



**Scary Tales for Hallowe'en**

**by Chloe Lees**

Please send items for the  
**November issue** to  
[editor@fairfordu3a.org.uk](mailto:editor@fairfordu3a.org.uk) by  
**Thursday 17th October**

October		
Tue	1	Main Meeting, Keep Fit, Computers
Wed	2	Pétanque, Table Tennis, Scottish Reels
Thu	3	Model Boats, Latin, Traditional Jazz
Fri	4	Poetry 1, Poetry 2
Mon	7	French, Yoga, Bridge, Short Tennis
Tue	8	Keep Fit, Computers, Spanish, Book Circle 2
Wed	9	Pétanque, Table Tennis, Geology, Needlework, Walking & PL
Thu	10	Model Making, Rummikub
Fri	11	Recorders
Mon	14	French, Yoga, Bridge, Short Tennis, Solos
Tue	15	Keep Fit, Computers, Bird Watching, Book Circle 1, Postcards
Wed	16	Five Rhythms, Pétanque, Table Tennis, Philosophy, Family History 1, Family History 2, Scottish Reels
Thu	17	Straddlers, Model Boats, Garden
Fri	18	Music Listening
Mon	21	French, Yoga, Bridge, Short Tennis
Tue	22	Keep Fit, Computers, Striders, Spanish
Wed	23	Pétanque, Table Tennis, Cycling & PL, Chess, Needlework
Thu	24	Model Boats, Photography
Fri	25	Strollers, Recorders
Mon	28	French, Yoga, Bridge, Short Tennis
Tue	29	Keep Fit, Computers
Wed	30	Pétanque, Table Tennis, Needlework, Scottish Reels
Thu	31	Model Boats
November		
Fri	1	Poetry 1 , Poetry 2
Mon	4	French, Yoga, Bridge, Short Tennis, Solos
Tue	5	Main meeting, Keep Fit, Computers
Wed	6	Table Tennis, Needlework
Thu	7	Model Boats, Latin , Traditional Jazz
Fri	8	Recorders

## General Meetings

Palmer Hall, 2.30pm

**5 November** "*There's a War On, You Know*" by Nadine Carr

**3 December** *Genie's Lamp*, a story with music by Jay Matthews

**7 January** "Murder on my Mind"—Life as a Crime  
Novelist by Judith Cranswick

## Tea Rota

5 November: Recorders  
3 December: The Committee  
7 January: Scottish Reels

## Photo Album

Ann Wightman has taken over the photo album. Please give any new photos to her.

01285 712723

Editor this month:

Sarah Bottomley

## New members

We welcome the following new members:

Kathy Kent and Carol Sawyer

**Today, 1 October**

## A light-hearted look at Scary Tales for Hallowe'en

Chloe Lees, a member of the elite group of Midnight Storytellers, will be presenting a mixed selection of *Scary Tales* on the Hallowe'en theme with some of the wonderful 'Lost Legends of Britain' – but nothing too scary.

**5 November**

## "There's A War On, You Know"

Nadine Carr, in the personage of Lady Atherton from the WVS, will tell of the 'Make Do and Mend' campaign, inspiring women to do their bit for the war effort.

**3 December**

*Genie's Lamp*, a story with music by Jay Matthews

**10 December**

The Christmas Lunch—will be held at 12 for 12:30 at the Crown of Crucis.



## Chairman's Update

In the coming months we shall reach two historic milestones. Next month sees the publication of the two-hundredth edition of the newsletter and in 2015 we shall celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the Fairford & District U3A.

It is difficult to pinpoint the exact date that our U3A was formed. In late 1994 an advertisement was placed about starting a U3A in this area, and subsequently, interested parties met at Poulton in January 1995 and in February the first meeting of the steering committee was held. Following this in April the first monthly general meeting took place and in July the inaugural AGM was held.

I believe, therefore, that July 2015 would be an appropriate date to celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. But how should we celebrate the event? It would be good if we could form a 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary sub-committee of 3 or 4 members to manage this event. Their remit would be to canvass members for ideas, select the best, cost, plan and manage the anniversary.

If you are interested in being part of this team please let me or any committee member know.

