

## *April - June 2024 Magazine*

Welcome to the April – June 2024 edition of our Magazine. This issue runs from 1st April to 30th June 2024.

• History Group, Thursday 20th June

Last update: 31st July 2024

### Reports include:

- April Monthly Meeting, Thursday 4th April
- April History Group Meeting, Thursday 18th April
- May Monthly Meeting, Thursday 2nd May
- May SNATTs Meeting. Friday 10th May
- Choir Concert - Friday 24th May
- June Monthly Meeting, Thursday 6th June
- Classical Music Group



The Shakespeare Club section in the Shakespeare 460th Birthday Celebration Parade  
Saturday 20th April 2024, Bridge Street, Stratford-upon-Avon

## Monthly Meeting—Thursday 4th April 2024

### The Trouble With Trivia

Bob Hemming



Bob tried to describe his life in the quest of knowledge and his seeking to use that knowledge in a quest for riches and status in public (TV) gameshows and quiz shows. Early on after he had passed 11 'O' levels, he sought to establish how clever he was and took a test at Aston University to establish his IQ. He proved to have an IQ of 156 which qualified him for membership of Mensa and was about the same as Carol Vorderman. Membership of Mensa puts him in the top 2% of the population.

One thing that he did manage at a Mensa meeting was meet his future wife, who was equally bored with the meeting.

Bob then went on to describe a life of attempting to win cash on all sorts of quizzes and gameshows on radio and television. One show where it was possible to win cash was 'Weakest Link' with Anne Robinson as quiz master. He failed to get on the games show for some time but his wife did get on and came second, sharing the prize of £2550 with the winner through having made an agreement with the winner to share. Eventually got onto the show in 2002.

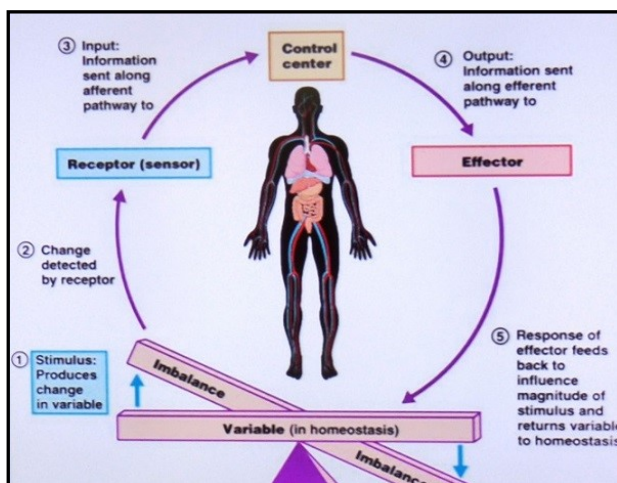
He became a writer and also got onto Mastermind. He eventually won because he had 3 passes against the runner up who had 5 passes. He got onto Brain of Britain and was runner up out of 4 in a freezing cold hall. His life was 'almost won many quizzes/prize'.

## History Group Meeting

Thursday 16th April 2024

### A Talk about the History of Medicine and Healthcare from 50,000 BC to the 20th Century

Robert Tringham



Robert started by looking at when humans might have begun thinking about their own wellbeing and how to look after wounds, illnesses, etc. Homo Erectus were a precursor to Homo Sapiens from about 2 million years ago until the last group in Java terminated about 100,000 years ago. They were early users of speech and are thought to have been the earliest human ancestor capable of using fire, hunting and gathering in coordinated groups.

About 50,000 year ago Neanderthals started to show skills in caring for wounded or sick persons. However, little knowledge has passed down since the end of the species. They appear to have had some idea about medication using plants. Traces of penicillin and aspirin have been found in some of their sites. Life was short - no more than 40 years. It is thought that Neanderthals

disappeared about 24,000 years ago, possibly because they were not producing female off-spring. The species existed in Europe and western parts of Asia.

In reality, healthcare amongst humans started with early civilisations such as the Egyptians and the Greeks, about 6,000 years ago. Other civilisations, such as the Babylonians, may have also contributed.

In ancient Greece Hippocrates was a noted physician (460m -370 BC). He thought that illness was not a punishment by the gods but was caused naturally by bodily imbalance or faulty diet. The Hippocratic Oath, which has passed down to modern doctors, developed in that time.

