my house at 10.30am. Please let me know if you are unable to come

Miriam Scott  
01285 712441

### Birdwatching

*Tuesday 16 July*

Our target location is Ravens Roost Wood, near Minety, and will aim for Butterflies, Moths and Wild Flowers as well as woodland species of birds.

After last month's change of venue due to Coombe Hill Meadows suffering flooding, we hope the weather will be somewhat kinder both to us and the natural world.

Lunch will be taken at a local pub in Minety.

Meet at the Car Park at 9.00am.

Suggested passenger donation £1.

Jo and Mick Jones  
Geoff Dennis  
01285 712195  
[bethandgeoff@yahoo.com](mailto:bethandgeoff@yahoo.com)

### Creative Writing

*Fridays*

Forget the Sudoku - give your brain a real workout. Try writing a poem, a story, your own life story (for the grandchildren perhaps), your family history.

Everyone has something to say, so come and say it at the Creative Writing Group. We meet at 9.45am on Fridays.

Please contact me for more details:

Jo Stichbury  
01285 239152



### Book Circle 1

*Tuesdays, 9 July, 13 August*

In July we shall discuss 'The Rosie Project' by Graeme Simsion.

In August we shall look at 'Doctor Thorne' by Anthony Trollope.

Both meetings will be at my house at 2.00pm. Please let me know if you cannot come.

Sheila Morgan  
01285 810471

### Book Circle 2

*Tuesdays 9 July, 13 August*

In July we shall meet at the home of Miriam Scott to discuss 'Diary of a Nobody' by George Grossmith.

If you cannot come to the meeting, please will you let Miriam or me know.

In August we shall meet at the home of Ian and Rosemary Westlake to discuss 'Milkman' by Anna Burns.

If you cannot come to the meeting, please will you let Rosemary and Ian, or me, know.

PLEASE NOTE: Meetings now start at 2.00pm.

Jane Pugh  
01285 712184  
[pughtajm@gmail.com](mailto:pughtajm@gmail.com)

### Dance to Five Rhythms

*Wednesday 17 July*

We dance regularly at the Palmer Hall on the third Wednesday of the month at 10.15am.

New members welcome. Come and move to the music!

Joyce Deane  
01285 851408

### Bridge Improvers

The group will continue to meet every Monday afternoon throughout July from 2.00pm to 4.00pm in the Heritage room, Fairford Community Centre, for a lesson and friendly practice play.

We shall take a summer break during August and re-start, all being well, on Monday 2 September.

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 238834  
mbishop1@timetalk.co.uk

### 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 Tuesday 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

### Cycling with a Pub Lunch

*Thursdays 25 July, 29 August*

We shall meet at Fairford car park for a 10.30am roll-out or, if more convenient, 11.00am at 'The Swan' in Southrop. From there the route runs through Fyfield and northwards over Eastleach Downs to cross the B4425 and A40 to go downhill into Little Barrington. Curtail the exhilarating speed to take a sharp right turn into Middle Road (blue sign posted as the Sustran Route 57) above the River Windrush to the outskirts of Burford. (The lane is a bit gravel strewn but otherwise of reasonably good surface condition).

A sharp climb up Tanners Lane to re-cross the A40 (right then left) leads to a cruise downhill to Westwell, on to Holwell, then left to pass the Cotswold Wildlife Park entrance to cross the A361 and on to Shilton for well earned sustenance at The Rose and Crown. This is at a distance of 19 miles from Fairford.

After a short calorie burning climb from the hostelry take a left turn for a long downhill run to Kencot/Langford for dispersal routes home. The estimated round trip to Fairford is approx. 30 miles.

I will be visiting family in Cornwall on the above date so Pete McHugh will lead the ride.

Please let Pete know if you will be riding in order to confirm arrangements with The Rose and Crown.

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The route for the August ride has not yet been detailed. However, since generally we tend to ride north of Fairford, a flatter ride through The Cotswold Water Park is being considered/ planned. As we are a small group we will communicate by e-mail when finalised.