Reg Thoburn



## Our September Meeting

Don Freeman, a volunteer guide from Tewkesbury Abbey, talked about the life of the Benedictine monks who with Gerald, abbot of Cranbourne, entered the new monastery in 1102. Benedictines are not reclusive and welcome visitors, oblates, friends and family into their lives and provide shelter for those who seek sanctuary. Although proper offices, such as cellarer, chamberlain, sacrist, precentor, and almoner were originally instituted, the condition of the house was unsatisfactory when Godfrey Giffard visited it in 1279 and he ordered that gluttony and drunkenness should cease. One major preoccupation while the monastery was extant seems to have been acquiring properties, including the church in Fairford and the manor of Ampney Crucis.

A full account, which covers the convolutions and acquisitions, can be found in the Victoria County History as 'Houses of Benedictine monks: The abbey of Tewkesbury', A History of the County of Gloucester: Volume 2 (1907), pp. 61-66. John Wakeman, the last abbot, surrendered the abbey to the commissioners of Henry VIII on 9<sup>th</sup> January 1539.

Don illustrated his talk with photographs and excellent line drawings from comparative sources which gave a clear idea of the buildings, daily lives and the habit worn by the monks.  
Sylvia Jones

### The Christmas Lunch

will be held at 12 for 12:30 on Tuesday 10th December 2013 at the Crown of Crucis.



The booking form is attached with the menu selection. Please return this to Reg Thoburn or a committee member by 21st November 2013 with your starter selection and payment cheque.

## Online courses:

Four Online Courses all expected to start on 30th September:

Just Before Victoria

Three Viking Women

The First World War; the Home Front

An Introduction to Anglo Saxon Poetry

The online courses website can be accessed through the national U3A website by clicking on the online courses menu item. If you are interested in online courses it is worth keeping an eye on this website as some fill up quite quickly.

## Freeview TV reception

New 4G mobile services might affect your TV reception of Freeview.

If you find you are experiencing difficulties in the next few months then ring 0808 1313 800 (free from a landline).

You will be receiving a postcard about this from at800 which is the organisation which has been created to ensure that you can still watch Freeview.

## Some events that might interest you at the Old Prison in Northleach:

See website for full details: [www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk](http://www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk)

4 October 2-3:30pm: Batsford Arboretum through the Seasons

10 October 2-4pm: Geology and Landscape Trail from Northleach to Farmington return

24 October 2-3:30pm: History of Northleach over the past 100 years

30 October 2-4pm: A History Tour of Northleach

## GROUP EVENTS

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

### Birdwatching

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October**

This month we shall visit Coombe Hill Meadows in the Severn Valley and have lunch nearby. The canal towpath can be muddy and the water meadows can be wet at this time of year so it is usually a good idea to bring wellington boots! Meet at the Fairford car park at 9 o'clock as usual. Coombe Hill is 30 miles from Fairford.

Richard Morgan  
01285 712 085



### Book Circle 1

**Tuesday 15 October**

Our next book will be **Dickens** by Claire Tomalin. We shall meet at Pauline's at 2.30pm. This is a week later than usual because of the Cheltenham Literature Festival. Please let me know if you are unable to attend.

Denny Rawlinson  
01285 711009

### Book Circle 2

**Tuesday 8 October**

We shall meet at Jane's house at 2.30pm having read 'One Good Turn' by Kate Atkinson and 'The Daylight Gate' by Jeanette Winterson. Please let either Jane or me know if you are unable to attend.

Jane Pugh  
01285 712184  
Sarah Basley  
01285 712720  
[t.basley@btinternet.com](mailto:t.basley@btinternet.com)



### Bridge Improvers

The group will continue to meet on Monday afternoons (except Bank Holidays) from 2.00 to 4.00pm in the Heritage Room, Fairford Community Centre. Please contact me for further information.

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

Margaret Bishop  
01285 713747  
email [mbishop@talktalk.net](mailto:mbishop@talktalk.net)

### Chess

Please contact Mike for details.

Mike Bennett  
01367 252379  
[mish252379@btinternet.com](mailto:mish252379@btinternet.com)

### Computer Group

We meet every week on Tuesday mornings at my home where I aim to help members in the use of computers, the internet and more. If you are interested in joining, please contact me and you will be welcome.

For those just starting, I have a desktop computer that is available for members to use, although it is helpful if you have a laptop to bring along. If you want to start using email, I can allocate you a personal email address for your sole use.

