



Fairford & District Newsletter

Issue 188

October 2012



**The Elgin Marbles
by Malcolm Delingpole**

General Meetings

Palmer Hall, 2.30pm

6 November All about Bagpipes
by Ian Willox

4 December A Christmas
Miscellany by U3A Members

8 January (a week later than
usual). Kiss, Chase and Conkers
by Caroline Sanderson

Tea Rota

November 6 : Keep Fit
December 4 : Committee
January 8 : Latin

Cover picture: Parthenon Selene
Horse
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Today, 2 October

This month Malcom Delingpole will tell us about the Elgin Marbles which he regards as 'Shoplifting on a grand scale'.

In November our speaker is Ian Willox, an eminent Pipe Major and founder of the Cheltenham Pipe Band. He will give a demonstration and description of Bagpipes, Scottish and others, and will be wearing traditional Highland Dress.

We end 2012 with 'A Christmas Miscellany' by U3A members. Any offers or suggestions for 'turns' will be gratefully received by the Committee.

New Groups

Table Tennis—Page 15
Industrial Archaeology—Page 5

See also Bletchley Park visit report—Page 6

From the Chairman

September has been a busy month for me in my capacity as Chairman. I attended the National AGM in Cirencester and also a Cotswold Link meeting in Leominster. At the National AGM Barbara Lewis of South West Herts was elected as our new National Chairman with Janet Whitehouse of Roding Valley and Beryl Melish of Harpenden elected as Vice-Chairs. John Ellison was elected unopposed as Treasurer. They will all serve a one year term. Marion Clements of Cheddar Valley was appointed as the South Western Region trustee, replacing Colin Tinknell. A motion to put future national team elections under the direction of the Electoral Reform Services organisation was defeated, but a second motion to 'Review the National Website with an aim to improving navigation and ensuring that it is regularly and consistently updated' was passed with a large majority.

The Cotswold Link meeting provided an opportunity to discuss with other U3A's in our area a variety of subjects ranging from interest groups to funding issues and was quite informative.

Turning to our own U3A two new activity groups will start this month, Table Tennis and Industrial Archaeology, and I wish them every success.

We are looking for co-ordinators for these activities, so if you are interested please let Michael Yorke or me know. In addition the search for a new editor continues; again if you are interested please let me know.

Reg Thoburn
01285 712397

Chip and Pin Signature Cards

An alternative option for anyone who has difficulties using a PIN. To find out more contact the Payments Council:

- Visit the website : www.paymentscouncil.org.uk
- By email : questions@paymentscouncil.org.uk
- By phone : 020 3217 8259
- By post : Payments Council
2 Thomas More Square
London E1W 1YN

I also have one leaflet about this topic; please contact me for further details.

Alison Hobson
01285 711768

U3A September

Marion Canning talked to the U3A in September about how she has taken advantage of her deep, clear speaking voice throughout her life. When she decided on a second career as a toastmaster, prejudice about women in the role nearly crushed her aim but she persevered and was trained. Then, for 15 years, she meticulously orchestrated big occasions in her scarlet barthea waistcoat, short jacket with many pockets ('most useful') and black skirt, all designed for her by a Saville Row tailor because she wanted to move away from the accepted male uniform. Now, in yet another career, she is having a wonderful time talking, with great verve, about how - despite every care - the foibles of human nature caused so many heart-stopping moments which afterwards became the foundation of many a laugh. Opening a small attaché case, she took on the air of a magician as she drew forth dozens of items, including panti-hose, a black tie, miniature screwdrivers and a magnet 'to find the screw which has parted company with the glasses frame', pens, pencils and pins, combs and a clothes brush, all of which helped her through fraught situations. So impressive was her performance that around Fairford members are still rehashing her tales and spreading the laughter.

Sylvia Jones

FAIRFORD & DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY

F & DCS is now busily rehearsing for its autumn concert which will be on Saturday 10th November 2012 at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church, Fairford.

The programme, Keep Calm & Carry on Listening, will include music by Handel (Dettingen Te Deum), Parry (I Was Glad), Victoria (O Quam Gloriosum) and Mozart (Alleluia from Exsultate, Jubilate).

Tickets/Information: <http://www.fairford.org/choralsociety>; Blenheim Antiques, Market Place, Fairford or Fairford Opticians, High Street, Fairford. £8 (under 18 £4), or telephone 01285 713681 – or 'on the door' on the night.