Alan Williams  
alantwilliams44@gmail.com

Pete McHugh  
pete.s.mchugh@gmail.com



## Computer Group

*Tuesdays*

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 the group, please contact me and you will be welcome.

If you have your own laptop, please bring it along as it is better to learn on your own computer.

For those just starting, I have a modern Windows laptop computer that is available for members to use.

Nick Humphris  
01285 711740



## Garden Group

*Thursdays 25 July, 22 August*

Our visit this month is to Brockworth Court, another NGS garden, informal tapestry style garden, organic, naturalistic cottage-style planting areas blending together. Monet bridge leading to a small island.

We would like to arrange a visit but we need 10+ members and there is a tour of the manor. Home-made teas in the tithe barn.

Please could you let us know whether you would like to come.

We will meet in Fairford car park at 1.30pm.

In August we shall visit Members' gardens.

Beth and Geoff Dennis  
01285 712195  
bethandgeoff@yahoo.com

## French 1

*Mondays 1, 15 July, 5, 19 August*

We meet on the first and third Mondays of each month in the Barker Room of the Community Centre from 11.00am until noon.

This longstanding and friendly group aims to help members brush up on 'O' Level French, hopefully improving fluency, when speaking the language.

Our meetings are great fun. We enjoy sharing a friendly conversation at a fairly simple level and learn from the book 'Voici' and the accompanying CD recordings.

The group is currently full.

Sandra Hoaksey  
01367 253243  
shoaksey@aol.com

## French 2 & 3

*Mondays*

French Groups 2 and 3 are for those who feel reasonably confident about holding a conversation albeit with some vocab help from other members!

We make use of 'La Vie Outre-Manche', an excellent magazine written almost entirely in French for groups like ours. We read aloud an assigned few pages every week and then discuss the articles, which are a useful insight into contemporary French news and culture. Both Groups meet on Monday mornings at 11.00am.

French Group 2 is hosted either by Julie Whittering or Jean Crowley and this Group is seeking new members!

French Group 3 usually meets at the home of Jane Pugh or Alison Wilson.

Please contact the following people for information about where the Groups are meeting each week:

French 2: Julie Whittering (01285 712775)  
or Jean Crowley (01285 711775)

French 3: Alison Wilson (01285 711574)

Alison Wilson

## Italian

We shall not be meeting in July or August but starting again in September.

Please contact me if you would like more details.

Euan Greig  
01285 641536  
euan.greig@btinternet.com

### **Geology**

*Wednesday 10 July*

We shall meet as usual at Fairford United Church, Milton Street at 2.30pm.

We shall discuss the proposed trip to the Severn Estuary sites in the Autumn.

There will be no meeting in August so we shall restart the Season on the first Wednesday in September.

Please contact me for more details.

Clive Watson  
01285 713003

### **Keep Fit**

*Tuesdays*

We normally meet in the Palmer Hall on Tuesday each week at 9.15am.

Chris Pooley  
01367 250346

### **Industrial Heritage**

Please contact me for details of our next meeting

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

### **Model Group**

*Thursdays*

The Model Group meets weekly on Thursday mornings.

Please contact me for details.

Jim Sullivan  
01367 252539



### **Latin**

*Thursdays 4 July, 8 August*

We meet generally on the first Thursday of the month at 2.30pm at my house.

Please call me if you would like to know more.

Peter Hewes  
01285 712200

### **Needlework**

*Wednesdays 10, 24 July, 7, 21 August*

We meet at the Fairford Community Centre from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. This group brings together many different skills under the heading of 'Needlework'; we are a friendly group and enjoy our sessions.

If you would like to know more, please contact:

Hazel Wheeler



### **MahJong**

*Thursdays 4, 18 July, 5 September*

We meet in the Barker Room at Fairford Community Centre for two hours from 10.00am on the first and third Thursdays of the month.

MahJong is an easy, tactile and sociable game that can be enjoyed by all levels of player. We have some space for new players and we are often able to accommodate Guest players so please contact us if you would like to attend, or to experience a trial session to find out what it is all about.

