

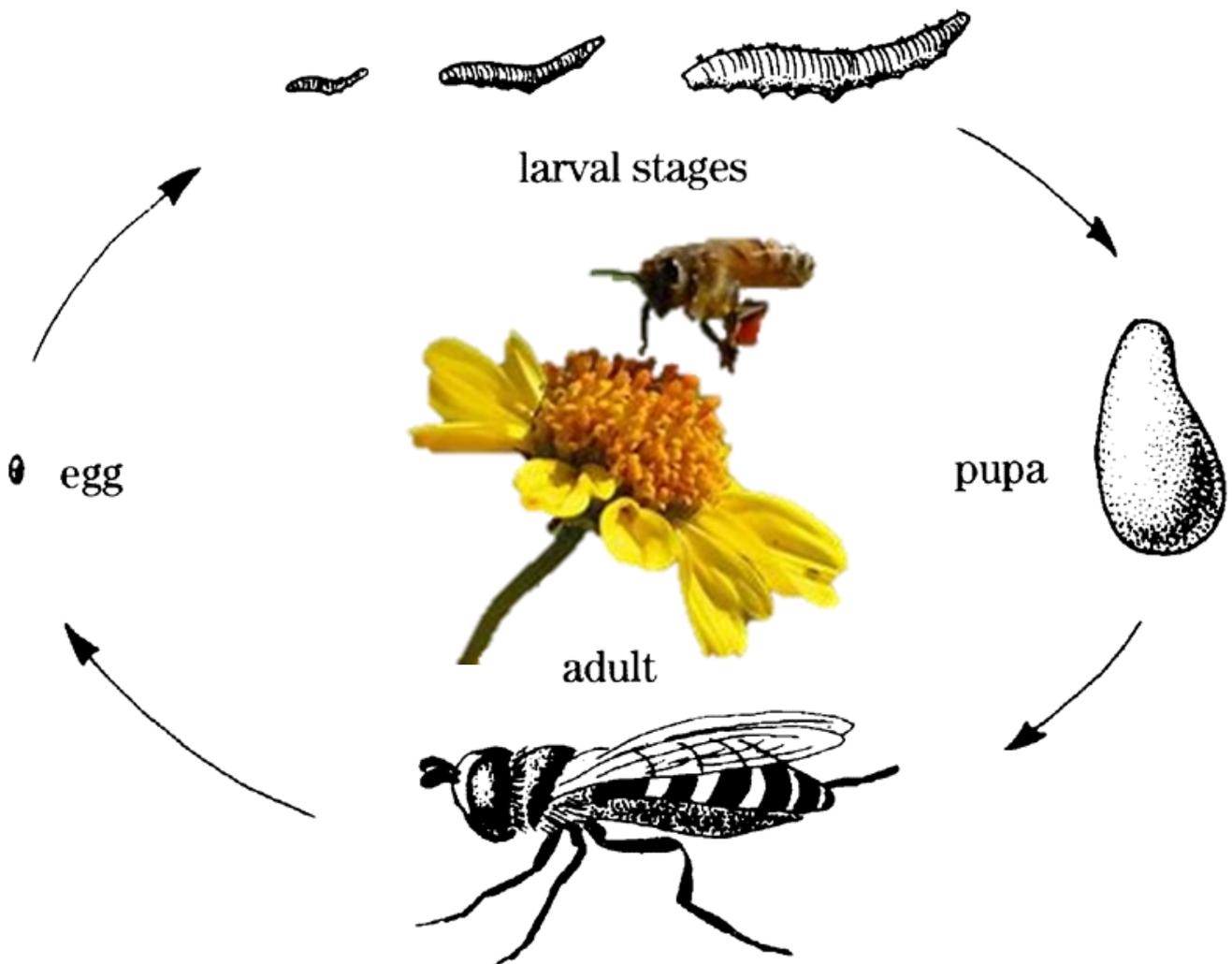


THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Fairford & District
Newsletter

Issue 259
March
2019

The Incredible World of the Honey Bee



Steve Moll

www.fairfordu3a.org.uk

Registered Charity No 1072658

❖ Read the Newsletter online at www.fairfordu3a.org.uk ❖

Main Meeting

The Incredible World of the Honey Bee

Tuesday 5 March
Palmer Hall at 2.30pm

This talk will be by beekeeper Steve Moll from Brightwell Bees. He is based at Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, near the market town of Wallingford and the beehives are located in the surrounding South Oxfordshire and West Berkshire villages.



