



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

**Fairford & District
Newsletter**

**Issue 255
November
2018**

Plant Conservation at the National Trust



Simon Toomer

www.fairfordu3a.org.uk

Registered Charity No 1072658

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

Main Meeting



6 November: Plant Conservation at the National Trust

Simon Toomer will describe the range and significance of the plants growing in the gardens, parks and properties owned by the Trust. He will also talk about some of the collectors and gardeners behind the plant collections and how the Trust works to ensure the plants' conservation through planned propagation, distribution and biosecurity.

Forthcoming Meetings

4 December: Christmas Meeting

Live story cabaret by Chloë Green. It's Christmas Eve in the city. A workaholic businesswoman sneers at charity appeals and pursues her dodgy financial trading late into the night. Downtrodden secretary and single mum Roberta Cratchit begs one day off, to spend with her disabled son Tim. But when the wealthy miser-ess goes home, she's visited by the ghost of her late business partner with a terrible warning. So begins a wild night of visitations by the spirits ... and a dreadful vision of the businesswoman's final Christmas in the future if she fails to change her ways. Of course our female Scrooge is transformed – and luckily these days you can organise Christmas online at 4am!

8 January: Banish Scams and Fraud

The Coventry Building Society will be advising us on how to stay safe.

5 February: In Defence of the Drift - A Gloster Boy Abroad

Paul Barnett will talk about the long forgotten tale of Forest boy Alfred Hook V.C. and his exploits whilst at Rorkes Drift - January 22-23 1879.

Up in the Clouds with some Fluffy Bits

The title for October's talk may have sounded enigmatic but very appropriately covered the career of Alan Brewer. As a youngster perhaps he did not realise that he was a brilliant mimic with the makings of a stand-up comedian. With no clear plans when he left school, local opportunities resulted in him becoming a master baker and then a chef.

These qualifications led to a job in the BBC where he recalled being in charge of expediting the Fanny Craddock Cooking Show with Johnnie waiting in the wings. In those days programmes were broadcast live and maybe the tension this generated, coupled with his saucy wit, prepared him for the job which filled the rest of his career - as a steward with BOAC and BA. He soon rose to being in charge of flights carrying royalty, prime ministers, pop stars and celebrities. One celebrity, whom he named, always travelled on an economy ticket and relied on her reputation to get upgraded but he delighted in never letting her get into first class. As he said, 'That was my pension she was undercutting.'

He obviously enjoyed brushing shoulders with royalty and told several tales about being in charge of escorting the Queen when she flew to open the Commonwealth Games in New Zealand. The entire plane had to be refitted to accommodate double and single bedrooms, dining rooms, lounges etc. The Queen managed to cause, first him and then the entourage of escorts and journalists, to spill their breakfasts by suddenly appearing (still in her dressing gown). She was suitably contrite and Alan reckoned that that is why he and his six stewards, all female, were invited thereafter to breakfast each morning on the Royal Yacht Britannia, in which Prince Philip and Charles had sailed over from England.

Now in retirement he is enjoying his skill in entertaining audiences.

Sylvia Jones



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A very quiet month as we pass into the Autumn. The Chairman and Vice Chairman (the two Marilyn!) went to a meeting of the Cotswold Link on 4 October in Gloucester where we were welcomed and met several other U3As who were there. You may know that our Area consists of 25 U3As; the organisation is like a huge cake with several slices consisting of different areas containing over 1000 individual U3As. Our 'slice' consists of Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire. We were given a talk on 'Keeping it Legal' which was not as dull as it sounds and is necessary in today's litigious society. We discussed many issues, amongst them GDPR and Beacon – more will follow at a later date on these subjects as discussions are still ongoing.