Nick Humphris  
01285 711740

## Cycling and Pub Lunch

### ***Wednesday 23 October***

We do not usually cycle this late in the season, but we have had such a good run, with no cancellations, that we thought we might give it a try. Alan has devised a new route which is even more downhill than usual. We meet at The Swan at Southrop at 10.30am for a meander to the Thames at Radcot Bridge, then tootle on to Faringdon. Then through Great Coxwell and over Badbury Clump and into Coleshill where lunch will be sampled at The Radnor Arms. There are two gentle ascents here, but equally exhilarating descents. We then swoop downhill to Buscot and return to Southrop. A distance of around twenty four miles in autumn sunshine.



Paul O'Shaughnessy  
01367 850262  
paulatsscissor@btinternet.com

## **Family History 1**

### ***Wednesday 16 October***

For details of the meeting please contact:

Miriam Scott  
01285 713441

## **Family History 2**

### ***Wednesday 16 October***

Meet at my house at 2.30  
Meeting to be arranged .

Contact Michael Johnson  
01285712637  
[sanaelma@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sanaelma@yahoo.co.uk)

## French Conversation

### ***Every Monday***

#### ***Intermediate***

I will be in touch about future meetings.

Rosemary Westlake  
01285 712329  
idrwestlake@gmail.com

#### ***Advanced***

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

Barbara Cartwright  
07989 353726

## Five Rhythms Dance

### ***Wednesday 16 October***

We dance regularly at the Palmer Hall on the third Wednesday of the month, at 10.00am.  
New members welcome.

Gillian Bilbrough  
01285 712579  
Joyce Deane  
01285 851408



## **Garden Group**

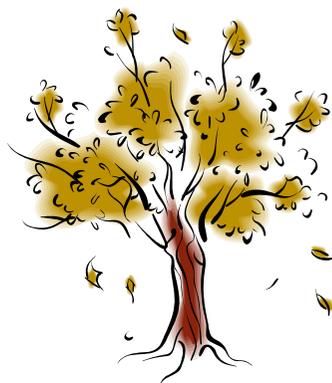
***Thursday 17 October***

We are hoping to visit Westonbirt this month and enjoy the wonderful Autumn colours. Coinciding with our visit, there is an exhibition in the Great Oak Hall of work by an artist called Clarissa Lloyd who works in watercolours and pastels and creates beautiful botanical works. The exhibition is entitled 'Inspired by Nature' and would, no doubt, be worth visiting while we are there. Entry fee is £8 which includes £1 concession for over 60's but if you arrive by bike or bus you only pay half price apparently! To round off, if we have time, we could visit the plant centre.

As the days will be getting shorter please could we meet in the car park at 1.30pm

Penny Phillips  
01285 711360

pennyrphillips@gmail.com



## **Geology**

***Wednesday 9 October***

The Geology Group will meet at the chapel in Milton Street at 2.30pm. We should like input from members as to the forthcoming programme for the year.

Clive Watson      01285 713003  
Brian Routledge   01285 712853

## **Industrial Heritage**

For details of future meetings, please contact me.

Pete Martin  
01285 713908  
petem91@btinternet.com

## **Keep Fit**

The Keep Fit class meets at the Palmer Hall each week on Tuesdays at 9.15am.

Eddie Rosser  
01367 252504

## **Music Listening**

***Friday 18 October***

We shall be meeting on the above date to hear members' choice of music for the heading picked out at the September meeting. Our venue is the Heritage Room, Community Centre at the usual time of 2.30pm.

John and Joyce Dear  
01285 653338

## **Latin**

***Thursdays 3 October,  
7 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 week on Thursday mornings.

Please contact:  
Jim Sullivan  
01367 252539

## **Needlework**

***Wednesdays 9, 23 October  
6 November***

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

Thelma Hardie  
01285 713971

## **Pétanque**

The group meets every Wednesday morning at our piste by the Leafield Road entrance to Farmor's School, Fairford.

We meet at 9.45am for a 10.00am start and the morning finishes at 12 noon.

Dave and Heather Baber  
01285 711343



## **Poetry Circle 1**

***Fridays 4 October,  
1 November***

The group 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

## **Philosophy**

***Wednesday 16 October***

The October meeting will be held at Janet Bowen's house. The subject will be "Custom, Convention and Habit". I shall be e-mailing Janet's address to members of the Group.