Forthcoming Meetings

2 April: AGM and Dad's Underground Army

Bill King will talk about The Auxilliary Units (British Resistance Organisation).

The formation, organisation and activities of the secret organisation which, with its headquarters at Coleshill House, would have come into action if Britain had been invaded by the Nazis in WW2.

7 May: Ride Around England

William Reddaway will talk on his seven-month charity challenge travelling with his horse around the UK.

He left the Worcestershire/Gloucestershire border in May 2013 and finished at the same place seven months later.

One man, one horse, 2,700 miles, and 30 Cathedrals.

4 June: Desai Memorial School, Nairobi

This is a community School with 420 pupils aged 3-14 years in one of the poorest and toughest slums in sub-Saharan Africa. Mike Welsh is Headteacher of Goddard Park Primary in Swindon which is twinned with Desai. He has worked in the Nairobi slums for twenty years. Mike will take us through what it means to live and attend a school where survival is the most important ambition.

Mike is a former National President of the National Association of Headteachers (NAHT).

Rorke's Drift

At our February meeting Paul Barnett talked about Rorke's Drift, an historical event made famous by the 1964 film 'Zulu' starring Michael Caine and Stanley Baxter. One intention of the speaker was to clarify how the film misrepresented the actual events. He seemed disappointed to find his audience somewhat underwhelmed by the pictures of film stars and the characters they had represented. For its part the audience was overwhelmed by the minute by minute account of how, having lost the battle of Isandlwana in January 1879, the force whose mission was to extend British imperial influence in Southern Africa was nearly overcome again at Rorke's Drift.

It is said that the Zulu King Cetshwayo did not intend to attack but only protect his borders. However, once a small remnant group of the British soldiers had crossed the Buffalo River a huge force of Zulus surged forward to attack and was only narrowly prevented from invading Natal. As the battle raged the Zulus targeted the hospital. They set fire to the building, burst in and began killing the patients with their assegais. The surviving patients were rescued after soldiers hacked holes in the walls separating the rooms and dragged them through and into the barricaded yard.

A boy from Churcham, Gloucestershire, Private Alfred Henry "Harry" Hook played a major role in this skirmish for which he received the VC. He is the only person ever to have been awarded the VC on the site where the relevant incident took place. He was a good solid soldier, a God-fearing Methodist lay preacher: not the drunkard portrayed in the film. That was a ploy to make a good feature film, and so Paul Barnett's enthusiasm for setting the record straight is to some extent justified.

You may find this link interesting
www.rorkesdriftvc.com/vc/hook_account.htm

Sylvia Jones



Chairman's Report

Your U3A needs you



It is said that there are two certainties in life; death and taxes. I would like to add another ... the usual plea for help on our Committee! To paraphrase the words of President Kennedy: 'Think not what your U3A can do for you; but of what you can do for your U3A'. It is true that if you do something that you think you cannot do, then you learn from that experience, and it is never too late to learn. That's what the U3A is supposed to be about; learning together for fun and keeping ourselves mentally alert. Our U3A cannot function without a Committee. This AGM due to illness we do not have a Vice Chairman or a Secretary, and our Webmaster would like to retire. His position requires some technical knowledge and he would be willing to train up anyone to take over

The following are willing to stand again:

Chairman	Marilyn Gibbon
Vice Chairman	Vacant
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Geoff Dennis
Group Co-Ordinator	Carole McDerment
Editor in Chief	Alan Eagle
Programme Secretary	Jen Thoburn
Membership Secretary	Sue Jonson
Membership Secretary (2)/Committee	Jo Stichbury
GDPR and Beacon	Garry Stephenson
Trips Co-Ordinator	Sue Martin
Webmaster	Doug Crowley
Hall Manager	John Lang
Minutes Secretary	Carol Stewart

All Officers have to be re-elected at the AGM and all members have the right to stand for any of the positions on the Committee.

There are two definite vacancies:

Vice Chairman and **Secretary** and Webmaster if possible. Job Descriptions for the posts of Vice Chairman and Secretary are summarised in this Newsletter, on the web or on the Newsletter table at the General Meeting.

Doug Crowley can tell you more about the position of Webmaster – contact doug.crowley@fairfordu3a.org.uk.

If you would like to stand for any of the above positions, please telephone Freda Lang, Secretary on 01285 713331 before the end of March or by phoning me. In addition, there is also an Agenda for the AGM next month and last year's Minutes on the back of this Newsletter.