Later, Galen of Pergamon (129—216 AD) wrote books about health and treatment. He influenced various scientific disciplines, including anatomy, neurology, pharmacology as well as philosophy. He considered there were four body fluids or humours:- black bile, yellow bile, blood and phlegm. His views influenced Western medical science for about 1,300 years until printed descriptions and illustrations of human dissections were published in the seminal work 'De humani corporis fabrica' by Andreas Vesalius, where Galen's physiological theory was accommodated to these new observations.

Knowledge of medicine has progressed as science has continued to progress.

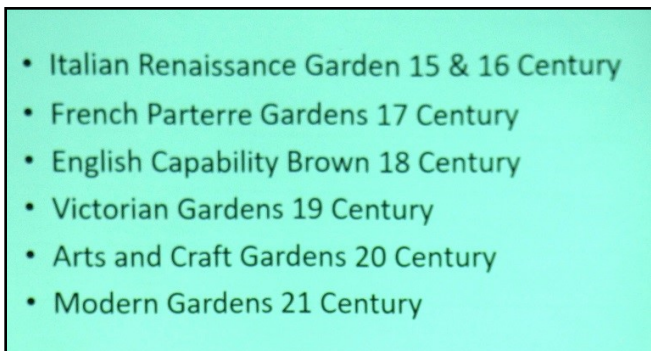
**Monthly Meeting—Thursday 2nd May 2024**  
**The History of Garden Design**  
**Frances Freeman**

Frances attended a Summer School at the Cirencester Royal Agricultural College in 2017 which included The History of Garden Design and this talk is based on the information in that course.

(As Frances was unable to provide copies of the photographs used in her presentation. I have substituted some from my own collection as I have already visited some of the gardens myself and taken my own photographs.)



Screen shot of Talk Title etc.



Screen shot of garden types in talk

The Villa d'Este in Tivoli is home to one of the most famous and spectacular Renaissance gardens in Italy. It was built at the end of the fifteenth century at the behest

of **Ippolito II d'Este**, Cardinal of Ferrara, as his summer residence. The villa and its sumptuous garden are considered the culmination of the evolution of Italian Renaissance gardens. The villa itself is Renaissance in style with Roman influences. It is spread over three levels with a portico, a loggia and a terrace on the upper floor, connected by a scenic central staircase. From 1568 it became the centre of a vast system of terraces, gardens and paths that extend towards the Aniene river. The river was used to supply water to the gardens and the array of fountains

The gardens of the villa are vast, full of fountains, nymphaeums, caves, water features, sculptures and various vegetation. The most famous fountain is the "**Fountain of the Hundred Steps**" in the centre of the terraces, with its many jets, water features and statues. Other important fountains are the Nymphaeum, the Fountain of the Roses, the Fountain of Triton, and the Fountain of Diana and Actaeon. The figurines and sculptural decorations take up themes from classical mythology. The paths of the gardens are articulated and visually prepare you for entering scenarios that follow one another with continuous surprises. The panoramic views, the fusions of architecture and nature, the water features are essential elements of the scenography of the Villa d'Este.

The villa and the gardens were a wonderful work of hydraulic engineering, which was also used to experiment with innovative equipment such as hydraulic pumps. Full advantage was used of the changes of height in the gardens.

## Monthly Meeting—Thursday 2nd May 2024 The History of Garden Design Francis Freeman

(continued)

The Fountains of Villa D'Este:

