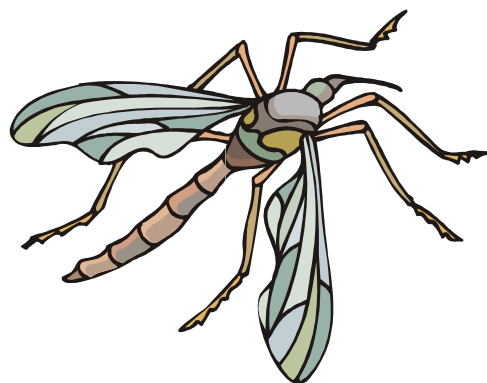




Fairford & District Newsletter

Issue 177

October 2011



The battle to defeat Malaria by Malcolm Cutler

www.fairfordu3a.org.uk

Registered Charity No 1072658

General Meetings

Palmer Hall, 2.30pm

1 November

History alive
by Steve Williams

6 December

A Victorian Family's Musical
Christmas
by Mike and Pat Ledbury

3 January

Another man's shoes
by Ellie Targett

Tea Rota

November 1 : Chess
December 6 : Committee
January 3 : Cycling

New Members

A warm welcome to the
following new members:

Olivia Bovill
Gloria Rowe

Membership Secretary:
Ivor Price 01285 712417

Mistaken Identity

I am sorry if my article last month about an incident on the Horcott Lake caused some confusion. The young white male with a very long neck referred to was, of course, a swan!

Ian Westlake

Today, 4 October

This month Malcolm Cutler will talk on Malaria, which accounts for over a million deaths each year, with one child dying every 30 seconds. Historically seen as a 'third world' disease, its range could increase with climate change and global warming. Malcolm Cutler is involved worldwide in the production of medicine used to treat malaria, and in its distribution to the people who most need it, but often cannot afford it. He will tell us how private and public organisations work together to enable these people to receive the treatments they need.

In November Steve Williams, an expert on the First World War will give us an insight into a soldier's life in the trenches, constructing a life-size section of trench in front of us, wearing a first world war outfit and bringing equipment, including shovels, guns and bombs.

In December we shall be meeting the characters of a typical Victorian family and hearing the music of their party pieces and background. This promises to be light-hearted and it has a surprise ending.

Chairman's farewell

You may recall at the AGM in May that I agreed to stay on as Chairman over the summer period because Reg Thoburn was having an extended holiday over much of the summer. As I'm sure I don't need to remind you summer is now over - although as I write this we are moving into what may be the best Indian Summer for many years!

As I hand over the Chair to Reg I am content that our U3A is in fine form with more members than ever before but I remain totally aware that in some of the activity areas we are operating on a knife-edge. We shall continually need volunteers to run groups, especially the activity groups, if we are to keep them running as successfully as we have in the past. If you think you can help fill any gaps please speak to one of the group leaders. For example, the walking groups will continue to need new people who can lead walks.

Finally, can I once again thank all those people who have worked over many years to play their part in making our U3A such a success.

John Burrows

Christmas Lunch

The Christmas Lunch will be held at The Crown of Crucis on **Thursday, 15th December, 2011** at 12 for 12.30pm. The cost of the three-course meal will be £18.95 and will include tea and coffee.

Please complete the enclosed form and return it to me with your cheque either at the November meeting or by 24th November. Thank you.

Gaynor Williams
01367 252052

U3A South West Regional Conferences

This year the three Sub Regional Conferences will be held as follows:

4 November: The Exchange, Sturminster Newton, Dorset
18 November: Kingsley Village, Fraddon, Cornwall
25 November: BAWA Training Centre, Filton, Bristol

For details see : www.u3asites.org.uk/code/u3asite.php?site=334&page=12477

U3A September

Members who came to the September meeting to hear Richard Cann talk about stained glass windows could hardly have expected to be so gently educated while being entertained.