PLEASE NOTE: It is vital to have a Vice Chairman and a Secretary in these Officer positions to ensure the continuance of Fairford U3A.

Marilyn Gibbon
01285 713928
chairman@fairfordu3a.org.uk

New Members

Frances Lawence	Joan Akers
Jane Davidson	David Fowles
Raymond Smith	Susan Souter
Eileen Harlow	Helen Clift
Gordon and Kathryn Land	



Keeping it Legal

Group Leaders are reminded about the workshop to be held by U3A Head Office on 20 March at the Ampney Crucis Village Hall from 10.30am to 3.30pm.

Garry Stephenson
garry.stephenson@fairfordu3a.org.uk

Tea Rota



April:	Boccia
May:	Book Circles 1 and 2
June:	Bridge and Chess



Message from the Membership Secretary

If you have not already renewed, may I remind members that the cut-off date for doing so is 31 MARCH 2019. After that date you will not be able to take part in any group activities until you renew.

You can always rejoin Fairford and District U3A at a future date. Renewal forms are available on-line, at the Fairford Community Centre, Fairford library or Fairford Surgery.

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

Art Appreciation Group

The following dates have been reserved for the first meetings of the new Art Appreciation Group: Fridays 20 September and 22 November 2019 at 2.00pm and Monday 14 October at 3.00pm. The sessions will last about one hour.

Further information will be available on the content of the sessions nearer the time.

Solos 2

The Solos Group has just celebrated its Seventh Anniversary and has been very successful with firm friendships having been made over the years.

Due to its success the group is full. However, we have a volunteer who is willing to organise an additional group if there is enough interest.

If you are on your own and would like to meet others to go out for lunch, days out, or just to meet for a coffee, get in touch with me in the first instance and we will see if there is enough interest to start another group.

Carole McDerment
01285 711354
groupco-ordinator@fairfordu3a.org.uk

GROUP REPORTS

Anglo-Saxon Poetry in Translation

At our October Meeting we delved into the Anglo-Saxon origins of many of our place names, including those in our own area. Aply led by David Turtle, our discussion was based on the work of Ann Cole. We learnt that many place names are made up of elements referring to either settlements or landscape features. One theory for the predominance of landscape features in our place names lies in the fact that the Anglo-Saxons had come from predominantly flat lands and would have been particularly struck by the more varied landscape of the English countryside. This lent itself easily to being used in a descriptive place name. This was a well-researched and fascinating talk — thank you, David.

For our November meeting, we returned to the poetry itself. Led by Iris Lewis, we looked at a selection of poetry from 'The Complete Old English Poems', a new translation by American scholar Craig Williamson. As a nod to the season, the poetry chosen was a number of 'The Advent Lyrics', which were written as poetic elaborations of the liturgical 'O Antiphons' sung during the final days of Advent. This was our last session before the Christmas break and made a fitting end to the year.

Iris Anne Lewis

At our January meeting we concluded, for the time being, our consideration of 'Beowulf'. We listened to the last track of Seamus Heaney reading his translation, and then discussed various passages of interest or which we especially enjoyed.

Miriam Scott



Book Circle 2

Our book for February was 'The Essex Serpent' by Sarah Perry, an historical fiction set in the 1890s. Sarah Perry is a wonderfully descriptive writer; her accounts of Victorian-era London and the backwaters of Essex, the workings and conflicts of science and religion, the experimental heart surgery, and living and dealing with tuberculosis is quite remarkable. Her understanding of bereavement, coping with an autistic child, and the relationships of the various characters shows great depth and sensitivity.

Sarah Perry was born and brought up in Chelmsford by very devout Strict Baptist parents. She had no access to contemporary art, culture or writing. However, this early immersion in classical literature and the King James Bible, she feels, profoundly influenced her writing. Her doctoral thesis concentrating on the Gothic in the writing of Iris Murdoch, and the importance given to buildings and "the power of place" all sounds dark and heavy, but this book was full of friendship, love and goodness, with a good twist of rural superstition, which we all enjoyed.