Proposed Industrial Archaeology Group

...Introductory Meeting

The first meeting, for interested members to meet together and discuss and agree the way forward for the Group, will be at the Tame Room, Fairford Community Centre on Wednesday 10 October at 7.30pm.

John Higgs will give a talk on 'Traction Engines', which will be followed by a 'planning meeting' and hopefully there will be time for some customary evening refreshment after the meeting has concluded.

One of the options in the short term, which I have already e-mailed interested members about, is to attend the series of Winter Lectures put on by the Gloucestershire Society of Industrial Archaeology between October 2012 and March 2013.

The complete list is available on www.gsia.org.uk, but the October lecture is on the 24th at 7.30pm, in Gloucester, when, following the AGM, there will be two videos shown, one on the former Fromebridge Mill at Whitminster and the other on the former Lewis & Hole Foundry near Stroud.

Will all members interested in this visit please let me (Michael Yorke) know by the 10th October get-together, so I can let the GSIA Secretary know numbers. Cost is £1 per head, plus any car-sharing costs that may be applicable; these can be finalised once numbers are confirmed.

Photocopying

Will Group Leaders please be aware that Head Office have advised us that it is no longer legal to make multiple copies of:

- a chapter of a book
- an article in a journal or magazine
- a short story or poem from an anthology.

This will probably be relevant only to the Leaders of Study Groups, but the Committee felt that all Group Leaders should be aware of the situation.

Michael Yorke
Group Co ordinator
01367 253286

Bletchley Park visit, 25th September

Forty-three members went to see, first-hand, the important work which was undertaken at Bletchley Park during World War II. The Park was purchased by the Government in 1938 for the M6 code and cypher school, being ideally placed with good rail, road and communication links to London and Universities. The first code-breakers inspected Bletchley Park under the guise of a shooting party. THIS WAS TOP SECRET, their mission to crack the Nazi codes.

The Polish had broken the early Enigma machine cypher in 1932 in which the cypher seldom altered. With the advent of war it changed once a day giving 150 million million combinations to choose from. Breaking the code was aided by a complex electro mechanical device called 'the Bombe' developed at Bletchley Park. This machine ran through every possible permutation to identify the setting used in the Enigma. In 1942 a more complex Enigma was introduced, but by year end, Bletchley Park had again broken the code with the construction of 'Colossus', the world's first programmable electronic computer. All these machines were destroyed after the war but copies have been rebuilt and can be seen working in the museum.

Eight thousand nine hundred people worked at Bletchley Park, of which six thousand were young women, many recruited from the services. The code breakers made a vital contribution to the war effort and evidence suggests that they certainly shortened it. Their legacy lives on with us today with the computer technology that dominates our lives.

Their work must surely never be forgotten.

Jen Thoburn

*Historic site of secret British codebreaking activities during WWII and
birthplace of the modern computer*

<http://www.bletchleypark.org.uk>

GROUP EVENTS

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

Birdwatching

Tuesday 16 October

The recce for our planned visit for October proved unsatisfactory so we shall pay another visit to Coombe Hill meadows if the water levels are suitable. At this time of year the towpath along the canal is usually uneven and muddy and the meadows can be flooded so boots are strongly recommended.

Meet at the Fairford car park at 9am as usual. Lunch will be at the usual pub. The suggested passenger contribution is £3.

Richard Morgan
01285 712085

Book Circle 1

Tuesday 16 October

Our next meeting will be at Pauline's, a week later than usual because of the Cheltenham Literature Festival.

We shall discuss 'Westwood' by Stella Gibbons. Please let Pauline know if you are unable to come on 01285 713174.

Denny Rawlinson
01285 711009

Book Circle 2

Tuesday 9 October

We shall meet at Jean's house at 2.30pm to discuss 'Tomorrow to be brave' by Susan Travers. Please let Jean or me know if you will not be able to attend.

Kevin Hannigan 01367 250246
hannigan100@hotmail.com
Jean Moulden
01285 713308

Bridge Improvers

Do you play bridge ?
If you play some bridge and would like to improve you will be very welcome at the Bridge Improvers group. We meet every Monday afternoon 2-4 pm in the Heritage room, Fairford Community Centre. This term we shall be revising the Acol bidding system. We are a friendly and informal group, making mistakes and learning together. Come and join us!

