

Spring 2014 Magazine

The new quarter sees the start of a new Interest Group - a Ballroom Dancing Group, where members can learn the steps of the main ballroom dances and practise them in a quiet environment with help to get the steps correct. See the report of the initial meeting,

Items in this edition are:

Ballroom Dancing.

Walking Group - April walk.

Science & Nature Trip to Oxford.

Walking Group - May walk.

Walking Group - June walk

Choir Concert

Outing to The National Memorial Arboretum - report by a member of the Science and Nature Group



Inuit Costume made mostly from sealskin or Caribou hide on display in the Pitt-Rivers Museum in Oxford.

Ballroom Dancing Group - Inaugural Meeting 9th April 2014

The first session got off to a good start with 18 people attending. After the initial introductions the afternoon commenced with basic steps of the Waltz, including right and left closed steps, natural and reverse turns, whisk and chassé.

Then after a ten minute tea/coffee break the class continued with basic Cha Cha Cha to include "New Yorker" and "Solo" turn steps.

In all it was a good 90 minutes of enjoyment and pleasure and I am looking forward to our next session in three weeks time, when we will dance slow rhythm and "Quick Step" and revision of the Waltz & Cha Cha Cha.

Many thanks go to my assistant Aline Cumming who took care of the music.

Ballroom Dance Meeting No. 2 Wednesday 2.30pm
30th April Holy Trinity Community Hall.



Still open for more people to join our sessions

KEEP DANCING John B Barker..



Practising steps



Walking Group around Bidford - 9th April 2014

A group of about 15 walkers met in Bidford to walk around the area. We started by crossing the river by way of the bridge and turned upstream into the riverside field. The walk was a circular route by way of Barton and around to Marlcliff before returning to Bidford along the river bank.

The weather was perfect, little breeze and warm sunshine. The blackthorn trees were in full bloom, the oilseed rape was flowering already making everywhere seem golden yellow, and there was plenty of birdsong and activity. We saw plenty of lambs, several foals, but no ducklings - perhaps its a bit early.



The river Avon - weir and boat in lock beyond.



Bidford from the river bridge.



Post Box Cottage, Barton.



The group entering a field from the bridge



Oilseed Rape flowering as far as one can see.

Walking Group around Bidford - 9th April 2014 (page 2)



The group pictured during a refreshment break about halfway around the walk. The bush behind is a Blackthorn in a hedgerow.

Total walk length was about 5 miles, taking just over 2 hours.

Thanks to Val and Fred for organising and leading.

Science and Nature Group Trip to Oxford - Friday 9th May 2014

A reduced group of members gathered at Stratford Leisure Centre before travelling to Oxford by car. We were to meet a few other group members in Oxford.

The purpose of the trip was to visit some of the University museums - The Natural History Museum, the Pitt-Rivers Museum and the History of Science Museum.

Arriving at the Natural History Museum in time for elevenses, most members elected to visit the cafe to fortify themselves before moving on to the museums. The Natural History and Pitt-Rivers Museums are on the same site and connected. Many of us had already been to visit the Natural History Museum not long ago and moved straight through to the Pitt-Rivers Museum.

This museum was founded by General Pitt-Rivers donating his extensive collection of archaeological and anthropological artefacts to the University. That original collection has been added to by further donations from other collectors and by buying artefacts of known provenance and origin on world markets.



Front elevation of the Natural History Museum.

Pitt-Rivers was born Augustus Henry Lane-Fox and inherited the estates and title 7th Baron Rivers from his cousin Horace Pitt-Rivers. He

took the surname Pitt-Rivers as part of the inheritance. He found that the estates contained a wealth of archaeological material from the Roman and Saxon periods. He excavated these over 17 seasons, employing very methodical methods, far in advance of antiquarians of the time. He is regarded as the first scientific archaeologist to work in Britain. He insisted that all artefacts, not just the beautiful or unique, be collected and catalogued. His work inspired others including Mortimer Wheeler to add to the scientific approach to archaeological excavation techniques.



North American Totem pole

The Pitt-Rivers Museum contains material from around the world, cataloguing the history of everyday artefacts, such as clothing and foot-

Science and Nature Group Trip to Oxford - Friday 9th May 2014

wear, household artefacts, Religious, transport and weaponry.



Textiles from around the world

Transport artefacts were mostly models of boats from various parts of the world. Polynesia favoured canoes, sometimes hollowed from a tree trunk, with outriggers to help balance and sailing qualities.



Above is a display case showing various types of outrigger type canoe.

Other parts of the world mastered building from planks fairly early on. On the next page are two images, one of a large dugout and the other a dhow with lateen sail.

Science and Nature Group Trip to Oxford (continued)



There was quite a lot about religions around the world. The image above shows a model of a Mongolian temple in Ulan Bator.

Approaches to death were also demonstrated in the display case, the most noticeable being mummy cases from Egypt.



Lunchtime arrived and we retired to The Mitre, a well known pub in Oxford.



After lunch we walked along to the History of Science Museum. Most of us had visited this small museum before but there is always something new, or that has not been noticed before. The exhibits cover the period from about 1600 to fairly recent times.

Science and Nature Group Trip to Oxford (continued)

There are 4 floors in the building and they all have displays covering varying subjects: chemistry, physics, electricity, mathematics, surveying, navigation, clocks and time keeping, etc.



Early Marconi Wireless Apparatus



Chemistry Apparatus



Two displays of mathematical instruments, slide rules and similar



Surveying Equipment



Microscopes.

Walking Group - Wednesday 14th May 2014
Walk around Oversley Green via Exhall village.