As part of a nation-wide effort to inventory church fabric Richard was one of three team members who undertook the task of recording 154 windows in Gloucester Cathedral, between 2004 and 2008. He was the main photographer, hence his highly professional illustration of a talk which covered how glass is made, how the colours are produced and bonded or coated on the glass, the techniques for producing the secondary effects like folds in a garment and how the rhythmic terminology of the window parts, mullion, transom, eyelet, main light, tracery light, comes or calmes and saddlebars, had to be mastered to make the recording consistent. He used examples from 1350 to 1884 to demonstrate what to look for in detail and brought his story up to date with a magnificent window made, for the south ambulatory chapel, by Thomas Denny in 1992.

Sylvia Jones

Fairford & District Choral Society Autumn Concert 2011

The Society's next concert will be on Saturday, 12th November at 7.30 pm in St Mary's Church, Fairford, when it will perform Missa Solemnis in C Major by Mozart (K337), Cantata No. 1 by J S Bach – Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern ("How Brightly Shines the Morning Star"), Ave Verum Corpus by Mozart (K618) and Morning Star by Arvo Pärt. Soloists: return visits by Fiona Dobie (Soprano), Natanya Phillips (Mezzo), Nicholas Pritchard (Tenor) and Henry Herford (Bass). We are delighted that once again Fiona Brown will accompany the concert on the organ.

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.

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 21 October

We shall meet at 2.30pm at Iris's house to discuss more biographies of our choice.

New members will be very welcome!

Kevin Hannigan
01367 250246
hannigan100@hotmail.com

Birdwatching

Tuesday 18 October

This month we are scheduled to visit Ashleworth Ham and Highnam Woods. Birding at Ashleworth Ham depends on high water levels to attract wintering wildfowl. After our very dry summer this is unlikely to be the case so a change of venue may be required – probably a walk somewhere in the Cotswold Water Park. However we shall still meet at Fairford car park at 9am as usual.

Richard Morgan
01285 712085

Book Circle 1

Tuesday 18 October

Our next meeting is at my house, a week later than usual as some of us will be at the Cheltenham Literature Festival.

We shall review the 'The Woodcutter' by Reginald Hill. Please let me know if you are unable to come.

Denny Rawlinson
01285 711009

Book Circle 2

Tuesday 11 October

We shall meet at Ian's house at 2.30pm to discuss 'My Father's Fortune' by Michael Frayn. Please let Ian (not me as I shall be away!) know if you will be unable to attend.

Kevin Hannigan
01367 250246
hannigan100@hotmail.com
Ian Westlake
01285 712329
idrwestlake@gmail.com

Bridge Improvers

The group meets every Monday afternoon from 2-4 pm in the Heritage room, Fairford Community Centre. 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 19 October

The next meeting will be at 3.30pm at Mike's house.

Mike Bennett
01367 252379
mish252379@btinternet.com

Five Rhythms Dance

Wednesday 19 October

We regularly dance at the Palmer Hall on the third Wednesday of the month, at 10am. New dancers welcome.

Gillian Bilbrough
01285 712579

Joyce Deane
01285 851408

Family History 1 & 2

Wednesday 19 October

This month both groups will be visiting the Oxfordshire History Centre. We shall meet in Fairford Car Park at 9.30am. Bring a pencil! If you have one, bring your CARN reader's ticket but you will only need it if you wish to order documents from the strongroom. To obtain a ticket you will need two passport-sized photographs and identification. There is a coffee shop serving drinks and snacks but it's a good idea to bring your own food.

Places have been reserved for us in the searchroom, so it's important you should let one of us know if you change your plans.

Miriam Scott
01285 713441
Michael Johnson
sanaelma@yahoo.co.uk
01285712637

Geology

The Geology group meets regularly at the Chapel in Milton Street on the second Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm.

Clive Watson
01285 713003

French Conversation

Intermediate

There will be a meeting at my home on Monday 10th October. Please let me know if you will be able to be there.