Ann Duckney

Book Circle 1

'Child 44', a different thriller. Set in Russia in the fifties it is, eventually, a thriller. Our hero, Leo, is in the MBG, Russian Secret Police. He investigates the death of a young boy 'on the railway lines' meeting the family and neighbours in their small one bedroom flat to discuss what the father calls a 'murder'. In Russia at this time there is no such thing as murder! Eventually we and Leo discover, there have been many similar 'crimes', although the central authorities do not acknowledge this. When his wife is accused of being one of a spy's contacts Leo is ordered to follow her and prove that she is and denounce her. His refusal to 'shop' her is the beginning of their exile and really begin the most interesting part of the story. In reality the boy is the 44th child found, hence the title. More bodies come to light in various parts of the country and Leo becomes determined to find the culprit. Finally, the book turns out to be a gripping read.

We all found it interesting, although some parts had to be read 'behind the sofa' as it were. Some quite gruesome detail regarding the 'interviewing' of suspects, torture, and injections of terrible concoctions etc. Not a book to be picked up in Waterstones for a quick relaxing read. The first couple of chapters seemed at first irrelevant and several of us were returning to re-read them to see where they fitted in. A good book club read because it made us read something different to our usual choice and promoted plenty of discussion.

Jo Stichbury

Poetry Circle 2

Peasants in the English Civil War
No matter what you hear at home
you keep it to yourself my lad.
The listening ears of men who roam
around our land are really bad.
If they be Roundheads they'd be glad
to jail a man for some reward.
The King's men too with help of sword
would lie and cheat for their own gain.
We labour on. No lying fraud
must guess where.

Rosemarie Chapman



Philosophy

At the February meeting we had a lively and interesting discussion on the subject of 'Afterlife'. Although a small group, we had two new members to keep us on our toes.

David Turtle

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

Walking with a Pub Lunch

On Wednesday, 13 February, sixteen walkers set out in favourable weather to walk approximately five miles on the Sherborne Estate taking in woodland, tracks and fields. It was enjoyable to see signs of early Spring with snowdrops and aconites flowering in the woods. Underfoot, after recent rain there was mud to manage in places but not enough to cause a problem. Sherborne Arms was the venue for all to enjoy lunch with a varied menu from which to choose and as usual was served with great efficiency.

Jenny Kinch.

GROUP MEETINGS

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

Anglo-Saxon Poetry

Thursday 28 March

For details, please contact Miriam.

Miriam Scott
01285 712441

Boccia

Thursdays

We will meet every Thursday afternoon in the Farmor Room, Fairford Community Centre, at 2.15pm. All members are invited. We shall play Boccia and enjoy a free cup of tea or coffee and biscuits. Boccia is a game suitable for people of all abilities and can be played sitting down.

As we have to pay for the room, there will be a charge of £1.00 per person.

Please note our last meeting of this season will be Thursday 28 March.

Reg Thoburn 01285 712397
David & Heather Baber 01285 711343

Birdwatching

Tuesday 19 March

Blashford Lakes near Ringwood in Hampshire is the venue for this month's visit. As this is our furthest destination, we will meet in Fairford Car Park at 8.30am, returning after lunch, but with extra venues in the afternoon for those able to stay on. Although the main hide has been demolished to make way for an improving rebuild, there are other hides on the two main lakes.

Due to problems with the pub local to Blashford where it took an hour to get any food last time, we will be taking self-supplied packed lunches and drinks. Hopefully, the weather will be kind for outside picknicking. Suggested passenger donation £5 per head.

Jo and Mick Jones,
Geoff Dennis 01285 712195

Book Circle 1

Tuesday 12 March

We shall meet at Jo's house at 2.00pm to discuss 'Nutshell' by Ian McEwan.

Please let me know if you cannot come.

Sheila Morgan
01285 810471

Book Circle 2

Tuesday 12 March

We will meet at 2.30pm at the home of Lyn to discuss 'The Ministry of Utmost Happiness' by Arundhati Roy.

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

Jane Pugh
01285 712184
pughtajm@gmail.com

Creative Writing

Fridays

We have an excellent small group who are enjoying the activities but we would welcome any new members.

We meet every Friday morning from 9.45am to 11.15am.

Please contact me for more details:

Jo Stichbury
01285 239152



Bridge Improvers

Mondays

The group will continue to meet every Monday afternoon (except Bank Holidays) from 2.00pm to 4.00pm 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, making mistakes and learning together.

Partners and refreshments provided.

Margaret Bishop
01285 238834
mbishop1@timetalk.co.uk

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



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

Thursday 28 March

Time to oil your gears and inflate your tyres, the cycling season is upon us once again. The first ride is a gentle potter over quite flat roads out to 'The Bakers Arms' at Somerford Keynes.