Dan Deane  
01285 851408

## **Poetry Circle 2**

***Fridays 4 October,  
1 November***

Please contact Denny on 01285 711009 for information about the October meeting. On 1 November we shall meet at Maureen's house. The theme for the month will be 'The Sea'. Please let Maureen know on 01285 711362 if you are unable to come.

Barbara Cobbett  
01285 712692

## **Photography**

***Thursday 24 October***

The first meeting of the Photography Group will be held in the Tame Room at the Fairford Community Centre on Thursday 24th October at 2pm. Anyone interested will be welcome.

Gordon Hart  
01285 238641  
gordonghart@tiscali.co.uk

## **Postcards**

***Tuesday 15 October***

The next meeting will be at the usual venue at 2.30pm when Jenny Baber will show us some of her delightful cards. The theme letter this month is "T".

John Higgs  
01285 712488

## **Recorders**

***Fridays 11 and 25 October***

October meetings will start with anyone who would like to play the treble (from 2.00-2.30) and followed by the main group at 2.30 to finish at 4.30, with a break for tea. We should be in the Farmor room on the ground floor of the Fairford Community Centre and will let you know if we have to use another room. As usual, we shall be playing a varied selection of music arranged for Descant, Treble, Tenor and Bass with the addition of Great and Contra basses in the occasional piece.

If there are any more recorder players 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](mailto:hilary@burytown15.co.uk) or Jay Mathews 01367 860869: [jaymathews124@mac.com](mailto:jaymathews124@mac.com) for further information. We have some spare instruments and stands; please ask if you would like to borrow one.

## **Rummikub**

**Thursday 10 October**

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

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

Mary Bennett  
01367 253287

## **Spanish**

**Tuesdays 8, 22 October**

The group is for beginners, but those with some Spanish are welcome. Meetings are at my home from 11.00am to 12 noon.

Frank Hall  
01285 712583  
fkhall@talktalk.net

## **Short Tennis**

This group meets in the Palmer Hall every **Monday**, starting at 3pm. Please note the earlier starting time.

Margaret Trickett  
01285 712421

## **Solos**

**Monday 14 October**

Please note this month's meeting is at the later date, Monday 14th October, at Val's house at 2.30pm

Michael Johnson  
01285 712637

[sanaelma@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sanaelma@yahoo.co.uk)

## **Scottish Reels**

**Wednesdays 2, 16 & 30 October**

Our group meets on alternate Wednesdays during the winter from 8 to 10pm at Poulton Village Hall. We are a friendly informal group who dance to enjoy ourselves. We welcome all standards including beginners. We charge £3 per person per evening to cover the hall hire and soft drinks at half-time. For further information please contact

Richard or Carol Thompson  
01285 712123

[Richard@RichardAndCarol.net](mailto:Richard@RichardAndCarol.net)

## **Straddlers**

**Thursday 17 October**

Our 8 mile walk begins at Toddington and after leaving the village, we head towards Dumbleton hill. The first section is very gentle until we start contouring the hill, whereupon to reach level height there is a steep climb (no gain without pain). At this juncture, a coffee break is recommended to admire the view – weather - guaranteed by your chairman. We then follow a bridleway downhill past the beautiful grounds of Dumbleton Hall Hotel to Dumbleton Village, passing St Peter's Church and the Village Store. Through farmland tracts and fields we emerge at St Catherine's Church into the village of Wormington. Visiting the disused water mill at Mill Farm and crossing the River Isbourne our route takes us back to Toddington.

Parking may be limited so we will take as few cars as necessary. Meet at Fairford car park at 9.15am or near St Andrew's Church (GL54 5DQ) at 10.30am. Suggested passenger travel fee £2.50. Bert Sampson 01285 712789 d.sampson789@btinternet.com Reg Thoburn 01285 712397



## Striders

### ***Tuesday 22 October***

You know how Autumnal mornings can be misty but crisp, with a weak sun and a lovely blue sky? There is a hint of frost, but you are nice and warm? Well that is the type of morning to stretch your legs on a gentle walk. Join us for a potter around some lovely countryside. Few stiles, gentle inclines (an incline is a downward slope the wrong way round) all in glorious sunshine. Meet at Fairford at 9.40am or at The Victoria at Eastleach at 10.00am where Sue will await your order.