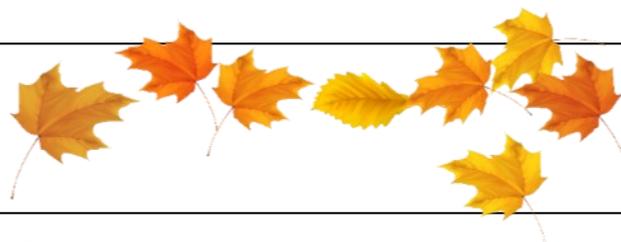
We discovered that (surprise, surprise) many U3As have problems attracting committee members and sadly, there were no real answers to this one – one U3A had considered joining with another neighbouring U3A to increase the 'talent pool' but in reality, this didn't happen as two people stepped forward at the last minute. If you are new to the U3A and are looking for an interest in retirement do consider joining the Committee – we do have a lot of fun! Everyone has something to offer and the 'work' is not onerous!

We decided at Committee not to have an August meeting but to incorporate this into another occasion to be decided. Any ideas would be welcome!

Marilyn Gibbon

01285 713928

chairman@fairfordu3a.org.uk



Our Speakers

I am sure that those of you who attended the October meeting will smile when they recall some of the tales that our speaker Alan Brewer told. He has promised to come back in the future and give us 'part two'.

Many of you will not know that our Speakers are booked up to a year in advance and we are therefore coming to the end of those booked by Marilyn Gibbon during her time as Programme Secretary.

I have booked our Speakers for 2019 and hope that you will enjoy them. I have a varied selection including a talk on Scams and Frauds and how to avoid them, beekeeping, a ride around England on horseback, the spirit of Brunel and a talk by a Headmaster of a Swindon School which is twinned with a slum school in Nairobi. I will shortly be looking to book Speakers for 2020 and if any of you know of any which may be suitable do please let me know.

Some speakers supplement their income by giving talks, but others raise money for their chosen charities such as Linda Dowsett who will give us a talk on how she came to appear on the TV show The Weakest Link (I am sure you will all remember Ann Robinson, "You are the weakest link - GOODBYE!") Linda has raised a huge amount of money for Guide Dogs for the Blind and has funded the training and purchase of several dogs for this worthwhile cause.

I have at present a list of 13 members who are willing to give a vote of thanks. Out of a membership of over 400 I am sure that there may well be others among you who would be willing to thank our Speakers. If you would like to be added to my list please do contact me.

Jen Thoburn 01285 712397

Solos Holiday - Isle of Wight 2019

The Solos group is organizing a 6-day, 5-night holiday with Barnes Coaches starting on Sunday 9 June until Friday 14 June 2019 to the Isle of Wight at a cost of £415 each. We have reserved 24 front of coach seats, although they could be added to if necessary.

We will stay in Shanklin and visit Yarmouth, The Needles, Alum Bay, Osborne House, etc.

This offer is open to everyone. If anybody is interested in joining us, please contact me at: sanaelma@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01285 712637.

(Leave a message on the answer phone if necessary and I will get back to you.)

Michael Johnson



Christmas Lunch

Monday 10 December 2018

12noon for 12.30pm

at 'THE CROWN OF CRUCIS'

Please make sure that you complete the Booking Form and submit it to me as soon as possible if you wish to attend.

The Menu and Form will be available at our November Meeting, also online.

Jen Thoburn

01285 712397

progsec@fairfordu3a.org.uk



Tea Rota

December : Committee

January : Yoga

February : Anglo-Saxon Poetry

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



Straddlers and Striders retiring leaders

We, the past and present Striders and Straddlers should not let John and Phil's retirements pass without a word of appreciation and thanks. They have led the two groups for "n" years and we are extremely grateful for that. They have cajoled, pleaded and arm twisted the monthly walk leaders year on year with good humour and endeavour. They have also been a pain on occasion, but we can forgive them that.

Thank you very much gentlemen, you set an excellent example for others to follow.

Paul O'Shaughnessy

GROUP REPORTS

Anglo-Saxon Poetry

At our September meeting Maureen gave us a masterly and inspiring talk on King Alfred which really brought him to life.

Did he burn the cakes? This, of course, is the question on everyone's lips when they think of Alfred the Great. Nobody really knows but the story stems from the time when Alfred and a band of his men, under strong attack from the Vikings, withdrew to the Somerset Levels where he conducted a resistance movement, eventually defeating the Viking Leader Guthrum.

The only English King ever to be called Great, Alfred's achievements were significant. He built up the defences of his kingdom, reorganised his army and built a series of well-defended settlements (burhs) across Southern England. He also established a navy.