Meet at Fairford, then on to Down Ampney, followed by a cruise into Cerney Wick, a tree lined avenue brings the peloton into South Cerney, then just touching on the spine road we will take a quiet road into Somerford Keynes. Then refreshed and refuelled the way home is via Quiet Lane, alongside the lake and back into Cerney Wick. Through Meysey Hampton, and then back to Fairford where each rider will go their separate ways. I am unable to ride at present, so the next few rides will be submitted by Alan or Pete or any other rider of the peloton.

Meet at Fairford car park at 10.30am; the day should be bright and warm.

Paul O'Shaughnessy
paulatscissor@btinternet.com 01367850262.



Dance to Five Rhythms

Wednesday 20 March

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



French 1

Mondays 4, 18 March, 1 April

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

There are now three French Groups. 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. We also chat in French about any subject in the news. Both Groups meet on Monday mornings at 11.00am.

French Group 2 is hosted either by Julie Whittering or Jean Crowley

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 alisonwilson270@gmail.com

Italian

Mondays 4, 18 March, 1 April

This group will meet every first and third Monday of the month in the Barker Room at the Community Centre, 2.00pm - 3.00pm.

Beginners welcome, or those with some knowledge.

Euan Grieg
01285 641536
euan.grieg@btinternet.com



Latin

Thursdays 7 March, 4 April

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

New members are more than welcome and a high standard of Latin knowledge is very definitely not a requirement. Indeed, now would be a very good time to join us if you have been thinking of refreshing the Latin you were taught at school (or even if not and have always wanted to learn) because we are starting from the beginning with a book called 'Learn Latin from the Romans' by Eleanor Dickey.

Please do not hesitate to call me if you would like to know more.

Peter Hewes
01285 712200

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

Garden Group

Thursday 21 March

For details of this month's activities please contact:

Beth and Geoff Dennis
01285 712195
bethandgeoff@yahoo.com

Keep Fit

Tuesdays

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

Chris Pooley
01367 250346

Geology

Wednesdays 6 March, 3 April

The meeting will take place as normal at Fairford United Church, Milton Street at 2.30pm. The topic will link the changes to the earth during the Jurassic period and the cataclysm that occurred before the Cretaceous period.

For details of our Geology meetings please contact:

Clive Watson
01285 713003

Music Listening

Friday 15 March

We meet at the home of Val and John Higgs at 2.30 pm to play music relating to food and drink. PLEASE NOTE LATER TIME.

Please let me know if you are unable to come.

Gillian Bilbrough 01285 712579

Industrial Heritage

For details of this month's activities please contact:

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

MahJong

Thursdays 7, 21 March, 4 April

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.

Although our Group is now full 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.

Alan & Linda Eagle
01285 712515
alane2004@btinternet.com



Photo Album

If you have any interesting photographs of U3A activities please pass them to Ann Wightman for inclusion in the album. 01285 712723

POSTCARDS
THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE



Tuesday 19 March

This month's meeting will be at the usual venue at 2.30pm and will include our usual six-card story session.

John Higgs 01285 712488

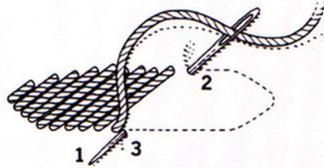
Needlework

Wednesdays 6, 20 March

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
01285 711373



Poetry Circle 2

Fridays 1 March, 5 April

In March we meet at Lucy's house to read poetry by Christina Rossetti. 'Spring' will be the subject for us in April when we meet at Julie's house.

Please contact me if you are unable to come.

Jen Thoburn
01285 712397

Philosophy

Wednesday 13 March

The meeting will be on the subject of 'Should we employ robots wherever we can?'. It need not be an automatic assumption that robots should replace human effort and we should always ask the question of new technology 'what are the long-term consequences to society'

Hopefully we will have a mix of technically-informed and wider-perspective non-technical views to enrich the discussion.

All welcome but it would help if you could let me know if you are coming:

David Turtle
01367 253275
dpturtle15@gmail.com

Quilting

Wednesday 6 March, 3 April

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

Rummikub

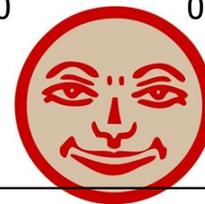
Thursday 14 March

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.

