

YOUR U3A NEEDS YOU!

When John first approached me about becoming Chairman, I must admit I did feel 'could I be bothered?', 'why me?', 'surely somebody else more qualified could do it' etc. etc. After chatting with John and attending a committee meeting I realised that it would not be time consuming or arduous, and that I could perform the role of chairman.

I now need similar minded people to volunteer to stand for the 2012 committee. At the next AGM a number of existing committee members who have served for three years, or more in some cases, have indicated they will be standing down. Additional help is also required to compile and edit our monthly magazine in order to reduce the work load on Alison Hobson who, I think you will agree, does an excellent job. **It would make compiling the magazine a lot easier if, in future, all group activity reviews could be limited to 200-250 words and submitted electronically.**

Reg Thoburn
01285 712397

Strollers and Pub Lunch Walking Groups in 2012

As members will, I suspect, be aware, Don Cobbett and Geoff Bishop have advised that, with regret, they will be standing down as leaders of their Walking Groups with effect from the end of 2011. For the Strollers, the November walk is fixed and they don't walk in December due to the proximity to Christmas. For the Pub Lunch group, walks are arranged for November and December.

We are therefore now looking for two Group Leaders and Volunteers for each Group, to lead one walk in 2012, from which to compile a year's forward programme; this system has worked very well for the Pub Lunch Walking Group as well as the Striders and Straddlers in 2011, as it shares the load, and we now want to try to achieve the same plan for Strollers.

We would therefore ask all members who have walked with either Group in the past to join Chairman Reg, Don Cobbett and myself at The Bull Hotel at 10.30am on Friday 18th November to try and achieve our objective.

Do please join us; these are two first class activity groups, and the Committee are very keen that they should continue.

Michael Yorke, Group Co-ordinator
01367 253286

Chairman Introduction

I would like to take this opportunity to thank John Burrows for the outstanding work he did as our chairman for the last three plus years. During that time Fairford U3A has flourished and he will certainly be a hard act to follow. I would also like to thank John personally in delaying his retirement until October so that I could enjoy my planned summer break.

Now for those who did not attend the AGM or do not know me let me introduce myself. I have lived in Fairford since 1985, having moved to the area to take up a position as a computer analyst/project manager with Intel Corporation based in Swindon. During this time I travelled widely throughout Europe and the USA, implementing computer financial systems. My previous working life consisted of 23 years in the computer industry in Essex working for a shipping company, Berger Paints and Polygram records. After I retired from Intel I worked part time for two local companies, Paperbackshop and New Wave Seafoods. In 2003/4 my wife and I project-managed the construction of a house in our back garden which is where we now live. My childhood was spent in East Ham, Seven Kings and Upminster and I am a lifelong West Ham supporter. I married my wife Jennifer in 1969 and we have two sons and four grandchildren. I am a governor for Goddard Park Academy School in Swindon, a role I have held for the last 10 years and I am currently the chair of finance.

My interests are computers, photography, travel (we have a motorhome), classic cars and supporting the activities of the family. My aims for the U3A are to continue the good work undertaken by John and to ensure the U3A continues to thrive and meet the needs of its members.

Reg Thoburn
01285 712397

'History is the witness that testifies to the passing of time; it illumines reality, vitalizes memory, provides guidance in daily life and brings us tidings of antiquity.'

Cicero (106 BC - 43 BC), Pro Publico Sestio

U3A October

At the October U3A meeting John Burrows, who had served on the committee for five and a half years as deputy, acting and full chairman, handed over to Reg Thoburn. All members appreciate John's steady leadership and are grateful to Reg for taking over the position.