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

The Arboretum in October

'A glorious time of year for Batsford as autumn takes hold. The colours of the changing leaves are a delight.

The full force of colour arrives around the middle of the month.'

www.batsarb.co.uk

Garden Group

Thursday 20 October

A visit to Batsford Arboretum this month. As it is about a 40 minute drive, the general opinion canvassed at September's meeting is that we should include lunch at the new visitor centre, too, to make it worth the trip. I dare say we might even manage tea as well.

We shall meet in the car park at 12 noon, ready to leave by 12.10pm As well as the arboretum, unless it has changed Batsford has a good plant centre and, usually, a very good selection of bulbs. There was also a small craft shop and even a falconry.

Please ring and let me know whether or not you are able to come by Tuesday evening 18th October.

If it is raining persistently, everyone is welcome to come to my house for a discussion on 'Autumn colour in the garden', cast an eye over progress in my garden and, if time, watch an 'Autumn' video. In this case, ring me Thursday morning for a decision and I suggest we meet in the car park at 2.10pm. My address is 37 Chesterton Park, Cirencester.

Margaret Toms

01285 657912

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 6 October

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

Music Listening

Friday 21 October

This month's challenge may not be as taxing as some. The theme is 'Instruments starting with 'P'.'

Mary Chick

01285 712126

Needlework

The Needlework group will meet on October 12 and 26, at the Chapel.

For further details please contact:

Thelma Hardie

01285 713971

Philosophy

Wednesday 19 October

The meeting this month will be at Francis Anyamene's house at 2.30pm. The subject will be 'Predestination'.

Dan Deane

01285 851408

'Predestination, in Calvinistic theology is the doctrine that all events have been willed by God.'

Wikipedia

Pétanque

Our end of season melee and lunch will be on Wednesday, 5th October (venue to be finalised and weather permitting) we are hoping to squeeze in one last meeting on 12th October before we set sail to the Isle of Wight on the 16th.

Jen and Reg Thoburn have now joined us and we give them a warm welcome.

Just to end our report this month could we give everyone a little reminder to please shop at Waitrose at sometime in October and put your green voucher into the U3A bin. We shall be more than grateful, and you will be adding to our percentage of cash which the store will be allocating!

Heather Baber
01285 711343

Poetry Circle 1

Friday 7 October

We shall be meeting at Kay's House at 3 pm, please bring poems by an Irish Poet.

Ian Westlake (pro tem)
01285 712329
idrwestlake@gmail.com

Poetry Circle 2

Friday 7 October

We shall be meeting at Lucy's home at 2.30pm. The theme is 'Humour'.

For enquiries please phone:

Mary Chick
01285 712126

Obstinacy

*'I warned poor Mary of her fate,
But she would wed the plumber's mate!
For hours the choir was forced to sing
While he went back to fetch the ring.'*

Ruthless Rhymes by Harry Graham

Postcard Group

Tuesday 18 October

The October meeting will be at my house as usual. After a presentation, to be arranged, members will present their cards on the theme of the letter 'E'.

May I remind you that the next Cirencester Postcard Fair is on Wednesday, 12th October, in the Bingham Hall (not the first Wednesday of the month as previously).

John Higgs
01285 712488

Recorders

Our next meetings will be Friday afternoons the 7th and 21st October. As usual, we'll be starting with our treble class (everyone welcome) from 2.00-2.30pm followed by the main group at 2.30 to finish at 4.30pm. We'll be in the Heritage room though, if there are enough of us, we'll move to 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

*'Ah, ha! Come, some music! come,
the recorders!
For if the king like not the comedy,
Why then, belike, he likes it not,
perdy.
Come, some music!'*

Shakespeare: Hamlet: Act 3 Scene II

Rummikub

Thursday 13 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. 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 20 October

The October walk begins in Kingston Lisle where we take a well defined footpath towards Westcot. From here we follow a quiet road for a short distance until we climb a wide track leading to the Ridgeway. The climb is steady along the ridge to the summit of White Horse Hill and the Iron Age hill fort known as Uffington Castle. The White Horse itself is believed to be the oldest hill figure in Britain. If the weather is kind we shall be able to enjoy some of the best views in the area while we eat our lunch. The climb has provided us with our just reward now and we head off downhill to the pretty village of Woolstone. The footpath from here follows field boundaries and copses to Fowler. There is a final push up the road to Kingston Lisle and the welcome sight of the Blowing Hole Inn for those of us who might need R&R after this 9 mile walk.