Jean Freeth
01285 713570

Carole McDerment
01285 711354



Poetry Circle 1

Fridays 1 March, 5 April

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



Solos

Mondays 4 March, 1 April

To be held at Val's house at 2.30pm.

Michael Johnson
01285 712637
sanaelma@yahoo.co.uk

Recorders

Fridays 8, 22 March

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.)

Scottish Reels

Wednesdays 27 March (4th Wednesday)

We meet at 7.45pm at Poulton Village Hall, normally on the third Wednesday of each winter month. We are a friendly informal group and we welcome all standards.

Please contact me for more details.

Richard Thompson
01285 712123
richard@richardandcarol.net

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

Table Tennis

Wednesdays and Fridays

Sessions are held in the Keble Room in the Fairford Community Centre on Wednesdays from 2.30pm and Fridays from 10.00am.

Players of all abilities are welcome.

Nick Stroude
01295 521067 or 07792 452650

Relaxed and Beginners

Sessions are held in the Keble Room on Fridays from 11.30am. This session is for those who either have never played or have not played for a while and do not feel comfortable in the hurly burly of the main sessions!

All welcome whatever age or ability.
£1 per session – equipment is provided.

Alan Topham
01285 712928

S₁ C₃ R₁ A₁ B₃ B₃ L₁ E₁

Thursdays 7 March, 4 April

If you enjoy playing Scrabble, our group meets on the first Thursday of the month in the Heritage Room, Fairford Community Centre, from 2.30-4.30pm.

Do come and join us.

Kathleen Price
01285 712417

Yoga

Mondays and Thursdays

Classes meet weekly in the Community Centre:

Yoga 1 on Mondays at 10.00am in the Farmor room.

Yoga 2 on Thursdays at 10.30am in the Keble room.

There is now a waiting list.
Sylvia Jones 01285 712657



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.

Strollers

Friday 22 March

The walk will start at the 'Victoria Inn', Eastleach GL7 3NQ where we will order lunch before setting off downhill towards the two churches. Daffodils should be in abundance. A walk to take in the scenery of the River Leach using footpaths, fields and woods. A circular walk of approximately 4 miles, some minor inclines, no stiles.

Leave Fairford car park at 9.45 am or meet at the pub for 10.00am to order lunch. Hopefully we will have a lovely day to enjoy the surroundings.

Suggested travel fee £1.

Jackie Ephgrave 01285 713277

Ann Wightman 01285 712723

Striders

Tuesday 26 March

A short journey into West Oxfordshire takes us to Langford where we will order our food at the 'Bell Inn' (GL7 3LF). We set off South East of Langford and take the disused Railway track then turn North towards Alvescot. We then turn South taking an old bridleway. We cross Calcroft Lane and head towards the old Mill at Little Clanfield and then on to Langford. There are a few stiles to navigate, the walk is flat and even and takes just under 3 hours and is about 6 miles. Bring a drink and snack. Meet at Fairford carpark at 9.30 or at the Bell Inn. We commence the walk at 10.00am.

Suggested travel contribution £0.50p. Please let us know in advance if you wish to join us so we can inform the Bell Inn.

Pete & Meriel McHugh
peteandmeriel@btinternet.com
01367 850041.

Straddlers

Thursday 21 March

Stow-on-the-Wold is the highest town in the Cotswolds, it therefore follows that the start of our walk will be downhill. We shall be passing some of the town's wells, heading along a tree lined path. We then gently go downhill into Broadwell village, with its very spacious green. The churchyard in Broadwell has a fine collection of wool bale tombs, which relate to how the area got its riches. We then cross over the A429, heading for Donnington and its Brewery. We then go over the river Dickler heading towards Upper Swell. Then onwards towards Lower Swell via the Gloucestershire Way. We then re-cross the Dickler River and a gentle pull takes us back to our starting point at Tesco's car park. There are a few gates but few stiles to speak of.

Bring lunch and coffee as usual and meet at Fairford car park at 9.20am or at Tesco's free car park in Stow at 10.00am, parking at the right-hand side at 10.00am.

Paul O'Shaughnessy 01367850262

Paulatsscissor@btinternet.com



Walk with Pub Lunch

Wednesday 13 March

After the success of the first walk of the season at Sherborne, where 16 walkers, enjoyed the winter sunshine, this month's follow-up will be from/to the 'Crown of Crucis'. The walk will take in a number of horsey areas which supplied Gold Medals at the last Olympics. Most of the walk is on tracks and/or mown grass rides, so not much mud is to be expected.