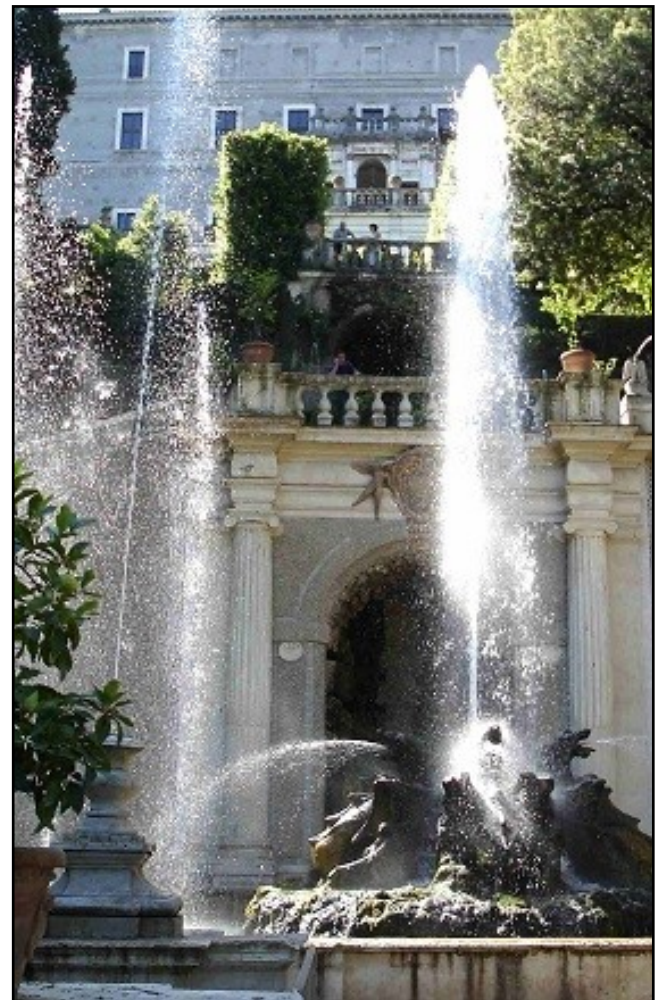


Above: Avenue of 100 fountains.

The next column:

The boat fountain

A very tall fountain



## Monthly Meeting—Thursday 2nd May 2024 The History of Garden Design Francis Freeman

(continued)



Above: Looking down the garden



Above: A very large fountain with the Water Organ behind.



Above: The Water Organ.

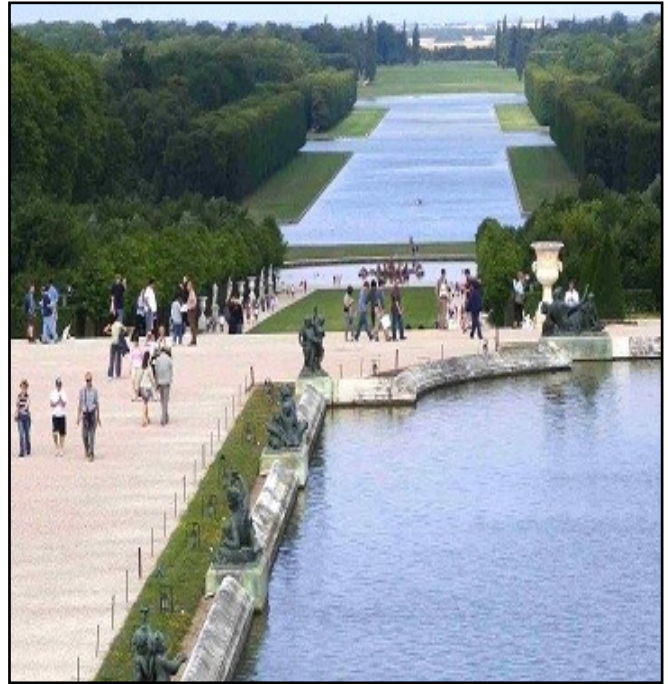
## Monthly Meeting—Thursday 2nd May 2024 The History of Garden Design Francis Freeman

(continued)

### French Parterre Gardens (15th and 16th Century)

French chateaux often had this type of garden. The parterre gardens were very formal and laid out in severe shapes, squares, rectangles, etc., and were usually closely situated near to the chateau. The parkland was equally formal, lakes being usually rectangular.

Versailles was started as a simple hunting lodge in 1623 and the palace and grounds we see today were started in 1661.



View of park through a palace window



View of entrance to Versailles Palace



View of part of the garden



Fountain in one of the lakes

## Monthly Meeting—Thursday 2nd May 2024 The History of Garden Design Francis Freeman (continued)

There are many other features to be seen in the Palace grounds, including a village and farm. It is well worth a visit.

There are many other chateaux and palaces in France but an interesting one is Vilandry. The gardens are mainly formal Parterre but some have an unusual planting of colourful vegetables rather than flowers.



Part of the garden at Vilandry

In Britain similar gardens were developed with a slight difference: A road was made through the garden at a higher level than the gardens. The estate owner and his

guests could drive through the garden on the elevated road and have a very good view of the gardens and the planting. Hampton Court Palace has this type of garden feature.