He established a code of laws and a reformed coinage. He had a strong belief in the importance of education and was instrumental in ensuring important texts were available in the English language, translating many of them himself.

By the 890s, Alfred's charters and coinage were referring to him as 'King of the English'. He died in October 899 AD and was buried at his capital city of Winchester.

We bravely attempted a paragraph of his writing in the original and then heard one of the most moving tracks of 'Beowulf'. After the death of Beowulf there was a long silence.

Miriam Scott
Iris Anne Lewis

Book Circle 1



Our book for October was 'Home Going' by the American Ghanaian novelist Yaa Gyasi. Born in 1989 in Manpong, Ghana, she and her family came to the U.S.A where she was raised in Alabama. This is her first novel. The book follows the fortunes of the families of two sisters from the Gold Coast of Africa to the plantations of the Mississippi; from the missionary schools of Ghana to the dive-bars of Harlem. The novel has won awards and was inspired by the author's visit to Ghana in 2009.

'Home Going' raised discussion in our group about slavery from about 1775 to the modern day slavery of our time. Many of us found the book difficult to read and it received a mixed reaction. Some enjoyed the book and others found that it was hard to follow. We talked about the different aspects of the book including the way that the early people spoke and the theme of the black stones which were passed on through the families through the generations.

On the whole, I think that we were glad to have read the book as it was based on experiences that may have occurred and some of history of slavery that we might not otherwise have encountered. The two sisters and their descendants had very different destinies. We recognised the hardships that were suffered by all involved - Europeans and Africans alike. We read about the search for equality in 60's America. The novel ends in modern times with Marcus, a descendant, visiting the castle and dungeons in Ghana where his ancestors had begun their journey.

Alison Grimley

Book Circle 2

In October we read 'To Kill a President' by Sam Bourne which is the pen name of Jonathan Freedland, who was born in 1967 and educated at Oxford. He has written seven books as Sam Bourne and has worked for The Daily Mirror, Evening Standard, the Washington Post and the New York Times, he is currently writing for the Guardian.

The book is essentially a feminist thriller. A White House legal aide, Maggie, discovers a plot to murder the newly elected president. Maggie is attempting to mitigate the excesses of her misogynistic boss (this may sound familiar) and at the same time trying to thwart the plan to assassinate him. The majority of the group really enjoyed the book, even though thrillers are an unusual choice and a very lively and interesting discussion took place.

Lyn Thornhill

Birdwatching

16 October in the Forest of Dean it was a very dull and murky day, and unfortunately this was mirrored by the birding! This was the forest on a quiet day, starting from the Speech House car park which was very busy with a big flock of typical woodland species, nuthatch, treecreeper, and a mixed flock of tits boded well! Unfortunately, as we walked the surrounding area around Crabtree hill we added stonechat, raven and very little else! (We did see some Exmoor ponies) (I didn't realize we had walked that far!) A stop at a fruiting yew tree held a large flock of blackbirds, song thrush and a very brief hawfinch! Lunch was taken at the 'Woodman Inn', an excellent choice! Not only for the food, but also, we scoped hawfinch, redwings and fieldfares from the car park!

After a delicious lunch we travelled a considerable distance to Crown Lane adding greenfinches and a few more hawfinches to the list, and we concluded the day failing to see a dipper along the river near the Fountain Inn. As always, we would like to thank everybody for their support.
Mick & Jo

Creative Writing

Well here we are at the start of a new term. Although we have lost a few members we have also gained some. One member has moved away to Ross on Wye, another is racing his grandchildren to O level French! We have a new member who started at the end of the last term and a couple who are 'trying us out'.

There is still plenty of room though if anyone else would like to have a go. We are a very varied group, from retired teachers to ex-shop workers but we all fancy the idea of writing. We have a different topic each week with as many styles as you can imagine. Occasionally a mind goes blank so we talk. We do a lot of talking!

There is a set programme but different interpretations of each subject, it's surprising how we can get half a dozen variations on one theme. Sometimes we get the odd poem, (when I say odd I mean odd) but more often it is short stories, or even parts of longer things. 'I would like to tell my grandchildren' is a phrase often heard. Our lives were so different to those nowadays.