Partners and refreshments provided.

Margaret Bishop
01285 713747
mbishop@talktalk.net

Chess

Wednesday 24 October

The next meeting will be at Mike's house.

Mike Bennett
01367 252379

Computer Group

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

For those wanting to start using email, I can allocate you a personal email address based on our website address for your sole use.

Nick Humphris
01285 711740

Family History 1

Wednesday 17 October

The October meeting will be at my house and we shall hear from Margaret about different ways of recording our family history. Please be prepared to say a little about your own methods - or lack of them!

Miriam Scott
01285 713441

Family History 2

Wednesday 17 October

The next meeting is at my house at 2.30pm.

There is a lot of interest in a bible I have, which is around 200 years old. I have just had it refurbished and it has family information written in it so I shall have it on show.

Also I hope to download some podcasts from the National Archives to show the group, and to show everyone how to download for themselves.

Michael Johnson
sanaelma@yahoo.co.uk
01285 712637

Five Rhythms Dance

Wednesday 17 October

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

Gillian Bilbrough
01285 712579
Joyce Deane
01285 851408

French Conversation

Intermediate

Salut tout le monde!

I hope that everyone will be able to come to meetings on 8th and 22nd October. Please let me know if you will not be able to be there.

New members would be most welcome to join this group. We meet at 11am, at my home. Please contact me for more information.

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

Garden Group

There will be no meeting in October due to the high number of members, including myself, who will be away.

Penny Phillips

01285 711360

pennyrphillips@gmail.com

Geology

Wednesday 10 October

Our Autumn Field trip will take the form of a visit to Clearwell Caves in the Forest of Dean. The cost to enter for seniors is £5.50. The route through the cave system (Historic Iron Workings) is self-guided and takes around one to one-and-a-half hours. There are refreshments at the café on site. On the way I thought it would be good to pass by the 900 square feet Geomap Sculpture of the Forest of Dean opened in 2008 and found at the picnic site at New Fancy View (Grid 628095), about a mile east of the village of Parkend. Clearwell Caves are located about a mile-and-a-half south of the town of Coleford (grid 576082). Please meet at Fairford car park at the top of High Street at 9.30am. We should be back by 3.30pm.

Clive Watson

01285 713003

Brian Routledge

'The show caves are a part of an extensive natural cave system, mined for iron ore to make one of Britain's most complex and oldest mine workings; dating back well over 4,500 years, when Neolithic miners dug for ochre pigments.'

<http://www.clearwellcaves.com>

German Circle

Please contact me for further details.

Karin Forman

01367 252675

Keep Fit

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

Eddie Rosser

01367 252504

Latin

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 weekly on Thursday mornings.

Please contact:

Jim Sullivan

01367 252539

Industrial Archaeology

See page 6

Music Listening

Friday 19 October

Following discussion between members at the September meeting, it has been decided that the first step towards a permanent solution will be to hold the next meeting at the Tame Room in the Fairford Community Centre at 2.30pm.

The music theme for this meeting will be 'Female Artistes'.

A small charge will be made to cover the room rental and a contribution to refreshments. I have to advise that we do not have a Group Leader as yet, so in the meantime we shall be asking members, in turn, to decide on a theme from which to choose music for the following meeting.

Michael Yorke

Group Co ordinator

01367 253286

Needlework

The Needlework group will meet on 10th and 24th October.

For further details please contact:

Thelma Hardie

01285 713971

Pétanque

The Pétanque group meets every Wednesday morning from 10-12 pm at our piste at the entrance to Farmor's School, Fairford.

David and Heather Baber
01285 711343

Philosophy

Wednesday 17 October

Our next meeting will be at my house at 2.30pm. The subject will be a quotation from von Moltke, 'Everlasting peace is a dream, and war is a necessary part of God's arrangement. Without war the world would slide into materialism'.

Dan Deane
01285 851408

Helmuth Karl Bernhard Graf von Moltke (1800 – 1891) was a German Field Marshal. The chief of staff of the Prussian Army for thirty years, he is regarded as one of the great strategists of the latter 19th century, and the creator of a new, more modern method of directing armies in the field.

From Wikipedia

Poetry Circle 1

The poetry group meets on the first Friday of the month.

Barbara Cottam
01285 711054

Poetry Circle 2

There will be no meeting in October as it coincides with the Cheltenham Literary Festival which some members will attend.