The speaker was Malcolm Cutler who is known to many through his local connections. In contrast his talk was of matters far afield. He described how travelling for his various work purposes made him acutely aware of the devastating effects of malaria. One child under five dies every thirty seconds in Africa and 30,000 visitors a year are infected. Seeing the effects of the disease in rural areas and on GDP prompted him to concentrate on getting effective drugs to the needy. The usual drugs having lost their efficacy means that the best hope lies with Artemisinin. This is derived from a species of wormwood. It grows to over 10 feet tall in places like Vietnam and Madagascar, where it makes a good smallholder crop but must be harvested manually and then dried. The active ingredient is extracted with hexane, a hydrocarbon which has led to many deaths due to its flammability. For these different reasons attempts to produce it in England have not worked well. Already some resistance to it has developed because it was used as a monotherapy but now, in combination, hopes are high, although the supply chain takes about 15 months. Currently the big providers of this aid are UNICEF, UNITAID, the Gates Foundation and money raised in France from a levy on airline tickets.

Sylvia Jones

FAIRFORD & DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT

The society's next concert will be on Saturday, 12th November at 7.30 pm in St Mary's Church, Fairford.

Tickets are available from Blenheim Antiques in Fairford's Market Place, Fairford Opticians in the High Street, through the society's website (www.fairford.org/choralsociety) where you can also find general information about the choir and its concerts, or by telephoning 01285 713681. Conductor John Read will be at the U3A meeting on November 1st armed with tickets to sell (£8 each).

GROUP EVENTS

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

Biography

Friday 4 November

We shall meet at 2.30pm at Iris's house to discuss more biographies of our choice. Please note the change of date!

New members will be very welcome!

Kevin Hannigan
01367 250246
hannigan100@hotmail.com

Birdwatching

Thursday 10 November

We shall be going for a birdwatching cruise on the River Exe in Devon this month. We shall meet at Exmouth docks before boarding for our three hour cruise. Full details will be sent in advance to those who have booked.

Richard Morgan
01285 712085

'History will be kind to me for I intend to write it.'

Sir Winston Churchill (1874 - 1965)

Book Circle 1

Tuesday 8 November

We shall meet at Sheila's house in Kempsford to discuss our book choices for 2012.

Please let Sheila know if you are unable to come, and let her or me have your ideas

Sheila Morgan 01285 810471
Denny Rawlinson 01285 711009

Book Circle 2

Tuesday 8 November

We shall meet at Anthea's house at 2.30pm to discuss 'The Junior Officers' Reading Club' by Patrick Hennessy. Please let Anthea or me know if you will be unable to attend.

A reminder that 13 December is our planning meeting, so there is still time to gather your thoughts!

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

Bridge Improvers

We continue to meet in the Heritage room at the Community Centre every Monday afternoon from 2-4pm, for a lesson and friendly practice play. All those who play bridge and would like to improve are welcome, partners and refreshments provided.

Margaret Bishop
01285 713747
mbishop@talktalk.net

Chess

Wednesday 23 November

The next meeting will be at 3.30pm at Mike's house. There will be no meeting in December.

Mike Bennett
01367 252379
mish252379@btinternet.com

Family History 1

Wednesday 16 November

The meeting will be at my house at 2.30pm. We shall be discussing last month's visit to the Oxfordshire History Centre and the history of Thomas Shore, miller and spa owner, and how to discover it.

Miriam Scott
01285 713441

Family History 2

Wednesday 16 November

The meeting will be at my house at 2.30pm. We shall be discussing last month's visit to the Oxfordshire History Centre.

Michael Johnson
sanaelma@yahoo.co.uk
01285712637

Five Rhythms Dance

Wednesday 16 November

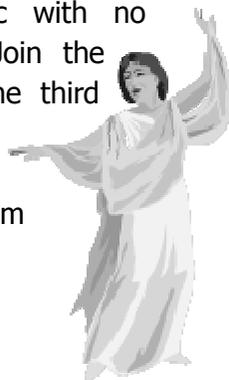
Moving to music with no steps to learn. Join the U3A group on the third Wednesday each month in the Palmer Hall at 10am

Gillian Bilbrough
01285 712579

Joyce Deane
01285 851408

'History is the version of past events that people have decided to agree upon.'