Our times have changed because several of us wanted to join the new table tennis course. Now we start at 9.45 and go on to 11.15, this gives us time to get down to the community centre for 11.30, which is a good change from sitting and writing. So, we would like some more members, even if you just come to 'try us out'. I'm told the tea/coffee and biscuits make it worth coming for. Hope to see more of you, perhaps I have whetted some appetites.

Jo Stichbury

Cycling with a Pub Lunch

One of the joys of living in The Cotswolds is that one can frequently find quiet lanes and byways that have not been explored before. That is what the peloton did this month. Alan had found a delightful cafe in Chedworth, so the route taken was into Bibury, then through the Coln valley villages calling in at the very interesting historical church at Coln St Dennis then on to Coln Rogers then into Chedworth. An excellent lunch was taken under the usual cloudless blue sky. Route back was via Ready Token then into Quenington, where the group split into its usual pattern. Tom, Dave, Pete and Alan all went to places they had not been to before, such is the variety of where we live.

Paul O'Shaughnessy.



Poetry Group 1

We were asked to select light-hearted poems for our October meeting in Lechlade. Three poems by Pam Ayres were read and appreciated for their immediate humour, 'Oh no, I've got a cold', 'Clive, the fearless Birdman' and 'The Wonderbra Song'. We also enjoyed 'Mulga Bill's Bike' by Banjo Paterson, and two of Carol Ann Duffy's poems from 'The World's Wife'. 'Sister Agnes writes to her Beloved Mother' by Paul Durcan had a surprising twist, and the poem 'z+b+x=y+b+z' by E.V.Rieu took many of us back to our struggle with school Algebra lessons. 'Hamlet in 17 seconds' by Stanley J. Sharpness was another amusing reminder of school, and Kate Clanchy's poem 'Cambridge' had some startling suggestions on how to improve the city. On a more gentle note, 'Fern Hill', by Dylan Thomas, took us on a different light-hearted journey.

We always welcome new members and, during the winter months, we shall be meeting at 2pm.

Celia Long

Rummikub

We would just like everybody to know just how much we enjoy playing Rummikub. We play every second Thursday of the month in the Community Centre. Some people have no idea what is involved in the game and, indeed, just how enjoyable it is. We often make more noise than all the other activities in the Centre at the same time!

The game is played with small tiles marked with coloured numbers – 1 to 9/Red, Orange, Black and Blue. Players initially pick up 18 tiles and then take it in turns either to lay down a set of tiles or pick another tile if they cannot go. The primary object of the game is to lay down runs of 3 or more tiles (sequential and same colour) or groups of 3 or 4 tiles (same number and different colours). Then the fun starts because the secondary object is for players to use their own tiles to add to or alter existing sets. The first person to use up all their tiles calls Rummikub and is the winner.

A common misconception is that the game is all about numbers and maths – wrong. To start the game, we do have to count up to 30, but that is where the counting stops. Another misconception is that the game is serious, which could not be further from the truth. It is an easy game to pick up and can be enjoyed from your very first game.

If you would like to sample a game just turn up at the Community Centre at 2.00pm on any second Thursday for a trial session, or contact one of our Group Leaders. Alternatively, if you would prefer a quiet introduction to the game then just give us a ring.

Alan & Linda Eagle 01285 712515

Scrabble

The first Scrabble session since our summer break was on Thursday 4th October. Seven U3A members enjoyed their games but the group would welcome more members. If you enjoy playing Scrabble, and even if you're not a very competent player, you are very welcome to come and join us. We meet at Fairford Community Centre in the Heritage room on the first Thursday of the month and play from 2.30 - 4.30pm. The next session will be on 1st November and in December we will play on Thursday, 6th.

Kathleen Price

Walking with a Pub Lunch

On the 10 October it was a lovely warm and sunny morning, 16 walkers arrived at the nature reserve Whelford Pools. The walk was approximately 4.5 miles, it took in views of lakes, woodland, and a rambling walk along the banks of the river Coln, through the newly planted arboretum. Then we made our way back through Lakes by Yoo to have a very enjoyable lunch at 'The George'.