Meet at the Car Park at 9.45am or at the Crown at 10.00am. Suggested passenger donation £0.50

Geoff Dennis 01285 712195
Judith Butler 01285712600
Jenny Kinch 01367 252328

Please send items for the

April Issue

by 17 March to

Sarah Bottomley

editor@fairfordu3a.org.uk

Dates for your Diary 2019

8 March

Pétanque Meeting

20 March

'Keep it Legal' Meeting

29 March

Royal Mint Trip

9-14 June

Isle of Wight

14 July

Day at the Seaside

30 November

Musical Evening

Editor this month - Heather Holwell

March		
Friday	1	Creative Writing, Poetry 1&2, Table Tennis 2/Beginners
Monday	4	Bridge, French 1,2&3, Italian, Short Tennis, Solos, Yoga 1
Tuesday	5	GENERAL MEETING, Computers, Keep Fit
Wednesday	6	Geology, Needlework, Quilting, Spanish, Table Tennis 1
Thursday	7	Boccia, Latin, MahJong, Models, Scrabble, Yoga 2
Friday	8	Creative Writing, Pétanque, Recorders, Table Tennis 2/Beginners
Monday	11	Bridge, French 2&3, Short Tennis, Yoga 1
Tuesday	12	Book Circle 1&2, Computers, Keep Fit
Wednesday	13	Philosophy, Spanish, Table Tennis 1, Walk with a Pub Lunch
Thursday	14	Boccia, Models, Rummikub, Yoga 2
Friday	15	Creative Writing, Music Listening, Table Tennis 2/Beginners
Monday	18	Bridge, French 1,2&3, Italian, Short Tennis, Yoga 1
Tuesday	19	Birdwatching, Computers, Keep Fit, Postcards
Wednesday	20	Dance 5 Rhythms, Needlework, Spanish, Table Tennis 1
Thursday	21	Boccia, Garden, Models, Straddlers, MahJong, Yoga 2
Friday	22	Creative Writing, Recorders, Strollers, Table Tennis 2/Beginners
Monday	25	Bridge, French 2&3, Short Tennis, Yoga 1
Tuesday	26	Computers, Keep Fit, Striders
Wednesday	27	Scottish Reels, Spanish, Table Tennis 1
Thursday	28	Anglo-Saxon Poetry, Boccia, Cycling with PL, Models, Yoga 2
Friday	29	Creative Writing, Table Tennis 2/Beginners
April		
Monday	1	Bridge, French 1,2&3, Italian, Short Tennis, Solos, Yoga 1
Tuesday	2	GENERAL MEETING, Computers, Keep Fit
Wednesday	3	Geology, Needlework, Quilting, Spanish, Table Tennis 1
Thursday	4	Latin, MahJong, Models, Scrabble, Yoga 2
Friday	5	Creative Writing, Poetry 1&2, Table Tennis 2/Beginners

FAIRFORD & DISTRICT U3A

Minutes of the 24th Annual General Meeting
held on Tuesday 3rd April 2018 at 3.40 pm in the Palmer Hall, Fairford.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Sylvia Jones, Jean & Doug Crowley and John and Val Higgs.

2. Minutes of the 23rd Annual General Meeting on 4 April 2017 – acceptance proposed by Michael Johnson, seconded by Ian Westlake and passed unanimously.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes – None

4. Chairman's Report

5. Treasurer's Report

Proposed by Alan Topham, seconded by Jon Hill and passed unanimously

6. Election of Committee Members for 2018/19

CLUB OFFICERS:

Chair - Marilyn Gibbon; proposed by Lilian Pooley, seconded by Ian Westlake and passed unanimously

Vice Chair – Marilyn Yates; proposed by Alan Topham, seconded by Jean Moulden and passed unanimously

Treasurer – Geoff Dennis; proposed by Sarah Bottomley, seconded by Jill Compton and passed unanimously

Secretary – NO NOMINATION, No offers from the Floor so Michael Yorke agreed to stand in as Caretaker Secretary for 2 months concluding at the 4 June Committee meeting.

Meantime the following action will be taken: Advert for Secretary to go on to our Website by Mid May and in May Newsletter and promoted at the June Meeting. If no nominations received Michael will resign and Marilyn Gibbon will contact Cotswold Link to advise.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Webmaster – Doug Crowley; proposed by Sarah Bottomley, seconded by Jon Hill and passed unanimously.