Eleven members met near the river in Oversley Green. The weather was kind and we had sunshine all the way round the walk. We walked through Oversley Woods towards Exhall village. The paths were very muddy where horses had gone before. There were a few bluebells about, but the best must have gone over. There were



plenty of other flowers about and the Lilac were very abundant and colourful.

The crops in the fields were growing well with the rape still very eye catching.

There was the odd diversion along the way. The one pictured indicates the presence of a bull with cows and calves. We took the diversion along the headland of a field of oilseed rape. There were also plenty of birds - some visible, other not visible and only their songs to indicate they were there. Near some farm buildings we saw swallows. Later in the walk we saw Heron, geese and mallard by the river.



About half way round the walk, we stopped for a break by a convenient bench. There we were able to pose for a group photograph.

Walking Group - Wednesday 14th May 2014
Walk around Oversley Green via Exhall village.



On the way back to the start point in Oversley Green we passed Oversley Castle, supposed to be a 19th century folly suggested by the Prince Regent). I understand that it is now converted to modern apartments. It sits upon a very tall hill.



We walked back through the village of Oversley Green, admiring the pretty cottages. A perusal of the OS map showed us that the rivers Alne and Arrow join a hundred yards or so upstream from the bridge.

Thanks to Val and Fred for arranging the walk which was very interesting and enjoyable.

Walking Group - Wednesday 11th June 2014



This month's walk started at Combrook and followed a roughly circular path via Compton Verney back to Combrook.

Group pictured above with lake at Compton Verney in background

The weather was dry and warm enough for some to forsake their jackets and knitwear.

Below is a view over the lake at Compton Verney



Members of group walking over a field full of cattle.



Choir Concert - Friday 20th June 2014



The newly refurbished Church Hall at the Methodist Church, Old Town, was packed with choristers and audience for the summer concert, which started at 2.30 pm. The title of the concert was "Let's Sing a Song" and was a remembrance of the 1914-1918 Great War in poems, readings and songs.

Our Musical Director, Stewart Wallace, had put together some of the well known songs from the time with other items to help the memory. The concert opened with "Alexander's Ragtime Band".



Stewart Wallace announcing the next item.



Dorothy Jones acted as MC.



Kay read a poem

Choir Concert - Friday 20th June 2014



A short performance from "Under Milk Wood" by Dylan Thomas



The ladies sang
"Keep the Home Fires Burning"



Marilyn spoke about Tea



Bill read a poem

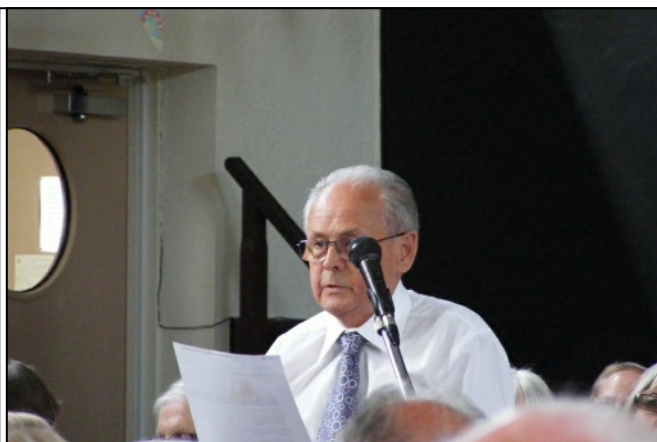


Dave spoke about Tea and Homesickness.



There was a second performance from
"Under Milk Wood"

Choir Concert - Friday 20th June 2014



Eddie Read a poem



The choir sang a song from a mid 20th century musical in which the words had been rewritten by Margaret Dews to echo the Great War

"What They Did For Love"



Sandra read a poem



The men sang
"Pack up your troubles" &
"It's a long way to Tipperary"



June read a poem



Brian read a poem

Outing to The National Memorial Arboretum

Friday 13th June 2014

Coral Bradley had organised the outing as part of her season's outings and The Science and Nature Group joined in with the outing, partly to help fill the coach. This report was written by a member of the Science & Nature Group and the photographs were taken by Marilyn Shorey.

For our June meeting some of us joined the trip to the National Memorial Arboretum. As well as hearing about the history of the Arboretum, we enjoyed a walk in the morning and a trip on the small train after lunch which allowed us to see more of the site and how the trees were laid out. The different varieties were explained and we also saw the river and the wildlife there. The memorials were built from a variety of stones, many originating from battles which took place abroad. An interesting day, helped by good weather!



Some of members on the visit



Item from a memorial



D-Day Normandy Campaign Memorial



Outing to The National Memorial Arboretum
Friday 13th June 2014



Memorial to Royal Engineers



Polar Bear Memorial to 49th Infantry
West Riding Division



Memorial to Household Division



Memorial to The Durham Light Infantry



Memorial to The Army Dental Corps

New Members' Meeting - Friday 30th June 2014



A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

We held our annual New Members Meeting at the end of May in the New Room. Nearly thirty new members attended and they informally met some of our committee and told us all a little about themselves.

They seemed to find interesting the history of the U3A movement, from it's formation in 1981. Now there are 926 throughout the UK, with in excess of 322,000 members. The philosophy of 'it's never too late to learn' provides educational, creative and leisure opportunities for people no longer in full time employment in a friendly environment. A typical U3A has 250 members, but could be as small as 12 or as large as 2,000, with over 300 different interest groups. Subjects include Art, Architecture, Languages, Music, History, the Sciences, Philosophy, Computing, Crafts, Walking - the list is vast.

About 50 new U3A's are started every year.

Our motto is 'Fun and Friendship at the Heart of England U3A' and we really hope that everyone will enjoy many years with us.

Get involved, join one or more of our 34 interest groups.

If you have a particular interest that's not covered, why not tell us and we'll consider starting a new group.

Geoff Bridgewater