Napoleon Bonaparte
(1769 - 1821)



French Conversation

Intermediate

Désolé, mais pas de réunion en novembre; je serai aux Etats Unis! Je vous enverrai un email dès mon retour.

Rosemary Westlake
01285 712329
idrwestlake@gmail.com

Advanced

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

Kevin Hannigan
01367 250246
hannigan100@hotmail.com

Geology

Unfortunately, both Brian and I are away for the Geology meeting in November and the meeting has had to be cancelled. The next meeting will be on December 14th as usual at the Chapel venue in Milton Street.

Clive Watson
01285 713003

Garden Group

Thursday 17 November

This month we shall meet at 2pm in the Heritage Room at the Fairford Community Centre to watch a Gardening DVD.

If the weather is as glorious as it was for our October visit to Batsford, we may decide on an outdoor visit to somewhere not too far away. Please ring Glenda or me on the Thursday morning to find out where we are going. If the weather is looking unsettled we shall see you in the Community Centre at 2pm.

Glenda Evans 01285 711448
Carol Doherty 01285 711473

German Circle

Please contact Karin for further details.

Karin Forman
01367 252675

Keep Fit

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

Eddie Rosser
01367 252504

Latin

Thursday 3 November

The group meets on the first Thursday of the month at 2.30pm at my house. Please contact me if you are unable to come.

Susan Greig
01285 810274

Model Group

The Model group meets each Thursday morning.

For further details please contact:

Jim Sullivan
01367 252539

Needlework

The Needlework group will meet on November 9 and 23, at the Chapel.

For further details please contact:

Thelma Hardie
01285 713971

Philosophy

Wednesday 16 November

Our next meeting will be at Manus Moran's house. The subject will be 'The effect of the Enlightenment on Thought'.

Dan Deane
01285 851408

Music Listening

Friday 18 November

The November and December meetings will be held in the Heritage Room at Fairford Community Centre at 2.30pm.

In November the theme will be 'War and Peace' and will be hosted by Margaret Bishop.

In December the theme will be 'Arrivals' and will be hosted by Geoff Bishop.

A small extra charge will be requested to cover room hire charges and refreshments.

My grateful thanks to Geoff and Margaret Bishop for their help.

Mary Chick
01285 712126

Poetry Circle 1

Friday 4 November

The next meeting will be at Donald's house at 3pm and the subject will be 'weather'. I have agreed to be front person for the group for the time being.

Barbara Cottam
01285 711054

Poetry Circle 2

Friday 4 November

The next meeting will be at Barbara's house at 2.30pm when we shall be looking at the poetry of John Masefield.

For enquiries please phone:

Mary Chick
01285 712126

Postcard Group

Tuesday 15 November

The November meeting will be at my house as usual at 2.30pm. Liz will be showing some of her Fairford postcards which she has collected over the years. Members are asked to bring cards on the letter "F" (six maximum), continuing our alphabetical theme.

John Higgs
01285 712488

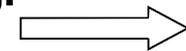
Recorders

Our next meetings will be Friday afternoons the 11th and 25th November. As usual, we'll be starting with our treble class (everyone welcome) from 2-2.30 followed by the main group at 2.30 to finish at 4.30 with a break for tea. We'll be in the Farmor room on the ground floor of the Fairford Community Centre.

If there are any more recorder players who would like to join a friendly, non-judgemental group, we have some spare instruments we could lend you.

Hilary Bradshaw
01793 720037
hilary@burytown15.co.uk
Jay Mathews
01367 253510
jaymathews124@mac.com