Paul O'Shaughnessy

01367 850262

[paulatsscissor@btinternet.com](mailto:paulatsscissor@btinternet.com)

## Strollers

### ***Friday 25 October***

This walk is a circular walk around Meysey Hampton which begins at the Masons Arms. The walk starts opposite the Masons Arms, takes in easy paths and country lanes, one stile and a gentle climb back to the village with rural views. If we have time we can take in a look at the church before returning for lunch. Meet at Fairford car park to leave at 10.00 or the Masons Arms at 10.15. There is no car park at the pub, and the pub doesn't open until 12 noon. I will have menus so you can order your food before we move off. The food is reasonably priced and freshly cooked. If interested people could let me know of their intention to walk, it would be useful and I hope to have a sample menu I could pass on. I pre-walked the walk with my 10 year old grandson and the weather was perfect but if we have rain it could be muddy in places so please wear suitable foot wear. Passenger fee £1.

Michael Johnson

01285 712637

[sanaelma@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sanaelma@yahoo.co.uk)

## Traditional Jazz

### ***Thursdays 3 October, 7 November***

The group meets on the first Thursday of each month at our house in Lechlade from 2.00 to 4.30pm. We will continue to compare earlier recordings with various more recent versions, eg New Orleans, West USA Coast, British, French etc.

Ian Bennett

01367 253287

[ian@bennettm.gotadsl.co.uk](mailto:ian@bennettm.gotadsl.co.uk)

## Walking and Pub Lunch

### ***Wednesday 9 October***

This month's walk starts at Withington, and is less than 5 miles – about two-and-a-half hours' walking. There is quite an incline to start, but once on the top the views are worth it and hopefully the trees will be turning more autumnal. We carry on through Withington Woods and down through the valley, a lot easier walking coming back. We start and finish at The Mill Pub at Withington (GL54 4BE) which is about 35 minutes from Fairford. Meet at the car park to be away by 9.30 or at The Mill Withington 10.05 to order lunch before we leave at 10.20. Suggested passenger fee is £2.50. Walking boots are recommended. Menu available on request from Ann.

We hope you will join us.

Ann Wightman & Judith Butler

01285 712723.

## Table Tennis

The Group meets every Wednesday afternoon at 2.30pm in the Keble Room, first floor of Fairford Community Centre. New members of any ability always welcome – just come along.

Nick Stroude

01285 750646

## Yoga

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

Sylvia Jones

01285 712657



## GROUP REVIEWS

### Buckingham Palace Trip

September 10th saw 55 members on an Ellison's coach at 7.30am. We were off to Buckingham Palace. Traffic became quite heavy as we travelled down the M4, and it was decided to continue to Heston Services before a quick convenience stop. On the coach, Jean and Doug served drinks to those that wanted them.



Arrival in London went very smoothly, thanks in no small part to the knowledge of our driver, Simon. We picked up our guide, Owen, and travelled to St Paul's Cathedral, where we had coffee in the crypt. Some ladies had to make a choice between coffee and the lavatories, as the queue was very long! We then toured London, having the sights pointed out to us – Houses of Parliament, the Royal Festival Hall, Brompton Oratory and Westminster Cathedral to name just a few.

Following the tour, we arrived at the Mad Hatter hotel where we had our pre-ordered lunch – chicken or fish with peas and chips or mashed potato. A very nice meal, only slightly marred by the fairly slow service, always a worrying situation when you have a fixed time to be at the Palace! Nevertheless, we all ate up, drank our tea/coffee and boarded the coach.

Once at Buckingham Palace, we were corralled into a holding area, before going through "airport-style" security. Some weapons had to be signed for, to be collected later, but one of our reprobates had a weapon confiscated, the choice being confiscation or return and probable arrest. After this

excitement, we collected earphones and personal recorders and began the tour. We were to view the State Rooms, and were allowed to do so at our own pace. The Grand Staircase led us to the rooms on view. The decoration was sumptuous! We climbed the Grand Staircase to the first floor. Passing through the Guard Chamber and the Green Drawing Room, we reached the Throne Room. The Coronation of Elizabeth II was the theme of the displays, and still photographs and film footage of the pre-coronation, informal gatherings were shown. There was lovely natural footage, including Prince Charles and Princess Anne playing peek-a-boo through their fingers.