There will be no meetings in August.

Alan & Linda Eagle  
01285 712515  
alane2004@btinternet.com



### **Music Listening**

*Friday 19 July*

We shall meet at 2.30pm to play music from your favourite Musical. Venue to be arranged.

In August the subject and venue to be decided.

Please let me know if you are unable to come.

Gillian Bilbrough  
01285 712579  
gillianandharry@yahoo.co.uk

### **Pétanque**

*Tuesdays and Wednesdays*

Our 'summer' season is now in full swing at our piste at Leaffield Road.

There are no vacancies at present but should any new members be interested in putting their names forward for a place on the waiting list please do contact us.

Heather and Dave Baber  
01285 711343

### **Philosophy**

*Wednesday 17 July*

'Does Art have to have a meaning?'

Once we have sorted out what Art is, it should be an interesting subject; the scientists amongst us might be stretched on this one, but should benefit from the (possibly broader) perspectives of the humanities.

Meet at my house at 2.30pm.

David Turtle  
01367 253275  
dpturtle15@gmail.com

### **Poetry Circle 1**

*Fridays 5 July, 2 August*

The group usually meets on the first Friday of the month at 2.00pm 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**

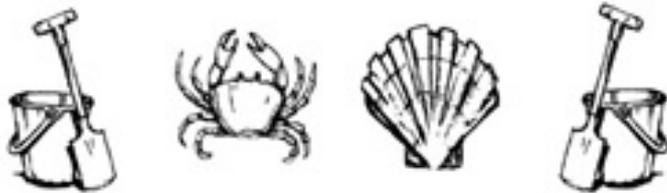
*Friday 5 July*

In July we meet at Maureen's house to read sonnets by William Shakespeare.

There will be no meeting in August.

Please contact me if you are unable to come.

Jen Thoburn  
01285 712397



### **Rummikub**

*Thursday 11 July*

We meet on the second Thursday of the month from 2.00pm to 4.00pm for some friendly games of Rummikub.

The venue is the Heritage Room in the Fairford Community Centre.

Please note that there will be no Rummikub in August.

Jean Freeth  
01285 713570

Carole McDerment  
01285 711354

### **Quilting**

*Wednesdays 3 July, 7 August*

This group meets on the first Wednesday of the month from 12.30pm to 2.00pm in the Barker Room of the Community Centre.

Jan Mills  
01285 830384

Freda Lang  
01285 713331

## Recorders

*Fridays 12, 26 July, 9, 23 August*

We start with anyone who would like to play the treble (from 2.00pm to 2.30pm) followed by the main group 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 Contrabasses 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.)



S, C<sub>3</sub>, R, A<sub>1</sub>, B<sub>3</sub>, B<sub>3</sub>, L<sub>1</sub>, E<sub>1</sub>

There will be no more Scrabble sessions until 3 October. I will be running the group in future.

Please contact me for more details.

Glenda O'Connor  
01285 712416

## Short Tennis

*Mondays*

This group meets in the Palmer Hall every Monday between 2.30pm and 4.30pm.

We have room for one or two experienced tennis players. If anyone is interested please telephone me or come along one Monday to see me.

Margaret Trickett    01285 712421



## Solo2

*Monday 8 July*

We shall meet at 2.00pm at Jo Stichbury's house. We hope to see as many of our group as possible.

Again only three, including myself, turned up for a trip to Buscot House and Gardens. Unfortunately the weather was terrible, so a nice lunch at 'The Trout Inn' Lechlade made up for the disappointment.

If any one is interested in the following please could you ring or mail me:

A Midsummer Night's Dream  
Friday 5 July at 7.00pm, cost £15.  
Buscot Weir Field (Bring a Picnic).  
Countrywide Live at Blenheim Palace  
Friday 2 or Saturday 3 August.

Barbara Ellen-Mitchell  
07801721377  
bellenmitchell@gmail.com

## Solos

*Mondays 1 July, 5 August*

Our next meetings will be at Val's at 2.30pm.