Dyrrham House in South Gloucestershire was built a bit later than much of Hampton Court Palace and has some similarity with formal gardens and parkland. The National Trust are working hard to recreate the house and gardens as they were. (no images available )

The next innovation was the creation of parkland over much of an estate with trees and water features close to the main house and the reflection of the buildings in the water feature enhanced the look and view. A water feature was usually derived from a small stream or rive flowing through the estate and a dam could be built to produce a lake close to the house. Examples are at Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire; Stowe House in Buckinghamshire, where Capability Browne started his career as Head Gardener; Croome Court in Worcestershire was an early project for Browne who designed the house and grounds and the National Trust have been working for over 10 years to restore the gardens and parkland; Burleigh House, Northants; Trentham Gardens, Staffordshire, where a serpentine park was the main feature of a garden designed by Capability Brown in 1758, and was later kept whilst most of the garden was re-arranged by Sir Charles Barry in the 1840s.

## Monthly Meeting—Thursday 2nd May 2024 The History of Garden Design Francis Freeman (continued)

Frances mentioned Calke Abbey in Derbyshire. The house was originally built during the Tudor period (1540s onwards) and rebuilt between 1701 and 1704 by the 4th Baronet John Harpur. The house is now owned by the National Trust and still shows the Tudor house at its core. There is still a tunnel in the garden for the gardener and staff to leave the gardens at the end of the day without being seen from the house. It must have been difficult to use as it is only 4 feet high.

There have been many other ideas and innovations over the years:

Heated glass houses to produce fruit and vegetables for the estate house.

Arts and craft gardens. These include Hidcote Manor near Stratford-upon-Avon. The garden was created early in the 20th century when the farm was bought by Lawrence Johnston and his mother Mrs Gertude Winthrop.

Coughton Court near Alcester is an Elizabethan house and managed by the National Trust. The Throckmorton family still live in the house and have undertaken to manage the gardens. They have created an award winning garden based on Elizabeth Knot gardens and incorporating traditional features, such as a walled garden, a fruit and vegetable garden to provide fresh produce for the garden and restaurant, a lake and river, woodland, a formal garden with lawns, trees and flowers.



Formal Garden



Walled Garden



Centrepiece Pond of Walled Garden

## Monthly Meeting—Thursday 2nd May 2024 The History of Garden Design Francis Freeman

(continued)



Wisteria Tree in Walled Garden

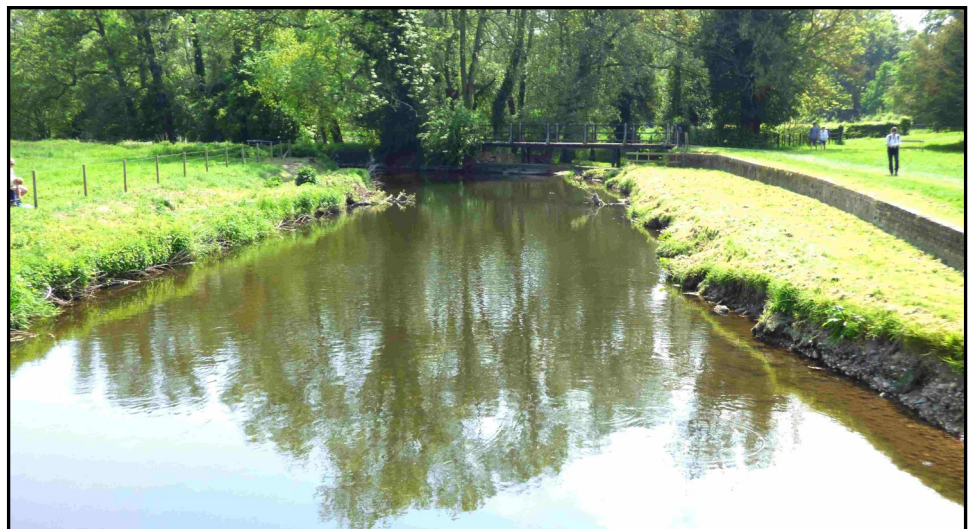


Walled Garden area planted as flowerbeds



Lake at edge of Walled Garden

Picture to right is of the River Arrow which borders the estate along one edge. There is a riverside walk along it and a foot bridge to reach the woodland on the otherside of the river.