Ann Wightman

Solos

In September we visited the 'Greyhound' at Siddington for an excellent evening meal, but we had to cancel a trip on the Gloucestershire and Warwickshire railway, owing to bad weather. Our October lunch was at the New Inn in Lechlade where large platefuls of tasty food was served, afterwards we went to the Wyevale Garden Centre for a browse and coffee. The afternoon was a very convivial one.

Mike Johnson

Strollers

On Friday 28 September it was a bright sunny day and there were 10 of us starting the walk from The Crown of Crucis. After ordering our lunches, we set off towards Harnhill Manor House, admiring the estate, before turning left through Harnhill Park and back towards the A417. On the way to Harnhill we were delighted to see some reindeer in the fields, some with significantly large horns - suitable for Father Christmas!



Further along, we stopped to look round the beautiful St. Mary's Church at Ampney St. Mary. The flower arrangers were starting to prepare for Harvest and it looked charming.

We crossed the river and followed the path round to a stile, heading in the direction of the school. But we turned left instead and made our way back to The Crown of Crucis for lunch.

On Sunday evening five of us went to the Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church where we had a candlelit service amongst the flowers.

Jean and Doug Crowley

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 22 November

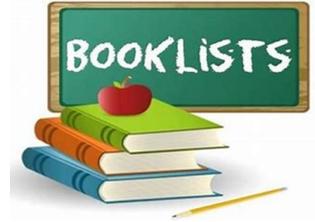
We shall meet at my house at 10.30am. Please let me know if you are unable to come.

Miriam Scott
01285 713441

Book Circle 1

Tuesday 13 November

We shall meet at Heather's house, at 2.00pm, to discuss our book choices for the next 12 months.



Sheila Morgan
01285 810471

Boccia

Thursdays

We 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.

For information please call:

Reg Thoburn: 01285 712397
David & Heather Baber: 01285 711343

Book Circle 2

Tuesday 13 November

The group meet at 2.30pm at the home of Julie Watkins to discuss 'The Night Circus' by Erin Morgenstern.

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

Jane Pugh
01285 712184 pughtajm@gmail.com



Birdwatching

Tuesday 20 November

This month's visit is to WWT Slimbridge, where we will be certain of the arrival of many of the migrating species, including Bewick Swans and various of the duck varieties.

Meet at Fairford Car Park at 9.00am to arrange lifts. We will be taking lunch in the much-improved cafe/restaurant at Slimbridge, and will debate the options for the afternoon for those interested in the longer outing. Suggested passenger donation £2.50

Mick and Jo Jones
Geoff Dennis 01285 712195 bethandgeoff@yahoo.com

Bridge Improvers

Mondays

The group will continue to meet every Monday afternoon (except Bank Holidays) from 2 to 4 pm 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 Tel. 01285 238834
mbishop1@timetalk.co.uk

Chess

We play for fun and do not 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 Wednesday 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

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

Cycling with a Pub Lunch

This group has finished for the season and will recommence in March next year.

Paul O'Shaughnessy
01367 850262.
paulatsscissor@btinternet.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

November

November is a spinner
Spinning in the mist,
Weaving such a lovely web
Of gold and amethyst.
In among the shadows
She spins till close of day,
Then quietly she folds her hands
And puts her work away.

by Margaret Rose

Dance to Five Rhythms

Wednesday 21 November

We dance regularly at the Palmer Hall on the third Wednesday of the month at 10.00am.

New members welcome. Come and move to the music!

Joyce Deane
01285 851408

French 1

Mondays 5, 19 November

We meet on the 1st and 3rd 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 Groups 2 & 3

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 (and any other subject!)

French Group 2 is hosted either by Carole McDerment 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 when and where the Groups are meeting each week:

Carole McDerment French 2 - 01285 711354
Jean Crowley - French 2 - 01285 711775
Alison Wilson - French 3 - 01285 711574

Garden Group

Thursday 22 November

For details contact Geoff and Beth Dennis.