Meet at Fairford car park at 9.15am or in Kingston Lisle by the cemetery at 10am with the usual refreshments. Suggested passenger rate is £2.50.

Tony Clarke
01285 712794
Group Leader: John Burrows

Striders

Tuesday 25 October

The October walk begins at the Kings Head, Bledington (SP243227) at 10am.

We join the Oxfordshire Way almost to Bruern Abbey before turning south through woods and fields to the villages of Idbury and Nether Westcote and then turning North to rejoin the Oxfordshire Way back to the start.

Hardly six miles through fields bridleways and woodland, can be a bit sticky underfoot in some places after rain, only a few stiles and about 200 feet of ascent.

Meet at Fairford car park 9.15am or at Bledington. Suggested passenger fee is £3.

Graham Baber
01285 650961

Group Leader: Phil Trickett
01285 712421

Bruern: Old English 'breowaern' brewery

Uffington: the tun of Uffa's people

Bledington: tun on River Bladon

Woolstone: Wulfric's tun

tun: enclosure round a house

Ekwall: Concise Dictionary of English Place Names

Strollers

Friday 28 October

This month's walk will be led by Ann and Judith and starts at the Tunnel House pub near Coates. Meet at the Fairford car park at 9.30am or at the pub at 10am. The route starts along the canal towpath, across farmland, over two stone stiles to the road, through the outskirts of Coates to the church, then across fields back to the pub. Distance about three miles. Suggested travel fee £2.

Friday 25 November

Our last walk of the year which we make a Christmas walk. As our previous venue, The Bridge, has closed, 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 meetings on Tuesdays 4 October and 1 November – that being the last date for ordering.

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

It is with some sadness that I shall be standing down as Group Leader at the end of this year. I still hope to be able to join walks from time to time, but my last walk as leader will be the November one.

This means, therefore, that there is a vacancy for a leader – or leaders. Can you help?

Don Cobbett
01285 712692
dbcobbett@tiscali.co.uk

Traditional Jazz

Thursday 6 October

This month we shall listen to recordings made by some of the musicians who were at the September Bude Jazz Festival.

The group 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

'The Tunnel House is set in an idyllic rural location nestled between the Cotswold villages of Coates and Tarlton. It is close to the source of the River Thames and sits beside the Thames and Severn Canal.'

www.tunnelhouse.com

Walking & Pub Lunch

Wednesday 12 October

A very pleasant walk of about four miles mainly on field paths, with superb views over the lovely countryside around the Cotswold villages of Northleach and Hampnett, with no stiles and only three slight inclines.

We start the walk at the market place in Northleach and head north west leaving behind the A429 and the old police station as we walk along part of the Monarch's Way in the direction of Hampnett. For those interested we should have time to view the inside of the mainly Norman church with its painted interior. We then head south through a farm and continue along the Monarch's Way. At the Thames Water reservoir works we shall change direction again and meander along quiet roads and foot-paths passing Winterwell Barn until we reach Helen's Ditch where we will turn north and start our descent back into Northleach. Again if there is time we can visit the 15th Century church.

Meet at Fairford car park at 9.30am or at Northleach at 10am in the market square where we can order lunch at the Sherborne Arms before setting out. Suggested passenger fee is £2.50

Reg Thoburn 01285 712397

Group Leader Geoff Bishop
01285 713747

Yoga

The Yoga group will meet in the Community Centre at 10.15am each Monday from September 26th to December 5th, with a mid-term break on October 31st'.