A wonderful picture gallery followed, also the Silk Tapestry Room, which was showing the anointing ceremony of the Coronation. Princess Elizabeth wore a white linen (Norman Hartnell) dress over the top of her Coronation dress, and wore no jewellery at this point, having been divested of all signs of wealth. She was anointed beneath a canopy embroidered in red and gold. Following this, Prince Philip knelt before her, and made his promise to be her liegeman forever. It was an extremely moving part of the service which I had not remembered from childhood.

The East Gallery housed the exquisite collection of coronation robes. For any needle person, the work involved was a wonder to be seen. Samples of the embroidery included in the Queen's dress were also on display – thistles, roses, shamrocks, mimosa and other flowers symbolising the Commonwealth countries. Also included was a four leaf clover which Norman Hartnell ordered to be put in for good luck. Going on from there, we saw the Ballroom, West Gallery and the State Dining Room, with tables laid showing typical settings. Wonderful furniture and furnishings were displayed in all of the rooms. To write about all of it would take many pages, suffice to say, it was all extremely opulent and gave a feeling of wonderment to walk around.

*Continued from p19*

Down the Ministers' Staircase led us into the Marble Hall then the Bow Room, which led out to the garden.

Outside was a cafeteria (rather pricey), a shop (very pricey) and the conveniences (free!). After this, a walk through the park-like area of the gardens led us out of the grounds, ready for the coach. It was then that the rain decided to fall, but we didn't have long to wait to get aboard the coach and begin the journey home. We arrived back in Fairford exactly at 8pm, having had, for me, a really good day.

Many thanks must go to Jean and Doug for arranging this so brilliantly.

Kay Hobbs

### **Book Circle 1**

Because of other commitments a reduced group met in September to discuss *Testament of Friendship* by Vera Brittain, a biography of her friend Winifred Holtby. The two women met at Somerville College, Oxford, after the First World War, and for sixteen years, until Holtby's early death aged 37 in 1935, shared their creative lives and left-wing political beliefs. As Brittain says, "although we didn't grow up together, we grew mature together". We felt their friendship was intense and emotional and often seemed to supersede Brittain's feelings for her husband and children.

Brittain's prose is poetic and informative; she frequently refers Holtby's characters and incidents in her novels to those in her life. This is particularly true of her last work *South Riding*. Holtby's poems begin each chapter which is quite moving, but the praise and admiration for Holtby we thought cloying and fulsome. As the book was my choice I was disappointed. Certainly it did not live up to my recollection of reading it forty years ago.

Denny Rawlinson

### **Cycling with a Pub Lunch**

*Wednesday 28 August*

There is a bit of a gentle pull up Sheepbridge hill outside Eastleach, but once passed there is a lovely downhill ride into Great Barrington, where the wheels do all the work. Then on through Aldsworth village, very pretty, and on to the pub, where we met ladies of Fairford WI (by accident). A very nice lunch was had. Then a right and left and we were soon back at Coln. We were seven riders, and one of us was an old friend, Ian W, who was on his first ride of the season. (Someone said he only came as he knew we had a Pimms social day the next day, but this was discounted.) Some of us did thirty miles, others a little further (especially Tom) but it was a lovely day's cycling.

Paul O'Shaughnessy

### **Five Rhythms Dance**

The idea that we might take a break in August was soon abandoned when Annee Manall, courtesy of her husband, invited the group to dance at the Horseshoe Lake complex in Lechlade. Superb weather, a beautiful hall with views across the spacious surrounds to the lakes, and music which suited the atmosphere combined to make this a delightful occasion. Everyone enjoyed such a special opportunity and expressed their appreciation to Annee, David and the management.

Dancing normally takes place on the third Thursday of the month in the Palmer Hall at 10.00am. Make a note of October 16th and come and see if you enjoy moving, as you wish, to music. There is no need to book a place.

