

## GLYNDEBOURNE IN PINK LANE!

The MUSIC FOR PLEASURE group is led by Dorothy Fawthrop, profiled in the December issue, a life-long devotee of music and herself a performer in her youth. To this devotion she adds teaching skills so as a group we are twice blessed. And, since this is the U3A, class members are encouraged to contribute as well.

Dorothy is leading us through the history of classical music. We listen to CDs and occasionally we have the opportunity to watch a video performance too. We have enjoyed such Baroque composers as Purcell, Vivaldi and Bach. And Classical, 18<sup>th</sup> century composers like Haydn and Handel - though the latter encompasses both camps. Now we have arrived at Mozart!

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. To begin our study of this monumental musical giant we transferred our Thursday afternoon class to the Saturday following and enjoyed our own version of Glyndebourne by watching 'Amadeus'. This was an award-winning film directed in 1984 by Milos Forman and based on the play by Peter Shaffer. Our absorption in the film disturbed only by a break for lunch. Not strawberries and prosecco on the lawns but sandwiches and salads and plenty of chatter in Room 2.

The film tells of Mozart's arrival in Vienna from Salzburg in 1781 and of his acceptance as a composer at the court of Emperor Joseph 2<sup>nd</sup>. The dramatic focus in this version is the jealousy of Salieri, the court composer, and his desire to kill Mozart. The production is thoroughly engaging, not just for its acting and the (made-up) antagonism of Salieri, but for the story of Mozart's life and work. We are shown the composer as a child prodigy in Salzburg and London, his strained relationship with his father, his marriage to the lovely Constanze. We are treated to breathtaking excerpts from staged operas like The Magic Flute and hear piano concerto and symphonic extracts as background music. At the end, at the age of 35, he is composing his fabulous Requiem with his last breath on his deathbed.

What an introduction to the many Thursday afternoons of Mozart that will now follow!