**Straddlers and Striders
Planning Meeting.
See page 12**



Rummikub

Thursday 10 November

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

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

Mary Bennett
01367 253287

Short Tennis

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

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

Margaret Trickett
01285 712421

Spanish

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

Frank Hall
01285 712583
fkhall@talktalk.net

Straddlers

Thursday 17 November

The walk of approximately 9.5 miles is centred on a delightful Cotswold valley south-east of Wotton-under-Edge. Starting in the small village of Alderley, we follow the Cotswold Way north, climbing Wortley Hill - quite a steep ascent, but with a wonderful view over the Severn estuary at the top. Then we leave the Way, over the fields to Newark Park (NT) and House (not open at this time of year), and sharply down to Ozleworth Bottom. The path follows a private drive taking us steadily uphill to Ozleworth itself, with the beautiful little church nestled between sumptuous mansions. A curving drive takes us back down into the valley and we follow a path east by the stream to Boxwell Court and then steeply uphill going south to join the Monarch's Way heading south-west along the top, with (we hope) wonderful views in all directions. At Hen's Cliff we descend to the valley and back to Alderley. The three steep ascents should keep us warm; very few stiles and not too much rough walking! Bring the usual refreshments.

Meet in Fairford car park **at 9am**, as parking in Alderley is very limited.

Suggested passenger rate is £4.50.

Michael Bottomley
01285 712074

Striders

Tuesday 22 November

The walk sets out from The Trout Inn, Wolvercote, situated to the north-west of Oxford. The route takes us through the village to join the footpath alongside the Oxford Canal which we shall follow all the way to Oxford. The return route follows the Thames Path back to Wolvercote. The walk is totally flat with no stiles at all. The Trout is a riverside pub with a very good selection of food at reasonable prices. We shall order our lunches before setting out on the walk. Leave Fairford car park at 9.10am to arrive at around 10am. Wolvercote is 28 miles from Fairford so passenger fees will be around £4.50 depending on numbers in a car. Those wishing to travel directly to the start may wish to contact me for route details.

Phil and Margaret Trickett
01285 712421

Straddlers and Striders Groups' Annual meeting

The annual meeting of all interested members will be held in the Bull Hotel on 8 December at 11am. This is a really important meeting – your views are vital in helping us plan our group's future policy. We are especially keen to find new walk leaders, so if you would like to walk with either group next year, please make every effort to come along.

Phil Trickett (Striders Group Leader) 01285 712421
John Burrows (Straddlers Group Leader) 01367 253056

Strollers

Friday 25 November

Our last walk of the year which we make a Christmas walk. Meet in the Fairford car park at 10am.

This year we shall be going to the newly refurbished Bull Hotel in Fairford. We have been promised seats in one of the 'new' areas and a 'new' menu. They would like our orders in advance and I shall have menus available at the U3A main meeting on Tuesday 1 November – that being the last date for ordering.

There will no walk in December as it would be too close to Christmas.

Please see Michael Yorke's item on **p3** about the meeting on **Friday 18 November**. Please try to be there.

Don Cobbett
01285 712692
dbcobbett@tiscali.co.uk

Traditional Jazz

Meeting 17 November

The Fabulous Fifties
Members will be otherwise engaged on our usual meeting date. The meeting will therefore be postponed to the third Thursday on the month, when we will listen the music of British bands in the 1940s/1950s. (Before Rock and Roll raised its ugly head). All U3A members are welcome.

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

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

Yoga

The Yoga group will meet in the Community Centre at 10.15am each Monday from September 26th to December 5th.

Sylvia Jones
01285 712657

Widford is a hamlet and deserted medieval village on the River Windrush about 1.5 miles east of Burford in West Oxfordshire probably 'broad ford'.

Walking & Pub Lunch

Wednesday 9 November

We start from The Swan Inn at Swinbrook – take the A40 towards Oxford from the Burford roundabout, pass the turning to Widford, and it's the next on the left. Park in the Orchard car park at the rear of the pub. From there we head off past St Mary's Church towards St Oswalds Church at Widford, and up a long gully to a lane, and thence to Paynes Farm. We then bear off towards Widley Copse and stroll down hill for a mile to the A361 beside the Masons Arms at Fulbrook, before taking a narrow lane for the mile or so back to the pub. About 2½ hours across fields and paths, and, surprisingly for me, some things called hills! Walking boots, as always, strongly recommended.