Michael Johnson  
01285 712637  
sanaelma@yahoo.co.uk

## Spanish

*Wednesdays*

This group is no longer suitable for beginners so any newcomers will need to know some Spanish already.

We meet at my home on Wednesday afternoons. Please contact me if you would like to join.

Linda Aston    01285 810900  
ltaston@gmail.com





## Walking Groups

Walk leaders- please specify the length of the walk in your description.  
Members and Guests taking part in these walks do so at their own risk.



### Walk with a Pub Lunch

*Wednesday 10 July*

A walk of a little over 4 miles from the 'Falcon Inn' at Poulton; what better place to end up for lunch. A sort of circular route, through Poulton village, past the Church over the Cricket pitch and from then on country lanes, established tracks and some grass surfaces, virtually flat and no stiles.

We walk via Ampney St Peter where walkers may wish to visit the Church, then on to Ampney St Mary and back to Poulton. Around 2 hours 15 minutes walking.

Leave from Fairford Car Park at 10.00am or meet at the Falcon at 10.15am to pre-order lunch and depart at 10.30am.

Suggested car share fee 50p per person.

I look forward to seeing you, and hope for a dry and sunny day.

Michael Yorke 01367 253286

### Straddlers

*Thursday 18 July*

Lambourn Down – An 8 mile walk from Ashdown Park NT car park near Ashbury. No stiles, good walking on public ways and splendid views. An ascent up Kingstone Down takes us past Crowberry Tump on to Odstone Down followed by Knighton Down. At the cross paths we go up the long easy rise of Whit Coombe and turn right along the grassy track to the vehicle way high on Wellbottom Down. Then through the gallops and down Lye Lease to Hangman's Stone and into Upper Lambourn where we pick up the path passing Park Farm and back to Ashdown.

Bring a drink, snack and lunch.

Meet at Fairford car park at 9.15am, or go direct to Ashdown NT car park for 10.00am.

Suggested travel contribution £2.00 each.

Pete & Meriel McHugh  
peteandmeriel@btinternet.com  
01367 850041 or 07775 100917

### Striders

*Tuesday 23 July*

Starting from The Village Pub in Barnsley, we head through the lovely Barnsley Park before cutting across Cadmoor Lane and North towards Ablington Downs; we then turn South East towards Ablington before picking up Hay Lane. We make towards Deadmans Copse and on to Three Pillars Copse before skirting the Park on the way back towards the village centre at the Village Pub.

The walk is flat and even with the odd gentle rise, there are a few stiles.

Meet at Fairford Car Park at 9.30am or at the Village Pub (GL7 5EF) for a 10.00am start.

Suggested travel contribution 50p per person.

Please let us know in advance if you wish to join us so we can inform the Village Pub.

Pete & Meriel McHugh  
peteandmeriel@btinternet.com  
01367 850041 or 07775 100917

### Strollers

*Friday 26 July*

Following postponement in June we shall be repeating the walk through Coate Water Country Park, passing the Broome Manor Golf Clubhouse, returning via the Polo Ground and back into Coate Water around the other side of the lake. A distance of about 4 miles. All flat walking and no stiles.

We begin at the 'Sun Inn' (SN3 6AA) from where we order our lunch before we set off. Please advise us if you are coming 24 hours before the walk as we have to inform the pub of the numbers.

Meet at Fairford Car Park to leave at 9.40am, or at the Sun Inn for 10.30am.

Suggested travel donation of £2.00.

