

Dear member,

We have a most exciting talk for this month from Mark Branwell. Here is his description of his talk in his own words. ‘My talk is a musical journey of how the Spanish guitar has evolved over time, from the early days of Francisco Tárrega through the era of Classical and Flamenco to the integration of the Spanish guitar with orchestras and popular music, covering the likes of John Williams, The Shadows and Sting’. Mark not only talks but also plays! So do come both to see and hear him.

On another front, we are continuing to have problems with the online system of renewing membership. I’m sorry if that affects you. We will continue to take renewals at the start and end of the Open Meetings. Do talk to us if you are affected by this. I am very hopeful that we will have our card reader working at the next meeting, so this may be convenient for you.

Finally, for the next few months, the Committee has decided to share just what we do with the membership, as we hope to encourage wider participation. See the section at the end of this newsletter on the role of the Chair to find out more.

Liz Ouldrige (Chair)

Important dates

June 20th Monthly coffee morning for all at ‘The Hayloft’ Mole Avon Country Store from 10:30am

June 21st Open Meeting at the Boniface Centre: Mark Branwell, ‘The Musical Evolution of the Spanish Guitar’ Refreshments from 9:30am, the talk starts at 10:15.

July 18th Monthly coffee morning for all at ‘The Hayloft’ Mole Avon Country Store from 10:30am

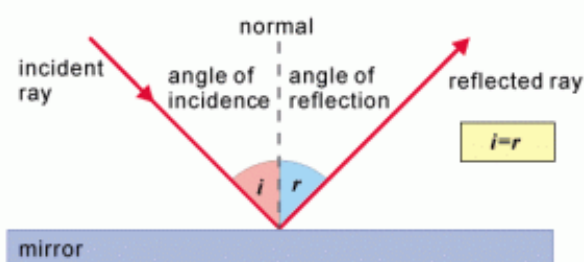
July 19th Open Meeting at the Boniface Centre: Laura Jones ‘The Origins of the Mass Production of Fashion’

News from the Groups

Our new Carpet Bowls group is still welcoming new members. If you would like to try it out, then the sessions are on the 3rd Monday of the month from 10-12 at ‘The Elephant on the Green’. Special Interest Groups are not a permanent feature of our offer. They depend on the members taking part. It is sad to note that our Photography group that ran successfully for some time has just closed. I would like to thank Peter Budd, who was their stalwart leader, for his hard work. My biggest regret is that this is a group I kept meaning to join but just didn’t get round to it. As they say about many things in life: ‘if you don’t use it, you lose it’. You can see the range of groups we offer online or at the Open Meetings. Do give things a go and don’t, like me, wait until it’s too late.

May’s talk: ‘Some Light Reflections’ by Professor Roy Sambles

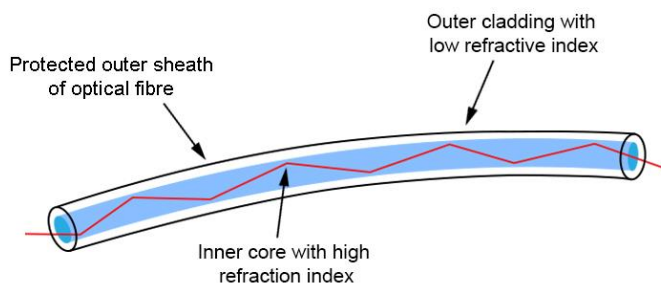
Professor Sambles gave us an exciting demonstration of the importance of reflection in our lives. He started by reminding us of the simple schoolboy rule ‘The angle of incidence = the angle of reflection’. The picture



on the left shows this. This simple rule can be used to explain why we think we are the wrong way round when we look in the mirror. Because of the rule, a ray that goes from you to the mirror is perpendicular (along the normal line in the picture) when it hits the mirror, so it comes back along the same way. You are seeing what someone looking at you would see, and they don’t think you’re the wrong way round!

A single mirror is of limited use. But put two or three mirrors together and you get something similar to the reflector on the back of a bike. Whatever angle the ray of light goes in, it goes back along the same line. This means that the reflector will light up in the car headlights even when the car is not directly behind it. There is a mirror on the Moon, put there by the Apollo astronauts. It's not a simple flat mirror, but rather like the arrangement of three mirrors in the reflectors. This mirror has been used by many scientists to study the Moon.

Professor Samble then told us about a special type of reflection called 'Total Internal Reflection' (TIR). This happens when a light ray hits a boundary between two different substances. If the angle is right, instead of moving over the boundary, it is reflected back. Light rays are notorious for travelling in straight lines. But using TIR, they can be made to go round corners, and this is how an optical fibre works. There is a picture of this below.



An optical fibre is made up of very pure glass. The inner core has different properties from the outer cladding, and this causes the light rays to move along the fibre rather than leaving it.

We have access to virtually unlimited information transmitted to us at incredible speed through the internet and optical fibres are an important part of that.

Professor Samble's talk was not only informative but also very entertaining. Sadly, my write-up cannot do justice to his presentation. You had to be there to see it!

The Role of the u3a Committee: The Chair – current holder, Liz Ouldrige



I have been Chair of Crediton u3a for a year now and I've thoroughly enjoyed it. Most of my job is about coordination and liaison. You will have seen me leading the Open Meetings and I also write this newsletter. I'm always ready to listen to members and pass their views on. I set the agenda and chair our regular committee meetings and I also chair the AGM. I have regular contact with the central u3a administration and, like all the committee members, I'm a trustee for the Crediton Branch. Trustees must make sure that the branch operates according to the rules laid down by central u3a. If this sounds onerous, it's not really, and I have a very able vice chair in Ian Fenn. In fact, I think I have one of the easier jobs on the committee, the hardest part was finding a photo of me that I liked!