On 2nd November we shall meet at Maureen's house to read poems by Coleridge and discuss our Christmas programme.

If any of you have any Christmas poems please bring them along.

Jen Thoburn
01285 712397

Postcard Group

Tuesday 16 October

This month's meeting will be, as usual, at my house at 2.30pm and the theme letter will be 'M'.

Don will be showing us some of his collection of advertising postcards which should be very interesting.

John Higgs
01285 712488

Recorders

October dates for the recorder group will be the 12th and 26th, starting with anyone who would like to play the treble (please come and have a go) from 2-2.30pm 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.

With the rapid approach of Christmas and in response to popular demand, we need to dust off a few old favourites (the pull of Frosty the Snowman is getting stronger) and prepare ourselves for a couple of performances. We'll make the final decision on our programme at the next meeting so please try to come along.

If there are any more recorder players who would like to join a friendly, non-judgemental group, please contact:

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

Rummikub

Thursday 11 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

Solos

Monday 1 October

The next meeting will be at 2.30pm at Valerie's House. We shall finalise our trip to Slimbridge on the Tuesday 23rd October.

Hopefully we can talk about travel arrangements for the Turkey and Tinsel weekend at the end of November and about our December get-together.

Michael Johnson
01285 712637
sanaelma@yahoo.co.uk

Spanish

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

Frank Hall
01285 712583

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

Straddlers

Thursday 18 October

Lovely views, outstanding Cotswold countryside, gorgeous weather, good company – that is what is on offer for our 9 mile Straddlers walk this month. We shall start at Condicote (village 3 miles northwest of Stow-on-the-Wold). On leaving the village we shall walk in a southerly direction along the old Roman road 'Ryknild Street' which originally linked the Fosse Way with Templeborough near Rotherham.

After 2 miles we shall gradually descend along a variety of country lanes, fields, tracks, woodland paths and estate roads until we arrive at Upper Slaughter where we shall stop for lunch. Our return will again be along a mixture of footpaths, woodlands, roads, metalled drives in a northerly direction where we shall gently ascend passing Eyford Park, Skinners Hill and Eyford Hill Farm before turning east and then northeast to arrive back at Condicote.

As usual stout walking boots and walking poles are recommended as we shall be walking on all types of surfaces including a few small stretches of main road, and remember your packed lunch. Recommended passenger fee is £3. Meet at Fairford car park at 9.15 or 10am in Condicote – please contact us for details of parking in Condicote.

Reg Thoburn 01285 712397
Bert Sampson 01285 712789

Condicote

Cunda's Cot : Cunda (name), cot (cottage or shelter for animals)

Ekwall. Concise Oxford Dictionary of Place Names. 4th ed.

Striders

Tuesday 23 October

Humpty Dumps, Stepping Stones, King's Hay, Fyfield, Tiltup, Hammersmith Bottom, Piggeries. Where are we? A 6-mile walk around Eastleach and Southrop.

Meet at Fairford car park at 9.45am or at The Victoria Inn, Eastleach to order lunch before a 10am start.

Suggested passenger fee £1.

Gaynor Williams
01367 252052

Strollers

Friday 26 October

This month's walk I'll call the Lechlade Loop. This is an easy and flat walk but obviously walking boots and walking sticks will be required.

We shall start at The Riverside Inn, Lechlade, and initially follow in the direction of Fairford turning left signed 7 Stiles Stroll. We continue the walk via Halfpenny Bridge having followed the river and from there to St John's Lock. We then cross under the main road and proceed to Bloomers Hole footbridge following the footpath along the river to Mill Lane, then look out for the sewer plant, on to the cricket pitch and subsequently back to the Riverside Inn.

The distance is just under 4 miles and should be very enjoyable.

Meet at either Fairford car park at 10am or 10.15am at the Riverside where we can sort out lunch.

As it is only a nominal distance from Fairford to Lechlade I shall leave it to the car drivers to decide the passenger charge.

I look forward to seeing everyone. Any problems or queries contact:

John Yorke
01367 253596 or 07546818485
John.Yorke@mail.com

Traditional Jazz

Thursday 4 October

The group meets on the first Thursday of each month at our house in Lechlade from 2-4.30pm. This month we shall listen to a random selection of recordings from all eras with an emphasis on Classic Jazz. Our December meeting will be brought forward to 29th November.