Jackie Ephgrave 01285 713277  
Ann Wightman 01285 712723

Please send items for the  
**September Issue**  
 by 17 August to  
 Heather Holwell  
 editor@fairfordu3a.org.uk

### Dates for your Diary 2019

14 July Day at the Seaside  
 26 September National Memorial Arboretum  
 30 November Musical Evening

Editor this month - Alan Eagle

<b>JULY</b>		
Monday	1	Bridge, French 1,2 & 3, Short Tennis, Solos, Yoga 1
Tuesday	2	GENERAL MEETING, Computers, Keep Fit, Pétanque
Wednesday	3	Quilting, Pétanque, Spanish, Table Tennis 1
Thursday	4	Latin, MahJong, Models, Yoga 2
Friday	5	Creative Writing, Poetry 1 & 2, Table Tennis 2
Monday	8	Bridge, French 2 & 3, Short Tennis, Solo2, Yoga 1
Tuesday	9	Book 1 & 2, Computers. Keep Fit, Pétanque
Wednesday	10	Geology, Needlework, Pétanque, Spanish, Table Tennis 1, Walk WP Lunch
Thursday	11	Models, Rummikub, Yoga 2
Friday	12	Creative Writing, Recorders, Table Tennis 2
Monday	15	Bridge, French 1,2 & 3, Short Tennis, Yoga 1
Tuesday	16	Birdwatching, Computers, Keep Fit, Pétanque
Wednesday	17	Dance 5R, Pétanque, Philosophy, Spanish, Table Tennis 1
Thursday	18	MahJong, Models, Straddlers, Yoga 2
Friday	19	Creative Writing, Music Listening, Table Tennis 2
Monday	22	Bridge, French 2 & 3, Short Tennis, Yoga 1
Tuesday	23	Computers, Keep Fit, Pétanque, Striders
Wednesday	24	Needlework, Pétanque, Spanish, Table Tennis 1
Thursday	25	Anglo Saxon, Cycle WP Lunch, Garden, Models, Yoga 2
Friday	26	Creative Writing, Recorders, Strollers, Table Tennis 2
Monday	29	Bridge, French 2 & 3, Short Tennis, Yoga 1
Tuesday	30	Computers, Keep Fit, Pétanque
Wednesday	31	Pétanque, Spanish, Table Tennis 1
<b>AUGUST</b>		
Thursday	1	Models, Yoga 2
Friday	2	Creative Writing, Poetry 1, Table Tennis 2
Monday	5	French 1,2 & 3, Short Tennis, Solos, Yoga 1
Tuesday	6	Computers, Keep Fit, Pétanque
Wednesday	7	Geology, Needlework, Quilting, Pétanque, Spanish, Table Tennis 1

**Some sessions might not run in August. Please check with your Group Leader**

**FAIRFORD AND DISTRICT U3A**

**Thursday 26 September 2019**

**TRIP TO THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM**

We will be visiting the National Memorial Arboretum on Thursday 26 September, leaving Fairford at 8.30am, returning at 4.45pm to arrive back in Fairford at approximately 7.00 pm.

The Arboretum not only contains numerous memorials to regiments, associations and societies but also interesting exhibitions, artefacts and interactive displays. There are also several guided walks throughout the landscaped grounds (small fee involved for the guide).

If the weather does not behave, there are several free talks throughout the day and plenty to see inside.

The cost of this trip is £20 per person.

Included in your ticket price is a 50 minute land train tour with pre-recorded commentary. The train is booked for 11.30 am and covers two thirds of the site.

There is a restaurant, open all day, providing lunches, snacks and afternoon teas. There is also a coffee shop in Heroes Square which provides drinks and snacks etc. The National Arboretum website is full of information to help you make the most of your visit.

As there is no U3A Meeting in August, please book your place as soon as possible. I shall be at the July afternoon meeting, or you can contact me by email or telephone to book:

Sue Martin Trip Co-ordinator  
01285 851300  
sue.martin@waitrose.com

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**Reservation Slip**

**RETURN TO SUE MARTIN OR A COMMITTEE MEMBER BY 3 SEPTEMBER**

Please reserve .....place(s)

for the U3A visit to the National Memorial Arboretum on Thursday 26 September 2019.

Name of U3A Member(s): .....

Address: .....

Tel No: ..... Mobile: .....

Email: .....

Emergency contact number and name: .....

Cash/cheque enclosed: .....

(Cheques payable to Fairford and District U3A)