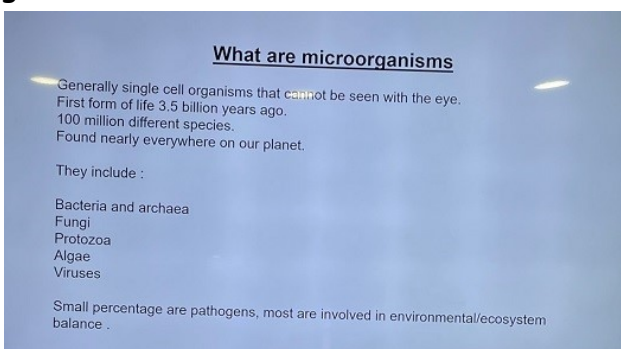


## Science, Nature and All Things Technical Group Friday 10th May 2024 Microorganisms Sylvia Bevan

Sylvia gave an interesting talk with some illustrations and images about successful microorganisms.



Microorganisms are very small organisms (too small to see unless using a microscope) that are present in all living organisms. Ecoli, for instance, are about 1  $\mu\text{m}$  in length and are bacteria that can live in the human gut.



Some microorganisms can be useful—wine produced by fermentation of sugars in grape juice and produce some very nice wine. Bread is another foodstuff produced by fermentation sugars in a dough to produce bread.

Some diseases can be very troublesome to humans—smallpox, measles, plague, tuberculosis.

Some cures or preventative inoculations can be done using microorganisms—Edward Jenner picked up on knowledge on the farm to use an inoculation (or vaccination as he called it) of cowpox to prevent later catching of smallpox. That was in 1796 in Berkeley, Gloucestershire.

Ignaz Semmelweis working in a hospital in Vienna in the 1840s first proposed hygiene standards for everyone working in hospitals, particularly maternity wards. He had noticed that the maternity mortality rate was 3 times higher in doctors' wards than in midwives' wards. He could offer no theoretical explanation for his findings and many doctors were offended that they should be asked to wash their hands. Eventually Louis Pasteur confirmed the germ theory in the 1860s and Joseph Lister, acting on Pasteur's research, practised more hygienic methods of working and had great success.

Other people were working on the problems of hygiene in hospitals. Florence Nightingale in 1855 produced a statistical review of

**Science, Nature and All Things Technical Group**  
**Friday 10th May 2024**  
**Microorganisms**  
**Sylvia Bevan** (continued)

military hospitals in The Crimean War of the 1850s. Typhus, Typhoid, Dysentery and other diseases were rife in the hospitals, mostly due to poor hygiene. She had a hard time persuading the military medical staff that they were doing anything wrong.

Pasteur was publishing his theories of germs in the 1860s and 1870s. Joseph Lister was pioneering antiseptics for use in wards, particularly in surgical wards. Dmitri Ivanovsky, a Russian botanist, discovered the first virus in 1887. He was trying to use a filtering method to isolate a bacteria but the Tobacco Mosaic Disease passed directly through the filter. Other botanists confirmed his discovery.

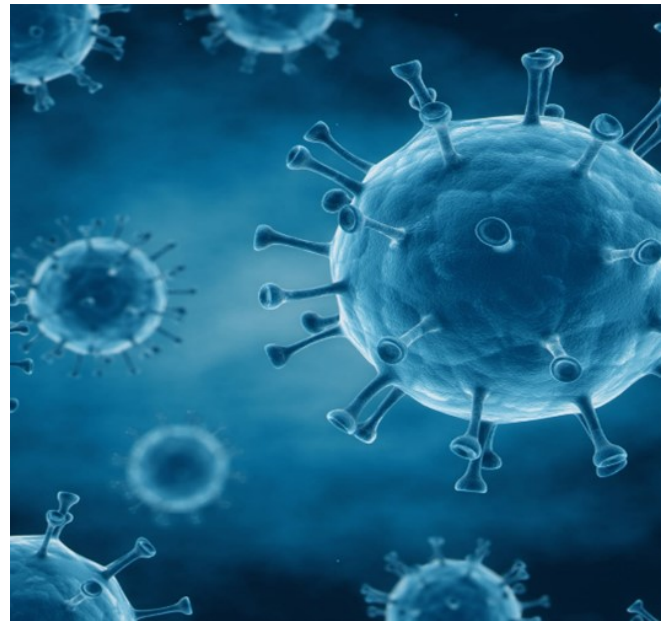
Alexander Fleming, in 1928, discovered an antibiotic substance, which he named penicillin, which was effective against a broad range of microorganisms.