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

Table Tennis

The first session of play will be held in the Keble Room at the Fairford Community Centre at 2.30pm on Wednesday 3rd October.

Players are asked to bring their own bats, and balls will be supplied.

The room is booked for two hours, and at present we are trying to source a second table to complement the one in the Keble Room, which can comfortably be accommodated, to avoid players having to wait too long for a game.

There is no charge for the first meeting, but thereafter the room charge is £6 per hour, which will vary depending on how many players attend each meeting.

We look forward to a robust start to this new Group.

Michael Yorke
Group Co ordinator
01367 253286

Walking and Pub Lunch

Wednesday 10 October

The walk for this month takes us through Cirencester Park; hopefully the magnificent trees will have their autumn colour. Starting at The Plough at Stratton this circular walk takes in Cecily Hill, the Park and the south side of Stratton. There is a slight incline and three easy stiles. Part of one track may be muddy.

Leave Fairford car park at 9.45am or meet at the pub at 10.05am to order lunch before starting the walk at 10.15am. Suggested passenger fare £1.

Ann Wightman
01285 712723

Yoga

The Yoga group meets weekly on Mondays at the Community Centre at 10.15am.

Sylvia Jones
01285 712657

Cecily Hill, ...the grandest street in Cirencester... The site of the medieval St Cecilia's Chapel.

Verey. Gloucestershire 1 : The Cotswolds

GROUP REVIEWS

Birdwatching

We had an excellent sunny but cool day at Slimbridge. We were hoping that the regular birds would be enhanced by some early migrants heading south but this was not to be. However, we were treated to several stray American birds. The Long Billed Dowitcher (rather like a small godwit) which has been around for a couple of months was found with some difficulty amongst the godwit flock. Just before lunch four of our group joined one of the wardens on a walk over the rather wet river banks to the water's edge (an area normally off bounds to the public) and eventually had super views of a pretty little Buff Breasted Sandpiper which had been around for a couple of days.

After lunch another birdwatcher in the hide asked if the small distant wader he could just see in his telescope was a Pectoral Sandpiper! Not knowing anything about small American waders we let him convince us and others in the hide that it was – one had been seen earlier in the day by a warden. We look forward to our usual winter visit when there are always far more birds much easier to see.

Richard Morgan

Book Circle 2

Death comes to Pemberley by P D James

The story is set six years after the marriage of Darcy and Elizabeth. They are busy arranging the final touches to their annual autumn ball when Lydia, one of Elizabeth's sisters, rushes in to say that Wickham, her husband, is dead. A search party discovers Wickham in the woods very much alive, very drunk and covered in blood beside the body of his friend Captain Denny. Wickham is charged with the crime but even though Darcy despises him he cannot quite believe he is a murderer.

This is P D James's sequel to Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice. The brief was to return to the Regency world of Jane Austen while creating a detective story.

None of us enjoyed the book. All thought that it was a big mistake by James to take it on and agreed that sequels do not work.

Jean Moulden

Book Circle 1

Alone in Berlin by Hans Fallada

Hans was a well-known writer in 20th century Germany who had a long history of drug abuse and psychiatric problems.

This story is fiction but based on the true story of Otto and Elise Hampel who delivered anti-Nazi missives. The following is a review by Peter O'Toole which I think is better and more succinct than anything I could write:-

"It is Second World War Berlin. Our hero is a worker an unremarkable man, a bit charmless and grumpy but with a bottomless loathing of the Nazi regime. He decides in his own modest way to protest and resist his masters. His method is singular and he must be solitary and his simple actions shriek with mortal danger. Truly alone in Berlin.

Two scenes echo round my mind - a Nazi interrogation where frenzied logic prompts each answer to provide another insane question; then a quiet scene, in desperate circumstances between our hero and a musician which I found gallant and beautiful. This novel affected me deeply."

This was not a comfortable read but we all felt it had been well worth while.

Eileen Harlow

Family History 1

In a very well-prepared talk, Clive introduced us to his family, some Welsh, showing us some beautifully reproduced and bound photographs and displaying the vast amount of work he had done in the last five years. It was a fascinating and most enjoyable afternoon.

Miriam Scott

Family History 2

Five of us met at the Library to use the computers. Everybody had success in the searches except me. But that's another story.