Membership Secretary – Sue Jonson; proposed by Reg Thoburn, seconded by Rosemary Westlake and passed unanimously.

Programme Secretary – Jen Thoburn; proposed by Reg Thoburn, seconded by Beth Dennis and passed unanimously.

Group Co ordinator – Carole McDerment; proposed by Ian Westlake, seconded by Charlie McDerment and passed unanimously.

Trips Co ordinator – Sue Martin; proposed by Chris Pooley, seconded by Colin Moulden and passed unanimously.

Hall Manager – John Lang; proposed by Ian Westlake, seconded by Jon Hill and passed unanimously.

Committee Member - Beacon, Finance & Data Protection - Garry Stephenson; proposed by Lilian Pooley, seconded by Alan Topham and passed unanimously.

Committee Member – Without Portfolio – Jo Stichbury; proposed by Ian Westlake, seconded by Michael Johnson and passed unanimously.

7. Appointment of Accounts Examiner

To conform with regulations, that Accounts must not be examined and signed by a Club Member, Alex Nesbit of Cirencester U3A will examine our accounts and Geoff Dennis will examine Cirencester's accounts. Agreed and Passed unanimously.

8. Any other Business

Constitution Update – Amendment authorised by Head Office read to the meeting by Chairman, Adoption proposed by Garry Stephenson, seconded by Jon Hill.

Data Protection Act – Garry Stephenson read a short report, advising Members of action to be taken by the Committee to conform.

Rosemary Westlake thanked Marilyn and the Committee for their work during the past U3A year.

Meeting closed at 4.12 pm

FAIRFORD AND DISTRICT U3A 25TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday, 2 April 2019

To be held in the Palmer Hall, Fairford before the General Meeting

- 1 Apologies for Absence
- 2 Approval of 2018 Minutes
- 3 Matters Arising from the Minutes
- 4 Chairman's Report
- 5 Treasurer's Report and Presentation of the Examined Accounts for year ending 31 January 2019
- 6 Election of Committee Members
- 7 Appointment of Accounts Examiner
- 8 AOB

Job Description for Vice Chairman

The Vice Chairman shall aim to support and develop the organisation in accordance with the Constitution and carry out the duties below:

- Attend the monthly General Meetings and welcome newcomers. Advise members and guests on U3A matters and to introduce them to other officers or members if necessary.
- Attend Committee meetings, take collective decisions and assist in carrying them out. If unable to attend to provide a short-written report for the Committee website and to send to the Webmaster for uploading a week prior to the meeting.
- Help organise the monthly Committee meeting and other activities run by the Committee.
- Attend the New Members' Meeting.
- Deputise for the Chairman in his or her absence at the General Monthly Meetings and Committee meetings and to otherwise assist the Chairman if required.
- Carry out, at the request of the Chairman, any special duties or investigations into the running of the group.
- Act as a trustee, with other Committee Members, for Fairford and District U3A, registered charity number 1072658.
- Be honest and positive in attitude in all dealings with and for Fairford and District U3A

Job Description for Secretary

The Secretary shall aim to support and develop the organisation in accordance with the Constitution and carry out the duties below

- Organise, maintain and preserve the records (other than financial records) of the group
- Receive on behalf of the group correspondence from external bodies and ensure that it is brought to the attention of the Chairman and Committee and ensure a proper response.
- If unable to attend to provide a short-written report of any recent activities and future plans for the Committee website and to send to the Webmaster for uploading a week prior to the meeting.
- Prepare, with the assistance of the Chairman, agendas for Committee meetings and to call such meetings in accordance with the Constitution.
- Prepare and distribute the information and paperwork required for the AGM.
- After the AGM to update the list of officers and Committee Members with names, addresses, telephone numbers and to forward these changes to the Webmaster for uploading to the web.
- Attend the monthly Committee meetings and Monthly General Meeting and New Members' Meeting.
- Ensure that Minutes of monthly Committee meetings are available to the U3A membership.
- Ensure that all returns (other than financial) are made to U3A head office or other persons at the appropriate time
- Receive and distribute newsletters from other U3As (via email) in the Cotswold Link
- Carry out other such duties as may reasonably be associated with those of Secretary
- Act as a trustee, with other Committee Members, for Fairford and District U3A, registered charity number 1072658.
- Be honest and positive in attitude in all dealings with and for Fairford and District U3A.