

April to June Quarter 2023 Magazine

Welcome to the April to June 2023 edition of our Magazine. This issue runs from 1st April to 30th June 2023.

Reports include 2 reports from the previous quarter:

- New Members Meeting 30th March 2023
- Choir Concert 31st March 2023
- SNATTs Meeting 14th April 2023—The Ordnance Survey
- Monthly Meeting Thursday 4th May

2023

- SNATTs Meeting 12th May 2023 — Computer Operating Systems.
- Monthly meeting Thursday 1st June 2023
- SNATTs Meeting Friday 8th June 2023
- Classical Music Group Meeting - Monday 12th June 2023

Last update: 27th June 2023



6th May—Coronation Celebrations—Giant crown on traffic island at top of Bridge Street

New Members' Meeting—30th March 2023

Welcome Entrance Area, Stratford-upon-Avon Methodist Church Centre

We have not run a New Members' Meeting for some time but we did run one on Thursday 30th March during the afternoon. 32 new members were invited for tea and a chat and to meet some of the Group Leaders and some of the committee members. 17 new members attended.

Tea and biscuits were served at the beginning of the meeting as people were coming in to the building.

Cindy opened the meeting and then handed over to Jayne, our Chair, to continue. There followed quite a lot of chatting as people were getting to know each other. New members learned about the local u3a network in which u3a members could attend



2 views of members of the meeting

meetings of activity groups in the five u3as, provided there was room in such groups. A quick telephone call to the Group Leader is all that is necessary prior to attending.



u3a Choir Concert - 31st March 2023

Main Hall, Stratford-upon-Avon Methodist Church Centre



The audience is seated and eagerly awaits the choir to begin, and a capacity audience it is. The choir is seated and awaiting the

signal from the musical director. He will begin with an introduction and will outline the sort of concert it will be and what the



u3a Choir Concert - 31st March 2023

Main Hall, Stratford-upon-Avon Methodist Church Centre

audience can do to enhance the performance — join in and sing when asked to do so!

The programme is one of singing popular and not so popular songs from the last 100 years or so, with a few solo renditions by members of the choir. For a few songs that were not included in the programme list in the leaflet, the words were reproduced in the leaflet. The leaflet is reproduced on the following page.

AS you will notice in the following photographs, pretty well all members of the choir were sporting a hat, some more fancy than others. Apparently, the day of the performance had been named as 'Wear a Hat Day', to raise awareness of brain tumour re-search.

The choir sang numbers 1, 2 and 3 with just a few words from Stewart about the song's origins before each song. Then Bob sang a solo—'24 hours from tulsa.



Then the audience sang along with the choir 'Cockles and mussels'.

This was followed by Cyril doing a comedy



and song act with Stewart using the Irish song 'The Star of the County Down.

The choir followed with two songs—By The Time I Get To Phoenix', and 'Widdecombe Fair',

John then sang a solo: 'Old Father Thames'.

The choir sang:

'The Last Time I Saw Paris', a WW2 song

Another solo, this time



u3a Choir Concert - 31st March 2023

Main Hall, Stratford-upon-Avon Methodist Church Centre



by Robin: 'Love is Here to Stay'. Composed by George Gershwin in 1937, the lyrics were later added by his brother Ira and pianist Oscar Levant

The audience was back to accompany the choir in 2 songs printed in the programme: 'Scotland The Brave' and 'Men of Harlech'. These were accomplished with some gusto

The choir completed the programme with 'Chatanooga Choo Choo (the first recording to be awarded a Gold Disc) and 'New York, New York'.

The concert was finished with the choir and audience singing 'Jerusalem'.

Choir pictured below singing 'Jerusalem'.



u3a Choir Concert - 31st March 2023

Main Hall,

Stratford-upon-Avon Methodist Church Centre



Concert Programme

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JOIN IN AND SING

COCKLES AND MUSSELS

In Dublin's fair city
 Where girls are so pretty
 I first set my eyes
 On sweet Molly Malone
 As she wheeled her wheelbarrow
 Through streets broad and narrow
 Crying "cockles and mussels,
 Alive, alive, oh!"