It's about 15 miles and so the cost to passengers will be £2. Please aim to leave Fairford car park at 9.30am to arrive at the pub by 9.50am for a 10am start. I will meet you at the pub. PLEASE NOTE that we shall NOT be able to order lunch beforehand or use the toilets. I will aim to phone in half way around the walk with numbers so tables can be reserved.

Kevin Hannigan
01367 250246
hannigan100@hotmail.com

13

GROUP REVIEWS

Birdwatching

Our decision not to go to Ashleworth Ham was vindicated by members of the local RSPB Group who had visited a couple of days earlier and found the whole area far too dry for any wild fowl or waders. We had a very pleasant and sunny walk in the Cotswold Water Park instead.

We started our walk in the Waterhay car park and followed a new route for the group. There seemed to be no shortage of water at the lakes we visited, although there were not many bird species on them. A great crested grebe trying to swallow a massive fish kept us amused for some time. There had recently been reports on the web of exciting species visiting a new scrape in the vicinity but unfortunately this area is not yet available to the public as the work is not finished.

Away from the water we saw a good number of hedgerow birds feeding in the bushes, bathing in a puddle and generally enjoying the sunshine – of particular interest were a pair of bullfinches and a stonechat. Overhead we had super views of two sparrowhawks, several kestrels and a couple of curlew in addition to the usual rooks, crows and woodpigeons. A green woodpecker and a cettis warbler were heard but not seen. Overall we logged forty species of bird.

Richard Morgan

The Garden Group in October

On a gloriously sunny day in late October, we revelled in the arboreal variety of Batsford Arboretum – the sun shone through different shades of acers, the Katsura trees gave off their characteristic burnt sugar smell and we all fell in love with the graceful little sorbus with pink berries.

This was the first time most of us had been since the new visitor centre opened this Spring. The restaurant is much improved, larger and more to choose from, but we were disappointed in the plant centre – the plants are now bought in, are expensive and are limited as regards choice. It is much more like a garden centre than a nursery now.

However, don't let that deter you from visiting the arboretum itself. There is a great variety of trees and shrubs in attractive settings, very good labelling and some unusual specimens – I'd never seen Indian Pokeweed before!
Margaret Toms

14

Book Circle 1

The Woodcutter – Reginald Hill

Our September book was an impromptu one due to the unavailability of our first choice, but nevertheless proved to be unusual and provided plenty of discussion.

Reginald Hill was born in April 1936 in West Hartlepool to an ordinary working class family and mostly brought up in Cumbria, where some of his novels are based. He used to entertain his younger brother by making up stories full of sudden death, blood, violence and narrow escapes. He always wanted to be a writer and when he was 30 seriously got down to writing a full length novel. His first book was published in 1970 and so has been writing for the best part of 40 years. He is a prolific writer but remains committed to quality of story. He is the author of the Dalziel and Pascoe novels some of which have been recreated for TV. He also writes superb short fiction. In 1995 he was the winner of the Crime Writers' Association Award.

'The Woodcutter' is a stand-alone thriller, set mostly in Cumbria and tells the story of the rise, fall and renaissance of a remarkable character called Wolf Hadda. It is the tale of a life of devotion to his wife, business success and prosperity – a man who has everything – but which one day falls apart when he is accused of disgraceful crimes. He loses everything – fortune, family, friends. He has an accident and is crippled but survives. He is imprisoned and when released finds that his wife has remarried to his former lawyer. The book then poses the question—will Hadda seek vengeance on those who tried to destroy him?

The book is not a straightforward revenge thriller. Hill keeps his readers on their toes defying them to guess what will happen next, with the narrative veering off into unexpected directions, and involving a startling twist at the end.

We all found this a splendidly entertaining read, and certainly an unusual choice for our group.

Sheila Morgan

Book Circle 2

My Father's Fortune by Michael Frayn

I was not sure how I came to be leading the discussion on this book and while reading it I tried to work out who in the group had recommended it.