01285 712195
bethandgeoff@yahoo.com

Pétanque

Food, glorious food! Once again, the tables groaned under all the lovely goodies supplied by our members when we held our annual Melee in August. Thankfully, the heatwave had subsided, so it was a pleasant day to take on the task of 3 games, scoring the full 13 each time. Normally we time our games, so to venture on to a score of 13 which sometimes took quite a while and was quite a feat. The 2018 winners were - The Lady's Trophy went to Jen Thoburn and the Gent's Trophy went to John Zwyko. Well done to everyone and we did appreciate the expression of gratitude by the members. We have such a fantastic bunch of players that it's always a pleasure to organise any event.

In October, 23 players travelled to the Isle of Wight for a Pétanque weekend. We will report on our success! In the next newsletter!

Our season has to end, and this year it will be on Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th October, resuming again in April 2019. However, a New Year's lunch and a pre-season meeting will be fitted in before then.

Heather and Dave Baber
01285 711343

Keep Fit

Tuesdays

Group meets weekly on Tuesday mornings at 9.30 in the Palmer Hall.

For details contact

Chris Pooley

01367 250346

Italian Group

Mondays 5, 19 November

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. Contact:

Euan Greig 01285 641536

Euan.greig@btinternet.com

Latin

Thursdays 1 November, 6 December

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



Geology

Wednesdays 14 November, 5 December

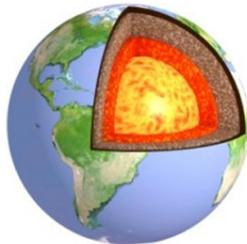
The Wednesday meeting will be at Fairford United Church, Milton St at 2.30pm.

December's meeting will revert to the first week of the month and will be the 2nd video on the 'Rise of the Continents'; this time about Australia.

The meeting on 5 December is at my home at 23 Moor Lane, Fairford.

For further details of our Geology meetings please contact me.

Clive Watson
01285 713003



Model Group

Thursdays

The Model Group meets weekly on Thursday mornings.

Please contact me for details.

Jim Sullivan 01367 252539

Industrial Heritage

For details of this month's activities please contact:

Pete Evans

01285 713069

pete.whooper@hotmail.co.uk

Music Listening

Friday 16 November

We meet at the house of John and Val Higgs to play Music from the war years at 2.00pm.

Please let me know if you are unable to come.

Gillian Bilbrough

01285 712579

MahJong

Thursdays 1, 15 November

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. Our Group is now full, but we are often able to accommodate guest players. 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

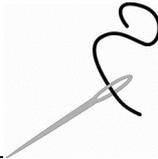


Needlework

Wednesdays 14, 28 November

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.

Pauline Jones
01285 851212



Philosophy

Wednesdays

For details of this month's activities please contact

Dan Deane
01285 851408

Poetry Circle 1

Fridays 2 November, 7 December

The group usually meets on the first Friday of the month at 2.30pm 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

Fridays 2 November, 7 December

We meet at 2.00pm, in November at Doreen's house to read poetry by Edward Lear. Then in December we will read some of our favourite poems at Jen's house.

Please contact me if you are unable to come.
Helen Evans 01285 713431

Postcards

Tuesday 20 November

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

Quilting

Wednesday 7 November, 5 December

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

Freda Lang
01285 713331



Recorders

Fridays 9, 23 November

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.)



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

Short Tennis

Mondays

This group meets in the Palmer Hall every Monday between 3.00 and 5.00pm. We have room for one or two experienced tennis players if anyone would like to give me a ring or come along one Monday to see me.

Margaret Trickett
01285 712421

Scottish Reels

Wednesday 21 November

We normally meet on the third Wednesday of the month at Poulton Village Hall starting at 8.00pm.

Contact me for more details.

Richard Thompson 01285 712123
richard@richardandcarol.net



Rummikub

Thursday 8 November

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

Lilian Pooley
01367 250346



Table Tennis

Wednesdays

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

Fridays

Sessions are held in the Keble Room 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 713928

Solos

Monday 5 November

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

Michael Johnson
01285 712637
sanaelma@yahoo.co.uk

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.

Sylvia Jones
01285 712657



S₁ C₃ R₁ A₁ B₃ B₃ L₁ E₁

Thursday 6 December

The first Scrabble session since our summer break was on Thursday 4th October. Seven U3A members enjoyed their games but the group would welcome more members. If you enjoy playing Scrabble, and even if you're not a very competent player, you are very welcome to come and join us.