In 1995 the first microbial genomic sequence was described. Work continues, as it is likely that COVID-19 is probably not the last pandemic that will appear.

During the 14th century bubonic plague ravaged Europe, killing probably about 40% of the population.

Just after World War 1 There was an outbreak that was called Spanish Flu. It killed probably 50 million during the outbreak.

Microorganisms will continue to mutate.



A Coronavirus

## Choir Concert - Friday 24th May 2024 Musical Director - Stewart Wallace

The Choir, about 37 strong, were composed of u3a members from several of the local u3a groups. They were directed by Stewart Wallace, The Musical Director. The performance was excellent with enough clear and energetic voices so that all members of the audience could hear. The audience numbered about 75.

Stewart had put together an excellent programme of songs from across the generations, all with a reference to sunshine. There were a number of solos to make it interesting; this included a piano solo by Margaret Dews who runs a cross u3a group who practise their piano skills. Apparently, there are a few vacancies in that group.

The picture below shows the choir singing the opening song—'Here comes the sun'. The song was written by George Harrison of The Beatles during 1969, at Eric Clapton's house during a visit.

Musical Director, Stewart, is the figure seated about central, looking away from the

camera, in the 'sunny' shirt.

The choir then sang a song in several parts, 'The Sun has got its Hat on'.

Bob Heaps (see picture below) then sang a solo 'Sunny Afternoon', released as a single by The Kinks in 1966 and later in an album 'Face to Face' in 1967. It was written by Ray Davies.



## Choir Concert - Friday 24th May 2024 Musical Director - Stewart Wallace

(continued)

The choir next sang a song from the musical 'Annie' - 'Tomorrow'. This was followed by a very popular song "Love me with all of your heart' (based on the Spanish song 'Casa de Mambo'). Choir pictured below singing the song and two views of the audience.



## Choir Concert - Friday 24th May 2024 Musical Director - Stewart Wallace

(continued)

There were two songs from the Choir:

'You are the Sunshine of my Life' and a full version of 'On the Sunny Side of the Street'. Apparently, When Frank Sinatra recorded this song he omitted to sing the verses. These were followed by Margaret Dews playing her piano solo mentioned earlier: 'When Sunny Gets Blue'.

The final two choir songs were:

'Sunny' written by Bobby Hebb and 'Sun's in my Eyes' written by Stewart Wallace. The choir were seated for this

Stewart then played 'Bring me Sunshine' as an instrumental piece including some Hammond organ sound. This is not one of his U-Tube pieces, but might be so in the future.

The concert was brought to a conclusion with the audience invited to sing along with the choir the Morecambe & Wise classic 'Bring me Sunshine'.



Programme Front Cover



Ticket

## Choir Concert - Friday 24th May 2024 Musical Director - Stewart Wallace

(continued)



### HERE COMES THE SUN!

Bring me sunshine! It's been a long cold lonely winter:  
it seems like years since it's been here....

So go the songs. And so have we all felt for months.

Today we aim to banish all those blues and let the sunshine in. Yeah!  
We hope you will enjoy our sunny songs and leave with smiles on your faces.

### The u3a Choir

The choir was formed in 2010 with just 10 Heart of England members and an out of tune keyboard! We were delighted when Stewart Wallace agreed to direct us, since when we have gone from strength to strength. We now have over 50 members from all the local u3as and we thoroughly enjoy our weekly rehearsals under Stewart's cheerful, relaxed leadership. We meet in the Methodist Church Hall on Fridays from 10.30 to 12 noon and new singers of any standard are always very welcome.

Singing has been proved to be good for us all, so why not give us a try?

### STEWART WALLACE

Stewart is an experienced performer and composer. He studied music at Goldsmiths' College and music technology at City University. He has performed in London and Europe with jazz, folk and classical groups as keyboard player, trombonist and singer. Stewart's own compositions draw on many musical genres, including blues, jazz and contemporary styles.

Today's concert will include the first public performance of his new song, Sun's in my Eyes. All other song arrangements are by Stewart.