Sylvia Jones
01285 712657

*Sherborne: bright stream
Hampnett: high small tun*

Ekwall: Concise Dictionary of
English Place Names

*Helen's Ditch—the ancient track
running parallel to the tiny town of
Northleach, which was recorded in
1642 and 1706 as Ellin's ditch.
Helen was a witch. Or so they said
— and it is told that she was hung
on that track which has been
known for over 300 years as
"Helen's ditch". People have
claimed to have seen her
wandering along there, but that
was before stories of ghosts,
witchcraft and magic were laughed
at.*

<http://charlie-and-race.blogdrive.com/>

Walkers: please report back any
sightings!

GROUP REVIEWS

Birdwatching

The weather forecast for our trip to Frampton Pools was pretty dismal but eleven of us optimistically set forth. We spent some time at the Frampton Sailing Lake which was mostly populated by coots, great crested grebes and tufted ducks. There were also several cormorants, a couple of little egrets and several common terns. There was also one juvenile tern which was distinctly different from the others which was either a migrating arctic or black tern.

As we progressed round the sailing lake it began to drizzle but luckily the rest of our walk was through woods which sheltered us from the worst of the dampness. There were very few of the normal woodland species around but we did find a flock of blackcaps feeding up for the winter. Over lunch it started to rain much harder so we called it a day and returned home.

Richard Morgan

Garden Group

This month we stayed in Fairford and enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon first of all meeting at Pat Harwood's. She has a very sheltered garden and still has lots of lovely colour in her pots and beds and her morning glories were a triumph, not a sign of slug damage and covered in flowers. It was warm and sunny and very different from the previous month when we sadly had to cancel our meeting due to bad weather.

After a refreshing drink we all made our way to Jean Moulden's, some driving, some on foot as the two gardens are not far apart where we enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea admiring the flourishing vegetables - the runner beans have obviously done very well and there is some very healthy purple sprouting broccoli on the way. Thank you very much Pat and Jean for making us all so welcome; I know we all enjoyed ourselves very much.

Penny Phillips

Book Circle 1

'The Betrayal' by Helen Dunmore

Born in 1952 Helen Dunmore is a British poet, novelist and children's writer and has won several literature awards. She is a fellow of The Royal Society of Literature and some of her books are now included in reading schemes for schools.

Previously we have read her outstanding book *The Siege* (shortlisted for the Whitbread and Orange Prizes) which gave a devastating portrayal of the suffering by ordinary citizens of Leningrad in 1941 through bitter cold and hunger in wartime. Now after ten years Dunmore has written a sequel to that novel and once again her historical facts have been painstakingly researched and we learn more of the fear and paranoia that followed.

As before, the story centres on Andrei, a doctor, and his wife Anna and her teenage brother Kolya. A colleague begs Andrei to take over the care of a young patient, a much loved son of a senior secret police officer, Volkov. 'Don't take risks – don't stand out' is the mantra, and it is obvious that as the colleague is fearful of making a wrong diagnosis he would like to shift responsibility to Andrei in case of a bad outcome. Andrei is a conscientious and caring doctor and although realising the danger of the situation nevertheless takes on the case. When it is decided that the young boy must lose his leg to cancer Andrei knows that he is in deep trouble with Volkov. The situation gets worse, Andrei and Anna's lives spiral into the stuff of nightmare and Andrei is banned from going to work at the hospital.

Dunmore's writing is gripping and the tension in the book becomes almost unbearable as Andrei is arrested and transferred to Lubyanka. His treatment is indescribable. He is tortured and comes up once more against Volkov who interrogates him and eventually persuades him to sign a statement saying that he had 'shown insufficient vigilance' as a doctor. Volkov's son is now dying as the cancer has spread over his body. He visits him for the last time and after saying goodbye to the sleeping boy, commits suicide.