We meet at Fairford Community Centre in the Heritage room on the first Thursday of the month and play from 2.30 - 4.30pm. Please note that our next meeting will be in December.

If you have any queries, contact Kathleen Price, 01285 712417, mr.ivor.price@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.



Strollers and Pub Lunch Walking Groups Planning Meeting for 2019

Friday 7 December

To be held at 10.00am at Ann Wightman's house and we look forward to seeing all members who have led, or participated in, a walk in 2018 or would like to lead a walk in 2019. Maps, guides etc. are available for those who would like to volunteer for the first time. If you are uncertain, do join us at the meeting; walks are fun for leaders as well as walkers, so hopefully we can convince you.

Reg Thoburn 01285 712397
Ann Wightman 01285 712723

Straddlers and Striders Annual Meeting

Thursday 6 December

This has been arranged to take place in The Colosseo Restaurant, Fairford at 10.30 am. We hope many of you will stay on for lunch afterwards.

At the meeting we will go over the past year's walks and hopefully arrange a full programme of walks and leaders for 2019. We shall also need to discuss the appointment of a new overall leader for the two groups. We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend and put forward any comments/suggestions you may like to make.

Phil Trickett philtrickett@aol.com 01285 712421
John Burrows john@burrows44plus.com 01367 253056

Walking with a Pub Lunch & Strollers

Wednesday 12 December a Christmas get together

What about short Fairford walk (weather permitting)? A lite lunch at Colosseo, to be arranged, if you are interested please let us know by 14 November.

Ann Wightman 01285 713723
Jackie Ephgrave 01285 713277

Strollers

Friday 23 November

The walk is 3 3/4 miles along canal paths, lakeside tracks and a few road crossings. The venue is the 'Crown Inn' at Cerney Wick, GL7 5QH. Meet at the Car Park at 9.45am or at the 'Crown Inn' at 10.05am. We shall order lunch before we set out.

Suggested passenger contribution is 50p.
Beth and Geoff Dennis 01285 712195



Straddlers

Thursday 15 November

November's walk begins and ends in Adlestrop; made famous by the poem of Edward Thomas. We shall park and start the walk from the car park near the village hall and opposite the old railway station sign.

The walk of just over 7.5 miles takes in Chastleton Barrow, the hamlet of Cornwell, Daylesford Hill Farm, and returns via the village of Lower Oddington. Much of the walk follows parts of the Diamond Way and the Macmillan Way.

Meet at Fairford at 9am or at the car park in Adlestrop at 10am. Follow the A361 to Burford, the A424 to Stow, then turn right on to the A436 for 4 miles, over the railway line, then sharp left for Adlestrop. Suggested travel donation is £3.00, a lunch and coffee break will be taken en route.

Clive Watson 01285 713003

Striders

Tuesday 27 November

A walk of 5.4 miles starting at 'The Carpenters Arms', Miserden GL6 7JA, 30 minutes from Fairford. At 10.00am we head out along a lane then tracks to Fox Wood and onto Edgeworth Manor. We walk through the grounds of the manor and then alongside the River Frome set in a lovely valley with 'Thick Wood' on the far side, with only gentle slopes and a few stiles. The last section climbs back to the top of the downs (steep but not excessively) across fields with extensive views.

Meet at Fairford car park to leave by 09.15 or at 'The Carpenters Arms' at 09.45 to choose lunch before we start the walk.

Suggested travel donation £1.50. Bring a break snack/drink

Please let David and Gill Turtle know if you are coming
01367 253275 or dpturtle15@gmail.com

Walking with a Pub Lunch

Wednesday 14 November

We will start at the car park at the 'Bakers Arms', Somerford Keynes. The walk is circular and graded as easy with NO hills. Distance is approximately 4.75 miles. This is a varied walk along country paths, through fields, wooded areas and paved footpaths. Once we leave The Bakers Arms we walk across open fields to pick up the Thames Path which we follow for a short time. We then cross the Spine Road West and head towards a small wooded area which we walk through before walking around the water park nature reserve making our way back along the Thames Path before heading toward the 'Bakers Arms' for a well-earned lunch. Set off from Fairford car park 09.30am, or meet at car park, 'Bakers Arms' Somerford Keynes (GL7 6DN) for 10.00am to order lunch. Suggested passenger fee £1.00. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. Hopefully we will have a nice sunny and dry November day.