Michael Johnson

Garden Group

We did not have far to go this month, just a few miles along the road to Southrop.

We had a most enjoyable afternoon wandering about in an extremely well planted and colourful garden. This belonged to Gill and Roger Burton, friends of Rosemary Burrige who had kindly arranged for us to visit. Gill and Roger showed us round their garden, giving us a most informed and interesting account of the past nine years since they moved there and how nothing went to waste from any building or excavation works they had done. Unused stone was turned into retaining walls for flowerbeds which contained a wonderful variety of Michaelmas daisies (asters), in various shades of pink and mauve, short and tall, as well as various grasses, rudbeckias - all golden yellow, and a wonderful array of dahlias - all so healthy and just covered in flowers. Another particularly colourful addition to the planting was the tall and very striking Mexican sunflower, a beautiful orange and a wonderful foil to all the purple shades. We all also loved a very pretty Cosmos 'Sweet Sixteen' so much that next year most, if not all of us, will no doubt be growing it!

After our tour we were treated to some delicious homemade cake and tea in the conservatory - an extremely pleasant end to a great afternoon.

Penny Phillips

Philosophy

The subject for discussion was 'Beauty is in the eye of the beholder'. A wide-ranging discussion ensued. Initially it was said that any assessment of beauty is subjective and that beauty comes in many forms, some more transient than others. It was thought that fashion sometimes played a part in what a majority considered to be the finest examples of beauty. Appreciation of beauty might be by senses other than sight. A comment was made that some of the great artists had had a defect in their eyesight. It was thought that generally the beauty of an object lies in its integrity, perfection, proportion and harmony. A craftsman makes beautiful artefacts by intimately knowing and respecting the materials he is using.

A suggestion was made that great art could produce a settled mind.

Dan Deane

Pétanque

On 5th September we had a visit from Andrew Lloyd (a National Pétanque coach) who spent the morning with us giving us tips on improving our game and some relevant points regarding Pétanque rules. As some of us will be making our way to the Isle of Wight in October, the morning's coaching should be useful.

Although the season is due to finish at the end of October we shall continue at the discretion of our members, and of course, the weather!

Heather Baber

Poetry Circle 1

Poems by Tennyson and Browning were read at our September meeting. Both poets are remembered for their long narrative poems and this made suitable choices rather difficult, though no one chose 'The Charge of the Light Brigade', Tennyson's most famous poem. Fortunately, many extracts from his longer poems have been set to music. Donald read 'Now Sleeps the Crimson Petal Now the White', from 'The Princess' and there were readings from 'In Memoriam', 'Ulysses', 'Morte d'Arthur' and 'The Lady of Shallot'.

Much discussion took place around Joyce's choice of 'Porphyria's Lover' by Browning, first published in 1836 and republished in 1863 under the heading 'Madhouse Cell II' in which a jealous lover strangles Porphyria with her own yellow hair, one of his many poems on the subject of jealousy. 'Confessions' read by Celia showed Browning reflecting fondly on young love, an altogether happier theme for our Circle.

Barbara Cottam

Solos

Three silver haired damsels set forth in their silver carriage to pick up their bold knight Sir Mike Johnson to escort them to the John of Yorke estate in Lechlade. On arrival Sir Mike hammered on the battlements, causing a ferocious noise within; our bold knight stood his ground and brandished his BBQ fork. The door was opened by a slaving mass being John and a snarling beast, a seven-inch high dog, called Cookie. Our two chefs cooked steaks, burgers, sausages, chicken and cremated bits as well - a grand banquet plus sweets and salads.

So to all of you damsels and knights of the U3A come and join us for laughter and tomfoolery. 19 Valerie Bevington Wood

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, Solos 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 German Beg	Further German Postcards	
Wednesday am	Pétanque	Walking & PL Pétanque	Five Rhythms Pétanque	Cycling & PL Pétanque
pm		Geology	Family Hist 1 & 2 Philosophy	Chess
Thursday am	Model Boats Computers	Model making Computers	Model Boats Straddlers Computers	Model Boats Computers
pm	Latin Traditional Jazz	Rummikub	Garden	
Friday am				Strollers
pm	Poetry Circle 1 Poetry Circle 2	Recorders	Music	Recorders

Please send items for the

November

issue to Alison Hobson email:
editor@fairfordu3a.org.uk by

Friday October 26th