## PROGRAMME

Here comes the Sun

George Harrison

The Sun has got his Hat on

Noel Gay, Ralph Butler

Tomorrow

Charles Strauss, Martin, Charmin

Love me with All your Heart/ Cuando calienta el Sol

Sunny Skylar, Carlos A Martinoli, Carlos Rigual

You are the Sunshine of my Life

Stevie Wonder

On the Sunny Side of the Street

Jimmy McHugh, Dorothy Fields

Sunny

Bobby Hebb

Sun's in my Eyes

Stewart Wallace

Bring me Sunshine

Arthur Kent, Sylvia Dee

Programme Page 2

Programme Page 3

## Choir Concert - Friday 24th May 2024 Musical Director - Stewart Wallace

(continued)



Music: Marvin Fisher , Lyrics : Jack Segal

When Sunny gets blue,  
Her eyes get gray and cloudy,  
Then the rain begins to fall,  
Pitter patter, pitter patter,  
Love is gone, so what can matter?  
No sweet lover man comes to call,

When Sunny gets blue,  
She breathes a sigh of sadness,  
Like the wind that stirs the trees,  
Wind that sets the leaves to swayin',  
Like some violins are playin'  
Weird and haunting melodies.

People used to love  
To hear her laugh, see her smile.  
That's how she got her name.  
Since that sad affair,  
She's lost her smile, changed her style,  
Somehow she's not the same.

But memories will fade,  
And pretty dreams will rise up  
Where her other dreams fell through.  
Hurry new love, hurry here  
To kiss away each lonely tear,  
And hold her near when Sunny gets blue.

Programme Page 4

The item on page 4 is the piece that  
Margaret Dews played for her piano solo

## Monthly Meeting—Thursday 6th June 2024 Hitting the Headline as a Newspaper Reporter John Butterworth



Newspaper groups that he worked at included:

Leek Post & Times

Express & Star Group (Shrewsbury and North Yorkshire Chronicle),

The Bromsgrove & Droitwich Advertiser,  
Black Country Bugle

He also started and owned a local newspaper: *Stone & Ecclesbourne Gazette*. He sold the paper when he became editor of the *Leek Post Times* newspaper; the *Gazette* is still operating as a weekly magazine format and is hand delivered in the circulation area.

John now spends his time delivering a range of 18 talks about his newspaper career and other interests based on his experiences during a hard working career in the newspapers.

John Butterworth gave a very clear account of his working life from his last days in the VI<sup>th</sup> form at school when his A level results were not particularly good, through a training scheme with the Daily Mirror Group for 3½ years in Plymouth, through employment in several newspaper groups around UK, usually as Editor.

During this he delivered a Land Rover to Nepal with 7 other volunteers in 1977 and also spent 2 weeks in China and 3 nights in Hong Kong in 1986.

**Classical Music Group Meeting**  
**Monday 10th June 2024**  
**Programme arranged & Delivered By Graeme Ramsey**

The Group delivers a programme of classical music on the second Monday in each month in the Community Room at the Guild Cottages in Church Street by arrangement with the Trustees of the Guild Cottages. Resienrs of the cottages are also welcome at the meeting.

Graeme's programme was selected from various composers but with some connection to 'The Sea'.

Apart from the programme and CD selection, he had brought a new set of audio equipment with much larger speakers than we have been used to with the Philips portable stereo radio/CD player we have been used to for about two years. The improvement in sound quality was immediate and appreciated.

The programme for today was:

**Composer:** Richard Rodgers  
**Work:** 'Victory at Sea'  
**Conductor:** Robert Russell Bennett  
**Orchestra:** Cleveland Symphony

**Composer:** Benjamin Britten  
**Work:** 'Sea interludes' from 'Peter Grimes'  
**Item 1** Early Morning on the Sea Shore  
**Item 2** Storm  
**Item 3** Evening—Moonlight on the Sea  
**Conductor:** Benjamin Britten