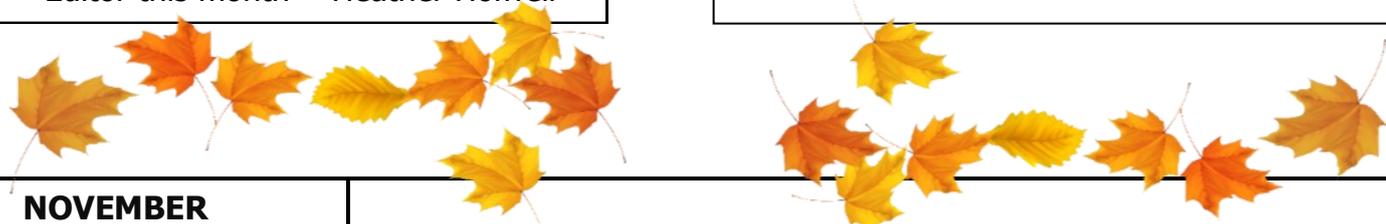
Marilyn and Garry Stephenson
Any questions contact us on 01285 850582 or
garry1615@hotmail.co.uk

Please send items for the
December Newsletter
 by 17 November to
 Sarah Bottomley
 editor@fairfordu3a.org.uk

Editor this month - Heather Holwell

Dates for your Diary 2018

Friday 2 November Bletchley Park
 Friday 30 November Turkey & Tinsel.
 Monday 10 December Christmas Lunch.
2019
 Sunday 9 - 14 June Isle of Wight



NOVEMBER		
Thursday	1	Boccia, Latin, MahJong, Models, Scrabble, Yoga 2
Friday	2	Creative Writing, Poetry 1&2, Table Tennis 2 & Beginners
Monday	5	Bridge, French 1, Italian, Short Tennis, Solos, Yoga 1
Tuesday	6	GENERAL MEETING, Computers, Keep Fit,
Wednesday	7	Quilting, Spanish, Table Tennis 1
Thursday	8	Boccia, Models, Rummikub, Yoga 2
Friday	9	Creative Writing, Recorders, Table Tennis 2 & Beginners
Monday	12	Bridge, Short Tennis, Yoga 1
Tuesday	13	Book Circles, Computers, Keep Fit,
Wednesday	14	Geology, Needlework, Spanish, Table Tennis 1, Walk with Pub Lunch
Thursday	15	Boccia, MahJong, Models, Straddlers, Yoga 2
Friday	16	Creative Writing, Music Listening, Table Tennis 2 & Beginners
Monday	19	Bridge, French 1, Italian, Short Tennis, Yoga 1
Tuesday	20	Birdwatching, Computers, Keep Fit, Postcards
Wednesday	21	Dance 5 Rhythms, Scottish Reels, Spanish, Table Tennis 1
Thursday	22	Anglo-Saxon Poetry, Boccia, Gardening, Models, Yoga 2
Friday	23	Creative Writing, Recorders, Strollers, Table Tennis 2 & Beginners,
Monday	26	Bridge, Short Tennis, Yoga 1
Tuesday	27	Computers, Keep Fit, Striders
Wednesday	28	Needlework, Spanish, Table Tennis 1
Thursday	29	Boccia, Models, Yoga 2
Friday	30	Creative Writing, Table Tennis 2 & Beginners
DECEMBER		
Monday	3	Bridge, French 1, Short Tennis, Yoga 1
Tuesday	4	GENERAL MEETING, Computers, Keep Fit,
Wednesday	5	Quilting, Spanish, Table Tennis 1
Thursday	6	Boccia, Latin, MahJong, Models, Scrabble, Yoga 2
Friday	7	Creative Writing, Poetry 1&2, Table Tennis 2 & Beginners