Alive, alive, oh,
 Alive, alive, oh,
 Crying "cockles and mussels,
 Alive, alive, oh!"

She was a fishmonger
 And sure, t'was no wonder
 For so were her mother and father before
 And they wheeled their barrow
 Through the streets broad and narrow
 Crying "cockles and mussels, alive, alive, oh!"

She died of a fever
 And no one could save her
 And that was the end of sweet Molly Malone
 Her ghost wheels her barrow
 Through the streets broad and narrow
 Crying "cockles and mussels, alive, alive, oh!"



MEN OF HARLECH

Hark! I hear the foe advancing
 Barb-éd steeds are proudly prancing,
 Helmets in the sunbeams glancing
 Glitter through the trees.
 Men of Harlech, lie ye dreaming?
 See ye not their falchions gleaming?
 While their pennants gaily streaming
 Flutter in the breeze.
 From the rocks rebounding
 Let the war-cry sounding
 Summon all at Cambria's call
 The haughty foe surrounding.
 Men of Harlech, on to glory!
 See you banner famed in story
 Waves these burning words before ye,
 "Britain scorns to yield."

Mid the fray, see dead and dying,
 Friend and foe together lying,
 All around the arrows flying
 Scatter sudden death.
 Frightened steeds are wildly neighing,
 Brazen trumpets hoarsely braying,
 Wounded men for mercy praying
 With their parting breath.
 See they're in disorder!
 Comrades, keep close order!
 Ever they shall rue the day
 They ventured o'er the border.
 Now the Saxon flees before us,
 Victory's banner floateth o'er us,
 Raise the loud exulting chorus,
 "Britain wins the field."



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SCOTLAND THE BRAVE

Hark when the night is falling
 Hear! hear the pipes are calling,
 Loudly and proudly calling,
 Down through the glen,
 There where the hills are sloping,
 Now feel the blood a-leaping,
 High as the spirits
 Of the old Highland men,
 Towering in gallant fame,
 Scotland my mountain home,
 High may your proud standards
 Gloriously wave,
 Land of my high endeavour,
 Land of the shining rivers,
 Land of my heart forever,
 Scotland the brave.

High in the misty Highlands,
 Out by the purple islands,
 Brave are the hearts that beat
 Beneath Scottish skies,
 Wild are the winds to meet you,
 Staunth are the friends that greet you,
 Kind as the love that shines
 From fair maidens' eyes,
 Far off in sunlit places,
 Sad are the Scottish faces,
 Yearning to feel the kiss
 Of sweet Scottish rain,
 Where tropic skies are beaming,
 Love sets the heart a-dreaming,
 Longing and dreaming
 For the homeland again.



JERUSALEM

And did those feet in ancient time
 Walk upon England's mountains green?
 And was the holy Lamb of God
 On England's pleasant pastures seen?
 And did the countenance divine
 Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
 And was Jerusalem builded here
 Among these dark Satanic mills?



Bring me my bow of burning gold!
 Bring me my arrows of desire!
 Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!
 Bring me my chariot of fire!
 I will not cease from mental fight,
 Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,
 Till we have built Jerusalem
 In England's green and pleasant land.

Today's performance takes place on Wear A Hat Day, to raise awareness of brain tumour research. Some in the choir will wear a hat with a connection to a particular place. For more details search for brain tumour research online.

Heart of England u3a Choir was formed in 2010, with 10 members and an out of tune keyboard! We were delighted when Stewart Wallace, a professional musician, agreed to direct us. We sang via Zoom during the pandemic, since when we have been meeting again in the Methodist Hall. We greatly enjoy rehearsals under Stewart's relaxed leadership and welcome new members from any of the local u3as. We meet on Fridays from 10.30 to 12 noon.