Michael Frayn is a famous novelist and playwright and in the past the group have discussed his novels with enthusiasm. Some of us have also enjoyed seeing his very popular play 'Noises Off'. He has won over a dozen awards for his varied work, including translation and journalism. 'My Father's Fortune' won the PEN/Ackerley Prize beating 'The Hare with Amber Eyes', which we enjoyed reading earlier this year, and 'My Father's Fortune' was runner up for the Costa Book Awards in 2010.

So, why was this book such a disappointment for most of us? The title was misleading since the book was largely about Michael Frayn's own early life, in which his father played the part you would expect. The brief account of Tom Frayn's early years portrays him as an admirable man who made his way in the world in spite of difficulties. The group (except one of us) felt this was a story for the Frayn family rather than the general reader and the book had no lasting literary merit.

One of our group bravely said she liked the book. She had read it twice and enjoyed it the second time. Except for all those flattering reviews - she was a lone voice. But, of course, I now know who recommended the book to the group.

Ian Westlake

Philosophy

The subject this month was 'Predestination'. Francis led the discussion with a comprehensive view of the Roman Catholic beliefs of the subject. He dealt with the dichotomy of predestination and free will. We discussed the attitude of Calvin, whose view was slightly different, and as Donald pointed out, Calvin had been a lawyer. A more modern view was that our genes determine our future and leave little opportunity for free will. The gene theory tries to answer the question of altruistic acts in the Darwinian struggle for existence. Predestination appears in a number of other faiths and near the end of the discussion Susan talked about the Greek gods.

Dan Deane

Family History 1 & 2

Keen family historians will travel all around the country to find further information on their ancestors, which they have otherwise been unable to find. For those who had not visited an archive office before, our trip to the Oxfordshire History Centre was a valuable experience.

On arrival, we put our coats, bags and lunches into security lockers and placed our working papers into the see-through folders provided, along with our pencils. This ensured that we didn't take anything untoward into the search room, nor remove anything from it. The staff helpfully told us where to find information related to the local area. They also showed us the availability of searches that could be undertaken on the computers, valuable because it saved our productive time.

We then set about our own individual research, stopping for lunch where we chatted about our individual findings. After this, we returned to the search room to continue our studies.

Miriam was delighted to put on gloves to search the original Parish registers for her Great, Great Grandmother whom she found had been baptised in 1790: Clive discovered further information on his ancestor, Sidney Watson, a conductor, who lived in Oxford: Glenda continued her search for information on the Gillett family (previous owners of her home, Rose Cottage) online, and was able to find dates for their marriages and deaths: Judith found a newspaper item on a Coroner's Inquest into the death of a relative who had lived in Swinbrook, near Burford in 1873: Mike assisted Ann in searching for her maternal Irish relatives, as well as undertaking his own research: Philip keenly browsed the archives, to establish the sources of information available, and I had some online success with Births, Marriages, Deaths and Census records, finding records for both a paternal and maternal Great, Great Grandfather, in addition to the marriage date for my 3 x Great Grandfather, Daniel.

We departed in agreement that the visit had been thoroughly worthwhile, each of us having benefited in different ways from the experience.

Elizabeth Berry

Pétanque

On 5th October the Pétanque group met up at St Michael's Park in Cirencester for an end of season melee. Phil Trickett had the men's highest overall score of 36, and the winning lady's score was also 36! Patsy Egerton and Jan Martin were equal on scores so Dave had to resort to working out the points difference and Patsy just shaded it. The morning ended with an enjoyable lunch at the Wagon and Horses and Phil and Patsy were awarded a small trophy each.

Our very last game of the season was then held at The Red Lion on 12th October when many were able to have a last practice before our trip to the Isle of Wight.

Heather and Dave Baber

Pétanque weekend tour to the Isle of Wight

Sixteen members of the Pétanque group along with four minders recently enjoyed a trip to Sandown to participate in a weekend of competition with members of other Pétanque clubs from Croydon, Sussex and the Island itself. On Saturday we competed as five triples teams and soon discovered that the other players were far more serious about the sport than we are. Many play three or four times a week throughout the year in local leagues. There were even three internationals among them. We learned a lot about the game itself and also about attitudes to the games and to opponents!