Andrei is taken to Siberia and suffers unimaginable deprivation. However, Stalin eventually dies and prisoners are released and slowly make their way home. The book ends on a hopeful note as Anna's much wanted baby is born and she lives in hope that one day Andrei may return. (Note at the end of the book – Andrei does indeed return.)

Sheila Morgan

Book Circle 2

'Mr Chartwell' by Rebecca Hunt shows Churchill's 'black dog' of depression as a huge, talking, damaging animal with an engaging line in repartee. Only a few people can see him. The group varied in how comfortably they could accept the fantasy of a talking dog, but all were amazed and impressed by the competence and confidence with which the author had tackled such a complex subject in this, her first, novel.

Esther, who works in the House of Commons library, is grieving for her husband Michael who committed suicide two years ago. She starts to allow the black dog, called Mr Chartwell after Churchill's country house in Kent, to invade her house, taking outrageous liberties. She is sent to Chartwell to take dictation from Churchill of his farewell speech when he leaves the Commons for good in 1964.

With deft touches Hunt evokes the different atmospheres of the scenes in Esther's house, in The House of Commons and at Chartwell and differentiates the dialogue between the various characters. It is sometimes very funny, sometimes more disturbing. There is a charming scene where Clemmie (Churchill's wife Clementine) shows that she can see the dog but knows how to send him packing.

There was a consensus in the group that whereas for Michael and for Churchill depression was real, Esther was suffering grief. This was 'a good quick read' with never a dull moment.

Miriam Scott

Family History 1

We had a delightful meeting in Glenda's house when she described her researches into the history of Rose Cottage. Like several houses in Fairford it was called after its former owners, the Rose family. They were a small machine-making firm whose premises had been a target of the machine-breakers during the 'Swing Riots'.

Glenda has traced many subsequent owners and met some of their descendants, and was able to show us photographs on her TV, together with census returns, valuation surveys etc. We are most grateful to Glenda for a fascinating afternoon.

Miriam Scott

Family History 2

Wills and Administrations. As we all know, a will sets out a person's wishes regarding the disposal of their property after death. Wills were not only made by the rich and professional, but also by people who were not wealthy, such as shopkeepers, farmers and labourers.

Michael circulated his Great Grandfather Francis William Johnson's three-page, hand written will. Francis was an Essex farmer cum businessman who owned a market garden, properties, and a shop in Colchester. He kept meticulous accounts in a little green book, detailing all his finances. Following probate in June 1889, Francis's nine living children each received the sum of £1,000, unless they had previously received a sum of money from him.

Genealogically, from a will it is possible to ascertain the person's address, the date the will was written, names of Executors, items bequeathed to relatives, their names and the names of the witnesses to the Will.

When a person dies without making a will Administration is a standard set of rules that is applied to the distribution of the estate. An application is made by relatives to the court to appoint an Administrator who will administer the estate of the person concerned.

Genealogical Administration details include the name of the deceased, date of death, where died, deceased's status (intestate, widower, etc). It also includes the town of administration, the date granted and the names of the persons entitled to share in the estate and the effects. It is worth searching for both the Will and Administration of your ancestor.

Searches for wills and administration can be undertaken online at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk or at www.ancestry.co.uk. Paper copies of the original wills are only obtainable from the Probate Office at Holborn.

Elizabeth Berry

'I, SILVERDENE EMBLEM O'NEILL (familiarily known to my family, friends, and acquaintances as Blemie), ... do hereby bury my last will and testament in the mind of my Master. He will not know it is there until after I am dead. Then, remembering me in his loneliness, he will suddenly know of this testament, and I ask him then to inscribe it as a memorial to me.'

From 'The Last Will and Testament of an extremely distinguished Dog' by Eugene O'Neill

Philosophy

The Group meeting was held on 21st September and the subject was 'Imagination'. Manus Moran started the discussion with the statement that memory and imagination are interrelated, that senses are necessary for the memory to function and that it is not possible to remember things we have not experienced. This leads to the fact that imagination can add to memory. The mind can explore possibilities by using imagination.