Stewart Wallace is an experienced performer and composer. He learned the trombone and euphonium from his father, studied music at Goldsmiths' College and music technology at City University, and has played in London and Europe with jazz, folk and classical groups as keyboard player, trombonist and singer. He has examined for Trinity College London in the UK and abroad for many years. His own compositions draw on many genres, including blues, jazz and contemporary styles. Some of Stewart's scores are published on Sheet Music Direct and Sheet Music Plus, including a few arrangements written for the u3a choir. His popular YouTube channel focuses on electronic keyboards, with in-depth tutorials explaining how to master music technology.

Song credits

Waterloo (Stig Anderson, Benny Andersson, Bjorn Ulvæus)
 Sweet Lass of Richmond Hill (James Hook, Leonard McNally)
 Scarborough Fair (Traditional, arr. Stewart J Wallace)
 By the Time I get to Phoenix (Jimmy Webb)
 Widecombe Fair (Traditional, arr. Stewart J Wallace)
 The Last Time I saw Paris (Oscar Hammerstein II, Jerome Kern)
 Chattanooga Choo Choo (Mack Gordon, Harry Warren)
 New York, New York (John Kander, Fred Ebb)
 Cockles and Mussels (Irish Traditional)
 Men of Harlech (Welsh Traditional)
 Scotland the Brave (Lyrics: Cliff Hanley, Traditional Melody)
 Jerusalem (C. Hubert Parry, William Blake)

Science, Nature and All Things Technical Group

The Ordnance Survey - 14th April 2023

New Room,

Stratford-upon-Avon Methodist Church Centre

Mike Genge did the presentation and helped put it together from material and ideas and information from Victoria Inns. Victoria has had a lifelong interest in maps and the Ordnance Survey.

The talk started by looking at what went before and then how the map making by the Ordnance Survey developed. Maps have been made since early times, certainly since about Babylonian times about 600 BC. In ancient times the Greeks were most advanced and attempted to use longitude and latitude and produce a map that was accurate, whereas the Romans were less interested in accuracy and more interested in the use of maps for military and trade purposes. Their maps resembled more the *Mapa Mundi* described below,

The oldest map in Britain is the *Mappa Mundi*. That is a pictorial map of the world centred on Jerusalem and with East at the top of the map. It is thought to have been produced around 1300 AD on a single sheet of vellum.

The image below shows a portion of the map; it is a full circle and is quite large in real life. It can be seen in Hereford Cathedral.

Map drawing continued to develop so that



by Stuart times, local maps were looking much more as we now expect them to look. But much of the country was not mapped and the basic shape of the country was not completely understood. By the time of the 1745 Jacobite Rebellion in Scotland the British military were aware of the poor state of the maps that they were using and that very little was known about the terrain and roads of Scotland.. New roads were being built by the military and a start made on mapping the terrain. .

A young innovative engineer, William Roy, was tasked with the small survey of Scotland starting in 1747. It took eight years to produce the *Great Map* at a scale of 1:36,000. Surveying was done with fairly simple military compasses for angles and bearings and chains for lengths. Following the publication of the *Great Map* there was an argument with France about the relative positions of the French and British observa-

Science, Nature and All Things Technical Group
The Ordnance Survey - 14th April 2023
New Room,
Stratford-upon-Avon Methodist Church Centre

tories. This work was referred to as The Principal Triangulation of Great Britain (1783—1853). This also led directly to the creation of the Ordnance Survey. .

In 1791 a new theodolite had been produced by Jesse Ramsden, the leading instrument maker of the day. He produced a spectacular Great Theodolite, three years in the making and 3 feet across.

To begin the The London/Paris triangulation, it was necessary to measure a baseline that Roy established on the flattest suitable ground on Hounslow Heath (a line that now crosses Heathrow airport).. Using the Ramsden theodolite and trigonometry, a network of accurately measured triangles was extended to France and then back to a verification baseline in Kent. The five-mile line was later to form the basis of the Principal Triangulation of Great Britain.