On Sunday we were all in teams with one of us accompanied by two others and we achieved some success. Patsy was in the winning team of the main event beating Graham's team in the final while Jenny won the final of the "Plate" competition. Others won prizes in minor competitions. I won a prize in the raffle!

The format was such that we all played at least five games each day. The weather was not summer-like. It was better than that! All our travelling went very smoothly and the social side of the weekend was wonderful.

Phil Trickett

Poetry Circle 1

We met on a sunny October afternoon at Kay Padgett's house. Ian opened the meeting by speaking of the many ways in which we shall miss Keith Cottam and offered condolences to Barbara on behalf of the group. He thanked her for coming to this meeting; we all appreciated how difficult it was for her. Donald Scott then read a poem by Louis Macneice - 'Sunlight on the garden'- which summed up the feelings of the group for Keith. The poem ends:-

'But glad to have sat under
Thunder and rain with you
And grateful too
For sunlight on the garden.'

The subject for this meeting, 'An Irish Poet', had been chosen by John Rose, whose choice of poem, The Memory of the Dead by John Kells Ingram led us to wonder which event was being referred to. (Barbara later discovered that it was the Battle of Vinegar Hill 1798.)

Unsurprisingly, W.B.Yeats was the favoured poet for the afternoon. We all enjoyed readings of The Song of Wandering Aengus, Easter 1916, and The Fiddler of Dooney. Kay's choice was familiar to most of us, An Old Woman of the Road by Padraig Colum, while Celia read the less well known The Habits, written shortly before his death, by Louis Macneice.

Totally new to us all was Rosemary's choice. She had been loaned the new edition of The Penguin Book of Irish Poetry, a massive tome, which includes work from as early as the 13th century. Poets at that time were writing in Gaelic; fortunately much of their work has been translated by modern poets. Poet to Blacksmith was written by Eoghan Rua O Suilleabhain, who died in 1784, and translated by Seamus Heaney. The poet gives detailed instructions for the making of

'A suitable tool for digging and grubbing the ground
Lightsome and pleasant to lean on or cut with or lift.....'

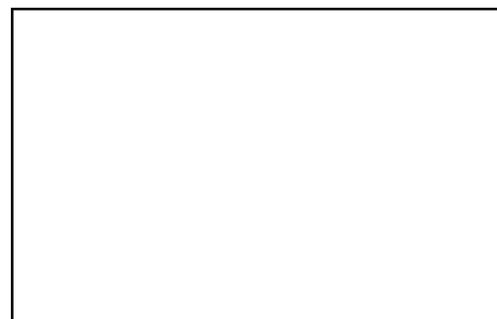
A delightful poem which charmed us all.

Ian & Rosemary Westlake

Timetable of Group Activities

Monthly: Chess on a Wednesday. Needlework and Recorders meet twice monthly. Pétanque and Cycling April-October only.

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Monday am	French Yoga	French Yoga	French Yoga	French Yoga
pm	Bridge Short tennis	Bridge Short Tennis	Bridge Short Tennis	Bridge Short Tennis
Tuesday am	Keep Fit	Keep Fit Spanish	Keep Fit Bird watching	Keep Fit Spanish Striders
pm	Main meeting	Book Circle 1 Book Circle 2	Postcards	
Wednesday am	Pétanque	Walking & PL Pétanque	Five Rhythms Pétanque	Cycling & PL Pétanque
pm		Geology	Family History 1 Family History 2 Philosophy	Chess
Thursday am	Model Boats	Model making	Model Boats Straddlers	Model Boats
pm	Latin Traditional Jazz	Rummikub	Garden	
Friday am				Strollers
pm	Poetry Circle Poetry Two	Recorders	Music	Recorders



Please send items for the
December
issue to Alison Hobson email:
alisonmhobson@googlemail.com
01285 711768
no later than
Friday
25th November