Sylvia Jones

## **Garden Group**

September - Sadly, due to only four members being available to visit The Coach House at Ampney Crucis, the outing was cancelled. The owners felt that there would be quite a lot of extra tidying up etc for them to do for such a small group. We have left it that, hopefully, next year we will re-organise a visit.  
Penny Phillips

## **Music Listening**

We meet in the Heritage Room, Community Centre on the third Friday in the month for a couple of hours in the afternoon to listen to each other's choice of music chosen from a previously arranged theme. Some of the themes were as follows: War and Peace, Holiday Memories, A Music Quiz, Arrivals, English Composers, Transport, A Favourite Piece, The Weather, The Sea, Female Artistes, Colours, and Precious Stones. Everyone comes with about 6 minutes of music on disc or tape which they have selected in the chosen theme. They tell the group why they chose the music or give background information about the piece and/or the composer. Sometimes the music brings back nostalgic memories of times past..... or maybe it is they just like it! Music styles have included: Classical music of all genres, e.g. baroque, romantic, modern, folk songs, jazz, opera.

Our intention is to share with everyone our personal tastes and reasons why we enjoy particular pieces of music. It is fascinating to listen to the members' different musical interpretation of the chosen theme. If you like it and want to share it bring it along! We are happy to hear from new members and new musical tastes. A relaxing afternoon's music in like-minded company. Tea/coffee and biscuits are provided at the end of the meeting and we make a modest charge to cover this and the rental of the room.

John and Joyce Dear

## **Pétanque**

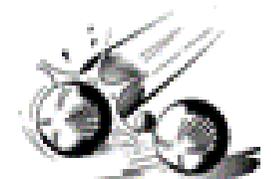
There was a slight concern over the weather on 7th September but fortunately the sun did shine and our Melee was run as planned without any problems. The picnic which our members provided was incredible, with tables groaning under the display of homemade quiches, bread, cheesecake, cakes etc. etc. to name but a few of the goodies which were laid out for our consumption!

This year there were two trophies, one for the winning lady and one for the winning man. We are pleased to announce that the runners up were Lillian Pooley and Phil Trickett with Sally White and Graham Baber winning the trophies. These were presented by Patsy Egerton. Unfortunately she couldn't play this year so stepped in to be our 'surprise local dignitary'! Everyone agreed that the day was a great success and if the weather is kind to us again in 2014 we'll repeat the 'Melee and picnic' arrangement.

On Monday, 16th September, Dave, Heather and Reg are making a courtesy call to meet the new Head of Farmor's School and acquaint him with our Pétanque activity on Wednesday mornings. We shall also confirm our willingness to be involved with pupils who wish to learn how to play the game.

Now we are looking forward to 4th October, when members of the Pétanque group and friends will be going over to the Isle of Wight. Hopefully we shall be able to play in sunshine, or at least only light rain.

Heather Baber



## Poetry Circle 1

When we meet after a summer break September always feels like the beginning of a new year. Our theme for the month was 'Discovery' and Marie, whose choice it was, read 'On first looking into Chapman's Homer' by John Keats where he describes the impact this book made in opening for him the world of Ancient Greece. Other discoveries followed; 'De Stop-heem-short' by Wilson Macdonald mystified us in his account of the rules of baseball whilst Ian's own poem told of the confusion which had occurred after following a large eccentric Frenchman on a sightseeing walk. Discovering nature was the theme of Sylvia Plath's bleak poem 'Wuthering Heights' and of Robert Frost's 'The Quest of the Purple-fringed', a study of orchids. In 'Kurgan No10' by Don Coles the poet envies the two men observing the moon in a painting by Casper David Friedrich. Other poems told of the joys and disappointments of love. A poem new to us, 'Rainbow', by the Guyanese poet John Agard sees the rainbow as 'one big smile in the sky' where God and man enjoy limbo dancing. It was good to be back.

Barbara Cottam

## Poetry Circle 2

Roger McGough and Brian Patten

In September the group looked at the Liverpool poets Roger McGough and Brian Patten. In 1967 these two, together with Adrian Henri, published 'The Mersey Sound'. This is said to be the best-selling book of poetry ever. McGough has more recently been the presenter of Radio 4's Poetry Please. He was also part of the sixties pop group The Scaffold. His poetry is variously funny, ironic, bittersweet and surprising in his ability to provoke an emotional response. We all agreed we had a greater respect for his skill having studied the poems in more detail.

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## Poetry Circle 2

*Continued from p24*

In the early sixties Brian Patten was a teenager who already considered himself a poet. He had work published and met up with McGough at poetry reading and similar events. Patten has a depth and intensity in his work.