With this success the Board of Ordnance bought a second new (and improved) Ramsden theodolite. The date was 21 June 1791, now officially recognised as the birth of Ordnance Survey.

In 1791 the Government ordered the defence ministry of the time - The Board of Ordnance— to survey the south coast of England as the maps of the time were very

poor and war with revolutionary France was looming. The maps were deliberately produced for military purposes due to the war raging in Europe and possibly coming to Britain. Before the end of 1794 mapmakers had 'laid down' the triangulation of the coast from Fairlight Head in Sussex to Portland in Dorset. Mapmaking began attracting attention from landowners who offered landmarks in the own estates as secondary trig points. The surveyors otherwise often built small stacks of stones to indicate where their theodolite had been placed and these remained in the landscape for months afterwards.

The first one-inch-to-the-mile (1:63360 scale) map detailing the county of Kent was published in 1801. Kent was one area most vulnerable to French invasion. The map for Essex followed shortly afterwards. The Name "Ordnance Survey' was not used until 1801 and not printed on a map until 1810.

During the next 20 years, about a third of England and Wales had been mapped at 1-inch scale. It had been thought that 50 years would be long enough to map the country, but the entire first series was not published until 1870.

The Ordnance Survey continued to develop

Science, Nature and All Things Technical Group
The Ordnance Survey - 14th April 2023
New Room,
Stratford-upon-Avon Methodist Church Centre

and during the last two hundred years, particularly during the last seventy years.

The retriangulation of Britain was started in 1935. Fixed concrete Trig points were created and these can still be seen dotted around the countryside, usually on hilltops. By 1962 the retriangulation of Britain was finally complete. Aerial surveying helped speed up the new continuous revision 'strategy', and up-to-date drawing and printing techniques were introduced.

However the organisation was still fragmented, scattered across southern England in various buildings. All that changed in 1969 when the majority of Ordnance Survey's 4,000-strong staff were moved to a purpose built head office at Maybush in Southampton. Surveyors were based in field offices across the country.

From 1971 digital map making was introduced, using GPS, photography, and computers are now used to. Electronics also transformed the surveying process. Light beam technology and automatic data recording equipment led to much faster data collection.

The Ordnance Survey gradually lost its military staff and became by 1983 a wholly civilian operation. Maps began to be created

and printed as metric scales. The 1-inch map was replaced by the 1:50,000 version. All other scales were similarly changed.

The sale of printed paper maps is now a very small part of the business. The electronic data is a very profitable part of the business and helps Britain stay at the forefront of the digital revolution.

OS OpenData was made freely available for the first time in 2010 and it was further developed by the release in 2015 of OS Open Map—Local..

For the mobile generation, OS Maps was launched. The premium mapping App from Ordnance Survey allowed users for the first time to view, navigate and download the most up-to-date OS Landranger and OS Explorer maps of Great Britain on mobile devices in high resolution.

Monthly Meeting—Thursday 4th May 2023

Sounds & Sweet Airs

Performed by Cyril & Roxanne Bennis,
 Stratford-upon-Avon Methodist Church Centre

Cyril and Roxanne have spoken to us before. The last time was about swans and other birds along the River Avon. Today the entertainment was more musical with both singing, sometimes together, sometimes alone. Cyril has an Irish background and Roxanne has an American background so their music together has elements from both musical genres and is very entertaining.

The guitar and voice featured strongly in Cyril's music. Roxanne joined in with her own input to the songs with either a drum but also featured the recorder which she played very well. She also had some American versions of the recorder, including an unusual triple recorder which looked a bit like a pan-pipe but with a very different tone and musical style.

Songs included:

'All God's Critters got a place in the Choir';

'Galway Bay';

'I'll take you home again Kathleen';

'When first I saw the love light in your eyes I thought the world held naught but joy for me';

The Huron Carol (written in the language of the Huron /Wendel people, English version



written about 1926) - 'Twas in the moon of wintertime';

'Whiskey in the Jar';

'Danny Boy' (there are various lyrics for this song but the tune is 'The Londonderry Air') ;

'In Dublin's Fair City', also called 'Molly Malone' or 'Cockles and Muscles'.