We considered that language limits imagination; this is especially so in children. It was considered that in general young modern minds have abandoned metaphysical concepts because of the prevalence of video input, games etc. We finished with a quotation from Wordsworth, 'Imagination is reason in her most exalted mood'.

Donald Scott, who has gently guided us over many years, expressed the wish to bow out from the task of group leader; while we feel sad about this we respect his decision, but look forward to enjoying his continuing participation when he is able to attend.

Dan Deane

Walking and Pub Lunch

Ten of us met on a bright and pleasantly warm morning at the Falcon Inn, Poulton to 'boot up' and order lunch. I was a bit concerned about the price and limitation of choice on the lunch menu, but in the event eight of us enjoyed excellent fare.

A very enjoyable walk followed, through Poulton village, past the Church, through the Sports Field and into open countryside. The route took us through fields and country lanes until we reached the Fairford/Cirencester road at Ampney St Peter; then up through the village past the Church and the Old Vicarage, back on to easily walkable footpaths until we reached Ampney St Mary just below Ashbrook Farm. Then the homeward stretch through the village and along Ashbrook Lane back into Poulton.

A healthy and pleasant two-hour walk, good scenery, and good food at the end. Thanks to all of you for your company.

Michael Yorke

Recorders

This term we have started work on some new music – well, new to us, as some of the pieces first saw the light of day over 400 years ago although not, of course, originally arranged for U3A recorder groups! One of these pieces, 'Il Ballo delle Ingrate' or 'the Ballet of the Ungrateful Women' by Claudio Monteverdi, was first performed in the summer of 1608, as part of a range of musical entertainment, at the wedding of the Duke of Mantua's son, Francesco.

The stage is set at the mouth of the Underworld where Venus and Cupid are visiting Pluto to complain that Cupid's arrows are no longer having any effect on the ladies of Mantua who are scorning their lovers. Cupid asks Pluto to summon the spirits of the women who have rejected love to show the Mantuan ladies what fate awaits them in the Afterlife. The ladies appear, two by two, from the mouth of the Underworld and perform a solemn dance while Pluto sings a warning to the women in the audience. As the ungrateful ladies return to the Underworld one of them sings a sad lament regretting that she must leave the 'pure and serene air'.

Besides being an innovative composer of opera, Monteverdi was also a prolific writer of madrigals, publishing nine books; the eighth (1638) divided into two sections – War and Love – includes a version of 'Il Ballo delle Ingrate' in the second part.

Jack very ably conducted our first session and shall alternate with Jay while Monica continues her attempts to knock the would-be trebles into shape. We're going to need some more bâtons at this rate. Very many thanks to all three of them.

Hilary Bradshaw

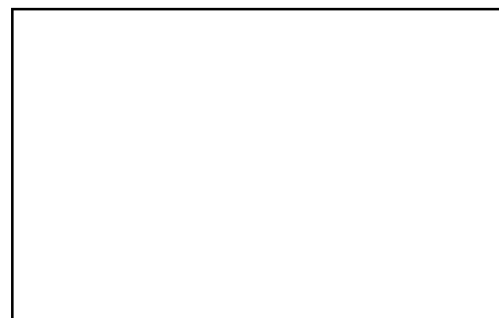
Claudio Giovanni Antonio Monteverdi 15 May 1567 (baptized - 29 November 1643) was an Italian composer, gambist, and singer. Monteverdi's work, often regarded as revolutionary, marked the transition from the Renaissance style of music to that of the Baroque period. He developed two individual styles of composition – the heritage of Renaissance polyphony and the new basso continuo technique of the Baroque.

From Wikipedia

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
November
 issue to Alison Hobson email:
 alisonmhobson@googlemail.com
 01285 711768
 no later than
Friday
21st October