**Orchestra:** Orchestra of the Royal Opera House,

**Composer:** Debussy

**Item 1** La Mer —De l'aube à midi sur la mer

**Item 2** La Mer — Jeux de vagues

**Item 3** La Mer — Dialogue du vent et de la mer

**Conductor:** Herbert von Karajan

**Orchestra:** Berlin Philharmonic

**Interval**

**Composer:** Edward Elgar

**Item 1:** Sea Pictures—Sea Slumber Song

**Item 2:** Sea Pictures—Where Corals Lie

**Item 3:** Sea Pictures—The Swimmer

**Conductor:** Sir John Barbirolli

**Orchestra:** London Symphony .

**Mezzo-Soprano:** Janet Baker

**Composer:** Edward Elgar

**Work:** A Sea Symphony

**Item 1:** A Song for mall Seas, all Ships

**Item 2:** One the Beach at Night, Alone.

**Conductor:** Andrew Davis

**Orchestra:** BBC Symphony Orch & Chorus .

**Soprano:** Amanda Root

**Baritone:** Thomas Hampson

**Classical Music Group Meeting**  
**Monday 10th June 2024**  
**Programme arranged & Delivered By Graeme Ramsey**  
**(continued)**

**CD Concert Theme: The Sea**

**Notes:**

**Victory at Sea**

A film score for a 26 part TV documentary series about naval warfare in the Atlantic and Pacific during WW2.

Shown on BBC TV in 1954.

The theme music was composed by Richard Rodgers; orchestrated by Robert Russell Bennett, who orchestrated and arranged music for many of America's Broadway musical and film soundtracks.

**Four Sea Interludes.**

From the opera "Peter Grimes" composed by Benjamin Britten in 1942-43 and first performed in London in 1945. The opera tells the tragic tale of a fisherman who comes under suspicion and is ostracized by his village community after the mysterious but accidental deaths of two of his apprentices.

Britten wrote six musical interludes to be played in between scene changes in the opera. Four of them were subsequently published as a suite lasting about 17 minutes in duration.

**Debussy's "La Mer"**

Three impressionistic sketches for orchestra. Composed 1903—1905. Revised 1908.

**Elgar's "Sea Pictures"**

Composed in 1899, these songs are settings of what were already published poems, originally scored for for a soprano voice and piano accompaniment, but later transposed to a lower key for contralto and orchestra. Often performed at The Proms.

**A Sea Symphony**

Composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams between 1903 and 1909. First performed at the Leeds Music Festival in 1910 with the composer conducting. The text is taken from a collection of poems published by Walt Whitman in 1855.

One of the first symphonies to be scored as a choral work throughout all of its movements.

## History Group Meeting The Universe, The Big Bang, and the Periodic Table Thursday 20th June 2024 Robert Tringham

Robert introduced the talk in the following way:

"We shall be looking back 13.8 billion years ago to when the world was born, and how the universe has expanded since then, including a quick recap on fission, fusion and the Periodic Table. We shall examine the phenomenon of the string theory which holds that everything and everyone is connected by mysterious vibrating strings, too small to identify, and look into the question of whether there is a parallel universe, and do some of us belong to one. Finally we will consider the claims that life exists in many other places in our universe, and in other parallel universes, and watch some interesting videos on these mysterious subjects.'

I can show only an a very abbreviated version of his talk.

The periodic table now has 118 elements that may be naturally occurring in nature, although only those elements numbered 1 to 92 (uranium) are known to be present in the natural world. The transuranium elements have been created by bombarding heavy elements with neutrons or other particles and using fission to produce new elements.

Fission is a process where neutrons are fired at either uranium or plutonium atoms. The uranium or plutonium atom splits into two smaller atoms and releases a large amount of energy. Additional neutrons may be released and if there is sufficient mass

of uranium or plutonium, a chain reaction may be initiated. This is the way in which a nuclear reactor produces massive amounts of heat, which can be used to heat water to produce steam which may then be used to produce electricity via a steam turbine and electrical generator.

Nuclear fusion is another process where light elements, such as hydrogen, are forced to combine in a nuclear process, usually at tremendous pressure, releasing massive amounts of energy in the form of heat and other radiation products. The only known source is in the Sun (and other stars). Attempts have been made in laboratories to reproduce the fusion reaction but with very limited success. But there is always hope that we can eventually produce abundant energy by fusion so research continues.

Study of the universe using radio telescopes and other means continues to produce evidence of the structure of matter and the newest telescope, the James Webb orbital telescope has produced many new findings in recent years.

Still plenty of questions:—

- what are black holes?
- Are there other universes?
- Are there multiple time lines?