The hour or so for the performance was full of song and laughter and I think we all learned something about song how to enjoy it.

Science, Nature and All Things Technical Group Meeting

Friday 12th May 2023

Computer Operating Systems

Robert Tringham

Stratford-upon-Avon Methodist Church Centre

Robert introduced his talk about Computer Operating Systems by describing the situation during the 1980s and 1990s when computer operating systems were in their infancy. Also he looked at very early electronic systems, such as the telephone system introduced by Alexander Graham Bell in 1876. It quickly became obvious that connecting the many wires and telephones quickly and accurately was dependent on knowing an address for each telephone. The major US telephone company, AT&T, set up a laboratory called Bell Laboratory. The laboratory researched telephones and soon worked out how to give each telephone an address. This led on to telephone exchanges to act as a 'staging post' between the whole network and the individual telephones in peoples homes and businesses. Over the years Bell Laboratories have received 8 Nobel Peace Prizes for their work and have been instrumental in inventing many new concepts and devices, such as transistors, lasers, and many other devices and processes much used in modern



life.

Ball Labs devised an operating system for computers which they called Unix; this was introduced in 1969. The first release was written in assembly language, as was common practice at the time. In 1973 it was rewritten in the C programming language.

Linus Torvalds developed his Linux kernel during 1990-1991 while attending the University of Helsinki and released it on 17th September 1991. It was written in the C programming language with routines in assembly language. It was freely available as open-source community software. It is

Science, Nature and All Things Technical Group Meeting

Friday 12th May 2023

Computer Operating Systems

Robert Tringham

Stratford-upon-Avon Methodist Church Centre

based on the Unix operating system.

Linux was originally developed for personal computers based on the Intel x86 architecture chip, but has since been ported to more platforms than any other operating system. The Android system on smartphones is based on Linux. Android has the largest installed base of all general purpose operating systems as at May 2022.

Although Linux (at May 2022) is used by only 2.6% of desktop computers, the Chromebook, which runs the Linux kernel-based ChromeOS, dominates the US K12 education market and represents nearly 20% of sub-\$300 notebook sales in the US. Linux is the leading operating system on servers (over 96.4% of the top 1 million web servers' operating systems are Linux), leads other big iron systems such as mainframe computers, and is used on all of the world's 500 supercomputers (since November 2017, having gradually displaced all competitors).

Popular Linux distributions include Debian, Fedora Linux, and Ubuntu, the latter of which itself consists of many different distributions and modifications, including Lubuntu and Xubuntu.

Linux's greatest success in the consumer market is perhaps the mobile device market

with Android being the dominant operating system on smartphones and very popular on tablets, and more recently, on wearables.

For desktops and laptops, the dominant operating systems are Microsoft Windows and the Apple IOS. Linux is considered to be too 'techie' for the average user. However Linux has developed over the years into a very stable and easy to use operation system.. Also, Linux has a reputation of supporting old hardware very well by maintaining standardised drivers for a long time.

It is possible to have both Windows and Linux as a dual boot installation. This can be particularly useful for older laptops.