The group agreed that despite being unfamiliar with the breadth of the work of McGough and not knowing Brian Patten's poetry both deserved further study to enjoy more of their poetry which covers the usual subjects of love, life and loss.

Helen Evans

## Recorders

This term we made a start on our Christmas programme. The music is taken from a collection of mediaeval and renaissance Christmas pieces originally played by the York Waits, the ancient city band of York. The waits were originally watchmen who, during the hours of darkness, would play loud instruments such as sackbuts and shawms to mark the passing of the hours and reassure the town's citizens that all was well (probably not always appreciated) and, during the middle ages, they metamorphosed into the town musicians.

Many of the tunes were later adapted for hymns and carols, especially by the Victorians; for example 'Ding-dong merrily on high' uses a French dance tune from 1587 and 'God rest you, merry gentlemen' is set to 'Chestnut' or 'Dove's Figary' – an English dance of around 1651. 'Past three o'clock' is a 17<sup>th</sup> century dance tune - the London version of a country-wide waits' winter watch cry: "Past three o'clock on a cold frosty morning. Good morrow, masters all!" They are all very enjoyable to play.

Hilary Bradshaw

## **Solos**

Nine of us enjoyed a wonderful lunch party prepared by Val with sweets, salads and drinks supplied by our members and a great time was had by all. Michael showed a short film on our Bar-B-Q held in August and it was good to see Annie singing and playing her guitar again. Unfortunately I got called away just as we were about to sit down for a meal but not for too long and was able to come back and enjoy the meal that was saved for me. Our thanks go to Val for all her hard work. Future events include a 'Turkey and Tinsel' weekend in Bournemouth and a Christmas lunch at The Blunsdon House Hotel  
Michael Johnson

## **Striders**

*Tuesday 27 August*

Every time we have visited this area the sun has been out and this day was no exception. As we reached Honeystreet we abandoned jackets and rubbed on the sun tan lotion. We crossed through Alton Barnes with its two little churches and climbed steadily up to the Pewsey Downs Nature Reserve. The constant stops were not to get our breath but to take in the fantastic views and admire the historic monuments of the area. Every foot put down resulted in a cloud of butterflies taking to the skies and kestrels hovered over our heads. On reaching the summit of Milk Hill, the highest point in Wiltshire, we had hoped to see crop circles but instead we watched the farmers bringing home their crops. From here it was all downhill until, passing through Stanton St Bernard, we came to the Kennet and Avon Canal. Barges of all shapes and sizes are moored along the banks and we chuckled at some of the imaginative names. On such a warm day the sight of The Barge Inn was a welcome sight and as we sipped our lemonades (!) we were able to sit and see in front of us the entire route we had taken. Truly a lovely part of our world!  
Maggie Burrows

## **Traditional Jazz**

At our September meeting we listened to original 1920s recordings by Louis Armstrong, Jabbo Smith, Bix Beiderbecke and Red Nichols and compared them with modern recordings by "Tribute Bands". We expected a better technical quality in modern recordings but often thought that there was also a more pleasing standard of interpretation and musicianship. In October we will compare other American recordings including those made by 1920s bigger bands such as those of Duke Ellington at the Cotton Club in Harlem with similar music made more recently in Europe. We consider "our music" to be tuneful and pleasing. Not to be confused with Modern Jazz and what the BBC play as jazz. Why not join us and judge for yourselves. Good company and biscuits guaranteed!  
Ian Bennett

## **Walking and Pub Lunch**

*Wednesday 11 September*

A chilly and part cloudy morning greeted 13 'Pub Lunchers' who, after ordering lunch at the 'fine dining' Bell Inn at Sapperton, set forth into the splendid countryside of the Golden Valley. A lovely mix of lanes, fields, tracks and some beautiful woods with the added bonuses of a chat with a lady in Oakridge who was picking plums from a heavily laden kerbside tree to make spiced plum chutney and some superb views captured by our resident paparazzi Doug Crowley. Weather stayed kind to us and sun shone on a few occasions. Some aching limbs (well mine were!) returned to The Bell at 1.10pm after 2 hours and 40 minutes walking, and accumulated appetites were a good match to the excellent fare that awaited us, as was Philip Meadon whose company we enjoyed over lunch. A successful outing, thanks to you all for making it so; Glen and I enjoyed your company.  
Michael Yorke