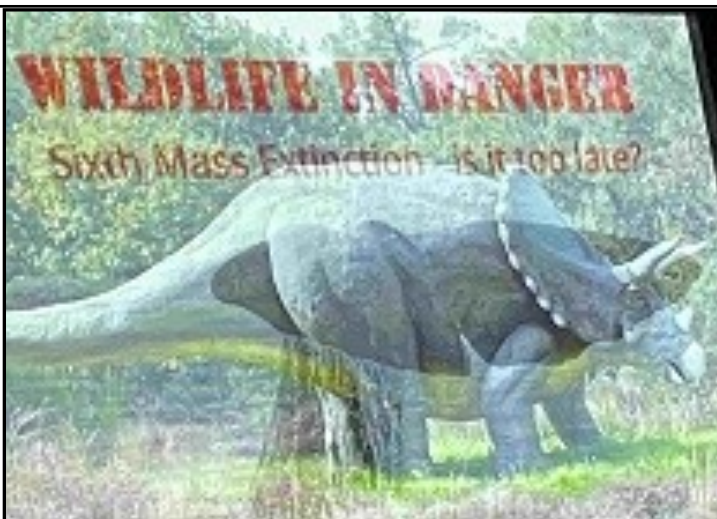
Monthly Meeting—Thursday 1st June 2023

‘Threats to Conservation and Wildlife’

Illustrated talk given by Mark Boulton

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

Stratford-upon-Avon Methodist Church Centre



Mark spoke to us to illustrate the future of the world in the not so distant future. We are already suffering quite turbulent weather at times with alternating periods of drought and flood. The water companies are already having to plan for a future where the water supply may be a problem due to the uneven rainfall patterns.

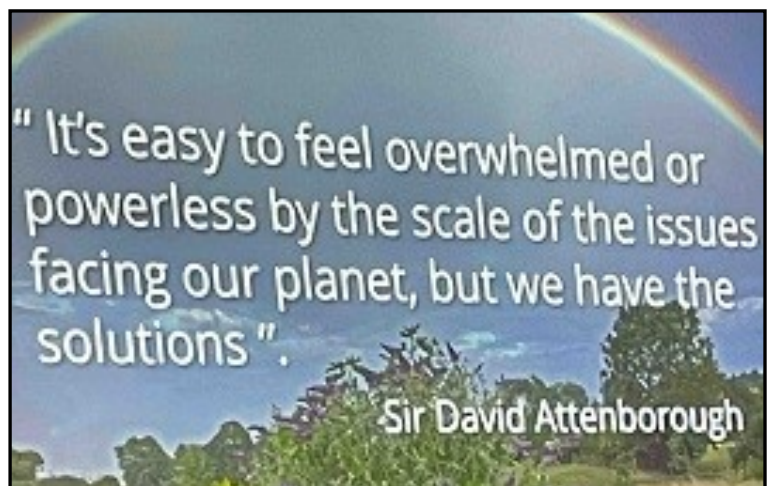
It is now estimated that the UK is now one of nations with the most depleted wildlife in the world. Many species are nearing extinction—hedgehogs, voles, bees and many other insects (due mainly to use of pesticides), many bird species are much depleted. It is true that some spe-

cies have been re-introduced successfully—Red Kite, wild boar, beavers, otters—but many others are on the verge of going extinct.

Many rivers are now much polluted, mostly because water companies continue to pump raw sewage into them. The River Wye used to be famed as a clean and full of fish, but it is now downgraded as unfit for fish.

Population pressures world-wide are having an effect. In 1952 world population was estimated at 2.5 billion; in 2022 it was estimated at 8.0 billion.

Now is the time to get behind governments, charities, etc who are fighting to save life on Earth.



Science, Nature and All Things Technical Group Meeting Friday 9th June 2023

A talk about Chlorine given by Mike Genge Stratford-upon-Avon Methodist Church Centre

Mike Genge gave a very good illustrated talk about the chemistry production and uses of the gas chlorine in Britain during the last couple of centuries or so. It has been and still is a very important chemical and affects our lives in many ways.

I have not been able to reproduce many of the illustrations used to enliven the talk but I do include the Periodic Table of the elements to show the quality of the illustrations, some of which were videos.

Chlorine is a chemical element with the symbol **Cl** and atomic number 17. The second-lightest of the halogens, it appears between fluorine and bromine in the periodic table and its properties are mostly intermediate between them. Chlorine is a yellow-green gas at room temperature.

It is an extremely reactive element and a strong oxidising agent: among the elements, it has the highest electron affinity and the third-highest electronegativity on the re-



vised Pauling scale, behind only oxygen and fluorine.

It is a constituent of salt (sodium chloride) which has been produced for hundreds of years by various means—drying sea water in coastal districts, mining underground in appropriate districts (Cheshire and Shropshire have favourable districts such as Nantwich, Middlewich and Winsford). There are also salt deposits in Droitwich, Worcestershire.

Chlorine has been used for water treatment to control bacteria in swimming pools and in drinking water. Chlorine containing compounds are or have been used as refrigerants, for degreasing metal and other materials, dry cleaning of fabrics, as a poisonous gas (used during WW1 but has been banned by international treaties since then),.

Chlorine was discovered in 1774 by German chemist Karl Scheele, but Humphrey Davy first proved it to be an element in 1810 and named it after its colour.

There are many chlorine containing molecules in Nature, including chlorophyll which is the green pigment present in most plants. It is responsible for the absorption of light energy during photosynthesis.

We use many chlorine containing compounds in our daily lives:

Plastics including PVC (polyvinyl chloride). In its native state it is a hard, tough material with good resistance to weathering and sunshine. It is often now referred to as PVCu. It is widely used for building products such as rainwater goods, waste pipes and window frames. Another use was for vinyl records. It was preferred to the older Shellac materials as the groove formation where the music recording was made could be much finer and render the recording of a higher fidelity. CDs have mostly replaced vinyl records and in their place been replaced by electronic files that can be downloaded into a memory stick or drive.

Other forms used include plasticised pvc. Which is made into films or sheeting, which has been made into furniture coverings and containers such as luggage, and accessories such as handbags. Many uses have been succeeded by other polymers so there is less pvc used nowadays than, say 50 years ago.

Domestic bleaches, such as Domestos, have a about 15% sodium hypochlorite in water which is used as a household bleach, much used to clean toilets and sinks, also to cleanse some laundry textiles.

There are many organic solvents containing chlorine which have been used in industry and commerce as cleaning and degreasing solvents which are virtually never used now. Allowing chlorine containing compounds to escape into the atmosphere has been shown to be deleterious to nature. Some years ago it was shown that cfcs (chlorofluorocarbon compounds) were destroying the ozone layer in the atmosphere. This allows harmful sun radiation into the atmosphere. A worldwide agreement to limit the amount of cfcs to be used (mostly as refrigerants in freezers and refrigerators) has been in place since about 1990.

Classical Music Group Monday 12th June 2023

Graeme Ramsey

**Chris Rookes Communal Room, Guild Cottages, Church Street
 Stratford-upon-Avon.**

Graeme started by describing how he became aware of classical music during his teens and has been listening to music all his adult life. Whilst he tried learning to produce music on the piano and other instruments, he could never get the hang of it and eventually gave up. I am sure most of us have felt this same way.

His choice of music for this afternoon was:

Part 1—A Spanish Fantasy

Sarasate: **Carmen Fantasy**, violin solo by Itzhak Perlman

De Falla: **Nights in the Gardens of Spain**

Fantasy for piano and orchestra

Jean-Efflam Bavouzet, piano

BBC Philharmonic Orchestra

Juano Mena, conductor

1st Movt. En el Generalife

2nd Movt. Danza Lejana

3rd Movt. En los jardines de la Sierra Cordoba.

INTERVAL

Part 2—Images from Russia

Borodin In the Steppes of Central Asia

L'Orchestra de la Suisse

Ernest Ansermet, conductor.

Borodin Polovtsian Dances (from Prince Igor)

London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus

Sir Georg Solti, conductor

Mussorgsky Pictures at an Exhibition

Evgeny Kissin, piano

Promenade

The Gnome

Promenade

The old Castle

Promenade

Tuileries

Bydio (Cattle)

Promenade

Ballet of the Unhatched Chicks

Samuel Goldenberg & Schmuyle

Promenade

The Market in Limoges

Catacombs—Con mortuis in lingua mortua

The Hut on Fowl's Legs

The Great Gate of Kiev